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The Seminole

Voice of the Unconquered



Tribune

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Brighton takes the crowns

Brianna Nunez crowned Miss Seminole; Cheyenne Nunez named Jr. Miss

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
 Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Seminole royalty is once again all in the family as Brianna Nunez, 18, and her cousin Cheyenne Nunez, 16, were crowned Miss Florida Seminole and Jr. Miss Seminole, respectively, at the 57th annual Princess Pageant held July 26 in Hollywood.

The Brighton teens demonstrated talent, poise, intellect and knowledge of Tribal culture during the three-hour competition at Tribal Headquarters. Six other talented contestants from Big Cypress, Hollywood and Immokalee also vied for the titles.

Brianna beamed while outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie dressed her in the sash and crown.

"I was in awe when they announced my name," Brianna said. "All the other girls did so well. I wasn't sure how it would end up."

Cheyenne's face also lit up when she won the title. Her smile remained as outgoing Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie embellished her with the sash and crown.

"I did my best and was pretty confident I had a chance to win," Cheyenne said. "I'm honored to represent my Seminole Tribe."

Since 1957, Seminole princesses have served as goodwill ambassadors for the Tribe and have spent their one-year reign traveling, speaking and appearing at events nationwide and overseas. This year's theme, "Honoring the Path of the Seminole Princess," paid homage to the role of women in the Seminole Tribe.

"You get to talk to people who aren't aware of the Tribe," Brianna said. "You fill them in on who we are and how we became who we are today."

The week leading up to the pageant was busy for the three Miss Florida Seminole contestants — Brianna, Alexis Jumper, of Hollywood; and Marissa Sanchez, of Immokalee — and the five Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contenders — Cheyenne; Allegra Billie, of Immokalee; Thomlynn Billie, of Big Cypress; Randeel Osceola, of Immokalee; and Patsy Veliz, of Immokalee.



Beverly Bidney

Outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie crowns the new Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez during the 57th annual Princess Pageant July 26 at Tribal Headquarters in Hollywood.

Rehearsals, lunches, dinners, meetings with judges, more rehearsals, photo shoots, a dress rehearsal and a banquet kept candidates occupied from morning to night. A photo shoot on the bridge over Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood's pool gave the girls a taste of the spotlight and caught the

attention of guests.

The Princess Committee hosted a welcome banquet at Hard Rock July 25 for about 200 people, including contestants and their families, the outgoing Seminole princesses, royalty from the Seminole Nation in Oklahoma and the three judges

— Taylor Thomas, Miss Indian World 2014; Ashleigh Lollie, Miss Florida USA 2015; and Jeff Begay, a retired Vietnam veteran from the Navajo (Dine) Hopi Laguna Tribe in Arizona.

♦ See PRINCESS PAGEANT on page 8A

Indian housing focus of national conference

BY EILEEN SOLER
 Staff Reporter

CATOOSA, Okla. — Learning the ins and outs, what's new and what's history about Native American housing programs hit home for 150 Tribal representatives from 24 Tribes at the national 2014 Indian Housing Training Conference.

"Trying to figure out the best ways to accomplish housing and everything that goes with it is not easy," said Patti Kramer, of the Kaw Nation in Oklahoma. "This is the best conference so far — all of us got so much out of it."

Hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Native Learning Center (NLC), the Aug. 19-21 event at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa featured 25 workshops and a panel discussion led by Rodger Boyd, of the Navajo Nation and deputy assistant secretary of the Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"For an Indian housing conference, you can't get any higher than Rodger Boyd. It's really a huge honor to have him," said NLC executive director Georgette Palmer Smith, a Chotaw and Kiowa.

♦ See HOUSING on page 5A

New book clears roadblocks for Tribes 'Finding a Seat at the Table'

BY EILEEN SOLER
 Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Council's approval to publish the Tribal Historic Preservation Office's (THPO) "Finding a Seat at the Table" book adds another chapter to Seminole history.

The how-to book, to be printed in early 2015 by University Press of Florida, will be the first authored and sanctioned by a Native American THPO specifically to provide Indian Country with proven procedures for locating, documenting and preserving Native history.

"It's great for us to be leaders, but if we are not serving then we are doing nothing," said Paul Backhouse, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

Backhouse, who led the project, said the Tribe's THPO earned credibility to pen the book by establishing itself as an information clearinghouse for other THPOs and by hosting workshops at national historic preservation conferences.

♦ See THPO on page 7A

First Seminole suits up with FSU Seminoles

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
 Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — History is being made at Florida State University where the defending national champion Seminoles football team added its first Seminole Tribe of Florida member to the roster.

Justin Motlow now wears the uniform and plays for the team he's rooted for his entire life.

"It feels surreal," said Motlow, a freshman from Tampa. "I never imagined I'd be able to play here. I'm going to make the most of my opportunity and keep working."

FSU head coach Jimbo Fisher appreciates the significance of Motlow making the team.

"We just want to represent the Seminole family for all they have done for us," Fisher said. "It's a great honor to have a family

member wear that helmet."

Motlow, Tampa Catholic High School's 2013 offensive player of the year and wide receiver of the year, earned his spot on FSU's roster as a preferred walk-on player. In August, he spent two weeks at training camp with the rest of the squad. Freshmen players included 26 recruits and 25 walk-ons hoping to make the team.

"The first time they step on campus, they aren't playing football; they are

training to play football," said Vic Vilorio, FSU's head strength and conditioning coach. "One of two things can happen; they get the opportunity or it goes away. Being dependable and accountable will make their chances better."

New players had a lot to learn at training camp, including the playbook, before the Aug. 30 season opener against Oklahoma State University in Arlington, Texas. From the sidelines, coaches signaled with their hands and shouted random phrases, which identify specific plays.

Approximately 130 players will make up the team's final roster, with only 72 attending away games. Motlow probably won't start or travel to away games this year, but he will be in uniform for all home games. FSU's first home game is Sept. 6 against The Citadel.

To get into shape, Motlow spent the summer working out with the team. He said conditioning and running were harder than in high school.

"The players are 10 times bigger here," he said. "Everyone's fast, everyone's strong and everyone's big."

Regardless of his teammates' daunting sizes, the 5-foot-11, 182-pound Motlow sees himself fitting in. He's already getting the hang of things and adjusting to dorm life with other players.

"I expect him to come in and fit into the system," Fisher said. "He's doing a great job and is showing ability to learn."

Coaches have high hopes for the new players, who get a lot of reps during practice.

"I'll keep evaluating them as it goes," Fisher said. "There's no pressure on them; as they pick it up, they will evolve into their roles on the team."

Motlow is working closely with co-offensive coordinator/wide receivers coach Lawrence Dawsey, a former wide receiver for FSU and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Dawsey was also an assistant coach at Tampa Catholic, but not when Motlow attended the school.

♦ See FSU on page 3C



Beverly Bidney

Florida State University wide receiver Justin Motlow, No. 86, runs through a play during football camp in August. Motlow, of Tampa, is the first Seminole Tribal member to play for the FSU football team.

Recent rains dump trouble in Brighton

BY EILEEN SOLER
 Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Managing rainy season in communities built on historic swamp land poses a flood of challenges.

Striking a proper balance between what is correct for the environment, right for the Tribe and recommended by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) while dealing with drainage is a day-to-day challenge, said Stacy Myers, assistant director of the Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD).

"The first priority is the protection of lives and property. Second is pastures and animals," he said. "But in any case, we do a good job."

The wet season, from June through October, is demanding, Myers said. When flash storms dumped 14 inches of water on the Brighton Reservation in one week this summer, teams from operations and maintenance were ready to respond.

"Throughout the year they are charged

♦ See RAIN on page 5A

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Students gear up for the new school year. See photos on page 5B.

Editorial

Two Tribal anniversaries celebrated on Aug. 21

• James E. Billie

Hey, I bet you folks didn't know or remember, but Aug. 21 is the anniversary of two very special events in our Seminole Tribe history. Fifty-seven years ago, on Aug. 21, 1957, 246 Seminole Indian adults cast paper ballots on the Dania, Big Cypress and Brighton Reservations to either adopt or turn down a constitution and charter as a federally recognized American Indian Tribe. The constitution and bylaws, which created the official Seminole Tribe of Florida, passed by democratic vote, 241-5. The corporate charter of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. was also approved, 223-5. Now we Seminoles could control our own destiny and protect our sovereignty.

Forty years later, on Aug. 21, 1997 (17 years ago) the ribbon was cut at the grand opening of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, the official museum of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. A dream that I had for many years – since the first time I saw Seminole artifacts in someone else's museum – had come true. We now had our own place to preserve and protect our unique culture, with our

own beautiful displays to educate our own children about our history and traditions.

As a teenager, I remember the political meetings beneath the Council Oak, which still stands on the Hollywood Reservation, as early Tribal leaders came together to urge Seminoles to protect ourselves from official "termination" as an Indian Tribe by creating and voting on a constitution. In Washington, after costly World War II, there was interest in cutting back expenses and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) was directly in the crosshairs.

The BIA looked around for programs to cut, figuring services to Indian Tribes was a good place to start. They formed a list of Tribes that would be "terminated," or made ineligible for any more federal help. Florida Seminoles were on the list. In their opinion, we were too uneducated and unable to handle the formation and administration of a formal Tribe.

No one believed that we could do it. But they underestimated the impact of the threat of termination: the loss of all governmental services and the eviction of Seminoles from their reservation homes. Leaders began to emerge to attend hearings on the

matter: Josie Billie, Henry Cypress, Toby Johns, Billy Osceola, Larry Mike Osceola, Laura Mae Osceola and Sam Tommie traveled to Washington, D.C. to testify along with Buffalo Tiger, who represented Trail Indians who would one day become the formal Miccosukee Tribe. Bill Osceola built a rodeo arena in Dania and held regular rodeo events, the proceeds of which paid the group's travel expenses.

Many meetings later, with support from the Friends of the Seminoles, Mrs. Stranahan and others, a constitutional committee was formed and they met beneath the Council Oak: Billy Osceola, John Henry Gopher (Brighton), Bill Osceola, Jackie Willie (Dania), Jimmie O. Osceola and Frank J. Billie (Big Cypress) and Larry Mike Osceola (Trail). The rest, as they say, is history. We received our federal recognition a few months later and the Miccosukees followed in 1962.

Fast forward again to 1997 when a big ribbon in our medicine colors stretched across the front of the Museum's first building. As David Cypress, Billy Cypress, Max Osceola Jr., Frank Billie and Mitchell Cypress held the ribbon tight, I cut through with scissors. A crowd of more than 2,000 cheered. The location, at the crossroads of Snake Road and West Boundary Road, was my old camp and not far from where anthropologists believe Sam Jones – also known as Abiaka – spent his final years.

In fact, that's why our Museum is out here instead of in Hollywood or somewhere else. One man. Abiaka. Because of him we are all still here and Seminole. Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki is one of the finest museums in the country.

Aug. 21, under the zodiac sign of Leo, is a special day for the Seminole Tribe. On that date, we saved ourselves and, years later, saved our culture. *Sho-naa-bish.*

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



BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Tribal Secretary, Treasurer appointed

LaVonne Kippenberger is new Secretary, Pete Hahn is named Treasurer

BRIGHTON — Tribal Council made two high-ranking appointments at its Aug. 15 meeting in Brighton. LaVonne Kippenberger was named Tribal Secretary and Pete Hahn was selected Tribal Treasurer.

Kippenberger, who served as Tribal clerk since 2012, has worked for the Tribe since 2000 as enrollment administrator and genealogical research assistant in the Secretary's Office. She began her employment after graduating from New York University in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in secondary education.

Kippenberger said the Secretary's Office is focused on the May 11, 2015 election but is also working on the tribalwide records management program, a new initiative to keep Tribal records on a retention schedule.

Kippenberger realizes she has big shoes to fill; her appointment came less than three months after the passing of longtime Tribal Secretary Priscilla Doctor Sayen.

"Priscilla was everything to me," said Kippenberger, who worked with Sayen for 14 years. "I want to preserve her legacy

and carry it further. We talked about ideas and goals and I'd like to see them come to fruition."

Hahn, who has served as deputy treasurer since February 2007, started working for the Tribe after graduating from Haskell Indian Nations University in 2005 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a concentration in Tribal management. Prior to graduation, he interned with the executive administration officer.

Hahn, a member of Leadership Broward and the Americans for Indian Opportunity, spent a year in the Tribe's management training program before joining the Treasurer's Office.

Hahn aims to continue helping the Tribe gain financial sustainability by ensuring all its financial endeavors are secure and sound.

Economic growth to help support additional job creation for Tribal members is another goal of his.

"The Tribe is constantly evolving," Hahn said. "Right now the primary force of business is gaming; however, the Tribe has a wide range of possibilities for future investments. Finding the ones that suit the Tribe and provide the best outcome as a whole is the goal."



Archive photo

Pictured are Rex Quinn, of the BIA, Larry Mike Osceola, Frank Billie, Jackie Willie, Bill Osceola, John Henry Gopher, Billy Osceola and Jimmy O. Osceola.

The power of social media is awesome

Indian Country must tap it at the ballot box

• Mark Trahant

I remember getting in trouble as a teenager. The story beat me home. I was stunned at the velocity of information in a small community. The chain went like this: Something happened. People talked. And the story spread. Fast.

I guess that's why social media, to me, is an old form of storytelling. It's how we naturally tell stories, spreading the word to one friend (or follower) in real time. And then another. And again. But while the forum is essentially the same, there are two new twists, the use of digital tools and the increased size of our network. (A generation ago our "network" might be a few friends gathered for coffee at the trading post. Today it's a thousand friends on Facebook, their thousand friends and definitely more on Twitter, Tumblr or Snapchat.)

The ice bucket challenge to raise money to prevent ALS – Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis – or Lou Gehrig's Disease is a great example of how social media works. The brilliant campaign has earned more than \$70 million with the goal of creating a world "without ALS!"

Every day my Facebook feed has new posts from someone taking this challenge. (Of course this whole challenge thing is familiar anyway. It's a lot like the Winter Challenge that spread across Canada and Indian Country. Carielynn Victor, from Chilliwack, British Columbia told Global News Canada that the idea was not a new one, but the concept of taking it public was new.)

So why ALS? It's a fabulous cause and worth doing. That said: What if Indian Country could harness social media to impact the diseases that are killing most of our friends and family?

So heart disease is the leading killer in Indian Country. What if we raised money for research and action for American Indians and Alaska Natives? Or diabetes? Or any disease that impacts most of us. It could be money targeted to make a real difference in our lives.

Then, the power of social media is not just about money. Imagine what we could do to health disparities if social media

challenged tens of thousands of people to walk more. Or eat better. Then post results in real time so that we all stay on task.

Beyond disease and public health, social media could be used to "challenge" American Indians and Alaska Natives to register and vote at levels that are unprecedented. If the same intensity of the winter challenge, or the ice bucket challenge, or any social media phenomenon, was applied to November's balloting, well, it would upend the status quo. Guaranteed.

One reason the winter challenge and the ice bucket challenge worked so well is that they were simple to do, and easy to pass along virally. It's fun to see a friend jump in a creek. We laugh at the way people met their challenge. (I did a snow angel in the shadow of Denali courtesy of Laura John at the Montana Policy and Budget Center.)

So any election challenge must be simple and fun. And be specific. Laura challenged me. Then I added friends creating an exponential network.

There have already been some really smart efforts to increase Native voting. Indeed, the last election cycle produced record numbers. In New Mexico and Montana, for example, Native Americans voted at a higher percentage than the general population, 77 percent and 64 percent. That could be across the country, especially in Alaska, Oklahoma, Arizona, the Dakotas. Already this year, the National Congress of American Indians has called for a summer of action for the Native Vote (there's a Google hangout posted that explores details) to do just that.

Now it's time to add to those efforts and tap the awesome power that is social media. If we can ask our friends to jump into a creek, we sure as hell can ask them to vote. We ought to do that in a video and on our Facebook page. Let's take the ice bucket into the voting booth and really change the country.

Mark Trahant serves as the Atwood Chair at the University of Alaska Anchorage. He is an independent journalist and a member of The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

My granddaughter asked, 'Is the world coming to an end?'

• Tim Giago

My granddaughter will be 7 years old in October. Like many children that age, she is bright and she is inquisitive. Her name is Juneau.

Case in point: She posed this question to her grandmother: "Is the world coming to an end?" Her grandmother was a bit taken back by this inquiry and responded, "I don't know the answer to that; only God knows." As quick as a whip Juneau quipped, "What about Google?"

"Out of the mouths of babes," might be applicable here. Or as Art Linkletter posed it, "Kids say the damndest things."

But it has to make the average person stop and think. Has technology taken us to the point where our children believe that it is the answer to all questions? Has Google become so all-knowing, all-powerful and all-seeing that it is viewed as the equation or equal to God?

It makes a person look back at where they have been and look forward and wonder where it is all going. I stopped to get a Coke and burger at McDonald's last week and watched two teenage girls seated at a booth next to me. They never said a word during the time I observed them, but instead had their thumbs going like crazy on their cell phones. They stopped texting just

long enough to sip their soft drinks and take a bite of their burgers and fries. But they never said a word. What is going to happen to the art of conversation?

When I was a boy nearly everyone in the village of Kyle or Pejuta Haka (Medicine Root) on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation where I was raised spoke the Lakota language. As nearly every language is converted to text, I wonder if the young people on the reservation will text in Lakota or English. I would have to assume that they will text in English. When I questioned several Lakota teenagers at a basketball tournament last year they all said that they always text in English.

In an editorial I wrote that was directed at the teachers on the Indian reservations several months ago I posed this question to them: Are the young people in your classrooms texting in English or Lakota? Will they lose the foundation of their Native tongue because of technology?

Not a single teacher on the reservation or anywhere in Indian Country where my newspaper reaches responded to my question.

Is it because they do not know the answer to that question or have they even bothered to consider it?

There are those in Indian Country who believe that the loss of the language means the loss of the culture, but that may

not necessarily be so because every Native American civilization in North America that is still here has adapted to the rapid changes that have occurred since the invasion of their country. The rapidity of change has nearly overwhelmed every culture and nationality on this continent.

The time from the horse and buggy to a man on the moon has happened in the blink of an eye.

Now even some Christians are saying that Noah had dinosaurs on the Ark. If that be so then the indigenous people of the Western Hemisphere, peoples who have existed on these continents for more than 30,000 years, must have hunted and eaten dinosaurs.

Ah ha, one million BC revisited.

My granddaughter Juneau wanted to know if the world was going to end. I would have to tell her that "yes" it will end eventually, and "yes" Google will tell you the same thing.

But, I will have to add that conversation in any language may go first.

Tim Giago (Oglala Lakota) is a well-known Native American journalist, columnist and founder of Indian Country Today, the first national American Indian newspaper.

This column first appeared in The Huffington Post.

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Community

A

Boehmer exhibit celebrates history of Brighton through photographs

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

BRIGHTON — Capturing a moment in time, the newest Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum exhibit illustrates the early days of the Brighton Reservation through 27 historic photographs. But more important than the black and white photos are the stories shared by the people who lived them.

"The objects don't mean anything without the stories behind them," said Paul Backhouse, director of the Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. The exhibit, titled "A Brighton Tribute: A Celebration of the Reservation through the Boehmer Collection," opened Aug. 8 at the Brighton Field Office auditorium.

Accompanying each photo were placards describing memories from the likes of Geneva Shore, Edna McDuffie and Polly Hayes, while reception attendees told stories of growing up on the reservation.

The photographs were pulled from

the 2,000-plus images of the Boehmer Collection with input from Tribal community members to celebrate Seminole culture, Brighton Reservation and the Boehmers.

William Boehmer arrived at Brighton Reservation in 1938 with his wife, Edith, after being hired by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as the teacher of the newly established Brighton Indian Day School. Brighton Tribal member Richard Osceola, with the backing of community members, had pressed assistant commissioner of Indian Affairs H.A. Zimmerman for a school of their own. It opened Jan. 9, 1939 with eight students.

Many photographs on display are of Brighton Indian Day School students, including one of Boehmer's pupils in 1939 posing in front of a Christmas tree.

Coleman Josh, who attended the school from first through sixth grade, said he remembers singing Christmas carols around the Christmas tree while Boehmer played

the piano.

"He was a nice, nice man, and he was a good teacher," Josh said, adding that before officially starting school, he would sneak onto the school bus. His mother did not want him to attend school but his curiosity got the best of him. "I enjoyed going to school there."

Other photographs include images from Brighton Field Day in 1941; John Josh, Charlie Micco and Willie Gopher posing for a photo circa 1939 as the first elected trustees of the cattle program; and Geneva Shore and Edna McDuffie in formal gowns while attending Okeechobee High School in 1959.

"I went to the prom. I didn't know what it was or that I needed a special dress or anything," McDuffie recalls in a quote below the image. "Mrs. Boehmer took Geneva and I to Orlando to get us our prom dresses. We didn't know how to pick out a dress. That was the kind of thing they did. I'm sure we had to get everything — shoes, the dress and undergarments. I guess Mrs. Boehmer paid for this somehow, but she made sure we would be dressed right for the prom."

The exhibit serves the dual purpose of continuing the Boehmers' legacy and enriching the lives of the Brighton community through the photographs and accompanying stories, said Rebecca Fell, the Museum's curator of exhibits.

"It's about making sure the story is being told by the people who lived it," she said. "These older generations look at the pictures and remember so many things, so I hope the exhibit offers a powerful way of passing on these stories to the younger generations."

After the Brighton Indian Day School closed in 1954 — students transferred to Okeechobee schools for more educational and athletic opportunities — the Boehmers maintained various roles within the Tribe. William Boehmer served as Educational Field Agent and Community Services Officer, and Edith Boehmer worked with Tribal crafters to establish the Seminole Arts & Crafts Guild. The Tribe purchased the guild's assets in 1960 to help create the original Okalee Indian Village.

♦ See BOEHMERS on page 7A



Eileen Soler

Max Osceola Jr., at his Hollywood Reservation home, sits aboard his Honda Gold Wing, a 1400cc monster. The avid biker celebrated 50 years on two wheels by taking a run Aug. 13 to Key West.

Tribal senior marks 50 years on two wheels

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Max Osceola Jr. likes to consider his age in BC timeline.

"For Seminoles, there is BC — Before Columbus, and BC — Before Casinos. I was before casinos," he said.

On Aug. 13, the former Tribal Councilman personalized another point in time: 50 years on two wheels. He drove to Key West to mark the anniversary, a half-century after he revved up his first Honda and became hooked on motorcycles.

"I feel the need for speed," Osceola said in a shed-turned-clubhouse he calls the Harley House. There, on the Hollywood Reservation behind the home he's lived in since 1962, motorcycle memorabilia collected during hundreds of runs fills walls and shelves.

Photos of him dressed in patchwork and leather on the many bikes he's owned through the years illustrate decades of adventures, from quick jaunts for lunch in Clewiston to cross-country excursions from Florida to California.

Osceola has owned more than a dozen bikes, including a Honda 750, a Harley Heritage, a Boss Hoss with a Corvette engine, a Road King, several Ultras, two Road Glides, a Triumph Rocket and a BMW. Only once did he own two at the same time.

"A bike is like a woman. If you have two of them, you have to choose which to spend the most time with," said the "one woman man" married 37 years to college sweetheart Marge — and still in love.

Now, at 64, Osceola is comfortable

on a Honda Gold Wing, a 1400cc monster that he calls "a convertible with no doors." His most recent long-distance ride was a "fast and smooth" drive from San Diego, California to Hollywood, Florida in May.

Osceola's first bike was a black Honda 50 Dream. He acquired his learner's permit to drive it on his 14th birthday, Aug. 13, 1964.

"I wasn't looking for a lifestyle. I just needed transportation to school," he said. Osceola started the first day of his high school career by vrooming up to McArthur High in blue jeans and sunglasses.

He helped his father, Max Osceola Sr., purchase the \$110 motorcycle by spending a summer working as a janitor at Seminole Okalee Indian Village, then a crude attraction at Stirling Road and State Road 7.

"I remember thinking, 'How many days do I need to work to help dad get the bike?' Thirty hours a week all summer long," he said. Minimum wage was \$1.15.

It was worth it.

"You get such a euphoric feeling. You can hear the wind, the rumble of the motor and you want to ride forever," he said.

Osceola never joined a biker organization, but his "colors" have always been red, yellow, black and white — Seminole colors.

Osceola has lost track of how many times he trekked from Florida to the California coast, but he thinks about a dozen. Sturgis, South Dakota? Seven times. The Kyle Petty Charity Ride? Sixteen times.

♦ See IRON HORSE on page 4A



Brett Daly

Brighton community members scan photographs selected from the Boehmer Collection for a new Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum exhibit that opened Aug. 8. William and Edith Boehmer worked at the Brighton Indian Day School and took 2,137 photos of various Seminole events throughout their 28 years of service to the Tribe.

New Museum outreach project sprouts history, culture, education

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Sometimes community outreach begins by planting seeds in your own backyard.

"This shows culture in action — history brought to life," said Van Samuels, a Tribal community outreach specialist at the site of a new authentic Seminole garden on the grounds of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

The 1,000-square-foot garden built by Samuels and outreach specialists Jacob Osceola Jr. and Rey Becerra in early July had already begun to flourish only 14 days later with 2-foot-high corn plants and several sweet potato vines. Nearby, native cabbage palm trees and exotic guava trees, brought to the area in the 1800s from South America, provided a natural canopy to the garden that would soon also sprout peas, beans and pumpkins.

Persimmon and grapes still grow wild in the surrounding area as they have for centuries.

Osceola said the garden design and what to plant were plucked from archival data that included photographs from the 1930s through the 1970s and elder interviews from the Museum's oral collection. The trio used two types of traditional planting: cypress log border beds and raised mounds. Both styles use rich soil gathered from high patches of land in the water-abundant Everglades.

The cypress logs came from trees leftover from the recent construction of a water retention area and naturally felled trees.

"Knowing how important gardens were long ago is important today. It's been in our culture forever," Osceola said.

Corn was planted first. The kernels came from Becerra's friend who brought them from Cuba about 10 years ago. When the corn stalks are strong enough, they will serve as trellises to hold peas and beans off the ground and keep them dry. Pumpkins will be planted last using Seminole pumpkin seeds provided to the Tribe in May by the Historic Hernando Preservation Society at the dedication of the Chocochatti historical marker near Tampa.

Samuels said the same garden plants were grown by Tribal ancestors to sustain family camps in the Everglades, but they were also easily transplantable during the Seminole Wars when camps were quickly moved to new locations.

"Our ancestors would gather what they could, carry the seeds, the plants, and start all over again," Samuels said.



Eileen Soler

From left, community outreach specialists Van Samuels, Jacob Osceola Jr. and Rey Becerra check on the new garden they planted at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Through Native American generations, the planting technique has been called Three Inseparable Sisters. Corn, beans and squash, as main ingredients, support each other by virtue of plant size, stem strength

and leaf function. They protect each other from sun, rain and foraging animals while keeping soil moist and fertile with nutrients.

♦ See GARDEN on page 7A

Veteran helps another as final wish is honored

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Veterans help each other's back whether in combat or afterward. Vietnam War combat veteran Jack Smith Jr. experienced that firsthand when he was given a motorized scooter chair that belonged to a World War II veteran he never knew.

The late Eugene Guardabasso, of Palm Harbor, wanted his Quantum 600 scooter chair to go to a veteran. His nephew, Joe Kase, reached out to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, which contacted Elaine Westermeyer, of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Westermeyer called Marc McCabe, of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) in St. Petersburg, who knew exactly who could use it.

"The Veterans Administration turned down Jack's request for a scooter, so we found him this one," said McCabe, regional director of VVA. "Vietnam vets get denied more often than younger veterans. As a Vietnam vet and the VVA bureau chief, I assist Seminole veterans."

Smith, 66, served in the U.S. Army in Germany and Vietnam from January 1968 to November 1969. He earned a National Defense Service Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal, a Sharpshooter Medal, two Overseas Bars and a Vietnam Campaign Medal for his service to the country.

Smith suffers from Type 2 diabetes, lower neuropathy and heart disease, but the VA says he does not meet the criteria for a power chair, said Westermeyer, who believes the donated chair will greatly improve Smith's quality of life.

"I have to learn how to operate it first," said Smith, of Brighton. "Last week I had to borrow a scooter to go shopping. This will come in handy."

The six-wheel Quantum 600 is



Beverly Bidney

Jack Smith Jr. sits comfortably outside the Veterans' Building Aug. 13 in the Quantum 600 scooter chair he received from a fellow veteran.

operated with a joystick, can travel up to 4 mph, has a tight 20-inch turning radius and lasts up to 20 miles on a charge. It even has a seat belt.

During WWII, Guardabasso served on the USS Intrepid, Boxer, Yorktown and Lexington aircraft carriers in the Pacific theater. All were involved in the heavy battles. Guardabasso earned six stars for six major campaigns, a Victory Medal and a Presidential Unit Citation for the Battle

♦ See VETERAN on page 4A

Smallwood Store fate still in limbo

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

CHOKOLOSKEE — The beleaguered Smallwood Store, the historic icon that anchors the extreme Southwest Florida coast, remains in a battle against developers. Despite years of court actions, Highlands County land speculators Florida-Georgia Grove LLC (FGG) still wants to remove the store's only access road and encircle the old wooden building with a marina-style resort on the edge of Florida's wild Ten Thousand Islands, a fishing paradise where the Gulf and the Everglades meet.

"I don't know how long we can hold out. It's a horrible situation," said proprietor Lynn Smallwood McMillin, granddaughter of store founder Ted Smallwood.

McMillin and her husband, Gary, have been at the helm during the FGG saga, which threatens the store that was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974.

"We don't have any money to go to trial," she said. "And Collier County, which has a stake in this issue since that's who owns the road (Mamie Street, the oldest road in Collier County and named after her grandmother), doesn't really care at all. We're stuck between two evil forces, neither of which is on our side."

A recent New York Times article on the store's fight against development gave significant rise to the issue worldwide, McMillin said.

More than \$6,000 in donations to the Smallwood Store's legal fund were collected and offers of pro bono help came in from out-of-town law firms.

"But where are they?" she said. "They call and I never hear from them again. And, of course, the money has gone for legal expenses."

The FGG property, which was purchased from the Seminole Tribe of Florida a decade ago, is now an unkempt eyesore, McMillin said.

"The grass and weeds have grown up as tall as the fence," she said. "It looks horrible. We see people pull up in their cars, take one look at that mess and turn around, afraid to come further down the road to where we are."

Several months ago, FGG — under orders from Collier County — made an effort to clean up the lot, which also contains lime rock boulders. Despite warnings regarding the site's archaeological significance, FGG shaved the landscape. State and federal archaeologists were stunned. They investigation is ongoing.

"I haven't heard a word about any of that," McMillin said. "They came out here, picked up a bunch of evidence in their bags and left. It's like those (developers) can waltz in here and do whatever they want without recourse."

"Actually the incident at Chokoloskee at the property next to the Smallwood Store is still under investigation as far as I know," said Paul Backhouse, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, whose staff is assisting in the probe. "Nobody is sure what is going to happen next, but I know the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is definitely interested. It's still an active case."

In fact, believing that Mamie Street was a private road that they owned and not



Peter B. Gallagher

A survivor of hurricanes and lightning since 1906, the historic Smallwood Store now faces the most dangerous threat of all: Florida developers.

a county road, FGG installed a fence across the road, blocking access to the store for six months — a move that was later reversed by a Circuit Court judge who ordered the road repaved and access restored.

McMillin said attempts at mediating the situation failed.

"They wouldn't do what they promised to do," she said.

Calls to FGG offices were not returned. Ted Smallwood's trading post was the original post office for this part of

Florida. Storekeeper Smallwood was the first white man in the area to trade with the Seminole Indians following the Indian Wars, permitting the Natives to camp on his property and giving them monetary credit. It is also famous as the site where outlaw Ed Watson was gunned down by a vigilante force of locals — a legendary incident explored by author Peter Matthiessen in his 2008 "Killing Mr. Watson," part of his "Shadow Country" trilogy that won the 2008 National Book Award.

Tribes support changing recognition process

BY PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

MASHPEE, Mass. (AP) — American Indians attending a July 29 hearing at the Mashpee Wampanoag community center on Cape Cod said they support the federal government's plan to make it easier for Tribes to gain federal recognition.

But the Tribal representatives, from New Jersey, Virginia, Missouri, New England and elsewhere, urged the U.S. Department of the Interior to go further. They called for setting a time limit on the review process, which can sometimes take decades.

"There's something wrong when a process takes more than a generation to complete," said Cedric Cromwell, Chairman of the Tribal Council for the Mashpee Wampanoags, which won federal recognition in 2007 after a 30-year quest.

increased government benefits and special privileges, including seeking commercial ventures like building casinos and gambling facilities on sovereign lands.

Tribal leaders also strongly objected to a proposal they said effectively gives "veto power" to certain "third parties" when a Tribe seeks to re-apply for recognition.

Dennis Jenkins, Chairman of the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation in Connecticut, said the provision would allow states, municipalities and other organizations that oppose Tribal recognition to stand in the way of the federal decision-making process.

"It would be next to impossible for us to re-apply if this proposal goes through," he said.

One attendee suggested the proposed changes would "devalue" federal Tribal recognition by setting the bar too low.

"The current process was not intended to create a Tribal existence where none had

existed," said Michelle Littlefield, Taunton resident who has been an outspoken opponent of the Mashpee Wampanoags' plan to build a \$500 million resort casino in that city. "It is meant to protect the integrity of the historical Native American Tribes that have an honored place in our nation's history."

The hearing was the last in a series of nationwide meetings on the proposal, and the only one held on the East Coast.

Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn said the department believes it can make the Tribal recognition process less costly and burdensome to Tribes and more predictable and transparent without "sacrificing rigorosity."

The Mashpee, who hosted the meeting, are among only 17 Tribes that have been recognized by the Interior Department since the process was established 35 years ago.

The majority of the 566 federally

recognized Tribes in the U.S. earned that status through an act of Congress.

The Interior Department proposes, among other things, lowering the threshold for Tribes to demonstrate community and political authority.

Rather than from "first sustained contact" with non-Indians, Tribes would need only to provide evidence dating back to 1934, which was the year Congress accepted the existence of Tribes as political entities. Washburn said that proposal, in particular, could help "level the playing field" among Tribes.

Eastern Tribes, he said, would otherwise need to provide a much more exhaustive historical record — sometimes dating as far back as 1789 — than their western counterparts.

"We've heard over and over that the process is broken," Washburn said. "We're going to do something."

Study blames lost calves on panthers

BY JASON DEAREN
Associated Press

IMMOKALEE (AP) — Since Florida's frontier days when cattlemen drove their herds through the state's vast fields and forests, ranchers and native panthers have been natural enemies.

The ranchers seek to nurture and protect their calves, while the panthers see them as prey.

Human development won the battle, driving the large, tawny cats to the brink of extinction before successful efforts to restore them began decades ago.

But with Florida's panther population recovering, some ranchers complain the protected 6-to-7-foot long predators are once again killing their calves.

Now, university research supports that claim, at least in one part of southwest Florida.

A University of Florida researcher hired by federal wildlife officials has found that

panthers are killing calves in an area where the predatory felines are thriving. Her study, the first to quantify the kills and losses, was given to The Associated Press exclusively.

The research marks the first step toward the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considering a program that would pay ranchers for preserving acres of panther habitat, instead of undertaking the impossible task of verifying every kill.

"Ranchers will tell you that they suspected panthers were killing their calves, although no one knows how many they're losing," said Caitlin Jacobs, the university researcher who staked out a ranch for the better part of two years. "It's hard to find the calves — when panthers kill they drag the prey into the forest and cover it with brush to hide them from scavengers."

It's estimated that at one time, more than 1,300 panthers roamed Florida before their numbers dwindled — at one point in the 1800s, the state's government offered \$5 for panther scalps. There were as few as 20

panthers in the 1990s, but the population has rebounded thanks to conservation efforts.

The problem began to draw the attention of state and federal wildlife officials about four years ago, after third-generation Florida rancher Liesa Priddy, owner of the 9,300-acre JB Ranch, became suspicious when a new calf vanished.

Ranchers had been telling federal and state wildlife officials about the problem for years, but lacked scientific evidence. Calves are also commonly killed by coyotes, vultures and even bears.

In the past, ranchers simply would have shot the panthers, but because the state's 100 to 180 panthers are legally protected under the Endangered Species Act, they have few options.

Priddy had a local outdoorsman stake out her pasture with night-vision goggles. That night, a panther took a calf and they found the carcass, Priddy said.

She called out a state biologist, who confirmed it was a panther kill and began

the research to find out how pervasive the issue had become.

The researchers targeted two ranches and tagged 400 calves on each. They found that JB Ranch, which has nearby forests where panthers can hide, lost 10 calves, or about 5 percent.

A beef cow can go for around \$1,000. A lost heifer can cost future profits from breeding more cows.

The other ranch lost only one calf to panthers over that time.

The study's results are set to be released later this year. The information can help wildlife managers move forward on ideas for compensating ranchers.

Right now, small ranchers with less than 100 head of cattle can apply for compensation from two nonprofits: Defenders of Wildlife and Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

But those programs aren't used by bigger ranches, Godsea said, and don't have the resources to address the larger problem.

Moving forward with the Honoring First American Veterans Campaign

- Stephen Bowers

The American Indian Veteran Memorial Initiative convinced Congress to build a statue on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian to commemorate and recognize the contributions of the American Indian, Alaskan Native and Pacific Islander veterans. Try as we might, we couldn't get a statue to be made a part of the Three Servicemen Statue because it is an iconic statue and there will be no "add-ons."

Our next stop is the Education Center of the Vietnam Wall. The Education Center is an exciting opportunity for an "Honoring First American Veterans" exhibit that would focus on the service of American Indian, Alaskan Native and Pacific Islanders. The Education Center at the Wall will be a rallying point for generations to come.

The Honoring First American Veterans Campaign is a major element of the capital campaign to build the Education Center at the Wall.

This special effort recognizes that American Indians, Alaskan Natives and Pacific Islanders have been unwavering in their devotion, self-sacrifice and service to the nation since its earliest days through today. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) wants to ensure the respectful and befitting recognition of these First Americans.

Below are the goals of the Honoring First American Veterans Campaign.

Objective 1: Raise at least \$10 million to build the Education Center at The Wall, pledge at the earliest possible opportunity and paid through the end of the campaign on Dec. 30, 2018. As the result of this effort, VVMF will set aside an exhibit space inside the Education Center for a dedicated exhibit to their service and sacrifice.

Objective 2: Collect the missing 67 photographs of First Americans who fell in the Vietnam War. Collect photographs and remembrances of Native American, Native Alaskan and Pacific Islanders who served in America's wars from the Revolutionary War through today's conflicts.

RSVP for Nov. 15 tribute to Alice Micco Snow

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

NAPLES — During her life, the late Seminole herbalist Alice Micco Snow amassed tremendous knowledge of Florida plants and their healing powers. She collected, grew, harvested and transported much of the flora used by Tribal medicine doctors. It is fitting that her memory will be honored and carried on at a locale uniquely filled with Florida plants and landscapes.

The Naples Botanical Garden 170 acres of cultivated gardens and preservation land representing seven distinct natural habitats and featuring more than 1,000 species, will pay tribute to Snow on Nov. 15 during a ceremony that will put her name on a Florida lake. A donor who interacted with Snow in the late 1990s has made a sizeable donation to the garden with the stipulation that the lake be named after the Seminoles' legendary medicine carrier.

Garden staff is working with Seminole Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff and Snow's relatives to organize the event that will begin at 10 a.m. at the garden, 4820 Bayshore Drive. Dignitaries and Tribal leaders will participate in a program that will include the planting of an acorn from the famed Council Oak in Hollywood. Photos from the Stanley Hanson Collection will be on display, and tours of the garden will be provided.

"My mother would be so proud of all this," said Salina Dorgan, of Brighton. "Plants and medicine were her whole life. I can't tell you how many times we'd be riding down the road and she would look out the window and say, 'Pull over, go back, there's something I want to see back there.' Sure enough, she would find a plant she needed."

Dorgan, her nephew Jack Chalfant and niece Shannon Purvis toured the site recently and have been discussing the lake's name with garden officials. So far, suggested names include Alice's Lake, Lake Alice Micco Snow or Lake *Tefolothokv* (Snow's Indian name, which translates to "go around each other").

Tribal members and families will be admitted free to the event. In order to gauge crowd numbers and facilitate planning, Tribal members planning to attend are urged to RSVP as soon as possible by contacting Dorgan at 863-634-6380 or SalinaDorgan@semtribe.com.

♦ IRON HORSE

From page 3A

He rode alongside a camel on a dirt road in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; cut into a buffalo herd in Custer State Park, South Dakota; and cruised through the European countryside in Prague, Czech Republic.

For his 50th birthday, Osceola traversed the postcard-perfect winding roads of Oahu, Hawaii.

As for the dangers of driving a motorcycle, Osceola said there are two kinds of bikers: "Ones who have fallen off and those who haven't yet."

He earned a broken wings patch after being involved in a crash six hours into a Kyle Petty Charity Ride. He knows the Creator was with him because of three rescuers who stopped to help him. One was a nurse, one was a preacher and the other was a biker who was the first to dial 911.

A few bumps and a few weeks later, Osceola was back in the saddle.

"Bikers play as hard as they work. You can be yourself, free. People who ride horses feel it and the motorcycle is my iron horse," he said.



Photo courtesy of Donna Kahn

Elaine Westermeyer, benefits counselor, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dan Hunt, of the Okeechobee chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America; and Marc McCabe, bureau chief and regional director of the Vietnam Veterans of America join Jack Smith Jr., who sits in his Quantum 600 scooter chair at the Brighton Veterans' Building Aug. 13.

♦ VETERAN

From page 3A

of Midway. He came home a disabled veteran after the Lexington was hit by a Japanese torpedo. He spent the rest of his life in wheelchair or scooter before passing away earlier this year.

After Guardabasso's death, Kase made sure his uncle's request for the scooter was honored and he facilitated the transaction, McCabe said. The recipient of Guardabasso's last wish was glad to benefit from it.

"Now I'll be able to get to events easier," Smith said. "Between my cane and my scooter, I'll be all set."

Federal officials discuss energy development

BY SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — The potential for renewable energy development in the Southwest is tremendous, but two top officials in President Barack Obama's administration said Aug. 11 much work needs to be done to meet the challenges of exporting that power to market.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz were among dozens of state and Tribal officials who met in Santa Fe as part of the administration's effort to develop recommendations regarding the transmission, storage and distribution of energy.

Jewell and Moniz said one of the biggest challenges has been working across state lines and Native American jurisdictions to site and permit transmission and pipeline projects. They pointed to the \$2 billion SunZia project between New Mexico and Arizona as one example.

The proposed transmission line was stalled for months until the Department of Defense offered a compromise this spring that eased concerns about the project's effects on operations at a missile range in southern New Mexico.

Jewell said the U.S. needs a comprehensive plan for energy development. Instead of seeing individual processes, a strategic focus is needed that considers the expansion of oil and gas with renewable energy and the planning of transmission lines and pipelines all at the same time.

"Each of us has a role to play and how do we knit those things together so that we can cooperate and have an energy future that is more sensible, less complicated and less bureaucratic than it's been," she said. "Certainly, we have a long way to go to make that happen."

More than a dozen meetings are being held around the country as part of the administration's energy review. A report focused on infrastructure challenges is expected in January.

Previous meetings in other states have covered rail and barge transportation issues, the growing connections between natural gas and electricity production and infrastructure limitations in developing shale resources.

One of the focuses of the New Mexico meeting was the federal government's relationship with Tribes, which have vast reserves of coal, other fossil fuels and

renewable energy potential. Experts have estimated that solar and wind energy from Tribal lands alone could supply a significant percentage of the nation's annual electricity needs.

Ben Shelly, president of the Navajo Nation, the country's largest Native American reservation, was among those at the meeting. He told the panel that Congress needs to act to give Tribes the same seat at the table as states when it comes to energy-related issues. He said Tribes want to be able to make their own decisions when it comes to energy development on their lands.

The Navajo Nation has a coal supply that could last another 200 years, as well as prime areas for solar and wind development, Shelly said.

"The Indian Tribe that has the resource, they're just the audience right now," he said during a break in the meeting. "What I want to do is form a team and play the game. We're capable, we have the resources to form the team and compete."

Moniz and Jewell said they expect Tribes to play a key role in supplying the U.S. with energy in the future, but they acknowledged more needs to be done to spur investment partnerships that can help Tribal projects get off the ground.



Eileen Soler

Roel 'Roy' Herrera shows how water from a 6-acre retention pond, a man-made wetland that cleanses rainwater and runoff, is sucked into a pipe for transfer into a another water body that flows through the Brighton Reservation. The outside of the pipe is equipped with an electronic device that measures and records water levels.

RAIN

From page 1A

with maintaining the existing drainage ways so that when there is a major storm we have adequate drainage. The average resident does not realize what goes on behind a very complicated process," Myers said.

Roel "Roy" Herrera, the department's resource conservation coordinator for Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations, said the problems run deep.

"Roads go underwater, water backs up into yards, horses and cattle are ankles deep in water. Water is everywhere," Herrera said.

In Brighton's Knott's Landing section, workers placed boards over a walkway to allow residents to pass. At the new town home construction site, building stopped and electric pumps were used to remove water.

Workers shoveled sediment from the bottoms of canals to re-establish allowable drainage depths. Meanwhile, cattle and horses from several ranches were corralled to higher ground while frogs and water birds made themselves at home in flooded fields.

Through it all, projects continued to restore a deteriorated roadway culvert at another canal, to build retention ponds and to re-route the right-angled path of another canal into a curved, smoother flow.

At Flowing Well Grove, where rows of orange trees flourish, water was pumped to the B-9 canal which flows into B-4 and eventually Harney Pond Canal. A community pump, installed seven years ago to drain the main hub of the community into a community ditch, was closely controlled and monitored.

Water in Brighton is moved through a complicated built-as-needed system that eventually leads to an area dubbed "The Triangle," where the main reservation canal and a private property canal meet a SFWMD canal that connects to Lake Okeechobee.

"We work hand in hand with the district," Herrera said.

After every heavy rain, the agency liaison is called to initiate a chain of electronic commands that pulls plugs from reservation canals and allows the water to flow out. It works in reverse during times of drought when the SFWMD diverts water into the reservation.

Myers said rain on Big Cypress measured a tad less than Brighton, but a water conservation plan implemented for water supply, environmental reasons and flood control by the Tribe and the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1980s and 1990s redirects the rainwater into basins and conveyance canals so flooding is minimal.

But Big Cypress is not immune to rainstorm issues. The storms put the reservation, about 20,000 acres larger than Brighton and sitting at lower elevation, on water maintenance response.

Myers said workers used tools that resemble long sticks to pull plugs for drainage from canals into a basin on the north end of the reservation, and ERMD, with Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, is working on a plan to alleviate an area northeast of County Road 833 that is prone to flooding.

In Brighton, the drainage system is continually evolving, Herrera said.

"As business, home sites and Tribal facilities expand, we compensate," he said.

For example, ongoing road work and construction along Harney Pond Road for the new Public Safety Administration Building required narrowing a drainage canal that runs parallel to the road. Herrera said the smaller canal could spur plans to install a retention pond. A retention area will also likely be needed to thwart future flooding at the townhouse site.

Myers said heavy rain and subsequent drainage challenges are "a common Florida thing" despite the natural wetlands of Big Cypress and Brighton.

"It's the wet season in Florida and a lot of times this kind of thing happens. We live in Florida and we can't rainproof the area; you just have to adapt to every situation and circumstance when they come up," Myers said. "Fortunately, we have the people and the expertise to do it well."



Eileen Soler

Rainwater from pasture land that drained into a canal then under a dike via a pumping station flows into a lush retention pond dotted with natural tree islands and teaming with native wildlife on the Brighton Reservation.

HOUSING

From page 1A

Seminars empowered Tribes to take charge of building communities via the Native American Housing Assistance Self Determination Act and HUD's Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Program. Workshops included History of Indian Housing; Tribal Governments and Housing Authorities Should be Friends; Accessible Communities for Elders and Tribal Members with Disabilities; and Program Management of Affordable Housing.

Many workshops began with historical references to ancestral Native housing such as the tipi of the Great Plains, the longhouse of the Pacific Northwest and the hogan of the Southwest.

Traditional homes, clustered in self-sufficient village societies, were built with respect to climate, culture, religion and local government.

"Shelter was culturally driven. When you live this close to the earth, you look to the earth to sustain you," Boyd said. "Indian housing today is about looking back and reinventing, rebuilding and redesigning using our own cultural ideas and materials."

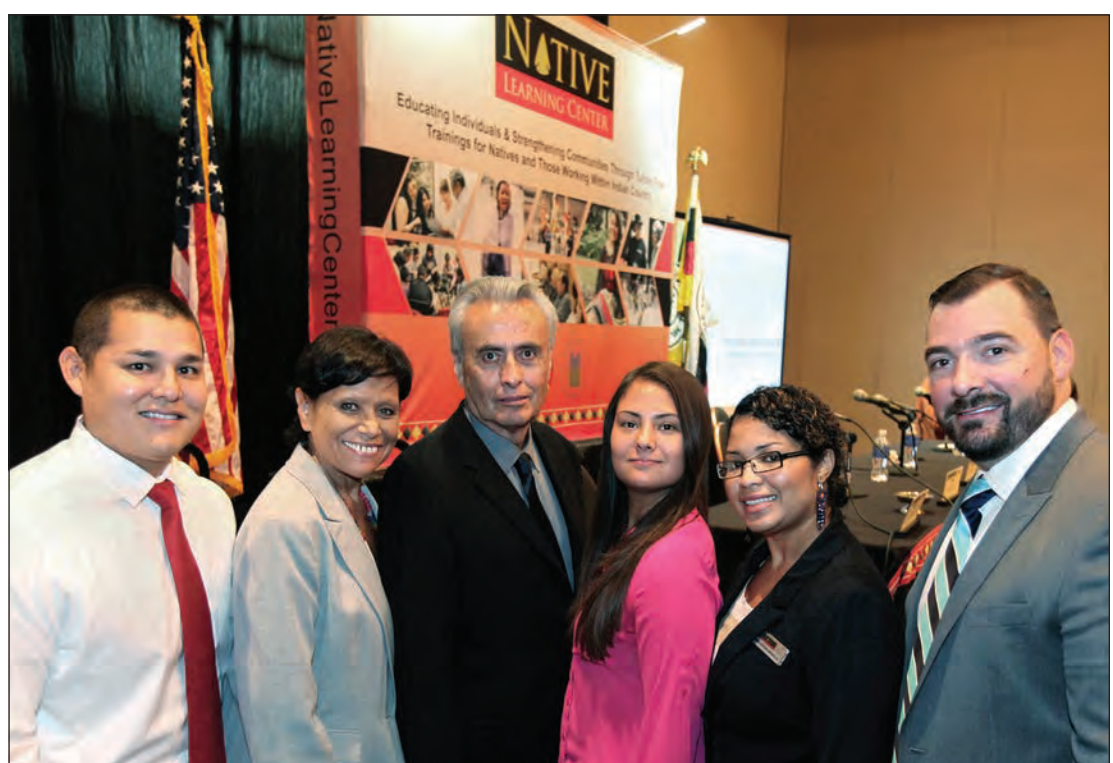
Following forced removal from homelands and displacement to unfamiliar regions in the mid-1800s, ancestors fended for themselves. Homes were ramshackle at best, built with whatever materials were available, said Vince Franco, NLC compliance and resource development director.

The Indian Housing Program, part of the United States Housing Act of 1937, introduced rows of nearly identical three bedroom and one bathroom tract HUD homes that were built cheaply and fast throughout Indian Country regardless of location or Tribal culture.

HUD controlled all aspects from spending to building.

Social and economic problems followed and compounded for decades, said Crow Tribe member Daniel Glenn, the owner of 7 Directions Architects/Planners.

"High unemployment rates, poverty, teenage pregnancy rates, you name it, almost every social issue was magnified," Glenn said.



Eileen Soler

Native Learning Center staff flank Rodger Boyd, deputy assistant secretary of the Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), at the Indian Housing Training Conference in Catoosa, Oklahoma. From left are Kyle Doney, Georgette Palmer Smith, Boyd, Krystle Young, Marie Dufour Bonville and Nathan Harris.

The Native American Housing Assistance Self Determination Act of 1996 changed everything, Glenn said, by putting control of HUD grants into Tribal hands. With that, came opportunity for Tribes to return to ancestral roots that included building self-sustaining communities centered around culture and family.

Boyd said the future of Native housing is economic development. Already, Native-owned construction businesses are manufacturing building materials, providing solar energy, landscaping communities and launching contract services to support the housing industry.

"More than walls and a roof, our homes are about values and identity. It is inherent to who we are to be sustainable to ourselves," said architect Scott Moore y Medina, of the Native-owned Blue Star Studio.

Boyd also demonstrated how Tribes can grow plans for development by taking a conservative HUD-awarded Indian Housing Block Grants (IHBG) and leveraging the amount into millions.

For example, the Cook Inlet's Mountain View revitalization housing project in Anchorage, Alaska started with a \$433,588 IHBG grant that blossomed through three steps to a whopping \$7.1 million.

In Washington, the Makah Tribe

leveraged a \$200,000 grant three more steps to \$5.4 million.

For 2015, HUD has requested approximately \$648 million to be distributed in IHBG funds to 369 Native interests in 34 states. About \$416 million has so far been allocated this year.

HUD program specialist Michelle Tinnin said the agency provides assistance to Tribes "from when they start dreaming of the project or all the way through." But, she said the NLC housing conference's inter-Tribal trainers, industry professionals and agency officials were the first of its kind to provide invaluable information from inside Tribal resources.

"They work in a unique way because they are able to facilitate nationally. They are a huge catalyst. When you talk about utilizing partnerships, looking at issues holistically and affecting an entire community, the Native Learning Center has it done," Tinnin said.

NLC deputy executive director Kyle Doney said the program answers the Tribe's responsibility to all of Indian Country.

"We hold ourselves to higher standards," Doney said. "We're not just representative of the Seminole Tribe; we try to reach as many Tribes as possible because we are all the people of Indian Country."

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LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
A82220	2007	FORD	F-150 XLT CREW CAB (4WD)	146,731	Poor	\$6,913.00
515912	N/A	BRIGGS & STRATON GENERATOR	3750W EMERGENCY GENERATOR	N/A	Poor	\$100.00
542302	N/A	NINTENDO WII	WII	N/A	Fair	\$65.00
13460	N/A	GYRO TRAC	BRUSHCUTTER HEAD FROM GT18XP	N/A	Poor	\$3,650.00
6C5623	2000	CHAMPION MOBILE HOME	310C- 3 BEDS & 2 BATHS	N/A	Fair	\$26,283.00

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HAVE YOU SEEN US ONLINE?





Photo courtesy of Tony King

Participants line up July 19 for the debut of the Big Cypress Bike Rally in memory of July Billie, an avid cyclist and member of the Otter Clan.

New women's support group forms in Hollywood

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Family Services in Hollywood started a women's group in July to encourage women to support one another, learn that their issues are universal and understand that others struggle, too.

The group meets for lunch and conversation Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. Led by Family Services employees Mary Olitzky and Billie Tiger, a Tribal member, group discussions offer a broad focus and encourage meaningful dialogues.

Using the book "Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul," the women read a passage aloud each week and then discuss it. Themes focus on positive, self-affirming issues like motherhood, self-esteem and overcoming obstacles. The format encourages conversation regardless of age or challenges.

"It opens up a bouncing off of each other," said Tiger, a sober house assistant. "I express my personal issues, so they see it's OK to talk. Culturally, it's hard for Seminole women to speak. You see a little bit of hope when they start talking."

The setting isn't always easy for participants to embrace, but with time Olitzky and Tiger hope it will become more comfortable.

"When they are in the group and open up, they really enjoy it and connect with each other in ways they haven't in the past," Olitzky said. "We want them to become friends outside of the group, so they can be a support network when they need one."

Olitzky and Tiger try not to have any expectations for the group — they know people will only share so much.

"They don't know each other's deep passion, shame, embarrassment and low self-esteem," Olitzky said.

"We'd like to see them gain and grow from this experience," Tiger added. "That comes from my heart because I know what helped me learn and grow. It can be a positive thing for them."

Olitzky emphasized that the group is for general support only; it isn't therapy.

"We want them to come out with life lessons, new friendships and a support network," Olitzky said. "And that they take away something for themselves each week, even if it's as simple as they sat in the group, heard people share and realize they aren't alone."

Dozens of cyclists rally in memory of July Billie

Big Cypress community hopes to make the memorial an annual event

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The lasting legacy of beloved Tribal member July Billie, of the Otter Clan, was clearly evident July 19 at a community event to mark the anniversary of his death.

July was fondly remembered just days from what would have been his 40th birthday.

The fitness buff, on the cusp of a career in sports therapy when he passed July 31, 2013, was memorialized with the inaugural Big Cypress Bike Rally.

More than 50 Tribal members trekked out on two- and three-wheelers for the nearly 4-mile event hosted by July's mother, Hannah Billie, and sponsored by the Health Department.

Hannah said her daughter, Lisa Billie, suggested that the two hold an annual event to remember their loved one, the father of daughters Braudie, Tia and Brianna Blais-Billie.

Allied Health program manager Suzanne Davis helped create the fitness-themed event. July was an avid cyclist who

shunned driving a car and employed his bicycle as his only form of transportation.

"My son rode a bike every day wherever he went, even the 14 miles he took to classes at school. He always made sure his arms and legs were strong and that his body was in good shape," Hannah said.

First, second and third place trophies filled with popcorn were awarded because popcorn was July's favorite food. Prizes also included popcorn makers.

Hannah said her son was passionate about teaching other people how to take care of their bodies. He valued his friends and family — mostly his daughters.

But July lost his battle against an enemy.

"He struggled with alcohol. He admitted himself to treatment because he knew it was a problem. It was a problem that in the end he did not win," Hannah said.

Hannah said next year's bike rally will likely feature additional health- and fitness-related activities.

"My son was about to get his sports therapy license. He always wanted to share what he learned so that is how we will keep his memory alive," Hannah said.



Photo courtesy of Tony King

From left, Brianna Blais-Billie, Hannah Billie and Tia Blais-Billie prepare to wheel through the streets of Big Cypress Reservation at the inaugural Big Cypress Bike Rally in memory of July Billie.



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Eileen Soler

A new exhibit running from Sept. 13 through Nov. 9 at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum will highlight the history of skateboarding as a popular reservation sport. Here, boys in Big Cypress enjoy the activity.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki to wheel in Smithsonian skateboard exhibit

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Quenton Cypress thought his job at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum was cool, but when the work program trainee was tapped for consultation about a national traveling exhibit, he was convinced.

"The show is about skateboarding in Indian Country, so I'm stoked. I can honestly say it's awesome," said Cypress, an avid skateboarder who hits the Big Cypress skate park nearly every night.

Planned for exhibit Sept. 13 through Nov. 9 in the Museum's main room, the "Ramp It Up: Skateboard Culture in Native America" show from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) can't come soon enough.

Opened in 2009, the exhibit of 73 rare objects and images of Native American skateboarding has been viewed at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in New York and Washington and about 20 other museums nationwide.

The show will arrive at the Big Cypress Reservation venue from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Connecticut.

According to the SITES web page, the exhibit highlights the history of skateboarding as a popular reservation sport since rooted in West Coast Native American and Native Hawaiian surfing

communities of the 1960s.

On view will be a 1973 video featuring Zephyr Competition Team members Ricky and Jimmy Tavarez, of the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe in California. Also included will be 20 skateboard decks, including one from 1969 that depicts traditional Native artwork and other skate-related works from Native American artists Dustinn Craig, Bunky Echo-Hawk, Traci Rabbit and Joe Yazzie.

Rebecca Fell, the Museum's curator of exhibits, said the show will be staged in the west gallery's 1,000-square-foot space. A graffiti art wall by Seminole member Wilson Bowers will backdrop the entrance. On the Mosaic Gallery, five skateboard decks will boast Native skater themes.

Fell said Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum was under different management about five years ago when the decision was made to host the show. Last year, new staff members wondered if the show would still be meaningful.

"It was serendipity to have two skateboarders here, Quenton and even Paul (Backhouse, Museum director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer), to tell us how deeply relevant the exhibit really is," Fell said. "It's a great sport that flourishes on reservations. All you need is a board and some obstacle to jump."

A public reception for the show will be held Sept. 20 from 1-3 p.m. Skater friendly foods like pizza bagels and slushies will be

served, and kids who register before the event will be invited to create their own decks, Fell said.

More skateboard fun will be offered at the Museum's American Indian Arts Celebration Nov. 7-8 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Skaters will be able to "skate jam" on a mobile halfpipe ramp. Skate contests will cap each day.

Cypress said the skateboard activities will enhance the exhibit. Together, they could prove to people of all ages that skateboarders are athletes and artists rolled into one, he said.

For the former Ahfachkee School student-athlete who competes regularly in national Indian Country golf tournaments, skateboarding is a competitive sport that requires agility, strength coordination and discipline.

Board art can spin into careers in fine art, commercial graphics, advertising or other business ventures, Cypress said.

"Or skateboarding can be just a good way to work out and relieve stress," he said. Bowers' artwork can be seen at the skate park where he repaints graffiti art walls near pipes, ramps and rails every few months.

Fell said the show has a history of good reviews.

"There is a largely positive response from reservation culture. Skateboarding keeps kids active, athletic and in a positive attitude," she said.

BOEHMERS

From page 3A

Through 28 years of service with the Tribe, the Boehmers catalogued 2,137 photos. In 2009, the Museum acquired a copy of the collection and corresponding index cards that provide the location, date, event, activity or people in the photographs.

The original negatives and another copy of the prints are housed at the National Anthropological Archives of the Smithsonian Institution.

During the reception, 17 binders containing all the photographs lay on a table for attendees to peruse, while digital copies were made available on a computer. Order forms allowed community members to request free copies of pictures portraying family members or significant events.

"We hope people feel like the exhibit is for them; it's for the Tribe," Fell said. "This belongs to them."

The exhibit is open to the public through Oct. 31.



Brett Daly

During the opening reception of the Boehmer Collection exhibit, attendees peruse binders containing more than 2,000 images from the early days of the Seminole Tribe.

THPO

From page 1A

"Finding a Seat at the Table" is a metaphor for ensuring Tribes are given equal treatment and respect when dealing with local, state and federal agencies — and that they are armed with powerful documentation, he said.

In 2008 and 2009, Backhouse and THPO's chief data analyst Juan Cancel hosted seminars in San Diego, California to show how the department uses geographic information system (GIS) equipment as a tool for capturing, mapping, storing, analyzing, presenting and managing data gleaned from above the ground.

Last year, the department hosted a seminar in ground-penetrating radar (GPR) at a conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico to illustrate how the Tribe uses technology to gather large volumes of data without breaking ground in culturally sensitive areas.

Cancel said his most recent one-on-one consultation was with the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut who he taught how to put the equipment to practical use in the field.

"They came down and we gave them a tour ... then we went to them," Cancel said. "The biggest part of what we do is sharing our own story."

Currently, 155 of the 566 federally recognized Tribes in the United States have THPO departments.

The federal government provides some funding which many Tribes use to purchase equipment and technology. In 2013, the government provided 152 Tribes with \$7.5 million — Seminole Tribe's THPO received \$53,896 of the share.

Cancel said all THPOs are gifted with knowledge and passion for archaeology and anthropology. But many departments are short-staffed and not all know how to operate

technologic tools in field applications or convert the data into documentation for preservation battles.

"For example, the Mohegan had a recording device but did not have a workflow system to use it. We have that process so we went there and trained them. We said, 'This is how we use it; this is how it can work for you,'" Cancel said.

THPOs were created from a 1989 act of Congress that directed the National Park Service (NPS) to study and report on Tribal preservation funding needs in respect to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. In 1990, a dozen Tribes assumed responsibility for preserving their own historic properties, traditions, native plants, language and other cultural resources through THPO departments.

The Seminole Tribe's THPO, created in 2006, is organized into five sections: archaeometry, architectural history, collections, compliance review and Tribal archaeology.

According to the department's 2013

annual report, the compliance section alone — which protects Seminole interests on and off reservations — handled 3,575 project notifications and consultation requests from nine states.

Backhouse said the book will put power in the hands of other Tribes by putting information at their fingertips.

It will also give local, state and federal agencies a view of how one Tribal government and THPO department gets the job done.

"It really will be a how-to book," Backhouse said.

Each technical chapter is followed by a chapter written or reported orally by elders and other Tribal leaders in history, culture and medicine, including Willie Johns, of Brighton. Johns, who formerly led the Education and Culture Departments, is now a chief justice of Tribal Court. His chapter will confirm a vital relationship between history and archaeology.

"When we talk to the medicine man and he tells us what our uncles and fathers knew about how they survived wars, the economy of the old days and the land-grubbing Americans who pushed our wars, we learn," Johns said. "And just when you think you know all you can stand, someone makes a discovery."

Johns credits archaeology for the recent discovery of early Seminole log cabins in Bowlegs Town along the Suwannee River in Dixie County.

Later, in May, a historical marker was unveiled in Brooksville, Hernando County, to commemorate the site of the first Creek settlement in Florida.

And in July, proof that a military trail worthy of the National Register of Historic Places exists on land near Big Cypress was produced as evidence in a courtroom battle that Tribal leaders hope will prevent the construction of a massive power plant.

"If there is a line for what we dig up, we know it when we see it. Still we should investigate it, check it out, see what it is, keep it, report it — and more Native people should be involved," Johns said.

And not all historical discoveries should be revealed, he said.

Cancel said GIS provides ground mapping, spatial formations and surface analysis. GPR provides pictures, like sonograms, of what is underground, such as pipelines.

"Tribes are usually looking for things of such sensitive nature that they are not even spoken about ... basically we want to be

non-invasive, non-digging. We don't want to put a shovel in the ground," Cancel said.

Johns said the book allows the Tribe to take the lead in historical preservation just as it has in education, housing, health care, gaming and other Indian County concerns. He hopes Tribal youth will read it, tell friends and create a movement toward more discovery and preservation.

"Right now, archaeology and Native history go hand in hand. When is enough, enough? When we say so," Johns said. "We wrote the book on it."

"Right now, archaeology and Native history go hand in hand. When is enough, enough? When we say so. We wrote the book on it."

— Willie Johns, Tribal historian

GARDEN

From page 3A

During rainy season, elders occasionally planted gardens on tree islands. Samuels said the current garden can withstand up to 6 inches of rainfall.

No pesticides or fertilizers were ever needed.

"If bugs were ever a problem, we would pick them off with our fingers," Osceola said.

The plot will eventually also include sugar cane and several types of melons.

"The gardens of the 1840s were different from the 1920s, so ours will also evolve," Samuels said in reference to oranges from China via Spain that eventually became a Florida industry. "It was always a balancing act of native and non-natives, cultivated plants and whatever grew wild. Everything goes to sustainability. It was a blessing to dedicate our minds to our gardens — and get a decent meal."

The garden is near the end of a mile-long boardwalk that stretches through natural swamp land to the scene of a native camp. Paul Backhouse, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, said the garden provides an additional and historically accurate experience for visitors. He said the idea to build the garden came during a visit to the Hibulb Cultural Center and Natural History Preserve in Washington state. Tulalip Tribe elder Veronica Leahy tends a cultural garden at Hibulb that reconnects Tribal members to their roots while teaching how natural foods can thwart common Native American illnesses, such as diabetes.

Samuels said gardens can be credited for the very survival of the Seminole Tribe. "Here we are in 2014 in a simple garden that teaches technology, history, culture and survival and teaches the young what our elders endured. We are still here today because it was passed down generation to generation," Samuels said. "On a spiritual level, what we ate was from the Creator. It healed our body and mind."

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Beverly Bidney

The new Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez, right, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Nunez – cousins from the Brighton Reservation – beam after taking the crowns July 26 at the 57th annual Princess Pageant in Hollywood.

◆ PRINCESS PAGEANT
From page 1A

“Once you’re a princess, you’re always a princess; remember that,” said mistress of ceremonies Gloria Wilson, Miss Florida Seminole 1975 and 1976. Committee chairwoman Wanda Bowers welcomed former princesses and presented the 2014 contestants. Each girl introduced herself to the crowd. “Public speaking is a big part of being a princess,” said Bowers, Miss Florida Seminole 1968 and 1969. “They gain confidence and learn to think on their feet. In a lot of their appearances they will have to speak, so they have to be prepared. They will learn very quickly.”

On pageant day, the Headquarters auditorium was lined with formal portraits of past princesses, starting with a youthful photo of the first Miss Florida Seminole, Connie Gowen, who was appointed by the newly formed Tribal Council in 1957.

Gowen remains an active member of the Princess Committee. As honorary “grandma,” she serves as a comforting figure backstage while the girls prepare for their big moments.

The competition kicked off with a clothing contest, in which contestants modeled modern and traditional patchwork outfits. Talent followed. Alexis showed off her patchwork skills, Brianna sang and Marissa demonstrated how to create zigzag pattern patchwork. Beadwork demonstrations, storytelling and pumpkin frybread making were among the highlights of the Jr. Miss talent competition.

Pageant rules also required all contestants to answer impromptu questions about Tribal history, structure and ways to improve the community.

The winners of the talent competitions were Thomlynn for Jr. Miss for her presentation on the art of storytelling through storyboards and Marissa for Miss Florida Seminole. Cheyenne and Brianna won



Beverly Bidney

Newly crowned Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Nunez smiles as outgoing Jr. Miss Brianna Blais-Billie secures her sash.

the essay contests for Jr. Miss and Miss, respectively, while Patsy was voted Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants.

The pageant was dedicated to the memory of the late Priscilla Doctor Sayen, Miss Florida Seminole 1964 and member of the Princess Committee, who served the Tribe for 35 years as Secretary-Treasurer and Secretary.

The newly crowned princesses must juggle school with their royal responsibilities but both look forward to learning about other cultures, attending pow-wows and traveling together.

Brianna, who will attend Tallahassee Community College in the fall, is proud of her Tribe’s accomplishments and wants to educate people about their success during her reign. She also encourages girls to consider running for princess.

“Try it to see if you like it,” she said. “Whether you win or lose, you will always learn something from it.”

Cheyenne, who has started her junior year at Okeechobee High School, hopes to inspire members of her Tribe.

“I want to be a role model to younger girls and be their inspiration,” Cheyenne said. “I want them to know they have a choice in life. I would like to make a difference in someone’s life. If I do, I would be so honored. There is no better feeling than that.”

“I want to be a role model to younger girls and be their inspiration...I would like to make a difference in someone’s life...There is no better feeling than that.”

– Cheyenne Nunez, 2014-15 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole



Photo courtesy of Robert Kippenberger

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., left, and Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard pose with the newly crowned Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Nunez, both of the Brighton Reservation.

Outgoing princesses look back on year in spotlight

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — As they looked back at their reigns as Miss Florida Seminole and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole, Tia and Brianna Blais-Billie agreed the experience brought them closer together.

“It was my last year at home before college, and I’m glad I spent it traveling with my mom and sister,” said Tia, 18. “We rediscovered our sisterly bond and what it’s supposed to be while serving the Tribe.”

Traveling, appearances and speaking engagements defined their year of serving as ambassadors of the Tribe, and the unique aspect of sharing the honor with a sibling enhanced their reigns.

“Family was an important part of the experience this year,” said Brianna, 17. “My sister has always been there for me.”

Highlights included learning about other Tribes, attending the Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, New Mexico and learning how those outside the community viewed the Seminole Tribe.

“I saw a new side of Indian Country I didn’t know was out there,” Tia said. “It was the first time I saw pow-wow life, and it’s something I want to be involved in now.”

Tia learned jingle dancing, something she’s always wanted to do, and plans to continue. Although she was intimidated being the youngest contestant in the Miss Indian World Pageant at the Gathering of Nations in April, she gladly competed.

“I discovered more of who I am and what I’m capable of,” she said. “I learned I could compete alongside these women and that I deserved my spot. They made me feel more at home in Indian Country.”

The pow-wow also impacted Brianna.



Beverly Bidney

Outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie poses with the bronze statue made in her likeness.

“It was the most Indians I’ve seen in one place,” she said. “It’s good to see Indian Country is modern and progressing. It warmed my heart to know we are an evolving, modern people.”

Self-assurance, cultural expertise and public speaking skills are a result of serving as princesses for the year. Tia knows she changed during her time on the public stage.

“I’m more confident when I speak,” she said. “I still get a little nervous, but I put away the doubts I had. Now I know how far I can take my own voice.”

Visiting other communities was part of the job, but witnessing the impact the Tribe had on them was a real eye-opener for Brianna.

“We went to the opening of the Okeechobee arena; the Tribe helped refurbish it,” she said. “It was heartwarming to know the Tribe was having an effect on people’s lives that have no direct affiliation with us.”

During the week leading up to the 2014 Princess Pageant, Tia and Brianna had plenty of time to share their experiences with the new group of contestants preparing for the competition. To cap off the year, a bronze statue of Tia, made by Bradley Cooley and Bradley Cooley Jr., was unveiled at the welcome banquet July 25. The bronze depicts Tia in patchwork clothing holding a traditional Seminole doll.

“It’s been a blessing for us having this team,” said Gloria Wilson, mistress of ceremonies and Miss Florida Seminole 1975 and 1976. “Tia and Brianna have been incredible representatives of the Tribe.”

The next adventure for Tia will be college. She will attend the Rhode Island School of Design and study traditional and digital illustration. Brianna started her senior year at Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale.

Farewell letter from Tia Blais-Billie Miss Florida Seminole 2013-14

I truly can’t believe that the year has passed so quickly. I could not have asked for a better way to spend my last year home before college. Traveling from functions and events as close by as our Tribal Fair, to visiting Oklahoma for the Seminole Nation Days Princess Pageant, I was quickly exposed to an entirely new side of Indian Country I could not even dream of. For example, competing in the Miss Indian World pageant at the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in New Mexico would have sounded like a far off dream to me a year ago – in fact, it did. But before I knew it, I found myself in the heart of the pow-wow, among beautiful young women who stood as sisters. I could never have thought myself capable of standing alongside them had it not been for my time with the crown.

Holding the title of Miss Florida Seminole has taught me more about my Tribe, Indian Country and myself than I would ever have learned on my own. And it goes without saying that I would not have had such a smooth and enjoyable year without the vigorous efforts of my friends and loved ones. So I’d like to say this now: To my mother who, despite the difficulties this year has brought us, has been devoted to our reign tenaciously and lovingly, thank you. Thank you for the hours of travel and stressful packing. Thank you for helping me keep myself together in the chaos of college applications and extracurricular activities I persistently tried to juggle with my princess duties. And thank you for being the life support my sisters and I could not live without. To Wanda and Christine, who journeyed with us every step of the way, keeping us in line and having fun, thank you. For acting as not only mentors, but as friends, I cannot thank you enough.

To my “little” sister Brianna, who was more than often mistaken for Miss, thank you. Though I missed

an opportunity to avoid your constant association of you and me to Anna and Elsa, I’m glad I didn’t miss this opportunity to deepen our bond. And many, many more thanks to the Princess Committee, the Tribal Council and Board of Directors, and friends we made along the way. All of you have done more for me than you can imagine.

It has been an immense honor to serve as your princess and ambassador to the Tribe, one I cannot put into words. Through every question I answered in the name of our Tribe, every speech I delivered, the pride and love of our culture continued to swell in my heart. Moving on to the next chapter of my life, I will undoubtedly continue to do so, as each and every one of us carries a voice for our people, whether we hold a title or not.

My experience has undoubtedly been a life-changing one, and though my time has come to part with the crown and title, I will always carry what I have learned with me; not only about myself but about what it means to carry them. I can rest easy in knowing that the successor of the crown will be a woman truly worthy of carrying it and will continue to bring pride to the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Tia Blais-Billie
Miss Florida Seminole 2013-14



Farewell letter from Brianna Blais-Billie Jr. Miss Florida Seminole 2013-14

The Seminole Princess Pageant is devoted to Seminole culture, history and pride as demonstrated by each contestant. The contestants are young Seminole women who are coming forth to display their skills and knowledge for the judges. The competition not only showcases our customs but our youth’s ability to represent us as a people. The girls will put their charisma and charm to the test, utilizing quick response and public speaking techniques required of both Miss and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole. Each girl honors the strength and bravery of our women, so even if there are only two crowns, each girl is a vital asset to our community. Matriarchy has been a way of life for our people and every contestant will always be a leader in her own right.

The places we have gone have blown me away, and it’s crazy to think how different I would be today had I never been given this opportunity. The princesses of Oklahoma were outstandingly kind and the Oklahoma Seminole Nation was more generous and welcoming than I could have ever dreamed of. The communities of Okeechobee demonstrated the respect our Tribe holds across Florida and the kindness of the reception has warmed my heart. The people of Florida State University, staff and students alike, have given me faith in the honoring of our culture, as the respect given to our Tribe was honest. The Denver March Pow Wow and the Gathering of Nations have awed me in the realization that Indian Country thrives across the nation. I have never experienced the culture of Natives to the magnitude of those two pow-wows, giving me insight that the Tribes from places as far away as Canada are truly just as we are.

In the end, none of this would be possible without my Tribe – from the help of the Hollywood Culture Department in preparing me before the pageant to the Councilmen always smiling with kind words, eager to talk with an authentic interest in the people, to the Seminole Color Guard and veterans demonstrating honor and the warrior spirit of our Tribe with kindness

and support of each other. I’ll never forget my joy at the Tribal members waving back at every parade and rodeo, all coming together to celebrate our Tribe. Even the Seminole Police have made my experience unforgettable with their hospitality and involvement. The Princess Committee has given me a second family. Little Mister Roberto and Little Miss Madasyn have been like younger siblings to me, and I hope to see them do great things in their futures.

Through all our post-parade dinners at Applebee’s to the last-minute trips to Disney with Christine, they have shown me that their kindness expands far beyond their duties. I’d like to thank Wanda personally for always fixing my hair or sash, for telling us stories to make us laugh, to teaching us virtues and etiquette required by the princesses. But most importantly, I’d like to thank Wanda for being passionate about the Princess Committee and giving her all to make sure everything runs its course. Lastly, I’d like to thank my mom, France Blais. I would truly be lost without her.

And since I’m cheery I’d like to end with a quote from the books that gave me hope.

“Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light.”

– J.K. Rowling

Brianna Blais-Billie
Jr. Miss Seminole 2013-14



2014 Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant



Beverly Bidney

Outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie stands with Patsy Veliz, who was voted Miss Congeniality by her fellow contestants.



Beverly Bidney

Cheyenne Nunez waves to the crowd during the 2014 Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant at Tribal Headquarters July 26.



Beverly Bidney

Outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie takes the impromptu question contestant Brianna Nunez picked from the basket.



Beverly Bidney

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestant Thomlynn Billie displays the art of storytelling using storyboards for the talent competition, which she won.



Beverly Bidney

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestant Allegra Billie displays her beadwork during the talent segment.



Beverly Bidney

Miss Florida Seminole contestant Alexis Jumper displays her patchwork clothing during the talent portion of the pageant.



Beverly Bidney

Miss Florida Seminole hopeful Marissa Sanchez shows how to make zigzag patchwork during her winning talent presentation.



Beverly Bidney

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestant Randee Osceola demonstrates how to make pumpkin frybread during the talent competition.



Beverly Bidney

Contestants and cousins Brianna Nunez and Cheyenne Nunez practice answers to possible impromptu questions backstage during the pageant.



Beverly Bidney

Princess Committee chairwoman Wanda Bowers, Miss Florida Seminole 1968 and 1969, introduces Connie Gowen, Miss Florida Seminole 1957, at the welcome banquet at Hard Rock Hollywood July 25.



Beverly Bidney

Allegra Billie, Thomlynn Billie, Connie Gowen and Randee Osceola prepare and relax backstage during the pageant.



Beverly Bidney

Contestants have their photo taken at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood pool during the week leading up to the 57th annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum receives donation of Florence Randle images



Photo courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Seminole children smile for the camera. The second girl from the right was identified as Mary Osceola.

SUBMITTED BY TENNILE JACKSON
 Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Throughout history, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff members have relied on oral and written accounts for information about unfamiliar people, events and places that played significant roles in shaping modern society. While these methods of communication have broadened the staff's historical awareness, they often lack the compelling nature of visual imagery.

Photographs play an essential part in developing knowledge of Seminole history. At the Museum, staff members actively maintain a substantial collection of both

early and modern images of the Seminole Tribe. These photographs supplement many artifacts and documents amassed throughout the years; and while the Museum holds an extensive array of photos, new items are always welcome.

In May, the Museum obtained a number of images taken by photographer Florence Randle. This collection of more than 250 items, which also includes a few postcards, was donated by the late photographer's niece, Laura Wrenn, who personally delivered the items and shared stories with staff about her famous relative.

Like other photographers of the early 20th century, Florence Randle was instrumental in cultivating an understanding of Seminole culture and traditions. Throughout the 1930s and '40s, she photographed Tribal members who resided along the Tamiami Trail and at sites like the Musa Isle Indian Village, which was one of the first tourist camps to emerge in the preceding decades. The establishment of this village, and others that followed, propelled the once enigmatic Seminoles into the public eye. They allowed visitors to observe the Tribe's traditional lifestyle in a modern venue.

While the Museum retains similar images taken by other notable photographers, Randle's photographs have the unique distinction of functioning as both artistic compositions and subtle reminders of a past that was defined by tradition and change. She skillfully documented life within the tourist camps as told through the faces of Tribal members across different generations.

Among the images donated are candid shots of Seminole children



Photo courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Florence Randle took early 20th century photographs in South Florida, including many of Seminole Indians.

engaged in hearty laughter and at play, and photos that feature Tribal members posing with stoic faces that echo the Tribe's enduring spirit. Additionally, Randle captured the daily routines of village life, as Tribal residents can be seen preparing meals under cooking huts, washing clothes along shorelines and taking shelter under the thatched-roof structures that served as temporary dwellings. The photos also illustrate the progression of styles, as they depict men, women and children wearing traditional patchwork clothing, beaded jewelry and distinctive hairstyles.

Though Randle worked as a commercial photographer for most of her career, the opportunity to visually document the Seminole Tribe arose as the result of devastating circumstances. Like many other working Americans, Randle was affected by the crippling impact of the Great Depression. As part of efforts to provide jobs for the unemployed during that time, a federal assistance program known as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was established in 1935 by Franklin D. Roosevelt. The program allowed artists such as Randle and other professionals to complete public works projects that would later be displayed in public spaces throughout the country.

Selections from her body of work have since made their way to the National Archives and federal galleries across the nation. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has also exhibited her works, as they were featured in a 2009 exhibit loaned by the South Florida Community College Museum of Florida Art and Culture.

The collection of photos, postcards and photographic negatives was recently processed by Museum staff and will soon be made available online. As always, Tribal members are welcome to come in help identify those pictured.

Betty Mae Jumper

Wisdom from the past

Big Cypress Memories

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in "A Day in the Life of Big Cypress," a commemorative issue of The Seminole Tribune published in 2000.

As I remember, the first time I ever saw the Big Cypress Reservation it was after I had finished my nurse training at the Kiowa Indian Hospital in Lawton, Oklahoma. It was about 1947, and I was ready to bring modern medicine to my people.

I was working with the people on the Dania Reservation – that's what the Hollywood Reservation was called back then – and I was having some success.

At first many of the Tribal elders resented me – a half-breed and a woman – bringing in the white man's medicine. But when they saw the medicine working, they changed their minds.

I did this by myself over a year, but it was too much for me. I asked the government people if I could get help. After many months, they brought a lady nurse, Miss Drew, from out West.

She was used to working out in the Indian camps, but that was different land out there in the West. She couldn't believe what I had been going through all year working in this manner. She told me, "I don't think I'll last, but we'll try." They gave us an old 1941 Chevrolet sedan and we began traveling in a circuit from Dania, out to the camps along the Tamiami Trail, then up to Big Cypress and Brighton and then back to Dania. We would leave on a Tuesday morning and get back on Friday.

The first trip we gathered all our medicine on Monday and we left on a Tuesday morning. We went to the Trail, and the Miccosukee Indian men wouldn't even allow us to come to the camps. One man actually threatened us with a rifle.

So we left from there and went on to Big Cypress. Now, back then there were a lot of bad roads in Florida. But the road to Big Cypress was not just bad; it wasn't even there.

Back then, the only way to get to Big Cypress was to drive up S.R. 27 to Clewiston, and then you took a road and headed southwest. You had to enter Big Cypress from the north. But they were still making the road. It was so bad we had to stop 10 miles from Big Cypress. There was no road. All the land was flooded, and there were men in big trucks and equipment making a road. We left the car and took our medicine and rode in the cab of an old dump truck to get to Big Cypress.

This was the first time I ever went to Big Cypress. I was bouncing in the cab of an old dump truck and everywhere I looked was mostly under water. There were no roads really, just paths the truck ran on, and they were bad back then. There were a lot of cattle walking around and pigs were also walking around everywhere. There were no houses on Big Cypress, but chickees were everywhere. That's what people lived in. There was one old building that was used as a school building where we stayed when we were taking care of the sick people.

The school building had an old cot and a couch, so we stayed there. Everyone had to sleep under a mosquito net back then. At night, the mosquitoes were real bad. If the Indians did not have a mosquito net, they would sometimes weave a mat out of palm fiber and use that as a cover while they slept.

The people in the chickees also used a smoker. They would throw leaves and

cypress sticks on a fire to make smoke to keep the mosquitoes away. Sometimes they would build fires all around a chickee and the smoke would keep the bugs away. Out in Big Cypress at that time, there were a lot of fires going on all night long to keep the bugs away.

Miss Drew and I ate sandwiches that we carried, although lots of time people would offer us some of their food. There was a wooden stove inside the school and in the morning we would start a fire and make coffee. We would eat our sandwiches until we would leave at noon. When we left, we had to grab the dump truck to drive us back to our car.



But before we left, a woman brought a real sick baby.

We had gone out there to give inoculations. Many of the children had hookworms back then and some actually died because the worms would eat the blood up. The worms were a serious problem, especially along the Trail. I don't remember why this baby was sick, but we had to bring the baby to Miami Memorial Hospital. It took all day long to go back to Miami. We didn't get home to Dania until way in the night.

But that was just the way it was. Every time we went to Big Cypress, we never knew what would happen. Sometimes the men working on the roads wouldn't be there and we would have to park our car and walk the 10 miles into the camp. On those occasions, we would see alligators and possums and raccoons and sometimes a wildcat, or bobcat. Sometimes we saw deer. Many times we saw rattlesnakes. I'm a member of the Snake Clan, but I'm still afraid of snakes. But the snakes were afraid of us, too, and they would go their way and I would go my way. They never hurt us.

After three or four years of this, they finally completed the shell rock road all the way to the reservation. That was a big improvement. I can't tell you how much easier it was to get to Big Cypress from then on. It still wasn't great driving, but at least we had a road to use.

Over the years, people got to know us and they would meet me on the roads coming to me to check their sick relatives or to take them to the hospital. That would take a whole day. That is why I can't understand why the people today find it so hard to work in a nice building or to drive on nice roads now. They don't know what it used to be like out here in Big Cypress, which was the worst place to attend to sick people because it was so isolated.

Not so long ago, Annie Jim from the Trail was sitting and talking to me about how I used to bring needles and give shots to the kids. I told her that I didn't mind the Trail and Brighton, but I told her I hated to go to Big Cypress because the road was so bad. It was so bad you hated driving on that road. And if you couldn't get through, and if no one was around to help, you had a long walk in.

Today I can truly say I am amazed to see what's on Big Cypress. I never would have thought I would live to see the day that Big Cypress would look so good. My son and my grandsons live on Big Cypress and they raise cattle and live here. There are so many modern homes and buildings. We have an airport and two churches, a campground and rodeo ground. And the roads are good, too.

It's remarkable from when I first saw this reservation so many years ago. It has really come a long way, and I'm happy to say it's a big improvement.



Photo courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Unidentified Seminole boys play next to a waterway.

Hah-Pong-Ke: Joe First's 'Roll On Seminoles'

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
 Special Projects Reporter

During a mid-1980s free-form musical exercise at Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Elementary School in Gainesville, school teacher Joe First was playing a rap song he had written for a CD that his students were producing as a class project.

An accomplished musician who excels on piano and accordion, First was in mid-song when one of his students "jumps up and starts dancing and proclaims, 'Man, that's Seminole music,'" he remembered. "After that, when I went home, I thought he had a point and I began writing football lyrics."

First wondered if the student was referring to the American Indian Tribe or the college football team.

After writing a few verses, First heard that Seminole Chairman James E. Billie had stopped by to play guitar at The Tavern at Bayboro open mic night at the University of South Florida's St. Petersburg campus. First drove to the popular music venue and met Chairman Billie.

"I ran the first two verses past him," First recalled. "He said, 'Don't use Osceola. He had his head cut off. Use Aripeka; he was the unconquerable soul.' I told him

the college fans were too bonded with the Osceola figure, but I'd write a verse about Aripeka."

First ended up writing far more than one verse. In the midst of writing the third verse, he received advice from Ken Crawford.

The former Florida Folk Festival director reviewed the song and gave First additional details about the great Seminole leader, including the wide use of his nickname Sam Jones. Armed with new information, First completed the song and recorded it.

"I played the horn parts on a sequencer and an intern from Rawlings named Jay Harris came in and did the sax part live. Mark Dye put on the drums and bass," First said. "The chanting parts are six tracks of myself in unison."

First returned to his roots for his next project.

"The fact I was conceived in Tallahassee was the inspiration for my second CD, 'Native By Conception,'" said First, who was born in Washington, D.C. "My parents met at FSU, but had to go to Thomasville, Georgia to get married because they were too young in Florida. After my dad found out I was conceived, he moved to Washington, D.C. to be near

family. They moved down to Miami when I was 8-months-old and I grew up there. I went to University of Florida and lived in Gainesville for 15 years before moving to St. Pete in 1987.

"I retired after 30 years of teaching and decided to retire from – instead of to – St. Petersburg. Moved to Nashville in 2007 and got into all kinds of sessions and travel with bands, including this Swiss project which we call 'Gulf of Mexico Meets the Alps.'"

As for his "Roll on Seminoles" song? "I pull it out every football season in Nashville. They seem to enjoy it quite a bit. I even get requests for it from strangers. This year, of course, it's taken on a new life," he said in reference to FSU winning a national championship in January.

First said he never ran into Chairman Billie again and wonders what the Chairman would think if he heard the song.

"I hope he's OK with it," First said. "That Sam Jones reference, I thought, was a nice addition, although I find myself constantly explaining it."

The addition of Tribal member Justin Motlow to the FSU football team has piqued the songwriter's interest.

"I like that. That might make a great song," First said.

'Roll On Seminoles'

Doak Campbell Stadium's field is green
 And the grass smells sweet, as you'll soon be seein'
 We keep it smelling nice so when you leave town
 You'll have one pleasant memory to keep around
 As the turf from the gridiron fills your nose
 We'll be washing off your dreams with a power hose
 You'll be lying in the brine rusting your chassis
 Messin' with the boys from Tallahassee

Ride on Osceola
 Roll on Seminoles

Romp, stomp, pump and whomp
 The Gators go running when we trash 'em in the Swamp
 We be feasting on gator eggs, scrambled
 When the reptiles crawl their way to Doak Campbell
 Runnin' like lead, feelin' half dead
 When your helmet pops off, check for your head

How's your life? Seem a little messy
 Runnin' with the boys from Tallahassee
 Ride on Osceola
 Roll on Seminoles

Our hearts are filled with football pride
 But our roots go back to the Seminole Tribe

Year to year, bowl to bowl
 With Aripeka's unconquerable soul
 Walk with hope, you know you won't fail
 Hold your head high and you'll always prevail
 'Cause in your heart, you never walk alone
 When you walk with the spirit of Sam Jones

Ride on Osceola
 Roll on Seminoles

Ain't no way outta here without a fight
 Shut the lights, say goodnight

Ride on Osceola
 Roll on Seminoles

Health



Asbestos: Get the facts on exposure

SUBMITTED BY MISHKA SHAW
Environmental Resource Management Dept.

effects related to asbestos exposure are seen.

Besides personal health, asbestos has a negative impact on the environment. Asbestos fibers are so small that they cannot be seen by the naked eye or even by normal household microscopes. The tiny asbestos fibers are released into the environment during mining for the asbestos materials, when the asbestos is harvested from rock formations and when manufactured materials containing asbestos are disturbed. Asbestos can travel for long distances in the air before it settles into water or atop of soil, thus contaminating areas far away from its source. The small asbestos fibers remain intact in air, water and soil where it can be inhaled or ingested. It does not break down or biodegrade. The fibers do not absorb into the soil and instead sit on top of the soil, where it can easily be disturbed and redistributed into the air.

Who is at risk for asbestos-related diseases? Everyone is exposed to asbestos at some time during his or her life. Low levels of asbestos are present in the air, water and soil. However, most people do not become ill from their exposure. People who become ill from asbestos are usually those who are exposed to it on a regular basis, most often in a job where they work directly with the material or through substantial environmental contact. The higher the amounts of asbestos you are exposed to, the higher the risks of lung disease. Smokers have an increased risk of developing lung disease when exposed to asbestos.

How are asbestos-related diseases detected? The symptoms of asbestos-related diseases may not become apparent for many decades after the exposure. It is particularly important to check with a doctor if any of the following symptoms develop: shortness of breath, wheezing or hoarseness; a persistent cough that gets worse over time; blood in the sputum

(fluid) coughed up from the lungs; pain or tightening in the chest; difficulty swallowing; swelling of the neck or face; loss of appetite; weight loss; fatigue; or anemia.

How do you protect yourself and your family from asbestos exposure? Limit exposure and remember prevention is key.

- Wipe or remove shoes before entering the house.
- Wet mop or wet wipe surfaces and dispose of water down the drain. Avoid dry sweeping indoors and out.
- Steam clean carpets on a regular basis.
- Replace carpets with hard surfaces whenever possible.
- If asbestos is suspected in a building, an expert in asbestos abatement should be consulted for inspection, correction and maintenance.
- If living or working in a building that was built during or before the 1970s, parts of it may contain asbestos, but this is not necessarily cause for worry.

Only be concerned if any part of the building is deteriorating or otherwise damaged. Once the material is damaged, the asbestos fibers can enter the air and either enter the lungs or seep into the water supply.

If damaged, the next step is to section off the surrounding area to prevent others from encountering the asbestos dust. Contact a professional who has been certified to remove asbestos and has the proper protective equipment. This individual can ensure that all harmful substances are removed and that there is no lingering risk to people or the environment.

If you are planning any home renovations/repairs and believe that you may have asbestos in your home, contact the Environmental Resource Management Department at 954-965-4380 for more information.

Invasive insect threatens iconic Florida citrus

BY TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

LAKE WALES, Fla. (AP) — Citrus has always been synonymous with Florida.

The orange adorns the state license plate. The University of Florida's famed football stadium was named after an orange magnate. There is even a county called Citrus.

Throughout the decades, the citrus industry has always stood strong — through freezes, hurricanes and rampant development.

But now the \$9 billion industry is facing its biggest threat yet, putting at risk the state's economy but also its very identity. Blame a mottled brown bug no bigger than a pencil eraser that carries a lethal disease.

In China, where the problem was first discovered, it's called huanglongbing. Translation: "the yellow dragon disease." In Florida, it's known simply as "greening."

It arrived here via an invasive bug called the Asian Citrus Psyllid, which carries bacteria that are left behind when the psyllid feeds on a citrus tree's leaves. The tree continues to produce useable fruit, but eventually disease clogs the vascular system. Fruit falls, and the tree slowly dies.

The psyllid isn't native to Florida, but it is believed to have arrived from someone who perhaps unknowingly brought a slip of a tree from Asia. Some think it then spread on the winds of hurricanes a decade ago. There is no cure for greening, and no country has ever successfully eradicated it.

All of that has Florida's growers in a frenzy to find a way to stop it.

"It feels like you're in a war," said Ellis Hunt Jr., whose family owns 5,000-plus acres of orange groves and is part of the co-op that contributes to Florida's Natural, the third-largest juice brand in the country.

Hunt estimates he's spending some \$2,000 an acre on production costs, a 100 percent increase from 10 years ago. Much of that goes toward nutrients and spraying to try to control the psyllids. The thought of the demise of his farm — of Florida citrus — gnaws at him.

"We can't let this thing go down on our watch," he said.

Nearly all of the state's citrus groves are affected in varying degrees by greening disease, and researchers, growers and experts agree that the crisis has already started to compromise Florida's prominence as a citrus-growing region. Florida is second in the world, behind Brazil, in growing juice oranges, producing about 80 percent of juice in the U.S.

This past growing season, the state produced 104 million boxes of oranges,

which comprise the bulk of Florida's overall citrus crop. In 2003, two years before greening was discovered and prior to several devastating hurricanes, 243 million boxes were picked.

"This affects the whole state. The economic impact. The landscape. The iconic image of Florida and how it has drawn people here to smell the orange blossoms in the spring and look forward to that Christmas gift of fresh Florida citrus," said state Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, whose family has grown oranges since the early 1900s.

"It will have a ripple effect throughout the economy if we can't get our arms around this disease."

Experts say that if a solution isn't found, Florida's entire citrus industry — with its 75,000 jobs — could collapse. Compounding the problem is the timing of it: The disease coincides with an increase in foreign competition and a decrease in juice consumption as health-conscious consumers count carbs. In July, U.S. orange juice retail sales fell to the lowest level in 12 years for a second consecutive four-week period.

The war room in the fight against the yellow dragon is found in Lake Alfred, 30 miles southwest of Walt Disney World, in a nondescript cluster of buildings at the University of Florida's Citrus Research and Education Center.

There, some of the world's top citrus researchers — from the U.S., China, Brazil, India — slouch over microscopes and peer into makeshift greenhouses, hoping to unlock the puzzle that is greening. They talk about nucleotides and genomes like regular folks order a sandwich.

The researchers are concentrating on two things: a short-term workaround that will allow existing trees to survive, and a long-term solution — possibly three to five years away — to develop a greening resistant tree.

"A lot of people are looking for miracle cures," said Jude Grosser, a horticulture professor who has spent his 30-year career developing citrus varieties and is now focused on solving greening. "But the answer for greening will be a number of different pieces. Our part is the genetic resistance to the disease."

Some growers are taking matters into their own hands. Rick Kress, president of Southern Gardens Citrus, has hired a private team of researchers to work on genetically engineering a greening resistant tree with the DNA from spinach. He understands that introducing juice from a genetically modified orange would create another hurdle because of the public's perception of such foods.

But the alternative — no juice at all — is unthinkable.

"Irrespective of the challenges," Kress insisted, "Florida orange juice is not going to go away."

How to stay safe in the kitchen

SUBMITTED BY NICHOLAS PERSAUD
Health Department

flammable, especially synthetic blends, and may adhere to skin if it catches on fire. If possible, wear closed-toed shoes that will protect feet in the event a knife is dropped.

Don't leave food unattended

Never leave the house when food is cooking, except in a slow cooker. Put slow cookers on a heat-proof surface like a cool stovetop. Foods can quickly go from browning to burning and then burst into flames. If there are children or pets in the house, make sure an adult is in the kitchen at all times. Accidents happen in seconds.

Rushing around the kitchen will almost guarantee an accident. Cut food slowly, do not run from station to station and take your time when moving hot pots and pans. Also, never try to bake or cook when tired or under the influence of alcohol or medications.

Watch out for hot items

Keep a good selection of hot pads and oven mitts on hand. Use them for any bowl, pot or pan that has just been on a hot appliance. It's especially important to use them when taking bowls out of a microwave oven, as even microwave-safe

bowls may become quite hot. Do not use a wet hot pad or oven mitt, as it can transmit heat.

Always keep pot handles turned away from the front of the stove to prevent accidentally brushing against them and spilling hot food. Never reach over a hot burner to another pan. Push up sleeves when cooking food on the stove top and keep pot covers handy to smother flames.

Steam can burn as easily as boiling liquid or a hot burner. Be especially careful around covered microwaved food and foods cooked in packets. Open these packages away from the face, and remember to use hot pads.

Handle kitchen equipment properly

Read the instructions that come with appliances and understand how to use them. Never use an appliance with a frayed cord, and keep small appliances dry and away from water. Never use fingers to release something caught in food processor blades or mixers, as the blades may be very sharp. Always let appliances cool down before cleaning them.

Learn how to use knives. Knives should always be sharp; dull knives can slip and cause injuries. Chop and slice like chefs do, holding the food with the non-dominant hand with fingers curled under. Go slowly until gaining confidence, and always pay attention.

Kitchen safety

Clean spills when they happen to save time when cleaning the kitchen and to help prevent accidents. Water, food and grease on the floor may cause a fall. Also, watch out for cooking sprays. If they are accidentally sprayed on the floor, the surface will become very slippery.

Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen and know how to use it. Contact the Seminole Tribe of Florida Fire Rescue with any questions or if training is needed. Have a first aid kit at home; ensure it's stocked with up-to-date supplies, including gauze, burn salve and scissors. If an accident occurs, seek immediate medical attention.

Call the Environmental Health Office at 954-985-2330 for more information.

- Do not go swimming or boating in a thunderstorm.
- Retreat to a substantial building for protection. Rain shelters, sheds and open vehicles such as convertibles or motorcycles offer no protection.
- When inside during a storm, do not touch anything that is plugged into an electrical outlet, including phones with cords. Cellphones and cordless phones are safe.
- Wait 30 minutes after the last crack of lightning or roll of thunder before going back out.

Here are the symptoms that can occur after injury by a lightning strike:

- Muscle soreness
- Headache, nausea or other symptoms similar to a concussion

- Mild confusion or feeling foggy mentally
- Dizziness and loss of balance
- Hearing loss
- Visual disturbances
- Chronic pain

"Take lightning seriously because the chances of surviving a direct strike are slim," said Randy Katz, DO, FACEP, Medical Director, Emergency Services, Memorial Regional Hospital. "A direct lightning strike can cause cardiac arrest and death, and an indirect strike can result in trauma from the force of the electrical current. So don't wait for a storm to arrive before you take shelter. Be patient and wait for the storm to pass."

For more information, visit www.LightningSafety.noaa.gov.

Tips for ensuring payment of medical and dental bills

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE WHIDDEN
Health Department

• Show your STOF Member Health Plan card to medical, dental and pharmacy providers prior to receiving services.

• If you are also covered under another primary health insurance plan, such as Medicare, show that card as well. The STOF Member Health Plan is always the payer of last resort.

• If you do not have a new Health Plan card that looks like this, contact a STOF Health clinic to request your new card.

• Check your Health Plan book or call the Health Plan office to ensure your health care is covered by the Health Plan. Some services are limited or excluded from coverage.

• If you receive an incident report from the STOF Health Plan, please complete the form and return it to the STOF Health Plan office to ensure timely processing of your bills. Make sure to indicate whether care received was due to an accident on the form.

• If you receive a bill or a statement for health care services in the mail, call the service provider and have them mail a copy of the itemized bill to STOF Health Plan Administration, P.O. Box 173129, Tampa, FL 33672 to process your bill. This address is also on the back of your Health Plan card. In addition, bring the bill to a STOF Health clinic.

• If you receive a notice from a collection agency for an unpaid health care bill, call the collection agency and ask that they submit an itemized bill to STOF Health Plan Administration to process your bill.

In addition, please bring the bill to a STOF Health clinic. We may ask you to sign a release form to allow the collection agency to speak with us about your bill and to obtain a copy of the itemized bill if necessary.

• Review the biannual explanation of benefits statement which provides detailed information about each medical and dental bill processed on your behalf. Please note that you are responsible to pay the service provider the amounts listed under the patient responsibility column.

• If you currently have unpaid health care bills on your credit report, the STOF Health Plan office will attempt to resolve these debts for you. Contact the STOF Health Plan office at 866-505-6789 for assistance. The office will need a copy of your credit report listing the unpaid health care bills and a signed release form allowing them to contact the collection agency on your behalf to discuss your account and obtain an itemized bill, if necessary, for processing.

• For all other question, call the Health Plan office.

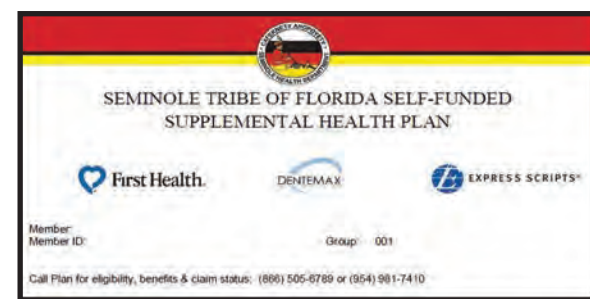


Photo courtesy of Connie Whidden

Pictured is the STOF Member Health Plan card.

Florida first in lightning-related injuries

SUBMITTED BY MEMORIAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Summer is the peak season for lightning, but living in Florida brings an extra risk. With its year-round warm weather and extensive opportunities for outdoor activities, Florida has more lightning-related deaths and injuries than all other U.S. states combined. So far this year, three people have died from lightning strikes in Florida.

Here are tips to help minimize the risk of a lightning strike:

- No place outdoors is safe from lightning. If thunder is heard, go inside.
- Have a lightning safety plan. Cancel or delay outdoor games and activities if thunderstorms are in the forecast.

SEMINOLE SCENES



ROYAL REIGN: Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. enjoys the company of 2014-15 Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Nunez at the Brighton Education incentive awards Aug. 11. It was the princesses' first appearance together.



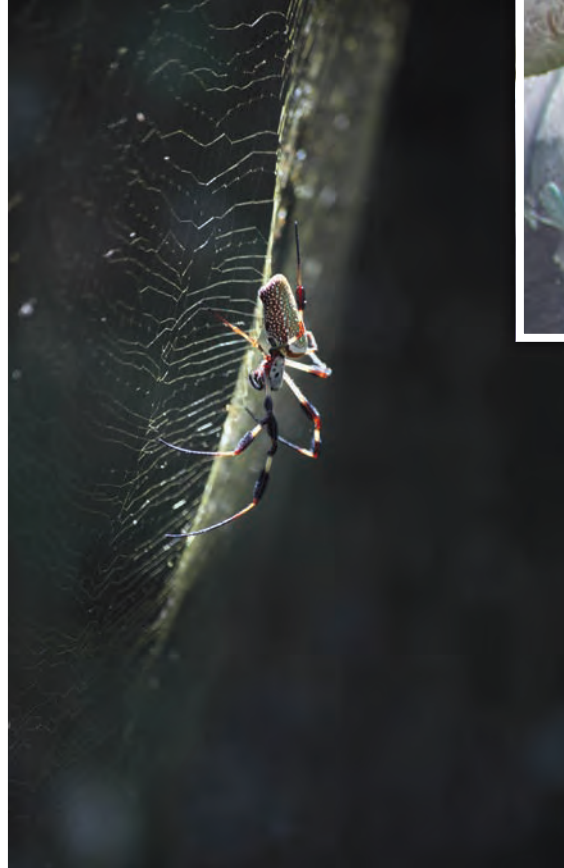
HIGH AND TIGHT: A carpenter works on a roof July 30 at the Big Cypress townhomes construction site on Eloise Osceola Street on the Big Cypress Reservation.



HEARTY B-DAY PARTY: Big Cypress workers line up July 31 for platefuls of pizza and chicken wings during a quarterly mass employee birthday lunch hosted by the Human Resources Department.



HOLLYWOOD HEAT: Phyllis Osceola, Leslie Osceola and Resha Doctor warm up before fitness class, held in the newly completed airnasium in Hollywood. The structure also has two adjustable height basketball hoops, a volleyball court and can be used for community events. Two large fans will be installed soon.



NOT SO ITSY-BITSY: A golden silk (banana) spider hangs around the lush woods at Camp Kulaqua. The largest non-tarantula spider in North America, this non-aggressive spider spins an orb-like web out of its golden silk.



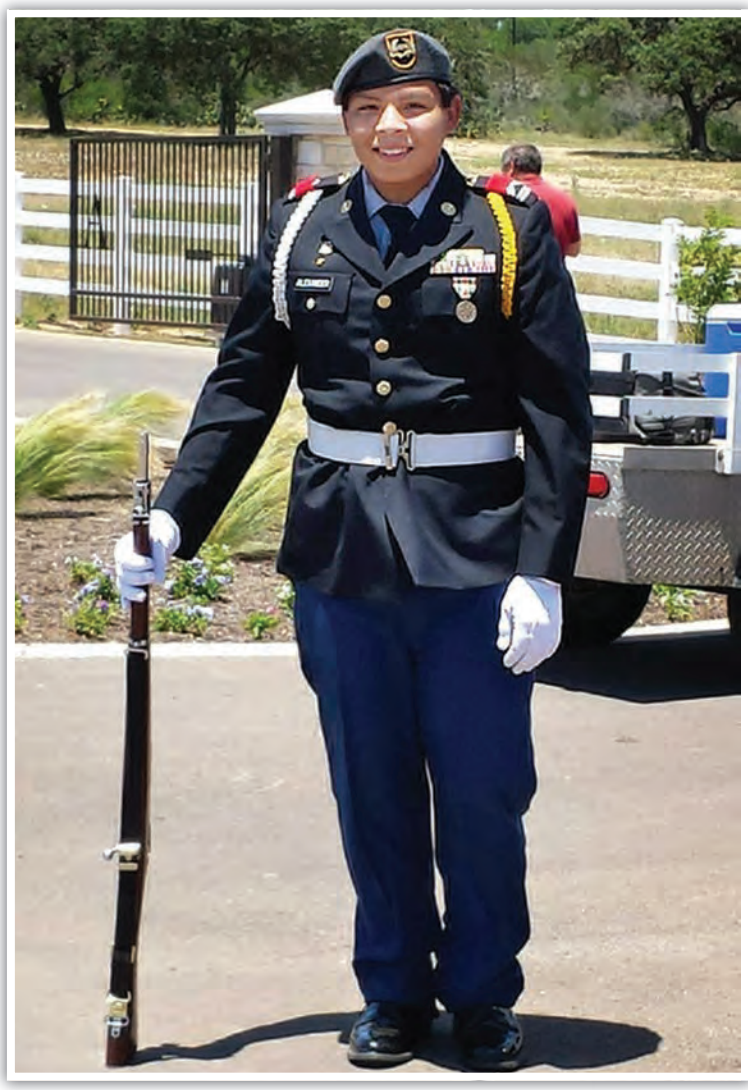
NO TEETH NECESSARY: Presleigh Hahn Osceola, 6, may not have her two front teeth, but she is prepared for battle Aug. 14 at the Last of Summer Blast on the Hollywood Ball Field. Weapons were Super Soakers and targets were kids covered in shaving cream.



SUGAR PLUM: From left, Mona Baker, Preslynn Baker, 7, Ivess Baker, 14, and Tawnee Baker, 1, enjoy a sweet moment during the Brighton incentive awards program Aug. 11.



HOME SWEET HOMESITE: The Hollywood Reservation is abuzz with construction activity as eight homes are being built across from the Howard Tiger Recreation Center.



MILITARY MIGHT: Christopher Alexander, a student at San Marcos Academy in Texas, has been selected to become a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. Founded in 2002, the organization recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, scholarship and community commitment.



BEACHIN' IT: U.S. captain Nick Perera scoops the ball during the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino U.S. vs. Brazil Beach Soccer Challenge Aug. 14 in Hollywood. About 1,000 spectators attended the event. Brazil edged the U.S., 8-7.



RIDING HIGH: Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club members and counselors show support for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Great Futures Campaign. The effort aims to inspire millions of children nationwide who are left alone after school to join a Boys & Girls Club.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Northeast casinos overloaded

NEW YORK — A report on the gaming industry in the New York Times warns the boom may be over for Northeastern casinos. The Times quoted analysts, economists and casino operators who indicated the industry is writhing from absolute saturation — too many casinos competing for the same dollars.

The Northeast is no longer a rich, untapped market. More than half the region's population now lives within 25 miles of a casino featuring video lotteries, table games or slot machines, up from about 10 percent a decade ago. Thanks to the dozens of casinos in the Northeast corridor between West Virginia and Maine, winnings are flat or shrinking and many older casinos are declining or going bankrupt. Mashantucket Pequot's Foxwoods has stopped Tribal dividends and is drastically cutting costs, and three Atlantic City casinos are closing.

How big a loser is Atlantic City? So big that financier Donald Trump actually sued to remove his name from two casinos he no longer controls, including Trump Plaza, which also plans to shut down in September.

In Indian Country, Tribal gaming officials have reported meager growth of less than 1 percent at some 450 casinos nationwide in 2013.

Other areas of the country may not be far behind, with nearly 1,000 commercial and Tribal casinos in 39 states. Closings and revenue declines have also hit Mississippi, Missouri and Iowa, all early players in the nation's casino craze. The only bright spot for New York is the gaming operations of the Mohawk, Seneca and Oneida Tribes, which have brought in hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue sharing to the state.

An Associated Press investigation on the same subject directs its warning at Florida: "The tragic saga of the Revel should serve as a cautionary tale for Florida. The Revel was opened in 2012, the first new Atlantic City casino in nine years. It was billed as a destination resort that would include luxurious amenities aside from gambling ... In 2013, a little more than a year after opening, the resort filed for bankruptcy."

It will close its doors in September, and 3,200 local jobs will be lost.

"This fiasco shows that these so-called 'destination resorts' are just a smoke screen to build a casino, and the promises of the gambling industry cannot be trusted," John Sowinski, of No Casinos, told the AP. "The 'destination resort concept' was supposed to be the economic boon that Atlantic City needed to help their economy, and now they can't sell their bankrupt casino on Craigslist. Florida does not have to fall victim to the same empty promises."

"I think the entire industry knows that there's too much supply for the demand that's out there," Richard McGowan, an economics professor at Boston College, told the Times. "The gusher is over."

Still, the Northeast is adding more casinos. In June, regulators in Massachusetts approved an \$800 million casino in Springfield, expected to open by next summer. And Pennsylvania, which already has 12 casinos, is mulling a 13th in Philadelphia.

Las Vegas, however, is experiencing just the opposite. According to the UNLV Center for Gaming Research, Las Vegas strip casinos experienced a 155 percent jump in revenue last year, mainly because of foreign high rollers, many from Asia, who come to bet big money on the card game baccarat.

According to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Las Vegas had nearly 3.5 million tourists in June, beating the previous record set in 2012. If the pace remains, Las Vegas visitor numbers could approach a record high of 41 million people by December.

—Sources: *New York Times*, *Associated Press*, *Snewsnow.com*, *Time.com*

Panthers die in Collier, Hendry

NAPLES — The Florida panther casualty number on roads increased in August. Two kittens in Collier County became the 15th and 16th panthers believed to have died from vehicle strikes in the state this year. The kittens were discovered Aug. 24 on the side of Immokalee Road in Naples.

Earlier in the month, a 2-year-old panther in Hendry County died after colliding with a vehicle, according to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The highest number of panther roadkill deaths — 18 — was recorded in 2012.

—Sources: *Associated Press*, *News-Press*

FWC welcomes public's panther photos

BIG CYPRESS — As of Aug. 13, the public has reported 790 sightings of Florida panthers to a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) website, launched a year ago, where people can record when and where they saw a panther or its tracks.

Only 12 percent of this year's reports have included a photograph that could be evaluated by FWC biologists. While the majority of the photos were confirmed as panthers, FWC biologists identified bobcats, foxes, coyotes, dogs, house cats and even a monkey. Most often the reported animal or tracks belonged to a bobcat, when it was not a panther.

Verified panther reports were largely confined to Southwest Florida, the well-documented breeding range for panthers in the state. There also were several verified sightings in south Central Florida.

"The public's willingness to share what they have seen or collected on game cameras is incredibly helpful and shows us where panthers presumably are roaming in Florida," said FWC's panther team leader Darrell Land, in a FWC news release. "As the population of this endangered species grows, the FWC expects more Florida panthers to be seen in areas of the state where they have not lived for decades," Land said. "To properly plan and manage for the expansion of the panther's range in Florida, information about where the panthers are is vital."

The Florida panther population is estimated to be 100 to 160 adults and yearlings, a figure that does not include panther kittens. As recently as the 1970s, the Florida panther was close to disappearing, with as few as 20 animals in the wild.

Information about the photo sharing program is at myfwc.com.

—Source: *FWC press release*

Big Cypress oil drilling impacts panther habitats

NAPLES — As Matt Schwartz, executive director of the South Florida Wildlands Association, examines the site of the first oil well drilled in 1943 in Southwest Florida, right in the middle of Florida panther habitat, he wonders about humans: "People ask me, why are you protecting a cat?" he told the Naples Daily News. "Well, they're magnificent animals. But they're also a keystone and an umbrella species — meaning that if you protect them, you protect all of the wildlife within their habitat."

Although he's had some close brushes with Florida panthers, Schwartz isn't afraid of the big cats, whose paw prints he often spots on tours he gives of the backcountry. But what he is afraid of is what could happen to Florida's panthers if two huge tracts, known as the Tocala and Burnett leases, undergo seismic testing for oil.

According to the newspaper, Schwartz said the wildcats' dwindling habitat falls within the 234,510 acres that Fort Worth, Texas-based Burnett Oil Co. has petitioned the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to test in the Big Cypress Preserve using vibroseis, or so-called thumper trucks. It's also part of 103,000 acres — a mixture of public and private lands — that Tocala LLC wants to test using 8,800 explosive charges. Both methods use sound waves bouncing back from underground rocks to map potential reserves of oil. The lease applications are under review by the DEP and other state and federal agencies.

It has been no secret that oil exists in the 150-mile-long Sunniland Trend, which runs from Fort Myers to Miami, though drilling has been limited to Upper Sunniland. Now, drillers are turning toward the less-explored, panther-rich Lower Sunniland area.

The potential effect on wildlife, surface and underground water and the wilderness has environmentalists up in arms. In May, a coalition of conservation groups — including the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club and South Florida Wildlands Association — sent a letter to Pedro Ramos, superintendent of the Big Cypress Preserve.

The letter said the Burnett Oil petition, if approved, could cause "significant environmental impacts," including "surface and sheet flow disturbance from vehicle paths of vibroseis trucks that may weigh up to 62,000 pounds, cut lines and helicopter and equipment staging areas ... The cut lines can be equivalent to roads and range in size up to 50 feet wide."

Schwartz contends that noise and big trucks in a peaceful habitat will disrupt dens and cause panthers to flee into developed areas, where they're likely to be hit by a vehicle.

Other wildlife, including the endangered Florida sandhill crane and Eastern indigo snake, would be affected, too, he said. Schwartz contends such bustle and activity, which scientists say cause vibrations that can be felt up to several hundred feet away, would scare panthers from their habitat.

While primarily agricultural and outside of the preserve, Schwartz said the land is essential to panthers because it is mostly dry uplands, filled with small prey animals. Such places are more to the big cats' liking than the wetter Everglades, which wouldn't be a good temporary refuge for fleeing panthers, he told the Daily News.

The project would take about six months, with crews of about 200 people working 12-hour days seven days a week.

Mark Lotz, a panther biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said "there is not a whole lot of data" regarding the effects of seismic testing on panthers or their prey. However, he said past seismic testing hasn't uprooted panthers permanently because they are attached to their home ranges. A male panther's range is around 200 square miles, and a female's about 80 square miles.

They have been known to return after an area has been disrupted, he added, and have been spotted traversing sites of older, existing oil wells, particularly at night when there are no people around.

It's likely environmentalists will continue to fight anything that brings more oil wells to Southwest Florida. On ThePetitionSite.com, the Center for Biologic Diversity has collected more than 39,000 signatures on a petition to Ramos, asking for seismic testing in the Big Cypress preserve to be blocked.

"Panthers have lost so much good habitat, but they're being squeezed," Schwartz said. "There has to be someplace where you draw the line."

—Source: *Naples Daily News*

Oklahoma Tribes get historic preservation grants

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — The National Park Service (NPS) has awarded historic preservation grants — help for America's first people to preserve significant Tribal places, cultures and tradition — to four Oklahoma American Indian Tribes: the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma.

The grants — ranging from \$30,000 to \$60,000 — can be used to fund a wide array of projects including nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, preservation, education and historic structure reports.

—Source: *Associated Press*

Graffiti on 43-million-year-old Tamanowas Rock deplored

SEQUIM, Wash. — The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or people responsible for using spray paint to vandalize the 150-foot-tall Tribal landmark Tamanowas Rock, or Chimacow Rock.

Tamanowas means "spirit power" in the Klallam language. The site has been used for ceremonies and prayers for tens of thousands of years.

Tribal officials learned of the graffiti July 25 and are trying to devise a way of removing it without causing damage to the rock. It is sacred to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and other Salish Native Americans.

The 43-million-year-old rock had many uses for the Indians, including use as a lookout for hunters, for refuge from reported tsunamis and for quests of spiritual renewal by Tribal youths. The Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe purchased the rock and 62 surrounding acres from the Jefferson Land Trust for \$600,000 last December. Since purchasing the Tamanowas property, the Tribe has made a concerted effort to limit motor biking, campfires and rock climbing.

—Source: *PeninsulaDailyNews.com*

Gambling or cheating? Foxwoods wants to know

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — In the midst of severe financial woes that threaten to take down Indian Country's first big-time casino, comes this: three gamblers are suing Foxwoods Resort Casino in federal court, demanding more than \$1.1 million they say is owed them from playing mini-baccarat in December 2011, as well as \$1.6 million they had deposited with the casino to cover any losses.

Foxwoods says the trio cheated and has refused to pay, according to the July 31 suit filed in U.S. District Court in New Haven, Connecticut.

The Chinese national plaintiffs Cheung Yin Sun, of Las Vegas, and Long Mei Fang and Zong Yang Li, both of Los Angeles, are seeking more than \$3 million in "consequential" damages that include \$100,000 per plaintiff for civil rights violations and \$50,000 in legal fees they say they incurred in proceedings before the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Gaming Commission.

According to the suit, the plaintiffs deposited the \$1.6 million in "front money" before gambling at the casino from Dec. 23-24, 2011. They then won \$1,148,000 worth of chips playing the card game, openly employing a strategy known as "edge sorting," which gave them an advantage against the casino, or "house." The practice is legal in Connecticut and other U.S. gaming jurisdictions, the plaintiffs say in their suit.

In a February 2012 ruling, however, the Mashantucket Gaming Commission's Inspection Division found the gamblers had violated Foxwoods' gaming regulations, threatening arrest by Connecticut State Police if they returned.

The full Commission later upheld the director's ruling.

"Basically, edge-sorting is possible because some brands of playing cards are not cut symmetrically across their backs and some players are gifted with eyesight keen enough to tell the difference," the suit says. An "edge-sorter" can "sort" certain cards by having them turned opposite the rest of the cards in play. The sorter can recognize the backs of those cards when they are dealt after the next shuffle, "provided the sorted cards are not reversed in the shuffling process rendering the sorts unintelligible," according to the suit.

Foxwoods could easily have thwarted the edge-sorting by reversing the sorted cards, the plaintiffs claim.

Card dealers turned certain cards at the gamblers' request, the suit says.

—Source: *Hartford Courant*

Chippewa Tribe fights against iron mining

LAC COURTE OREILLES HARVEST CAMP, Wisc. — In Wisconsin's scenic Northwoods, environmentalists and Native Americans are fighting mining companies and their political allies over iron ore extraction. Usually, harvest camps are simply a meeting place for Tribal members to share their knowledge of local plant life and its medicinal applications on land they ceded through treaties, but on which they still retain hunting, fishing and gathering rights.

This camp is different. It has become a de facto base camp for protestors — people from both within and outside the Tribes — who want to block a massive 4-mile long, 800-foot deep, \$1.5 billion open pit iron ore mine nearby.

The Penokee Hills span Iron and Ashland counties in Wisconsin's iconic Northwoods. The hills are the headwaters of the Bad River that flows into Lake Superior, which by surface area is the world's largest freshwater lake. But there's also an estimated 3.7 billion tons of iron ore underneath the mountain ridge. In total, the deposit is roughly 20 percent of all remaining U.S. iron ore reserves. Gogebic Taconite (GTac), a subsidiary of the Cline Group, owned by Florida coal magnate Chris Cline, has its sights set on a full body of iron ore that is 22 miles long, so the long-term potential for changing the landscape is astounding.

According to Earth Island Journal, if the vein were to be completely dug out, the hole in the ground would be big enough to contain the largest open pit iron mine in the U.S. five times over.

The Penokee Hills region is defined by its rivers, streams and wetlands, which are a key source of clean water for the Bad River watershed and Lake Superior. Apart from hosting a diverse array of wildlife — including the federally protected bald eagle, rare plants, songbirds and a variety of fish — these water bodies provide drinking water for the nearby cities of Ashland, Mellen, Highbridge, Marengo, Odanah and Upson.

Environmentalists say large-scale taconite mining in the region would produce massive volumes of waste rock containing sulfides, which when exposed to air and water transform into sulfuric acid that can leach into the surrounding waterways and turn the water acidic. This phenomenon, called acid mine drainage, is responsible for massive water pollution problems at mine sites throughout the world. The United Nations Environment Program calls acid mine drainage "acutely toxic to aquatic ecosystems."

"There's the upper watershed, the Penokee Mountains, where the proposed mine would be situated. Then there is the lower watershed, which is like the bottom of a bowl," said Tribal Chairman Mike Wiggins Jr., of the Bad River Lapointe Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians. "That lower bowl is essentially our Tribal nation."

The Chippewas are a federally recognized Tribe of Ojibwe people whose reservation is located on the south shore of Lake Superior and has a land area of 156,000 acres in northern Wisconsin straddling Ashland and Iron counties. The Tribe has approximately 7,000 members.

"A lot of our treaties ceded land to non-Tribal people in exchange for hunting/fishing rights, but that is predicated on clean air and water," Chairman Wiggins said. "We understand the bounty and the fact [that] the cleanliness of the water, and this big beautiful Lake Superior, these are the economic foundations that will carry us into the future for hundreds of years. The mining company said, 'Unless you have this mine, you're never going to live into the future.' That idea of scarcity they are trying to convey, we reject it."

—Source: *Earth Island Journal*

A Tribe Called Red: A beat with a message

OTTAWA, Canada — A Tribe Called Red, one of Indian Country's top music acts, is back. They call their unique blend electric pow-wow, and it's been bringing audiences to their feet across Canada and the international scene for four years.

The DJ crew has returned to the road,

bursting forth from Canada's capital with a Native sound that's impacting the global electronic scene and urban club culture. Group members DJ NDN, Bear Witness and Zoolman have been mixing traditional pow-wow vocals and drumming with cutting-edge electronic music since 2010 and their self-titled 2012 album was long-listed for Canada's Polaris Music Prize and included in the Washington Post's top 10 albums of the year.

The group promotes indigenous people taking control. Group member Ian Campeau successfully led the charge to have the Nepean Redskins Football Club change its name and logo.

—Sources: *Yukon News*, *aTribeCalledRed.com*

Civilization threatens isolated Tribe's survival

ACRE, Peru — Brazil's thick rainforest can hide many things, including people.

Near the border of this northwest Peruvian state, a Tribe of undiscovered indigenous Amazonians Ashaninka Indians recently made contact with employees from a Brazilian Indian agency.

An employee from the Brazilian government's Native protection agency, Funai (Fundacao Nacional do Indio or Brazil National Indian Foundation), spoke a language related to the Tribe and communicated with them. The visitors group managed to film the unexpected encounter and uploaded the video to the Internet.

The unique existence of one of the world's most isolated groups of people is under threat from illegal activities and encroaching civilization. The event was unusual because these people are normally outwardly hostile to all non-indigenous people ... a self-protection apprehension due to negative experiences with illegal loggers or drug producers who have killed members of Tribes with violence and infecting them with illnesses like influenza or measles, which spread like wildfire among non-immunized people.

In late June, a report was posted on the website Terra's "Amazon Blog" that three young men from the Ashaninka village had emerged from the rainforest near the Peru-Brazil border. They were later joined by another two men and two women, estimated to have been between 12 and 21 years old.

The Funai agency confirmed that the isolated group had talked of a massacre.

"They said they were victims of violence. These were committed on Peruvian territory," reads the Funai statement. Probably the indigenous people fled into the Brazilian territory to save themselves from illegal loggers in the Peruvian Amazon.

There are thought to be some 100 uncontacted peoples across the world. The highest concentration of uncontacted indigenous people is in the Amazon area.

"Uncontacted indigenous people are the most vulnerable people in the world. They are totally dependent on the land for their survival," reads activist group Survival International's statement.

—Source: *DW Akademie*

Native American writer wins Ohio peace prize

CINCINNATI — Author Louise Erdrich, whose writings chronicle contemporary Native American life through characters representing its mix of heritages and cultures, was announced Aug. 17 as the winner of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize's distinguished achievement award.

Erdrich was raised in North Dakota by an Ojibwe-French mother and a German-American father, and her works have reflected both sides of that heritage. With ties to North Dakota and Minnesota, Erdrich has said she lives in many places and is a member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribal nation.

Erdrich's novel "The Round House" tells the story of a teenage boy's effort to investigate an attack on his mother on a fictional North Dakota reservation and of his struggle to come to terms with a crime of violence against his mother. It won the 2012 National Book Award for fiction.

The Dayton prizes are meant to recognize literature's power to foster peace, social justice and global understanding, and the distinguished achievement award is given for body of work.

Erdrich, whose works also include poetry, short stories and children's books, said in a statement that she does not consider herself a "peaceful" writer.

"I am a troubled one, longing for peace," Erdrich said.

Erdrich, who will receive the award Nov. 9 in Dayton, told the AP through email that she is honored to receive a prize that celebrates authors who write forcefully about the effects of violence.

"The prize sends a strong political signal, more crucial than ever at this historical moment when we are seeing, day by day, the horrific violence children suffer in war," she wrote.

—Source: *Associated Press*

Compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher.

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DEEP PURPLE



October 17
- SOLD OUT
October 18
MOTLEY CRUE
THE FINAL TOUR



September 6
**STEVE MARTIN
& MARTIN SHORT**
A VERY STUPID
CONVERSATION



October 30
JUDAS PRIEST
WITH STEEL PANTHER



September 7
DIVAS NIGHT



November 5
NATALIE COLE



September 19
**EXPERIENCE
HENDRIX**
WITH BILLY COX,
BUDDY GUY, ZAKK
WYLDE & MORE



November 9
HEART



September 27
FOREIGNER



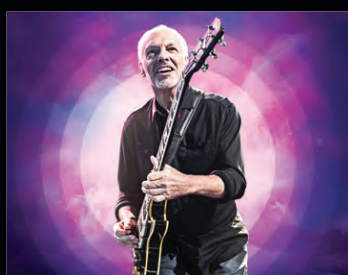
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Education

B



Kids swing into fun at Camp Kulaqua

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HIGH SPRINGS, Fla. — Kids had tons of fun at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida where they made new friends, floated down the Ichetucknee River and dared themselves to take on the infamous blob.

Campers — 146 over two weeks — were kept busy from the moment they woke up at 6:30 a.m. until lights out at 9:30 p.m.

“We want the kids to know there are other ways besides sitting in the house; they can get outside and play,” said Helene Buster, Family Services Department director who lead camp. “We try to keep them moving and walking. We want them to just change their lifestyle and not be so sedentary.”

Forty-six teens attended Kulaqua as campers from July 27 to Aug. 1, and 23 stayed to take on the responsibility of serving as junior counselors during youth camp Aug. 3-8.

“You have to be really careful and keep an eye on all of them,” said Randee Osceola, 15. “Their lives are in your hands

and you’re watching them grow up. This is crazier than teen camp because they are so little. Their brains are still young.”

The junior counselors met daily with supervisor Victoria Soto, of the Education Department, for guidance and discussions of any concerns they had about their roles. Soto also reiterated their responsibilities.

Many young campers were attached to the junior counselors day and night.

“They all love me,” Alexis Aguilar said. “I look at this as a chance to get to know the younger generation. One night they didn’t want to go to sleep, so we had a dance party. It was a lot of fun.”

During activities, junior counselors joined in the fun and helped the young campers.

At the low ropes course, a series of physical activities that emphasize trust, junior counselors played a key role leading the youth. The activity stations included nitro crossing, spider web, trust fall, island hopper, balance beam, centipede and climbing wall. All required participants to work together, encourage one another and achieve success as a group.

“This is better than teen camp,” said Ethan Cypress, 17. “You get to take care of the little kids and show leadership. It gives us the responsibility to take care of the younger kids.”

Campers also learned how to manage money, make healthy food choices and avoid substance abuse. Daily interactive classes kept campers engaged.

Highlights included swimming at the River Ranch and Hornsby Spring, home of the blob; running relays in the boxcar derby; creating artwork for a poster contest; competing in the Seminole Olympics; performing in a talent show; and tubing down the Ichetucknee River.

“The river is the best because I don’t have to stay with my counselor,” said Donovan Harris, 12. “And I love the blob.”

For some campers, living with other kids away from home was the most fun.

“The cabin,” said Madison Jumper, 10, when asked her favorite thing about camp. “It’s really fun. We go mattress surfing down the stairs.”



Beverly Bidney

Billy Bailey grasps a rope with one hand and fills a bucket while swinging over water at the nitro crossing on Camp Kulaqua’s low ropes course.

“We tell funny stories, listen to music and play games at night,” added Jahniyah Henry, 10. “We want to stay in the cabin all day.”

Junior counselor Marsha Osceola, who had a cabin of 12-year-old girls, said her campers were an “interesting bunch.”

“They’re goofy,” Marsha said. “They like playing ghost at night. It’s a lot of fun. They are my favorite group.”

During the Seminole Olympics, kids

were divided into eight teams and competed in human foosball, steal the bacon, earthball soccer and the mud mayhem obstacle course.

“I like watching the kids have fun,” said Kyle Alvarado, 16. “I’m really enjoying them.”

The junior counselors met Buster’s expectations.

“The teens were fantastic,” Buster said. “They were open to learning and doing

things. They did exactly what we wanted.”

Teens were rewarded with a pizza party on the last night and earned community service hours for high school. Younger kids were rewarded with a great time at camp.

“Being in a different cabin and making new friends every year is the best,” said Vincenzo Osceola, 9. “I will come back next year.”

♦ See more KULAQUA photos on page 2B

“We want the kids to know there are other ways besides sitting in the house; they can get outside and play ... We want them to just change their lifestyle and not be so sedentary.”

— Helene Buster, Family Services Department director



Beverly Bidney

Hollywood Preschool teacher Nidia Carusotti updates Tadpoles on an Apple iPad Mini during playtime with Skyla Doctor, 5 months, and Betty Osceola, 7 months.

New program improves parental communication

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Preschool parents will no longer wonder what their child learned at school each day thanks to the tribalwide adoption of a secure email communication program in June.

The Tadpoles program allows teachers to send a daily email to each parent outlining exactly what his or her child did during the day, from nap time to snack time and everything in between.

Teachers can send photos and videos along with specific notes, alerts and information on upcoming events. They can also shoot video of any developmental milestone — like baby’s first steps or words — and send it, so parents won’t miss out.

“I check my email regularly and always open Tadpoles mail,” said Gail Cypress, who has a daughter in the Hollywood Preschool. “Teachers send pictures and they are able to do it in real time. I think it’s a really good thing.”

Preschool program manager Ilene Miller said staff wanted to find an innovative way to improve communication with families. Teachers were trained to use Tadpoles, a nationwide program, and each classroom has an Apple iPad Mini to communicate with parents.

“We want parents to be connected to their child’s education, so they can see what we are working on in the classroom and carry it over into the home,” Miller

said. “We’ve always looked for ways to strengthen our partnership with parents; this bridges the gap between home and school.”

The school tracks each student’s progress in potty training, naps, meals, snacks, daily activities and special programs. Because all the information is sent through email, parents can refer to old emails on a computer, tablet or smart phone to track their child’s progress at school throughout the year.

“They let you know what he eats and what he does during the day,” said Sara Jumper, whose son Keion, 4, is her fourth child to attend Hollywood Preschool. “I feel more connected to the school through the emails.”

Parent Clea Correa said email is an efficient way to inform parents if a child needs another change of clothes or more diapers in the classroom. She said it also helps eliminate the amount of paperwork she receives.

“When you have three in preschool, you get a lot of papers coming home,” said Correa, who has two children in the Hollywood Preschool this year. “That’s a lot of paper.”

Cypress, who has been president of the Hollywood Preschool caretaker committee for two years, said parents wanted to eliminate daily papers that often did not get read. The school can now deliver more information more efficiently, she said.

♦ See TADPOLES on page 3B

Boys & Girls Club grown-ups bolster mission with training

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Nothing is left to chance when the Boys & Girls Club is charged with the Tribe’s next generation of leaders.

“First and foremost is the safety of the children,” said Robert North Sr., director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Mentoring ranks just as high for North and the club’s 30 managers and counselors from three Boys & Girls Clubs tribalwide.

“When school is out, we are in. We teach them, we entertain them and when they are with us, they are everything,” assistant director Bryan Granie said.

From Aug. 4-8, employee in-service workshops led by Granie at the Big Cypress club headquarters reinforced club values, bolstered safety practices such as food handling and first aid, and launched a first for Boys & Girls Club of America’s 4,000 facilities nationwide — the infusion of ancient teachings gleaned from the Native American programs Fatherhood is Sacred and Motherhood is Sacred.

Created by Albert M. Pooley, a Hopi and Navajo who founded the Native American Fatherhood & Families Association in 2002, the programs strive to strengthen families by laying a strong foundation of direction and purpose.

Dawna Bell, compliance manager for the Seminole clubs, said 643 children ages 7 to 18 in Brighton, Big Cypress, Hollywood and Immokalee are championed by teams of counselors with diverse talents and various college degrees, including art, music, nursing, psychology and criminal justice.

But, as Tribal children spend more time outside their homes at school and after-school activities, additional education is necessary for counselors to support Native culture.

“It’s what separates us from being an after-school program. We are about enrichment,” Bell said.

In recent months, Granie and club managers Stephen Alvarez and Alyssa Payne became certified facilitators in Fatherhood is Sacred and Motherhood is Sacred after attending training in Mesa, Arizona. The program had already been put to work in 100

Tribes throughout Indian Country.

“We went there to learn the concept, own it, bring it back to our employees and then take it to the children,” Granie said.

Alvarez said the program reintroduces the timeless truths that family is the heart of the community and that the Creator is fundamental to Native American cultures. Classes focused on how to nurture, love and discipline children; lead through parenting; adjust attitude; utilize wisdom and knowledge; and act courageously and generously.

“You never know how a child will perceive the smallest act. It could be the biggest annoyance for us to toss a ball around with a kid outside in horrible heat. For him, it can be the love and attention he didn’t get all day long,” Granie said.

Big Cypress counselor Andrea Stinson, who was raised by her grandparents while her mother served in the Navy, said the training drove home the message that Boys & Girls Club employees are never glorified babysitters; they are adult figures who children watch and absorb life lessons through everyday actions. Stinson said she may not have biological children, yet, but when she is at work all club members are hers.

“It’s about how we can better serve the children. I may not be so maternal on the

surface, but I have love, perseverance and a generous attitude so that when parents are not around, I give what the child needs,” Stinson said.

Other topics included improving communication with children and youth; understanding the benefits of service and sacrifice; and allowing children the freedom of choice.

The afternoon mini-training at Big Cypress was a precursor to a more comprehensive 12-week course that will be scheduled for all Boys & Girls Club staff later this year.

“Our staff will digest the knowledge and filter it out to the children as if they were raised with it. The best part is that it is Native American based and all derived from Native American ways,” Granie said. “Everything that happens at the Boys & Girls Club has a purpose and an expected outcome — and we are held to high expectations.”

Bell said all three clubs were closed during the week that coincided with Seminole Youth Camp at Camp Kulaqua. The teams spent the first two days reviewing basic Seminole Tribe of Florida employee standards and a full day honing life-saving CPR and first aid skills. On the last day, staff members prepared for the return of children by cleaning clubhouses.



Eileen Soler

Brighton Boys & Girls Club counselors, from left, Pamela White, Melissa Hines and Heather Thomas practice first aid techniques Aug. 6 during weeklong in-service training at the organization’s Big Cypress clubhouse.

More **KULAQUA** photos from page 1B



Beverly Bidney

Campers enjoy wacky fun during the Seminole Olympics at Camp Kulaqua. Events included earthball soccer, in which teams had to get a huge ball into the goal.



Beverly Bidney

The mud mayhem obstacle course at the Seminole Olympics challenges competitors to race through or over obstructions, including massive hay stacks.



Beverly Bidney

Camp Kulaqua's Hornsby Spring is a welcome respite from activities for campers and junior counselors.



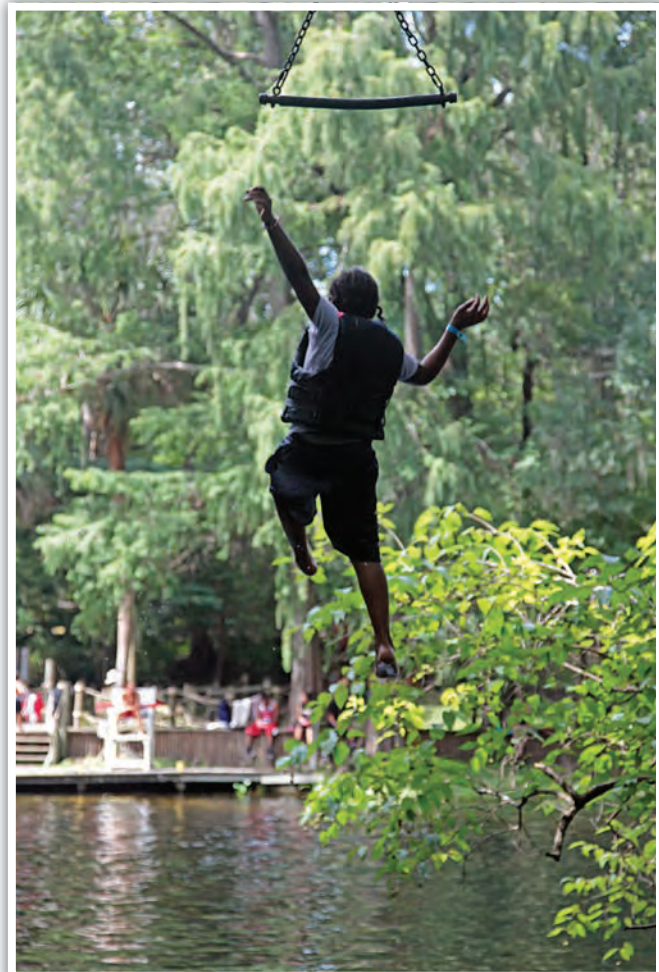
Beverly Bidney

Junior counselor Daniel Rodriguez receives help from Ethan Cypress at the top of the climbing wall at Camp Kulaqua's low ropes course.



Beverly Bidney

Junior counselors Brydgett Koontz, center, and Alexis James, right, mingle with campers at the River Ranch at Camp Kulaqua.



Beverly Bidney

A young daredevil at Camp Kulaqua releases himself from a trapeze over the water.



Beverly Bidney

Campers and junior counselors pile onto a small platform during the all aboard challenge at the low ropes course.



Beverly Bidney

A camper leans back into the waiting arms of junior counselors and campers at the trust fall on the low ropes course at Camp Kulaqua.



Beverly Bidney

Campers participate in a morning walk. Some boys had a need for speed, while others were content with a brisk walk.



Beverly Bidney

Junior counselor Jonathan Bowers helps campers design a poster depicting life at Camp Kulaqua for a poster contest. The winning poster will be featured on the camp T-shirts next summer.



Beverly Bidney

Boys practice catching a kickball before a game.



Beverly Bidney

A camper is heels over head with joy as he launches off the blob at Camp Kulaqua.

Brighton youth savor the sweet taste of success

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Education Department gave Brighton students sweet rewards at a candy-themed incentive awards program Aug. 11.

Candy Land came to life at the Brighton Gym with candy stations and centerpieces made of colorful lollipops and tasty treats. Kids filled boxes with Skittles, jellybeans, gummies, Twizzlers, Kisses and chocolate coins as rewards for a successful

school year, right before a new one began. Tony Bullington congratulated students for another successful year and parents for working hard to make it happen. "Without the effort you put in, these students wouldn't have the success they do," said Bullington, Education program manager.

Tribal college students offered advice to younger kids on how to succeed in school.

"I know it's not always easy to maintain your grades, but stay in school no

matter what," said Jaryaca Baker, a student-athlete at Western Oklahoma State College. "No one can ever take your education away from you."

Baker encouraged students to further their educations, act like leaders, strive to be the best at their chosen professions and disregard anyone who tells them they cannot succeed.

"Take that as motivation and prove them wrong," she said. "I want to see every one of these kids succeed and go to the next level."

Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez, who will attend Tallahassee Community College in the fall, shared guidance for student-athletes like herself.

"It isn't easy after late nights, games and practices," she said. "You just want to sleep, but don't. Always strive for your education. Do the work; it's worth it."

In her first appearance as Jr. Miss Florida Seminole, Cheyenne Nunez advised students to stay in school because they are the Tribe's future leaders.

Recent high school graduate Acealyn Youngblood, a freshman at Savannah College of Art and Design, recalled how she liked to please her teachers in school.

"I liked them to see I could accomplish things," she said. "During high school I kept my GPA up to get accepted into college. I graduated with my class in front of my family and friends. High school is hard; sometimes I wanted to quit, but I knew that wouldn't get me anywhere in life."

With the speeches over and candy consumed, students received certificates and a handshake from Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., who had some sage words of wisdom.

"Focus on what you start and finish it," he said.



Beverly Bidney

Nena Youngblood, 8, helps herself to sweets at a candy station in the Brighton Gym, which was transformed into a colorful Candy Land for the Brighton incentive awards program Aug. 11.



Beverly Bidney

Lexi Thomas, 8, gets her certificate from Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. as Education director Santarvis Brown, Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Nunez watch.

◆ TADPOLES

From page 1B

"The paperless system is so much easier," Cypress said. "It's more accurate and teachers send more

details. This is one step forward for the new age of schools. Other schools off the reservation already have paperless systems. They are finally stepping into the right direction, and it's good to see they are on point with that."

Miller said parents have responded

well to the program.

"Parents love it. Since the first day they've been telling us it has been a phenomenal tool," she said. "We use it as another way to capture a day in the life of a child at preschool."



Kevin Johnson

Jaylee Cypress, 9, shows how it's done as she wins the hula hoop contest Aug. 13 during the tropical-themed Big Cypress incentive awards program at Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Big Cypress students hula toward scholastic goals

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS — A tropical-themed party, complete with palm trees, hula hoops and battery-powered tiki torches, proved to be a big hit for Big Cypress students Aug. 13.

The towering portable trees greeted students and family members as they entered the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium for the Education Department's annual incentive awards program. Colorful table ornaments, flowery leis and miniature toy ukuleles provided Pacific Island decor.

The celebratory luncheon rewarded students of all ages for their achievements in various categories during the 2013-14 academic year, including grade point averages of 3.0 and higher, perfect attendance, effort and improvement.

Malari Baker, the lone member from the class of 2014 who attended the event, received an award for graduating high school.

For students with years to go before they turn their high school tassels, the dance floor was a popular place to hang out while a disc jockey played upbeat music that spanned decades. Students clapped and stepped to "Cotton-Eye Joe," swayed to the Beach Boys and tried their best to master the Macarena.

Some students were hesitant to be among the first onto the dance floor, but rising fourth-grader Javian Cypress wasn't shy as he entertained attendees with swirling dance moves. Javian had to share the spotlight with his siblings, Jaylee and Harmony Cypress, who outlasted about 15



Kevin Johnson

Xzavion Tommie smiles after receiving his award and a new book bag.

other contestants in a hula hoop contest.

The music took a break as Education's Tony Bullington and Samantha Sherrell handed out award certificates to about 30 students. Caleb Billie received his award while carrying a tiki torch across the stage.

Students were given their choice of new book bags for the upcoming school year, which for some started just five days later.

SMPW, Education Expo to be held at Hard Rock

STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Media Productions Workshop (SMPW) will be held in conjunction with the Education Expo Sept. 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Native American actor and motivational speaker Saginaw Grant, an elder of the Sac and Fox Nation, will address attendees at the event.

During SMPW, students will be able to experience motion capture animation. The interactive workshop will include a green screen and monitor so participants can see their avatars come to life.

Students will also learn about SMPW's Native Driven Network (NDN) and what it

takes to create a short documentary.

The workshop aims to enlighten youth who may be interested in careers in the media industry. They will learn about the responsibilities of filmmakers, directors, producers and editors in the production of a film.

SMP's Communications (The Seminole Tribune) and Business Marketing Departments will also have information available for attendees interested in reporting, photography and graphic design.

The Education Expo will showcase information on K-12 schools, scholarship information, tutoring programs and the Tribal Professional Development Program. About 20 colleges and universities have been invited to offer information about admissions.

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Last blast of summer for Hollywood, Fort Pierce



Beverly Bidney

Hollywood kids battle it out with Super Soakers Aug. 14 during the Last of Summer Blast. The event provided one last hurrah for students before the start of the new school year.



Beverly Bidney

Xiya Osceola, 7, twirls joyfully in the spray from a fire hose at Hollywood's Last of Summer Blast.



Beverly Bidney

A Seminole Fire Rescue employee sprays Hollywood kids with a fire hose after an epic battle involving shaving cream and Super Soakers.



Beverly Bidney

Preschoolers have a ball in the bouncy water tunnel at the Last of Summer Blast in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

Antillis Stockton II enjoys his ride down a water slide in Fort Pierce.



Kevin Johnson

Merteria Jones, 9, and Flarrisha Berthier, 16, check out information from the Education Department during a back-to-school party at Chupco's Landing.



Kevin Johnson

Daija Baxley, 17, eyes the target during a game of horseshoes at a back-to-school party in Fort Pierce Aug. 6. Daija is a senior at John Carroll Catholic High School.



Kevin Johnson

Tamia Frierson, 6, and Jarvis Frierson, 6, play on a giant inflatable water slide during a back-to-school party at Chupco's Landing in Fort Pierce Aug. 6. As they neared the start of the 2014-15 academic year, about a dozen youngsters were treated to games and lunch outdoors with family and community members.



Use the Special Enrollment Period to Get Insurance for Your Family

Members of federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native shareholders can sign up for health insurance through the Marketplace at any time of year. Even if your spouse or children aren't enrolled tribal members, they can still sign up.

If your state uses the Federal Marketplace and **if** one family member on the application is eligible for the Special Enrollment Period (SEP), **all family members** who apply on the same Marketplace application are eligible. This is true even if different family members are eligible for different Marketplace plans.

Important: If your state runs its own Marketplace, visit your state's website to apply for a SEP. Your state may handle SEP for American Indians and Alaska Natives in a different way.

Family Success Story

Bob is an enrolled member of the Crow Tribe. His wife Betty is non-Indian, and their children are enrolled members of the Crow Tribe. When they applied for coverage through the Federal Marketplace on a single application, all 5 family members were able to sign up for insurance. Don't wait for the November 15 Open Enrollment Period to get coverage for your family.

To learn more, contact your Indian health program, visit www.healthcare.gov/tribal, or call 1-800-318-2596 anytime (TTY: 1-855-889-4325).



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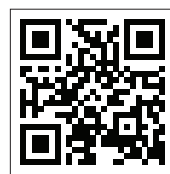
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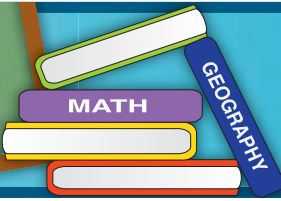


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BACK TO SCHOOL



Eileen Soler

Pre-kindergarten student Brysen Billie is a bit apprehensive on his first day of real school. His mother, Rachel Meeler, calms the fear.



Eileen Soler

Thelma Tigertail leads Ahfachkee School first-graders to class Aug. 18, the first day of the 2014-15 school year.



Beverly Bidney

The backpack is almost as big as this kindergarten student, who arrived at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School for the first day of school.



Beverly Bidney

Students, teachers and administrators report to school Aug. 18 eager to get the new year underway. At left is Michele Thomas, PECS administrative assistant.



Eileen Soler

Lauren Doctor takes a last glimpse of carefree summer days as she enters Ahfachkee School on the first day back from summer vacation.



Eileen Soler

Gene Jimmie is all smiles as he heads to his first day of first grade at Ahfachkee School.



Beverly Bidney

Students walk to school on the first day of class at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton.



Eileen Soler

Second-grader Lucee Cypress receives an assist from her dad, Albert Graham, on the first day of the 2014-15 school year at Ahfachkee School.



Beverly Bidney

Guidance counselor Jeanine Gran comforts frightened kindergartner Tyler Jenkins on his first day at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School.



Beverly Bidney

Second-grader Waylon Yates is greeted in the parking lot on the first day of school at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Aug. 18.

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Sports



Big Cypress rodeo events putting Junior Cypress arena on map

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Rodeo barrel racers lined up to win bucks Aug. 16 and to kick off the new 5-D Barrel Series at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress.

"I'm here for the fun, money and excitement," said Monica McGoey, of Davie, who rode two runs on her horses Cool and Favon.

Fifty competitors turned out to run 64 horses through the clover-leaf course for the fastest times. Times were clocked by an electronic eye and entered into barrel race computing software by arena office coordinator Earleen Rimes.

Competitor Chris Caldwell, a veteran rodeo announcer and a member of the Labelle Family Livestock Club, said the race is "so popular" because riders do not have to be the fastest to win a check.

"It's about the cleanest runs and the fastest time. A winner can be a half-second off the fastest horse," Caldwell said.

The next three contest dates are Sept. 20, Oct. 25 and Nov. 15. Entry fee per show is \$25 per run. An additional \$500 will be added to the pot for every show.

Arena director Ayze Henry said cash prizes will be awarded each date. Competitors must compete in three of the four dates to be eligible for grand prizes at the end of the series. Prizes will go to the top three in each division.

Members of the Junior Cypress Rodeo Association (JCRA) will be eligible for additional grand prizes featuring original leather works, including head stalls, bronc halters and trophy belts, all hand tooled in America, from Jaco Brands.

"The prizes are the latest and greatest, prettiest and shiniest and all one-of-a-kind. We're really excited to have Jaco on board," Henry said.

This summer, the rodeo arena was home to the second annual Junior Rodeo Series, started last summer by former program director Alfonso Tigertail. The



Kalgary Johns, of Brighton, rides Kicks for an easy sweep past the second barrel Aug. 16 during the 5-D Barrel Series at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.

Eileen Soler

rodeo brought about 250 young riders from cities and towns throughout South Florida.

Rimes said many child participants were Tribal youth.

"But we welcome kids from all over. If they want to compete, we're open to them," she said.

Membership in the arena is open to non-Tribal competitors for \$50 per year.

Dyami Nelson, who is the reigning Seminole junior bull riding champ, led the pack of Tribal kids who pitched in behind the chute.

"They always help each other out. It

teaches sportsmanship and teamwork," Henry said.

Team roping practice is held every Wednesday night. Barrel racing practice is on Friday nights.

♦ See RODEO on page 4C

Debate over Redskins name more intense than ever

BY JOSEPH WHITE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mark Moseley has been associated with the Washington Redskins for some four decades as a league MVP kicker, member of a Super Bowl-winning team and general ambassador in his work with the franchise's alumni association. He's seen the debate over the team's nickname come and go since the 1970s, usually as a flash-in-the-pan topic that disappears after a day or so.

This time is different. The campaign to ditch "Redskins" by those who consider it a racial slur has reached unprecedented momentum over the last 18 months. "We all thought it would just go away," Moseley said, "because it is such a ridiculous subject."

Moseley concedes that the debate shows no signs of abating, and he's recently become more active in supporting team owner Dan Snyder's quest to keep the name. Both sides are digging in, the words are getting nastier, and there's no real possibility of compromise: Either the name stays or it goes.

Theories abound as to why Snyder is on the defensive like never before.

"Politicians," said Joe Theismann, Washington's Super Bowl-winning quarterback in the 1982 season and another supporter of the name. "It's an election year."

Possible Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has called it "insensitive." Fifty Democratic senators equated the name to "racism and bigotry." Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who is mulling a run for president, said it is "probably time" for the name to change. President Barack Obama said he would "think about changing" the name if he owned the team.

But the politicians were latecomers. A confluence of events — and several missteps by Snyder and his organization — has made the issue a topic du jour.

It started with a February 2013 symposium on mascot history at the Smithsonian that left a 20-year-old Redskins fan so embarrassed that he took over his team gear and said: "I really don't feel right wearing this stuff now."

That was soon followed by the latest hearing in a long-running case brought by a group of Native Americans intent on stripping the team of its trademark protection — the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office eventually ruled against the Redskins, but the case will likely be tied up in the courts for years. Then, last spring, the opposition got an unexpected boost from Snyder himself. The owner has always vowed never to change the name, but he came across as especially strident when he told USA Today: "We'll never change the name. It's that simple. NEVER — you can use caps."

"We'll never change the name. It's that simple. NEVER — you can use caps."

— Dan Snyder, Washington Redskins owner

Soon, the Oneida Indian Nation in New York had joined the fray as a major player, buying television and radio ads in major markets — including one that ran during the NBA finals. Now, every time the team does anything to promote the name, Oneida counters with a news release within minutes. The anti-"Redskins" coalition never had an ally like it.

"They really put a lot of effort and personal time — and the important thing, money — into what we were doing," said Suzan Shown Harjo, a longtime lead figure in the trademark case. "We've never had money before. We've always done this on a wing and a prayer."

When Snyder started an Original Americans Foundation to give financial support to Native American Tribes, Harjo called it "somewhere between a PR assault and bribery." When a major sector of the United Church of Christ was preparing a vote to boycott the Redskins, the team

♦ See CONTROVERSY on page 5C

Using their heritage to help Heritage

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

PLANTATION — American Heritage School's Mike Rumph wouldn't mind coaching more Seminole Tribe football players from Big Cypress. Thanks to the Jumper brothers — Andre and Blevyns — the coach of the defending Class 5A state champions likes the caliber of player that comes from the reservation.

"Both of them are country strong, tough-nose kids. That's what I like. They both live on a farm in Clewiston. They don't mind being aggressive and rough," Rumph said as his team, ranked among the top 25 high school teams in some national preseason polls, practiced Aug. 11 on its home field in Plantation. Heritage is ready to embark on one of the toughest schedules in the nation.

As a 6-foot-1, 225-pound starting linebacker/defensive end, Andre is accustomed to being in the middle of the

action. The senior captain, who wants to secure a scholarship to a Division I college, not only corrals opponents with two legs, but he also battles those with four. Being involved in local, regional and national rodeo competitions most of their lives has helped Andre and Blevyns prepare for the physical rigors of football.

Roping a raging animal and halting a speedy running back are challenges Andre likes to tackle.

"It's a lot different because steers are 300-plus (pounds) and they run a lot faster and harder than a running back," said Andre, who team ropes and calf ropes. "My parents (Josh and Andrea Jumper) tell me every day don't forget where I came from because I'm a cowboy. I hunt hogs, I steer wrestle steers to the ground; football should be a breeze to me."

Blevyns, a junior who is slated to be the team's snapper for punts and field goals as well as a backup wide receiver, shares his older brother's sentiments when it comes to

rodeo competition.

"I like roping because it gives me more of an adrenaline, but riding rough stock and bucking horses and watching the bulls, that's fun, too, but it's kind of dangerous on the body," said Blevyns, whose 6-foot-3, 180-pound frame is ideal for a wide receiver, but not so much for some rodeo events. "I rode bucking horses when I was a lot shorter than this. I got too tall for it."

Ditto for Andre.

"I used to bull ride, but I got a little too big for that," he said.

But Andre does employ a bullish approach on the football field.

"He's athletic. He's got a tremendous motor. He never stops," Rumph said.

"(Andre) said last year that when you ride bulls, there ain't much on a football field that is going to scare you," said Mike Conrad, Heritage's defensive line coach. "On game day, don't bet against him. What he may lack in fine technique, he makes up for it in drive and ambition. I joke that he's

one of those guys who could have his leg amputated in the morning and he'll get five or six tackles at night. He'd find a way to play."

After helping Heritage compile a 14-1 record and capture its first state title last year, Andre spent the offseason doing the things necessary to attract colleges' attention, including bulking up.

"He was here all summer. He dedicated himself. He put on about 10 or 15 pounds of muscle," Rumph said. "He did a good job at a Florida State camp where they offered him a preferred walk-on, but I know Andre wants more than that."

Andre said he also has preferred walk-on offers from Florida Atlantic and Florida International, but it's a scholarship he's after. He's not being picky about where he'll end up.

"I want them to actually tell me that they want me and that they want to offer me a scholarship. I'm working towards it, but that's for anywhere, not only Florida State, but anywhere I can get one," said Andre, who was noted as a top performer at a Football University i350 combine in March.

Visits to Auburn and Clemson are on Andre's agenda, as well as an FSU home game via an invite from the defending national champions.

"He's in pursuit of that offer, to the point where he has a chip on his shoulder and he's going to do all he can to get that," Rumph said. "His goal is FSU, but I think by the end of this year, a lot more schools are going to come after him because of the size he's put on and his athleticism. Knowing what he's done last year, I think he's going to add on to it as a player. When he gets his first offer from Division I, I think others are going to follow suit."

Andre hopes to pick up where he left off last season when he made a smooth transition from safety to a linebacker/defensive end.

"Andre's year last year was amazing ... and it seems like it was light years as far as how much better he got being closer to the ball," Rumph said. "The minute we moved him up closer to the line of scrimmage he became a premier player for me."

As a junior, Andre registered 72 tackles, including a season-high 11 against Key West. He tied for the team high in sacks with five. Perhaps Andre's finest moment came in the state title game, on and off the field.

"You could hear him in the locker room before the game," Rumph recalled. "He became a big-time leader for us at that point, and it's translated over to this year."

♦ See HERITAGE on page 5C



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage School senior captain Andre Jumper, No. 15, addresses his teammates during a preseason practice Aug. 11 in Plantation.

Fans get a kick out of beach soccer

Mohegan Sun buys pro lacrosse team in Philly

BY STEPHEN SINGER
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Connecticut's Mohegan Tribe, reaching back into its history and a game of stickball North American Indians began centuries ago, announced Aug. 6 it will be part owner of a professional lacrosse team.

Mohegan Sun and Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority, which also operates a casino in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, said they bought half the Philadelphia Wings of the National Lacrosse League. The team will move to Uncasville, Connecticut and play its first game in December at Mohegan Sun Arena. The new franchise name will be announced at a later date.

Terms of the deal weren't disclosed. "The Mohegan Tribe is thrilled to be associated with a game with centuries-old roots with the Eastern Woodland Indians," said Tribal Chairman Kevin Brown.

The Mohegans are the second Indian affiliation to own a team in the National Lacrosse League; Curt Styres, a Mohawk of Canada's Six Nations, is owner of the Rochester Knighthawks in upstate New York. The league said it's committed to honoring the culture and history of lacrosse, which was started by Indians more than 700 years ago.

The Philadelphia Wings, which is owned and operated by Philadelphia Wings LP, announced on July 11 the team would move for the 2015 season.

"The financial model in a market with so many sport and entertainment alternatives has proven to be unsustainable," Michael French, Wings owner and team president, said at the time. "Finding a new venue with new strategic partners was the only way to ensure financial stability."

He said Aug. 6 that the New England market for men's and women's lacrosse has been expanding at a "phenomenal pace."

It's the second professional sports team acquired by the Mohegans, who have owned the Connecticut Sun of the WNBA since 2003.

National Lacrosse League Commissioner George Daniel said the purchase by the Mohegans is a "great model" because of the Tribe's ownership of the Mohegan Sun, its control of the arena and ancillary revenue such as parking, food and beverages.

Lacrosse draws an average of 9,500 fans for each game and outstrips WNBA and European basketball leagues, he said.

Seminole Hard Rock Hollywood hosts U.S. vs. Brazil match

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino brought more than just the beach to its front yard.

With non-stop rock 'n' roll music blaring, national television cameras rolling and passionate fans cheering, the national beach soccer teams from the U.S. and Brazil entertained about 1,000 spectators Aug. 14 in Hollywood.

All it took was more than 2 million pounds of white silica sand — trucked in from Central Florida — to make the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino U.S. vs. Brazil Beach Soccer Challenge a reality on a paved parking lot in front of the Hollywood venue.

Brazil edged the U.S., 8-7, in a spirited clash on sand dampened by pregame rain. The American team, which rarely plays on home soil, was grateful for the evening despite the score.

"The Hard Rock really put on a great environment," said U.S. forward Andrew Feld, 26. "The music, the people, everything that we wanted was here tonight. It was amazing. It got us going and it got the crowd behind the game. It was spectacular."

NBC Sports Network will air the game Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. and Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. Fox Sports in Brazil will broadcast the game Sept. 12 at 9 p.m.

Television viewers will see a fast-paced, emotionally filled match that featured lead changes, acrobatic saves, a handful of yellow cards and a few injuries.

"We knew it was going to be loud, and we knew it was going to be fun and we knew there was going to be a lot of energy going through that field," said U.S. defender Lewie Valentine, 35. "We played our hearts out. Brazil is a great team. We showed them we could hang with them."

"It's a heated game," added U.S. forward and captain Nick Perera, 28. "They want to win. We're trying to show who we are, too. No one is going to sit down and die. There's a little bit of animosity every time you play Brazil, but it's a wonderful event for spectators. We're really excited to watch it on TV."

Perera said this was only the second



Kevin Johnson

U.S. player Lewie Valentine and Brazil's Bruno Xavier vie for the ball during the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino U.S. vs. Brazil Beach Soccer Challenge Aug. 14 in Hollywood.

time in three years that the U.S. has played a home match. The team's previous home game was in 2011 in Miami. Playing games in locations known for their beaches has its perks.

"Every time there's an event, it's somewhere beautiful. They send you somewhere gorgeous: Dubai, Miami, Cancun, Tahiti. It's always in the nice places," said Perera, who also plays professional indoor soccer.

Most of the dozen players on the American roster, including Perera, are from California. The two exceptions — defender Giovanni Garcia and goalie Aldo Balsano — live in Miami. Coached by Eddie Soto, the team will play qualifying matches later this year for the 2015 Beach Soccer World Cup in Portugal.

Beach soccer is a far different ball game than traditional soccer. For starters, beach players are barefoot.

"You might get a broken toe here or there, but it's great," Valentine said.

With smaller real estate — a beach field

is about one-third the size of a regulation soccer field — action is fast and scoring chances frequent among all 10 players — including goalies — on the field. Some of the toughest saves made by U.S. keeper Chris Toth came from shots launched by his counterpart at the other end, Jenilson Rodrigues, about 30 yards away.

Just 17 seconds elapsed before chants of "USA, USA, USA" filled the air when U.S. forward Jason Leopoldo scored the game's first goal. However, by the game's halfway point in the second of three periods, the Americans trailed 6-3. Jason Santos ignited a stirring U.S. rally as his goal and a tally from Garcia closed the deficit to 6-5 after two periods.

The Americans kept the momentum going early in the third period. Perera knotted the game at 6-6 and Feld drilled a low shot past Rodrigues to put the U.S. in front, 7-6. But the lead slipped from the Americans' grasp as Brazil rallied with two goals in the final five minutes to claim the victory.

The party-like atmosphere that extended throughout the game started before the teams took the field. A live band performed on the western edge of the layout. About a dozen food trucks lined the northern side.

Spectators, some clad in U.S. or Brazil colors and a few waving American flags, filled bleachers on the east end. Fans in a VIP section on the south side were accompanied by large fog-spewing, glowing robots, while models wearing shorts, shirts or bikinis matching the teams' colors watched the game from a hot tub.

Youngster Julia Dale, a good-luck charm for the Miami Heat, sang the U.S. national anthem. Both teams honored retired U.S. player Francis Faberoff, of Hollywood, with gifts during a brief ceremony before the teams squared off.

"It was fantastic," Perera said. "The music, the crowd, the setup, the big screen. It was amazing. Really well done. We were talking about it, and we wish we could do an event like this once a month."



Kevin Johnson

Brazil's Rafael Silva, right, tries to keep the ball away from U.S. forward Tomas Canale during the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino U.S. vs. Brazil Beach Soccer Challenge Aug. 14 in Hollywood.



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Heisman repeat won't be easy for FSU's Winston

BY KAREEM COPELAND
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — Florida State quarterback Jameis Winston has the opportunity to accomplish what only one other player has achieved — win the Heisman Trophy twice.

Twenty-three underclassmen have won the award, but Ohio State running back Archie Griffin was the only one to pull off the feat.

He is shocked that he remains the lone double winner since the award's inception in 1935. Until recently, the majority of winners were seniors or juniors who could turn pro. But five of the last seven winners have been sophomores or redshirt freshmen.

Griffin, the Heisman trophy winner in 1974 and 1975, believes it is more difficult to win the award in back-to-back years than it was 40 years ago. For him, the off-the-field distractions were more stressful than any defense.

"I'll never forget that I was trying to do everything for everybody and (coach) Woody (Hayes) called me into his office," Griffin said. "He told me, 'You know what? It's going to make you soft. You can't do everything for everybody.'"

But unlike Griffin, who admitted it was a goal, Winston said he hasn't even thought about a second Heisman. Winston said he is more concerned with a second national championship.

"I'm going to be great, even better than I was last year," Winston said. "I'm going to continue to be myself."

Coach Jimbo Fisher said he and Winston have talked about the award, but not about winning another.

"I do (talk to him) from the point of the responsibility that goes with it with your character and the things you do," Fisher said. "Not about winning another one. If he just goes and plays well, that will take care of itself."

"He never thought about winning a Heisman going into last year. You can't worry about that."

There will be plenty who will. The demands and expectations are higher than when Griffin made history. Winston is the leading candidate heading into the season with the defending national champion Seminoles likely beginning the year ranked No. 1.

Cleveland Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel, the 2012 Heisman winner, said that was the most difficult part for him in 2013.

"There is a lot of pressure," Manziel said. "You're the one that's on TV every week. You're the one who at the beginning of the year is already at the top of everybody's Heisman list ... It's everywhere because it's the biggest trophy in college football."

"For me, I never really let it get to me too much, but at the same time, it was always around and it was always lingering no matter what went on throughout the season."

The Seminoles and Winston have tried to manage his off-the-field commitments.

Winston made few public appearances during the offseason. He was the closer on the baseball team, finishing with a team-best 1.08 ERA, and accepted a handful of football awards. Winston was honored in his hometown of Bessemer, Alabama, and his Hueytown High School jersey was retired. There was also a trip to the ESPYs.

The Florida State signal-caller said he has learned to be more guarded, but still loves having "all eyes on me."

Griffin said that isn't necessarily a good thing.

"They're in a fishbowl," Griffin said of Heisman contenders. "I mean, anything they do, Johnny, every move he made it was talked about. Jameis, same thing. They've got to be extremely careful how

they handle themselves because whatever they do, people are going to know about it."

Winston is no stranger to unwanted attention.

He was suspended for three baseball games and completed 20 hours of community service after admitting he stole \$32 worth of crab legs from a local grocery store in April. He faced criticism nationwide and was the subject of taunts and jokes in print, online and on social media.

Winston was able to handle what Fisher described as distractions during the national championship run. Winston was investigated for an alleged sexual assault, but wasn't charged by the attorney general.

The QB will also have a few on-field challenges.

The Seminoles lost two of their top three receivers and their top two running backs to the NFL. Those four accounted for 52.6 percent of the offense and 44 touchdowns.

Nonetheless, because of Winston, the Seminoles will be one of the teams to beat. Despite his talent, Winston has continued to downplay questions about the NFL. He insists that playing college baseball remains a priority. It would be a challenge to prepare for the 2015 NFL draft while playing for Florida State's baseball team.

Once Winston does get to the NFL, former Seminoles quarterback and current Buffalo Bills starter EJ Manuel said his anticipation on his throws will be his most valuable trait in the league.

"You can't take away some of the throws he's making out there," Manuel said. "They were tremendous. That's why he earned the Heisman."

"I think, moving forward, his anticipation skills, obviously, is a sign of intelligence. So that's going to help him build toward his last couple years at Florida State and then move on to the NFL."

There was an atmosphere of curiosity around Winston last season after being the No. 1 high school quarterback in the nation. The hype is different now because of his dominance on the field and the criticism away from it.

"I don't have time to focus on bad things," Winston said. "I'm always looking forward, keeping a smile on my face and focusing on good things."

AP sports writer Tom Withers in Cleveland contributed to this report.



Beverly Bidney

FSU wide receiver Justin Motlow, center, watches plays with co-offensive coordinator/wide receivers coach Lawrence Dawsey during football camp in August.

◆ FSU From page 1A

"I like what I see," Dawsey said. "Justin has good ball skills. He can run good routes and can catch the ball. He will be a good football player, but his head is spinning with the new offense and the tempo. But he's eager to learn and not backing down."

After his first week at training camp, Motlow said he was adjusting to the system. "I'm trying to learn the playbook,"

he said. "I'm soaking it all in and learning more every day. The pace is so much faster than high school."

Motlow isn't the only member of his family at FSU; his sister Jessica is a junior and a communications major.

"It's weird having Justin here, but it's awesome at the same time," she said.

Motlow knows his parents will visit more often now that both he and his sister attend FSU.

"They are happy I get to keep playing football," he said.

Florida State attempts to maintain historic offense

BY KAREEM COPELAND
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE (AP) — Jimbo Fisher isn't looking for the record-setting numbers his Florida State offense put up en route to winning the final BCS national championship.

The coach doesn't believe the Seminoles need that.

"I don't talk yards or anything like that or points," Fisher said. "It's about the efficiency of our offense and how it fits our defense. I think we can be very efficient. We just have to continue to execute whether we throw it, we run it or we keep the versatility of what passes and things we throw. We'll feature the talents of the players we have."

The Seminoles offense lost two receivers, two running backs and a center to the NFL, including first-round receiver Kelvin Benjamin, fourth-round running back Devonta Freeman and fourth-round center Bryan Stork.

Expectations remain high, however, for a group that returns Heisman-winning quarterback Jameis Winston, one of the most prolific receivers in FSU history (Rashad Greene) and an offensive line with four senior starters. Also returning is running back Karlos Williams, who averaged eight yards per carry in 2013.

The Seminoles set an FBS record with 723 points scored in 2013 and their 7,267 offensive yards were an Atlantic Coast Conference record. And Fisher doesn't run a hurry-up-every-play offense that has trended throughout college football.

"The next step is just keep that thing going, keep putting points up, keep executing day in and day out," Williams said.

Florida State may lean on the run game more early in the season with a veteran offensive line and Williams running the ball while the receiver position gets sorted out. But there's still the reigning Heisman winner under center and All-ACC tight end Nick O'Leary will have a larger role.

"We may feature different plays, different players in different ways," Fisher said. "Or may ask them to do the same things if they do them as well as we did last

year. We just have to figure out what they do well and feature those and keep a great balance with physicality of running it and still being able to throw it."

Here are five things to watch for with the Seminoles this season:

Running Man: The Seminoles lost 1,600 rushing yards and 56 percent of the ground game from the title team to the NFL. Enter Karlos Williams. The preseason all-ACC selection ran for 748 yards and 11 touchdowns after switching from safety last season. The senior needs to prove he can carry the load from the opening whistle with only youngsters joining him in the backfield.

No Fly Zone: FSU boasted the top pass defense in the nation in 2014 and had a school record 26 interceptions. The secondary remains the deepest position on the team. P.J. Williams and Jalen Ramsey are stars. Ronald Darby is one of the top cover cornerbacks in the country and Nate Andrews led the team with four interceptions in 2013. Safety Tyler Hunter is back from a neck injury.

Help the Heisman: Receiver Rashad Greene returns ranked in the top seven in FSU history in receptions, receiving yards and receiving touchdowns. There is no significant experience at the position outside of Greene. Jameis Winston needs someone to emerge from sophomores Bobo Wilson and Kermit Whitfield, seniors Jarred Haggins and Christian Green and five-star freshmen Travis Rudolph and Ermon Lane.

Junior Jacked: Defensive lineman Mario Edwards Jr. is ready to join the ranks of the truly dominant Florida State lineman. The former No. 1 recruit in the nation reshaped his body and diet, increased his speed, is squatting 600 pounds and benching 450 pounds. The goal is double-digits sacks and consistent domination.

Trench Digging: The Seminoles return five seniors, including four starters to the offensive line. The group has a combined 112 starts between left tackle Cam Erving, right tackle Bobby Hart, center Austin Barron, left guard Josue Matias and right guard Tre Jackson. This unit should set the tone for an offense that lost several starting skill players.



Beverly Bidney

FSU head coach Jimbo Fisher, standing at right, leads the football team in prayer after practice during football camp in August.



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Martin, Jumper conclude 14U season at California tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

The No. 1 spot in the Gold Coast Hurricanes 14U batting order fluctuated among a few players, but before the Broward County-based fastpitch girls softball club finished its season in early August, Kiauna Martin had secured the leadoff job.

"Towards the end of the season, she took that spot with aggressiveness and base running and getting on base," said Hurricanes coach Jorge Rodriguez, whose team played in its final tournament this summer at the ASA/USA National Championships in San Diego, California.

Martin and fellow Tribal member and teammate Ahnie Jumper finished their 14U careers with the Hurricanes. They will join the program's 16U squad starting this fall.

The 14U Hurricanes earned the trip to the West Coast by winning a regional earlier in the season.

"This is the big tournament. All the top teams in the U.S. go to this tournament," Rodriguez said.

Martin, an American Heritage School sophomore who has been a switch-hitter for the past few years, handled leadoff duties throughout the tournament that attracted more than 100 teams. It was her first time playing softball in California.

"I actually liked playing out there. Here, you play mostly the same teams over and over," she said.

Martin's contributions came at the plate, on the base paths and in center field. Rodriguez said Martin was effective reaching base by slap-hitting, a technique some batters use by getting a running start in the box as the pitch is delivered.

"She did a great job slapping from the left side. She was able to get on base 50 to 70 percent of the time," Rodriguez said. "She's one of our fastest players. She did very good, especially defensively in center field."

The coach also praised Martin for "great leadership and attitude."

Jumper, also a sophomore at Heritage, started some games at third base and also handled action behind the plate.

"She had an outstanding tournament," Rodriguez said. "She was very hot offensively throughout the tournament."

When runners were on base, Rodriguez knew he had a reliable bat to move them around with Jumper in the No. 5 spot.

"She's a great contact hitter," Rodriguez said.

The Hurricanes posted a 5-3 record, good enough for 25th place. Wins came against teams from California, Nebraska and Washington; losses came against California and Texas teams.

"We could have beat them," Martin said. "We're a comeback team. When we're down, we don't give up, but sometimes we wait too long."

Although most of their trip was occupied by softball, the Hurricanes managed to squeeze in a couple touristy things, including tubing and a trip to LaJolla Beach, where they saw sea lions and killer whales in the Pacific Ocean, but didn't swim.

"(The water) was freezing," Martin said.

◆ RODEO

From page 1C

The arena is also a practice hub for up to 30 cowboys, mostly from Miami, who show up on Tuesdays and Thursdays to run steer.

Henry said the arena is creating more outside interest and bringing in more revenue.

"We're supposed to be busy. We are up and running and working with outsiders to create even more events. It makes no sense to have a state-of-the-art facility just sit here," Henry said.

McGoey and her friends Dayna Harrold

and Ashley Parks, also of Davie, competed in the first 5-D barrel race at Junior Cypress arena and will likely compete in the next three. Sign-ups start at 10 a.m.; show time is noon.

The three avid barrel racers travel together to compete in contests statewide.

"We'll go wherever there's a show: Ocala, Kissimmee, Labelle ... and now Big Cypress," McGoey said. "It's one of the nicest arenas. The best parts? It's comfortable, covered and well-lit night and day."

For more information about the 5-D Barrel Race Series at Junior Cypress arena, 26500 Rodeo Circle Drive, call 863-983-8923 or visit www.jrcarena.com.



Eileen Soler

Davie resident Ashley Parks, of Choctaw heritage, races Sugar to an impressive 17.107 time Aug. 16 during the first show of the 5-D Barrel Series at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress.



Eileen Soler

Ada Jo Bruised Head, 3, on Hawk, is deliberate and sure as the youngest barrel racer Aug. 16 at the first show of the 5-D Barrel Series at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress. Though the toddler tipped the second of three barrels, Ada was surely the showstopper of the day.

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Seminoles offer Rays late season hope

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

ST. PETERSBURG — Tampa Bay Rays manager Joe Maddon's face broke out in a wide smile when Seminoles Bobby Henry and daughter Barbara Cypress approached him outside the baseball team's clubhouse Aug. 15. Barbara had a gift for Joe: an authentic handmade Seminole doll.

It was 30 minutes before game time and the start of a three-game series with the New York Yankees. Maddon accepted the gift and chatted with Barbara about how Seminole dolls are made.

"This doll is going to go right in my office, right on my desk," he promised, "for good luck."

The Rays won the game, 5-0, to even their record at 61-61 and became only the fourth team in Major League history to be 18 games below .500 and reach the .500 threshold in the same season.

Then they went out and lost the next four games in a row.

"Maybe we better get that doll out of there," joked Bobby, who earlier in the season, at Maddon's request, "treated" Tropicana Field, the clubhouse, parking lot, various bats and gloves and watched games from special seats provided by the manager.

In fact, the Rays' stunning comeback started in early June and coincided when Maddon first invited Henry to pray for his



Peter B. Gallagher

Tampa Bay Rays baseball manager Joe Maddon discusses Seminole doll making with Barbara Cypress before a recent game at Tropicana Field.

team. At that point, the Rays had baseball's worst record (24-41).

Twelve weeks later, after a 37-20 streak, the Rays were the hottest team in baseball and back in the hunt for a spot in

the playoffs.

Then the losing streak started.

As of Aug. 25, the Rays were 64-67, two and a half games out of a wildcard playoff berth, with 31 games to go.



Kevin Johnson

Linebacker/defensive end Andre Jumper, right, battles a teammate during a preseason practice Aug. 11 in Plantation.

HERITAGE

From page 1C

Andre's eight tackles against Clay County tied for game high. Five of those tackles came in the first quarter when the game, which turned into a blowout, was still somewhat close. He also made the game's only fumble recovery.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage School junior Blevyns Jumper is in his first season on varsity.

This season Andre's leadership as a captain was tested early. Moments after a player departed the field following a verbal spat with an assistant coach during a preseason practice, Andre and a trio of fellow seniors gathered the team near midfield and advised the players to stay focused. That example of leadership is something Blevyns has come to expect from Andre, not only as a younger brother, but as a teammate.

"It's fun to play with my brother because he's very motivational," Blevyns said.

This season could be another memorable one in the Jumper household. It marks the first time Andre and Blevyns are on the varsity together. Last year, Blevyns helped Heritage's junior varsity to an undefeated season as a starting wide receiver and defensive end. Rumph said he's noticed a change in Blevyns compared to a year ago.

"He's way more focused than he's ever been," Rumph said. "He's always been a basketball kid who plays football, but now he's acting more like a football kid."

Witnessing the varsity's championship run last year has made Blevyns eager to help the team attempt a repeat.

"It was really exciting to watch them go all the way to states and win," Blevyns said. "I really wish I was a part of that so I could get me a ring. I'm hoping we get a ring this year."

Heritage lost some stars from last year's team, but it returns plenty of talent, including the highly recruited duo of defensive back Tavarus McFadden and quarterback Torrance Gibson.

"We can be just as good as last year," Andre said. "Last year was a good team; this year we have a lot of young guys. I think we can do it again."

CONTROVERSY

From page 1C

tried to make its case by having three self-identified members of the Blackfeet Nation call church leader Rev. John Deckenback on the phone, but Deckenback said the three didn't really push the team's cause and called the interaction a "somewhat weird experience."

A blogger hired by the Redskins to defend the team's name quit after two weeks. The team tried to make it a big deal when a self-proclaimed Native American in favor of the name arrived two weeks ago at training camp, giving him a VIP pass and making him

available to the media, but the man was a D.C.-area native who couldn't spell the name of the Tribe he said he was representing. When the team unveiled a "Redskins Facts" website aimed at boosting support for the name, The Washington Post examined the "facts" as presented and awarded the team a score of Three Pinocchios for leaving a "false impression."

On his Redskins-owned radio station, ESPN 980, Snyder derided the "fun, chit-chat, cocktail talk about the name" and said detractors should be focusing more on the plight of Native Americans. His opponents point out that Snyder paid no heed to Native issues during his first 14 years as an owner and made it a focus only after the name

debate swelled late last year.

"Dan Snyder's comments are proof that he is living in a bigoted billionaire bubble," was the Oneida Nation's predictably swift response. "For him to claim that a racial slur is 'fun' is grotesque."

Opponents see the rising opposition as part of a constant drip, drip, drip of anti-Redskins sentiment they hope will prevail.

"We're in this until the name changes," Oneida representative Ray Halbritter said.

Such inevitability is not felt in the Snyder camp.

"I'm telling you," Moseley said, "somebody would have to drop a bomb on FedEx Field to get us to change."



Use the Special Enrollment Period to Get Insurance for Your Family

Members of federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native shareholders can sign up for health insurance through the Marketplace at any time of year. Even if your spouse or children aren't enrolled tribal members, they can still sign up.

If your state uses the Federal Marketplace and **if** one family member on the application is eligible for the Special Enrollment Period (SEP), **all family members** who apply on the same Marketplace application are eligible. This is true even if different family members are eligible for different Marketplace plans.

Important: If your state runs its own Marketplace, visit your state's website to apply for a SEP. Your state may handle SEP for American Indians and Alaska Natives in a different way.

Family Success Story

Bob is an enrolled member of the Crow Tribe. His wife Betty is non-Indian, and their children are enrolled members of the Crow Tribe. When they applied for coverage through the Federal Marketplace on a single application, all 5 family members were able to sign up for insurance. Don't wait for the November 15 Open Enrollment Period to get coverage for your family.

To learn more, contact your Indian health program, visit www.healthcare.gov/tribal, or call 1-800-318-2596 anytime (TTY: 1-855-889-4325).



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

RICHARD CASTILLO
FLORIDA CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY
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Announcements

Miccosukee Tribe to debut new exhibits at its museum

MIAMI — The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida will hold a ribbon cutting Sept. 22 to debut renovations made to its Tribal museum located at the Miccosukee Indian Village.

The Tribe hired Tina Marie Osceola & Associates to research and design new exhibits for the museum, which was built in the 1980s. The Tribe decided to update the displays to tell the story of their people and the environment they call home.

Osceola, a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, formerly served as executive director of the Seminoles' Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, the first tribally governed museum to be accredited by the American Association of Museums.

Central to the renovation project is a series of films featuring members of the Miccosukee Tribe telling their story. The first film, "So We May Grow," tells the story of culture, preservation and growth as told to a young boy, Ezekiel Tiger, by his uncle, Michael Osceola. It was produced by Mehdy Ghannad and Evan

Zissimopoulos, of Free Road Entertainment.

Adam Beach — an Anishinaabe member of the Saulteaux Tribe of Dog Creek Lake Reserve in Manitoba, Canada and star of films such as "Smoke Signals" and "Code Talkers" — narrated the film. Original score was produced by Grammy Award winning artists Micki Free and Jean Beauvoir.

Another film, "We Must Not Forget," is inspired by words of Tribal elder Virginia Poole. The film features the voice of her daughter, Gina Poole, reinforcing the role and importance of women in determining the Tribe's future and cultural relevance.

Exhibits will cover topics such as alligators, camp life, traditional arts, canoes and transportation, as well as adaptability to the environment.

The ribbon-cutting will take place at 2 p.m. at mile marker 70 on U.S. 41/Tamiami Trail in western Miami-Dade County.

For more information, call Marcella Billie at 305-223-8380.

Happy birthday, Byron Osceola



Oh Byron "Boy" Osceola,

You have been a joy watch grow. Although now you have reached double digits, and you're not a tiny boy anymore, you'll always be Dad's baby. I know you will grow to be a great man, but for now, enjoy being a great kid! Have an awesome birthday party big boy! And happy birthday.

From Mom, Dad and family

— Submitted by Mitchell Osceola



In Loving Memory Henry John Billie 1925-2004



Henry John Billie was born October 13, 1925 in the Cape Sable region of the Florida Everglades. He was the son of Johnny and Margaret Billie and he grew up with his siblings, Alice, Watts, Frank, Nigel, Johnson, Elizabeth and Ollie Tiger-Balentine. In addition, there were half-siblings, Ali and Richard Tiger, making up this large family in their camp in South West Florida.

His father and grandfather, like Henry John, were considered master canoe makers, and ever since he could remember, he watched his father carve the long cypress logs by hand, chip by chip and with the sweat of his brow, slowly freeing a canoe from its wooden cypress womb. Henry John's eyes would sparkle with pride at describing the process of creating a traditional Seminole canoe out of a long cypress log.

Henry John Billie was recognized and honored in 1998 when he received the Florida Heritage Award from Florida Secretary of State, Sandra B. Mortham, who praised Henry John Henry as "an artist who works to preserve the heritage of the Seminole Tribe". Henry also worked with the Broward Sheriff's Office. He patrolled on the Hollywood reservation for many years.

In Loving Memory Julie Rose Birthday = August 13th



She's my buddy. She's my friend. She's my daughter. I miss you always. Your birthday was Wednesday, August 13th, and it was hard not to see or hear you close. But we, your family, will keep you in our hearts with special memories.



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