

APPLY /// EXPERIENCE /// DEVELOP

## **Brighton community crowns 2012 royalty**



From left, Miss Florida Seminole Jewel Buck, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Jaryaca Baker, Miss Brighton Seminole Cheyenne Nunez, Jr. Miss Brighton Seminole Aubee Billie, Little Mr. Brighton Corey Jumper and Little Miss Brighton Lexi Thomas celebrate at the Brighton pageant on May 24.

#### **BY ANDREA HOLATA** Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Twenty-one young girls and boys competed for the honor to represent the Brighton Reservation as Seminole royalty on May 24. In addition to win," her mother, Laverne Thomas, to the customary titles of Jr. Miss and Miss Brighton, Little Mr. and Miss were added to the competition.

"During the planning stages for this year's pageant, committee member Theresa Nunez suggested that the pageant bring back [the] Little Mr. and Little Miss contest," head coordinator Salina Dorgan said.

The Brighton Princess Committee felt it would be a great opportunity to help the little ones improve their stage presence.

"The little kids will get to experience speaking, and it will help them prepare for the Little Mr. and Miss Seminole Pageant held in Hollywood," Dorgan said.

Corey Jumper and Lexi Thomas were crowned Little Mr. and Little Miss Brighton, while Aubee Billie and Cheyenne Nunez were crowned Jr. Miss and Miss Brighton, respectively.

The 34th annual event was held at the Brighton Veteran's Building with Miss Florida Seminole Jewel Buck and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Jaryaca Baker serving as masters of ceremonies. All contestants were judged on several categories, including traditional clothing, poise and interview questions. The Jr. Miss and Miss contestants were also judged on a talent category.

With the amount of talent at the

pageant and the amount of hard work put into preparing for it by each contestant, declaring the winners was a hard decision for the judges, who were chosen from the surrounding communities.

"I'm very excited and happy for [Lexi] said. "She has been working very hard to remember what she is going to do for the pageant."

Maria Billie, Aubee's mother, said she was happy for her daughter and for all of her hard work paying off.

"She practiced every day even though she didn't like to," she said.

All winners will serve a one-year reign representing the Tribe and the Brighton community in local parades including Chalo Nitka, Speckled Perch and Labor Day. They will also have the opportunity to represent the Brighton community at their annual Field Day festivities, and some may even be chosen to attend the Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in Albuquerque, N.M.

Dorgan expressed her gratitude to all those who helped make the event a night to remember for the contestants.

"I would like to thank all the committee members, including Theresa Nunez, Joanne Osceola, Jo Jumper, Rita McCabe, Stacy Jones and Brighton Council Rep. Andrew Bowers (Jr.)," she said. "It was a success. Hopefully next year we will have more participation.'

#### See more ROYALTY photos on page 6A

## **Tribe featured on new TV series**

#### **BY BRAUDIE BLAIS-BILLIE Contributing Writer**

BIG CYPRESS — Picture a trio of chefs who travel the world, conquer cooking challenges and throw a spear at a target with about 20 percent accuracy. Tribal member Sam Tommie got the chance to witness just that as he taught chefs of the TV show No Kitchen

*Required* how to throw a spear – with a laugh or two. "I knew the spears would be flying sideways and backwards," Tommie said. "I was laughing my head off.

The three chefs bearing traditional fishing gear way we wanted," he said. were Madison Cowan, Michael Psilakis and Kayne Raymond. No Kitchen Required is a new series on BBC America that follows these diverse chefs as they travel into indigenous communities around the world and compete to create the most unique, yet traditional dishes of each community visited. The chefs choose which ingredients they prefer to use and can even add their own personal twist, but they must maintain the manner in which the natives of the community prepare their food. For their 10th episode of the season, the producers of the show contacted the Seminole Tribe of Florida and arranged for Tommie to be the location manager. Tommie is a freelance filmmaker who began working materials with the skills and equipment provided by the professionally in 1979. On Feb. 15, the team arrived just outside the Big Cypress Reservation via seaplane; they met with a group of Tribal members who were ready to teach their guests the Seminole ways. The filming spanned three his daughters Lorelei Tommie and Jerica Tommie, of days. "I felt like it puts a light on our culture and educates the outside world, which is really important to us," Tommie said.

After a tour of the swamplands, courtesy of Tommie, a traditional swamp dance and a feast of traditional foods were presented to the guests as a welcome. Fried alligator, deer, vegetables and garfish cooked on an open fire and sour orange and sugarcane drinks were served to the chefs in order to expose them to Seminole cuisine.

Tommie said he appreciated Notional (the company that produced the show) and BBC America for being open-minded, respectful and ahead of their time, making everyone involved feel comfortable.

'They gave us the freedom to conduct things the

The competition began with a Native Challenge demonstrated by Tommie, which is when spear throwing came into play. Whichever chef hit the target with the spear got to pick which protein he would prepare for the cooking challenge. Although ridiculous and clumsy at first, the challenge bore a winner, Raymond, who chose garfish as his protein. They were then taught by their chosen guides - three Tribal members - how to hunt and gather their ingredients; Tribal members Adam Turtle helped with the garfish, Jason Baker with the wild hogs and Charlie Micco with the alligator. Each chef hunted his own meat and gathered raw guides, such as bows and arrows for hunting and gigs for spearfishing. After the chefs' cultural enlightenment, they began to work on their masterpieces. The four judges, Beverly Osceola, Tommie and the Miccosukee Tribe, judged the three meals that each chef created with his chosen protein.



See NO KITCHEN on page 6A

Andrea Holata

Lady Seminoles' Cheyenne Nunez makes a lay-up against Chizzy Knees during the Jim Thorpe Games in Oklahoma.

### Youth compete in Jim Thorpe Games

See JIM THORPE GAMES on page 2C

## Seminole Tribe Graduating Class of 2012



The Miccosukee Head Start class celebrates their graduation. A special ceremony was held on April 30 at the Miccosukee Tribal Office auditorium. Six Seminole students were among the graduating class.

Kathryn Stolarz

See all GRADUATIONS on page 5B

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# Editorial

## **Reflections on a year of change**

No Xo Xo Xo

#### • Tony Sanchez Jr.

on the first year of this administration, the new direction of Seminole Tribal government and the work accomplished by the Tribal Board of Directors.

We began our journey last year by reviewing all existing Tribal businesses to see exactly how the business was being conducted, identify if there was or was not a formal process in place to conduct business, determine if the staff was lacking, needed change or if more support was needed and to verify the existence of the normal evaluation process that we felt should be in an individual's wishes. place for any Tribal enterprise.

Looking back at where the Board of Directors sits today, you see a hardworking group of guys that I am very proud of and excited to work with. Together, we have gone through the operating budget of each at staffing to see if the right people are in the right positions. We have looked at and are continuing to look at everything from our convenience stores to our cattle operations

under the control of the Board of Directors. enterprises.

We search within each existing enterprise to identify opportunities to grow our suppliers, increasing our customer service, taking all the logical steps one is supposed to take in growing a business. We have made personnel changes. We have brought in a chief financial officer. We have replaced our in-house counsel: We brought in one attorney who has a strong corporate background and another with a strong entrepreneurial spirit. We have a new director of operations and, with other added personnel, we have implemented a formal process to evaluate potential new projects on sound business principles and not just on ourselves onto the path of opportunity.

pursuing operations within existing and fees to create a bigger profit margin, enterprises, we have been building up our orange juice program. While it still supports up with a refinery by owning a port, we are export containers of juice to Chile. In fact, current operation we have. enterprise, streamlining expenses, looking we have raised our cattle/beef program to another level by exporting containers We are even taking a good, hard look at to better accommodate future times and to Chile, as well. We have developed a fully understanding the opportunities we partner who has solid alliances with other can create as a Section 17 organization outlets, and we are continuing to take the under the Indian Reorganization Act. We've to make better decisions. While we have

We recently received our MBE. That stands for Minority Business Enterprise -There is a benefit to reflecting the business by reducing taxes, changing a designation that we are going to exploit at any and all opportunities. We will be meeting with the Wal-Marts, the Costcos, the Sam's Clubs, the Publix Super Markets, the Krogers – whatever the big names are in every part of the country. We want to let them know who we are and all about the quality of our products and the fact that we are ready to do business, coast to coast. It's impressive and the possibilities are endless. And we really did not have to reinvent the wheel. Like I said, we took a hard look at our existing enterprises and positioned

We're looking at our fuel right now. whether we are a distributor or partnering

We are not leaving any stone unturned.

and smoke shops, all the many enterprises steps necessary to build up these two Tribal never really asked ourselves, "What can made tremendous we do beyond our reservation boundaries? What can we do in international waters?...

And we are always mindful of our government relationship with the Tribal Council. We have discussions with various legal entities regarding whatever project certain that this we plan to develop, keeping in mind the question, "How does that affect the Tribal Council?" You can have a project that proves very profitable for the Board but can't implement it because it would jeopardize the Council. It is important to have a system in place that takes everything of this progress we are making may be into consideration and provides time to ask important questions.

An important part of our due diligence is actually questioning ourselves, asking, "What unintended consequences do we As an example of identifying and How do we reduce some of our taxes create by moving forward with this project? What's the negative side associated with this move, with this decision?"

This Board of Directors is attempting our Tribal needs and the casinos, we now exploring all possibilities to maximize the to create a foundation that will serve future administrations of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. We all know it will be tweaked particular circumstances. We hope our work today will inspire future generations Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

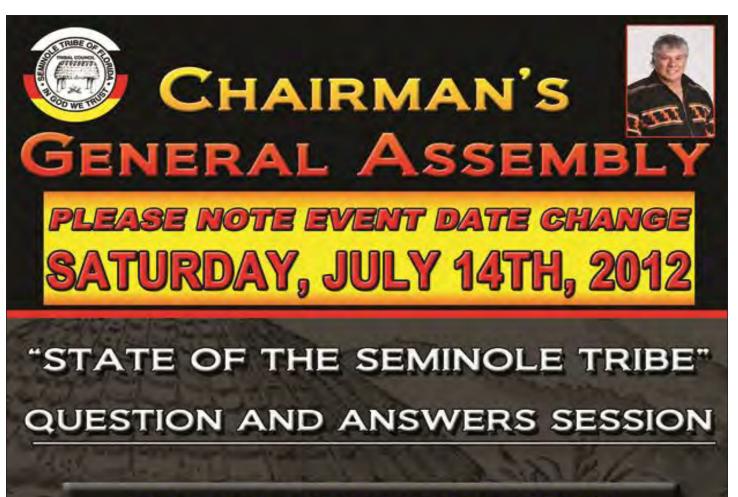
progress, there is still a lot of work to be done and issues that must be addressed. I am administration is making sure we are actively living up to the promises that we made.



While some

clearly evident – such as the changes in the convenience stores, for example – a lot of the work we have done has been behind the scenes. There have been new hires, new systems and processes installed and a lot of due diligence that we all go through before we make any moves. We have had to be patient, though. Now, we have a foundation in place, a system in motion that will reveal the fruits of our labors by the next shareholders meeting. Sho-naa-bish

Tony Sanchez Jr. is President of the



## **Pequots:** \$2 billion in debt, no dividends

#### **BY CHUCK TRIMBLE Indian Country Today**

A March 28 article from the Associated *Press* told of problems at the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe's Foxwoods Casino complex in Connecticut, the largest casino in the Western Hemisphere.

The story, by reporter Michael Melia, begins, "For two decades, the Mashantucket Pequots lived like Indian gambling royalty. Luxury cars abounded on their tiny, gated reservation of colonial and ranch-style homes in the woods of southeastern Connecticut."

The Tribe's Foxwoods enterprise allowed Tribal members to live without concern for money; generating per capita avments that at one time exceeded \$100,000 annually for each adult. Now with Foxwoods struggling with debt exceeding \$2 billion, an amount that compares to the annual budgets of several federal Indian programs, the payments to members were stopped, and the impact on the Tribal community is being felt by Tribal members and local merchants. According to the AP report, the Tribe has opened a food pantry for needy families, counselors are providing guidance on how to pursue jobs and members have been left wondering if this is the end of what once seemed an endless stream of cash and a bright future for them and their children for generations into the future. Several years ago, one of the officers of the National Indian Gaming Association was quoted as having compared Indian casinos with the bison of old, the "new Indian buffalo," he called it. I felt that such a metaphor was an insult to the animal that provided life for generations of Indigenous peoples of the continent. But perhaps that person was right in one respect; when the buffalo were taken from us by the massive strategic slaughter that took place at the end of the 19th century, we were a defeated people. Similarly, the turnoff of the spigot of wealth to the Mashantucket people is devastating them, apparently from the actions the Tribe is taking to help deal with community trauma. True, the newfound wealth for many Tribes has improved the lives of their members and the economies of entire areas and has provided for the preservation and presentation of their culture and traditions. To those small Tribes that lived so long in limbo, abandoned and left unrecognized by the federal government, ignored by their kinsmen in larger Tribes and struggling to

keep their traditional cultures alive, Casino wealth brought a world of change. The Mashantucket Pequot were among these.

But it seems that the new wealth brings vet another form of dependency, replacing the dependency on federal largesse that has eroded families and entire societies among some Tribal communities.

New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman, a noted authority on the Middle East, tells that members of the suicide squads that carried out the 9/11 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center included a number of young Saudis. Saudi citizens are well taken care of, without poverty among them, because of the great wealth that pours into their country from oil exports. This is felt among their youth, who really don't have much purpose in life or society because most of the physical work, from major contracts to household chores, are done by imported labor, who are allowed to stay in the country for only two years. The youth become idlers, whose mischief includes daring raids for al Qaeda. Perhaps there are correlative lessons between the Saudi situation and that of Tribes that come into such great wealth in gaming. The AP story of Mashantucket Pequot tells that "Tribal leaders have discouraged members from talking with outsiders. A reporter who made a recent visit was stopped by five Tribal police officers, including the chief, and escorted off the reservation. The police handed out notices later that day instructing people not to speak with reporters." Certainly that is their right in their sovereign state, although it does appear almost Soviet-like in its paranoiac response. However, perhaps the Tribe will assess the entire situation and allow its own story to be shared with other Tribes who are in similar situations of wealth, and who might face the same fate in the future. The lessons – less so the financial as the societal and sociological ones - should not be lost on other Tribes.

### THE SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOTEL BALLROOM

### SATURDAY, JULY 14TH, 2012

	3:00 PM	NETWORKING SESSION/CLOSING COMMENTS			
アント	2:00 PM	LUNCH WILL BE SERVED			
T THEFT	11:00 AM	CHAIRMAN'S FORUM AND Q&A			
	10:00 AM	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST			

### PLEASE E-MAIL QUESTIONS YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADDRESSED TO:

## TRIBALGENERALASSEMBLY@SEMTRIBE.COM

Charles "Chuck" Trimble, born and raised on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, served as executive director of the National Congress of American Indians from 1972 to 1978.

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Publisher: James E. Billie

Editor in Chief: Camellia Osceola CamelliaOsceola@semtribe.com

Senior Editor: Brett Daly BrettDaly@semtribe.com

Copy Editor: Kathryn Stolarz KathrynStolarz@semtribe.com

Staff Reporters: Andrea Holata, Peter B. Gallagher

Contributors: Judy Weeks, Rachel Buxton, Omar Rodriguez, Reinaldo Becerra, Braudie Blais-Billie

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

954-985-5702, ext. 10725 Or by fax at 954-965-2937

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# Community

## In God we trust: **Seminoles and Christianity**



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum archive photo The Big Cypress First Baptist Church opened in 1948 under the guidance of Assistant Pastor Josie **Billie** 

#### **BY JUDY WEEKS Freelance Writer**

"In God we trust" has always been a part of the foundation of the Seminole culture. The Seminoles are a spiritual people with a strong belief in the power of their Creator, Breath Giver or God, who has given life to the land and its inhabitants and aggressive force to take their lands of which they are a part. Shared belief and and destroy them by warfare, disease worship in the unseen power of God is the and assimilation into another culture. basis of their religion and has sustained them through the most difficult of times.

Over many centuries, the ancestors of the Seminole people have created the rich, cultural heritage that gives them the strength, perseverance and unique attributes that have made their survival possible. One

ability to adapt to the changes in their circumstances in a positive manner despite environmental fluctuation, persecution, disease, warfare, forced migration and interaction with other cultures.

With the arrival of European influence, Native American cultures experienced a new history of oppression, racism Unfortunately, the arrival of Christianity coincided with these other devastating events, and many Native Americans feared it as the invader's religion.

For the Tribal members remaining in Florida following the mandate of the Indian Removal Act and three Seminole Wars, of their greatest strengths has been their Christianity was greatly feared as a tool for

their extermination. Living in seclusion, they resisted all attempts at an introduction to what they considered "the white man's religion.

The many Native peoples displaced to the Indian territories had increased exposure to the concepts of Christianity and soon came to realize that religion belongs to its believers and not to any one race or culture. As the son of God, Jesus Christ recognized all races, colors and circumstances in life. With the acceptance of Jesus Christ came new hope and a zealous desire to share this newfound knowledge with others.

Around 1907, Creek Seminole missionaries from Oklahoma arrived at the northern camps of their Florida brethren in the hopes of sharing their Christian beliefs. Despite the fact that they were treated well by their hosts, they were initially rebuffed. Their persistence finally paid off in the early 1920s, when conversions came from members of a Snake Clan family that included Mary Tustenuggee Tiger, Ada Tiger, the Tommie family of Annie Mae, Tudie, Jack and Sam as well as children, and Lena, Pocahontas and Frank Huff. Other members of the camp followed their example, and several of their descendants represent the backbone of congregations in the reservation churches at the present time.

Missionary efforts by the Episcopal Church began in the 1890s, when Bishop William Crane Gray built a mission store and small hospital in the Big Cypress near Brown's Trading Post and called it the Glade Cross Mission. It failed miserably, and in 1908, the church purchased Brown's and moved the mission under the leadership of W. J. Godden, where it again failed and became inactive by 1914. Deaconess Harriet Bedell reestablished the Mission in

#### See IN GOD WE TRUST on page 10A





An officer holds a candle at a vigil in honor of National Police Week in Washington, D.C.

### **Police Explorers commemorate** National Police Week in D.C.

#### **BY RYAN WATSON Contributing Writer**

WASHINGTON, D.C. The Seminole Police Explorers traveled to Washington, D.C. for National Police Week from May 13-16. Twenty-two Seminole Police Department (SPD) personnel accompanied 66 Explorers and 21 family members on the trip.

'It's an opportunity to fellowship with all the staff, not only with the Explorers, but with their families," SPD Chief William Latchford said. "We have a great support system with the Explorer parents and other siblings in the family, and they've joined us this year and we're just so honored.'

The Explorers program is designed to bridge the gap between youth and police. It is open to youth from 6-17 years old.

'I think this is another great thing that I think the Tribe is doing that is geared to our children to help them to be able to interact with our police department (and) get to know who our police officers are so that they know who the safe people are in our community," said Family Services director Helene Buster, who received an invitation loved one she lost in the line of duty. to attend the event from Chief Latchford.

The Explorers held several reservationwide fundraisers, including bake sales, car

washes and raffles, in order to raise more than \$20,000 to contribute to the cost of the trip, Lt. Lisa Bennis said. Chief Latchford even volunteered to be Tased to help raise money

Hollywood Tribal member Lila Osceola, one of the parents who went on the trip, said the community's efforts were worthwhile.

"I am very grateful to be here," she said. "I have my kids in this program. I think it's great for them, positive and puts them on the right track.'

Although the Explorers had fun visiting several monuments and museums, their main agenda took on a more serious

National Police Week was an initiative signed by President John F. Kennedy in 1962 to salute the nation's officers who paid the ultimate price. It has evolved into an annual event in which thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world join family and friends of fallen officers in Washington, D.C.

Navajo Gloria Curley attended the Police Week memorial services to honor a

See EXPLORERS on page 8A

## New house keys open doors for Immokalee Board Liaison

Chairman James E. Billie leads councilmen, Department of Elder staff and royalty in cutting the ribbon to the new senior center facility on May 24.

## **Brighton celebrates grand** opening of new senior center

#### **BY BRETT DALY Senior Editor**

planning and much anticipation, the according to the Natural Resources Defense Department of Elder Services opened Council's website. the doors to its new senior center, a 17,500-square-foot facility set on 7.5 acres on the Brighton Reservation, on May 24.

Hundreds gathered outside the building, braving the midday heat to celebrate the occasion.

"It took over 10 years for the planning and a lot of hard work from the whole Seminole Tribe to complete this," Tribalwide director of Elder Services Vickey Huff said. "A facility like this is a center. place for the seniors to come and interact with other seniors. We're glad to see it here.'

Led by Huff and Chairman James E. Billie, councilmen, staff and royalty lined up to cut the ribbon, signifying the official opening of the facility, which offers billiard showed me everything. If tables, miniature golf, shuffle board, horseshoes, sewing machines, ceramics and walking trails, among other activities.

We hope more seniors will come and opportunity to thank enjoy all the activities we have to offer," Brighton site manager Patricia Yates said. the opportunity to work "It's always nice to see the seniors come in for Elder Services for and utilize all our services."

The building was developed under the encouraged seniors to direction of architect Michael Noell and utilize the new facility. his company, MSN\_Architecture LLC, based out of Boca Raton. The building is she said. "I don't care

standard for measuring sustainability, BRIGHTON — After years of making it environmentally friendly,

> Speakers during the grand opening ceremony - including Huff and Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. - credited Leah Minnick as an instrumental figure in the establishment of the facility. The former Elder Services director retired in February but spent 35 years with the department in various capacities, organizing trips and

activities for seniors and fighting for a new senior

"Leah was a role model to me, as well as to the other staff," said Huff, who started with Elder Services 24 years ago as their secretary. "She it weren't for her, I don't know where I would be."

Minnick took the the Seminole Tribe for her entire career and

'Please come here,'

also LEED Gold-Certified, meaning it has where you're from because this building been recognized as green and in the highest was built with all the Seminole seniors in mind.

Brett Daly

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, attendees ate lunch in the dining area and toured the building.

'Touring the whole place didn't seem like you're in Brighton," former Tribal Chairman Mitchell Cypress said. "It seems like you're out in Colorado somewhere... at a ski lodge. I need to find me a homesite here so I can enjoy this building.<sup>2</sup>

#### See SENIOR CENTER on page 8A



Leah Minnick encourages seniors to visit the new facility.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Board Liaison Dorothy Scheffler examines plans with Pete Aquilar Jr. and Zac Salser of Seminole Construction and Development Inc. and Seminole building inspector Gary Viggiano.

#### **BY JUDY WEEKS Freelance Writer**

**IMMOKALEE** — The old adage that all good things are worth waiting for summed up the enthusiasm of Immokalee Board Liaison Dorothy Scheffler as she accepted the keys to her new house on the Immokalee Reservation.

"It's been seven years since I decided it was time to do something about my old HUD house that suffered from poor construction, no footers, mold and numerous other faults," Liaison Scheffler said. "I investigated the financial aspects, filed the necessary paperwork, selected a floor plan and moved out of my old disaster in anticipation of a new home. It has now been six years since they tore the old house down.

"Contractors were selected along with appliances, paint colors and floor coverings, and then the bottom fell out," Liaison Scheffler continued. "I was devastated and after numerous delays, purchased a home off the rez. Although it didn't seem so at the time, it was probably the best thing that could have happened.'

Reflecting on the economic crisis that

has affected so many Americans, Liaison Scheffler sees the positive side of her own housing drama. Her delays prevented her from taking out a mortgage that would have placed her upside down in the housing market. She downsized her initial floor plan and recognized her responsibility to help conserve the environment. She has gone green

When things finally got back on track, she selected Seminole Construction and Development Inc., a partnership in which Pete Aguilar Jr. is the president. It was her opportunity to enlist the services of a business operated by a Tribal member and encourage Tribal entrepreneurship.

Once her decisions were made, construction moved at a rapid pace. Six months from the day that ground was broken, she was turning the key in her front door, despite rain delays and minor glitches that always accompany projects of this size. Her contractor has the Tribal member's interests at heart.

Selecting a 2,000-square-foot, threebedroom, two-bath floor plan with entry, she has decreased the air conditioning

See IMMOKALEE on page 8A

## **Brighton Reservation starts new Boys Club**

#### **BY RACHEL BUXTON Freelance Writer**

off enjoying their Memorial Day weekend, Lewis Gopher Jr. and Conner Thomas stood on top of a bare chickee with the hot Florida sun blazing down on them on May 26. Brighton Boys Club founder Lewis Gopher They nailed fresh palms into the new roof while Donovan Harris, Ruben Burgess and Andrew Fish handed them more fans from below

The boys met at Pemayetv Emahakv grounds as one of the many projects planned by the newly formed Brighton Boys Club.

"I have never thatched a chickee before," Thomas said. "I just wanted to learn how and be the first to see the finished chickee.'

Thomas wasn't the only one; as it turned out, all five boys were learning for the first time.

"These are supposed to be our homes," Gopher Jr. said. "I figured it would be good recruit more members for the Boys Club.

to know a part of me I did not know. It is easy work, just a lot to do."

BRIGHTON — As most youth were and most well-known chickee builders teach them the traditional Seminole trade -Sandy Billie.

'He is always willing to help out," said. "He told me he would be here and he showed up.

Thomas' father, Frank, also helped restore the chickee.

The idea for the project came from Charter School to re-thatch a chickee on the Gopher, who works part time at the school as a carving instructor.

'I noticed that the chickee needed work, so I approached the school," Gopher said. "I told them we would do it for nothing. This is just a payoff enough just working with these guys and teaching them."

Gopher said he wanted to complete the chickee project before school got out so the Charter School kids who participated could show off their handiwork to their peers and

Gopher participated in a similar group as a young adult in Hollywood. He said he The group had one of Brighton's best remembered finding brotherhood among his fellow Tribal males and partaking in events that were guided by now Non-Resident Liaison Kevin Osceola.

Remembering his past only reinforced what he wanted for his sons and his community

'When I was younger like these guys, you knew everybody on the reservation; you knew their brothers and sisters; and now it's getting to be that we're strangers out here," he said. "This club is just another way for them to network with each other and get to know each other.'

So Gopher began to put all his thoughts on paper, laying out exactly what he wanted the Brighton Boys Club to be, and by March 29, his proposal was ready.

"I proposed it to the Chairman, and then I proposed it to Councilman Bowers, and they thought it was a good idea," Gopher said.

After receiving the approval from the Brighton Council, he began his door-to-door quest to attract participants. He printed out several fliers announcing the new club, but instead of just stuffing them in mailboxes, he took a more personal approach.

"I went out to the parents, and that way it was more personal," he said. "It was like, 'I know your kid. I want your kid to come over.

The Brighton Boys Club officially formed in April to create unity among the young Brighton boys. Gopher said he wants the boys to take pride in their community.

"The very first activity we did was we got together one Saturday and just started picking up trash around the community,' Gopher said. "That is like the root of it. We want to take care of the community. We want to take care of what is ours and take pride in where we live."

The club has grown from eight members at their first meeting to more than 20 members and several participating fathers.

Meetings are held on Tuesdays at the Culture Camp at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena. During the meetings, the youth are provided with snacks and are given free

time to play games such as horseshoes and the main goal being to create unity. football.

other," Gopher Jr. said. "We are brothers, and we have to stick together."

with their age, interests and project ideas.

Once the meeting starts, the boys sit in a circle and discuss topics that have come up throughout the week involving the young adults.

"We have a little go-around," Lewis said. "I start, and I will tell them something I did that made me feel proud this week, you know, something proud I did, and then it goes to the next kid, and every time after one says it, we'll clap for them, we'll give them a hand to help them with their selfesteem. I think that does good for them."

For Burgess, the group has offered him a safe, positive place to be.

"It is fun," he said. "It is guy stuff and it pertains to our culture."

Gopher hopes the club can teach the keep doing," Gopher said. boys some important principles, such as timeliness, dependability and honesty, with

At one of their more recent meetings, 'Some of us didn't even know each the Seminole Police Department taught a fire safety course.

Other upcoming projects include At the meetings, attendees must sign in camping on the Brighton preserve; cleaning up and doing minor landscaping to the Brighton elders' yards; and a major project in the works - building their very own Seminole camp at the late Billy Bowlegs homesite.

"I figured if the boys could handle rebuilding this chickee it would be a great start," Gopher said.

The boys' hard work and good deeds have already been noticed by their community members and even Tribal officials. Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard offered to hire the boys to build a chickee at the Trading Post, boosting their confidence and adding to the excitement of the new club.

"What little bit we can do, we want to



Conner Thomas sits on top of a cypress chickee frame nailing fresh palms to the roof while fellow Boys Club members help out.



## **Seminole Moments presentation** teaches evolution of music





All the Brighton boys work together as they close in on completing their first chickee.

**Rachel Buxton** 

**Brett Daly** 

**Rachel Buxton** 

Ozzie Holdiness, right, and Kalani Bankston show off their awards at a special recognition ceremony held for them on May 18.

### Hollywood youth win regional Digital Arts Festival

#### **BY BRETT DALY Senior Editor**

Seminole Boys & Girls Club honored Tribal youth Ozzie Holdiness and Kalani Bankston with special awards on May 18 for winning a regional Digital Arts Festival.

As part of the media productions class offered by the club, the boys spent two weeks creating a 40-second commercial titled "A Great Place to Be." It showcased different activities available at the Seminole Boys & Girls Club. Ozzie and Kalani entered their commercial into the 10th annual Boys & Girls Club Digital Arts Festival and won.

youth coordinator Robert C. North Jr., who teaches the media class. "These guys teamed up and made something I think is a positive thing.'

The festival, open to Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide, contains categories including movie making, graphic design, game design and music. This was the first year the Seminole Boys & Girls Club participated, but they still beat out the competition.

'I was really happy because I never win anything, and this is the first contest I won," Kalani said.

Kalani played the role of sound mixer and boom operator, while Ozzie wrote, directed and operated the camera for the commercial. Other Seminole Boys & Girls Club members played the actors.

'It takes a lot of patience and discipline to put together a piece like that," Hollywood Boys & Girls Club director Robert North said. "They were up against all the clubs. I just can't believe this was their first time.

In addition to their awards, the boys also received gift cards to Best Buy. Ozzie awards for winning the Digital Arts Festival.

plans to spend his on new accessories for his electric guitar.

"I thought they were messing with HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood me when they said we won," Ozzie said.

The event also showcased videos made by other Tribal youth. Aaron Osceola, Anissa Osceola, Ashley Osceola and Jonathan Bowers created "The Phone Caller," and Aaron Osceola and Rayce Noah created "A Walk in the Park." Kiana and Kyler Bell created "Origami."

"I really hope the youth get an opportunity to express themselves with anything creative and [get exposure] to the different opportunities out there," North Jr. said. "We try to make it as fun as possible."

The media productions classes "I really applaud their passion and are held on Mondays from 5-7 p.m. in their drive," said Boys & Girls Club Hollywood; Tuesdays from 4-5 p.m. in Big Cypress; and Fridays from 3-4:30 p.m. in Brighton.



Robert C. North Jr., right, presents Ozzie Holdiness, left, and Kalani Bankston with their

Kathryn Stolarz

Rev. Arlen J. Payne and his wife, Lana, of Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church, sing a church hymn in Creek for the Seminole Moments crowd at the Big Cypress Community Center.

#### **BY KATHRYN STOLARZ Copy Editor**

BIG CYPRESS — Music has entertained, connected and educated people for ages, and the Seminole Tribe has their own place in that legacy. As the Unconquered people, the Seminoles have fought to endure through wars and conflicts, and music has helped preserve their culture and history.

Community outreach specialists Everett Osceola and Van Samuels joined forces to teach the Tribal community about the evolution of music on June 6 at the Big Cypress Community Center.

"Music is a very important part of Native culture, and Seminoles are no exception to that rule," Osceola said while more than 40 participants listened.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum sponsored the hour-long talk held over lunch. Seminole Tribe employees filled the audience, including staff from Security, Fire Rescue, Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church and the Museum.

Raymond Perez, a new, non-Tribal intern at First Baptist Church, attended Seminole Moments for the first time.

"I came to just listen and learn the culture of the Seminole Indians," he said. "I think it's cool that they keep their traditional ways to a certain extent.'

The presentation began with a video

of Seminole Stomp Dancers. Osceola explained that the men chanted while the women kept the beat, working together while moving in formation to carry out the dance, which has both religious and social significance.

'This is sort of like the early forms of Seminole music," Osceola said.

Then, during the 1800s, the U.S. government started sending Native American children to boarding schools where they were forced to "assimilate" by abandoning their customs, including their language; but the Seminoles preserved their culture through music. Despite the government's threats, some Indians dared to keep their native tongues – Mikasuki and Creek – in the worship music at the newly introduced Christian churches.

They've taken many things from the Indian people, but one of those things that the U.S. government has never been able to take away is the culture and the music," Samuels said.

During the Seminole Moments presentation, Osceola and Samuels showed the lyrics to a couple worship songs in Creek.

Rev. Arlen J. Payne and his wife, Lana, of the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church, volunteered to sing the hymn Alleluia for the crowd.

The next video played showed Chairman James E. Billie performing

Sawgrass Flower at a luau in Big Cypress in 1989, switching between English and Mikasuki throughout the song. Chairman Billie helped pass on the language through his music and was at the forefront of contemporary Seminole music, Osceola said.

Osceola recalled the Chairman visiting his preschool to sing to his class and then asking students to sing The Counting Song back to him.

"I remember listening to that song until I wore [the cassette tape] out," Osceola said, adding that music is one way the ancient language is learned and kept alive.

Osceola and Samuels listed several other contemporary Seminole musicians who are influential in preserving the culture: Andy and Paul Buster, Paula Bowers-Sanchez, the Osceola Brothers, Zac and Spencer Battiest, Tiger Tiger, David Billy, Stephen Billie, Tori Osceola, Hank Nelson Jr. and Sr. and Gordon Oliver Wareham.

"They try to incorporate the language back into the music," Osceola said, adding that they also sing about the history.

They used the hip-hop music video The Storm by the Battiest brothers as an example.

"The songs, the music, that's one thing that's endured throughout history,' Samuels said.

# Grand opening for Subway store held in Brighton

#### **BY PETER B. GALLAGHER Special Projects Reporter**

BRIGHTON — Featuring a unique, and paint rollers kept "diabetes friendlier" menu, the new Brighton Trading Post Subway store officially opened June 18 with music and a would be open July 13 and popular, hands-on nutrition display by the the new RV Park by Nov. Tribe's Health Department. A free lunch was provided for a gathering of several hundred Tribal members, friends, tourists and staff beneath a big, white tent on Harney Pond Road near the southern end of the Brighton knock everything out of Reservation.

According to Subway officials, this is the first stand-alone Subway on an American Joe Candito praised the Indian Reservation and first to offer the 'diabetes friendlier" menu.

"This Subway is really good for us," said Health director Connie Whidden from a handful" of Subways a speaker's podium at one end of the tent; trays of 6-inch sandwiches, yogurts, chips, fruit and salads lined either side. "There are a lot of good, healthy choices on the menu to make when selecting a sandwich. Just try to stick with the healthy choices."

Big Cypress Rep. Joe Frank also expressed his enthusiasm for the new sub

shop. "I'm glad this day finally got here," he said. "We had delay after delay after delay. It seemed like every time you turned around there was someone who wanted to splash holy water on the project.'

Several speakers credited Brighton determination to keep the Subway deal on track as part of a complete renovation of the entire Trading Post complex – which was a promise he made to community members during his campaign last year.

Billie and his daughter Aubee inside the new Subway.

on, a flurry of workers with bulldozers, forklifts, pressure washes, shovels working. Rep. Howard said the long-awaited store

"This is definitely a step in the right direction," he said. "I'm trying to the box that I promised."

Subway executive Tribe's Health Department for supporting the project, pointing out that "only among 37,000 restaurants worldwide qualified to feature the "diabetes friendlier" menu. He called Chairman James E.

Billie "a pioneer in the health consciousness of the Seminole Tribe."

It was Chairman Billie who first met with Subway officials more than 18 months ago, "before I even knew if they were going to let me on the ballot," said the Chairman, whose daughter Aubee Billie, the current Jr. Miss Seminole Brighton, was among the Tribal royalty welcoming the crowd.

The Chairman said that longtime friend Board Rep. Larry Howard for his and business consultant Bryan Cohen of Fort Lauderdale approached him in late 2010.

"I weighed 270 pounds, and I think he was concerned," Chairman Billie said. "He asked me, 'How would you like to have a Subway out here on the Brighton While the Subway festivities went Reservation, just down the road from where

you live. You could be the new Jared and lose all that weight. You need to go on the Subway diet and lose that weight.

"Well, the next g you know, thing negotiations began with the Board of Directors to bring in a Subway, and meanwhile, I tried to maintain the weight; if I was the new Jared, I needed to. Then, as you know, a stroke came along in January and knocked me on my hook-chee really bad."

"Now I'm eating the Subway sandwiches," said Peter B. Gallagher Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, left, talks with Chairman James E. Chairman Billie, who



Peter B. Gallagher Norman Johns, Donald McDuffie and Norman Bowers line up for Subway sandwiches on June 18.

has lost more than 30 pounds in the past few months. "What you see out here today is really taking shape. (Rep.) Larry Howard decided to renovate the whole area, and now this is probably one of the most popular places on the reservation.

"I particularly like the greasiest stuff they got," the Chairman added, "but that's not what I'm supposed to get!"

Brighton Subway franchisee Mo Patel pointed out that the nearest Subways to Brighton are more than a 20-minute drive

"I really think this is going to be a successful venture for the Tribe, especially with our new menu," said Patel, who owns several other stores in South Florida.

The menu was certified "diabetes friendlier" by medical experts at the Diabetes Research Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The menu consists of most of the familiar Subway sandwiches, but the core of the bread is removed from 6-inch subs, decreasing the carbohydrate, sodium, fat and calorie content in the sandwich without affecting familiar taste. Also, items on the menu that are high in these areas have been omitted from the recommended sandwich and salad builds.

"And now that summer is here, you can get outside with your children and exercise," Whidden said. "Go get yourself a bike, and go bike riding with your children. Remember, the older we get, the more exercise and less food we need.3

The Brighton Trading Post Subway will be open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and will stay open an hour later on weekends.

## **Family Services Department honors Tribal foster parents**





Willo helps her mother, Charlotte Burgess, prepare Seminole frybread at the Florida Folk Festival Seminole Camp during Memorial Day weekend.

### **60th Florida Folk Festival:** Arlo, John, heat and rain

#### **BY PETER B. GALLAGHER Special Projects Reporter**

WHITE SPRINGS — Way up along the Suwannee River, the Florida Park Service put on the 60th Florida Folk Festival during Memorial Day weekend. The event combined sterling performances by folksinger Arlo Guthrie and country star John Anderson with a near-record heat wave and a big, fat, unpredictable pile of thunderclouds and hard rain named Tropical Storm Beryl.

The result? A great, wet time was had by all.

"Little rain never hurt nobody," smiled Victor Billie, one of several Seminole Tribal members who traveled to Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park to participate in this year's affair. "Stay under the chickee and you don't get wet, and you wait till it's over."

Billie spent the weekend demonstrating his family tradition of woodcarving, using a pocketknife to carve tomahawks, sofkee spoons, small, toothy alligators and the like from hunks of soft, close-grained cypress wood. He sat at *Ee-to-lit-kee*, the Seminole Family Camp, beneath one of several chickees built 31 years ago by Chairman James E. Billie at the park's extreme south end.

The Chairman himself spent a couple days there in a parked camper with his family, greeting a string of well-wishers and friends who know him more as a fellow musician and songwriter than as the Chairman of a Native American Tribe.

"I think we're going to come back here in a few months and move this camp to another location," said Chairman Billie, who accompanied Florida Park Service director Donald Forgione and State Park manager Ben Faure in choosing a new site. In fact, Chairman Billie was born in a setting similar to Stephen Foster Park's Seminole Family Camp. With Jenny Shore, Nancy Shore and Alice

Smith sewing, making beadwork and dolls, and Lorene Gopher, Charlotte Burgess and Mollie Jolly making frybread and other traditional Seminole foods, the scene was reminiscent of Seminole village areas staged in most Florida tourist attractions in the 1940s and '50s. (Chairman Billie was born on the grounds of the Dania Chimp Farm, where his family was employed to "live" just as if they were out in the Everglades.)

Brighton's Billie Bowlegs III participated in the Florida Folk Festival's opening ceremonies for many years leading up to his death in 1965. Each year, from the very first Florida Folk Festival in 1953, a contingent of Seminoles would make the annual end-of-May trek to White Springs, a picturesque Southern grits of a town right on the Suwannee. They were greeted with open arms by State officials and were allowed to camp on the grounds.

In 1981, Chairman Billie built the chickees that comprise today's Seminole Family Camp. In 1996, at the request of the festival's director, Ken Crawford, Chairman Billie constructed a permanent stage with a chickeestyle roof, which is used as one of the festival's 20 performing stages, restricted to acoustic music only.

Despite Tropical Storm Beryl which came in through Jacksonville, did a U-turn right over White Springs and dumped as much as 12 inches of water in 12 hours across much of northern Florida before heading north into Georgia and back out to the Atlantic – the show went on. The popular Arlo Guthrie, son of famed American icon Woody Guthrie, played solo and combined storytelling and humor with a host of his familiar hit songs played on guitar, piano and harmonica. John Anderson, an Anonka native and a perennial crowd favorite, sang 90 minutes of hit songs, including his comeback hit Seminole Wind, written while he was on a sabbatical on the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation.

The Family Services Department honor Tribal foster parents during a luncheon on May 30.

#### **BY BRETT DALY Senior Editor**

BIG CYPRESS — In recognition of National Foster Care Month during May, the Family Preservation program of the Family Services Department recognized the nearly 70 Tribal families who have opened their homes to foster children.

The parents and staff met at the Big Cypress Community Center on May 30 for a special luncheon that honored the parents for their dedication to their Tribe and to the future of their youth.

"It's an exceptional person, in my opinion, who can step up and take care of someone else's child," Family Services director Helene Buster said. "We as a Tribe need to step up and nurture our children. They are our family. They are our future.'

The Family Preservation program provides Seminole children a temporary home when their parents cannot take care of them. The ultimate goal, Buster said, is to reunite the children with their parents.

During the luncheon, Family Services thanked each foster parent with an award, and Councilmen Mondo Tiger and Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. also recognized the parents' services to the Tribe.

"Without you guys, it wouldn't be possible for these children to have the lives they have; they would be off the "I'm glad to see you guys are stepping up and carrying on this tradition."

Family Services has found foster homes for children for more than 15 years, but Family Preservation administrator Kristi Hill said the program continually evolves. The department performs home studies to make sure foster parents can provide safe homes, takes care of legal formalities and visits families regularly to check on children. At any given time, Hill said, they monitor around 100 foster children.

In addition, the department educates the State and the outside world of the importance of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), which seeks to keep Indian children with Indian families. According to the National Indian Child Welfare Association, Congress passed the ICWA in 1978 in response to the high number of Indian children being removed from their homes by both public and private agencies. The intent of Congress under ICWA was to "protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian Tribes and families.

"We work hard keeping our children in our communities," Buster said.

Placing Seminole children in Seminole homes ensures they receive an education in Seminole culture, language and traditions, Hill added.

'Children are the most valuable Buster said.

reservation," Councilman Osceola said. resource for a Tribe and its existence," she said

> Tribal member Ella DeHass is one of the foster parents who took on the responsibility of caring for foster children and ensuring they stay within the Seminole Tribe.

> Although DeHass said it's not a decision to take on lightly, she said her life was conducive to becoming a foster parent. She had the time, space and income to do so. But it was her sister, Debbie, who informed her of the growing need to foster Tribal member children through Family Services. She made foster parenting a personal goal and contacted the department to get started.

"I wanted something more in my life," she said. "It's a rewarding experience."

During the last two years, DeHass has cared for six foster children. She is glad she made the commitment to be part of the solution.

"I would encourage every Tribal member to carry on the tradition of families helping families by becoming involved and to make a commitment to assist these young future leaders of the Tribe by providing them with a stable, secure family/home environment," she said.

The Family Services Department plans to host similar events in the future to demonstrate their continuous appreciation of the foster parents.

"They are the heroes of our Tribe,"



Nancy Shore shows why she is one of the Tribe's best dressmakers.





Peter B. Gallaghe

Peter B. Gallagher

Peter B. Gallagher

Victor Billie demonstrates woodcarving Jennie Shore makes during the Florida Folk Festival.

a Seminole sweetgrass basket.

## **Update on the American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative (AIVMI)**

#### SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN D. BOWERS Liaison for Governor's Council on Indian Affairs

HOLLYWOOD — The American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative (AIVMI) is a project spearheaded by the Seminole Tribe of Florida to build a statue of an American Indian soldier by the Vietnam Wall on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to recognize the contribution and sacrifice of the American Indian during the Vietnam War.

The Initiative team has been on the road to Washington, D.C., Las Vegas (RES 2012), National Indian Gaming Association in San Diego, Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow in Albuquerque, N.M. and recently to the Chilocco Boarding School Class Reunion in Oklahoma. We have spoken to Tribal leaders, Vietnam veterans and grassroots Indian people from various Indian Tribes and communities throughout the country.

The reception of the Initiative has been overwhelmingly positive. Tribal leaders and Vietnam vets have all said things like, 'It's about time," or something like, "My Tribe thought about doing this at one time," but most of the time it was, "Thank you for doing this." People would talk to us about their grandfather, father, uncle or brother who served in Vietnam. Many have shared the fact that their veteran relatives made the supreme sacrifice. The stories that we hear is what keeps us going, keeps us traveling, putting up the AIVMI booth at various events to promote the Initiative and gain support, distributing AIVMI brochures to make sure that we will build a statue on the National Mall that recognizes the contribution and sacrifice of the American Indian soldier in the Vietnam War.

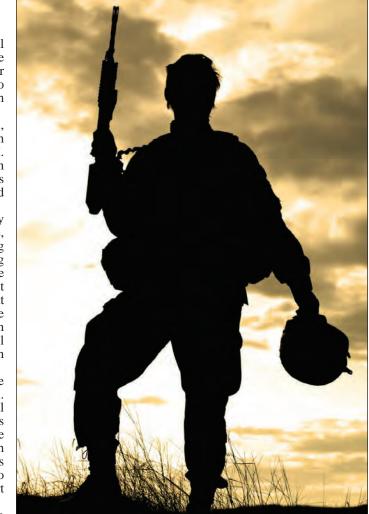
It is important for people to understand that the Seminole Tribe of Florida is not paying to build a statue on the National Mall. The AIVMI team is going out into Indian Country to meet Tribal leaders, Tribal Council members, Indian conference attendees and government agency staff to promote the Initiative and receive moral and financial support from Indian Tribes, Indian veteran organizations, non-Indian veteran organizations and grassroots Indian and non-Indian people to get Congressional approval to build the statue on the National Mall. We need everyone's support to make it happen.

Recently my wife, Elizabeth, and I had the opportunity to speak at the Chilocco Boarding School Reunion in Newkirk, Okla. We also visited the campus of Chilocco Indian School, where many of our Tribal members went to school in the '60s and '70s. I was able to deliver my one-minute elevator speech promoting the Initiative. The one-minute speech turned out to be a 10-minute presentation.

We had a meeting with Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel of the Chickasaw Nation. Lt. Gov. Keel is also the president of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), which is the oldest and largest Indian advocacy organization in the country. NCAI was established in 1944 and is considered by the U.S. Congress as the "clearing house" for Indian issues. It is considered a VERY GOOD thing when you have the support of the NCAI. Lt. Gov. Keel pledged his personal support, and as a two-tour Vietnam veteran, he will support our efforts as president of the NCAI at the upcoming NCAI Mid Year Conference in Lincoln, Neb. on June 17-20. NCAI represents 565 federally recognized Indian Tribes. We are so excited to have NCAI on board supporting the Initiative.

The following is a list of resolutions of support from Indian Tribes, Indian veteran organizations and non-Indian veteran organizations. The resolutions of support are important in order to document to members of the U.S. Congress the support we have for the Initiative.

- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- United South and Eastern Tribes 26 Indian Tribes



- Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 57 Indian Tribes National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference – 80 Indian Tribes
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
- Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada 27 Indian Tribes
- All Indian Pueblo Council 19 Pueblos
- Delaware Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Sault St. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

· Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians That is our update for the American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative. In closing, we would like to thank the publisher and editor of Indian Gaming Magazine, Steve and Robert Burke, for printing our Initiative article in their magazine for two straight months and putting in an ad on the back page. We also want to thank our good friends Cydney and Joe Webster for taking us to the airport at 4 a.m. to catch early flights and for picking us up late at night on our return home. Their continued help and support has allowed us to save money on cab fares to and from the airport.



Photo courtesy of John Harrington

A four-person color guard representing the Seminole Tribe of Florida stands before the Amphitheater adjacent to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. From left to right, the Color Guard members are Tomé Roubideaux of the Rosebud Lakota Sioux Tribe, Stephen Bowers of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Theodore Scott Nelson of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Robert Primeaux of the Standing Rock Lakota Sioux Tribe. All are Vietnam-era military veterans. The photo was taken on May 28, before the National Memorial Day Observance at Arlington National Cemetery.

### **Color Guard represents Tribe** at Arlington National Cemetery

#### **COURTESY OF ALINA QUINTANA**

ARLINGTON, Va. — About two dozen service organizations were invited to participate in the National Memorial Day Observance, including the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Color Guard.

Stephen Bowers, a founding member of the Seminole Color Guard and a Vietnam War combat veteran, said the Seminole Tribe's participation marked only the fifth time since Arlington National Cemetery was established in 1864 that an American Indian color guard posted the colors there. The invitation came from the U.S. Army, which manages Arlington National Cemetery.

"It is a great honor for our Color Guard to post the colors at Arlington National Cemetery," Bowers said. "We are proud to represent our Native American brothers and sisters, especially those who have served with distinction in so many U.S. wars.'

Known as the Seminole Tribe Veteran Memorial Initiative Color Guard, the fourperson team is spearheading an effort to add a sculpture of a Native American soldier to the statues of Three Servicemen at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Per capita, more American Indian warriors served in Vietnam than any other ethnic group. Supporters of the project say the addition of an American Indian would correct an oversight that has existed since the Vietnam Veterans Memorial opened in 1982 and the Three Servicemen statue was added in 1984. The Vietnam Wall will celebrate its 30th anniversary in November and has more than three million visitors every year.

The first burial at Arlington National Cemetery took place on May 13, 1864, when William Henry Christman of the 67th Pennsylvania Infantry was interred, one month before the property was appropriated as a military cemetery. The 624-acre cemetery honors fallen men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. On average, 27 funerals are conducted each day, and more than four million people visit the cemetery each year.

#### More ROYALTY photos from page 1A







Leviticus Berry, Corey Jumper and Dwayne Billie Jr., the Little Mr.

Brett Daly From left, Emerson Billie, Pherian Baker, Quayton Billie, Chayton Billie,

No Kitchen Required chef Kayne Raymond prepares his meal during filming near Big Cypress.

Little Miss Florida Seminole Jordan Osceola crowns Little Miss Brighton Seminole Lexi Thomas during the Brighton pageant held at the Veteran's Building on May 24.





Brighton contestants, wait for the judges' results.

Jr. Miss Brighton Seminole contestants show off their traditional wear to the judges.

**Cheyenne Nunez receives her Miss** Brighton Seminole crown.

Brett Daly

**Brett Daly** Aubee Billie is crowned Jr. Miss **Brighton Seminole.** 



Brett Daly

**Brett Dalv** 

Rep. Larry Howard, Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Chairman James E. Billie pose with the newly crowned Brighton royalty.

#### NO KITCHEN From page 1A

Psilakis crafted a soup consisting of alligator tail, hardboiled eggs and swamp cabbage, along with deep-fried alligator bites and french fries, alligator ribs, alligator heliopitas and a sour orange and sugarcane drink. His protein of choice was, surprisingly, alligator.

Cowan's menu was based off his protein of choice, wild boar, and was made up of pork shoulder and heart patty sausage with cheese grits, lime pork tenderloin with onion gravy, Mofongo (a Puerto Rican dish) with garlic, sweet potato frybread and swamp cabbage with bacon, garlic and onions. Raymond crafted a whole roasted garfish stuffed with rice as well as frybread with caramelized swamp cabbage, among other unique dishes. To say the least, the judges were impressed.

"I wasn't expecting the food to be that great," Jerica Tommie said. "It made me want to learn to cook the way they did."

The dishes left the judges not only surprised with their skills as chefs but also with respect toward the men's talent to preserve the traditional and authentic taste. Tommie even remarked that Raymond's gator tail was some of the best she's eaten.

The judges were inspired to be more creative with our own traditional food,' Sam Tommie said with satisfaction.

The experience inspired them to also value the traditional food, the way it is prepared so carefully, and to feel pride in the Seminole culture.

The episode aired on June 5. With it came thorough gratification and excitement, not only from all the Tribal members involved, but also for the Seminole and Miccosukee communities alike. "It gives insight on our customs and culture," Jerica Tommie said. "It's a nice window into how we are and how we behave and our hospitality.'

No Kitchen Required offered an incredible opportunity for Seminole representation on a national scale and for educating the public about the real identity of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Although at times a bit fast-paced and hectic, Sam Tommie said the filming was pleasant and the crew was excellent. He described the chefs as personable, down-to-earth, talented and friendly.

On the last day of filming, the winner the cooking competition, Psilakis, of received a patchwork shirt as a gesture of gratitude and honor, and the chefs each expressed their own appreciation toward the Seminoles.

'I've never been to Florida before, and I don't really know anything about the people, the food, even the land," Raymond said upon arriving in the Everglades. "It's so unique and it's nothing that I've ever seen before.

But he certainly left with a true awareness of who the people are.



Tribal member Adam Turtle shows chef Kayne Raymond how to spear a garfish during filming.

Brett Daly



Brighton's Red Barn is the first Seminole property to make the National Historic Register.

Peter B. Gallagher

## **Red Barn project presented** at Brighton community meeting

#### **BY PETER B. GALLAGHER Special Projects Reporter**

historian Carrie Dilley led a positive discussion at the Brighton community meeting recently regarding a plan to preserve the historic Red Barn. The Barn park that would include museumplan, still in development by the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), offers three "ways to go" in dealing with the deteriorating, 71-year-old structure, and Dilley, accompanied by THPO deputy officer Paul Backhouse, wanted to know what the community thought.

Should they:

• Leave the Red Barn alone. Held together, essentially, by a recent roof, the barn would likely collapse into pieces if a hurricane, tornado or other strong winds a barbecue dinner and live, western swing came its way. "There is a lot of structural preservation that needs to begin as soon as possible," Dilley said. "It's stood a lot the Red Barn. longer than anyone ever imagined, but it won't stand forever.'

• Fix the specific structural problems so the Red Barn can withstand the winds of nature. Engineers contracted through the THPO have already put together a detailed report of what needs to be done.

• Professionally restore the Red Barn to its original glory when it was built in 1941 by the Civilian Conservation Corps to help officially noted or celebrated by the Tribe. jumpstart the Seminole cattle operation. A Seminole Tribune investigation into the

fixing the gates, repainting, replacing **BRIGHTON** — Tribal architectural the roof and – using old photos and the memories of Tribal members – recreating the surrounding landscape, including fences, old wagons, etc. Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. envisioned a Red quality displays explaining the history of the Seminole cattle program.

While no poll was taken, many audience funding the project with grants. members spoke in support of restoration. A presentation will be made to the Tribal Council this fall using artistic renderings of all three choices by Rob Schaeffer, a designer with Hard Rock International. Tribal members can vote on the choice, and Schaeffer's designs will be presented at the old-time Red Barn Dance, featuring music by Larry Mangum & The Cowboy Orchestra, scheduled for Oct. 6 at the site of

On that day, Dilley said, the Tribe will unveil a bronze plaque at the site as well as a large historical marker at the intersection of CR 721 and 721A, 3 miles to the east. The structure was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008, following extensive research and application by Dilley through the THPO.

The event, however, was never It would include complete structural status of the Red Barn, ordered by Editor in

preservation as well as patching the holes, Chief Camellia Smith-Osceola, discovered the honor.

'Usually, when something goes on the National Register there is some kind of celebration," said Osceola, who grew up in a camp near the Red Barn, where her father. the late cattleman and political leader Fred Smith, tended his cows. "The right hand was not talking to the left hand, I guess."

THPO's Backhouse said he anticipates

"There are a lot of grants out there that specifically address preservation projects such as this one," he said. "This should not affect anyone's Tribal budget. I am certain we can finish this project by using grant money.

Brighton Tribal member Willie Gopher spoke passionately about the Red Barn at the community meeting.

"The Red Barn was very important to the Seminole Tribe of those days; not only the cowboys but everyone hung around out here," he said. "It was sad when it went into disrepair. I think everyone out here will be overjoyed to fix that old barn up.'

Hollywood Tribal senior Wanda Bowers also expressed interest in the project.

"There's nothing I'd like to see more than a photo of the Red Barn the way it looks today in The Seminole Tribune," she said. "Everyone needs to see the Red Barn and get behind this project."

## Tampa seniors earn fitness awards



### **Tribal Council, Board of Directors convene**

#### **BY CAMELLIA SMITH-OSCEOLA Editor in Chief**

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Council convened on May 18 at the Tribal Office Auditorium on the Hollywood Reservation. Twenty seven items were passed, two were removed and two were tabled. Here are a few of the items that were presented that day. **Tabled item withdrawn:** 

Ordinance: Seminole Tribal Code Adoption

Consent Agenda items passed:

Resolution: Assignment of a homesite lease to Virgil Benny Motlow

- Immokalee Reservation **Resolution:** Second revision to

Tribal Truancy Committee and policy procedure (This second revision states when a per capita payment is withheld due of credit to non-compliance of the Truancy policy and has exceeded the reinstatement time frame, it will be forfeited and remain in a financial institution.)

Regular Agenda items passed included:

Resolution: Life story option agreement by and between Cordish Media and James E. Billie (This is to be a feature film about the life of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Chairman

James E. Billie.)

The Board of Directors convened on Wednesday, May 23 at the Tribal Office Auditorium on the Hollywood Reservation. Of the new items presented, four were passed and one was tabled. The introduction of two new employees for the Board was made by President Tony Sanchez Jr. to Micheal Ulizio, chief financial officer, and Marc Solomon, general counsel for the Board.

**Regular Agenda items passed:** 

Resolution: Approval of Debbie Carter to assume ownership of cattle herd and assignment of pasture land

Resolution: Approval of Diane Smith to assume ownership of cattle herd and assignment of pasture land

Resolution: Authority to pledge accounts receivable to secure future line

**Resolution:** Authorization of Chief Financial Officer to become a signatory on behalf of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

**Resolution:** Approval of Immokalee hotel development project (This item was tabled pending approval of the Land Use and Water Commission committees.)

## **Seminole representatives** attend TVA workshop

#### SUBMITTED BY ALISON SWING **Tribal Historic Preservation Office**

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — The Seminole Tribe of Florida was one of 10 federally recognized

Native American Tribes from the southeastern United States and Oklahoma that gathered May 15-17 for the third Native American Consultation Workshop, which was hosted by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). All Tribes in attendance had ancestral and aboriginal interests in the Tennessee River Valley.

Alison Swing and Elliott York represented the Seminole Tribe. The pair, staff of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office's Compliance Review Department, made the trip with

all expenses paid by the TVA. The TVA is a government-owned corporation that provides flood control, economic development and hydroelectric power throughout the Tennessee Valley. TVA's service area covers most of Tennessee, portions of Alabama, Mississippi and Kentucky and small slices of Georgia. North Carolina and Virginia. As a federal enterprise, the TVA is required by law to consult with federally recognized Tribes on Tribal issues The workshop, conducted every five years since 2002, focused on strengthening the government-to-government relationship between the TVA and Native American Tribes. The Tribes voiced their concerns and encouraged streamlined communication and transparency between themselves and the TVA. Topics of discussion included the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), standard operating procedures for Tribal consultations and protocol emergency archaeological for excavations of culturally sensitive materials occurring on TVA land. The

meeting provided an opportunity for the Seminole Preservation Office to strengthen its capacity in regards to implementing the Repatriation Act on ancestral, aboriginal and ceded lands.

The Tribes also discussed archaeological site and cultural resource protection and visited the Raccoon Mountain Pumped-Storage Plant, which is located on TVA land. Because of the high occurrence of looting in the Tennessee Valley, the Tribes worked together to coordinate the establishment of emergency protocol for excavations, protection of unmarked repatriation sites and the arrest and prosecution of individuals found looting Native American archaeological sites.

The workshop had many positive benefits for the Seminole Tribe. Particularly, the importance of early and frequent consultation with the TVA can help the Tribe save time and money regarding long-term construction and maintenance projects within the Tennessee Valley.

This workshop allowed the Seminole Tribe's Compliance Review Department to strengthen inter-Tribal

Photo courtesy of Linda O. Henry

From left, Peggy Cubis, Maggie Garcia and Nancy Frank show off their Pathway Senior Health and Fitness Challenge awards presented to them at a Tampa community meeting.

Peggy Cubis holds the plaque honoring the three Fitness Challenge winners.

**Seminole Police employees** receive abundance of awards

#### **BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD Seminole Tribe Police Chief**

It is with great pride I announce the following award recipients who proudly serve with the Seminole Police Department on behalf of our Tribal members and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. As is evidenced by the sheer abundance of awards, there is truly a wholeheartedness to strive to do well and keep our communities safe and provide outstanding service to those in need.

#### Hollywood:

Community Service Aide Jose Roman: Letter of Commendation Officer Jonathan Macklin: Community Interaction Award Officer Joseph Companion: Lifesaving Award Officer Timothy LeDroux: Lifesaving Award Sergeant Carl LeBlanc: Special Recognition Award Corporal Anthony Hershey: Special **Recognition Award** Detective Tammy McConnell-Moher:

Special Recognition Award Detective Roger Ruano: Special Recognition Award and Crime in Progress Award Officer George Gonzalez: Special Recognition Award Officer Ryan Frank: Crime in Progress Award Officer Alex Coronado: Crime in Progress Award Officer Brian Conley: Crime in Progress Award and 2010 Officer of the Year Officer James Boudreaux: Crime in Progress Award

#### Brighton, Fort Pierce and Tampa:

Sergeant Jack Nash: Special Recognition Award Officer Holly Ramsey: Special Recognition Award and Life Saving Award Community Service Aide Larry Payne: Civilian Employee of the Year Award Detective Warren Melhorn: Officer of the Year Award Officer Bilinda Pottorff: Community Interaction Award Captain Kipper Connell: Special

Recognition Award Mr. Richard Smith: Special Recognition Award Officer Tom Apsey: Community Interaction Award Officer Dan McGillicuddy: Valor Award

#### **Big Cypress and Immokalee:**

Lieutenant Lisa Bennis: Special Recognition Award and Community Interaction Award Officer Allen Colon: Special Recognition Award Officer David Lee: Special Recognition Award Officer Salvatore Gebbia: Special **Recognition Award** Community Service Aide Danilo Poux: Letter of Commendation Sergeant Gary Grosser: Lifesaving Award

I thank you for allowing me to be the Police Chief of Seminole Police Department in this noble profession protecting and serving those within the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

relations by coordinating with other federally recognized Tribes concerning the creation of a comprehensive agreement for achieving common goals.

In addition, the Seminole Tribe exercised its sovereignty in geographic areas considered to be ancestral and aboriginal to protect Tribal interests located outside Florida.

The other Tribes attending the conference were the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town from Oklahoma, Chickasaw Nation, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians from Los Angeles and the Muscogee Creek Nation.

## **Inventory completed** of unearthed human remains, funerary items

#### **BY PETER B. GALLAGHER Special Projects Reporter**

HIWASSEE ISLAND, Tenn. Between April 1937 and January 1939, archeologists removed the human remains and funerary objects of at least 37 people from a construction site 7 miles south of Dayton, Tenn. and 29 miles upstream of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Chickamauga Dam.

On May 30, the Federal Register served notice that an inventory of the human remains and funerary objects was completed by the TVA and the University of Tennessee McClung Museum. At that time, the U.S. Department of the Interior called for representatives of any Knoxville, TN 37902–1401, telephone Indian Tribe "that believes itself to be 865-632–7458 before July 5. culturally affiliated" to come forward with

#### any claims.

In the absence of any other claimants to come forward by July 5, a claim already established by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma will proceed. The Seminole Tribe of Florida was among 13 federally recognized Tribes to receive this notice.

"No decision has been made by the Tribe yet regarding this issue," said Alison Swing of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

Representatives of any Indian Tribe that believes itself to be culturally affiliated with the human remains should contact Dr. Thomas O. Maher, TVA, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, WT 11D,





The Seminole Police Explorers visit Washington, D.C. during National Police Week from May 13-16.

## EXPLORERS From page 3A

"We all feel sad, yes, but this is a time when we can understand ourselves, and each family is able to be here to understand themselves that their love is being shared with other people," she said.

For those reasons, survivor Caroline Perry, of Bel Air, Md., looks forward to Police Week every year.

"It really means a lot to me mostly because I have made so many friends through this organization, and I actually come back every year because this is the only time I really get to see them, and they really understand," she said. "We all have gone through the same tragedy, so it's really comforting to have those kinds of people around."

A candlelight vigil served as the opening act to a week of respectful tributes to the men and women of law enforcement, which also included a memorial parade and a memorial service featuring a speech by U.S. President Barack Obama.

"Most of all, I want to acknowledge and thank the families of those who have fallen," President Obama said.

Also, a police memorial wall served as a place where visitors could remember the thousands of fallen heroes whose names were engraved in the wall.

For Family Services' Buster, it was a moving experience.

"You hear on the news all the time (that) a police officer got shot or something like that, but to actually

see the wall and their names up there and, you know, the rows and rows of names up there, it's like the Vietnam Wall, you know, very similar to that, and it really impacted me."

One of those names had a particular connection to the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

SPD has lost one officer in the line of duty. In 1986 while driving home from the Big Cypress Reservation, Lt. John Healy was involved in a fatal car accident.

"We're up here honoring him also," Chief Latchford said, pointing out that the Explorers paused to etch his name onto sheets of paper to take home with them. "They can bring that back and realize and remember that their police officers, too, are special to them."

Is of people around." The Explorers also had the opportunity to trade coins with other law enforcement personnel, including one that honored Lt. Healy.

"This event kind of commemorates their life, their job, what they do for our people and how we respect them for the work that they do," SPD community liaison Diane Buster said.

In keeping with the theme of fallen heroes, the Explorers visited the Arlington National Cemetery, as well as the Pentagon, where they got an up-close look at the exact spot where one of the hijacked planes crashed on Sept. 11.

Next year, Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said he hopes even more youth will attend the trip.

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#### • SENIOR CENTER From page 3A

The mission of Elder Services is to provide Tribal elders with various services to encourage a long, healthy life, enhanced selfesteem and socialization skills, as well as to promote positive acculturation. Yates said the building will allow for just that, as the facility is a place where seniors can keep busy and mingle with peers.

## IMMOKALEE From page 3A

and heating space. A cement block home with vaulted ceilings and state-of-the-art insulation properties has increased the energy efficiency. Water-saving toilets, faucets and shower heads reduce the consumption of potable water.

"I really like the exterior with its decorative moldings and stucco bands. It has character," Liaison Scheffler said. "I was able to make good, selective choices and stand back and watch as Pete carefully supervised his expert team of subcontractors. They were really good about any issues that arose during construction. The house literally grew out of the ground right before my eyes."

my eyes." "It passed Tribal inspection with flying colors," Seminole Tribe building inspector Gary Viggiano said. "I find that using a Tribally owned company is beneficial because they pay attention to detail. I just finished my walk through and can honestly say that there have been no corners cut during construction, and that makes my job easier."

For Jr. Miss Seminole Jaryaca Baker, the opening of the senior center is a well-deserved luxury for the elders of the Tribe. She said seniors pass down Seminole traditions and culture and warrant praise for all they have taught the community.

"I feel like our elders have given us so much," she said. "They need to be recognized as much as possible."

The grand opening also featured emceeing by Tribal member Stanlo Johns, the reciting

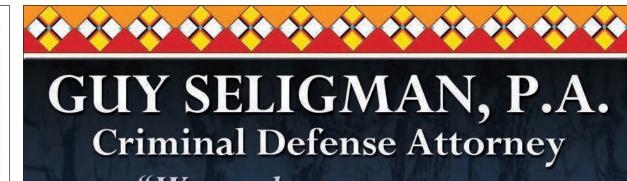
of the Pledge of Allegiance in Creek by Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students and musical entertainment by the Andy Buster Band.

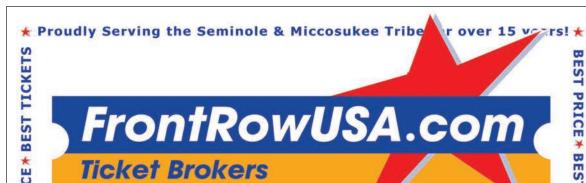
Huff said the event was a huge success, and she looks forward to the future of the department.

"This building has a lot to offer to all the seniors," Huff said. "I'm here to serve and direct as [best] I can. My door is always open to serve all the seniors."



Pete Aguilar Jr., president of Seminole Construction and Development Inc., hands the keys for a new home to Immokalee Board Liaison Dorothy Scheffler with son Ashton.





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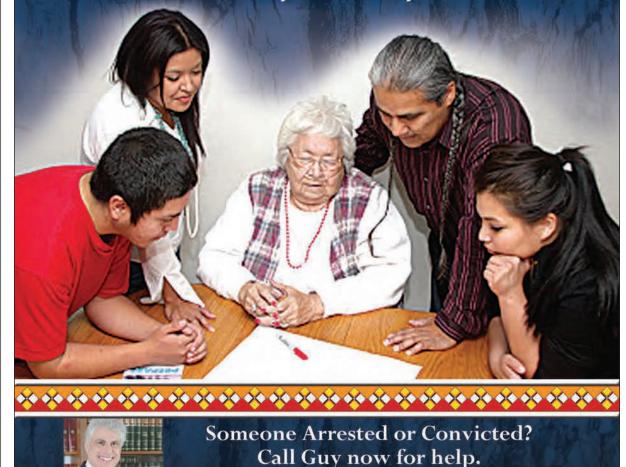


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## **Seminole Tribe celebrates Mother's Day**



a moment together at Trail's Mother's Day party.

a Mother's Day dinner in Fort Pierce.



**Brett Daly** Mary Jane Cantu and Mary Pauline Cantu share Madison Cheyanne Phillips, right, enjoys some soup with Morningstar Osceola.



Brett Daly Trail office manager Michael Cantu distributes gifts to Trail moms during their Mother's Day celebration May 7.



Photo courtesy of Jessica Osceola

The Slavik children, Nicole, Eliska and Martin, relax during a day on the water at the Naples Mother's and Father's Day celebration.



Andrea Holata Bessie Tommie enjoys a moment with son Kevin Tommie and granddaughter Harmony during

Andrea Holata Hope Sneed and son Handsome Fanning enjoy dinner together at Chupco Ranch.



Photo courtesy of Jessica Osceola Naomi Walden reels in her catch at the Naples It's the first Mother's Day for Immokalee's Mother's and Father's Day fishing excursion. Esmeralda Billie and her son Josiah.



Judy Weeks









Judy Weeks

Judy Weeks

Ashley's winning raffle ticket.

Day celebration at Boizao Steakhouse.

Peter B. Gallagher

Louise Motlow is surrounded by three generations of her family: from left, daughters Gale Boone and Norita Yzaguirre, granddaughter Jamie and great-granddaughter Jaila.

Day kiss in Immokalee.

Alan McInturff gives his mom, Nancy Motlow, a Mother's Tampa's Aamir Santiago holds up mom Linda Lee Henry enjoys Tampa's Mother's

...... THE PARTY

Peter B. Gallagher





The Tampa Seminole mothers gather for a group photo after a fine dinner and dessert at Boizao Steakhouse in Tampa.

Hollywood's Mother's Day celebration.





**Rachel Buxton** 

on May 10.

Virginia Garcia-Sanders holds son Drake Lewis Gopher gives his mom, Lorene Gopher, Sanders close on his first Mother's Day during a hug at the Mother's Day lunch in Brighton the Hollywood Mother's Day celebration.



Andrea Holata

Andrea Holata Stella Ford and daughter Dixie Tommie smile for the camera before enjoying lunch together at the Brighton Mother's Day celebration.

Brighton seniors enjoy lunch at Benihana. On May 11, they were treated to lunch for Mother's Day.

Andrea Holata

Peter B. Gallagher

#### IN GOD WE TRUST From page 3A

Everglades City in 1933 and began offering medical assistance and economic advice until her retirement in 1960. She became a close friend of the Seminoles but received no converts to Christianity.

Acceptance of the Christian faith remained very slow until the arrival in 1923 of a Creek Baptist from Oklahoma, the Rev. Willie King, with his wife, Lena, and daughter Ruth. The First Seminole Indian Baptist Church was established on the Dania Reservation in 1936 and represented the first church allowed on the reservations. Rev. King began to build a congregation of converts and taught himself the Mikasuki language to better serve the people.

Revivals became popular social events, and with the arrival in 1943 of Oklahoma Creek missionary Rev. Stanley Smith, unprecedented conversions took place. Not only did Tribal leaders travel long distances with their people to attend these events, but Rev. Smith carried his ministry on the road to distant camps and villages throughout the Seminole communities. He drew large crowds to the porch at Roberts General Store in Immokalee on several occasions and then followed the people to their homes deep within the swamplands of the Everglades with his message.

With the opening of the Tamiami Trail across the Everglades, the economy, environment and lifestyle of the Seminole people began to change forever. In order to sustain their families, many of the elders made seasonal migrations with them to the tourist centers along the coastline and sought agricultural work on the farms and ranches that began to dot the landscape of South Florida. It was a confusing time for the Seminole leaders with life around them changing rapidly, and the strong desire



Judy Weeks

Pastor Wonder Johns coordinates the Seminole Tribe Intercessory Prayer Gathering in Immokalee.

to preserve their culture seemed to be threatened.

Many of the traditional Tribal leaders saw new hope in accepting Christianity, which broadened their relationship with their Creator and offered the hope of salvation through Jesus Christ. The strength and conviction of these leaders had sustained the survival of their people, their traditional customs and staunch independence in the past. With the conversion of the leaders, their followers found new hope for continued survival.

Traditional religious leaders like Josie and Ingraham Billie became Christian leaders and persuaded many of their people to follow them to the reservation that had been established at Big Cypress. The Big Cypress First Baptist Church opened in 1948 with Josie Billie as the assistant pastor, and in 1949, he was licensed to preach by the Southern Baptists at the age of 62. Sometime later, his brother Ingraham Billie embraced Christianity and brought a large following with him to the reservation. In 1964, Ingraham Billie laid the foundation for Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church, preaching in a chickee. Two years later, his son Rev. Frank Billie officially established New Testament Church. Both churches are still active in Big Cypress

today. The Christian influence moved quickly through the Creek Seminole elders in Brighton and then received strong reinforcement from converts like Jack Smith Sr., Leona Smith, Joe Henry Tiger, John Josh, Toby Johns and Joe Johns, to name a few.

The Florida Baptists' Home Mission Board appointed Genus and Carolyn Crenshaw as missionaries to the Florida Indians in 1951. Under their leadership, a Baptist church was maintained on each of the three Seminole reservations (Hollywood, Brighton and Big Cypress) as well as a mission on the Tamiami Trail and three other locations.

Many of the leaders throughout the Tribal communities embraced Christianity and worked tirelessly to serve their people. Faith and prayer played an important role in the survival of the Seminoles as they adapted to physical, social and economic changes while fighting against assimilation, establishing sovereignty, drafting a constitution and creating a governing body that would ensure the future of their culture.

The churches brought strength to their members, and in turn, the members brought strength to the churches. With the power of faith, communities adapted to change and new leaders came forward to serve the people. There are too many individuals to mention, but their devotion was limitless and a few examples will follow.

Men like Rev. Bill Osceola dedicated their lives to Tribal service in the name of the Lord. While maintaining his congregation in Hollywood, he did missionary service in Big Cypress. He would camp out for days, enlisting the assistance of anyone that came along to help him lay cement blocks and set religious devotion of their membership.

rafters for the Big Cypress New Testament The Bible passage Baptist Church.

Howard Micco spent his life doing God's work and served as pastor of the Trail Baptist Church, Big Cypress Baptist Church and First Indian Baptist Church of Brighton. Through baptism, he brought people to the Lord, and officiating at their funerals, he many of the church guided them to their final destination in God's Kingdom.

Pastor Frank Billie tended to his flock at the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church while serving in the Tribal government and carried on missionary work to spread the Gospel. He was joined by his wife, Eddie Cypress Billie, Deacon Joe Osceola and his wife, Martha, in organizing annual missionary trips for his congregation to Oklahoma. In addition, he coordinated monthly "all day sings" throughout the Christian communities with the assistance of his fellow pastors. He always found time to visit the small groups of believers living in Immokalee, Tampa and remote campsites along the Tamiami Trail.

Women played an important role in the churches as well as their families. They cooked for the church gatherings, cleaned the buildings, taught in the Sunday schools, sang in the choirs, organized food and clothing drives for the needy and did community service for the elderly and sick. In many instances, they comprised the majority of the congregation, and their strength and devotion kept the churches alive during difficult times.

Rev. Wonder Johns was recently named Pastor Emeritus of the First Indian Baptist Church of Brighton, and following his conversion to Christianity, he dedicated his life to service for the Lord. A descendant of Creek Indians from Georgia and Alabama, he was born in St. Lucie County in 1934.

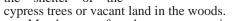
"I remember those pesky missionaries coming to our camp all the time, but it wasn't until the '40s that I warmed up to Willie King and could talk to him," Rev. Johns said. "He was living in a house in Okeechobee and would come visit our chickees in the woods. When I was 14 or 15, I decided I wanted change in my life. The missionary told me about the boarding school at the Qualla Boundary of the Cherokee Reservation in North Carolina. That is where I found Christ, along with several of my cousins.'

'After two years, I transferred to Oklahoma to finish school, married and then did a tour of duty in the U.S. Army. I always held my faith above all things wherever I went. We returned to Brighton in 1972 and I went to work for the Tribe, but my real job was working for the Lord. I continued my Bible studies and became pastor of the First Seminole Baptist Church in Hollywood. They say that I made history when I became the first Indian moderator for the Big Lake Baptist Association. With God guiding my footsteps, I was also the first Indian to be on the State Nominating Committee of the Florida Baptist Convention."

Congregations were inspired by the

Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them." This described gatherings and

provided strength for struggling congregations and inspiration for their pastors lay and deacons who formed the backbone of the Seminole Christian Devotional faith. meetings were held wherever the people gathered together in churches, chickees, sheds, private homes and campsites, under the shelter of the



Members of the congregation improvised whenever necessary to shape their worship services. With little or no education, they struggled to read and interpret the Bible passages and learn the words to the hymns. They sang without music or relied upon volunteers with instruments. Frank J. Billie played the accordion by ear. Joe Osceola started taking guitar lessons when he was in his late 40s, and Jonah Cypress is a familiar figure with his guitar wherever he attends services. Many of the Tribal entertainers like Paul Buster Sr. got their start participating in church worship and continue their praise in

While most of the gospel songs are in English, many of the elders learned the Creek translations, and a few of the hymns have Mikasuki words. Tribal elders vividly remember when they became Christians, and some of their fondest memories include the old hymns. Over the years, no religious gathering was complete until Eddie Billie, Betty Osceola, Howard Micco, Sadie Billie, Martha Osceola, Lucy John, Keno King or scores of others led the group in native harmony.

Christianity has found its place in the culture of the Seminole Tribe. It isn't just a part of their recent historical heritage, but is an integral part of the daily life and operations of many of its members.

From the day that a few members the Snake Clan first accepted Jesus Christ nearly a century ago, it has become a portion of their family heritage. The power of Christianity traveled from Ada Tiger to her daughter Betty Mae Tiger Jumper, a religious and political leader, educator, writer and humanitarian. Her son Moses Jumper Jr. is a lay pastor and has coordinated youth and recreation programs for the Seminole Tribe as well as the Big Cypress First Seminole Baptist Church. His son Josh Jumper has furthered his education with Christian studies, organized youth



Photo courtesy of Home Mission Board

As Southern Baptists, Rev. Genus Crenshaw and his wife spent many years in mission to the Seminoles. From left, Seminole lay preachers Frank Charlie (Wind Clan), Junior Billie (Panther Clan) and Creek Seminole Jack Micco accompany them in the 1950s.

> groups and recently became a licensed pastor

> Christianity hasn't just become a part of Tribal history but is a part of its present and future. Reservation churches are continuing to grow and are offering youth programs to enhance the education of Christian values.

> When Rev. Stanley Smith held a revival in Immokalee on the porch of Roberts General Store in the 1940s, he planted a seed which the elders prayed would grow and flourish. Those elders began a missionary effort in the 1960s and traveled from Brighton, Big Cypress and Hollywood to keep it alive. It has now grown into the Immokalee First Seminole Baptist Church, which celebrated its second anniversary with a revival during the 2012 Easter season.

> Former Chairman Mitchell Cypress initiated the Seminole Tribe Intercessory Praver Gatherings under the coordination of Pastor Wonder Johns. Rotating between the reservations, the meetings take place every few months and bring worshipers from all across Seminole Country in support of their Tribal leaders and members.

> Revivals continue to draw Native American religious leaders from Oklahoma and gospel entertainers to large gatherings in support of the communities.

> Reflecting on a lifetime of Christian service, Pastor Wonder Johns said, "Sometimes people ask me why I spend so much time in church and traveling between the reservations spreading God's word. I don't expect recognition; I do it for the Lord. From the day I became a Christian, I never looked back, and my reward will be when I finally go to meet my Savior, Jesus Christ."

Pastor Johns made his final journey to receive that reward on June 10, when he followed the Christian trail taken by many Tribal spiritual leaders before him. During his lifetime, he broadened that pathway and created a map for the next generation of Tribal Christians to follow.



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 (BIA)

ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA)

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 May 11, 2012. The BIA has reviewed and adopted the following Environmental Assessments (EAs), dated May 2012, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department:

- Melissa Dian Billie Proposed Lease and Access Road, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County
- Matthew Jason Billie Proposed Home Site, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County
- Frank Billie Jr. Proposed Home Site, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County
- Mark Billie Proposed Lease, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County
- Kristen Billie Proposed Lease, 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 (NOA), 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, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6830.

ACTING

Director, Eastern Region Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: 6/6/2012

JULY 17, 2012

## **SEMINOLE CHANNEL** WILL BE BROADCAST ON



## **Seminole Tribe celebrates Father's Day**





Reinaldo Becerra

Tommy Watts Billie, left, and Rudy Osceola enjoy the Big Cypress Father's Day luncheon at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

**Reinaldo Becerra** Frank J. Billie celebrates at the Big Cypress Father's Day luncheon on June 14.



Peter B. Gallagher Tampa senior Bobby Henry discusses the weather with fellow father Jesse Jimmie during Tampa's Father's Day party.

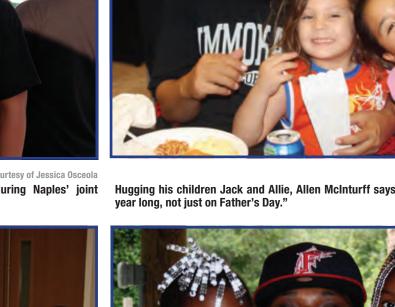


Photo courtesy of Jessica Osceola

Jessica Osceola shares a Father's Day moment with her dad, Douglas Osceola Jr, during the Naples community celebration.

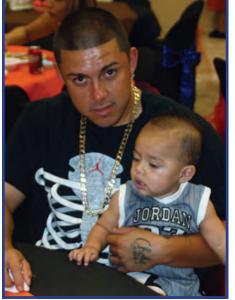


Photo courtesy of Jessica Osceola Karie Osceola shows off her fish during Naples' joint Mother's and Father's Day fishing trip.



Hugging his children Jack and Allie, Allen McInturff says, "It's a privilege to be a dad all









Immokalee Council Liaison Kenny Joe Davis Sr. poses with

his sons, Kenny Joe Jr. and K.J.

Judy Weeks

Judy Weeks

This is the first Fathers' Day Raynaldo E. J. Marrero shares a Father's Day dinner Yzaguirre III spends with his son, Raynaldo IV. with grandpa Frank Marrero in Immokaleee.

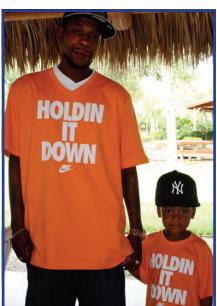
Judy Weeks

Travelis Timothy is surrounded with love from daughter Karla Timothy, right, and niece Yarnae Smith on June 14 at the Fort Pierce Father's Day dinner.



Derreck Timothy spends time with son Makai

during the Fort Pierce Father's Day celebration.





Department of Elder's Father's Day Pool Tournament.



Russell Osceola Sr. wins first place in the Brighton The Huggins family celebrates Father's Day at Samurai Restaurant in Miami on June 13.



**Rachel Buxton** 

Brett Daly Everett Osceola celebrates Father's Day with his daughters Xiora, left, and Maryjane.



Robert Stivers celebrates Father's Day with his family at Hollywood's Biker Bash-themed celebration on June 14.

**Rachel Buxton** 

Brett Daly

Brett Daly

Photo courtesy of Donna Turtle

The Trail community gathered at Samurai Restaurant in Miami to celebrate Father's Day on June 13.

**Rachel Buxton** Antonio Timothy and son Tristan show up as twins to the Fort Piece Father's Day dinner.

## **Big Cypress seniors gather for Culture Day**

#### **BY KATHRYN STOLARZ Copy Editor**

the Big Cypress seniors at Culture Day on May 30.

About 15 seniors came out for some friendly competition under the blazing sun behind the Big Cypress Senior Center.

The morning began with a pan toss, a game that Big Cypress coordinator Nadine respectively. Bowers came up with.

"(It's) something different," Bowers said.

Seniors were challenged to throw a cooking pan at a target as close to the bull's eye as possible. In the women's division, Louise Osceola took third place, Minnie Tigertail ranked second and Lucille Jumper placed first with 22 points. For the men, Jonah Cypress took third, Tommy Watts game of bingo. Billie ranked second and Ricky Doctor placed first with 14 points.

Former Chairman Mitchell Cypress joked that the women had the advantage in the game because they handle cookware more often than men do.

But when it came to the archery competition, it was his time to shine.

After four rounds of shooting, Cypress hit two bull's eyes and racked in 365 points, taking the championship for the men. BIG CYPRESS — It was game on for He said he plans to use his prize money to buy himself a bow and arrow. He was followed by Tommy Watts Billie and Rudy Osceola. For the women, Minnie Tigertail's straight shot gave her 295 points and a first-place win, while Lucille Jumper and Virginia Mitchell scored second and third,

> As the games wrapped up, the seniors followed their appetites into the Senior Center for a lunch of fried pork and chicken, soup, flatbread, boiled squash and broccoli salad. While they finished their meals, the raffle winners were announced. Prizes included a folding chair and a camouflage lunch box.

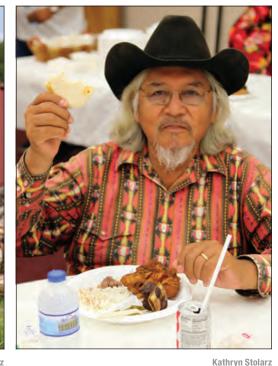
The festivities ended with a classic

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger and Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. also stopped by to say hello.

Culture Day is held four times a year to bring the seniors together for some outdoor fun

"It's our tradition," Bowers said.





Kathryn Stolarz

Minnie Tigertail watches as her arrow flies toward the target. Tigertail scored the highest in Big Cypress senior Rudy Osceola enjoys lunch during the women's division for archery.

Culture Day on May 30.



Kathryn Stolarz

Big Cypress seniors, staff and Councilman Mondo Tiger watch archery during Culture Day.

Kathrvn Stolarz

Carol Cypress plays bingo at the Big Cypress Senior Center.





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Kathryn Stolarz

Pilot Billie smiles big at the seniors' birthday luncheon.

Big Cypress Elder Services site manager Marlin Miller serves Ester Buster cake at the Big Cypress seniors' birthday luncheon on May 23.

Sisters Mary Tigertail and Minnie Tigertail gather for bingo and lunch at the Big Cypress Senior Center.

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## Hah-Tung-Ke: Frank Thomas

#### **BY PETER B. GALLAGHER Special Projects Reporter**

The Second Seminole War is both the most expensive Indian war fought by the United States and the name of a famous folk music ballad written and sung by legendary Florida songwriter Frank Thomas. Known for many years as Florida's greatest living songwriter, Frank resides outside of Lake Wales with his wife, Lisa, in their old "Cracker Palace" home at the end of Rattlesnake Road, a holy shrine to songwriters who make regular pilgrimages there to have original tunes certified by the master.

It is said that prolific songwriter Thomas has "written" more than 500 songs. They are all about Florida, and they are all only in his head. Blessed with the memory of an elephant, the man never writes down - or forgets - the words to any of his masterpieces. A longtime friend of Chairman James E. Billie, Thomas is well known to many Seminole Indians, having performed at many Tribal events throughout his 50-year career. In fact, he and his late wife and musical touring partner, Ann Thomas, received the Florida Folk Heritage Award at a ceremony sponsored by the Seminole Tribe in 1993 on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Born and raised in rural Clay County, Thomas' Florida pedigree stretches back into the 18th century. Raised in a musical family, Thomas said he developed his deep, rich bullfrog voice by the age of 10 and his passion for writing from his song writing mother. He spent time on stage with the famous bluegrass outfit The Arkansas Travelers before taking up with Ann and forming one of the most popular duos in Florida music history, performing everywhere from school programs to festival stages across Florida and recording nine albums along the way. Each year, he emcees the songwriters' stage at the gazebo named for Ann during the Florida Folk Festival at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park in White Springs.

Ask him how he's doing and you'll get the same answer every time, delivered in classic cracker slang: "Oh, I ain't nothin' extry.'

Thomas' historical ballad The Second Seminole War appears on his 1980 Florida Stories album. It is a great example of the songwriter's craft, successfully portraying a very complicated and compelling historical event in just a few musical lines. Although events leading up to the Second Seminole War began many years prior and included Gen. Andrew Jackson's 1817 invasion of Florida, the flawed treaties of Moultrie Creek and Payne's Landing and the 1830 Indian Removal Act, Thomas decided to start his song at the Second War's official beginning in 1835

The song mentions Gen. Winfield Scott, who served on active duty as a U.S. general 47 years – longer than any other general in American history. The Seminoles' old nemesis, Jackson, was president by the time he handpicked Scott to take command of U.S. forces, struggling to chase the uncooperative



Peter B. Gallagher Frank Thomas appears at Brevard Community College in 1996.

Seminoles to new lands west of the Mississippi

Scott, however, had his hands full. His foray into Florida came at the emergence of a fierce, young warrior named Osceola who, insulted by American efforts to enslave the Indians, began openly threatening Zachary Taylor and his troops: "The white man shall not make me black. I will make the white man red with blood and then blacken him in the sun and rain...and the buzzard live upon his flesh.'

Then, only a few months after Scott took over, along came the Dade Massacre: a small band of Seminoles attacked a brigade under the command of Major Francis Langhorne Dade, killing 107 – all but three. The Seminoles lost only three warriors in the most lopsided single battle defeat in American military history.

Thomas highlights the main Seminole leaders of the Second War, including Osceola and Dade Massacre architects Jumper, Micanopy and Alligator - and, of course, Sam Jones. Jones guided the descendants of today's Seminoles into the South Florida jungles "to escape the noose" and joined Billy Bowlegs in leading Seminole warriors in the 1837 Christmas Day Battle of Lake Okeechobee, where Zachary Taylor captured a bunch of horses (but no Seminoles) and indecently claimed victory.

With his gift as a storyteller, Thomas deftly winds up the present, where, despite the government's vow, the unconquered Seminoles still "walk the Okeechobee sand.

#### SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA AH-TAH-THI-KI U S E U ACE TO LEARN. A PLACE TO REMEN



### **Donated patchwork jacket once belonged to William Boehmer**

#### **BY JAMES POWELL** Registrar

This month, we want to thank a donor for helping us "Identify the Past." A recent telephone call ultimately led to a notable donation and a welcomed visit to the Museum by the donor. In May, the patchwork jacket pictured was donated to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum by Ernest C. Mosteller.

This jacket once belonged to William and Edith Boehmer. William Boehmer worked for years as an educator at the Brighton Indian Day School, and Edith Boehmer assisted her husband at the school, later becoming involved in the Tribe's arts and crafts enterprises. The jacket was apparently acquired at Tropical Hobbyland, a tourist village in Miami, in the early to mid-1900s, as it still bears a tag with that name

The Boehmers gave this jacket to Mosteller in the early 1970s. After the Boehmers retired, they moved to Mount Dora, Fla., where they met and became friends with Mosteller's grandmother, Thelma, and his parents, Clyde and Helen. Mosteller said that Edith Boehmer gave the jacket to him when she learned of his interest in Native American and Seminole clothing.

In addition to being a longtime Seminole Tribe educator, William Boehmer was also a prolific photographer. During his time working with the Seminole Tribe, he photographed and documented many Tribal members and the activities and places they visited. The Museum holds a collection of more than 2,000 of these photographs, ranging from the late 1930s to the early 1960s, with the bulk of the images dated in the 1940s and 1950s.

At the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, this type of donation is particularly valued. The jacket itself is not only a great addition to the Museum's permanent collection, but it also forms a connection to the history of the Tribe and to the Museum's collection of Boehmer photographs. These connections



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-K

Pictured is a mid-20th-century patchwork jacket from Tropical Hobbyland that originally belonged to the Boehmers.

add invaluable context to the Museum's holdings. In addition to adding new materials, we continue to emphasize the need to research and document materials currently held within the collection, with the end goal of making them accessible and of the greatest service possible to the Tribe and all Museum users.

The Museum would like to thank Ernest Mosteller and all donors for their generosity. Each donation helps the Museum complete its mission to collect and preserve materials related to the history and culture of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

To view this patchwork jacket or any of the Boehmer photographs, contact the Museum at 877-902-1113. Keep in mind the Museum's new hours: The Museum is closed to visitors Mondays and Tuesdays, but appointments to see the collections can still be made on those days.

### The Second Seminole War

#### Song lyrics by Frank Thomas

General Winfield Scott came to Florida brave and bold. His orders were from Washington: Remove the Seminole! From 1835 clear on up to '42 As the Seminole were hunted down, their righteous anger grew. With the Treaty at Payne's Landing, the Massacre of Dade Bribes and trickery, many promises were made To Micanopy, Osceola, Wildcat and Jumper too Sam Jones and Alligator, just to name a few. With the capture of Osceola underneath the flag of truce, Sam Jones was fleeing southward to escape the noose. On Christmas Day of '37 near Okeechobee Lake The Seminole and Miccosukee joined for one last stand to make. It was there in the fighting, Zachary Taylor got the name

"Ol' Rough and Ready" forever he remained. The Army claimed a victory, but complete it wouldn't be Earmarked the disaster at Okeechobee. Without arms and nearly starving, bloodhounds on their tracks Facing Colt's revolving rifle, the Everglades to their back The Seminole would wander through this river of grass And elude their captors 'til the very last.

For many years to come the bloody fighting would go on 'Cause the Seminoles would die before they'd leave their home. The government had vowed, "We'll drive them from this land!" But descendants of these Indians still walk the Florida sand. Yes, descendants of these Seminoles walk the Okeechobee sand



William and Edith Boehmer are in a classroom at the Brighton Indian Day School, circa 1940.

### **Seminole Tribe of Florida** mosquito control program

#### SUBMITTED BY AVA JOHN **Environmental Health Department**

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Health Department is working with Fleming Pest Control to help reduce the nuisance and public health threat caused by mosquitoes this summer. Fleming has been working with the Health Department for the past five vears. They are a leading force in mosquito control and have the assets and expertise to provide an effective integrated mosquito control program for the residents of the Seminole Tribe.

The Health Department mosquito control program calls for Fleming to provide surveillance of the mosquito population, larval control and adult mosquito control. This integrated mosquito control program combines source reduction, chemical control and biological control to achieve maximum results with minimal impact on the environment.

Surveying, mapping and forecasting: The first step of the integrated control program is for Fleming to survey and map the mosquito population on all reservations and forecast the arrival of mosquito broods.

Surveillance and monitoring: Fleming conducts regular inspections on all reservations to detect breeding sites. This routine surveillance determines the distribution of mosquito populations and their proximity to living areas. Fleming uses light trap counts to keep informed of mosquito populations and alerts them of treat areas when mosquito counts are high. Additionally, they call for Tribal and community members to help Fleming identify areas of heavy infestation.

Larviciding: Larviciding is a key element of the integrated mosquito control program; larval control begins before summer to help reduce mosquito populations on all reservations. Larviciding involves treating standing water with insecticides and is designed to destroy the mosquitoes in the aquatic larval stage before they become airborne.

Adulticiding: Adulticiding is also an important part of the integrated mosquito control program. Adulticiding destroys adult mosquitoes and is accomplished with a

truck-mounted or aerial application of ultralow volume spray. All insecticides used are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

In addition to the Health Department's mosquito control initiatives, residents can take the following steps to reduce mosquito populations around their homes:

• Lawn: Mosquitoes like to rest in tall grass. Keep your grass cut short.

• Trees/hedges/bushes: Keep your tree branches, hedges and bushes trimmed from a ground level to height of 12 inches. The more shade you have, the more mosquitoes will be attracted to rest in your yard.

• Tire swing: Drill drainage holes in the bottom of tire swings to eliminate standing water that serves as an excellent mosquito breeding habitat.

• Kiddie pool: Empty it, clean it and store it when not in use. Standing water can become stagnant and produce an optimum mosquito breeding site.

Sandbox: Make sure sandbox toys are not flooded and left for a long time. A pail or push toy full of water is a potential breeding site for mosquitoes.

• Litter: Remove litter from your yard Mosquitoes can lay eggs virtually anywhere including discarded wrappers, cans and bottles

• Bird bath: If you have a bird bath, flush it at least once a week to avoid stagnant. nutrient-rich water - a mosquito's favorite breeding ground.

• Rain gutters: Don't forget to clean out your rain gutters; debris can reduce flow, creating a mosquito haven.

• Sun: Try to have lots of open space in your yard. Mosquitoes don't like direct sunlight. The more sun in your yard, the better for minimizing mosquito activity.

· Rain barrel: Empty rain barrels once a week. Standing water is an ideal breeding site for mosquitoes.

• Pool: Treat pools with bleach, which kills mosquito larvae.

- Source: Hendry County and National Park Service websites

The Environmental Health Program requests that you call the Health Department with any environmental health issues at 954-985-2330.

## **Prevent contamination caused by** open dumping on the reservation

#### SUBMITTED BY LAURA JICKA **Environmental Resource Management Department**

The Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) was created in 1987 by the Tribal Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida to protect and evaluate the Tribe's land and water resources. ERMD is overseen by the Seminole Water Commission, which was created in 1989 by the Tribal Council. The Commission, with technical assistance from ERMD, has developed rules to protect the quality of surface water within the boundaries of the Tribe's reservations. ERMD assists other Tribal departments, such as Housing, Real Estate and Community Planning and Development, and works with Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. in the development and management of Tribal natural resources.

To continue our mission for education and dissemination of information that aims to environmental compliance, ERMD will publish a series of articles that inform and educate the Seminole community and citizens in general about common practices that can potentially harm the environment and alternative practices that can minimize or prevent the adverse impacts to our health and the environment.

We welcome your suggestions, comments and questions. Please send them to IsidroDuque@semtribe.com or contact us at 954-965-4380.

This month's article will feature ways to prevent contamination caused by open dumping on the reservation.

#### **Open dumping**

The term "open dumping" describes any site or facility where solid waste is disposed of at a place not designated as a solid waste landfill, sanitary landfill or regulated hazardous waste disposal facility. Not only is the practice of open dumping unsightly, it also has the potential to cause adverse impacts to the environment and human health.

All types of waste have the potential to impact the environment and compromise the health of the Tribe if people improperly disposed of it. Construction and demolition debris is the most common type of waste frequently dumped on Tribal lands. With the amount of construction on Tribal land, this has become a problem on all reservations. Examples of materials that make up the construction and demolition debris

waste stream include - but are not limited to - wood, concrete, drywall, metals, plastic and insulation materials. These materials can contain hazardous materials, such as asbestos and lead paint that are dangerous to Tribal members and native resources, in addition to making native lands unattractive and unmanageable.

Hazardous waste dumping often poses a more serious and adverse impact to the environment. There are many hazardous products that most people would not think of as dangerous to themselves or the environment. Some examples of products commonly used include cleaning products, paints, chemicals used for pest control and weed control, automotive fluids and wastes, fertilizers, fuel (gasoline, diesel, oils) and used vehicles and vehicle parts.

If these materials or chemicals are dumped on open land, they are difficult to categorize for proper handling when they are found. This not only can create an unsafe work area for those attempting to clean up the waste but also is a danger to residents in the area with the potential to contaminate the soils and/or groundwater. Some of these chemicals can have dangerous reactions when mixed with other chemicals, so proper disposal is necessary when dealing with hazardous substances. Pesticides are an example of a hazardous material commonly used throughout the reservations that can easily contaminate the groundwater when improperly disposed of.

What do you do if you see an area where open dumping has occurred? Do not attempt to clean it up yourself.

Although many people believe that it is easier to do that, you never know what is actually in that pile of trash.

Please contact ERMD for cleanup. ERMD staff has the correct training to deal with all types of waste.

Often, people who are dumping are non-Tribal members. you see someone - Tribal or not - who is open dumping, please contact the Seminole Police Department immediately. Next, contact ERMD so we can assess what was dumped and how to clean it up properly

Please make sure that any contractors who you have doing work on your property dispose of all of the waste properly and do not dump it on Tribal lands. Tribal members and their families should use the transfer stations on the Big Cypress and Brighton reservations for disposal of all waste.



#### New York Times finds Genting-**Cuomo link**

**NEW YORK CITY** — A group closely allied with Gov. Andrew Cuomo received \$2 million from Genting-connected gaming interests last December as the governor developed a proposal to expand casino gambling in New York. So said the New York Times which unearthed secret details of the group's financing through a review of public records and interviews with more than two dozen individuals familiar with the group's activities.

Gov. Cuomo's support for expanded gaming, which he made a centerpiece of his State of the State address in January, had a profound impact. Within weeks, the Legislature endorsed a constitutional amendment that, if approved once more by lawmakers and then by voters, would allow for seven full-scale, privately owned casinos, potentially worth billions of dollars.

Genting, a subsidiary of Southeast Asia's largest gaming company, made an additional contribution of approximately \$400,000 to the group allied with Cuomo during 2011. The New York Gaming Association, a trade group founded by Genting and other companies that operate racetracks and electronic slot machines, chipped in the \$2 million. The contributions went to the Committee to Save New York, a business and labor coalition that raised \$17 million and spent nearly \$12 million in 2011, much of it on campaign-style television and radio advertisements praising Gov. Cuomo.

Gov. Cuomo, a democrat, denied being influenced by gaming industry money.

Gaming companies have long had their eye on New York, where the high population density and relatively high personal income levels create a perfect gaming market. There are already five Indian-run casinos in New York, all of them upstate. There is also limited electronic gaming at so-called racinos located at nine racetracks.

In his January speech, Cuomo threw his support behind Genting's planned 3.8-million-square-foot resort near Aqueduct, a \$4 billion project that would include the nation's largest convention center.

"This is not about chips and cards," he said in the speech. "This is about the jobs that the casino industry generates.

Then, just prior to the New York Times expose, Gov. Cuomo abruptly announced that the Aqueduct deal with Genting had fallen through. Conversations with Genting "haven't worked out," was the only comment from the governor, who added that he's now discussing building a similar project with other companies.

Immediately, stock for Genting Malaysia Bhd. declined 4.1 percent to close at 3.54 – the lowest in almost four months in Kuala Lumpur trading. Its parent, Genting Bhd., dropped 3 percent to 9.70 ringgit, the lowest close since Oct. 11.

Earlier, Genting's controversial plan to build a \$3 billion hotel and casino in Miami failed after a Florida House of Representatives committee postponed a vote on a bill to expand casino gambling

This news gave Genting Malaysia a double whammy, experiencing failure in two of the group's expansion plans in the U.S.," wrote analyst Low Yee Huap, of Hong Leong Financial Group Bhd. Genting operates the only gaming resort on a hilltop in Muslim-majority Malaysia. Unable to open more casinos on home turf, it's been expanding abroad. The group is already the U.K.'s biggest casino-operator and opened one of two gambling resorts in Singapore (GENS) in 2010.

rural nature, and this would change it," she said. The federally recognized Tribes were given a

head start on locating a casino in the southeastern part of the state by the new Expanded Gaming Act, which authorized one slot parlor and up to three resort casinos. The casino set aside for southeastern Massachusetts will be presented to a Tribe if, by July 31, it is able to obtain property, hold a referendum in the host community, negotiate a compact with the governor and have it approved by the Legislature and convince the state gaming commission that the land can be taken into trust by the federal government. If those terms are not met, the commission will be free to seek applicants for a commercial casino license for the area.

The governor so far has refused to negotiate with the Aquinnah on plans for the Freetown-Lakeville casinos or its efforts to develop gaming on its sovereign land on Martha's Vineyard, claiming the Tribe gave away its gaming rights in a 1987 land deal.

In other Massachusetts gaming actions: Hard Rock International of Florida offered a casino for Holyoke but was opposed by Mayor Alex Morse; MGM Resorts International of Las Vegas recently nixed plans for a casino in Brimfield; and Stephen A. Wynn, chief executive of Wynn Resorts Ltd. in Las Vegas, canceled plans to build a casino in Foxboro near Gillette Stadium after local opposition.

– Boston.com

#### Four fined for stealing Native artifacts

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — While the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) held a workshop with Native Americans on how best to protect artifacts and remains on TVA land, four Alabama men were fined in federal court for disturbing Native American artifacts on TVA property.

The four men had received fines in federal court in Huntsville, Ala. on charges involving theft of cultural artifacts from the Pickwick Reservoir in southwest Tennessee and from Guntersville Reservoir in northeast Alabama. Each man was given one year's probation and more than \$500 in fines and penalties.

While the men avoided jail time, a second violation could bring up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, said David Jolley, TVA vice president of Security and Emergency Management.

Since 2002, TVA has hosted workshops with Native American Tribes every five years to discuss their concerns.

- Knoxnews.com

#### Ebro opens slot-less live greyhound season

SANTA ROSA BEACH, Fla. - Live greyhound racing resumed recently at Ebro Greyhound Park, 115 miles west of Tallahassee and 65 miles south of Dothan, Ala. A January referendum in Florida's Washington County approved legalizing slots by an overwhelming margin. However, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi said the vote is not binding without authorization of the Florida Legislature. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation said it will abide by Bondi's decision and not issue slot licenses to any pari-mutuel facility, not currently operating, without the approval of lawmakers. The vote was based upon a constitutional amendment that allows slot machines in a portion of Dade County and Broward County. A 2010 revision to the amendment initially appeared to clear the way for referendums in other counties. A measure similar to the one passed in Washington County was approved by voters in Gadsden County, where the Porch Bank of Creek Indians, an Alabama Tribe, operates a parimutual horse barrel racing course but, as Ebro, has been blocked from receiving a slots license. Ebro live greyhound racing will run into September. Ebro simulcast racing and a poker room operate year round. - Dothanfirst.com

the Siletz Warriors' logo, the Eugene Register-Guard reported.

"We will be forced once again to succumb to the misguided intentions of people who have no knowledge of Indian communities," the Siletz Tribes said in a statement.

Other Native Americans have objected to the mascots, including Brenda Frank, Chairwoman of the State Board



(Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin): "With Yahooskin): all due respect...their responsibility is only to their membership and not to the community as a whole," Frank told The Oregonian. "The Oregon State Board

and a member of

the Klamath Tribes

of Education speaks for all students in the state of Oregon.

Schools that don't follow the ban could lose state money. Fifteen schools are affected. They face a 2017 deadline. Federal law recognizes Tribal sovereignty for Tribal institutions on Indian land. But the State describes the Siletz schools as public, and all charter schools in Oregon get State aid. The Siletz and Grande Ronde Tribal groups had backed an alternate proposal to allow Tribes to work with local schools on their portrayal of Native culture.

Siobhan Taylor, a spokeswoman for the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde, said the Board's decision "tramples our sovereignty" and ignores calls for curriculum changes that accurately describe Native American history in Oregon.

- Associated Press

#### **Court upholds \$3.4 billion Indian settlement**

HELENA, Mont. — An appellate panel upheld a \$3.4 billion settlement between the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and hundreds of thousands of Native American plaintiffs whose class-action settlement checks could be mailed to plaintiffs within weeks, attorney Dennis Gingold said. Further appeals would delay that disbursement, and the attorney for the challenger, Kimberly Craven, of Boulder, Colo., said they are considering their options.

The three-judge panel from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia dismissed the challenge by Craven, who had objected that the settlement did not include an actual accounting for how much money the government lost and said that the deal would overcompensate a select few beneficiaries.

The settlement is the result of a class-action lawsuit filed in 1996 by Blackfeet Tribal member Elouise Cobell, who recently died of cancer. The lawsuit had originally sought to find out how much money had been mismanaged, squandered or lost by the DOI, which held the trust money for land allotted to Native Americans under the Dawes Act of 1887.

The agreement would pay out \$1.5 billion to between an estimated 300,000 and 500,000 beneficiaries in two classes: Each member of the first class would be paid \$1,000. Each member of the second class would be paid \$800 plus a share of the balance of the settlement funds as calculated by a formula. Another \$1.9 billion would be used by the government to purchase fractionated land allotments from willing individuals and turn those consolidated allotments over to the Tribe. An education scholarship for young Indians also would be established. As part of the deal, Cobell was awarded \$2 million and the three other named plaintiffs were awarded between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

Fund, which has helped create other Educare centers. Susie Buffett has focused much of her philanthropy on improving early childhood education.

Research has shown that low-income students often start school less prepared than their peers from middle-class and affluent families, and then many low-income students struggle to catch up.

- Associated Press

#### N.C. House OKs Cherokee gaming bill

RALEIGH, N.C. — The House gave final approval on legislation to enable an Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians gambling compact. It now goes to the Senate, which approved a previous version by a wide margin earlier this year.

The measure allows the Cherokees to build two casinos on its land in five western North Carolina counties and add Las Vegas-style live-dealer games such as blackjack, poker and roulette. The State would receive a (as yet undetermined) percentage of the revenue each year.

Supporters cited a study showing that live dealers could add 400 jobs to the current Harrah's Cherokee Casino. But critics cited the ills of gambling and morality.

"This is not about jobs; this is about gambling," said Rep. Edgar Starnes, a republican. "If we go down this road...where does it stop?"

- NewsObserver.com

#### No casino for the Pomos

RICHMOND, Calif. - Richmond, one of the San Francisco Bay Area's poorest cities, with lagging local economy plagued by a decayed urban center and high unemployment, was dealt a busted flush when the Bureau of Indian Affairs determined that both the Guidiville Rancheria Band of Pomos and the Scotts Valley Band of Pomos had no historic connections with the planned sites of separate billion-dollar-plus Vegas-style resorts - disqualifying both under the provisions of the National Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

One project, a 225,000-square-foot slots-filled casino, was put forward by Florida casino developer Alan Ginsburg, who bought the land back in 2004 - a30-acre site just north of the city limits not located within the Tribe's former reservation. Evidence shows further that the site is not even within the territory ceded in unratified treaties by the Tribe's ancestors. Had the Tribe chosen a site within their historic range, the BIA wouldn't have had a problem.

And there's no denying that the Scotts Valley band needs help. As the Berkeley Daily Planet reported in 2006, the Environmental Impact Statement for the casino project noted that "one-third of (Tribal) adults are unemployed, 56.8 percent of Tribal members receive some form of government assistance and 95.5 percent are categorized as low-income."

A third casino project, proposed by then Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, would have granted the owners of a small Tribal casino in nearby San Pablo the right to build a huge Vegas-style operation. As the Berkely Daily Planet reported eight years ago, one of the major beneficiaries would have been Roger Stone, a Tribal casino lobbyist identified by the Florida Election Commission as the GOP "dirty tricks' operative who stage-managed the irate Republican mobs during the 2000 ballot recount in Florida disrupting the 2000 recount in Florida and paving the way for the George Bush presidency.

– New York Times, Bloomberg News

#### **Comanches adopt Johnny** Depp



ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Johnny Depp has been made an honorary Comanche.

Depp is in New Mexico, shooting the film adaptation of *The Lone Ranger*. He plays "Ranger" sidekick Tonto in the film. Comanche Nation Tribal member LaDonna Harris said Tribal Chairman Johnny

Wauqua presented Depp with a Tribal adoption proclamation at her Albuquerque home in a ceremony May 16. She said the Comanche adoption tradition means she now considers Depp her son.

Harris said she had read interviews with Depp that said the actor identified himself as being part Native American (Cherokee-Creek), so she thought it would be fun to adopt him. She ran the idea by her adult children, and they agreed. The Lone Ranger, which also stars Armie Hammer as Kemosabe, is directed by Gore Verbinski and produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, and is set for a May 31, 2013 release. - The Hollywood Reporter

#### Voters reject Aquinnah casino plan

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, Mass. — Voters in Lakeville, Mass. voted overwhelmingly (10-1) against a 145,000-square-foot casino and 150-room hotel project proposed by the Martha's Vineyardbased Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).

The vote followed a 3-1 rejection of the \$167-million resort casino proposal in neighboring Freetown.

But the issue isn't going anywhere. According to Tribal Chairwoman Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, this was a nonbinding "state process" vote: "The Aquinnah Tribe has the right, under the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, to develop and operate an entertainment and gaming facility. The Tribe is prepared to pursue its rights in court, if necessary.'

Most opponents agreed with voter Melissa Hopkins: "People move to Lakeville because of its

#### Native Olympic medals on display in D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Olympic medals from two Native American athletes who competed in the 1912 Stockholm, Sweden Olympic Games, and from one who competed in the 1964 Tokyo Games, are now on display in a new exhibit open at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

The medals from athletes Jim Thorpe (Sac and Fox), Billy Mills (Oglala Sioux) and Duke Kahanamoku (Native Hawaiian) go on display to mark the 100th anniversary of the Stockholm Games. Later in July, the medals will travel to London for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games to be displayed for spectators.

In 1912, Thorpe swept both the pentathlon and decathlon. He was the first and only Olympian to accomplish this, and King Gustav V of Sweden proclaimed Thorpe "the greatest athlete in the world." Swimmer Kahanamoku, an American surfing legend, won the 100-meter freestyle. Mills won gold in the 10,000-meter run in 1964.

The exhibit is open through Sept. 3.

-Associated Press

#### **Oregon Tribes upset with** mascot ban

EUGENE, Ore. — New rules connected with Oregon's new ban on Native American mascots in public high schools have drawn objections from two of the nine federally recognized Tribal groups in Oregon, including the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde.

The rules adopted by the State Board of Education allow the nickname "Warriors," but not if it's accompanied by imagery such as the chief in - Associated Press

#### San Francisco Peaks inspire hunger strike

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — A pair of young Flagstaff residents have embarked on a hunger strike to oppose snowmaking at Snowbowl, a ski area on the San Francisco Peaks, held sacred by 13 Tribes in the Southwest. Jessica Beasley, a Navajo Tribal member and Northern Arizona University nursing student, and her partner, Joseph Sanders, began their hunger strike on June 5.

The hunger strikers are hoping to call attention to what they believe is a human rights violation against people who hold the Peaks sacred. Beasley and Sanders said they are willing to end their hunger strike when the city cancels its water delivery contract with Snowbowl, when the ski area removes its pipeline and repairs the damage from initial construction, and when the city agrees "that there will be no further destruction of the San Francisco Peaks by Arizona Snowbowl or any others.'

Earlier this year, the Hopi Tribe formally requested that the Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service re-open consultation about the pipeline permit because of endangered species issue. The Hopi Tribe commissioned a study by an environmental consulting firm, which found the agencies overlooked potential threats from snowmaking to an endangered alpine plant. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field supervisor Steve Spangle said that so far, the agencies have not re-opened consultations, but they are discussing the matter.

- Indian Country TODAY

#### **Buffett's daughter helps** Winnebagos

WINNEBAGO, Neb. - Susie Buffett investor Warren's daughter, not singer Jimmy's - is helping the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska build a research-backed Educare preschool and daycare. The Tribe plans to hold a groundbreaking ceremony for the new \$10-million center soon in Winnebago. The project has the backing of the Buffett Early Childhood

– Berkely Daily Planet

#### After 200 years, bison return to Fort Peck



POPLAR, Mont. — "It's a special day," said Larry Wetsit, the Fort Peck Assiniboine Indian medicine lodge keeper. "Our people have been waiting and praying about this for a couple hundred years.

The Fort Peck Reservation is home to both the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, who teamed up with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) to re-establish a herd of 63 "genetically pure" bison - "the breeding stock to repopulate the entire western United States, in every place that people desire to have them," NWF President Larry Schweizer said.

As trucks carrying the 63 bison neared the release site, both Assiniboine and Sioux people were present, loudly singing.

"My relations, there were hundreds of them, starved on several occasions here as we were placed on the reservation. It was all about having no buffalo. That was the low part in our history, the lowest we could go. This is a start on the road to recovery," Wetsit said.

"What we've always been told, always prayed about, is that the buffalo represents prosperity. When times were good it was attributed to because our Creator gave us more buffalo. That was food, shelter, supplies, like the biggest shopping mart you could think of. We call ourselves buffalo chasers. Our people migrated with those animals. What this means to me is prosperity, the return of prosperity to our people."

-Associated Press

# Health

### Challenge yourself to a healthier future

#### BY JUDY WEEKS Freelance Writer

**IMMOKALEE** — Work out means what it says: Work or you're out. Mixing it up with a variety of activities, the Health Department's Fitness Boot Camp at the Immokalee Gym meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12-1 p.m. In addition, a group fitness schedule and individual classes are available.

Most of the Boot Camp participants arrive at the gym around 11:30 a.m. to warm up on the state-of-the-art equipment in the workout room. A steady 15-minute walk releases the endorphins and conditions the muscles for what lies ahead.

Fitness specialists Joel Garcia and Liz Pickering are tough taskmasters as they put their interns through a rigorous course of diversified activities. They hit the mats for situps, pushups, stretches and lifts. A few jumping-jack exercises and then out comes the jump ropes, followed by weightedbag and dumbbell squats, kicks, lifts, punches and stretches.

As they run from one course to another, the trainers shout, "Breathe, breathe, breathe!" Background music slowly increases to help build the momentum. Smiles become grimaces and perspiration flows as the participants build stamina. When it appears that they are beginning to falter, they suddenly get their second wind and make another trip around the course.

"The Boot Camp provides a healthy physical workout and stimulates mental productivity," Garcia said. "A cardiovascular workout builds lung capacity and muscle tone. Our program is pretty intense but brings results. You must remember that no burn, no gain."

"For me, walking and attending the Fitness Boot Camp is like a personal challenge," Amy Yzaguirre said. "My whole family is plagued with high blood pressure and diabetes. I love food and can put on weight by just looking at it. You might say that I work out to eat. I'm my biggest challenge and I compete against myself. I'm very pleased that my daughter Larissa feels the same way and often joins me on the road to better health."

By following an exercise plan, Yzaguirre is able to shed the pounds and help control her blood pressure, cholesterol and triglycerides. She started participating in organized walks several years ago and then moved up to running. It has become her passion and she has taken part in approximately 80 5Ks.

"We are very proud of Amy Yzaguirre," Pickering said. "She ran in the Hooters to Hooters Half Marathon in Fort Myers and beat her own personal time by 35 minutes. Remember that it doesn't matter the state of your body now as long as you determine today to make a change. You can do it!"

A few years ago, Yzaguirre and her cousins Cecilia Pequeno and Juanita Martinez took part in an Alaskan marathon sponsored by ConocoPhillips. The course covered a full 26.2 miles, and the women successfully completed the half marathon of 13.1 miles despite the fact that a good portion of it was uphill and covered some very rough ground.

"I work out in memory of my mother, Diane Yzaguirre," Pequeno said. "She died young of a cerebral hemorrhage, and heart and diabetic problems run in my family. We are only given one body, and I owe it to myself and my children to take good care of it. It is important to realize that what we do today can have a dramatic effect upon how many tomorrows we will have."

In May, Amy Dimas, Frankie DeLaRosa, Amy Yzaguirre and Larissa DeLaRosa took part in the Miami Merrell Down & Dirty Mud and Obstacle Series. They had a fabulous time making their way through the 13.1-mile run while tackling 12 obstacles that included crawling and running through mud, climbing slanted walls, crawling through tubes and climbing over hay stacks.

"I'm not intimidated by running, but I feared that my upper body might refuse to change positions for the first few days following the marathon," Yzaguirre said. "They always say that the first 13 miles are the easiest; it's the last .1 that takes you down. We each reached our goal and had a lot of fun doing it. Now, we challenge you to start working toward a healthier lifestyle. Every time you exercise or take another step forward, you are heading in the right direction."

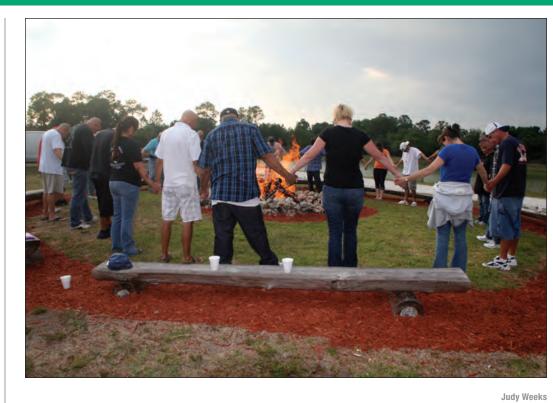


Judy Weeks

Immokalee Fitness specialists Joel Garcia and Liz Pickering coordinate Boot Camp activities to challenge participants.







Participants in the Immokalee Campfire support group hold hands in a circle during an opening prayer.

## Immokalee Rez Campfire celebrates third year

#### BY JUDY WEEKS Freelance Writer

**IMMOKALEE** — The Immokalee Rez Campfire celebrated three years of service to the Recovery program on April 13. Located beside the lake behind the residence of Raynaldo and Norita Yzaguirre, it has been a tremendous success because of community involvement.

The campfire was originally initiated by Raynaldo Yzaguirre when he was seeking an opportunity to provide a service to his community and support the Recovery program in Immokalee. It began as a small fire in the weeds beside the lake and has evolved into a peaceful little park suitable for daily reflection. The site has become a labor of love and support that Yzaguirre maintains.

The well-manicured lawn and large log benches encircle a rock-lined fire pit. Sustaining support from people like Robert Cypress with his loads of firewood and volunteer cleanup crews following recovery meetings make it possible for Yzaguirre to provide this safe place for meetings and support services for those in need.

The campfire has had its ups and downs with participation ranging from three to 75 people. Nevertheless, no group is too small or large when you are in need of help or the desire to find strength through testimony or spiritual connection.

Approximately 40 people attended the three-year-anniversary celebration, comprising individuals from Immokalee, Big Cypress, Hollywood, Cape Coral and Fort Myers. Raynaldo and Norita Yzaguirre had prepared one of their famous barbecue buffets for the occasion, which preceded the scheduled meeting. Joining hands in the circle, a spiritual connection opened the meeting. People from all walks of life and age groups shared their testimony and offered support to each other. Addiction, relapse and recovery were the topics of discussion. "It took a long time for me to get to this

point," Yzaguirre said. "However, by the grace of God and the love of my family, I am here today. Drugs weren't my problem. I was the problem. By following the steps and doing service to others, I find the strength for survival. It is important to remember that the addict isn't the only one in recovery. The whole family structure suffers when one of its own stumble and we need to be here to help them get back up again."

"We have people here tonight ranging from 40 years in absentia to 12 days in treatment," Prevention specialist Fred Mullins said. "Survival is finding meaning. Until we stop being a victim, we cannot recover. We must hold ourselves accountable and build a foundation with love and tolerance. The heat from this roaring campfire is nothing in comparison to the bright flame fueled by powerful testimony."

The group surprised Yzaguirre with a celebratory cake and huge card signed by everyone in appreciation for his efforts.



Judy Weeks Participants in the Immokalee Fitness Boot Camp loosen up before getting into a rigorous workout.

Photo courtesy of Amy Yzaguirre From left, Amy Yzaguirre, Frankie DeLaRosa, Larissa DeLaRosa and Amy Dimas compete in the Miami Merrell Down & Dirty Mud and Obstacle Series.

Judy Weeks

Immokalee Prevention specialist Fred Mullins and Robert Cypress present Raynaldo Yzaguirre with a birthday cake and giant card as they celebrate the third year for the Rez Recovery Campfire.

## Get focused, work hard, aim high

#### Paula Bowers-Sanchez

Get focused. I was reading a book about having focus in our lives. In the first few pages, it talks about how our habits will determine our future. If we are in the habit of making bad choices or bad decisions, then we should expect bad outcomes. I believe our lives are guided by each and every decision we make. I also believe it's all about how we respond and react to situations.

But there is always an opportunity to make a positive decision that will result in a positive outcome.

I started thinking about this and came to the realization that there is a direct correlation between the way I handle certain situations and the direction of my life. I started thinking about major decisions I have made throughout my life and how those decisions have guided me through this path I am on.

Starting back in high school when I was faced with the decision to either buckle down and go to summer school, night school and also attend a full day of school to graduate "on time" with my friends or make it up after graduation, I decided that graduating with my friends was what I needed to do. I was in school pretty much 24 hours a day, but I graduated on time with my class.

I believe that was a positive decision resulting in a positive outcome.

Then, when it came time to decide if I would attend University of Miami or New York University (NYU), I was faced with another decision. It was definitely a game-changing choice, but I decided to go to NYU. Believe me, it opened a whole new world to a girl from the rez. That was the first time I was truly "on my own," so it forced me to be disciplined and responsible for my actions. I found that, in order to succeed, I had to do what was expected and nothing less.

I believe this positive decision absolutely had a profound effect on which direction my life would go.

I faced yet another major decision when I decided to go for my master's degree. Again, using that same commitment and determination that had guided me thus far, and the familiar hard work and long hours, I received my degree.

This decision served to solidify my way of thinking: I knew that anything was possible once I made the commitment and mustered up the courage and diligence to see it through.

Bottom line is we are the masters of our own destiny. If we maintain focus and strive for more, then we can't help but achieve more. It isn't enough to just sit back and wish this or that would happen; we have to make it happen. I've said this many times: You are the only one who puts limits on yourself.

Don't live your life with self-doubt. Successful people don't just wake up one day and they have made it to the top. They had to have the vision. They had to proactively pursue their goal, all the while maintaining a high level of self-discipline and determination. They had to develop and implement the qualities of success.

We Seminoles all have those qualities. They are inside each and every one of us, man and woman. We are, after all, the Unconquered. We have that blood running through us.

So aim high!

## The truth about bath salts

#### SUBMITTED BY DEBRA RAY Family Services Department

#### What are bath salts?

First, the name "bath salts" doesn't refer to any single drug but rather a group of substances with similar chemical properties. Most varieties contain either mephedrone or methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV). Both drugs are related to khat, an organic stimulant found in the Middle East and East African countries. Khat is illegal in the U.S. because it contains cathinone, a Schedule 1 controlled substance, according to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

Neither of these drugs is new; mephedrone has bounced around laboratories since the 1920s and MDPV since the late 1960s, but recreational use of the drugs is relatively new, dating back just around a decade. Mephedrone is a stimulant, and MDPV is both a stimulant and a psychoactive drug. The qualifier "psychoactive" means that the drug crosses the blood-brain barrier and causes changes in neurochemical function, resulting in amplifying effects on mood, thought, perception and behavior.

Are bath salts addictive? Yes, they probably are, and for roughly the same reason other drugs are addictive – they cause the brain to limit reuptake of dopamine, which means more of the neurochemical is available in the brain, and the brain really likes that. Over time, the effect diminishes and more of the drug is required to keep the ball rolling.

#### Why are bath salts dangerous?

First, the recommended dosage: There isn't any. All buyers know is that they've paid \$50 for a pouch of crystallized powder. At first, they use

a little and experience a bit of a boost, then a little more to keep the boost going and so forth until their pouch of bath salts is empty.

When your brain is hit with that much psychoactive stimulant, the nervous system overloads and all the brain's hardwired threat alarms go off. The predictable results are paranoia, panic attacks, mood swings and reckless behavior. Plus, another effect called hyperthermia kicks in, which means your body is overheating because it can't dissipate heat quickly enough to keep you cooled down.

The long-term effects of bath salts usage are unknown, but all signs so far suggest that it's probably not good. Even in the short term, placing so much stress on your nervous system and body is just not a good idea. It's like redlining your car for miles and hoping the engine doesn't explode. And if you happen to have a heart condition, particularly one you don't even know about, ingesting a pouch of bath salts could trigger a tragic outcome.

Aside from that, bath salts contain a bevy of harsh chemicals in addition to psychoactive substances like lidocaine, a topical analgesic and anti-itch agent. Why is it in some varieties of bath salts? Who knows, but it – along with a lot of other stuff that hasn't even been identified yet – is getting circulated throughout your body when you ingest the powder. Think of it this way, would you knowingly snort a line of athlete's foot powder?

The best policy for your safety and health is to avoid bath salts.

Should you wish to learn more about the dangers of bath salts, please feel free to schedule a confidential meeting with a Family Services counselor on your respective reservation.

- Source: Forbes (2012)



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# Education

## **Native Learning Center hosts fourth annual Summer Conference**

#### **BY BRETT DALY** Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The Native Learning Center (NLC) saw record numbers at its fourth annual Summer Conference held June 5-7 at the Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

More than a hundred people registered for the conference representing Tribes such as Seminole, Navajo, Cherokee, Lumbee, Miccosukee and Ho-Chunk Nation, among others. NLC executive director Georgette Smith credits the record turnout to the increased quality of courses and instructors, as well as increased marketing efforts.

"To see that Tribes are coming to gain the knowledge to take back to build positive, healthy communities makes me feel so good," she said. "It shows that the Seminole Tribe has the expertise that will go back out in Indian Country to educate others."

The center offers free courses and training to Native Americans and Indigenous people with a focus on areas critical to the growth and improved quality of life for their communities. The focus areas include culture and language, financial wellness,

Tribal government.

The Summer Conference offered a variety of courses that touched on these focus areas.

In developing their conference schedule, NLC curriculum development specialist Jared Forman said the center took past participants' feedback into consideration in addition to finding classes to fit their focus areas. For example, some attendees last year noted they wanted more in-depth grant writing classes. Therefore, this time around, the center offered a 12hour grant writing workshop over three days, as opposed to its previous three-hour course.

They did the same for the Tribal Constitutions class, which Forman said was their most popular. Twenty-nine people preregistered for the course.

"We have a lot of curriculum that we want people to not only benefit from in their own personal lives but also to bring back Tribes as a whole," he said.

NLC marketing coordinator Christina

grant education, housing strategies and Gonzalez said the conference was their taught by Mark Ford of Chiricahua Apache strongest to date. She said that, in addition to offering popular courses, hosting the conference on the reservation helped bring more attendees. She also credited the hard work of the NLC team.

"Our team as a whole has become stronger," she said. "We continue growing. We continue learning."

Executive director Smith said the center has gained a considerable amount of exposure across Indian Country, mainly through word of mouth from satisfied participants.

"I see a lot of attendees that have been with us the past three years who are very loyal supporters of the Native Learning Center," she said. "Word of mouth seems to work best with Indian Country."

For attendee Norma Locklear of the Lumbee Tribe in Pembroke, N.C., the conference appealed to her because of the interesting workshops. She said she enjoyed both the I Ain't Got No Accent and the to their communities to help benefit their History and Success of Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country courses.

The I Ain't Got No Accent course,

descent, demonstrated the issues that surface from interactions with people from other cultures and the best practices in overcoming obstacles and cultural misunderstandings. It addressed the issues of how to express and understand verbal, para-verbal and nonverbal modes of communications.

The History and Success of Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country, taught by Ron Gurley of the Cherokee Nation, focused on how partnering with the Boys & Girls Club helps at-risk children grow, learn, develop and change their lives and surroundings.

Locklear said she benefited from both courses because she works in her Tribe's Culture Department and her Tribe has five Boys & Girls Clubs on the reservation.

"They have really good workshops," she said. "I learned a lot."

The three-day conference also showcased vendors' and exhibitors' traditional apparel and beaded, shell and turquoise jewelry from around Indian Country, as well as Seminole arts and crafts.

In keeping with the Hard Rock theme,



the Osceola Brothers Band rocked out the conference with a special performance on June 6. Smith said the NLC promotes healthy communities, and the boys are a prime example of the success that comes with being surrounded by positive role models. The boys - Cameron, 15; Tyson, 13; and Sheldon, 10 - are hard-working honor students in addition to talented musicians who write their own music.

Smith felt extremely satisfied with the turnout and success of the conference and thanked the Council and Board for their support.

"The support from the Tribal government has been great," she said. "I'm really pleased with the support of the Tribe for what we do. It helps us reach out to all of Indian Country."



Harmony Cypress, left, and Jaylee Cypress display their Fourth Quarter awards.

## Ahfachkee celebrates end of school year

**BY BRETT DALY Senior Editor** 

about bullying, while the fifth- and sixthgrade students learn how to resist peer

## **Charter School students showcase** work at Culture Open House

#### **BY RACHEL BUXTON Freelance Writer**

teachers and peers got an inside look at her creativity. what the Culture Department has spent their school year teaching them.

The Culture Department hosted their annual Culture Open House at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School on May 24, displaying each student's arts and crafts. Pieces included beaded daisy chains and pen covers, medallions, earrings, sweetgrass baskets, traditional Seminole dolls, pillows and potholders. "We start small," lead arts and

crafts teacher Janelle Robinson said. "Our kindergarteners and first-graders pretty much do the same thing. We start basically teaching them the colors and how to pick up the beads, threading needles and then we go on to harder projects. We just try to progress and go onto the more difficult as the higher grades do.'

The students showed off their craftsmanship to family members, teachers and classmates.

"There are a lot of people that can't get into here on a daily basis to see what we are doing," Robinson said. "Just this morning we had a teacher come in and say, 'Second grade did this?' and I was like 'Yes, ma'am.'"

is not being taught on a daily basis like colors." it was before.'

BRIGHTON - Students' families, her arts and crafts projects brought out about next year's sixth-grade project:

"It is fun," she said. "You get to do your own ideas and pick your own

Fudge said making medallions was For fifth-grade student Alicia Fudge, "easy and fast," but she is a little nervous sweetgrass baskets.

See OPEN HOUSE on page 9B



**BIG CYPRESS** — The last day of the 2011-2012 school year on May 31 marked two big celebrations at Ahfachkee School: the D.A.R.E. graduation and the Fourth Quarter Awards Ceremony.

The morning kicked off with students from kindergarten, third, fifth and sixth grades meeting in the cafeteria to receive their awards for the completion of D.A.R.E., a nationwide program that gives children the skills they need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs and violence.

School Resource Officer Michele Short teaches the 10-week course at Ahfachkee once a week, tailoring the content to each grade level. Kindergarteners learn to avoid strangers and third-grade students learn

As

the

of

pressure and live drug- and violence-free lives

Fifty-eight students graduated from the program.

"I challenge you to take on the mission of D.A.R.E.," principal Lucy Dafoe said to the students. "I want you to remember exactly what your education taught you."

During the graduation, fifth-grade student Mya Cypress and sixth-grade students Mazzy Robbins and Ethan Balentine also received special recognition for winning the essay contest Officer Short assigned the students. Each student wrote an essay explaining why they would stay drug-free.

See AHFACHKEE on page 3B

The Open House also featured Creek language demonstrations in their classrooms.

"It is our time to shine," fifth-grade student Krysta Burton said.

Creek language teachers Jimi Lu Huff and Myra Gopher tested the students on their Creek sounds and words, and in the more advanced classes, they conducted games in which students raced against each other to answer correctly.

don't get it at home," Robinson said. "It

**Rachel Buxton** 

Judy Weeks

"It's important because a lot of kids Ashlynn Collins shows her aunt Lucy what the middle school students made.

### **Education Department makes** commitment to higher education



education coordinator Moneymaker Tribalwide. Formerly

Hollywood Reservation's K-12 Education adviser, she new Tribalwide college is now working with the higher education students. She has a master's degree in education and will receive her doctoral Florida. Formerly, he degree in education leadership next fall. Moneymaker said she hopes to provide all Tribal members with the opportunity to continue their pursuit of a higher education degree.

the

"I have always been a firm believer in the power of education," she said. "As a mother and working professional, I know it can be difficult to make time for college, but with technology and online universities available to us, I believe everyone is able to reach their education potential."

The Education Department has seen a significant increase during the past three months of Tribal member parents and professionals registering to further their education and seeking to better

Paola Moneymaker market themselves professionally and this better serve their community via an online March, the Education higher institution. Both Linda Iley and has Moneymaker are committed to supporting added a new member all members seeking to continue their higher education and offering additional resources education team. Paola to help bridge the higher education gap. Moneymaker serves They said they look forward to an exciting as the new higher 2012-2013 year.

#### **Robert Caruso**

Robert Caruso is the recruitment adviser for the Seminole Tribe of was the Hollywood K-12 Education adviser. However, he is now solely responsible for the high school



students, and his focus will be to prepare them for the college admission process. Caruso graduated from Nova Southeastern University in 2006; he is currently pursuing his master's degree and will graduate in May 2013. Caruso is excited to get to know the high school students Tribalwide and build personal relationships with them. His main objective is to ensure that the Tribal students are academically successful and admitted to their college of choice.



### **Immokalee Preschool holds Get Fit Day**



The tunnel and alphabet puzzle are among the favorite activities at the Immokalee Seminole Preschool Get Fit Day. + See FIT DAY on page 10B

## Pemayetv Emahakv holds fourth annual Creek Spelling Bee





Third-grade student Jessie Webber gets ready to spell his first word during the Creek Spelling Bee on May 15.

 From left, third-place winner Lahna Sedatol, second-place winner Raeley Matthews and first-place winner Joseph Osceola gather.

## Fourth Quarter Award Ceremony marks end of Charter School's academic year



of the Year.

Andrea Holata

Dalence Carrillo, Silas Madrigal, Aubrey Pearce and Aidan Tommie show the sweatshirts they received for having perfect attendance all year.



liddle school students Ruben Rurgess Aivana Tommie. Diamond Shore

## **Charter School honors Students of the Month**



Photo courtesy of Michele Thoma

Pictured: Marcos Reyna, Chayton Billie, Dylan Johns, Illiana Robbins, Angelie Melton, Kyra Toneges, Tadan Santiago, Myron Billie, Donovan Harris, Brienna Brockman, Aubrey Pearce, Jenna Brown, Aiyana Tommie and Caitlyn Olivarez. Not pictured: Logan Butler, Jarvis Johnson, Aleina Micco, Kano Puente, Diamond Shore and Kailin Brown.

## PECS kindergartners end school year with Talent Show



Pretending to be elephants and frogs, kindergarteners perform Wide Mouth Frog.



Andrea Holata Fifth-grade student Krysta Burton receives a plaque from principal Brian Greseth for Safety Patrol Officer



Andrea Holata PECS third- through fourth-grade students receive their Best Creek Speaker awards on June 8 during the Fourth Quarter Awards Ceremony held at the Charter School. Lahna Sedatol and Kailin Brown show their certificates for Best Creek Writing Skills.



Andrea Holata

Andrea Holata

Cakiyah Koger receives the award for the 100's Club from kindergarten teacher Chris Duncan.

From left, Rudy Juarez, Morgan King, Shae Pierce, Crysten Smith, Zeke Matthews and Rumor Juarez show their awards for Best Creek Speaker.

## **Charter School students perform in Talent Show**



Andrea Holata

Second-grade students sing and dance to Verbalicious. Fifth-

Andrea Holata

Andrea Holata

Fifth-grade teacher Heather Dobbs' orchestra plays *Hanging with the B's, The BA Blues* and *Barcarolle*. The orchestra, organized just days earlier, learned how to play and read music using plastic flutes.

Michael Garcia charms the audience by singing a song he wrote, while brother Erik Garcia plays the guitar.



#### Fifty-eight students graduate from the D.A.R.E. program at Ahfachkee on May 31.

Brett Daly

#### AHFACHKEE From page 1B

Short said. "The joint effort of law enforcement, school and parents is essential [in keeping kids drug-free]. It's important was made to believe a blow-up alien doll for students and schools to have a resource like this available to them."

After the students received their D.A.R.E. certificates, they headed to the for their hard work during the fourth Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium for the Fourth Quarter Awards Ceremony. Principal Dafoe brought in hypnotist Glenn Miller to Dafoe congratulated the students and entertain the students.

Twenty-four students, teachers and parents volunteered to get hypnotized and lined up in seats inside the gym. Miller instructed them to sit with their feet flat on

the floor and close their eyes, telling them to feel "loose, limp and lazy."

At Miller's instruction, hypnotized volunteers pretended to be super models, "I think knowledge is power," Officer famous singers, including Michael Jackson and Britney Spears and even the Village People. Ahfachkee teacher Jonelle Pollard was the man of her dreams.

Once the entertainment concluded, students ate lunch and received recognition quarter in attendance, behavior, academics, citizenship, culture and GPA. Principal encouraged them to gear up for the upcoming school year.

"Be ready to commit to your next grade level," she said.



Ahfachkee boys collect their Fourth Quarter awards on May 31.



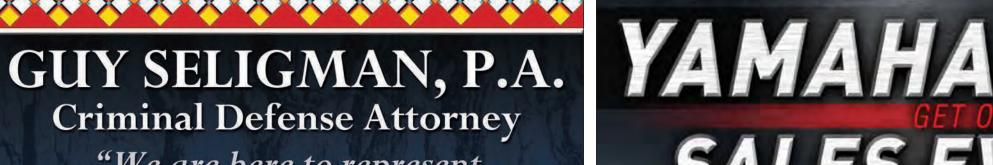
Ahfachkee teachers and SPD officers celebrate with the D.A.R.E. graduates.



Geneva Garcia, left, and Thoya Robbins show off their awards.



Johnnie Sue Russell shows off her Elaponke Achievement award.



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## **Tribal students visit University of Miami for college tour**

#### **BY RACHEL BUXTON Freelance Writer**

**MIAMI** — The University of Miami (UM) was invaded by Seminoles on May 18 when more than 20 Tribal youth took an exclusive tour of one of their arch rivals<sup>3</sup> campuses.

High school students ranging from freshmen to seniors made the early morning trek from Hollywood, Big Cypress, Trail and Brighton to find out if it really is "all about the U.

However, some Tribal youth didn't have to be convinced.

"I was born and raised to love the Hurricanes," said Taylor Fulton, a junior at the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress.

Fulton said she wants to remain in Florida for college, and with UM as her top choice, she seized the opportunity to tour her potential future residence.

"I really like the campus," she said.

Students were split into two groups for the tour to allow for a more personal experience, which student Jesse Mitchell's mom, Virginia Mitchell, enjoyed.

"They have students give the tour instead of staff because then they can show you little nooks and crannies that the kids could relate with," she said.

The student tour guides tried to lure the Tribal youth by sharing nightlife seize opportunities like Ramos-Huggins did opportunities, including UM's free concerts, like the popular rapper Ludacris,

U.S. President Barack Obama.

Students walked the grounds while the tour guides pointed out main buildings, including the school's very own radio station and new student center. In addition, the guides gave the Tribal youth a look inside an on-campus dorm because one of the requirements for freshman attending UM is to live on campus.

It wasn't Sara Ramos-Huggins' first time in a UM dorm room. Last year, she participated in UM's Summer Scholars Program, an opportunity for current high school sophomores and juniors to gain college-life experience. Ramos-Huggins lived on campus for three weeks, which helped her decide to attend college.

"Me and my mom thought it was a great idea," she said. "It was a really good experience. I got college credit, and it made me want to go to college.

Paola Moneymaker, Higher Education coordinator for the Tribe, helped make that for UM. experience possible for Ramos-Huggins.

got to know students here, so she feels like she's a Hurricane already. It gave her that confidence, that boost going into her senior here.

Moneymaker encourages students to to gain knowledge and experience before choosing a college.

After the conclusion of the campus ranked school in Florida.

and special visits from the Dalai Lama and tour, students meet with admissions takes to get into UM.

The Seminole Tribe's Education Department offers several college tours throughout the year, including their annual "If there is one thing that they take Summer College Tour, where they visit away from today's tour, I want it to be several schools in one week.

"The college tour is a great way to expose them to multiple things in a short amount of time," Moneymaker said. "With an individualized tour, which they are able to do, they have that one-on-one time; they get to meet staff; they get to meet admission representatives; they get to ask those questions that maybe they wouldn't ask if they were in a group full of people. They get to take their time.

Deven Osceola, a freshman from Trail, attended the UM tour to see what sports opportunities they offer. Osceola, who plays varsity football at Gulliver Preparatory School, said it's his dream to play football

He hopes to receive an athletic "She loved it," Moneymaker said. "She scholarship, not only to play football, but also to pursue an even bigger dream.

"I want to go to medical school," Osceola said. "I wanted to visit the school year that it is very realistic for her to come and be ahead of the game and know what I need to have to get in. I want a good education."

> UM is currently ranked 38th among all national universities, according to U.S. *News & World Report*, making it the highest

Moneymaker said the Education that they know it's not an impossible thing representatives to get the facts on what it Department hopes the college tours help alleviate some of the stress and intimidation that comes with choosing and applying to college.

for them; college is obtainable," she said. "We have Tribal member students that are already here, and we just want them to know that it's very real, that it is a very realistic possibility for them that, if they want it, they can get it."



**Rachel Buxto** While walking along the University of Miami grounds, Tribal students learn that UM is diversified. with the majority of their students coming from out of state.

## **PECS fifth-graders learn** the Science Fair process



Science Fair judge and second-grade teacher Lisa Clements talks to Aiden Tommie about his experiment.



Dressed in their favorite characters, from left, Jagger Juarez, Isaiah Bishop and Myron Billie pose for a picture while taking a snack break during the FCAT dance.

Conner Thomas shows off his hunting costume during the Hollywood-themed dance.

## Students blow off steam at FCAT dance

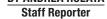




**ΒΥ ΔΝΩΒΕΔ ΗΟΙ ΔΤΔ** 

wings affect how they fly

Andrea Holata



**BRIGHTON** — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's fifth-grade students sat in front of their display boards, waiting for them to be judged at the Science Fair held in the school cafeteria on May 23.

Seventeen students from Renea Finney's science class displayed their Science Fair projects.

Each student's display board was properly arranged following the scientific method.

"Not only was it teaching them the Science Fair, but it was also teaching them the scientific method and the (Microsoft) Word program – how to type documents, to make graphs and data tables," Finney said.

Students chose projects that interested them from a list of 50 topics Finney gave them, including "Which diaper brand holds the most liquid?" and "Does paper airplanes"

Many students said they enjoyed putting their projects together and doing hands-on experiments at home.

"I chose my topic because I'm interested in airplanes and it seemed really fun," Lucas Osceola said. "I enjoyed it because I got to bond with my stepsister."

Finney said the experience helped prepare the students to complete projects on their own in the sixth grade.

Several judges walked around and asked each student questions to see if they understood the results of their projects. Although some of the students were nervous, they did a great job for their first year

Finney encouraged parents to challenge their children at home as well.

"Make sure you're always thinking scientifically in your house," she said. "Don't give them the answers; make them figure things out."

Andrea Holata

From left, administrative assistant Michele Thomas and teachers Sarah Williams and Jade Braswell dress up in their favorite costumes.

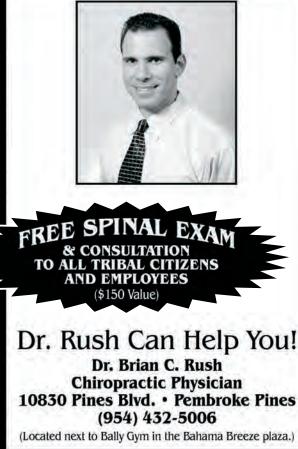
Andrea Holata

Andrea Holata

Pemayetv Emahakv's girls get ready for a dance-off in hopes of gaining the title of 2011-2012 queen at the FCAT dance.

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## Graduating Class of 2012

## Seminole Tribal members graduate with higher education degrees

#### Emma Johns graduates Ashford University

Brighton's Emma Johns graduated with a Master of Public Administration from Ashford University. She graduated with a 4.0 GPA as a member of Golden Key International Honour Society. She plans to continue to work for her Tribe, giving back all that has been gifted to her.

As members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, we have unlimited resources to help us succeed and fulfill our educational dreams," she said. "Many of us will stumble, and we will make mistakes. It is the lessons that we learn along the way that will help mold us into the person that we will become. Don't ever let bad history

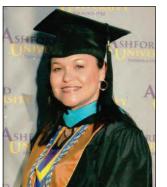
predict your future because the beauty of the future is that it can be changed based on you and your vision of who you will and want to be.

#### Brenda Cypress graduates Keiser University

Brenda Cypress is graduating from Keiser University in the summer of 2012 as a registered nurse. She plans to work in a hospital and then continue her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Broward College

#### Andrea Holata graduates Nova Southeastern University

Andrea Holata graduated this spring with her Bachelor of Science in business administration from Nova Southeastern University. Andrea management from Florida Gulf Coast University in the winter of 2011 is a Brighton non-resident who currently works as a staff reporter at *The* 



Seminole Tribune covering important events. She would be glad to apply Kingdom in Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, Fla. She enjoys her business degree if the opportunity arises within the Tribe. She is looking forward to a lifelong career with her Tribe.

#### Billie Porter graduates University of Florida

Billie Porter earned her Bachelor of Arts in business administration from the University of Florida in 2003; her Master of Arts in elementary education from Simmons College in 2010; and is completing her education specialist degree in behavior analysis from Simmons this summer. Billie will be taking the test to become a board-certified behavior specialist in September. This fall, she hopes to pursue her license in special education and as a reading specialist. She would like to use behavior analysis to develop treatment plans for individuals with addictions. She will be working in Boston, Mass. for a year, but she would love to return to Florida to serve her Tribe and their special needs population in the near future.

#### Kahelote Cornelius graduates St. Norbert College

Kahelote Cornelius will complete his Bachelor of Arts in English from St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis. this summer. Kahelote is a Hollywood non-resident who wishes either to pursue law or become a sports writer. If given the chance, he would like to participate in an internship in a Tribal program where he can utilize his skills and passion for writing.

#### Randi Kettle graduates Florida Gulf Coast University

Randi Kettle received her Bachelor of Arts in hospitality and and spring 2012. She is completing an internship program at the Magic

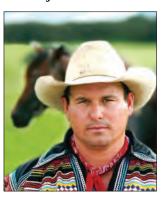
helping out with events such as parades. She plans to pursue and complete a Master of Business Administration before applying to work at hotels including the Seminole Hard Rock.

#### Jessica Buster graduates Nova Southeastern Universitu

Jessica Buster received her Bachelor of Arts in business administration from Nova Southeastern University this spring. She is currently working for the Seminole Police Department as an investigative aide. She hopes to stay with the department for several years and work to better her community.

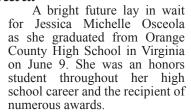
#### Alex Johns graduates Ashford University

Alex Johns received his associate degree in business from Ashford University this spring. He has worked for the Seminole Tribe's cattle program for the past 14 years. He was president of the Glades County Cattlemen's Association and is on the Florida Cattlemen's Association's Executive Committee serving as a district representative. He currently serves as the Natural Resource director for the Seminole Tribe of Florida in Brighton. He would like to continue his education and earn his Master of Business Administration in the near future and continue to be a positive role model and leader for his fellow Tribal members.



## Seminole Tribe of Florida graduating High School Class of 2012

#### Jessica Osceola



Gabriel Osceola and Wanda Griffin has already been accepted Florida State University bv (FSU). She is the granddaughter of Guy R. Osceola, who broke educational barriers in the early 1960s when he received a scholarship to Pembroke year, he received the MVP University upon graduation from Everglades High School.

Immediately following graduation, Jessica and her family moved from Virginia to Tallahassee in order to be close to FSU. She will be majoring in psychology with a possible minor in criminal law. Not being one to waste any time, she already enrolled in summer courses.

Jessica always enjoyed school and found that books opened new worlds. From the time she was in elementary school, she set high academic standards for herself. She would establish achievement goals, and her high grades reflected her success in obtaining them.

As Jessica changed schools, made new friends and was influenced by a wide variety of teachers, she developed a keen sense of social awareness that will surely be beneficial in her chosen career.

"Jessica is a sweet, caring girl, and I couldn't be more proud of her," said her mother, Wanda Griffin. "She's always thinking of other people and academics next year. focusing on her studies. I told her that God gave her to me first so that I wouldn't be afraid to have more children. She is a true gift and inspiration to all

More than 100 years old, Academy of the Holy Names is one of motherhood. "I would go to school from 6 (a.m.) to 2 (p.m.) and then come A bright future lay in wait Florida's most prestigious schools, with an excellent record of sending for Jessica Michelle Osceola almost 100 percent of its graduates to college. Jessica, daughter of Clarence and Lisa Motlow, will attend Florida State University

While it is great to be a Seminole joining the FSU Seminole Nation, Jessica said it was the academics that won her over.

'The academic side of FSU reminded me of my high school," she said. "I felt it would be a nice transition from high school to college.

Jessica plans to take a pre-medicine track as an undergraduate and then The daughter of Jason attend medical school with a goal to become a psychiatrist.

#### Jonathan Robbins

Jonathan Robbins is a Big Cypress Tribal member who is graduating from Ahfachkee.

Basketball has been his passion since he was 10 years old. This past award for his school's basketball team, scoring 32 points in his highest scoring game. He also plays for the J.U.S. travel team, which won the NAYO tournament this

"It's a fun sport to play and you can do a of traveling during the summer also," said Jonathan, who said he "retire" from plans to the sport to focus on

His favorite subjects in high school were math and history, and he earned a GPA of about 3.0. Jonathan applied to Edison State College and Florida Gulf Coast University and is waiting on replies to determine where he'll be in the performed in musicals, fall. He wants to major in business management administration and said he hopes "to give back to the Tribe what I learned."

home to my daughter and be so tired. She was determined to finish high school, not only for herself, but also

for her daughter.

"My mom pushed me," she said. "She didn't want me to drop out like all the other girls, and I wanted to graduate and set a good example for my daughter. Your education is something no one can take away from you; it will always be there."

Lois was a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions. She was also awarded her vocational completer certificate in visual design, where she became certified in Photoshop and proficient in photography.

She plans to attend Indian River State College in Okeechobee during the fall and then eventually transfer to Florida State University to study business management.

"I want to come back and work for the Tribe and do good things to help them out," she said.

She wants to thank her mom, dad and boyfriend, Anthony, for all their help and support.

She said she is definitely going to miss her friends and will cherish the fond memories of high school, including the infamous wood-hauling day for the Homecoming bonfire where she and her cousins made a competition out of it. She said she is definitely looking forward to her future. "I'm nervous and excited," she said. "My life is just beginning."

#### Braudie Blais-Billie

Laboring through four years of honors and advanced placement classes at Pine Crest School paid off big for Tribal member Braudie Blais-Billie.

The recent high school graduate earned a coveted spot at Columbia University in New York this August. Columbia receives around 35,000 applications a year and accepts only 1,400 - or just 4 percent of applicants.

'I wanted to get into Columbia really badly, so I wanted to do the best I could," Braudie said. "Columbia is really diverse, so I'm really excited to meet a lot of different people and live in the city.'

While she hasn't decided what major she would like to pursue, she said she has considered sociology, psychology and economics, as well as writing. She's keeping her options open for now.

"I want to go to college and be prepared and figure out what I want to





#### Jessica Motlow

At first, Jessica Motlow did not like the idea of going to an all-girls school

"I hated it," she admits, referring to Tampa's prestigious Academy of the Holy Names, which covers grades nine-12. "But then I grew to appreciate the high level of academics. "We would



have to stay up all night just to get our homework done,

said Jessica, one of three Tampa Tribal member high school graduates for 2012. "It was tough, but we were all the better for it."

He'd like to help improve the Tribe's casino business since he saw how much it helped the Tribe already.

His advice to Tribal youth is this: "The more you further your academically. education, the more you'll succeed in life."

#### Lois Billie

Lois Billie, of the Brighton Reservation, made history June 11 when she walked across the stage at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center and received her high school diploma from Okeechobee High School.

Lois, the daughter of Betty and Sandy Billie Jr., became the first one in her family to graduate from high school.

"I feel very accomplished for that," she said.

Lois has a 2-year-old daughter, Dyani Billie-Kayda.

"It was definitely a struggle," Lois said about balancing school and encourages students.

do," she said.

While in high school, Braudie participated in the French Club,

danced and even dabbled in cross country and track. A lot of her time, though, went toward pushing herself

encourages Tribal youth to every work hard in school so they, too, can have similar opportunities. She said they should take advantage of every opportunity the Tribe gives them, including attending college tours.

"Keep up your grades, and stick with things," she



See more HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES on page 6B

## **Eighth-grade students graduate from Community School of Naples**



hoto courtesy of Juanita Osceola Center Joelli Von Frank graduates and will attend high school at the Community

**School of Naples** 

#### **BY JUDY WEEKS Freelance Writer**

NAPLES — Three young members of the Naples community advanced their educational careers when they completed the curriculum for the eighth grade and graduated from middle school on May 31.

The Community School of Naples (CSN) is a private school with high academic standards that challenge their students to be the best they can be. Their philosophy is turning out some excellent results, and all three young scholars will be returning as high school freshmen in August.

Joelli Von Frank, Victoria Celine Osceola and Corinne Elizabeth Zepeda marched into the Field House auditorium to the traditional Pomp and Circumstance along with 69 other eighth grade students before a fullcapacity audience comprised of their families.

During opening ceremonies, Corrine Zepeda sang a musical solo, Breakaway. She is the daughter of Naples Liaison Brian Zepeda and his wife, Laurel. Extremely talented, she has been performing in front of audiences for several years and is at home on the stage

CSN is a strong supporter of the performing arts as well as artistic excellence and scholastic achievement. Following the presentation of numerous awards in all of these categories, certificates of completion were distributed to the graduates.

In closing, Victoria "Tori" Osceola sang One Moment in Time for the presentation of the Class of

2012. The daughter of O.B. Osceola Jr. and Nicole Vasquez, Tori has an impressive musical background and is a Seminole Star Search winner.

This was Joelli Frank's first year at CSN, and she is looking forward to her freshman year in high school. The daughter of Joel Frank II and his wife, Barbara, she finds the school's curriculum to be quite challenging. She said, "I haven't really settled on a career

yet, but art is my passion and I am hoping to take it to another level. However, I am certain of one thing: college is in my future, and I encourage all students in the Seminole Tribe to seek higher education.'

Music isn't Corrine Zepeda's only interest. She was in the top 10 percent of her art class and is planning an education that will give her entry into the field of sports medicine. A sports enthusiast, she earned a varsity letter in lacrosse, played junior varsity basketball in eighth grade and has been accepted on the varsity team and as a cheerleader for her freshman vear

Tori Osceola has been taking classes in singing, modeling and stage presence since an early age. She loves drama class and derived a great deal of benefit from her Seminole Star Search experience. In addition to singing, she takes guitar lessons and is a high honor roll student at CSN.

"I know that my college education will depend a lot upon how I prepare now," Tori said. "It's a full-time job concentrating on my grades. I am enrolled in the Seminole Media Productions Workshop this summer and am really looking forward to it."



Photo courtesy of Juanita Osceola Center Victoria "Tori" Osceola performs One Moment in Time during the graduation ceremony.



Photo courtesy of Juanita Osceola Center Corrine Zepeda leads the graduation processional at the Community School of Naples.

## Seminole Tribe of Florida graduating High School Class of 2012

#### Dakota Reese Henry



Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry remembers when Indians were not allowed to go to school. Tribal traditions, in many places, forbade "learning to read or write," recalled Bobby, who nevertheless said he is 'very proud of my grandson Ree-see for his graduation from high school.

Ree-see is the longtime nickname for James and Lela Henry's son, Dakota Reese Henry, who graduated last month from Stone Mountain School, an all-boys school in Black Mountain, N.C.

"I went to Tampa Catholic in the ninth and 10th grades," said the graduate, "but I wasn't doing very well. I was having problems, and my parents thought it was best to change schools.

"My mom found out about Stone Mountain School and sent me up there. I finished the last two grades up there, and it worked out fine. My mom and dad were very important in making sure I got a good education.'

Ree-see, who is considering continuing his education at Hillsborough Community College, is proud to be the first of elder Bobby Henry's progeny to graduate from high school.

"He is such an important leader for the Seminole Tribe, and I am honored to be the first of Bobby Henry's grandchildren to graduate," said Ree-see, who, as the oldest grandchild, wanted to "set an example for my brothers and sisters. I want them to think, 'If he can do it, we can do it.""

#### Victoria Lacey

Victoria Lacey, a Hollywood Tribal member, graduated from American Heritage School. She will be attending Johnson & Wales University in Providence, R.I. this fall. She will be majoring in culinary arts with a concentration in baking and pastry. She hopes to own her own baking and pastry shop or possibly partner with the Seminole Hard Rock in the future.

#### Cindi Adair

Cindi Adair graduated from Westlake Preparatory School. She will be working this summer with the Seminole Tribe's Education Department during their summer camp since she enjoys working with young children. The Education Department is fortunate to have her on board this summer.

#### Rebecca Osceola



The son of Robert and Brenda Youngblood, he graduated from Okeechobee High School on June 11 a great education, played baseball, golf and basketball, and said he hopes that Tribal youth will follow in his and his classmates' footsteps and finish school.

Many may know him for his enthusiasm in music. He was a member of his school's marching band, where he played the keyboard and marimba.

His passion for music began with his father, who gave him his first electric guitar, but it was the music theory class and his school's band director, Clint LaFlam, that pushed him to join the marching band.

"I took music theory because I wanted to expand my knowledge of music and learn to play classical music," Stormin said. "And Mr. LaFlam encouraged me to get involved. I wish I would have sooner.'

In his senior year, Stormin received an award for being the top jazz band guitarist. And just last month, Stormin, along with about 90 fellow band members, traveled to Washington, D.C. to march and perform in the National Memorial Day Parade.

Stormin is currently a member of his own band, named Warvance. They play heavy-metal music, but he said they are trying to incorporate classical, European and folk melodies into their songs.

He has his future mapped out to eventually become 'musical genius" and play powerful music.

His first stop on his musical journey is Lynn University in Boca Raton, where he plans to study musical composition and learn how to become a classical violinist.

After that, he wants to head to Finland to attend the Sibelius Academy to broaden his musical talent with the folk accordion.

One day, he hopes to achieve his ultimate dream of playing in the Finish or London orchestra.

"I plan to do my best," he said.

He said he is going to miss performing at all the competitions with his band members and thanks them for allowing him to play such wonderful music with other wonderful musicians.

#### *Tete Foret lll*



For Tampa Seminole Pete Foret III, it was the basic logic of football that kept him in school: "I've been playing my whole life. I knew I wanted to play in college," said Foret, last season's starting quarterback for the mighty Lennard Longhorns. "You have to maintain a 2.0 in order to play. And the colleges are not going to take you if you don't have good grades. I had to stay in school and keep studying and learning so I could achieve my dream.'

Pete's persistence and dedication won out. He graduated from Lennard and will be attending Greensboro (N.C.) College next year where this talented member of the Panther Clan was recruited to join the Division 3 Greensboro Pride football team. "I'm really not the prototype quarterback," he said. "I'm probably a little shorter than what you'd expect the prototype to be, although recruiters think I can be a good fit with the Greensboro program.

"So, in addition to football, my goal is to also to music. e sure I graduate with a degree in athletic training or sports medicine. Even if I can't play, I still want to be associated with sports.'

and made lasting friendships.

'My high school experience was fun," he said. "It was different every single day.'

Stevie said that by attending school every day, he was able to accomplish a lot. He excelled in sports and plans to attend either Florida Gulf Coast University or Haskell Indian Nations University, where he hopes to play golf and basketball.

'If I could give a piece of advice to younger students, it would be to get involved with everything and stay positive and out of drugs," he said.

#### Ryan Cypress



Ahfachkee graduate Ryan Cypress is most proud of his decision to return to school and receive his diploma.

He thanks his parents, Celesta and Cisero, for encouraging him to go back to school.

'They really pushed me to finish school," he said. Now that he has finished high school, Ryan plans to work for a couple years before pursuing a degree in marine biology from Florida Gulf Coast University.

#### **Tucomah Robbins**

Hollywood Tribal member Tucomah Robbins graduated from American Heritage School.

He was excited to graduate with a 3.7 GPA and 128 service hours completed, and he will continue his education at Florida State University.

"It means I get to start my own life and college," he said of graduation.

He is considering joining a fraternity if he finds the right fit, and he plans to major in psychology, which was his favorite subject in school.

"It's pretty interesting because of how much is not discovered about the human mind," he said of his choice of major

During his junior and senior years of high school, Tucomah was active in the community as one of the founding members of the Youth Council. He held the position of Hollywood representative and helped out with the Tribe's Thanksgiving drive and Christmas gift collection. He also learned leadership skills and how the Tribe's government works, which inspired him to set a big goal for himself.

'I want to become Chairman of the Tribe," he said, to help his own people and keep tradition alive.

Tucomah also participated in the Tribe's culture exchange program, cleaning up parks and visiting with members of the Hualapai Nation in Arizona and doing a week-long traditional canoe journey with Muckleshoot Indians in Washington.

For fun, he likes playing video games and listening

While attending Ahfachkee, Stevie Billie received He looks forward to his college career and encourages Tribal youth to learn as much as possible when they are in school because "you are going to use it in the future."

"Take everything teachers give you and embrace everything teachers give you," he said. "Be open minded.'

#### Cooper Rivers

Big Cypress Tribal member Cooper Rivers graduated from Wellspring Academy of California this spring with a 3.28 GPA.

She earned the highest grade in the English Department for the past year, but her favorite subject was science.

'We did a lot of labs," she said. "It was really hands on and more exciting than the other classes.3

Cooper got accepted into Miami Dade College and will attend in the fall. She is going to college to be a pathologist - embalming bodies for funerals.

"It's just interesting," she said.

After a year, she would like to transfer to St. Johns University and would eventually like to open up her own funeral home.

Cooper's advice to Tribal youth is this: "They can't expect to just live off of the dividend forever. They need to do something because it may not always be there. They need to finish high school and go to college."

#### Dillon Thomas

Dillon Thomas graduated from Ahfachkee School on May 29. He thanks his family and guidance counselor for helping him make it to the graduation stage.

"They were really there for me when I needed positive support," he said.

Dillon said he hopes to set a good example for his little brothers and sisters. He would like them to be proud of him and to follow in his footsteps.

"A piece of advice I would give to younger students is go to class, not to skip and (to) do your homework because that is really important," he said. "Do as well as you can."

#### Rowdey Osceola



Rowdey Osceola proudly accepted his high school diploma from Ahfachkee principal Lucy Dafoe on May 29 among seven of his classmates. He plans to attend art school in New Mexico.

"If there's one footprint I will leave at Ahfachkee, it will probably be my artwork," he said. "Art shows me can express my own freedom in a unique way.

Rowdey credits Ahfachkee for giving him a greater grasp on his culture, as well as all the other students at Ahfachkee, and for helping him pursue his passion for art. He said he also appreciates the support and encouragement he received from the school to never give up. He encourages other students never give up. even when the going gets tough.

"Keep moving forward," he said.

Rebecca Osceola graduated from Ahfachkee School on May 29. The Snake Clan member plans to attend Broward College to pursue a degree in education. She would like to return to Ahfachkee as a second-grade teacher in the future to teach Tribal youth.

Rebecca said she was able to finish high school with the support of her grandmother, mother, brothers and sisters. She said they also encourage her to follow her dreams.

"Without them, I wouldn't be here," she said.

#### Dalton Bert

Dalton Bert, son of Reese and Angie Bert, accepted his diploma from Okeechobee High School on June 11.

Dalton, a lifetime resident of the Brighton Reservation, may be the next Tribal member to join the U.S. Armed Forces. He was a member of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program during all four years of high school.

"In JROTC we learned about leadership, citizenship, community services and the Armed Forces," he said.

JROTC kept Dalton busy throughout his school years and instilled values that he will take with him during his future endeavors, which may include enlisting in the Marines.

"The Marines because (the) few who earn it said it is an honor to be a Marine," he said.

He is also considering a possible future studying environmental science at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan.

'Who knows where I'll be in 10 years," he said.

Dalton encourages Tribal youth to learn about other types of people and races.

"Make sure to learn other culture(s) and languages," he said.

He would like to thank his friends, classmates and teachers for all the fond memories he made during the past several years.

#### Stormin Youngblood

Stormin Youngblood, of the Brighton Reservation, has a set plan for his future and is ready to take on the next chapter of his life.

#### Akol Billie

Akol Billie is a Hollywood Tribal member who graduated from American Heritage School this spring. "It's unbelievable that I'm already leaving," he

said.

What he enjoyed most about school was the great friends that he made along the way, he said. Although he considers himself to be reserved, he challenged himself to two years of drama classes in middle school.

Sociology was his favorite class this year because he liked learning about human behaviors and "how to read people." He also had a passion for science classes, especially chemistry and biology.

"It was just a blast," he said.

Akol made the most of his senior year, attending Prom and Grad Bash as well as getting accepted into the college of his choice.

He will attend Full Sail University for graphic design in the fall, and he is looking forward to the independence of living on his own.

"I like the art and spending most of my time on the computer," he said of his choice of major. He is currently trying to teach himself Photoshop, and he likes to draw in his spare time.

Most of his 122 service hours were earned at his school's Art Department; he helped put away projects and store materials. He also volunteered to help sell Tribal merchandise at the Tribe's booth at this year's Old Florida Festival in Naples.

For fun, Akol watches comedy shows.

"I like to laugh," he said.

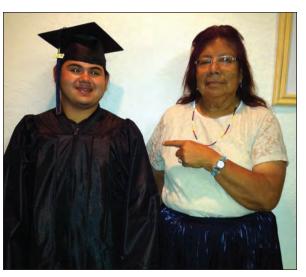
Akol's advice to Tribal youth is this: "Stay focused. Don't get off track. Stay following the right crowds.'

#### Stevie Billie



Tucomah would like to give this advice to Tribal youth: "Education really is an important tool. As I grew up, I learned that no one can take your education away from you, and it's one thing you can hold on to for the rest of your life.'

#### Huston Osceola



Hollywood Tribal member Huston Osceola graduated from Paladin Academy. He hopes to become a music producer or study business management. In the meantime, he will work for his father's chickee company and might work for the Tribe later on.

"I wanted to thank all my family for their support in helping finish my secondary education," he said.

#### Ariah Osceola

Ariah Osceola, of Hollywood, graduated from Hollywood Christian School and will attend St. Thomas University in Florida. She received a \$10,000 scholarship for her athletic abilities and will be starting for the women's basketball team.

#### Karlito Wargolet

Karlito Wargolet, of the Big Cypress Reservation, graduated from American Heritage School on May 20. Although he attended Westlake Preparatory School his freshman year and Cardinal Gibbons his sophomore year, he completed his high school career at Heritage

because of its reputation for being a college prep school. "High school was challenging," he said, "but it was fun all four years. There really wasn't a dull moment."

During high school, Karlito excelled in basketball, and he had the opportunity to travel to Lakeland for the State Championships with his varsity team. Although they finished as state runners-up, he said the experience was great.

Karlito will attend Florida State University beginning this summer and plans to major in marketing.

#### Dannee Billie

Dannee Billie is a Big Cypress Tribal member who graduated from Clewiston High School.

She played basketball all four years of high school, having played the positions of point-guard and shooting guard. Last year, she received the MVP award for her team.

"I just like playing basketball...meeting new people and playing with different people," she said.

Her favorite parts of senior year were going to Prom and Grad Bash. She loved hanging out with her friends and going on rides.

Psychology is her favorite subject in school.

"It was just interesting learning about different disorders," she said.

Dannee hopes to attend Palm Beach State College. She plans to apply soon, but she has not decided on a major yet.

Dannee's advice to Tribal youth is this: "Stay focused on school and get good grades."

#### Jalen Cypress

With the encouragement of his mother, Jalen Cypress attended school every day, making it possible for him to receive his high school diploma among his Ahfachkee classmates on May 29.

Jalen encourages students to stay in school and get their education as well. With the education he received. Jalen hopes to design video games and to also work on his art.

"I would like to thank the community for helping me through school and helping me graduate," he said.



### **Immokalee Seminole preschoolers graduate May 16**

#### **BY JUDY WEEKS Freelance Writer**

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Seminole Preschool's 2012 graduating class set a new record with the most students to complete their curriculum in the history of the school. Commencement ceremonies were held for the eight young scholars at the new Immokalee Seminole Preschool facilities on the morning of May 16.

Allie McInturff, Denise Gonzales, Amani Cummings, Jaylynn Rodriguez, Joshua Dimas, Jayden Garza, Valentin Garcia Jr. and Federico Rodriguez made a grand entry in their red caps and gowns adorned with Seminole patchwork in medicine colors. Ascending the stage, they opened the presentation by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and the Manteele for their family members and friends.

"This is our first graduation ceremony to be held in our new school facilities," site manager Michelle Ford said. "Most of these youngsters come to us as babies, and over the years, we feel as though they have become our own. It is always an emotional farewell to the graduates."

A short biography of each graduate was followed by the presentation of a Fire and Safety Award prepared by Lt. Bruce Britton, who held frequent workshops with the youngsters throughout the year.

A farewell speech by teacher Maria Castro gave insight into the personalities of each graduate and highlights from their years of attendance. Ford brought special memories to life as she addressed the graduates, talked about their potential and then gave them a quick preview of what the future holds for them as they continue their education.

During a carefully orchestrated program, the graduates sang for their audience. Then, they dressed in appropriate costumes depicting their career choices. The room was filled with smiles and laughter as they gave their short individual presentations. The theme of the graduation party was a Hawaiian luau, and the oungsters donned grass skirts and floral leis as they danced the hula for their appreciative audience.

Two photographic presentations depicted the youngsters' progression from toddlers to graduates.

Distribution of diplomas and graduation gifts was followed by a "cap in the air" celebration and a congratulatory luncheon.



Eight future kindergarteners graduate from the Immokalee Seminole Preschool.

**Omar Rodriguez** 





Seminole Fire Rescue Lt. Bruce Britton presents Allie McInturff with her Safety certificate.

Omar Rodriguez diploma from Immokalee Seminole Preschool.

Valentin Garcia Jr. is all smiles as he receives his graduation These Seminole girls are ready to take on the graduation ceremony.



Omar Rodrigue: This preschooler smiles big for the camera.

## **Trail Head Start graduates** celebrate with family, friends





**Omar Rodriguez** 

From left, Seminole preschool students Darius Cypress, Julian Osceola and Jonovan Tigertail-Billie smile big for the camera

Photo Credit

after graduating from kindergarten.

## **Trail kindergarteners graduate**

Seminole students prepare for the Miccosukee Head Start graduation ceremony on April 30.





Rickkel Osceola and her mom, Nicole Billie, get ready for the Head Start graduation.

Jayvin Yeampierre exits the graduation ceremony with a trophy in hand for Most Improved.





Kathryn Stolarz

Kathryn Stolarz

Jonovan Tigertail-Billie stands with teacher Marilena Suarez-Solis and Miccosukee Chairman Colley Billie.

Julian Osceola gleams while holding his graduation certificate.



Miccosukee Head Start graduates celebrate with a special ceremony on April 30 at the Miccosukee Tribal Office auditorium.



The kindergarten class wait their turn to go on stage for graduation.

## Hollywood preschoolers prepare to move on to kindergarten

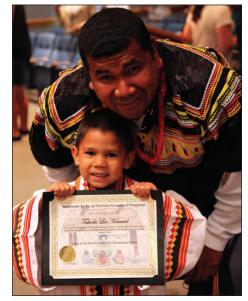


Kathryn Stolarz

Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., left, and Hollywood Rep. Chris Osceola give Millie Jumper her graduation certificate on May 24.



Kathryn Stolarz Neveah Baker graduates from Hollywood Preschool.



Kathryn Stolarz Brighton Rep. Larry Howard smiles with son Takoda on May 24.





Kathryn Stolarz

Hollywood Preschool graduates entertain the crowd with a song and dance on May 24 in the Hollywood Headquarters auditorium. The little ones dressed up in outfits representing what they want to be when they grow up.



The Big Cypress preschoolers show off their diplomas during graduation on May 25.

## **Big Cypress preschoolers graduate**

Kathryn Stolarz Maddux Motlow-Acosta thanks his teachers at the Preschool graduation. Kathryn Stolarz Yvette Jumper smiles with daughter Waddie Jackson and son Wahoo Jackson.

## **Brighton youth graduate preschool**

#### BY ANDREA HOLATA Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — On May 17 at the Brighton Gymnasium, 20 preschoolers received their diplomas, closing the first chapter of their academic career.

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard welcomed everyone and asked Tribal member Salina Dorgan to give the invocation as parents, family and friends came into the gymnasium for the graduation.

After Dorgan's prayer, the preschoolers took the stage for the Pledge of Allegiance and a welcome song. The children also provided entertainment by singing a numbers song and performing *Old MacDonald Had a Farm* in their native Creek language.

One by one, each graduate introduced themselves and who their parents are in Creek.



Following the introductions, the guests were treated to a slideshow of pictures of all the graduating preschoolers. The pictures showed each preschooler since they were babies.

Then, it was time for the preschoolers' big moment. As their parents lined the front of the stage, each student lined up, dressed in their caps and gowns. One by one, each student's name was called, and they walked to their parents, gave them a hug and a rose and walked to Rep. Howard, who handed them their preschool diplomas.

In closing, Rep. Howard said a few words of encouragement to the parents and handed over the microphone to Preschool director Leona Tommie Williams for a blessing of the food.

"These kids are our future – the future of our Tribe," Rep. Howard said.







Brett Daly Tommi Stockton graduates from preschool on May 25 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.



Brett Daly

Tommie Osceola smiles big for her graduation day as Councilman Mondo Tiger hands her a diploma. Brett Daly Savannah Cypress smiles with Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger at her graduation.



Big Cypress preschoolers recite the Pledge of Allegiance during their graduation ceremony on May 25.

Andrea Holat

Preslynn Baker receives her diploma from Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard.

Andrea Holata Kobe Micco receives his diploma from Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard on May 17.



Brighton Preschool graduates recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

## OPEN HOUSE From page 1B

Seminole history was also showcased during the Open House. Within their Seminole history classes, students learned about the different foods their ancestors lived off of. To give them hands-on experience, the students maintained a garden throughout the school year.

Following a slideshow presentation, students led visitors to the garden to see what they had produced – squash, tomatoes and corn.

Reina Micco, a former Culture teacher and a parent of two students, said she was really impressed to see how much more the kids are doing.

"To see that they can be creative with what they are given is great," she said. "It is good to see them continue to learn. The school was based on the culture, and arts and crafts shows that."



Kindergartners rush to see what their peers made during the school year.



Rachel Buxt

Students proudly show off their garden to their classroom teachers.

**Rachel Buxton** 

Rachel Buxton

Rachel Buxtor

Lexi Thomas poses with her craftsmanship so mom, Laverne, can snap a quick picture.



Reina Micco, left, looks at the garden with Aleina Micco, right, and Alicia Fudge.



Kyle Palmisano shows off his arts and crafts work to his mom, Kelly.



Rachel Buxton Kano Puente looks at the sweetgrass baskets his sixth-grade friends made.



First-grade students show off their projects to their friends and teachers.



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Preschoolers visit instructor Christine Duncan's kindergarten classroom.

# Brighton Preschool seniors visit the big school

#### BY ANDREA HOLATA Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — In an effort to prepare Brighton preschool seniors for the next level, the little ones toured the big school they'll be attending next year – Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School.

On May 22, the children got a peek at the Charter School's classrooms, offices and lunch room. Jeanine Gran, principal Brian Greseth and other staff greeted them with hugs, highfives and smiles.

After visiting the lunch room, the excited preschoolers walked the halls of the school chanting, "We're off to kindergarten, yes we are, yes we are...We won't be here in preschool any more. No more!"



Jeanine Gran leads the future kindergarteners through the office of Pemayetv Emahakv. Principal Brian Greseth and staff welcome the kids.

## Immokalee Preschool holds Get Fit Day

#### BY JUDY WEEKS Freelance Writer

**IMMOKALEE** — When the big, yellow school bus pulled up to the gym on May 2, the students from the Immokalee Preschool were all smiles in anticipation of Get Fit Day.

"Many of the 5-year-olds here today began attending our Get Fit program when they were only 1," fitness specialist Joel Garcia said. "It has been my pleasure to watch them grow and develop the necessary skills and coordination that will help shape a healthy future. Physical and mental fitness are huge pieces in the puzzle of life and guarantee future generations."

Following the example of their instructors, the kids formed a circle and performed basic stretch and warmup exercises prior to being divided into separate teams. The gym was divided into six individual courses to accommodate a broad range of athletic activities that included obstacle courses, bag and ball toss targets, relays and agility exercises.

"Our bodies are what we make of them," fitness specialist Liz Pickering said. "Physical and mental fitness begins at an early age and can be beneficial in

establishing lifestyle choices that will provide weapons for the fight against diabetes, obesity and heart disease."

Alternating events, the teams worked their way through the program taking part in each activity with a great deal of enthusiasm. By far, their favorites were the tunnel crawl and alphabet puzzle game. Laughter and smiles followed them everywhere they went.

A dietician from the Seminole Health Department called for a recess and distributed bottled water and bananas to the young athletes. While passing out the snacks, she talked about the importance of proper diet and hydration, whether you are on the playground, in the classroom or taking time out for a rest.

The youngsters returned to the course for a second round and then were rewarded by the Fitness Department with puzzles for their championship efforts.

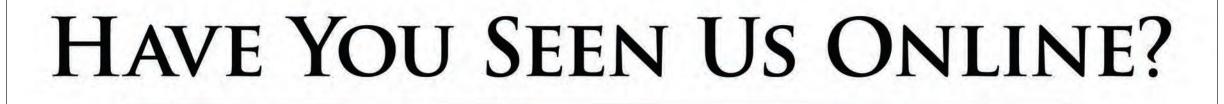
"Fitness, healthy lifestyles and positive reinforcement are a primary goal of our department," Immokalee Recreation director Chris Washburn said. "Get Fit Day is a wonderful way to introduce little tykes to the many opportunities offered through organized sports. Fitness is for all ages."



Carly Garza does stretches in the warmup circle during Immokalee Preschool's Get Fit Day.



Judy Weeks Thanokee Roberts exercises on the rolling platform on May 2.





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## Tribal students describe meaning of leadership



*Eight Tribal students will attend the 2012 National* High School Leadership Conference at Columbia University in New York from July 17-21. The program focuses on enhancing the necessary life skills students need to be successful and effective leaders in college and beyond. The goal of the conference is to enhance leadership skills through personal development and self-discovery while building self-confidence and preparing for the necessary nonacademic skills for college. To qualify, the students needed a 3.0 GPA or higher and needed to compose the following essays describing what leadership meant to them.

#### Marissa Osceola

Leadership is not just another title; it's someone with a purpose, which wants to be the guiding light for others in the dark. For those who cannot just walk, but needs someone with the knowledge or ability to walk that path, and who will walk with them. Leadership needs a multi-faceted person who has the courage to lead a certain people and help direct them as they continue on their path.

To myself, one of the more important qualities of a leader is the aptitude to communicate with the people. If one cannot communicate with their people, they cannot properly understand the needs of their people or relay their message if needed. Having a good rapport with your peers is a way to gain their respect and trust as well.

Having this is a great responsibility and must not be taken lightly. You have to be willing to take responsibility to represent a group of people. They will count on you to help take the lead but you have to be prepared to step up to the plate. It is not something that can forgotten down the road; it's a commitment.

Staying committed is an important quality to have. Responsibility, commitment and communication are key to being a successful leader. I feel that if a person wants to be in a leadership position they need to be prepared, and if they are not prepared they should not accept the position prior to being prepared. There are ways to gain the knowledge and skills it takes to be a leader. You just have to have the right aspiration to put your mind to it!

**Neyom Osceola** Leadership is a quality pursued by many, acquired by few, and misconstrued by thousands. It withholds an abundance of meanings and perspectives, but in my view, it's the ability to influence those who are compelled but willful to follow. The exact moment in fifth grade that I was introduced to asi-yahola, or as most know him Osceola, I was influenced to follow and bestow my own attainment on society. As Osceola did, I yearn to perpetuate strategies and tactics of leadership to set a strong, amicable, and stately tribe in which our youth will strive to reach the pinnacle of their academic careers. Pursuing the effects of leadership has been a life long journey of mine, as I desire to be an inspiration to others and help them acquire the goals they set for themselves. As Confucius' contradictory yet candid phrase on leadership says, "The best leader follows the will of the people." This is an extremely imperative regulation most leaders should follow. It highlights the importance of the people in a society, which is why my tribe's decisions and wills are significant in my eyes. As an aspiring leader, I yearn to fulfill the hopes and dreams of others as Osceola did for his tribe. He refused the U.S. government as fierce as he did because he believed the Tribe was going to be of vital significance. He believed in the Tribe's rights and privileges to pursue happiness, and in a way I feel like he believes in me. Throughout his life's circumstances, I became more compelled to replicate the greatness of his achievements; from a fifth grader until now I am still pursuing the equivalence, if not more, of such inspiration. Overall, to me leadership is the act of influencing others to accomplish their ambitions.

executed, you are already a great deal ahead of the game. However, should something end up going wrong, you must be able to step up as the leader. This is the condition you accept in accepting the role of leader, knowing full well that you will be seen as the source of action for everything that occurs under you. In some cases, there may be things or people that were out of your control, but it is still your responsibility to oversee everything that happens.

Becoming a leader also means shaping not only yourself, but everyone and everything in your responsibilities to reach the goal. As mentioned before, it is important that everyone gets along well; this can mean changing your usual way of doing things. For example, there is a job that needs to be done. Now, this may be what you always take care of and usually prefer to do, but there is someone else on your team that is not only capable, but very willing to complete it. You have the right to take up this job just as much as they do, but perhaps there is a different job that you can do also, while only a few other unwilling people can. This would call upon you to be able to change your usual ways for the better of the team. Serving as the leader, it is not only important to get these kinds of points across to people, but to demonstrate them as well. Even so, the leader holds different and heavier responsibilities than the rest of the group. This means that as the leader, you must be able to change your tactics and execution to whatever the situation or goal calls for. Perhaps somewhere along the path, an obstacle appears. The leader is held responsible for being able to lead the people through or around it. However, one must remember to stay true to one's own convictions and morals.

I view leadership as a challenge that can either bring out the best in a person, or the worst. Of course everyone wishes for the best to be brought out. I believe it can be when a leader holds true to their responsibilities and self, but is also able to adapt. This brings out the true purpose in the leadership: being able to serve as an inspiration and guidance for people towards a single goal.

#### Brianna Blais-Billie

Leadership is a word that everybody uses; it is a word that is used for praise, admiration, or as a goal. If one were to look up leadership in any dictionary he or she would find something along the lines that it is the position of being the leader or the ability to lead. If he or she were to ask an individual, she would get differing connotations. Although everyone agrees that leadership is a desired trait, people have different ideas of it. I consider leadership to be responsibility of the group or organization being lead and understand of the individuals.

Leading a group requires the leader to take responsibility. To have leadership, one must be willing to be accountable for their followers. A leader must always look after his or her followers. The safety and actions of the followers must be a priority. If a leader has control over another, he or she has an obligation to trust that the follower will do what is in the leader's best interest. A follower can commit a transgression, and the responsibility will be given to the on controlling.

A leader must try to see everyone's interest individually in order to lead properly. To have leadership, one should make sure every opinion is heard. Although, to be practical, not everyone can get what his or her followers need in order to aid his or her leadership.

The ability to lead lies in responsibility and understanding. My connotation relates to how the leader must make the group's happiness his or her priority. The leadership is sacrificing personal priorities and devoting yourself to your followers and the group's goals.

**Desting** Nunez Leaders are meant to guide others into the right

ways that forced change. No, they were not invincible but they knew the importance of guiding those who needed guidance. Leaders formed the world we live in and without them the world would be in chaos. People needed a leader in order to help them make the change they wanted to see. Without a leader, they could not have been organized and worthy of fighting for such causes. Leading a people is a job that should not be taken lightly; it can either make or break an idea, cause, or a person. However, being a leader is important no matter how big the impact is. Every little change that a leader causes is important. For example, I have earned straight A's throughout school. My younger brother has decided to follow my footsteps to make the effort to make exceptional grades. Leading just one person to make a good decision even once can change an entire outlook so they will continue to make better choices. The world needs leaders to direct them on the path they need to be on.

Knowing that I have led somebody into the right direction makes me pleased with myself. Too many people go through life being content with how things are in the world. I cannot sit by and watch as parts of the world disintegrates. Change begins with kids and I enjoy making an impact on somebody's life. Young kids need a person to guide them and I know I can be the person who does that. My younger siblings go with me to church on Sundays and walking them through the door gives me such a joy knowing that I am helping them get closer with God. I also help coach a softball team and when former players of mine come up to me and speak to me it brightens my day. Kids who I have helped look up to me. They could have chosen anyone besides be but they decided to look up to me. I am active in many school and out-of-school activities, make good grades, and have never done drugs or alcohol so I am pleased knowing that a handful of kids will not grow up doing certain things. I plan on helping anybody who needs help to do what they have to in order to be the best person they can be.

Leaders in society form how people live. They form character, values, and all around better people. Being a leader is important regardless of how big the impact is. The smallest change is capable of beginning a domino effect of positive change. Being a leader gives self-satisfaction. Knowing that I am able to push somebody towards being a better them makes me feel accomplished. What does being a leader mean? According to the dictionary, a leader is simple a person who leads. Being a leader means more than that. Being a leader, people not only lead others, but help mold others.

#### Sara Ramos-Huggins

Leadership is the ability to inspire others, motivate, set a clear vision, communicate, respect others, and, of course, lead by example. A leader is someone that has the strength and knowledge to represent a responsible self. Leaders are continuously learning new ways to do things and sharpen their mind while always focused on achieving their one main goal. Leadership can also mean having the potential to do things for other and the willingness to help them. A good leader seeks to make a positive change.

An example of one time when I had to showcase my leadership skills is when the youth council was having difficulty with a Mother's Day event that was being planned. I continued to shoot out ideas and we finally came up with an idea that would work. I took initiative and handled all the phone calls that had to be made and was willing to help the council with anything that needed to be done. Another time I showed leadership is when I became captain of my basketball team. The other girls on the team looked to me for help both in the sport and in school. I am a good role model when it comes to my friends. They always ask for my advice. One of my great friends once said that she comes to me to help her decide what to do because she does not know what is best and she needs me to help her get her

good leader. When your influence is important to others it is always important to put your best foot forward and be the best that you can be.

As a leader, you must earn the respect of your peers The only way to do that is by setting an example that others will follow. I have found that it is more effective to inspire others, rather than command others. People are more likely to follow your lead if they do not feel like they are being led.

A leader is always seeking to learn and improve from his experiences and interactions with others. He must be able to sacrifice his own beliefs, at times, and be willing to put the interests of others first. A leader cannot take on all the jobs. He has to be able to delegate tasks to others. People need to be given responsibility and valued for their input. A good leader should also recognize and encourage his peers and let them know how important they are to his own success. It is crucial to have the loyalty and support of others, but their efforts have to be appreciated as well. It is essential to give credit to those who deserve it.

Another huge part of being a good leader is to know how to take the blame when something goes wrong. As a leader, you have to show initiative, be able to make decisions, and take the ball and run with it. But, when something doesn't go as planned, it is important to take responsibility and admit your own mistakes. People will appreciate a leader who can admit his mistakes.

A capable leader also has the confidence and belief in himself that it takes to lead, without letting his ego get too big. A big ego will make an ineffective leader A good leader is concerned about the well-being of the group, not himself as an individual. It is essential to practice what you preach, recognize and support others around you, and invest in developing other good leaders, as well. If others see that you are sure of yourself, they will be inspired to follow.

**Alexis Aguilar** Being the eldest sibling of eight has taught me much of what I believe means to be a leader. However, a leader does not draw experience from just one source. Softball, 4-H, school clubs, summer programs, and my whole high school career in general have contributed to my knowledge of what it means to be a leader. In the words of my most respected freshman year Honors English teacher and veteran, Mr. Hallock, "It's not who the guy is; it's what he's made of that counts.

Being a leader starts with the self and means having a well-rounded knowledge of oneself. A clear understanding of one's strengths, weakness, preferences, and priorities leads to self-confidence which is necessary for an effective leader to have. That, along with a sound moral compass, and clear values, is a leader. When we know ourselves to this extent, we are able to make quick, clear decisions, even under pressure. We can respond to any situation in a split-second with confidence and class. Once we know ourselves, we can work better with others.

Good people skills are also part of being a leader. The masses would seldom choose to follow a misanthrope. These skills include listening to what others have to say, being open-minded, and sociable To me, being a leader means making people feel comfortable and needed. People like feeling important and are more likely to ask for someone's advice if they do not feel like they are being a nuisance or are being ignored. This builds excellent group rapport. Openmindedness breaks down into a few other components as well, such as, flexibility and acceptance of new people and ideas. Combined, these would make for a quality leader.

A great quality leader also possesses this key characteristic: the ability to give help where help is needed, and knowing when to ask for help for oneself. When someone that aspires to be a leader proffers his/ her help to another individual, it should be so whether the help was asked for or not. That drive to help others will certainly let them know that, "Hey, this person is a leader. I can trust him/her." On the other hand, knowing when to ask for help is also an important quality in any leader. It lets people know that he/she trusts the receiving party just as the latter trusts the former. It makes them feel needed and therefore makes both parties' bonds stronger and more willing to help one another. Whatever the case may be, leaders are neither self-appointed, nor made in a single day. They are chosen by mutual group consensus, or, as in the case of our nation's president, the greatest figure of exemplary leader skills, are officially voted in by a majority. Leaders are those people that others look to for advice and guidance, sometimes even unconsciously. That is because people can see certain individuals' stable moral standing, confidence, and drive for the betterment of oneself and others is what makes them a leader. It is what makes them willingly follow. This is what being a leader means to me.

#### Tia Blais-Billie

There are countless examples of leaders from history. From minor ones to world influencing ones, each leader is always expected to create something great from what they are in charge of. However, the concept of leadership holds much more than merely telling people what to do. To me, leadership means holding the responsibility of yourself and those around you, and having the will to shape the situation.

When you take on the challenge to lead a group of people, a team, a project, etc., you accept the responsibilities that come with it. People will turn to you for guidance, and you must be ready and able to direct them. This is another responsibility as a leader, to keep everyone unified. Whether this is done through inspiring everyone to work towards a goal, or make sure everyone feels equal in the process of achieving this goal, it is important to make sure everybody gets along well. Once these responsibilities are successfully

direction by setting a good example for them. As people grow up, they watch elders to see what an appropriate way to act for them is. Who a person becomes depends on who they choose to watch. In today's world, there are very few people who stand up and choose to lead people in the right directions instead of the wrong; I am one of them. Being a leader is a choice I am making because it is important and it makes me feel good about myself.

Looking back in history, leaders were vital to moving forward and today things are no different. What kind of society would we live in if the leaders decided not to be the person they needed to be? If George Washington gave up one day, would the United States be as free today? If Martin Luther King Jr. decided that fighting for civil rights was pointless, would America still be segregated? Washington fought for the countries freedom but without him, would we have won? Martin Luther King Jr. led peaceful acts to get his point across but without him, would the African Americans begin with violence? Two men moved the world in such life on the right track.

Good leadership skills are an important quality to have. Some of the components of leadership include inspiration, communication, and motivating others. I have had to used my leadership skills in many ways. In softball we always encourage each other to do our best and I motivate the other girls to try their best. If they make a mistake I tell them there is always next time and to keep their head up. Developing good leadership skills takes time. Being a leader means being willing to change and wanting to make a change for the good of those you are leading.

#### Daniel Nunez

A good leader possesses the qualities within himself that others want to model. I consider myself to be a natural leader. I represent my school as president of the freshman class. I have always been respected by my peers as an achiever. I have learned through my experiences in leadership positions what it takes to be a



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#### HOURS A DAY 24

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.

VEHICLES FOR SALE									
VEHICLE#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE	PRICE RANGE				
361044	2006	DODGE	MAGNUM RT	82,214	\$9,225 - \$11,425				
A77810	2007	FORD	F150	136,368	\$9,022 - \$12,422				
D98066	2006	FORD	F150	149,339	\$7,731 - \$11,026				
A82212	2007	FORD	F150	165,175	\$7,597 - \$10,882				
B17914	2006	FORD	F150	159,867	\$7,480 - \$10,750				
168907	2005	CHEVROLET	TAHOE	176,291	\$4,851 - \$7,291				
150831	2006	CHEVROLET	TAHOE	148,713	\$4,635 - \$6,855				
151279	2006	CHEVROLET	TAHOE	151,279	\$4,260 - \$6,480				
181784	2005	FORD	TAURUS	66,249	\$3,825 - \$5,275				
123747	2004	FORD	CROWN VIC	85,532	\$3,400 - \$4,975				
216498	2003	FORD	CROWN VICTORIA	94,422	\$2,700 - \$4,125				
B77234	2004	FORD	EXPEDITION	232,252	\$2,436 - \$4,326				
A18437	2002	FORD	F150	86,237	\$2,115 - \$3,290				
200039	2004	FORD	TAURUS	148,731	\$1,113 - \$2,515				

#### EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

ID#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	HRS	PRICE RANGE
SLA03-21982	N/A	GENIE ADVANTAGE	SUPERLIFT SLA-10	N/A	\$1,154.83 - \$2,309.67
SLA03-21983	N/A	GENIE ADVANTAGE	SUPERLIFT SLA-10	N/A	\$1,154.83 - \$2,309.67
N/A	N/A	IMPERIAL POOL TABLE	BLACK WIDOW	N/A	\$857.33 - \$1,714.67

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# Sports



Andrea Holata

PECS boys' baseball team show their individual sports awards given to them by coach Harry Tewksbury during the sports banquet. From left, Most Improved – Boyd Brown; Golden Glove Award – Zeke Matthews; MVP and Defensive Player of the Year – Elijah Finney; Hit Stick Award (highest batting average of .546) – Sean Osceola (His father, Reno Osceola, accepted his award since he could not make it.).

### **PECS** honors students and athletes

#### BY ANDREA HOLATA Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School recognized their athletes and inducted their honor students during banquets held at the Brighton Veteran's Building on May 29 and June 6.

On May 29, in a joint ceremony, middle school students were inducted into the National Honor Society and were recognized for their involvement in athletics as well.

To start the awards, the school's sports director, Chris Goodwin, took to the podium to welcome the guest speaker – one of Seminole Tribe's own, Jarrid Smith. Goodwin said he chose Smith because of his accomplishments in sports and education.

"I was touched by his morals and values and his overall passion for life," Goodwin said. "He's a great role model for the Seminole Tribe."

Smith spoke to the students about the importance of having a game plan in sports, school and life. He also said that anything is possible with faith and guidance from family, teachers and coaches.

"Follow the game plan of our Creator, and you will be truly following directions," he said.

Following his speech, the school recognized the new inductees. To be eligible for the Honor Society, students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher; they must also demonstrate five traits: scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship.

The students received plaques and pins once inducted and recited the Honor Society pledge.

Following inductions, principal Brian Greseth introduced coaches Darryl Allen and Harry Tewksbury to hand out participation awards for sports. Every student who participated received a letter and a certificate. In addition, the staff handed out the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) awards. The Charter School's FCA is a newly organized club sponsored by Goodwin and teacher Crystal Drake. To be eligible, students have to be an athlete and meet on Wednesdays to watch

#### videos and listen to guest speakers.

Nine students also received the Scholar Athlete Awards. To qualify, students maintained a GPA of 3.5 or higher during the season. Students were awarded a patch for the year.

Coaches from different sports teams then recognized individual players and spoke on their skills and accomplishments. All coaches gave out the following awards: Rookie of the Year, Offensive Player of the Year, Defensive Player of the Year, Most Valuable Player and The Seminole Award.

Next, principal Greseth called on student Courtney Gore to give a heartfelt thanks to all of the school's coaches.

"I have never had such awesome coaches as I had this year," she said. "I will be forever thankful."

All coaches were awarded with plaques and thanked for all their hard work and dedication to athletics.

"They don't make a lot of money," principal Greseth said. "They do it because they love working with kids, and they have a passion for sports."

To conclude the awards, Allen gave a special recognition to middle school students Jaron Johns, Josh Madrigal, Zach Gopher and Drayton Billie, who played on Moore Haven High School's junior varsity football team.

"You can see the importance of family, the commitment to sports, to academics and to faith. What an amazing thing we have going here," principal Greseth said.

On June 6, two dozen elementary school students were inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society as well.

### Tribal youth meet football greats at NFL Experience Day

definitely role models of mine, so they're probably role models for [the youth]."

Among others, Councilman Osceola had the opportunity to meet someone he admired growing up – former NFL defensive end Jeff Cross, who played for the Miami Dolphins in the late '80s to mid-'90s and played in the Pro Bowl in 1990.

The former NFL players spent the day coaching participants through several drills, including punting, passing, kicking, throwing at a moving target, maneuvering through an obstacle course and running a 40-yard dash.

The dash was Hollywood Tribal member Neko Osceola's favorite exercise. Currently the running back for American Heritage, he hopes to play for the Miami Hurricanes and the Philadelphia Eagles one day.

The professional athletes came out in connection with the Lorenzo White Foundation, which was established in 2010 to support youth programs.

"It helps get kids off the street and keep them in school," said White, who played for the Houston Oilers for six years and played his final year with the Cleveland Browns in 1995.

Former NFL guard William Roberts also came out to support the Tribe's youth. Roberts, who played in three Super Bowls and a Pro Bowl during his time with the New York Giants from 1984-1994, said some of the kids never picked up a football before, so teaching them was rewarding.

"It's good because you can see the development within a few seconds," said Roberts, who finished his NFL career playing for the New England Patriots and the New York Jets. "It's refreshing because I know over the years I played football it took me awhile to develop this craft."

Former NFL running back Mark Higgs and former NFL wide receiver Bernard Ford were also on site running drills. Ford played for the Dallas Cowboys in 1989 and the Houston Oilers in 1990. Higgs played for the Dallas Cowboys, Philadelphia Eagles, Miami Dolphins and Arizona Cardinals during his NFL career from 1988-1995. He was one of three Dolphins players to lead the Dolphins in rushing for three consecutive seasons, from 1991-1993.

"The vision is to give back to the community and to support the children in the community," Lorenzo White Foundation co-founder Robin West said. "(We want to) reach those kids and give them a taste of some of the values that come with [football]: team work, competition, pride and accomplishment and goal setting."

In between drills, the kids cooled off at the snow cone stand and played on water slides and bounce houses around the field. A barbecue lunch was also served.

"It keeps [kids] off the street and gives them something to do," said Amanda Howell, who arrived with her brother and his girlfriend and kids.

See more NFL EXPERIENCE photos on page 2C





Former NFL guard William Roberts smiles with Hollywood Tribal member Tiana Stubbs at NFL Experience Day.

#### BY KATHRYN STOLARZ Copy Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — Hollywood Tribal youth John Osceola, 12, didn't know much about football, but he showed up at the Hollywood Ball Field on June 2 ready to learn during the Tribe's NFL Experience Day.

"I want to feel the experience of what it's like to be an NFL star," he said, catching his breath just moments after doing a drill with former NFL running back Lorenzo White.

Osceola was one of several Tribal members who came out to meet a handful of former NFL players and to learn a thing or two about football.

Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and Board Rep. Chris Osceola sponsored the event, which was open to the entire Tribal community. It was the third in a series of Family Fun Days aimed to keep the community active.

Councilman Osceola said bringing in famous athletes was a fun addition to field day.

"It's something different to do," he said sporting a Miami Dolphins T-shirt. "Some of these guys are

Following refreshments, principal Greseth announced the first- and second-year inductees while guidance counselor and Honor Society sponsor Jeanine Gran handed out the awards.

"I am so proud of each and every one of them," Gran said. "They work hard all year long."

+ See more AWARDS photos on page 2C

## Annual Hope Tommie Wilcox Bowling Tournament held



Andrea Holat

Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. bowls at the 12th annual Hope Tommie Wilcox Bowling Tournament. The event was held on May 12 at Superplay USA in Port St. Lucie. Participants at this year's memorial event received custommade T-shirts and had the opportunity to win cash prizes as they played regular, 3-6-9 and no-tap bowling. Mary and Patricia Wilcox put on the tournament in memory of their late relative, who was a semi-professional bowler. Hope Tommie Wilcox worked most of her life at the Fort Pierce Bowling Lanes. She also liked to travel, make dolls and sew patchwork.

Kathryn Stolarz

Former NFL players gather with some of the Seminole Tribe's youth and staff for NFL Experience Day.

## Charter School receives grant for fishing poles

#### BY ANDREA HOLATA Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students in grades six through eight got out of their regular physical education class to go fishing with their new poles on May 30.

The school was recently awarded a grant for 100 fishing poles. Physical education teacher Chris Goodwin applied for the grant to help students experience different kinds of activities. "I love for the middle school students to be involved in many different things and maybe spark their interest in something," Goodwin said.

Student Spawn Loudermilk enjoyed the afternoon field trip and learned something new.

"I didn't know fishing was a sport," Loudermilk said.

Norman "Skeeter" Bowers, the Chairman's special assistant, also came out to spend time with the kids.

#### See more FISHING photos on page 2C



Andrea Hola

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students cast their lines in hopes of catching a fish with their new poles on May 30.





team



Andrea Holata J.U.S. plays the Hostile Natives basketball Darlah Cypress steals third base during a close Breanna Billie takes a swing. game against Oklahoma's Red Race.



Andrea Holata

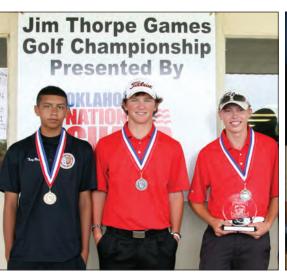
Andrea Holata



The Seminole Chiefs go for a shot.

Andrea Holata Johnny "Trey" Boone III competes in golf at the Jim Thorpe Games.







J.U.S. team wins a silver medal in the 19-and-under basketball tournament during the Jim

Andrea Holata

The Unconquered Lady Seminoles win a silver medal in the 14-and-under division for softball at the inaugural Jim Thorpe Games.

#### JIM THORPE from page 1A

#### **BY ANDREA HOLATA** Staff Reporter

**OKLAHOMA CITY** — Five Florida Seminole teams and one golfer took the journey to Oklahoma City on June 10 to compete in the inaugural Jim Thorpe Native American Games, winning three medals in the process.

In honor of one of the world's greatest athletes, the Jim Thorpe Games were held June 10 -17. More than 1,000 Natives from more than 70 Tribes competed in several sports, including basketball, softball, tennis, golf, volleyball, wrestling, cross country, track and field, martial arts and stickball.

The Tribe competed in three of those sports: two teams in softball (Unconquered Lady Seminoles and Lady Seminoles), one women's basketball team (Unconquered Lady Seminoles) and two men's (Seminole Chiefs and J.U.S.), and one athlete in golf (Johnny "Trey" Boone III). The Unconquered Lady Seminoles softball team and J.U.S. took home silver medals, and Boone took home bronze.

Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., who attended the Games, was proud of the Tribe's involvement.

"I think the Tribe being out here is a positive influence on these Games - not only on the Games, but on our Tribe as well

and show out in big numbers like we have and maybe find the next Jim Thorpe. on such short notice," he said.

city in many venues, including the Amateur Softball Association of America's Hall of Fame Complex, which was home to the women's College World Series just a few days earlier.

In addition to the athletic competitions, the Games included an opening ceremony, stickball exhibitions, a trade show, interactive exhibits and clinics and an allstar football game.

#### Games seek next Jim Thorpe

The competition celebrated the Native American legend Jim Thorpe and the 100th anniversary of his record-setting Olympic performance in Stockholm, Sweden in 1912.

Jim Thorpe, to many sports historians, was known as the greatest all-around athlete of his time - and possibly, in the history of sports. He competed in many sports, including basketball, football, lacrosse and baseball.

Among his accomplishments, Thorpe received gold medals in the decathlon and pentathlon in the 1912 Olympics; he was a professional basketball player and football player best known for running back, defensive end and kicker.

According to the Games' executive director, Annetta Abbott, this year's goal

- to see our participants here for the Tribe was to educate young Natives about Thorpe

Johnny "Trey" Boone III, left, receives the bronze medal

in the 18-and-under golf championships.

'Anything that he tried he excelled in," The Games were held throughout the Abbott said. "He was known as the world's greatest athlete. Our job is to let these kids know, are you the next world's greatest?"

> The Seminole Tribe was well represented at this year's games. Along with the five youth teams, the Tribe brought several coaches, staff and family members who were able to make the flight to support the youth. The Tribe also had EMTs on site at each game in case of emergency.

> Unconquered Lady Seminoles earn silver The 14-and-under Unconquered Lady Seminoles softball squad started off the tournament for the Seminole teams with head coach Wildcat Naha Jumper and assistant coaches Josh Jumper and Daryl Allen leading the team.

> Although the Seminoles were defeated by the Oklahoma Red Warriors in a 13-3 mercy run rule, they came out of the loser's bracket with a 19-0 win over the Stingers. Already playing two games under Oklahoma's hot sun, the Seminoles were not finished yet. They played their last game of the night with a tough10-6 win against Red Race, which gave them a chance at the championships.

The tired Unconquered Lady Seminoles, having played three games the day before, came up short with a 3-9 loss against the Red Race for second place in the and the bronze medal.'

championship game.

Thorpe Games in Oklahoma.

Wildcat Jumper said the girls fought hard and he couldn't fault them because they played well.

"I couldn't ask my girls for anymore. They put their hearts into the game," he said. "I can't fault my girls nowhere. We just came out on the short end of the stick.' Seminole athlete takes bronze in golf

While the softball games were being played, Tribal member Johnny "Trey Boone III teed off shortly after 10 a.m. on June 11 at the Lincoln Park Golf Course.

Keeping up with the leader at times, Boone played well with support from his dad and caddy, Johnny Boone Jr., and mom, Playing the championship game Gale Boone. Family friend and former against the NABI White, J.U.S. had a tough golfer Councilman Osceola was also on hand to support him.

"I think he's doing a phenomenal job representing us," Councilman Osceola said.

Boone played two rounds of golf, scoring a 78 on the first day and an 82 on the second day, earning a total of 160 for the tournament. Overall, he tied for second in the boy's 18-and-under division. However, the tournament used the handicap hole of the front nine holes to break the tie, which Boone bogeyed one over par. Receiving the bronze medal, he represented the Tribe and his family well.

No matter how the scoring played out, Gale Boone said, "We are still proud of him these games," Gore said.

#### J.U.S. basketball team wins silver

Finally, the last games to be played for all the Seminole teams were basketball, which went from June 12-15. The teams had the opportunity to play at Oklahoma City University and the Santa Fe Family Life Center.

The 19-and-under team J.U.S. (Just Us Seminoles), led by head coach Andrew J. Bowers, stayed on top all the way to the final minute.

With help from their leading scorer, Duelle Gore, J.U.S. won several games, including a 55-46 win over Hostile Natives and a 55-31 win over the Red NABI team.

competition on hand. They played hard all the way to the last second for a 37-34 loss to a controversial lane violation call that could have put J.U.S. into overtime. Despite the rocky ending, J.U.S. proudly accepted their second place for silver.

The Seminole teams represented the Tribe well, and they agreed on one thing: They enjoyed playing in such a celebrated tournament as the Jim Thorpe Native American Games.

"Jim Thorpe was a good athlete back in his days, so it's an honor to be able to play in something like this because a lot of Natives come around just to participate in







PECS Shae Pierce receives the honor of MVP for girls' basketball from head coach Tim Thomas. Pierce also got the Offensive Player of the Year Award.



Andrea Holata

Spawn Loudermilk and Lanie Sedatol wait for the fish to bite.



Andrea Holata Deliah Carrillo shows off a catch.

Andrea Holata Ruben Burgess catches a bluegill.

PECS girls show their softball awards: from left, Most Improved - Camryn Thomas, Academic Athlete - Courtney Gore, Seminole Award - Kailin Brown, Golden Glove -Shae Pierce, Offensive Player of the Year – Kalgary Johns and MVP – Diamond Shore.

Andrea Holata

PECS baseball team gathers: from left, Elijah Finney, Jaron Johns, Boyd Brown, Dylan Sheffield, Drayton Billie, Zachary Hudson, Trevor Thomas, Zeke Matthews

and Brady Rhodes. Not pictured: Zach Gopher, Thomas Bearden and Sean Osceola. The boys' baseball team almost had a perfect season, finishing 10-1.

More NFL photos from page 1C

Kathryn Stolarz

Photos from left to right:

Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. smiles with former NFL running back Lorenzo White.

Budha Jumper leads the pack during the 40-yard dash.

Nana Wilson rides the waterslide.

Krishawn Henry and Natalie Velazco make their way through the ropes course.









## Announcements

## Congratulations



Congratulations to our little princess, Denise Gonzales

It seems like only yesterday that we brought you into this world and now you have graduated from Preschool and are entering kindergarten in the Fall. We are

very proud of you! All our love, Mama and Daddy (Dennis Gonzales and Susan Davis)



**Congratulations Huston (bubba)** From the day you were born we knew you were special, your character and personality has affected anyone and everyone whose life you have ever touched. You have achieved many

accomplishments and this is another one you can add to your personal novel of life. We love you and are very proud of you. Mom, dad, Nicole and your entire family. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

#### Young Tribal pianists showcase talent at recital

On May 7, students of Gail Smith presented their Spring Piano Recital at Covenant Village of Florida in Plantation, Fla.

young pianists and composers. Among the pianists showcasing their talents were the grandchildren of Judy-Bill Osceola, who entertained and impressed

the audience with their musical gifts. Gerret, Royce and Druitt Osceola, ages 15, 14 and 12 respectively, have been studying piano under Smith for nearly six years. Their talents, dedication and enthusiasm to become great pianists were evident to everybody in the audience.

Gerret and Royce both captivated and charmed the audience by playing a song from The Lion King and Toccatina, both earning recognition for their talents. The youngest brother, Druitt, performed his own song, *The Singing Moon*, and earned the Composer of the Year Award.

We are very proud of the endeavors of our young Osceola brothers, who are showing that with hard work and dedication anything can be accomplished.

Gerret, Royce and Druitt are making their community proud serving as an example for the youth and showing the many talents that the Seminole Tribe of Florida possesses.

They say hard work beats talent; in this case, The event was a delightful presentation by the we have talent working hard and we look forward to seeing their musical progression.

- Submitted by Carlos Perez



## **Birth announcements**

#### Lakota Billie Correa

Introducing our son Lakota Billie Correa born on May 10, 2012. You were very much a part of our plan for the future but still surprise us every day with your little smiles & coos. Welcome to our family.



## **Birthdays**



#### Marley Herrera

Happy 11th Birthday to our beautiful daughter Marley Herrera. We are proud of the young lady you are becoming & congratulations on moving up from Sagemont Lower School to the upper school next year. Keep up the hard work.

Love, Mom & Stepdad (Clea & Manuel Correa), your sister Cooper & your little brothers, Shawnee & Lakota

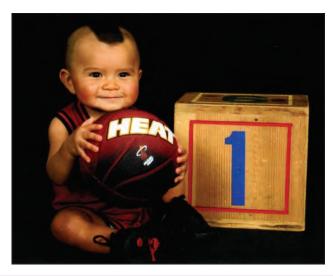
Happy Birthday Judy Jones. June 30 Love Willie, Elena and the Jones Famíly

Submitted by Elena Evans

#### **Shawnee Billie Correa**

We would like to wish a Belated Happy 1st Birthday to our son Shawnee Billie Correa (April 25, 2012). You were and still are a wonderful surprise addition to our family.

Love Mom & Dad (Clea and Manuel Correa) & your brothers and sisters (Cooper, Nick, Keanu, Marley, Shaniah & Lakota)



Attention Seminole Tribal members,

To submit an announcement, please send your message along with your name, phone number, email, address, the names of your parents, children and grandparents and your clan (optional). Please include your mailing address if you'd like your photos returned.

- Sign and date your submission and send it via:
- Email: BrettDaly@semtribe.com Fax: 954-965-2937
- Mail: 3560 N. State Road 7, Hollywood, FL 33021
- Drop-off: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. 5 p.m.

## **Father's Day**

Dear Dad.

It's because I was the only girl with a Batman never forget that; Big Wheel;

Because you took me to my first race when I was the circus; only five;

Because you taught me how to ride a bike by pushing me down the top of the hill, telling me to pedal when I got to the bottom; (Although, looking back, I could have died and you're absolutely crazy...)

Because you learned everything there was to

know about soccer when I decided I

wanted to play; Because you're the Horse Whisperer;

Because you when I was 7 to get Lego set for

same Lego set. I will Because you love

It's because we

were dirt poor at times but I never knew it because you went to work before dawn every day to make sure I had everything I'd need;

Because you gave me your name;

Because Benjamin wants to be just like you;

It's because I'm not sure who I'd be now if you took me to Toys R hadn't come to save me and mom; if you hadn't given Us in my pajamas us a family, a home, and a good future.

For these reasons and many, many others, you are hero and I'm grateful for you. It is the greatest being good, and told honor of my life to call you my dad. I love you. Jody Lynn Osceola



Love, Mom & Dad (Clea and Manuel Correa) and your brothers & sisters (Cooper, Nick, Keanu, Marley, Shaniah & Lakota)

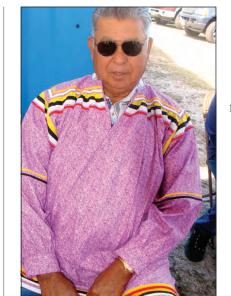


me about being poor when you were little wanting that and

## Thank you

From the Primeaux Family: We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our friends, family, neighbors, Police Department, Recreation Department, Housing Department, Cultural program and Tribal Secretary Priscilla Sayen for helping us during our time of need. We greatly appreciate all of the prayers, kind words and fellowship that were given to us. Especially would like to thank Councilmen Marcellus Osceola Jr. and Mondo Tiger and Representative Christopher Osceola for their support. Please accept our sincerest heartfelt gratitude for you being with us as we learned to cope with our two devastating losses. Please keep us in your prayers as we adjust to our loss.

Thank you, The Primeaux Family (Submitted by Darlene Buster)



From the Johns Family: We would like to thank friends and family for the kindness, love and support that they have shown us the family during this difficult time from the loss of my mother's beloved husband, our father, grandfather and great grandfather, Wonder Johns.

Cyndi Johns Rodriguez, daughter of the late Wonder Johns

## **Classifieds**



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PEMAYETV EMAHAKV CHARTER SCHOOL 100 EAST HARNEY POND ROAD OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34974 Phone 863-467-2501 Fax 863-467-8610 www.ourwayschool.com

Dear Seminole Tribune:

PECS Middle School just completed their first-ever fishing unit through physical education. This unit was made possible through a fishing grant written by physical education teacher Chris Goodwin. Fish Florida raises their funds through selling Fish Florida license plate tags. A portion of each tag goes to support fishing programs throughout Florida.

The fishing unit was a huge success. All the kids- rookies and veterans- alike enjoyed the opportunities to catch bass, bream, mudfish, garfish, and catfish. Some of the catch was kept to provide a fish fry for the community elders.

Special recognition goes out to Chairman James Billie for his help and oport. Skeeter Bowers, Lewis Gopher, Luis Venzor, Jennifer Santiago, and all of the parents that were on hand to fish and chaperone



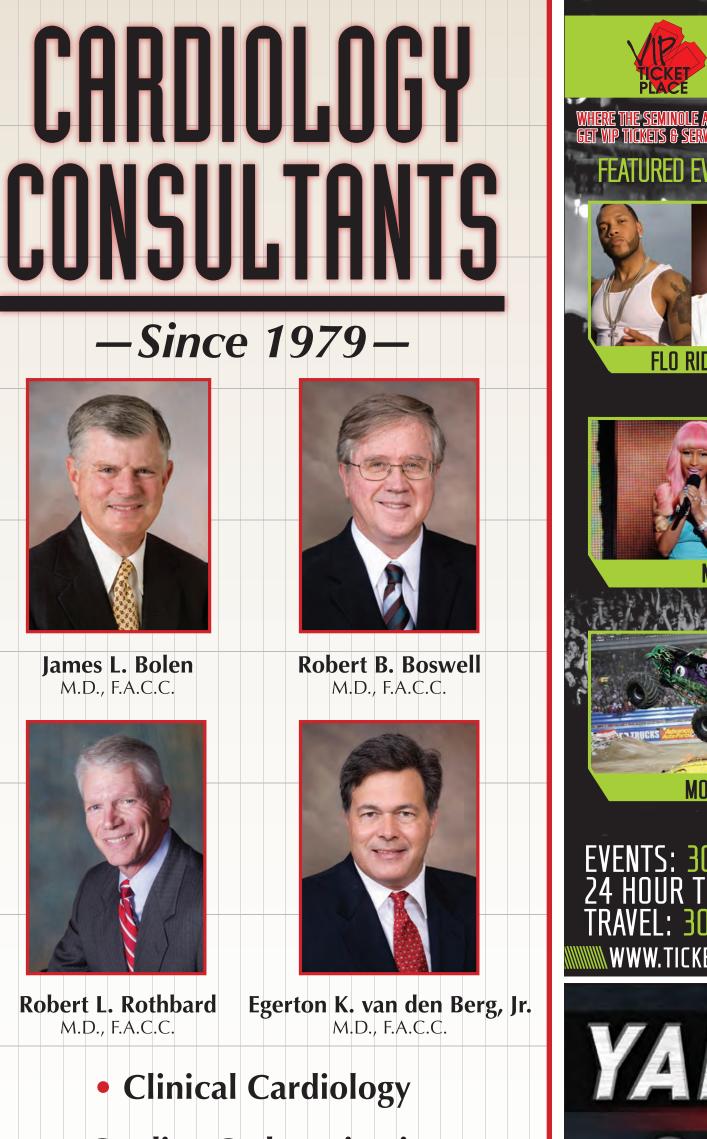
Dawn Marie Snow Feritita's memory lives on through scholarship

On May 22, McKayla Snow, right, honored her late mother as she presented the 7th annual Dawn Marie Snow Fertita Memorial Nursing Scholarship to graduating Okeechobee High School Senior during the school's annual scholarship night. This year's recipient, Allyson Matthews, was awarded a beaded stethoscope as well as a thousand dollar scholarship to help further her education in the next step of her nursing career.

#### **2007 Custom Harley**

103 ci S&S motor, chain drive with open primary and 280 back tire. Martin brothers design and pipes. One of kind Native American paint job by local artist. Build and design by local team. Black chrome, braided wires and fast fast fast. Eats Hayabusa's for lunch. \$50,000 to build. Asking \$25,000. Call 561-302-5297.







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