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Voice of the Unconquered

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County, Seminole services agreement OK'd

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — The Tribe's push to expand interests in Coconut Creek came a step closer with the recent approval of a governmental services agreement between Broward County and the Seminole Tribe.

In an 8-1 vote Feb. 11, county commissioners cleared a roadblock to the Tribe's 8-year-old application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) that could add 45 Seminole-owned acres around the 5-acre Coconut Creek Casino to land in trust.

Plans for the property, once placed in trust, include a roughly 1,000-room hotel, 2,500-seat showroom, 4,800-space parking garage and 47,000 square feet of retail space and related facilities.

Commissioner Tim Ryan posed the dissenting vote.

Ryan, a former state representative (D-Dania Beach) serving his first term on the county commission, said he worried that the Tribe would create a "world-class gaming resort" on the additional property and suggested that the commission needed more time to clarify the issue. Ryan asked to postpone the vote.

"I don't want to rush to judgment," he said.

Commissioner Lois Wexler countered Ryan.

On the county board since 2004, Wexler said that "items building up to this" had come before the commission numerous times since 2006, when the Tribe first submitted the Trust Application to the BIA. Wexler said it was time to end years of discussion and formally lift the county's past objections.

"It has been through the art of negotiation that we meet in the middle with a decision that Chairman (James E.) Billie and the county can benefit from," Wexler said.

County services currently supplied to the 45-acre property, including emergency response, will continue to be provided through the BIA application process and when the land is eventually entered into trust.

Justin Motlow: First Seminole to play for FSU

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TAMPA — For the past three years, he was one of the country's top high school wide receivers and punters. Now, standout Tampa Catholic football star Justin Motlow has accepted a preferred walk-on spot with the defending national champion Florida State University football team, making him the first Seminole Tribal member to play for the Seminoles of FSU.

The preferred walk-on status promises him one of 105 spots on next season's team.

"He would definitely be the first one," said Moses Jumper, the Tribe's retired Recreation director and a close observer of the Seminole athletic scene since the first Seminoles began attending college in the 1970s.

His success did not come without a bump in the road. Though his game statistics had been brilliant through his first three years, a separated shoulder "took him right off the radar," said his father, Clarence Motlow.

"A lot of recruiters travel around during the spring practices looking for potential seniors they could recommend, and he wasn't there," he said. "There are a lot of kids out there, more than there are slots on the teams."



Peter B. Gallagher
Justin Motlow accepted a preferred walk-on spot on FSU's No. 1 football team.

❖ See MOTLOW on page 2C

Little leaders born at Tribal Fair pageant



The new Little Mr. Seminole Roberto Benard and Little Miss Seminole Madasyn Osceola smile big with all their royal adornments and trophies.

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Charisma, culture and cuteness abounded at Hard Rock Live Feb. 7 when 31 girls and 10 boys graced the stage in full Seminole garb to vie for the Little Mr. and Miss Seminole titles.

After the judges' votes were calculated, Madasyn Osceola, 7, of Big Cypress, took the Little Miss crown and Roberto Benard, 7, non-resident, captured the Little Mr. title.

"It's great to have all this support encouraging this kind of participation because it's really great to start young," said Miss Seminole Tia Blais-Billie in her welcome speech to the crowd of about 200 proud parents, family members and friends. "I know all these contestants will go on to great things."

To kick off the pageant, Tia led the 5- to 7-year-old girls in a circle around the stage for both the judges and the audience to get a good look at them. Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie led the boys.

Contestants donned traditional hats and hairstyles, held props such as dolls, stickball sticks and hatchets, and accessorized with beautiful beads and jewelry to wow the judges.

Judges included Miss Indian World Kansas Begaye, of the Diné Nation from Rio Rancho, N.M.; Delaine Alley, of Tulsa, Okla., attending Tribal Fair as a WISDOM Dancer as well; and former Miss Florida USA Michelle Aguirre, of Miami.

New this year was the prominent participation of the 2013-2014 Little Mr. and Miss Seminole in the pageant.

Choviahoya Weimann and Sarafina Billie both gave welcome speeches at the beginning of the event and farewell speech at the end, escorted each contestant on stage to answer a question from the Seminole princesses and presented the awards to the winners.

Both Roberto and Madasyn proved their Little Mr. and Miss Seminole qualities with their genuine charm and clear responses to their questions. In complete sentences,

Roberto said his favorite sport to play is soccer, while Madasyn confidently told the judges her favorite food is frybread.

Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers said she is especially sad to let Sarafina go, as she has been a great representative of the Tribe with her excellent speaking skills.

"I'll be back for Jr. Miss and Miss," Sarafina said, with a laughing response from the crowd.

"I had fun being Little Mr. (Seminole). I hope the next kid has fun," Choviahoya added.

The Little Miss Seminole pageant started in 1985, with Wendi Snow as the first to be crowned. Later, the Little Mr. Seminole contest was added to the pageant.

With near life-size trophies in front of them, flowers in hand and sashes emblazoning their new titles — and a crown for Madasyn — the royal twosome were all smiles.

❖ See more photos on page 2D

Walk to halt FPL threat

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Plans are in the works for Tribal members, environmental activists and all friends of nature to let their feet do the talking against a massive Florida Power & Light (FPL) plant that could be built on property a stone's throw from the Big Cypress Reservation.

Carrying banners, more than 200 who oppose the plant will begin walking April 17 from Big Cypress Reservation to the seat of Hendry County government, the LaBelle Courthouse Complex at 25 E. Hickpochee Ave.

Demonstrators hope to bring widespread attention and support for the *Seminole Tribe v. Hendry County* case set to be heard at the courthouse April 21. The case concerns land zoning changes to the FPL property that could clear a path for construction of one of the largest gas powered plants in the country.

Activists, elders, traditionals and Tribal department heads gathered Feb. 7 at the Frank Billie Office on Big Cypress to strategize for the roughly 70-mile walk. They are driven by science-based predictions that the plant will bring disastrous consequences to the environmentally sensitive land and end the delicate balance of nature, history and culture for the Seminoles.

"We need to be highly visible," said Samuel Tommie, an Everglades advocate, film artist and Tribal member who was born in Trail and raised in Big Cypress. "We have to think of our future generations."

Environmental groups including Earth First!, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, South Florida Wildlands Association and the Everglades Sawgrass Warriors are already on board for the walk.

❖ See FPL on page 4A

Redbay trees are dying

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

BRIGHTON — In the past decade, all over the Southeastern United States, millions of the familiar crooked, multi-stem redbay trees have already died or are in the throes of their last days. All along the lower coastal plains and swampy areas of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana and Florida, vast areas of reddish-brown redbay woodlands have become graveyards of wilted, grayed, deceased or dying trees.

All are victims of laurel wilt, a disease of redbay, swampbay, avocado and other trees of the laurel family which succumb to a laurel-specific fungus (*Raffaelea lauricola*) that halts the flow of water in only laurel trees, causing the leaves to wilt. The fungus is carried into host trees by an Asian insect, the redbay ambrosia beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*), which was first detected in overseas packing crate wood imported to Savannah's Port Wentworth area in spring 2002.

Places like Brighton, Big Cypress and across the Everglades are now the redbay's last stand. The glossy green scaffold of the Southern forests has been a major cultural staple of Florida's indigenous peoples and their descendants — the Seminole, Miccosukee and Creek Indians. With its hardwood and shiny green, leathery, elliptical leaves, the aromatic redbay is a veritable major component of traditional Tribal medicine and ceremony.

But scientists warn the tree will soon be extinct in Southeast Florida — the finish line of a unique flora "death march" ongoing since the calamity was first noticed in 2002.

The revered redbay reached this critical point swiftly — and right before the eyes of scientists who have never seen a cultural/environmental decimation quite like this before.

"We have had die-offs before, but nothing like this. I have never heard of a phenomenon where literally millions of trees have gone down in just a few short years," said Jason Smith, associate professor of Forest Pathology at the University of Florida, who described one

❖ See REDBAY on page 5A

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Big Cypress Shootout blasts past into present.
See full story on page 3A.

Editorial

Beetles killing our 'Tu lee' must be stopped

• James E. Billie

My grandparents and their forefathers on my mother's side of the family were practitioners and users of traditional indigenous medicine.

As a child I would go along with Grandmother to collect medicine plants for the Medicine Maker.

On many occasions one particular plant or tree was selected. A carefully chosen branch full of leaves would be snapped and taken.

Tu lee (redbay) was one of those trees. The leaves have many uses such as repelling evil spirits or easing the pain of arthritis. And the list goes on and on.

Since moving to Brighton Seminole Reservation, I reacquainted myself with the landscape of the geographic areas. One of the first plants I sought was *Tu lee*. Traveling north on County Road 721 from the Brighton Reservation to State Road 70, then taking a left (west), you start seeing an abundance of *Tu lee* on both sides of the road.

When in need of *Tu lee*, I would go collect from there.

Three years ago, I noticed that one of trees appeared to have been struck by lightning. It had that typical look. The tree was dying and its leaves were turning

reddish in color.

Next time I came by there, more trees were dead. I didn't recall any bad thunderstorms in that area. It was very baffling to me. Something strange was killing those trees.

Before Christmas of 2014, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger called a community meeting and this is when I learned of the problem. Councilman Tiger had observed the same thing I had noticed, except he observed it months before. He became concerned and contacted the Big Cypress Forestry.

Tu lee is being wiped out by an invasive beetle from Asia.

In this issue of *The Seminole Tribune*, Pete Gallagher has a report on what is happening and what is being planned to save *Tu lee* and other medicine plants.

Please read his report, which begins on page 1A.

Sho-naa-bish.

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



FPL issue goes beyond Seminole backyard

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — Environmentalists, at a recent public hearing hosted by the National Park Service (NPS), overwhelmingly supported a plan to purchase property owned by Florida Power & Light (FPL) inside Everglades National Park.

The purchase would add 320 acres to the park and bolster Everglades restoration efforts, enhance protection of the park's fragile ecosystem and stop FPL's long-standing plan to build a 6-mile stretch of 10- and 15-story transmission line corridor on property surrounded by protected land.

South Miami mayor Philip Stoddard, a biology professor at Florida International University (FIU), said the mere thought of bringing a string of electric power lines into or next to the park is "bizarre."

"This is like the theater of the absurd," Stoddard said.

The transmission lines could impose long-term to moderate impacts on Native American interests.

For example, the view from the Miccosukee Gaming Resort, located due east, would turn from a bucolic tree line to an industrial metal skyline.

Here's background: Since the 1970s, FPL has owned the roughly 7.4-square-

mile property, then located outside of the park. In 1989, Congress expanded the park which then surrounded FPL's privately owned land.

NPS, in 1996, offered FPL \$110,000 to buy the land or take it by eminent domain, but neither idea moved forward. A 2009 federal omnibus bill, which approves an action but does not mandate it, provided that NPS could trade the outside land for FPL's inside stretch.

Now, after four decades of discussions and no resolution, FPL is closer to building the transmission corridor to support transmission at the nuclear Turkey Point power plant 36 miles south while the NPS, Army Corps of Engineers and other environmental agencies are in the midst of massive Everglades restoration efforts.

At the public hearing, FPL's chief of Planning and Compliance for the National Park Service Brien Culhane, reviewed five "alternatives" for acquiring the land from FPL — as stated in a nearly 900-page environmental impact statement.

One alternative to the outright purchase of the property includes a land exchange that would decrease FPL land by 60 acres and move it to the park's east perimeter along SW 187 Ave. where transmission lines would be erected. The company's current plan would fill about 100 acres in

the Everglades at the eastern edge of the Northeast Shark River Slough.

Dan Kimball, superintendent of the Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Park, opened the public meeting at FIU in Miami to a group of nearly 100 environmentalists and local residents. He said the acquisition is extremely important.

"It's about bringing more water into the slough, keeping all interests on Tamiami Trail healthy and continuing the bridge (Tamiami Trail Modifications Project)," Kimball said.

The project, now 75 percent complete, is elevating the Tamiami Trail to allow more water to flow into the Everglades.

FPL senior director of Development Steve Scroggs said the utility company has been working with the NPS to find a solution all along.

"It's been a long road...and we have been trying patiently to find agreements," Scroggs said.

FPL is endorsing another option of trading land for land which means transmission lines will eventually border the park.

To read more about the issue, visit www.ParkingPlanning.gov/ever then click on Acquisition of Florida Power & Light Company Lands in the East Everglades Expansion Area.

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Community



Big Cypress Shootout blasts past to present

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Turtle shell tools, four-log fires and centuries-old weaponry were key elements in a rustic encampment at a Big Cypress marsh that helped paint a picture of mid-1800s Seminole life.

Add men preparing to battle for land and sovereignty, and the canvas came alive for the Big Cypress Shootout — Second Seminole War Reenactment.

“We’re creating a snapshot in time that is very poorly taught in school,” said Paul Rowley, of Alachua, who portrayed “Big Turtle” in the 17th annual Shootout that always ends in the same, historically correct way — in victory for the Seminoles.

Thousands turned out for the Jan. 31 through Feb. 2 event to relive the bloody conflict in the Everglades that pit the U.S. Army against Seminoles who had been pushed deep into the Everglades by war. The clash at Big Cypress recreated one of many skirmishes in the campaign that was won by Seminole guerilla warfare — surprise attacks on Army troops in the Seminoles’ own backyard.

Army troops, forced to fight in the open field, were subjected to gunfire that came from seemingly nowhere. Seminoles, supported by bands of freed or escaped slaves, attacked from inside the marsh’s thick foliage.

“John Wayne did not win this one. You are about to see why we Seminoles are the Unconquered,” said Wovoka Tommie, a Tribal compliance officer at the Big Cypress Council Office, to a throng of spectators that included Boy Scout troops, tourists and history buffs. “This is what our mothers and fathers went through to maintain our freedom. This is why you are all sitting right now in another country — our sovereign nation.”

Rowley, of Muscogee descent, said he spends the weekend entirely entrenched in Seminole culture. This year, he pitched a fabric shelter with history teacher and 14-



Eileen Soler

Seminole Tribal member Tylor Tigertail leans over the ‘body’ of an American militiaman Feb. 1 during a reenactment of the Second Seminole War at the Big Cypress Shootout.

year reenactor Jeremy DeBary, of Muscogee and Cherokee descent.

DeBary, whose wife and son also portrayed Seminoles at the camp, said reenactors spend thousands of hours studying and working to authenticate their depictions. Dressed head to toe in period clothing, the DeBarys cooked over an open fire and tended to daily chores using tools and artifacts from the time or items they fashioned by hand using period techniques.

Family living in the encampment is historically accurate, DeBary said. Men did not leave women and children alone in villages during conflicts or treaty meetings for fear they would be captured by the Army and banished to Oklahoma.

◆ See SHOOTOUT on page 5A



Beverly Bidney

Geneva Garcia, left, and Jalee Wilcox show their hogs in the ring Jan. 24 at the South Florida Fair livestock show.

4-H kids show their stuff at South Florida Fair

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

WEST PALM BEACH — Five dedicated 4-H’ers proudly showed and sold their hogs at the South Florida Fair in West Palm Beach Jan. 24-25.

Karlyne Urbina, 10, and Rayven Smith, 17, of Brighton; Caniah Billie, 10, and Geneva Garcia, 12, of Immokalee; and Jalee Wilcox, 8, of Big Cypress, raised their animals for about 100 days, tracked their costs and ultimately took home profits for their efforts.

“It makes me feel very responsible,” said Rayven, a six-year 4-H Club participant. “You have to take care of your pig. Getting it to make weight is the hardest part.”

His hog weighed 290 pounds, among the largest of the 157 entered in the show. Bettye Thompson, coordinator of the South Florida Fair livestock show, said this year’s show had more hogs than any previous year. Last year, there were 93.

The 4-H’ers get their pigs at about 3 months old, and then feed, clean, groom, walk and care for the animals until taken to market.

“Last year it was harder to shave and wash him,” said Caniah, who showed a hog for the second year. “Now I know how to walk him and steer him much better.”

First-timer Jalee was a trooper in the ring, even though her 242-pound hog lay down in the middle of the show ring: “He’s always tired,” she said. “It was kind of scary being in the ring in front of all those people.”

The hogs are divided into weight classes, ranging from 230 to 299 pounds, and the kids take turns presenting their



Beverly Bidney

Karlyne Urbina tends to her hog, while Rayven Smith relaxes in his hog’s pen before the start of the show.

hogs to judges. Criteria for judging include the amount of fat on the animal.

“I felt scared,” said Geneva, who has been raising hogs for five years but showed for the first time at the fair. “It was hard. My pig moved around a lot, and I was trying to keep up with it.”

Karlyne, who showed a hog for the fourth year, has a long-term goal in mind for showing and selling a hog each year.

“I want to save money so I can take my family to Hawaii when I’m 18,” she said. “But it’s also a lot of fun to show the hog.”

Aaron Stam, Florida Cooperative Extension Agent based in Brighton, has followed the progress of the kids and their livestock.

“The kids have been really responsible,” Stam said. “They learn responsibility, get a work ethic and get to see the cause and effect of the business model. They are exposed to a great model for education and business by raising a pig. As a former teacher, I wish all kids would have to raise a pig.”

◆ See more 4-H photos on page 6A

Indian Country discusses future of energy sources

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Representatives from 11 Tribes met with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) officials Jan. 24 to discuss their recommendations regarding energy and infrastructure development in Indian Country.

Held by the DOE’s Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG) at the Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel, the group discussed the DOE Indian energy program, national legislative proposals related to energy and climate change matters in Indian Country, President Barack Obama’s task force on climate preparedness and resilience, and the newly established quadrennial energy review task force.

The ICEIWG, founded by the DOE in 2011, is comprised of Tribal government leaders who work with the DOE Office of Indian Energy to survey, analyze and provide feedback on policy and program initiatives. Through the group, the DOE seeks to collaborate and gain insight into

the obstacles and opportunities in energy and related infrastructure development and capacity in Indian Country.

The discussion also focused on renewable energy sources in Indian Country, including solar, wind and wood biomass fuel. Dean Polchies, NCAI legislative associate, gave an update on energy options produced in Indian Country and how climate change may impact them.

“The federal government is the largest energy consumer in the country and they should set an example of wise usage and spending,” Polchies said. “They need to include Tribal energy products.”

Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola and Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank presented an overview of Seminole renewable energy projects and objectives. Osceola said the Tribe aims to reduce their carbon footprint, become self-reliant on energy from non-renewables, use renewable energy in community buildings and become a leader in self-sustainability.

“We want to be able to branch out and help other Tribes with resources but no capital,” Rep. Osceola said.

The Tribe is studying the feasibility of solar street lights in Big Cypress, but because South Florida has a sub-tropical

climate, sunshine isn’t as abundant as on reservations in the West, he said. In addition, the Tribe wants to reduce its dependency on Florida Power & Light (FPL) and develop a tribally owned utility company.

Rep. Frank also talked briefly about the proposed FPL plant on the border of the Big Cypress Reservation and the Tribe’s lawsuit against Hendry County for changing zoning laws that allow the plant on the land.

“In addition to lighting up the sky, for the plant to work, they’ll have to steal about 22 million gallons of water a day from us,” he said.

Removing water from the aquifer will require pumping chemicals into it, similar to the fracking method of extracting natural gas from the ground in other areas of the country. An increase of sinkholes in the area could result from the fracturing of the aquifer, Rep. Frank said.

The ICEIWG meets at least four times a year to make recommendations to the Office of Indian Energy regarding energy and infrastructure development, education, capacity building and electrification goals and program objectives carried out under Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Immokalee preserves culture under cooking chickee

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee and Big Cypress Culture Departments did their part Jan. 31 to perpetuate Seminole culture by teaching others how to prepare a traditional lunch.

All Seminoles who wanted to learn were welcomed to get busy in the cooking chickee at the Immokalee ranch. Traditional dishes on the menu included sofkee, Indian stew, frybread, spam and tomatoes, deer and garfish.

“We want to teach the younger generation,” said Cynthia Osceola, of Big Cypress. “We let the inexperienced ones do small things to start, and hope they come back.”

Less experienced volunteers learned from seasoned veterans at the fire, and throughout the day, Osceola offered a steady stream of tips, instructions and praise as she helped create the feast.

New female participants learned how long gravy takes to thicken on the open fire, how to properly prepare dumplings for stew and how to fry garfish. They wore traditional skirts to protect their legs from the fire beneath the grate.

Men cleaned freshly caught garfish and a bird outside the chickee. Occasionally someone would help the women move a heavy pot, but mostly they remained outside the cooking chickee.

The event was the first of a monthly luncheon that will rotate between Big Cypress and Immokalee, said Vincent

Jimmie, Big Cypress Culture manager. They aim to have seniors and younger generations work together to maintain culture.

“We want the younger generation to taste the food and have the elders come and remember,” Jimmie said. “The culture is still there, but we don’t do this too much anymore. We are supposed to eat what nature provides to keep us healthy and committed to our culture.”

The Immokalee community embraced the day: Some showed up to learn while others showed up to enjoy the camaraderie and the meal.

Immokalee Board Liaison Dorothy Scheffler came to learn.

“It’s nice to come out, be with everyone and keep our culture going,” she said. “I didn’t grow up doing this, so I’m learning also.”

Joshua Garza proudly helped hunt the deer and catch the garfish.

“I want to get involved and be part of my culture,” Garza said. “It’s good to see everybody come out and give a helping hand.”

Immokalee Council Liaison Raymond Garza was pleased with the turnout. He said the events help build good relationships within the community and give Seminoles a chance to gather for a common cause.

Holding onto the heritage and passing it down will remain the focus of the events, Jimmie said.

“In the past, people fought and died for this way of life,” he said. “It’s not just a lifestyle; it’s a gift from God and we have to hold onto it.”



Beverly Bidney

Women work together to prepare a traditional lunch in Immokalee Jan. 31 as men observe from outside the cooking chickee.

Big Cypress couple makes dough with fall-off-the-bone barbecue

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Fledgling catering company Hoggin & Boggin Bar-B-Q is off to sweet success and not just for its tangy, mouthwatering barbecue sauce. The Tribal-family owned business' potato salad, baked beans and frybread are just as tasty.

Here's the proof: Tribal members and employees went back for seconds and thirds of the fall-off-the-bone pork ribs and cut-with-a-fork beef brisket at a recent Big Cypress community meeting.

"Seriously, this is good. Like, really good," said Information Technology tech Jean Hyacinth.

Residents and tourists lined up a dozen deep for lunch and dinner at the Big Cypress 118th Anniversary Celebration. And most recently at the Big Cypress Shootout — Second Seminole War Reenactment, the meat, cooked to perfection in a 20-foot smoker painted with a pig's face, was dished out steady and sure.

Owner Osceola Billie and manager Melanie Turtle, of the Big Cypress Reservation, admit they did not expect to become popular so fast. For the couple, who are raising nine children together, cooking has always been a matter of necessity.

"Barbecue is what we do for our family birthdays. When you have nine children, that's a lot of birthday barbecues," Turtle said.

Billie dreamed for years about launching a barbecue business but did not take steps needed to become a Tribal food vendor until he was ready to make it happen. In 2013, he completed all necessary certifications just in time to fire up grills at the Big Cypress 117th Anniversary Celebration.

Armed with a small grill for burgers, a large grill and the much larger smoker, Billie added more gigs at Miccosukee events in Trail. His secret ingredients are no secret at all — Everglades seasoning and seasoned salt. The trick is immeasurable — seriously, Billie does not use spoons or capfuls of anything — he simply sprinkles flavoring until he stops.

Patience is the answer to perfect meat. "I put the meat on the grill and close it like an oven. The slower it cooks, the more tender it is and the more it falls off the bone," Billie said.

Turtle credits her aunt Sharon Osceola for her side dishes.

White potatoes mixed with a zesty sauce and sweet pickles hits the mark for creamy potato salad. A little bit of brown sugar and a handful of bacon makes her signature baked beans a must for every plate.



Osceola Billie, owner of Hoggin & Boggin Bar-B-Q based in Big Cypress, seasons slabs of ribs during the Big Cypress 118th Anniversary Celebration.

But Hoggin & Boggin would not be completely family inspired without aunt Beverly Alumbaugh's dessert-quality butternut squash frybread.

"Aunt Betty boils the squash, peels, purees and sweetens it, then adds it to ordinary dough for nothing like the ordinary," Turtle said.

Billie said starting the company was based on his own family traditions. He grew up helping his grandparents and uncles cater plenty of barbecue parties for friends and family in Trail.

"I was slowly learning and getting better the whole time. I knew you have to start off with oak wood and cypress wood. The rest has become instinct," Billie said.

Through February, the company was to provide on-the-scene barbecue at Brighton Field Days and a Big Cypress Preschool fundraiser, at which all proceeds were to be donated to the school.

For more information about Hoggin & Boggin Bar-B-Q, call 863-233-9502.



Fall-off-the-bone ribs and cut-with-a-fork brisket are favorites at Hoggin & Boggin Bar-B-Q.

◆ FPL
From page 1A

The proposed plant, on 2,300 acres that abuts the reservation's north boundary, will be a duplicate of the West County Energy Center in Palm Beach County with 15-story high steaming smokestacks, rows of transmission towers and several large cooling water pools.

The site sits on proven habitat for several threatened or endangered species, including the crested caracara bird, snail kite bird, eastern indigo snakes and Florida panther. Further, the property and surrounding land is known by Tribal historians to hold relics and artifacts that date back to Native ancestors.

"At the end of the day, the plant will affect all of us," said Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger.

According to a Department of Environmental Protection report, the Palm Beach plant leads the region in producing greenhouse gasses — the main source of global warming. In 2012 alone, it discharged into the air 9.1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide — the industrial gas most responsible for climate change.

The plant would require 22 million gallons of water daily to be extracted by force from the Florida aquifer, Hendry County's main source of water.

Tommie, whose short environmental film *In Our Creator's Hands* has been shown at Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida International University, said he knows what is at risk firsthand.

"It's unbelievable to even imagine that there would be a power plant where I see the trees, the endangered birds and deer crossing the road. I know panthers go there to sleep during the day," he said. "If fighting means educating people to get them to understand that the plant can't happen, then I am fighting."

Shannon Larsen, of Ancient Trees, suggested that walkers plan stops along the way for "townhouse meetings" to bring awareness to people in neighborhoods.

"We need to draw in citizens and listen to their issues, as well," Larsen said.

Plans will include staged stopping points for meal breaks and overnight resting. Walking time will be divided into manageable increments no longer than 20 miles per day.

People are asked to sign up by March 7. To register, call walk organizer Deloris Alvarez, of the BC Council Office at 863-902-3200 ext. 13249 or visit the third floor Council Office at Frank Billie Field Office.

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Collier County Museum shows Zepeda brothers' art

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

NAPLES — The art Brian and Pedro Zepeda have created for years has found a temporary home at the Collier County Museum in Naples.

The brothers' creations will be featured, along with paintings and giclées by Guy LaBree, at the museum through June 30.

Brian fashions traditional beaded bandolier bags and panel belts. Pedro carves wood and makes traditional leather pieces. Raised in Naples, they learned Seminole arts and crafts as children and now continue to hone their skills.

Brian began creating beadwork with loom beading. His interest in bandolier bags arose in the late 1990s when the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum asked him to make reproduction items for displays.

"No one I knew was making bandolier bags, so I learned how to make them myself," said Brian, who serves as the Naples Council Liaison. "My late uncle taught me the rules and specs for them, and I found images from other museums. I made a lot of mistakes on the first one, so I took it apart again and again until I figured out how to do it."

Most of the eastern Tribes — including Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Chickasaw and Mohawk — have versions of the bags, so Brian reached out to artisans from different Tribes for advice. They traded stories about the difficulties encountered while making



Beverly Bidney

Brian and Pedro Zepeda stand outside the Collier County Museum in Naples, where their artwork is on display through June 30.

two beaded panel belts and a few wood carvings at the museum show.

Pedro, who has a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Stetson University, focused on ceramics in college but is well-versed in Seminole arts and crafts. He learned to sew and cook from his grandmother and began making clothing for re-enactments at 14.

He also learned about different types of wood, where to find them and how to carve from Ingram Billie Jr.

A former outreach coordinator at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, Pedro attends Native events nationwide and still educates others about traditional art.

leatherwork."

Pedro carved war clubs from pop ash, a local hardwood, as well as a set of spoon style stickball sticks for the Collier County Museum exhibition. He enjoys choosing the wood and sometimes stains it to bring out its character. The museum show also includes examples of his leatherwork, including a traditional pouch made of buttery soft, brain-tanned elk and deer leather.

Prior to the opening of the Zepeda brothers' show, historian Christopher Kimball gave a lecture on the history of the Seminoles of Naples. All 75 seats in the museum's lecture hall were taken and many people were turned away.

Kimball discussed the Seminole Wars and showed old photos of Seminole life in Southwest Florida and Tamiami Trail, including some of the Cory Osceola and John Osceola families.

"Cory Osceola is considered the father of the Naples Seminole community," Kimball said.

He brought the lecture into the 21st century by talking about the business success and leadership roles of the Seminoles in Naples today.

"I was intrigued by the topic," said Phyllis Arnoff, of Portland, Ore. "The Seminoles were the first people here, yet I had no idea where they came from. Being from the Pacific Northwest, I wondered what Native American life was like in the Southeast."

The Zepeda brothers are pleased to showcase their art and culture at the museum.

"When you do art that's a rarity, people always come to you for exhibits, to teach or for answers," Brian said.



Beverly Bidney

Two war clubs made of pop ash wood by Pedro Zepeda are on display at the Collier County Museum through June 30.

the bags, which are typically beaded on thick wool fabric.

"Now I can look at a bag and know who made it or who the teacher was," he said.

Today Brian sells his work to museums or collectors and often produces pieces on commission. Depending on the size of the beads and the intricacy of the design, it can take up to six months to complete one piece. His inspiration for the designs sometimes comes from the past, but he often designs from his imagination, he said.

Brian is showing two beaded bags,



Beverly Bidney

Pictured is a beaded bandolier bag made by Brian Zepeda.

"I just really like doing traditional arts and try to educate people about it," he said, "especially the arts people don't do anymore, like making clubs and



Eileen Soler

Internationally acclaimed artist Nilda Comas works on a plasticine maquette, or model, of a Seminole girl sculpture that will be recreated in bronze for display at Stranahan Landing along the New River in Fort Lauderdale.

Sculptor to restore Native presence at New River

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — Sculptor Nilda Comas' three-year goal to bring Seminole presence back to Fort Lauderdale's New River is closing in.

Florida "A Seminole Girl," to be created in life-size bronze by the internationally recognized artist with help from Seminole artist Elgin Jumper and her daughter Stephanie Sneed, will grace Stranahan Landing, a tiny patch of green along the river in the city's downtown historic district.

"She will be part of the landscape, by the river, as the Seminole always were," Comas said from her studio, a short walk from the sculpture's eventual destination.

Stranahan Landing is directly across the river from the 1901 home of Frank Stranahan, considered the father of Fort Lauderdale, who four decades after the Seminole Wars had established a lucrative and trustworthy trading business with the Seminole people.

Entire Seminole families parked dugout canoes at the landing and then were ferried to Stranahan's trading post near the home where the families camped several days each time.

In 1900, Stranahan married the area's first teacher, Ivy Cromartie. As was socially expected, she quit her job but began unofficially teaching Seminole children at the trading post camps, which further bolstered the Stranahan and Seminole relationship.

Comas, a longtime volunteer fundraiser for Stranahan House, said her curiosity for Seminole and local history was piqued when Seminole artists Elgin Jumper and Jimmie Osceola started attending classes at her Legacy Art Studio in Fort Lauderdale.

"Elgin and Jimmie Osceola inspired me to recreate a piece that is Seminole and Florida, something that represented the oldest living culture here," Comas said. "I want to convey the message that Seminole is Florida."

Comas was subsequently invited to view protected Seminole archives that are vaulted at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. There, she studied photographs from 1910 through 1920.

The roughly 12-foot-tall finished sculpture will be historically accurate. The little girl's dress, though pieced together in sections, will represent the era's pre-patchwork designs. The palm fronds she whimsically fans through the air are still used to roof traditional chickee homes.

The threatened sandhill crane dancing at her side will take a protective pose as it pushes her forward into the future. At her skipping, dancing feet, a juvenile alligator will symbolize fearlessness, Comas said.

The sculpture will be cast using the ancient Etruscan lost wax method. In the end, its patina will be the color of terracotta.

Painted tiles purchased for \$100 each by project supporters will be placed in approved patchwork designs around the base. Additional tiles, painted by students of the Tribe's Ahfachkee School on the Big Cypress Reservation will further embrace the sculpture base.

Interactive devices will allow spectators to hear sounds of the Everglades, children's laughter and universal children's songs, such as *Frère Jacques* sung in Mikasuki.

"It shows that we all are, after all, a patchwork of people," Comas said.

Comas, born in Puerto Rico, earned a Master of Fine Art from the New York Academy of Art and maintains a second studio in Pietrasanta, Italy.

water and nutrient transport system to plug the flow of water and cause the tree to wilt. "Since the redbay and the laurel wilt disease evolved in separate places half a world apart, the tree has no resistance other than to offer these invaders a buffet half a continent wide," he said.

The insect made its way to the U.S. by hitching a ride on a container ship all the way from a native landscape in India, Japan or Taiwan, said Smith. U.S. scientists didn't realize the severity of the beetles' impact until two years later, when thousands of redbay trees were reported dying on nearby Hilton Head Island, S.C.

Since then, the fungal disease carried by the beetle has been identified as the killer of uncountable numbers of redbay trees in more than 100 counties in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

"It's maddening to think something so severe could just arrive here in a packing crate or in firewood, that such destruction is born so easily," Smith said, noting that of the 55 alien bark and ambrosia beetles that have been "accidentally" introduced onto the U.S. continent in the past 27 years, "the redbay ambrosia is the only one to prey on living, healthy trees."

Smith said, after struggling for years to find a way to stop the highly contagious disease, scientists have only recently identified several techniques that may work, including propagating individual redbay trees that seem immune to the ambrosia beetles' fungus.

"We've noticed an entire swath of trees, all infected and dying, and there in the middle of it all are a couple trees growing naturally with no seeming affect from the fungus all around them," said Smith, who has appeared at a Big Cypress community meeting and consulted with Seminole Tribe Forestry on redbay matters in the past year. "We want to locate, examine and propagate those trees and grow new stronger wilt-resistant trees using the very genetics that seem to survive this horrible fungus."

Everglades restoration projects and commercial avocado interests currently loom as potential expensive victims unless the "laurel wilt death march" is halted soon.

"Think about it. Much of the canopy cover, throughout the tree islands of the Everglades, is provided by swampbay trees, which can grow tall and spread out with room," Smith said. "If those trees start dying in massive numbers, as has been the

case elsewhere, you will lose that important cover. Here you are spending millions to restore the Everglades and the whole region is changing because the trees are dying and the cover's gone... and it has nothing to do with the water table."

The state's avocado crop earns about \$30 million wholesale each year — the second-largest fruit crop in Florida, after citrus. Most of this industry is crammed onto 7,500 acres of grove land located mostly in Miami-Dade County — a sitting duck for the sort of swift, large-scale laurel wilt infestation which has decimated non-commercial trees in similarly sized tracks in Georgia.

Desperate, as the spreading disease gets nearer, the avocado lobby is pressing the Florida Legislature for money for pesticide development. No pesticides, however, have yet been proven effective against laurel wilt disease, said Smith's associate Albert "Bud" Mayfield, who said "even if such a remedy was found, we're certainly not going to save our forests with fungicide injections, tree by tree. This would be limited to park and landscape situations."

Redbay is a low-profile tree. Commercial timber companies don't harvest it for profit. Redbay wood is sought mostly by fine carpenters for cabinetry, bannisters and boat building. Historically, Southern cooks use the leaves for flavoring gumbos or stews. Most people don't realize the trees are even there — until they are gone.

For example, Duval County's oldest, shadiest neighborhoods appear devastated with huge gaps in the canopy and a dappled brown shroud over the prettiest, most natural areas near the Northeast Florida coast; the neighborhoods below are devoid, now, of the crisp menthol fragrance which saturates



Peter B. Gallagher

The leaves of the redbay tree are long, elliptic and leathery, releasing an aroma of menthol fragrance when squeezed or cooked.

the air beneath redbay cover — stolen by the laurel wilt's lethal epidemic.

The cultural value of the trees, however, "definitely needs to be brought to the table," said Smith, who has brought the Chairman a comprehensive plan to save the trees by enhancing preservation programs to include Tribal lands. He has also appealed to the Florida Legislature and various state agencies for funding.

"The Indians make a very compelling point that many of us scientists and researchers don't know enough about. The redbay is a valuable tree to their culture and that is just as important as any environmental or commercial reasoning for action to save this resource," Smith said. "Whatever happens, it needs to happen soon. This situation is not going to go away. By the time we figured out what was going on, half the trees were gone."

Smith plans to return to Brighton soon to take cuttings from Tribal members' redbay trees; he will transport the cuttings to a University of Florida laboratory, where special horticulture treatments can preserve and "grow" the cutting.

"If anyone has a special tree, or knows of a special tree which is used for medicine or other cultural reasons, let me know and we will try to do what we can to save it...if it is not too late already," he said.

REDBAY

From page 1A

grove in Duval County, where fatalities increased from 10 to 92 percent in just 15 months. "It is unheard of, unprecedented and it is happening right before our eyes."

"You can say that again," said Chairman James E. Billie, who claims he recently watched a whole strand of redbay trees wilt and die along State Road 70 near the Brighton Reservation. "I drive by this area all the time and look for those trees. One day I noticed they were looking bad and it kept getting worse and then pretty soon they were all fallen over and dead."

"It occurred to me that this is really a tragedy for our Tribe. The redbay has so many cultural uses. You see a man walking by with a redbay leaf pinned to his shirt. You see the redbay at funerals. It has many, many medicine uses."

Alarmed, Chairman Billie began to monitor redbay trees on his own property in Brighton and found them suffering as well. He invited Smith to Brighton recently to assess the situation.

Smith, who along with University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Tropical Fruit Crop specialist Jonathan Crane and Florida Division of Forestry entomologist, Albert "Bud" Mayfield, produced the 2011 report on the issue, *Laurel Wilt: A Threat to Redbay, Avocado and Related Trees in Urban and Rural Landscapes*.

The scientist held up a small glass vial that appeared to have several tiny black specks floating in water, each about the size of Lincoln's nose on the U.S. penny.

"This is the culprit," Smith said. "The redbay ambrosia beetle."

As Smith explained it, ambrosia beetles are wood-boring insects that typically attack trees and shrubs that are already stressed, dying or dead.

"For reasons we do not yet understand, this beetle attacks healthy trees of certain species in the laurel family, particularly redbay," said Smith, holding up a sample cutaway section of redbay trunk showing numerous teeny pinholes. "The beetle bores into a host tree, creating these pinhole tunnels and inoculates the tree with fungal spores carried on its body."

Smith said it is this fungus, not the beetle, that kills the tree moving through its

SHOOTOUT

From page 3A

Besides, he met his wife, Emily, also a long-time reenactor during a Creek war event in Georgia that required him to "raid" a village of settlers.

"I was the Creek and she was the settler. I threw her over my shoulder, ran off with her, and we've been together in re-creation ever since," DeBary said.

All reenactors, some with no Native American heritage, necessitate the past and give honor to Seminole survival.

History fan Robert Burns, of Davie, stepped out of his open-sided tent to display a 1728 Brown Bess — flintlock, muzzle loaded rifle that was likely used to defend Seminole land. Don VerWiebem, of Merrit Island, likes to feature furs and hides that he tans himself using methods taught by Seminoles for centuries.

Laney Burney is most proud of the Seminole pumpkins and other native foods, such as dollar weeds that taste like parsley, that she grows herself to serve to curious spectators.

The only wigwam in the encampment is erected annually by Iroquois and Seneca David Pierce, of New York, who drives down to Florida to represent the part his ancestors played in Seminole history.

Pierce cooks potatoes and onions for dinner every night — once in a while tossing a slab of bacon into the pan. His father's hatchet is used to chop wood for the fire and his mother's kettle provides boiling water.

"It's documented that at least 10 Blackfoot fought alongside the Seminole. We're all extended family," Pierce said.



Peter B. Gallagher

Tribal Medicine Man Bobby Henry leads a Seminole stomp dance through a surprised audience at the Hard Rock Global Conference in Orlando.

Indian Country profile: Grammy-nominated flutist R. Carlos Nakai

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Editor's note: This is one of an occasional series of profiles of notable Native Americans making their mark on the world.

Native American flutist R. Carlos Nakai has used his unconventional traditionalist views and Navajo-Ute cultural heritage to build a gratifying lifestyle and prolific music career — one that includes 10 Grammy nominations.

"Everything I do is based on the philosophies of all the Tribes I participate in," said Nakai, of Tucson, Ariz. "They offer a very clear road map."

Since 1983, Nakai has released 35 albums with two records going gold (500,000 units sold) and more than 4 million albums sold.

His style of music includes new age, jazz and classical, but he has crossed cultural boundaries through collaborations with Japanese, Tibetan and Hawaiian musicians.

He was nominated for a Grammy award this year for the new age album *Awakening the Fire*, a duet with percussionist Will Clipman. Although he didn't win, he enjoys incorporating an indigenous instrument into the current American music scene, he said.

Nakai has gained notoriety but said he doesn't know what makes his music attractive to his audience.

"I'm still figuring it out," he said. "It's kind of like a freeway; there are all these off ramps and side roads you can go on that take you away from the freeway. You have to get off the freeway as much as you can and see what's out there."

A self-described musician and philosopher, Nakai lives what he calls an "experientially based life" rather than one that is limited by controls placed on people by society.

"It's more interesting," he said. "I determine and am aware of what my own life will become instead of looking back and thinking about what was lost. As many philosophers have said, the past can never be changed but the future offers many possibilities."



John Running/Courtesy of Canyon Records

Native American flutist R. Carlos Nakai has released 35 albums and sold more than 4 million copies.

Nakai earned a bachelor's degree in graphic arts from Northern Arizona University and a master's degree in American Indian studies with a specialty in culture and spirituality from the University of Arizona. He believes the biggest obstacle facing Native Americans today is their reliance on the past.

"They think they lost something when the world changed around them in the 1800s," Nakai said. "It's time to get off the reservations created by the government and create a more positive outlook and future. We need to be more self-sufficient and become more involved in society as it exists today."

His advice to Native American young people seeking success in life goes back to the basic questions about life itself.

"I encourage youth to remain within their culture," Nakai said. "Learn who you are. Go back and question your family. Why did you make me? What was your dream? Begin a discussion about what you are in the world; it will reveal your

own philosophy. It's about having self-awareness and delving into your cultural heritage."

The biggest challenge in life, Nakai said, is learning not to be held back by society's "social control mechanisms."

"I want to operate outside of those because I don't think they work too well," he said. "Many philosophers talk about self-awareness and personal responsibility. Even the elders; their first admonition is to learn to be of service to others."

Nakai believes being inclusive in the world as it moves into the future while being of service to others is the best way to live. He considers living that way to be his greatest achievement.

Today, Nakai tours about eight months a year but hopes to reduce it to about four months as he nears retirement.

"I don't have a special gift; I just do what I enjoy in the world," he said. "I work to express the profound experience I have in my own life. Other people can do this, too; I'm not the only one."

Executives report growth at Hard Rock conference

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

ORLANDO — More than 700 Hard Rock employees worldwide gathered Jan. 21-23 at the world's largest Hard Rock Cafe for the company's annual Global Conference.

The three-day event at Universal CityWalk in Orlando was a veritable pep rally honoring an over-the-top 2013 business performance for Hard Rock, one of the most recognizable brands, owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Hard Rock president and chief executive officer Hamish Dodds and James F. Allen, chairman of Hard Rock International and chief executive officer of Seminole Gaming, congratulated employees for the year of remarkable growth during a period of rebuilding for most sectors of the U.S. economy.

"We achieved both our goal of increasing revenue across the board and growing our bottom line," Allen said. "Some people say, 'Jim you are never happy.' Well, I suppose there is some truth to that. But whatever happened yesterday is yesterday's news...You have to always continue to raise the bar."

In March, the Seminole Tribe of Florida will mark its seventh year as the Hard Rock owners of 175 Hard Rock cafes, bars, hotels, casinos and live music venues that showcase the world's ultimate

collection of authentic music memorabilia in 55 countries around the world.

Allen called the company's potential for growth as "scary in a good way" and credited its continued success to "its amazing marketing, design and development teams."

During a mid-conference address, Chairman James E. Billie gave attendees a taste of Seminole culture.

"*Hul-pah-te-chobee*," Chairman Billie called to the audience. "I brought some of my Tribal members to say thank you today. *Sho-naa-bish*."

On a cue from the Chairman, two thrashing alligators were held high while being carried through the packed room by Tribal alligator wrestlers Billy Walker and Everett Osceola (assisted by Cady Thompson and Ian Tyson of Native Village).

As the gators were brought to the front of the stage, heads turned quickly toward a "whoop" from the back of the room, where Tribal Medicine Man Bobby Henry, holding his turtle shell shaker high, began to lead his family through the audience for a Seminole stomp dance demonstration, complete with call and response shouts.

"These are the people I work for and they are the ones who inherited the Hard Rock," Chairman Billie said.

He then invited the crowd to line up for several gifts from the Tribe, including lapel Seminole dolls and colorful beads blessed by Henry.

Hazard awareness tips

SUBMITTED BY LAURENCE CHAUVET
Emergency Management Planner

Hazard Awareness is important when living in Florida, not only for tropical storms and hurricanes but also for many other forms of severe weather that can arrive at a moment's notice and unleash violent storms, damage property and injure people and animals. Severe thunderstorms can sometimes bring hail or tornadoes. Excessive rain causes flooding in low-lying areas, and wildfires can burn thousands of homes and acres. Being prepared is easy when you keep the following safety tips in mind.

When thunder roars, go indoors. Florida is the lightning capital of the world and leads the nation in severe weather-related deaths and injuries. The majority of casualties occur when people are caught outdoors in the summer months during the afternoon and evening. If you can hear thunder, you can potentially be struck by lightning, which can strike up to 10 miles away from a storm.

When you hear thunder, move to safety inside a building or vehicle with the windows up. Never find shelter under an isolated tree. Also, stay away from objects that conduct electricity, including bodies of water like pools and lakes, and electronic devices like phones, computers and televisions.

Know the difference between tornado watches and tornado warnings. Tornadoes are violently rotating columns of air extending from thunderstorms to the ground. They typically start as funnel clouds and may be accompanied by loud roaring noises. If a tornado watch is issued,

tornadoes are possible in your area. Stay alert and tune in to the weather for more updates.

If a tornado warning is issued, a tornado has been sighted in your area or on the radar. Seek shelter immediately in a safe room, such as a bathroom, closet or other interior room without windows. Sit in a corner of the room for protection and cover your head. Where possible, stay tuned to the weather for updates until the storm passes.

Turn around, don't drown. Flood waters are sources of hidden danger. Never try to walk, swim, drive or play in flood waters. You may not be able to see how fast water is moving or the holes and debris underneath. Driving through flooded roadways can flood your engine, leaving you stalled or stranded. It only takes 2 feet of water to sweep most cars away, including SUVs and pickup trucks.

Be fire-wise and keep your home fire-safe. Fires often begin unnoticed and spread quickly, igniting brush, trees and homes. Maintaining your landscaping and keeping your property clear of debris is an easy way to prevent or reduce fire damages to your home. Clear dead leaves from gutters, decks and porches regularly.

Teach fire safety to children and keep matches and lighters out of their reach. Plan an escape route should a fire be discovered. Keep flammable plants and woodpiles away from your home. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house.

If you have questions about the effects of a storm or how to keep your family and home safe, call Emergency Management at 954-967-3650 or visit www.stofemd.com or www.SeminolePD.com.

◆ More 4-H photos from page 3A



Beverly Bidney

Jalee Wilcox takes a relaxing break with her hog after showing at the South Florida Fair Jan. 24.



Beverly Bidney

Rayven Smith and Karlyne Urbina and their pigs wait for their turns in the show ring.



Beverly Bidney

Caniah Billie shows her hog at the South Florida Fair livestock show.



Beverly Bidney

Geneva Garcia gets her official tag pinned to her shirt by Caniah Billie before the start of the show.



Beverly Bidney

Jalee Wilcox shows a hog for the first time at the South Florida Fair livestock show.

Keep communities safe

SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD
Police Chief

Promoting safety within the community encompasses involving all citizens in protecting their neighborhoods simply by being alert. If you notice any of the following scenarios taking place, contact Seminole Police Department:

- Someone you do not recognize running from a home or vehicle
- People going door to door, such as a salesperson, who may be looking into windows and parked cars
- Individuals who seem to be wandering around the community
- Unusual or suspicious sounds, such as glass breaking
- Vehicles moving slowly throughout the area with no apparent destination
- Transactions conducted from a vehicle, which could be a sign of the sale of

drugs or stolen goods

- Someone walking around the community carrying unusual property, such as a television
 - A stranger on the premises of a neighbor's home when the family is out of town
 - Children who stopped to talk to someone you may not recognize driving a vehicle
- Providing an officer with the most accurate information and description of what you may have seen is very helpful, including:
- Whether the crime is still in progress
 - The sex, race, age, height, weight, hair color and clothing of a suspicious person
 - The description of a suspicious vehicle, such as make, model, year and license plate number
- Together we can keep our communities safe if we stay active and observant.

Preserving the past through Oral History



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

Because audiovisual formats have changed over time, the Oral History Collection has recordings in at least seven different formats from throughout the history of the program.

SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN BRIDENSTINE
 Oral History Coordinator

During the Big Cypress 118th Anniversary Celebration in January, I had the privilege of sitting down with Carol Frank Cypress to discuss her life growing up on her grandfather Billy Osceola's Camp on Big Cypress. She had requested my services as the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Oral History coordinator so her grandchildren might know more about her family heritage and the historic landscape of her childhood, an area that has since been cleared for cattle pasture.

I conducted the interview as part of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Oral History Program, which aims to preserve Seminole history, memory and culture through recorded interviews and activities. For 80 years, Seminole elders, veterans, teachers, employees, artists and storytellers have created an archive that reaches back to the earliest days of Seminole history. Billy Bowlegs III, Josie Billie, Betty Mae Jumper, Susie Billie, Bobby Henry and Happy Jones are among the individuals who have contributed to the Oral History Collection.

During an hour-long recorded interview, Cypress

recalled the Billy Osceola Camp's gardens located just outside the cypress dome, the locations and uses of different chickees and the high water that once surrounded the camp. The construction of the canals and the development of the land, however, forever altered the home she knew as a child.

"It disappoints me that that happened. It completely changed everything," Cypress said. "There's no more water where we used to go swimming or take our baths...and it's still changing. That's why I wanted to talk about that area."

With the interview now preserved on DVD, Cypress will share the memories of her childhood home with her grandchildren and their grandchildren and countless generations more.

If you would like to learn more about this service or would like help recording your own family stories, contact Oral History coordinator Stephen Bridenstine at 863-902-1113 ext. 12213 or StephenBridenstine@semtribe.com.

All existing recordings in the Oral History Collection are housed at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and are available to all Tribal members to view upon request.

The Northern crested caracara: 'A Florida bird'

SUBMITTED BY PAULINE HAAS
 Wildlife Biologist

The Northern crested caracara, a large raptor residing in Central Florida, is protected under the Endangered Species Act in 1987 due to loss of habitat and population decline. To aid in the effort of keeping the Florida population healthy, the Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) Wildlife staff conducts crested caracara surveys on the Brighton and Big Cypress Reservation from October to May.

During the 2012-2013 survey season, ERMD confirmed 14 nests on the Brighton Reservation and three on the Big Cypress Reservation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has developed a consultation area for the caracara based on habitat. Much of the dry prairie habitat in Florida has been destroyed or modified for agriculture and residential development. However, large cattle ranching operations seem to be compatible with caracara nesting and survival.

Caracaras nest in cabbage palms in open prairies and improved pastures from October to May and lay one to two eggs in January. Pairs mate for life and will return to the same nest every year.

The Northern crested caracaras are larger birds with a black back, wings and cap. They have a white head, white patches on the wings and white band on the tail. Their chest is barred and adults have yellowish legs and beaks, while juveniles have blue legs and beaks.

Although the caracara has been called the "Mexican Eagle," fossil evidence suggests that caracaras have been in North America since before the Pleistocene period more than 20,000 years ago. According to Joan Morrison, a professor of biology at Trinity College and a caracara researcher, the fossil records show that caracaras once ranged from the Rancho La Brea tar pits in California to Arizona and New Mexico.

They have also been found on the Gulf coast of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. Fossil records have also been found from the ice age periods and even



older fossils have been found in Nebraska of a now extinct related caracara species.

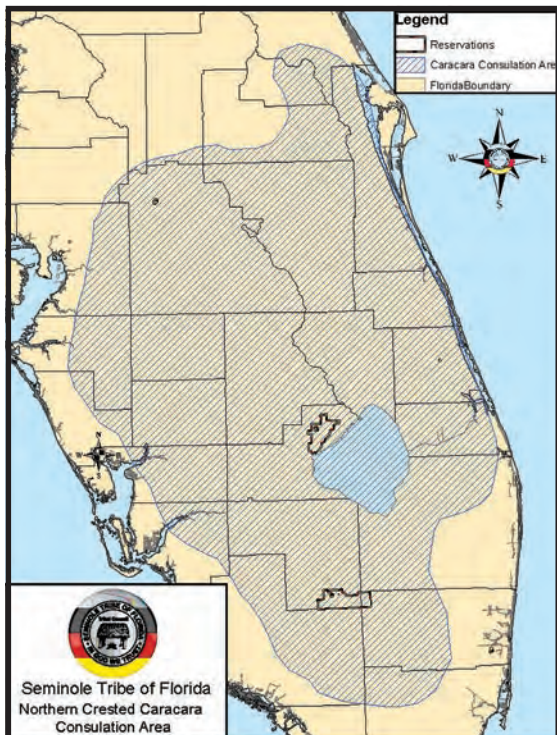
This information suggests that much of the continent consisted of grasslands and was warmer before the ice age.

Researchers believe the current caracara populations have been "pushed back" south by the expanding glaciers. After the last glacial period, when northern Florida became forested, the only habitat left for the caracaras in Florida were the great prairies. This has created a Florida population of crested caracaras isolated from the populations which still exist in Texas, Mexico and Central America.

Caracaras have also experienced population decline due to vehicular collisions. Caracaras are scavengers and can often be found on the side of the road with vultures feeding on road kill, therefore making them more prone to becoming road kill themselves.

In the end, these birds still reside in Florida and are true survivalists. No matter what nature brings them and the habitat changes they have been through, the Northern crested caracara adapts and continues to inhabit improved pastures on the reservations.

For more information, contact ERMD at ermdwildlife@semtribe.com.



Betty Mae Jumper Wisdom from the past

'Asse Yahola'

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the June 18, 1999 issue of *The Seminole Tribune*.

Over the years many people have asked me questions about our Tribe and what things were like in the old days. Why, just last week, I answered the telephone and a woman asked me what we Seminoles knew about Osceola. Not what was printed in books but what we were told as children. Our oral history.

When I was about 8 or 9 years old, my great uncle Jimmy Gopher called me and my brother Howard together. He said he had something important to tell us.

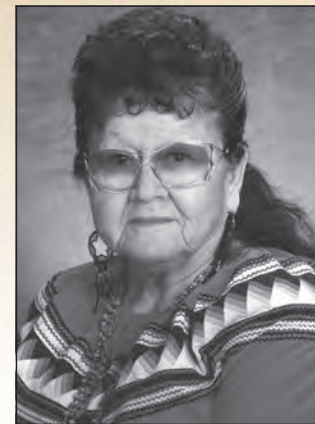
I was born April 27, 1923. Jimmy was my grandmother Mary Tiger's brother. They didn't keep records when he was born, but he was probably born around 1880. Jimmy had heard the stories passed on to him from elders when he was a child, and he felt it was his job to pass those stories on to my brother and me.

He told us that Osceola was a great leader, but that his real name was not Osceola. His name was *Asse Yahola*. But, he was called Osceola because the soldiers couldn't pronounce his real name so they cut it to Osceola.

Osceola was a half-breed. His mother was a full Creek Indian speaking lady of the Alligator Clan. But Osceola's father was a white man.

Perhaps my uncle told me and brother that because we were half-breeds. When we were born, it was still against the Tribe's rules to allow half-breed children to live, and our lives were threatened because of our mixed blood. Knowing Osceola was like us helped me feel better about myself.

Jimmy Gopher also said Osceola had two



sisters, but they were in the group of Indians who had to walk to Oklahoma. He said that Osceola's mother couldn't let her only son stay behind, so she slipped away from the Trail of Tears and stayed with her son in Florida.

By that time Osceola was leading the braves who were fighting white soldiers. Osceola could understand English well because of his late father.

Osceola would pick a few of his fighters and go and listen to the soldier's plans from outside the fort. He would find out what plans they had and this is why he was able to be such a great leader. He knew where to make his stands and fight.

It was said that Osceola could run as swiftly as a deer and taught all the braves who were with him to do the same.

Osceola also used Indian medicine in his fight. He had a few good Medicine Men put medicine together and used it on soldiers. Sometimes he would pretend to smoke it with the soldiers, and they would get sick.

Jimmy said that another trick Osceola used was to lure the soldiers with campfires. He said that during the war, everyone would put out their fires so the soldiers couldn't locate their camps. But, Osceola would instruct his braves to start a fire. This would draw the

soldiers into an ambush. He said that Osceola was very smart, brave and led his braves well. Most of the leaders or chiefs depended on him and trusted his leadership. But, when he was captured, the war didn't go very well.

But, if it wasn't for him, the 250 Seminoles who ran to hide in the Everglades might not have survived at all. That was the reason my uncle and my mother and all of us were still in Florida.

That is what my great uncle Jimmy Gopher passed on to me about Osceola. It may not be what educated people say in books. But, it was the way the story was passed down from one generation to the next.

Hah-Pong-Ke: Tampa Red

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
 Special Projects Reporter

Tampa Red, the blues guitarist known as "The Guitar Wizard," was born Hudson Woodbridge on Jan. 8, 1904, in Smithville, Ga.

From a young age until his early 20s, young Hudson lived with his grandmother's family in a neighborhood called "The Scrub" in Tampa. Influenced by his guitar-playing older brother Eddie and an old Tampa street musician called Piccolo Pete, he learned to play blues licks on a guitar.

By the time he was 20, the young man had perfected a sophisticated slide guitar technique of sliding a bottleneck along the strings to create a clear, pure sound marked by trademark single-string solos — a precursor to later blues and rock guitar soloing. A few years later he would become the first black musician to play a National steel-bodied resonator, the loudest and showiest guitar available before amplification.

He began to move around the "Chitlin' Circuit," the collective name given to a group of "jook joint" venues within the Midwest areas of the United States where it was safe and acceptable for black musicians, comedians and other entertainers to perform during the segregation era from the early 1900s through the 1960s.

Tampa was a prominent stop on that circuit. Ray Charles recorded his first tune there. And Hank Ballard and the Moonlighters wrote and recorded *The Twist* there, a year before Chubby Checker's version hit the top of the charts.

Adopting the name "Tampa Red" (from his childhood home and light colored skin), he hopped

a train to seek fame and fortune in Chicago, one of the homes of America's blues. The best way to go from Florida to Chicago in those days was to ride the Seminole Limited, a passenger train known as the pride of the Illinois Central Railroad.

The Seminole Limited was created in 1909 to carry passengers from Chicago to Jacksonville, Fla. by way of St. Louis, Mo. The route was discontinued in 1969, and the Chicago-to-Carbondale leg of the route was renamed the Shawnee.

Although not known for certain, it is likely Tampa Red wrote *Seminole Blues* with the Seminole train in mind. The classic blues lyrics include the lines, "My baby's gone, she won't be back no more/She left this mornin'," she caught that Seminole."

The train image is reinforced at the end of the song with the words, "I'm goin' to find my baby/If I have to ride the blind."

According to songwriter Ronny Elliott, of Tampa, the "blind" or "blinds" are areas of a train between, inside or under the cars where a person can sneak a ride and not be seen.

Following his wife's death in 1953 Tampa Red's career went into a downward spiral from which he never recovered. Always a heavy drinker, his habit worsened. Even though he was "rediscovered" by a new audience in the late 1950s, his final recordings in 1961 were unremarkable.

Tampa Red was one of the most prolific blues recording artists of his era.

It has been estimated that he recorded 335 songs on 78 records, with 251 recorded between 1928 and 1942.

The music finally went out at age 77. Tampa Red died in Chicago on March 19, 1981, the same year he was inducted into the Blues Foundation's Hall of Fame.



'Seminole Blues'

My baby's gone, won't be back no more
 She won't be back no more
 My baby's gone, she won't be back no more
 She left this mornin', she caught that Seminole

I got the blues so bad
 It hurt my tongue to talk
 It hurt my tongue to talk
 The blues so bad
 It hurt my tongue to talk

I would follow my baby
 But it hurt my feet to walk
 She gimme her love
 Even let me draw her pay

She let me draw her pay, yeah
 She give me her love
 Even let me draw her pay

She was a real good woman
 But unkindness drove her away

I've got the Seminole blues
 Leaving on my mind
 Leaving on my mind
 Seminole blues
 Leaving on my mind

I'm goin' to find my baby
 If I have to ride the blind

Health



Walk pumps up heart health awareness

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — For nearly 40 people on the Big Cypress Reservation, following lunch with a healthy walk is heart smart — especially during February, American Heart Month.

"It's perfect. It gets your blood flowing and burns calories. Midday is the best time to move and stay healthy," said Brian Billie at the Feb. 19 Big Cypress Heart Health Awareness Walk.

Health educator Sarah Pinto, who led the fourth annual walk, said the 0.20-mile trek around the Frank Billie Field Office — or 1 mile for walkers who circled the building five times — was staged to get people pumped against the No. 1 cause of death in Indian Country.

It's true, according to the American Heart Association's (AHA) 2013 heart health update. Like all races, cardiovascular and coronary disease is the leading killer among Native men and women.

In 2009 alone, the year of the most recent count, 1,813 Native deaths were caused by heart disease, the AHA report said — and that by virtue of race population percentages, represents a rate higher than other races.

The Office of Minority Health (OMH) confirmed that Native Americans and Alaska Natives, on average, are more likely to be diagnosed with heart disease than whites.

However, they are "more likely to be obese than white adults, more likely to have

high blood pressure and they are more likely to be current cigarette smokers than white adults — all risk factors for heart disease," according to an OMH report.

Diabetes, the leading cause of myriad health issues throughout the Seminole Tribe, is both a major contributor and a consequence of heart disease, said Edna McDuffie, the Health Department's outreach coordinator. Most often, the two diseases go hand in hand no matter which came first.

"Every family has someone in it who has diabetes and that frequently leads to complications like heart disease," McDuffie said. "That's why we have the heart walk. We educate."

Billie, who has diabetes, said he already walks purposely at least four times a week, rides a bicycle instead of a car often around the reservation and does frequent yard work — for himself and neighbors — just to stay fit and keep heart disease away.

"It's the right thing to do. Gotta keep that (blood sugar) number down," he said.

Do you think you have what it takes to win prizes and bragging rights in the Big Cypress Health Department's seven-week Sun-sational Steps Pedometer Contest?

Register and receive a pedometer by March 3. Senior and adult competitors will walk at noon every Tuesday and Thursday beginning March 10.

For more information and to reserve a spot in the contest, call Edna McDuffie at 863-983-5798 ext. 12307; Sarah Pinto at 863-983-5789 ext. 12320; or Nutritionist Toma Hunter at 863-983-5798 ext. 12318.



Eileen Soler

About 40 Tribal members and employees stroll around the Frank Billie Field Office Feb. 19 during the Big Cypress heart walk to raise awareness for heart health.

Tips for ensuring payment of medical and dental bills

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE WHIDDEN
Health Director

• 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 clinics.

• If you receive a notice from a collection agency for an unpaid health

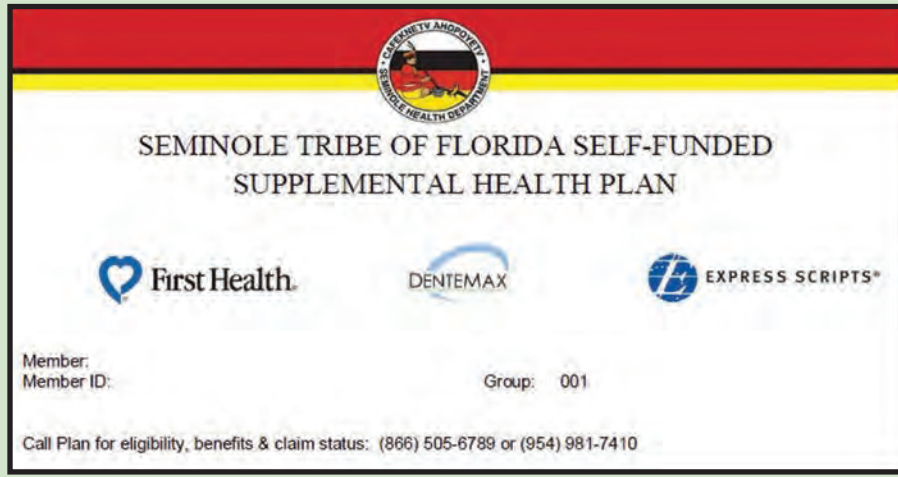


Photo courtesy of Connie Whidden

Pictured is what the STOF Member Health Plan card looks like.

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.



Eileen Soler

Health educator Sarah Pinto helps Brian Billie and other Tribal members choose informational materials about heart health before the walk.



Eileen Soler

Tribal members and employees wear red for heart health during the Big Cypress heart walk.

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Prevent, reverse the tide of diabetes

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Department of Health in Broward

Florida were obese in 2012, compared to 25 percent of the overall population. Other factors, such as family history, also raise the risk of diabetes.

In response, Native American leaders have been working to attack obesity because diabetes can be lessened or eliminated by simply losing weight. Also, the Florida Department of Health has been working more closely with Tribes on the problem.

The Seminoles organized the Rez Rally, a 5-kilometer race (3.1 miles) that has grown into a major cultural event as well as Seminole Pathways, a weekly walking program developed by the Health Department that has received national recognition.

The sessions start with nutrition classes to educate Tribal members about healthier foods. The message: Add more fruits, vegetables and high-fiber foods to your plate, and limit processed foods and the American diet plagued with too much salt, sugar and fat.

The Tribe also started a fitness council several years ago to initiate fun exercises such as swimming programs for kids and the annual Trike Fest for seniors.

Blievernicht urges Tribes across the nation to advance to more strenuous activities. People should consult their doctor before starting or increasing an exercise plan.

"We make sure our programs involve diabetes prevention," Blievernicht said. "Not just cardiovascular training for the heart, but resistance training is very important in diabetes. We tell the people, start slow and progress easily. It doesn't have to be hard."

For more information, contact the Health Department at 954-962-2009 or www.SemTribe.com/Services/Health.aspx; the Native American Fitness Council at 928-774-3048 or www.NativeAmericanFitnessCouncil.com; or the Florida Department of Health at 850-245-4330 or www.HealthiestWeightFlorida.com.



Seminole Tribe members – and all Floridians – may want to step up their game in order to reverse the tide of diabetes as the problem continues to worsen in the Sunshine State.

Finding ways to eat healthier and get more exercise will combat the disease, a major health issue facing Native Americans. Weight-lifting and other muscle-building exercises are also proving to be important.

"Diet and exercise – that's how you prevent diabetes," said John Blievernicht, program administrator of the Native American Fitness Council, who has helped organize exercise programs for Seminole adults and children. "Start slowly with walking, and then progress to higher intensity training, including resistance training that works your muscles. There's just a lot of benefit being shown with higher-intensity exercise."

Diabetes is on the rise throughout the state. In 2012, the disease contributed to the deaths of 20.7 percent of Native Americans, up from 15.3 percent in 2007, according to the latest figures from the Florida Department of Health.

Similar increases were seen among all Floridians, but Native Americans remain almost twice as likely to die from diabetes-related causes as non-Indians, Florida figures show.

The disease develops when the body cannot properly control sugar in the bloodstream. The body stops making enough of the hormone insulin to process sugar or loses the ability to use insulin. This causes sugar to build up, leading to heart disease, blindness, organ failure and damage to the extremities. People with diabetes typically must take pills or insulin injections to control their blood sugar.

Most people get the disease as adults (type 2 diabetes) often as a result of being overweight. State figures show 40 percent of Native Americans in

Healthy homes equals healthy kids

SUBMITTED BY AVA JOHN
Environmental Health Program

Pest control comes in many forms, whether it is used for insects, rodents or garden weeds, but it must always be handled with care. The information below will help you understand the dangers of pest control and how to prevent them.

Insecticides

What are insecticides? Insecticides are chemical sprays, powders or liquids used to control or kill insects such as cockroaches, ants or flies.

What is insecticide poisoning? Poisoning happens when insecticides are inhaled, absorbed through the skin or swallowed.

What happens when insecticides poison someone? Poisoning can cause eye, nose and throat irritations, headaches, dizziness, sweating, drooling, muscle twitching, weakness, blurred vision, vomiting and stomach cramps.

Where are insecticides found in and around your home? Insecticides can be found on floors where they have been sprayed or dusted, as well as on food left on counters or tables while spraying or dusting.

What should you do if you use insecticides in your home? Keep children outside your home when using insecticides. Spray in small spaces like cracks in walls, floors or ceilings, instead of on all surfaces. Read and follow directions closely.

Rodenticides

What are rodenticides? Rodenticides are liquids, powders or pellets used to kill rats or mice.

What is rodenticide poisoning? Poisoning happens when rodenticides are inhaled, absorbed through the skin or swallowed. Poisonous effects may result from a single exposure or over a longer period.

What happens if someone is poisoned by a rodenticide? Poisoning can cause diarrhea, stomach pains, nausea, vomiting, coldness, coma, chest pains and death.

Where are rodenticides found in and around the home? Rodenticides can be found in bait packs, bait blocks, bait station (bait boxes) and liquid bait.

What should you do if you use rodenticides in your home? Read labels on the rodenticide carefully and follow directions. Store and lock any bait or poison out of reach of children. Buy and use only pesticides from your local store and avoid buying and using professional pesticides.

Herbicides

What are herbicides? Herbicides are chemical sprays or powders used to control or kill unwanted plants and weeds.

What is herbicide poisoning? Poisoning happens when herbicides are inhaled, absorbed through the skin or swallowed.

What happens when someone is poisoned by herbicides? Poisoning can cause skin and eye irritations, burning feeling in the nose and chest, diarrhea, dizziness, vomiting, muscle twitching, cracking of the skin and nosebleed.

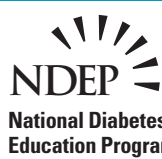
Where are herbicides found in and around your home? Herbicides are found anywhere you have used them on plants and trees and may be tracked in with dirt and dust onto the floors of your home.

What should you do if there are herbicides in or around your home? Wash fruits and vegetables before cooking, eating or serving them. Wipe your feet so that shoe soles are clean before entering your home. Keep the herbicide in its original container. Lock herbicides out of children's reach.

In case of a poisoning, respond calmly but urgently and call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222.

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

Source: Detroit Healthy Homes Project, EPA and Wayne State University



Are You at Risk for Type 2 Diabetes?

Diabetes Risk Test

One in four Americans with diabetes is undiagnosed. Could you be one of the 7 million Americans who has diabetes and doesn't know it? Take the test and learn more about your risk for getting type 2 diabetes.

1 How old are you?
a. Less than 40 years (0 points)
b. 40–49 years (1 point)
c. 50–59 years (2 points)
d. 60 years or older (3 points)

2 Are you a man or a woman?
a. Man (1 point)
b. Woman (0 points)

3 Are you a woman who has ever been diagnosed with gestational diabetes or given birth to a baby weighing 9 pounds or more?
a. Yes (1 point)
b. No (0 points)

4 Do you have a mother, father, sister, or brother with diabetes?
a. Yes (1 point)
b. No (0 points)

5 Have you ever been diagnosed with high blood pressure?
a. Yes (1 point)
b. No (0 points)

6 Are you physically active?
a. Yes (0 points)
b. No (1 point)

7 What is your weight status? (see chart at right)

Write your score in the box.

Height	Weight					
	lbs.	kilos	lbs.	kilos	lbs.	kilos
4'10"	119–142	54.0–64.4	143–190	64.9–86.2	191+	86.6+
4'11"	124–147	56.2–66.7	148–197	67.1–89.3	198+	89.8+
5'0"	128–152	58.1–68.9	153–203	69.4–92.1	204+	92.5+
5'1"	132–157	59.9–71.2	158–210	71.7–95.3	211+	95.7+
5'2"	136–163	61.7–73.9	164–217	74.4–98.4	218+	98.9+
5'3"	141–168	64.0–76.2	169–224	76.7–101.6	225+	102.1+
5'4"	145–173	65.8–78.5	174–231	78.9–104.8	232+	105.2+
5'5"	150–179	68.0–81.2	180–239	81.6–108.4	240+	108.9+
5'6"	155–185	70.3–83.9	186–246	84.4–111.6	247+	112.0+
5'7"	159–190	72.1–86.2	191–254	86.6–115.2	255+	115.7+
5'8"	164–196	74.4–88.9	197–261	89.4–118.4	262+	118.8+
5'9"	169–202	76.7–91.6	203–269	92.1–122.0	270+	122.5+
5'10"	174–208	78.9–94.3	209–277	94.8–125.6	278+	126.1+
5'11"	179–214	81.2–97.1	215–285	97.5–129.3	286+	129.7+
6'0"	184–220	83.5–99.8	221–293	100.2–132.9	294+	133.4+
6'1"	189–226	85.7–102.5	227–301	103.0–136.5	302+	137.0+
6'2"	194–232	88.0–105.2	233–310	105.7–140.6	311+	141.1+
6'3"	200–239	90.7–108.4	240–318	108.9–144.2	319+	144.7+
6'4"	205–245	93.0–111.1	246–327	111.6–148.3	328+	148.8+

The higher your score, the higher your risk.

• If you scored 5 or more: You are at increased risk for having type 2 diabetes. Talk to your health care provider about simple blood tests to check for diabetes or prediabetes. Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent or delay heart attack, stroke, blindness, kidney disease, and other health problems.

• If you scored below 5: Even if your score was below 5, you may be at increased risk for having prediabetes—blood sugar levels that are higher than normal but not high enough to be called diabetes. The good news for people with prediabetes is that you can lower your risk for type 2 diabetes. Talk to your health care team about getting tested, particularly if you are over 45, overweight, or have a family member with diabetes. Find out about the small steps you can take to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes and live a long and healthy life.

Type 2 diabetes is more common in African Americans and people with African ancestry, Hispanics and Latinos, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. NDEP has special information for these groups.

National Diabetes Education Program
1-888-693-NDEP (1-888-693-6337) • TTY: 1-866-569-1162
HHS' NDEP is jointly sponsored by NIH and CDC with the support of more than 200 partner organizations.



Adapted from the American Diabetes Association's Diabetes Risk Test.

www.YourDiabetesInfo.org



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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.

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Call 1-800-318-2596 24 hours a day,
7 days a week (TTY: 1-855-889-4325)



SEMINOLE SCENES



Eileen Soler

TAKING AIM: Osceola Billie Jr. prepares to 'shoot' using a toy, hand-carved bow and arrow behind the scenes at the Big Cypress Shootout – Second Seminole War Reenactment.



Beverly Bidney

SEMINOLE PRIDE: Hollywood preschoolers recite the Pledge of Allegiance Feb. 7 while proudly waving the Seminole flag during the Grand Entry to the 43rd annual Tribal Fair at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood.



Peter B. Gallagher

HEALTHY SENIORS: Tribal nutritionist Korin Deitch presents the Tampa Senior Fitness Awards to (from left) the excited Linda O. Henry, Maggie Garcia and Nancy Frank at the January community meeting.



Beverly Bidney

BINGO: Ruggy Jumper enjoys a game of bingo Feb. 11 at the Hollywood senior's Valentine's Day party.



Beverly Bidney

BIRD CALL: After finishing some scraps thrown his way at the Immokalee traditional lunch Jan. 31, this chicken hawk noisily asks for more.



Eileen Soler

PLEIN AIR: Seminole artist Elgin Jumper does what a painter is compelled to do in the midst of a re-enacted Seminole encampment at the Big Cypress Shootout – he recreates on canvas.



Beverly Bidney

THE GLADES: At the Miccosukee gas station on Interstate-75 Jan. 31, two gators relax onshore as a tourist grabs his phone for a quick photo.



Eileen Soler

GATOR GUYS: Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger and *Swamp People* television show star Troy Landry are all smiles during a meet and greet with visitors at the Big Cypress Shootout – Second Seminole War Reenactment.



Photo courtesy of Cookie Mazzant

HOMECOMING COURT: Ahfachkee School senior Malari Baker and junior Antonio Cadena are applauded by students, teachers and family members Jan. 18 after the two were crowned Homecoming Queen and King at the school's Homecoming Dance.



Beverly Bidney

HOT FOOD COMING THROUGH: Cynthia Osceola and Dorothy Scheffler drain excess fat off deer Jan. 31 as it cooks for an Immokalee traditional lunch.



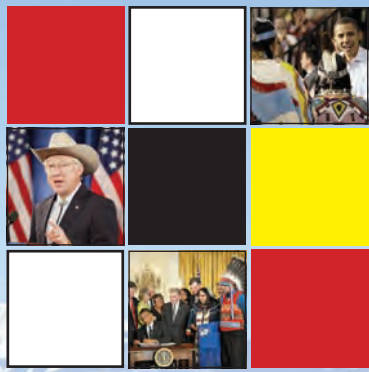
Amanda Murphy

THRILL RIDE: Brighton Field Day visitors take a break from the day's cultural events for a spin on this dizzying carnival ride during the weeklong festival Feb. 12-16.



Eileen Soler

YOUNG AT HEART: The Rev. Arlen Payne, of Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church, is flanked Feb. 11 by (from left) Teena Covarrubias, Savannah Cypress, Peggy Sue Cypress and Felicia Buck after a special Origins of Valentine's Day event at Willie Frank Library.



NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Hard Rock releases never-before-heard Lennon interview

ORLANDO — In 1968, Maurice Hindle, a Keele University (England) college student, wrote to a Beatles fan magazine asking for an interview with John Lennon. Incredibly, Lennon personally invited Hindle and friends to his home in Surrey, England to discuss politics, social change and a possible 1969 Beatle tour, among other topics.

Lennon talked with the students for six hours, most of it caught on a fascinating but nearly forgotten tape that was acquired by Hard Rock International in 1987 and stored in the company's famous memorabilia vault until recently. In honor of the 50th anniversary of the Beatles first coming to the U.S., the company is releasing the tapes to the public for the first time.

The full interview, with accompanying transcripts, expert analysis and a memorabilia photo gallery, are available on Hard Rock's website.

Hindle described the experience to *The Guardian* in 2009: "We students crammed into the back of the Mini and John drove us up the bumpy private road that led to his house, Kenwood. In a sitting room at the back of the house we sat down on thick-pile Indian carpets around a low table, cross-legged. Yoko said little, as we all knew this was primarily John's day — and he said a lot. Apart from a short break, when Yoko fed us macrobiotic bread and jam she had made, Lennon talked continuously for six hours."

— Source: *Rolling Stone, Hardrock.com*

GOP governors are big winners in Kenosha casino fight

KENOSHA, Wis. — As Tribes fight over whether Kenosha should become home to a new Menominee casino, the Republican Governor's Association (RGA) continues to profit from the dispute. Seminole Hard Rock Entertainment Inc., the financial muscle behind the proposed casino, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, which owns Hard Rock, combined to give the governors group \$65,000 in the second half of last year.

Meanwhile in Crandall, the Forest County Potawatomi (Keeper of the Fire), the Tribe leading the opposition to the Kenosha casino, gave the RGA \$10,000 in July — a contribution that increased its yearly tab to \$60,000 in figures released independently by the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* and the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. The governors association uses its money to support GOP gubernatorial candidates across the nation and has aired many commercials supporting Walker in the past, said Mike McCabe, who heads the nonpartisan Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

The Potawatomi, which fears a Kenosha casino would siphon off more than one-third of the revenue its Milwaukee casino generates, is the cash leader, however, having contributed more than \$160,000 to RGA since July 2011.

Republican Gov. Scott Walker, who is up for re-election this fall, has unilateral power to approve or veto a casino owned by the Menominee.

The Menominee Tribe has sought federal approval for the off-reservation casino in Kenosha for two decades. The U.S. Department of Interior finally approved the proposal last August and Hard Rock announced in October it would manage and develop the proposed \$800-million casino complex.

Walker initially said he would decide the issue by October 2013. Since then, the administration has said a decision will not be made for several months and may not come until after the November election.

"The longer the decision gets put off, the more money that will come in," McCabe said. "There are huge sums of cash."

— *Journal Sentinel*

Lawmakers say Redskins must go or NFL may lose tax-exempt status

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A strongly worded letter directed by two members of Congress to the commissioner of the National Football League Roger Goodell urges him to terminate the use of the Washington Redskins offensive mascot/nickname or risk a Congressional reappraisal of the league's controversial tax-exempt status.

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, said that lawmakers would "definitely" examine the NFL's tax-exempt status, among other moves designed to pressure the league.

"You're getting a tax break for educational purposes, but you're still embracing a name that people see as a slur and encouraging it," said the letter obtained by the *New York Times*. "The NFL can no longer ignore this and perpetuate the use of this name as anything but what it is: a racial slur."

The letter from Cantwell and Rep. Tom Cole (R-Okla.), a Chickasaw

Tribal citizen who sits on the House Native American Caucus, informed Goodell that the league is on "the wrong side of history."

The team claims it has received "almost 200" letters and emails supporting the "Redskins" name from Native Americans or family members of Native Americans. The team said it has seen but seven letters from Native Americans in opposition.

Goodell even stated, at a press conference, "Let me remind you, this is the name of a football team, a football team that has had that name for 80 years and has presented the name in a way that has honored Native Americans."

Cantwell said Goodell's comments cemented the NFL's decision to defend the name, despite strong opposition from the NAACP and the Anti-Defamation League, among others.

"I think (Goodell's) been hearing from various Tribal leaders, and we thought (league officials) were understanding this issue, but clearly this press conference shows that they don't," she said.

"The National Football League is on the wrong side of history. It is not appropriate for this multibillion-dollar 501(c)(6) tax-exempt organization to perpetuate and profit from the continued degradation of Tribes and Indian people," said the letter, which also refers to a recent case, unrelated to the NFL, in which the Patent and Trademark Office rejected a trademark application that included the term "redskin," calling it a "derogatory slang term."

The team's owner, Daniel Snyder, has said he will not change the name.

— *Source: NYTimes.com*

Three Tribes authorized to prosecute non-Native American men in domestic violence cases

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Pascua Yaqui of Arizona, the Tulalip of Washington and the Umatilla of Oregon have been given authorization by the U.S. Justice Department to prosecute non-Indian men for certain crimes of domestic violence against Indian women.

The pilot program, in operation since Feb. 20, establishes these Tribes as the first federally recognized American Indian Tribes to exercise criminal jurisdiction over domestic/dating violence involving a non-Indian man — an authority granted in the 2013 Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act. The Tribal authority for all Tribes will not go into effect until March 2015.

"This represents a significant victory for public safety and the rule of law, and a momentous step forward for Tribal sovereignty and self-determination," Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. said in a statement, decrying the "shocking and unacceptably" high rate of violence among Native women.

Associate Attorney General Tony West called the department's actions "a historic turning point" for justice on Tribal lands. He told the *Washington Post*, "We believe that by certifying certain Tribes to exercise jurisdiction over these crimes, we will help decrease domestic and dating violence in Indian Country, strengthen Tribal capacity to administer justice and control crime, and ensure that perpetrators of sexual violence are held accountable for their criminal behavior."

The program will supersede the 1978 Supreme Court *Oliphant v. Suquamish Indian Tribe* decision that prohibited all Tribes from exercising criminal jurisdiction over non-Indian defendants, including cases of domestic offenses committed by non-Indian abusers against their Indian spouses and dating partners.

Even a violent crime committed by a non-Indian husband against his Indian wife in their home on a reservation could not be prosecuted by the Tribe, which has jurisdiction for crimes committed on the reservation.

— *Source: WashingtonPost.com*

Tolowa Nation recognition denied

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Interior Department Assistant Secretary — Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn issued the final determination Jan. 24: The Tolowa Nation's bid for federal recognition, first filed in 1983, has been denied.

The Tolowa Nation, located in Fort Dick, Calif., is No. 85 on the Office of Federal Acknowledgment's (OFA) List of Petitioners.

Under the law a petitioning group must meet seven mandatory criteria to be federally acknowledged as an American Indian Tribe. The applicant must prove that, first, "external observers" have identified the Tribe as an American Indian Tribe on a "substantially continuous basis" since 1900; second, a predominant part of the group has maintained a distinct community since historical times; third, it has maintained political influence since historical times; fourth, it has a "governing document;" fifth, its members descend from a historical Indian Tribe; sixth, its members are not members of another federally acknowledged Indian Tribe; and seventh, it has not been subject

to legislation forbidding the federal relationship.

In reviewing the Tolowa Nation's petition, the OFA found that the Tribe did not meet the second criteria — it did not provide enough evidence to prove that a predominant portion of its group has existed as a distinct community from historical times until the present. The Tolowa Nation does not have a reservation or rancheria; its members live on their own land mostly in Del Norte and Curry counties.

The Tolowa Nation people are descendants of the XUS ("HUSS"), according to its website, native to the rocky Pacific coastline northwest of California and southwest of Oregon. From the watersheds of the Smith, Winchuck, Rogue and Chetco rivers, their ancestors lived, traveled and traded up and down the coast, taking part in the hinook's international trade on the Columbia River, making early contact with the Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Hudson Bay Company traders prior to the western Gold Rush of 1849.

— *Indian Country Today Media Network*

Interior seeks Summary Judgment in Cherokee Nation Freedmen case

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — Certain descendants of black slaves once owned by some members of the Cherokee Nation should be afforded Tribal citizenship rights.

So says U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, who filed a motion in federal court, recently, asking the court for a Summary Judgment declaring that the Treaty of 1866, signed between the U.S. government and the Cherokees, gives certain Freedmen and their descendants the same rights of native Cherokees.

A 2007 Tribal vote kicked the Freedmen out of the Tribe.

About 2,800 Freedmen are seeking citizenship rights.

— *Missoulian.com*

Man-made snow from reclaimed sewage at heart of Hopi, ski resort fight

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — The Arizona Snowbowl resort has been spraying artificial snow — frozen flakes made from wastewater manufactured by four snowmaking machines — on the San Francisco Peaks, an area that 13 Tribes consider sacred.

And, for 10 years, an alliance of American Indian groups and environmental activists have tried to stop the practice, filing five major legal actions (and losing them all) against the U.S. Forest Service, which licenses the sale of wastewater to the resort. The cultural argument has failed in the legal arena.

Now the Hopi Tribe is trying to stop the faux snow by arguing that the smelly snow is bad for the environment and for people, too.

Last month, the Arizona Supreme Court accepted a Hopi lawsuit against Flagstaff, which so far this season has sold to Snowbowl about 134 acre-feet, or about 44 million gallons, of stinky water for \$77,645.

The entire snowboard/ski scene does not square with the assertion that the San Francisco Peaks "are the single most important sacred place the Hopi have," as a 2011 complaint put it. "Every month Tribe members go to the peaks for prayers, and during some months, Tribe members collect water, greens and herbs for the ceremonies."

The director of the Hopi's cultural preservation office was actually asked by U.S. attorneys during 2009 testimony, "You have 19,000 acres to worship in; why does 770 acres (for Snowbowl) matter?"

"It's ridiculous that we should have to defend our religion," Leigh Kuwanwisiwma told *Al Jazeera America*, pointing out that the Hopi consider all development in the region to be desecration. For the Hopi, litigating on the basis of health and the environment is the latest means to the end of preserving their land.

The Hopi face an uphill fight. Skiing and snowboarding are big business in Flagstaff. So even before the snow blowers started to blast, Snowbowl foes took aim at public opinion, relying heavily on a "yuck" factor.

Responding to an activist press release headlined "Arizona Snowbowl starts making fake snow from treated sewage...and it's yellow," Snowbowl general manager J.R. Murray said. "There was some discoloration, but it came from rust inside the pipes. It's a nonstory."

— *Source: Al Jazeera America*

Sci-Fi, mysticism and tragedy reign at Native literature awards

PHILADELPHIA — Mysticis, science fiction and tragedy marked the 2014 American Indian Youth Literature Awards, presented by the American Indian Library Association every two years to identify and honor the best writings

and illustrations by and about American Indians.

The 2014 winners, presented at the ALA Midwinter Conference were:

Best Picture Book: *Caribou Song, Aitkho Oonagamoon*, written by Tomson Highway and illustrated by John Rombough, tells of two young Cree brothers who embrace the spirit of the caribou as they entice the animals with music.

Middle School Award: *How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story*, by Tim Tingle, tells a tragic tale of a Choctaw boy walking the Trail of Tears.

Young Adult Award: *Killer of Enemies*, by Joseph Bruchac, is a graphic sci-fi novel set in a future in which technology has stopped working, plunging the world back into a new steam age.

Two other books received honorable mention: *Danny Blackgoat, Navajo Prisoner*, also by Tingle, and *If I Ever Get Out of Here*, by Eric Gansworth.

— *Source: Indian Country Today Media Network*

Judge to rule on Native antiques land

ST. GEORGE, Utah — The future of 80 acres of private property containing Native American antiques is in the hands of a district court judge, who said he will rule on a lawsuit regarding the property soon.

The dispute is over ownership and cultural preservation between Kayenta owner-developer Terry Marten and a nonprofit trust known as Sunhawk Productions that is supported by members of the Shivwits Band of Paiutes, a federally recognized Tribe of Southern Paiutes located in southwestern Utah.

Sunhawk and the Paiutes have had ties to the land since about 1990, when former owner Shela Wilson began working to preserve ancient rock art and Native American burials on the property. Wilson had plans to develop a tourist attraction similar to Hawaii's Polynesian Cultural Center but died before her plans could be fulfilled, and Sunhawk took control, presenting historical pageants for a time; but the cultural preservation efforts and the property itself languished.

In recent years, Sunhawk allowed Boy Scout projects that built a Native American interpretive site on the property, and they have conducted a variety of Native American-related activities there, including weddings, funeral sings and maintenance of a garden plot by the Tribal branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Sunhawk's financial troubles and complex legal wrangling allowed Marten to gain a foothold on the property. He is known throughout the West for his Kayenta community — a hybrid of beach culture and desert living with unique homes "with plenty of breathing room to enjoy the view," according to the Kayenta website.

Marten has previously said he hoped to work with Sunhawk until the trust was unable to fund its interests, and that he is now working with another nonprofit to improve the land with Native American interests in mind.

— *TheSpectrum.com*

Water district bails out Tuolumne County

MANTERCA, Calif. — The South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID) recently volunteered to bail out drought-ravaged Tuolumne County by selling it water at a bargain price for "humanitarian reasons."

The Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California, a federally recognized Tribe of Miwok people in Tuolumne County, apparently is offering to pay for the water, which will be pumped from New Melones Reservoir and transported to about 44,000 Tuolumne residents, businesses, community facilities and agricultural operations.

The SSJID — which primarily serves Escalon, Ripon and Manteca farmers — proposed selling 2,400 acre feet of water for \$200 per acre foot.

The district had just turned down a \$400 per acre foot offer from the Westlands Water District; a water auction this week in Kern County attracted bids up to \$1,350 per acre foot.

But SSJID general manager Jeff Shields told the *Modesto Bee* he refuses to profit from Tuolumne's plight.

"I do not believe it appropriate to seek market prices for water that is going to support and protect our own watershed," said Shields, noting how SSJID gets most of its water from Tuolumne, which is not to blame for this water crisis. "The problem is not one of poor planning, but rather a series of disasters including the drought and the Rim fire at Yosemite."

The Tuolumne Utility District (TUD) and the county's other water suppliers rely on surface water from Lyons Reservoir.

"(Lyons Reservoir) is expected to be completely dry in 80 days or earlier," Shields explained in a memo to his district directors. "For several months, (the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) used water from Lyons

Reservoir to fight the Rim fire. The TUD was not compensated for this water, and now find themselves without water and without funds to replace that water."

John Mills, a consultant who works on water issues for the Chicken Ranch Rancheria, explained the county's water crisis to Shields, saying the Tribe "would be willing to make water available to the citizens of Tuolumne."

— *Modesto Bee*

Court upholds ban on pari-mutuel barrel racing

TALLAHASSEE — The First District Court of Appeal upheld an administrative court's May 6, 2013 ruling that charged the Florida Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering (DPMW) of violating a state rule-making process in 2011 when it granted the Poarch Band of Creek Indians' Gretna Racing LLC a Quarter Horse license to hold pari-mutuel barrel racing.

Florida DPMW will continue to be prohibited from allowing Gretna Racing or any other Florida entities from holding pari-mutuel barrel racing. Gretna Racing is located in Gretna, Fla., about 25 miles west of Tallahassee. The Poarch Creek Tribe, based in Alabama, is the majority owner of Gretna Racing LLC.

In December 2011 Gretna Racing began holding what is widely believed to be the first pari-mutuel barrel racing in the U.S. under its DPMW-issued Quarter Horse license.

By using Quarter Horses in its races, Gretna Racing figured it met what the Florida DPMW deemed to be a criterion for a license.

The Florida Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association and Florida Quarter Horse Racing Association have maintained that Gretna's pari-mutuel barrel racing is a low-cost way of gaining approval for a poker room and taking simulcasts, as well as a possible casino if Florida allows them at pari-mutuel outlets outside Miami-Dade and Broward counties.

"To be legal and enforceable, a policy which operates as law must be formally adopted in public, through the transparent process of the rule-making procedure," Florida HBPA executive director Kent Stirling told *BloodHorse.com*. "The irony is that, during the years of litigation on this case, the professional riders who actually compete in real barrel racing have come to learn that the empty promises made by 'pari-mutuel barrel racing' were not about promoting their sport, but about Gretna Racing LLC using them as a means to run a card room 365 days a year."

— *BloodHorse.com*

Last Klallam language speaker dies at 103

PORT ANGELES, Wash. — The last Klallam language speaker who was fluent in the language from birth, and the eldest member among the four Klallam American Indian Tribes of the Pacific Northwest, has died at the age of 103.

Hazel M. Sampson was the last person who first learned Klallam, then learned English as a second language, according to Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal member Jamie Valadez, who teaches the Klallam language and culture at Port Angeles High School; Valadez and Texas linguist Timothy Montler worked with Sampson and her husband, Ed, and other native speakers in the 1990s to compile a Klallam dictionary.

Klallam refers to four related indigenous Native American/First Nations communities from the Pacific Northwest of North America. The Klallam culture is classified ethnographically and linguistically in the Coast Salish subgroup. Three Klallam bands live on the Olympic Peninsula in the far northwest corner (bordering the Strait of Juan de Fuca) of Washington, and one is based at Beecher Bay on southern Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

Hazel Sampson's death alters the dynamics of the culture, Valadez told *Peninsula Daily News*. "In the U.S., this is happening all over Indian Country. They carry so much knowledge of our culture and traditions. Then it's gone."

Sampson was born in the Jamestown S'Klallam band in 1910. Her grandfather was Lord James Balch, for whom Jamestown community near Sequim was named. She was married to Edward C. Sampson for 75 years until his death in 1995.

The Klallam are among a growing number of Tribes trying to revitalize their languages, which in some cases are spoken by only a small handful of people. Linguists estimate about 200 Native American languages are spoken in the U.S. and Canada, with another 100 already extinct.

Sampson's death is a loss of not only her language knowledge, said Ron Allen, chairman of the Jamestown S'Klallam: "She was a strong spirit representing who we are as a people."

— *Spokesmen Review*

Compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher.

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Education



Indian River State College, Education Department cohort generates interest

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — About 20 parents and students expressed interest in the proposed cohort partnership program between Indian River State College (IRSC) and the Tribe's Education Department at an informational meeting Jan. 28 in Brighton.

The cohort will consist of 12 to 15 students who will attend and graduate college as a group.

Meeting attendees learned about different business majors under consideration for a bachelor's degree — including business administration and organizational management — and learned about a program to complete an associate degree.

"They seemed open to the idea of a cohort," said Veronica Ramsundar, program manager for the Tribe's Higher Education Department. "They got a better grasp of the benefits it would provide in terms of support, including small class



size and going to class with other Tribal members."

Whether the student chooses the associate or bachelor's degree program, it will take two years to complete.

Students will take four classes in the fall and spring semesters and two classes in the summer.

"We have a plan in place," said IRSC provost Russ Brown. "I think they all thought it is a good idea so they could push each other to complete it. The convenience of having it so close at the Okeechobee campus or doing work online in a group is another benefit of a cohort."

The program is scheduled to begin in August for the fall session at IRSC's Okeechobee campus. The deadline for applications is late June, and the Education Department is promoting the program via K-12 advisers and Higher Education recruiters.

For more information, contact Veronica Ramsundar at 954-989-6840 ext. 10596.



Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School employees of the year show off their awards and pose with PECS staff Feb. 5 during the Glades County School District's Golden Apple Banquet in Moore Haven.

Emma Johns

Charter School announces employees of the year

BY EMMA JOHNS
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — Every year, Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School selects some of its most dynamic and creative risk takers as teachers and non-instructional employees of the year.

Chosen by their colleagues, they exhibit genuine passion for education and exceed daily expectations to lead students to brighter futures.

Elementary school teacher of the year

Heather Dobbs, a fifth-grade teacher who also taught seventh and eighth grade in the past, is this year's elementary school teacher of the year. Dobbs served as assistant principal for Osceola Middle School in Okeechobee before coming to PECS.

Dobbs feels right at home in her fifth-grade classroom, she said.

"I think fifth grade is a perfect grade level to teach. The students are old enough to learn challenging material that's fun to teach, but they are also young enough that they are still sweet because they haven't yet entered the tough adolescent years," Dobbs said.

Receiving a "C" in Honors Calculus 2 during her freshman year at the University of Florida prompted Dobbs to pursue a career in teaching.

"To me, that was a bad grade, and it made me stop and think hard about what I was really meant to do with my life. My own teachers had made such a tremendous impact on my life that I wanted to be that in someone else's life, to pay it forward," she said.

Honored by her award, Dobbs said she enjoys being part of the team at PECS and has learned a great deal about the language and culture. In fact, she has won the staff Creek Spelling Bee for four years.

"The teachers here at PECS are top ranked in our profession, and to be seen as worthy among such an amazing group of teachers was extremely humbling," she said.

Middle school teacher of the year

PECS middle school teacher of the year is Kelly Bass, who currently teaches science but began her 27-year career teaching P.E. Her passion for physical fitness led her into the science field.

"In order to be a good P.E. teacher, I needed to understand the body and how it worked. Science shows connections and explains why things occur in nature, and it is important for students to know these things about their world," she said.

Bass was inspired into the field by a former teacher.

"Ms. Hyatt was the only P.E. teacher that actually played and ran right along with her students. I was a shy and insecure teenager, but Ms. Hyatt always made me feel as if I could do anything. I wanted to make children feel the ways she made me feel — unstoppable," Bass said.

Bass still enjoys that moment when she helps a student "get it."

"The best part of my day is when I get to see the light come on in my students," she said. "Watching a child understand and be able to apply the information is what I strive for every day."

"Being voted teacher of the year among

my peers is a great honor. To me, teacher of the year is a celebration of what every good teacher does each day. It is not about the individual, but what the individual represents — a caring provider of information that does the very best they can to propel their students to success and prepare them for their next step in education," Bass said.

Non-instructional employee of the year

Holly Sheffield, a third-grade paraprofessional of five years at PECS, is this year's non-instructional employee of the year. In order to help the school run like a well-oiled machine, non-instructional employees like Sheffield work alongside teachers to ensure daily success across the board.

Before pursuing a career in education, Sheffield worked in real estate.

"This was a big career change for me," she said. "After starting at PECS I felt we had a very unique atmosphere, from the classroom sizes to the unlimited resources available to teachers and students."

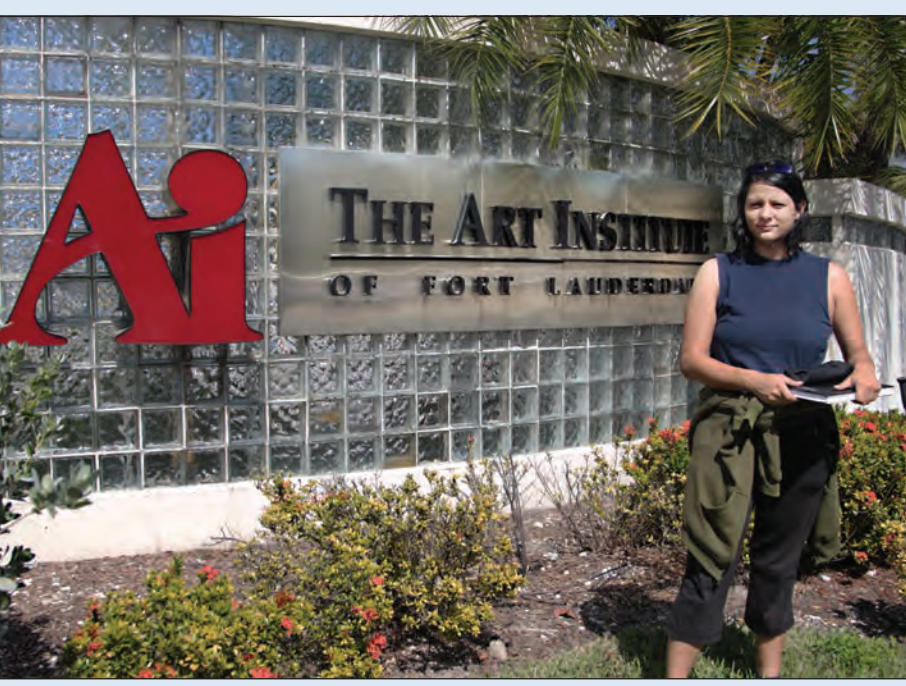
Sheffield understands that students' success in the classroom is based on leadership.

Teaching third grade is challenging, she said, because it is the grade when students are introduced to the FCAT.

"I feel us as teachers/paraprofessionals owe it to the students to give them 100 percent, just as we expect of them in return," she said.

Sheffield's selection as non-instructional employee of the year means a lot to her.

♦ See TEACHERS on page 3B



Amanda Murphy

Tequesta Tiger, a freshman at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, is pursuing an associate degree in illustration.

Student profile: Tequesta Tiger

Big Cypress native pursues degree in illustration from Art Institute

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

FORT LAUDERDALE — Tequesta Tiger, a freshman at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, has a palette of ideas for a future in art.

She wants to use her passion for drawing to create learning tools, such as books, graphic novels and video games, for children.

"I want to make my own stories one day and help kids understand them," said Tiger, of the Big Cypress Reservation.

To accomplish her goal, Tiger is pursuing an associate degree in illustration, which will take three to four years to complete. The illustration program starts with history, theory and trends, then moves into painting, photography and problem solving. Eventually she will incorporate software to design and create projects.

Tiger is also interested in animation, which delves deeper into 3-D computer generated formats that make illustrations come alive. Once she has finished her illustration credits and has more room in her busy schedule — four hours of class, five days a week — she plans to take animation classes as electives.

"I want to try to bring more originality into the world," said the 18-year-old.

Both subjects take a lot of dedication, but the valedictorian of the 2013 graduating class at Ahfachkee School has

a system for success. She calculates how much time she needs for each assignment and completes them in order from most pressing to least. Exams and major projects come first, followed by quizzes and homework assignments.

Her biggest challenge was switching from PC to Mac to complete school projects. But as time passed, she adapted to the Mac.

Although she majors in art, Tiger's favorite class is psychology. She said understanding human behavior is key to art; it helps the artist create emotion in his or her work through facial expressions and body language.

After receiving her degree, Tiger plans to expand her education through another hobby. She aims to earn a bachelor's degree in gaming and art development then use her favorite gaming themes — role play, fantasy and history — to create child friendly learning games.

Tiger said she values her education, which stems from the advice her parents, Cara Tiger and Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, have given her.

"Education never leaves you," she said. "It's better to have education in your life, stay in school and work hard."

Once finished with school, Tiger wants to travel, then return to work for the Tribe — possibly at Seminole Media Productions — and "make young kids understand there's a world beyond the boarder of the Tribe."

NLC holds financial training, secures HUD funding

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Ever expanding its mission to improve life for Native communities, the Native Learning Center (NLC) offered financial skills training to 26 representatives from organizations and Tribes across Indian Country Jan. 28-30. The curriculum, presented by First Nations Oweesta Corp., certified and equipped participants with tools to implement financial education programs in their communities.

Topics ranged from building healthy economies and developing spending plans to understanding checking accounts and navigating through credit issues.

Krystal Langholz, Oweesta programs manager, said the training corporation caters to Native communities by using cultural and historical values as the foundation for education. The curriculum takes historical situations, like a Tribe preparing the harvest for winter, and likens them to present financial situations, like a savings account.

They also take the values of the extended family into account because it is more prevalent in Native communities than the Western four-person household. Instead of focusing on an individual's financial skills, they aim to help implement educational programs to benefit the

community as a whole.

"We are building on tradition," Langholz said.

The Seminole Tribe gained three certified trainers from the program: Georgette Palmer Smith, NLC executive director; Marie Dufour, NLC technical and training program director; and Sophonie Joseph, registrar/records custodian for the Education Department.

"The content (of the training) is definitely needed in the Tribal community," Smith said. "We need to be the vehicle to get the information out there."

Dufour said she found the training helpful because of the feedback and tools provided by other participants from different communities.

"We're so far apart, but so close with all the same issues," she said.

Dufour said she plans to tailor her new knowledge to the Seminole Tribe, starting with youth. She wants to cover banking, saving, credit card use and money management, she said.

"Youth are exposed to things so early; why not provide them financial exposure?" Dufour said.

The NLC will also continue expanding its mission through a new cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The center received \$700,000 in funding

to provide training and technical assistance to federally recognized Tribes and Tribal housing authorities that receive HUD's Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG), a grant that provides a range of affordable housing activities on Indian reservations and Indian areas.

In fact, the Seminole Tribe of Florida is the first Tribe to receive a cooperative agreement from HUD.

The NLC will continue conducting its daily operations, such as conferences, seminars, workshops and one-on-one training programs, and HUD will connect them to more Tribes in need of those services across the country.

This will allow NLC to cater to each Tribe more specifically.

"We are very grateful for this funding from HUD and the positive impact it will have on Tribes that receive HUD's IHBG funding. We believe that providing training and technical assistance for Tribes will yield results that will help strengthen our communities in Indian Country," Smith said in a press release.

The NLC is one of five organizations awarded funding that totals \$4.5 million. Other recipients include the Association of Alaskan Housing Authorities, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, First Nations Development Institute and FirstPic Inc.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Students of the Month



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Elementary School Students of the Month at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School are Aniya Fonseca, Greyson Johns, Ukiyah Billie, Tiyanni Anderson, Neela Jones, Kendra Thomas, Saniya Rodrigues, Ashlynn Collins, Jason Haydon, Cheyenne Lara, Tatiana Torres, Karey Gopher, Dathen Garcia, Joss Youngblood, Haylie Huff, Davin Carrillo, Myron Billie and Caleb Burton. Not pictured in photo, Ukiyah Billie.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Middle School Students of the Month are Kaleb Doctor, Andrew Fish and Cheyenne Fish.

Brighton Valentine's Day dance creates sweet memories

SUBMITTED BY VALERIE J. MARONE
Family Services Community Events Coordinator

BRIGHTON — The Brighton Veteran's Building transformed into a dance hall Feb. 8 for the seventh annual S.W.A.M.P. Valentine's Day dance for children in Brighton.

Complete with Mad Hatter décor, hearts, red, pink and white flowers, and sparkling confetti, the event was sponsored by the Family Services Alcohol/Drug Prevention team members to provide a drug-free, fun event for youth and teens.

S.W.A.M.P., or Seminoles Without Addictions Make Progress, events help reinforce drug-free choices and give youth an opportunity to practice social skills in a safe and supportive environment.

Family Services counselor Fred Mullins served as Mad Hatter DJ during the event, spinning tunes for the 72 people who attended the dance.

Participants also enjoyed a buffet dinner courtesy of Seminoles in Recovery and took pictures in a photo booth provided by the Recreation Department. A chocolate fountain, candy table and topsy-turvy cake completed the ambiance and made for some sweet memories.

A royal court was also crowned: Queen of Hearts Sunni Bearden, King of Hearts Jason Sampson, Princess Winnie Gopher and Prince Kaiden Sampson.

Family Services thanks Dallas Nunez, Fire Rescue, Seminole Police Department, parent volunteer Justa Sampson and the Brighton staff who helped chaperone.

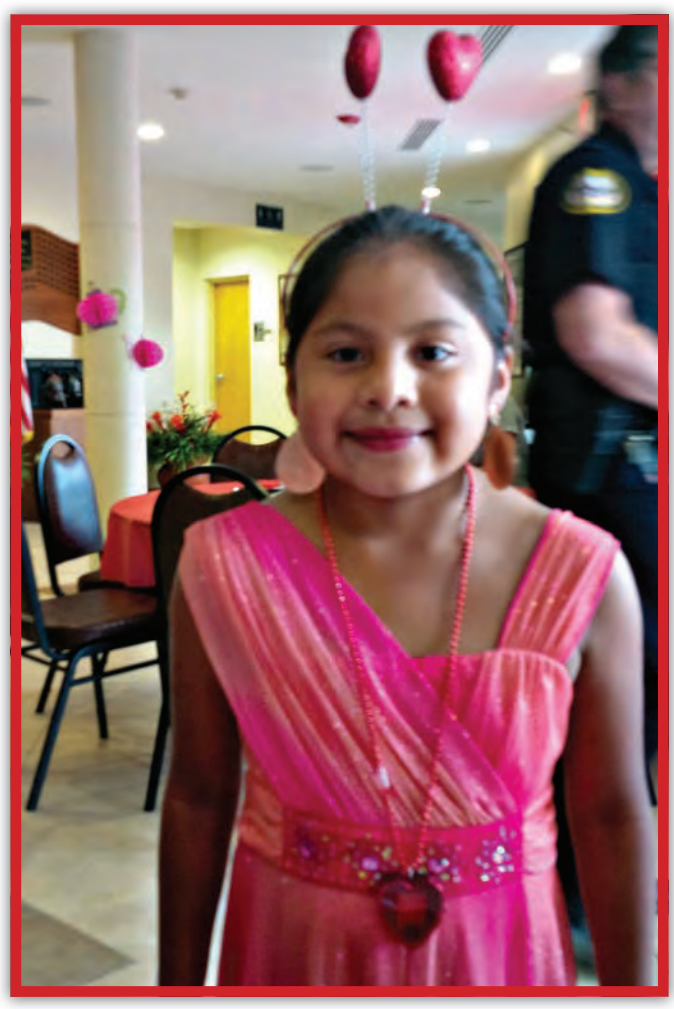


Photo courtesy of Justa Sampson

This little one is decked out in holiday colors for the seventh annual S.W.A.M.P. Valentine's Day dance in Brighton Feb. 8. More than 70 Brighton youth turned up for the event.



Photo courtesy of Justa Sampson

Jason Sampson is crowned King of Hearts and Sunni Bearden is named Queen of Hearts during the dance Feb. 8.



Photo courtesy of Justa Sampson

Brighton youth enjoy the Mad Hatter-themed S.W.A.M.P. Valentine's Day dance.

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Tribal teens learn ABCs of government in DC

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Eleven Seminole teens and a handful of adult chaperones traveled four states north Feb. 1-7 to witness government in action at Close Up Washington.

The educational travel program, which immerses high school students in the inner workings of Capitol Hill, included a bonus attendance at United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Impact Week in Arlington, Va.

Education adviser Nicole Wilson, of the Tribe's Education Department, said she was amazed to see for herself the vast amount of art, culture and historical documentation throughout Washington that included Native American people.

"It just proves how entwined Native Americans are in United States government throughout history and now," Wilson said. "You hear about it but it's not really ever taught."

Students from Hollywood, Immokalee, Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations visited historical monuments including the Lincoln Memorial where civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. They posed for pictures in front of the White House, watched Congress go to work in the Capitol, and attended lectures by members of the Washington press corps, Congress and other insiders.

Daily schedules were filled with 12 to 15 hours of non-stop learning.

Brighton Education adviser Vickie



Photo courtesy of the Education Department

Students from Immokalee, Brighton, Hollywood and Big Cypress Reservations gather around a poster board that tells about the Seminole Tribe during a session at Close Up Washington.

Stuart said Seminole teens, all with grade point averages of 3.0 or higher, roomed with about 40 other Native American students from Tribes throughout Indian Country.

"The entire week was very educational with sessions that started on day one," Stuart said. "It was awesome because the students who attended are those who already do so well in school and chose to be out a week.

They were willing to make up the school work because the trip was that important to them."

The week culminated with a visit to USET where leaders from 26 federally recognized Tribes met with White House staff, congress and cabinet departments to bolster Tribal communities and address issues throughout Indian Country.

◆ TEACHERS From page 1B

"When they announced that my co-workers had chosen me as non-instructional employee of the year, I was honored. I take pride in what I do and want the best for the students at our school," Sheffield said. "I feel a connection with each one of the students and when I came to PECS five years ago, I realized that my family of four had grown tremendously into countless numbers of children."

Culture teacher of the year
Culture teacher of the year is Jenny Shore, who continues to carry on the pride of the Seminole people by teaching the language and culture each day.

For more than 30 years, Shore has dedicated her time to the Culture Department on the Brighton Reservation

as a teacher and mentor to the community.

She began her career while in high school as a preschool aide and then moved on to work with the Adult Education Department as a language interpreter. She later worked in the Tribe's Housing Department before finding her way to Culture, where she spent the last 30 years.

When the Charter School opened, Shore gladly agreed to fill one of the primary language instructors positions. She also teaches the high school foreign language class for Seminole students.

"I think teaching language and culture is important because we need to keep our tradition alive, and this is the only way," Shore said. "Culture and language is a person's identity."

Shore speaks both the Mikasuki and Creek languages and works hard each day to help students become fluent Creek speakers.

"I feel it is important to be able to say yes when I am asked if I speak my language. It is who I am as a Seminole," she said. "My favorite part of the day is when I hear a student speak a complete sentence in Creek."

Shore was more than surprised when she learned she was chosen as Culture teacher of the year.

"To me it means that the other staff members value and respect the job I've done," she said. "I love my job because we finally have access to teach our kids every day."

Shore said she is thankful for her family, Lorene Gopher who gave her the opportunity to teach many years ago and to students who make her day every day.

The teachers were recognized for their achievements Feb. 5 by the Glades County School District at the annual Golden Apple Banquet in Moore Haven.

BRIGHTON SEMINOLES



Emma Johns

Hoops for Heart winners pose with their awards Feb. 14. Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School participated in two national fundraising events aimed to help raise heart health awareness.

PECS supports healthy hearts

BY EMMA JOHNS
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School joined thousands of schools across the country Feb. 14 in two national fundraising events aimed to help raise heart health awareness.

The Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart events — co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance — engaged students to improve their own health and help raise money for children with heart-health issues.

Through the fundraisers, which took place at the Brighton Gym, PECS students raised \$6,988 for Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart.

Student Aubee Billie raised more than \$1,000 and was named this year's top fundraiser.

"This is a good cause to support and I enjoy the Hoops for Hearts event," said sixth-grader Luzana Venzor. "I feel it is

important to lead a healthy life and keep your heart healthy."

The event featured dancing and hula hooping to celebrate the successful fundraising efforts of the students and taught them the value of community service and the importance of giving back to the community.



Emma Johns

Lucas Osceola competes in the Hoops for Heart fundraiser event.

"I like to get involved to help support kids with bad hearts and help people learn how to live healthy," student Kaleb Doctor said.

Congratulations to the winners:

Elementary Jump Rope for Heart: Dance Event Winner, Chaka Smith; Long Jump, Delonce Carrillo; Single Short Rope, Jacie White; Long Jump Rope, Jagger Gaucin; Obstacle Run, Landon Goodwin.

Middle School Hoops for Heart: 3-Point Contest, Silas Madrigal; Jump Shot, Bakari Micco

and Chandler Pearce; Free Throw, Ridge Bailey; Half-Court Contest, Caillou Smith; Three-on-Three, Ridge Baily, Riley Smith and Lucas Osceola.

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Ends Saturday, July 26,
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Announcements

In memory of Casey McCall

For Casey McCall, at this year's Gathering of Nations, held April 24-26 in Albuquerque, N.M., Wanda Bowers will be holding a Memorial Grass Dance Special in memory of her son.

It will be held Friday afternoon in the "PIT."

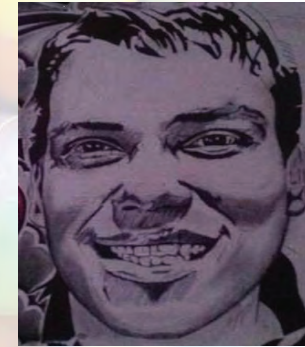
If you are attending Gathering of Nations, please come and support the family.



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Dates subject to change

Month	Issue Date	Deadline
January	Friday, Jan. 31	Wednesday, Jan. 15
February	Friday, Feb. 28	Wednesday, Feb. 12
March	Monday, March 31	Wednesday, March 12
April	Wednesday, April 30	Wednesday, April 9
May	Friday, May 30	Wednesday, May 14
June	Monday, June 30	Wednesday, June 11
July	Thursday, July 31	Wednesday, July 9
August	Friday, Aug. 29	Wednesday, Aug. 13
September	Tuesday, Sept. 30	Wednesday, Sept. 10
October	Friday, Oct. 31	Wednesday, Oct. 15
November	Friday, Nov. 28	Wednesday, Nov. 12
December	Wednesday, Dec. 31	Wednesday, Dec. 10

Happy birthday, Hakeem Watkins on Feb. 21

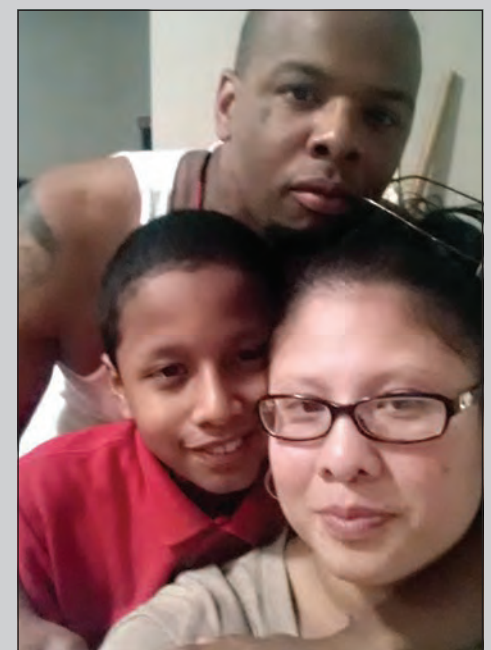
Dear Hakeem,

I just wanted to take time to wish you a happy birthday. It's been a year and a couple months together and we have had our good and bad times – mostly good. I have learned a lot about life and Islam which I treasure and appreciate to the upmost.

I know I can be insecure and crazy but you have stuck it out with me and continue to love me. You also have been awesome to DarRick; I love the fact that my son loves and trusts you. It means so much to me.

Thank you for all you are to us. We love you with all our hearts.

Love you always,
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and
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Sports



Hoop dreams reach new heights for Ahfachkee girls

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Ahfachkee School's varsity girls' basketball team soared further than any other all-Native team in Florida history during the 2013-2014 season.

The team placed second in the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) District 2A championships, which put Ahfachkee on record as the first Native school to reach FHSAA Region 3 Class 2A playoffs.

About 60 Lady Warriors fans made the two-hour drive Feb. 6 from the Big Cypress Reservation for the semi-quarter regionals against Sarasota Christian. There, they waved signs and cheered on the team made up of student athletes from grades six through 12. From the first tip off until the final buzzer, however, the older and bigger all-high school Sarasota Blazers held the lead.

The Lady Warriors, who went into the playoffs with a 14-3 record, were benched for the season after a 56-35 defeat.

"They had all older girls on their team.

We had two eighth-graders and two sixth-graders," said Jeanette Cypress as she consoled the team's forward Dasani Cypress, her granddaughter. "You just wait until the young girls are juniors and seniors...Nobody will be able to beat us."

Head coach Brandon Jones congratulated the team for competing hard through the season.

"They should all be proud for putting everything they had in the game," Jones said.

Senior point guards Gianna Wargolet and Malari Baker showed consistent leadership and high basketball IQs with their control of the floor. This season, Gianna's stats totaled 282 points, 44 steals and 57 assists. Malari totaled 152 points and led the team in 3-pointers with 15.

Dasani was the team's scoring leader with 304 points. The powerhouse eighth-grader also accumulated 47 steals and 25 assists.

♦ See HOOPS on page 2C



Peter B. Gallagher

Gianna Wargolet protects the ball Feb. 6 during regional playoffs against Sarasota Christian.



Beverly Bidney

Happy Jumper and Greg Louis compete together in the team roping event Feb. 8 at the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo in Big Cypress.

Cowboys, cowgirls compete at Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo in Big Cypress Feb. 8-9, the first event on the 2014 Eastern Indian Rodeo Association calendar, drew a crowd of competitive Native American cowboys and cowgirls. A sanctioned event, competitors accrued points toward their quest to compete in the Indian National Rodeo Finals in Las Vegas in November.

In its 26th year, the rodeo pays tribute to Bill Osceola, the Tribe's first president, a preacher and a baseball coach. To commemorate the occasion, Moses Jumper presented a plaque to Osceola's daughter Cynthia Osceola and brother Joe Osceola.

Raised in the Everglades near Tamiami Trail, Bill Osceola never attended school. He moved to the Hollywood Reservation, then known as Dania, in 1943, but he always kept a few hundred head of cattle in Big Cypress. He also organized a church in Hollywood and served as its preacher.

In 1956, Osceola built rodeo grounds on the Dania Reservation and held rodeos as a tourist attraction. According to historian Patsy West, 500 spectators attended the opening day event. The money earned from the rodeo paid travel expenses to Washington, D.C. to lobby the federal government for Tribal recognition. A constitutional committee formed in 1957 and Osceola was elected Chairman.

"Bill Osceola was the first to start a rodeo on the reservation in Hollywood," Jumper said. "He put them on and it helped fund the effort to be recognized so we could incorporate as the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The rodeo has been part of our history ever since."

Traditionally held as part of Tribal Fair, the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo was held on a cool and breezy winter night at the Jr. Cypress Rodeo Arena. Adult events included team roping, steer wrestling, calf



Beverly Bidney

Sydney Gore wrestles a steer Feb. 8 at the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo.

Student athlete profile: Trey Boone

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

LAKE WALES — Trey Boone, a shooting guard on the Vanguard School varsity boys' basketball team, has made remarkable moves on the court this season for someone who has only played competitively for two years.

He averages 16.3 points, 3 assists and 1.5 steals per game. He has made 99 3-pointers out of 199 attempts, making him one of the best 3-point shooters in the nation, averaging 50 percent. In fact, as of Feb. 7, he was No. 1 in Florida for 3-point field goals made in Class 2A high school basketball.

Golf is actually Boone's main sport — he has played since he was 6 — but he took interest in basketball four years ago when his family moved to the Immokalee Reservation. He started going to the gym and playing with his older cousins, later joining the Immokalee community team to gain more experience and playing in NAYO and other reservation tournaments.

Boone started his high school career at Immokalee High School, where he played both basketball and golf, but transferred to the Vanguard boarding school during his sophomore year when his grades began to suffer.

Boone said balancing school work and sports at Vanguard is easier than he thought because of the smaller classrooms, time designated for studying and tutors.

"To be honest when I first interviewed Trey, he had struggled in school. He was going to have to work very hard to get

his GPA up," said basketball coach Dan Sheppard. "[Now] he's a model student, one of those kids that people can talk to; he appreciates things in life that others don't."

Boone said his biggest challenge is being away from home.

"You learn how important school is and how it is to live without your family and your parents taking care of you," he said.

But with cousins who attend Vanguard and parents who make the two-hour drive to attend most of his games, Boone has transitioned more easily to the change in schools.

"At first we didn't want to send him away, but I look at it now as God's plan," said Boone's mother, Gale Boone. "Maybe he didn't make the grades in Immokalee High School because this is his plan."

The plan has led him to excel as captain of both the basketball and golf teams, and to be the sole Vanguard golfer to qualify for regionals — he missed states by only 10 strokes. He also joined the anti-bullying committee, was baptized and competed in golf and basketball in the Jim Thorpe Games last year.

Boone said he is surrounded by role models — from his father, Johnny Boone, whom he looks to for advice, to coach Sheppard, who helped him gain his confidence when he was struggling academically, to his grandmother Louise Motlow, who he loves dearly and who keeps him rooted in his culture by teaching him his native language.

♦ See BOONE on page 3C



Peter B. Gallagher

Trey Boone takes aims during a game against Bartow High School Jan. 31.



Beverly Bidney

Pauletta Bowers takes aim in the breakaway roping event Feb. 8 at the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo in Big Cypress.

Hunter Osceola, American Heritage enjoy winning season

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

PLANTATION — The strong season of the American Heritage boys' varsity basketball team brought them all the way to the Florida High School Athletic Association Class 5A state semifinal game Feb. 28, thanks in part to Hunter Osceola's contributions on the court.

"I see Hunter as a big part of the team;

we were lucky to get him this year," said coach Charles Stephenson. "He plays shooting guard but he is capable of playing point guard."

At the district playoff game against Dillard Feb. 7, the American Heritage team showed their determination by defeating their opponent by 1 point.

Despite a strong first half, American Heritage was down by 14 points in the second half. But in the last two minutes

of the game, they turned it around and scored the winning basket with only seven seconds left on the clock.

"This was a big game; it's win or go home," said Marl Osceola, Hunter's father. "It's the best time of the year."

Regardless of the outcome of the regional and state championship games, Hunter has proven he has what it takes to make a difference on the basketball court.



Beverly Bidney

Hunter Osceola dribbles past a Dillard High School defender Feb. 7 during the semifinal game of the FHSAA Class 5A championship game at Archbishop McCarthy High School.



Beverly Bidney

Hunter Osceola beams after winning the district semifinal against Dillard High School.



Photo courtesy of Kyle Doney

FSU wide receiver Kelvin Benjamin and quarterback Jameis Winston enjoy the school's national championship celebration Feb. 1.

FSU, Tribe celebrate football championship

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State University celebrated its championship football team in style Feb. 1 with a rousing event at the Doak Campbell Stadium.

A party atmosphere prevailed as a highlight video of the BCS championship game played for fans, cheerleaders took to the field, the team gathered on stage and confetti burst through the air. Players, coaches, school administrators and the athletic director took their turns at the microphone to talk about the team's journey to capturing FSU's third championship as about 30,000 fans cheered from the stands.

Tribal member Kyle Doney had something much better than a front-row seat for the celebration; he sat on the dais as a representative of the FSU Alumni Association National Board of Directors.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Doney, who graduated FSU in 2007. "They introduced me as the Seminole Tribe representative and an

alumnus. I got a standing ovation. The coach also recognized the Tribe and their support; we got another standing ovation."

About 40 Tribal members attended the celebration, many from Big Cypress.

Doney said coach Jimbo Fisher seemed pleased with the turnout.

He spoke about the team's future and emphasized the school's long-term football program that will lead to more championship titles.

Heisman Trophy winner and quarterback Jameis Winston, wide receiver Rashad Greene and athletic director Stan Wilcox also addressed the crowd from a stage on the field, but the star of the show was probably the Bowl Championship Series Waterford crystal football.

"The highlight was being able to hold the trophy," said Doney, who attended most home games, several away games and the BCS championship game in Pasadena, Calif.

At the end of the event, fans were allowed on the field for a meet and greet with the players.

◆ More RODEO photos from page 1C



Beverly Bidney

A cowboy practices his rope skills Feb. 8 before the start of the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Naha Jumper ties a calf's feet together during the calf roping event.



Beverly Bidney

Jo 'Boogie' Jumper guides her horse around the barrel during the barrel racing event.



Beverly Bidney

Leanna Billie ties a calf's feet together during the calf roping event.



Photo courtesy of Kyle Doney

From left, Kyle Doney, Kirsten Doney, Marilyn Doney and Kenneth Doney pose with FSU's BCS National Championship trophy Feb. 1 at the FSU national championship celebration.

◆ BOONE From page 1C

back in some way, potentially through Tribal government or teaching his young niece about sports.

Boone has big dreams of playing his two favorite sports at a Division 1 college, possibly studying biology and eventually playing professionally in both. The future of the Tribe is also important to him and he plans to give

"I think he is a great example for kids that don't see a light at the end of the tunnel and then are able to find a school that works for them," Sheppard said. "Whether it's golf or basketball, I think you're going to hear about him one day."

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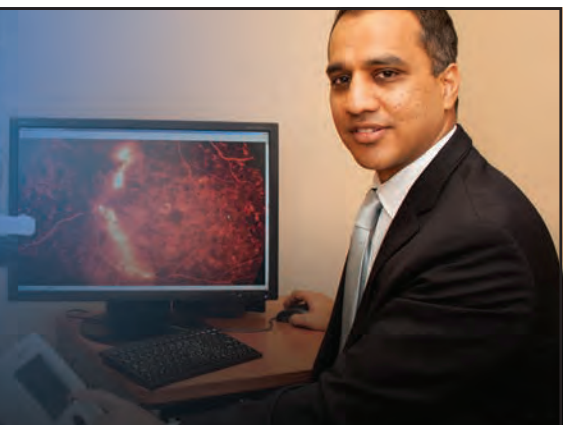
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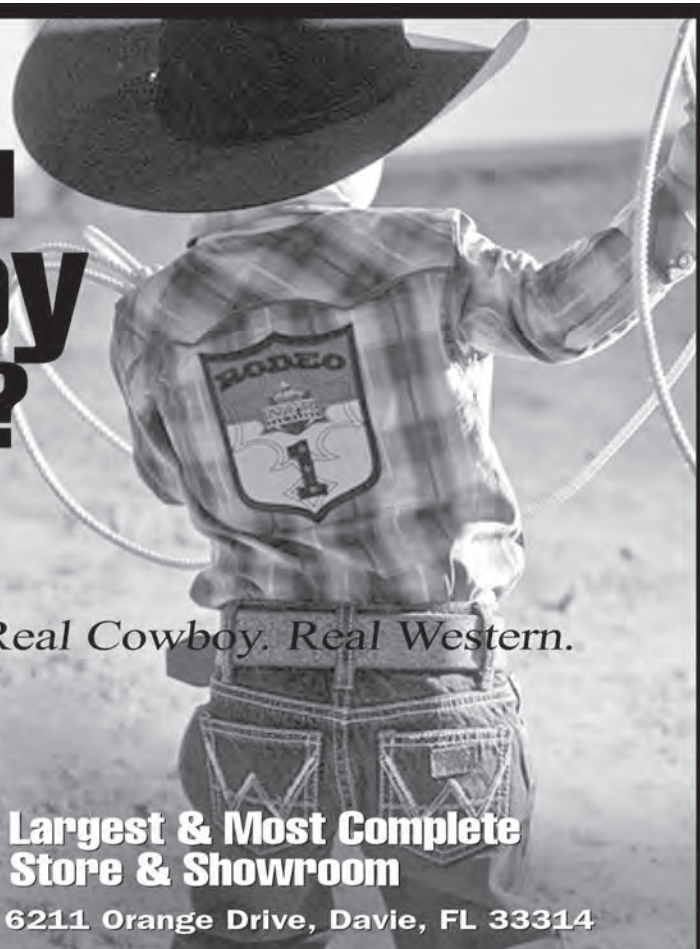


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Tradition Today



Big Cypress 118th heralds Seminole history



Eileen Soler

Byron Billie Sr. and Byron Billie Jr. make last-minute adjustments for a clothing contest Jan. 25 at the Big Cypress 118th Anniversary Celebration.

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Susan Almand, of Ontario, Canada, called the Big Cypress 118th Anniversary Celebration at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena and fairgrounds “simply amazing.”

JJ Behnke, of Arcadia, was awed: “I’ve had goose bumps all day.”

Almand and Behnke were among hundreds of non-Natives who attended the Jan. 23-25 event for a rare, intimate glimpse of Seminole history, daily life and enduring culture.

The three-day celebration commemorated the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ land purchase in 1896 that, when added to a smaller 1889 land acquisition, became the heart of today’s Big Cypress Reservation.

By then, about 46,000 Native people were forced into Oklahoma settlements in accordance with the Indian Removal Act of 1830. According to various estimations, up to 6,000 may have died from exposure and disease during the subsequent Trail of Tears.

Resistors from many southeastern Tribes who fled into Florida and then joined with local Natives and freed or escaped slaves waged bloody battles against the U.S. Army for freedom, homeland and sovereignty.

Seven 8-foot banners that detailed the three largest battles, later called the Seminole Wars, led visitors into the show barn turned exhibit hall courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Guests lingered to read facts about the wars from 1817 to 1858 that left at least 1,500 Army soldiers dead and pushed the Seminoles deep into the Everglades.

Ed Almand, who is Caucasian, admitted that he worried if he and his wife, Susan, “would really be welcome” on the reservation when they arrived to the festival Jan. 25.

“But we felt instead like the Tribe was saying to us, ‘Please, learn the truth from us,’” Almand said.

Just beyond the panels, Vinson Osceola showed guests how to use a hatchet to chip away a stump of Cypress wood. On a table was a lineup of perfectly carved bowls, cooking ladles, hunting bows and other items fashioned by Tribal members for daily use and later to sell.

Nearby, Tribal members from Immokalee’s Culture Department revealed the complex labor of traditional patchwork, beading and basket weaving. The two demonstration areas flanked a photograph,

map and drawing display that provided snapshots of life on Big Cypress from the late 1800s into the 20th century. Another section provided streaming videos that featured profound explanations from Tribal elders, officials and cultural leaders about traditions that have endured for centuries.

Meanwhile at the fairgrounds, Tribal food and craft vendors circled a show area where Wovoka Tommie, compliance officer for the Big Cypress Council Office, narrated Tribal clothing contests.

“Imagine the Florida heat as it is today and our women cooking over open fires, the whole time staying [hidden] from soldiers who could come around the corner and attack at any second... That’s what we went through to be unconquered today,” Tommie told the crowd.

Tommie also shared information about the Clan system, Tribal colors, customary foods and traditional stomp dances – except Corn Dance.

“Some might call showing how we live, especially the dances, taboo. But today we are calling it ‘loud and proud,’” Tommie said.

JoJo Osceola, who competed with eight family members in the clothing contests, said sharing with outside guests is significant.

“It’s an honor for us to show others how we live,” she said. “I hope that they take home knowledge of who we are and that we still follow our traditions.”

Helen Norwood, of Lakeport, said she was most interested in learning about the Tribe’s history, in part because stories passed through her family tree hint that she could be a relative of the great Seminole warrior Chief Osceola. Her husband, Bud Norwood, believes he may have Cherokee ancestors.

“To be exposed to so much information here in one day is just amazing. It’s great,” Bud Norwood said.

About 2,100 Tribal members and visitors came together on the last night of the event for a rousing concert by country music star Alan Jackson. At dusk, fans hunkered on beach chairs, and picnic blankets carpeted a field in front of the concert stage. By the end of Jackson’s opening song, the crowd was on its feet.

Behnke said the entire Big Cypress 118th experience was unforgettable. She rushed from the concert crowd to pose for pictures in front of a monster four-wheeler driven by Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.

“I came for a pow-wow kind of thing but got a lot more than that,” Behnke said. “The whole Indian culture and spirit is alive here. You can feel it.”



Eileen Soler

Clarissa Garza watches as her sister Dorianne Garza threads a sewing machine during a patchwork demonstration.



Eileen Soler

Country music star Alan Jackson performs Jan. 25 at the Big Cypress 118th Anniversary Celebration.



Eileen Soler

The grand entrance parade Jan. 25 for the Big Cypress 118th Anniversary Celebration is ushered in by Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, right.



Eileen Soler

JoJo Osceola and Byron Billie Sr. compete in a clothing contest.



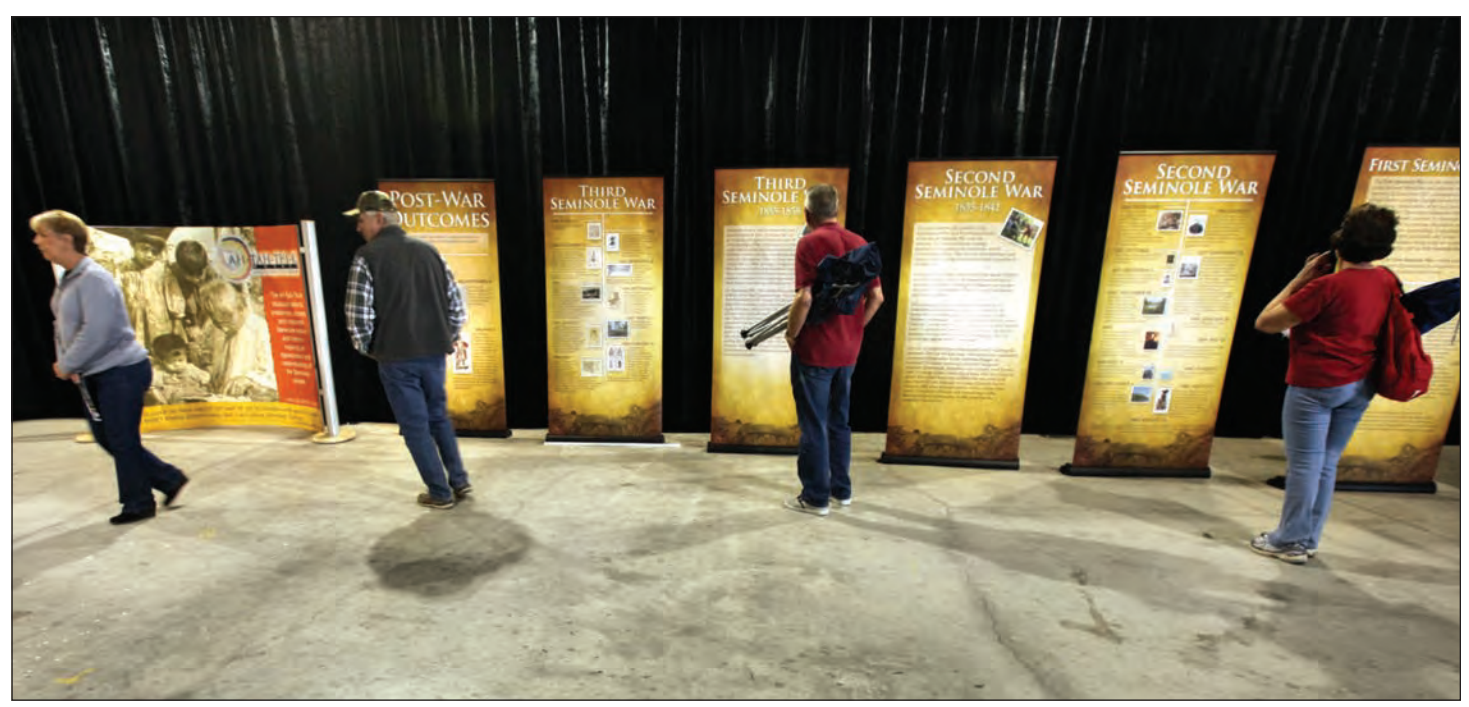
Eileen Soler

Vinson Osceola gives Helen and Bud Norwood, of Lakeport, a lesson in the importance of Cypress wood in everyday Seminole life.



Eileen Soler

A cowboy and cowgirl cuddle at the Big Cypress 118th Anniversary Celebration.



Eileen Soler

Spectators at the Big Cypress 118th Anniversary Celebration read through a series of banners that detail the three Seminole Wars.

Crowds celebrate culture and art at Tribal Fair

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Led by Seminole, Florida and U.S. flags, the 43rd annual Tribal Fair opened grandly Feb. 7 with a procession of Tribal leaders, royalty and preschoolers. Dancers from Tribes throughout Indian Country paraded behind. Dubbed a celebration of Native arts and culture, the event brought thousands to the Hard Rock Live and Okalee Village in Hollywood Feb. 7-9.

"It's good for us to let people understand our culture," Brighton Board

Rep. Larry Howard said. "Every year it gets better and better."

Tribal Fair staples, the WISDOM Dancers — consisting of members of the Winnebago, Iowa, Shawnee Sioux, Ojibwa and Missouri Tribes — were joined this year by Apache Crown Dancers, Zuni Olla Maidens, Aztec Dancers and the Native American Women Warriors color guard.

The Salinas Family Aztec Dancers from Mexico performed with fire for a captivated audience. Aztecs historically performed the fire dance to honor Xiuhtecuhtli, the god of fire. The dance, which honors fire as an important element in their lives, requires

stamina, agility and athletic ability. The dancers kept the flame burning throughout the dance.

"A highlight was the wide variety of dancers we had this year," said organizer Gloria Wilson. "A lot of people hadn't seen the Apache Crown Dancers before. The groups were very interactive with the audience, so they got to experience a lot."

Choctaw basketball phenomenon Kenny Dobbs, the 2012 NBA Sprite Slam Dunk champion, teamed up with Pawnee and Yakama artist Bunky Echo-Hawk to display their skills on the court and the canvas. Dobbs showcased his talent using members

of the audience for more challenging dunks, while Echo-Hawk simultaneously painted him in action next to the hoop.

Native Noise, the moniker for the all-Native American lineup of musical entertainment, kicked off Feb. 8 and included the Savage Twins, Hybiskus, Osceola Brothers Band, The Plateros and Indigenous. Derek Miller and Robert Randolph and the Family Band wrapped up Tribal Fair with a concert on the last night.

For Robert C. North Jr.'s band Hybiskus, Native Noise gave them an opportunity to perform new music. A songwriter and musician, North recently moved his three-

piece band away from acoustic and into electric rock and roll and debuted it to the community at Tribal Fair.

"It was kind of nerve-racking in a way," North said. "I've wanted to do the electric thing for a long time. It was a lot of fun, the reaction was good and people liked it. That's always pretty encouraging."

Rounding out the event were an appearance by Native actor Wes Studi, clothing contests and the crowning of the new Little Mr. and Miss Seminole.

"It was awesome," said Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger. "It was nice to see all these Native Americans get together."



Beverly Bidney

Seminole Color Guard members Curtis Motlow, Charlie Hiers and David Billy lead the Grand Entry Feb. 7. Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Stephen Bowers follow.



Beverly Bidney

Seminole leaders and princesses watch the WISDOM Dancers during the Grand Entry to the 43rd annual Tribal Fair at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

Kenny Dobbs is about to dunk the ball after grabbing it from a precariously perched WISDOM Dancer. Bunky Echo-Hawk continues working on his painting, with nary a nod to the difficult feat.



Amanda Murphy

Miss Seminole Tia Blais-Billie leads the Little Miss contestants in a circle around the stage Feb. 7 during the Little Mr. and Miss Seminole pageant, part of the Tribal Fair at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

Shawl dancer Urseloria Kanuhu uses her shawl for dramatic effect at the 43rd annual Tribal Fair.



Amanda Murphy

Outgoing Little Miss Seminole Sarafina Billie crowns new Little Miss Madasyn Osceola at the Little Mr. and Miss pageant.



Beverly Bidney

An Aztec Dancer demonstrates his fearlessness with fire as part of a dance at Tribal Fair.



Beverly Bidney

Zuni Olla Maidens carefully march in the Grand Entry of the 43rd annual Tribal Fair at Hard Rock Live.

Brighton Field Day welcomes FSU Marching Chiefs

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — In its 76 years, Brighton Field Day has grown from less than 100 Tribal members gathering for friendly competition to a festival attracting thousands of visitors for carnival rides, a parade and cultural and wildlife shows.

And, with every year comes something new — this year the Tribe proudly welcomed 54 of the 400-member Florida State University Marching Chiefs band.

David Plack, marching band director, said when he announced the Brighton trip, students lined up for a chance to attend.

“They see it as an opportunity to learn about who they represent,” Plack said.

President Tony Sanchez Jr. said having the band attend Tribal Fair strengthens the already great relationship between the Tribe and FSU.

Allen Durham, who brought along the FSU pageantry Osceola and Renegade for the third consecutive year, agreed: “The Tribe’s support of FSU is a special thing.”

Other special guests of the Feb. 12-16 event included four national championship winning FSU football players, who are also NFL draft prospects, and the guys of the hit television show *Duck Dynasty*; both found similarity with the Tribe.

“I never knew much about the Seminole Indian Tribe but have learned a lot today and realized quickly we’re (the same) because on the seal it says, ‘In God we trust,’ and that’s what we’re all about,” said Justin Martin, of *Duck Dynasty*.

“It feels good to come out and know you’re part of another family,” said FSU running back Devonta Freeman.



Amanda Murphy

The FSU Marching Chiefs pump up the crowd during the Brighton Field Day parade Feb. 15. This marked the first year the band attended the annual event.

As well as participating in the parade, the visitors tried their hands at traditional Field Day activities.

The Chiefs kicked off the rodeo with the national anthem, the football players took a stab at alligator wrestling and the

Duck Dynasty men drummed along with the WISDOM Dancers. Since former president Joe Dan Osceola

opened the event to the public in the 1960s, Field Day has served as an opportunity to share Seminole culture with the rest of the world.

“Sometimes the outside community has a lot of misconceptions about us,” Norman “Skeeter” Bowers said. “By doing this every year, people can come and see we still have our culture.”

Traditional food cooked under a chickee, canoe carving and vendors selling arts and crafts provided a peak into Seminole history, but Field Day would not be complete without the activities that started it all.

Throughout the weeklong event, Tribal members of all ages participated in everything from bowling, golf and corn hole tournaments to log peeling, horse racing and skillet throw competitions.

The Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, named for the man who first incorporated rodeo into Field Day, rattled with excitement for the highly revered EIRA, PRCA, Bulls and Broncs and Xtreme Bulls rodeos.

“You have to love something like this to make it happen,” said Joe Dan Osceola, who was visiting the festival for the first time in years and was happy to see its progress.

Although Tribal members happily share their unique culture with visitors, Brighton Field Day remains above all things, a homecoming.

“For every Tribal member, it’s a chance to see people you haven’t crossed paths with in a long time,” President Sanchez said.

“It’s always been a very enjoyable time to renew friendship with people,” Chairman James E. Billie added.



Amanda Murphy

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. rides in and greets the crowd during the parade at Brighton Field Day Feb. 15.



Amanda Murphy

Brighton Field Day is not only a cultural festival but also a carnival for high-flying thrill seekers.



Amanda Murphy

The WISDOM Dancers participate in the Grand Entry.



Amanda Murphy

National championship winning FSU football players Devonta Freeman, Timothy Jernigan, Kenny Shaw and Kelvin Benjamin greet the cheering crowd with excitement during the parade.



Amanda Murphy

Brighton Jr. Miss Aubee Billie rides atop a truck with her father, Chairman James E. Billie, riding inside during the parade.



Amanda Murphy

The guys of *Duck Dynasty* enter the amphitheater to a roar from the crowd during the parade.



Amanda Murphy

This cowboy holds on tight during the Xtreme Bulls rodeo show at Brighton Field Day.



Amanda Murphy

This little one models her adorable outfit for the judges during the baby’s clothing contest.



Amanda Murphy

World champion hoop dancer Dallas Arcand, of the Alexander (Kipoptakaw) Cree Nation, performs his masterful moves for the crowd.



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