



Students attend college application workshop
EDUCATION ♦ 1B

Fort Pierce hosts first family fun day
COMMUNITY ♦ 3A

Youth shoot hoops at Jamal Mashburn clinic
SPORTS ♦ 1C



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Voice of the Unconquered

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Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum celebrates 15th anniversary

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

BIG CYPRESS — As the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum celebrated its 15th anniversary on Aug. 21, the Seminoles celebrated a victory for the preservation of their history and culture.

Reflecting on the last 15 years shows extensive growth in programs, collections, exhibits, educational opportunities, resource materials and collaboration within the Museum community.

The institution remains true to its mission, as stated on the wall of the entrance lobby: "The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum collects, preserves, protects and interprets Seminole culture and history — inspiring an appreciation and understanding of the Seminole people."

Museum director Anne McCudden welcomed the large audience that had assembled in the beautiful natural landscape behind the Museum to participate in this important anniversary.

"I was here on Aug. 21, 1997 as a guest at the ribbon cutting ceremony," she said. "It was hot and

rainy, but no one seemed to mind because they were attaining an important goal that they had worked hard to achieve. Today we applaud their perseverance because they created the foundation upon which we have spent the next 15 years building Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, 'a place to learn, a place to remember.'

"The initial staff comprised 10 individuals under executive director Billy Cypress and director David Blackard," she continued. "Today we have approximately 25 on staff. The need for this facility was recognized in the 1980s with a first attempt in Tampa, followed by a mini-museum at the old Tribal offices in Hollywood. Acquisition of a library and collections had begun as early as 1989 and found their new home here at the grand opening. By 2004 we added the Curatorial Building, and four years ago we became the first accredited Native American museum."

Laced with humor, historical background and personal reflections, Chairman James E. Billie's narrative brought the humble beginnings of the Museum site to life for the audience.

"I made a camp on this site many years ago," Chairman Billie said. "Standing here today brings back wonderful memories shared with many of my friends as we built the chickees and gathered around the fire cooking our meals, playing music and enjoying each other's company. This camp was a place where I could come to get back to my roots."

"Since the Museum was supposed to be built for the people to preserve the culture and depict how we lived, it needed a traditional setting," Chairman Billie continued. "I donated my camp because it was on the main road, centrally located on the edge of a virgin swampland and possessed sufficient acreage to promote our culture and allow for expansion."

Members of the Tribal Council, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. and former Chairman Mitchell Cypress took turns acknowledging the achievements of the Museum. Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. pointed out that it represents a great step forward in the preservation of the culture, and young people should put its programs to use and practice their culture 24/7.

Little Mr. Seminole Vincenzo Osceola, Little Miss Seminole Jordan Osceola, Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Nunez and Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar contributed meaningful observations to the ceremony.

"The Museum offers an opportunity to tell the truth



Seminole Tribune archive photo

Fifteen years ago, Tribal officials celebrated the grand opening of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. From left are the late Billy Cypress, former Councilman Max Osceola, Chairman James E. Billie, the late Frank Billie and former Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

about history from the Seminole perspective," Aguilar said. "When people visit here, they learn who we were and who we are, rather than stereotypes."

"It is my extreme pleasure to celebrate this anniversary with you," said guest speaker Alma Douglas, of the Smithsonian Affiliations program. "At a time when museums are finding it hard to exist and a few are succumbing to economic pressure, I am so glad that you are here and thriving. Since Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki attained accreditation four years ago, it has been our pleasure to cultivate relations. There is a wealth of resources at the Smithsonian, and we look forward to sharing them with you."

The 15th anniversary was an emotional occasion for former Museum authority commissioner Carol

Cypress.

"My husband, the late Billy Cypress, enjoyed history and travel throughout his lifetime and made a career of education," Cypress said. "As its first executive director, this museum is a wonderful tribute to his achievements and ambitions. He oversaw the building's construction as though it had been his own home and worked diligently with director David Blackard to ensure the authenticity of its exhibits."

"I volunteered for the storytelling presentations, setting up the gift shop and assisted David Blackard and Brian Zepeda in the realistic dressing and appearance of the mannequins in the galleries," Cypress continued.

♦ See AH-TAH-THI-KI on page 4A



Judy Weeks

Carol Cypress shares the legacy of her family's involvement in the Museum with young Hank Alan Jumper on Aug. 21.



David Diaz

The Seminole Youth Council meets with former U.S. Sen. Byron L. Dorgan to discuss challenges facing Native American youth.

Seminole Youth Council meets former U.S. senator

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Members of the Seminole Youth Council gathered at Tribal Headquarters on Sept. 17 to have a roundtable discussion with former U.S. Sen. Byron L. Dorgan. During the meeting, they informed him of their organization's accomplishments and their individual concerns facing Tribal youth.

During his terms in office, Sen. Dorgan, of North Dakota, served as an advocate for Native American issues and brought attention to the disparities existing in Indian Country. Through the Center for Native American Youth (CNAV), which he founded in 2011, Sen. Dorgan meets with Tribal youth across the country to create connections and build new opportunities for them.

"Some of the people who were here first in this country live in Third World conditions," he said. "I'm determined that we try to make a difference and try to change that."

The meeting provided an opportunity not only for Sen. Dorgan to learn about the Seminole Tribe but also gave youth a chance to learn about CNAV, a policy program headquartered in Washington, D.C. that brings greater national attention to the issues facing Native American youth and fosters solutions.

Sen. Dorgan founded CNAV with \$1 million from his excess campaign funds and has held 30 roundtable discussions in nine states with 100 Tribes since 2011.

During the meeting, youth from Hollywood, Big Cypress, Naples and Immokalee gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Seminole Youth Council and how it has made a positive difference in their lives. Founded in 2011, the Seminole Youth Council strives to strengthen leadership skills and provide interaction with Tribal and non-Tribal officials. Members host food and clothing drives, community cleanups and basketball tournaments. They also attend national conferences to meet other Native American youth.

♦ See YOUTH COUNCIL on page 7A

National youth baseball star Sean Osceola

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

BRIGHTON — They call it "travel ball."

It's really the major leagues of youth baseball — the best kid baseball players in the U.S. From all over the country, they are recruited onto teams that play 100 games a year all over the world. Their big-time tournaments are often broadcast on cable television with real major league stars like Frank Thomas and Tony La Russa providing commentary. And scouts for college and big league teams watch from the sidelines.

"It's an incredible experience," Sean Osceola said. "There's nothing else like this in sports anywhere."

The Pemaeytv Emahavk Charter School seventh-grader is one of the best 12-year-old ballplayers in the country. He plays pitcher, first baseman and third baseman for the legendary youth powerhouse Team Phenom (based in Moreno Valley, Calif.), which played in the National Youth Baseball Championships this August.

"I know I'll have to pick a specialty some day," he smiled. "I guess I'll probably pick pitcher. I like to be in control."

Control, however, gave Sean fits in the championship game, held at First Tennessee Park in Memphis, Tenn. The starting pitcher, Sean didn't make it two innings, allowing six runs and two homers by eventual MVP Hunter Watson, of the Houston Banditos Black, which held off Team Phenom to win the final 8-6.

"I don't know what happened. It was just one of those days," Sean shrugs with an air that indicates he's put the experience in the distant past. "I couldn't hit my spots."

Phenom coach Joe Keller, who directed his team to an incredible 88-7 record with nine major tournament wins this season, was understanding of Sean's off night.

"Sean pitched in 30 games this season," Keller said. "He had one bad one. It happens. You even see the major leaguers go through that. If I had to do it all over, I'd put Sean right on the mound again. He was the right man for the job."

Sean's father, Reno Osceola, and uncle Richard Osceola were sitting in the stands at the big game, the finale of the 2011-2012 youth

baseball season.

"I told Sean, 'That's not losing; that's learning what you need to do to improve,'" Reno said. "That's the message this league sends to these boys: character building through baseball playing. People ask me why I send him flying around to play on this team based in California when he could play on a team right here. Sean's looking to get a scholarship from a Division 1 college, to get drafted into the big leagues. This is the best place to go to achieve those dreams."

Sean concurred. "They are recruiting the top-tier players around the country," he said. "All the teams around here have players from our neck of the woods. Team Phenom players are from everywhere."

Keller expressed appreciation for the players.

"The quality is astounding," he said. "You take your best little league teams, and you might have one or two boys on the entire team that could be called legitimate stars. Every boy on our team is a star in the classroom and on the field or they wouldn't be on the team. Hands down, the National Youth Baseball League players are the top athletes in the sport."

Teams typically arrive at the venue city several days before a tournament to practice.

"I first met Sean two years ago at a tryout in Miami," said Keller, whose team schedules tryouts in different parts of the country each year. He's putting one together in Cocoa Beach for December.

♦ See BASEBALL on page 4C



Peter B. Gallagher

Sean Osceola's championship game is broadcast on national TV.

INSIDE:

COMMUNITY: A

HEALTH: 8A

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 10A

EDUCATION: B

SPORTS: C

Editorial

Clans and no-clans: the thinning of Seminole blood

• James E. Billie

No-clanners and descendents are a growing issue in the Seminole Tribe of Florida. To my knowledge, I believe the oldest no-clan member of the Seminole Tribe is about 68 years old. But there are now quite a few of them.

Back in the days when I was born, in 1944, some Indian men were known to have married non-Indian women and had children. Pretty soon it seemed like there were quite a few Tribal members who had no clan.

I grew up around all these people. You know who they are. It was in the '40s when the first generation of no-clans were born. And, you know, throughout the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s, I don't recall any issue arising concerning Tribal members who have no clan. We were all together. We all danced around the ceremonial fire at the Green Corn Dance. The no-clans took part in everything. They were called upon to lead dances; they were scratched; they entered the sweat hut; and they participated in all aspects of the Seminole or Miccosukee way of life.

In recent times, some type of racist or prejudicial attitude has developed. It seems more than a little insensitive for the people who are instigating this. As time goes along, someone in each family group will marry a female outside the Tribe and another child will be created with no clan.

A person with no clan is not the end of the world. It gives the person with no clan freedom to marry whomever they choose. Granted some clans have responsibility that they carry on traditionally, such as the Panther who is in charge of medicine and enforcing laws at the Green Corn ceremonial grounds. Someone with no clan does not have the burden of that responsibility.

I am not sure what has caused all of this to develop. But one thing is for sure: If your children are not taught the importance of marrying back into the Tribe, and to a different clan, it will all eventually die out.

The practice is that a Seminole does not marry back into his or her own clan. If you are a Bird Clan, you must marry someone from any clan other than your own, such as Wind, Snake, Deer, Bear, Panther, etc.

It is taboo and against Tribal law to marry back into your clan. Years past, prior to the 1940s, I recall if a Seminole couple violated that law, they were punished severely – cutting off a limb, ears or nose, or even death to the violators. As the older generation – the keepers of our laws – passed on, the taboo or law has been violated many times.

Different Tribes from around the United States, I have found, have no clans. The knowledge and existence of clans have been bled out of them from the 1800s to the present day.

I listened to comments from one of our Tribal elder women one time, brought on because her granddaughter was seeing a fellow clan member. She tried to persuade them not to be together because they were relatives. She was upset that she could not impress upon them the very importance of not being together in a clan relationship and, especially, of not creating children.

These two people, however, had such a strong bond of love with each other that they stayed together, almost inseparable, the rest of their lives. Their children are here. The two lovers are dead and gone now.

The old lady was lamenting, "Why can't a couple of opposite clans get together and have that same strong bond?" It was baffling to her.

Regardless of how our culture turns out, we are still maintaining a certain amount of our traditional culture. Our children, clan or no clan, are loved just like any child is loved. And in today's atmosphere, violators are not looked upon as severely as they used to be. But that Tribal law still exists. And I don't believe the offspring of the violators are any less of a person than any other person. We love them just the same.

Sometimes it brings tragic circumstances. I've seen one medicine man years back whose daughter knew the law and the rules but violated them anyway by going with the same clan member. He was so upset that he eliminated himself by committing suicide. That was when the old-timers held the laws close to their hearts.

On the subject of descendents, we're told in the Seminole Tribe, especially in our Constitution, you can be a member of the Tribe if you have a quarter of Seminole blood in you. But the Constitution doesn't say anything about clans.

We had never had a problem with descendents prior to the 1990s that I recall until we started having Tribal members who were quarter-blood. That's how it began. These are children of Tribal members. I've met many of them. I have watched them go to school in our system. What a cruel feeling it must have been for that child to be told he is not a Tribal member but merely a person of the general public.

I have two children who are quarter-blood, and I tell them now the consequences – if it is a consequence – of marrying outside the Tribe. If you do and have children, I tell them, they will not be Tribal members. You will still have to take care of that child as your own and with your own finances. You will not have the privilege of the wealth of the Seminole Tribe today.

To have a child in any circumstance is a new financial responsibility to take on. I am not opposed to my children seeking someone outside the Tribe. Hopefully, they will find someone responsible to take care of their personal financial needs, as long as they know that if they do marry back into the Tribe, they will enjoy that certain amount of financial security.

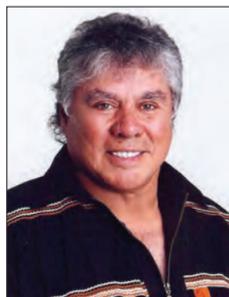
These are some of the dilemmas that we are facing today. Whoever those people are who are instigating inter-Tribal racism with prejudicial comments, they are dividing family members and just plain hurting other people's feelings. Whoever these people are, it will not be long before one of their own descendents is involved in any of those situations.

As large and sophisticated as our Tribe is getting, with our members traveling throughout the world, it is very likely that they will meet someone that they like, fall in love, hopefully get married, and begin new life with.

It's almost inevitable. Seminole Tribe blood is thinning out.

Sho-naa-bish.

James E. Billie is Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



Seminole future: Board dividends

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

Let us go back in time to the days when our Seminole Tribe Founding Fathers were gathered together at the Council Oak discussing our Constitution. I try to imagine what that must have been like – the debates, the arguments, the ideas, the hard decisions. Somehow, through many discussions, our Founding Fathers decided the new organized Seminole Tribe would need a Tribal Council and a Tribal Board of Directors. Even in those days, our leaders determined the Board would be the economic development arm to make the Tribe prosperous, relying very little on government subsidy. The Constitution says nothing about a Tribal Council subsidy.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. has existed for 55 years. For the first 54, there has been no change in the structure or policies and procedures of the Board. I'm not sure what the circumstances were or exactly when the Council began subsidizing the Board, but it's been more than 30 years. Now it is time to change that model. It is my sincere hope that this year the Board won't need that subsidy from the Council. I want the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. to be self-sufficient, to prosper relying on its own resources.

We need this to happen now. We do not have the luxury of time. I applaud the knowledge and dedication this administration came into office with. Without their determination to entertain new ideas and change for the better, everything would remain status quo. A half-century later, we are faced with crucial decisions. We have to find another way to further the vision of our first government leaders and protect our current shareholders – the members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

There have been complaints that this administration is not as visible as the previous. I spoke to an individual who felt that was an indication we are not living up to our promises. Well, it would have been nice to walk into a situation where everything was healthy, where there were staff members who were efficient, who could evaluate proposals for enterprise projects, along with a marketing plan to grow the enterprises, and have the appropriate policies, procedures and processes in place necessary for initial and continued success. That would have been nice. But that was not the case.

This administration has spent a lot of time cooped up in the office engaged in a tremendous amount of discussion about our economic enterprises, the direction we are going, reviewing the various directors and staff, doing our best to repair and maintain our financial situation. While it may seem to some that we are absent, nothing is further from the truth. It really is not hard to find any of our elected officials. We're stuck in meetings trying to determine the next course of action.

I will be the first to acknowledge that while my desires are to be out and about in our various communities, it is my first duty to ensure that our business needs are addressed. And that requires me to be in an office evaluating personnel and

proposals. There is simply a tremendous amount of work that has to be completed, and we do not have the luxury of time. In the end, as you know, this administration will be judged on the issues of dollars and cents, not on our attendance at events. Believe me, there will come a time when we will all be able to attend all the community meetings and functions, gatherings and celebrations. Nothing will make me happier.

It's just not going to happen overnight. There are so many things that we are fighting one day at a time. We are fighting the old business culture that used to exist around here. We are fighting the inefficient mindsets of department heads and employees, making changes when our expectations are not being met. If we are not willing to make those kinds of decisions, then what are we doing here in leadership positions with the Seminole Tribe?

We're here to build upon the vision of our Founding Fathers, to put a modern spin on their wisdom and forethought. For example, this Tribe has been a big benefactor of tobacco sales for many years. Now, with the evolution of the tobacco industry is experiencing, the major cigarette companies are entering the electronic cigarette (e-cig) market. This administration identified this as an opportunity for the Seminole Tribe to become a major player in that market, and we acted on it. Now we have our own brand of Seminole e-cigs, certified safe for use on airplanes and in restaurants, complete with our same tax advantages. Who could have predicted this?

My position is, by the end of this administration, to have the Board hand out its own meaningful dividend to Tribal members. That has never happened. It was not the process put in place by the Founding Fathers, who maintained a great vision of future success, despite having no way of predicting a future of such wealth for the Seminole Indians.

It is the vision of this administration that our shareholders, the members of the Seminole Tribe, will receive two checks each month: one from the Board, one from the Council. We can do it. But to get there, we have to overcome years of status quo, years of no vision. Remember, it is always much easier to sit back and criticize; it takes a much stronger person to stand up and contribute to the future success of the Tribe.

The only thing I ask from Tribal members is to continue their support – physical support and emotional support – for our efforts to keep the Founding Fathers' vision – the very foundation of our existence as a sovereign government: moving forward and upward.

Sho-naa-bish.

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



Tribal Council convenes in Brighton for special meeting

BY CAMELLIA SMITH-OSCEOLA
Editor in Chief

BRIGHTON — The Tribal Council convened for a special meeting on Aug. 10 at the Veteran's Building on the Brighton Reservation. Here are a few resolutions presented that day:

Resolution: Issuance of a homesite lease to Jessica Jo Billie – Big Cypress Reservation.

Resolution: Issuance of a homesite lease to Wesley Guston Garcia – Big Cypress Reservation.

Resolution: Issuance of a homesite lease to Louise B. Billie – Brighton Reservation.

Resolution: Issuance of a homesite lease to Lillian Joni Johnson – Brighton Reservation.

Resolution: United States Environmental Protection Agency grant application for funding of the fiscal year 2013 Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Response program for all Seminole Indian reservations.

Resolution: United States Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service grant application for funding of the fiscal year 2013 Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Science program for all Seminole Indian reservations.

Resolution: Wildlife conservation plan for the Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood Seminole Indian reservations.

Resolution: Approval of agreement between Tribal member Wendi Riley and contractor Brian Sullivan Contractors, Inc., where the basis of payment is a fixed price for the new construction of Riley's single-family home on the Brighton Reservation.

Resolution: Standard form of agreement between Tribal member Diane Buster and contractor Redman Builders, Inc., where the basis of payment is a fixed price for the replacement of Diane Buster's single-family home on the Hollywood Reservation.

Resolution: Approval of a one-day Tribal alcoholic beverage license to Rhodora J. Donahue Academy, Inc. for the Fantasy of Funk Festival at the Immokalee Seminole Indian Casino; ratification.

Resolution: Standard form of agreement between owner and contractor where the basis of payment is a fixed-price contract sum between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Seminole Construction and Development, Inc. for the remodeling of rental homes, to include landscaping and irrigation located on the Big Cypress Reservation in Hendry County.

Resolution: Approval of a service agreement between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Long's Air Conditioning, Inc., where the basis of payment is a fixed-price sum for furnishing and installing stand-by generator systems on the Hollywood Reservation in Broward County.

Resolution: Engagement letter for audit of the

schedule of covered games revenues ("covered games") of the Tribal Gaming enterprises for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30; limited waiver of sovereign immunity.

Resolution: Engagement letter for audit of the combined Seminole Gaming enterprises' financial statements, and for the combined financial statements for the Hollywood and Tampa enterprises, and to express an opinion on the fairness of the Hollywood and Tampa enterprises' schedule of income available for debt service and maximum annual debt service required (the "schedule") for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30; limited waiver of sovereign immunity.



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Deadline: Oct. 10, 2012

Issue: Nov. 21, 2012
Deadline: Nov. 7, 2012

Issue: Dec. 19, 2012
Deadline: Dec. 5, 2012

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Community

A

Fort Pierce holds first fun day at Chupco Youth Ranch

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

FORT PIERCE — Although Tropical Storm Isaac hovered nearby, the Fort Pierce community didn't let it dampen their spirits on Aug. 25. Fort Pierce and other Tribal reservations joined together at the Chupco Youth Ranch for their first fun day event.

The Chupco Youth Ranch sponsored the event, while Chupco Ranch Office manager Mary Stomboli and Chupco Ranch coordinator Kathleen Martinez organized it. A crew of volunteers also kept the community busy with activities throughout the day.

Originally intended as a back-to-school celebration, the fun day grew into a Tribalwide event as well. Shamy Tommie, Chupco Ranch director, said everyone agreed that it would be a great

way to encourage fellowship and to show appreciation to all Tribal members and employees.

"As long as we communicate with each other, have fun with each other, we get along better," Tommie said.

A 36-foot waterslide, mechanical bull, pony rides, snow cones and cotton candy amused youth throughout the day. The younger children also made friendship bracelets with the help of Valerie Marone, from the Family Services Department. In addition, adults participated in friendly competitions of archery, skillet toss and watermelon roll.

During a special recognition, Joe Kippenberger, director of the Buildings and Grounds Department, as well as his staff, were awarded a plaque by Martinez for their dedication to helping build community facilities.

"That's the least we could do for all the work they've done for us," Stomboli said. "They have done so much for the ranch. They have been awesome."

"He's been great, absolutely wonderful," Martinez added.

Tomahawk Catering offered a restaurant-style menu for lunch, and everyone had a choice of Tommie's infamous ribs, chicken, frybread and endless sides.

An ice cream social made for a sweet ending to a day of fun and fellowship.

"The more we have events like this... we are going to realize what it is to stick together," Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. said. "That's what it's all about: being one family, (one) Tribe no matter where we live."

♦ See more FUN DAY photos on page 7A



Andrea Holata

Tribal youth Lance Howard shoots for a bulls-eye while volunteer John Gore stands by.

Business profile: Seminole Sign Co.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Signs are something most people look at but rarely think about beyond the information they provide. Laverne and Jason Thomas are not like most people; as the owners of Seminole Sign Company, they are engaged with signs on a daily basis.

Back in 2000, when his father needed a sign for his business, Jason got some vinyl lettering and made it. This humble beginning led to the formation of Seminole Sign Co. Now, the couple makes banners from their home in Brighton.

Laverne and Jason grew their startup business steadily through word of mouth. Mostly, Seminole Sign Co. produces signage for numerous Tribal departments, as the Tribe serves as their biggest customer. They also receive orders and submit bids to outside businesses. As the face of the company, Laverne gets out in the communities, travels to all reservations and meets with existing and potential customers. Jason makes the signs in the studio behind their home.

"In the beginning, we couldn't keep up with the demand, so we bought a 54-inch digital color printer," Jason said. "We bit the bullet and did it. That was the best thing we ever purchased."

Seminole Sign Co. expanded faster than the Thomases expected, so they

opened a store in 2003 in Moore Haven and eventually moved it to Okeechobee. They handled a variety of printing orders, including full-color wraps, signs, posters, magnetic signs, screen printing and banners. A recession heavily impacted the business starting in 2008, so they closed the store, moved back to Brighton and started over in the same place they began.

"We had no employees and no overhead," Jason said. "It was just the two of us."

Jason works full time in the Tribe's Information Technology Department, and Laverne works part time in the Community Culture Department. Despite their jobs, the business began to grow again. The turning point came in the form of a telephone call from the Tribe's Gaming Department.

"We had been trying to get in there for a long time," Jason said. "They wanted us to bid on jobs. We won some bids and proved ourselves."

Once Seminole Sign Co. became a vendor for the Brighton Casino, the Thomases knew that the casino's needs exceeded their equipment. They bit the bullet once again and purchased a 74-inch printer, which increased their productivity and allowed them to produce larger signs in-house and to submit more competitive bids.

The Thomases invested heavily in their equipment because they believed the best

equipment would produce the best quality products. As with many small businesses, when necessary, they subcontract certain jobs out to other companies. With the addition of the larger printer and many other pieces of essential equipment, Seminole Sign Co. only needs to sub out the largest flatbed printing jobs.

"The turnaround time is important, and the casino deadlines are tough," Jason said. "But we always meet the deadline. When you do the work yourself, you can do things quickly."

Quality is paramount to the business. They said they use only the highest quality materials and have a top-notch designer on staff. The Thomases have put in a lot of long hours and late nights to make Seminole Sign Co. a success.

"I spend a lot of time in meetings," Laverne said. "People like to give business to whoever is local. And we put out a good product."

The Thomases are proud of the professional quality of their signs.

"It's a good, clean business, and the satisfaction level is through the roof," Jason said. "We get satisfaction knowing not everyone can do this; it's a highly skilled job."

Some of the challenges include the late nights, making deadlines and spotting spelling mistakes before printing a sign. Living and working in Brighton also presents a unique challenge for the business, as suppliers do not deliver there. This forces Jason to travel to Fort Myers to get supplies, purchasing more than necessary and storing them.

Being a home-based business, the Thomases' children — Layton, 15; Layne, 12; Elle, 8; and Lexi, 6 — sometimes help out as well.

"They get right in the mix," Jason said. "They ask questions, not that we expect them to become sign makers. I'd like to see the business continue, but all we can do is give the kids a skill set and opportunities. They will make their decisions in life."

Because of a lot of hard work and the support of the Tribe, Seminole Sign Co. has prospered.

"The support the Tribe has offered is like nothing I've ever seen," Jason said. "The Tribe is our family, and they want to see us succeed as much as we do."

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



Beverly Bidney

Laverne and Jason Thomas stand next to their printers in the Seminole Sign Co. studio.



Beverly Bidney

The choir from Brighton's All Family Ministries Church sings in memory of Vincent Micco.

Tribal community pays tribute to Vincent Micco

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Surrounded by family and friends, Loretta Micco remembered her late husband, Vincent Micco, at a memorial dinner on Aug. 30 at the Hollywood Gym. The room, festively decorated with balloons hovering above the tables and photographic memories projected on a large screen, beckoned people in to pay tribute to their friend.

Vincent, who worked for multiple departments within the Tribe, including SPD as a service aide, passed away in a motorcycle crash in Big Cypress on Aug. 26, 2011. The event gave those who loved and miss him a chance to share their memories. About 100 people celebrated his life at the memorial dinner.

Signs of Vincent's passion for life loomed everywhere, from the Miami Dolphins logos worn by many attendees to the dessert table of 20 lemon meringue pies, his favorite, to the choir from Brighton's All Family Ministries Church who sang his favorite hymns in Creek and English.

"It's been a hard year," said Loretta, who was married to the love of her life for 29 years. "I think of him all the time. Sometimes I laugh; he makes me laugh even now. I know him being gone has affected a lot of people, and it helps me when they tell me. I don't feel like I'm the only one that's hurting."

Vincent and Loretta met in Hollywood when they were 22 years old. He was from Brighton, but his mother lived in Hollywood. One of their favorite songs was Joe Cocker's *You are so Beautiful*, which served as background music for a photo montage of Vincent's life. Throughout the presentation were photos of handwritten love notes from Vincent to Loretta, many written for no special occasion at all.

"He was such a great person," Loretta said. "I can't think of anyone else that was so special. He was extraordinary and always thought of others before himself."

Motorcycles were a big part of

Vincent's life. He started riding in 1993, and in 2003, he created the annual Jerry Micco Sr. Memorial Ride in honor of his father. Last year, the cyclists stopped not only at Jerry's grave but also at Vincent's.

During the memorial, people shared their feelings about Vincent. Many people took the microphone, including chaplain Dan Harris, of Tampa's SPD; Vincent's friend Ron Ward; Vincent's uncle and former Chairman Mitchell Cypress; Vincent's sister-in-law Rosetta Rhodd; and event emcee Van Samuels, to name a few.

"Vincent was always fun," former Councilman Max Osceola said. "One Halloween, he was about 35 years old; he wore the best costume — just a diaper. Maybe now we can't touch him, but he is always in our hearts."

Friends and neighbors shared many reasons for missing Vincent.

"We miss him dearly," Hollywood Board Rep. Chris Osceola said. "I miss seeing him ride around in his Miami Dolphins golf cart or playing with his dog."

The occasion brought comfort to Loretta, who appreciated everyone's memories of Vincent. She and her husband were religious people, and her belief in Jesus gives Loretta strength now.

"I'm happy that I sure will see Vincent again because I know Jesus," Loretta said.



Beverly Bidney

Guests listen to speakers as photos of Loretta and Vincent Micco are projected on the screen.

First baby tortoise hatched at Seminole Okalee Indian Village

BY CHRISTINE MCCALL
Contributing Writer

HOLLYWOOD — On Sept. 1, newly hatched African spurred tortoise "Oakley" was found crawling around in the tortoise habitat at the Seminole Okalee Indian Village located in Seminole Paradise.

After the only female tortoise laid her eggs six months ago, wildlife staff believed that the eggs were infertile. By chance, wildlife assistant Justin Iguialada happened to pass by the habitat and see the 2-inch African spurred tortoise.

"If I had walked by any later, he probably wouldn't have survived," Iguialada said.

That's because hatchling tortoises have many predators — especially birds. The parents don't protect their offspring after being hatched, which gives other animals an opportunity to feed on the tortoise. Luckily, Oakley — named by wildlife manager John Jones after the sunglasses, not the village — was found in time to be put in a safer place



Christine McCall

Oakley the tortoise crawls around in his new home until he's big enough to be with his parents.

until he can better protect himself.

The African spurred tortoise is the largest tortoise in the African desert and is the third-largest of the species. A misconception is that all members of the species are turtles. The main difference between tortoises and turtles is that tortoises live on land, while turtles live in water.

Oakley has the possibility to grow to be more than 100 pounds and will continue to grow the remainder of his life — up to 100 years. Although the tortoise drinks water, it is mainly hydrated through the vegetation it eats. The five adult tortoises at Okalee Village are fed up to a total of 50 pounds of lettuce and other vegetation a day. In the wild, many African spurred tortoises survive off of eating cactus.

Today Okalee Village is the home of 60 wildlife animals, including, snakes, birds, otters, alligators and other reptiles. Okalee Village is also fortunate to house two endangered species: the gopher tortoise and black bear.

Currently, Okalee Village is in the beginning stages of moving to a larger location in the foreseeable future. In order to receive more visitors, the facility will move to the open lot across from the Seminole Trading Post in Hollywood.

"We don't get a lot of walk ins; we get a lot of school groups," wildlife manager John Jones said. "We had 100 kids here this morning."

The new Okalee Village will have 8 acres for the wildlife, including Oakley and parents, and for visitors to enjoy.

With the discovery of Oakley, the wildlife staff decided to closely watch the remaining eggs and incubate them at the village. That means Oakley the tortoise may receive a new brother or sister soon.

Marty Bowers displays photos at first public show

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A radio host entertains and informs but rarely provides inspiration for an artist. Marty Bowers, however, was motivated to explore photography because his favorite radio personality, Howard Stern, found a new hobby.

Bowers' interest in photography grew into a serious passion, and he has found success doing something he loves. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum displayed his first exhibition through Sept. 10 and held a grand opening in conjunction with the Museum's 15th anniversary celebration on Aug. 21.

"I picked up the camera because of Howard Stern," said Bowers, of Tampa. "But I also took classes and learned what photography is all about."

Photography isn't Bowers' only method of artistic expression; he learned to draw at a young age and also writes poetry. But this was Bowers' first public show, and he did not know what to expect. During the opening, he talked to people and explained the images, adding insight and depth to their visit.

"It was a little scary at first," he said. "But I'm really enjoying it. I love being the center of attention." Museum visitors spent time taking in the mood of

each photo.

"They are gorgeous," said Lawanna Osceola, of Hollywood. "I love how he interprets the scenes and brings you into the photographs."

"I like the photos a lot," added Museum member Guy LaBree, of Arcadia. "I met Marty here, and I'm glad I did."

People in public places inspire Bowers' photos, and he often goes where people congregate, such as events, rallies, malls and Starbucks, to capture images.

"I like shooting them when they don't know it," he said. "People are more honest about what they are doing when they don't know you are there."

The photos on display include an image of two men with cotton candy at Tampa's Santa Fest event. The men are homeless, and the organizers gave them T-shirts and cotton candy and then put them to work.

"That's why I enjoy that shot so much," Bowers said. "They had a chance to work."

Bowers, who grew up in Big Cypress, said that for his next photographic outing he planned to attend the Republican National Convention in Tampa — but not the main event.

"I'm going to where the demonstrators are," he said. "I'll find out where they are and jump on my bike and start shooting."



Andrea Holata

From left, Tribal artist Elgin Jumper, curator of exhibits John Moga, Tribal artist Jimmy John Osceola and artist James Hutchinson gather on Sept. 6 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum during the artists' reception for the exhibit "Reflections across Time."

Tribal artists display work

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — In a collaborative effort, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum of Florida International University presented the "Reflections across Time: Seminole Portraits" exhibit at the Big Cypress Reservation. Bridging together more than 150 years of Seminole history, the exhibit features the artwork of notable 19th- and 20th-century Seminole artists and showcases traditional and modern times and styles.

Tribal and non-Native artists, Museum staff, representatives from the Frost Museum and others came together for an artists' reception held on Sept. 6.

"The Seminole culture has been captured beautifully by non-Native artists, but the Seminole artists themselves are a going commodity," Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Anne McCudden said. "They are fine artists and should be recognized in the same breath as the 19th-century artists."

Seminole artists Brian Zepeda, Elgin Jumper, Henehayo (Leroy) Osceola and Jimmy John Osceola all have artwork displayed in the exhibit, which runs

through Nov. 4. They have painted for several years, and throughout their careers, years of tradition, culture and creativity have surfaced in their work.

Jumper said he enjoys showing his work in the exhibit.

"It's really good to be involved in this kind of stuff because it shines a positive light on what the artist could be," he said. "And it keeps the expression of our culture."

The exhibit compares and contrasts the visions of 19th-century artists who painted Seminoles leaders in an attempt to record a "dying race" with 20th-century Seminole artists who paint them to show their pride and creativity for their culture and history.

"I hope people realize and see the continuity of culture and how identity can be manipulated," McCudden said.

She also said that she hopes Tribal members will view the portraits and see how non-Tribal artists viewed Tribal members.

"Of course, we would like the general public to come in and to see how we work with other museums to bring quality," she added.



Beverly Bidney

Marty Bowers mingles with guests during the opening of his show on Aug. 21.

AH-TAH-THI-KI

From page 1A

"Several members of my immediate family served as models for the sculptured faces in the exhibits. We had a great staff, and I feel as though this museum is a part of my family. It helps our young people learn what it is to be Seminole."

Seminole artist Elgin Jumper recited his poem Seminole Warrior and expressed his gratitude to the Museum for its support of Seminole artists and craftsmen.

Author, historian and creator of photographic collections Patsy West was a member of the original museum staff and applauded the continued progress of the Museum during the past 15 years. She indicated that its exhibits and extensive projects and educational programs are a vital step in the preservation of the Seminole culture.

"It was a highlight of my life to have been on the original staff of the Museum," Zepeda said. "I worked with Billy to design and construct a fully functional Seminole village. Just prior to the opening, I completed the final loop of the boardwalk to create the least possible invasive means for visitors to experience a glimpse of the homeland of our culture. Organizing the historical reenactments and participating in the American Indian Arts Celebration were a wonderful experience."

The renown Florida artist and longtime friend of the Seminoles Guy LaBree shared his deep respect for the Museum's accomplishments when he said, "I strive to capture a moment in time in the history and culture of the Seminoles on canvas, while the Museum is capturing their past and present within these walls, the traditional village and their outreach programs. They are preserving and documenting an entire culture, and their achievements in the first 15 years have been awesome."

In conclusion, LaBree said, "Listening to James

Billie reminisce about the days when his camp occupied this site, I couldn't help but look back on a night that I spent on this very spot alone in one of his chickees. About midway through the night, I was awakened by a soft panting sound. I opened my eyes to find that I was face-to-face with a bobcat. I don't know who was more afraid, me or that cat. It makes me very happy to see that the Museum is maintaining the natural beauty of the cypress swamp and its inhabitants because that is an integral part of the Seminole story."

A cultural Seminole feast had been provided for the occasion by Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger and his assistants. Armed with gigs, Councilman Tiger, Charlie Cypress, Raymond Garza and Wovoka Tommie worked the local waterways and secured gar and mud fish to be cooked over the open fire with deer, swamp cabbage, frybread and an array of traditional favorites. Tribal senior Louise Motlow offered the blessing and invocation for the event. Two enormous celebratory cakes concluded the meal.

A retrospective video, *How it All Began*, was prepared by Seminole Media Productions for continuous viewing at the celebration. It featured commentaries by key participants, historical facts and a brief preview of the many aspects of the Museum programs and achievements.

Behind-the-scenes tours were conducted throughout the afternoon, and participants were given a chance to meet artist Marty Bowers in the Mosaic Art Gallery. Pedro Zepeda demonstrated the art of wood carving and its cultural significance. As the visitors explored the galleries, they became aware of numerous opportunities available through the Museum's many resources.

When future generations ask, "Who were the Seminoles?" the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum will hold the answer. It is a comprehensive connection with the past, documents the present through extensive interaction and opens a window to the possibilities that will ensure the future through its educational and cultural programs.



Judy Weeks

Artist Guy LaBree, author and historian Patsy West and former Chairman Mitchell Cypress celebrate at the event.



Beverly Bidney

Little Mr. Seminole Vincenzo Osceola, 7, enjoys the 15th anniversary celebration with his grandmother Janice Osceola.



Judy Weeks

Seniors Rachel Billie and Mary Sanchez check out the enormous inventory in the Museum's gift shop.



Judy Weeks

Chairman James E. Billie and Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. congratulate the Museum on a successful 15 years of preserving the culture and history of the Seminole people.



Judy Weeks

Museum development manager Dorian Lange presents door prize winner Sheila Aguilar with a sweetgrass basket.



Judy Weeks

Pedro Zepeda, who demonstrated the art of wood carving and its cultural significance, listens to speakers with Amelia.

Business profile: Redman Builders

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter



Steve Osceola is at a job site in Big Cypress.

Reinaldo Becerra

HOLLYWOOD — Steve Osceola has spent his entire life in construction. He grew up going to construction sites with his father, Max Osceola Sr., who had his own construction company. As a young boy, Osceola knew he wanted to follow his father's example, and he has achieved that goal. Since 2007 he has owned his own business, Redman Builders.

"I'm carrying out my dad's and my childhood dream," said Osceola, of Hollywood. "It's what I always wanted to do."

Osceola was working for his father in 1994 and expected to continue to work for him indefinitely. However, a car accident took Osceola Sr.'s life at age 63, which left his son to figure out what to do next. First, Osceola got his license as a Certified Building Contractor and became a subcontractor for the Tribe, working from a home office.

He started his first company with a partner in 1998 but dissolved it a few years later. Osceola met Leo Vezina while working from his home office and hired him as a subcontractor for many jobs. In turn, Vezina hired Osceola for his projects. In 2007, they teamed up and formed Redman Builders, of which Osceola is the majority owner and a licensed general contractor.

"As far as I know, I'm the only Seminole with a [general contractor] license in the state," said Osceola, a member of the Panther Clan.

Tribal projects account for most of Redman's business, which keeps Osceola busy. He bids for jobs against other companies, some Tribal owned, but doesn't get every job.

"I'm not the cheapest, but I guarantee we bid the jobs correctly and stand behind the work," Osceola said. "Everyone gets their fair share of business."

Redman doesn't cut corners, and quality is the company's No. 1 priority, he said.



Reinaldo Becerra

Steve Osceola's crew works on a home in Big Cypress.

"If something on the plan seems incorrect, I'll bring it up to the architect or project manager," Osceola said. "We want to make sure everything is done right."

Indian crews were a staple of Osceola Sr.'s business, and Redman utilizes as many Indian crews as possible. Since they focus on top quality, Redman subcontracts to experts in the trade when necessary. The company builds everything according to the latest Florida building codes, and in Hollywood, they follow the High Velocity Wind Code as well. Osceola believes he has raised the standards across the board.

"You can't build a house stronger than we do in Hollywood," Osceola said.

The largest project Redman has completed is the recent expansion of the Tampa Hard Rock Casino and parking garage, done in conjunction with Turner Construction. Other projects include the Hollywood Hard Rock garage, Hollywood Fire Station, and the Hollywood infrastructure and beautification project, as well as many Tribal members' homes in Hollywood and Big Cypress.

"We focus on Hollywood, Immokalee and Big Cypress. Brighton is too far for us," Osceola said. "We want to be out there to supervise the jobs."

Running a business of this magnitude isn't exactly what Osceola expected; it's much tougher. The paperwork involved with a job can take longer than the construction period.

"I thought I'd get people to run the jobs, and I'd play golf three times a week," he said. "I haven't played golf since

December."

Redman is also in the process of getting a Minority Business Enterprise certification from the state. Once in place, the company can bid on a multitude of government jobs.

"If there is work, I'd rather work for the Tribe," Osceola said. "I think we won't get a fair shake unless we have Tribal eyes looking at a job. The Tribe has kept me busy, so I haven't aggressively bid on outside jobs."

A family man, Osceola lives in Hollywood with his wife, Jackie Thompson Osceola. His children, Steven Billie and Rachel Billie, are not in the family business, but he enjoys taking his four grandchildren around the reservation to show them the buildings and homes he built.

"I'm leaving my mark on the Tribe," he said.

Osceola's advice for people interested in starting a business is simple: Understand the business thoroughly, be qualified to run it and hire the professionals you need to help, including attorneys and accountants.

"The best part of this job is being able to work for my own people, make them happy and give them what they deserve," Osceola said. "It's fulfilling. There is a lot of hard work and many sleepless nights, but it's what I want to do."

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

Bronze by Cooley for the Seminole Tribe

BY CHRISTINE MCCALL
Contributing Writer

LAMONT, Fla. — For the past 30 years, Bronze by Cooley artists Bradley Cooley Sr. and son Bradley Jr., of Lamont, Fla., have created Seminole-influenced bronze sculptures. Many of their creations can be found on Seminole reservations, the most recent being the life-size sculpture of veteran Herman L. Osceola located in front of the Big Cypress Gymnasium.

"I started about 40 years ago when I was living in Tampa, Fla. and started doing European contact and looking at the Florida Indian," Cooley Sr. said. "I started looking at early drawings and ancestors to the Seminole."

He began creating sculptures of Seminole history with the sculpture "Battle of Okeechobee" using the face of Tribal member O.B. Osceola Sr.

Cooley Sr. began working with the Seminole Tribe after artist Guy LaBree introduced him to Chairman James E. Billie, who commissioned Cooley Sr. to create a sculpture known as the "Legend of Kissimmee River." The Cooleys have predominately done sculptures influenced by the Seminoles ever since.

"We have been doing Seminole wars all the way to modern-day Seminoles and now the Seminole Princess," he said.

Since 2005, the father-son team has immortalized Miss Florida Seminole by having a bronze tabletop sculpture created of her in full traditional clothing, wearing her crown and sash.

Creating a sculpture can take six to seven months from start to finish. The process begins with molding the clay, which can take up to three months. The Cooleys then cover the clay sculpture in a latex rubber mold and create a cast. They then ship out the cast to create the bronze statue.

When asked what the most difficult part of the process was, Cooley Sr. replied with a laugh, "The molding. I hate molding."

The delicate and intricate pieces of Seminole clothing make molding time consuming. The sculpture "The Clans" took more than a year to complete and is the second-largest sculpture the team created. The sculpture is of a 12-foot-tall Abiaka surrounded by the eight clans and stands behind

Billie Swamp Safari on the Big Cypress Reservation.

With a collection of sculptures spanning the last 40 years, Cooley Sr. explained why one of their proudest sculptures was of the life-size Seminole warrior Osceola. To date, Osceola stands on both Hollywood and Brighton reservations, as well in front of the R.A. Gray Building in downtown Tallahassee.

"It came out so well, and it reflects in the sculpture," he said.

The Bronze by Cooley father-son team has created about 100 pieces of Seminole-influenced artwork. The most recently finished sculpture is the tabletop statuette of the late former Chairwoman Betty Mae Jumper sitting at a sewing machine.

"We wanted to create sculptures of all the prominent figures of the Seminoles," Cooley Sr. said.

The next sculpture they're creating is of Chairman James E. Billie wrestling an alligator, as well as the newly crowned 2012 Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar.



Photo courtesy of Wanda Bowers

Bradley Cooley Sr. poses with the life-size clay model of the late Seminole veteran Herman L. Osceola.

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Native Americans emphasize the need to vote in U.S. elections

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

All U.S. citizens ages 18 and older have the right, privilege and responsibility to vote. For this upcoming U.S. presidential election, many Native Americans are emphasizing that the right should not be taken lightly in Indian Country, as it was not easily granted.

The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 extended citizenship rights to all American Indians and Alaska Natives, but it took until the Voting Rights Act was amended in 1970 to remove a major obstacle to allow the vote for all Native Americans.

Since its inception in 1944, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has worked to ensure that nobody thwarts the right to vote. For about 20 years, NCAI has initiated the nonpartisan Native Vote campaign to get out the vote, to prevent voter disenfranchisement, to educate Tribal members about candidates and ballot measures, and to share data resources that provide Tribal leaders with a deeper understanding of voter participation within Indian Country.

"Our first resolution in 1944 was to protect the right to vote," said Thom Wallace, NCAI communications director. "Every election year we help get out the vote. This year we are focused on registering voters first and foremost. The impact of the Native American vote varies from state to state and county to county, which is why it is so important."

Native Americans can vote in Tribal elections, as well as local, state and federal elections, making their right to vote unique. Although the influence of the Native vote is unknown, many believe it is critically important.

"I think if anywhere, Florida understands that," Wallace said. "Tribal members know if there is a candidate who supports their issues, it can change history."

Statistics give a clear picture of Native voting. In the 2008 election, at least one million Native Americans



did not register to vote; that's 34 percent of those who were eligible. Native Americans don't always vote as a block, but the group has gained more influence.

NCAI cites two recent elections determined, in part, by a large Native vote. In 2006, U.S. Sen. Jon Tester (D-Montana) won his seat over the incumbent by only 3,562 votes. In that election, more than 17,000 voters cast ballots on Montana's seven reservations. Tester's election shifted the balance of power in the Senate.

Also, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) credits her victory in the 2010 midterm election to the power of the Native vote. Murkowski – only the second successful write-in candidate in U.S. Senate history – won the general election by more than 10,000 write-in votes.

"Indians don't just vote 'D' for democrat or 'R' for republican," NCAI president Jefferson Keel said. "For us, it's 'I' for Indian. We are independent voters, and we will continue to vote for the candidate who is strong on our issues and cares about our priorities."

The deadline to register for the November election is Oct. 9. People can register in person at any Broward County library or Department of Motor Vehicles office or by visiting www.browardsoe.org or by calling 954-357-7050 for more information.



Andrea Holata
Bobby Henry gets ready to pocket a ball in the senior pool tournament.



Andrea Holata
Linda Tommie shops for crafts at Bobbie Billie's booth during the senior gathering held on Aug. 29.

Brighton Elder Services hosts first senior gathering



Andrea Holata
Shula Jones has her arts and crafts set up for sale.



Andrea Holata
From left, Oneva Baxley, Jack Smith Jr. and Nellie Smith join together for a friendly game of bingo during the senior gathering.

Immokalee to open youth center

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

IMMOKALEE — With renovations nearly complete on a new youth center in Immokalee, the community can look forward to a state-of-the-art facility to entertain children with a wide variety of activities.

Renovations to the new facility – the old Housing building – began in late August and include eliminating five office areas and a conference room and knocking down walls for a game room. The Tribe contracted Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. for the project, which also consists of adding a new theater room and enclosed patio.

Once completed, the youth center will contain two pool tables, as well as foosball tables; bumper pool, air hockey and ping-pong tables; board games and crafts; video game consoles; and a large-screen TV.

At press time, workers began moving in the equipment for an anticipated completion date of early October.

"Hopefully, it's a nice big hub for the kids," said Immokalee Recreation site manager Christine Washburn, who began working for the Tribe in May and has more than 25 years in Recreation. "We're hoping to make it a great place for the kids to go to give them better options than what's out there."

Washburn said Immokalee Liaison Kenny Joe Davis and Council Office project manager Ralph Sanchez were instrumental figures in getting the ball rolling on the new youth center.

With the Immokalee gym nearby, Washburn said they hope kids will have many positive activities to keep them busy and out of trouble. She said they plan to host tournaments, movie nights and dances at the new facility as well. In addition, the contractors will install cabinets, an oven, refrigerator and ice machine for a kitchen where the Recreation Department will host cooking culture classes.

"Our staff is looking forward to new and exciting programs," she said. "This is all very exciting, and we're looking forward to the grand opening."

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Andrea Holata
From left, Tampa residents Annie Henry, Nancy Frank and Linda Henry play a game of bingo during the senior gathering.

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SC TV **2012 INDIAN DAY CELEBRATION**

SC TV **SEMINOLE TRIBE Recreation** **BACK TO SCHOOL YOUTH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

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Information: 954-985-5703



◆ YOUTH COUNCIL

From page 1A

"It's a great opportunity to get our community and Tribe into activities," said Dasani Cypress, a seventh-grader at Ahfachkee.

In addition, Sen. Dorgan shared stories about his experiences in Indian Country, explaining that CNAV mainly addresses education, suicide and substance abuse issues.

"We have seen a lot of youth who face difficulties," he said. "My commitment is to try to change those circumstances."

Tribal youth voiced their own concerns to Sen. Dorgan about issues facing their Tribe. They touched on substance abuse, bullying, stereotypes, loss of culture, dividends and higher education.

"You don't see a lot of youth aspire to pursue higher education even though we have every resource available to us," Alexis Aguilar said, adding that receiving monthly dividends could be one of the reasons behind it.

She suggested that the Tribe require youth to reach a certain level of education in order to continue receiving their dividends. The Youth Council also applauded the Tribe for requiring members to pass drug tests and to take financial literacy seminars before

receiving their dividends.

Other members of the Youth Council agreed about the importance of education. Youth Council president Neyom Osceola cited education as a way to sidetrack substance abuse, while Sara Huggins explained how having an education would ensure success if Tribal members ever stopped receiving dividends.

"It was kind of scary at first," Cypress said, "but after listening to other people, it makes you really want to share your concerns so people can pay attention and get programs started to address those issues."

President Tony Sanchez Jr. praised the students for participating in the Seminole Youth Council and encouraged them to stay involved.

"I love to see the enthusiasm and the willingness to participate," he said.

President Sanchez told the Youth Council to approach him personally if they ever wanted to address their concerns.

"I love to listen to what your concerns are because I truly believe you are our future," he told them.

Sen. Dorgan completed the discussion by commending the students for their hard work and dedication.

"You have a lot to say, and it's very important you say it," he said. "There are a lot of reasons for you to be proud of what you're doing."

◆ More FUN DAY photos from page 3A



Joe Kippenberger holds up a plaque that he and his department received from the Fort Pierce community for supporting Chupco Ranch.



Caroline and Harmony Urbina enjoy snow cones and cotton candy.

Andrea Holata

Andrea Holata



David Diaz

Members of the Seminole Youth Council speak with Sen. Byron Dorgan about their organization.



Fort Pierce residents look on while the men's archery competition is in play.

Andrea Holata



David Diaz

Marissa Osceola presents Sen. Byron Dorgan with an FSU-inspired pillow she made for him.



Brett Daly

Dasani Cypress asks Sen. Byron Dorgan questions during the event.



Andrea Holata

Hunter Howard smiles while trying to make an 8-second ride on the mechanical bull.



Andrea Holata

Hope Sneed gets some quick advice on how to shoot a bow and arrow from volunteer John Gore.



Brett Daly

Tyler Tigertail meets Sen. Byron Dorgan. During the event, the Seminole Youth Council spoke to the senator about issues facing Native American youth.



Andrea Holata

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard gets ready to see how far he can toss the skillet.



Andrea Holata

Valerie Marone, from the Family Services Department, helps children make friendship bracelets.

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Health

No diet can match eating healthy

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez

A quote the other day caught my attention. It said, "There is no diet that can do what eating healthy does." It is so true. I have tried so many diets through the years, and I can honestly tell you that not one of those "diets" worked for me. What I can tell you is that when I decided I didn't want to follow the same path as my insulin-dependent friends and family members, eating healthier and staying active made all the difference.

I still have pizza and burgers with fries every now and then, even frybread. But the key is to NOT eat those kinds of high-fat foods on a daily basis. And you can modify those favorite foods to be healthier. For example, instead of a fat-laden pepperoni-and-sausage pizza, have a veggie one. And have a burger, but minus the cheese and mayonnaise. You will eliminate at least a third of the fat calories just by making these small changes.

It's no surprise that we have a high number of members with diabetes, high blood pressure and all the ailments that go along with those chronic conditions because we were raised on "fried everything." I know I had spam-and-tomato gravy with

white rice at least two or three times a week growing up. Anyway, regardless of what we were fed in our early years, we are now in control of what we eat and what our children eat.



According to a recent blog post by Sherry Brescia, *The World's Longest-Living People*:

- Two out of three people are overweight, often massively.
 - Half have at least one chronic disease, including diabetes, arthritis and heart disease.
 - Nearly half of us take at least one prescription drug. Many take four, five or more every single day.
- I do not want to be one of those "two out of three" people, and I certainly do not want to take a handful of pills every day either. So let's decide to be a healthier Tribe.

Let's be rich in health.

How much time does mold take to grow after a recent water intrusion?

If the water is extracted and the moisture is properly dried out within 24-48 hours after a leak, it should be OK. It usually takes mold 24-48 hours to start growing. On the microscopic level, some mold growth is not visible to the naked eye, but once the moisture is removed, further mold growth is not likely to occur.

Kirk Trenchfield
Environmental Health Department

Landscaping for the environment

SUBMITTED BY LAURA JICKA
Environmental Resource Management Dept.

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 the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. in the development and management of Tribal natural resources.

To continue our mission of education and dissemination of information promoting environmental compliance, ERMD will publish a series of articles that inform and educates the Seminole community and members about common practices that can potentially harm our 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 call 954-965-4380.

This month's article will feature the dangers to the environment associated with landscaping and how having a sustainable landscape has the ability to improve human health and the environment.

Landscaping

We all love to have a beautifully landscaped yard with pretty flowers and big, beautiful shade trees. But we don't always realize that landscaping can pose obvious threats to the environment. Water, soil and air pollution can result from improper landscaping practices.

As Florida's freshwater supply diminishes, we all need to practice proper landscaping activities. Runoff from rainfall or irrigation activities can transport contaminants from the ground and into surface waters. This means that runoff containing the chemicals from pesticides and fertilizers can migrate and contaminate our surface waters or leach into the soil and groundwater.

Keeping pollutants out of the groundwater is extremely important because Florida's main drinking water source comes from wells located a short distance below the surface. Surface water consists of water bodies such as the reservations' wetlands, canals and streams. These waters can also be impacted easily by the flow of water carrying contaminants.

Here are some ways to prevent groundwater contamination from common chemicals used during landscaping activities:

- Correctly apply and dispose of pesticides and other chemicals utilized in landscaping activities.
- Be aware of the weather conditions when spraying pesticides on vegetation. Only spray during minimal wind and/or rain conditions. If applying a granular type of pesticide, keep away from surface water.
- Plant vegetation suitable to the area, and keep invasive species under control.
- Have a good understanding of the soil characteristics in the environment;

know how far the surface is from the water table and the direction of groundwater flow.

- Have knowledge of diseases and pests that vegetation is susceptible to.

Creating a sustainable, native landscape (aka xeriscaping) is another way to decrease the need for fertilizers and pesticides, as well as reducing or possibly eliminating the amount of water needed for irrigation. Planting vegetation native to the area requires less chemical treatment with fertilizers and pests. Try to avoid exotic and invasive species; these types of plants prove much more difficult to maintain. Methods of choosing native plants for landscaping can be found online at www.epa.gov/greenacres.

Here are six principles of xeriscaping to conserve resources:

1. Plan and design before you start.
 2. Know your soil prior to planting.
 3. Choose plants well-suited to the location.
 4. Use grass control erosion.
 5. Use mulch to conserve water and control soil erosion. Choose natural mulch, such as cypress, that is not stained with colors or chemicals.
 6. Use proper irrigation methods.
- There are many benefits associated with sustainable landscapes. Sustainable landscapes have been proven to yield environmental benefits, such as reducing chemical usage, improving the quality of human health and conserving natural resources. In addition, properly managed landscapes have proven to decrease the environmental impacts on land, water and wildlife as a result of the reduction of forest fires, soil erosion, runoff and pollution.
- Please do not hesitate to contact the Environmental Resource Management Department with any questions or concerns.

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Hah-Tung-Ke: Warren Zevon and Carl Hiaasen

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

A longtime friendship between two noted writers – one a novelist and the other a songwriter – produced several interesting musical compositions, including the Seminole Indian-themed classic *Seminole Bingo*. The tune, a collaboration of the late musician Warren Zevon and novelist Carl Hiaasen, is the highlight of Zevon's 1995 album, *Mutineer*.

Written in a minor key with heavy piano riffs dominating, the song is a made-up ballad about the fall from riches of a junk bond dealer who becomes addicted to the adventure and the gambling at fictitious Seminole Bingo on the Big Cypress Reservation, finally moving there in a mobile home "15 minutes from the Collier County Jail."

Sardonic, political, humorous and observant of the behaviors of people living life on the edge, the Chicago-born Zevon is best known for compositions such as *Collier County, Lawyers, Guns and Money* and *Roland the Headless Thompson Gunner*. A former band leader and musical coordinator for the Everly Brothers, Zevon was a frequent guest on David Letterman's late-night shows.

Zevon maintained a lifelong phobia of doctors, however, and had not seen a doctor for 20 years when he was diagnosed with mesothelioma (a rare form of cancer usually caused by asbestos exposure) in 2002. He died Sept. 7, 2003, at age 56 at his home in Los Angeles.

An avid fiction reader, Zevon sought out companionship with many well-known writers, collaborating with several of them, including Hunter Thompson, Mitch Albom and Hiaasen, as well as Stephen King, Dave Barry, Matt Groening and Amy Tan, who performed in a band with Zevon called the Rock Bottom Remainers.

Born and raised in Plantation, Fla., Hiaasen attended Emory University and graduated from the University of Florida, where he wrote for *The Independent Florida Alligator*. He worked at *Cocoa Today* for two years and then went to *The Miami Herald* in 1976 (where the 59-year-old still writes a weekly column). In 1979 he took up investigative journalism, specializing in environmental reporting.

Hiaasen and fellow journalist William Montalbano co-wrote three crime novels: *Powder Burn* (1981), *Trap Line* (1982) and *A Death in China* (1986). Hiaasen then went solo with his "environmental thriller" satirical style of writing. His



Photo courtesy of Lucy Pfeiffa

Warren Zevon's *Seminole Bingo* is a made-up ballad about the fall from riches of a junk bond dealer who becomes addicted to the adventure and the gambling at fictitious Seminole Bingo on the Big Cypress Reservation.

books are published in 33 languages and include *Tourist Season*, *Double Whammy* and *Skin Tight*. Zevon and Hiaasen also co-wrote *Rottweiler Blues*, which includes the famous line, "Don't knock on my door if you don't know my Rottweiler's name."

"Warren was such a great writer. I think his lyrics are so unique and so literary, and if you met him and talked to him, you would find out immediately, at least in my case, he read 10 times more than I had time to read," Hiaasen told the *Pensacola News Journal*. "He was just extremely literate and well-read, and much of his song-writing was nuanced with literary references. And he also agonized over every single adjective and adverb and every line of his lyrics. He went through the same sort of agony that writers go through, if they're serious writers, when they're writing."

"And I think that's why he had so many friends who were writers and so many were drawn to him. And he was a great character on top of it. I think that's the other thing you have to remember from a novelist's point of view. He was a true character. He was larger than life."

Zevon's song *Hit Somebody*, written with Albom, is the inspiration for an upcoming hockey movie directed by Kevin Smith that will take the song's name.

Seminole Bingo

Song lyrics by Warren Zevon and Carl Hiaasen

I'm a junk bond king
And I'm on the run
Me and a friend of mine
We were headed for the sunshine
I got my hands on the wheel
I got gas in the tank
I got a suitcase full of money
From a Luxembourg bank
We didn't stop till we got to Big Cypress
Wandered in to the Legion Hall
The sign outside said "Seminole Bingo"
Fell in love with the ping-pong balls

(Chorus)
And the SEC is far behind
Down in the swamp with the gators and flamingos

A long way from Liechtenstein
I'm a junk bond king playing Seminole Bingo

And my Wall Street wiles
Don't help me even slightly
'Cause I never have the numbers
And I'm losing nightly
I cashed in the last of my Triple B bonds
Bought a double-wide on the Tamiami Trail
I parked it right outside the reservation
Fifteen minutes from the Collier County Jail

And the SEC is far behind
Down in the swamp with the gators and flamingos
A long way from Liechtenstein
I'm a junk bond king playing Seminole Bingo

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Museum acquires manuscript collection

SUBMITTED BY JAMES POWELL
Registrar

In last month's column, we focused on a recent, important textile acquisition. The outfit originally belonged to Francis Frost White. White was an employee with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and worked on the Dania Reservation during the first half of the 20th century. White's daughter, Sara, knew that it was time to return the outfit to the Tribe so we could continue to preserve it, and she sought out the Museum for this purpose.

During the process to purchase this outfit, Sara White offered an additional potential acquisition: a research notebook that also originally belonged to Francis Frost White. Her mother compiled the notebook, which contains hundreds of items that date mainly from 1919 to the late 1930s. The notebook consists of a variety of items, including BIA annual reports, research reports, newspaper clippings and photographs. We are pleased to report that the acquisition was approved and that the Museum has acquired this important manuscript collection.

The large selection of Seminole-related newspaper clippings cover many topics and were clipped from many Florida and national newspapers. The photographs document a wide variety of people, camps and events. We know the photographer of many of the photographs. Many are stamped

on the back with the photographer's name: Dwight R. Gardin, of Brighton. But we need the assistance of *Tribune* readers to help identify the people in the photographs.

These are three photographs from the notebook that represent the type of images in the collection. Luckily, the individuals in photograph 1 are identified on the back: They are Agnes Parker, Jack Osceola and Jack Smith. The individuals in photographs 2 and 3 are not identified.

The patchwork outfit and notebook are welcome additions to the Museum. But most importantly, this group of items as a whole tells a story and helps to illuminate the history and culture of the Seminole Tribe during the 1920s and '30s. The collection should prove valuable to the Library's visitors and researchers.

If you have any information on these items or would like to help us process, identify and research these items, please call the Museum at 877-902-1113.

If you would like to view the patchwork outfit highlighted in last month's column or this manuscript notebook collection, please contact the Museum to make an appointment or just drop by at your convenience.

Don't forget to keep up with all the latest events here at the Museum by logging on to the Museum's website, www.ahththiki.com. There you can find all the latest Museum-related information, including this year's American Indian Arts



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Photograph 1: Agnes Parker, Jack Osceola and Jack Smith. Date unknown.

Celebration, the latest blog entries and a link to the latest updates on the Museum's Facebook page. Thank you.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Photograph 2: An unidentified group watches a film. Date unknown.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Photograph 3: An unidentified man poles a canoe. Date unknown.

Red Barn stabilization discussed



Photo courtesy of Carrie Dilley

Skip Armstrong, from Armstrong Contractors Inc., takes measurements and discusses stabilization plans and materials with Lewis Gopher, Brighton Cultural Events specialist; Ron Jones, engineer; Carrie Dilley, THPO Architectural historian; and a representative from 84 Lumber. Stabilization is expected to begin within the next few months.

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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Castillo worked as a Public Defender in Broward County from 1990-1996 and has been in private practice 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.

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Announcements



Happy 10th birthday, DarRick Nelson-Williams

Happy 10th birthday to DarRick Christopher Nelson-Williams on Sept. 7. Wow, I cannot believe you're 10 years old. It was just yesterday that I brought you home and held you in my arms so tight. You have changed my life for the better. We've been through so much together. And now look, you're an amazing son: smart, funny, ambitious, courageous, loving, caring, very loyal and so honest it sometimes hurts. Ricky, you are the joy in my life. You taught me how to love unconditionally and

also never to give up. You keep me smiling, and so I'm very proud to be your mom. God has blessed me, and every day I thank him for allowing me to have you in my life. Rick, I'm so proud of you. Always remember everything I do is all for you! The past is the past as long as we learn from it and move forward and never look back. I love you, Ricky. MUAHAH!

Love always, Mom (Carolee Anderson)
Fooshe 4-life

Call to action: Fight against high-stakes testing in schools

Dear Editor: There is greatness in children that cannot be measured by a test, and yet, our state is intent on testing our students with an even more rigorous test than the FCAT by 2014.

It was recently reported in the news that Florida's schools will be phasing out the FCAT. What was not mentioned was that Florida is replacing the FCAT with an even more difficult test in 2014, known as the PARCC test. This test is based on "common core" standards that will be used across the U.S. by numerous, but not all, states. Florida has spent over 15 years creating our own standards and untold dollars revising and editing them to achieve perfection. All of this work, time and money have apparently been wasted. Students who struggled with the FCAT will no doubt find the PARCC test even more difficult as it is an even more rigorous test.

The move to common core standards is supposedly going to stop Florida teachers from "teaching to the test." This phrase means that a teacher sees the test questions in advance and only teaches students to memorize the answers to those specific questions. Since Florida teachers are strictly prohibited from seeing the FCAT in advance, this is impossible. Therefore, Florida teachers are not "teaching to the test." However, we are constantly aware that our students will be tested and that their performance will affect their educational progress and our reputations as professionals. Indeed, we are continually trying to prepare our students to perform at optimal levels and trying to get them over arbitrarily set bars of achievement that have gone higher and higher since 1998.

In addition, there is no discussion on the state level concerning the detrimental affects of school grades on economic development efforts. Businesses who need to attract professionals to an area realize that good schools are vital to recruiting employees, even more important than downtown revitalization projects and beautification attempts. What most Florida

citizens don't realize is that school grades are misleading. Often schools meet the federal guidelines that require every student to show a year's academic growth, which in itself, is a worthwhile and difficult task for which teachers and schools should be praised. However, Florida then adds to its grading criteria the number of students tested, the dropout rate, and whether or not students performed at the "randomly" placed level of achievement each year with no consideration of where the individual student's achievement level was at the beginning of the year. Many people also do not realize that ALL students' scores are now calculated in school grades. So even test scores of students with documented learning disabilities and speakers of other languages are used to calculate school grades. School grades are undermining economic development in Florida and are misleading the public about the condition of their local schools.

Please join me and fight for our children and against ALL high-stakes testing in our schools. Children, teachers and schools are more than test scores. Parents from throughout the world strive to get their children into American universities and schools because they realize our educational system does more than create robotic test takers. America's schools always have and always will produce creative, problem-solving citizens, IF teachers are once again allowed to teach students the joy of and the importance of learning and are once again able to create authentic learning situations, instead of constantly preparing for the "all-important" high-stakes test, whatever its name may be at the time.

Crystal Drake
Conservative Democratic Candidate
for Florida House of Representatives –
District 55
Highlands, Okeechobee, Glades and
the western portion of St. Lucie Counties
Crystal@VoteCrystal.com

Happy birthday, Leslie Gopher Jr. and Kaylee Brianna Jumper

Wishing Leslie John Gopher Jr. a happy 12th birthday (Sept. 13) and Kaylee Brianna Jumper a happy 20th birthday (Sept. 28). Kaylee, seems like not so long ago when it was just you, Mom and me. Then along came our prince. Les, you only made the bonds each of us share stronger. I'm amazed at how quick you have both grown. Of course, it would've been much better had I been more than I've been, but that cannot be, so there's no regret. I accept the consequences that come from the choices I've made. Change wouldn't be possible without the strength the two of

you have given me. I've spent the last 16 months on lockdown so it's still a process but I'm committed to it. My only goal is to one day be a father the two of you can depend on and trust to be there in both good and bad times. I've got to earn that but I'm gonna make it happen. Both of you are loved and cherished. In home team those feelings will always exist. Stand strong for one another always! Be safe and enjoy.

Love, Dad
(Submitted by Leslie Gopher)

Love, memories and a few thoughts

Son, I've been sitting here putting together a poem for your birthday. Just a lil' something that sends love, memories and a few thoughts your way. Finished up with Kaylee's a few hours ago. Yes! She's perfect in my eyes, so you already know. You were once a tiny guy, I could hold you in one hand and wash you with the other. As I dried you off you'd smile because you knew I was gonna call your mother. Speaking of mom... Give her a hug and a kiss. Things change but some things a heart cannot help but miss. Our name may not seem like much but it means everything to me. Because when I was born that's the name Maude Gopher said mine would be. You never met her but she's my heart and I was hers too. For her baby, there was nothing my Grandma wouldn't do. That's why I pray that you become the man I wasn't able to be. So that when my Grandma looks down from Heaven... me in a cell isn't all that she'll see. Do you remember being Blue's Clues' No. 1 fan? You would watch your movies over and over again. There were times me, you and Leilani would play out back on the slip-n-slide. I'd chase you both but you'd be the first to dive. It's hard to believe 12 years have come and gone this fast. That's why in life you gotta hold on to the things that last. Here's love, memories and a few thoughts being sent your way. I'm proud of you, Son... Happy birthday. Love, Dad

Forever treasure

Happiness is the virtue of a heart that refuses to doubt. Acceptance is wisdom determined never to roam about. Pride is cousin to haste, and haste is the brother of regret. Promises you make must always be promises that will be kept. You are beautiful and unique, Kaylee... forever the treasure of my heart. Believe in yourself before you believe in another. Innocence is one gift few will be fortunate enough to discover. Respect only those who respect you in return. Truth is peculiar about revealing itself... Be sure to pay attention and learn. Hope will comfort you as long as you welcome her embrace. Dreams do come true, so keep a smile upon that lovely face. Adversity will visit... Never waiver nor fall apart. You are beautiful and unique, Kaylee, forever the treasure of my heart. Kiddo... life is a journey so make the most of the day while preparing for the 'morrow. A lot of times it may not go how we'd like but that's no excuse to become a victim of sorrow. You know I'll always cherish the little girl who took my heart captive years ago. Loving you has always been the most precious gift life could ever bestow. Enjoy your day, princess... for September 28th only brings forth a new start. Enriched I will always be because of you, Kaylee... forever the treasure of my heart. Love always, Dad



Happy 40th birthday, Daniel 'Boogie' Nunez

Happy 40th Birthday on Aug. 1, Daniel "Boogie" Nunez. Thank you for being a wonderful husband and father to our children. We love you so much!

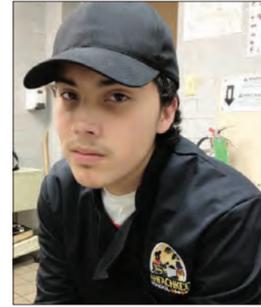
Love always,
Peggy, Courtney, Daniel, Cheyenne, Joleyne and Dalayah
(Submitted by Peggy Nunez)

Happy 17th birthday, Ricky Joe

Happy 17th birthday to my son, Ricky Joe.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Grandpa, Beverly, Rick, Grandpa Joe, Aunt Leslie and Phyllie.
Wishing you well.

(Submitted by Beverly Alumbaugh)



Happy 16th birthday, Daniel Nunez Jr.



Happy 16th Birthday to our son Daniel Nunez Jr. on Sept. 28.

Thanks for being such a great son and big brother. We love you so much!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Courtney, Cheyenne, Joleyne and Dalayah

(Submitted by Peggy Nunez)

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Past, present and future

Poem by Tony A. Tommie
Once we were warriors in past times, But for certain reasons we are trying to beat the system an still committing crimes. I understand these issues very clear and know in my youth there was lack of mature leadership, If someone only cared to share valuable knowledge Then maybe we could have had a benefit. But I forgive them an know they gave an effort they could, The new world of a Seminole with money Was greatly misunderstood. I will always give respect to the men of old who stood for the

future of our great community, It's too bad drugs, alcohol and violence always tend to steal your serenity. I'm very happy for our youth who strive to make a difference and choose to prosper in school, I'm very happy to see our youth wasn't there to remember when being an Indian wasn't cool. As time goes on and the politicians still try to control this nation, I see this country continue to succumb to a push button generation. Once we were warriors when the call came to survive for a time, Well a call has been made an a lot to do with it starts in your own mind.

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.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Immokalee Casino hosts food truck rallies



IMMOKALEE — The third Sunday of each month is food truck day here at the Immokalee Seminole Casino. Food trucks, currently the newest craze in the food world, have overtaken Florida, setting up food rallies similar to Immokalee's.

The August rally featured food truck vendors serving Caribbean, Peruvian, European, Italian and other international specialties and adaptations. They included the following trucks: Out of Many, La Nostra Pizza, Dolce Gourmet Cupcakes, Cold Stone Creamery, Mobile Culinary Kitchen, Miami Spice Grill, D'marky Peruvian Gourmet, The Nosh Truck and Travelin' Blues BBQ. The next rally is scheduled for Oct. 21 from 1-5 p.m.

— NaplesNews.com

Natives prepare to vote

FARMINGTON, N.M. — Laurie Weahkee, of the Navajo, Zuni and Cochiti Tribes, is the director of the Native American Voters Alliance in Albuquerque, N.M. and a national spokeswoman for getting American Indians out to vote. She is sure of one thing: "The Native American electorate does matter."

Less than 1.6 percent (4.8 million) of the national population, American Indians will make a difference, even if it is only on the Native American agenda itself, Weahkee said.

With less than two months remaining until voters decide between President Barack Obama and republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, it's prime time for all Tribes to shed light on issues that affect Native Americans. Traditionally, environment, education and health care usually rank atop most Native American voter priorities.

"Obama's been good to the Native Americans in general," said Erny Zah, director of Communications for the Office of the President of the Navajo Nation, which endorsed Obama during his 2008 campaign. "Traditionally, Navajos have sided with democrats."

Obama's directives to abandoned mine land cleanup funds will hurt the Navajos' plans to eliminate dangerous old mines sprawled across Tribal lands. Conversely, Romney's goal to reform Obama's Affordable Care Act goes against the opinions of many Native Americans.

Neither Obama nor Romney has reached out to Natives on Tribal lands during the 2012 campaign. During the 2008 campaign, Obama visited the Crow Nation in Montana and was presented with an Indian name: One Who Helps People Throughout the Land. Michelle Obama, he said at the time, had suggested a different name: One Who Isn't Picking Up His Shoes and His Socks.

— Farmington Daily News

Oregon Cow Creeks hit river tourism jackpot

ROSEBURG, Ore. — "For hundreds of centuries, Native peoples have lived here, explored, hunted, gathered and fished," according to www.TravelOregon.com. "The rivers, lakes and estuaries were first navigated in dugout canoes, and these ridges and valleys have always been our home."

More than 100 years ago, author Zane Grey described the Umpqua River's smallmouth (smallies) bass, top trophy of the bass family: "These black and bronze fellows are the most beautiful and gamey fish that swim."

Today, this beautiful area provides substantial Tribal income to the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, who recognize that the Umpqua River and the surrounding countryside attract fishermen and elk hunters.

"We've got a great resort to go with the natural beauty, and the Tribe is committed to a total area destination," said Cow Creek General Counsel's Wayne Shammel, referring to the Tribe's Seven Feathers Casino Resort in Canyonville.

Although Tribal Chairman Dan Courtney admitted he's not a big fisherman and has no fishing adventures to share, he added: "For me, getting out on the river with a fishing pole in hand is more about the whole experience of the river and the country surrounding it. It's relaxing and the perfect escape, and if I catch a fish — that's a bonus."

"The Umpqua River sells itself. It's a marvel of nature and an unbelievable stretch of beauty mile after mile," Tribal staff member Susan Ferris said.

"If you only catch 50 on a three-hour float-through of the River Loop section — 18 miles of bass heaven and a Holy Grail for bass addicts — it's a slow day," Shammel said. "When fishing is really hot, it's insane, and 100 smallies can be boated per day with several 5-pounders common."

— Indian Country Today Media Network

Casino bankruptcy opposed

JULIAN, Calif. — Efforts of the Santa Ysabel Casino to declare bankruptcy protection were stymied recently when one of its biggest creditors joined the county of San Diego in opposing the filing, saying the Tribal-owned casino is not eligible for protection

under U.S. bankruptcy law.

Court documents revealed that the financially strapped casino (\$40 million in debt) filed for bankruptcy last month. But the Yavapai-Apache Nation of Arizona, which owns about \$33 million of the debt, said the casino is not eligible for protection because it is owned by the Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, formerly the Santa Ysabel Band of Mission Indians, a sovereign Tribal government. Unincorporated businesses owned by sovereign Tribes are not listed as one of the entities that qualify for Chapter 11, the Yavapai claim.

"Unfortunately, construction took place at the height of the Southern California construction boom between 2005 and 2007, when prices for real estate, building materials and labor were at their highest," according to court documents. "Due to the high price of construction, there were insufficient funds to complete the resort and hotel, and only the casino with its restaurant and bar were built."

The 37,000-square-foot casino construction was funded through a \$26-million loan from J.P. Morgan Chase. The Yavapai Tribe also lent \$7 million and later bought J.P. Morgan's debt.

In a separate case, the Yavapai sued the Iipay for falling behind on loan payments and won a \$9 million judgment in February.

Santa Ysabel Casino opened in April 2007 as the economy began to slow down and "gaming revenue plummeted," according to court documents.

The Tribe also failed to make law enforcement and emergency services payments to the county, for which the court awarded the county \$3 million in back payments.

— Turtle Talk

GOP leader: N.M. governor 'dishonors Custer'

SANTA FE, N.M. — Can you believe this? Upset that New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez attended a summit of state Tribal leaders, Republican National Committee leader and GOP lobbyist Pat Rogers complained in an email to Martinez's staff:

"The state is going to hell. Col. [Allen] Weh would not have dishonored Col. Custer in this manner."

Col. Weh was the GOP candidate who Martinez defeated for governor in 2010. Custer, of course, was George Armstrong Custer, the notorious Indian fighter who slaughtered Indians in Dakota Territory, including Lakota and Cheyenne members, and was killed in 1876 at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, commonly known as "Custer's Last Stand."

The email was leaked to Independent Source PAC and released online by ProgressNow New Mexico, a liberal advocacy organization, which is demanding Rogers step down from any party leadership role due to his incendiary comments.

"Such a blatantly racist statement against our Native people is offensive from anyone, but to come from a national GOP leader and lobbyist for some of our country's largest corporations is indefensible," ProgressNow New Mexico executive director Pat Davis said.

Rogers said he was just kidding.
— Indian Country Today Media Network

Navajo Prep School an IB candidate

FARMINGTON, N.M. — Navajo Preparatory School is a candidate for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, a partnership with nearly 3,500 schools in 150 countries that will provide opportunities for students to engage in college credit courses, enjoy a more international curriculum and "understand world cultures," said Betty Ojaye, the school's executive director.

"Navajo Preparatory School is but one of a few schools in the Southwest that offers a small college preparatory boarding school atmosphere with standards of excellence," said Samantha Canuto, the school's International Baccalaureate coordinator.

Not only does the school expect to offer an advanced and broadened curriculum through the program, but it also hopes to expand its exchange program. Students who spend semesters in exchange programs are limited to exchanges within the United States unless they go through a summer program. The school hopes to eventually partner with schools overseas that might be interested in exchanging students.

Schools generally are candidates for three years before approval, Ojaye said.

"It's quite possible we could get approval not this next year, but the next year after," Ojaye said.

— The Farmington Daily Times

Northern Vancouver Island showcases totems and potlatches

ALERT BAY, VANCOUVER ISLAND — Totem poles. They are everywhere. Monoliths that dominate the landscape off Cormorant Island on Vancouver Island's northeast coast — an ideal starting point for discovering the rich First Nations history and culture in this corner of British Columbia. This is the Namgis Burial Grounds in the center of Alert Bay. You can't get too close — entry to the grounds is prohibited out of respect, but the totems are clearly visible from the nearby roadway.

As time passes some have faded or fallen over, but it gibes with the Namgis' belief that nothing lasts forever and that when it falls it's merely time to replace it, since it has served its purpose. The world's tallest totem pole is here (173 feet), like the others, adorned with figures that hold great significance to the family of the carver/builder. Adorned with family crests, sometimes with hidden meanings, the poles are very personalized.

Renowned world cultural center and museum

U'mista Cultural Centre (U'mista means return of something important) is here, along with its incredible array of potlatch masks stolen by collectors before 1920 and returned from other museums after U'mista's completion in 1980.

There are about 120 items in the potlatch collection, including pieces returned by the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of the American Indian.

Next door is a huge, old brick and concrete school building once operated by the Anglican Church, which managed similar schools throughout North America. Its purpose was to take the Native out of Native youngsters, prohibiting them from speaking their own languages or practicing their own culture, and separating them from their families. Closed down in 1974, it remains as a symbol of bygone, more ignorant days.

— Indian Country Today Media Network

'Hippies, Indians and the Fight for Red Power'

OXFORD, U.K. — Southern Methodist University professor of history Sherry L. Smith's new book — *Hippies, Indians and the Fight for Red Power* (Oxford University Press, 2012) — explores the alliance of leftists, hippies and other whites who supported Native American-led Red Power movements during the period from the mid-1960s Northwest "fish-ins" through the 1973 Wounded Knee standoff. *Indian Country Today Media Network* interviewed Smith regarding her premise that citizens of all colors united to give American Indians a stronger voice in their own land. The Q-and-A can be viewed on their website.

Here is part of that interview:

What was it about American Indians that drew hippies to them?

I think there was this perception that Indian people lived outside the mainstream of American culture, and in that perception of what Indian values were — I'm not talking about realities here, but stereotypes even — these were people who lived simply, lived off the land and lived lives of deep spirituality. Also, hippies were seeking alternative ways of living. They were rejecting suburbia and white middle-class values, capitalism, and they looked around the landscape and latched upon Indians — or their own ideas of what they assumed they were all about. In some cases, the peyote movements brought some Indians and hippies together — a "long-hair convergence" — but some Natives were really willing to engage with them because they saw them as politically useful.

What made Indians realize they needed the help of whites?

Those Indians most politically active realized having allies was essential for several reasons. As you know, the Native American population in this country is small percentage-wise, so they simply didn't have the political power to change things without any non-Indian allies. There was also the whole matter of educating Natives about political issues, so they also used non-Indians as conduits into the process of political change. They found people sympathetic to write about Indian issues to help give greater attention to them. They also found lawyers — of course Native American lawyers were involved as well — to get issues into the courts.

— Oxford University Press, *Indian Country Today Media Network*

Native Avatar actor welcomes crowd at 'Fashion Heat'

SANTA FE, N.M. — The Museum of Contemporary Native Arts (MoCNA) celebrated its 40th anniversary in August with its signature "Fashion Heat" Native fashion show. Enthusiastic cheers greeted Native actor Wes Studi (*Avatar*) as he welcomed everybody to the show, along with famed Native film directors Chris Eyre (*Hide Away*) and Tim Ramos (*California Indian*).

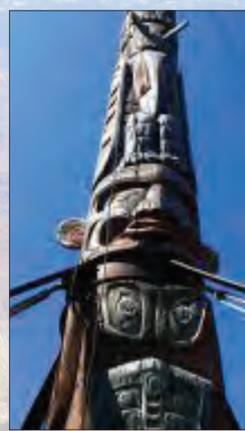
Fashion designs were very traditional at first with the beaded buckskin dress and Navajo outfits. The mood intensity changed and so did the music.

The designs became modern and the models walked in contemporary outfits from head to high-heeled shoes. It became something that you see on a New York fashion runway. There were more than 20 Native models who exuded style, flair and sophistication.

Lynn Toledo, from Jemez, N.M., could not sit for much longer. She had to stand up out of nervousness and pride. Her daughter Juanita was a model in the show who wore designs by Sun Rose Iron Shell.

The whole audience was a bit anxious about the excitement of the hard working Native American designers who also are successful native jewelers and artists.

— Examiner.com



Florida Gaming Congress coming to Hard Rock Feb. 25-26

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Prominent Florida law firm Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar will be the presenting sponsor of the Florida Gaming Congress on Feb. 25-26, 2013 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. They host the website www.Floridagamingwatch.com, which provides up-to-date information for anyone interested in Florida's gaming industry and its players.

The Florida Gaming Congress, successor to the highly-popular Florida Gaming Summit, is dedicated to presenting multiple viewpoints, ideas and concerns. The two-day event begins with an evening cocktail reception on Feb. 25, followed by a full day of in-depth seminars with networking opportunities. Session topics include *Destination Gaming in Florida; The Future of Racetrack Gaming; Wall Street's Focus on Florida; Gaming and Public Policy; and Internet Gaming in Florida and the U.S.*

Jim Allen, Chief Executive Officer of Gaming Operations for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, will deliver the keynote address. For more information, go to www.Floridagamingcongress.com or contact Allison McCoy at events@spectrumgaming.com.

— Marketwatch.com

Mountain lion visits Harrah's Casino

RENO, Nev. — An underage mountain lion — "the equivalent of being a stupid teenager," said wildlife officials — was found hiding under an outdoor plaza stage after trying to sneak into the gaming area of Harrah's Casino downtown ahead of the breakfast rush.

Nevada Department of Wildlife spokesman Chris Healy said coming-of-age cougars often end up where they shouldn't after being chased out of a territory by adults.

Estimating the cat's age at 2 years old, state wildlife officials tranquilized the animal with plans to release it into the wild after tagging it for participation in a University of Nevada, Reno study. No injuries were reported.

— Sunherald.com

U.S. Fish and Wildlife OK's Snake Road mining



BIG CYPRESS — Although it will destroy habitat of the Florida panther, the Seminole Tribe's plan to expand a limestone mine and increase safety on Snake Road would not negatively impact the endangered cats, said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in a 101-page biological opinion.

The Seminole Tribe applied for a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers for permission to take out 205 acres of reservation wetlands to obtain fill material for improving Snake Road, the notoriously dangerous, winding, 19-mile, two-lane highway that runs north from Interstate 75 to the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation.

Improving Snake Road has been a multi-year project by the Seminole Tribe, Miccosukee Tribe of Florida Indians and state and federal transportation authorities. Paved shoulders, straightened curves, increased lighting, repaired drainage, turn lanes and guard rails will mark the new Snake Road.

An estimated 100 to 160 panthers — excluding kittens — live in South Florida, from ranches, suburban neighborhoods and farms west of Lake Okeechobee to the southern end of Everglades National Park. Hemmed in by real estate development, both panther road kills and interspecific aggression (panthers killing each other) have increased.

The proposed mine area is clearly panther (and deer and wild hog — panther prey) habitat, with 11 radio-collared panthers recorded 254 times within 5 miles of the site in the past year.

While the project would result in the permanent loss of 205 acres of panther habitat, this represents just .3 percent of territory that would be used by a single male panther, or .7 percent of the territory that would be used by a single female, and .01 percent of the private lands that constitute panther habitat.

"The Tribe will improve 1,172 acres of existing panther habitat on its land, primarily through removing non-native vegetation to compensate for the loss."

"(USFWS) basically approves everything in panther habitat," said Matthew Schwartz, executive director of the South Florida Wildlands Association. "They... say this is only a small percentage of Florida panther habitat. But all these small percentages add up to a completely fragmented landscape for the Florida panther."

— Indianz.com

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Education

B

Education Department helps seniors apply to college

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

DANIA BEACH — Applying for college requires a lot of work. Students need to write essays, fill out lengthy and intricate applications and take standardized college entrance exams. Since everything needs to be done on a rigid deadline, the process can be intimidating. To help navigate this multifaceted task, the Tribe held a college application workshop at SpringHill Suites Hotel in Dania Beach from Sept. 14-16.

The Tribe has approximately 45 high school seniors, and they came from Hollywood, Brighton, Immokalee, Trail and Mississippi to get assistance writing their essays and sending in their applications. Tutors and Education Department staff members supported the students' efforts and offered guidance and advice.

"The goal was to have the kids walk out of here with their college essays completed and perfected with the help of a specialized writing tutor and to have their college applications submitted for early acceptance," said Robert Caruso, Higher

Education recruiter. "They don't realize how much of a burden this would be to do it on their own. To be able to get their essays critiqued takes a huge weight off their shoulders so they can focus on their grades."

Nationwide, only 1 percent of college students are Native American, but this could benefit the students.

"Being a Native American is a great thing," said Paola Money maker, Education adviser. "Colleges want diversity on their campuses, so it could be an advantage for you. When you write your essays, pour your hearts into it. They want to know you and what you've been through in life."

The department chose the tutors specifically for their strong writing skills. Some schools may require more than one essay, while others may require different types of essays, so the tutors helped students narrow down their topics and focus their messages. They also helped students expand an idea and come up with the best wording, but they did not write the essays for them. Instead, they offered constructive criticism.

"You are writing about your experience, which is good, but you need to cut out all the fluff," tutor Sean McFadden said to one participant. "There are too many words here; fewer can be more powerful."

Students knew they were getting valuable help at the workshop.

"The college application process is new to me, but now that I'm a senior I have to do it," said Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar, 17, of Immokalee, who planned to apply to Florida State University, University of Oregon and Harvard University. "This is a good opportunity to get the help I need to fill out the application. You don't find everything you need to know on the schools' websites."

Garrett Smith wants to study animal biology so he can pursue a career in wildlife management and preservation.

"This will bring me a step closer to what I want to do in life," he said. "It's been very helpful. I learned new ways to write and better writing techniques."

♦ See WORKSHOP on page 2B



Beverly Bidney

Phillip Jones, 17, of Brighton, and Sara Huggins, 17, of Pembroke Pines, work on their college applications with the help of tutor Yane Nemeroff, center, during the workshop on Sept. 15.

Students learn about culture during trip to Museum

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

BIG CYPRESS — Ahfachkee and Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School students took a trip to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Sept. 7 to reinforce the importance of learning about their Seminole culture.

Organized by Elizabeth Lowman, oral history educator for the Museum, the event gave Tribal students an opportunity to view exhibits and to listen to guest speakers Willie Johns, Moses Jumper Jr., Elgin Jumper and Museum curator of exhibits John Moga.

"We felt like it was important to extend the opportunity for them to enjoy the exhibits as Tribal students," Lowman said. "I'm hoping first and foremost that the kids are inspired to learn about their history and (are) inspired to paint."

Moses Jumper Jr. kicked off the culture event by reading two poems he wrote about Osceola and his perception of the legendary leader. Jumper spoke about the importance of the students learning about their past.

"I encourage you to read up on your history and learn about what makes you who you are," he told them.

Tribal historian Johns also encouraged the students to learn about their heritage, challenging them to find elders on their respective reservations who can answer their questions. Elgin Jumper then spoke

about the importance of art and creating Seminole-inspired pieces.

"It's a way for us to keep Seminole imagery alive," he said, encouraging any student interested in art to start pursuing it now. "Today, Seminole art is appreciated all over the world."

Students then toured the "Reflections across Time: Seminole Portraits" exhibit — presented in collaboration with The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University — and asked the guest speakers any questions they had. The exhibit featured paintings by both Tribal artists, including Tribal members Noah Billie and Elgin Jumper, and non-Tribal artists, such as George Catlin and Thomas McKenney.

"We want to show how Tribal and non-Tribals view the same images and represent them," Moga said. "They are comparing and contrasting history and seeing how non-Tribals represented images in the past and how Seminoles paint those images today."

The exhibit, which runs through Nov. 4, includes portraits of Osceola and other Seminole warriors that showed students a glimpse of Seminole war history and art history. Paintings done by Catlin and McKenney date back to the 1800s, while paintings done by Billie and Jumper were completed in the 1990s and 2000s.

♦ See MUSEUM TOUR on page 2B



Photo courtesy of Paola Money maker

From left, Jason Melton, Tucamah Robbins, Karlito Wargolet, Virginia Garcia-Sanders, FSU president Eric Barron (holding FSU's youngest fan, Kaleb Sanders), Jessica Motlow and Jessica Osceola gather at the kickoff luncheon. The students received a special invitation from Barron to attend.

Tribal students attend Florida State University kickoff luncheon

SUBMITTED BY PAOLA MONEY MAKER
Education Department

TALLAHASSEE — Five Tribal students who attend Florida State University received a special invitation from FSU president Eric Barron and his wife, Molly, to attend the 61st annual FSU kickoff luncheon on Aug. 24.

During the event — which took place at the Tallahassee-Leon County Civic Center — Tucamah Robbins, Karlito Wargolet, Jessica Osceola, Jessica Motlow and Jason Melton had the opportunity to meet members of the Alumni Association, athletic directors, football head coach Jimbo Fisher and football players.

"This is the largest number of students we have ever had to start FSU at the same

time, so we are extremely proud of our students," said Education adviser Paola Money maker, who traveled to Tallahassee with Virginia Garcia-Sanders, Recreation administrative assistant, for the annual event.

Each student received a \$6,000 annual scholarship from FSU.

Robbins, who graduated from American Heritage School with a 3.7 GPA and 128 service hours, will pursue psychology, which was his favorite subject in high school.

"Education really is an important tool," he said during a recent interview about his high school graduation. "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."

Naples resident Osceola, who

graduated from Orange County High School in Virginia, also decided to major in psychology, while Wargolet, a Big Cypress native who graduated from American Heritage School, will major in business; Melton, of Big Cypress, is still exploring his options; and Motlow, a Tampa resident who graduated from Academy of the Holy Names, will major in sports and physical science.

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

Also during the event, Garcia-Sanders presented president Barron with a Tribal shirt made especially for him adorned with the FSU logo and colors. He promised to wear it for homecoming.

♦ See more FSU photos on page 2B



Brett Daly

Ahafchkee students tour the "Reflections across Time: Seminole Portraits" exhibit.

Students stay on track with help from Education Department tutors

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

For some students, schoolwork comes easily. For others, there is tutoring.

To meet the needs of students who need help or a gentle nudge with their studies, the Tribe offers individual tutoring in Hollywood, Brighton, Big Cypress, Immokalee, Naples and Trail. Students from kindergarten through college qualify for five hours per week of free tutoring. Last year, 480 students took advantage of this benefit. The collective grade point average for these students is 3.3, a solid "B" average.

"Some of these students attend the most rigorous academic schools," said Julissa Collazo, tutor coordinator. "Parents can't always help with homework, and you don't want the kids to go to class unprepared. Since the Tribe gives scholarships to these schools, we have to step it up with tutoring."

For students who didn't graduate high school, tutors can help prepare them to take the general equivalency diploma test. The ages of the majority of the GED tutoring students range from 22 to 28, but anyone can take advantage of the service. Since 2010, 77 students from the tutoring program have successfully passed the GED test.

"If you haven't gone to school in a while, you don't know where you are academically," said Marie Dufour-Bonville, adult vocational administrator. "We tell them we aren't here to recreate the high school experience; we are here to help them pass the test."

Each of the program's 95 tutors has a bachelor's degree and/or a teaching certificate and has passed a thorough background check. In addition to their tutoring duties, many often wind up mentoring the students. Tutors know the curriculum and teaching schedules at each school so the students keep up in class.

They are also an additional caring adult in the kids' lives.

Some students continue going to tutoring for years whether or not they still require the extra help. Eric Jumper, who started tutoring in third grade, is now in seventh grade at Driftwood Middle School, and with a 3.0 GPA, he may not need tutoring any more.

"He comes to tutoring all the time and has become a leader," Collazo said. "It's been a joy to see someone we helped become independent and a positive role model for other kids."

The tutoring program started six years ago and has flourished. On one recent day after school, tutors and students kept busy with a variety of subjects in the filled-to-capacity tutoring trailer in Hollywood. In one room alone, subjects covered included reading comprehension, mathematics, computer skills, spelling and vocabulary.

♦ See TUTORING on page 2B



Beverly Bidney

Tutors help students with a variety of lessons.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School celebrates Grandparents Day



Andrea Holata

Caroline Urbina enjoys time with her great-grandfather Norman Johns, left, and grandfather Jerry Randolph.



Andrea Holata

Valentina Humphries and granddaughter Cikyah Koger pose for a picture during the Grandparents Day lunch.



Andrea Holata

Cece Thomas gives her grandma Sadie Cypress, from Big Cypress, a hug.

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Students grinned from ear to ear when they found their grandparents in the Pemayetv Emahakv lunchroom on Sept. 7 for Grandparents Day.

“We like to recognize and honor the grandparents by inviting them to have lunch,” PECS guidance counselor Jeanine Gran said.

It’s a day many looked forward to. “It’s great. We like it, and they make sure we don’t forget about it,” said Maria Santiago, who came to PECS with her husband, Pedro Santiago, to visit their grandchildren Billie Santiago and Aubee Billie. “We really enjoy coming to lunch because these are our closest living grandchildren, so we come every year.”



Andrea Holata

Jagger Juarez eats lunch with his grandfather Elbert Snow.



Andrea Holata

Billie Santiago and Aubee Billie eat lunch with their grandparents Pedro and Maria Santiago.



Beverly Bidney

Tutor Jose Carias watches as Teijo Smith, 10, a fifth-grader at Aukela Christian Military Academy, works on a problem.

◆ TUTORING

From page 1B

“I’ve only been coming here for a week, but it’s been good,” said Phyllis Osceola, 11, a sixth-grader at American Heritage School. “It helps me with my homework and will help with projects, too.”

Some students are veterans of the program.

“I started in second grade,” said Elizabeth Frank, 12, a seventh-grader at the University School of Nova Southeastern University. “I like coming; it helps me study better.”

Even seniors find value in tutoring. Jonathan Frank, who has been going to

tutoring since 10th grade, credits tutor Dalia Marvin for helping keep him at grade level and confident.

“I plan to go to community college first and then transfer into a university to get a degree in business administration,” said Frank, 17, a senior at Hollywood Hills High School. “Miss Dalia has been most helpful in math.”

Tutoring is available from 2:30-6 p.m. at the following locations:

Hollywood: 3100 N. 63rd Ave., 3rd floor; Brighton: 575 East Village St., Okeechobee; Big Cypress: 30290 Josie Billie Highway, Clewiston; Immokalee: 295 Stockade Rd.; Naples: 5282 Golden Gate Parkway, Suite A; Trail: 57655 West Tamiami Trail, Okeechobee.

◆ MUSEUM TOUR

From page 1B

“My favorite part was seeing the art because it shows our culture,” said Shae Pierce, an eighth-grader at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School. “I learned that we need to learn our culture.”

Lowman said the event tied in well with the Museum’s mission to preserve Seminole history and educate the public about the lifestyle and traditions of the Seminole people. Students walked away with a better understanding of their Seminole art and culture.

“We came to learn about our culture,” said Trevor Thomas, an eighth-

grader at the Charter School. “It’s important to learn these things so we can pass it on to our grandkids so our history never dies.”

Thomas said he especially enjoyed the “Corn Dance” exhibit because he has attended the Seminole tradition for as long as he could remember.

After students toured the galleries, they stepped outside onto the boardwalk and learned about medicine plants and their traditional uses. The event capped off with a picnic for lunch.

“The kids were engaged and excited and asked a lot of questions,” Lowman said. “It’s great for kids to see people who are accomplished. Seminole artists have strong inspiration and drive.”

◆ More FSU photos from page 1B



Photo courtesy of Paola Moneymaker

From left, Tucamah Robbins, Kariito Wargolet, Jessica Motlow, Jessica Osceola, Higher Education coordinator Paola Moneymaker and Jason Melton pose with EJ Manuel, FSU starting quarterback.



Photo courtesy of Paola Moneymaker

Virginia Garcia-Sanders presents FSU president Barron with a Tribal shirt made especially for him.



Photo courtesy of Paola Moneymaker

From left, Jessica Osceola, Jessica Motlow, Jason Melton, Drake Anderson (FSU mascot Chief Osceola), Tucamah Robbins and Kariito Wargolet enjoy the kickoff luncheon.

◆ WORKSHOP

From page 1B

Phillip Jones knew what he wanted to write about but knew he needed help to get it right.

“I chose something that impacted my life, an experience,” said Jones, 17, of Brighton. “I knew I couldn’t write it the right way, so I’m glad the tutor is here to help me.”

Education Department staff explained the Tribe’s scholarship program and the 2.0 GPA requirement to continue to qualify for it. The Tribe pays for tuition, books, on-campus housing and any special supplies necessary for a major. The students are responsible for their own food plans and other expenses, so they were encouraged to seek out grants and scholarships online.

Julissa Collazo, tutor coordinator, said the Tribe is working with a company that has a program to help students bring up their SAT and ACT scores, as well as tutoring during college if they need it.

“The Tribe wants you in college and then to come back to the community and make a difference,” Moneymaker said. “We want you to join clubs and have fun, but don’t lose focus; you are there for an education. And we will always be here to help you succeed.”

The voices of the students are loud and clear in their college essays. Here are some excerpts:

“The smell of burning firewood lingered in my frigid nostrils. I couldn’t seem to shake the aftertaste of a stale breakfast in the back of my throat. I could feel only my heart pounding and the cold steel of the rifle in my trembling bare hands. The silence was consuming, interrupted only by the chirps of distant birds and the gun hammer slowing cocking back. Looking through my breath in the cool air in front of me, I could see only the steady rise and fall of the deer’s chest in my crosshair. This was my moment of truth.”

— Garrett Smith, 17, of Brighton, plans to apply to the University of Florida, Florida State University and Texas A&M University.

“Culture, something not many people appreciate, but me, I like to think my culture has made me who I am. I identify myself as Native American, and many people may hear that and associate my people and/or myself with only the Hard Rock and what they’ve learned in their history books, but a lot of what people do not know is hidden. Things weren’t just handed to me, and my Tribe didn’t just wake up one day and everything was there. What we’ve become is because of who we came from, our elders and ancestors have

given us what we have today. They’ve taught me so much throughout my life, about respect and about carrying on my culture, because in reality my culture separates me and my people from other Natives around the world. We never let anyone push us around and tell us who we are, and what we can and cannot do, and I feel as though I have inherited those same traits. I define myself as strong and independent. I don’t let people define me and what I can and cannot do. My culture gives my people strength, and my people give me the strength I have now.”

— Jaryaca Baker, 17, of Brighton, plans to apply to the University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida, the University of Georgia and Florida Gulf Coast University.

“As I think of a significant experience that has impacted me, I think of a particular moment in my life where I was placed in a position that made me realize what really matters in life. At the age of 15, in my sophomore year in high school, I was in my second period class. Then all of a sudden, I was called out by the dean and three officers, and taken to the office where I was searched. Even though I had no paraphernalia on me I was still arrested along with 24 other students who were involved in the drug sting operation, which was called ‘Operation No More.’”

— Phillip Jones, 17, of Brighton, plans

to apply to Florida State University, the University of Central Florida, Florida International University, Tallahassee Community College, Grand Canyon University and the University of Kansas.

“My family is very important to me. I am Native American, so that gave many challenges and many advantages. Being Indian, I am very into my culture and history. People have this idea that all Seminoles are drug addicts and have a lot of money. Yes, we have money but not all Indians are drug addicts. My family history, culture, and environment helped me be the woman I am today.”

— Sara Huggins, 17, of Pembroke Pines, plans to apply to the University of Central Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, the University of Alabama, Arizona State University, the University of Georgia, the University of Florida, the University of Miami and the University of South Florida.

“Through volunteering at the orphanage and seeing that these children were so happy with what little they had made me appreciate the lifestyle I live today. I hope to volunteer more of my time to those in need. The feeling of accomplishment motivates me to make more trips abroad to inspire and be inspired by other cultures. In the next four



Beverly Bidney

Tutor Sean McFadden helps Garrett Thomas, 17, of Brighton.

years, I plan to incorporate the leadership skills I acquired from the trip to Thailand and apply them to my studies. I’ll use this experience to not be afraid to explore new adventures.”

— Elena Jim, 17, of Miami, plans to apply to the University of Miami, Florida International University and Manhattan College in New York.

Student spotlight: Alex Johns

SUBMITTED BY LINDA ILEY
Education Department

Alex Johns is the Tribe's director of Natural Resources, a position he has held since January. He is in his third year at Ashford University, working toward his bachelor's degree and eventually his MBA.

Johns has worked in the Tribe's Cattle program for about 15 years and has served on the Tribe's Board of Directors from 1999-2003. He is certified in Best Management Practices in ranching operations, as well as in Beef Quality Assurance. He was president of the Glades County Cattlemen's Association, is District 8 Representative of the Florida Cattlemen's Executive Committee and serves on the Animal Industry Technical Council for the Florida Secretary of Agriculture.

Johns graduated with an AA in Business Administration from Ashford University and is a graduate of Oklahoma School of Equine Dentistry and Corrective Shoeing.

The Education Department recently talked to him about his education and career goals.

Q. What's your major, and what year are you in school?

A. Business Administration. I'm finishing my second year, starting on my third.

Q. What made you choose your major?

A. I wanted to learn more advanced business skills.

Q. What career do you imagine yourself doing after graduation?

A. Same career, running the Tribal cattle program.

Q. What do you want to achieve in life? Define your goals and why they're important to you.

A. I would like to get my MBA. I believe this will help me with Tribal enterprises, as

well as my personal life and career.

Q. What obstacles did you encounter while in school, and how did you resolve them?

A. I had to learn time management. I have had a hard time juggling family, job, personal business and school.

Q. What lessons did you learn from these obstacles?

A. I have learned that having good organizational skills is the key to succeeding in attending college while working a full-time job.

Q. Are there any other important lessons you learned?

A. That education is important, as there are skills that can be learned that will help out in everyday life. I have also learned that a person is never too old to attend college, and there is always enough time in anybody's schedule to do so.

Q. Who has been your greatest influence during your high school and college years?

A. My sister has been my biggest influence. I have seen the many hours of hard work that her job entails, and she still found the time to get her master's. No person should have an excuse that they do not have the time to go to college.

Q. If you were to speak to high school students today, what would you talk about, and what advice would you give them about furthering their education?

A. I would express the need to continue their schooling after high school. I would tell them to have a goal of enrolling in college right after high school. Do not wait, as the task may seem too hard to attempt. Also, that you do not have to be the smartest person in the world to get a degree. Dedication and persistence is the key. They cannot depend on a dividend check forever. They must take action and take control of their own destiny. The Tribe needs them and they need the Tribe. See what they can

do for their Tribe, not what their Tribe can do for them. There is no excuse; everything is paid for. They have all the support they could ask for in enrolling and being walked through the process of attending college.

Q. What has been your greatest challenge in life? Why?

A. My greatest challenge in life is breaking away from the status quo of rez life. I have tried my best to resist the pitfalls that we on the reservation are tempted with. I have not always been successful, but have never lost focus. Life is a journey, and whenever I get sidetracked I try to reassess my direction and get back on track. No one person is perfect, nor should they have that expectation. Do the best you can with the cards you are dealt. I am fortunate to be a Seminole. The Tribe has provided every resource for my success: great leaders, a great Education Department and the financial backing to allow me to be anything I could ever want to be.

Q. How will you contribute/give back to the Tribe?

A. I would like to give back to my Tribe by providing professional advice that is in the best interest of the Tribe and Tribal businesses. I would also like to serve as a role model for anybody thinking of attending college, whether they are just out of high school or long out of school. It is never too late to go back to school. The resources are there for the taking. Make a better life for yourself, and make the Tribe a more educated force to be reckoned with.



Christine McCall

Hollywood Preschool's head teacher Sherrelle Brown and her students read off the letters to each other on Sept. 13.

Teacher profile: Sherrelle Brown

BY CHRISTINE MCCALL
Contributing Writer

HOLLYWOOD — One of the great resources the Tribe provides for its parents and youth is a preschool located right on the reservation. From infants to age 5, the children get to interact with fellow students and learn about numbers, letters and most importantly, their culture. With the help of one of the dedicated head teachers, Sherrelle Brown, students get their first classroom experiences.

Brown began her position at the Hollywood Preschool in November 1999 after discovering the job listing in a local newspaper. She decided to apply to gain more experience while earning her bachelor's degree in elementary education. In her second year at Florida Atlantic University, she began her teaching career at the Hollywood Preschool. While being a teacher's aide for the 2-year-old class at the preschool, Brown also interned for non-Tribal school Hollywood Central Elementary.

"It became challenging working with the pre-K, and I liked that," Brown said.

Soon she discovered her love for working with young children.

"It's a great experience and I love working with the children," Brown said. "You nurture them and watch them grow."

Brown teaches preschoolers a daily curriculum of letters and numbers recognition using the Letter People curriculum. In addition, Brown emphasizes the importance of culture in the classroom.

"I learned a lot about the culture," Brown said. "I learned how to say the Pledge of Allegiance in [Mikasuki]. We have culture and language class every day."

The children also make Seminole crafts, with beadwork being a popular choice. Brown highlighted incorporating culture into daily activities as one of the main differences between her experiences with a Tribal school versus a non-Tribal school.

After 13 years at the Hollywood Preschool, Brown's passion for teaching Tribal youth continues to grow. Visiting her classroom proves that the children respect her and take interest in her teaching style.

"The most gratifying thing about teaching here is when the children come back to visit," she said. "You get to see the impact you've made."



Christine McCall

Sherrelle Brown pumps up the 5-year-old class to begin the day of learning.

Boys & Girls Club attendance increases

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

The Seminole Boys & Girls Club experienced a growth spurt in attendance and expanded its facilities because of it.

The club, ranked among the top five Native American Boys & Girls Clubs in the world, encourages positive social interaction and leadership skills among youth and gives them a safe, nurturing place to come year-round. Facilities are located in Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood.

"The numbers for Brighton and Big Cypress are just going through the roof," said Boys & Girls Club director Robert North of the increase in attendance. "These new facilities come at a good time because the clubs have become so popular."

North credits parent, community and school support for the climb in youth turnout.

Big Cypress has the highest attendance, with about 70-90 kids stopping in daily. Their club, which opened in 2009 with about 20 kids participating each day, relocated last month from Ahfachkee School classrooms to the Community Center.

Merging with the Community Center expanded the club's staff and activity space, adding four full-time and two part-time counselors and two part-time tutor positions to the program. The center will continue

hosting community events and running the seniors' ceramics program as well.

Executive administrative officer O'Hara Tommie said the Tribal Council and Executive Office discussed the club's move for a handful of years, so he's glad to see it come to fruition.

"The community wanted more out of the Big Cypress Community Center," Tommie said. "And the [Boys & Girls Club] was taking up classroom space, which Ahfachkee desperately needs, so the center was a perfect location for it."

Tommie said he is working to implement a teen wing separate from the youth club, as well as to add a cafe by the end of the year.

In addition, Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club manager Thommy Doud broadened students' selections of activities by partnering with Wildlife, Recreation, Rodeo and other departments. North hopes this will expose youth to possible career options within the Tribe.

"To me this is just huge because it's not just about keeping kids off the street," North said, "but it's introducing them to all these options and all these vocations that may be of interest to them, and they're having fun on top of everything."

The Big Cypress club also began offering music lessons. While Hollywood has provided lessons for almost two years,

North hopes to start offering them in Brighton next year.

The Brighton Boys & Girls Club averages 55 kids each day, so their recent move was well warranted. Remaining on Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's campus, the club relocated to a new modular that tripled its size to about 1,200 square feet.

In Hollywood, the location of the first Seminole Boys & Girls Club, activities remain in the original facility that opened in 2005 for youth ages 7-11, while 12-to-18-year-olds are in a stand-alone modular Teen Center that opened in 2008. These facilities comfortably accommodate about 40 kids a day.

North said each Boys & Girls Club offers academic and recreational activities that are especially critical after school from 3-6 p.m. Kids tend to get into mischief if unsupervised during this time, but the Boys & Girls Club counters this by offering a fun, safe and positive place to go. Not only does the club keep them out of trouble, but it also encourages them to finish their homework.

"It's really key that kids anywhere finish their homework," North said. "The motivation is that there's fun things to be had. There's a high probability that the kids are going to do better in school because they're getting their homework done, they're learning and they're having fun."

Seminole Police Department offers Police Explorers program for kids

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The start of the school year offers children a huge choice of extracurricular activities. Some of the usual pastimes include sports, music, art and martial arts. But for students who want something different, the Seminole Police Department Youth Services Unit offers the Police Explorers program for kids ages 6-19.

The program meets twice a month in Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee, Naples, Fort Pierce and Tampa. The first meeting of the month contains instructional lessons, while the second incorporates a hands-on activity relating to the previous meeting's lesson. SPD officers gear the program toward children who may want to pursue law enforcement as a career.

"Our goal is to build a relationship with kids, to be a mentor for them, keep them on the right path and teach teamwork, discipline and leadership," Sgt. Angie

Margotta said. "We fill a gap between SPD and the community so they know there is a place they can go if they need to. They see us every day, but in the Explorer program they see a different side of us. We hope if they ever have a problem, they feel comfortable coming to us to talk about it."

The program on each reservation is identical, and the curriculum is comprehensive. Topics covered over the course of the year include drill and command, first aid, Eddie Eagle gun safety, crime prevention, fingerprinting, child abuse, domestic abuse, ATV safety, arrest procedures, crime scene investigation, cyber bullying, Internet safety, narcotics and alcohol awareness, and law enforcement history.

Presently, 70 students are members of the program, which culminates with a trip to Washington, D.C. during National Police Week in May. To help pay for the trip, the Explorers fundraise all year.



Beverly Bidney

Officer Kyle Boyd addresses the Explorers as they line up in front of SPD Headquarters in Hollywood on Sept. 4.



Brett Daly

Officer George Gonzalez speaks to Explorers about the SPD Color Guard.



Brett Daly

Sgt. Mitchell VanSant explains the basics of SPD motorcycles and how to safely ride one during the Sept. 18 Explorers meeting.



Beverly Bidney

Sgt. Angie Margotta hands out Seminole Police Explorer coins to the Explorers at their first meeting of the school year.



Brett Daly

Bradley Latchford, left, and John Osceola listen to a presentation on SPD motorcycles.



7th Annual Seminole Tribe of Florida College-Career Fair 2012

To all 9th - 12th Grade Students, AVP and College Students, Parents, and all interested Seminole Tribal member adults
Come Explore Strategies to Help You Prepare for college/career

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10:00 am to 2:00 pm

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*ALL Juniors and Seniors should
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Sports

C

Tribal kids learn basketball from the best at Jamal Mashburn Clinic

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Kids turned out in droves to hone their basketball skills at the Jamal Mashburn Seminole Skills Clinic, but they got a lot more than they bargained for.

They also learned life lessons from the coach who mentored former NBA star Jamal Mashburn, Reginald Kitchen.

Mashburn and Kitchen coached kids from grades 8-12 at separate events that took place in Hollywood, Big Cypress, Immokalee and Brighton from Sept. 7-15. Although designed to help kids with their technique, the skills clinic went much deeper under the tutelage of Kitchen.

"I've been around a lot of great coaches, but I haven't seen anyone teach the game like he does," said Mashburn, who met Kitchen when playing for the Charlotte Hornets in 2000. "For him, it's all about life lessons, which last forever."

The kids ran hard through a series of exercises and drills before they even touched a basketball. Many of the youngest kids approached the drills as a race, whereas the older, more experienced kids knew the purpose of each one was to get the right form and pace.

"The goal is for the kids to have fun and learn the fundamentals of the game while helping them work on personal growth and development," Kitchen said. "We use basketball as a tool to reach and engage them and get them to talk about things that are on their minds."

During the Hollywood clinic, attended mostly by younger players, Kitchen gathered the kids to discuss disruptive behavior, good manners and respect.

"Everything you do is a reflection on your family," Kitchen said. "When you are working in a group and are disruptive, you are cheating the other people in the group. You won't be successful at anything without discipline in your life."

He told the group he faced these challenges as a coach when putting together a team.

"Knowing that can make each of you a better teammate," he said.

For some kids, one skills clinic wasn't enough. Dasani Cypress, 12, of Hollywood, and Mailani Perez, 16, of Big Cypress, gladly attended the clinics at both Big Cypress and Hollywood.

"We are learning better ball movement and skills," said Dasani, a seventh-grader who plays for Ahfachkee. "I think it will help us in the long run to stay more focused. They were more serious and made you work harder at the Big Cypress clinic, so you wanted to do your best and show what you can do."

"It's a great way to get all the kids together," added Mailani, an 11th-grader who plays for American Heritage.

More of the older players turned out for the Big Cypress clinic, who adapted well to more physical activity.

"There were more younger kids in Hollywood, and they require more mental attention, which isn't a bad thing,"

Muhammad "Coach Moe" Gray said. "That's the essence of everything and where it all starts."

Kitchen taught the basic skill of how to make a layup and made sure every participant got the individual lesson. Two additional coaches, Gray and Hanif Hill, assisted Kitchen.

"Hit the top corner of the box on the backboard," Kitchen explained, referring to the box directly above the net. "It will go in the basket every time."

The kids each took their turn and proved Kitchen's point; the ball went in every time they hit the mark.

He also taught the kids the names of each line and mark on the court, how to identify the right side and left side of the court and then gave them a pop quiz to measure their understanding.

"The kids really enjoy it," said Mashburn, who attended with his son Jamal Jr. "Anything I can pass on from my experience, even if they only get 10 percent of it, that's successful."

Mashburn, who played for the Miami Heat from 1997-2000, has run clinics with the Tribe for about five years.

"The skills clinic is great, but you have to allow them the opportunity to play," he said. "Playing the game is the most important part. At the end of the day, basketball is a game, and it should be fun for kids at all skills levels."

◆ See more MASHBURN photos on page 5C



Beverly Bidney

Players practice putting before the Tribalwide Junior Golf Tournament begins.

Recreation holds Tribalwide golf tournament for youth

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

CLEWISTON — Succeeding at golf isn't child's play, but at the Tribalwide Junior Golf Tournament, children enthusiastically came out to putt. Although their levels of experience varied, their youthful exuberance enabled them to have a fun day on the links.

Youth from ages 6-18 enjoyed some friendly competition at the Clewiston Golf Course on Aug. 25. Depending on their ages, the 36 golfers played either six- or nine-hole games on the 18-hole championship course.

"Golf is a great game you can play for your entire lives, even when you are old like me," Amos Mazzant, Ahfachkee's head golf coach, told the competitors before the tournament began. "I'm glad to see so many of you out here to play."

Playing golf requires more than hitting a ball straight down the fairway and sinking putts. It teaches life lessons, including commitment to practice, patience and focus.

"It's a tough game; it's an adult game," said Nashoba Gonzalez, 13, of Big Cypress. "Staying focused is a challenge; it's a very complicated game. I've been practicing all summer, so I'm ready to win."

This was the first Tribal youth tournament, but Tribalwide Recreation director Richard Blankenship plans to hold one every few months.

"The turnout was much greater than we expected," Blankenship said. "It was an excellent event — outstanding. I give a lot of credit to the golf instructors."

Those instructors were Mazzant, in Big Cypress; Jason Tommie, in Brighton; and Elliot Young, in Hollywood.

"I like working with the kids," Young said. "I'm shocked at how many were here. This is just the beginning for them."

Before teeing off, the young golfers practiced putting on the green by the clubhouse. Veteran student golfer Quenton Cypress, 17, gave some pointers to the other kids.

"I like playing golf; it's peaceful and quiet," said Cypress, of Big Cypress, who has played on the Ahfachkee team for two years. "But it's very challenging at the same time."

Kids teed off in groups of two, three and four and walked the course. Parents and other adults followed closely in golf carts and shared tips with the young golfers at every turn. Josh Jumper, Recreation site manager in Big Cypress, led a foursome, whom he coached along the way.

"I like golf," said Morgan King, 12, of Brighton. "You get to play with your family and friends. It's a lot of fun."

Mazzant made his way around the fairways, watching his students as they played and offering advice as needed. Many of them had never been on a golf course, let alone played in a tournament.

"I teach them in a cow pasture next to the Junior Cypress Arena," Mazzant said. "We recently had to move because they needed the pasture for some horses. We have an artificial green in a chickee to practice putting."

Participants all had a great experience and may have improved their games a bit for the next time.

"We're just here to have fun," said Ashley Gonzalez, 16, of Big Cypress. "Let's rock 'n' roll and hit some balls."

◆ See more GOLF photos on page 6C



Omar Rodriguez

Immokalee Recreation aide Ray Yzaguirre practices his ball handling skills at the Jamal Mashburn Seminole Skills Clinic while Tribal youth and instructors look on. The youth spent the day learning tips to improve their skills on the court.

Tribal youth excel in travel baseball league



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

The Sebring All-Stars win the Florida Dixie Youth Baseball "O"Zone State Championship. Tribal youth Trevor Thomas and Zachary Gopher play for the team.

SUBMITTED BY MICHELE THOMAS
Education Department

CLEVELAND, Miss. — The Sebring All-Stars won the Florida Dixie Youth Baseball "O"Zone State Championship and earned an invitation to the Dixie Youth Baseball "O"Zone World Series held in Cleveland, Miss. After a great week of baseball, they were one of two teams remaining and played for the World Series

Championship. They fell to Hope Mills with a score of 1-0, earning the title of Dixie Youth Baseball "O"Zone World Series 2012 Runner-Up.

"We, their families, are extremely proud of the dedication and heart they showed throughout this great summer of baseball," said Michele Thomas, whose son Trevor (bottom row, second from right) and cousin Zachary Gopher (bottom row, second from left) played for the team.

◆ See TIGERTAIL on page 2C

Tigertail Brothers Memorial Tournament held for sixth year

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS — No one could see them, but Minnie Tigertail felt the presence of her two sons on the court at the Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament held from Sept. 13-15.

"Their legend lives on," Tigertail said, wearing a T-shirt that sported the names of Malcolm, who she lost to a car accident in 1999, and Duane, who she lost to an overdose in 2007.

It's a mother's love that keeps the Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament going on its sixth year at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium; and it's a mother's touch that makes sure there's food on the table for hungry players and spectators, and prizes and hugs for the winners.

"It's [a] happy feeling when the tournament's coming up because you know it's for your sons," Tigertail said, manning the snack table next to the court during the tournament. "It's just fun putting it on and watching [the players] out there."

For the second year, the tournament was open to both Tribal and non-Tribal teams, attracting more competitors. Twenty-five teams competed in all, including five Legends' teams, 14 men's teams and six women's teams.

Players came from across Florida, including Miami, Broward County and Orlando, as well as from around the country, including Oklahoma, Arizona and Mississippi.

Tigertail awarded the first- and second-place teams money and athletic bags, which she funded by saving up her dividend checks.

A new addition to this year's tournament, Tigertail also gave MVP windbreaker jackets to one player from each of the championship teams.

Men's results

Of the 14 men's teams to play, Lords of the Plains came out on top, making it well worth their flight from Oklahoma.

Lords of the Plains, made up of players from a variety of Tribes, sweated it out until almost 3 a.m. Sunday to beat Pembroke Pines' Warriors 85-65 in the championship game, leaving the Warriors in second place.

"It was easier than I thought it was going to be," Lords of the Plains player Joe Green, from the Creek Tribe, said of taking the championship title. "We had maybe one close game (against the Plainsmen) and we didn't lose at all. Everyone on the team played really, really good."

Team captain Ronnie Battle helped select Green as MVP.

"We just had three really good scorers who can score from anywhere on the court, and our defense was really good," Green said. "Our team chemistry was great."

Big Town, from Trail, took third after a painfully close 43-44 loss to the Warriors.

Women's results

The six women's teams brought fierce competition to the courts as well.

"We came to reclaim our title," Lady Ballers' team captain Adriana Huggins said.

And that they did. The Lady Ballers, from Trail, swiped the championship title for the second year in a row, but not without a fight.

Although the Lady Ballers won all their games, they beat Hollywood's Mystery Ballers by just 1 point, with a score of 31-30.

In a semi-finals game on Sept. 15, ABC, from Trail and Oklahoma, squeezed out another 1-point victory over the Mystery Ballers with a score of 21-22, leaving the Mystery Ballers in third place and pitting the Lady Ballers against ABC for the championship game.

The preceding close games kept both teams on their toes in the finals. The Lady Ballers were up 22-13 at halftime and finished with almost as strong of a lead, ending the championship game 40-32.

Tournament MVP Jenna Plumley, from Oklahoma, of the Comanche, Otoe, Pueblo and Pawnee Tribes, said winning was a team effort.

"Our focus was here a little bit more today," she said. "We just had to make more shots. Our mindset was a little bit better today."

Adriana's father, Trail Liaison Norman Huggins, came out to watch Adriana play and support the Tigertail family. He used to play ball with Duane and Malcolm.

"They were hard players," he said. They were just competitive. They were great guys."

TIGERTAIL

From page 1C

Legends' results

In the Legends' games, three men's teams and two women's teams ages 35 and up vied for the prize on Sept. 13.

As for the men, Immokalee's Still Got Game took first place over the Brighton Rebels with a close score of 31-29. The Rebels placed second.

Big Cypress' Living Legends took third place after a 10-35 loss to the Rebels.

In the Legends' women's division, Immokalee's Young Legends beat Carlene, of Big Cypress, twice in a row (42-26, 31-22) to claim the championship title.

Family matters

Several Tigertail family members attended the tournament out of respect and support for their loved ones. Some participated in the tournament, while others helped run the event.

As for family on the court this year, Mary said several of her grandchildren and nephews came from Orlando to play. Among them, DeForest Carter and

Tyler Tigertail played for The Dream Team, and Gregory Carter played for Flight. She said they "play and jump like [Malcolm and Duane] used to."

Mary Tigertail, the late Tigertail brothers' aunt, used to play in the tournament for Big Cypress.

"Duane told me I had to play in the Legends'," she said. "Now he's gone, but I try to play every year."

This year, arthritis in her hand kept her away from the ball, so she helped her sister Mary and her granddaughter Kellie Tigertail serve food.

Kellie said she's been involved in the tournament since it first began. For the first couple years, she played on a Big Cypress women's team. Now, although she doesn't play, the University of Miami senior still makes time to come show her support.

As she watched the tournament on Sept. 15, she remembered watching her late uncles, Duane and Malcolm, play on those same courts growing up.

"Duane was the funny one," she said. "Malcolm, he was real nice; he was real sweet."

"It's just good that we can put on a basketball tournament in their memory. They loved the rez and they loved playing basketball, like most Indian kids."



Kathryn Stolarz

The Lady Ballers are excited to win the women's championship title at the sixth annual Tigertail Brothers Tournament.



Kathryn Stolarz

Trail's Lady Ballers play ABC, of Trail and Oklahoma, during the women's championship game. The Lady Ballers won the title.



Kathryn Stolarz

Mary, Kellie and Minnie Tigertail help serve food.



Kathryn Stolarz

The Hurricanes win the tip-off against the Warriors on Sept. 14



Photo courtesy of Tavarus Holmes

Legends' team Still Got Game, from Immokalee, smiles with Minnie Tigertail after winning the championship title.



Kathryn Stolarz

Helix goes for a shot, but not without a fight from The Dream Team on Sept. 14 in Big Cypress.



Photo courtesy of Tavarus Holmes

Lords of the Plains, from Oklahoma, celebrate as the men's champions for the Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament.

Seven Tribal members join Okeechobee H.S. JV volleyball

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE — With their athletic ability and skills gained through the years, it is with no surprise that seven Tribal athletes, Kalgary Johns, Breanna Billie, Tyra Baker, Delaney Osceola, Rumor Juarez, Chastity Harmon and Trista Osceola, made the Okeechobee High School junior varsity volleyball team. On Sept. 11, the Tribal ladies, along with the rest of their team, showed off their skills against the Sebastian River Sharks. The Okeechobee Brahms won both sets with final scores of 25-10 and 25-12.



Andrea Holata

Delaney Osceola serves the ball for a point against Sebastian River.



Andrea Holata

From left, Tribal members Breanna Billie and Kalgary Johns get ready for the serve.



Andrea Holata

Cheyenne Nunez, one of two freshmen who made Okeechobee High School's varsity team this season, plays during a game.



Andrea Holata

Cheyenne Nunez, center, and teammate attempt a block against the Sebastian River Sharks on Sept. 11.

Cheyenne Nunez makes Okeechobee H.S. varsity team



Andrea Holata

Tyra Baker leads the Okeechobee High School volleyball team in a friendly handshake to end their first set on Sept. 11.



Andrea Holata

Okeechobee High School's varsity team regroup during a time out. They lost a tough match to the Sharks by a tally of 2-3 for their first home game of the season (25-20, 25-20, 17-25, 19-25, 16-18).

Ahfachkee girls' varsity team begins volleyball season



Beverly Bidney

The Ahfachkee girls' volleyball team plays an away match against Moore Haven High School on Sept. 13.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Volleyball is a game of skill and athleticism, and the Ahfachkee girls' varsity team has those qualities. The players may be young and inexperienced, but they show an ample amount of heart on the court.

"This is a growing year for them," head coach Bernadette Schyvinch said. "We have a lot of young players who haven't been exposed to the game as much. They are all learning what they need to do and how they need to cover it."

This is the first year the school has a varsity team and only the second year of the volleyball program. Most of the players are all-around athletes and also play basketball and softball. Schyvinch's goal for the players is to become better hitters and improve their skills throughout the season.

"We want them to grow as a

team and learn from each other," Schyvinch said.

During a match against Moore Haven High School on Sept. 13, the team played hard but didn't win against the more experienced team. The players know they have a lot to learn and are willing to do what it takes to excel.

"I like volleyball and played last year," Taylor Fulton said. "The biggest challenge is spiking the ball since I'm short."

"The best part of the game is spiking the ball on people," Danni Jae Tommie added.

The rest of the season will give the team a chance to bring their skills level up to that of their enthusiasm. It will be an exciting season.

The team roster is: Alyssa Osceola, Dayra Koenes, Trinity Williams, Sierra Bowers, Sabre Billie, Reagan Whitecloud, Rande Osceola, Thomlynn Billie, Taylor Fulton, Danni Jae Tommie and Gheri Osceola.



Beverly Bidney

The Ahfachkee girls' volleyball team poses with coach Bernadette Schyvinch.



Beverly Bidney

Reagan Whitecloud taps the ball over the net to make the point.



Beverly Bidney

Danni Jae Tommie keeps the volley going during the matchup against Moore Haven.



Beverly Bidney

Dayra Koenes hits the ball.



Beverly Bidney

Taylor Fulton makes a hit.

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Big Cypress brings back tackle football for Tribal youth



Beverly Bidney

Tribal youth practice a sideways run drill at a recent practice in September.



Beverly Bidney

Coach Tavarus Holmes adjusts the helmet of a player.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Nothing says fall like football, and kids in Big Cypress are working on the gridiron learning the skills and strategies necessary to succeed on the field and off. An enthusiastic group of boys has taken to the game with gusto, as demonstrated at one of the team's first practices.

"The kids are excited for this," said Josh Jumper, Recreation site manager. "They are all first-year players, so we are starting from scratch."

This is the first year since 2006 that Big Cypress has organized a football program. The team, comprised of 9- to 12-year-olds, will play league teams from other communities. The season will consist of seven Saturday games, all of them played away since Big Cypress has no football field.

Despite the rain during one recent practice in September, the kids and coaches ran through their drills repeatedly. Defensive players practiced how to tackle the opponent effectively, while the offense practiced the art of handling the ball and learned to understand the shorthand of play calls and to respect to the leadership position of the quarterback. Coaches worked diligently with an equal amount of toughness and encouragement.

"We want to open the door for every

sport because what they learn will help the kids get through life," Jumper said. "We expect them to learn discipline, commitment, leadership and respect from sports."

All five coaches played sports in high school and/or college, so they know about the commitment it takes to play on a team. Tavarus Holmes drilled the defensive players until they got the form right. Although it looks easy to take an opposing player down, players learned the right way to tackle to avoid injury.

During the offensive drills, head coach Kelvin Robinson taught the players the finer points of the game. These players must inform officials that they've reached the line of scrimmage, understand what the quarterback means when he calls out a series of numbers and, of course, hold on to the ball while running to the end zone. Robinson made them wait in the huddle for the play while teaching them the importance of time management.

"Every delay pushes you back another 5 yards," he explained to the players. "You have to line up quickly."

Jumper will also implement other programs this year at Big Cypress: Baseball, basketball, golf and swimming programs are in the works.

"Our goal is to have all different avenues available for kids to play sports," Jumper said. "I expect kids to get great lessons from sports."



Beverly Bidney

Coaches J.R. Buster and Josh Jumper work on players' strength.



Beverly Bidney

Players work out before practice begins.



Beverly Bidney

Coach Tavarus Holmes teaches Tribal youth how to tackle an opponent.



Beverly Bidney

Players practice drills during a workout in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Players do pushups during a pre-practice workout in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Kids practice jumping over obstacles.



Beverly Bidney

A running back protects the football.

◆ BASEBALL

From page 1A

"Sean's an awesome kid," he said. "He's got an awesome family. We recruit families, you know. There were 120 kids at that tryout, and only a couple made it."

Keller said that players on Team Phenom, which plays in the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA), must keep up their grades and school attendance and be model citizens to play on his team.

"If a kid's grades go down, he is disrespectful or if his family is obnoxious, then he is off the team, no matter how great a ballplayer he is," Keller said.

For Sean, the youngest of four Osceola children and son of Kelli Osceola, the future may be baseballs and law books.

"I would like to be a lawyer some day," he said, but right

now he's looking forward to next summer when Team Phenom heads to Japan.

"I can't wait to see how life is over there," he said.

Next season, Sean will play on the 13-and-under Team Phenom squad, which will compete with other same-age teams.

He plans to continue up the USSSA age ladder until he hits 18, when offers from college and big league teams should arrive.

His father said he would like to see Sean compete in other sports, too.

"I tried football and basketball, but they just don't do it for me," Sean grimaced. "Baseball is my sport."



Courtesy of Leaguelineup.com

Team Phenom celebrates another success. Tribal member Sean Osceola is in the top row, second from right.

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More **MASHBURN** photos from page 1C



Andrea Holata

Practicing left-sided layups, Shae Pierce drives the ball to the basket during Brighton's clinic.



Andrea Holata

Brighton youth get ready to practice their layups with the help of an instructor at the Jamal Mashburn Seminole Skills Clinic on Sept. 15.



Andrea Holata

Dalence Carrillo practices a crossover dribble technique before taking it to the basket for an easy layup during the clinic in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Kids practice controlling the ball while dribbling at the clinic in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

A player hits the sweet spot on the backboard to make the layup shot while other youth look on in Hollywood.



Andrea Holata

Brighton youth practice dribbling techniques on Sept. 15 at the gymnasium for the Jamal Mashburn Clinic.



Beverly Bidney

Muhammad "Coach Moe" Gray shows Joshua Osceola, 11, the right way to hold the ball.



Beverly Bidney

Darlah Cypress dribbles past defenders at the clinic in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

Kids dribble down the court in a relay drill in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

A player dribbles past defenders at the Hollywood Gymnasium.



Beverly Bidney

Coach Reginald Kitchen points out the mark to hit when making a layup during the Hollywood clinic.



Omar Rodriguez

Tribal youth Derick Toho, of Big Cypress, sharpens his skills at the Immokalee clinic.



Omar Rodriguez

Gianna Wargolet, of Big Cypress, practices her agility at the clinic in Immokalee.



Omar Rodriguez

Tribal youth Dennis Gonzales practices his skills in Immokalee.



Omar Rodriguez

Tribal youth, Recreation staff and instructors gather in Immokalee for the Jamal Mashburn Clinic.



Beverly Bidney

Runners get started during the third annual 5K Sprint/Stroll for Recovery held on Sept. 8 at T.Y. Park.

Tribal members sweat for recovery at third annual walk/run

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In the moments before dawn on Sept. 8, 53 ambitious and dedicated people gathered at T.Y. Park in Hollywood to exert themselves over 5 kilometers before the heat of the day. The third annual 5K Sprint/Stroll for Recovery included runners and walkers from 18-57 years old, with a few children tagging along as well.

“This beat our expectations,” said Helene Buster, director of Family Services. “We had 30 people last year, and we hoped for 50 this year.”

Participants in the 5K included members of Seminoles in Recovery, family, friends and Tribal employees. The event raised funds for the annual Florida Native American Recovery Convention, which will be held for the fifth time from Feb. 28 through March 3, 2013 in Clewiston. Seminoles in Recovery sponsors the convention, and the 5K event raised about \$700 toward it. The Family Services Department sponsors other fundraising events throughout the year as well.

“I’ve been to every one of these,” said Steve Osceola, of Hollywood. “It’s a fundraiser for the convention, which is

a good cause. I wish I could do this every Saturday morning. It promotes health and is for a good cause. I’m a big supporter.”

Seminoles in Recovery provides a support mechanism for individuals involved in the recovery process to succeed in their goals and live a happy and prosperous life. Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous hold weekly meetings at the sober houses in Big Cypress and Brighton and at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium in Hollywood.

“I’m not involved with [Seminoles in Recovery], but I’m a full supporter of the good they do,” said Mitch Osceola, of Hollywood. “The event was a success and a good way to draw awareness to the cause. It’s a good fellowship with the Tribe, and it’s good to see old friends I haven’t seen in a while.”

For more information, visit www.seminolesinrecovery.com.

Race results

- Adult runners: 1. Tyler Bell;
2. Guillermo Garcia; 3. Pete Osceola III.
Adult walkers: 1. Christina Anderson;
2. Eric Gurfein; 3. Jason Lee Billie.
Senior runners: 1. Tony King;
2. Helene Buster.



Beverly Bidney

Runners make their way in the warm glow of the sunrise.



Beverly Bidney

Runners sweat it out on the course.

◆ More GOLF photos from page 1C



Beverly Bidney

Aiyana Tommie, 12, of Brighton, tees off at the Tribalwide Junior Golf Tournament on Aug. 25.



Beverly Bidney

Jason Sanders, 11, of Hollywood, hits the ball as Big Cypress Recreation site manager Josh Jumper, Canaan Jumper, 9, and Lee Sanders, 10, watch.



Beverly Bidney

Using body language, Conchade Osceola, 9, guides a ball toward the hole.



Beverly Bidney

Canaan Jumper takes a swing.



Beverly Bidney

Leighton Jim, 6, of Big Cypress, sinks a putt. Byron Osceola, 7, of Hollywood, waits his turn.



Beverly Bidney

Quenton Cypress shows young golfers pointers.



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee’s head golf coach Amos Mazzant addresses the group at the start of the tournament.



Andrea Holata

The PECS girls' volleyball team gives their opponent, the Storm Grove Stingrays, a handshake after winning their first set (25-17).

Pemayetv Emahakv team begins volleyball season

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv's girls' volleyball team played their first game at home on Sept. 15 and won against their rivals, the Yearling Middle School Bulls, winning both sets. The Seminoles won their first match with ease with a score of 25-15, and they won their second set with a close score of 25-24.

A new addition to the PECS volleyball team is the junior varsity team. They also won both sets against Yearling Middle School (25-23, 25-22).



Andrea Holata

Camryn Thomas serves one over to the Stingrays. On Sept. 12, the PECS girls' volleyball team traveled to Vero Beach to take on the Stingrays.



Andrea Holata

The Lady Seminoles get ready to return a serve against the Stingrays.

Seniors play in pool tournament



Beverly Bidney

Rudy Osceola is about to make a shot.



Beverly Bidney

Linda Tommie makes a shot.



Beverly Bidney

Three players appear to synchronize their shots.



Beverly Bidney

Esther Buster uses a bridge to make a shot.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Seniors from several reservations came together for camaraderie, laughter and healthy competition at the Senior Pool Tournament held at the Big Cypress Billiards Center on Aug. 22.

As it usually is with old friends, the atmosphere was warm and comfortable. Seniors bantered easily as they made or missed their shots on the tables.

"I've been playing forever," said Esther Buster, of Big Cypress. "It's a hobby. It's nice to get together with old friends from different reservations."

Buster and Louise Osceola also participate in a pool league in Immokalee and play on a team every week.

"I love winning," Osceola, of Big Cypress, said. "I grew up playing pool; it's a lot of fun."

Texas Billie, who has played since he was a teenager, still enjoys the challenges of the game.

"The most fun is making the bank shots; they are more entertaining than straight shots all the time," said Billie, of Big Cypress. "If you miss the shot, it's

no fun; you have to make it. Even if you lose, you still enjoy the game. Playing is the most important thing."

Big Cypress Tribal senior David Cypress plays pool often and enjoys the game.

"I'm the best there is — just kidding," Cypress said. "Any pool player will tell you that, whether they are or not. I'm always ready for competition."

The tournament featured four games: 8-ball, scotch doubles, 9-ball and men vs. women 7-ball.

The winners were as follows: men's 8-ball — David Cypress; women's 8-ball — Linda Tommie; scotch doubles — team of Linda Tommie and David Cypress; men's 9-ball — David Cypress; women's 9-ball — Louise Osceola; and men vs. women 7-ball — Louise Osceola.

The following Tribal seniors participated: Esther Buster, Beulah Gopher, Louise Osceola, Linda Tommie, Joe Billie, Texas Billie, David Cypress, Mitchell Cypress, Ricky Doctor, Daniel Gopher, Joe J. Osceola, Rudy Osceola and Roy Snow.

Tournaments are held every few months, but there are plans to increase the frequency.

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