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Voice of the Unconquered

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National Folk Museum of Korea researches Seminole dolls

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — An honored Native American tradition is moving beyond the horizon of the U.S. On March 14, a team of researchers from the National Folk Museum of Korea visited the Hollywood Reservation to learn about the history and culture surrounding Seminole dolls.

The museum, based in Gyeongbokgung Palace in South Korea, usually houses artifacts from Korea. The team of researchers, including Lead Curator Moon Hee Koo, Assistant Curator Hyun Ah Lee and photographer Eun Jin Kim, however, decided to move their scope internationally and, since 2013, have been conducting research on the relationship between culture, materials and people. The first materials they researched were denim pants and salt, and in the future they plan to research kitchens. Now, however, they are looking to uncover the cultures surrounding doll artisans, doll collectors, doll makers, puppet theaters, toy stores and family doll heirlooms.

In an email to The Tribune, Koo explained that a doll is a common characteristic of peoples' perceptions and differences between cultures. He and his team believe that keeping track of cultural dolls is a way to document societal issues and changes over time. Along with the Seminole Tribe, the team has also visited Japan, Czech Republic, Germany, India and France. They plan to visit Mexico and Los Angeles in the coming months.

During their visit to the Hollywood Reservation, the research team sat with Hollywood residents Mable Osceola Doctor and Stephanie Hall. From the perspective of two very different generations, Doctor and Hall shared how they started making dolls and the portrayal of their culture within their doll-making styles.

Doctor, who grew up living in a chickee in the Everglades, said she watched her mom make traditional Seminole dolls her entire life, but it wasn't until she started working at the Hollywood culture department that she started making them regularly. She makes



Li Cohen

Dana Oh, a representative of the Korean American Association of South Florida and translator for the team of researchers from Korea, listens to Mable Osceola Doctor explain how the Tribe uses palmetto fibers to create Seminole dolls.

dolls more traditionally, with simple facial features and traditional hairstyles.

Hall, on the other hand, only recently learned how to make dolls from people in the culture department, along with the help of Doctor and her grandmother Minnie Doctor.

"It's a real sense of pride of where I come from. ... The women I've always known and who look like this [the dolls] are very strong, very beautiful. It's keeping our traditions alive," Hall said. "When people look at it, I want it to make them happy and to make them smile and to see the beauty in the Seminole woman."

Although she learned how to make the dolls from elder women — by stretching and sewing palmetto fibers together — she has taken a more modern approach to doll customization. Hall's dolls have long pony tails, high buns, different-colored hair and

more pronounced facial features, such as defined eyebrows, large eyes and plump lips.

"I'm from a younger generation and I have a different way of seeing things," she explained to the researchers. "When I make clothes, it's inspired by pictures I see of older women, but as a younger person I'm also influenced by a lot more modern things too, like things I see on the internet. I like to mesh that with things from the past."

Though some features were different, both styles featured the traditional patchwork, which Doctor explained is very different from the very first Seminole dolls originally hand-carved from Cypress tree bark. As Doctor explained to Koo and his team, intricate patchwork was not originally a traditional item for the Tribe.

♦ See SEMINOLE DOLLS on page 5A

7,000-year-old burial site found in Manasota Key

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

About two years ago, a diver looking for shark teeth bit off a little more than he could chew in Manasota Key. About a quarter-mile off the key, local diver Joshua Frank found a human jaw.

After eventually realizing that he had a skeletal centerpiece sitting on his kitchen table, Frank notified the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research. From analyzing the mandible, Underwater Archaeology Supervisor Ryan Duggins found that the piece was definitely not from someone living modern-day, and with that, he and his team went back to the original site, where they made a surprising discovery.

The site, about 21 feet underwater, held much more than an old jaw. The team found an arm bone, carved wooden stakes, skull fragments and much more. Much to Frank's and Duggins' surprise, this area closely resembled a Native American burial site.

Because of this resemblance, Duggins and his team immediately began working in line with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), which ensures that any discoveries of Native American cultural items are protected and returned to lineal descendants and tribes. The Bureau is currently working with the Seminole Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Office to determine the outcome of this discovery and is also consulting with the Miccosukees.

"I'm hopeful we're going to be able to continue to work closely with them about the development of a long-term management protection plan so that we can think about this site, not just for the next six weeks or six months, but something that will make sure it will remain protected for 6 or 60 years,"

Duggins said.

Paul Backhouse, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, found out about the site about six months ago. He said that nobody expected such historical artifacts to turn up in the Gulf of Mexico and he, along with many others, were surprised by the discovery.

"We have not had a situation where there's organic material present in underwater context in the Gulf of Mexico," Backhouse said. "Having 7,000-year-old organic material surviving in salt water is very surprising and that surprise turned to concern because our job is to make sure those sites are respected and protected as best as we can."

Neither Backhouse nor Duggins have any doubt that the remains are that of Florida Natives. Their main concern for the time being is intentional or unintentional damage to the site.

"We can't do much about Mother Nature and erosion," Duggins said, adding that Venice, where Manasota Key is located, is known as the fossil hunting capital. "It would be really unfortunate if an unsuspecting shark tooth hunter started digging in this resting place. That's our big concern and

"... our job is to make sure those sites are respected and protected as best as we can."

- Paul Backhouse,
Director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki
Museum & the Seminole Tribe
of Florida's Tribal Historic
Preservation Office

the big hurdle we're going to have — how do we keep people with good intentions from accidentally damaging the site and how do we keep people with bad intentions from intentionally damaging the site."

For the time being, the jaw Frank discovered and other artifacts found by the Bureau are in the hands of Heather Walsh-Haney, a forensic anthropologist and associate professor of forensic studies at Florida Gulf Coast University. She is in charge of stabilizing the materials and allowing them to slowly dry and desalinate in a secure lab. Doing so will prevent any degradation of

♦ See MANASOTA KEY on page 4A

Seminole shootout hits its mark in Immokalee

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Reporter

IMMOKALEE — About 2,000 history buffs, tourists, school children and boy scouts from all over the state showed up in Immokalee March 2 and 3 to learn a little bit about Seminole history by watching a reenactment of the Seminole Wars.

The Seminole Shootout Battle Reenactment, which began in Big Cypress in the 1990s, ended its two-year hiatus with the first shootout ever held in Immokalee.

In addition to the warfare, the two-day event included a 5-Star Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Rodeo, a concert by Grammy Award nominee Manny Diquez, alligator wrestling, a friendship dance led by medicine man Bobby Henry, crafts and food vendors.

"I'm glad they got it started again, it's an event that needs to be done," said Moses Jumper Jr., who participated in the shootout. "The great Sam Jones, Abiaka, roamed this area."

History was on display in the field across from Immokalee's John Jimmie Memorial Rodeo. The shootout took visitors back in time as it showcased the Tribe's culture and featured authentic looking period camps populated with about 40 reenactors who played Seminoles and U.S. Army soldiers.

The reenactors and their families wore uniforms and clothing that looked like it came right out of the 1800s, as did their campsites, which were complete with weapons, tools, utensils and foods that would have been eaten at the time.

Steven Creamer has been involved in reenactments of the Seminole Wars for more



Beverly Bidney

This reenactor played the part of a Seminole warrior at the Seminole Shootout Battle Reenactment on March 3 in Immokalee.

than 30 years. He was in charge of safety and coordinating the other reenactors. Many have been participating in these battles for decades and consider themselves an extended family.

"This isn't about you or me; it's about a people and a culture," said Creamer, of Inverness. "It's about where they were, the adversity they survived and where they are today. As living historians, we teach what

happened. If you don't know the history, you're going to repeat it sooner or later."

The three Seminole Wars — from 1816-19, 1835-42 and 1855-58 — were the equivalent of one long war in which the Native Americans in Florida were forced farther and farther south into the Everglades. The U.S. Army killed or moved most of them to Oklahoma, but a core group of a



Beverly Bidney

U.S. Army reenactors shoot a cannon armed with blanks for the crowd at the shootout.

few hundred survived. The Tribe today is descended from those warriors.

"We want the visitors to know we're regular human beings," Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger said. "We want to give them a firsthand view of the battle, that's the history. I hope everyone gets a good education out of it, enjoys themselves and comes back next year."

During the wars, the Seminoles used guerrilla warfare effectively against the soldiers. The wars were the longest and costliest Indian conflict in U.S. history. The participants reenacted a typical battle

♦ See SHOOTOUT on page 4A

Editorial

School shootings: Enough is enough

• Aaron Tommie

On Feb. 14, 17 people were killed in a mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, marking the 19th shooting on school grounds in 2018. When I first heard of this shooting, I immediately thought to myself 'not again' and was shocked, especially since the year started barely seven weeks before. The high school is approximately 40 minutes away from Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, which was also the place of a mass shooting just 11 months earlier, and is only a short driving distance away from my home.



According to the Washington Post, mass shootings are identified as events involving four or more people injured or killed in a single event at the same time and location. As of March 11, there have been 45 mass shootings and 74 people have been killed from guns in the U.S. in 2018, according to Gun Violence Archive, a website that provides statistics in relation to gun violence. The data also shows that four or more people have been killed in 13 percent of those shootings.

Ten years ago, the only mass shootings I remember hearing about were the infamous Columbine High School massacre and the Virginia Tech shooting. Since July 2012, there have been at least six major mass shootings that have greatly increased debates concerning gun regulation and the second amendment.

In the United States, people must be 18 years old to buy long guns and 21 years old to purchase hand guns. Varying interpretations of the second amendment have caused people to revisit the amendment and establish a modern understanding of it. On Sept. 25, 1789, Congress passed the second amendment, which reads as follows: "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

While the amendment has remained the same since 1789, state and federal regulations have changed throughout the years. Today, many states do not strictly enforce gun control and access to guns has gotten easier.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School's shooter is Nikolas Cruz, a former student of the high school. Documented accounts mention that Cruz was a troubled teenager who was once expelled from the high school and, according to statements had expressed his desire to shoot people. Reports state that he arrived at the school in an Uber, with a bag that contained an AR-15 and magazines. Shortly after, he entered the school and began the devastating event.

This was the third mass shooting in Florida since June 2016.

Just one day prior to the MSD shooting, Parkland was listed as one of the safest places to live in the United States based on a study released by Neighborhood Scout. If students in an affluent city such as Parkland are not immune to crime, are there any places where crime cannot exist?

Unfortunately, crime will always take place. The best ways to help stop crime is to take methods to prevent it from occurring as best as possible. President Donald Trump suggested arming teachers would possibly provide students with more safety in schools. Personally, I do not agree with that idea. Stronger regulations that involve more stringent methods to better sift out people who are not capable of being responsible of possessing firearms should exist. What those measures will be, I cannot say.

Public support has flooded in since the shooting. The #NeverAgain movement, which advocates for stricter gun regulations, has been instrumental in raising awareness and providing support for the victims and community members affected by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. Delta Airlines has chosen to not provide discounts to NRA members. Athletes such as Dwyane Wade and Ryan Lochte have recently visited the high school to show support for the victims. There were also school walk-outs that took place, during which high school and college students from throughout the U.S. walked out of class in protest to the events that took place at MSD.

Enough is enough. These mass shootings have incited fear and inflicted pain in the hearts of many people for far too long. It is my hope that an event like this never occurs again. There does not have to be another Nikolas Cruz, Adam Lanza in Sandy Hook, Dylan Roof in Charleston or a Stephen Paddock in Las Vegas if we take drastic measures to enact change to gun laws and prevent these future tragedies.

Aaron Tommie has worked for the Tribe since 2015. He is a participant in the Tribe's Advanced Career Development program. He is currently working in the Executive Operations Office.

Missing and murdered indigenous women need attention after International Women's Day

• Christine Nobiss, Bustle

In the United States, there is an unaddressed crisis of epidemic proportions. Indigenous women, children, and men are assaulted, abused, murdered, and go missing at rates far above the national average. A National Institute of Justice study reported that 56 percent of Native American and Alaskan Native women have experienced sexual violence and 90 percent of victims have experienced violence at the hands of a non-tribal member.

The statistics around missing and murdered indigenous women, however, are far harder to calculate. In 2016, The National Crime Information Center reported 5,712 missing Native American and Alaska Native women in the U.S., but experts say the actual number is higher, as cases are under-reported. In Canada, one report found that a little more than 1,000 native women were murdered between 1980 and 2012, but activists have identified over 4,000 missing and/or murdered Indigenous women, according to the CBC. There is even a road in British Columbia called the "Highway of Tears" where over 40 Indigenous women have gone missing or been found murdered in the vicinity since 1969. Though First Nation communities are working tirelessly to address this issue, it has rarely an impact on those that live with privilege and power – and on International Women's Day, these missing and murdered Indigenous women deserve your attention.

The Lakota People's Law Project has stated that these statistics still underestimate the number of women affected by sexual violence because the infrastructure for women to report and handle incidents is underfunded. Some grassroots experts have testified that the rate of sexual violence is closer to 80 or 90 percent in some communities and more than 80 percent of sex crimes on reservations are perpetrated by non-Native men, a continued act of violence that has its roots in an imperialist agenda. These high numbers are partially due to the fact that tribal courts have not had jurisdiction to prosecute non-tribal

members for many crimes like sexual assault and rape, which has provided impunity to many non-Native perpetrators. The Violence Against Women Act, and its reauthorization in 2013, provided "special domestic violence criminal jurisdiction to federally recognized tribes," according to the National Institute of Justice. Even so, "Federal authorities often decline to prosecute crimes that have been committed" on Native American land, as Vice reported in 2015. "This jurisdictional black hole has created a climate that many describe as 'open season' on Native women on reservations."

Many activists have been shedding light on the issue of increased violence in our territories due to "man camps," or temporary villages that house workers on fossil fuel lines. Not only are these camps responsible for building infrastructure that often puts local environments and sacred areas at risk, but their presence is linked to direct harm of our people. States like North Dakota have seen a rise in violent crime coincident with the oil boom. "These man camps become centers for drugs, violence, and the sex trafficking of women and girls," activists Mary Kathryn Nagle and Gloria Steinem, citing the First Nations Women's Alliance, wrote for the Boston Globe in 2016. "They also become launching pads for serial sexual predators who endanger females for miles around." It may not be obvious to non-Native people, but the health and safety of Native American people is directly linked to the health and safety of our land. Our Indigenous people's body sovereignty is entwined with the sovereignty of our First Nations.

The current administration is trying to dismantle the progress our Nations have made to protect our sovereignty, both over our land and over our bodies. During his election campaign, Trump's Native American Coalition stated that his presidency would work to minimize federal oversight and regulation through the privatization of reservations. It is estimated that Native American land holds about 30 percent of the nation's coal, 50 percent of potential uranium and 20 percent of known oil and gas, according to a report compiled by the Property and Environment Research Center. If this administration deregulates federal control on reservations, it could undo 100

years of policy-making that has led to self-determination and healing for Native people.

Beyond their intentions for our land, this administration announced last year that it would make cuts to the Department of Justice – threatening the Violence Against Women Act, one of our most important safety nets. And though that funding cut did not occur for 2019, the Office on Violence Against Women has been without a leader since Trump took office in 2016. As Sue Davis, writing for the Worker's World, stated recently, "Will the 2013 reauthorization of the 1996 Violence Against Women Act, which extended the act to increase protections for LGBTQ survivors as well as Native women, remain after Trump nominates a [...] OVAW director?" Many people think it's less than likely.

To preserve VAWA, we need to support groups like The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Inc., and their VAWA Sovereignty Initiative, which focuses on the "defense of the constitutionality and functionality of all Violence Against Women Act tribal provisions." Such an initiative falls in line with the bill proposed by North Dakota Senator Heidi Heitkamp called "Savanna's Act," named for Spirit Lake Tribe member Savanna Greywind, 22, who disappeared from her apartment when she was eight months pregnant and was found murdered. Groups like Seeding Sovereignty are working to end the epidemic of MMIW by promoting community-owned renewable energy, and encouraging people to contact their representatives on legislation like Savanna's Act.

Such egregious acts should never happen again. It is why Indigenous people need to be heard loud and clear when we talk about how sovereignty is key to our well-being. Our stories about colonial violence and environmental destruction are key to moving forward in the fight to stop the systematic destruction of our environment. This International Women's Day, please listen.

In this op-ed, activist Christine Nobiss, Plains Cree/Saulteaux, explains how the fight for environmental sovereignty is directly linked with the growing issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and what others can do to help.

Native Americans should vote to protect sacred sites

• Mark Trahant, Indian Country Today

Why should Native Americans vote? Linda Yardley from Taos Pueblo had one answer at a field hearing of the Native American Voting Rights Coalition Friday.

She said Taos Pueblo fought for more than a century to have the United States return its sacred Blue Lake. The land had been taken by the U.S. Forest Service in 1906 and a former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (and therefore head of the Forest Service,) Clinton P. Anderson, was by the late 1960s a U.S. Senator from New Mexico. The Pueblo eventually won, when President Richard Nixon agreed to return Blue Lake.

But Anderson never changed his position. "He told our tribal leaders: 'I'll be dead before you ever get your land back.' And that was our U.S. Senator," Yardley testified. "If our people had been voters, registered voters, Clinton Anderson probably would not have had the ability to say that. This is why it's so important for me personally because I don't want our people to go through the hardship that we did to secure our tribal lands, our sacred lands, back to us."

The Native American Voting Rights Coalition has been holding hearings across the

country since last September to document the unique needs and challenges faced by Native voters. The coalition said witnesses include a wide range of tribal leaders, advocates, and voters. They are sharing their experiences with voter registration and voting in federal, state, and local (non-tribal) elections.

Issues being identified in the hearings include access to voter registration and voting sites, early voting, poll worker opportunities, treatment at the polls, voter identification requirements, redistricting, language barriers, and other obstacles that might prevent Native Americans from being able to participate fully and effectively in the political process.

In earlier hearings, testimony from tribal members, elected officials, and community advocates, documented persistent suppression of the Native vote in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana. This included a number of barriers to equal voting rights including "unreasonably long distances to polls and inability to access transportation keep Natives from voting."

Jacqueline De León, Voting Rights Fellow for the Native American Rights Fund said in a news release, "Tribal members should not have to expend precious resources getting to distant polls all the while doubting whether or not they will be allowed to vote. I was shocked by the wide range of arbitrary

and unreasonable requirements that make Native Americans feel unwelcome or keep them from voting altogether. This is true voter suppression."

The voting coalition said testimony from several hearings documented serious hurdles that Native voters had to face in order to vote:

Dismal conditions at reservation voting polling locations, one of which included a dirt floor chicken coop that did not have restrooms.

Restrictions on the number of voter registrations that one can submit to the county clerk's office, requiring repeated trips to the office.

County employees chastising organizers submitting voter registrations for being a "nuisance" and "making more work" for the county office by submitting Native American registrations.

Notifications sent to reservation residents that incorrectly informed them they are no longer residing in the district where they had registered and failing to identify the correct district.

Being turned away at the polls because a tribal identification card did not include a street address.

Poll workers who fell silent whenever a Native American entered the polling location.

At the Albuquerque hearing, Laurie Weahkee, executive director of the New Mexico-based Native American Voters

Alliance, said the efforts to register voters began in the early 1990s to try and protect sacred sites. "At the time a lot of us were young organizers and never voted before and sort of thumbed our noses at politics and politicians ... but as we remained in our effort to protect petroglyphs we found ourselves losing votes after votes. City council votes, public information type votes, and so it became important for us to figure out which candidates, which people were going to really support Native American people. This went beyond sacred sites."

Weahkee said the alliance was spending a lot of time in the state legislature and paid attention to issues such as taxes, bonds, and roads. And Native American projects were rarely included in that process. So the alliance worked to register 5,000 Native American voters in Albuquerque in 2007. Weahkee is Zuni, Cochiti and Navajo.

Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo, is now running for the U.S. Congress to represent Albuquerque, but has worked on voting rights issues in the state for many years. "I come at this issue as a grassroots organizer," she said. "I felt like we needed more Native Americans voting so I went to the campaign offices of candidates I liked and asked for Native American lists so I could start calling those folks on the phone. That eventually turned into on the ground, show up, and canvass every single house on Laguna Pueblo

in 2010, and drive many, many times to Zuni Pueblo to knock on every door and make sure that every opportunity to vote."

Haaland recalled a Saturday morning visit to a home in San Felipe Pueblo in 2008 where she registered seven people to vote. She said the last person to register was a man, probably in his mid 50s, "stood up, shook my hand, and said, 'thank you so much, I have always wanted to vote but I never knew how.' If that does make you feel like we have a lot of work to do in New Mexico, I don't know what will."

The Native American Voting Rights Coalition is a non-partisan alliance of national and grassroots organizations, scholars, and activists advocating for equal access for Native Americans to the political process. The Native American Rights Fund founded the coalition in 2015. Hearings will continue next month in Sacramento on April 5 and in Tuba City in the Navajo Nation on April 25. The Native American Rights Fund will accept testimony from those who cannot make the hearings by email at vote@narf.org.

Mark Trahant is editor of Indian Country Today. He is a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

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Community



Hollywood Hard Rock shares love for music with local organization

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Hollywood is sharing its love for music with those who need it most in the South Florida Community.

On March 20, the Hollywood hotel received a \$5,000 grant from Hard Rock International's Hard Rock Heals Foundation to donate the funds to a local organization. This year, Hard Rock Hollywood chose the Face the Music Foundation, a non-profit organization aiming to help people overcome substance addiction through music programs.

Face the Music plans to use the grant for two initiatives: A prevention and awareness music-based program with the Boys & Girls Club of Broward County and a program that supports musicians who are in substance abuse recovery.

The Boys & Girls Club initiative is a three-week program aimed at helping adolescents find a way to express how they're feeling and what they are going through.

Naomi Fabricant, Face the Music executive director, explained that a lot of kids struggle with bullying, self-esteem or family issues. Throughout the program, Face the Music introduces the kids to songs that invoke their emotions and help them express themselves. In conjunction with the music, they have kids share — whether by raising their hands or verbally — what issues they are currently dealing with to create an environment of support and understanding. At each hour-long session, the students also fill out worksheets so Face the Music can keep track of their progress and work to make the program more effective.

"You don't have to be a musician or

musically inclined to benefit. ... We're giving them this very safe environment to express themselves in a way that they would have never known how to do," Fabricant said. "We use music and lyrics and vibrations to engage their hearts."

The recovery program for musicians was created to provide musicians who are 18 and older and struggling with substance abuse a safe place to perform their music. Fabricant explained that reintroducing them to crowds who are fun, respectful and understand what they're going through "helps them reengage in a healthy way."

Unlike traditional cognitive behavioral therapies that focus on appealing to mental changes, Fabricant explained that these programs focus on appealing to peoples' hearts. She said that addicts have a self-manipulative mindset that often leads them away from healthy thoughts and actions. Music, on the other hand, triggers emotional reactions and creates endorphins, which helps with positive thinking and rehabilitation.

"We're going to help musicians and children," Fabricant said. "It doesn't get much better than that."

Recovery Unplugged, the first addiction treatment organization to use music in drug and alcohol abuse treatment, is the title sponsor of Face the Music. While Recovery Unplugged helps connect individuals to programs and treatment facilities throughout the country, Andrew Sossin, Recovery Unplugged co-founder and CEO, said that Face the Music helps to financially support people getting there.

"The more people that understand what we do, the more people we can help. Every single dollar that we raise, 100 percent goes to save peoples' lives," Sossin said, adding that 70 percent of their clients suffer from

opioid addiction. "Recovery Unplugged is something different that uses music as a catalyst to save peoples' lives. We have the Face the Music Foundation because some people don't have family and friends that will help them."

Hard Rock Heals — Hard Rock International's philanthropic foundation — chose the Hollywood Hotel and Casino along with 44 other Hard Rock locations, including the Hard Rock Café, which provided a grant to Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital. Approximately 200 HRI properties throughout the world applied this year. Every year, Hard Rock properties are invited to advocate for a music-led charity or organization in their area.

The foundation's Global Philanthropy Manager Kellie Brown said that nobody knows communities like the Hard Rocks and the foundation wants to respect the priorities and objectives of every location. The foundation's advisory council reviews the applications and makes their decision based on how the organizations use music to help the community, their foreseeable impact and the Hard Rock property's overall commitment to the Hard Rock Heals Foundation through volunteering and campaign support.

"It's all about music philanthropy and how music is being used to change lives around the world," Brown said. "With Face the Music Foundation, its purpose is in recovery in addiction, which is something that really may not pop to the top of your mind when you think about music as a healing agent. To see that there's great work happening, it's very well invested and there's great success and they're using music philanthropy is really wonderful."

This is the second year in a row that the Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel and Casino



Li Cohen

Hard Rock International Global Philanthropy Manager Kellie Brown, far left, and Hard Rock Hollywood Vice President of Community Affairs and Special Events Susan Renneisen, far right, provide an honorary check to Face the Music Executive Director Naomi Fabricant and Recovery Unplugged Co-Founder Andrew Sossin to help their foundation continue providing substance abuse recovery to the South Florida community.

has received the grant. Last year, Hard Rock Hollywood gave the grant to the Ann Storck Center in Fort Lauderdale for their work with adults and children with developmental disabilities.

Hard Rock Hollywood's Vice President of Community Affairs and Special Events Susan Renneisen nominated Face the Music for the grant. She has worked with Recovery Unplugged for many years, and said that their

work is an "incredible and worthwhile" cause that means a lot to the community.

"Without philanthropy an organization doesn't exist. It has to come from your core values, it has to come from your heart and it has to be part of the fiber of your employee base," Renneisen said. "We try to encourage that and work with an organization that not only allows us to give back, but encourages us."

O.B. Osceola Sr. retires after a lifetime building chickees

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

NAPLES — O.B. Osceola Sr. got his start in the chickee building business when, as an 8-year-old, he handed his father Cory Osceola palm fronds that would be used for a new chickee's roof. He loved the work but wanted to be on the roof building it with his brothers.

Eventually, Osceola, who grew up in Ochopee and the Everglades, started a chickee building business of his own in Naples.

After rebuilding one last chickee in February, Osceola, 84, has finally retired.

"My shoulders are kind of worn out," Osceola said. "All the young guys can build them now. I'm retiring but if the right job comes along, I'll do it."

The chickee bar at The Cove Inn in Naples was destroyed during Hurricane Irma when the hotel's roof blew off and landed right on top of it. Osceola originally built the 25-by-18-foot chickee in 1969, but the hotel decided to take the opportunity to rebuild and

expand it to 46-by-25 feet.

The chickee, which took about a month to complete, was built brand new from the ground up and includes new pressure treated pine poles and 7,200 cabbage palm fronds collected from private land.

"It will stay for a lifetime now, if the hotel doesn't fall on it," Osceola said.

On the last day of Osceola's last chickee, he used a crew that included his son O.B. Osceola Jr. and grandson O.B. Osceola III.

"Today I recommend people get an education and learn a trade," Osceola said. "Chickees are a traditional thing and something to fall back on, but make sure to get an education."

His children heeded his advice and earned college degrees. His son Osceola Jr. is a business owner and daughter Tina Osceola is an associate judge on the Tribal Court.

The chickee business was good for Osceola, who never received a higher education. After riding out Hurricane Donna in a camp in Ochopee, the Osceola family moved to Naples. Once there, they built chickees for some of its founding families including the Watkins, who developed the

Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club, and the Colliers, who developed large swaths of the county named for them.

After serving in the U.S. Army in the late 1950s, Osceola came home and went to work building chickees in Southwest Florida. He built a Seminole Village on U.S. 41 for the Collier Family Company.

"We were squatters and they treated the Seminoles well for many years," he said. "We had a good relationship."

After building another village in East Naples, Osceola started building chickees full time and has been doing it ever since. His business went international when he was hired by a Caribbean resort in Bonaire to build two large chickees, one for a restaurant and the other for a bar.

The project took 22,000 palm fronds to build, which Osceola shipped in a container from Port Everglades. The success of those chickees led to other jobs in the nearby islands of Aruba and Curacao. In the 1960s he also built two chickees at the Colusa Indian Community's casino near Sacramento, California.

A family man, Osceola sells arts and

crafts with his daughter Tina at events and on dividend day in Hollywood. He also collects and repairs antique sewing machines. Osceola, who never smoked or used alcohol, said his doctor recently told him he has the "insides of a 65-year-old."

"I have no complaints," Osceola said. "I have lived a good life and wouldn't change anything."



Courtesy of Tina Osceola

O.B. Osceola Jr., O.B. Osceola III, James Poole, O.B. Osceola Sr. and Dwight Cypress pose under the newly completed chickee at The Cove Inn in Naples on Feb. 22.

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◆ **MANASOTA KEY**
From page 1A

the artifacts, which is what happened to the original mandible Frank found because he did not know proper conservation techniques. Walsh-Haney said that maintaining the materials is laborious, as she has to pay close attention to the process details. For the hundreds of artifacts she is currently working with from the site, each one has to be handled gently and slowly moved from a saltwater environment to freshwater before being able to dry out. She constantly has to keep track of the temperature, pH and salt levels of the environments she's placing the artifacts in to



Ivor Molllema/Florida Department of State
One of the stakes excavated at Manasota Key revealed a notch in its length. It is not yet known what the notch was for.

ensure they are not damaged. This amount of detail and precision takes time, and at just a glimpse of that timetable, it took Walsh-Haney roughly three months to stabilize only 20 artifacts.

Walsh-Haney said she remains "speechless" about the discovery, as it is the first time agencies have requested her help with evidentiary material with dozens of stakeholders.

"Not only does the Bureau of Archaeological Research have requirements on what they have to do to document the site, but to know that I'm really working to help the Seminole Tribe and the Miccosukees conserve their history is incredible," she said. "I'm blown away and emotionally touched by the trust I have in handling the evidentiary material."

Once all the pieces are stable, the Bureau will collect the pieces and work with the Department of State to send out a formal notice to federally-recognized tribes. Ultimately, Duggins said all of the artifacts will be placed somewhere safe, either at the original site or on-shore with their respective tribe.

Backhouse said that THPO is going to recommend replacing the findings at the original burial site. Per Seminole customs, it's important for Seminole remains to remain undisturbed.

"We'd never ever want or have ancestral remains

here at the museum or anywhere on Tribal grounds," Backhouse said, adding that he hopes to install a special security system at the underwater site that will allow THPO to monitor the area remotely. "Disturbing ancestors is the number one thing not to do from a cultural perspective and we do respect that in everything we do."

Records show that around 7,000 years ago, Florida Natives used small freshwater ponds to bury the deceased. Only a handful of sites like this have been uncovered throughout the state, but Duggins said that all of them are above-ground, making this underwater discovery particularly unique. As to whether these pieces specifically derive from the Seminole, Duggins said that all the Bureau knows for sure is that the artifacts came from Florida's people.

"What we know is that these are the remains of Florida's indigenous people and the Seminole and Miccosukees are Florida's recognized tribes," he said. "It's very important that we, especially us in this office, do whatever we can to ensure everything is protected as best as it can be."

Walsh-Haney added that people have to remember that the artifacts discovered are from a sacred cemetery.

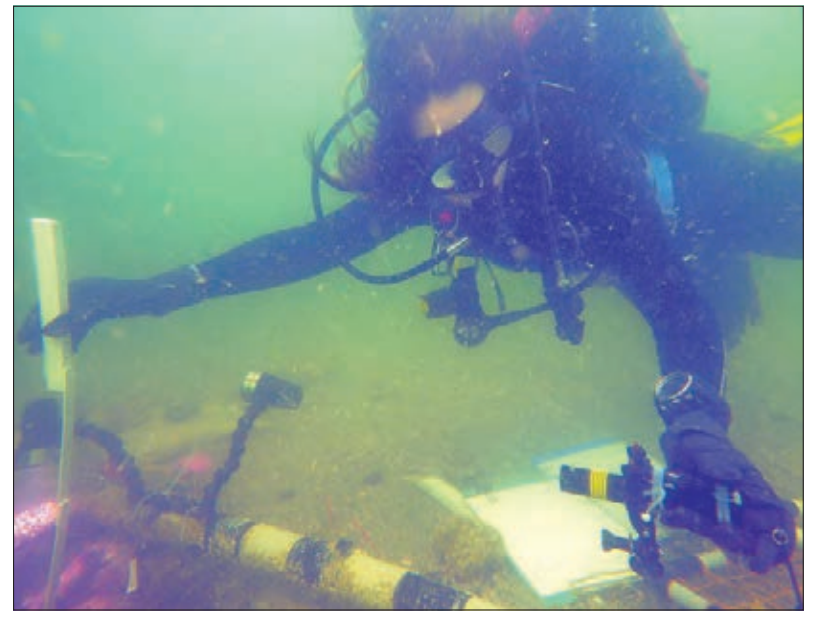
"It's important for people to understand that our indigenous Floridians used the land in a way that still allowed them to work the land and harvest the actual materials that could be used as a representation of their beliefs and their ways," she said.

Until more information about the area is revealed, the Bureau is working with local

and state law enforcement, county officials and homeowners near Manasota Key to protect the site. Duggins hopes that working with local and state agencies will engage the public to act in good faith and refrain from harming or manipulating the ancestral site. So far, he said that communication with agencies and locals has been positive and everyone is willing and eager to help.

There is no set timeline for research, but the Bureau hopes to have a more definite plan of action as soon as possible. If divers come across other interesting artifacts or have artifacts from this particular site, they are encouraged to contact the Bureau as it is illegal to disturb burial sites in Florida.

"What I'm really hoping is that this site will spark a new discussion and a new



Ivor Molllema/Florida Department of State
FPAN partner Nicole Grinnan measures the test unit's depth using a laser level and folding ruler.

interest in archaeology, not just here in Florida, but perhaps throughout the entire Gulf and maybe elsewhere," Duggins said on a final note. "Now that we've been able to demonstrate that a site like this can exist off-shore, I think it's going to have to result in other agencies and people being aware of the possibility of sites like this existing out there now. ... I hope it's a game-changer."

◆ **SHOOTOUT**
From page 1A

with Seminoles fighting from the woods as soldiers lined up in the open field.

"This is stuff our own people need to see," Jumper said. "A lot of our young people don't know about their ancestors. It's part of who we are; it's part of them."

Seminole youth weren't the only young people to get an education at the shootout. About 200 students attended the event Friday and 500 boy scouts, leaders and family members from all over Florida camped out for Friday and Saturday nights at the Immokalee culture camp. Councilman Tiger sponsored a lunch at the camp with rice, gravy, Indian dogs, hot dogs, mac and cheese and frybread on the menu.

"The battle was the best part because, boom!" said Troop 300 Scout Joseph Jones of Miami.

"The Seminoles are awesome," said Cub Scout Nicholas Conover of Miami. "It's amazing how they survived."

A group of cub scouts from Lehigh Acres were full of energy as they described the best parts of the event. Answers included "tangling with an alligator," learning about the war and seeing the weapons.

A successful marketing effort, including a Groupon campaign, attracted the attention of newspapers,



Beverly Bidney
A worker tacks cabbage palm fans to the top of one of Immokalee's new chickees.

radio and television stations. The result was a large crowd of visitors. Venisa Brown, of Peoria, Illinois, was glad she came to the shootout.

"We saw the ad," said Brown, who is spending the winter in Naples. "This is something we haven't done before and we learned about Seminole history and are having a great time."

Immokalee debuts new chickees

Immokalee rolled out the red carpet and a few newly built chickees for the thousands who attended the Seminole Shootout. Thanks to Hurricane Irma's visit to the res, new chickees were needed for the event so Jimmy Holdiness and Ray Yzaguirre got to work.

Along with a crew of 27, the duo made quick work of a few chickees including two measuring 130-by-16 feet and 28-by-16 feet. The chickees, which would normally take about a month to complete, took only seven days to build. They were finished on March 1, the day before the shootout.

The final 60-by-16-foot chickee was built between March 10 and 16, well after the shootout, but it adds another long chickee which will be put to good use at future events at the Immokalee rodeo grounds.



Beverly Bidney
A Seminole reenactor in a traditional longshirt "fights" the soldiers the same way his ancestors did; by using guerilla tactics and having the trees to shield him as he aimed and fired from inside the swamp at the Seminole Shootout Battle Reenactment in Immokalee March 3.



Beverly Bidney
Moses Jumper Jr. skillfully guides his cracker horse through the woods as he participates in the Immokalee shootout March 3. His regalia, gun and saddle are authentic from the 1830s, the time period of the second Seminole War.

Knowledge grows at ERMD plant identification, herbicide use training

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Some of the most beautiful plants in Florida waters are also some of the most destructive to the native ecosystem.

A few dozen Tribal members and employees learned how to effectively combat invasive species at a training March 8 sponsored by the Environmental Resource Management Department in Big Cypress. Employees from recreation, buildings and grounds, tribal landscape companies, culture, cattle owners and ERMD attended the session. Guest speakers included scientists and professionals in the field of invasive plant management and herbicide usage.

"The goal is to teach the community more about native and exotic plants and how to treat the ones we don't want," said Mandy D'Andrea, ERMD biological forestry technician. "Everyone here will learn more about the plants around us."

Lyn Gettys, assistant professor at the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in Fort Lauderdale, started the day off by introducing the crowd to "Florida's Dirty Dozen," a list of exotic aquatic weeds that are wreaking havoc on the environment. Some have been a scourge on the ecosystem for hundreds of years.

The Dirty Dozen is comprised of water lettuce, water hyacinth, alligator weed, hydrilla, hygrophila, crested floating heart, yellow floating heart, giant salvinia weed, rotala, feathered mosquito fern, tropical American watergrass and redroot floater.

Gettys explained that two of the Dirty Dozen got to Florida by accidental introduction and hurricane winds, but 10 of the 12 species came to Florida as ornamental plants for water gardens and aquariums.

"We can't resist pretty new things from other places," Gettys said. "But they interfere with our native ecosystems."

It is believed that water lettuce (Pistia stratiotes) has been in Florida waters since before the 1750s. The floating plant is dense, blocks light and oxygen and creates an unsuitable habitat for native plants and animals. It also clogs irrigation intakes and causes other problems due to their exuberant growth. The plant can also survive on land as a semi-rooted plant.

In 1884, water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) plants were given away at the New Orleans World Cotton Exposition as souvenirs. The floating aquatic plants boast purple flowers and grow extremely fast; one plant can grow to cover an acre of water in four months. Gettys told a story of a plant owner whose plants overwhelmed her pond after the New Orleans Expo so she put some in the St. Johns River, the main shipping lane through Florida at the time. Within 10 years it blocked navigation on the river and led to the creation of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1902.

"The Army Corps of Engineers was charged with keeping the waters navigable," Gettys said. "Congress let them clear the

way by using any means necessary. This was before the EPA and Silent Spring; we didn't know then what we know now. They tried sulfuric acid, arsenic and all sorts of nasty stuff. It killed the plants but it also killed the cows that grazed on the plants."

In the 1890s alligator weed (Alternanthera philoxeroides) was probably introduced as ballast from a ship from South America. The plant grows underwater and above the surface of the water. At one time it was a big problem, but the alligator weed flea beetle keeps it in check.

Herbicides aren't necessary to control it. Introduced in the 1950s, hydrilla (Hydrilla verticillata) is "the plant we love to hate," Gettys said. "It's our job security plant if you're trying to keep canals clear."

Originally called the star of India vine, no one is sure of the plant's origins. It was used as an aquarium plant since it is a good oxygenator, but ultimately the plants were dumped in canals. Hydrilla grows underwater and lays flat on top, is dense, blocks light and oxygen and interferes with recreation.

"Outboard motors can't get through it," Gettys said. "Once the plant is broken by a propeller, it will grow a new plant. People have drowned by getting tangled in it while swimming."

Also introduced in the 1950s was hygrophila (Hygrophila polysperma) which, like hydrilla, roots from fragments and grows very well under submerged conditions.

"It's a federally listed noxious weed, but you can still buy it on the internet," Gettys said. "It's a nasty, nasty plant."

In the 1990s and 2000s, the crested floating heart (Nymphoides cristata), was introduced for water gardens. The plant escaped cultivation and wound up in the environment; it can become invasive very quickly.

"It's a very pretty plant with heart shaped leaves and little floating flowers," Gettys said. "It was listed by the state as a noxious weed a few years ago. All you can do with this is kill it, so that's a good thing."

The yellow floating heart (Nymphoides peltata) looks like the crested floating heart with yellow flowers instead of white ones, but it is a different species. So far, the plant is only found in pockets in Florida but it is widespread in North and South Carolina. Yellow floating heart has the potential to become a problem in Florida.

Also introduced in the 1990s and 2000s, the giant salvinia/kariba weed (Salvinia molesta) is another federally listed noxious weed. It's actually a floating fern that can form extremely dense populations that look like ground cover, but there is water beneath it. An unusual feature of the weed is that after being cleared from a body of water, the plants can survive in wet soil on the ground and then spread back into the water.

Rotala (Rotala rotundifolia), first discovered here in the 2000s, is becoming one of the newest plants Gettys "loves to hate." Also among the newest invasive species are feathered mosquito fern (Azolla pinnata), a federally listed noxious weed, and tropical American watergrass (Luziola subintegra), which was brought in on hurricane winds. Both species were discovered in Florida in 2007. In 2010, the red root floater (Phyllanthus fluitans) was found in the Peace River and may be contained there, at least for the time being.

ERMD Maintenance Supervisor Neal Livingston and Weed Control Technician Alfonso Tigertail recently treated some water lettuce



Beverly Bidney
Alfonso Tigertail, ERMD weed control technician, sprays herbicide in a Big Cypress canal March 14 in order to control the growth of water hyacinth, water lettuce and other invasive species in the ecosystem.

and hyacinth clogging a BC canal. The reservation has about 80 miles of canals and keeping them clear is a challenge.

On March 14, Tigertail sprayed the floating invasive plants with the herbicide Diquat. Prior to spraying, Livingston checked the wind speed and the label on the product to make sure conditions were right for application.

That sentiment was repeated during the training session by more than one presenter.

"All herbicides are heavily regulated," said Jeremy Slade of United Phosphorus Inc. and a board member of the Aquatic Plant Management Society. "The label is the law; you have to follow those guidelines."

Slade's presentation described the herbicides and how to calculate the amount to use for different plants and ecosystems. There are 14 registered aquatic herbicides in Florida, all of which work on the plants' processes. Depending on the herbicide, it can take a few days or longer to get rid of the nuisance aquatic plants. The chemicals are in and out of the environment quickly and don't affect people.

"It's a maintenance control program, not eradication," Slade said. "The concentration and exposure time kills the plants. Once it's in the water, it dilutes."

During a question and answer period, issues facing cattle owners were raised since the ranchers use canals for irrigation and drinking water for the animals. Slade told them they can drop the water level of the canals and use less herbicide. The chemicals break down and are only in the environment for 24 to 48 hours. He said it is possible to hold the water in the canal and release it after the chemicals are diluted.

"Canal water keeps moving, so you have to stay on top of it and manage the vegetation that is there," Slade said. "If you treat the canals when the water is low, there is less area to treat, less product and lower costs."

Tigertail, who used to work in the cattle business, noted that water lettuce is in some pastures now.

"Cattle owners lease the land, but whose responsibility is it to treat the problem?" he said. "We need education so both sides understand the issue and not just look for someone to blame. There will always be maintenance involved."

BC cattle owners Martha Jones and Esther Buster attended the training session to gather more information about the exotic aquatics, the herbicides and whether they harm the cattle forage.

Daniel Leckie, of DOW Dupont and a board member of the Florida Vegetation Management Association, gave a presentation on how to treat pastures. James Boggs of Helena Chemical Company and board member of the South Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society, was the last speaker of the day.

The most important lesson Gettys wanted the attendees to get from the class was a simple one.

"Kill the weeds before they get out of control," she said. "If you catch it early enough you have a chance to eradicate them. If not, you'll be fighting them for decades."



Beverly Bidney
A showy purple flower of the water hyacinth blooms next to some water lettuce in a Big Cypress canal. Both invasive species are treated with herbicides to lessen the negative impact they have on the native flora.

◆ SEMINOLE DOLLS
From page 1A

"They didn't have that back in the 30s," Doctor said, saying that originally, Seminole men and women wore patchwork that was very similar and somewhat plain compared to today's standards. "But as the 1940s and 50s came, they started making the patchwork."

While the researchers also sought to learn more about Seneca and Navajo dolls as well, the Seminole Tribe is the only U.S. tribal group officially included in their research.

"We found that the Seminole doll was raised on the issue of survival and that the material was also used to facilitate access to the area," Koo said of their findings. "I was interested in the fact that the doll itself contained an intensive Seminole culture. It was also impressive that they were able to protect the identity of the Tribe. I hope that in the future the Seminole doll will not only sustain, but also develop its successor."

Their research is expected to be published in November. The NFMK also plans to open an exhibit displaying the research and dolls they researched in their children's museum in September 2019.



Li Cohen

From left to right, Lead Curator Moon Hee Koo, Assistant Curator Hyun Ah Lee, Representative of the Korean American Association of South Florida Dana Oh, who also served as a translator, and Hollywood Culture Center Manager Bobby Frank discuss the role chickees play in Seminole history and culture.



Li Cohen

Mable Osceola Doctor shows the researchers examples of Seminole dolls that she created.

Kids show determination, chickens debut at Seminole Indian 4-H show

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Reporter

BRIGHTON — There wasn't a horse in sight at Brighton's Fred Smith Rodeo Arena when it hosted the Seminole Indian 4-H Show and Sale March 22 and 23, but there were plenty of steer, hogs and chickens.

The event marked the end of months of hard work and dedication by the 4-H kids, who cared for their steer since last summer and hogs since the fall. The program teaches them what it takes to raise livestock and send them to market.

About 115 kids tribal wide participated in the 4-H program, which teaches the business of raising livestock. They tracked every cent spent on food, supplies and veterinarian costs and kept a log book with the information. A long lasting by-product of caring for the animals is a heightened sense of responsibility.

"Years later, a lot of kids come back and talk to me about being in 4-H," said Norman "Dad" Johns, who has been ringmaster at the 4-H shows for about 40 years. "A lot of former 4-H kids put their own kids through what they went through."

Chickens may not have stolen the show, but the animals took their place in the ring for the first time at the 4-H show.

"We want to expose the kids to more agricultural projects," said Aaron Stam, Florida cooperative extension agent. "We wanted them to learn hands-on and they have done a great job raising the chickens."

Three hundred chickens were distributed,

150 layers and 150 broilers, which the kids raised from chicks. The broilers are genetically made to grow large in less than 90 days. The Rhode Island Red layers should begin to lay eggs in the next few months and could be back next year, Stam told the crowd.

The chickens weren't judged, but the participating 4-H'ers displayed their animals in cages before the show and showed them off in the show ring before the livestock events.

A photography club and sewing club were also new to 4-H this year. Photos and patchwork made by the youngsters were displayed.

The youngest 4-H'ers, the Cloverbuds, learn to care for small animals such as guinea pigs, rabbits, ducks and chickens. They proudly showed their animals and answered questions about them in the show ring.

In another first, a heifer in the program had twins. Brianna Bowers didn't expect two calves and was surprised when they were born in October; the due date wasn't until late December. During the show, cattle judge Dr. Todd Thrift from the University of Florida commented on it.

"I've never seen anything like this," Thrift said. "But she looks good and has good reproductive capacity."

The show began with the heifers, a three-year program in which participants breed animals to start a herd of their own. The first year they show a yearling, the second year a bred heifer and the third year a cow-calf pair. Participants in the program don't sell their animals, so it is common for them to also raise a steer and sell it. The hope is that the

profit will help pay for the heifer's expenses. Alyssa Gonzalez has been in the heifer program for five or six years and has 10 in her herd. Her bred heifer took first place in her class.

"I've already gotten my own brand," said Alyssa, 15. "I want to be a veterinarian so I can do everything on my own."

The judges told the crowd and the 4-H'ers, what they looked for in an animal. Thrift said a heifer doesn't need to be a body builder but she need to have some good muscle.

"These are all the right kind of cows for Florida," Thrift said. "I'm impressed that all the animals came from Tribal pastures."

As he observed each heifer and steer, Thrift spoke with the kids. He told the crowd later that this is the only show he's ever judged where every person knew the exact weight of his or her animal.

"It shows they know understand the value of the animals," he said.

Hogs may be smaller, but they still take a lot of work every day. Jayden Garza, 10, showed his first hog at the show. He enjoyed taking care of his animal and learned a few things about the species.

"You can't ride a hog," he said. "If you do you will break the bones in his back."

While they were in the ring, the kids had to manage where the hogs went while trying to keep eye contact with the judge. Summer Gopher remained focused on swine judge Dr. Chad Carr from the University of Florida. It paid off; in addition to winning first in her class, Summer was the swine Grand Champion Intermediate Showmanship winner.

Jalee Wilcox, 12, who showed a yearling, bred heifer and a steer, won Grand Champion Heifer with a cow from her father Cory Wilcox's herd.

"It's a lot of work because I have two more cows than last year," Jalee said. "I like their personalities. They are like bipolar; they can be nice one day and mean the next."

Dayra Koenes, 17, won for Grand Champion Steer, with a cow from Mary Jene Koenes' herd. She's been in 4-H since she was 5 years old.

"It's bittersweet to win and sad that I won't be able to do it again," said Dayra, a senior at Clewiston High School. "I'm excited for my next chapter; I'm going to Santa Fe College in Gainesville and want to study animal sciences."

Troy Cantu, 17, was the Grand Champion Senior Showmanship winner. He's been active in 4-H for 13 years and has won showmanship three other times.

"This is the only thing I care about," Troy said. "Showmanship is all about the person, not just the animal."



Beverly Bidney

Cloverbuds hold on to their animals in the ring as each of the littllest 4-H'ers are introduced at the 4-H show March 22.



Beverly Bidney

Summer Gopher beams as swine judge Dr. Chad Carr announces that her hog won its class at the 4-H show. Summer went on to be the intermediate showmanship winner.

4-H show winners

Grand Champion Heifer Jalee Wilcox	Grand Reserve Champion Intermediate Showmanship Jalee Wilcox
Reserve Grand Champion Heifer Brianna Bowers	Grand Champion Swine Taryn Osceola
Grand Champion Steer Dayra Koenes	Grand Reserve Champion Swine Hannah Platt
Reserve Grand Champion Steer Jacee Jumper	Grand Champion Sr. Showmanship Kaleb Thomas
Grand Champion Sr. Showmanship Troy Cantu	Grand Champion Intermediate Showmanship Summer Gopher
Grand Champion Intermediate Showmanship Nicholus Andrews	Grand Champion Jr. Showmanship Atley Driggers
Grand Champion Jr. Showmanship Steer Lecviticus Berry	Grand Reserve Champion Intermediate Showmanship Taryn Osceola
Grand Reserve Champion Sr. Showmanship Jacee Jumper	Reserve Grand Champion Jr. Swine Showmanship Thadd Johns

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Happy Easter



Beverly Bidney

Makalah Garza, 2, adds colorful eggs to her collection at the Immokalee preschool Easter egg hunt March 26.



Beverly Bidney

Dressed in her finest Easter patchwork dress, Hayleigh Rodriguez, 2, collects eggs at the Immokalee preschool Easter egg hunt.



Beverly Bidney

Marissa Osceola grabs a handful of Easter eggs to hide before the children come outside for the Naples Easter egg hunt March 23.



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress's Easter celebration March 27 featured a host of carnival rides for kids to enjoy, including these youngsters on the swing.



Beverly Bidney

Natalie Shaffer, 3, runs through the Immokalee preschool playground looking for eggs.



Li Cohen

The kids are off and running during the community egg hunt in Naples



Carlos Menendez

William Osceola doesn't usually put all his eggs in one basket, but he made an exception at Hollywood's Easter party and egg hunt on March 27.



Li Cohen

Louise Osceola got a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny March 22 at the senior Easter Party in Big Cypress.



Li Cohen

Loretta Micco, left, and Rosa Rodd, right, are all smiles and giggles with Joe Frank at the senior Easter party in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

This toddler has her eye on the blue egg at the Big Cypress Easter egg hunt at the Junior Cypress Rodeo grounds.



Beverly Bidney

These kids run right for the eggs at Immokalee's Easter egg hunt March 27.

Big Cypress cattle drive honors past

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — More than 30 Tribal and non-Tribal cowboys and cowgirls of all ages saddled up March 17 and hit the road for the 22nd annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive and Rodeo in Big Cypress.

A group of nine steer led the way as horseback riders, dogs, ATVs, bicycles and a swamp buggy kept them in line and on pace to reach the rodeo grounds in time for the afternoon Eastern Indian Rodeo Association Kids Rodeo.

The symbolic moving of cattle 10 miles from the spillway to the rodeo arena honored the late Henry Osceola and his son Rudy Osceola, both renowned cattlemen with the Tribe.

Henry Osceola, a mechanic who lost his sight in a spark plug mishap, was also a farmer, a BC store owner and a cattleman. His son Rudy Osceola ran the Tribe's cattle operation with Jonah Cypress in the 1970s and retired five years ago.

"Rudy is 110 percent cowboy and a rodeo legend," said President Mitchell Cypress. "He's still at it, he just doesn't give up. He challenges himself every day. He had a health issue, but he overcame it."

Rudy Osceola was pleased to be honored and enjoyed being a cattleman; he ran a cow calf operation from 1972 until he retired.

"This is a really big honor," said Rowdey Osceola, Rudy's grandson. "There's a lot of history here and I'm proud to be his grandson. I know he's going through a lot but he's fighting the good fight."

Moses Jumper welcomed the participants at the starting point and recounted how the Tribe used to herd free range cattle in Big Cypress.

"Sometimes it would take three or four days or even a week to round them up," Jumper said. "This cattle drive symbolizes those days."

The public was invited to join the cattle drive and spend the day with the Tribe on the BC reservation. Outsiders came from around the state; some had been on the cattle drive before and some were participating for the first time.

"We are one of the best cattle producers in the business," Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger told the group. "You are some of the lucky few who get to spend time on the reservation with us."

At the resting point about halfway through the cattle drive, Jumper shared some facts about the Tribe's history in cattle.

"We had horses and cattle before the crackers farther north," he said. "We got



Talen Jumper, 8, rides his horse "Donkey" before the 22nd annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive begins on March 17.

This family of cowboys has front row seats as they ride together beside the cattle at the cattle drive in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

The cattle are driven off the road and into Cory Wilcox's pasture for a rest at the mid-point of the cattle drive.

them from the Spanish in the 1500s, we were a horse culture."

Jumper told the crowd that today the Tribe's cattle program is one of the best in the country and the cow calf operation is in the top 10 in the nation and top 5 in the state.

"We're here for the long haul," he said. "As long as the grass is green and the rivers flow, we will continue to be resilient."

Big Cypress Board Representative Joe Frank, who grew up in Big Cypress, shared his experience working with cattle as a child.

"There were a couple of simple rules when I was six," Frank said. "I had to go to church, to vacation bible school and I had to be a two-legged dog chasing those cows around the pens. There were a lot of good times and memories from then."

Josie Billie Highway was shut down as the cattle drive made its way slowly past the field office, health department, Ahfachkee School, the gym and over the Eight Clans Bridge. As they arrived at the rodeo grounds, the cattle made their way into the arena to the delight of those already there to see the rodeo.

The kids rodeo began shortly thereafter and the adult EIRA rodeo began at 7 p.m.



Beverly Bidney

These cowboys may be on the far side of the canal, but they have their eyes on the cattle as they hoof it from the spillway to the rodeo arena.

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Tribal archaeologists record the Lee Billie and Charlie Cypress Camp

BY RACHEL MORGAN
THPO Archaeologist

The primary goal of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) is to preserve and protect the cultural resources of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Artifacts and art works curated in museums represent only one part of this rich cultural heritage. THPO also seeks to identify and safeguard spaces tied to specific memories, events and people important to the Tribe's culture and history. One of the most common spaces reported to THPO are historic Seminole camps, such as the Lee Billie and Charlie Cypress Camp on the Big Cypress Reservation. THPO frequently reviews these sites as part of the on-reservation review process to ensure that all areas of significance to the Tribe are known of and protected as development continues to increase.

In January 2017, the THPO began to investigate the former camp of Lee Billie and Charlie Cypress on the Big Cypress Reservation to determine the site's eligibility for the Tribal Register of Historic Places (TRHP), a list of historic places significant to the Tribe. One of the criteria for eligibility under the TRHP is "a property that is important because of a contributing person or group in Seminole history." This camp

certainly meets that qualification. Charlie and Lee Billie were headman and matriarch at the Silver Springs Seminole Village. In these leadership roles, Lee and Charlie paved the way for widespread participation by Seminoles in this valuable economic scheme. As a Medicine Man, the community also respected Charlie's advice as the Tribe endeavored to draft its Constitution and Charter. He and Lee also remained steadfastly committed to preserving traditional practices with Charlie continuing to make cypress dugout canoes and Lee maintaining a traditional camp. Together they devoted their lives to furthering their community's growth, while upholding the traditions critical to their Seminole heritage.

Nominating the Lee Billie and Charlie Cypress Camp to the Tribal Register of Historic Places provides a means of recognizing the contributions of both Lee and Charlie to the Seminole community. Working with Lee and Charlie's great-granddaughter, Mary Jene Koenes, THPO has been able to identify the key components and members of the camp. The camp was made of three chickees where Charlie and Lee lived with their son John Cypress. Their daughter, Willie Mae Cypress, also lived at the camp with her husband Albert Billie and their children.

Recording sites such as the Lee Billie and Charlie Cypress Camp remains a top priority for THPO. By interviewing community members, recording stories about these places and photographing their remains, THPO can help preserve significant places with future generations. If you would like to contribute to our ongoing efforts to record historic places associated with people, events, or traditions significant to the Tribe, call THPO at 863-983-6549 or come by our offices on the Big Cypress and Brighton Reservations.



Courtesy Photo

The Lee Billie and Charlie Cypress Camp on the Big Cypress Reservation.

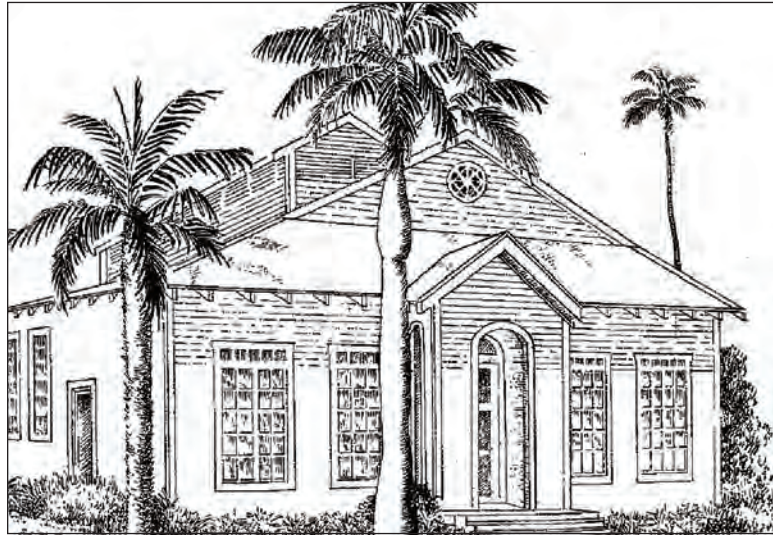
South Florida celebrates Tamiami Trail's 90 years

To commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Tamiami Trail Friends of the Museum of the Everglades will host a day of celebration on April 28 at the Museum of the Everglades beginning at 10 a.m. The trail runs from Tampa to Miami and is described as a "brilliant engineering feat," as it provided a mode of transportation through the everglades and connected Florida's coasts.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the museum, the 65th anniversary of incorporating Everglades City and the 95th anniversary of the Collier County's establishment, which will also

be celebrated during the event.

The free event will include a parade, live music, food, a walking tour of historic buildings and more. More information is available at evergladesmuseum.org.



Courtesy photo

A sketch of the Museum of the Everglades.

Understanding South Florida wildfires

BY STOF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Wildfires are natural events that are common in rural areas. They can occur anywhere and can destroy homes, businesses, infrastructure, natural resources and agriculture. STOF Emergency Management along with Forestry & Wildland Fire Program would like to help you protect yourself and your property. Below are tips to keep you and your home safe:

Evacuate

When a wildfire threatens your area, the best action to protect yourself and your family is to evacuate early to avoid being trapped. If there is smoke, drive carefully because visibility may be reduced. Keep your headlights on and watch for other vehicles and fleeing wildlife or livestock.

Fire-resistant materials

Before a fire happens, it may be prevented by reducing the amount of material that can burn easily in and around your home or business by clearing away debris and other flammable materials and using fire-resistant materials for landscaping and construction.

Practice fire prevention

Use caution any time you use fire. Dispose of charcoal briquettes and fireplace ashes properly, never leave any outdoor fire unattended and make sure that outdoor fires are fully extinguished and cold to the touch before leaving the area.

Do not park vehicles in tall, dry grass if a fire weather watch or fire weather/red flag warning has been issued. Exhaust systems are very hot and can ignite dry grass.

Keep the gas grills and propane tanks at least 15 feet away from any structure. Clear a 15-foot area around the grill. Do not use the grill during potentially dangerous fire weather conditions. Always have a fire extinguisher or hose nearby.

Have a garden hose(s) that is long enough to reach any area of the house and other structures. When evacuating, leave hoses connected to a water source so that they are available for firefighters.

Learn how you and your family can prevent a wildfire by using fire and equipment responsibly at SmokeyBear.com.

If you would like more information, your Emergency Management team is always available to answer any questions at 1-800-617-7514, press option 3. Follow us on Facebook: Seminole Tribe EM.

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA AH-TAH-THI-KI M U S E U M A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

The Everglades: An enduring battleground

BY MISTY SNYDER
Collections Assistant, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

In 1848, Georgia-born lawyer and politician Buckingham Smith compiled a report for Congress on the feasibility and benefit of draining the Florida Everglades. The report provided the supporting information that eventually led to the passing of Senate Bill 338 in which the U.S. government officially authorized the Everglades drainage. This bill represents the first siege in a long series of assaults to the Everglades ecosystem and is just one of the many important documents linked to Seminole history preserved in the museum's archive.

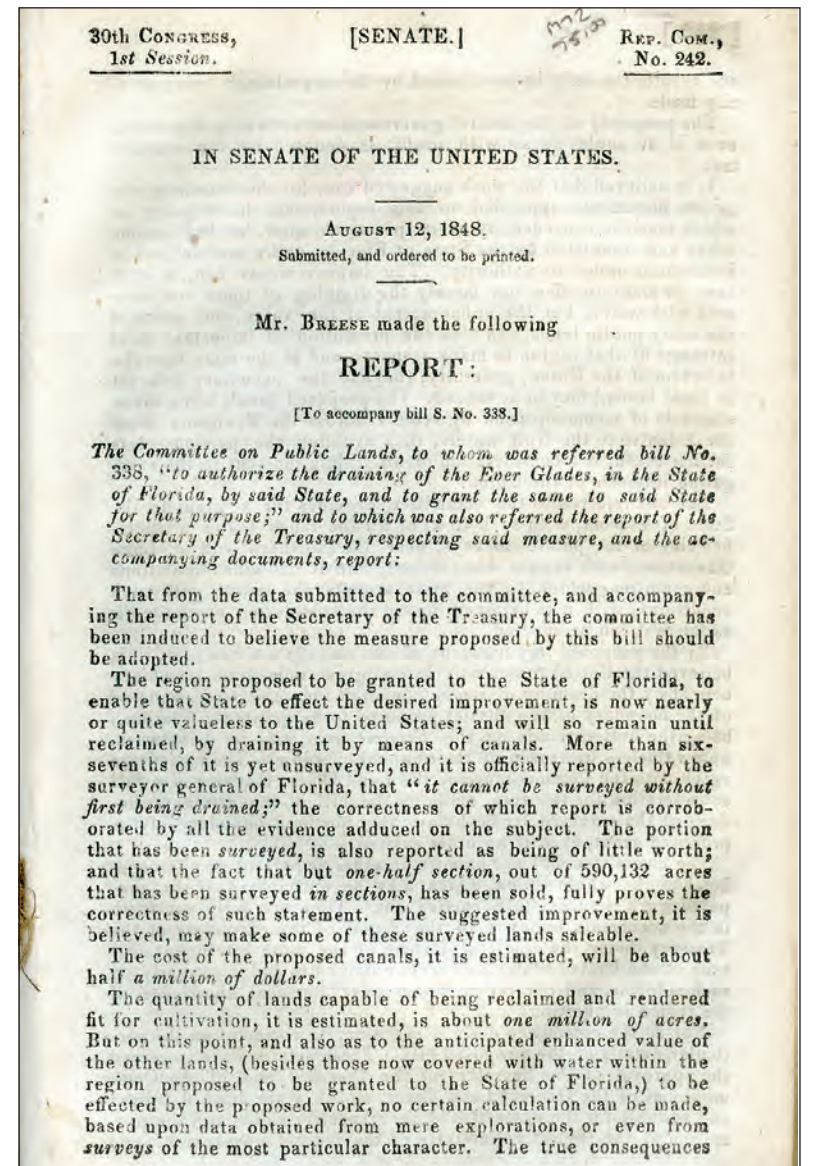
The United States government had many interests in the drainage of South Florida. The report details grand plans for the cultivation of sugar, rice, tobacco and tropical fruit trees that could only be grown in South Florida's subtropical climate. The ability to grow these commodities in the U.S. would eliminate reliance on importing them from the West Indies, then controlled by European countries, and further U.S. independence. Drainage canals funneling water from Lake Okeechobee would also serve as an alternative to ships passing through the perilous reefs and ever-changing shallow waters surrounding the tip of Florida that were responsible for, according to the document, over \$1.6 million (over 50 million dollars in today's value) of expense due to ship wrecks in the year 1846 alone.

The drainage of the Everglades was as much about colonial strategy as it was economic gain. The report states that without the United States having full control of the Florida peninsula, it was vulnerable to attack by foreign powers and that the drainage and colonization by settlers would play a key role in the ultimate removal of the Seminole Tribe. The United States had already spent more money and lost more men in battle with the Seminole Tribe than all other wars fought for removal. Draining the Everglades would simultaneously create more land for U.S. settlers while fundamentally changing the environment the Tribe depended on for survival.

While the outright warfare between the United States and the Seminoles dwindled in the late 19th century, the battle for the Seminole Tribe to preserve their culture continued. The destruction of the Everglades ecosystem set in motion by this document

fundamentally threatened their way of life. Even after the designation of reservation lands in the early 20th century, the Tribe had very limited influence on construction projects and water flow patterns that delivered impaired waters to their lands. However, Tribal sovereignty has given the Tribe the ability to enforce water rights and to take part in

any project that would impact properties with religious or cultural significance, the Tribe's Historic Preservation Office is often on the frontlines. Although the battlefield has changed, the Seminole Tribe's fight to preserve their culture and the environment is still being fought 160 years after the end of the Seminole War.



Courtesy photo

Report compiled in 1848 assessing the feasibility and benefits to the United States by draining the Florida Everglades.

EGMONT KEY TRIP

10:30 am - April 5th

Join the Tribal Historic Preservation Office for a trip to Egmont Key, A site of Seminole history including the stories of **Billy Bowlegs and Polly Parker**

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Health



Reservations spread wealth of health

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — With summer just around the corner, the Tribe's health department is not wasting anytime getting Tribal members ready for an active season in the sun. From March 12-16, each reservation held a free health fair to bring health information to Tribal members.

At Hollywood's fair on March 14, dozens of people gathered at the Classic gymnasium where approximately 50 vendors offered wellness information.

Lauren Goas, Hollywood health educator, helped facilitate the event and explained that unlike many health events, this one emphasized all aspects of wellness.

"It's just a good way for people to come see not only what the Tribe has to offer, but also what there is locally wellness wise because a lot of people don't know what's around," she said. "Typically when we think of wellness, we think of nutrition and exercise, and those things are correct, but

wellness is something of a whole. It has to do with wellness financially, mentally, with your family and the people around you."

Everyone who attended the event received a health fair passport which they got stamped by the vendors. Once people got 20 stamps, they were entered into a raffle for a prize and received a ticket for free lunch. Goas said the passports made sure that visitors spent more time talking with vendors because at many events, people attend for free food and don't get the information they need.

"It was just a push for them to get outside of the box and see what there is to offer," she said, adding that the passport idea proved successful. "There are so many different organizations and things in our community that can help them with their wellness and help them be better as a whole."

The health fairs were a part of a week of wellness events sponsored by Human Resources. The week consisted of walks, stress management seminars, employee assistance programs and financial literacy seminars throughout the reservations, as well as daily newsletters throughout the week with wellness tips, such as improving the work and personal life balance and stress management.



Karen Two Shoes hands out fresh vegetables to Ellie Zaslav, left, and Pauline Good during the Hollywood Health Festival.

Li Cohen



Brighton Nutritionist Cecelia Kostadinov, left, and Tampa Nutritionist Korin Deitch, right, distribute fresh fruit, vegetables and smoothies during Brighton's health festival.

Courtesy photo



Ahfachkee eighth-grader Leviticus Buster urges on his classmate Damien Fish as he rides the stationary bike March 13 at the Big Cypress Health and Nutrition Festival.

Beverly Bidney

Karen's Corner: Women's health

BY KAREN TWO SHOES
Health Clinic Dietitian and Nutrition Coordinator

Since March is National Women's History Month, I thought I'd give some tips on how women can stay healthy to keep fighting the good fight. Women have unique health issues — pregnancy, menopause and conditions to certain body parts. The most recommended health screenings for women are for breast cancer, cervical cancer and bone density. If you're trying to get pregnant, or even thinking about having kids someday, it's never too early to prepare your body for the nutrient needs of fertility and pregnancy.

The following recommendations come from The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists: First and foremost is the need to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Having too much or too little body fat can affect fertility. Iron deficiency anemia is also a big problem for women of childbearing age, so build up your iron stores with iron-rich foods like spinach, beans and lean meats. In addition to stocking up on iron, women also need to prevent folic acid deficiency, as it can lead to infant neural tube defects like spina bifida. The recommended amount of folic acid is 400 mcg through a daily supplement plus food sources like dark leafy green veggies, beans, citrus fruits and fortified breads, cereals and pasta. To balance out those veggies and grains, women should also eat plenty of fruits and vegetables, which are an excellent source of getting antioxidants to reduce oxidative stress, a problem that can interfere with implantation of a fertile egg to the uterine wall.

Now, let's not forget the health concerns that go beyond reproduction. There are the problems that affect both sexes but affect women differently. For example, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), women are more likely to die following a heart attack than men. To prevent this, follow a heart-healthy diet by keeping your sodium/salt intake low for stable blood pressure and cut out artery-clogging saturated fats and trans fats found in fried and junk foods.

Increase your soluble fiber intake as well through whole grains, oatmeal, beans, fruits and vegetables to help keep cholesterol in the healthy range. And don't forget to exercise to keep that heart muscle in shape.

Another health problem to consider is osteoporosis — a condition in which weak bone density leads to high risk for fracture. After adolescence, men and women continue to develop bone density until approximately 30 years of age. Gradual bone loss begins around 40 years of age. This bone loss is accelerated in women after menopause and the CDC states that for every one man diagnosed with osteoporosis, four women have the disease. Some risk factors can't be helped, like ethnicity, number of pregnancies, hormonal shifts and family history. Others, however, can be modified, like tobacco use, lack of physical activity, being overweight or obese and inadequate diet. It's important to consume as many bone-building nutrients as possible, which can be found in — you guessed it — calcium. The recommended calcium intake for women ages 18 to 50 is 1000 mg per day. Ages 51 and over should take 1200 mg per day. While the supplements are a great source, a diet filled with calcium-rich foods is better. This includes dark greens, soybeans, kefir and yogurt drinks, calcium-fortified cereal and juices, and fruits and vegetables, which provide an alkalizing effect that improves calcium balance and stops bone tissue breakdown and mineral loss. And, of course, no list is complete without milk. For added calcium absorption, get plenty of vitamin D.

Women are faced with numerous challenges and health issues are not the least of them. So as busy as life may be, it's time to make health a priority so that every woman can continue to do the great things that only women can do.

Karen Two Shoes is a registered dietitian and the nutrition coordinator for the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Health Department. She is a member of the Panther Clan and is a married mother of two.

New Medicare cards coming

SUBMITTED BY PAUL ISAACS, MD
Department of Health and Human Services

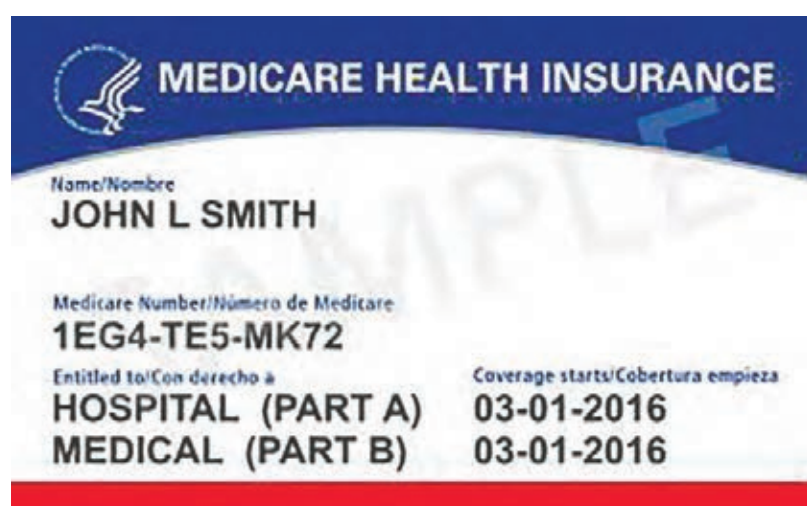
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will mail you a new Medicare card between April 2018 and April 2019. Medicare is removing your Social Security number from your card and is replacing it with a number that is unique to you. Your new Medicare number will contain a combination of numbers and uppercase letters. This change will help protect your identity.

Once you get your new card, safely and securely destroy your old card and start using your new card right away. Protect yourself by making sure no one can get your personal information from your old Medicare card.

Please make sure your mailing address with Medicare is up to date. If your address needs to be corrected, contact Social Security

at ssa.gov/myaccount or 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778. You may also contact one of the Medical Social Workers at the STOF Health Clinic for assistance in updating your address.

Beware of anyone who contacts you about your new Medicare card. CMS will never ask you to give them personal or



private information to get your new Medicare number and card.

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Department of Health Broward County

Here's a game plan that helps every family in the kitchen. It's called "Go Further with Food," and it can help you make food choices that are healthy and also save money, save time and reduce food waste.

The plan is easy to do and takes only a little extra thought before going to the supermarket. You may already do all of the steps from time to time, but they become more powerful if you do all of them all of the time. This plan comes from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

1. Include a variety of healthful foods from all of the food groups on a regular basis. Which ones? Visit the academy at eatright.org or Florida Department of Health at healthiestweightflorida.com.
2. Consider the foods you have on hand before buying more at the store. That way, you don't buy too much by mistake and watch it go to waste.
3. Buy only the amount that can be

eaten or frozen within a few days, and plan ways to use leftovers later in the week. Avoid buying foods you don't need immediately just because they are on sale, especially if they are perishable.

4. Be mindful of portion sizes. Eat and drink the amount that's right for you. How do you know? Check out the USDA's choosemyplate.gov.
5. Continue to use good food safety practices so you avoid having old or contaminated food in the house.
6. Find physical activities that you enjoy so you can be active most days of the week.
7. If you need to learn more, consult a registered dietitian nutritionist. RDNs can provide sound, easy-to-follow personalized nutrition advice to meet your lifestyle, preferences and health-related needs.

For a thorough review the subject, visit the Broward County Nutrition and Fitness Task Force.

Health Insurance Materials Available Online

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Department is pleased to announce that you now have the option to request Health Insurance materials online by visiting the Seminole Tribe of Florida web site at www.semtribe.com. Once on the site, click on the Health and Human Services link.

- Request a Health Insurance Card
- Request a Health Insurance Book
- Download Registration Applications
 - ❖ Standard Application
 - ❖ Newborn Application
 - ❖ STOF First Generation Descendant Application
- Download or Read Our Notice of Privacy Practices

Please note the web site offers Members with additional options for obtaining these materials. However, you are not required to make your requests on the web site. The staff in the Health Department will be happy to process your requests over the telephone, in person or by other means as we have always done in the past.

We hope you will find these additional options helpful.

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SEMINOLE SCENES



MOVIN' ON UP: Here's how the new guitar-shaped hotel at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood looked on March 23 as progress continues.

Kevin Johnson



FISH & GAME: Former University of Miami, Miami Dolphins and Dallas Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson helps promote the 7th annual Jimmy Johnson's "Quest for the Ring" Championship Fishing Week during a kickoff party at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood in early March. The tournament, which was presented by Hard Rock, was held March 7-10 in Key Largo and featured \$1.5 million in prize money, including \$395,000 doled out to the winning team called Sandman.

Jimmy Johnson's Fishing Championship/Facebook



TEA COLLECTION AT MUSEUM: The spring clothing line designed by Jessica Osceola for the Tea Collection, a San Francisco based children's clothing company, is available for sale at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum gift shop. The line launched with an English inspired tea party under the museum's back yard chickee March 21. Tribal member Jennifer Osceola shops for a few outfits for her son and two granddaughters, with some help from museum shop employee Linda Bianchini. Goodies at the tea party included finger sandwiches, scones with marmalade and jam, petit fours and fruit tartlets

Beverly Bidney



FLIGHT WINNER: Erich Bourgault, managing partner of Sovereign Energy Holdings, receives two free airline tickets for winning a raffle during the first Seminole Tribe Renewable Energy & Sustainability Conference held Feb. 7-9 at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood. Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and Chairman's Office Special Projects Administrator Cicero Osceola picked the raffle tickets, which were donated through Native American Travel. McKenley Romeo, a manager with FPL, also won two airline tickets in the raffle.

Kevin Johnson



HOOOEEYY: Jade Osceola gets inspiration from her daughter Hvse Osceola, 4, as she competes in the hog call contest at the 4-H show March 22 in Brighton. Osceola's call amused Hvse and won the competition.

Beverly Bidney



ON DISPLAY: Laverne Thomas, left, Joanne Osceola, center, and Jennifer Osceola, right, represent the Brighton community's culture center at the Brighton health fair.

Courtesy photo



ROCK'N'ROLLER COASTER: Kids get their thrills on the roller coaster at the Big Cypress Easter celebration March 27.

Beverly Bidney



BEST RIBS: Seminole Trail Liaison Norman Huggins, right, joins the rib winners in the Trail Seminole Community Chicken and Rib Cookoff on Feb. 24 at the Huggins Camp. From left, Michael Osceola (1st place), Jake Keyser (3rd place) and Leroy Osceola (2nd place).

Courtesy of Erica Deltz



HARD ROCK IN DAYTONA: The new Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach welcomed its first rock star to the property as Kenny Wilkerson, bassist for Nova Rex, stopped by March 3 to check out the leather jacket he wore that is now displayed in the hotel. The hotel features other music memorabilia, including items from Bette Midler, Tom Petty and the Allman Brothers Band, to name a few. The hotel is located on the beach at North Atlantic Avenue. It features 200 guest rooms and suites and 20,000 square feet of meeting and event space.

Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach/Facebook



LATER GATOR: From left, Brandy Norton, Rachael Kangas, Sara Ayers-Rigsby and Alyssa Boge from the Tribal Historic Preservation Office pose with a gator from Billie Swamp Safari.

Courtesy of Alyssa Boge

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Record number of Native women to run in 2018 midterm polls

WASHINGTON — Native Americans are underrepresented in Washington's corridors of power. Three known Native Americans have served in the Senate and fewer than 20 in the House of Representatives. But three Native American women are running in 2018 midterm elections, widely viewed as a pivotal vote that could not only tip the balance of power but strengthen Native American voices in lawmaking.

Debra Haaland, 57, a Democrat and member of the San Felipe Pueblo, hopes to represent New Mexico's 1st Congressional District in Congress.

Haaland served as the state's Native American vote director during then-President Barack Obama's 2012 campaign. She is credited with getting a 60 percent voter turnout from Native American precincts, nearly 90 percent of which voted for Obama.

Haaland went on to become the first Native American woman to chair the Democratic Party of New Mexico. In 2014, she failed in a bid to become New Mexico's lieutenant governor, losing to the Republican incumbent.

Haaland has served as the San Felipe Pueblo's tribal administrator and was the first woman on the Laguna Development Corporation's board of directors in Albuquerque.

Haaland is an outspoken critic of U.S. President Donald Trump.

"The Trump administration is the worst nightmare to happen to the environment in decades," she said. "And then we've got the Bureau of Land Management working overtime to sell off leases to lands so that people can frack. And they're doing that near Chaco Canyon, my ancestral homeland and a treasure to every single New Mexican and every single American."

This University of New Mexico law school graduate is also critical of Trump's immigration policy.

"I'm ready to go to bat for any immigrant in my community who is in fear of being deported," she said. "The worst thing about this whole turning ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] on communities is that it splits up families. And I come from a community of people whose families have been split up enough by governmental policies, and that should never happen."

Sharice Davids, 37, is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin and a Democrat. She is among seven candidates looking to represent Kansas' Third Congressional District in Washington. A graduate of Cornell Law school, she began her career as a corporate transactional attorney and later moved to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, where she developed an entrepreneurship curriculum for the Red Cloud Indian School and served as deputy director of the Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation. She also started a Native American-owned and operated coffee company.

"We found a way to source the coffee from small farms that were co-oped and from indigenous coffee growers," she said. "And we also focused on teaching women entrepreneurial and leadership skills."

In 2016, Davids served as a White House Fellow, assigned to the Department of Transportation.

"I worked on a number of community engagement, transparency and community education initiatives aimed at helping inform people on how decisions are made, who makes the decisions, how can they get involved in the decision-making process." She said the knowledge will serve her well in Congress.

In Washington, Davids said she would work to protect undocumented immigrants who have worked and contributed to U.S. communities. She would also focus on protecting natural resources and implementing gun safety laws to avoid tragedies such as the recent school shooting in Florida.

Eve Reyes-Aguirre, 42, an Izkaloteka Mexican Native from Phoenix, is the Green Party candidate for U.S. Senate. She calls herself an "unconventional politician" and refuses to accept funding from corporate

groups or special interest groups.

"It's not about me as an individual or even as a candidate. It's about the issues that are affecting our communities, our families, everyday citizens and even non-citizens alike," she said.

The environment figures heavily in her platform.

"I think people don't grasp the gravity of deregulating and opening up areas to mining and fossil fuel extraction. As an indigenous woman, that's been something that we have been fighting against for many generations."

But this isn't just an indigenous issue, she said.

"We are seeing how corporations and the lack of regulation are affecting the drinking water for everybody. These are human issues. And they are issues that are going to affect our children and their children if we don't do something about it," she said.

Reyes-Aguirre said she believes that in tackling immigration, the U.S. government should look at some of its own policies.

"We've noticed an influx of migration, particularly from Mexico and the South. I think that we need to start looking at the root problems and not just try to fix those issues with band aids, like the wall," she said. "Those folks who are fleeing from violence, I call them economic refugees because of trade agreements that U.S. corporations are benefiting from."

Reyes-Aguirre has never held political office, but represented the women of her community at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 2009 to 2017 and co-chaired the Global Indigenous Women's Caucus until last year.

The 2018 midterm election will decide all 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and 34 of 100 U.S. Senate seats. It is widely viewed as a critical test of Trump and the conservative legislative agenda.

- Alaska Native News

New institute aims to strengthen Native influence

A newly formed institute hopes that by synthesizing indigenous wisdom with hard-won knowledge of how American institutions work it can become a powerful advocate and resource for New Mexico's Native American population.

The Native American Budget and Policy Institute, formed in late February at the Tamaya resort on the Santa Ana Pueblo, aims to create a dynamic dialogue drawing from both traditions.

Using a network of academics, policy makers and tribal elders, the Institute wants to strengthen the influence of Native Americans in policy making at the local, state and potentially federal levels.

The goal is to "create the kind of balance" that allows native peoples to "become architects of policy, the architects of laws where they are necessary" — all toward improving the lives of Native American children and their communities, said Regis Pecos, a former governor of Cochiti Pueblo and one of the Institute's founders.

The Institute's 11-member governing council seems to embody that vision.

Eight members on the governance council are Native Americans affiliated with seven of the state's 22 tribes — Navajo, Isleta, Mescalero, Santa Clara, Zia, Cochiti, and Jicarilla. Their number includes college professors, a retired judge, a medical doctor, a mental health therapist, and a journalist.

There are non-native members too — a business owner, an attorney and a former Ford Foundation program officer and longtime Massachusetts of Technology professor.

Diversity was a conscious decision, the Institute's Executive Director Cheryl Fairbanks said.

"We gathered together people with expertise, not just from UNM, Princeton, or Harvard, but those with Indigenous knowledge to help us to work on policies and funding," she said.

Statistics bear out the challenges ahead for the newly formed institute. New Mexico's Native American children graduate

high school at lower rates than other racial or ethnic groups and are at greater risk for having no health insurance and for suicide. They are more likely to live in high-poverty areas than children from other populations too.

Among the institute's goals is to help policy makers understand the complex realities Native Americans live in and to raise awareness about them to the outside world.

It also wants to give native communities a greater voice in formulating policy and legislative proposals meant to address those realities and act both as a resource center and clearinghouse for ideas and policy solutions, institute staff said.

"We haven't always had a place at the table...now it's our turn, we're not the Indian problem, we're the Indian solution," Fairbanks said.

Members of the newly appointed governing council acknowledged the institute's ambitions and said they were honored to be a part of the creation.

"It has tremendous potential," Arthur Blaze, the president of the Mescalero Apache Tribe and a member of the Institute's governing council, said. "It's a very diverse and strong group."

Like others on the council, Blaze has an extensive background in leadership at the tribal, state and federal level.

In 2011, he was appointed by former U.S. President Barack Obama to serve as Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and the Environment within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"We're going to look at changing, modifying or creating new policy that is going to enhance the tribes' and Pueblos' ability to provide quality services tribal young people," Blaze said.

Although Blaze has only served as Mescalero president for a month, he said he's glad he agreed to be a part of the council.

"As a newly elected official, I see great value in [the institute] and look forward to working together," he said.

Other members on the council are: Robert Apodaca, the chief operating officer of Motiva Corporation, Hon. Walter Dasheno, former Governor of Santa Clara Pueblo, Tara Gatewood, host and producer of Native America Calling, Ken Lucero, Ph.D., field representative for Sen. Martin Heinrich, Patricia Salazar Ives, law partner at Cuddy & McCarthy LLP, Joseph Suina, Ph.D., UNM College of Education professor emeritus, and Ingeborg Vicenti, a mental health therapist.

- New Mexico In Depth

Native American initiative eyes urban Indian policy in S.A.

As San Antonio nears its official Tricentennial celebrations in May, members of the region's first citizens, first families, first Catholics and first cowboys have been at work on a project they hope will show how Native Americans, while ancient peoples, are still among us.

They hope a report they're producing will help governments, agencies and foundations better address the small but growing population.

The data could begin not with what happened 300 years ago, but 15,000 years ago. That number is a scientific one.

Texas A&M archaeology professor Alston Thoms, who has studied archaeological sites in Bexar County, says that evidence, along with genealogies, DNA testing and oral histories, shows "the story of Native Americans in San Antonio is a 15,000-year-old story."

They now represent 2 percent of the area's population. The number has increased as census forms have allowed for better self-identification and as more U.S. Latinos unearth and acknowledge their indigenous roots.

Still, San Antonio has the 14th largest population of urban Indians in the United States, according to a 2015 census analysis by the National Urban Indian Family Coalition. It produced a report, "Making the Invisible Visible: A Policy Blueprint from Urban Indian America."

Census data also show "Mexican

Indians" are considered the fourth largest Native American group in the United States after Cherokees, Navajos and Choctaws.

Making the invisible visible is the goal of the Tap Pilam Coahuiltecan Nation, a tribal group that organized more than three decades ago, in part to erase the "learned ignorance," a term used by Thoms, that Texas Indians were extinct.

The indigenous groups of the region also organized to address the desecration of native burial sites.

Tap Pilam's non-profit American Indians in Texas at the Spanish Colonial Missions (AIT) launched the UrbanIndianSA project in January with a \$35,000 grant. It will produce a report called "Making the Invisible Visible."

AIT executive director Ramon Vasquez says it's modeled after the National Urban Indian Family Coalition's initiative. He's involved in the national group.

AIT has been collecting and updating data and hitting the pavement by reaching out to Native American families.

Vasquez said that because the state long ago "sunsetted" its Indian commission, the state abandoned policies to address urban Indians.

"It's pretty crazy if you consider that upwards of 65 percent of the population in San Antonio is Mexican-American and 80 to 85 percent of them probably have Native American ancestry," he said.

Vasquez calls the UrbanIndianSA project a critical campaign to better serve Native Americans in San Antonio.

For example, he says San Antonio continues to draw Native Americans in military service who come here and stay. "In 2010, Lackland (ISD) high school had the largest population of Native American students in the city," he said. Native Americans also show up disproportionately in the city's homeless population and in Child Protective Services statistics, he added.

AIT intends to present its written findings to City Council and ask for budget appropriations to support the group. Ultimately, AIT hopes it will lead to the creation of a Native American center.

Data show Native American families in urban areas without such centers don't fare as well as those that have centers offering outreach, support and cultural programming like that which AIT has long produced.

A Bexar County website created with the help of the University of Texas at San Antonio's Center of Archaeological Research sheds light on the population, too.

"As we prepare to celebrate Bexar County's 300th anniversary," it says, "it is equally important to acknowledge that the 300 years of recorded history represents barely 2 percent of the time that humans have lived in the upper San Antonio River Valley."

Native Americans didn't disappear, the site says.

- San Antonio Express-News

N.C. Humanities Council awards planning funds for 'Decolonizing Citizenship and Indigenous Lifeways'

BOONE, N.C. — An interdisciplinary team at Appalachian State University has received a planning grant in the amount of \$715 from the North Carolina Humanities Council for their project "Decolonizing Citizenship and Indigenous Lifeways." The team is applying for a larger grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to support the project.

The team is comprised of Dr. Nancy Sue Love, professor in Appalachian's Department of Government and Justice Studies; Dr. Laura Ammon, associate professor in the university's Department of Philosophy and Religion; Dr. Cary Fraser, associate professor in the Department of Government and Justice Studies; Karen Fletcher, director of grants resources and services in Appalachian's Office of Research; Dr. Louis Gallien, an academic mentor for education in the university's Honors College and former dean of Appalachian's Reich College of Education; and Dr. Allen Bryant, associate professor in Appalachian's Department of Curriculum and Instruction and director of the university's Gadugi

Program/Cherokee Partnership.

According to Love, "The Cherokee experience powerfully illustrates what might be called the 'crucible of citizenship' in American history."

"In 1838, the Cherokee were forcibly removed from their native lands on the Trail of Tears and resettled in Indian Territory. The U.S. government recognized the remaining Cherokee in North Carolina as the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in 1868, and the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 granted citizenship and suffrage rights."

In her commentary on the project, Love explains, "We will explore programs and resources at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, consult with Dr. Barbara Duncan, education coordinator at the museum, and tour the Qualla Boundary with Gadugi Program/Cherokee Partnership students as part of the planning process for 'Decolonizing Citizenship and Indigenous Lifeways' — an NEH Summer Institute proposal."

She said the project will contribute to ongoing efforts to create more inclusive curricula in American public schools and universities.

In planning the project, Love said the team will discuss several questions related to citizenship and indigeneity:

- What is the relationship between indigeneity and citizenship?
- How and where do citizenship structures and indigenous lifeways meet?
- How do strategies of colonization impact citizenship?
- How do the marks of western citizenship — blood quantum and property rights, Christianity and literacy, assimilation and classification — impact indigenous peoples?
- How does the Cherokee experience compare with those of other Native American tribes in North Carolina, such as the Lumbee and Tuscarora?
- How have indigenous peoples lived simultaneously within and beyond the borders of nation-states?
- What might their experiences contribute to redefining citizenship today in an age of transnational flows of diasporic, émigré, immigrant and refugee populations?

"Exploring these questions will contribute to our larger goals of decentering Western knowledge and exploring interdisciplinary perspectives on indigeneity and citizenship," Love said.

Several Gadugi Program/Cherokee Partnership students will be involved in the project.

- Appalachian Today

New art exhibition coming to Epcot American Adventure gallery

This summer, a brand-new art exhibition is coming to the American Heritage Gallery at The American Adventure in Epcot, called "Creating Tradition: Innovation and Change in American Indian Art."

This new installation highlights the importance of traditional Native culture in contemporary American Indian art.

The exhibition was created through the collaboration of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., and the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Some of the featured artists that will be on display are doll maker Glenda McKay (Ingalik-Athabaskan), fashion designer Loren Aragon (Acoma Pueblo), and Juanita Growing Thunder (Assiniboine Sioux) from the Growing Thunder family of Montana.

Just like other exhibitions that have traveled through the American Heritage Gallery, this new installation will feature interactive elements, which will let the artists share their creative process and inspiration behind their works.

The current exhibit, the Kinsey Collection, is going away after a five-year agreement. The gallery is being updated as planned.

- Attractions Magazine

Tribe set for Big Cypress Celebration

BY PRESS RELEASE

BIG CYPRESS — Country music superstar Josh Turner will headline the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Celebration on April 28, at the Junior Cypress Rodeo and Entertainment Complex.

Tickets for the festivities (which will include a critter and alligator show) and the concert are priced at \$35 per person and are

on sale at www.completicketolutions.com or www.bcccelebration.com. They will also be available at the Junior Cypress Rodeo and Entertainment Complex the day of the event. Parking is \$5 and gates will open at 1 p.m. The concert is scheduled for 8 p.m.

Turner, a multi-platinum MCA Nashville recording artist, is one of country music's most recognizable hit-makers. With a rich, deep voice and distinctive style, he has sold more than eight million units, is a disciple of traditional country music and one of the

youngest members of the esteemed Grand Ole Opry.

From his 2003 platinum-selling debut Long Black Train to his most recent 2017 Billboard No. 1 release, Deep South, Turner has garnered multiple GRAMMY, CMA, and ACM nominations. His hits include "Your Man," "Why Don't We Just Dance," "Firecracker," "Would You Go with Me," "All Over Me," and "Time Is Love," the most played country song of 2012.

Turner released his sixth studio album

Deep South last March which featured the number one hit single "Hometown Girl."

A devout Christian, Turner checked off another bucket list item in 2014 when he added author to his list of accomplishments via his first book, Man Stuff: Thoughts on Faith, Family and Fatherhood. As highlighted in the book, the Hannah, South Carolina native has been songwriting and performing since he was a young child and in support of music education he created the Josh Turner Scholarship Fund to assist students interested

in pursuing a future in arts and music.

Turner has also done some acting over the years. He played George Beverly Shea in the 2008 film Billy: The Early Years, which was about the late evangelist Billy Graham. Shea was the soloist for the Billy Graham Crusades.

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Education



Ahfachkee and THPO map out Seminole life

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS — High school juniors at Ahfachkee School are taking on a new kind of history project this year — laying out the Seminole story online using a digital mapping platform.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office will lead the project to teach students in Antonio Wright's history class about utilizing geographic information system technology (GIS) to tell digital stories with audio and visual elements. This project will require the 10 students to use the online application ArcGIS and show them how THPO uses similar systems to document Seminole history and artifacts.

Juan Cancel, THPO chief data analyst, said this project aims to make technology a more efficient and simple tool for students and allow them to share their version of the Seminole way of life.

"We want to get to a point where [the students] can understand mapping and storytelling the Tribe's story from their point of view," he said. "They're younger and have a different idea of things ... why not try to map out what that is?"

For THPO Community Engagement Coordinator Quenton Cypress, the new perspective the students have of Seminole history is crucial to preserve the Tribe's future. He explained that having younger generations seriously think about the Tribe's history and document it in new ways allows them to understand the significant contributions the Tribe has made to the community, country and world.

"A lot of times when kids think of what it is to be a Seminole, they don't really know what it is because all they see is the Hard Rock or think we're as big as we are because of the casinos. That's really not the case," he said. "[This project] is a way of humbling ourselves and remembering where we came from and that it's always a fight to progress further. It's great because it helps them remember who we are."

Cypress hopes that one student will focus

on the cattle industry because it is where the Tribe originally got the funds needed to start its casino industry. He explained it's one of the lesser-known facts of the Tribe and it's an important one to share. Luckily, Wright said that a student did select the topic for his project. Other topics include music, key Native American locations and events, and the role of fashion and how it's changed over time.

While a main reasoning for the project is to teach students about Seminole history, project ideas do not have to necessarily focus on traditional history. Students can concentrate on racism, sports, music or anything in between, so long as they keep the focus on the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

"They like the idea that it's their voice and they have a say in how they're going to tell their version of the story," said Cancel. "They have a chance to tell the world whatever they want the world to know about a certain topic."

Mya Cypress, 16, is focusing her project Seminole Tribe women. She is dividing the topic into fashion, common misconceptions of Native American women and Native women's rights. Cypress said there has not been enough acknowledgement of Native women, especially those of the Seminole Tribe, and she wants to be their voice.

"Right now, we live in a world where being a woman is rightfully celebrated. The story mapping project is giving me a platform where I can celebrate the women in my Tribe, like Betty Mae Jumper, the women who are known for their amazing accomplishments, and the women that I see day-to-day, like the grandmothers, moms and daughters that are continuously working to ensure the future of my Tribe," she said. "There's never a day that goes by where I doubt the resiliency of these women and with this project I hope that I can showcase that as accurately as possible."

Lacey Cofer, THPO geospatial analyst, added that THPO is encouraging students to be creative and maybe even delve into controversial issues.

"We really want them to choose things that mean something to them and that a lot of

people might not know a lot about," she said, adding that using this kind of technology provides an atypical, but equally important education. "It's not just teachers teaching the facts; [students] are actually learning the information from people who are using it in real life. I think it gives them a lot of flexibility. It gives them an opportunity to be creative and to learn in a different way besides a textbook."

As part of the project, Cancel, Cofer and other THPO employees will visit with the students weekly to help with projects. These trainings will focus on how to use GIS, as well as finding resources at the museum, building story maps, cartography, writing skills and public speaking. All the trainings are seen as building blocks by the THPO staff, leading up to the students being able to adequately use more advanced technology in their academic and professional careers.

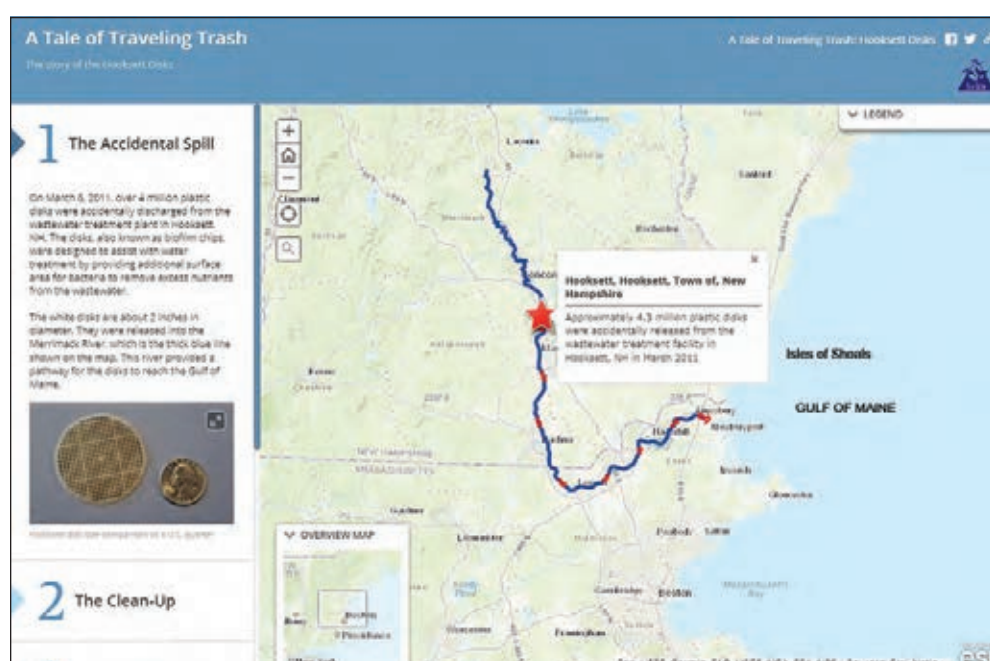
"In this day and age and in the environment that they're going to be working in when they're adults, being tech savvy is pretty much a requirement," said Cofer. "Learning the technological skills and other skills involved — like research and public speaking and writing — are going to prepare them for no matter what path they take after they graduate. People who are introduced to technological advances early on are going to have an advantage."

Mya Cypress, who hopes to attend Washington State University to study English, agreed with Cofer, explaining that ArcGIS allows her to effectively use her passions for writing and photography and help her share her message with others.

"[Technology like this] creates more opportunities for people like me to want to raise awareness about important things or just simple interests," she said.

While THPO is handling the program training, Wright is handling classroom logistics.

According to Wright, students will receive participation grades for the project since the topic isn't a part of state curriculum. Students are expected to complete the bulk of the projects outside of the classroom.



Courtesy ArcGIS.com (top) / Courtesy Antonio Wright (bottom)

Above is an example of a story map created with ArcGIS. Below, Juan Cancel and Lacey Cofer prepare to teach students about story mapping and prepare them for the semester-long project.



Students meet with legislators for 4-H Day

BY SAM ANTOURY
Freelance Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — The state Capitol was abuzz with enthusiasm Feb. 22 as the Seminole Tribe's 4-H students took to learning more about the inner workings of one of the country's most pivotal state governments at the annual 4-H Day.

As part of its mission to engage students with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed through experiential learning, a group of 15 motivated 4-H'ers, accompanied by their chaperones and instructors, traveled to Tallahassee to meet with state representatives, senators and other government officials.

The group was comprised of the 4-H community's best and brightest leaders, all of whom held elected positions within the program's various clubs and activities.

Lonnie Gore, who serves as the Florida Cooperative Extension special project coordinator, led the group of students and chaperones in its expedition toward civic engagement.

"What we are here for today is to emphasize the importance of getting the funding back for 4-H as a whole for our state," Gore said. "We also want to let our student government and elected officials in 4-H get a piece of some political history."

The day began with the students being led through a series of icebreakers and warm-ups by the 4-H program's older student ambassadors, followed by an assembly and

opening address by Senator Denise Grimsley. "I am not only a senator, but I am also a citrus grower and a cattle rancher and 4-H has played a very large role in getting me to where I am today," Grimsley said. "All of the 4-H instruction you receive is preparing you for opportunities that are just around the corner. Everyone gets his or her start somewhere. My somewhere just happened to be 4-H."

Shortly after the assembly, students were taken into the Capitol Building for a tour of its facilities leading into the Senate Chamber where they met with Senator Kathleen Passidomo. Through meeting Senator Passidomo, students learned more about 4-H's funding, why it is so vital to the future, and some interesting facts about the Senate Chambers and its architecture. Senator Passidomo ended her meeting with a question-and-answer session and group photo.

Following Passidomo's meeting, Sen. Grimsley met with the students for an individualized, more personal meeting from her opening address. The senator shed light on the inner workings of state government, specifically as it relates to the 4-H program and its funding.

"Remind members of the house and the senate what 4-H does for you and how it impacts your life," Grimsley said. "I grew up in 4-H, so I always tell the other members that it's an extraordinary program that teaches you leadership skills as you grow up and enter the workforce."

The senator rounded off her session with some time devoted to answering the 4-H students' questions about state government and her experience in politics.

After meeting with the senators, the Seminole Tribe 4-H program took to the Knott Building to get a live look at a bill being presented on the floor in front of the Florida House of Representatives. The bill was sponsored by Representative Byron Donalds of District 80, which includes Fort Denaud, Harlem, Immokalee, Island Walk, Montura, Orangetree, Pioneer, Port LaBelle and Vineyards. Donalds briefly met with the 4-H students following his bill being passed, fielding questions about the district he represents and what his work in the House entails.

Meeting with Donalds brought the legislative leg of the 4-H Day at the Capitol to a close, but the day was not over yet. 4-H'ers were taken around the Capitol for another detailed tour that ended at the building's observation deck on the 22nd floor, overlooking the entire city of Tallahassee and featuring a wide-lens view of the Florida State University campus. Students gathered together and took pictures to capture their last moments at the Capitol Building before heading out to lunch.

With the 4-H Day at the Capitol coming to an end, it was clear that all members of the Seminole Tribe's 4-H party enjoyed exploring the nuances of state government through a personal and unique experience.

Kaleb Thomas, a 10th grade student at Moore Haven High School serving as the Student Government secretary, reflected on his experience in Tallahassee.

"My favorite aspect of today was getting to meet the politicians and having everyone learn about leadership and responsibility," Thomas said. "I already have my career path planned out, and I'm going to take what I learned today to be a better leader and give it all back to the people."



Sam Antoury

Ada Bruised Head, from Big Cypress, asks Senator Kathleen Passidomo questions as part of 4-H Day on Feb. 22 in Tallahassee.



Sam Antoury

On the bottom step, Harmony Urbina from Brighton, Abbiegale Green, and Clayton Green from Big Cypress participate in a 4-H Day program at the state Capitol.



Sam Antoury

Senator Denise Grimsley takes a photo with Seminole Tribe 4-H students and instructors.

NY school offers Native American dental program

FROM PRESS RELEASE

BUFFALO — According to the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, Native American students make up only .3 percent of those who apply to dental school every year. To help raise that number, the New York-based school joined with the Seneca Nation Health System to create a week-long initiative called the Native American Dental Student Gateway Program. The internship program will run from June 25 to June 29 at the university's south campus in New York.

During the program, approximately 10 Native students from around the world will learn hands-on clinical techniques,

preclinical laboratory procedures, receive an introduction to dental specialties, learn financial aid projections, and receive an on-campus student experience with mentorship from current dental students and mentors.

The program is available to Native American students in their second, third or fourth years of college or those who have recently graduated and/or those who are dental staff from the Indian Health Service. All program costs, including supplies, housing and meals will be subsidized, but students will be responsible for travel costs.

The application and more information is available at dental.buffalo.edu/community-outreach.

NAJA announces 2018 Native American Journalism fellows

FROM PRESS RELEASE

NORMAN, Okla. — The Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) has selected 10 students as members of the Native American Journalist Fellowship (NAJF) class of 2018, along with four second-year fellows.

The students come from tribal communities and colleges across the nation and will travel to the 2018 National Native Media Conference in Miami from July 18-22. NAJA Fellows will work in a joint newsroom with selected National Association of Hispanic Journalists' students and mentors.

NAJF Class of 2018 students include:

- Hunter Hotulke, Seminole Nation, Haskell Indian Nations University
- Robin Maxkii, Stockbridge-Munsee, Salish Kootenai College
- Lydia Fielder, Cherokee Nation, University of Arkansas
- Taylor Notah, Navajo Nation, Arizona State University
- Cheyenne McNeil, Coharie, University of North Carolina
- Benjamin Yazza, Navajo Nation, University of New Mexico
- Melissa Ellis, Chickasaw, East Central University (Oklahoma)
- Marissa Johnson, Salt River Pima-Maricopa, Arizona State University
- Jarrette Work, A'aaniihnin of Fort Belknap Montana, University of Nevada, Reno
- Emily Dunford, Muscogee Creek Nation, University of Oklahoma

Fellows will participate in three webinars prior to the newsroom experience and can receive 3 hours of college credit at the undergraduate or graduate-level through their respective universities.

Learn more about the 2018 class at naja.com by clicking the 'NAJF Newsroom' tab under 'Programs.'

Under the direction of NAJF co-directors Victoria LaPoe (Cherokee), Ohio University, and Frank Robertson (Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate), South Dakota State University, student fellows will work with mentors to produce coverage throughout the year. Val Hoepfner (Cherokee) will provide digital skills training during the onsite newsroom experience.

Newsroom leaders include:

- Darren Brown (Choctaw Pueblo/Choctaw), CATV47
- Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton (Cherokee), freelance journalist
- Ramona Marozas (Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians), KBJR6
- Reggie George (Yakama Nation), KYNR-AM
- Carina Dominguez (Pascua Yaqui), CBS News / 2014 NAJF
- Mark Fogarty, freelance journalist
- David Bledsoe, American Indian College Fund

NAJF second-year scholars include:

- AJ Earl, Comanche Nation, Portland State University; incoming graduate student at American University and NAJF Mentor-In-Training/Web Editor
- Tyler Jones, Choctaw Nation, University of Kansas, Columbia University Scholar, NAJF Mentor-in-Training / Social Media Manager
- Kaitlin Boysel, Cherokee Nation, University of Central Oklahoma, Columbia University Scholar
- Priestess Bearstops, Oglala Lakota Nation, Minneapolis, Ohio University Scripps Scholar.

Hollywood Preschool gets fit

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — Hollywood Recreation hosted a morning of exercise, healthy snacks and fun as part of the Get Fit program for children from the Hollywood Preschool on Feb. 23.

Stretching, obstacle courses and scooter board drills were among the activities which included a healthy bit of fun with an exercise

parachute. The program's objective is for children of all ages attending the preschool to participate in fun physical activities that promote fitness, fun, and education.



Beverly Bidney
Children from Hollywood Preschool get ready to start the Get Fit fitness program hosted by the Hollywood Recreation Department on Feb. 23.



Beverly Bidney
Hollywood Preschool students, Peyton Doctor, right, Kylie Frank-Johns, left, and Anyiah Thompson, center back, have fun while getting a workout with a colorful parachute during a Get Fit program hosted by the Hollywood Recreation Department on Feb. 23.



Beverly Bidney
Hollywood Preschool student Zoey Calisce participates in an exercise drill.

Florida Indian Youth Program applications open

BY KAJIR HARRIOTT
CSSS Student Success Coach

From July 21 to Aug. 4, Tribal students from Florida and Georgia will convene in Tallahassee to take part in the annual Florida Indian Youth Program. There, students will interact with other Native youth, gain insight into the college experience, attend a college and career fair and interact with representatives from more than 20 colleges, programs and professions, among much more.

The Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs (FGCIA, Inc.) has been in operation since its establishment in 1974 as a private not-for-profit 501(C)(3) organization. The Florida Indian Youth Program (FIYP) was developed by the State of Florida to give Native American Students the opportunity to spend two weeks in the State Capital and be exposed to higher education and state government. Native students from Florida and Georgia come to Tallahassee for the annual event. The students are 14 to 18 years of age, and are provided an opportunity to live in a residence hall on

the campus of the Florida State University. During the two-week program, the students participate in scholastic, cultural and social events and activities, all designed to increase the probability of high school graduation and inspire the students to higher academic achievement.

The Florida Indian Youth Program has two levels: the youth program, which consists of students ages 14 to 17, and the leadership program, consisting of high school seniors or recent graduates. The Leadership Academy is made up of Native American students who are entering their senior year or who have just graduated from high school. They have a separate schedule of activities from the Youth Program. Students are provided with the opportunity to explore academic programs of interest through collaborative efforts made by FGCIA, Inc. staff, professional volunteers and academic advisors from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College. Each participant will be provided with an intensive, challenging, and fun educational experience designed to awaken and cultivate their full potential.

Hands on experiences, practical applications and dynamic speakers are used to motivate and teach these important skills.

During the two weeks the students are on campus, classroom activities are conducted on the campus of Tallahassee Community College or at one of Tallahassee's other institutions of higher learning: Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University or Florida State University. Classes include STEM, writing, computer skills, tribal government, financial literacy, SAT/ACT prep, and art. Activities are planned for every day so there is no down time. Students are required to be with a counselor at all times and the group is accompanied by at least one officer of the Florida State University Police Department. At the end of the two weeks participants, staff and special guests all attend a special banquet. Participants are recognized for their completion of the Florida Indian Youth Program and some are given special awards for outstanding leadership.

Applications are due June 22. For more information and to apply, visit fgcia.org/youth-program.

PECS February Students of the Month

PECS Elementary
Ianna Cypress
Ameliana Osceola
Parker Branthaver
Trayvon Mitchell
Okalani Estrada

Teodora Estrada
Koty Gopher-Turtle
Hayden Thomas
Jenna Huff
Jayshawn Henderson
Walt Fortner

Roberto Nunez Jr.
Brody Riley
Brayden Huff
Josiah Robinson
Yani Smith
Brandon Greene

Sariya Alvarez
TL Gopher
Candice Melton
Jayshawn Henderson
Ringo Billie

PECS Middle
Nena Youngblood
Karlyne Urbina
Tafv Harris



Students perform '70s hits medley to take Ahfachkee School to funky town



Pre-K students got the boogie fever March 22 while dancing to some hit songs from the '70s. From left to right, Chaaya Porter-Osceola, Martha Osceola-Turtie, Julian Clay-Martinez, Isabella Quintanilla and Angellena Green lead their class in song.

Fourth-grader Sautva Billie belts out the lyrics to "Stayin' Alive" by the Bee Gees.

Second-grader Kysley'ana Anderson channeled her inner pop star during the Ahfachkee performance, playing the toy guitar and singing along with her classmates.



Sporting their specially-made tie-dye shirts, Aneah Delgado, left, Jaxon Lawrence, center, and Calli Osceola, right, had a great time singing and dancing along to the music alongside their classmates.

Kicking off the Ahfachkee show March 22 was a group of third-graders showing off their scarf skills. At the forefront are Jayde Billie, left, Curmya Smith, middle, and Thelma Tigertail, right.

Kindergarten class member Rainer Robbins shreds on the air guitar during the class's performance of "Thank You" by Sly and The Family Stone.

Apply to FGCU dual enrollment program

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Florida Gulf Coast University is pairing up with the Seminole Tribe for a summer of education. From June 25 to Aug. 3, Tribal members who are rising juniors or seniors in high school can take part in a dual enrollment program with FGCU. The deadline to enroll is April 20.

If enrolled, students will take the three-credit courses "Introduction to Entrepreneurship," which focuses on individual components of entrepreneurship and its implications for society, and "Staying on Course," which focuses on developing strategies for success in higher education.

Students will live on campus in resort-style buildings, will work with a peer mentor and be able to use FGCU resources, including campus recreation, dining and tutoring.

Students must have an unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher and meet at least one of the following testing criteria: A reading score of 106 and writing score of 103 for the PERT exam, a reading score of 19 and English score of 17 for the ACT, a reading score of 24 and writing score of 25 for the rSAT, or a reading comprehension score of 83 and a sentence skills score of 83 for the Accuplacer test.

For more information or to apply, contact Student Success Coach Kajir Harriott at KajirHarriott@semtribe.com or 954-989-6840 ext. 10531.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum presents Seminole Discovery Days series

FROM PRESS RELEASE

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is pleased to announce its 2018 Seminole Discovery Days series of special events. The Discovery Days series provides the perfect opportunity for visitors to discover more about Seminole culture with hands-on activities for all age groups.

The next event is "Earth Day" on April 21. It will highlight the importance of the Everglades to Seminole people. Explore the Everglades with a boardwalk tour, meet Seminole Tribe member Daniel Tommie in his hunting camp, and try your hand at archery.

On June 28, visitors can get inspired by a

Museum Village Crafters exhibit and art from students at the Seminole Tribe's Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School. Visitors will also meet Seminole artists and create their own art for the "Art at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Day".

"Seminole War Day" on July 28 will highlight the history of the Seminole Wars with a special display, Tools of Survival game, and more.

The final Discovery Day on Sept. 15 will feature activities connected with the upcoming exhibit, "We Are Here," which demystifies Tribal government.

Seminole Discovery Days activities are included in the regular cost of admission. For more information visit ahtathiki.com/programs/ or call Education Coordinator Alyssa Boge at 863-902-1113 x12225.

Read Across America brings stories to reservations

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Children may not usually like doctors, but the one doctor almost every child and parent can look forward to is Dr. Seuss. March 2 marked the famous author's 114th birthday, and in celebrating the occasion, the National Education Association hosted the annual Read Across America initiative, which made its way to Hollywood and Big Cypress.

The Hollywood Preschool welcomed guest readers to take part in the celebration from Feb. 26 to March 2. Volunteers, which included parents, Tribal employees, and members of the Seminole Police Department, read children's books, discussing the stories and answering children's questions.

SPD officers Pam Spitzer and Margaret Ortiz visited the preschool on Feb. 28 to visit the 2-year-old class. Spitzer read the book "I Love You Because You're You," which she said is a special way to tell children that each one of them is special.

"I absolutely love children," the

grandmother of 10 said, explaining that she constantly tries to incorporate reading into her grandchildren's lives as well as her own. She urges them to buy books at school book fairs and makes sure they always pick out a new toy when they go shopping.

"This is an awesome program," she said. "Reading is very important and this program just makes it fun for them."

Along with encouraging literacy, Ortiz said that officers volunteering to read to the preschoolers also helps develop a more positive relationship between the police and children.

"When they see us come in and read to them while we're in uniform, they feel more comfortable to communicate and relate to us instead of seeing us in a negative way," Ortiz explained. "I really enjoyed it. I like to see their faces light up like they did."

Although this was the first time the two SPD officers volunteered to read at the preschool, they both agreed they would love to do it again.

While the preschoolers enjoyed



SPD Lieutenant Jeff Maslan talked with the 2-year-old class at Hollywood Preschool about the book "Good Night, Bunny" for Read Across America Week.

story time, Ahfachkee students in Big Cypress celebrated Dr. Seuss and literacy in a different way. From Feb. 28 to March 2, the school hosted themed days for students to have a little fun while understanding the importance of reading. The themes, based on famous Dr. Seuss books, included The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins, Oh the Places You'll Go, Cat in the Hat, Dr. Seuss' ABC and Horton Hears a Who. Students wore crazy hats, college shirts, dressed like their friends, dressed up like a Dr. Seuss character, and completed random acts of kindness, respectively.

The week also included a book fair for students at Hollywood Preschool, where students could purchase many of the books volunteers read to them, as well as those by Dr. Seuss.

Just as the famous children's author said, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go," and the Tribe is doing its best to make sure these kids go far.



Director of Non-clinical Services Leslie Ann Bolden reads "The Little Mouse, the Red Ripe Strawberry, and the Big Hungry Bear" to the 3-year-old class at Hollywood Preschool on Feb. 28.

Arts & Entertainment

Plenty of stars filled Hard Rock Live for 13 years

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — After showcasing some of the biggest names in entertainment for more than a dozen years, Hard Rock Live, which opened in 2005, hosted its final show Feb. 24. Comedy icon Jerry Seinfeld was the last performer in the 5,500-seat indoor arena which is slated to be demolished as part of the massive new hotel, casino, retail

and entertainment expansion underway on the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood property. A new venue for concerts and shows is part of the project.

After a private concert for Seminoles on July 6, 2005 that featured performances from country singer John Anderson, Grand Ole Opry country stars, rapper Ludacris and others, Hard Rock Live opened its doors to the public for the first time July 12, 2005. The arena was christened by Styx, REO Speedwagon and The Outlaws in front of a sold-out crowd that included Chairman Mitchell

Cypress, President Moses Osceola and Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr.

Before the year was over, the venue drew Kenny Loggins, Def Leppard, Tim McGraw, Kelly Clarkson, Meatloaf, Journey, Alice Cooper and Larry the Cable Guy, as well as a massive motorcycle show called Roadhouse 2005 and Jason Taylor's ping pong tournament.

That summer Hard Rock Live welcomed its first boxing card. An August evening was headlined by a heavyweight bout between U.S. Olympian gold medalist Ray "Merciless" Mercer and Shannon Briggs, who delivered a seventh round knockout. Boxing was by far the biggest sport at the venue, which also featured pro billiards, indoor football and other activities.

Also included in 2005 was the debut of the Tribe's employee talent show. Brighton Seminole Casino's Controller Montie Spivey won the grand prize.

In 2006, Hard Rock Live became the home for the annual Seminole Tribal Fair & Pow, which made its first appearance in the venue in its 35th year. Eventually, it also hosted holiday parties and concerts for the



Tribune file photo

Legendary Aerosmith, with Steven Tyler up front, rocked Hard Rock Live on March 2, 2006.



Tribune file photo

Hard Rock Live's lights shined on Bon Jovi during his concert July 10, 2006.



Tribune file photo

Slash, better known for his days with Guns 'N Roses, performed with Velvet Revolver on Jan. 2, 2006 at Hard Rock Live.



Tribune file photo

The James Toney vs. Samuel Peter fight Jan. 6, 2007 brought plenty of stars, including Hulk Hogan, to Hard Rock Live.



Tribune file photo

Winner of Best Female Artist, Pura Fe performed at the 2006 NAMMY'S at Hard Rock Live.



Tribune file photo

The blue Hard Rock Live sphere is lowered into place June 17, 2005 in preparation for the opening.



Tribune file photo

Wearing his Detroit Tigers jersey, Kid Rock put on a show Feb. 16, 2006 at Hard Rock Live.

Arts & Entertainment

QA

Sitting down with 'The Voice' finalist Brooke Simpson

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

A self-proclaimed 'happy girl who writes sad songs,' Haliwa-Saponi tribal member Brooke Simpson took the U.S. by storm in 2017 on the 13th season of NBC's "The Voice."

Originally from Hollister, North Carolina, Simpson grew up singing with her evangelist parents. Although she sang her whole life, it wasn't until she started attending college at Lee University that her career starting taking off. It was during her time there she originally auditioned for "The Voice," but didn't make it past the initial auditions. Fast forward four years and she and her husband are residing in South Florida when she receives a call that the show would like her to re-audition.

This phone call determined her career, leading her to work with and befriend Miley Cyrus, becoming part of the first all-female team on "The Voice" and preparing her first studio album. The Tribune spoke with Simpson about her journey on "The Voice" and what she has planned for the future.

Q: What kick-started your singing career?

A: Honestly I would say 'The Voice.' In college is when I really started finding my sound and discovering who I was as an artist, but I wasn't fully developed and was still really young and was still trying to figure out life. I've never been in an atmosphere where I know what connections I need to make and who I need to talk to to get my music career started. I was really ignorant to the music industry and had no idea what I was doing. When "The Voice" happened for me, it showed me so much and opened my eyes to a whole different world of music. It taught me the importance of not always saying yes to everything and staying firm on who I am as an artist and as a person. Even though all intentions are well, if you don't know who you are as an artist on a show like that, then you'll be told who you are. It was a huge learning experience and it was incredible. I can't give any credit to anything but that for catapulting my career because now I have a fan base that I never had before and I don't think I would have ever had before this. ... I had the year of my life last year.

Q: Was a career in music always your Plan A?

A: It was always Plan A. I always knew that I wanted to sing and I've always had a heart for music, but I knew that my music would look different than what I grew up around. My parents hoped that I would go into the Christian music world, but I just knew that I had a passion for not just writing songs that are about love, but I just wanted to write about

what I'm experiencing right here, right now. I really still want to help people and I want to do that through my music. I always knew I want to share my music and if it's 10 people or 10,000 I don't care as long as people listen to my music and know they aren't alone. ... I never knew if I would have the opportunity to do it. The year before "The Voice" I actually started thinking, 'OK I'm 26 and I'm getting older, maybe I need to hope for something else to happen' because it felt like everything that I tried to make happen was all just closed doors.

Q: You actually auditioned for 'The Voice' four years prior to getting called back. What was your reaction when they called you back so long after?

A: I was freaking out. ... It was destined for me to get that call; so much had changed in four years. The first was that they had emailed me the callback to an old email I don't even use anymore and then they called my number I had back then, but it wasn't even my number anymore. It's now my dad's number so he didn't answer their first couple of calls and then finally he answered and asked who it was trying to call him. It was so crazy and I didn't know what to think. Even when I was a teenager, I tried American Idol and nothing happened there, so I was just kind of jaded from the whole singing show reality thing. ... Little did I know that I would basically be spending my whole year in California last year.

Q: Why did you choose Team Miley and how was your experience working with her? Do you stay in contact with her?

A: I knew I wanted to pick Miley from the beginning. I've just always been a huge fan of hers, especially when her 'Bangerz' album came out; that was my college anthem. I think it's because I was more of a conservative girl that I was just really attracted to her rebellion in that 'Bangerz' stage. ... I've just always been in love with her music and how she's just relentlessly authentically herself in whatever she's doing. I knew that I could learn so much from her because I just want to be nothing but me and she's dabbled in so many different genres so I knew there wasn't a single piece of advice she couldn't give me. I went on stage thinking to myself, regardless, I was going to follow my heart even if my heart doesn't tell me Miley when the judges turn around.

When all four judges turned around my brain was just thrown for a loop and I was like OK heart, you better guide me. Everyone was talking and saying great things, but then she ran up on stage and put my hand on her heart and said 'Do you feel how fast my heart is beating? That's how bad I want you' and I was just like OK this is the kind

of confirmation I needed. You can't fake that and this whole time I was talking about following my heart and then this girl comes up and asks me to follow hers so I just knew it was perfect.

Miley's so invested. As soon as she got there she gave us her email address and we would just talk about songs and email back and forth like that. Once we got to the top 12, she said she was sick of emailing and told us to just text her. So now we still talk just about every other week. She's incredible and is just such a real person.

Q: Was there a particular moment with 'The Voice' that really resonates with you?

A: There were a lot of crazy life-changing moments on that show. One big moment for me was when I did 'It's A Man's Man's Man's World' during the playoffs just because I knew out of six people, she could only pick three to go to the top 12. I just knew I needed to give and bring everything that's in my bones. My voice was so tired; we were singing every day so hard for that whole month of August, but I was just like OK this is the last song at least until October so I have to push myself and make myself sing and perform the crap out of this song. Because I focused so hard and was so determined to give everything within my bone marrow, that was just a huge moment for me. That was the first time I've ever left the stage - anytime in my life - and I just knew that there was nothing left in myself to give, I know that I gave everything. Even if she didn't pick me, I couldn't feel more excited.

Q: How has your career developed since your experience?

A: My life has changed completely. I have a whole new platform of fans that I did not have before this that I'm so thankful for and try to communicate with every single day. I'm just trying to make sure that I don't waste any time, not just because I have a momentum and there's a wave right now, but because I have all these people that love my voice and want to hear my music and I don't want to waste time and make them wait years before they get anything. That's why as soon as the show was over, I hopped in the studio and recorded my single '2AM.' Other than that, I've just been trying to book as many gigs as possible and travel to as many states and even some places outside of the country, just trying to do as much as I can as soon as I can just because I want to hurry up and see and hug and squeeze all these people that kept me on that show for all the weeks I was on. This is also just what I want to do for the rest of my life and I don't want to waste any of that time.

Q: Where do you find the inspiration for the songs you write?

A: I actually find myself inspired when I'm the saddest or when I'm hurting. I'm generally an extremely happy person, so when I'm happy it's hard to write; I can't sit down and focus on writing a song because I'm enjoying life and I'm having fun and I'm with the people I love.

When I'm heartbroken or I'm hurting or I'm frustrated or mad or any type of negative emotion, that's when I decide not to wear my heart on my sleeve, but put it on paper. ... '2 AM,' the song I just released, I actually wrote the night I got back from 'The Voice.' I was sitting at my dining room table, my husband had already gone to bed because it was so late, and I'm just sitting there crying my eyes out thinking 'God, thank you so much for that opportunity. I can't believe this is my life and I got to do that.' But then at the same time, I kept thinking I was happy I made it to the finale but I can't believe I got third; I wish I got first. There were so many different things in my head and I was so confused and then I looked at the clock and it said it was two in the morning and I said to myself that nobody prepares you for this part; nobody prepares you for 2 a.m.

It took me like an hour to just sit there and pour out my feelings on paper and write the song, but even though it's weird that I write songs from a sad place - just because I'm such a happy person - I think it's a good thing because it lets people know they're not alone in their sadness. Everyone has a 2 a.m.; everyone has a time where they feel just completely by themselves and I want to be a reminder to let them know that they're not going through those situations alone.

Q: How do you think your success in the music industry so far is significant for your tribe and other tribes in the country?

A: It's something that I take so much pride in, but at the same time it's so humbling and so heavy. At first, when I went on the show, I got so excited that they were talking about North Carolina and where I come from because it's giving my tribe recognition. We're such a small tribe and not many people know we exist, so [I thought] this was going to give us so much recognition and it was awesome.



Courtesy photo

Singer/Songwriter Brooke Simpson, a Haliwa-Saponi tribal member from North Carolina, currently resides in Davie, Florida.

But then as the show went on and I got more influence, I came to realize that I wasn't just representing my people, but that I'm representing tribes from all over the U.S. and outside the U.S. ... I'm just so honored that I can play a small part in shedding light on the people that a lot of times are forgotten. It's just been awesome and I can't believe it's me that has the opportunity to do that.

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: I have a bunch of gigs lined up for the rest of this year and some of them haven't been announced yet. I'm still in the studio and still recording more songs. I'm trying to keep as much of it a secret as possible, but it's stressing me out because I want to just scream it to the top of my lungs and let everyone know about the music I'm making. Right now, the future just entails traveling, meetings and greeting my fans and making as much music as possible.

Simpson is currently performing around the country. Her latest single "2 AM" is available on iTunes and Spotify. To stay updated on her performances and other news, follow her on Twitter at @BrookeSimpson.

DJ Shub perfectly blends Native culture and electronic music

BY DEVEN OSCEOLA
Contributor

From buzzing basses and synths, to pounding drums and Native chants for the listeners to raise their hands in the air and dance, DJ Shub has been able to blend both the cultural sound of Native songs with an electronic train of energy that seems to never slow down in his music. DJ Shub really has shown he has no limits as to what he is



Courtesy photo

Deven Osceola, AKA Eeoko.

comfortable making. His production ranges from styles such as Trap, House, Moombahton, and even faster tempo electronic dance music like his song "Indomitable," which was awarded Best Music Video at the Native American Music Awards last year.

DJ Shub's music is truly unique from other artists in the genre. He skillfully mixed the sound of electronic dance music with a cultural feel that gives the music a very distinct sound that someone has likely never heard before.

Shub's music is highly respectable. Even if someone is not an experienced musician

or DJ, or even fond of the EDM genre, it's hard not to understand and appreciate DJ Shub's music. The thought to blend the drive of Native instruments and high energy vocals with the synthetic, punching kicks and instruments of modern day electronic music is unlike anything created before.

DJ Shub is also in a good place at a good time, as electronic music has started to make its way to the mainstream music genre. Although it is not traditionally the most popular type of music for some people, DJ Shub seems to connect with everyone, especially younger audiences that enjoy high adrenaline dance music. He and his music will likely start making their way to a large festival soon enough if they have not already. DJ Shub is a popular artist making his way to the top as a Native American musician and EDM artist.

Deven Osceola is a high school junior at Mount Dora Christian Academy in Tampa. Going by the name Eeoko, Deven is an electronic artist whose sound consists of warm sounding melodies, deep kicks and popping snares. He became passionate about music after seeing the impact his older brother's music made on the community, which pushed him to learn to play the piano by ear. In recent years, artists such as Daft Punk, Genesis, Gorillaz, Skrillex, Zedd and Porter Robinson inspired him to become a DJ. Deven hopes to continue producing and performing his own music for people to capture something from the music he creates. His music is available on Soundcloud.

Orlando Museum of Art opens 'Enduring Beauty'



Courtesy photo (2)

Above, woven baskets created by Seminole women were on display, including ones created to be dolls, as seen in the right of the photo. Below, museum guests look at Tribal artifacts and designs at the grand opening March 22.



Courtesy photo (2)

Above, museum guests attend the Orlando Museum of Art's opening reception for their new exhibit, "Enduring Beauty," which focuses on Seminole history and culture. Right, part of the exhibit consists of traditional Seminole clothing. Pictured here is patchwork worn by Seminole men.



Polk County History Center features plenty of Seminole history

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BARTOW — It doesn't take long for visitors to the Polk County History Center to realize the significant role Seminoles played in the area.

Located in the Old Polk County Courthouse on East Main Street in the heart of downtown Bartow, the museum features a large glass display case that houses Seminole culture items close to where visitors can begin their tour. The display provides a glimpse of the Seminole culture through patchwork clothing, dolls, beaded items and carved artifacts.

One description reads: "Florida Seminoles and Miccosukees have been making and wearing patchwork clothing since the early 1900s, creating beautiful and unique patchwork designs. They also made palmetto-husk or pine needle dolls dressed in the same elaborate patchwork clothing. Patchwork was a way for these Native Americans to identify with their heritage."

Visitors can see a tunic in the display that was given by Charlie Micco, of the Brighton Reservation, to the donor during a hunting trip in 1948. A small photo of Charlie Micco with grandson Fred Smith on horses in 1950 is next to the tunic.

Other exhibits, materials and references related to Seminoles or other Native American tribes are featured throughout the multi-floor museum. There's a mention about early settlers that "Archaeological evidence shows [Native American tribes] presence in the region at least 1,500 years ahead of the county's legal formation."

Visitors can get a close up view of a nearly 17-foot-long dugout canoe dated 400-570 A.D. that was discovered at Weohyakapka Creek between Rosalie and Walk-in-the-Water Lakes in Polk.

A display of free publications includes the glossy, colorful 56-page "Florida Seminole Wars Heritage Trail," which provides a detailed look at the Wars from each region of Florida. Locations, information, photos and maps of battles, forts, historic markers, museums, and other items are featured throughout the pages as well as stories about prominent Seminole Wars figures such as Osceola, Coacoochee, Billy Bowlegs, Sam Jones, Polly Parker and Black Seminoles.

An area dedicated to the history of slaves in Polk County includes information about runaway slaves who joined Seminole

communities and became known as Black Seminoles. An item about the village of Minatti reads:

"Originating from a possible misspelling of Manatee, this settlement was formed around 1818-1820 by former slaves that came to the area with Chief Oponay. Located between Lake Hancock and Bartow, Minatti was destroyed by the U.S. Army in 1836."

Visitors can learn about 15 forts in Polk County, see their locations on a map and read about how the Seminole Wars played a role in bringing early settlers to the area who helped shape Polk County. Explanations include how the military forts were constructed across central Florida in the mid-1800s "to protect the new pioneer settlements from the remaining Indians, primarily Miccosukees and Seminoles."

A memorable description for Fort Cummings, in the Auburndale/Lake Alfred area, reads:

"As noted on the historical marker erected on the site, Seminole chieftain Coacoochee appeared at the fort in 1841 dressed in full regalia of a Shakespearian cast member. One year before, Coacoochee and his band attacked a traveling theatrical group near St. Augustine and after killing the men, escaped with their costumes."

Being "Polk Proud," as the county's resolution recognizing its history on its 150th anniversary on Feb. 8, 2011 prominently declares on a tall display, includes mentions of the Seminoles. In fact, the Seminoles appear close to the top, occupying the third and fourth "Whereas" out of 24:

"Whereas, the Seminole Indians settled in Polk County in the 1700s seeking bountiful hunting ground, ranges for cattle and forage; and

"Whereas, Seminoles established villages near the Peace River as trading centers and Seminole Chief Oponay kept a magnificent plantation near Lake Hancock."

The museum also highlights pretty much everything else about Polk County history, including its military heroes, a pristine courtroom, railroads, agriculture, cattle, the phosphate rock industry, company towns, spring training baseball and much more.

The Polk County History Center is located at 100 East Main St., in Bartow. Admission is free. As part of its Lunch and Learn series, a program about the history of the Third Seminole War will be held Nov. 20 by John and Mary Lou Missall. For more information call 863-534-4386.

AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM

Seminole Discovery Days

Bring friends & family!

Get crafty, explore the Everglades, taste tradition, enjoy demonstrations and more!

April 21st: Earth Day

June 16th: Art at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

July 28th: Seminole War Day

September 15th: We Are Here



All activities are free for Tribal Members, museum members, or included with your admission.

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Enduring BEAUTY

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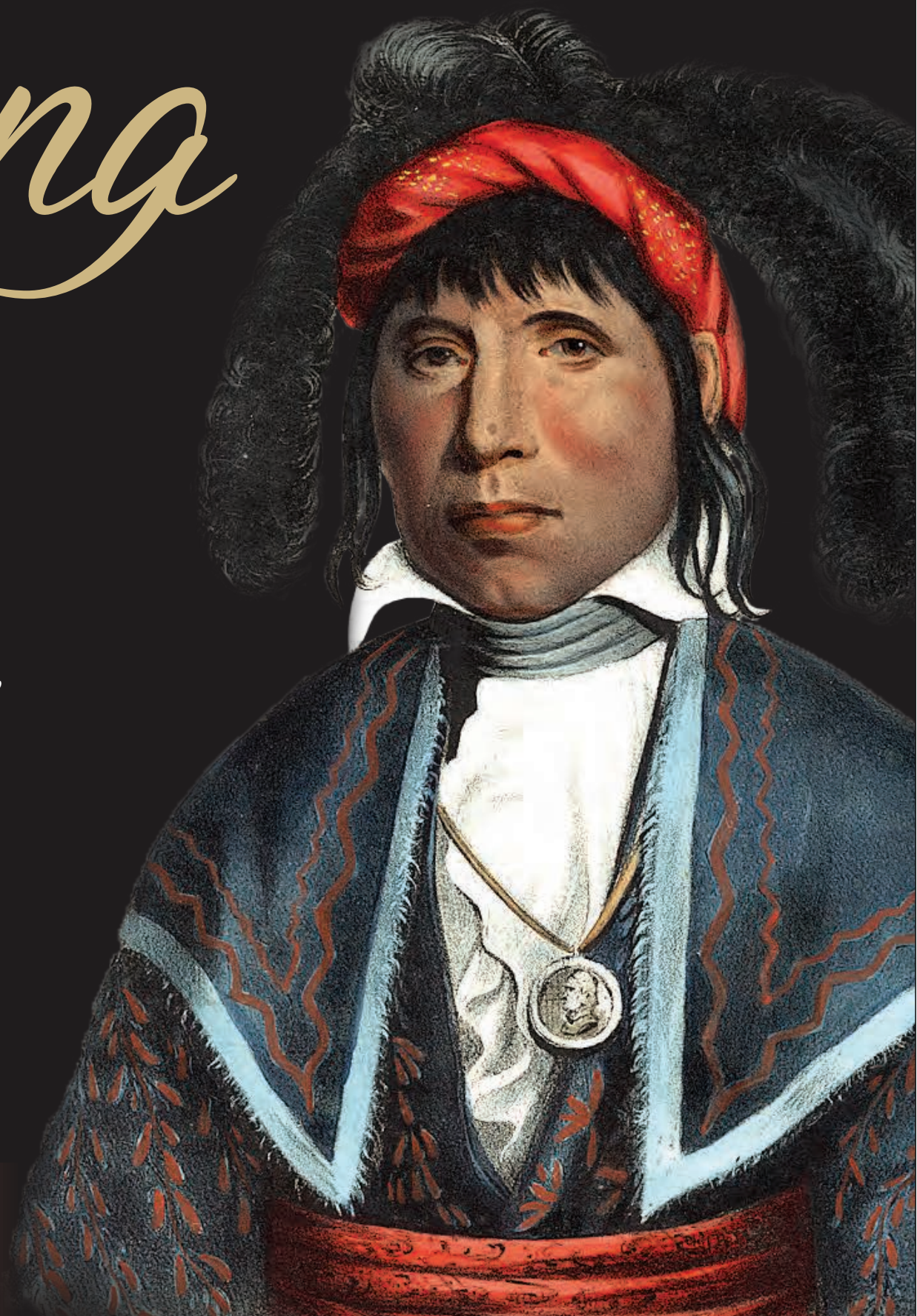
The Orlando Museum of Art is pleased to present *Enduring Beauty: Seminole Art and Culture*, an exhibition drawn from the collection of I.S.K. "Keith" Reeves V and Sara W. Reeves, considered to be the largest private collection of Florida Seminole material. *Enduring Beauty* celebrates Seminole culture with works of art, adornment and domestic crafts dating from the early 19th century to the mid-20th century. These objects are not only beautiful and significant, they are expressions of the Seminole's extraordinary history as the Native American people of Florida.

THIS EXHIBITION IS FUNDED IN PART BY ORANGE COUNTY GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE ARTS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM



Micanopy, 1826, colored lithograph, 8 x 5 in. Printed, colored and published by J.T. Bowne, of Philadelphia. Collection of I.S.K. Reeves V & Sara W. Reeves. Photography by Beverly Brosius.

ORLANDO MUSEUM OF ART



Sports



Stubbs sisters help American Heritage win first state title

Patriots top Ponte Vedra to claim Class 6A crown

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

LAKELAND — Tiana Stubbs and December Stubbs, of the Hollywood Reservation, combined for 16 points as American Heritage captured its first girls basketball state championship March 1. The Patriots, who flexed their advantage in size, speed and strength at both ends, proudly clutched the Class 6A trophy amid a celebration at midcourt after their convincing 59-33 win against Ponte Vedra at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland.

"We made history," said December, who dished out a game-high four assists to go along with seven points.

Heritage finished with a 23-7 record. Unlike a year ago when the Patriots were ousted in the state semifinals, this season ended in triumph.

"It means everything," said Tiana, who drained a game-high three 3-pointers and finished with nine points. "Last year when we came here we lost and we had to go home. Just to come back and finish the way we did, it means everything to us."

"We played the toughest schedule I could put [together]," said Heritage Coach Greg Farias, whose regular season slate included some of the state's top teams, including Dillard, Nova, Miami Country Day and Oxbridge. "We played the best teams to get us ready for this."

The Stubbs sisters came off the bench and made immediate impacts in the first half. December, a point guard, scored her first points on an uncontested layup which gave Heritage a 14-7 lead late in the first quarter.

Even though she is one of the team's shortest players at 5-foot-6, December doesn't mind getting in the middle of the wars in the paint, often battling bigger

opponents for rebounds. She grabbed a combined eight rebounds in the semifinals and championship.

"We call her our 'little big man' because she gets in there and she battles and battles," Farias said. "She's tough as nails and she boxes out. [In the semifinals] she got more rebounds than one of our bigs. She does a great job."

In the second quarter, December made another layup before Tiana got on the board with a 3-pointer that made it 27-14 with five minutes left in the second quarter.

Heritage led 36-22 at the break and its comfort zone was never threatened in the second half. Femi Funeus led the Patriots with 19 points and Tyaliah Willis snagged 13 rebounds with 14 points.

Tiana, a shooting guard, also had one rebound, one assist and one steal, but it was her success from beyond the arc that was most noticeable.

"When Tiana, who is one of the best 3-point shooters on the team, is on, it helps us all around," Farias said.

December's contributions also included three rebounds and two steals.

Defensively, the Stubbs played big roles in limiting Ponte Vedra's shooting to 24 percent from the field.

"They play really hard. They're pit bulls defensively, and that's what we like. We had to go small because [Ponte Vedra] plays a lot of guards and I know December and Tiana play great defense and they hustle really hard," Farias said.

The Patriots will lose plenty of scoring and size to graduation, but most of the club, including the Stubbs, will be back.

"It's a bright future for those two young ladies next year for Heritage basketball," Farias said.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage sophomores and sisters December Stubbs, left, and Tiana Stubbs, of the Hollywood Reservation, hold the Class 6A state championship trophy after the Patriots defeated Ponte Vedra 59-33 March 1 at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland. Tiana had nine points and December had seven points.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage sophomore guard December Stubbs eyes the basket amid traffic in a Class 6A state semifinal against Lakewood on Feb. 28 at RP Funding Center in Lakeland. At far right is Tiana Stubbs.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage guard Tiana Stubbs makes a 3-pointer in the second quarter to give the Patriots a 27-14 lead against Ponte Vedra in the Class 6A state championship game March 1 at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland. Stubbs had nine points as Heritage cruised to a 59-33 win to capture its first state title.



Kevin Johnson

December Stubbs and Tiana Stubbs hug after their American Heritage team won the state title.



Kevin Johnson

The Class 6A state champion American Heritage Patriots celebrate after their 59-33 win against Ponte Vedra in the championship game March 1 at RP Funding Center in Lakeland.

Dominic Osceola completes undefeated football season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Dominic Osceola's first sports season playing for Brandon Academy turned out to be one to remember.

Dominic, a fourth-grader, was a left/right rusher on the school's Silver flag football team that went undefeated. The Scorpions finished with a 12-0 record. Their perfect season culminated with a 25-14 win against Florida College Academy Blue in the Tampa Bay Christian Athletic League championship

game in early March.

Now that the football season has ended, Dominic will shift to playing basketball for Brandon Academy. Outside of school, he plays sports with the I-9 Sports program.

Dominic comes from an athletic family, which includes his older brother Nigel and younger brother Dorian, who are active in several sports.

When Dominic is not on the field, he likes to cheer for his favorite teams: the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Florida State Seminoles.



Courtesy photo

Brandon Academy fourth-grader Dominic Osceola holds the football championship trophy after the flag football team he plays for won its league championship in March.

Skyla Osceola finishes freshman season as NSU's leader in assists, defensive rebounds

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

DAVIE — The Nova Southeastern University women's basketball team made a push toward the end of its regular season by winning three of its final four games, but the momentum didn't carry over to the postseason. The 2017-18 season for NSU, seeded No. 6, ended Feb. 28 with a 90-84 loss to No. 3 Embry-Riddle in a Sunshine State Conference quarterfinal in Daytona Beach.

Freshman guard Skyla Osceola, of the Hollywood Reservation, scored eight points and had four rebounds, three assists and one steal in 26 minutes of playing time. Osceola fouled out with 15 seconds left in the game right after she made a jump shot that trimmed the deficit to six points.

Embry-Riddle fell to top-seeded Florida Southern in the conference championship, 87-68.

For the season, Osceola contributed in several areas. She started in 20 of her 27 games and scored 116 points for an average of 4.3 per game. She led the team in assists with 90 and finished fourth in rebounds with 75, which included a team-high 66 on the defensive boards. She was second in 3-point percentage and tied for second in 3-pointers made with 29.

In three separate games, Osceola snagged her season high of seven rebounds. Other season highs included 13 points against Florida Tech and nine assists against Shaw.

NSU's season was hampered by the loss of top scorer Kayla Wright to a season-ending injury five days after Christmas. Wright scored 33 points and grabbed 14 rebounds in a conference showdown victory against Barry on Dec. 30, which turned out to be her final game of the season. NSU was three games above .500 at the time, but the Sharks went 6-10 the rest of the way without their star and finished with a 13-14 record.



Kevin Johnson

Skyla Osceola had 90 assists and 66 defensive rebounds, both team highs, in her first season with the Nova Southeastern University women's basketball team.



Kevin Johnson

Cam Osceola focuses on making a shot during the Chairman's Office Pool Tournament on March 9 at the Classic Gym in Hollywood.

Pool tournament fills up Classic Gym

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The sounds of pool balls smacking each other filled the Hollywood Classic Gym in early March. More than a dozen pool tables were set up on the basketball court for the Chairman's Pool Tournament that drew a large turnout from youngsters and adults.

The junior section, which was broken up into three age categories for 8-ball, drew 29 kids. Keith Osceola won the 10-13 group with wins against Kimora Alex, Uriah Tommie, Jennie Osceola and runner-up Alex Rodriguez.

Elijah Osceola won the 14 to 17 division with a perfect 5-0 record.

The most popular section in the adult category was the open men's singles 9-ball, which featured 17 players. Boogie Nunez finished first as he won all five of his matches, including the championship against runner-up Tony Billie.

Justin Aldridge won the open men's singles 8-ball, which featured 13 players.

The open women's 9-ball featured six players. Dixie Tommie won the top honor with victories against Martha Tommie, Louise Osceola and Juanita Osceola.

Dixie Tommie also won the open women's singles 8-ball.

In seniors competition, Tony Billie captured the men's open 8-ball and Laura Clay won the women's open 8-ball.

Division winners

Juniors 8-ball (ages 7-9)	Senior	Women's 8-ball	Singles	Open Scotch Double 8-ball
1. Kyngston		1. Laura Clay		1. Vinson Osceola and Jessica
2. Bill Osceola		2. Juanita Osceola		2. Tony Billie and Louise Osceola
3. Christian Shaffer		3. Scarlett Jumper		3. Juanita Osceola and Boogie Nunez
4. Justin		4. Louise Osceola		4. Martha Tommie and Lance
5. Jayden		5. Dale Grasshopper		5. Dixie Tommie and Ty
Juniors 8-ball (ages 10-13)	Open	Women's 8-ball	Singles	Seniors Scotch Double 8-ball
1. Keith Osceola		1. Dixie Tommie		1. Daniel and Dale
2. Alex Rodriguez		2. Jessica Billie		2. David and Laura
3. Jennie Osceola		3. Claudia Jumper		3. Tony and Louise
4. Levi Tommie		4. Martha Tommie		4. Vince and Scarlett
5. Uriah Tommie		5t. Nina Frias		5. Juanita and Joe
Juniors 8-ball (ages 14-17)	Open Men's Singles 9-ball	Open Men's Singles 8-ball	Senior Men's Singles 8-ball	Men's Singles 8-ball
1. Elijah Osceola	1. Boogie Nunez	1. Justin Aldridge	1. Tony Billie	1. Tony Billie
3. Kirshawn Henry	2. Tony Billie	2. Ildy Garcia	2. Justin Aldridge	2. David Cypress
4. Melinda Gentry	3. Elrod Bowers	3. Elrod Bowers	3. Elrod Bowers	3. Daniel Gopher
5t. Rubie Osceola	4. Lance	4. Lance	4. Elrod Bowers	4. Joe Billie
5t. Trace Wilcox			5. Lance	5. Vince Billie
Open Men's Singles 8-ball	Open Women's 9-ball	Open Women's 8-ball	Open Women's 8-ball	Open Women's 8-ball
1. Justin Aldridge	1. Dixie Tommie	1. Dixie Tommie	1. Dixie Tommie	1. Dixie Tommie
2. Boogie Nunez	2. Juanita Osceola	2. Juanita Osceola	2. Juanita Osceola	2. Juanita Osceola
3. David Cypress	3. Louise Osceola	3. Louise Osceola	3. Louise Osceola	3. Louise Osceola
4. Ralph Sanchez	4. Martha Tommie	4. Martha Tommie	4. Martha Tommie	4. Martha Tommie
5t. Tony Billie	5t. Cassandra Jones	5t. Cassandra Jones	5t. Cassandra Jones	5t. Cassandra Jones
5t. Ildy Garcia	5t. Alex Tommie	5t. Alex Tommie	5t. Alex Tommie	5t. Alex Tommie



Kevin Johnson

Uriah Tommie gets ready to make a shot.



Kevin Johnson

Amelia Osceola gets ready for a tough shot during the Chairman's Office Pool Tournament.



Kevin Johnson

Vince Billie lines up a shot while his playing opponent President Mitchell Cypress looks on during the Chairman's Office Pool Tournament.



Kevin Johnson

The 2018 Ahfachkee School track and field team gathers for a photo at the Calvary Christian Academy Invitational on March 9 in Fort Lauderdale. From left, freshman Alonie Gore, freshman Gordon Jumper and sophomore Abigail Tigertail. All three ran in 400 meter sprint races.

Jillian Rodriguez plays key role in historic win for Immokalee High School softball

Leads team to victory vs Naples

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

IMMOKALEE — For what seems like forever, Naples High School softball has ruled Collier County. For many years Naples was the state's most dominant team, something Immokalee painfully knew first-hand.

No softball program in Florida has won more state championships than Naples (10), which used to pound its county competition

— including Immokalee— with relative ease. In fact, from 2007 to 2011, Naples outscored Immokalee by a staggering 96-2 according to results on MaxPreps.com.

But this season — after a history of lopsided losses — Jillian Rodriguez and her Immokalee teammates did something for the first time in school history: they beat Naples.

Rodriguez, a junior left-handed pitcher, notched the victory in the circle and shined at the plate as Immokalee topped Naples, 14-9, on Feb. 23 at Naples High School.

"Oh my gosh. That was a crazy game," said Rodriguez, the only Tribal member on the squad. "It was for us the most exciting game because we've never beaten Naples. Ever. First time in history is a big deal. I know me and the girls were beyond excited over that win."

Rodriguez came on in relief in the second inning and provided six stellar innings. She allowed only two earned runs, scattered seven hits and fanned four. She helped her own cause with a 2-for-4 night at the plate, which included a pair of extra base hits, two RBIs and two runs scored.

Eight of Immokalee's runs came in the final two innings to secure the monumental victory.

"It was big for the program and for these girls," said first-year Immokalee coach Ruben Lucio. "Seeing their expressions walking off the field when they closed out that game, it was a big moment for us, especially moving forward knowing that

[we] can beat those teams."

As she was growing up, Rodriguez knew all about Naples' storied past and the fact Immokalee always came out on the losing end.

"To finally come out on top was a feeling like no other," Rodriguez said.

Immokalee's win was no fluke. The program has certainly turned the corner with proof being its best start ever in the form of an 11-2 record as of mid-March. Four of those wins have come against Collier foes Gulf Coast, Palmetto Ridge and St. John Neumann. The team went 3-1 in Gulliver Prep's tournament in Miami as Lucio has tried to compile a strong schedule with hopes it will help pave the way for a successful postseason on a club loaded with sophomores and juniors that is bound to get better.

"These players have been playing together for such a long time and it has

really accurate. She keeps the other team on their toes. We've got a good defense behind her, but she makes good pitches. She makes the pitches that count and she allows us to keep the game close when we're behind, and when we get up, she allows us to close those out."

At 5-foot-1 and 120 pounds, Rodriguez knows she doesn't have the big frame of a power pitcher, but she makes up for that in other aspects, including keeping batters off balance.

"She has a lot of movement on her pitches which allows her to excel in this kind of competition," Lucio said.

"I'm not the really big girl, the really fast pitcher, but whenever I give you something, I'm going to give you something that has movement that you've never seen before," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said working with team pitching coach Marissa Ocanas has helped her improve tremendously compared to a year ago.

"Way, way better. Pitching coach Marissa has helped me a lot. She's always been there for me with my pitching and always told me to never give up," said Rodriguez, who has also excelled with the bat. She's hit above .400 for most of the season and has had several multiple hit games.

Rodriguez's family has been part of the team's success — her stepfather Mondo Nunez is an assistant coach — or witnessed it; her mother Rhonda Nunez and aunt Susan Davis attend most games.

As good as this season has been so far, Rodriguez is already looking forward to next year when her sister Ava, also a pitcher, begins high school.

"Next year she'll be here with me and I'm very excited about that," Rodriguez said.

Immokalee hopes to keep the good vibes going in the second half of this season with an eye toward trying to win its first-ever district title. The Class 6A-12 tournament will be held April 24-26 at Immokalee High.

"It's been a lot of fun," Rodriguez said. "Definitely the best season that I've had here."



Kevin Johnson

Immokalee High School softball pitcher Jillian Rodriguez has helped the team to its best start ever. She was the winning pitcher in the team's first-ever win against traditional state powerhouse Naples Feb. 23.

finally gotten to the point where the program can reap some of those benefits," Lucio said. "We've got some good leadership when it comes to the upperclassmen."

Rodriguez has been the starting pitcher in most games. She's provided reliable results with an ERA under 2.00.

"She's really good," Lucio said. "She's

Ahfachkee shows improvement in track and field

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

FORT LAUDERDALE — Ahfachkee School's young track and field team lacks numbers, but not heart.

This year's squad features three high school runners and one middle school runner. Coach and Athletic Director Matthew Beckham wanted to see more kids on the team as it embarked on its second year of competition.

"I was hoping to have a bigger squad this year," he said. "I think sometimes kids are nervous. They think they're going to come out and get killed doing track and field, and it's not like that."

Middle school and high school athletes around the country use track and field in the spring as a training ground to improve their performances — including speed, strength and endurance — for their fall and winter sports. All four members of Ahfachkee's team play basketball. They're staying in shape by training for and competing in 100- and 400-meter races. Beckham said the 100 sprint is ideal for improving speed while the 400 helps with speed and endurance.

"It's deciding what your favorite is," he said.

This year's team includes sophomore Abigail Tigertail and freshman Alonie Gore on the girls side, and freshman Gordon Jumper on the boys side. Jeremiah Pickup is the lone middle school participant.

Through the early portion of the season, Beckham said there's been improvement from all his runners.

"Gordon has increased a lot; quite significantly. He's already increased in the

100 by one second from last year and four seconds in the 400. He's had a pretty good year of improvement," Beckham said. "It's Abigail's first year running. She's just an athlete. She's doing really well, learning the proper mechanics of running and deciding which event suits her capabilities the best and which ones she likes the most."

Ahfachkee's program is still in its infancy. In its inaugural season last year the team was led by Franklin Jumper, but he no longer attends the school.

"He was kind of our leader from last year. I was excited about him because he improved a lot. He was running good times," Beckham said.

Ahfachkee's trio of high school runners competed in 400-meter races in the Calvary Christian Invitational on March 9 that drew hundreds of runners from schools such as Archbishop McCarthy, Calvary Christian, Cypress Bay, Key West, Pine Crest and Ransom Everglades. Tiger finished 29th in the girls 400 with a time of 1:11. Gore crossed the line in 32nd in 1:17, an improvement of four seconds from her time in the season opening meet at Westminster Academy.

In the boys 400, Gordon Jumper finished 36th in 1:01.

Nobody on the team does field events, although Beckham said Pickup is interested in the long jump.

"Jeremiah was thinking of trying to do the long jump, but we're trying to find a facility to teach him the long jump. We don't have a long jump pit at our school," Beckham said.

Ahfachkee's season includes a handful of meets and runs through mid-April.

OCU ousted from NAIA tournament

STAFF REPORT

KANSAS CITY — The Oklahoma City University men's basketball team, which includes Curtis Osceola, finished its season with a 24-9 record. The Stars won a first round game at the NAIA Division I tournament in Kansas City against Xavier (La.), 62-50, on March 14, but they were eliminated two days later in the second round with a 91-83 loss to Georgetown (Ky.)

OCU's season highlights including winning the Sooner Athletic Conference regular season championship for the first time since 2007-08 and posting its most victories this year since that season. The team was tough to beat at home with a 14-2 mark.

Osceola, a 6-foot guard from Anadarko, Okla., did not appear in any postseason games. During the regular season, he played in six games and had nine points, five rebounds, two assists and one steal. He made two 3-pointers which came against Manhattan Christian and Bacone.

Osceola was one of just two freshmen on the squad, which featured eight seniors.

Upcoming fishing tournaments

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Sportsman's Triple Crown Fishing Series continues April 14 with the Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament in Big Cypress. The three-event series will conclude May 12 with the Seminole Sportsman's Championship. Tournaments are open to Tribal and community members and STOF employees. Each team must have at least one Tribal member. Fishing must be from boats only. For more information call Big Shot at 954-931-7118, Joe Collins at 954-931-7793, email BiggShotSports@aol.com or visit Seminole Sportsmen on Facebook. The tournament is sponsored by Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.

The Chairman's Big Cypress Fishing Tournament will be held April 21. Fishing starts at safe light. Reservation canal fishing from boat or bank. All fish must be alive at weigh-in at 12 p.m. There is a five fish limit and all fish must be 12 inches or longer. The tournament is for Tribal members only. Entry fee is \$20. For more information call 863-902-3200, ext. 13324.

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Miami Open ready for shift to Hard Rock Stadium

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MIAMI GARDENS — One of the world's premier tennis events is about to get a lot closer to tennis fans from the Tribe in South Florida.

After spending the last 31 years in Key Biscayne — including one last hurrah this March — the Miami Open is headed to Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens where organizers have promised a radical change.

"We're talking a picture, a footprint that really is unimaginable, filled with music and arts and content and culinary, culture, all for families. It will be much, much more than tennis," Mark Shapiro, co-president of WME-IMG, which runs the tournament, said at a press event March 19 in Hard Rock Stadium.

Construction of the outdoor courts has already begun in what used to be parking areas at the stadium. When it's complete, the tennis facility will be home to more than two dozen courts. Inside the stadium, a center court with seating for nearly 14,000 fans will be arranged for the tournament.

After being unable to expand as it wanted to at Key Biscayne's Crandon Park, the tournament was in jeopardy of leaving Miami-Dade County until Miami Dolphins and Hard Rock Stadium owner Stephen Ross stepped in to ensure it remained a Miami product.

"We have plenty of land. We can really create something that is totally unique in sports and I believe it will really work," Ross said.

Some initially thought Ross's idea was crazy, but not anymore.

"It is such a great idea," said 23-time grand slam champion and new mom Serena Williams. "When I look at photos of how it's going to be, it's really exciting. We want this to be the best tournament ever. We want this to be the best experience ever."

Tournament Director James Blake said the shift will allow the tournament to upgrade everything. The facility will feature 30 on-site courts, including 20 that will have four standard lighting that will allow for more evening matches than what was available at Crandon. The move will mark an improved experience for players, fans and media, Blake said.

"We're going to have more practice courts, better facilities, better locker rooms,



Kevin Johnson

A ceremonial groundbreaking takes place March 19 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens for the construction of a tennis facility that will be home for the Miami Open starting in 2019. Hard Rock International Chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen, center, took part in the ceremony along with, to his left, 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams and WME-IMG Co-President Mark Shapiro, and, to Allen's left, Miami Dolphins and Hard Rock Stadium owner Stephen Ross, Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver Gilbert III and Matt Higgins, co-chair of the Miami Dolphins and co-founder of RSE Ventures.

cutting edge video screens, better technology, better facilities for the media, more parking. Everything is going to be an upgrade, from every single aspect will be an upgrade," said Blake, who won 10 times on the ATP before retiring.

Hard Rock International Chairman and Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen participated in the groundbreaking shovel ceremony inside the stadium with Williams, Ross and other dignitaries. In the summer of 2016, guitars — not shovels — were used

in a ceremony to mark the stadium naming rights' signing agreement between Hard Rock and the Dolphins. Since then, Hard Rock Stadium, with its hundreds of millions of dollars in stadium upgrades on display and the iconic Hard Rock logo splashed on several prominent vantage points, has hosted major events, including Florida State's thrilling 33-32 win against Michigan in the Orange Bowl, music heavyweights U2, Metallica and Coldplay, with Taylor Swift, Beyonce and Jay-Z on deck for August performances, and, most recently, Peru's 2-0 victory against Croatia in a matchup of 2018 World Cup teams. The stadium will also host the Super Bowl in 2020.

Next spring, Hard Rock Stadium's

entertainment footprint will expand with the arrival of the world's biggest tennis stars and the international appeal that comes with them.

"Certainly the amount of entertainment that has occurred here at Hard Rock Stadium over the last year has just been incredible," Allen said. "It has exceeded our expectations tenfold. We certainly knew that when we did the deal that this was most likely going to happen — we certainly were under a confidentiality agreement at the time — but now that this has come to fruition I think it just demonstrates the long-term relationship between Mr. Ross, obviously Hard Rock Stadium, and the Tribe."



Kevin Johnson

Above, the planned layout for the new tennis facility that is being built at Hard Rock Stadium and will be home to the Miami Open starting in 2019. Below, the rendering for how the main court will look inside the stadium for the tournament.



Kevin Johnson

From right, Serena Williams, Stephen Ross, Mark Shapiro and James Blake speak during a media event March 19 at the stadium, discussing the Miami Open moving to Hard Rock Stadium.



Kevin Johnson

Tennis superstar Serena Williams gazes up at Hard Rock Stadium, the future site for the Miami Open starting next year.

Dyami Nelson wins SSBR championship for second straight year

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BRIGHTON — Quality won out over quantity this season for rising star bull rider Dyami Nelson, but the end result was the same.

For the second year in a row, Nelson is the Southern States Bull Riding Tour champion.

"I didn't ride as much as last year, but I did ride better," said Nelson, 18, of the Brighton Reservation.

Nelson successfully defended the championship he won in 2016 by capturing the 2017 title. Making the championship even sweeter this year was winning a tour event at Osceola Heritage Park in Kissimmee with 84 points on his 18th birthday in October. In September, he won at Bergeron Rodeo in Davie.

Nelson has been riding in rodeo since he was a youngster and now that he's 18 he'll shift his focus to pro circuits. He said a goal by the end of this year is to be a world champion in PRCA.

"I'm very proud of my son. I'm his number one supporter and he's my favorite bull rider," said Dyami's mother Danielle. "I'm very blessed to have a talented son. He

told me one day he will be a champ and he definitely is a champ. I can't wait to watch him go pro and hit the roads to rodeo. He's traveled all over the United States and one day he will be riding in the PBR and I will be right there to watch."

Dyami Nelson was born in Hollywood, but grew up in Brighton, where he lives with his uncle Wayne Nelson. He is home-schooled and expects to graduate this spring through St. James Academy.

Nelson has been riding in rodeos since he was about eight or nine years old. He said he draws inspiration from support he receives from his family as well as the success of other rodeo standouts from the Tribe, such as Jacoby Johns and Kelton Smedley, who are in the pro ranks.

"They all motivate me to be the best," he said.

The challenges of riding fierce bulls — which Nelson has excelled at time after time — also serve as motivational tools.

"I love riding bulls," he said. "The adrenaline gets to me."

Courtesy photo
Nobody has been better in SSBR the past two years than Dyami Nelson.



Courtesy photo
2016 and 2017 SSBR Tour Champion Dyami Nelson with his mother Danielle.

PECS basketball honors its 8th-graders

BRIGHTON — Before their seasons ended, the Pemaitev Emahaky Charter School girls and boys basketball teams recognized their 8th-grade players and their families during a ceremony before the start of games Feb. 1.



Adryauna Baker

Photo courtesy PECS



Kayln Hammil

Photo courtesy PECS



Mariah Garner

Photo courtesy PECS



Dakoya Nunez

Photo courtesy PECS



Karey Gopher

Photo courtesy PECS



Elle Thomas

Photo courtesy PECS



Angelie Melton

Photo courtesy PECS



Jaytron and Jayton Baker

Photo courtesy PECS



Tafv Harris

Photo courtesy PECS

Jacoby Johns wins PRCA bareback riding in Okeechobee

STAFF REPORT

OKEECHOBEE — Jacoby Johns, of the Brighton Reservation, won the bareback riding title at the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association's Okeechobee Florida

Cowtown Rodeo held March 9 to 11. Johns' score of 82.5 points on Painted Pony Championship Rodeo's George's Bad Cat earned him \$1,247. Johns edged runner-up Wyatt Ortega, who had 81.5 points. All-around cowboy honors went to Justin Thigpin.

Other winners were: Cody Green (steer wrestling), John Alley/Clark Adcock (team roping), Joe Lufkin (saddle bronc riding), Bart Brunson (tie-down roping), Taylor Carver and Julie Thomas (tie, barrel racing), Jesse Petri (bull riding).



Kevin Johnson

Jacoby Johns, shown here competing in a PRCA event at Brighton Field Day in February, notched a victory at a PRCA event in Okeechobee in March.

EIRA youngsters learn the ropes at Junior Cypress Cattle Drive & Rodeo



Beverly Bidney

Twister Fischer does his best to rope the cow statue during the dummy cow roping competition.



Beverly Bidney

Madisyn Osceola opens the EIRA Kids Rodeo carrying the U.S. flag as she rides around the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena on March 17. The event was part of the Junior Cypress Cattle Drive and Rodeo.



Beverly Bidney

Lucky Gopher hangs on during the mutton busting event at the kids rodeo.



Beverly Bidney

As other young ropers wait their turns, Ryker Miller finesses the rope over the cow during the dummy roping event.



Kevin Johnson

The Seminole Lightning softball team from Big Cypress gathers for a photo before its game March 20 in Clewiston. From left, front row: Tommie Stockton, Halley Balentine, Thelma Tigertail, Aaliah Quintanilla, Mylly Chapa. Middle row: Laylah Billie, Aaliyah Billie, Illiana Robbins, Ina Robbins, Tahnia Billie, Lucee Cypress, Emma Dicarlo. Back row: coach John Brown, head coach Dessie Thomas, coach Ashley Faz and coach Albert Graham.

BC softball making big strides

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

CLEWISTON — The Big Cypress Recreation Department's Seminole Lightning youth softball team hoped to build on its victory from the previous night, but Mother Nature didn't cooperate March 20.

After winning their first game 10-5, the Lightning were poised to add to their victory total, but lightning and rain halted the next day's game against David's Carpentry & Concrete in the Clewiston youth league for ages 9 to 12. It was the Lightning's third game of the season out of 14 games that ran until early May.

Thirteen girls from the BC

Reservation fill the Lightning roster, which is led by Head Coach Dessie Thomas and Assistant Coaches John Brown, Ashley Faz and Albert Graham. Teamwork is a big part of the squad's strategy.

"The girls are learning how to support and respect each other. They are looking forward to improving after every game and they have no problem encouraging one another," coach Thomas said.

The 9-to-12 age level features regular pitcher to catcher softball, which, for some players coming out of T-Ball, is a new environment.

In their March 20th game, starting pitcher Mylly Chapa and reliever Illiana Robbins handled pitching duties while Ina Robbins

was behind the plate. The infield featured Lucee Cypress at first, Halley Balentine at second, Aaliah Quintanilla at shortstop and Tahnia Billie at third base. Starting outfielders were Laylah Billie, Illiana Robbins and Tommie Stockton.

On offense, Tahnia, in the leadoff spot, reached base on a walk and scored the team's first run in the opening inning.

The Lightning didn't have a chance to add another victory because a storm rolled through in the second inning and forced the game to be postponed.

Big Cypress also has a T-Ball team that plays a 10-game schedule in Clewiston.



Kevin Johnson

Lucee Cypress



Kevin Johnson

Illiana Robbins

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A49268	2007	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (RWD) V8	131,369	Poor	\$1,700.00
A27803	2006	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F550 FLATBED WITH FIRE TANK	45,651	Poor	\$2,019.00
245692	2011	POLARIS UTV	RANGER XP 800	N/A	Poor	\$2,059.00
A47709	2007	FORD CONVERSION BUS	E350 STARCRAFT BUS (RWD) Gas	69,048	Fair	\$5,603.00
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