



Tribal members graduate vocational school
EDUCATION ♦ 1B

Family Services hosts Wellness Conference
COMMUNITY ♦ 3A

Tribal youth excels in rodeo competitions
SPORTS ♦ 1C



The Seminole

Voice of the Unconquered



Tribune

www.seminoletribune.org • 50¢

Volume XXXIII • Number 8

August 31, 2012

Brighton Seminole Trading Post holds grand reopening

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — After about 45 years in existence, the Seminole Trading Post on the Brighton Reservation underwent a much-needed renovation.

Tribal officials and members, as well as people from surrounding counties, made the trek to Brighton on July 26 for the grand reopening of the improved Brighton Trading Post.

"This is a project that we have been working on since I took seat exactly a year ago," Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard said. "We had to blow this thing up as big as possible so we could generate more people to come here and do business with us from the outside."

The day brought energy and excitement with Seminole Tribe regular Mobile Mike and several radio stations, including Wild 95.5 and Y100 Miami, giving away CDs, DVDs, and waterpark and concert tickets.

Cars also lined up in both directions along Highway 721 hoping to be one of the first 200 patrons to arrive at the Trading Post to receive \$25 of free gas.

James Holt, along with his brother Clinton Holt, kept Seminole heritage alive by putting on alligator wrestling and venomous snake demonstrations throughout the day. Also, Mobile Mike's Gourmet Burgers and Fries provided a free lunch of hamburgers, hot dogs and refreshments for the crowd, while people popped in and out of the newly constructed convenience store to see the transformation.

"It's a step up from the old one," Lynvetta Myers, of Moore Haven, said. President Tony Sanchez Jr. said he was surprised when he got his first peek inside. "I was here last week, and when I walked in I didn't know where I was at," he said. "It just looks so great."

The Brighton Trading Post got a



Beverly Bidney

The Brighton Seminole Trading Post reopens with a complete makeover.

complete makeover with the addition of about 1,000 square feet. The original building was completely gutted, which included not only the convenience store but also a Laundromat and manager's office for the RV park, which is also a Tribal entity.

A trailer facility was brought in to accommodate the Laundromat and manager's office, as well as serve as the point of sale system for the Trading Post's gasoline services.

"We were able to [keep] the store open for the community because that was very important on Larry Howard's list," said Juan Menendez, the manager for the Board Construction Division.

The construction lasted roughly four months and resulted in an almost 2,500-square-foot convenience store with

all new amenities, including the infamous Beer Vault.

"We actually added more things in our store," Rep. Howard said. "We have hot foods — something we never had before — mocha, cold coffee and a brand-new slushie machine for the kids."

Rep. Howard said he wanted to prevent this project from sitting on the backburner. "He was very psyched about the project," Menendez said about Rep. Howard. "He was out here every day during construction."

The Brighton Trading Post is an entity of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. under the Board of Representatives.

♦ See TRADING POST on page 6A



Brett Daly

Alexis Aguilar crowned Miss Florida Seminole

Brianna Nunez takes Jr. Miss title

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Thirteen young women celebrated their Seminole heritage and culture on July 28, vying for the coveted Miss and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole crowns. While all wanted the responsibility of serving as their Tribe's ambassadors, only two received the honor.

Alexis Aguilar, one of five Immokalee contestants, shined during the 55th annual Princess Pageant and earned the Miss Florida Seminole Princess crown. Aguilar, the first runner-up in last year's Jr. Miss category, is a senior at Immokalee High School and succeeds Princess Jewel Buck.

"I put my whole heart into it," she said. "It's a big responsibility, and I hope I can make my Tribe proud."

Brighton resident Brianna Nunez took the Jr. Miss title for her performance during the pageant, held at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium. After not placing in last year's pageant, Nunez said hearing her name called as the winner this time around was bittersweet.

"I feel ecstatic," she said moments after outgoing Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Jaryaca Baker crowned her. "There are no words to describe how I feel. It's the most amazing feeling I've ever felt."

Each contestant — two competed for Miss Florida Seminole and 11 for Jr. Miss — was judged in the areas of traditional wear, talent and impromptu questions. In addition, a five-person panel of judges interviewed each contestant individually, and each completed an essay answering the question, "Where would you take Miss Florida USA in the Tribe and why?"

Aguilar stood out in the talent portion for demonstrating how to make a baby hammock. Once finished, she sang a lullaby in her native language. Nunez sang *Amazing Grace* in English and Creek, while fellow contestants Alexis Jumper demonstrated how to sew a Seminole patchwork skirt, Thomlyn Billie explained the significance of the Tribal flag and Randee Osceola taught the crowd how to bead a Seminole necklace, just to name a few.

"I see growth in the development of the pageant, as well as in the depth of the contestants," said pageant judge Melonie Mathews, of the Santa Clara Pueblo/Navajo

Tribe. "They're so rich in culture. It makes my heart sing when I see so many young ladies embracing their [heritage]. They're keeping their culture strong."

Event emcee Van Samuels also announced other individual awards in both the Miss and Jr. Miss competitions. Aguilar and Nunez won best talent; Braudie Blais-Billie and Kirsten Doney won best essay; and Aguilar also secured the Miss Congeniality title.

In addition, Jr. Miss contestants Doney, Tia Blais-Billie and Brooke Osceola were named first, second and third runners-up, respectively.

In keeping with this year's theme, "Unconquered Seminole Women: Leading by Example," Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers recognized past Princesses who pursued higher education and awarded them special necklaces adorned with graduation and princess insignias.

"I want to empower our Seminole women and make sure they know they can do what they want in our Tribe," said one recipient, Christine McCall, Princess Committee secretary. She graduated from Florida State University with a bachelor's degree in 2009. "Miss Florida Seminole has not only achieved higher education but has worked in many ways to contribute to the Tribe that supported them during their reign."

The Tribal Council elected the first Seminole Princess in 1957 to act as the Tribe's official ambassador and to educate people about the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Current Princess Committee member Connie Gowen had the honor of wearing the first crown. The first official pageant took place in 1960 in conjunction with the grand opening of Okalee Village, and 51 Princesses have since been crowned.

For outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Princess Jewel Buck, the experience offered her a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. During her reign, she attended events like FSU's Homecoming and the Miss Indian World Pageant (her favorite experience, she said), all while sharing her culture with the world and serving as a role model for youth.

"I can't say enough about my experience and what I've learned over the past year," she said.

♦ See PRINCESS on page 7A

Tribal youth attend Camp Kulaqua



Beverly Bidney

Campers start down the Ichetucknee River in the rain during Camp Kulaqua.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HIGH SPRINGS, Fla. — Summer camp is a place for kids to learn who they are by participating in activities they don't usually do at home. Instead of sitting around watching TV, playing video games and spending time online, campers spend their time running, swimming, learning and bonding with their peers.

For the ninth year, youth from the Tribal community spent two weeks from July 29 through Aug. 10 at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs in northern Florida. Health, wellness and culture were the themes at camp, so in addition to usual camp activities, the campers attended classes to reinforce Tribal culture, learned good eating habits, saw how they can make a difference in the world and learned how

their ancestors foraged and hunted food. "We want kids to learn to be healthy and fit because we are apt to diabetes," said Helene Buster, camp director and director of Family Services in Big Cypress. "The focus is to teach them there is a healthier lifestyle."

During the first week, 102 teens attended, and during the second week, 90 kids, ages 7-11, attended. The camp didn't allow junk food or downtime; the kids awoke at 6 a.m. and kept busy until lights out at 9:30 p.m. Equipped with a staff of 55 adults, 13 junior counselors, 14 members of the Seminole Police Department and six firefighters, the campers were well supervised.

A nutrition class presented by Allied Health focused on healthy eating and addressed diabetes, using the example of pop star Nick Jonas, who has the disease. It emphasized how making good food

choices helps Jonas manage his diabetes. SPD taught a class on Stranger Danger and how to stay safe. Lessons included knowing parents' full names, home telephone numbers and addresses, as well as knowing who can pick them up at school.

Making a Difference, presented by Family Services, asked the kids to think about what they would like changed on their reservations and how they would go about making the changes. Some of the changes the campers mentioned included stopping drug and alcohol use, decreasing bullying and planting more trees. Their solutions included forming clubs to have anti-drug and anti-alcohol activities, talking to Tribal leaders, donating money for more trees, respecting elders and staying in school.

♦ See CAMP on page 6A

INSIDE:

COMMUNITY: A

HEALTH: 11A

EDUCATION: B

SPORTS: C

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 4C

Editorial

Tough decisions save our future

• **Tony Sanchez Jr.**



Since this administration took office a year ago, we have been faced with a host of tough and ongoing decisions. As you know, just like every other government in this country, budget and other financial matters loom at the very top of an unprecedented list of issues that demand our immediate attention. Every day the Seminole Tribe is growing, adding new Tribal members, and with that comes added per capita expenses. Not immediately but soon – the impact of these expenses will be felt by all of us. You have noticed and felt, I am sure, the repercussions of many difficult decisions we have made. And the hard time decisions are not over by any means.

We must go through another round of hard decisions to ensure that we do not fall into a similar predicament as the Mashantucket Pequots. Most Tribal members know the Pequots as the first wealthy gaming Tribe and now, suddenly they are broke. Just like that, they are billions of dollars in debt. It could not have happened overnight. But it is safe to say it must not have been properly addressed until it was too late.

This administration is doing everything it can to ensure Tribal members retain their current lifestyle. But some adjustments will have to be made to prevent a complete collapse like the Pequots.

In addition to tough financial decisions,

there are other factors beyond just numbers of dollars that will affect the budgetary process – factors the Seminole Tribe has not often faced, such as future enrollment and blood quantum. Looking at our current situation, one school of thought identifies two major issues that we must come to grips with soon: 1. What is the makeup of the Seminole Tribe of Florida? Should the Miccosukee be counted or not counted on our rolls? And 2. When does a Tribal member become eligible to receive a financial dividend? Do we leave it at birth, as it is now, or should the financial benefit not begin until the age of 18?

These decisions need the input of all Tribal members. We can't ignore these issues because they make us uncomfortable. They need to be right out in the forefront of every Tribal member's mind. We can no longer shy away from this issue. It comes up constantly. By all means, we need to have a plan. And we need it now.

Another issue that affects our Tribal financial picture is the quality and efficiency of our programs. We must continue to examine and re-examine all our funded programs – from Education to Recreation to the Youth Centers, everything – and evaluate the benefits these programs bring to the Seminole Tribe. This evaluation must look at the services the program provides and determine if there is a real need being addressed and that we didn't create a program just to have another program.

If there is a real need, then we must make sure we have the proper personnel and infrastructure in place to meet the current and future needs of Tribal members. And then we need to have a mechanism in place that provides an ongoing evaluation, not just an end-of-the-year review. Ongoing.

It makes good business sense.

Like with anything, people will get complacent and comfortable in their jobs, used to the routine, and maybe there are some careless things happening. A lot of folks may think, "Well no one is complaining; we must be doing everything all right." But that is not necessarily the case. I've had experience with this sort of evaluation during my days as General Manager of the Immokalee Casino.

There we had independent "secret shoppers" come in and evaluate the whole place: the valet, security, the wait staff, the cocktail servers, etc. They observed the state of the bathrooms, the operation of all the machines, including the ATMs. They came in four times a year, and no one knew when. Believe me, even though we managers like to think everything is going properly, we still appreciate independent, trained people who come in and tell you if your food quality is good, if the bathrooms are clean, if the valet was rude. We wanted to evaluate the staff in their everyday work environment, not when we are all on our best behavior because it is inspection day.

Casinos are always under a microscope. It highlights how we can improve, be more efficient and smarter with our money. And the purpose for this is not to eliminate; it's designed to improve programs. Now you might find out a certain program is not needed. There may be another program that provides the same services. This is the sort of discussion we will need to have, ongoing, if we truly want to improve and provide efficient, proper services to our Tribal members. This has to be our M.O.

Right now everything is about dollars and cents. Everybody wants more. That is natural, but until we start using these

methods to explore our system, it's difficult to consider increasing dividends or services. This is a new position for the Seminole Tribe. Just about every year since the Tribe organized, we have moved upwards, increasing our financial status year after year. For this to continue, however, we have to reduce our spending and implement these controls and evaluations.

These are really tough topics this administration has to address. We don't have a crystal ball to tell us what the previous administration was thinking. I do know that these issues were not addressed, and it fell into our hands. And we are not going to pass it off to the next administration. It needs to happen now, and we are facing these issues head on.

I know there will be negative feelings. It will be natural. But with good business sense and the right decisions, people will understand, and the negative feelings will go away. Wouldn't it be easier to ignore? Sure, just leave it for the next guys. That may be what happened at Pequot. But if we don't talk about it, three, five, 10 years from now we could be on the verge of becoming another Foxwoods.

And can you imagine the reaction from Tribal members? "You guys knew about this all along! Why didn't you tell us? Why didn't you do something?" We have to protect the current AND future needs of the Tribe. This administration is here to address these issues.

I sometimes wonder if people are listening, if they are trying to understand what is happening with the Tribe. I do know, however, that everyone is interested and tuned in to what is happening with their pockets. Enrollment, dividends, programs – it is all directly affecting what goes in

our pockets. I am confident the people will support measures that will ensure we do not become another Foxwoods casualty. If you don't understand, ask questions. I am tickled pink when we are questioned. I shows me that you are listening.

Now, on the surface it may seem like, "Wow, the Seminole Tribe is having no problems. Look at the parking lots at the casinos – they are all full all the time, it seems." But what the news media and others don't realize is we try to remain self-sufficient, without government subsidies. Actually, we are having the same problems as the federal government, just on a different scale. We are trying to maintain our identity and our culture by providing for ourselves. We are not looking for a handout. Self-sufficiency is expensive.

To ensure that we maintain that level of self-sufficiency, we have to address many issues today. The process has to start somewhere. It will start with this administration. When you come into these positions of leadership, you have to be ready to tackle these issues. It is vital. Our decisions – or non-decisions – will impact what the Seminole Tribe is today and what it will be in the future.

Finally, we simply can't be worried about what happens in the political world. We came into office because we want to have a positive effect on the Tribe. That's a huge positive. But if we allow our problems to continue unaddressed, it becomes a huge negative.

God bless the Seminole Tribe of Florida.
Sho-naa-bish.

Tony Sanchez Jr. is President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

How would you define a Native?

BY RUTH HOPKINS
Indian Country Today Columnist

What makes one Native? Mainstream society certainly attempts to define us by promoting stereotypes passed down from old Hollywood movies, with stoic Italians painted red speaking broken English. Collegiate mascots depict us as brutal, war-mongering savages and celebrities and hipster models who flood the public eye with sexualized, exploitative imagery when they pose wearing little more than imitation war bonnets that misrepresent what it truly means to be Native. History written by the European invaders is also inaccurate because it is skewed to their perspective, if Natives are even acknowledged at all.

While addressing how non-Natives view us is worthy of consideration – especially for those who hope to dissuade ignorance about us – it is more important that we, as Natives, consider how we define ourselves to heal our communities and for our own well-being, as well as that of future generations of Natives. Identity is who we are. In order to know where we are going, we must first know where we've been and how we got here. We must remember who and what we stand for, as individuals and as Native nations.

For some, the answer to what defines one as being Native is just a question of "race." If only it were that simple; however, race is ultimately a social construct. People who are identified as belonging to the same race often share similar history and morphological traits like skin color, but not always. Biologically, we all have DNA

containing the same components and are members of the same species. Intrinsically, we all belong to only one race: humanity. Furthermore, defining Natives by race alone is inaccurate from a legal standpoint in the United States of America. You see, to the federal government, being Native is considered a political affiliation.

Indian Tribes existed long before the United States did, but because of the genocide that took place at the hands of European invaders who landed on "American" shores, the mass theft of Native lands, war, the making and breaking of treaties with Native nations and related history surrounding the establishment of the United States, the federal government imposed itself upon us and became heavily involved in defining what is Indian via Tribal enrollment. The Supreme Court of the United States says Indian Tribes exercise inherent sovereignty by determining who may be a Tribal member, yet the federal government via the Bureau of Indian Affairs (B.I.A.) invented rules regarding blood quantum to force Tribes to define themselves by blood with little regard for land holdings, culture, language, kinship and those often imperceptible spiritual bonds that all contribute to one's true Native identity.

Don't get me wrong – blood ties are crucial to Native identity. Blood is ancestry. Even bloodlines do not fully explain Native identity though because traditionally, Tribes allowed for the adoption of non-blood members. Members who originated with other Tribes, or even non-Natives, could be absorbed into Tribes via marriage or adoption; but these events weren't in name

only, as we've seen occur with celebrities who are suddenly and rather inexplicably adopted by Tribes today. Originally, anyone who became part of a Tribe learned that Tribe's culture, language and sacred ceremonies. They lived and worked in that Native community and played an active role as a Tribal member.

Others say Native identity is about nationality. If one believes that Tribes are independent nations and not "domestic dependent nations" as defined by the U.S. Supreme Court, then you may be correct. Still, there are many Natives who embrace dual citizenship as Tribal members and Americans. I submit it is to our advantage to act as such. Yes, we should be proactive, responsible Tribal citizens, but the lives of American Indians are also greatly affected by the laws and subsequent actions handed down and carried out by the U.S. government. As a result, we would do ourselves a great disservice by refusing to take part in its political process. Those against us know it; that's why the Red Vote is often discouraged by restricting and other efforts to silence us.

Tribes are ethnic groups. Ethnicity is more or less a descriptor of a population though, not a definitive marker of identity. So where does that leave us in our question of how do we define ourselves as Natives?

Beside blood ties, Native identity is firmly anchored in tradition. Our cultural practices, our Tribal languages, our sacred rites, all define us. Without them, we would fail to exist as distinctive Native groups.

To read the full article, visit www.IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com.

Tribal Council convenes for regular meeting

BY CAMELLIA SMITH-OSCEOLA
Editor in Chief

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Council convened for a regular meeting on July 13 at the Tribal Office Auditorium on the Hollywood Reservation.

From the consent and regular agendas combined, 35 resolutions were passed, one withdrawn, one denied and one tabled.

Here are a few of the resolutions passed that day:

Resolution: Issuance of a homesite lease to Kyle Jailen Baker – Big Cypress Reservation.

Resolution: Issuance of a homesite lease to Amos Thompson Frank – Big Cypress Reservation.

Resolution: Issuance of a homesite lease to Jeremy Smith – Brighton Reservation.

Resolution: Issuance of a homesite lease to Savannah Joy Huggins – Hollywood Reservation.

Resolution: Issuance of a homesite lease to Brandi Katrina Williams – Hollywood Reservation.

Resolution: Issuance of a homesite lease to Noah Peter Yzaguirre – Immokalee Reservation.

Resolution: Issuance of Tribal revocable permit between Seminole Tribe of Florida (permittor) and Cory Wilcox

D/B/A Wilcox, Inc. (permittee) for a salon business – Big Cypress Reservation.

Resolution: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant application for funding of the fiscal year 2013 Seminole Tribe of Florida Water Pollution Control Program for all Seminole Indian Reservations.

Resolution: National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Council Oak Tree site on the Hollywood Reservation.

Resolution: Approval of business lease between the Seminole Tribe of Florida (lessor) and Johns Family Enterprises, LLC (lessee) for development, use and operation of an organic fertilizer facility and all related uses, including sales and nursery operations – Brighton Reservation.

Resolution: Approval of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Council Housing Policy.

Resolution: Approval of investment in Johns Family Enterprises, LLC and providing a line of credit of up to \$500,000 to Stanlo Johns, Jeff Johns and Todd Johns.



David Cypress sentenced for tax offense

MIAMI — Former Tribal Councilman David Cypress was sentenced to 18 months in prison on Aug. 9 for filing a false income tax return for 2007.

Cypress, 61, pled guilty to the charges in April.

"I apologized to everybody," Cypress said during his sentencing hearing held at the Miami Federal Courthouse. "I fully accepted the responsibility."

Cypress' attorney, Joel Hirschhorn, argued that the Big Cypress resident was confused about taxable income laws, citing his simple background and lack of education as the reasons. Cypress, he said, grew up in a chickee with no running water, hunting and fishing for food.

U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams, however, viewed the tax charge as "uniquely American" and sentenced Cypress to serve prison time. The prosecution, led by Assistant U.S. Attorney Carolyn Bell, had asked for a two-year sentence and portrayed Cypress as a "sophisticated" leader of the Seminole Tribe capable of making important decisions on his people's behalf during his time on the Tribal Council.

During the hearing, Cypress' son Charlie testified on his father's behalf and told the courtroom his father was a good man who helped him through some difficult times in his life.

The prosecution called Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. to the

stand, as well as Seminole Tribe of Florida Chief Financial Officer Jim Raker. Upon questioning, Raker spoke on Cypress' misallocations of Council money during the time he spent serving. The prosecution also told of Cypress' lavish spending during his years in office, from 1999-2010.

When cross-examined, Raker mentioned that the Tribe now does more to educate Tribal members about tax forms and tax laws.

Hirschhorn said he hopes Cypress' case will cause procedures to be put in place to prevent this from happening to other Tribal members across Indian Country.

Tribal Board convenes

BY CAMELLIA SMITH-OSCEOLA
Editor in Chief

HOLLYWOOD — The Board of Directors convened on June 20 at the Tribal Office Auditorium in Hollywood.

The following items were passed that day at the regular meeting:

Resolution: Approval of Immokalee hotel development project.

Resolution: Requirement to obtain the approval of the Board of Directors for non-budgeted expenditures equal to or greater than \$50,000.

Resolution: Termination of business lease L-2774 between Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. (lessor) and Johns Family

Enterprises, LLC (lessee) for the development, use and operation of an organic fertilizer facility and all related uses, including sales and nursery operations in Brighton.

The following item was passed at the special meeting:

Resolution: Approval of Jill John to assume ownership of cattle herd and assignment of pasture land.



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

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

Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to The Seminole Tribune, 3560 N. State Rd. 7, Hollywood, FL 33021
Phone: 954-985-5701
Fax: 954-965-2937
Or subscribe online at www.SeminoleTribune.org

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

- Issue: Sept. 28, 2012
Deadline: Sept. 12, 2012
- Issue: Oct. 26, 2012
Deadline: Oct. 10, 2012
- Issue: Nov. 21, 2012
Deadline: Nov. 7, 2012

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

Advertising:
Advertising rates along with sizes and other information may be downloaded from the Internet at: www.SeminoleTribune.org/Advertise

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

Publisher: James E. Billie
Editor in Chief: Camellia Smith-Osceola
CamelliaOsceola@semtribe.com
Senior Editor: Brett Daly
BrettDaly@semtribe.com
Copy Editor: Kathryn Stolarz
Staff Reporters:
Andrea Holata, Peter B. Gallagher, Beverly Bidney
Contributors:
Judy Weeks, Rachel Buxton, Omar Rodriguez, Braudie Blais-Billie, Christine McCall, Madeline Newcomb

If you would like to request a reporter or would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem, please contact Senior Editor Brett Daly at 954-985-5701, ext. 10725 Or by fax at 954-965-2937

© 2012 Seminole Tribe of Florida

Correction: In the July issue, The Seminole Tribune incorrectly identified Alice Billie as Alice Billie Gopher. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

Community

A

Annual Wellness Conference delivers healthy message

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

MARCO ISLAND, Fla. — Tribal members from all Seminole reservations traveled to the Hilton Marco Island Beach Resort for the 19th annual Wellness Conference from July 15-20.

The conference provided Tribal members with the opportunity to listen to their peers' personal testimonies of alcohol and/or drug abuse. Also, guest speakers and experts from across the nation provided specialized insight into wellness and living a better lifestyle. The topics discussed included addiction, recovery, fitness, family, stress, gambling and grief.

Seminoles in Recovery sponsored the event with other Tribal departments, including Allied Health and Fitness, Family Services, Health, Recreation, Culture, Education and Seminole Police.

"The objective of the conference is to start a new, healthy routine in your life," said Helene Buster, director of Family Services and coordinator of Seminoles in Recovery's annual Wellness Conference. "A lot of people are here because they are trying to get well from substance abuse, grief, addiction and diabetes."

Wellness — comprised of mental, physical and spiritual components — covers many aspects of a person's life and affects people in different ways.

After Sunday evening's registration

and dinner, the weeklong conference kicked off early Monday morning with a 2-mile walk on the beach with nearly a hundred walkers and runners participating every morning. Several of the walkers said they enjoyed the exercise and will try to use the Wellness Conference walks to start a daily routine to get back into shape.

Throughout the week, educators and presenters provided information on many topics, including protecting Seminole children, the secrets of staying in love and getting past the diagnosis. For some presenters, this was not their first Wellness Conference, including Don Bartlett and Denise Alley, sharing broken memories of childhood and learning how to love and accept themselves. Several of this year's presenters were from the Seminole Tribe's departments as well.

The conference attendees' favorite speakers were the personal testimonies provided by Tribal members in recovery. They told stories of their struggles with addiction and their new lives in recovery, hoping to inspire others fighting the same battle.

On the last afternoon of the conference, participants gathered in a meeting room to have a sobriety countdown. With the highest number of years of sobriety starting at 42, the participants came forward one by one, announcing their time in recovery. They all shook hands and joined the circle of sobriety. At the end of the countdown,

the room was filled with everyone holding hands in support of each other living a healthier, addiction-free lifestyle. With a combined 713 years of sobriety in the room, attendees gave each other courage and strength.

In addition to the adults meeting all week, conference organizers planned an agenda for the youth attendees, where they attended daily classes with age-appropriate content. The youth's topics included nutrition, fitness, diabetes and myths about drug use. In the afternoons, youth were treated to trips to the movies and to a water park.

"This is an event that we hope that will get everyone started on a new routine in their life," Buster said. "One day at a time, we are trying to get healthy and trying to learn a whole new, different lifestyle. That's what it's all about at the Marco Island Wellness week."

Feathered masks, long dresses, jesters and beads filled the room for the Mardi Gras-themed dinner party that closed out the week. Participants enjoyed each other's company while listening and dancing the night away.

"I had a good time this week at the conference, and I'm happy to see everyone having a good time tonight sober," conference participant Alvin Buster said.

♦ See WELLNESS photos on page 11A



Beverly Bidney

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard gives Emma Urbina the keys to her new home, as the construction team looks on.

Brighton resident receives keys to her new home

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Brighton resident Emma Urbina now lives in her dream home, thanks to the Tribe's Construction and Development Department. The department, which bids for jobs alongside outside construction companies, built Urbina's house in about six months. Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard presented her with the keys to her new home on July 23.

Urbina has lived on the same home site for 18 years in an older house, which was demolished to make way for her new one: a four-bedroom, three-and-a-half bathroom, nearly 4,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art showplace. Features include two covered porches, a game room with a wet bar and a master bath with a soaking tub. The kitchen is equipped with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, a center island, a gas cooktop and plenty of space to create family meals.

"I've been in the process of getting a new home since 2007, but it was always on the back burner," Urbina said. "I hung in there, and I'm so happy with the house. I love it."

The site of Urbina's new home formerly belonged to her father. Along with the

Construction and Development team, she designed the home to her specifications and chose the finishes, including the tile, carpet, paint color and light fixtures. She lives there with her husband, Jesus, daughters Jewel (the former Seminole Princess) and Rosa and son Timothy.

The Construction Department, established by the Board of Directors six years ago, has built homes for Tribal members on every reservation. To date, they have completed about a dozen and have the capacity to build many more custom homes every year.

"I believe we can put more members in homes if we have the land," said Rep. Howard, who would like to develop another housing area on 65 acres at the Flowing Well Grove in Brighton. "Our main focus is to make sure members are well taken care of here in Brighton and at Big Cypress and Hollywood, too."

The Construction Department has worked to improve efficiency in order to increase the department's output. Although it's a Tribal-run business, they must compete with other non-Tribal contractors for every job.

♦ See KEYS on page 6A



Kathryn Stolarz

Seminole Media Workshop participants celebrate their accomplishments on the last day of the workshop.

Seminole Media Productions Workshop expands curriculum

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — About a dozen Tribal youth caught an inside view of the media industry and how it operates during the sixth year of the Seminole Media Productions Workshop (SMPW) held at the Native Learning Center from July 23-27.

With the help of SMP staff, youth had the opportunity to learn the basics of writing, interviewing, reporting, photojournalism, broadcasting, editing, production, filming and graphic design.

The students had a choice of pursuing the graphic design (new to the curriculum this year), newspaper or broadcasting track based on their interests. They worked on individual projects throughout the week and presented them at the conclusion of the workshop.

The graphic design group learned how to create logos, posters and business cards using graphic design software, such as Adobe Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator.

"It's a hobby for me and something that interests me," participant Ricky Joe Alumbaugh said. "I like [the workshop] a lot. It was fun. I learned a lot about Photoshop and stuff I didn't even know."

SMP graphic designer Madeline Newcomb, who instructed the graphic design students, said she hopes the workshop helped the students further their careers.

"I hope it makes them more enthusiastic about furthering their education beyond high school," she said. "They learned so much and picked it up so quickly."

The broadcasting group, which had the

most participants, learned about editing, the production process and video camera basics like shooting techniques, audio and lighting. The youth chose from three topics for their video projects: "Lost Languages," "I am Unconquered" and "Red Barn."

For the "Lost Languages" project, participants filmed Tribal members and asked questions about their Mikasuki and Creek languages. For the "I am Unconquered" project, the students filmed Tribal members reciting that phrase for the purpose of promoting the Seminole Tribe. And for the "Red Barn" project, they gathered information for a PSA about the Brighton Red Barn. Participants honed their interviewing, shooting and editing skills throughout the week.

Second-year participant Tori Osceola said she enjoyed the workshop because it gave her hands-on experience in a career she may want to pursue. She said she likes the camera, whether she's singing on stage in front of the camera or interviewing someone from behind it.

"I take it very seriously when I come to SMPW each year," Osceola said. "I wanted to learn the backstage and how it all comes together. I am interested in media and see it in my future."

Seminole Channel staff selected three projects to air during their Aug. 14 show, as well as on their YouTube channel: "I am Unconquered" by Osceola, "Lost Languages" by Leissett Baker and "Red Barn" by Joseph John.

The newspaper track learned basic journalism skills, which they used to interview Tribal members for profiles and culture stories. Students interviewed

and photographed former Miss Florida Seminole Jewel Buck and patchwork makers Regina Thinn and daughter Janine Cypress Vazquez. With the information the youth gathered, they wrote articles for *The Seminole Tribune*.

The youth also got real-world media insight from visits to the mega broadcast group Clear Channel Media and Entertainment, local print company ID Print, and the Hard Rock Live, where they took a backstage tour. They also had the opportunity to ask questions to *Sun Sentinel* sports columnist Mike Berardino and University of Florida journalism professor Ted Spiker.

To end the workshop, each group gathered in the Tribal Headquarters lobby in Hollywood, where they displayed their projects for their families and friends.

"If you have an interest in media, you should definitely take advantage of this program because it's awesome and definitely helps you out in learning about what goes into media production," SMP cohort and workshop participant Meredith Bullard said. "It's good to get that hands-on training."

Many agreed that this year's workshop was a success, filled with inside knowledge of media. SMP staff hope the workshop sparked participants' interest so they will come back to intern with and work for the Tribe.

"A lot of kids this week discovered talents they didn't even know they had," Newcomb said.

♦ See more SMPW photos on page 8A

Tribal member opens business at Hard Rock Seminole Paradise

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Swamp, a new destination which epitomizes a fun evening out in South Florida, opened at the Hard Rock Seminole Paradise in July.

Owned by Tribal member James Madrigal and his wife, Sheila, of Brighton, The Swamp is a Seminole-themed nightclub complete with a chickee and Seminole paintings. The chickee, used as a stage for the band, was built by Chairman James E. Billie.

"The Chairman came in the other night with his family and was so happy with the final look," Sheila said. "People can't believe how well it turned out."

The nightclub contains wood walls, Seminole artwork and a tin roof over the bar, while a large, open-mouthed, metal alligator sculpture guards the stage. Patrons love to pose for photos with the harmless beast. The bars at the front and back of The Swamp open directly to the outside through large roll-up doors, beckoning people to come check it out. Loud classic rock music and a spacious dance floor complete the ambiance.

♦ See SWAMP on page 6A



Beverly Bidney

James and Sheila Madrigal, Dorothy Burkhardt and Garrett Madrigal are at their new business.

Field Day Challenge held for Naples, Immokalee communities

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

NAPLES — Everybody was a winner when Naples and Immokalee youth participated in the first Naples Field Day Challenge at the Golden Gate Community Park on Aug. 14. The young athletes took over the ball field and surrounding shady park for a full day of fun-filled activities and a picnic cookout.

The events were coordinated by Naples Liaison Brian Zepeda, Juanita Osceola Center staff, Joel Frank of the Work Experience Program and Immokalee Recreation and Fitness. Early morning found fitness trainers Joey Garcia, Liz Pickering and Joel Frank setting up a relay track, 50-meter hurdles, and strength- and distance-event courses that offered something for everyone.

The initial format called for team challenges from the two communities. Tabulation of times and points scored created a narrow margin from one activity to the next, and both sides were soon cheering for each other. It became apparent that they would need to change to an individual status because of uneven age distribution, and the end results were becoming a draw. Blue ribbons were awarded for first place in each age category.

Temperatures soared into the high 90s with a heat index of 103 degrees. Anticipating these conditions, outreach specialist Sandy Osceola created rehydration stations throughout the courses, offering Gatorade, bottled water and fresh fruits floating in an ice-filled bath. She gave a brief presentation on the importance of making healthy, responsible choices, exercising caution during exertion and ways to safely achieve potential.

Warm-up exercises preceded the 50-meter hurdles, which set the tone for the day. Beginning with the little people, laughter filled the park as 3-year-old Nahdea Osceola-Hart ran up to the first barrier, stopped, pushed it down to climb over and then ran under the next three hurdles to the finish line yelling, "I win, I win!"

Immokalee's Aaron Alvarado and Aldrice Cummings aced their divisions on the track, while Angelina Osceola-Lugo, Eliska Slavik, Dominic Osceola-Lugo and Ross Zepeda put Naples on the charts. Marissa Osceola challenged her sister, Jessica, to a grudge race, only to be beaten

by their cousin Ross Zepeda as he passed them up at the finish line.

The sack race was a big hit with a surprise climax. Liaison Zepeda encouraged the staff members to accept a challenge from the youth while saying that they could add it to their resume. He thought he was safe from the competition until the children forced him into a burlap bag to enter the race and took over his microphone. Laughter followed one wreck after another and a pileup at the finish line.

Wooden tomahawks were passed between age groups during the relay races, while strength and distance played an important role in the medicine ball or spear throw and archery competitions.

As the temperatures climbed, break time was filled with less strenuous games. A little music, hula hoops and agility exercises slowed the pace but not the level of fun. Forming a circle to support a colorful parachute, all ages worked together to control a ball in a sequence of patterns as teamwork moved it into the center pocket. They quickly realized that every member of the team became vital to the effort.

A picnic lunch of southern barbecue was served hot off the grill with all the fixings. Topping off the meal were slabs of ice-cold watermelon under the shade of

the big oak trees. After a short downtime, the youngsters were given the option of returning to the game course for several more scheduled events or cooling off at the water park. A big splash signaled their unanimous decision for an afternoon of water sports.

"The combined staff and participants all deserve gold medals for today," Liaison Zepeda said. "This was a great interaction opportunity between the Naples and Immokalee communities rather than a rivalry. Whenever youth can broaden their horizons by meeting new people, making friends and enjoying healthy, fun-filled activities, it is a wonderful experience. The staff did a tremendous job and created more activities than we could possibly complete. We are looking forward to making this an annual event."

The Chairman's administrator Danny Tommie rewarded each participant with a ticket to attend the movie of their choice.

"I want to compliment everyone on their courtesy and respect for the public facilities," Sandy Osceola said. "The children made good use of the trashcans throughout the day, making the final cleanup a snap. I am looking forward with pleasure to participating in more of these combined events in the future."



Judy Weeks

From left, Allegra Veliz, Nicole Slavik and Leatrice Cummings compete in the 50-meter hurdles.



Judy Weeks

Participants use teamwork to control the ball in the parachute game.



Judy Weeks

The archery competition is a first for many of the young boys.

Big Cypress Reservation celebrates August birthdays

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Big Cypress seniors gathered Aug. 16 to celebrate those with August birthdays. Bingo and camaraderie were on the menu. Tribal seniors celebrating another year included Joe Jr. Billie, Nancy Billie, Ginnie Bowers, Carol Cypress, David Cypress and Frances Teele.



Beverly Bidney

Ruby Osceola plays bingo while Alice Billie looks on during the Aug. 16 birthday luncheon held at the Senior Center.



Beverly Bidney

Joe B. Osceola collects his raffle prize at the Big Cypress birthday luncheon.



Peter B. Gallagher

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Bureau Chief Marc McCabe, Tribal member Julia John and VVA Service Officer Art Taylor meet at the Brighton Veteran's Building.

Late Vietnam veteran's daughter receives 'Agent Orange' benefits

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

ST. PETERSBURG — Brighton resident Jill John was born almost 32 years ago with spina bifida, a birth defect that involves the incomplete development of the spinal cord. She has spent most of her life in a wheelchair and has endured more than a dozen major surgeries.

Her father, Seminole Tribal member Joe Lester John, served as a U.S. Air Force combat aircrewman during the Vietnam War. He fought in the 1 Corps Tactical Zone, infamous for containing one of the war's highest concentrations of poisonous herbicides; there in the polluted jungles of northernmost South Vietnam, he was exposed to Agent Orange, code name for chlorinated phenoxy acid in ester form — an herbicide defoliant used during the Vietnam War by the U.S. military from 1962 to 1971 in Vietnam, eastern Laos and parts of Cambodia. Healthy before he left for Vietnam, Joe Lester returned a diabetic, suffering from debilitating heart disease the rest of his life, which ended by stroke on April 27 at the age of 67.

Undisputed scientific studies identify Agent Orange as one of the most toxic poisons a person could ever touch or breathe. Exposure can lead to a lifetime of ill health and the onset of dozens of insidious diseases to the exposed. And it instigates crippling birth defects, particularly spina bifida, to the children of the exposed. And their grandchildren.

Still, it took the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) more than 31 years to acknowledge the Agent Orange service-connected disabilities of Joe Lester and his daughter. He finally received a partial disability on April 1, less than a month before he died.

Daughter Jill received a full disability, associated with her father's Agent Orange exposure on Aug. 10.

"When soldiers came home in the '70s and they lived in a rural area, the VA forgot about them," said Marc McCabe, Bureau chief and regional director of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) in St. Petersburg. "There was no outreach. No veterans were more ignored than the American Indian vets. Vietnam vets across the board were discriminated against. Most of those who did manage to get through the bureaucracy to apply for Agent-Orange-related disability were turned down."

Tribal member Julia John, wife of Joe Lester for 41 years and mother to Jill, said, "A long time ago, my husband was reading one of the vet newspapers and saw an article about spina bifida. He wondered if we should take a look into it... Washington, D.C. is a very confusing place. You get lost up there. We didn't have the resources. We didn't know who to go to. We just gave up. Then along came this guy."

Julia was referring to McCabe, who, with his assistant, VVA Service Officer Art Taylor, recently visited Julia at the Seminole Veteran's Building in Brighton. He stages regular counseling sessions for Seminole veterans and their families at the Veteran's Building each month.

"My first thought was 'OK. You are here now, but you will disappear like all the rest of 'em,'" said Julia, who now admits, "I was wrong. Marc is someone really dedicated. He knows where to go and what to do, and he doesn't give up."

McCabe called what he does "pushing."

"I push and push and push and keep pushing — whatever it takes," he said. "The VA, the Army, none of them want to give you anything, even if they know you are suffering. You have to go to them and ask, then make your case."

McCabe said VVA counselors maintain a 98-percent success rate nationwide in service-connected veterans' benefits fights with the VA and the Armed Forces. In addition, a rigidly enforced legal loophole has required the St. Petersburg Regional VA office to provide office space for the VVA advocates.

Although he said, "We are all on the same side," McCabe spends most of his time fighting the VA and the military, boldly embedded in the "enemy" camp, unworried about being evicted or silenced, never having to deal with VA decorum of any sort.

"If I need to talk to the director, I just walk in there and talk to her," he said. "I

don't have to jump through hoops."

Turned down several times because of "sloppy paperwork and just plain ignorance on the part of the VA," said McCabe, Joe Lester never received full justice.

"He was rated as a single instead of a man, wife and disabled daughter," McCabe said. "I was working on his appeal. He was very happy. He looked fine. All he could think about was providing for Jill. It was probably the last thing he said to me: 'Please help my daughter.' With that kind of mandate, I knew I had to do it for Joe. I was determined to push and push until it happened."

Coincidentally, McCabe's niece's husband was also a Vietnam vet. McCabe is "pushing" their case as well.

"I learned a lot about spina bifida in a short amount of time," he said. "And the more I learned, the more I was confident we were all going to win."

Dependent, service-connected disabilities, for any reason, are rare, said McCabe, who traveled to Denver on his own expense to make a case for Jill before the VA's special spina bifida review board. Still, Jill was turned down twice before her appeal was accepted. Julia said she will never forget that day: "Jill was in the hospital. When I called and told her that Marc called and said the paperwork all went through and it was sealed in blood, the check was in the mail, she started crying."

"She said, 'I guess my dad is still taking care of me.'"

The decision set Jill's disability at the highest VA rating. She received a retroactive check and additionally will receive a monthly check for life.

"We just don't know how far back they will go," McCabe said. "That's the next battle."

Jill will receive full compensation for all medical care, also retroactive back to an (as of yet) undetermined time.

"Since most of that was paid by the Seminole Tribe, you are talking about a reimbursement to the Tribe of potentially millions of dollars," McCabe said. "Multiple major surgeries and lifetime medical care for spina bifida victims is extremely expensive."

The VA will assist in wheelchairs, vehicles and other necessities all customized for Jill, as well as travel expenses and fees to support attendants.

"Now I can rest in peace; there will be someone to take care of her, even a professional caregiver if she wants it, when I am gone," Julia said. "Jill is very independent. She doesn't like to be called 'special.' Her dad and I always tried to fight for her, but you can't do everything."

Jill is also eligible for habilitative and rehabilitative care and could seek training under vocational rehabilitation.

"She actually has a certificate to be a phlebotomist. But she never used it," Julia said. "She said, 'Mom, I don't know if anyone would want me to take their blood. They'll see me in the wheelchair and run the other way.'"

Today's Vietnam government estimates chemical herbicides killed or maimed 400,000 people and produced another 500,000 children born with birth defects, ranging from spina bifida to retardation, all as a result of chemical herbicides. The Vietnamese Red Cross estimates that up to one million people now living in Vietnam have disabilities or health problems because of the some 20 million gallons of Agent Orange and other chemical herbicides and defoliants dropped from the air by U.S. military planes.

No one knows how many U.S. veterans or their descendents are affected by Agent Orange. McCabe will join VVA director of Communications Mokie Porter and Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) president Nancy Switzer for a "Faces of Agent Orange Town Meeting" at Brighton on Sept. 20, one of five they have planned around the state.

"We've got a lot of work to do out here in Seminole Country," McCabe said. "There are 48 Seminole veterans, and 40 of them are Vietnam (or Vietnam-era) vets. A lot of them, including those who have passed on, never received their tombstone medallion. There are widows and dependents due benefits. There are appeals of appeals. It goes on and on. Our goal is simple: to never ever leave any veteran or their family members behind."

Native American journalists promote newsroom diversity at convention

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

LAS VEGAS — Native Americans from across the country met in Las Vegas from Aug. 1-4 to partake in the UNITY 2012 Convention, a national gathering of minority journalists that promotes diversity in newsrooms.

Members of the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA), the Asian American Journalists Association, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association joined together at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino for networking, training seminars and in-depth panel discussions on minority issues in the media.

“One of the goals of UNITY is to increase and broaden news coverage focusing on people of color and to dispel racial and ethnic stereotypes and myths,” said NAJA president Rhonda LeValdo, of the Acoma Pueblo in New Mexico, in her address to conference attendees. “This goal has not changed and will not change; the mission is still the same: to make sure the industry reflects the nation’s diversity.”

According to its website, NAJA “educates and unifies its membership through journalism programs that promote diversity and defends challenges to free press, speech and expression.” Since its inception in 1984, NAJA has committed itself to increase the representation of Native journalists in mainstream media.

The organization has approximately 300 members, with many attending the UNITY 2012 Convention, said NAJA executive director and Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Tribal member Jeff Harjo, who recently resigned his post to run for his Tribal government.

During the opening plenary on Aug. 1, a four-person panel moderated by Mark Whitaker, executive vice president and managing editor of *CNN Worldwide*, discussed ways journalists cover race, ethnicity, culture and gender in the media. Native American Marley Shebala, a senior reporter for *The Navajo Times*, sat on the panel.

Shebala said she began reporting when she noticed her college paper didn’t cover Native American issues on her campus, which she deemed unacceptable. Although she was studying nursing, she found herself immersed in journalism.

“I was meant to be a writer; I was meant to be in journalism,” she said. “I was meant to give a voice to our people.”

Throughout her career, Shebala has covered dozens of Native American issues, and her reporting even led to the ousting of two Navajo leaders for the misuse of Tribal funds. She believes all journalists should report the news without bias, she said.

“We especially, as journalists, should be the ones who are unbiased,” Shebala said. “We have to continually be vigilant in looking at that term.”

The UNITY Journalists organization holds the UNITY Convention every

four years. This year marked the first year the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association participated, while the National Association of Black Journalists recently resigned.

The convention also addressed newsroom downsizing: Total newsroom employment at daily newspapers declined by 2.4 percent in 2011, while the loss in minority newsroom positions was 5.7 percent, according to a census released by the American Society of News Editors and the Center for Advanced Social Research at the Missouri School of Journalism. In addition, the convention offered exhibitor booths for participants to network and to search for jobs.

With a theme of “Engage, Connect, Embrace,” UNITY offered seminars throughout the four-day convention to address those very topics and to teach technical skills. Seminars geared toward Native American coverage included *The Question of Native American Indian Identity* and educated reporters on the question of “who’s Native American and who isn’t and why it’s important.” Panelists used the example of Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren claiming Native American heritage.

Next year, NAJA will hold its own annual conference in Phoenix.

The Seminole Tribune, a member of the Native American Journalists Association, attended the UNITY 2012 Convention representing the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



Beverly Bidney

Members of the Mekong River Delta group observe how the water flows from Lake Okeechobee through the Everglades and to the Florida Bay at the Big Cypress Preserve visitors center.

Tribe shares culture with Mekong River Delta group

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Portions of the Mekong River Delta in Southeast Asia compare to the Everglades because the resources they offer need protection while supporting a large population nearby. The traditional Seminole way of respecting the environment while inhabiting it is an asset to be shared with other people around the world.

A group of environmental preservation and economic development professionals from the Mekong River Delta area visited the Big Cypress National Preserve as part of the U.S. Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on July 17. Participants included representatives from Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. Tribal members gave presentations to share their knowledge about how best to combine natural resource preservation with economic development.

The theme of the trip was sustainable development and regional economic progress, so presentations by the Tribe detailed how to preserve resources such as water, historically significant sites and land by respecting the environment while working the land for profit. Seminole businesses reliant on the land include cattle ranching, citrus farming, chickee building and tourism.

Members of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) gave an overview of Tribal history and culture and explained the Tribe’s use of the Big Cypress Preserve. Although the preserve is part of the National Park System, the Tribe enjoys traditional use and occupancy privileges within it.

“A wet swamp is a healthy swamp,” said Pedro Zepeda, traditional arts and outreach coordinator at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. “It has always been our highway. We used canoes to get around and still keep that tradition alive by teaching how to make canoes at the Museum.”

As the Seminole Wars pushed the Tribe further into the Everglades, they created chickees for housing, and the Mekong group learned the traditional and modern role of chickees in Seminole society as living, cooking, storage and gathering places.

“Many [Tribal] members have chickees in their backyards today, which are still used in the traditional way and for ceremonies,” said Paul Backhouse, deputy Tribal Historic Preservation officer. “They are made with natural resources found on the reservations as well as in the preserve.”

Everett Osceola, community outreach coordinator at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, said they lost electricity for about two weeks during Hurricane Wilma and relied on chickees for shelter.

“Everyone stayed in the chickees,” he said. “They kept us cool, dry and together. It was back to the old ways and made us not forget where we came from.”

Archaeology also plays an important role in development on the reservations. THPO has the authority to survey and manage land instead of the state government. The department approves home sites and excavates each one before a home can be

built, and if they find something historical, they do not approve the site. Unlike traditional archaeological digs elsewhere in the world, the found artifacts on the reservations are left intact and undisturbed, and another home site is found.

In his presentation to the group, Craig Tepper, director of Environmental Resource Management, explained the water conservation and Everglades restoration activities at the Brighton and Big Cypress reservations. The goal is to establish a sheet flow of water from Lake Okeechobee south to Florida Bay to ensure the survival of Big Cypress and the life it supports. If the water table is high, lightning strikes won’t start fires, which burn vast amounts of acreage.

“Since 1987, the Tribe has had a water rights compact with the state and an agreement with the South Florida Water Management District,” Tepper said. “In 1996, the EPA gave the Tribe the right to set our own water standards. It allows us to regulate ourselves and develop Tribal lands.”

In addition, the Tribe has committed to the Everglades restoration project. Sharing the \$60-million cost with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, it has created basins underground to store water and pump it where needed. Tepper has also proposed methods to the state on ways to more efficiently move water from Lake Okeechobee without flooding nearby farms.

Members of the Mekong group came away with a positive impression of how the Tribe interacts with the government while maintaining its sovereign rights and environment.

“The cooperation between the government and the Tribe to preserve the resources is interesting,” said Dang Kieu Nhan, deputy director of the Mekong Delta Development Research Institute from Can Tho University in Vietnam. “The education of young people is also important for national parks in developing countries. I am going to try to find funding for an education program for high school students so they can study how important preservation of nature is for the future.”

Chutamas Phanyapomsuk, manager of the Chula Global Network from Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, agreed.

“Big Cypress is very interesting because of the mission of the park to educating people,” he said. “It is very important that the National Park (System) teaches people how to conserve natural resources.”

By sharing its culture and experience, the Tribe passed along useful knowledge to other countries, where these traditions can be adapted by groups of people half a world away.

“I can bring back information about conservation education,” said Vattthanathavone Inthirath, coordinator of the Rights-LINK Lao project in Laos. “Educating the young generation about conservation is very important. I will share my experience and try to organize a program. I believe my country needs to manage our resources better.”

Tampa holds Fun Day



Peter B. Gallagher

Bungee jumping onto a trampoline puts smiles on the faces of Tampa youth.



Peter B. Gallagher

A dunk tank provides fun after the storm went away.



Peter B. Gallagher

Tribal youth paint ceramics during the Tampa community’s Family Fun Day on Aug. 18.



Peter B. Gallagher

Ceramics provide fun under the tents while it rains.



Peter B. Gallagher

When the rain stopped, a bright sun came out – a perfect setting for Penny Jimmie and her kickball.

Talent show brings Seminole Gaming employees together

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Gaming employees watch patrons win big every day, but once a year staff get a chance at a prize that involves more than luck.

Singers, a rap artist and even a magician took the stage on July 30 to vie for the Seminole Superstar title during Gaming’s talent show. Employees from six Florida Seminole Gaming properties competed in the eighth annual event, held at Hollywood Hard Rock Live.

“We come together as one big family,” President Tony Sanchez Jr. said. “These are the people that make it happen for the Tribe.”

Each location held semifinals before sending their first-place winners to the finals in Hollywood.

The overall winner, Hollywood Hard Rock employee Ebone Robinson, took home a \$5,000 check for performing a rap she wrote titled *Tha Cypha*. Friend

Janyl Torres accompanied her for the opening act. Although Robinson admitted she was nervous to perform for hundreds of attendees, she said it was worth it.

“I can’t even tell you how I feel,” she said after winning the title. “I am extremely excited.”

Although only one contestant took home a prize, the judges – professionally hired *American Idol* look-alikes – agreed that a lot of talent graced the stage.

“The contestants always amaze me,” Simon Cowell impersonator Craig Sleziak said.

During the finals, four other singers competed: Tampa Hard Rock table games dealer and 2009 Seminole Superstar winner Kelvin Williams, who sang *A House is Not a Home* by Luther Vandross; Brighton Casino human resources specialist Mackenzie Johns-Bowers, who sang *Don’t You Wanna Touch Me*; Hollywood Casino floor supervisor Rosa Ortiz, who sang Alicia Keys’ *Fallin’*; and Immokalee Casino

table games supervisor Cheryl Quillen, who sang *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

Coconut Creek Casino supervisor Joseph Dipietro competed as a magician.

Also during the event, Tribal brothers Spencer and Zachary “Doc” Battiest and the Las Vegas-based a cappella group Mosaic made guest performances, while Gaming property presidents and general managers danced in a high-energy performance.

Susan Renneisen, Hollywood Hard Rock’s director of special events and community relations liaison, said this year’s production was a cut above, including professional stage lighting, backup dancers, props and pyrotechnics.

“[The show] gives everyone an opportunity from all the properties together to give one big celebration of the Seminole Tribe of Florida,” Renneisen said. “The Seminole Tribe provides a fabulous place of employment and takes care of all their employees, and this is a celebration of the camaraderie of all the properties.”



Kathryn Stolarz

Ebone Robinson, right, is announced the 2012 Seminole Superstar winner. Janyl Torres, left, accompanied Robinson for her opening act.

Culture Department cooks traditional meals for community

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Cooking a meal outside over wood harvested from a nearby forest is an activity as old as humankind itself. Although the convenience of cooking in an air-conditioned kitchen using modern appliances is a far more popular way to make a meal, the tradition of an open campfire still persists within the Seminole Tribe.

On the Hollywood Reservation, the Culture Department feeds the Tribal community a traditional meal every week during the summer at the cooking chickee behind the Boys & Girls Club. On July 27, Indian stew, frybread and mashed bananas were on the menu for all to enjoy.

"We are teaching people how it is done out in camp," said Bobby Frank, Hollywood Culture director. "You never know when you may have to fall back on it. People call it camping; we call it survival."

Under the chickee, a large grate was positioned over oak and cypress wood. Frank and others from Big

Cypress gathered to cook the meal. The heady aroma of the burning wood enveloped the volunteers. Children who showed up were promptly put to work and gained experience working the dough for frybread, but only adults put the dough in the hot oil to cook.

"I like doing this because it's traditional," Lance Howard, 11, said. "And at the end you get to eat it."

For adults, the cooking chickee is a comfortable place, even in the heat of the day.

"It's very simple food," said volunteer cook Letitia Foster. "But you can't forget the love."

"And the hard work," added Bonnie Williams, who manned the pot of hot oil for the frybread.

Frank believes youth should learn how their elders lived back in the days before modern conveniences. He often leads trips with groups of kids to gather wood at Big Cypress and to go gigging in Trail.

"I try to put some uncommon sense into their heads," he said. "In order to cook, you need to get the wood. This was hard living; everything was gathered. It is important to carry on the Seminole lifestyle."

CAMP from page 1A



Beverly Bidney

Competitors in the canoe tug-of-war are in the pool during the "Seminole Olympics."



Beverly Bidney

Barbara Jimmie, 9, of Big Cypress, learns the art of making a daisy chain of beads from Geraldine Osceola, of the Immokalee Culture Department.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Lance Howard, 11, Myra Frank, Letitia Foster and Bonnie Williams are busy in the cooking chickee.



Beverly Bidney

Vinson Osceola demonstrates how to carve the inside of a cypress canoe for the campers.



Beverly Bidney

Arianna Osceola, 8, of Hollywood, transforms into a Florida snowman with shaving cream.



Beverly Bidney

Not even the rain can stop campers from climbing into rafts to drift down the Ichetucknee River.

KEYS from page 3A

"This is business. There is no favoritism; fair is fair," Rep. Howard said. "Winning the business is a stepping stone to showing people what we are capable of doing. We have increased efficiency already and finished this home on budget and two weeks early."

Rep. Howard credits the entire team for the success.

"I want people to know their own Tribal business can do this just like other companies, but better," he said.

Urbina agreed. "If every Tribal member would think like me and pick the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., they would see they are investing in the Tribe by choosing a Tribal company," she said. "I'm glad I did."

SWAMP from page 3A

"I like the vibe here. It's different from what I'm used to," Garrett said. "I'm excited to see how many people will show up next weekend."

One enthusiastic customer was so impressed with The Swamp and pleased to learn it is family-owned, he offered to buy Sheila a shot of tequila. Other equally impressed patrons vowed to return often.

"I saw people's faces light up when they saw the bar doors open, looked inside and heard the band playing," James said. "They came inside and had a good time. This is what the Hard Rock is all about: open, inviting and fun."

If you are a Tribal member and business owner who would like to be featured in The Tribune, email BrettDaly@semtribe.com.

TRADING POST from page 1A

"It is a continuation of the commitment that we made to our shareholders that we are going to take the current enterprises and make them more efficient, make them realize their full potential," President Sanchez said. "And this [renovation] is just one of the examples."

Utilizing a few other Board enterprises, the Brighton Trading Post sells the Seminole Tribe's very own orange juice and water.

The Brighton community hopes the renovated Trading Post will draw the attention of people visiting the Brighton Casino or simply passing through the reservation.

"This is their store and it gives them something to be proud of," Hollywood Board Rep. Chris Osceola said. "If it has the name Seminole Tribe on it, it represents all of us and it should look as good as it possibly could

look. What we had out here before was just a little, run-down shop that needed a lot of attention, and I think the people out here in Brighton got what they deserve with this new store."



Rachel Buxton

Mobile Mike feeds the crowd with his Gourmet Burgers and Fries traveling food stand.

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Eastern Regional Office
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs
ACTION: Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and leases of homes on trust property for Seminole Tribal member leases received on July 1, 2012. The BIA has reviewed and adopted the following Environmental Assessments (EAs), dated June 2012, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department:

- Lewis Osceola Felton Proposed Home Site, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County
- Toahooke Billidine Proposed Home Site, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County

The EAs above have been adopted and a FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and leases of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability, that the EAs and FONSI for the federal action of approving the proposed home construction and leases of trust property are available for public review. The BIA has approved and adopted the above referenced EAs which address these proposals. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information in the EAs. Based on a review of the EAs listed above, it has been determined that the proposed actions will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. You may obtain a copy of the EAs and FONSI from the BIA Eastern Regional Office or the Environmental Resources Management Department of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 6365 Taft Street, Suite 3008, Hollywood, FL 33024, telephone (954) 965-4380.

This FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore cannot be appealed. 25 C.F.R. Part 2.7 requires a 30 day appeal period after the decision to proceed with the action is made before the action may be implemented. Appeal information will be made publicly available when the decision to proceed is made.

For further information please contact Chet McGhee, Regional Environmental Scientist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 264-6830.

ACTING *Scott C. McNeely* Director, Eastern Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs Date: 07-10-2012

THIS IS YOUR CHANNEL

If you have DirecTV bulk programming* you have access to 100% native, Seminole programming each week.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE ?

CALL (954) 985.5703 or EMAIL DIRECTV@semtribe.com

We really want to hear from you.

Native News

Tuesdays 8:00-9:00 PM

with the latest on NATIVE NEWS from Indian Country and Specials on Cooking, Outdoor Adventures and more

SCTV SEMINOLE CHANNEL

Thursdays 5:00-6:00 PM

with everything you need to know about community events in our reservations

ONLY ON

DirecTV

CHANNEL

9545

SMP SEMINOLE MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

*What? Don't have DirecTV or the Seminole Channel? Call Seminole Media Productions at (954) 985-5703 today.

55TH ANNUAL

2012 Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant



Miss and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Pageant contestants line up on stage at the start of the evening.

Brett Daly



Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers, Miss Florida USA Michelle Aguirre, Miss Indian World Jessa Rae Growing Thunder and Committee Secretary Christine McCall pose.



Miss Florida Seminole runner-up Braudie Blais-Billie wins best essay.



Hollywood Board Rep. Chris Osceola, Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and President Tony Sanchez Jr. smile with the newly crowned Princesses.



Jr. Miss first runner-up Kirsten Doney, left, and second runner-up Tia Blais-Billie, right, celebrate with Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez.



Brooke Osceola, Jr. Miss third runner-up, competes in the talent portion.



Alexis Aguilar demonstrates how to make a baby hammock for her talent. It won her first prize for the talent competition.

Seminole Princesses of the past: Where are they now?

BY CHRISTINE MCCALL
Contributing Writer

The Miss Florida Seminole Pageant has played an important role in the lives of young Seminole women since 1957, when the Tribal Council appointed Connie Gowen the first Miss Seminole. Since then, 51 women have held the Miss Seminole title after being selected by a panel of judges.

Each woman selected serves as the official ambassador and role model for the Tribe during her reign. With the theme of this year's pageant being "Unconquered Seminole Women: Leading by Example," past Miss Seminoles who attended reflected on the impact that the crown had on their lives and what they have accomplished since their reign.

For many, the experience gave them insight into their culture and inspired long-term careers within the Seminole Tribe.

Connie Gowen, 1957

Connie Gowen, the first Miss Seminole in 1957, set a foundation of what the Tribe expected from the official ambassador.

At 21, Gowen was already setting an example for fellow Tribal members by working in a dress shop in West Palm Beach and by being an active community member. Currently, she is a committed official Princess Committee member and has worked as a successful seamstress making traditional patchwork and Seminole arts and crafts. In addition to providing the judges' gifts for the pageant, Gowen is the unofficial "backstage mom," helping the contestants in any way, whether it is a missing safety pin or answering a Tribal-related question.

Priscilla Sayen, 1964

In 1964, Priscilla Sayen had the opportunity to serve as Miss Seminole after being appointed by resolution. While holding the title, Sayen represented the Seminole Tribe in the Miss Indian America Pageant, where she placed third runner-up.

"I felt honored to hold this title," Sayen said by email. Before becoming the secretary/treasurer in 1979, she held positions for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Public Health Service and Indian Health Service. Her reign as Miss Seminole encouraged her to work for the Seminole Tribe, and she has now served as the secretary for the Tribal Council for 33 years.

Wanda Bowers, 1968-69

For Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers,

being crowned Miss Seminole was a dream after watching non-Tribal pageants, such as Miss USA and Miss Universe.

Being one of the few women to hold the title twice, in 1968 and 1969, Bowers said, "I wanted more. I remember going to a place like Dairy Queen, and I couldn't order because I was Indian. I wanted to show people and promote who [the Seminoles] really were."

Bowers did just that and pursued an education at Haskell Indian Nations University until she returned to Hollywood after the passing of her mother. Since then, Bowers has worked in several departments within the Seminole Tribe.

"I always wanted to work for the Tribe," she said. "I started when I was 15." Bowers has worked in her current role as the office manager to the Tribal Secretary's Office for 19 years.

Carla Gopher, 1994

Serving as Miss Seminole in 1994, Carla Gopher attended Florida State University and became the first Seminole Tribal member to graduate from the university in 1996 with a bachelor's degree. Furthering her education, Gopher also received her Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Tampa. Presently, Gopher is the director of Finance for the Brighton Seminole Casino.

"It has allowed me to be included into the sisterhood of distinguished and beautiful Seminole women who have each in their own way contributed to the betterment of the Tribe," she said via email. "I continue to try to lead my personal and professional life in a way that represents and respects the integrity and honor of the Seminole Princess."

D'Anna Osceola, 2008

Another Florida State University graduate, D'Anna Osceola, was attending the university in 2008 when she decided to compete for the Miss Seminole title.

"I was always being asked to compete," she said. "I was in college and wanted to wait till I was prepared. It all came together, and I knew I was ready to dedicate my time to the Seminole Tribe."

Holding the title of Miss Seminole gave Osceola the opportunity to meet and experience different cultures, as well as share her own culture with the Native world.

"I'm very honored and lucky that I got to see other Tribes and how ambitious they are," she said. "It was a great experience."

Osceola graduated from Florida State in 2009. Now volunteering her time, she is also looking to continue her education with a master's degree in school counseling in the spring of 2013.

Jewel Buck reflects on her reign

BY RAEVIN FRANK
SMPW Reporter

Many girls wonder what it's like being a Seminole Princess, but Jewel Buck doesn't have to guess.

She became Miss Florida Seminole in July 2011, and it's been a great experience for her. Jewel traveled to many places and met many new people.

"[Being Miss Florida Seminole] has opened a lot of new doors for me," Jewel said.

One of the opportunities she had as Princess was traveling to Albuquerque, N.M. for the Miss Indian World Pageant, during which Jewel competed against 26 young women. Jewel said she made a lot of close friends during the three-day competition.

When she wasn't out making appearances, Jewel still kept her crown in plain sight at home.

"When I first got the crown...I set it on top of my TV and watched the crown instead of the TV," said the 20-year-old with a smile.

Jewel started competing in pageants by running in Brighton's Princess Pageant in 2003. Three years later and after much perseverance, she won her first crown.

She said preparing for the talent portion and practicing public speaking were keys to her success. While her talents varied from pageant to pageant, she said she especially enjoyed singing and demonstrating her culture.

In fact, Jewel sang a Christian song in Creek at the Miss Florida Seminole Pageant,

helping her secure the crown. She said not only did she have to be confident in her talent, but she also had to shake off her nerves, which she used prayer to do.

The Miss Seminole pageants aren't just glitz, glam and fancy skirts. As opposed to Miss America, Seminole pageants focus on culture, Jewel said.

While she enjoyed wearing the crown during the past year, the time commitment forced her to give up a few things. For example, Jewel was redshirted for her first year of sports at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan. However, she said it was worth it.

All in all, being Miss Seminole was a powerful experience for her, and she hopes she inspired other young girls in the Tribe.

As she passed down the crown on July 28, Jewel wished this year's Princesses the best of luck.

Her advice is this: "You must love the Tribe, have fun and be yourself."



◆ PRINCESS

From page 1A

"This was a doorway to new and better things in my life."

Buck encouraged other Tribal members to celebrate their culture during her farewell address at the pageant, saying that fighting for their traditions will ensure the Tribe keeps their heritage alive.

"We are still here and we are very strong,"

she said. "We are known across the world; I'm very proud of that. Fight for our traditions and fight for who you are."

And while Aguilar knows she has a busy year ahead, she gladly accepted the responsibility.

"I'm looking forward to getting out into Indian Country," she said. "I want to educate people. I don't know what I'm going to get out of [the experience] yet, but I know it's going to be one heck of a ride."



Brighton Water Treatment Plant awarded for providing quality water

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — During the Seneca Nation of Indians third annual Tribal Utility Summit, the Brighton Reservation received second place in a drinking water contest held at the Seneca Niagara Casino and Hotel from May 15-17. The summit – a collaborative effort between United South and Eastern Tribes

(USET), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Nashville Area Indian Health Services – is an annual training and networking opportunity for Tribal water, wastewater and solid waste professionals.

This year, the USET Certification Board for Water and Wastewater Operators and Laboratory Analysts hosted the second annual Tribal Drinking Water Contest for USET member facilities. Ten Tribal facilities participated in the contest,

including Tribes from as far north as New York, and the Brighton Reservation was awarded second place. To enter the contest, each Tribe had to submit water samples, which a panel of judges ranked on a scale of one to 10 based on clarity, odor and taste.

Being able to compete with northern states is an accomplishment in itself because of all the challenges Florida faces with their drinking water, said Emran Rahaman, special projects administrator for the Tribe's Public Works Department.

Having top licensed operators, many with 10-plus years of experience in the water and wastewater industries dedicated to providing quality water to all Tribal reservations, helped Brighton receive the honor.

"It's the day-to-day operators who take pride in their job to make clean, drinking potable water to provide to their Tribal communities," Rahaman said.

All agreed that the combined efforts within the Tribe's Public Works Department and the Brighton Water Treatment facility operators contributed to the Brighton water facility producing quality water to achieve the recognition.

"Placing second in the USET Drinking Water Contest was a great accomplishment personally, as an operator, and for our entire department," said Rudy Garcia, Brighton Water Plant operator, in an email. "As water operators within the Public Works Department, this is the type of publicity that [rewards] us and we strive for. This accomplishment was only achievable because of our great teamwork and networking within the organization. We look forward to continually providing safe, great-tasting drinking water for the communities we serve."



Photo courtesy of Rudy Garcia

Seminole Tribe of Florida Public Works Department staff accept an award for second place in the annual Tribal Drinking Water Contest. From left, Public Works supervisor Keith Thomas, USET coordinator Scott Williams, Brighton Water Plant operator Rudy Garcia, EPA representative Brian Smith, plant operations manager Juan Mata and special projects administrator Emran Rahaman.



Cooper Rivers

Regina Thinn and her daughter Janine Cypress Vasquez display some of their patchwork. Sewing is a family tradition they hope to pass on.

Mother-daughter duo continues family patchwork tradition

BY COOPER RIVERS
SMPW Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Twenty-seven years ago, Regina Thinn was just like many other people, struggling to pay bills and to feed her children. She had a 9-to-5 desk job but didn't enjoy it and wanted something different.

She started with beading but realized she had a passion for sewing. Regina's mother, Annie Osceola Jumper, introduced her to patchwork making, but her grandmother, Mary Motlow Osceola, really taught their family the ins and outs of the craft.

"To me [patchwork] was a gift from God," she said. "I have a passion for this."

Not only has she been recognized by the Seminole Tribe for winning first place in the Seminole Tribal Fair for many years, but Broward College also showcased her talents. She created four patchwork wall displays to represent the four seasons, which the college displayed in a temporary exhibit on campus in 2008. The pieces now hang at Tribal Headquarters after former Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. purchased them.

"I can't even imagine...living without sewing," she said. "It's just been in our family for so long."

Sewing has been in Regina's family for generations, and she hopes it will continue

for generations more. To help carry on the tradition, she teaches culture workshops to Tribal youth throughout the year.

"Tribal children should learn some craft," she said. "It's our art."

Her daughter, Janine Cypress Vasquez, has been sewing for eight years and enjoys it. Working at home allows her to spend time with her family, which is important to her.

"It's just relaxing and fun," she said.

One of her favorite pieces to date is her son Luke Baxley Jr.'s first big shirt, which she made for him when he was 1 year old.

Janine began with basic designs, but she uses a trick her grandmother taught her to learn new techniques.

"My grandma always flipped everything over and said, 'You can do that,'" she said.

Janine hopes her kids will pick up sewing or another Tribal craft.

Patchwork is a vital staple in the Seminole culture, and the mother-daughter duo hopes all Seminole children will embrace their gifts and carry on their traditions.



Brighton Reservation hosts Seminole Moments

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — For decades, the Seminole Tribe has used storytelling for entertaining and teaching purposes.

Community outreach specialist Willie Johns spoke to Tribal employees about the history and significance of storytelling within the Tribe during a Seminole Moments presentation on Aug. 9 at the Brighton Cattle & Range Dining Hall.

During the event, Johns recalled how his family would tell different stories when he was young.

"We would gather around at our camp by the water tower on cool nights listening to stories told to us by our elders," he said.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum sponsored the presentation, and employees from different departments, including Fire Rescue, Accounting, Maintenance and Culture, attended.

Beth Suggs, a regular Seminole Moments participant and Accounting Department employee, said she enjoys coming because she loves history.

"It's best to know and...[not] just assume things," she said. "Seminole Moments has been very helpful to me."

Johns also spoke about the impact that hearing the elders tell the stories in Creek had on him as a child. He said each story had a lesson to teach.



Andrea Holata

Willie Johns talks about books the Tribe has available containing Seminole stories and legends.

"For example, the corn woman story taught us not to look around for things if you don't know what it is," he said. "And the snake story told us that if you find things that are not in normal places, don't mess with it."

Johns also mentioned how Tribal members have different ways to tell stories.

"Tribal members Elgin Jumper and Moses Jumper Jr. do their storytelling by using poetry," he said.

SMPW from page 3A



Andrea Holata

SMPW participants interview former Miss Florida Seminole Jewel Buck for a video project.



Kathryn Stolarz

Ricky Joe Alumbaugh shows off his graphic design work at the end of the workshop.



Kathryn Stolarz

Clear Channel Radio Promotions director Jessie Trujillo shows SMPW participants Raevin Frank and Kalani Bankston how to edit sound clips during a tour of the station.



Brett Daly

Madeline Newcomb helps Haden Littlebear with his graphic designs.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE	PRICE RANGE
D98068	2006	FORD	F150 4WD	141,432	\$7,852 - \$11,097
D98067	2006	FORD	F150 4WD	171,720	\$7,127 - \$10,372
136109	2006	CHEVY	TAHOE LS 2WD	115,395	\$5,602 - \$7,637
151149	2006	CHEVY	TAHOE LS 2WD	125,150	\$5,002 - \$7,037
141593	2006	CHEVY	TAHOE LS 2WD	126,874	\$4,877 - \$6,912
288112	2007	CHEVY	IMPALA	110,089	\$4,308 - \$6,193
156153	2006	CHEVY	IMPALA	111,016	\$4,308 - \$6,193
289566	2007	CHEVY	IMPALA	120,052	\$3,808 - \$5,693
204205	2005	FORD	TAURUS SE	75,761	\$3,278 - \$4,703
177859	2005	FORD	TAURUS SE	78,060	\$3,203 - \$4,628
396958	2006	CHEVY	IMPALA	136,574	\$2,933 - \$4,818
138842	2005	CROWN	VICTORIA	143,934	\$1,804 - \$3,379
A71643	2001	FORD	EXPEDITION 2WD	211,812	\$1,216 - \$2,266

For more information please contact Richard Chin 954-966-6300 ext.11216

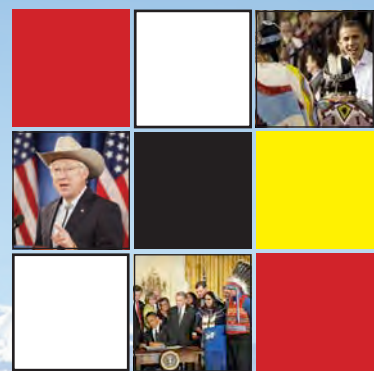
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for Broward County, Florida and Incorporated Areas and the Seminole Tribe of Florida

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency has issued a preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report, reflecting proposed flood hazard determinations within Broward County, Florida and Incorporated Areas and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. Technical information or comments are solicited on the proposed flood hazard determinations shown on the preliminary FIRM and/or FIS report for Broward County, Florida and Incorporated Areas and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. These flood hazard determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to either adopt or show evidence of being already in effect in order to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. However, before these determinations are effective for floodplain management purposes, you will be provided an opportunity to appeal the proposed information. For information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, as well as a complete listing of the communities affected and the locations where copies of the FIRM are available for review, please visit FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/bfe, or call the FEMA Map Information eXchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Oglala Sioux rough rider gets new gravesite

DANBURY, Conn. — He died after eating a bad can of corn while passing through town as a rough rider with Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. Buffalo Bill himself paid for his grave, located between a dirt road and wooded hills in Wooster Cemetery.

Now, 112 years later, thanks to some diligent sleuthing by a cemetery worker, Oglala Sioux Albert Afraid of Hawk is finally going home to Pine Ridge, S.D., 1,700 miles directly west, where as a strong 20-year-old he joined up with Buffalo Bill (who returned each year to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to bring home Tribal members and to enlist new ones for the troupe's worldwide tours.

The *New Haven News Times* newspaper article "Corn more deadly than bullets" reported Afraid of Hawk's death, indicating that others had also been stricken by food poisoning: "There was a strange scene at the hospital in this city last Thursday night, when two Indian chiefs, full-blooded Sioux arrayed in their native costumes, their faces still smeared with battle paint, stood over the corpse of their Tribe's man and pleaded with the Great Spirit to take his soul safely over the unknown river, upon the farther shores of which the happy hunting ground lies."

It wasn't until 2008 when Robert Young, who worked at the Wooster Cemetery, came upon a burial card with Afraid of Hawk's name on it.

"I knew that Buffalo Bill had come through Danbury and that an Indian had died here. When I came across Afraid of Hawk and saw that Buffalo Bill had bought the grave, I had to delve deeper into it," Young said.

Young, president of the Board of Trustees at the Danbury Museum and Historical Society and a dedicated history buff, said, "I was working at the cemetery, and there are sections where individuals were buried without markers. Some were indigent, but this section had a list of names that I was able to match up with the numbers."

Young recognized that, in all likelihood, Afraid of Hawk's family might not know what had happened to him.

"The poor guy died of food poisoning," Young said. "They were on the road and couldn't do what we do now: have the body embalmed and pay to return him by plane. They did the best they could, which was to buy a burial spot here in Danbury where he died."

Young flew to Rapid City, drove several hours to Pine Ridge and met with Afraid of Hawk's family at Big Bat's gas station. It took several years, more research and paperwork, but Young prevailed. Soon, Afraid of Hawk's remains will be removed from Danbury during a ceremony officiated by Lakota Tribal member Wendell Deer with Horns.

"It's been a long road. To bring closure to Albert's family and return him to his family is so rewarding," said Diane Hassan, genealogy specialist and researcher at the Danbury Museum. "There are archives at the Buffalo Bill Museum, and this took me to a lot of really cool places. From finding photos of him online and putting a face to the name, finding the archives of the old Danbury newspapers, it all helped us to find out about Albert."

Deer with Horns noted that during the days Buffalo Bill's show was traveling and still until this day there has been a holdover of anti-Indian racism that is never talked about in the media. He said that he was impressed that Afraid of Hawk was so well taken care of so long ago and that Buffalo Bill had said to spare no expense. Deer with Horns praised Young for taking much of his own time to track down the family, locate the unmarked grave, bring in the state archaeologist and finally do the necessary legwork to send Afraid of Hawk home.

— Bethel.Patch.com

Minnesota ignores Indians, opens wolf hunting season

FOND DU LAC, Minn. — Minnesota's first regulated wolf killing season will start Nov. 3. There will be two seasons. The second one starts Nov. 24. A total of 6,000 licenses will be offered, with 3,600 available in the early season and 2,400 in the late season. Late season licenses will be further split between hunting and trapping, with a minimum of 600 reserved for trappers. The target harvest will be 400 wolves for both seasons combined.

This makes Karen Diver sick. Chairwoman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Diver fired off a letter recently to Minnesota's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) declaring: "The wolf is part of our creation story, and therefore, many Ojibwe have a strong spiritual connection to the wolf. Many Ojibwe believe the fate of the wolf is closely tied to the fate of all the Ojibwe. For those reasons, the Fond du Lac Band feels the hunting and trapping wolves is inappropriate."

Minnesota's wolves transitioned from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act to state and Tribal management on Jan. 27. According to Steve Mortensen, of the Leech Lake Band's Division of Resource Management, however, the state has not sat down with Minnesota Tribes to discuss wolf management: "How can you ignore governments that have co-management authority of much of the wolf range and come up with a plan without their input?"

DNR Fish and Wildlife Division director Ed Boggess claims the agency has discussed its plans with Tribes: "We recognize and respect those cultural views, but when it comes to managing wildlife under these treaties and rights that were conveyed, all we

can deal with are issues of conservation, public safety and public health. Cultural issues are for each culture to address as they see fit."

— Minnesota Star Tribune

Sign of the times: Ojibwe language off reservation

BEMIDJI, Minn. — This northern Minnesota community may be the only off-reservation town making a real effort to incorporate the area's indigenous language into daily life. Ojibwe-English signage is now being displayed in 150 businesses all over town thanks to the highly successful Ojibwe Language Project, which seeks to preserve the language of 60,000 persons across the northern United States and into Canada, as well as to bridge cultural divides between whites and American Indians.

Words such as "boozhoo," an Ojibwe word for "welcome" and many other Native American terms pop up around town: in an appliance store, the local hospital, the convention center, a local coffee shop and this spring, in public schools.

"There is a pride when Indian people come into downtown and they see their language on these doors," said Bemidji resident Michael Meuers, who, with partner Rachel Houle, developed the city's innovative Ojibwe Language Project.

Recently, the last of about 200 burgundy and white Ojibwe language signs produced in Bemidji High School machine-tool classes went up in public schools throughout the district, where American Indian enrollment is 18.5 percent. Bemidji lies in the midst of White Earth, Red Lake and Leech Lake Indian reservations.

Now, in schools there are Ojibwe and English language signs. The health office is also "aakoziiwigamigoons."

A cafeteria sign said "wisiniwagmig." High school principal Brian Stefanich said the effort shows that school is a safe and welcoming place for all cultures.

"I think it will benefit all of our students. We want to recognize all cultures, and our Native American students are a big part of our high school," Stefanich told *The Associated Press*. Ojibwe language classes and American Indian history classes are offered at the school, where a student news video program introduces a new Ojibwe word each week, he said.

The language project has become commonplace to many local residents, said Noemi Aylesworth, owner of The Cabin Coffeehouse and Cafe, and the first business to sign on to the language project.

As for tourists: "It's intriguing to them," she said. They often ask if they can take with them the small table tent cards featuring Ojibwe words and the pictures of animals, birds and insects that she places around her shop. A tourist favorite is "zagime," meaning "mosquito," or "zagimekaa" meaning "many mosquitoes."

Meuers said he first became interested in indigenous cultures while being stationed by the military in Hawaii.

"[Native] Hawaiian words and culture are very much a part of everyday life," he said. Why, Meuers wondered years after leaving Hawaii and doing public relations and lobbying at the state Capitol for the Red Lake reservation, couldn't Ojibwe enter the language mainstream here as well?

Ojibwe words, added Meuers, bring great beauty and meaning to American culture. Consider, for instance, that the word for elder, "gichi-aya'aa," means "great being." The word for female elder, "mindimooye," means "one who holds things together."

— MinnPost.com

Kalispel Tribe wants to kill the northern pike



USK, Wash. — There are voracious killers on the loose up here. They breed like rabbits and devour native fish by the thousands.

The northern pike (*Esox lucius*) of the Columbia River Basin, the largest North American freshwater game fish, are an introduced, invasive species. The Kalispel Tribe said they must be stopped.

"Northern pike shouldn't be thought of as a game fish anywhere in the basin," said Deane Osterman, executive director of the Natural Resources Department for the Kalispel. "They should be persona non grata and should be killed on sight."

Since the spring, Osterman and his staff have been netting these fish in the basin, pulling in 5,593 of the hated pike, as well as 16,000 innocent fish, 10 percent of which died in the process.

"We've seen pike with up to 35 prey items in their stomachs in a single meal," Osterman said. "Even if every single fish we caught was killed, that's still a fraction of what would have been eaten by the 5,500 pike we removed."

Northern pike are most often olive green, shading from yellow to white along the belly. Pike grow to a relatively large size; lengths of 59 inches and weights of 55 pounds are not uncommon. Pike are found in sluggish streams and shallow, weedy places in lakes, as well as in cold, clear, rocky waters. Pike are killing machines, ambush predators that lie in wait for prey, holding perfectly still for long periods and then exploding into top speed acceleration as they strike. The fish catches its prey sideways in the mouth, immobilizing it with sharp, backward-pointing teeth and swallowing the prey headfirst. Though the pike eats mainly fish, it will take the occasional duckling. Young pike have been found dead from choking on a pike of a similar size.



Because of their prolific and predatory nature, laws have been enacted in some places to help stop the spread of northern pike outside of their native range. For instance, in Maine and California, anglers are required by law to remove pikes once they've been caught.

The flesh of the northern pike is considered bony with a large number of "Y-bones." And they accumulate so many pollutants in their bodies that they are actually harmful to eat.

— Indian Country Today

South Carolina Supreme Court returns baby Veronica to father

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The South Carolina Supreme Court upheld the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act recently by ruling that Veronica, a 2-year-old Cherokee girl adopted by non-Native parents in 2009, will remain with her biological father. The court ruled that Veronica can have a permanent home on the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, where her family has a "deeply embedded relationship" with its heritage.

"We affirm the decision of the family court denying the adoption and awarding custody to the biological father," the ruling stated. Three of the high court's five justices affirmed the ruling while two dissented.

"This is a victory not only for the Cherokee baby and her father, but for all of Indian Country. The Cherokee Nation has done a great job to ensure the Indian Child Welfare Act is enforced to preserve Indian families," said a statement released by Cherokee Nation Attorney General Todd Hembree.

The act, which protects American Indian families from being separated, trumped South Carolina law in a Dec. 28, 2011 appellate court ruling. Biological father Dusten Brown on New Year's Eve took his daughter home to Bartlesville, Okla., a city bordering the Tahlequah-based Cherokee Nation. This was a blow to South Carolina residents Matt and Melanie Capobianco, who adopted Veronica from her birth mother, Christina Maldonado, shortly after birth.

The Capobiancos claim Brown, a registered member of the Cherokee Nation (not married to Maldonado), agreed to surrender his parental rights at the time. Four months later, however, Brown took legal action, seeking custody of his daughter and claiming he did not consent to his daughter's adoption.

The appellate court ruled in Brown's favor in December, and the Capobianco couple appealed the matter to the South Carolina Supreme Court. Seven months later, the high court upheld the December ruling and decided in favor of the Indian Child Welfare Act, though at the same time stated that the adoptive family did nothing wrong: "We simply see this case as one in which the dictates of federal Indian law supersede state law where the adoption and custody of an Indian child is at issue."

The ruling ensures Veronica grows up surrounded by her culture and people and the rights and responsibilities that come with it.

"I can't say enough about the importance of a child's rights throughout their lives," said Terry Cross, executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association. "These are things as simple as voting in Tribal elections, running for office, taking advantage of Tribal scholarships and benefits, participating in customary and ceremony rights, plus their relationships with extended families. It's about a notion of a sense of belonging. Indian children are as tied to their extended families as they are to their parents. There's a rich network of culture there, and that's what we rely on for wellbeing."

The Indian Child Welfare Act, designed to stop the large numbers of involuntary adoptions of American Indian children by non-Native families during the 1970s, outlines three acceptable alternatives. The most preferred solution is to place an adoptive American Indian child with members of his or her extended family. The child can also be placed with members of the same Tribe or with other American Indian families.

— Indian Country Today

Nevada Indians on fast track to start first Tribal solar project

MOAPA RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION, Nev. — With the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) permission to operate a 350-megawatt photovoltaic facility with the potential to power 100,000 homes in their back pocket, the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians now find their project on a federal fast track. White House officials said deadlines have been set to complete environmental and safety studies and to issue a permit for the project by December 2013.

The 2,000-acre reservation facility, located 30 miles north of Las Vegas, will include solar arrays, a 500-kilovolt transmission to connect to the grid, and a 12-kilovolt transmission line to power the Moapa Travel Plaza, which features the world's largest fireworks store.

DOI officials said the Moapa development is the first commercial solar project approved for Tribal lands and that it will generate 400 jobs at peak construction and 15 permanent jobs, also creating

lease income for the Tribe. DOI Secretary Ken Salazar said 250 reservations have been identified with significant renewable-energy potential.

"We expect," Salazar said, "that this is the point of a spear."

Officials said the push responds to a recent directive issued by U.S. President Barack Obama ordering agencies to identify nationally or regionally significant projects and move them forward. The solar announcement was part of a multi-front effort by the Obama administration to spotlight its work on green energy in the West.

— Las Vegas Review-Journal

American Indians organize voter registration campaign

WASHINGTON, D.C. — One million eligible American Indian voters are not registered. Two out of every five eligible American Indian and Alaska Native voters are not registered to vote. American Indians have the lowest turnout at the polls of any ethnic group.

In response to this alarming data, Jefferson Keel (Chickasaw), president of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), is pushing American Indian voter registration in a way never seen before. Seeking the largest-ever Native turnout this year at the polls, Keel has joined the NCAI's www.NativeVote.org site with the nonprofit voter registration advocacy group Rock the Vote to make that happen.

"This should be considered a civic emergency," said Keel, who is trying to convince U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to allow the establishment of voter registration services at Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities under the provisions of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

"The Indian Health Service is a key agency in delivering on the federal government's trust responsibility to Tribes. As outlined in the report, IHS facilities, conveniently and centrally located in many Tribal communities, are ideal voter registration sites," Keel said. "Joining other federal and state agencies in offering this service to clients will make a large impact in Tribal communities, in the national Native vote and in furthering the fulfillment of the federal trust responsibility."

The act requires state governments to allow people to register to vote when they renew their driver's licenses or apply for social services. On reservations and in urban centers, the IHS provides members of federally recognized Tribes health care and advocacy. It runs 142 hospitals, health centers and 50 health stations on reservations and about 30 urban Indian health projects where voter registration could be handled.

Keel is urging Sebelius to not only make it a possibility, but also to make it a reality by providing the funding required — estimated to be a modest half-million dollars. In addition to directly lobbying in Washington, D.C., Keel is sending a letter in support of the registration idea directly to each of the dozens of IHS facilities, along with a copy of a report on the Indian vote from the research and advocacy organization, Dēmos.

"The Native vote is more than a civic duty; it's an expression of our unique role as the first Americans," Keel said. "Anyone who said otherwise, anyone who might doubt our civil rights as first peoples or shrug off voting as not part of Native culture, should consider the fate of our nations if we had been silenced at the ballot box last century."

Keel and Rock the Vote have set up Rock the Native Vote Youth Week for Sept. 24-28. This will coincide with National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 25.

During that week, organizers nationwide will participate at "Tribal schools and Native youth programs in a range of civics education, including a Tribal-specific supplement to Rock the Vote's Democracy Day class. Participants, such as local chapters of Boys & Girls Clubs of America, will educate Native young people about the power of civic engagement and the importance of registering their parents, family members and, one day, themselves to vote," Keel said.

Registration is only part of the battle to get access at the polls. Since Indians gained citizenship in 1924, states and counties have employed an array of fraudulent rules designed specifically at keeping Natives from exercising their rights.

In recent years, attempts to squelch the Indian vote has ranged from denials based on Tribal identity cards in Minnesota to at-large elections in Wyoming, from refusing to provide language assistance under the 1965 Voting Rights Act in New Mexico to discriminating against reservation-dwelling Indians by having fewer polling places per capita and fewer hours allowed for early voting in South Dakota.

All these measures have suppressed the vote both directly and indirectly by discouraging Indians from trying.

— DailyKos.com



Hah-Tung-Ke: Don Grooms



Photo courtesy of Florida Memory

Chairman James E. Billie performs with folksinger Don Grooms.

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

When folksinger/college professor Don Grooms recorded *The Perfect Florida Song* in 1995, he used his talents as a comedic songwriter to address an unusual but constant issue in his life: Known throughout the state as one of Florida's top folksinger/songwriters and an award-winning University of Florida (UF) professor, he wasn't born in Florida.

Grooms, born in Haywood County, N.C., of Cherokee and Appalachian heritage, spent most of his adult life in North Florida. He lived his last 31 years in Gainesville, where he was an associate professor at UF. His job as one of the top media education experts in the country plus his close friendship with legendary Florida folksingers Gamble Rogers, Will McLean and Chairman James E. Billie kept him in Florida.

Many thought Grooms, a regular visitor to Seminole Country with friends at all Tribal reservations, was a Seminole. The Chairman put it this way: "Don was associated with a lot of people: Chinese, Japanese, Jewish, everyone. Don had an association with 'em all. The Cherokees are at one end and the Seminoles are at the other end, and there are a whole lot of people who knew him in between."

Grooms was a regular headliner at the Florida Folk Festival. He was known for his clever compositions, such as *The Orange Blossom Special Don't Stop In Waldo Anymore* and *Winnabago*, as well as sensitive ballads dealing with Native American life, such as *Walk Proud My Son* and *Tsali*. Numerous artists have recorded his songs. They are simple, guitar-driven compositions, touched with humor and irony and a vent against snobs, politicians, developers and fomenters of change.

His laconic wit got him into trouble more than once with state officials worried about what he might say or sing from the state's "politically correct" stages. Some cringed, but most cheered whenever he would perform his version of *Old Folks at Home*, the official state song of Florida. Grooms sang the song exactly as Stephen Foster wrote it – complete with the minstrel, show-style "black" dialect state

lawmakers "cleaned up" over the years.

His ongoing critiques of the state's poor treatment of folk artists inspired many changes in the Florida Folk Festival and led to the creation of the state's public-financed Folk Arts program. He championed the causes of many young performers who were unable to make the festival lineup and defended the veterans and the old ways he felt the state was allowing to slip away. Using a biting wit that stung as much as it tickled, Grooms was not afraid to say what was on his mind. His beliefs and standards were adopted in the formation of the Friends of Florida Folk (FOFF) organization, which monitors the state Folk Arts programs.

In 1996, nominated by the Tribe, he was awarded the Florida Folk Heritage award – a high accolade for folksingers. Grooms performed at festivals across the Southeast, including the Cocoa and Smallwood Store festivals. Much of his early musical career was spent in Florida music clubs, including in Hamilton County and the Everglades.

"I played wherever they would let me," he liked to say. "And a lot of other places, too."

An *Associated Press* war correspondent and White House reporter himself, Grooms made higher marks as a teacher, four times winning the College Broadcasting Teacher of the Year award, participating in numerous media seminars, helping the Tribe modernize its communications department and speaking nationally on American Indian subjects. Grooms organized a UF nomination of *The Seminole Tribune's* report on the Rosewood massacre for the 1997 Pulitzer Prize. (The report was a finalist.) He was one dissertation short of receiving a doctorate in Latin American studies.

Grooms died two days before his 68th birthday and is buried in Possum Ridge, N.C., the "Cherokee mountain home" he often sang about. At his service, Chairman Billie paid his final respects: "Don Grooms was the sort of person who would help you out and you wouldn't even know it. He was an artist who spent most of his life helping others. There are many, many memories and stories about Don Grooms. We're really going to miss him."

The Perfect Florida Song

Song lyrics by Don Grooms

I was born in Cherokee North Carolina
Through no fault of my own
If I had any vote in the matter
Florida is where I'd been born

But you can't call me a Florida cracker
Though I love this Florida sand
If Great-Grandad had wanted me to be a cracker
He'd a stole me some Seminole land.

I had the flu the day the love bugs ate my mama
I went to pick her up in Zephyrhills
But she caught the train to Apopka
To work in the turpentine stills

Well I worked my way through the tourists
Squished a palmetto bug or two
I yell "Mama I ain't no Florida cracker
And I'm blaming it all on you!"

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



Clothing acquisition showcases Dania Reservation craftsmanship

BY JAMES POWELL & TARA BACKHOUSE
Registrar, Collections Manager

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has a collection of more than 500 pieces of historic Seminole clothing. Many are patchwork skirts and jackets, but we also have capes, quilts and pre-patchwork pieces. The Museum preserves these beautiful pieces of clothing and still seeks unique examples to supplement the collection. Recently, the Museum acquired another important textile to add to its permanent collection.

The outfit originally belonged to Francis Frost White. White was an employee with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and worked on the Dania Reservation during the first half of the 20th century. The outfit was made by someone on the Dania Reservation (now the Hollywood

Reservation), although the identity of that person is unknown. White enjoyed working for the Tribe, and she took good care of her patchwork outfit. White's daughter, Sara, knew she had to return the outfit to the Tribe so that we could continue to preserve it, and she sought out the Museum for this purpose.

The outfit consists of a woman's long patchwork skirt and cape, as well as beads and a hair net. Patchwork has changed over the years since it was first produced in the early 1900s. The color and patterns of the fabrics used have varied over time. The size of the patchwork and the number of the patchwork rows have also changed. White's skirt has four rows of patchwork. This is somewhat rare, as most skirts today have only three rows. The beaded hairnet that accompanies the outfit is the first of its kind in the Museum's collection. The intricate work on these pieces reveals the talent of the artist, and we wish we could credit that person with their creation.

During the process to purchase this outfit, Sara White also offered a manuscript collection that her mother produced and collected. The manuscript collection includes a research notebook, photographs and newspaper article clippings. Be sure to read next month's column for more information on this important manuscript collection.

Do you have family members who made patchwork like this in Hollywood in the 1930s and '40s? If you do, we would love to hear about them. And if you have any information on the maker of the skirt, cape or hairnet, please call the Museum



at 877-902-1113 to share your knowledge with us.

If you would like to view this textile, any of the Museum's textiles or any collections items, please contact the Museum to make an appointment, or just drop by at your convenience. Thank you.

SPD is keeping promises

BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD
Seminole Tribe Police Chief

"...that I will faithfully perform all the duties of an officer of the Seminole Police Department which I am about to enter, so help me, God!" This is but one of the promises incorporated into the solemn oath administered by the Chief of Police to every officer hired by the Seminole Police Department, and it serves as the cornerstone of our very existence.

Honoring this oath by SPD officers has probably never been more evident than the last week of July. Thanks to the watchful eye of Hard Rock Security Officer Artis Jackson, SPD went in pursuit of a vehicle stolen in the violent car-jacking of a casino employee in Wisconsin. Occupied by two escaped prisoners embarking on a crime spree across the United States, they stopped in Tampa long enough to commit an armed robbery and viciously beat a 71-year-old convenience store clerk nearly to death before moving on to the Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood. This demonstrates the willingness of motivated offenders to travel great distances in search of suitable targets of prey and then engage in unrestrained violence. After a vehicle pursuit, ensuing foot chase and resisting arrest with violence, the two suspects were ultimately apprehended by SPD and taken to jail.

The same day a deranged individual opened fire upon the Immokalee Reservation Police Station with a semiautomatic handgun, shooting six rounds into the building. Only the intervention of a higher power prevented an SPD officer working inside from injury or death. The suspected motivation behind the shooting was nothing more than rage triggered by being pulled over by SPD officers for reckless driving. After leaving the Immokalee Casino, this individual's erratic driving presented a compelling public safety issue for the nearby community and guests of the casino.

Returning only hours after his release, the suspect armed himself with a handgun and set out to ambush an unsuspecting SPD officer. Shortly after spraying bullets into the police station, the man robbed a bank in Naples while waving the gun. SPD staff tracked this dangerous thug, and with the cooperation of the Collier County Sheriff's Office, the FBI and the U.S. Marshals Service, aggressively hunted down and arrested him. He possessed a loaded handgun at the time of his arrest.

These predators, among many, illustrate the existence of persons posing a serious threat to both the personal safety and business interests of the Tribe. SPD stands ready to protect you against these threats.

As your Chief of Police I ask that you

assist the Police Department in keeping the threats to you and your community at bay. No police department can ensure your safety without a partnership with the community. Individuals who want to victimize and prey upon the Seminole Tribe, Tribal members or Seminole Tribe employees must be held accountable for their actions. I encourage each Tribal member and employee to partner with their local reservation SPD by reporting anything that looks suspicious or out of the ordinary, just as the security officer did in July, to ensure a safe and secure reservation.

The nature of our work sometimes requires us to be placed in harm's way so that we can keep our promise. We accept that responsibility because it all started with a promise to you and to the Seminole Tribe of Florida contained in our entire Oath of Office: "I, (SPD officer's name), do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution and government of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, of the United States of America and of the state of Florida against all enemies, domestic and foreign, and that I will bear true faith, loyalty and allegiance to the same, and that I will faithfully perform all the duties of an officer of the Seminole Police Department which I am about to enter, so help me, God!"

Tips for a successful school year

BY ANGIE MARGOTTA
Seminole Police Sergeant

Back to school time, kids

It's school time again. Whether you're a parent or a child, you're probably feeling excited and maybe a little sad that summer is over. Feeling nervous or a little scared on the first day of school is natural because of all the new things: new teachers, new friends and maybe even a new school. Luckily, these "new" worries only stick around for a little while.

The first-day jitters

Most teachers kick off the school year by introducing themselves and talking about all the stuff you'll be doing that year. Some teachers give students a chance to tell something about themselves to the rest of the class. Classroom rules are discussed so you'll know what's allowed and what's not. Pay close attention so you'll know what to expect to make your school year successful. You might already know a lot of kids in your classes on the first day, but it's a great day to make a new friend. Try to say hello to kids you know and new ones you don't. Make the first move, and you'll be glad you did and so will your new friend.

Moving to middle school?

Sixth grade often signals a move to middle school or junior high, where you'll find lockers and maybe a homeroom. In middle school, you might move from classroom to classroom for each subject. Your teachers know that this is a big change from elementary school and will help you adjust, so don't let it get you down; and remember, your classmates are going through the same thing, so work together and help each other out.

Feeling good on day one

Seeing friends you haven't seen in a

while can make the first day a good one. You also can make the day feel special by wearing an outfit you like. Maybe you got a great T-shirt on vacation or new sneakers that put a spring in your step. If you wear a uniform, you might wear a favorite watch, a new hair band or a piece of jewelry to show your personal style.

Whatever you put in your backpack, make sure you pack it the night before. This prevents the morning panic when you can't find something and you don't want to be late for school or start your morning off badly.

A bad start?

So, you had a bad first day; don't let it get you down. Everyone goes through them; you are not alone. Take a deep breath and make a fresh start. Give yourself some time to get adjusted, and things will work themselves out. Make sure you get enough sleep, eat a good, healthy breakfast, always try your best and never lose focus of your goal...GRADUATION.

Getting an education is so important for yourself, your family and your community. You are the future leaders of the Tribe. If you are having problems at school, whether it is homework, a teacher or someone bullying you, always tell a trusted adult: your mom or dad, grandparent, teacher, school resource officer or someone you know. Bullying is not OK, and no one deserves to be treated badly.

Ideas for the adults

The official start of school has begun. Try as we might, we can't ignore the ticking of the clock that signifies the end of the carefree days of summer. It's go time. Here are some tips to help you get back into the swing of things for the 2012-2013 school year.

• **Routine:** If you haven't started yet,

getting your kids back into the routine of school is tough at first, but it can be achieved. We all love the summer, being up later at night and sleeping in in the morning. Back to school sneaks up on us, but we can all get through it. A great night's sleep of eight hours is ideal for getting kids through the school day focused and ready to learn new things. Starting the day with a healthy breakfast helps to get those sleepy heads off to a great start in the morning.

• **As the first days go by:** First-day jitters are expected; after all, students face a new teacher, new classmates and maybe even a new school. But if you notice your child seeming a little "disconnected" or more nervous than usual, talk to him or her as soon as possible; he or she will feel better and so will you.

SPD Youth Services

Sometimes we all hesitate to let someone know what is bothering us. No one thinks it's silly or not important or no one else is going through the same thing. But the truth is, we all go through things, whether it is something we have personally gone through or something happening to someone in our family. Being there to help one another is important. The Seminole Police Department's Youth Services Unit is here to help in any way we can. Our focus is to assist parents and kids within all our communities. Whether in a group or individually, speaking to the youth about the importance of staying drug and alcohol free, staying in school, avoiding truancy and being a leader within their communities is what we love doing. Please do not hesitate to contact your reservation's Youth Services Unit.

Seminole Fire Rescue lieutenant awarded for service

BY BRIAN C. BROWN
Fire Rescue Chief



Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue is proud to announce that one of the department's Fire Prevention officers was the recipient of three service awards by local county and state public safety associations for outstanding services provided to Tribal members and employees in 2011.

On May 10, Lt. Bruce Britton received the Ed Murray Public Safety Educator of the Year award, given by the Fire Chiefs Association of Broward County; on June 24, Lt. Britton received the Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year award from the Florida Fire Marshals and Inspectors Association; and on July 18, he received the Florida Department of Health EMS Bureau's EMS Injury Prevention of the Year award.

Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue nominated Lt. Bruce Britton, of the Fire Prevention Division, for the following reasons: Between the months of January and December 2011, Lt. Britton successfully coordinated and delivered 75 Risk Watch safety courses to Tribal schools and educational institutions with a total of 1,809 attending students. Lt. Britton provided Tribal seniors with more than 33 Senior Safety classes reaching 450 Tribal seniors and facilities personnel. In addition, Lt. Britton also provided 55 American Heart Association CPR and

specialty requested medical safety courses to Tribal members and employees with a total of 1,764 attending students.

From January to December 2011, Lt. Britton taught more than 163 public education classes for the Tribal communities reaching more than 4,000 students.

Lt. Britton continues to show a true passion and desire for providing the Tribal communities with fire prevention and life safety classes. Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue is proud of his dedication and contributions to making the Seminole Tribe of Florida properties safe places to live, work and visit.

Health

Maintaining weight and going strong

BY CHRISTINE MCCALL
Contributing Writer

Over the past year and a half, I have made big changes in my life. For those who missed my last story a few months ago, in 2010 at 23 years old, I weighed 324 pounds and had elevated blood pressure. It hurt to wake up in the morning. I lost my breath when walking up stairs. I hated to exercise. I ate fast food on a daily basis, and I always helped myself to a second plate. But all that changed when I saw a commercial for Weight Watchers. I committed to a six-month plan and thought if I could learn to live healthy in that time, I could do it for the rest of my life.

After moving back to the Hollywood Reservation in March 2012, the reaction from my community overwhelmed me. It made me feel so proud of myself, even more than before. My friends, family and fellow Tribal members continuously told me how great I looked and how proud and inspired they felt by me. One reaction I was not expecting was for people who knew me since I was a child to walk right past me. I would run back to my mother, Wanda Bowers, and tell her, "Mom, they just completely ignored me! Why would they do that?" Her answer made me laugh: "Christine, they don't recognize you!"

It was true. Sometimes I did not even recognize myself in the mirror. Weight loss has a powerful way of changing an individual. At my heaviest, I never realized how sad and self-conscious I felt. Now, I stand up taller, smile more and look forward to community events.

But with all that said, one topic most diet companies forget to mention is that losing weight is easy compared

to maintaining weight. To date, I have kept off 130 pounds since January 2012. However, there have been days when I was heavier, some days when I was smaller. The important thing I discovered though is no matter what, as long as I continue to eat healthy, treat myself occasionally and exercise to my fullest potential, I can continue my healthy lifestyle. Even during the summer months, I understand these significant steps.

It is in our culture to eat high-calorie foods. I still enjoy stew beef over rice and frybread in moderation. When temptation starts calling my name, I think about the bigger picture. In the future, I want to encourage my family to take every opportunity they can in life and enjoy it. I also think about all that I've accomplished. The first time I could go into a "normal" clothing store and try on a dress, I started to cry.

I encourage all Tribal members to seek a healthy lifestyle. Weight loss is only difficult if you believe it is. Taking small steps can honestly make a difference. At a restaurant, order any sauces or dressings on the side. Drink more water instead of soda. But most importantly, incorporate more activity into your daily routine. These small changes add up. It helped me, and I know it can help others.



Eat billions of live organisms daily

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez

Have you had your yearly physical yet? I know some of you had to get one for your children before school started, but you might want to go ahead and make an appointment for yourself, too. You know the saying, "Better safe than sorry." It is better to have your blood work done and discover early if anything needs to be dealt with or if you're OK.

One study I read found that only about one in five Americans gets a physical once a year. An annual physical is important because if there is a problem, you can catch it before it turns into something more serious. It is also a good idea to stay on top of your health because some illnesses or diseases may not exhibit symptoms early on. We women need to get in for our "well woman" exams every year. Early detection and preventive care is paramount.

Another good idea is to take a probiotic. Probiotics are the "good" or "friendly" bacteria that keep our stomachs, intestines and colons clean, happy and functioning properly. With daily life stresses, both internal and external, and toxins entering our bodies, good bacteria are depleted. When this happens, our bodies become more prone or susceptible to illness. I take a probiotic with more than five billion live cultures. I have read studies that support or recommend taking a supplement with at least three or more billion live organisms daily.

Another supplement I swear by is fish oils.

You've probably heard about omegas. These fatty acids are extremely important to heart and brain health. According to the American Heart Association, these omega-3 fatty acids can help lower cholesterol and triglyceride levels. Studies have shown that fish oils can help with brain functions and decrease the risk of stroke. They also have been shown to help boost brain memory and help with psychological conditions, such as depression and bipolar illness.

Health professionals recommend that we consume fatty fish (salmon, tuna, mackerel) at least twice a week or take a supplement. I prefer supplements because for me, eating that much fish just isn't convenient.

Remember, the way you treat your body when you are young will have profound effects on how your body performs when you are older.

So it is important for us to take care of this one body we are given because it is the only one we are ever going to have. We can't go down to the dealership and trade it in for a newer, younger model.



Make your children more resilient

SUBMITTED BY DEBRA RAY
Family Services Department

What do most parents want for their children? High on their list are happiness, success in school, satisfaction with their lives and solid friendships. In order to reach these goals, our children need inner strength to deal competently with the many challenges and demands they encounter. We call this capacity to cope and feel competent resilience. Here are some ways to make your children more resilient:

• **Be empathetic.** In the parenting relationship, empathy is the capacity of parents to put themselves in the shoes of their youngsters and see the world through their eyes. Empathy does not imply that you agree with everything your children do, but rather that you attempt to appreciate and validate their point of view.

• **Communicate effectively and listen actively.** Communication is not simply how we speak to others. It involves actively listening to our children and understanding and validating what they are attempting to say.

• **Change negative scripts.** Every parent can offer firsthand examples of when they repeatedly told or nagged a child to do or not do something with little – if any – positive response on the child's part. If something we have said or done for a reasonable amount of time does not work, then we must change our script if our children are to change theirs.

• **Love children in ways that help them feel special and appreciated.** A basic guidepost for building resilience is the presence of at least one adult (hopefully several) who believe in the worth of the child.

• **Accept children for who they are and help them set realistic expectations and goals.** To do this, parents have to understand and accept their child's

unique temperament. Acceptance does not mean letting children do whatever they want or not setting limits on their behavior. However, when children feel accepted, it is easier for them to respond to requests and limits because they experience these in an atmosphere of love and support.

• **Help children recognize that mistakes are experiences from which to learn.** Resilient children tend to view mistakes as opportunities for learning, while those who are not hopeful often experience mistakes as an indication that they are failures.

• **Develop responsibility, compassion and a social conscience by providing children with opportunities to contribute.** We often try to reinforce responsibility simply by giving children chores to do at home. However, almost every child from a very young age appears motivated to help others. Children need opportunities to make a positive difference in their world.

• **Teach children to solve problems and make decisions.** Resilient children define problems, consider different solutions, attempt what they judge to be the most appropriate solutions and learn from the outcome. To reinforce this problem-solving attitude, parents must be careful to not always tell children what to do, but rather to try to engage them in thinking about possible solutions.

• **Discipline in a way that promotes self-discipline and self-worth.** This means being consistent but not rigid; knowing your children's capabilities and not pushing them for unrealistic expectations, and relying when possible on natural, logical consequences rather than arbitrary, punitive measures.

Adapted from Work & Family Life newsletter, edited by Susan Ginsberg (2012)

A clean pool is vital to health

SUBMITTED BY PATRICK PECK
Health Department

For our northern friends, the end of August represents the end of pool season. However, pool season is still at its peak for Florida residents.

For those who have outdoor pools or spas in their backyards, it is again a reminder to maintain the pool/spa water so that it remains clean, sanitary and balanced. With the kids heading back to school, this is no time to send your children injured or ill to the classroom.

Top 10 things to do:

1. Wash or rinse yourself before getting into the pool or spa. This will keep any harmful bacteria/virus on your body from contaminating the water.

2. Maintain adequate levels of disinfectant (chlorine/bromine) in your pool/spa.

In 2008, almost 4,600 persons visited an emergency department for pool chemical-associated injuries. The most common injury diagnoses were poisoning, which includes ingestion of pool chemicals, as well as inhalation of vapor, fumes or gases and dermatitis/conjunctivitis.

3. Test your pool/spa at least once a day with an approved pool test kit.

4. Clean pool of any debris, leaves and floating residue.

5. Repair any source of tripping and falling hazards around the pool.

6. Make sure to maintain all plumbing gauges and equipment on the pool. Diving boards and ladders can cause significant accidents.

7. Do not overload the pool with swimmers. Consult your pool specifications about bather load.

8. Keep all safety gear (floaties, ring buoy, shepherd hooks) available by the pool side.

More than 60 percent of fatal drownings of 0- to 4-year-olds occur in swimming pools.

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death among children ages 1-4.

Drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury death among children 5-9.

9. Do not swim while excessively mentally or physically impaired.

10. Control the level of play and fun, ensuring all activities are conducted safely around the pool.

Other hazards associated with recreational water include drowning, injury, exposure to temperature extremes and dangerous animals.

While pools can be a great recreational addition to a home, they require care.

Swimming pools and spas lead to recreational waterborne illnesses (RWIs), or illnesses that result from swallowing, breathing or having contact with recreational water. These are caused by microorganisms (e.g., bacteria, protozoa, algae and viruses), other parasites or chemicals.

RWIs can cause a wide variety of problems, including upset stomach, diarrhea, rash, difficulty breathing and infections of the eye, ear, skin, brain or other organs. The most commonly reported RWI is diarrhea.

Poorly maintained bathing/swimming facilities can harbor a variety of pathogens, such as E. coli O157:H7, norovirus, shigella, giardia, cryptosporidium and Legionella.

A total of 134 recreational water-associated outbreaks affecting at least 13,966 persons were reported to the CDC for 2007-2008, the largest number of outbreaks ever reported in a two-year period.

As a rule of thumb, bathers should avoid ingesting pool water while swimming and should absolutely refrain from swimming when sick. Children of diaper age, especially those experiencing diarrhea, should never be allowed to use the pool or spa.

More than one in five (21.6 percent) American adults do not know that swimming while ill with diarrhea can heavily contaminate swimming water with Crypto and make other swimmers sick.

For more information about healthy swimming, please call the STOF Health Department at 954-985-2330.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

◆ WELLNESS photos from page 3A



Andrea Holata

Participants of the walks receive plaques for trekking 2 miles every day during the Wellness Conference.



Andrea Holata

Tribal members dressed in Mardi Gras costumes enjoy the party.



Andrea Holata

Anita Osceola, left, and Lola Juarez pose for a picture before the Mardi Gras-themed party.



Andrea Holata

Helene Buster, left, and Shae Pierce enjoy a morning run together on the white, sandy beaches of Marco Island.

\$5 BLACKJACK

LIVE • 24 HOURS A DAY • 7 DAYS A WEEK



ROCKIN' PENNIES



HUNDREDS OF YOUR FAVORITE PENNY SLOTS IN ONE PLACE!

THE MOST PENNY SLOTS IN SOUTH FLORIDA!

954.327.ROCK • SEMINOLEHARDROCKHOLLYWOOD.COM



HOLLYWOOD, FL



You must be 21 years of age or older to play slots and table games or to receive Player's Club benefits. Persons who have been trespassed or banned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida or those who have opted into the self-exclusion program are not eligible. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, please call 1-888-ADMIT-IT.

Education

B

Tribal youth recognized with education incentive awards

BY JUDY WEEKS
Contributing Writer

Incentives are often used to motivate people in all walks of life. In education, they encourage students to continue to succeed in school. Tribal students recently were rewarded with fun evenings out to celebrate a job well done during the last school year, just before the new academic year began.

Naples youth were recognized on Aug. 13 at the Juanita Osceola Center. Educational advisers and representatives treated the young scholars to a pizza party.

"We are very proud of you and your parents," Naples Liaison Brian Zepeda said. "Getting an education is hard work, but it is so much easier when you have family support. I know that it is difficult to be in school all day and then face homework, but you have been accepting the challenge, and your parents have adjusted their schedules to assist you. As a result, the tutoring program is proving to be a valuable asset and your grades reflect your success."

Educational advisers Victoria Soto and Tony Bullington took turns congratulating

the award recipients and discussed the need to begin setting goals for the new school year and giving thought to determine future career options.

"Education is like building a house," Soto said. "It is important to establish a firm foundation upon which you can build. If you remain focused, your structure will be sound and withstand the tests of time. You are the hope and future of not only the Seminole Tribe, but your community and country."

Liaison Zepeda presented each of the students with award certificates and incentives in recognition of the 2011-2012 school year. Individuals were acknowledged for special achievements, good attendance and conduct. Student Marissa Osceola assisted with the distribution of backpacks for the upcoming school year. Toddlers and preschoolers were given an opportunity to select a gift from a treasure basket.

As an added incentive, the Naples youth had been treated to a bowling party at Woodside Lanes on June 4 at the conclusion of the school year by the Education Department. All ages joined in the fun by

taking their turns on the alleys with adults challenging youth and everyone assisting the young sports enthusiasts.

Director of Education Emma Johns expressed her congratulations to the group and offered inspiration and encouragement in establishing new goals; she pointed out that education can make a dream a reality.

Brody Osceola Hagen, a rising eighth grader at St. Elizabeth Seton School, had good advice for his fellow students.

"Focusing in the classroom isn't always easy, but I have to make the grade there if I want to ensure a place on the playing field or basketball court. Life is one big game, and you have to work at it in order to score."

Over in Trail, dozens of students and their families celebrated a year's worth of hard work on July 25 at Strike Miami bowling alley at the Dolphin Mall.

Each student received an award from Trail Liaison Norman Huggins and President Tony Sanchez Jr. before bowling and dining.

♦ See INCENTIVES on page 2B



Beverly Bidney

Billie Porter, who earned her degree in behavioral analysis from Simmons College, accepts her awards from Education director Emma Johns.

Seminole Youth Council attends UNITY Conference

BY BRAUDIE BLAIS-BILLIE
Contributing Writer

PHOENIX — The United National Indian Tribal Youth, or UNITY, promotes personal development, citizenship and leadership among Native American youth.

Every summer, the national organization holds a conference and hosts hundreds of Tribes, youth councils and Native youth across the country under one roof with one purpose: uniting the diversity and standing as one.

UNITY has helped guide American Indian and Alaskan youth for more than 35 years, and they welcomed the Seminole Tribe of Florida Youth Council in July for the second time.

"Meeting other Natives through UNITY is a benefit to us," 18-year-old high school graduate and Youth Council member Jason Melton said. "Our Tribe is a bit more isolated than it should be, and we should try to expand our horizons."

Melton was one of nine Tribal members to attend the national UNITY Conference held in Phoenix. Melton, from the Big Cypress Reservation, graduated from The Sagemont School and plans to attend Florida State University this fall with interests in film and business. He joined the Youth Council and attended the national UNITY Conference for the first time this year.

Ragan Osceola, an American Heritage graduate from Big Cypress, also joined the

Youth Council and UNITY Conference for the first time. She will attend Southeastern University in Lakeland, pursuing a bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Around 1,500 Native Americans from all over the country packed the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel, ready to unite and make a difference.

The national UNITY Conference began with a spiritual component, the UNITY fire. Each youth council — around 150 councils attended — gathered around the fire-keepers, SleepyEye LaFramboise and Warren Skye, to light the UNITY fire, which burned throughout the conference. It signified the first gathering of the Tribes for the weekend.

"Standing shoulder by shoulder watching a sacred fire being lit from scratch by SleepyEye and his grandfather, Skye, was amazing," said Cypress Billie, a 16-year-old senior from Big Cypress who attends Admiral Farragut Academy. "Watching the fire being lit the traditional way gave me hope that the old ways will always survive due to our people passing our culture down to each generation to come through language and through the blood in our veins."

The ceremony was followed by the UNITY drums, and then the conference set into motion. It lasted from the fire ceremony on July 6 to a bittersweet friendship circle goodbye on July 10.

"The conference gives youth the opportunity to meet other youth," said LaFramboise, a member of UNITY for 17 years and lead speaker/fire-keeper at the fire ceremony. "They can utilize their lives and get involved in UNITY, getting exposed to issues and preserving culture."

For Marissa Osceola, who attends the Community School of Naples, the experience furthered her appreciation of the Seminole Youth Council.

"The Youth Council has been an awesome experience so far. It has reached out to many people," she said. "From our food drives to toy drives and even just the encouragements that our Tribal kids are getting from it build better community connections."

The weekend continued with workshops, meetings, area caucus conferences, special guest speakers and a cultural exchange. Faces like Gov. Gregory Mendoza, of Arizona's Gila River Indian Community and on the Council of Trustees for UNITY; economist and Native rights activist Winona LaDuke; Faith the two-legged dog; and even Litefoot (Gary Paul

♦ See UNITY on page 4B



Omar Rodriguez

Recent vocational school graduates are recognized for their accomplishments.

Vocational school students graduate

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

IMMOKALEE — For three years, Immokalee resident Lorraine Posada woke up at 4 a.m. and made a two-hour drive to the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale in quest of her associate of science in patisserie and baking.

Her hard work and dedication paid off, as she — as well as three other Tribal members — graduated from vocational school this year.

Posada, a member of the Wind Clan, decided to return to school in an attempt to accomplish something academically after marrying her husband, Mario, and giving birth to three children. Although she graduated from high school in New Mexico and began college studying accounting, Posada said the career choice wasn't the right fit and, therefore, never graduated.

She decided to return to school for baking, not only because she enjoyed it, but also for personal reasons; Posada had gestational diabetes while pregnant and

found herself searching for healthier, lower-sugar recipes.

"I wanted to be serious about it," Posada said about her decision to attend the Art Institute. "I wanted a degree. I wanted to build a foundation for baking."

She attended classes every day as a part-time student and now uses the skills she learned at the Immokalee Senior Center. She bakes breads, as well as reduced-sugar and regular desserts, tweaking the recipes she learned to create her own unique concoctions.

"Once I was done, I wanted to give back to the Tribe," she said. "Without the Tribe, I wouldn't have been able to go back to school."

Immokalee resident Megan Otero also graduated from vocational school with a certificate of completion in practical nursing from the Immokalee Technical Center, while Cassandra Jimmie graduated from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Orlando with an associate of science in culinary arts. The women worked hard to reach their goals and will now put their

knowledge to use in the professional world. For Jimmie, she always had a passion for cooking. While at restaurants she said she loved to observe how different chefs prepared food in their own ways. It inspired her to attend culinary school.

"It was a great opportunity," she said. "Being in the kitchen is kind of like being in the army; you have to say, 'Yes, chef,' and 'No, chef.'"

She said it took discipline, but she saw her hard work pay off when she walked across the stage in April to receive her diploma. She was the first in her family to graduate college. And although she currently works in the Council Office in Big Cypress, Jimmie said she will still use her culinary knowledge in the future and cook for her friends and family.

"I knew cooking would be my passion and my hobby, but I've always known I wanted to represent my Tribe," she said. "I couldn't pass up the opportunity to work in the Council Office at such a young age."

♦ See GRADUATES on page 4B



Photo courtesy of Braudie Blais-Billie

Youth Council member Braudie Blais-Billie and Ned Norris Jr., Chairman of the Tohono O'odham Nation, mingle at the UNITY Conference.

Summer Work Experience Program ends another successful year

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

A summer job introduces students to the adult working world. This summer, 62 Tribal high school and college students worked for the Tribe and learned firsthand what it means to be part of a professional organization.

For more than five years, the Education Department's Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) has given students ages 14-24 the opportunity to work in nearly every department within the Tribe. Like any new employee, SWEP participants go through training first and then get down to business, receiving a paycheck as well.

"Students always get placed," said Marie Dufour-Bonville, adult vocational administrator. "They get two months of work, which is a great college application or resume builder. The program also provides them with another adult they can

use to polish off an application or resume. It is a good way to make a more well-rounded student."

Education is the first priority, so students need maintain at least a 2.0 GPA to participate. After the program ends, they return to school.

"I've seen real growth in the students over the years," Dufour-Bonville said. "Some started in the Recreation Department and moved into the Councilmen's, Treasurer's or other government-related offices, as well as IT, Environmental Resources and more."

Janet Smith, of Brighton, worked in the Education Department at Pemaquid Emahav Charter School and at the Arts and Crafts Center.

"It gave me a little bit of insight on the different departments we have on the rez and how they contribute to the community," said Smith, 17, a senior at Okeechobee High School. "It helped me

learn how to work with other people and become part of a team that works together to get a job done."

Haden Littlebear, 16, has a passion for computers, so he worked in the IT Department, where he helped the technicians resolve problems in a variety of departments.

"Wherever someone had a problem, I helped out," said Littlebear, of Hollywood, a sophomore at American Heritage. "I learned how to add a printer server to a networked computer. It was also good to get to know the people you work with. I don't usually go out much, so this job also gave me people experience."

Sharka Frank, 14, worked in the Hollywood Preschool assisting teachers with daily duties, supervising small groups of children while the teachers were busy and taking care of the children's needs during mealtime.

"It was so much fun," said Frank, a

freshman at Divine Academy. "It made me feel really happy. I would recommend it to everyone."

SWEP provides students the chance to experience jobs they may want in the future and learn what it takes academically to qualify for the positions. They also get to see first-hand what the Tribe does for its members and how it accomplishes its mission.

Steven Luff, project manager of the Big Cypress Environmental Resource Management Department, made sure his participants had a chance to learn about scientific methods used in the field. They learned how to take a sample to test water quality, search for wildlife, identify native and exotic plants, and inspect sprinklers around the reservation.

"They chose this department because they wanted to learn about environmental issues," Luff said. "We showed them what it was like to work in the environmental

world."

John McInturff, 15, liked working for Luff, but he learned an unexpected lesson.

"It was more hands-on, which I like," said McInturff, a sophomore at The Sagemont School. "But I learned the Environmental (Resource Management) Department is not for me, and I don't want to make a life there."

Jesse Mitchell, 17, worked in the Big Cypress Housing Department, where his father, Jim Mitchell, is the Housing maintenance foreman.

"We had him work with the technicians in all the trades," Jim said. "He did dry wall, painting, cleaning, air conditioning and electrical work. We had him in the field every day."

"I worked with all the maintenance people and got a lot of experience," said Jesse, a senior at American Heritage.

♦ See SWEP on page 4B

INCENTIVES

From page 1B

Liaison Huggins recognized two children who he felt exemplified model students with the Student of the Year award. The recognitions went to Jaya Osceola and Nathaniel Jim, and they received special gifts for their hard work.

"I wanted to set an example for other kids," Liaison Huggins said, adding that he encourages parents to get more involved in their children's education. "It takes a village to raise a kid."

Osceola, who's in the fourth grade, said she was completely surprised by the honor and loved the traditional Seminole patchwork skirt she received; Jim received a Seminole patchwork shirt.

During his address to the community, President Sanchez stressed the importance of education and the importance of the Tribal community supporting students throughout their education, stating that he hopes all students stay in school.

"Education is the only thing no one can take away from you," he said. "Education is the only thing that will separate you from other individuals."

As for Tampa, a total of 93 incentive awards were presented to their youth on July 10 in a ceremonial dinner at the Spaghetti Warehouse. Tampa Education adviser Tina Ogden was overjoyed at the youth's accomplishments.

"2012's incentives awards for Tampa was even better than last year's. We saw an increase in attendance awards, which is always a wonderful thing," Ogden said. "We want the students to understand the importance of being in class. This was a fun event, and it was great to see mostly every family attend. We are very proud of the students and all of their achievements and want to wish them all continued success in the new year."

The Brighton Reservation made sure to recognize their students for their accomplishments as well. In a combined event, the Education and Recreation departments held an incentive awards and back-to-school bash water day at the Brighton pool on Aug. 14.

"We wanted to focus on the kids and wanted them to have fun, so we chose to have a water day instead of an awards ceremony," said Tribal-wide truancy coordinator Becky Rucks.

The students celebrated with waterslides, rock climbing, sumo wrestling, swimming, popcorn and snow cones.

For lunch, everyone enjoyed hotdogs

prepared by Recreation staff, as well as pizza, chips and cookies.

Along with the water day, students received awards, backpacks and checks for their academic achievements.

"We are very proud of our students this year and wish them the best next year," Rucks said.

Over in Hollywood, students also had plenty of entertainment with their incentive awards.

Kindergarten through fifth-grade students from Hollywood and Ft. Pierce enjoyed a fun time at Kabooms Amusement Center in Davie on July 30; sixth- through 12th-grade students sped along the go-cart track at Xtreme Indoor Karting in Fort Lauderdale on July 31; Immokalee also held an incentive party at Kabooms on June 11.

High school and college students and graduates, as well as GED recipients, celebrated at a masquerade ball at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel in Hollywood on July 26.

This was the first year the Tribe recognized the older students at an event tailored just for them.

Approximately 300 students and their families attended the ball. Awards were given to 26 high school graduates, eight college graduates and 28 students who went back to school and earned their GEDs.

"Put college on your radar and invest in yourself," said guest speaker Alex Johns, Natural Resources director at Brighton, who just earned his associate degree. "At the end of the day, no one can take your education away from you."

Once the awards were distributed, the party began. Music by the Osceola Brothers Band and a disc jockey urged people onto the dance floor.

Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. opened the events for younger students with words of congratulations and encouragement to do well again during this school year.

At Kabooms, the kids received their awards, ate a hearty meal and spent the evening playing games, roller skating and bouncing to their hearts' content. The evening at Xtreme Karting gave the kids a chance to let loose and rev their engines around the racetrack.

All in all, Tribal youth enjoyed reuniting with their classmates during the summer for some fun and recognition of their academic accomplishments.

Brett Daly, Beverly Bidney, Andrea Holata and Peter B. Gallagher contributed to this article.



Judy Weeks

Education incentive awards are presented to students of the Naples community.



Judy Weeks

Naples student Serena Zepeda displays her certificate.



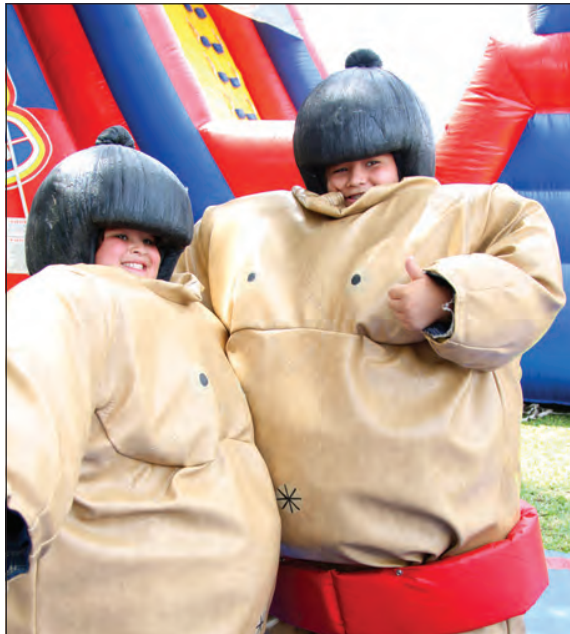
Andrea Holata

From left, Crysten Smith, Richard Harris, Camryn Thomas and Caroline Sweat gather at the bottom of the waterslide during Brighton's water fun day incentive party on Aug. 14.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Jennifer Holdiness, 15, of Hollywood, and Nauthkee Henry, 17, of Big Cypress, celebrate at the masquerade ball. Henry earned her GED.



Andrea Holata

Brothers Jagger, left, and Rudy Juarez get ready to face off with sumo wrestling during Brighton's incentive party.



Ryan Watson

Tampa Council Liaison Richard Henry congratulates Tampa incentive awards honorees for their hard work during the 2011-2012 school year.



Beverly Bidney

Anthony Doctor, 8, enjoys his race around the track during Hollywood and Ft. Pierce's incentive awards party at Xtreme Indoor Karting.



Brett Daly

Jaya Osceola wins Student of the Year from Trail Liaison Norman Huggins.



Brett Daly

Sadrilynn Tiger receives her incentive award from Trail Liaison Norman Huggins and President Tony Sanchez Jr. during the Trail celebration.



Beverly Bidney

The Howard family poses with their awards.



Brett Daly

Trail students gather for a group shot during the reservation's incentive party at Strike Miami.

College Horizons experts help student prepare application

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

PHILADELPHIA — Tribal youth Neyom Osceola recently expanded the Tribe's horizons as the first Seminole to attend a prestigious pre-college workshop in its nearly 15 years of existence.

College Horizons is a rigorous, six-day college prep course for Native American high school sophomores and juniors from around the nation. The program, established in 1998, helps fill the void that many Native Americans experience when it comes to quality college counseling and academic advising.

Osceola was among about 100 students who attended this year's workshop at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia during the last week in June.

More than 70 expert college counselors and admission officers helped students select schools to apply to, write essays and create resumes. They also helped participants complete the Common Application, prepare for the ACT and SAT, and seek financial aid and scholarships.

"When they take you into their arms, they make sure you don't leave the program without having finished everything," said the junior at American Heritage and Miramar resident. "This whole program is eye opening."

Osceola, daughter of Charles Osceola and Pearl Bert, has been preparing for college since day one of high school; in addition to maintaining a strong GPA, she's immersed herself in extracurricular activities, including choir, drama, basketball, the Breast Cancer Awareness Club and the Seminole Youth Council.

But she still had much to learn at College Horizons, which her history teacher, Charles Stephenson, and guidance counselor, Nicole Wilson, nominated her for.

"I didn't know what a resume looked like," she said. So Columbia University senior admissions officer Jessica Cho helped her create her first resume.

Then there was the college essay. Although Osceola was nervous about writing it, Cho gave her a focus, suggesting she describe her responsibilities helping raise her eight siblings.

"Anyone from the rez can relate to that or write about that," Osceola said.

Osceola was thrilled to be paired with Cho because Columbia is her first choice of colleges. She'd like to study journalism there for her bachelor's degree and then get her MBA, she said.

However, Osceola knows she needs to apply to other schools as well. Sarah Graham, director of college counseling at Princeton Day School, introduced her to other viable

options based on her preferences, which prepared her for the workshop's College Fair.

At the fair, she zeroed in on her top choices among more than 35 colleges represented. She asked several representatives about their schools' journalism programs, campuses, student bodies and Native American populations. She learned that Emory University, Barnard College and Brown University offer programs that match her interests and discovered that Brown offers an appealing curriculum of pass/fail courses.

"It opens your eyes to what you didn't know was there before," she said. "I felt like I had more options and more colleges I could fall back on that were realistic."

Osceola also bonded with Native American peers from around the country, including Navajos, Crows, Cherokees, Choctaws and Native Hawaiians.

Participants exchanged culture at a traditional night, where Osceola gave a presentation on how to make Seminole patchwork. Others told stories in their Native languages, stomp danced, hula danced, sang and played instruments.

"It's exposure to all of these Tribes that you don't get to see every day," she said. "College Horizons is diverse in comparison to other college prep programs."

Native American alumni also shared stories about racism they experienced on campus and brainstormed ways to combat it. Natives are the most underrepresented minority population on college campuses, College Horizons reported.

"They told us we should have a thick skin," Osceola said. "Ignore it or get involved with ethnic clubs to educate our peers about Native Americans."

At the end of the week, participants took home helpful resources, including an SAT or ACT prep book and some web addresses to check out (www.collegeboard.org for test prep tips and www.fastweb.com for scholarship information).

"It's definitely worth all the work because when you come home you know you've finished the majority of your college application," she said. "All of the work is done...and done well. It's very hands on."

Osceola's goal is to return to College Horizons next year with at least one fellow Seminole.

College Horizons also offers separate Graduate Horizons services for college students and college graduates. For more information, visit www.collegehorizons.org.



Photo courtesy of Paola Moneymaker

Daniel Nunez, of Brighton, and Alexis Aguilar, of Immokalee, participate in Leadership University.

Tribal youth travel to New York for leadership workshop

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

NEW YORK — Former U.S. President John F. Kennedy believed leadership and learning work hand in hand. That principle was put to the test last month at Leadership University, a program held at Columbia University in New York, where six Tribal youth learned firsthand what being a leader entails.

Created to transform today's most motivated students into tomorrow's leaders, the program offers in-depth experiences on the challenges of leading.

From July 17-21, Tribal students Sara Ramos-Huggins, Daniel Nunez, Alexis Aguilar, Brianna Blais-Billie, Destiny Nunez and Neyom Osceola attended leadership workshops and seminars, met with corporate CEOs and nonprofit executives, and learned about trust during a team-building ropes course. They joined about 20 other participants who came from around the world.

"The students met interesting people," education adviser Paola Moneymaker said. "They also saw the reality of what freshman year of college will be like. They spent four jam-packed days and had a really good time."

The program, which addressed all aspects of leadership, aims to improve the life skills needed to be an effective leader and reach full potential.

The curriculum included an introduction to basic leadership principles and styles, a review of leadership characteristics of past and present leaders, and a lesson about the importance of community service. Students earned one college credit for attending.

"I was really happy to learn I am a leader," said Ramos-Huggins, 17, of Hollywood.

During the program, the group divided in two for projects. One project was to find grant money for a fictional

small town in need. Ramos-Huggins' group proposed starting a foundation to help children and creating an event to raise money while bringing the community together at a carnival. Another component of the foundation was to teach the town's students the positive impact serving on the student council could have on their lives.

"We really wanted that \$1,000 grant," Ramos-Huggins said.

The other group proposed a festival in a park to raise money so high school seniors could take a trip to Universal Studios. They suggested raising money by charging local businesses a fee to have a booth at the event.

"We wanted to inspire other kids to stay in school by having a senior trip to look forward to," said Nunez, 15, of Brighton. "We never found out if we got the money; it was more about planning."

Communication played a big part throughout the four-day program. Although it was a cold and rainy day during the ropes course event, the students encouraged one another to persevere.

During one of the team-building exercises, the students figured out how to fit all 12 members of the group onto one small platform without falling off. The task required communication and cooperation and demonstrated the importance of leadership skills.

"It was fun," Ramos-Huggins said. "We really got to know each other more than people I know at home."

On the last day of the program, six students received awards based on instructors' observations and student participation during the workshops. Nunez earned the Most Inspirational Leader award and Osceola earned the Most Innovative Leader award.

"They said I brought the group together and was always smiling," Nunez said. "I learned I could be myself around anyone. I didn't know I was a leader, but I guess I do now."

YAMAHA
GET OUT AND RIDE
SALES EVENT

AS LOW AS **3.99%** + **\$750** UP TO
APR FOR 36 MONTHS FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS' CUSTOMER CASH ON SELECT MODELS"



2 Locations To Serve You

954-436-9905 954-467-0990
4101 DAVIE RD. EXT. 1090 W. SUNRISE BLVD.
DAVIE, FL 33024 FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33311

www.BrowardMotorsports.com



THE POLICE KNOW YOUR RIGHTS DO YOU?

Call Me For A **FREE** Consultation

RICHARD CASTILLO
954.522.3500

Since 1990 I have protected rights like yours. My office defends DUI's, drug offenses, suspended license, domestic violence, and all felonies and misdemeanors.

24 HOURS A DAY

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

WWW.CASTILLOLAWOFFICES.COM

STETSON • LUCCHESI • TONY LAMA • JUSTIN • WRANGLER • ROPER

Grips western

It's More Than Western Wear...

South Florida's Largest & Most Complete Western Store & Showroom

Davie: 954-587-9000 • Coconut Creek: 954-427-9400

TONY LAMA • JUSTIN • RESTITOL • WRANGLER • ROPER

*Finance offer subject to credit approval, applies to purchases of new Yamaha Motorcycles, ATVs & Scooters made on a Yamaha Installment Financing loan account from 10/1/11-12/31/11. Minimum contract length is 24 months and maximum length is 36 months. Minimum amount financed is \$5,000. Fixed APR of 3.99% or 12.99% will be assigned based on credit approval criteria. Monthly payments per \$1,000 financed based on 36 month term are \$29.52 at 3.99% and \$33.69 at 12.99%. **Customer Cash offer good on select 2011 (and prior year) models between 10/1/11-12/31/11. Offer good only in the U.S., excluding the state of Hawaii. Dress properly for your ride with a helmet, eye protection, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, gloves and boots. Do not drink and ride. It is illegal and dangerous. Yamaha and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation encourage you to ride safely and respect the environment. For further information regarding the MSF course, please call 1-800-446-9227. ATVs with engine sizes over 90cc are recommended for use only by riders age 16 years and older. Yamaha recommends that all ATV riders take an approved training course. For safety and training information, see your dealer or call the ATV Safety Institute at 1-800-887-2887. ATVs can be hazardous to operate. For your safety: Always avoid paved surfaces. Never ride on public roads. Always wear a helmet, eye protection and protective clothing. Never carry passengers; never engage in stunt riding; riding and alcohol/drugs don't mix; avoid excessive speed; and be particularly careful on difficult terrain. Professional riders depicted on closed courses. ©2011 Yamaha

UNITY
From page 1B

Davis from *The Indian in the Cupboard*) were present in the general session as special guests to inspire and touch the lives of the youth.

Billie performed *Try and Try Again*, a song originally performed by his father, Chairman James E. Billie, during general sessions to encourage youth to stay loyal to their dreams and pursuits.

Each special guest speaker, meeting or workshop was geared toward supporting and motivating the youth and was done entirely by successful Native American people. There were even basketball tournaments and morning walks to support physical health.

"The conference is eye opening. It's really wonderful to see all the Native youth together," said Miss Indian Nations Shanoa Pinkham, of the Yakama Nation Youth Council. "We have a lot to learn from each other; it's all about giving back."

Tyler Tigertail, a 17-year-old from Big Cypress, is a new Youth Council and UNITY member. He plays football for American Heritage, where he is a senior, and wishes to pursue a future with the Marine Corps.

"We are all different Tribes, but we're all one," he said of his UNITY experience. "We have different languages, but we're all united."

Also during the conference, on behalf of Native youth voting, Ned Norris Jr., Chairman of Tohono O'odham Nation and the National Conference of American Indians' vice president for the western region, spoke to UNITY about the importance of indigenous votes and encouraged youth councils to participate in federal elections.

"Native vote has been a critical part in what we do," Norris said. "Exchanging issues and different things affecting communities [between Native youth] is also an opportunity to understand one another and help one's own Tribe."

A cultural exchange exposed the Seminole Youth Council to different Tribes. It included presentations of traditional dances and songs from the Apache Nations and the Navajo Nations, which welcomed the visitors to their land, Arizona, and included more than a hundred Tribes providing cultural clothing, jewelry, dances and songs.

"Our Tribal Youth Council was prepared to participate by dressing in full-on regalia," Marissa Osceola said.

Other Seminole youth who participated were Leana Billie, a 10th-grade student at The Sagemont School, who resides in Big Cypress; Marsha Osceola, a ninth-grade student at American Heritage, who also resides in Big Cypress; and Alexis Aguilar, from the Immokalee Reservation, who has served on the Youth Council for two years and who has attended UNITY twice.

The Seminole Youth Council was also involved in the Southeast Area Caucus, which consisted of only two states. Each region of the nation was broken into an area caucus, such as the Great Plains, the Midwest, Northeast, etc.

Two representatives from each Youth Council were then permitted, after a thorough discussion between the caucus's youth councils, to vote on an amendment to the UNITY Constitution. This vote affected the previous installation of the National UNITY Executive Committee, which held six members at large, two opposing-gender presidents, a vice president and a secretary.

In order to disperse the voice of UNITY toward every caucus more evenly, the Seminole Youth Council representatives voted for a 12-member committee, as

opposed to the previous 10 members or a suggested 14 members. This way, a representative from each caucus would hold a position in the committee, which gives each region a fair chance to have their voice heard.

"Just being [at UNITY] is a great representation for our Tribe and allows the East Coast a stronger voice in the UNITY Council," Marissa Osceola said.

Though many Tribes affiliated with UNITY reside on the West Coast or Midwest, the East will now be heard as clearly as the majority.

"It was a really great experience for everyone," Marissa Osceola said. "Not only did we get to mingle with people from different Tribes across the nation, but we also received an educational benefit by participating in the workshops."

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Youth Council hopes to have more young Tribal members involved with the Youth Council and UNITY alike for years to come.

Through participation, Tribal members can develop beyond the community and grow into the greater Indian Nation as a representative of Native America.

Like Miss Indian Nations said, "Wherever you go, your culture goes with you."

Next year's UNITY conference is set to take place in Los Angeles.

Braudie Blais-Billie, a 19-year-old high school graduate from the Hollywood Reservation, received her diploma from Pine Crest School and will attend Columbia University in New York City this fall. This is her second year both as a member of the Youth Council and as a UNITY conference attendee.



Braudie Blais-Billie
Tribal member Cypress Billie performs *Let Me Love You by Mario* at the talent show. The UNITY Conference took place in Phoenix to promote personal development, citizenship and leadership among Native American youth.



Beverly Bidney
SWEP participants Haden Littlebear, Sharka Frank and Derick Toho celebrate at the appreciation luncheon.



Beverly Bidney
From left, Steven Luff, John McInturff, Jesse Mitchell and Jim Mitchell gather at the Big Cypress luncheon.

SWEP
From page 1B

"I also got a better work ethic and learned you can't sleep in; you have to get up every day."

In addition to getting practical experience, many students earned a paycheck for the first time. Derick Toho, 14, worked in the Hollywood Recreation Department helping with the kids attending camp.

"It felt great to get my first paycheck," said Toho, a freshman at American Heritage. "I went to the mall and spent it on a pair of shoes."

Watching the kids was easy for Toho, who comes from a large family, but he learned larger lessons during SWEP.

"You have to work to get your money," he said. "You actually have to work at work. It feels good. It shows you are responsible."

The Hollywood Recreation Department had five participants work as additional chaperones and assist younger campers during the department's day camp. Richard Clark, Recreation supervisor, was in charge of the SWEP students.

"We took them by the hand and showed them how to work (and) take initiative and what a boss expects," Clark said. "It's a good program for them."

Applications are accepted starting in May, and placements in departments are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Dufour-Bonville recommends turning applications in early to ensure students get their

preferred departments. The program runs from mid-June to mid-August.

"The whole experience was great," Littlebear said. "There was never a day I felt bored. It's like that old saying, 'If you do something you love, you will never work a day in your life.' That's what this was for me. It was fun."

2012 SWEP participants:

Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, Leana Billie, Stevie Billie, Sierra Bowers, Quenton Cypress, Anthony Joe, Callie Joe, Christopher Joe, John McInturff, Jason Melton, Jesse Mitchell, Bradley Osceola, Ragan Osceola, Symphony Osceola, Savannah Tiger, Tyler Tigertail, Catlen Tommie, Jaryaca Baker, Kiylier Baker, Tyra Baker, Tamara Bowers, Jennie Eagle, Robert Fudge Jr., Michael Garcia, Frank Huff, Brydgett Koontz, Joshua Madrigal, Baylee Micco, Jaide Micco, Brianna Nunez, Cheyenne Nunez, Daniel Nunez Jr., Yopalakiyo Osceola, Imillakiyo Osceola, Lahna Sedatol, Janet Smith, Jayce T. Smith, J.T. Smith, Richard Smith, Garrett Thomas, Layton Thomas, Acealyn Youngblood, Stormin Youngblood, Leisset Baker, Alisia Billie, Gabrielle Billie, Braudie Blais-Billie, Brianna Blais-Billie, Ethan Cypress, Janay Cypress, Justin Frank, Raevin Frank, Sharka Frank, Taylor Fulton, Haden Littlebear, Cindy Osceola, Elden Osceola, Derick Toho, Tamron Wilcox, Eliza Mora, Sara Ramos-Huggins, Cooper Rivers.

GRADUATES
From page 1B

Jimmie hopes to one day run for Tribal office in Immokalee and also go back to school for physical therapy and business.

The Immokalee community presented the women with special awards during the July 31 community meeting for their hard work and accomplishments.

In addition, Tampa resident Phaydra Clark graduated with an associate of science in patisserie and baking from Le Cordon Bleu Orlando in May.

Once the 20-year-old completed high school, she began contemplating her next move and analyzing her attributes.

"I was always artistic, but I didn't know what to do with it," Clark said.

One phone call from Le Cordon Bleu changed that. Interested in what they had to offer, Clark toured their facility and saw their ornately decorated cakes on display. She knew what she wanted to pursue: cake decorating.

Clark spent two years honing her craft and also learned "a lit bit of everything" else, including working

with sugar and chocolate, cooking entrees and even taking hospitality classes.

She puts her knowledge and skills to work at Sweetie's Delights Bakery in Orlando, where she creates fondant figurines and learns new cake decorating techniques from seasoned bakers.

"Do what you want to do because the only person stopping you is yourself," she said in encouragement of Tribal members contemplating returning to school.

Adult Vocational administrator Marie Dufour-Bonville also encourages other Tribal members to go back to school and follow in these women's footsteps. She said vocational schools offer students flexibility and education in specialized crafts.

"It can be a great stepping stone into higher education," she said.

As far as Posada, Otero, Jimmie and Clark are concerned, Dufour-Bonville said the Education Department recognizes how hard they've worked and how much they've sacrificed to stand where they are today.

"The Education Department is very, very proud of the accomplishments of the vocational school graduates," she said.

★ Proudly Serving the Seminole & Miccosukee Tribe for over 15 years! ★

FrontRowUSA.com
Ticket Brokers

Concerts | Theatre | Sports
Local, National, and Worldwide Events

Need travel arrangements? Call us!
We take care of all your travel needs including:
Hotels, Airlines, and Cruises
FrontRowUSA is up front and honest, putting you up front!

TOP CONCERTS	TOP SPORTS
<p>FLORENCE AND THE MACHINE</p> <p>JOE COCKER</p> <p>FIONA APPLE</p> <p>THE WHO</p> <p>WEEZER</p> <p>MADONNA</p> <p>CARRIE UNDERWOOD</p> <p>JUSTIN BIEBER</p> <p>ONE DIRECTION</p> <p>EDDIE VEDDER</p> <p>TOBY KEITH</p> <p>BRAD PAISLEY</p> <p>LYNYRD SKYNYRD</p> <p>RASCAL FLATTS AND LITTLE BIG TOWN</p>	<p>MONSTER JAM</p> <p>MIAMI DOLPHINS</p> <p>MIAMI HEAT</p> <p>MIAMI MARLINS</p>
	TOP THEATRE
	<p>DISNEY ON ICE</p> <p>SISTER ACT</p> <p>MARY POPPINS</p> <p>LES MISERABLES</p> <p>WAR HORSE</p> <p>JEKYLL AND HYDE</p> <p>BILL MAHER</p>

ALL CONCERTS, SPORTS AND THEATRE TICKETS AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE AND WORLDWIDE ORDER YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT WWW.FRONTROWUSA.COM OR BY PHONE

(954) 455-1929 OR (800) 446 8499

WE DELIVER TO YOU - ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

★ Proudly Serving the Seminole & Miccosukee Tribe for over 15 years! ★

Bail Mother
@ EXECUTIVE BAIL BONDS

1-855-844-BAIL (2245)

Tribal Dividends | Visa | MasterCard | American Express | Discover | Money Orders | Cashier's Checks

Brandy Romine Bail Bondsman 120 Simpson Rd. Suite-A Kissimmee, FL. 34744 Notary Public	Bail Bonds Fianzas brandy@bailmother.com Serving all of Florida 24 hours a day, 7 days a week Professional & Confidential Service
--	---

Transfer Bonds | Surety Bonds | Cash Bonds

The Law Office of
Joseph "Jody" M. Hendry, II
863-983-LAWS (5297)

DUI
VOP
Felony & Misdemeanor
Juvenile
Traffic Tickets
Divorce
Child Support
Custody
Dependency Actions
Probate
Wills

Free Consultation
www.hendrylaw.com
Lake Placid
863-699-2889

Serving Hendry, Glades, Broward, Okeechobee and Highlands Counties



Photo courtesy of Sgt. Ed Michaels

The Florida Indian Youth Program (FIYP) group poses on the steps of the Florida Supreme Court during FIYP in Tallahassee.

Tribe participates in Florida Indian Youth Program in Tallahassee

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — Every summer for the last 33 years, a select group of Florida's Native American youth flocks to Tallahassee for two intensive weeks of learning about Tribal government, Wall Street, effective communications, mathematics and applied finance. The Florida Indian Youth Program (FIYP) is a summer program, but it isn't camp. Not by a long shot.

Under the watchful eyes of chaperones and counselors from July 14-28, the group of 45 students attended challenging classes, toured the state Capitol and lived in the dorms at Florida State University (FSU). The program, part of the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs (FGCIA), aims to motivate students to finish high school and continue in a post-secondary program, college or the military.

Bob Kellam, the FGCIA employment and training director who runs the program, said probably 98 percent of students who participated in the program during its 33 years continued with school.

Tribal members Alisia Billie, Nathaniel Jim and Marsha Osceola attended this year's conference, along with Miccosukees Angel Bowers, Kelly Hounshell and Kailyn Huggins. Tribal members Kaitlin Billy and

Jason Melton attended the Leadership Academy for high school seniors and recent graduates.

"It was a real eye opener," said Melton, 18, of Big Cypress, a freshman at FSU. "Seminole usually only know other Seminoles, but there were so many other Tribes there. It showed me that each Tribe is different, but we are all Native Americans."

Some of the 13 Tribes represented at FIYP included the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma, Cherokee and Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina.

Osceola's two sisters and mother went to FIYP, so she always knew she would go, too.

"We learned a lot about technology, how to keep a budget and that you should definitely go to college," said Osceola, 14, of Big Cypress. "We did math in groups. The class was not just about the answers, but how you get the answer. We learned different ways to get the same answer. It was fun."

The FIYP used its bank as a teaching tool. Students got paid \$6 per hour to attend classes and learned how to manage their money, balance a checkbook and follow bank procedures for deposits and withdrawals within their checking accounts. Each Thursday they went to the mall, so students had to put their new-found knowledge to use and budget carefully.

Students also participated in an online Wall Street

investment program, where they invested a hypothetical \$100,000 in stocks and tracked their portfolios. In the process, they learned about mutual funds, bonds, credit reporting and a variety of other important investment practices.

"The Wall Street class taught me that you never know about the stock market, so you have to invest in different types of companies," Osceola said. "We had agriculture and consumer goods companies; the consumer goods dropped the most."

A critical component of the program is learning about government, U.S. and Tribal, and the concept of sovereignty. The students created their own Tribe, adopted a constitution and elected officers.

Past participant Christine McCall, who attended FIYP when she was 14, said she had no concept of sovereignty or her role as a Tribal member at that age.

"I learned how to share my culture with other people who didn't grow up with the same traditions," said McCall, a student at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. "The program also taught me people skills. Living on a reservation, you get used to who you are with all the time. When you go somewhere new, you have to know how to interact and present yourself."

Many Tribal members who attended FIYP still use the skills they learned in the program.

"I learned how to work to attain your goals and still use those strategies," said Pedro Zepeda, traditional arts and outreach coordinator at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. "FIYP was my first time away from home. It wasn't like summer camp; it wasn't all lakes and canoeing. It gave us a little glimpse of college life. I believe it's important during those formative years to have a memorable experience like that."

At the end of the program, awards were presented. Billy, of Naples, earned the Outstanding Leadership Academy Youth award, which includes a \$750 scholarship, and the Outstanding Journal award. Melton also earned the Outstanding Leadership Academy Youth award, and Bowers earned the Outstanding Journal award.

"The classes kept our minds stimulated," McCall said. "I believe we should be constantly learning and educating ourselves."

The importance of attending FIYP wasn't lost on this year's group.

"I think a lot more kids should go and get the experience," Osceola said. "It looks good on a resume and in a job interview. It shows you can work with a team and are open to new things."

Paula Bowers-Sanchez promotes education in PSA



Beverly Bidney

Paula Bowers-Sanchez records a PSA to encourage youth to follow their dreams and work hard.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Paula Bowers-Sanchez wants to empower Tribal youth and encourage them to follow their dreams, whatever they may be. Her message is to work hard because then success will naturally follow. To get the message out to the youth, she recently taped a few public service announcements that will play in Tribal schools and on Facebook and YouTube.

"I want them to see there are no limits," said Bowers-Sanchez, who successfully followed her dream of becoming an actress and singer. "No matter what

the goal is, you get what you put into it. I've seen what happens when kids don't try, and I've seen what happens when they do."

The messages of the PSAs include a general welcome to the school year, the importance of staying in school, the negatives effects of substance abuse and the value of staying fit and healthy. Possible plans for further PSAs include a cultural exchange to ensure Tribal traditions continue with future generations.

The videos also stress the responsibility the youth has for the survival of the Seminole Tribe. Bowers-Sanchez urges students to aim high because they represent the Tribe's future.

"You could be the next founder of Google, Facebook or Apple," she said. "Just get out there and do your best. You can achieve anything if you just give it your all."

Bowers-Sanchez was born in Brighton, raised in Hollywood, graduated from Hollywood Hills High School, and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from New York University and a master's degree in mental health counseling from Nova Southeastern University.

"When I went away to school in New York, I was all alone," Bowers-Sanchez said. "It was scary, but it was the best thing I ever did."

The message she hopes the youth will learn is simple but critically important to their lives: Work hard, do your best and you will succeed at whatever you choose to do.

"I was born and raised on the reservation; I came from where these kids are now," she said. "I want them to know if I can do it, so can they."



Photo courtesy of Linda Iley

Jonathan Devon Bowers, far left, sightsees with his classmates during his summer abroad.

Tribal member studies abroad

BY LINDA ILEY
Higher Education Adviser

FLORENCE — Jonathan Devon Bowers left his reservation and his country on June 14 to participate in a summer program in Florence, Italy. This college preparation program earned him college credits at the Florence University of the Arts.

For four weeks, Bowers lived and studied at one of the most treasured centers of art, culture and history. He said he met a lot of people, studied artworks and sculptures, and visited "cool" places nearby, such as the

Colosseum in Rome.

"The program gives high school and college students the opportunity to study abroad and experience a much different lifestyle," Bowers said.

In addition, Bowers learned to adapt to another culture and made great friendships with students of other cultures. He said that while in Italy, he got the sense of the old and the traditional, much like his own Native American culture.

Bowers not only returned home with college credit but also with memories of people and places and a wider understanding of the world.

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

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

We accept your insurance plan, PPO's, POS, Medicare, Auto Insurance.



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

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



JUDITH A. HOMKO
Marital & Family Law

Divorce
Modifications
Appeals
Child Support

Alimony
Prenuptial Agreements
Paternity Issues
Domestic Violence

(954) 525-0651 | (954) 525-1898 Fax
320 S.E. 9th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316



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

Students, parents visit PECS for open house event

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — On Aug. 16, students and parents gathered in Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's lunchroom where they were introduced to all the 2012-2013 school year teachers by principal Brian Greseth.

Greseth mentioned the collective academic accomplishment of last school year and said he looks forward to this year. He also talked about school policies, including sports requirements and tardiness.

Afterward, students eagerly walked to their new classrooms to meet their teachers and to get their supply lists to prepare for the first day of school on Aug. 20.

Parents reviewed curriculum, provided contact information and saw where their kids would learn.



Andrea Holata
Dana Smith gets a breakdown of the curriculum for the year by history teacher Jade Braswell.



Beverly Bidney
Teacher Cynthia Wilkes shows sixth-grader Thomlynn Billie, 12, center, her desk. Family members Alice Billie, Tahniah Billie, 4, and Jane Billie accompany her.



Andrea Holata
Stacy Jones fills out contact information for son Marcos Reyna while first-grade teacher Cindy Ringstaff stands by.



Andrea Holata
Kindergarten teacher Betty Tillis is all smiles when it comes to meeting her new student Carlee Osceola.



Andrea Holata
Mom Karen, Saniya, Meleah, dad Stanley and son Stanley Rodrigues visit the kindergarten classroom at PECS.

Ahfachkee holds open house

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — When faced with a new situation, knowing what to expect can help ease anxiety. With that in mind, Ahfachkee School gave students a sneak peek on Aug. 16, allowing them to see their classrooms and meet their teachers before the first day of school.

Principal Lucy Dafeo told parents and students what to anticipate this year and introduced new teachers. The school-wide focus this year will be to improve math and reading levels, as well as to increase daily attendance.

"We are data driven and will use the data to get all the kids up to grade level," Dafeo said. "We plan to do whatever it takes."

New programs include an expanded, full-time music program, which includes choir and band for fourth- through seventh-grade students, and now the athletics program for middle and high school includes district league competition for the golf and volleyball teams. CHAMPS (Conversation, Help, Activity, Movement and Participation), a classroom and behavior management program, will also be implemented to ensure each classroom provides the best possible learning environment.

Based on 30 years of research in the fields of education and psychology, CHAMPS teaches students how to behave in school and what teachers expect from them in specific situations. For example, students learn how best to ask for help, when it is appropriate to get up from the desk, how to communicate effectively and what the goal is for each classroom activity.

And because attendance numbers affect funding from the Bureau of Indian Education, the school will vigorously enforce attendance. Incentives will be given



Beverly Bidney
Principal Lucy Dafeo shakes the hand of second-grader Colten Bert, 7, as his father, Jody Bert, looks on.

for excellent attendance, and there will be consequences for truancy. Dafeo plans to work with parents to enlist their help in getting children to school, but the school will also have case managers for students who miss too many days of school.

After Dafeo spoke and families enjoyed dinner, students visited their classrooms and met their teachers. "I had a busy summer and am ready for school," said fifth-grader Charlie Frye.

Sixth-grade teacher Cynthia Wilkes was ready, too. "I expect them to come with their thinking caps on and ready to take in all the knowledge they are going to get," she said. "It's going to be a great year."

Library, Education have open house

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The start of the school year is an opportune time to showcase Tribal services to those who may benefit from them. In Big Cypress, the Willie Frank Library, the Culture Department and Education's Learning Resources Department held their annual open house with a focus on information and activities.

"We are a small rural library," said Gretchen DeBree, branch librarian. "We want kids and parents to be aware we are here and what we have available. It is a good time to meet the staff and promote the library."

The library gave reference books to each child, who could choose an atlas, dictionary, encyclopedia, almanac or book about animals. They also had an arts and crafts area where kids made sand art candle holders.

Outside, the Learning Resources Department had backpacks filled with supplies, as well as supply lists and calendars for various schools that Tribal students attend. The Culture Department displayed animal wood carvings, beaded items, axes, patchwork, bows and small canoes.

"This is an opportunity for kids to see what we have to offer, but we are here to talk to parents, too," said Carine Eugene, education adviser. "The Education staff is here, and it's a good time to interact with them."

But the highlight for most of the kids appeared to be the enormous inflatable waterslides.

"We thought it would be a fun outing," said Glynnis Bowers, who attended with her daughters Sierra Bowers, 14, and Shana Balentine, 10. "We always have a good time at these events."



Beverly Bidney
Kids play on the inflatable waterslide during the open house event.



Beverly Bidney
Sierra Bowers, 14, and Shana Balentine, 10, make sand art candle at the Willie Frank Library.



Beverly Bidney
The Tigertail family enjoys some treats at the Open House. From left, Thomas, 6, mom Sheli, Rebecca, 2, and Abigail, 10.

7th Annual Seminole Tribe of Florida College-Career Fair 2012

To all 9th - 12th Grade Students, AVP and College Students, Parents, and all interested Seminole Tribal member adults
Come Explore Strategies to Help You Prepare for college/career

- Meet College/University and Technical School Representatives
- Discover student-college match
- Receive High School, College, and Technical School Information

Educating Students,
Transforming Communities...

LOCATION

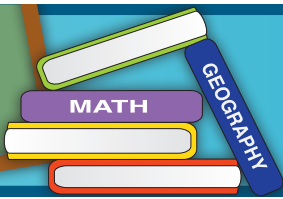
Friday, October 12
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Registration begins at 9:00 am

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel
1 Seminole Way
Hollywood, FL 33314

ALL Juniors and Seniors should DEFINITELY attend!
Bring your parents and visit with representatives from colleges and universities, trade and technical schools.

Please contact your Reservation Advisors: BR (863)763-3272; BC (863) 902-3200, IMM /NA (239) 867-5303; TA (813) 246-3100; HLWD /FTP (954) 989-6840.

123456789



BACK TO SCHOOL



Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

Moms walk their children to their first day of the new school year at Ahfachkee on Aug. 20.

Valerie Whiteside, Ahfachkee teacher coordinator, helps students with their schedules.

Ahfachkee pre-kindergarten teacher Renee Barry helps Sahara Tiger find her name on the Smartboard.



Andrea Holata

Eighth-grader Deliah Carrillo waits for her first day of class to begin at the Charter School in Brighton.



Andrea Holata

Kamyah Fudge smiles on her way to find her kindergarten classroom at PECS.



Andrea Holata

Kindergarten teacher Kimberly Toms welcomes new students to her classroom on the Charter School's first day of school on Aug. 20.



Kathryn Stolarz

Early childhood intervention specialist Will Bacon hangs out with the kids at the coloring table at the Hollywood Preschool.



Kathryn Stolarz

The four- and five-year-old class heads back to the classroom after breakfast. Aubrey Cypress leads the way.



Beverly Bidney

Damien Fish, 10, enters his fourth-grade classroom at Ahfachkee for the first time as his mother, Leslie Fish, looks on.



Judy Weeks

Aldricia Cummings cools off at the Immokalee back-to-school send off. She said, "I had a wonderful time at the Immokalee Recreation Summer Program."



Judy Weeks

"I've had a lot of fun this summer, but I'm glad we're going back to school," said Carlize Bermudez at the Immokalee back-to-school send off.



Kathryn Stolarz

Maya Bowers, Alex Rodriguez and Syllas Billie play with toy crawlers during their first days back at the Hollywood Preschool.



Returns to the Express Scripts Pharmacy Network

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Department is pleased to announce that Express Scripts, the company the Tribe uses to manage your prescription drug benefit has reached an agreement with Walgreens, which will allow Walgreens to re-enter their pharmacy network. Therefore, as of September 15, 2012 Walgreens will begin participating in the Express Scripts pharmacy network and you may begin using Walgreens on September 15th.

While the Tribe encourages you to use the Seminole Pharmacy located on the Hollywood reservation, we are happy to offer you additional choices and added convenience in your pharmacy selection.

If you wish to move your prescriptions to Walgreens on or after September 15th, please do one of the follow:

- Take your prescription bottle to Walgreens; they will contact your old pharmacy to transfer your prescription.
- Call Walgreens and ask them to contact your old pharmacy to transfer your prescription.
- Ask your doctor to call Walgreens with your prescription information.

You can find a complete list of local participating pharmacies by signing in to www.express-scripts.com and clicking on "Find a pharmacy".

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Express Scripts at 1-877-266-1881. You may also contact the Seminole Pharmacy at 1-866-961-7210 or one of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Clinics.

Hollywood Health Clinic
(954) 962-2009

Brighton Health Clinic
(863) 763-0271

Big Cypress Health Clinic
(863) 983-5151

Immokalee Health Clinic
(239) 867-3400

Tampa Office
(813) 620-2860

Sports

C

Jobe Johns continues legacy at Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — To say the Johns family likes the rodeo is like saying the Ford family likes cars. The latest rodeo enthusiast in the family, 13-year-old Jobe Johns, is galloping to the top of the field.

Jobe recently competed against his peers and adults in the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo held at the Fred Smith Arena in Brighton. During the junior rodeo on Aug. 17, he won five events, and although he didn't fare as well during the adult rodeo on Aug. 18, he managed to hold his own.

"He's bad to the bone and is doing a good job against these men," said Tara Johns, Jobe's mother. "But he's still only 13, so I have to help him get ready."

His wins in the junior rodeo qualified Jobe to compete in the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) in Las Vegas on Nov. 6. This was the last Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) event of the season, so his first-place finishes in chute dogging, steer riding and breakaway calf roping qualified him for the INFR event and won him the EIRA youth all-around cowboy award for the third consecutive year.

Jobe began rodeo riding at 4 years old, and he would like to make a career in the rodeo. He already has sponsors, including Cinch National Rodeo Team

and Phoenix LLC.

"I love the adrenaline and winning," said Jobe, a ninth-grader in Troy, Ala. "Competing against grown men doesn't bother me at all."

It has been a busy and fruitful year for Jobe, who won third place as the all-round cowboy at the National High School Rodeo Association's 2012 National Junior High Finals Rodeo in Gallup, N.M. and won the following events at the Alabama Junior High School Rodeo Association 2011-2012: first place all-round cowboy; first place tie down calf roping; second place team roping; first place chute dogging; first place ribbon roping; first place goat tying; first place bull riding.

"I practice every day at home," Jobe said. "I love being here; there is nothing about the rodeo I don't like."

A well-rounded kid, Jobe also enjoys hunting for deer and turkey and socializing with his peers. Billy Joe Johns, originally from Brighton, is proud of his son's accomplishments.

"He's been working pretty hard to get to this point," said Billy Joe, a former rodeo cowboy. "He could have a career if he wants one."

The Johns' Alabama ranch contains a ring, and rodeo cowboys often bring Jobe good horses to ride for training. Joe Beaver, an eight-time world champion and family friend, works with Jobe during his visits.

As a member of the extended Johns family, rodeo runs in Jobe's blood. The Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo, an annual event held for more than 10 years, is named for the all-round cowboy and cattleman who had a successful rodeo career before passing away in an automobile accident in the early '80s. His son Marty Johns produces the rodeo through his company Marki Rodeo. His daughters, sister, aunts, uncles and cousins all compete in the rodeo as well.

"It's a family affair," said Marty, also the general manager at the Brighton Casino. "The memory of my father gives me all the power in the world."

Marty likes the consistency of events at rodeos, but knowing everything can go wrong keeps him on his game. His company owns the animals in the rodeo, with the exception of the participants' personal horses.

"We take care of our animals," he said. "They eat before we do."

Marty is also a partner with Paul Bowers Jr., and together they own the Five Star Rodeo Company, which produces Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association events.

In addition to Jobe, cowboys and cowgirls from all over the country competed in this year's Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo.

The bucking horses, steer, calves and nimble-footed horses with their cowboys and cowgirls put on

quite a show at the arena. For those just starting a rodeo career or those well into it, Brighton is clearly the place to be with your boots on.



Jobe Johns practices with his rope at the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo on Aug. 18 in Brighton.
♦ See more RODEO photos on page 3C



The Super Seminoles-Brighton, a girls' 16-18 team, win their division during the NAYO tournament in Philadelphia, Miss.

Tribal youth compete in NAYO baseball and softball tourneys

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. — Eleven Seminole baseball and softball teams traveled to Philadelphia, Miss. to play at the Native American Youth Organization's (NAYO) annual tournament held from July 19-21.

Categorized by age, about 500 youth on teams from the Seminole, Cherokee, Choctaw, Seneca and Poarch Creek Tribes competed in boys' baseball and girls' fast-pitch softball. About 250 Tribal members attended the tournament to cheer on the Seminole teams.

"It's a great thing that brings Tribes together," said Moses Jumper Jr., a founding member of NAYO and a coach at the tournament. "Relationships have developed and endured through sports, and it has given our young people a sense of unity."

Established in the 1980s, NAYO unites Native American Tribes across the country for friendly competition through sports. Its founding Tribes (Seminole and Cherokee) and those who joined shortly after (Choctaw, Seneca and Poarch Creek) still form the core of the organization, Jumper said, but all non-member Tribes may participate in the tournaments. Annual tournaments include baseball and softball in the summer and basketball in the spring. The host Tribe sponsors the tournaments, which rotate between Tribes.

"We've always been a mainstay because we've always seen the importance of it," Jumper said.

The Seminole sports program, which has a reputation of being one of the top in the Southeast, performed well in this year's tournament. Results of the Seminole teams included one championship and

one third-place finish. The Super Seminoles-Brighton, a girls' 16-18 team, won their division, while the Unconquered Lady Seminoles, a girls' 13-15 team, placed third.

"We aren't a very big Tribe so we have fewer kids to choose from, but we still do very well," said Wildcat Jumper, Recreation aide in Brighton and a coach at the tournament. "When we win, the other Tribes don't like it too much. They are all working to get better in athletics."

Wildcat Jumper, who grew up playing in NAYO tournaments, understands the rivalries and sees the Tribal kids figuring it out, too.

"They know they have to work to get better," he said. "It's fun to have a rivalry; it gets them motivated. It can get heated at times, but for the most part it's a good rivalry."

This was the first year NAYO included 8 and under teams, who performed well.

"The Recreation Department's philosophy is the younger you start them, the better off they will be," said Richard Blankenship, Tribalwide director of Recreation. "We were happy to see them out there. The Tribe was well represented athletically, socially and showed great parental support. It was a great experience, and I hope to keep the kids active throughout the year."

Wildcat Jumper coached the youngest girls' team and knows the importance of keeping young kids engaged in the game.

"They took third place, but I'm really proud of them," he said. "Those little girls played their hearts out. They had three games in a row and were worn out at the end. I told them it showed they left everything on the field and they should be proud. I'm just glad to see new, young ballplayers coming up."

Lady Seminoles win NASA softball championship

Hayla Boyz place third in baseball tournament

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

KINDER, La. — Native Tribes from the Southeast traveled to Kinder, La. to compete in the annual Native American Sports Association (NASA) softball tournament.

Four teams from Seminole Country (two men's and two women's) made the road trip to participate in the annual NASA tournament from Aug. 10-11, hosted by the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana. Showing that they still have fight in them, the Lady Seminoles brought home the championship trophy and the Hayla Boyz came in a respectable third place.

The Lady Seminoles, a combined team from Hollywood, Brighton, Immokalee and Choctaw reservations, made up the "40 and over" championship team.

The Lady Seminoles started their winning journey by defeating the Cherokees 9-2 in game one, but they lost their second game to last year's champions, the She Devils, by a close score of 7-8.

Having played two games already, the Lady Seminoles started to slow down. The Cherokees quickly gained the lead by a score of 11-8 in the last inning. With one chance left on final bat with bases loaded, the Lady Seminoles' Carlene Osceola hit a long-drive ball out to center field, clearing the bases. They took

over by winning 12-11, which gave them a shot at the championship game.

On day two, the Lady Seminoles took to the field for a rematch against the She Devils. With the sun beating down on them, the Seminoles fell behind with a score of 6-12. However, they weren't finished yet. Coming from behind in the last inning once again, the Lady Seminoles rallied on two outs to win the tournament by 1 point with a score of 13-12, proving that they still had many years of game left.

The Seminoles were awarded a team trophy, championship jackets and of course, bragging rights.

If it weren't for the sponsorship of Leslie Osceola, who paid the tournament entry fee, and Hollywood Board Rep. Chris Osceola, who purchased the Seminoles' jerseys, it all would not have been possible to win the tournament, said Salina Dorgan, Lady Seminoles team member.

"The Lady Seminoles team would like to give a big thanks to all those that made it possible to play in the NASA tournament," Dorgan said.

The Hayla Boyz played two games on Friday and six games on Saturday, making it all the way to the semifinal round. The combined team from Brighton, Hollywood, Immokalee, Big Cypress and Cherokee reservations was awarded third place, receiving a team trophy and T-shirts.



The 2012 NASA "40 and over" softball champions, the Lady Seminoles, gather after their victory.

Tribal members tune in to London Olympic Games

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

The 2012 London Olympics captivated much of the world's attention, and Seminoles were no exception.

Chairman James E. Billie was among many Tribal members who tuned in to catch the action from July 27 to Aug. 12. About 10,500 athletes from 204 countries competed for 2,100 medals on the world's biggest stage — including several Native Americans.

Chairman Billie told assistant Norman Bowers that he enjoyed watching the games with son Echo Billie. The Chairman was impressed to see U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps break the world record for most Olympic medals earned, Bowers said.

Bowers, who participates in several sports around the reservation, said he kept his TV on the games throughout the day and night to cheer for the U.S.

"For the Olympics, regardless of race, color or whatever, you can come together and be happy for your team," he said. "Hopefully our kids will watch it and that they draw some inspiration from that."

Bowers was happy to learn that several Native Americans competed in this year's games, including Mary Killman, of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation of Oklahoma; Mary Spencer, a First Nation Ojibway; Tumuaialii Anae, a Native Hawaiian; and Adrienne Lyle, of the Cherokee Nation. Spencer competed for Canada and the rest represented the U.S.

"I wish one of them was one of our own Tribal members," he said, "but as long as it's a Native American...I'd definitely hope they would place."

Killman placed 11th in the synchronized swimming finals with partner Mariya Koroleva; Spencer made it to the quarterfinals in the inaugural year of women's middleweight boxing; Anae was the goalie of the gold-winning water polo team; and

Lyle placed 35th in her individual event as one of the youngest American dressage riders in equestrian.

While they competed admirably this year, only three Native Americans have medaled in individual events in the past 100 years: Jim Thorpe, Billy Mills and Duke Kahanamoku.

Tribal member Moses Jumper Jr. couldn't help but think of Thorpe as he watched this year's Olympics.

"[The Olympics] reminds me of the great athletes, especially like Jim Thorpe," he said. "You could probably compare him now today to Michael Phelps because of the magnitude of all the events he did in one sport."

Thorpe, of the Sac and Fox Tribe, won gold medals in the pentathlon and decathlon in the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, making him one of the greatest Native American athletes of all time. This July, the medals were showcased at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in honor of the 100th



anniversary of those games as part of the "Best in the World: Native Athletes in the Olympics" exhibit. The medals were then brought to London and displayed.

Tribal youth excel in basketball

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Basketball is a popular sport on the reservation and a healthy hobby for Tribal youth. DeForest Carter and Courtney Osceola are a couple of Tribal role models who continue to play while striving for academic excellence in college.

DeForest Carter

As a kid growing up in Big Cypress, DeForest Carter loved playing football. But the rest of his family enjoyed basketball, so Carter often found himself watching them play. When he was 10 years old, he tried it and liked the game so much, he hasn't stopped playing. Today he plays for his team at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach as a shooting guard.

"I love the sport and have met so many people through basketball," Carter said. "I never thought I'd leave my reservation, but it has given me so much opportunity."

Carter played for his high school team, Montverde Academy located west of Orlando, which has a nationally and internationally renowned basketball program. He received the Coach's Award in both junior and senior years of high school. The award is given to the player coaches pick as best all-around team player. From there, he earned a scholarship to Embry-Riddle.

"A lot of my high school teammates

went to NCAA Division 1 schools like Villanova and FSU," he said. "I chose Embry-Riddle because they said I could play right away."

A member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division 2 and The Sun Conference, the team's season starts in September and runs through March. Although the basketball season is long, Carter focuses on academics.

"It's school first and then basketball," said Carter, a sophomore studying business administration. "The coaches make sure we focus on schoolwork and keep our GPAs at (a minimum of) 2.0 individually and 3.0 for the entire team."

Carter has met people from all over the world through basketball and has even played against some NBA players through the Amateur Athletic Union while in high school. He always thought about going into business for himself, but he wants to come back to Big Cypress when he graduates college to start a basketball team there first.

"Basketball is a sport that requires hard work," he said. "Just having talent won't take you anywhere. As long as you work hard, you can succeed in anything."

Courtney Osceola

Tribal athlete Courtney Osceola, 19, is also chasing her dreams and encourages all Tribal youth to do the same.

Osceola, daughter of Joe Dan and Virginia Osceola, Bird Clan, has made a name for herself on the basketball court by emerging as a key player while attending University School in Davie. She continues to play in intramurals as a sophomore at Georgetown College in Kentucky.

Although she doesn't consider herself a shooter, North Broward Preparatory School head coach Greg Walker begged to differ.

"I think of her as a shooter," he said as North Broward took on University School in the Class 3A Regional Finals during her senior year. "She's a tough, tough player."

Playing to her strengths as a forward and point guard, Osceola helped her school qualify for regional finals for the first time in history. Although they lost, her coach had positive things to say about her performance.

"Courtney is an all-around unselfish person and student athlete," University head coach Greg Farias said. "All that shows on the court. She has the ability to score at least 20 points per game, but she's all about helping her team out."

In high school, Osceola earned impressive accolades: MVP of her freshman and sophomore years and the Coach's Award for her junior and senior years. One of her career highlights was helping the Tribe's You Don't Want It



Kathryn Stolarz

Scholar Courtney Osceola recently started coaching basketball in addition to playing.

team win the 2010 NAYO tournament. She also played in all-star games for 4 Love of the Game's March Madness tournament and Broward vs. Dade counties during high school.

Traveling is one of Osceola's passions, and basketball tournaments have helped make that happen. She's competed in Canada and across the nation, including New York, Las Vegas and Hawaii.

Basketball also gives Osceola a healthy outlet for stress and emotions, she said.

In addition to playing, she's expanded her horizons by coaching. Osceola coached the Tribe's women's team in the 2012 Native American Basketball Invitational.

"Coaching is a change," she said. "It's a lot more thinking because you have to analyze what the other team was thinking."

When it comes to academics, Osceola is currently interested in journalism. Whatever she ends up studying, she wants to bring her knowledge back to the Tribe and work for them, she said.

Her advice to youth is this: "Find out what you love and stick with it...There are so many possibilities for us."

Raevin Frank interviewed Osceola at Seminole Media Productions Workshop. Kathryn Stolarz contributed to this article.

Tribe to play in Hawaiian basketball tournament

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

Seminole athletes will fly to Hawaii to shoot hoops and exchange culture with Native teams from around the nation from Oct. 5-7 during the third annual Hawaiian Way Fund Basketball Tournament.

It will be the first time a team from Florida will attend.

Tribal member Jason Don Billie registered the Seminoles' team of seven men to play in the "35 and older" category after finding out about it on the basketball website www.NativeHoops.com.

"Not everybody goes to Hawaii to play basketball," said Billie, who is excited about networking opportunities. "It's just somewhere different."

Elton Shore, Jason Cypress and Travis Osceola are the other Tribal members registered. Billie recruited Dave Smith, of the Yaqui Tribe, from Arizona, and Jesse MacCoughlin and Ray Penola, of the Sioux Tribe, from North Dakota, to play for the Seminoles as well. Billie said he's been playing basketball with them for 15 years.

Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. paid the team's entry fee, and each teammate will be responsible for travel expenses.

Tournament coordinator Kehau Meyer said she is excited to meet the Seminoles, whom she considers "cousins of sorts."

"We don't know much about the [Seminole] Tribe itself," she said. "I think there's a mutual curiosity about each others' culture, so we're excited to make that exchange happen."

The tournament began three years ago as a way to gather Native groups from across the country, Meyer said. It also raises money for the Hawaiian Way Fund, which promotes Native Hawaiians' community- and culture-based initiatives, such as hula groups and cultural language arts groups. Although basketball is not the most common sport for Native Hawaiians (canoe paddling and surfing are), Meyer said basketball's universal appeal prompted them to choose it for a competition.

"It's something we saw is very popular with the (other) Native groups," she said.

Indigenous men's and women's teams will compete for cash prizes up to \$2,500 while networking and building friendships. Other teams already registered include those from Washington, D.C., Alaska and North Dakota. Meyer said in the past they averaged 12-14 teams at the tournaments, but she hopes more will attend this year.

"When I think Seminole, I know that there is a lot of history," she said. "But I don't know a lot, and I'm just looking forward to having the opportunity to get up close and personal with [the Seminoles]... It gives me the opportunity to do more than just Googling something."

OLYMPICS

From page 1C

In addition to Thorpe, swimmer Kahanamoku gained international attention for his stellar performances in the Olympics. The Native Hawaiian won an individual gold and a silver in a relay for the U.S. at the 1912 Olympics. He also earned golds in an individual and a relay event in 1920 in Antwerp and a silver in 1924 in Paris.

Forty years later, Mills, of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, won the U.S. a gold medal in the 10,000-meter run at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

The first recorded Native American participation was in the 1904 St. Louis, Mo. Games, where athletes like Black Eagle, Spotted Tail, Snake Eater and Rain in Face competed on the gold-winning Canadian and silver-winning American lacrosse teams.

Jumper, who recently retired from 38 years as the Tribe's Recreation director, has seen a lot of Tribal athletes in his lifetime, and he hopes they will watch the Olympics and get inspired.

"They've got the training and they've got the finances to take it beyond what they can do now," he said. "We've got the facilities today...We've got the instructors...The

parents need to get them out there."

Particularly, Jumper thought of the potential of young Tribal gymnasts as he watched the U.S. team take home a gold in the Olympics this year.

"We got a bunch of our little girls who are involved in gymnastics," he said. "I hope they can take it further."

Although Seminoles haven't yet made names for themselves in the Olympics, Jumper acknowledged that a lot of Tribal members have achieved greatness in their sports, like his cousin David Jumper, who was inducted into the Florida Track and Field Hall of Fame earlier this year.

Another successful Seminole athlete, 2011 EIRA Regional Champion Leanna Billie brought home gold buckles in the first and third rounds of the Ladies Breakaway. Billie, a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, said she watched some of this year's Olympic diving and volleyball and felt inspired.

"When you watch some of the background stories of what they've done to get there, it makes me want to strive more in my events as an athlete," she said. "I'm really aiming to be world champion someday, so it's all going toward that."



Photo courtesy of DeForest Carter

DeForest Carter plays college basketball for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

YAMAHA

GET OUT AND RIDE

SALES EVENT

AS LOW AS **3.99%** APR FOR 36 MONTHS FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS**

UP TO **\$500** CUSTOMER CASH ON SELECT MODELS*

BUY ANY ATV 400cc OR GREATER AND GET A **FREE GoPro OR HD HERO2!**

NO COST 2-YEAR WARRANTY

2 Locations To Serve You

954-436-9905 4101 DAVIE RD. EXT. DAVIE, FL 33024

954-467-0990 1090 W. SUNRISE BLVD. FT. LAUDERDALE, FL 33311

www.BrowardMotorsports.com

YES YAMAHA EXTENDED SERVICE

*Consumer benefit for purchasing a new eligible Yamaha ATV is either a free GoPro Camera or free 2-year Genuine Yamaha Warranty. One free GoPro or 2-year Genuine Yamaha Warranty per unit/VIN. Eligible models: All new, unused and previously unregistered 2008-2012 Yamaha ATV models 400cc and greater. Customer must purchase eligible model between 3/20/2012 and 8/30/2012. Free 2-year Genuine Yamaha Warranty is 8-month Yamaha Limited Warranty plus 18-month Yamaha Extended service (Y.E.S.) contract (choice offered in Florida is for a 24-month Yamaha limited warranty). ATVs sold or provided for the purpose of commercial, rental, competition or government agency are not eligible. Consumers can purchase a 24 or 36-month upgrade to their free Y.E.S. coverage during the promotional period at special rates. Yamaha will mail camera (certified mail) or Y.E.S. contract to customer name and address entered by dealership into Yamaha sales/warranty registration system. Allow 6-8 weeks from date dealer warranty registers unit for delivery. See your authorized participating Yamaha dealer for complete details. **Customer Cash offer good on select 2011 (and prior year) models between 1/1/12 - 6/30/12. ***Finance offer subject to credit approval, applies to purchases of new Yamaha ATVs made on a Yamaha Installment Financing loan account from 2/15/12-6/30/12. Minimum contract length 24 months, maximum 36 months. Minimum amount financed \$5,000. Fixed APR of 3.99%, 4.99%, 5.99% or 12.99% will be assigned based on credit approval criteria. Monthly payments per \$1,000 financed based on 36-month term are \$29.52 at 3.99%, \$29.97 at 4.99%, \$30.42 at 5.99% and \$33.69 at 12.99%. Offers good only in the U.S., excluding the state of Hawaii. Yamaha encourages you to ride safely and respect the environment. ATVs with engine sizes over 900cc are recommended for use only by riders age 16 years and older. Yamaha recommends that all ATV riders take an approved training course. For safety and training information, see your dealer or call the ATV Safety Institute at 1-800-887-2887. ATVs can be hazardous to operate. For your safety, Always avoid paved surfaces. Never ride on public roads. Never carry passengers; never engage in stunt riding; riding and alcohol/drugs don't mix; avoid excessive speed; and be particularly careful on difficult terrain. Professional riders depicted on closed courses. ©2012 Yamaha Motor Corp. U.S.A. All rights reserved. * yamaha-motor.com

TICKET BROKERS

WHERE THE SEMINOLE AND MICCOSUKEE GET VIP TICKETS & SERVICE SINCE 1985

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!

FEATURED EVENTS

JOURNEY/BENATAR/LOVERBOY

THE WHO

DISNEY ON ICE

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

MICHAEL JACKSON TRIBUTE TRAIN

TOBY KEITH

JETHRO TULL & IAN ANDERSON

BRAD PAISLEY

FIONA APPLE

GOTYE

JOURNEY/BENATAR/LOVERBOY

KEVIN HART

BONNIE

THE WHO

WEEZER

MADONNA

Y100 JINGLE BALL

CARRIE UNDERWOOD

JUSTIN BIEBER

DISNEY ON ICE

MIAMI DOLPHINS

MIAMI HEAT

MIAMI MARLINS

EVENTS: 305.443.3000
24 HOUR TEXT LINE: 305.450.3323
TRAVEL: 305.445.6566

0% SERVICE FEE ON ALL ONLINE ORDERS!

WWW.TICKETPLACE.COM OR SILVIA@VIPTICKETPLACE.COM



Beverly Bidney

A cowboy quickly ties up a calf.



Beverly Bidney

Jobe Johns successfully ropes a calf during the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo on Aug. 18 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Paul Bowers Jr. watches as a young cowboy's bucking horse is about to break free.



Beverly Bidney

A rider attempts to rope a calf.



Beverly Bidney

Jobe Johns waits for his next event on his horse.



Beverly Bidney

A bareback bucking horse rider manages to stay on the horse. The goal is to stay on the horse for six seconds without falling.

AN EXPERIENCED AND AGGRESSIVE TRIAL ATTORNEY

RON L. BAUM

CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY

PROTECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS!

CRIMINAL

- DRUG CHARGES
- PROBATION VIOLATIONS
- FELONIES
- MISDEMEANORS
- JUVENILE
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- DRIVER LICENSE PROBLEMS

PERSONAL INJURY

YOU PAY NO FEE OR COSTS IF THERE IS NO RECOVERY!

- AUTO ACCIDENT CASES
- MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
- WRONGFUL DEATH

432 N.E. 3rd AVENUE • FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
www.ronlbaum.com

954-849-0149

28 YEARS EXPERIENCE
AV RATED BY MARTINDALE-HUBBELL (HIGHEST RATING AN ATTORNEY CAN GET)
FORMER ADMINISTRATIVE TRAFFIC MAGISTRATE
5 CONSECUTIVE HAT TRICK AWARDS (15 STRAIGHT NOT GUILTY JURY VERDICTS)
MEMBER: FLORIDA, MARYLAND, WASHINGTON D.C., AND FEDERAL BARS
GUEST LECTURER AT THE RUSSIAN JUDICIAL ACADEMY IN MOSCOW, RUSSIA (2000-2007).

24 HOUR SERVICE 7 DAYS FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.

THE RED BARN DANCE

Support The Red Barn Preservation/Restoration

October 6th, 2012
1 pm - 7 pm

- Cattle Drive
- BBQ
- National Register Plaque Dedication
- Larry Mangum and the Cowboy Orchestra

For information, please contact Shannon Purvis at 863-983-6549 x 12257

Preserving The Past And Building A Future!

BRIGHTON RED BARN
BUILT IN 1941 • GLADES COUNTY, FL

Announcements

Birthdays



We proudly announce the birth of our son

Mitchell Roy Primeaux, III

July 11, 2012 at 3:47 PM • 10 pounds, 15 ounces • 20 inches • Love, Jewel and Mitchell



KENDRICK LEO OSCEOLA, JR

6/30/12 | 3:55 PM | 6 LBS 8 OZ | 19.25 IN

GINAMARIE AND KENDRICK



Submitted by the proud grandparents: Robert and April Stivers



Lawrence, Kan.
July 30, 2012

Those of you who attended Haskell (HI) from 1962 on as a student, as a babysitter or played softball with or against him and those others who are still his close friends even today, on Sept. 10, 2012, John Scott Harjo will become 50 years of age. So if you could take few minutes out of your busy life and call him, text or even send a card, John will be very much surprised and appreciate hearing from you. I'm sure you will help him to feel better about his age to be!

John's address is: 2512 Mayfair Dr. Box 6, Lawrence, KS 66046. Call phone number 785-312-0261.

Thank you and my best regards to each of you.

— Esther Harjo

Thank you

The family of the late Roger Smith would like to say that we are sorry for not responding to all who sent condolences. We waited until the grieving process of the traditional months had passed. Thank you for all the flowers, cards, letters and prayers during this difficult time for our family.

It was such a pleasure to have heard and read all the beautiful comments made about Roger and "that smile." What an amazing person he was. He touched the lives of so many people in the time he was with us.

Words can never express how much it meant to our family to learn what a powerful impact he had on so many he came into contact with (even the hospital staff).

Although we could not have asked for a more loving husband, father and grandfather, we will truly miss him. He will not be forgotten. Again, thank you so much for all the kind words and to everyone who came to our camp and those who helped with the cooking.

I especially want to express thanks to Onnie Osceola, Molly Shore and Bobby Clay for being with

me (Diane) during the most difficult time. God bless you all.

— Family of late Roger Smith, 1953-2012



Diane, Dana, Trisha, Amanda and Brittany with Roger.

Words of Support

July 13, 2012
Mr. Stephen Bowers, Liaison Veterans Affairs
Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Stirling Road
Hollywood, FL 33024

Mr. Bowers,
Greetings, sir. I am the Interim Program Manager for the Yakama Nation Veterans Affairs Program and also a member of the Yakama Warriors Association. I have had the pleasure of meeting you, Mitchell Cypress and other veteran members of your Tribe when you traveled up here to Yakama. We here on the Yakama Reservation are very much in support of the AIVMI and totally agree Native American veterans deserve the recognition they have fought and died for this great country we live in.

Time was requested to do a presentation of the AIVMI Project before the Yakama Tribal Council during their regular monthly business session. Tribal Council passed the proposed resolution unanimously.

I wish to commend yourself and others who have provided dedication and hard work to see the proposed monument become reality.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance regarding this project.

Respectfully,
Max Corpuz, Jr.
Interim Veterans Affairs Program Manager
"Semper Fi"
cc: Veterans Committee – Yakama Tribal Council
Post Office Box 151, Fort Road
Toppenish, WA 98948

Call to Action

There's a radio station up this way in Tampa. It's a community radio station that is supported by the listeners. Twice a year, the radio station has marathons in which the listeners are asked to make their pledges to their favorite shows. During the marathon week, each show will have a certain amount to raise for their show to stay on air. The marathons are held in April and in October, and I would like to take this opportunity to call on my fellow Seminoles to support and make your pledges come October for the Two Worlds show. The Two Worlds show is where music of Native artists are played. The show can be heard on

your computer at www.WMNF.org every Sunday night from 9-11 p.m.

The show has attracted me to hear the likes of Chairman James E. Billie, Paula Bowers-Sanchez and Seminole Star Search winners and others.

Let's show our Native pride to the powers that be at the WMNF station and help the Two Worlds show make its goal.

Always N.D.N.

— Alex Tucker, Hollywood Reservation, Otter Clan

Poem

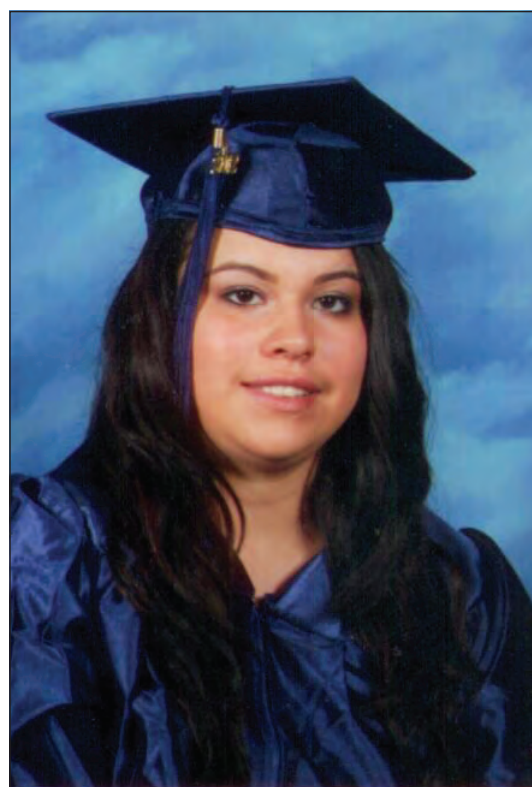
The Path

The way I be is the true Indian in me.
Seminole and Miccosukee is the path that I know,
So honor and respect is what I show.
What the old people say is true,
We are Unconquered and always will be.
Freedom is what we gained,
So all together I will show no shame.

I will always remember what I was told,
We are strong just like gold.
Sawgrass and blue skies will never ever go away,
The sun will shine on us each and every day.
What the old people say is true.
That is what I know,
Their knowledge helped me grow.

— Patrick Doctor Jr. (Gator)

Congratulations



Congratulations,
Renee Amber Stivers
We're very proud of you for all
your accomplishments and hard
work.
We love you,
Dad (Robert Stivers), April and
the entire family



Congratulations to the new Miss Florida Seminole

Congratulations to our amazing and beautiful daughter Alexis Aguilar on her winning the Miss Florida Seminole crown for 2012-2013. We are very proud of you and all you have accomplished at such an early age. We look forward to seeing what your future holds. Good luck on your reign and make your Tribe proud.

Love Mom and Dad (Vanessa and Pete Aguilar Jr.), sisters (Cartaya and Caniah), brothers (Ethan, Jack, Nehemiah, Zephaniah and Ezekiel)

Classified



Get Out of Jail Fast!

Call Myrna Loy
(954) 583-9119.

Tribal dividends,
MasterCard and Visa
accepted.
24 hours • Speedy
Release • Professional
Service.

1128 NW 31st Ave.,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
33311