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Louise Gopher inducted into Women's Hall of Fame

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Louise Gopher has joined an esteemed group of women with her inclusion in the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. Gov. Rick Scott selected Gopher as one of the most distinguished women in the state for her contributions to the education of Tribal youth.

Gopher played a major role in the creation of Brighton Reservation's Pemaayev Emahaky Charter School, the first Native American charter school east of the Mississippi River. The school opened in 2007 with 123 students and now boasts 238 kindergarten through eighth-grade students.

"I think it's a big honor," said Gopher, who served as the Tribe's Education director from 2003 to 2007. "Learning their heritage and language made a big difference in students' lives. Their self-esteem went through the roof, and they couldn't wait to come to school."

Opening the Charter School began with parents' desire for their children to continue Seminole language and culture lessons throughout their educations. Once students left the reservation for local public schools, they lost the Creek they learned in the Tribal preschool.

Gopher realized culture wouldn't be far behind.

As Education director, she established a program in which students stayed on the Brighton Reservation one school day each week to learn Seminole language and culture from a group of women, called the Grandmothers.

♦ See GOPHER on page 5B



Secretary of Interior gets firsthand account of FPL power plant threat

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell received more than a VIP tour on a recent visit to the Big Cypress Reservation.

Jewell, an Obama administration Cabinet member in charge of conservation, proper land and water use promotion, fish and wildlife protection and environmental values preservation, got an earful Jan. 9 about the Florida Power & Light (FPL) plan to build a monster power plant next door to the Big Cypress Reservation.

"(FPL) is trying to railroad around us," Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger said during a meeting with Jewell at the Frank Billie Field Office.

Representatives from several environmental activist groups, including Earth First!, South Florida Wildlands Association, Sierra Club and Audubon Society, filled a hallway while Chairman James E. Billie, other elected officials, Tribal elders from both Miccosukee and Seminole Tribes and several department heads alerted Jewell to the FPL threat.

"The corporation (FPL) will do end runs around the environmental groups. We need your help every step along the way," Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank implored Jewell.

Jewell, in Florida for the Everglades Coalition's annual conference on restoration of the ecosystem, acknowledged the Tribe's "deep and enduring connection with the land."

"Our interests are aligned with Everglades restoration — the water, fauna and animals. We know that humans are taking up more land, and we know we

can learn from you what is working now," Jewell said.

But she admitted to being new to the magnitude of the FPL's power plant issue. Before Jewell's arrival, the activist groups, Tribal members and others gathered "to sharpen our pencils" in preparation for Jewell's visit, said Wovoka Tommie, of the Big Cypress Council Office. The Department of the Interior also oversees the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The gas-fired power plant — one of the largest in the nation — could be built on the 2,300-acre FPL site a little less than 2 miles north of the reservation's border. FPL's property butts against the reservation boundary line, about three football fields from the proposed site of the future Ahfachkee High School.

Scientific reports are not yet available concerning chemical emissions from the plant's 15-story towers that will impede the rural landscape and billow smoky steam into the air.

"The absence of information is the biggest problem we have, but we all know that when it comes to chemicals in the air, what goes up must come down," said Panagioti Tsolkas, of Earth First!

But Tsolkas said the proposed plant's twin, the West County Energy Center in Palm Beach County, leads the region for producing greenhouse gasses — the main source of global warming. According to a Department of Environmental Protection report, the Palm Beach plant in 2012 alone discharged 9.1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, the industrial gas most responsible for climate change.

Betty Osceola, of Trail, said environmental contamination is already a problem in the Everglades. The sugar



Eileen Soler
Chairman James E. Billie escorts Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell through the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Big Cypress Reservation.

industry has been blamed for mercury in the water which, according to Sierra Club Florida, can be harmful to unborn babies and can cause brain and nervous system damage.

"We can barely hunt and fish anymore. They are killing our land," Osceola said.

The Hendry County FPL site sits on proven habitat and mating grounds for the endangered Florida panther. It is also home to other threatened or endangered creatures,

including the crested caracara bird, snail kite bird, wood stork bird and eastern indigo snakes.

Matthew Schwartz, executive director of the South Florida Wildlands Association, said the FPL plant could be stopped if the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Department of the Interior invoke the "jeopardy opinion" of the Endangered Species Act.

♦ See FPL on page 4A

Smallwood Store dispute may go back to trial

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

NAPLES — The three-year fight between historic Ted Smallwood's Store and land development company Florida-Georgia Grove LLP (FGG) may be heading back to court.

By a 3-2 vote, the Collier County Board of Commissioners refused to "disclaim, renounce or vacate" Mamie Street, the county's oldest road and the only access to the Chokoloskee trading post, the county's oldest building. The refusal of the commission to allow FGG to remove the public right-of-way puts a cramp in FGG plans to develop the property, likely forcing the two warring parties back into a 12th Judicial Circuit Court trial.

A room full of Chokoloskee residents and mostly Mamie Street supporters cheered the vote, which came after a two-hour hearing. Photographer Clyde Butcher led off the public portion of the hearing by warning county commissioners to, "Keep an eye on (FGG). I just don't trust 'em. People who would block up the road like they did are not good people."

Butcher referred to the April 14, 2011 sunrise takeover of the road by FGG that shocked residents. Gary McMillin, whose wife, Lynn, is the granddaughter of store founder and Collier County pioneer Ted Smallwood, gave commissioners a graphic account of that morning.

"The cops were poking me with the baton. They blocked and tore out a county road and the police were going to lock me up," he said, winding up his three-minute harangue by roaring that the FGG offer to build a new access to the store was unacceptable.

♦ See SMALLWOOD on page 5A

Hollywood groundbreaking ceremony celebrates Howard Tiger's legacy



Beverly Bidney
From left, Max Osceola Jr., Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Michael Tiger, Rusty Tiger, President Tony Sanchez Jr., Chairman James E. Billie, Moses Jumper and Andrew J. Bowers Jr. break ground for the Howard Tiger Recreation Center Jan. 14 on the Hollywood Reservation.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — With construction to commence soon on the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood, the community broke ground on the site Jan. 14 and paid tribute to the man for whom the building will be named.

Considered the father of the Tribe's modern-day athletic tradition, Howard Tiger was known for his leadership, athleticism and coaching skills.

"He knew athletics teaches a lot: teamwork, discipline and things you can use later in life," Max Osceola Jr. said. "This was our field of dreams. Howard would be proud if he was here today."

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola spearheaded the effort to build the new facility on the reservation, and although too young to have known Tiger personally, Councilman Osceola knows he's one of the beneficiaries of Tiger's dedication.

"Even though I didn't spend time with this great man, those who did passed it down to my generation," he said. "I look up to men like Moses (Jumper), Max (Osceola Jr.) and Mike (Tiger) and learned from them, who learned from Howard. It's fitting that we put his name on this building."

The 39,000-square-foot, two-story facility will house the gym, Boys & Girls Club, and the Fitness and Culture Departments and will feature two basketball courts, cardio and weight rooms,

classrooms and catering kitchen, among other amenities.

"Through athletics and sports, he helped raise another generation of leaders," said Moses Jumper, master of ceremonies of the groundbreaking event. "Sports are why I'm here; I wasn't that great of a student and without sports, I probably wouldn't have stayed in school."

Although Tiger's life was cut short in an accident, his legacy lives on through the athletes he coached and the lessons he taught.

"Before there were iPhones and iPads, there was I play," said Max Osceola Jr. "It got us together and we were friends because we played, won and lost together."

Tribal leaders shared stories about the impact Tiger had on their lives. Chairman James E. Billie said he was a "manly man" who devoted his time to Tribal youth, while Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., who played softball at Haskell Indian Nations University, recalled that Tiger did whatever necessary to make people around him do their best.

"He was a person who did the right thing," Councilman Bowers said. "When a person does that, people look at that and want to be just like him."

Michael Tiger also shared memories of his father's toughness and love. His years as a Marine included fighting in the battle of Iwo Jima, one of the bloodiest of World War II.

♦ See HOWARD TIGER on page 4A

Editorial

From Killer Moon to Little Big Winds

• James E. Billie

The year 2014 has finally arrived and we have passed through the Killer Moon and are going into the Little Big Winds. The significance of the Killer Moon is that it is the time of the year when it gets very cold and many things will die and I guess that is why the Seminole Indians named it the Killer Moon. It not only pertained to human beings but also to trees, plants and animals, and even fish. So it got the strange name of Killer Moon.

The Killer Moon is followed by the Little Big Winds. During this time, generally, the snow starts melting or is in the full swing of being very, very cold. Today, on the Brighton Indian Reservation, in January, the Little Big Winds has arrived and the weather won't make up its mind if it is hot or cold.

I live in a chickee hut. It is 40 feet wide and 100 feet long and the peak of the roof, from the floor to the top is 35 feet. And all I can say is brrrrrrrr. For it gets very cold. During the summer time my chickee is excellent. If the temperature is 80 degrees outside it will be 70 degrees inside my chickee hut. During the wintertime, if it is 50 degrees outside the chickee hut, it will be 38 to 40 degrees inside. Let me tell you, it gets very cold.

My chickee hut is traditional. I don't have any insulation in the roof, so the wind just goes right through it and it keeps very cool. I have to put on extra clothing just to stay warm. I do have two rooms inside the house for the kids, which are insulated, with a heater and everything, so it is fairly warm in there but outside those rooms, you could kill a deer and hang it inside my house for several days and it would not even spoil.

It's that cold.

The last time I lived in a chickee hut I was 10 or 11 years old and I don't recall how cold it was living in a chickee hut, but for us to stay warm, we had to put on a lot of blankets to sleep through the night and then, when we woke up, to stay warm, we would sit out in the sun in the morning to warm up a little bit. Sometimes I could not even move my fingers to button up my shirt, trying to get ready to go to school back in those days.

So I am trying to live the old ways and it is a little difficult because I have become accustomed to four walls, with an air conditioner and a heater. For some unknown reason, I decided to make myself a chickee hut to live in within the last couple years to experience my old ways of living...but, if I had a choice right now, I would revert to the modern days and reminisce about the old days. But it is a lot more comfortable than you would ever dream of.

Sometimes, I see people living out in Northern Georgia or Alabama and I wonder how those people survive, especially when they don't have any electricity. You even hear about people dying up there because they froze to death. And I can understand why.

I'm glad I live here in Florida, where it does get cold temperatures but where you can stay warm and survive.

Sho-naa-bish.

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



A focus on growth for 2014

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

As the New Year begins, it's important for us to recognize that these past two years of our initiatives and execution, your current Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. Board issued its first dividend to Tribal members. Even as we celebrate this accomplishment, it's critical that we highlight where the Board will focus its efforts in 2014.

We will continue to evaluate new business ventures that appear before our Board. Future projects will include major national initiatives, such as medicinal marijuana, compounding pharmacy medication (which is the fastest growing pharmaceutical sector), hydrogen energy (which we have been observing for some time) and social Internet gaming, among others.

The Board is considering other opportunities as well, but our focus going forward will not be reaching out to identify new projects, as we were doing a year ago. Instead, we will focus on the growth of the enterprises we've worked so hard to put in place. I am talking about growing our current operating businesses, growing our Seminole Pride products (beef, water and juice) and our Hard Rock Energy drink. We will emphasize staffing, making sure that we have the right personnel in place, the proper distribution channels and doing everything we can to make these businesses mature.

Staffing, putting the right people in the right places, is a key part of this growth process. We are growing by leaps and bounds, and we have to be sure that all businesses are staffed properly or we're stuck. We need proper personnel to manage and grow our current business ventures. Our focus on that will be huge.

The real focus of this administration is conducting business as a corporation, to move away from the Mom and Pop mentality. That means learning the full system, getting into the nuts and bolts and understanding that if we want to market our products to the masses, we have to understand the production needs, the delivery schedules, the pricing needs and so on. That focus is exactly why we have been able to achieve the proper distribution channels for all our Seminole Pride products.

Let's take our energy drink for an example. Think of how its success could spill over from one product to another. We're moving the energy drink. This product will put us on the national map. Hard Rock Energy drinks will take us global. We're receiving inquiries from all over the world, expressing interest in this product.

Hard Rock Energy drinks will show us how things are done, not just locally, but around the world. It's one thing to deliver juice in a pickup truck and another to sign up with H.T. Hackney and US Foods – two

massive foodservice distributors that reach across the globe.

What we've learned from this one product is going to help all our Board ventures. This will elevate our other products and create a path they can follow to success. I am eager to see it drive the Board's entire operation. That's what I want to see in 2014.

To be successful on that end we need administrative support. Someone can go out there and make hundreds of sales, but we must also follow up on the back end to make sure orders are being placed and delivery is scheduled, that the product actually gets delivered and people know the product is there. If we don't perform those tasks, we're just spinning our wheels.

That's all part of our focus this year – being diligent in crossing the t's and dotting the i's. That will ensure success.

As individual Board members, we want to learn as much as we can. We're not going to run all these projects personally and be there every day with a clipboard counting cans. But, at the same time, we want to be an integral part of each venture...and know, really know, how it runs, how it works, all the steps to success. We want to know the why, the what, and the where so we're all up to speed.

We want to know how the machine is working. That point can't be stressed enough. For so long we've heard that we need to control our own destiny. Well, the only way you can control your own destiny is to roll up your sleeves, and jump in, but you have to know what you are doing. You can't just say, "Oh I thought Sam was going to take care of it," or, "Wasn't Tom going to take care of it?"

No. You must have intimate knowledge of all these businesses to control your destiny. Personally, getting involved not only teaches me, but the younger generation, as well. They are learning also. So when it is time for me to ride off into the sunset, the next generation will take my role.

We'll give them the map and our knowledge and they'll keep it going. The vision will change – because consumer needs and business environments will change. Our youth will understand that. And their methods of operating will change according to the new business demands.

That won't happen, if all we do today is sit back and hope someone else takes care of it tomorrow. What message would that attitude send to the next generation of business managers? We must stay involved. I'm proud to say this administration has met that challenge. We are asking questions, we are getting answers because when we're questioned by the community, the last answer we want to give them is, "Uh...I'll get back to you."

We're in direct contact with all our managers, all the time. We don't want filtered information from a few reports. We have a daily working relationship with our team.

Our third shareholders meeting was a

proud moment.

We were up there personally as elected officials, giving the financial report. We didn't say, "You're the CFO, get up there and give out this information," or, "OK, in-house attorney, go put on the dog and pony show." No. No. No.

There's no doubt in my mind, that if I weren't able to stand up and give the report, that Steve, Joe or Larry could've stood up and delivered the same information. No doubt in my mind. And this is due to our desire to be closely involved, to have intimate knowledge of our businesses.

That's something that was lacking for a long time. If we're not willing to roll up our sleeves then it's just lip service. I'm very proud of this administration. No lip service here.

We're going to continue looking at opportunities, but we can never say, "Hey, we got all the business models that we'll ever need." We'll never reach that point. We'll always ask ourselves, "What is the next opportunity?" Understanding that no matter what the next opportunity is, it will always require that we roll up our sleeves and be involved. During the last two fiscal years, the Board has operated without a Tribal Council subsidy. And we will continue to operate this way. That wouldn't happen without our direct involvement in our enterprises.

At the end of the day, if we handle business the way we should handle business, we'll be in position to continue issuing dividends in the future. We know why we're here and why we were put here: to grow our businesses and generate income. We are pushing these businesses to operate at an optimum level, and if gaming ever does take a hit, we'll be able to pick up the pieces. I truly believe, if we play the game right we CAN do that.

There was talk at the shareholders meeting regarding the teamwork between the Board and the Council. We must have that teamwork. While we're developing a stronger working relationship between the Tribal Council and Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., the focus must remain the same: How do we improve the lives of our Tribal members?

We are setting the bar high for the next administration and sending a message. You better be prepared to roll up your sleeves and get to work. You have a job to do. We make decisions that affect nearly 4,000 people. We better have our minds right and our boots on.

Sho-naa-bish.

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



Chinese dreamcatchers?

• Pierre Capital Journal

Anthropologists say it was probably the Ojibwe among the American Indian peoples who came up with the idea of a "dreamcatcher" – a hoop strung with webbing – to snare the bad dreams so that a sleeper would only have good dreams. Wherever it began, that idea has since been widely embraced by Plains Indian Tribes, such as the Lakota. But as the Wikipedia entry about dreamcatchers informs us, some American Indians have come to see dreamcatchers as "over-commercialized, offensively misappropriated and misused by non-Natives."

With all due respect to the well-meaning people at St. Joseph's Indian School in Chamberlain, we think that is what has happened in the school's fundraising effort that includes sending some potential donors an actual dreamcatcher – but one made in China.

To our way of thinking, that is over-commercialization in action. It takes something beautiful from American Indian tradition and makes it into cheap junk.

We heard about this fundraising gimmick from one of the potential donors who received a Chinese-made dreamcatcher in the mail. He described the tactic as "very sad."

We suspect he's not the only one who has let the school know what a disappointment it is to find an Asian-made emblem of American Indian

culture in the mail. In fact, the school has a space on its website dedicated to explaining why it feels compelled to rely on a Chinese manufacturer to make the dreamcatchers it uses in its fundraising efforts.

As the school told the *Pierre Capital Journal*, it sends out 3 million to 4 million of these dreamcatchers each year, and personnel say the school can't find a South Dakota company that can produce that number of dreamcatchers.

Really? The school is spending \$14.9 million in fundraising efforts, according to its own numbers, and it sits here among some of the poorest counties in the nation, yet it can't find an American Indian company that would gladly use some of that cash to make some authentic dreamcatchers? Sounds like a cottage industry in the making to us.

If the school honestly can't find an American Indian manufacturer, maybe St. Joseph's Indian School ought to just stop sending out dreamcatchers – and save the money it has been investing in the Chinese economy and spend it another way. And maybe it's also time to have a visit with the marketing whiz who came up with this dreamcatchers-made-in-China idea.

This isn't marketing – it's an embarrassment to the school and to American Indian culture.

– *Pierre Capital Journal* is "The voice of Central South Dakota since 1881."

Though Forrest is gone, his story lives on

• Mark Trahant

The story of Forrest Joseph Gerard is one that ought to be told throughout Indian Country. He died on Dec. 28, 2013, in Albuquerque. Forrest Gerard was born on Montana's Blackfeet Reservation on Jan. 15, 1925, on a ranch near the Middle Fork of the Milk River.

That world he knew changed many times in his early life. During the Great Depression his family moved into the "city" of Browning so his father could take a job. After his high school graduation, Gerard was eager to join the military and enter World War II. He was only 19 on his first bombing mission on a B-24 with the 15th Air Force.

The military also opened up access to the G.I. Bill of Rights and a college education, the first in his family to have that opportunity.

After college, Gerard worked at jobs that built his personal portfolio at agencies in Montana and Wyoming until moving to Washington, D.C., in 1957 to work for the newly created Indian Health Service. Over the next decade or so Gerard took a variety of posts, including a coveted Congressional Fellowship, a post at the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Health and Human Services.

But our story picks up in 1971 when Gerard is hired by Sen. Henry Jackson, chairman of the Interior and Insular Affairs, as a professional staff member for Indian affairs. Jackson had long been an advocate for termination and his staff assistant, James Gamble, had carried out that policy with a sense of mission. By hiring Gerard, Jackson was reversing course.

To send a signal to Indian Country, Jackson issued a statement calling for a Senate resolution reversing House Concurrent Resolution 108 – the termination proclamation – and the message was delivered to Yakama Chairman Robert Jim while he was on the Hill.

The next step was more substantial. Turning Richard Nixon's July 1970 message into legislation. That next step was the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, eventually signed into law on April 3, 1974.

But the legislative train was running. The self-determination act was followed by the Menominee Restoration Act, the Indian Finance Act, and, what Gerard considered his legislative capstone, the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

It's hard, even today, to imagine a string of legislative victories such as what happened during the partnership of Gerard and Jackson. The record speaks for itself.

After leaving the Senate, Gerard worked on Capitol Hill representing Tribes until President Jimmy Carter nominated him as the first Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs in the Interior Department. In that post, he set the standard for the job itself, making certain that policy included voices from Indian Country.

Gerard wrapped up his career representing Tribes Washington.

Forrest Gerard traveled from the Blackfeet Reservation and built a professional career. He was prepared for that moment in time where he was offered a job with enormous potential, shepherding legislation that not only ended termination as a policy, but promoted Tribal self-determination as an alternative. After he left the committee, Sen. Jackson asked Gerard if he thought the self-determination process would happen all at once, if Tribes would contract for the BIA and IHS? "No," Gerard answered. "There would be steady progress."

Nearly 40 years later that progress continues. Today more money is spent on tribally operated health care than on Indian Health Service operations. It's the same at the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

– *Mark Trahant* is an independent print and broadcast journalist.

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Community

A

Son of a Seminole founding father rescues Tribal art

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — No matter what road Larry Mike Osceola II traveled during the past 55 years of his life — in the Army, through parts of Europe and a decade of adventures in Key West — his heart never left home.

Now settled in Fort Lauderdale, Osceola is on a mission to bring the past home by discovering and purchasing dozens of Seminole artifacts, especially patchwork, off the Internet auction site eBay.

“Welcome to the ‘east side consulate,’” he joked, leading a guest through his driveway, past the billowing mass of a large Seminole flag and through his front door.

The great-great-grandson of warrior Chief Osceola and son of Big Mike Osceola, a member of the historic Seminole Tribe’s Constitution Committee, introduced a recent “holy grail” find amid nearly 125 items that fill shelves, walls and closets.

“This is my jewel,” Larry Mike Osceola said.

The 5-foot-by-10-foot tapestry made

up of more than 40 fabric sections, 10 of them intricate patchwork and more than a dozen ric rac strips, hangs regally by a window. A pillow made of patchwork rests on a nearby stool.

“These could be the only pieces like them in existence,” he said. But questions linger about whose hands crafted it.

Osceola said the items were from a six-panel window treatment fashioned by Seminole women in the mid- to late 1940s and purchased by then Florida State Attorney George Ambrose Worley for his North Carolina summer home. A portion of the right side of the floor-to-ceiling drapery turned tapestry is frayed and sun bleached. The pillow was likely crafted from remnants of another panel.

According to Worley’s grandson, R. A. Worley, from whom the tapestry was purchased for \$125 in September 2013, it is unknown if the panels were commissioned or bought already made. It is unlikely, though, for handmade window drapes to be executed without measurements ordered by a buyer.

“And what part of the state did (my grandfather) travel to to get them? He was wealthy and eccentric,” said R. A. Worley in a letter that authenticated the purchase.

Osceola and partner Brian Hill believe that the panels were probably made by Seminole women at the Musa Isle or Tropical Hobbyland tourist villages on the Miami River from 1935 to 1940. The duo, owners of Talla-Hasee Exports, hope to find out from a Tribal member exactly who stitched the historic drapery.

“Sometimes a Tribal member might recognize a pattern, or colors or anything else distinguishing,” Osceola said.

Other treasured patchwork Osceola rescued from eBay include three small, primarily pink wall hangings by Tribal elder Effie Osceola, of Trail, who is known for her high-level patchwork technique. The patchwork was sold to Osceola by a woman in St. Petersburg who said the pieces were displayed for decades in her parents’ gift shop. Original, now yellowed tags scrawled with Effie Osceola’s name, confirm their origin. A fringed sash, creator unknown, is another favored piece. No information came with the sash.

Larry Mike Osceola, whose mother is honored Seminole doll maker Minnie Doctor and grandmother is the late Alice Osceola who may have been the first to incorporate patchwork into a cape, also has rescued dozens of dolls, baskets, musical instruments, postcards and photographs from the Internet retail site.

His collection includes small drums crafted by Miccosukee leader Buffalo Tiger.

◆ See EBAY on page 4A



Beverly Bidney

Women examine the cypress wood sculpture *Matron of the Camp* by Jimmy Osceola at the Jan. 9 opening of the Florida Gulf Coast University exhibition *Long, Long River: Tradition and Expansion in Native Art* in Fort Myers.

FGCU exhibit showcases Tribal member artwork

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

FORT MYERS — Strong images, vibrant colors and compelling compositions of contemporary Seminole artists filled the main gallery at the Florida Gulf Coast University Art Complex in Fort Myers during an exhibition called *Long, Long River: Tradition and Expansion in Native Art*.

The exhibit showcased the works of artists Jessica Osceola, Elgin Jumper, Samuel Tommie, Gordon Oliver Wareham, Leroy Osceola, Jimmy John Osceola, the late Noah Billie and Potawatomi-Muscogee Creek member Daniel McCoy. The Jan. 9 opening attracted art patrons, FGCU students and professors, as well as friends and families of the artists.

Grounded in tradition, the artists’ works emulated the unique culture from which they emerged. Jumper’s large canvases gave a glimpse of Seminole life in the Everglades; Tommie’s videos and drawings showed his respect for nature; Wareham’s photographs confirmed his passion; LeRoy Osceola’s pieces illustrated his deep connection to his Tribal roots; Jessica Osceola’s sculptures

bridged the modern and traditional Native American worlds; Billie’s sculptures showed reverence for the natural world; and McCoy’s work depicted pop culture from a Native American perspective.

“We wanted to clear up the misconception that Native Americans only create artifacts and crafts,” said Jessica Osceola, who co-curated the show with gallery coordinator Anica Sturdivant. “We are still artists, but we hold onto our traditional crafts and lifestyles and incorporate them into contemporary mediums, techniques, tools and expressions.”

Jessica Osceola reached out to other Seminole artists to demonstrate that many Native Americans are fine artists.

“We’re more than a casino,” Wareham said. “Our culture, traditions and the beauty of our art is alive. We are not just a part of Florida; we are Florida. This is how we like to express ourselves — through the arts.”

Jumper and Wareham also added performance art to the opening event. Jumper, accompanied by a guitarist and singer, recited poetry and created a drawing of the Everglades, which was projected onto the wall while he worked.

◆ See FGCU on page 5A

Music exhibit reveals heartbeat of Native voices

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Without skipping a beat, the newest exhibit at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is a historic journey of song from the humblest hymns that praise the Creator to the rap and rock that shouts about life today.

“Primarily, it’s Seminole people making music out of mainstream genres but putting the Seminole stamp on it,” said Rebecca Fell, the Museum’s curator of exhibits.

The show, called *To Sing as a Group: Multiple Voices of Seminole Music*, opened Jan. 17 at the Museum’s revolving exhibit hall.

Numerous archival items and memorabilia make up the tour.

First, the Tribe’s earliest documentation of musical influence features several Christian hymnals and song sheets. Lyrics presented by missionaries from Oklahoma were sung in Miskasuki. One of the songs, revered as the Native American *Amazing Grace*, traces back to the Trail of Tears.

The growth of music within the Tribe through the 1960s is depicted in pictures and memorabilia from the Rev. Paul Buster, of the locally popular Cowbone Band, and Chairman James E. Billie’s regional anthem *Native Son*.

Fell said Chairman Billie’s hit has been heard internationally, including by American troops serving in Iraq.

“Even for a new generation, we see how Seminole music is used to express emotion and pride,” Fell said.

To hear for themselves, Museum visitors can rest at two listening stations where headphones and iPods provide audible tastes of several genres — all by South Florida Native musicians.

Tribal members Zac “Doc” and Spencer Battiest, whose rap song *The Storm* was nominated for a 2011 Native American Music Award, provided the Museum with a handful of items, including a 2011 American Indian Film Festival Award statuette for Best Music Video.

Museum director Paul Backhouse said the exhibit reveals the essence of Seminole music “from the pioneering work of Chairman Billie to The Osceola Brothers.”

“We’re not only looking at historical moments; we’re interested in what’s



Eileen Soler

An Osceola Brothers Band T-shirt and signed guitar are displayed in a lighted glass case.

next and how we can share that with the community,” Backhouse said.

Miccosukee Tribe’s Lee Tiger of the rock band Tiger Tiger and Seminole rock blues band The Osceola Brothers Band round out the exhibit. In keeping with the Tribe’s Hard Rock Cafe interests, an Osceola Brothers Band T-shirt and signed guitar are displayed in a lighted glass case.

The musicians presented are also highlighted in a looping Seminole Media Productions video that explores the historic endurance of Native American music and the evolution of music throughout the Seminole Tribe.

Kenneth Light, a tourist from Hershey, Pa., said the show was captivating.

“It’s pretty interesting to realize that the Seminoles have some famous musicians in the Tribe,” Light said.

Francisco Moreno, of Colombia, said he considered himself lucky to have “stumbled” into the first day of the show by sheer coincidence.

“I walked through the show, read every word and listened to all the music. It’s pretty amazing,” Moreno said. “I was pleasantly pleased to be here today.”



Eileen Soler

Larry Mike Osceola II displays a 5-foot-by-10-foot Seminole patchwork drapery turned wall tapestry that he purchased on eBay for \$125. He hopes to identify the artist who created the work and then donate the piece to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

‘Horse whisperer’ reveals strength in God’s word

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Paul Daily takes no credit in secrets, magic or super powers for his rare ability to calm, saddle and ride a wild horse in just two hours. The Louisiana cowboy and founder of Wild Horse Ministries said his talent comes from a higher authority.

“It’s the way God works in us. It takes attention, trust and submission,” Daily said to a crowd of 50 spectators gathered Jan. 15 for a heavenly inspired horse training clinic at the Big Cypress Reservation.

Step by step inside the clay covered 4-H arena, Daily led an unnamed and untamed Cracker mare to being saddled, trotted and laid prone before him in complete surrender. For Daily, the demonstration, which he first introduced at a Sunday school lesson in 1997, is about learning life lessons through the love of God.

The Rev. Salaw Hummingbird, of Big Cypress First Baptist Church, said the message is universal. Rev. Hummingbird, with Moses Jumper, brought the ministry to the community for the eighth year.

“The round pen of the corral represents the world. The horse is us. We may run from God or the church, but God has a purpose for us and if we listen to His word and trust in Him, we will learn that purpose and respond to it,” Rev. Hummingbird said.

The gray dappled horse was at first fearful and hesitant while Daily and his daughter Lenore on horseback slung soft ribbons that caressed the mare’s body. Soon, Daily walked closer, eventually lifting his hand to touch the mare’s face. Within the first hour, father and daughter were able to stroke the mare with both hands.

All the while, Daily spoke alternately to the horse and the crowd, gently paralleling how becoming one mind with the horse and accepting God are similar.

“It’s like looking in a mirror,” Daily said. “See how the mare tried to pull away

at first, but now is still? One touch led to this.”

The mare began to circle the corral as Daily tied a line around her head and began with gentle tugs to nudge her steps in the right direction. Still, the line was loose and the horse was free to choose her participation.

For Daily, trials and tests are a way of life. Humans walk in circles, too, like he did, until they walk with the Lord, he said.

“Sometimes we can’t control what comes our way, but we can control how we respond. Wherever I lead, she follows. Wherever He leads, I follow,” Daily said. “God does not drag you around.”

Only bucking twice, the mare succumbed to Daily’s direction. She accepted the saddle cushion, the saddle, a

bridle and Daily’s body riding atop freely around the corral before Daily had her lie down at his feet.

Jumper, who called Daily a “horse whisperer,” said spectators are always amazed at how quickly Daily can bring a horse to peaceful obedience.

“It is not a trick. Horses do not lie down and stay down like that,” Jumper said.

But Daily does not refer to himself as a “horse whisperer.” For him, it’s about understanding and trusting how God uses challenges to change lives. He said a horse is always a reflection of the rider.

“I haven’t won anything. It was not a competition. For me, when I don’t know who to trust I can know I can always trust God,” Daily said.



Eileen Soler

Paul Daily demonstrates his ‘horse whisperer’ powers. Although he doesn’t refer to himself as that title, he is able to calm, saddle and ride wild horses through trust and submission to the Creator.

Rainfall causes profusion of plants

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter



Eileen Soler

Opportunistic egrets wait for a chance to eat as the long reach excavating machine clears water lettuce Jan. 16 from the surface of the canal adjacent to Snake Road in Big Cypress.

BIG CYPRESS — If it seems like the canals along Snake Road in Big Cypress are disappearing beneath a blanket of foliage, they aren't.

The abundance of water lettuce and water hyacinth plants is a result of the extraordinary amount of rainfall in 2013.

According to the South Florida Water Management District, more rainfall was recorded between April and July 2013 than any other year since 1932. Big Cypress received twice as much rain between January and September 2013 than it did during the same period in 2012.

The rainfall restored groundwater levels but a lot of it ran off the land into canals.

Over-land water flow carries sediments, pollutants and excess nutrients into the canals. The elevated nutrient levels provide an excellent habitat for the aquatic vegetation growing there now.

The Environmental Resource Management Department is in the process of removing the growth by using long reach excavating machines, but they are also looking into chemical removal options either by boat or through aerial spraying.

"We will make a proposal to the

water commission about aerial spraying," said Cherise Maples, director of the Environmental Resource Management

Department. "Chemical treatment is cheaper than mechanical removal, but it depends on how the community feels about it."

FPL

From page 1A

The provision directs federal agencies to refuse authorization and prohibit funding for projects that jeopardize the existence of any listed species.

"A project this size will lead to extinction. They can't turn their backs on it," Schwartz said.

The site is within a well-established migration corridor not only for species on the verge of extinction, but for deer, black bear, hogs and all animals that depend on the uplands for survival, he said. Part of the Florida Forever Project, called Panther Glades, the area is especially crucial during the wet season when water levels are too high to live or hunt.

Even a map on FPL's own website indicates that the area, which encompasses the Hendry plant site, is within extreme panther habitat.

"The FPL property is in the heart of it all, and the plant would be like driving a knife through it. Not only will it degrade the land, it will reduce the value of the corridor that wildlife has used forever," Schwartz said.

Meanwhile, Tribe attorneys are preparing for round three in court battles with Hendry County against the rezoning of the land that, attorneys say, goes against the county's own land use guidelines. The next



Eileen Soler

Everett Osceola, a management trainee at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation, gives Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell a personal tour of exhibits that feature historic daily Seminole life in the Everglades.

court appearance is in April.

Jewell said she wants her office updated as the court case draws near and as FPL begins to submit mandatory applications according to the Florida Electrical Power

Plant Siting Act. She said a representative will be "at the table" as the issue continues.

"It is important for us to be informed so that we can know what role we can play," Jewell said.

HOWARD TIGER

From page 1A

"He was tough," Tiger said. "He coached us the same way; if you didn't catch the ball, there'd be another one coming at you even harder."

Priscilla Sayen and Judybill Osceola, members of the Tribe's first female softball team, had fond memories of their team and coach. Osceola said they never lost a game.

"We may be old ladies now, but I bet we can still play," she said. "Under Howard Tiger we were the best."

"He was a leader among leaders," Sayen added. "He heard the calling from his people, and we are a product of that leadership. He was as tough with us as he was with the boys."

Councilman Osceola, who grew up as a "gym rat" in Hollywood, said the new

facility will continue Tiger's legacy for Tribal kids.

"Going to the gym has had a great impact on my life," said Nicholas DiCarlo, Howard Tiger's great-grandson. "I never want to miss an opportunity to hear about my elders; I didn't know he was such a leader. Hearing everything people said was eye opening for me. I really wish I got to meet him and that we all had the dedication my great-grandpa had."

The facility will be built adjacent to the existing Hollywood Ball Field. Completion is slated for December.

"This is a big occasion," said Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, who acknowledged the work of the Board, Council, Seminole Stiles and the Construction Management Department. "It shows when we work as a team, we can get things done. The machines are ready to go to work out there."



Beverly Bidney

Howard Tiger's great-grandson Nicholas DiCarlo, left, and Max Osceola Jr. have some fun at the groundbreaking for the Howard Tiger Recreation Center Jan. 14.

EBAY

From page 3A

Tiger, credited as the force behind the Miccosukee Tribe's eventual recognition by the United States government, signed at least two items now in the Osceola and Hill collection.

"I am the curator of these pieces, but their importance goes way beyond me," Osceola said.

Eventually, some of the historic items will find homes at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation, but they hope a solid inventory of new, high-quality and authentic creations could be inventoried for sale in a boutique setting in Paris.

"I've always been a big history buff but now I appreciate the absolute beauty of the patchwork art form, the uniqueness and the history behind it," Hill said.

Osceola and Hill are careful not to purchase "bogus" Seminole works.

"A dead giveaway is bunched stitches and patchwork that does not lay flat. Sometimes, the giveaway is that it is too perfect. Sometimes the patterns are too big so they lack creative spirit," Osceola said. "You have to see a grandmother's hand on the work."

If anyone can identify the makers of the drapery turned tapestry recently purchased by Larry Mike Osceola II, call 954-646-5764 or send an email to MikeOsceola@comcast.net.

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Annual Tribal Fair returning to Hard Rock Live Feb. 7-9

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The annual Seminole Tribal Fair, a showcase of Native American arts and culture, will celebrate its 43rd year Feb. 7-9 at Hard Rock Live and Okalee Village in Hollywood.

The fair kicks off 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 7 with the grand entry of Tribal dignitaries, Seminole and Native American Women Warriors color guards, Seminole royalty and Native American dancers. The free event is expected to attract 5,000 to 6,000 visitors throughout the weekend.

Doors open 9 a.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday.

Tribes from across Indian Country will participate in the event with dance troupes, musicians and artists. Native American vendors will display arts and crafts, jewelry and clothing.

Alligator shows, traditional Seminole food and animal attractions will also be featured at Okalee Village throughout the weekend.

A lineup of musical entertainment on Saturday, Feb. 8, dubbed Native Noise, features all Native bands and culminates with the popular blues rock band, Indigenous.

The daily schedule is:
Friday, Feb. 7: Grand Entry at 10 a.m.; afternoon entertainment includes Cowbone Band and Derek Miller blues band; Little Miss and Mister Seminole contest begins at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 8: Grand Entry at 10 a.m.; the afternoon will feature Kenny Dobbs' basketball dunk exhibition, while artist Bunky Echo-Hawk simultaneously creates a painting; Tribal members can also participate in clothing contests, archery and canoe races in the afternoon; the Native Noise musical entertainment begins at 5 p.m. and features the Savage Twins, Hibiskus, The Osceola Brothers Band, The Plateros, Derek Miller blues band and Indigenous.

Sunday, Feb. 9: Grand Entry at 12 p.m.; The Osceola Brothers Band, Derek Miller blues band and Robert Randolph and the Family Band will perform beginning at 4 p.m.

Brighton prepares for 76th annual Field Day

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Organizers are looking forward to the Brighton Field Day Festival and expect larger crowds than ever before. The event runs Feb. 14-16 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena and features rodeo events, cultural activities, the Florida State University marching band and mascot Chief Osceola and Renegade, animal shows, carnival rides and a parade.

Brighton Field Day began 76 years ago as an athletic competition but has diversified over the years. "When it first started, it was so different reservations could have a festival where they could compete in a sporting event," said Amos Tiger, director of the Brighton rodeo arena and an organizer of the event. "I remember the days we had long jumps, high jumps and the 100 yard dash. Then, people came to sell food, show arts and crafts, and it just grew from there. The rodeo was added later on; it makes for a big festival."

The original intent hasn't disappeared; the Recreation Department will hold a variety of athletic events the week leading up to Field Day. Activities include adult bowling, corn hole, golf, log peeling, skillet throw and archery.

Youth activities include an obstacle course, skillet throw, archery and a closest-to-the-pin golf contest. Those who want to participate should show up before the event. For more information, contact the Recreation Department at 863-763-3866.

About 30,000 people are expected this year — 10,000 more than last year. Tiger said many attendees are tourists who plan their Florida visit around the event, which is always held the third weekend in February.

"Some people like to come see the arts and crafts, the great food and animal shows," he said. "Then you have those who come for the rodeos. We get professional cowboys from the PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association); a lot of quality contestants come through our gates."

For the first time, Field Day will feature a Bulls and Broncs competition on Friday, Feb. 14. In addition,

Indian National Finals Tour Rodeo and PRCA cowboys will compete in rodeos Wednesday through Saturday. Tiger said cowboys from across the country make the festival one of their winter tour stops, where they compete for points and prize money.

Field Day will finish big on Sunday, Feb. 16 with Xtreme Bull riding, which will air on the Great American Country network. The top 40 bull riders in the country will compete for a \$100,000 purse during the competition.

"It's just the greatest event we've got during the course of the year," Tiger said. "The Brighton community looks forward to it. It takes lots of hard work and effort from the community and employees to produce the event. We have a lot of good people working to make it happen."

The breakdown of the festival is as follows:

- Sunday, Feb. 9: Adult and senior bowling tournament; sign up 1 to 2:30 p.m.; event starts at 3 p.m. at Superplay USA in Port St. Lucie.

- Tuesday, Feb. 11: Corn hole tournament at Brighton Gym for youth 11-13, 14-17, adult women and men; sign up 3 to 4:15 p.m. youth, 4:30 to 6 p.m. adults; event starts at 4:30 p.m. youth, 6:30 p.m. adults.

- Wednesday, Feb. 12: Golf tournament at the Clewiston golf course for adults, senior women, senior men; sign up 9 to 10:30 a.m.; first tee off 11 a.m. Indian National Finals Tour Rodeo starts at 8 p.m.

- Thursday, Feb. 13: Indian National Finals Tour Rodeo at 8 p.m.

- Friday, Feb. 14: Women's skillet throw, men's archery at 2:15 p.m. Log peeling at 3:45 p.m. at the Brighton Gym; sign up before the event. PRCA rodeo 12 p.m.; Bulls and Broncs 8 p.m.

- Saturday, Feb. 15: Youth events at softball field: ages 5-17 obstacle course, frisbee throw, closest-to-the-pin, skillet throw, archery; events are from 1:30 to 4 p.m.; Parade, FSU Marching Band, Chief Osceola and Renegade, horse racing; 3 p.m. PRCA rodeo.

- Sunday, Feb. 16: Xtreme Bulls at 3 p.m. Ongoing events throughout the weekend include Native American dancers, alligator wrestling, Jimmy Riffle from Animal Planet's *Gator Boys* show, and David "The Cobra Kid" Weathers snake show.

Tribe is officially StormReady



Photo courtesy of Cindy Diakow

From left, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger; Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola; President Tony Sanchez Jr.; Rob Mollada, of the National Weather Service (NWS); Pablo Santos, of the NWS; Cindy Diakow, coordinator of the Emergency Management Department; and Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. pose with the NWS StormReady certification and a sample of the signs that will be placed on each reservation.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe of Florida, recently certified by the National Weather Service (NWS) as a "StormReady" community, is one of only 15 Tribes nationwide to have earned the designation. The certification was presented to Tribal Council Jan. 13 at a Council briefing in Hollywood.

An NWS program, StormReady helps community leaders and emergency managers strengthen their safety programs and helps prepare the community for severe weather. StormReady communities have learned communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property before and during inclement weather.

The effort, led by the Emergency Management

Department, required compliance with several NWS guidelines, including having 24/7 dispatch centers and an established Emergency Operations Center, educating Tribal members and children about hazardous weather, hosting "SkyWarn" classes with NWS for employees and community members, and creating a formal Hazardous Weather Plan.

Members of the Tribe and the Emergency Management Department toured the NWS and National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The Tribe will also monitor weather, wind and rainfall through the "StreamerRT" software program and receive NWS weather warnings through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radios.

Signs touting the certification will be placed on each reservation.

incorporated Native American images, as well as artifacts.

Wareham shared his love of photography and its origin; his mother was a "shutterbug" and gave him a camera with one roll of film.

"I started taking photos of people who would ask me for copies," he said. "So I started a little business photographing families. What I made from that paid for my real passion, which is shooting photos in the Everglades."

His large-scale nature photographs filled a gallery wall. Prints of a woodpecker about to take flight from a tree trunk and a hummingbird in mid-flight feeding on a flower captivated people and drew them in for closer looks.

"I have been collecting Native American art for years," said Sue Martin, of Fort Myers. "I was very interested in seeing this show."

The artists were pleased with the way their work filled the gallery space.

"I hope people get an appreciation for contemporary Seminole art, as well as the traditional aspects of it," Jumper said.

◆ FGCU From page 3A

Wareham, also a storyteller, dramatically recounted the story of the rabbit and the box turtle.

Afterward, he played an original composition on the flute, titled *Mother*.

Tommie, a filmmaker, artist and musician, introduced himself to the crowd by describing his childhood in Big Cypress.

"The Everglades was very much a paradise," he said. "Big Cypress used to be a wetland. Over the years it has become very dry; the United States has been very successful in drying out the Everglades. Today the Tribe is going up against Florida Power & Light, who wants to build one of the largest power plants in the U.S. immediately north of the Big Cypress Reservation. It will disrupt life as the creator wanted it to be."

Tommie's film *Fight to Breathe* played on a continuous loop in the gallery.

LeRoy "Henehayo" Osceola introduced himself as a self-taught traditional Seminole. His work



Seminole Tribune archive photo

Women compete in a Brighton Field Day running event in 1939. Brighton Field Day began 76 years ago as an athletic competition but has diversified over the years to include many Seminole culture-inspired activities.



Peter B. Gallagher

Smallwood Store owner Lynn McMillin is interviewed by local Naples TV.

◆ SMALLWOOD From page 1A

The offer, contained in an official settlement agreement that Lynn McMillin signed, included building a new road on the eastern edge of the FGG property, contingent, of course, on the county vacating the road.

"There are mangroves over there where they want to put another road. What assurances do we have that they won't renege on their word? Or that the Army Corps of Engineers will even allow them to do it?" asked Florida folksinger Valerie Wisecracker, who said she would gather Florida musicians to perform in concert for the store to raise money for legal fees. "I've never seen anything so blatant. Such injustice."

Lynn McMillin, who had originally signed the settlement, had second thoughts talking to the many well wishers who gathered in the commission chamber hallways before the hearing.

"I just wanted to get this behind me," she said. "We owe \$120,000 in legal fees already. I don't want to give up, but I don't know how long we can last. They have all the money in the world and we don't have anything. A trial? More money, more legal fees."

McMillin broke out in tears, telling commissioners: "I hope you see this is more than just a road. I hope you decide to preserve a piece of the county's history, the Smallwood Store."

After the hearing, Lakeland attorney Jim Kelly,

the FGG managing partner, expressed dismay that the road vacation and the settlement agreement had failed: "What do they want us to do? We were going to build them a road. They would have had proper access. I sincerely felt this was a fair settlement."

Kelly does not look forward to a return to the 12th Circuit Court, which had found FGG in contempt and ordered the group to put back Mamie Street, after they had bulldozed it in 2011. "At this point I really don't know which way to go. I don't know what is going to happen," he said.

Kelly and FGG obtained the property in early 2004 from the Seminole Tribe of Florida. It was originally purchased to build a park that would protect the still working old fishing village from development. The property held the small Blue Heron Motel, which the Tribe had planned to renovate and reopen for business; FGG tore the building down after purchasing the property.

The Smallwood Store played an important role in Seminole Indian history, as one of the few places trusted by Indians living in the Everglades to trade for supplies early in the 20th century. Shopkeeper Smallwood gave the Indians credit and protection, allowing them to park their canoes and camp out, undisturbed, on his property. The store is also known as the place where a murderous farmer was gunned down by a posse of town folk, immortalized in the book by author Peter Matthiessen, *Killing Mr. Watson*.

The Smallwood Store was closed in 1982 and reopened as a Museum in 1989.



Beverly Bidney

From left, artists Samuel Tommie, Jessica Osceola, Elgin Jumper, Leroy Osceola and Gordon Oliver Wareham pose Jan. 9 at the opening of the Florida Gulf Coast University exhibition *Long, Long River: Tradition and Expansion in Native Art*.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Eileen Soler

Luke Baxley and Jody Certain cuddle Dec. 17 during the Fort Pierce Christmas dinner at Tutto Fresco West.



Beverly Bidney

Tribal members applaud John Anderson's performance of *Seminole Wind* at the Hollywood Christmas celebration Dec. 21.



Beverly Bidney

These angels find something interesting in the audience during the Hollywood Preschool Christmas program Dec. 20.



Beverly Bidney

The 3-year-old class performs *Dancing Around the Christmas Tree* during the Hollywood Preschool Christmas program Dec. 20.



Beverly Bidney

Country artist John Anderson performs at the Hollywood Christmas celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Hunter Howard, right, takes a peek at his brother Lance Howard's sheet music while caroling at the Hollywood Christmas celebration.



Beverly Bidney

The 4- and 5-year-olds perform *Five Little Christmas Trees*, which included this adorable one, at the Hollywood Preschool Christmas program Dec. 20.



Peter B. Gallagher

Tampa youth pose with Santa Claus during the community's Christmas party Dec. 18.



Beverly Bidney

This little boy isn't too pleased about being on Santa's lap during the Trail Christmas party Dec. 11.



Beverly Bidney

Seminole royalty Tia Blais-Billie and Brianna Blais-Billie welcome people to the Hollywood Christmas celebration.



Emma Johns

Linda Micco and her children arrive at the Christmas in Paradise gathering on the Brighton Reservation Dec. 17.



Emma Johns

Winnie Gopher excitedly receives her gift from the Tribal Council Office at the Brighton Christmas party.



Eileen Soler

Afhafkee kindergarten students pound out *Christmas Time is Coming* on a rainbow of colored exercise balls.



Peter B. Gallagher

Children gather round Santa during the Tampa Christmas party.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Eileen Soler

Kindergarten students are as cute as elves while signing *Frosty the Snowman* in the Ahfachkee School 2013 Winter Concert.



Beverly Bidney

Ice sculptors put the finishing touches on the neck of the guitar they crafted out of ice at the Hollywood celebration Dec. 21.



Eileen Soler

All eyes are on Santa Claus during a magic show that featured the bearded wonder making his sack suddenly appear filled with toys.



Eileen Soler

The sweet choral voices of the Big Cypress choir entertain seniors from far and wide Dec. 12 at the senior holiday lunch.



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School principal Lucy Dafoe conducts the inaugural performance of the first Ahfachkee School band during the Ahfachkee School 2013 Winter Concert.



Beverly Bidney

Magnum Osceola eyes Santa warily at the Trail Christmas party Dec. 11.



Eileen Soler

Comedian George Lopez brings more than 200 guests to big belly laughs Dec. 13 in Big Cypress.



Eileen Soler

A mountain of holiday toys is distributed cheerfully by Jane Stockton during the Fort Pierce Christmas dinner.



Eileen Soler

A candle lighting ceremony and thoughtful prayer Dec. 17 during the Fort Pierce Christmas dinner memorializes loved ones who have passed on. From left with candles, Mary Lucille Tommie, Shamy Tommie, Crystal Sneed, Valerie Snow and Tatiana Gomez.



Eileen Soler

A pretty Mrs. Claus and other Mrs. Clauses lead children to dance to festive holiday music Dec. 13 during the Big Cypress Christmas celebration at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.



Beverly Bidney

These boys couldn't wait to open their toys and start playing with them at the Trail Christmas party Dec. 11.



Beverly Bidney

Takoda Howard can't wait to dig into the gingerbread house he decorated at the Hollywood Christmas celebration.

Extrication exercise hones Fire Rescue lifesaving skills

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter



Seminole Fire Rescue firefighters and paramedics practice lifesaving techniques at Native Village in Hollywood using hydraulic tools and hand tools during a staged extrication exercise. In the scenario with implied victims trapped inside, rescuers cut through the heavy metal of crashed vehicles.

Eileen Soler

exercise. ICS assures that a safety officer commands and controls the scene to ensure the safety of all personnel.

"Next we figure out the best way to get the victim out. Sometimes we can pop a door but sometimes we have to take the whole roof off. On the rare occasion, we have a 'dash roll,' when we remove the entire dashboard, including the steering wheel, up and away from the patient,"

LeValley said.

All the techniques were practiced during the exercise.

"Our personnel have already been through the formal training and are certified in extrication, but opportunities like this enhances and hones their skills," LeValley said. "It builds camaraderie and good team work for when lives really do hang in the balance."



Seminole Fire Rescue firefighters and paramedics take a minute from a hands-on extrication exercise to pose inside a crashed vehicle with the roof removed via lifesaving hydraulic and hand tools.

Eileen Soler

Hollywood New Year breakfast starts 2014 off right

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood Culture Department hosted a New Year's breakfast at the beginning of 2014 to continue the tradition of community. The morning of Jan. 3 was crisp and cool with temperatures hovering in the low 60s, but the fire in the cooking chickee at Imahaggi

Tiger's Camp kept the hard working Culture staff warm as they prepared a hearty breakfast.

"In 2013 we had some hard times, but we stayed together and helped one another," said Paul Buster before the mealtime prayer. "That's what we do; we take care of each other. We don't know what lies ahead for us, but we'll stay together as long as God allows."



Culture Department staff cook food as Bobby Frank, center, tends to the fire in the cooking chickee at Imahaggi Tiger's Camp during the Culture Department New Year's breakfast Jan. 3.

Beverly Bidney



Anthony Doctor watches as Morgan Frank chops wood for the fire.

Beverly Bidney



Alexis Jumper cracks eggs as the cooking fire roars in the background at the Culture Department New Year's breakfast.

Beverly Bidney



Eileen Soler

Firefighters and paramedics use the Jaws of Life to cut through heavy car metal during extrication practice on the Hollywood Reservation.

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Tampa museum and village memories live on at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki



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

Bobby Henry created these wooden dolls at the Coo-Taun Cho-Bee Village and Museum in Tampa.



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

The collection also features unique baskets like the one pictured, but the artist is unknown.

SUBMITTED BY TARA BACKHOUSE
 Collections Manager

Back in August the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum had an important visitor, Bobby Henry, who came to see one of the totem poles he made years ago in Tampa at the Coo-Taun Cho-Bee Village and Museum. This month the Museum will share other treasures from that collection. The collection of objects, documents and photographs from the Tampa Reservation includes 495 artifacts that represent memories, stories and events showcased at the village and museum led by Henry during much of the 1980s and 1990s.

The Coo-Taun Cho-Bee Museum was an eight-pointed, star-shaped building; the points symbolized the eight clans of the Seminole Tribe. Around the museum there were many chickees, animal and plant exhibits, and a stage for performances and craft demonstrations, according to *Seminole: Days of Long Ago*, written by Kenneth W. Mulder in 1991. The inside of the museum told the story of the Seminole Tribe

and displayed objects made by members of the Tampa Seminole community.

The collection includes patchwork clothing, baskets, dolls and carvings, as well as paintings, photographs and documents. Two favorite sculptures are the painted wooden dolls created by master sculptor Bobby Henry. The Museum identified some of the artists responsible for these items, but in other cases, it has not.

The collection also features a few wonderful and unique baskets like the one pictured, but the artist is unknown. And there are also photographs of people and places that are unidentified, like the distinguished gentleman posing by a pole.

If you can identify the artists or subjects of these works of art, contact the Collections Division at the Museum to share your information.

For more information about the collection or to view the collection, contact Tara Backhouse at 863-902-1113 ext. 12246 or TaraBackhouse@semitrbe.com.



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

The man in this photo is unidentified. If you can identify him, contact the Museum's Collections Division.

Betty Mae Jumper

Wisdom from the past

Seminole Warrior

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the April 17, 1998 issue of The Seminole Tribune.

My brother, Howard Tiger, was about to turn 18 when he joined the Marines in 1943. He had been trying to get into the service for a long time, but he was too young. It was his idea to go. No one asked him to join because back in those days, no Seminoles were ever called to go into the military. He was the first of our Tribe to join the military. In fact, our grandmother, Mary Gopher Tiger, was all upset when Howard joined the Marines. She said, "No Indian should join the white people's services." The older Indians all agreed.

The Medicine Men were real mad. They said no Indian should ever fight in the white man's war. They said, "We knew this would happen if we let half breeds remain in the Tribe." There was a lot of talk about how Howard was ruining the rules of the Indians, and how if Howard went, others would also follow him.

They made all kinds of remarks, but Howard didn't listen. He had some friends from Davie who were already in the service fighting, and he figured he should do something to help his country, too. He was determined. Nothing anyone said was going to stop him.

Two days before his birthday on Aug. 17, 1943, he went and joined the Marines. That was his pick because he said the Marines were the toughest. I remember we had a birthday party for him two days later before he left for active duty.

After he left, the Medicine Men found out they were right. Others followed. After Howard went, my future husband, Moses Jumper Sr., joined the Navy. By the end of the War, there

were two or three other Tribal members in the service.

The summer before Howard got out of the service, my mother got word that Howard Tiger was missing in action. For two weeks my mother and I were at the Red Cross Station in Fort Lauderdale. Every day we went and waited for word.

Then we got word that the Howard Tiger who was missing was from the Oklahoma Seminoles. My brother was found alive in a hospital.

He told us later that a bomb had exploded near him shortly after the flag was raised on Iwo Jima. The explosion caused temporary blindness and he couldn't see anything for two weeks. The blindness cleared up, but Howard often had red eyes for the rest of his life. He also suffered malaria while he was in the service.

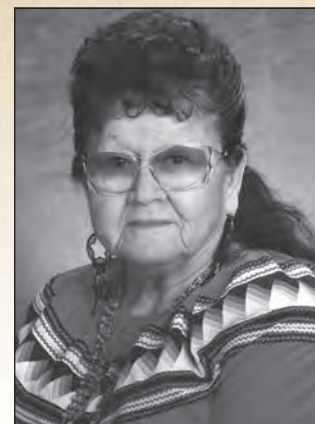
After all he went through during the war, he came home happy he had served. He felt he had done something important for his Tribe. He was proud of himself and we were all proud of him.

Howard went to work helping the Tribe. He served as the Tribe's third President, and in 1967, he was clearing muck from the land where Candlelight Park is on the Hollywood Reservation, when the tractor he was driving rolled over

him. He was 41. He was buried in the Old Cemetery on the Hollywood Reservation. There was a military honor guard at this funeral.

He left behind a wife, Winifred Tiger, and three sons, Clyde, Mike and Vernon, and a daughter, Ruscella "Rusty" Tiger. He also left behind a tradition of the Seminole's fighting for their country.

Today, we have many, many veterans. They went off to serve their country and we should all be proud of them. And we should all be proud of Howard Tiger. He was the first Seminole to fight for his country since the last shot was fired in the last Seminole War.



Hah-Pong-Ke: Emmett Carlisle

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
 Special Projects Reporter

GAINESVILLE — Florida songwriter Emmett Carlisle had a melodic line that seemed to fit with the words, "I cried a thousand tears," but that was all he had. The potential song seemed stuck until he thought of the Trail of Tears.

"I didn't know a lot about the Trail of Tears, just that it ran through North Carolina to Oklahoma and 4,000 Cherokees were taken out West down that trail," said Carlisle, 66, a retired *Gainesville Sun* pressman and Florida folk artist.

"Right away I went to research the subject. I do a lot of research; I read books, old newspapers to get the accurate information for my songs," he said. "I was amazed to find out it was not just the Cherokees, but the Chickasaws, the Choctaws; all those Tribes had their own Trail of Tears. Even the Seminoles — their Trail of Tears went through Tampa and Egmont Key." The words came easy at that point, said the songwriter, who has produced seven albums of Florida-inspired music over the past 20 years. But then he had another idea.

It happened on the porch of the Cracker Palace, the old wooden Southern home of Frank Thomas, the dean of Florida songwriters, in Lake Wales.

"I wanted to have some Seminole words in my song, so I asked Frank, how can I get someone to do that for me?"

"Well, Frank picked up the phone and dialed (Seminole Tribal member) Dan Bowers. And Dan was in Las Vegas, sitting at the dinner table. I got on the phone and asked him if he could translate the line, 'Our Spirits still walk the Trail of Tears.'"

"He very quickly said, 'Sha-lo-pe a-nount ha-nun-e e-lang-tuk e-honga.'"

Carlisle asked Bowers how to spell that.

"He told me there was no spelling, so I had him say it over and over to me real slow and came up with the phonetic spelling that you see in the written lyrics. I was always worried, though that if I ever sung it around Seminole people someone might say, 'This guy really sucks.'"

So Carlisle said he approached Charlie Billie, who knew the songwriter's wife, Jeannette, when she was growing up in Everglades City.

"I asked him what does this mean and said the phrase and you know what he said?"

"He said, 'It's something about our spirit is on the trail,' so I never worried about that again."

Carlisle is a regular at the Florida Folk Festival, the Gamble Rogers Folk Festival and many other fairs, festivals and events around the state. He specializes in songs "about the history, environment and characters of the great state of Florida."



Photo courtesy of Emmett Carlisle

Florida folk artist Emmett Carlisle plays the guitar.

'Trail of Tears'

I cried a thousand tears - along the way
 The Land my father loved - is so far away
 Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole
 Slowly disappear down the Trail of Tears

Back in 1832 - Andrew Jackson's plan
 Remove the Native Tribes - to Oklahoma Land
 Four thousand Cherokee - died along the way
 They slowly disappear down the Trail of Tears

Sha-lo-pe a-nount ha-nun-e e-lang-tuk e-honga
 Our Spirits still walk the Trail of Tears

The Seminole who fought - claimed the Everglades
 Chief Micanopy's Clan - removed to Tampa Bay
 They sailed to New Orleans - up the Arkansas
 They slowly disappear down the Trail of Tears

Sha-lo-pe a-nount ha-nun-e e-lang-tuk e-honga
 Our Spirits still walk the Trail of Tears

I cried a thousand tears - along the way
 The Land my father loved - is so far away
 Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole
 Slowly disappear down the Trail of Tears

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Health



Brighton hosts, wins 14th annual Rez Rally

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Nearly 700 people ignored the cold weather, bundled up in their warmest winter gear and valiantly walked, ran or wheeled through the Brighton Reservation Jan. 18 for the 14th annual Rez Rally. Temperatures climbed from near freezing to the high 40s as people trekked toward the finish line of the 5K event.

"It's cold as hell but I'm glad to see a lot of people support this and are braving the cold weather," Chairman James E. Billie said. "I'm happy to see a lot of people with warm hearts here."

The purpose of the event, organized by the Health Department, is to raise diabetes awareness.

"Our motto is, 'Together we can manage diabetes,'" said Connie Whidden, Health Department director. "It affects everyone's family but Type 2 can be controlled by exercise and diet. About 50 percent of the Tribe has it, and that's being generous."

Before the start, Chairman Billie rallied participants with a roll call of clans. Cheering ensued. Team captains added to the festive atmosphere and inspired their teams.

But perhaps the most important message came from the Tribe's chief medical officer Christopher Mavroides.

"To run or walk 3.1 miles is an accomplishment," he said. "This isn't a once a year deal. I want this to be your first 5K of 2014, not the only one."

The Rez Rally course snaked through an unpaved wooded area, with a stroller and wheelchair accessible

route as well. "It's a good turnout and I'm glad we had a chance to bring it back to Brighton," Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard said. "This is good for everybody; we want to make sure people stay healthy."

Native Americans are historically afflicted with diabetes and heart disease.

"Working out makes a difference," said Helene Buster, director of Family Services. "You can still have a good life if you watch what you eat and exercise. I know I have to take care of myself. No one is going to do it for me."

After the race, Health Department officials calculated times and announced winners in each category, but the real competition was between the reservations. Brighton captured the overall win. They earned the most medals with 48; Hollywood had 22, Big Cypress 13 and Immokalee eight. Brighton also boasted the most Tribal member participants, with 211, and had the most participants including Tribal members, community and employees, with 374, followed by Hollywood with 161, Big Cypress with 82 and Immokalee with 55.

"After an event like this, I always feel good," Whidden said. "We're all winners today."

Norman "Skeeter" Bowers urged people to take advantage of the Fitness Department and their trainers. He shared his recipe for weight loss success: He stopped drinking sweet tea and soda and ate three meals a day to lose 10 pounds in two weeks.

"At the end of the day, it's up to you to make the change to eat healthier and include exercise into your life," he said.



And they're off and running at the 14th annual Rez Rally in Brighton Jan. 18.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

Connie Whidden shares a smile with Chairman James E. Billie, as Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. looks on, during the Rez Rally awards ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

This boy has plenty of energy left as he runs the last stretch of the race.



Beverly Bidney

These boys may be off the beaten path, but they are determined to keep up and finish the course.



Beverly Bidney

Runners bundle up against the cold weather at the start of the race. Temperatures were in the 40s at the beginning of the event.



Beverly Bidney

Runners own the road and power through the race.



Beverly Bidney

Paula Bowers-Sanchez gives a thumbs-up as she runs the final mile of the race.

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Beverly Bidney

Ashley Wilcox and Bobby Frank, left, man the Hollywood booth where team members signed in for the Rez Rally in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Giselle Micco, 8, Arilette Micco, 2 months, and Kobe Micco, 6, do their best to stay warm before the start of the race.



Beverly Bidney

The 5K course winds its way into an unpaved wooded area in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

This youngster carries one of many inspirational signs posted along the 5K route.



Beverly Bidney

Dorothy and Coleman Josh wear their medals at the finish line.



Beverly Bidney

The Rez Rally course snakes through the backwoods of Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Winners in their age categories shake the hands of elected officials after receiving their trophies.

Reach for the bar Howard Tiger set

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez

The new Howard Tiger Recreation Center coming to the Hollywood Reservation is rightfully named and dedicated to a man whose life was filled with great accomplishment. As a relative of Howard Tiger, I feel honored and blessed. His achievements had a tremendous impact on our Tribal elders and the Seminole Tribe as a whole.

I was inspired during the groundbreaking ceremony Jan. 14 as I sat listening to our Tribal elders speak about the principles of discipline and dedication Howard instilled through our Tribal athletics. It made me contemplate how sports played such an important role in my life growing up.

It was through sports that I learned the "stick with it" attitude that will always get us to the finish line, whether we are winning or losing. Through sports, we learn how to be humble, handle defeat and realize that it really doesn't matter if you win or lose; it's about the journey that gets you to your goal.

We also realize that there are different, better ways of reaching certain goals by making mistakes and learning from those mistakes. Sports teach us about camaraderie and friendship, and what it means to be a team player. Being a team player and learning to work well with others toward a common goal is a valuable lesson and one that has helped me throughout my life.

So, I encourage all of you to take an active part in supporting your children in athletics. We can all benefit from the positive aspects provided by participating in such activities.

Remember, we are part of a legacy that was set forth many years ago, and it's up to us to make sure our future generations are prepared to keep moving in a positive direction. Sports and athletics are definitely good vehicles to help with that endeavor.



The new epidemic: Molly drug

SUBMITTED BY DEBRA RAY
Family Services Assistant Director

MDMA (3, 4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine) – popularly known as ecstasy or more recently as Molly – is a synthetic, psychoactive drug that has similarities to the stimulant amphetamine and the hallucinogen mescaline.

It produces feelings of increased energy, euphoria, emotional warmth and empathy toward others, as well as distortions in sensory and time perception.

MDMA is taken orally, usually as a capsule or tablet. The popular term Molly (slang for "molecular") refers to the pure crystalline powder form of MDMA, usually sold in capsules. The drug's effects last approximately 3 to 6 hours, although it is not uncommon for users to take a second dose of the drug as the effects of the first dose fade. It is commonly taken in combination with other drugs.

The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) funds the Monitoring the Future survey (MTF), which is conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. In 2010, 4.6 percent of 12th-graders, 4.7 percent of 10th-graders, and 2.4 percent of eighth-graders reported they had used MDMA in the past year.

In 2000, 8.2 percent of 12th-graders, 5.4 percent of 10th-graders and 3.1 percent of eighth-graders reported they had used MDMA.

Taking MDMA depletes the brain of the neurotransmitter Serotonin, which causes negative after effects.

These effects include confusion, depression, sleep

problems, drug craving and anxiety that may occur soon after taking the drug or even days or weeks after.

Some heavy MDMA users experience long-lasting confusion, depression, sleep abnormalities and problems with attention and memory, although it is possible that some of these effects may be due to the use of other drugs in combination with MDMA (especially marijuana).

In high doses, MDMA can interfere with the body's ability to regulate temperature. On rare but unpredictable occasions, this can lead to a sharp increase in body temperature (hyperthermia), which can result in liver, kidney or cardiovascular system failure, or even death. MDMA can interfere with its own metabolism (breakdown within the body), causing potentially harmful levels to build up in the body if it is taken repeatedly within short periods.

Compounding the risks is the fact that ecstasy tablets and even capsules of supposedly pure Molly sometimes actually contain other drugs. Those may include ephedrine (a stimulant), dextromethorphan (a cough suppressant), ketamine, caffeine, cocaine, methamphetamine or synthetic cathinones (the psychoactive ingredients in bath salts).

These substances are harmful alone and may be particularly dangerous mixed with MDMA. Users who intentionally or unknowingly combine these mixtures with additional substances, such as marijuana and alcohol, may be putting themselves at even higher risk for adverse health effects.

Should you wish to learn more about the dangers of Molly, feel free to schedule a confidential meeting with Family Services.

– Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (2013)

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SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

A great white egret is about to land on water lettuce in a canal on Big Cypress. The water quality in the canal is very good according to the Environmental Resource Management Department, but the vegetation accumulated because of heavy rainfall in 2013.



Photo courtesy of John-L Voth

Bobbie 'BJ' Billie and Misha Winters, a Sicangu Oyate Sioux Tribal member, deliver donations to 147 students at the Wounded Knee School in South Dakota. In mid-December, they drove a truck filled with donations from the Seminole community from South Florida to the Pine Ridge Reservation to help the less fortunate.



Beverly Bidney

This baby raccoon is being hand-raised at Okalee Village. The Hollywood Recreation winter camp brought about 20 kids to Okalee Dec. 27 where they learned about a variety of species.



Eileen Soler

Betty King, a 27-year Tribal employee, receives gifts and a plaque from Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger in recognition of her recent retirement. King was a long-time administrative assistant at Ahfachkee School on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Photo courtesy of John-L Voth

Wounded Knee School students in South Dakota show off their new winter coats donated by members of the Seminole Tribe Dec. 12. The school welcomed the truck with a huge outpouring of love and gratitude, as well as a traditional ceremony thanking Bobbie 'BJ' Billie and Misha Winters in the school's gym.



Beverly Bidney

Steaming hot sofkee is a treat on a chilly morning at the Hollywood Culture Department New Year's breakfast Jan. 3.



Beverly Bidney

Hollywood Recreation winter camp takes kids on a field trip to Okalee Village Dec. 27, where they are introduced to a baby American alligator.



Eileen Soler

January senior birthdays are celebrated with a Mexican fiesta complete with Mexican hat dancing and a costume contest featuring colorful South of the Border styles during a festive luncheon at the Big Cypress Senior Center. Here, Louise Osceola shows off her costume that won first place.



Eileen Soler

Rudy Osceola, of Big Cypress, displays a recent family photograph that shows three generations. From left: George Billy, Rudy Osceola, Rowdy Osceola and George Powell, of Oklahoma.



Beverly Bidney

Chairman James E. Billie and former Chairman Mitchell Cypress pose for a picture during the Brighton Rez Rally Jan. 18.



Eileen Soler

Javon Jim-Washington gets golf pointers from Cookie Mazzant, wife of golf coach Amos Mazzant who is heading an after-school recreational golf training program for kids on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Eileen Soler

Iliana Robbins practices her swing during an after-school recreational golf lesson on the driving range at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena on the Big Cypress Reservation. More than a dozen children from the reservation are learning the sport for future golf outings, fun and socialization.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Cobell settlement checks expected soon

FARMINGTON, N.M. — The next round of payments for the \$3.4 billion Cobell v. Salazar Settlement will hit mailboxes in the early part of 2014, said the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) in an announcement posted on the website IndianTrust.com.

The settlement is from a 1996 class action lawsuit filed by the late Blackfeet Tribal member Elouise Cobell, an Individual Indian Money account holder who uncovered years of neglect by the federal government who failed to keep accurate records of Indian trust accounts.

Payments for these accounts were collected from farming and grazing leases, timber sales, mining, and oil and gas production on trust land.

The settlement, reached between the DOI and Treasury Departments and thousands of individual Indian plaintiffs in December 2009 provided \$1.4 billion to pay recipients listed under the Historical Accounting Class and the Trust Administration Class, \$1.9 billion to purchase fractionated individual Indian trust lands and up to \$60 million for a Native American scholarship fund.

In the first round of payments, some 23,994 Navajo allottees received or were entitled to payments of \$1,000.

In this second round, 34,786 Navajo allottees will split about \$49.5 million. Each person is expected to receive at least \$800, though that amount could be larger depending on that person's account activity.

— Source: *The Daily Times*

Ration cards: Ugly remnant of Indian history

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Memoirist and novelist of English, Irish and Osage ancestry William Least Heat-Moon wrote of his research into 1880s Indian ration tickets, published recently in *Smithsonian Magazine*, calling it “some of the saddest work I’ve ever done.”

Here are a few paragraphs from his essay:

“Of the some 136 million objects and specimens in the grand Smithsonian collections, most carry an implied positive energy, or a promise of better things to come, or sometimes just simple joy. But there are also, though fewer, things of a darker mien, artifacts revealing caliginous corners of American history, including one so unimposing in size and materials as to appear insignificant, you could slip it into a shirt pocket, forget it’s there and run it through to its destruction in the wash.

“About the size of a business card or a major-league bleachers ticket, this little piece of heavy, printed paper is the federal government’s substitute for the bison of the Great Plains, that source of life and culture that unknown thousands of aboriginal Americans depended on for generations beyond counting. Until the ghost dance generation — the one that kissed the old life goodbye to face an enemy future — the Tribes that dominated the grasslands for 8,000 years fought most of their battles over bison hunting grounds. The red people ate bison, dressed in bison, imitated and talked to bison, and died for and by the sacred bison.

“This ration ticket, this seeming inconsequential token of conquest and devastation, is the graphic expression of an 1883 act of Congress that furthered the appropriation of Indian lands west of the Missouri by moving Tribal peoples onto assigned reservations, where, proclaims the act, ‘They may live after the manner of white men.’

“The reality was something else.

“The enforced reservation system meant native, nomadic Tribes could live neither like white men — unless those whites were indigents — nor like the red men they had so recently been.

“Nevermind that the flour and grains sometimes had gone moldy or that most of the Indians found the taste of beef no match for the rich flavor of bison. For these foreign and sorry substitutions, Indian men no longer able to support themselves sometimes had to perform labor. An Oglala Lakota once memorably said to me, ‘They take our land, they take our hunting and then they force us to work for food that made us sick.’”

— Source: *Smithsonian Magazine*

Cherokee Nation joins InterTribal Buffalo Council

LAS VEGAS — The Cherokee Nation joined the InterTribal Buffalo Council (ITBC), recently, taking the initial step in determining whether it is feasible for the Tribe to acquire bison for tourism or commercial use.

“The Cherokee Nation’s acceptance into the InterTribal Buffalo Council is a very positive move in the bison acquisition process,” said Gunter Gulager, director of Cherokee Nation Natural Resources. “As a member of this council, the Tribe will have access to the bison within our country’s national parks and be able to call upon experts to aid in the development of a business plan that best suits the Tribe.”

The Council was originally formed in the Sacred Black Hills of South Dakota in February 1991.

Nineteen Tribes from all four directions attended.

Lakota representatives from several of the reservations in South Dakota were there, as well as the Crow, Shoshone-Bannock, Gros Ventre/Assinoboine and Blackfeet Nations of Montana. Various Pueblo representatives from New Mexico, and the Winnebago, traditionally called Ho Chunk, from both Nebraska and Wisconsin came. Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and some as far west as Round Valley of California arrived.

The ITBC has since grown to a membership of 56 Tribes in 19 states with a collective herd of more than 15,000 bison, all committed to re-establishing buffalo herds on Indian lands in a manner that promotes cultural enhancement, spiritual revitalization, ecological restoration and economic development.

Although some Tribes and Tribal members have been engaged in the production of buffalo for sale and/or for subsistence and cultural use, these activities have been conducted by each individual Tribe with little or no collaboration between Tribes.

— *ICTMN.com*

Creating the first Native American food hub in the U.S.

ACOMA PUEBLO, N.M. — Native farmers and businessmen across the nation are buoyed by the recent grant/certificate of obligation given to the Acoma Business Enterprise LLC to develop a business plan for a food hub.

A food hub offers a location where native producers can deliver their goods for processing and distribution to market, addressing a common problem: the abundance of produce not being sold or utilized at the end of the growing season.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development State Director Terry Brunner presented the certificate to the Acoma Business Enterprise during the ceremony held at the Southern Pueblos Council monthly meeting.

“The Obama administration is working hard to create economic opportunities in rural Tribal communities,” Brunner said. “This strategic investment will help Native farmers find new markets for their products and offers a path to sustainable farming in the 21st century.”

The \$75,000 grant for this project was made available through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program, which promotes development of small and emerging businesses in rural areas.

Specifically the RBEG funding will be used to develop a comprehensive business plan and marketing study to create a Native Food Hub, which will be the first of its kind in the nation.

The RBEG program may also be used to help fund distance learning networks and employment-related adult education programs.

Eligible applicants for the program include public bodies, nonprofit corporations and federally recognized Indian Tribes.

Since the beginning of the Obama administration, the RBEG program has helped create or save more than 73,000 rural jobs, provided more than \$170.9 million in economic development assistance, improved manufacturing capability, expanded health care and educational facilities, and has either expanded or helped establish almost 41,070 rural businesses and community projects.

— Source: *ICTMN.com*

Large-scale reforestation in indigenous Mexico

MICHOACAN, Mexico — The National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (NCDIP) in Mexico announced the start of a reforestation program in the indigenous Purepecha community, aiming to grow hundreds of thousands of trees and create a few thousand jobs to reforest the area, diminish environmental decay and reactivate the local economy with a source of lasting income.

This will be the second large-scale reforestation effort in the heavily indigenous state of Michoacan since December 2012, when the Michoacan town of San Francisco Pichataro celebrated the planting of more than 1 million trees, 300,000 water channels and other natural borders as part of the massive reforestation effort in the northern part of the state.

— Source: *ICTMN.com*

Blackfeet Council, people OK’d controversial video

BROWNING, Mont. — The music video for Chase & Status’ dance track *Alive* has stirred up much controversy around Indian Country.

Some who have viewed the video, directed by Welsh filmmaker Josh Cole, have praised the clip for its tale of drug

abuse on the reservation and spiritual redemption, while others decry the video as exploitative and disrespectful of the ceremonies it depicts.

The video, which shows dramatized drug use, crime and ceremony, was shot on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation; Cole worked with Blackfeet Tribal members throughout its creation.

“I was shocked to hear stories about the reservations — in Europe there is no concept generally about contemporary Native Americans,” Cole said. “I then started researching and put together a story based on the stuff I was told about. I decided I would really like to tell Europe how difficult it is for Native Americans in modern America because most people have no idea who they are.

“All my work is about the beauty that comes from hardship and I wanted to tell the story of the spiritual awakening of a drug addict in a Native American community,” he said.

Cole said he showed his script to groups of reformed alcoholics on the Blackfeet Reservation, “and they really connected to it.”

“They explained that it was basically their own story and also that they regularly help those with addictions through ceremony.

“During this time I met several community leaders, including many people on the Tribal Council including the Cultural Attaché of the Blackfeet Nation. Every time we met anyone we explained what we wanted to do in great detail and then each person was emailed a copy of the script. We explained the story dozens of times and the Tribal Council gave us their blessing and also gave us a shooting permit to shoot anywhere in Blackfeet territory,” he said.

— Source: *ICTMN.com*

Last monolingual Chickasaw dies at 93

ADA, Okla. — The last monolingual Chickasaw language speaker has died, the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma announced recently.

Emily Johnson Dickerson, a full blood Chickasaw who spoke only the Chickasaw language her entire life, died at her Ada home Dec. 30, two months shy of 94.

Born Feb. 22, 1920, her childhood was spent in the unrelenting Oklahoma sun picking cotton, harvesting peanuts and chaffing broom corn as a farm laborer. In 1968, she married, became a homemaker and housewife, raising children who spoke only Chickasaw until they enrolled in public school.

According to Joshua Hinson, the director of the Chickasaw Nation Language Department who has devoted his career to the revitalization of the Chickasaw language, said the loss of Dickerson was monumental.

“I’m still trying to wrap my mind around the loss and what this means to the Chickasaw Nation,” he said.

Dickerson, whose portrait is proudly displayed in the Chickasaw Cultural Center in Sulphur, was one of only an estimated 70 remaining fluent speakers of the Chickasaw language.

“This is a sad day for all Chickasaw people because we have lost a cherished member of our Chickasaw family and an unequalled source of knowledge about our language and culture,” said Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby.

She was buried in Steedman Cemetery, near Kullihoma ceremonial grounds, a place of reverence for the Chickasaw Nation.

— Source: *NativeNewsOnline.net*

Mall of America bans activists’ Tribal dance

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — Charges of discrimination have been levied at the Mall of America after the cancellation of the group Idle No More’s Tribal dance demonstration and the arrest of two group leaders.

The same group performed a “Round Dance” in the mall a year ago to protest Canadian laws they believe discriminate against Native people.

This year when Idle No More showed up, they were evicted from the nation’s largest shopping mall.

Citing the “extremely disruptive” character of last year’s dance, mall officials said they feared Idle No More was going to violate their no protest policy and had warned them not to come.

“We don’t allow protests in Mall of America and haven’t in 21 years,” said Maureen Bausch, executive vice president of Business Development, told *KARE 11*. “It clearly did not have to happen.”

“Any other group seems to be welcome in the Mall of America,” Idle No More attorney Jordan Kushner said. “They’re not allowed to discriminate, so they’re treating this Native American group differently.”

“It’s a friendship dance,” argued activist Reyna Crow, who was arrested. “A dance of renewed relationships deeply connected to Mother Earth, Medicine Waters and in the spirit of all people of

all walks of life joining in one circle of friendship and peace, and certainly not a protest.”

“If you look at the website for Idle No More, it is an activist group. It is a protest. It is a demonstration,” Bausch said, pointing out that last summer the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community was permitted to perform an annual ceremony in the mall.

“What happened is really disturbing and racist,” Kushner said of the arrests. “The Mall of America singled this group out because they didn’t appreciate a Native American group having a cultural celebration.”

— Source: *OpposingViews.com*

Grand Canyon Skywalk legal battle still flares

LAS VEGAS — Despite a trip to the U.S. Supreme Court, the marathon Grand Canyon Skywalk legal battle still promises to continue, on several fronts, for months if not years to come.

Built to boost tourism on Hualapai Tribal land along Grand Canyon’s West Rim, the Skywalk continues to cloud its spectacular views with controversy.

In the U.S. District Court, recently, attorneys for the Skywalk’s late developer and former general manager sued seven members of the Hualapai Tribe and their public relations counsel for defamation concerning out-of-court statements regarding the dispute.

An April 16 court date has been set to decide whether the bankruptcy reorganization plan of ‘Sa’ Nyu Wa Inc., filed in Arizona, passes legal muster.

Created by the Tribe a decade ago to partner with the Skywalk developers, the company was placed into Chapter 11 last March just three weeks after a federal court in Arizona upheld an arbitrator’s decision that the Tribe owes the family of the late developer David Jin \$28.6 million.

Las Vegas businessman Jin conceived of the Skywalk, a horseshoe-shaped walkway with a glass floor that juts 70 feet from the canyon rim, in 1996 as a way to sell more canyon tours.

The previous year, he had started Oriental Tour and Travel in Las Vegas and built it into the West’s largest booker of Grand Canyon tours among Chinese nationals.

He died of cancer in June 2013, the legal fight over his contractual rights to the Skywalk still undecided.

The Supreme Court decided Dec. 16 not to hear an appeal of an appellate decision that Jin must continue to fight in Tribal court the Hualapai’s seizure of the Skywalk two years ago. Only after that has run its course can Jin try to move the matter to federal court.

The attraction has proven successful since it opened in 2007, despite the \$76 ticket price and miles of unpaved road leading to the site. The accusations from both the developer and the Tribe regarding fees and embezzlement culminated with the Tribe taking over through condemnation in 2012 and the arbitrator awarding Jin the \$28.6 million as compensation.

Jin attorney Mark Tratos filed the defamation action in April, two months before Jin died because of the Tribe’s published comments blaming Jin for the Skywalk’s various problems.

“This was a completely made up fabrication to ruin his name for one thing, so that the public would not feel bad when the Tribe took (Skywalk) away,” said Tratos, who showed a Tribal public relations strategy memo that suggested the public line should be. “The Hualapai have begged Mr. Jin to keep his promises and complete the work. Instead, Jin and his various subsidiaries have behaved like Arizona’s version of Leona Helmsley and Bernie Madoff ...”

In addition, the Tribe has submitted a claim for \$20.2 million in taxes and various fees, while Jin said he is owed \$405.9 million to cover the arbitration award plus estimated income from the revenue sharing and management agreement that runs through 2028.

Both sides contest not only the numbers but also the legitimacy of the claims.

Jin’s attorneys, in particular, have depicted the bankruptcy as a subterfuge to let the Tribe keep the Skywalk and erase the arbitration award.

— Source: *ReviewJournal.com*

Megaload has Shoshone-Bannock Tribes worried

FORT HALL RESERVATION, Idaho — A 640,000-pound megaload shipment of oil refinery equipment headed for Canada is getting negative feedback from the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Without any consultation with the Tribes, the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) issued a permit that will allow Omega Morgan to transport the shipments through aboriginal homelands where the Shoshone-Bannock are allowed to exercise their treaty rights for hunting, fishing and gathering stemming from the Forty Bridger Treaty of 1868.

Shoshone-Bannock Tribal members

said they are concerned about the potential for adverse impacts or accidents which may occur on the shipping route that passes over, or near, the scenic rivers or tributaries of the Salmon, Snake and Selway rivers where they hunt and fish.

Tribal officials released a statement: “It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

Indian Tribes and conservation groups have been trying to block the movement of the megaloads since 2011, but some have made it through.

Leaders of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation said the state hasn’t properly consulted with them, either, regarding the shipment passing through land the Tribes ceded in 1855.

Environmentalists oppose the tar sands oil for its outside carbon emissions.

If there are any adverse impacts by this shipment, the Tribes said to expect a full and complete mitigation of any damages or incidents that may impact the environment in the shipping corridors.

— Source: *Idaho State Journal*

4,000 children die in aboriginal Canada schools

OTTAWA, Ontario — In a disturbing discovery that casts new light on the century-long education system that scarred this country’s First Nations peoples, the Canada Truth and Reconciliation Commission has determined that more than 4,000 aboriginal children died in residential schools that exposed them to fires, abusers and deadly diseases.

The figure is expected to rise dramatically in the next few months when researchers make it through more complete files from Library and Archives Canada and elsewhere.

“Aboriginal kids’ lives just didn’t seem as worthy as non-aboriginal kids,” Kimberly Murray, executive director of the Commission, said in an interview. “The death rate was much higher than non-indigenous kids.”

Considered by many to be Canada’s greatest historical shame, 150,000 aboriginal children were taken from their families — from the 1870s to 1996 — and sent by the federal government to church-run schools, where many faced physical and sexual abuse.

A federal lawsuit against the government and churches brought a settlement that included payments to those affected and the creation of the Commission, which holds public hearings so people can tell their stories, collect records, establish a national research center, and a “Missing Children Project” where the names of children who died, how they died, and their burial sites are listed.

Among the most famous incidents involved the deaths of four boys who fled the Lejac Residential School in British Columbia on New Year’s Day, 1937 in 30 degrees below zero temperature.

They were found frozen to death on a lake.

Murray said these types of deaths were far from rare.

“There were quite a few examples of children who ran away and died,” she said.

— Source: *NationalPost.com*

Cheerleaders make racist Trail Of Tears banner

MCCALLA, Ala. — During a football game at McAdory High School against the Pinson Valley Indians, recently, misguided McAdory cheerleaders erected a 20-foot tall banner with the following slogan: “Hey Indians, get ready to leave in a Trail of Tears, Round 2.”

The incident went viral on social media, sparking outrage in Indian Country and around the world. McAdory’s principal, Tom Humphries, issued an apology on the school’s website:

“Please accept our sincere apologies to the Native American people and to anyone who was offended by the reference to an event that is a stain on our nation’s past forever,” he said, vowing to discipline the cheerleaders.

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker issued the following statement: “This unfortunate display shows how much improvement is still needed in the understanding of Native peoples, our triumphs and our challenges, both historical and modern. We hope this becomes an opportunity for administrators at McAdory High School, and at schools all across the United States, to teach our young people not only the terrible history behind the Indian removal era but also the resilience of Tribes across the nation.”

— Source: *ICTMN and AL.com*

Compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher.

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B



Eileen Soler

From left, Leilani Gopher, Mya Cypress, Nashoba Gonzalez, Quenton Cypress and Michelle Jimmie serve on the first Ahfachkee School Student Council.

First official Ahfachkee Student Council named

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Big changes are happening at Ahfachkee School and heading the charge is a new team of student leaders. For the first time in the Big Cypress Reservation school's history, a Student Council has been elected by peers to inspire and guide the next generation of alumni. "We're determined to make the school an even better place," said Michelle Jimmie, 16, who serves as treasurer of the newly established organization. Betty King, Ahfachkee's former administrative assistant who worked at the school 21 years before retiring in December, said student leader groups existed unofficially in the past but the recent institution of a formal Student Council is unique. The group's faculty adviser Jarrid Smith said students were nominated in November to serve. Elections occurred within a week. Other members are: Committees Chair Person Nashoba Gonzalez, ninth grade;

Secretary Mya Cypress, eighth grade; Co-Committees Chairperson Leilani Gopher, sixth grade; and President Quenton Cypress, 12th grade. Eighth-grader Gherri Osceola served as Vice President until winter break when she transferred from Ahfachkee to a school off the reservation. "Serving on the Student Council is a responsibility. If we make a wrong decision, like have a bad fundraiser, then it reflects badly on us and the school. But if we do something good, then people see us as good, creative people and good role models," Gherri said on the last day of her service during the Candy Cane Gram delivery. Gherri said she hoped that her short tenure made an impact — especially as a pioneer for the group. Smith said the group aims to represent a variety of outstanding qualities to which all students should strive, such as peer leadership, school pride, community involvement and academic achievement. So far, the Student Council held two good-cause events. Scores of toys were donated by Ahfachkee families for the U.S.

Marine Corps' Toys for Tots drive to make Christmas bright for needy Florida children. About \$400 was collected during a Candy Cane Gram fundraising campaign to pay for formal club T-shirts and other gear. Entertaining events held to invoke school cheer and incite intramural participation kicked off in late December with a series of dress up days that included Twin/Flock Day and Super Hero/Villain Day. "We called them spirit days and we made them super fun," Nashoba said. "Everyone got a kick out of it." Quenton said the group is already playing a "major role" in the school and collectively looks forward to making a positive impact on the entire community. Plans will be made soon to involve students in social events and causes within and outside the school. "Whatever we can do to move everyone forward, whatever opportunities come up, we will take them," Quenton said. "We want to be a group that people will look back on and remember."

Education Department to partner with Indian River State College

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE — The Education Department will soon partner with Indian River State College (IRSC) in Okeechobee to create a customized program for Tribal students to attend college together and graduate with bachelor's degrees. The program, called a cohort, provides students an education, as well as the Tribe with the next generation of qualified business leaders who can, in turn, take over the management of the Tribe's operations. The Education Department seeks 12 to 15 Tribal members who have associate degrees, college classes under their belts, high school diplomas or GEDs to form one or two cohorts. The program will result in a bachelor's degree in either business administration or organizational management and is scheduled to begin in June or August. "We are looking for students who will enter the program together and stay with it until completion," said Tony Bullington, Education program manager. "The camaraderie of the group will give them strength; they will encourage each other and push each other." IRSC Provost Russ Brown said



Okeechobee County Schools for 12 years and served on the State Board of Education for five. She said that because Tribal kids are comfortable with each other at Okeechobee High School, staying together for college would be a good idea. "It's one of the reasons IRSC is so good for them — many kids don't want to or cannot leave home," Raulerson said. "This provides an opportunity for them to continue their education and stay here where they are comfortable. A lot of kids don't want to be away from the Tribe. I think having a bachelor's program will pay off for them; this just makes sense." The Tribe is faced with students who don't always complete programs successfully, leaving it unable to fulfill its goal of employing qualified Tribal members to run the business of the Tribe. In addition, high drop out and low graduation rates come at a high cost; the cost of the cohort program is less than a four-year residential state college program. The program is open to all Tribal members, but because IRSC is a commuter college, it is not a residential program. Anyone who qualifies for college can qualify for the cohort program. The curriculum for the business administration and organizational management business degrees are similar. Business administration, however, incorporates internships into the program; organizational management has capstone, or senior, projects where students must complete projects for a specific business. Capstone projects are designed to encourage students to think critically, solve challenging problems and develop skills that will help prepare them for careers. Bullington said the Education Department has had good response from Education advisers' forays into Okeechobee High School and through online surveys. The department ultimately aims to tie the IRSC program into the Tribal Professional Development program, which places students in jobs within the Tribe. "I think it will be in the best interest of the Tribe to have their own people oversee all the things they have going on in the world," Raulerson said. "They can get that through a business program, and we are in the position to provide the education. It will be good for this community." For more information, contact the Education Department at 954-989-6840.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students spread holiday spirit through charity drives

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — For Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School, the holiday season meant more than gifts and family celebrations; students came together through two charity drives — and one special event — to spread holiday cheer to the less fortunate. Throughout November, PECS held its annual canned food drive. The school aimed to collect 2,000 pieces but exceeded it with a total collection of 2,295 cans of food. "We really try to instill into our students

that everyone is not as fortunate as us," said Michele Thomas, administrative assistant at PECS. "We were on the receiving end of charity at some point." Half the collection went to Big Lake Missions Outreach in Okeechobee, an organization that serves lunch to the homeless every day at the First United Methodist Church. Moore Haven Catholic Church received the other half of donations for their food pantry. PECS has held the drive for five years and each year receives an outpouring of donations, Thomas said.

In its first year, the school collected 3,500 cans. "There's a lot of teachable moments," Thomas said. "Not everyone can go to the refrigerator and pantry and find food in there. Some children don't know when the next meal is going to come." In December, PECS students continued to give through a toy drive. The school partnered with Real Life Children's Ranch, an organization that provides a loving, Christian environment for abused or abandoned children, to fulfill the wish lists of 40 children at five different group homes. Each child made five wishes and

PECS divided them among the different classrooms. Students donated toys to make the wish lists a reality. "My desk was loaded with gifts," Thomas said. "You could barely see my desk or get into my office." The gifts were delivered to the group homes for the children to open on Christmas morning. To dive a little deeper into the giving spirit, PECS also invited the children of Real Life Children's Ranch to the school for a culture day. PECS Student Council and Safety Patrol students helped with the after-school event and mingled with the visiting

children on the playground, while Culture staff cooked Indian tacos. Thomas said the event not only allowed students to meet the kids but also reminded them of all their blessings. She said the students were great hosts and wanted to keep in touch as pen pals. "It was a real eye opener for our kids on a much bigger level," she said. Seminole Police Officer David Lee dressed as Santa Claus and handed each child a goodie bag filled with candy, small toys and a beaded Seminole necklace. Thomas felt touched when a little girl said, "This is the best night ever."



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Drake Lawrence and Blake Baker assist with the delivery of Christmas joy to the Real Life Children's Ranch on the last day of school before Christmas break.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

PECS Safety Patrol members act as hosts to the visitors from the Real Life Children's Ranch.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School third-graders donate canned food items to the Big Lake Missions Outreach in Okeechobee, an organization that serves lunch to the homeless every day at the First United Methodist Church.

Brighton students excel at nine weeks award ceremony



Emma Johns

Caylie Huff, left, and Haylie Huff receive their Silver Awards for 3.5 to 3.9 GPAs from principal Brian Greseth during Pemaetv Emahavk Charter School's second nine weeks awards ceremony Jan. 17.



Emma Johns

Kindergarten students proudly display their awards while posing for a picture.



Emma Johns

Jayleigh Braswell shows off her Best Writing Skills and Improvement Award during the ceremony.



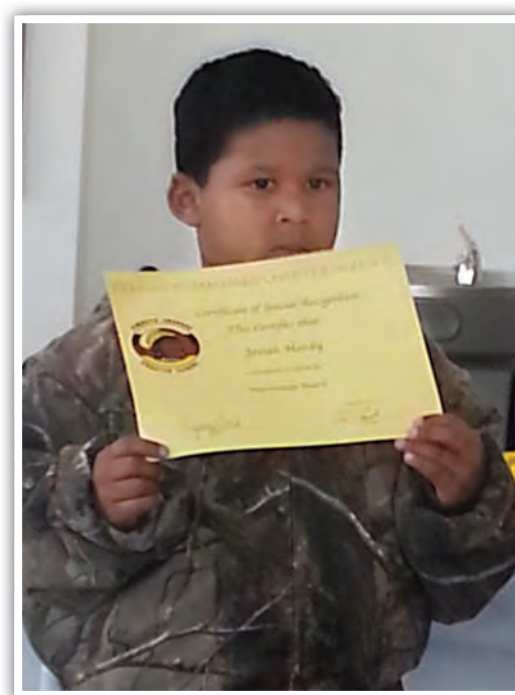
Emma Johns

From left, Ramone Baker, Hyatt Pearce and Jagger Gaucin receive Bronze Awards (3.0 to 3.4 GPA) for their hard work at Pemaetv Emahavk Charter School.



Emma Johns

Myron Billie and Aubee Billie display their awards for earning a perfect score on the math FCAT.



Emma Johns

Kindergartner Josiah Hardy poses with his award.

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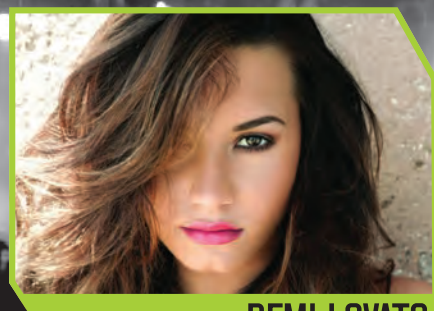
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College Fair exposes students to 30 post-secondary schools

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

TAMIAMI TRAIL — About 30 Ahfachkee School students joined Miccosukee School students to explore their futures at the second Miccosukee College Fair Jan. 15.

Nearly 100 fair-goers navigated through an array of 30 schools, from large universities to vocational and technical schools, to learn about post-secondary educational opportunities.

"It was really important to me that there was a wide variety," said Melissa Garcia, director of Social Services for the Miccosukee Tribe, who coordinated the event.

The fair was also open to the community and Tribal employees looking to expand their educational endeavors. Garcia said that according to feedback from last year's event, many employees showed interest in learning about master's programs.

"The more educated the employees are, the more it helps the Tribe and the community," she said.

The MIS student government acted as hosts to the Ahfachkee students, providing a tour of the school after the fair, and the MIS fundraising committee supplied students with lunch, raffle tickets and backpacks full of supplies.

It was the first time Ahfachkee attended the fair.



Amanda Murphy

Students peruse the brochures of one of 30 colleges that attended the Miccosukee College Fair Jan. 15.

"I think it's pretty cool what they're trying to do for us," said Ahfachkee ninth-grader Uriah Waggerby. "They're trying to open doors for us."

Garcia said the fair aims to give students

the opportunity to give back to their people.

"That is the main objective — to educate the youth so that they can be nurses, doctors, lawyers and future leaders for the Tribe," she said.

Layla Billie, mother of Miccosukee student government president Angel Bowers and recent graduate of Florida College of Natural Health, provided a personal touch for students not only by doing out soothing massages but also by showing Tribal students "there's more than rez life out there."

Billie completed an eight-month basic massage program at Florida College of Natural Health and began the advanced program in August. She also plans to pursue skin care in the future.

Although her daughter is still undecided about her career path, Billie supports her 100 percent.

"I want her to know there's a whole big world out there," Billie said. "I want her to travel and see everything I didn't get to."

Five more schools than last year attended the fair, and many students found schools that sparked their interests: Tatiana Herrera liked New York University for their psychology program, and Kaydin Osceola liked Ringling College of Art and Design and Digital Media Arts College.

Following the fair, teachers and counselors will work with students to review schools and arrange campus tours.

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 Miley Jimmie, Aaryn King, Brandon Gabbard, Candice Melton, Juanita Billie, Josiah Johns, Taryn Osceola, Alton Crowell, Charlie Armstrong, Jaime Smith, Caleb Burton, Kiowa Garcia, Mariah Garner, Alice Osceola, Alyssa Gonzalez, Morgan Yates, John Beck and Caitlyn Olivarez.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Middle School Students of the Month are Krysta Burton, Camryn Thomas and Edward Gaucin.



Amanda Murphy

Dasani Cypress and her mother speak with college representatives at the Miccosukee College Fair.

Little Mr. & Miss. Seminole 2014

at the 43rd Annual Seminole Tribal Fair

who will be next?

* tear along line for registration

2014 SEMINOLE TRIBAL FAIR
Little Mr. & Miss. Seminole Contest
Hard Rock LIVE

Friday, February 7, 2014
at 6:00 p.m. Contestant # _____

Little Miss. Seminole _____ Little Mr. Seminole _____ (check one)

Date: _____ Reservation: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Enrollment #: _____ Date of Birth _____

Print Name of Parent or Legal Guardian (circle one)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Cell #: _____

Contestants must be an enrolled tribal member, between the ages of 5 – 7 years old by February 6, 2014 and reside in the state of Florida. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Registration deadline is Monday, February 3, 2014 at 5:00pm. All contestants must be preregistered. There will be no applications taken on the day of contest.

Confirm that your applications have been received by fax, email, Committee member, or walk-in's to the Secretary's office. Call Wanda Bowers at (954) 444-9827, fax (954) 967-3488, or email wowers@semtribe.com.

CONTACTS:

Hollywood – Wanda Bowers, (954) 444-9827
Brighton – Charlottle Burgess, (863) 634-8924
Brighton – Carla Gopher, 1-(813) 299-4071
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Big Cypress – Alice Billie, (954) 790-0237
Trail Seminoles – Michael Cantu, (305) 553-8245 ext. 18702
Immokalee – Crystal Salinas, (239) 867-5300
Tampa – (813) 246-3100 Vicky Aspey ext. 19312 or Sunny Ploch ext. 19300

Announcements



Birth announcement



We proudly announce the birth of our son
Osceola Komesataddle Primus

August 26, 2013 at 5:22 a.m. • 6 pounds, 14 ounces • 20.25 inches

Love, Ciara Billie (Panther Clan), Michael Q Primus II (Kiowa Clan of Oklahoma) and Melinda Guerue

Buggy for sale



Must See. Will sacrifice and sell for \$33,000. In mint condition, always stored in garage. Many extras. Call Kevin for details. 863-441-0198.

In memory of Willie Tommie (aka T-Bone)

There are different kinds of memories that leave you breathless. When you feel the wind on your face, hear the voice of someone missed and it makes your heart stop because you don't want to lose it. You want to keep it close and it just leaves you breathless. The memories unfold in the most unaware places, from a porch on a rainy night, to a sunrise or sunset and when the breeze moves your curtain while you lie in bed. It just leaves you breathless. I was there when you

took that last breath and went home. Something lately I asked for and I prayed not for. I know your pain is gone, you're with loved ones and you now watch over me. I have made it to a point where I understand and look back at our times we shared and just be breathless. Willie T-Bone you're still loved and much missed from your best friend and wife.

Noreen Tommie

Happy birthday, Devin Mindy Cypress-Kimble

Hey Dev,
Another birthday here again. How I wish to see your smile and just be in the same room with you. So much has gone on since you left. One thing I do hope is that you're proud of me. Dev, I have many regrets and one of them is I wish I would have said I love you more than I did. You were not only my first cousin but my sister and my best friend.

You instilled good morals in my life, showed me what's important in life and that's taking care of my body staying healthy. And mainly to take care of family and to never turn my back on them. No one can compare to you or your love. I miss you so much. I love you. Happy birthday to the best fam ever.

Love always,
Carolee J. Nelson-Watkins

Congratulations, Jade Osceola

Jade Osceola,
You did it! We are so proud of you for receiving your bachelor's degree in education at Indian River State College. All the hard work has finally paid off! Good job on making your dreams come true. In the words of Nelson Mandela, "Education is the most

powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Love,
Mom, Dad, Joe, Jayleigh, Janae, Papa, Gogranny, Uncle Jeff, Uncle Todd, Dino, and the rest of your family and friends



In memory of Casey McCall

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

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

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Student profile: Jade Braswell Osceola



Photo courtesy of Jade Braswell Osceola

Jade Braswell Osceola graduates with a bachelor's degree in education from Indian River State College Dec. 18. Family and friends gathered to celebrate her accomplishment.

BY EMMA JOHNS
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — Despite a long, challenging road, Jade Braswell Osceola proudly walked across the stage Dec. 18 to receive a bachelor's degree in education from Indian River State College. Osceola, a Seminole history teacher at Pemaquitt Charter School, has pursued her college degree since graduating high school in 2004.

"Between working full time and having a child, I could only take one or two classes each semester. My progress was slow but steady," she said.

Osceola began her career as a junior teacher during the summer culture programs at 15 years old. While there, she recognized her passion for teaching.

Upon graduating high school, she began working as an aide in the Seminole history class during Brighton Reservation's Friday Pull-Out Program, in which Seminole students left Okeechobee schools for lessons in culture and language on the reservation once a week.

As an aide, she learned from historian Willie Johns and developed a passion for Seminole history and language. When the Pull-Out Program evolved into a charter school, Osceola joined the Culture staff in developing curriculum that would allow students to learn their culture daily.

"I feel like teaching is my calling. The challenge of getting inside a student's head and helping to guide and direct them towards their own success is the true meaning of growth and teaching," she said.

For seven years, Osceola has taught Seminole history to first- through eighth-graders at PECS.

"I can't say that I chose teaching, but I can say that teaching chose me," she said. "My grandfather, Stanlo Johns, is due all the credit for sparking my love for Seminole history. After working with the Pull-Out Program, I knew that teaching was something that I not only enjoyed but excelled at."

Culture director Lorene Gopher has watched Osceola grow and develop as a teacher with a great passion for the Seminole culture.

"Jade and I took language classes together through Florida Gulf Coast University and she was very interested in learning the Seminole language and culture," Gopher said. "She has been very easy to work with and dependable, always willing to do anything asked of her. I can truly say that I have taught her culturally just like my own daughter."

In addition to her bachelor's degree, Osceola also earned her certification in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Osceola said she is thankful for the support of her husband, Joe; daughter, Jayleigh; and her boss and mentor Lorene Gopher.

"It does not matter how long it takes you to finish a race; it only matters that you finish," she said. "Take pride in who you are and find out what you are good at and perfect your craft. You never know whom you might inspire or learn from along the way. Never give up."

Karissa Tommie completes Career Development program



Peter B. Gallagher

Seminole Gaming Tribal Career Development (TCD) program director Ervin Capricien hands Karissa Tommie her graduation certificate at the TCD Christmas party Dec. 12. Tommie was the only 2013 graduate.

◆ GOPHER From page 1A

"We took that crazy idea to Phoebe Raulerson, [superintendent of schools in Okeechobee County at the time], and she agreed right away," Gopher said. "The Pull-Out Program opened a whole new world for them. They shared what they learned with their classmates and teachers, who couldn't wait to hear what the kids learned at their Indian school."

Its success led Gopher to expand the program, so she turned to Raulerson for advice.

"She wanted to build on what they had been doing, which they could do better through a charter school than any other way," said Raulerson, a trustee at Indian River State College. "Since I had just retired from the Florida Board of Education, I put her in touch with people in Tallahassee who could help write the school's charter."

Raulerson advised Gopher to hire the best principal they could because good teachers would follow. The school received its charter with a focus on Seminole culture and language and follows the same educational standards required of all public schools in the state. The Charter School is 'A' rated.

Created in 1982, the Florida Women's Hall of Fame honors women who make significant contributions to the improvement of life for citizens of the state. Nominations are made by the public from April to July — last year there were 70 — and the Florida Commission on the Status of Women narrows the list to 10 people. The governor makes the final selections.

This March, Gopher will be inducted along with two other women: Dottie Berger MacKinnon, founder of Joshua House and A Kid's Place, both safe havens

for children who are removed from their families; and Susan Benton, the first female elected sheriff in state history and the first female president of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

The three new inductees bring the total to 91 women in the Hall of Fame.

Gopher's nomination came from former Charter School teacher Crystal Drake, who recognized Gopher's extraordinary achievement. Drake made the nomination a class project.

"We worked in groups on different aspects of the nomination form," said Drake, currently a teacher at West Glades School. "The students learned about their school and about the extensive process that Louise and many others went through to bring it into existence."

Gopher, who grew up in a camp in western St. Lucie County, didn't speak English when she started school in Fort Pierce but went on to become the first Seminole woman to earn a bachelor's degree. She is the second Seminole woman in the Hall of Fame; Betty Mae Jumper was inducted in 1994.

"I think of all the other ladies who came ahead of me, like Betty Mae," Gopher said. "I think of the women who lived during the Seminole Wars and how hard it was for them. It's because of their strength that we are here today. I never want to forget them, our ancestors."

Gov. Scott will induct the women during a ceremony March 12 in the Capitol Courtyard. The event is free and open to the public.

"I don't think there is anyone who has done more for education for the Seminole Tribe than Louise," Raulerson said. "What she has done is the basis of what the Tribe will become in the future. I was really pleased to hear she got in the Hall of Fame; she deserves it."

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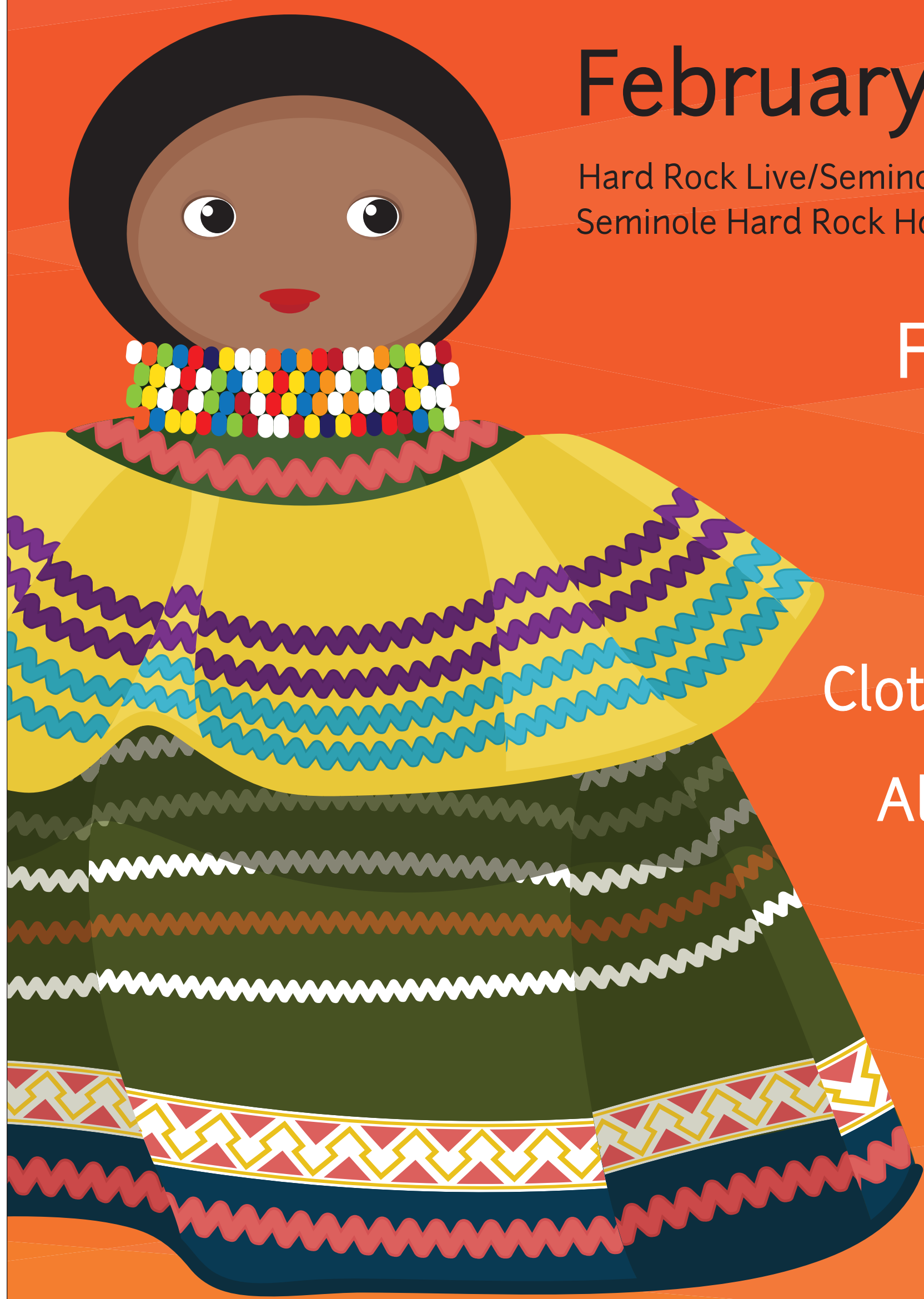
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Sports



Seminoles cheer Schimmel sisters



Shoni Schimmel, regarded as one of the best players in the country, advances the ball down the court during a game against University of South Florida. Schimmel and the Cardinals won 62-54, keeping the team ranked at No. 5 in the nation.

Peter B. Gallagher

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TAMPA — Nearly 200 Seminole Tribal members of all ages and from all across Florida, showed up at the University of South Florida (USF) gymnasium Jan. 12 to cheer on the fifth-ranked Louisville Cardinals, as they held off the USF Bulls, 62-54, in an NCAA Division 1 women's basketball game.

Actually, it would be more correct to say the Seminole members went to watch and cheer for the Schimmel sisters, Shoni and Jude, the nationally known Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla athletes who star for Louisville — one of the nation's top college hoops programs. The world seemed to discover the Mission, Ore. natives last season when the Lady Cardinals came one game from the national championship, losing the finale to the powerhouse University of Connecticut.

A documentary *Off The Rez*, directed by eight-time Emmy-Award winning filmmaker Jonathan Hoek, brought the girls and their family to screens across the world and their fame was secured.

"It's indescribable," Shoni Schimmel said, waving her arm across the expanse of Seminole members who gathered for a meet and greet after the game. "I never expected this."

The Schimmel gathering was organized by Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School administrative assistant Michele Thomas, who brought the PECS girls' basketball team to watch two of the biggest youth idols in today's Indian Country.

"It's been very rare for an American Indian girl to be a starter on a major college basketball team," Thomas said. "Our girls can identify with the Schimmel sisters. To watch them play is very inspirational to all of us."

A race and gender demographics search by the NCAA found that during the 2011-12 academic year, only 21 women and four men identified as American Indian/Alaska Natives participated among the 10,151 basketball players at the Division I level.

Homemade signs cheering on the



Shoni Schimmel, a senior guard on the Louisville women's basketball team, signs Jalynn Jones' sweatshirt at the meet and greet after the Cardinals' game against University of South Florida. Seminole fans filled the stands to cheer on the Native American star player.

Peter B. Gallagher

Schimmel sisters could be seen in the stands on both sides of the court, outnumbering those holding USF Bulls or Louisville Cardinals placards.

"It is like this everywhere we go," pointed out a smiling Shoni Schimmel, 19, a 5-foot-9 senior guard regarded as one of the best players in the country. "It feels so good to look into the stands and see so many American Indian faces."

She scored 11 points within three minutes near the end of the game — a trio of three-pointers and a layup from a steal. She sealed the Bulls' fate, after the home team had rallied from a 17-point deficit to two points with seven minutes left to play.

Shoni Schimmel led all players with 25 points, earning a roar from Seminole fans

with every basket or rebound.

"We were surprised when so many people started coming out to see us, asking for autographs and all that. We never expected such a thing and really did not know what to make of it. Now we feel very honored to have so many friends care so much about us everywhere we go," said Jude Schimmel, 17, a 5-foot-6 junior guard who did not suit up for the USF game because of a sprained ankle; but she was there, block of ice taped to her lower leg, for the post-game meet and greet.

After the game, Tribal members filled the stands in one section, then formed a long line to take photos and have the players sign T-shirts, ball caps, bare skin and anything that would take a signature.



Native American basketball stars Jude and Shoni Schimmel, of the Louisville Cardinals, pose with PECS principal Brian Greseth, coach Tim Thomas, assistant coach Nancy Jimmie and the PECS girls' basketball team after their victorious game against University of South Florida.

Peter B. Gallagher

Ahfachkee girls' basketball team championship bound

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Ahfachkee School's varsity girls' basketball team was just a few games closer to delivering a monumental first in Florida regional competition history.

In packed bleachers at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, spectators cheered with every successful block, steal and basket.

"If we win this game, we'll be first in the district and could head to regionals," said principal Lucy Dafeo during the Jan. 17 game against Seacrest Country Day School at the Big Cypress Reservation.

The night's 57-46 victory against Seacrest Country Day School put the Lady Warriors at 12 wins and two losses for the overall season and at the top of 2A District 10.

Top scorers senior Gianna Wargolet and junior Sabre' Billie slammed 14 points and 17 points, respectively, in the game.

"The girls were on fire and Dayra (Koenes — eighth grade) played the best defense ever this year," said head coach Brandon Jones.

Other team members include Dasani Cypress (eighth grade), Malari Baker (senior), Leilani Gopher (sixth grade), Sara Osceola (senior) and Charli Frye (sixth grade).

The back and forth game against Seacrest, with Ahfachkee keeping the lead throughout,

kept spectators and the school's first official cheerleading squad on their feet.

Jones said the reservation school stands a good chance at becoming the first Native American school to go on to compete in the regional championship. Gualberto Mollings, a physical education teacher at Ahfachkee serves as the team's assistant coach.

Jones said he is proud of the team. "Yes, we're hoping to go to regionals, but we are building a legacy — that's more important than a championship," Jones said.



Eileen Soler

Sabre' Billie defends the ball against Seacrest in a Jan. 17 game that ended in victory for the Lady Warriors.

PECS kicks off basketball seasons



Amanda Murphy

With her eyes on the basket, Sunni Bearden dribbles the ball past three Yearling players.

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — For the second time this season, both Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School boys' and girls' basketball teams played their biggest rival, Yearling Middle School, Jan. 14. Although both teams lost, the PECS players showed growing strength and skill in each game.

The girls' team beat Yearling the week before but fell short the second game with a score of 27-63, partly due to missing players. Star point guard Sunni Bearden missed the first half but came in strong and scored some points for the team during the second half.

Coach Tim Thomas said the team has a strong defense but needs someone to step up on offense.

"Hopefully we can finish strong," he said.

As of press time, the girls are 9-3.

The boys' team, coached by Kevin Jackson, also played hard against Yearling. "We are a team that never gives up," Jackson said. "They play hard all the way through, [whether] we're down or up; it doesn't matter."

Jackson said despite the team's inexperience, they continue to improve and work hard.

"There's been some challenges but we're working through them," he said.

Jackson said one of the team's advantages is team leader Richard Harris, who plays guard and forward and leads the team in scoring and defense.



Amanda Murphy

Eighth-grader Richard Harris takes a shot while two Yearling players try to stop him, but his jumps and height are no match for them.

As of press time, the boys are 2-10.

During halftime of the girls' game, PECS elementary school students filled the court for a special performance in which the children sang and danced to *What Does the Fox Say?* The kindergarten through fifth-graders donned masks and matching outfits for the show, choreographed by P.E. teacher Kim Jackson.

♦ See more PECS photos on page 3C



Peter B. Gallagher

Fox Sports sideline reporter Roxanne Wilder interviews Justin Motlow after his 44-yard catch in the first quarter.

Tampa's Justin Motlow plays victoriously in Blue-Grey Game

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TAMPA — Justin Motlow recently finished his high school football career as one of the nation's top gridiron athletes and now awaits a phone call that will map out the next chapter of his life.

"Yes, we are waiting for the phone to ring. It's very exciting. We've had several calls and contacts from college recruiters," said proud mother Lisa Motlow. "Really, it is just a matter of time."

Justin Motlow, a Seminole Tribal member and All American wide receiver for Tampa Catholic High School, finished the season with 68 receptions and 1,151 yards receiving for the Crusaders. The team fell in the state playoffs to the eventual state champions, Jacksonville Trinity Christian High School.

In his storied career, the 5-foot-10, 185-pound speedster caught 119 passes for 2,013 yards (a 16.9 yards per catch average) — one of the best among national high schoolers.

He was also the team punter, averaging 40.64 yards for 45 punts his senior year.

"He could play with any team, anytime as a punter," Lisa Motlow said. "His coach told us that he saved the team numerous times with punts."

The very last play of his high school career is one he will remember, he said, referring to a jarring helmet-to-helmet crash with a Trinity defensive player that laid him flat before a hushed crowd.

"I had a headache for a long, long time after that hit," Justin Motlow said.

He was helped from the field, examined by the team doctor and sidelined, while his team finished the

fourth quarter on the wrong end of a 20-11 score.

"We were worried but all the tests showed that he had not suffered any concussion," Lisa Motlow said. "He had the headache, but he also had a big bruise on his thigh that happened on the same play that seemed to bother him more than anything else."

Tampa Catholic finished the season 10-3, ranking 36th of 568 high school football teams statewide in all divisions.

Justin Motlow, who maintains a vigorous daily workout regimen, made it back onto the field for the prestigious Blue-Grey All American Game at Raymond James Stadium (home of the NFL Tampa Bay Buccaneers) Jan. 11.

A member of the South squad, he snagged a 44-yard pass in the first quarter which led to the South's first touchdown and a tough 25-yard crossing pattern grab, in heavy traffic, near the end of regulation. The play led the team to a game-tying touchdown on an ensuing play just before the buzzer.

He caught four passes for 87 yards. He also made a game-saving tackle following an interception.

Motlow was instrumental in leading the South, which had trailed 41-7 in the third quarter, on an incredible comeback, winning the game in double overtime, 47-44.

Neither Lisa Motlow or husband, Clarence, want to discuss too much about their son's chances for a major college athletic scholarship.

At least not now.

"We are fielding a lot of calls and inquiries, and we'll have something to announce soon, I hope," Lisa Motlow said. "He's a very good boy — a great representative of the Seminole Tribe."

Daniel Nunez shines on the gridiron and in the classroom

BY EMMA JOHNS
Freelance Writer

OKEECHOBEE — Daniel Nunez Jr., a junior at Okeechobee High School (OHS), just wrapped up his third year as a varsity football player for the Okeechobee Brahmins. Nunez plays line backer, running back and full back and has enjoyed the sport since he was 9 years old.

Nunez maintains that his classroom performance is just as important as on-field performance, which he proved through his recent recognition as a Scholar Athlete, an award he has earned for three consecutive years.

"Being a three-year varsity letterman and Scholar Athlete means a lot to me," he said. "Most freshman do not make varsity, and to hold a 3.5 GPA during the season is not easy. I work really hard to keep my grades up."

Nunez said football helps him relieve the stress of school and other responsibilities throughout the week.

"It also helps me look at life differently and I appreciate everything, especially the life lessons that my coaches have taught me," he said.

Besides football and academics, Nunez also keeps busy on the OHS student government where he served as class president his freshman and sophomore year. He is also a member

of the National Young Leaders of America which gave him the opportunity to attend the presidential inauguration his sophomore year.

This year, in addition to his rigorous athletic and academic schedule, Nunez is taking two foreign languages — Creek and Spanish.

"Taking two foreign languages has been a challenge for me, but I am really looking forward to traveling to Spain for eight days with my Spanish teacher and three other students in March," he said.

Nunez said that his mother, Peggy Nunez, and father, Daniel Nunez Sr., have influenced his life the most.

"My dad has coached me since I was 5 and has taught me a lot about sports and life that I will take with me through life," Nunez said. "My mom has always been my biggest fan and has instilled in me that education is very important."

Aside from being a star student and athlete, Nunez is a great example for his three younger sisters Cheyenne, Joleyne and Dalayah and continues to make his older sister Courtney and parents proud.

After graduation, Nunez plans to attend college and study business administration.

"I plan on going to college, getting my degree and making my parents proud," he said.



Photo courtesy of Daniel Nunez Jr.

Daniel Nunez Jr. plays for Okeechobee High School.



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Siblings shine on field and court

Curtis Osceola celebrates state football championship

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

ANADARKO, Okla. — As a freshman at Anadarko High School in Oklahoma, Curtis Osceola, 15, already has a football state championship under his belt and he's only aiming higher. Osceola and the Anadarko Warriors won 40-0 against Poteau High School Dec. 14 in the Class 4A Oklahoma state championship, the school's second state title in three years.

"It felt good to play on that field," Osceola said. "I guess you could say it's a blessing that we won. We worked hard all year and it finally paid off."

Osceola is a wide receiver and outside linebacker on the junior varsity team, and he plays on varsity's special teams. He played in the last quarter of the championship game.

As hard as Osceola works on the field, he said he always puts school first. He hopes to receive a football scholarship to a Division 1 school when he graduates; University of Oklahoma and Florida State University are his prospects. Only a freshman, he is still uncertain about his career goals but knows he wants to be involved in physical education.

Osceola comes from a large family of athletes. His brother, Jarrid Smith, played football at Florida Atlantic University; his sister Kaitlynn Osceola plays basketball for Broward College; and another sister Cara Osceola attends Anadarko with him and plays basketball as well.

Osceola lives in Oklahoma with his mother, Tera Tartsah, but he comes to Hollywood whenever possible to visit his father, who he is named after.

"Watching him play makes me feel good real deep down in my heart," Curtis Osceola Sr. said. "It's a blessing from God."

Osceola has played football since childhood, and although he plays other sports throughout the year to stay in shape, he calls football "his sport."

Osceola stays connected to his heritage through his school, which is located in the self-titled "Indian Capital of the Nation" because of Anadarko's large population of Native Americans. The school has a full-time Indian Education director and staff.

With three more years of high school football,



Photo courtesy of Tera Tartsah

Curtis Osceola proudly holds the 2013 Class 4A Oklahoma State Championship trophy after beating Poteau High School Dec. 14.

Osceola has high hopes for the future and simple advice. "Hard work pays off," he said.



Beverly Bidney

Kaitlynn Osceola attempts to dribble the ball past a Baltimore City College player during a Dec. 19 game at Broward College.

Kaitlynn Osceola plays guard for Broward College

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Kaitlynn Osceola juggles the diverse aspects of her life with confidence. As a freshman at Broward College, she studies early education; as an athlete, she plays an integral part of the school's Seahawks basketball team; as a mother, she inspires her young daughter.

Osceola, 18, is driven by her love of basketball and her ambition to become a special education teacher. Her aspiration stems from witnessing her special needs cousin earn a kindergarten diploma.

"The smile on her face made me real passionate," said Osceola, who grew up in Anadarko, Okla. and now calls the Hollywood Reservation home. "From that moment I knew I wanted to help little kids with special needs."

After enrolling in Broward College in the fall, she contacted the basketball coach and made the team as a walk-on guard.

"Kaitlynn is a hustle player and brings extra energy to the team," said head coach Arlande Cherizol. "She knocks down shots and plays good defense; she has a lot of potential. She works hard and her work ethic will take her a lot of places."

Osceola enjoys playing ball while earning a degree but struggles with the amount of time academics and athletics take away from family. Many days include classes, studying and practice, leaving her little time with her boyfriend, Jose Hernandez, and their daughter, Jaselynn, 2.

"Sometimes when I get home from practice, she is asleep," Osceola said. "Once I do get time off, I'm excited to spend my time with them."

Although the schedule is demanding, Osceola perseveres in hopes of acting as a role model for her daughter. She looks forward to earning a bachelor's degree — and possibly a master's — and embarking on a rewarding career. The support she receives from her father, Curtis Osceola Sr., mother, Tera Tartsah, and seven brothers and sisters, keeps her going, she said. Her brother Jarrid Smith, who teaches at Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress, inspires her to continue.

"My family really does give me a lot of support," Osceola said. "They have pushed me to stay on top of what I want to do. When my daughter grows up, I want



Beverly Bidney

Kaitlynn Osceola blocks a player from Baltimore City College during a game at Broward College Dec. 19.

her to say I was her inspiration." She encourages other students or potential students to persevere.

"Just never give up when it gets hard," she said. "Don't ever let anyone get you down. Keep pushing forward, never give up and always say you can do it."



Photo courtesy of Tera Tartsah

Curtis Osceola's team, the Anadarko Warriors, comes together in celebration after winning the 2013 Class 4A Oklahoma State Championship Dec. 14.

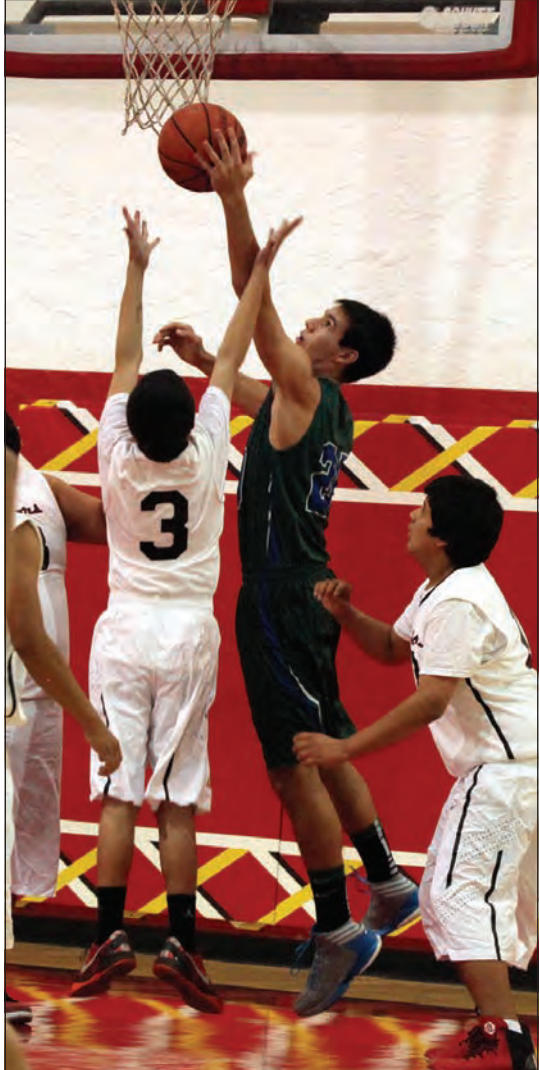
Ahfachkee boys stay in the game

◆ More PECS photos from page 1C



Eileen Soler

Issiah Alvarado recovers the ball Jan. 17 against Seacrest Country Day School. In the end, the game was lost by Ahfachkee 24-62.



Eileen Soler

Issiah Alvarado blocks a basket against Seacrest.



Amanda Murphy

Donning foxy masks and matching T-shirts, PECS elementary students are the stars of the halftime show, performing *What Does the Fox Say?*, a dance choreographed by P.E. teacher Kim Jackson.



Amanda Murphy

Team captain Camryn Thomas, who plays center, defends the ball from a rival player.



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School's first official cheerleading squad, derived from last year's 'scream team,' shows school spirit, pride and anticipation for a win.



Amanda Murphy

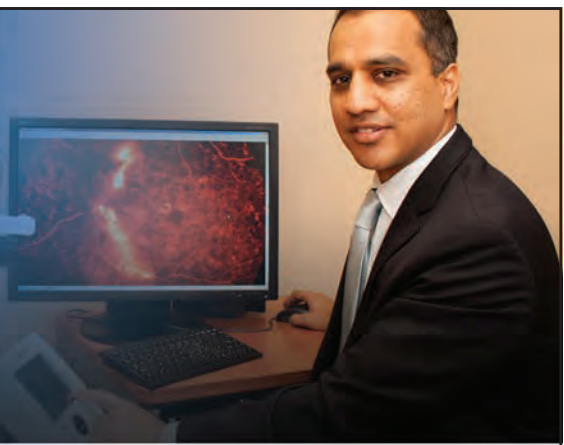
Despite the pressure, Morgan King breaks through Yearling defenders.



Amanda Murphy

Chandler Pearce dribbles the ball down the court, making sure to keep it from the Yearling player.

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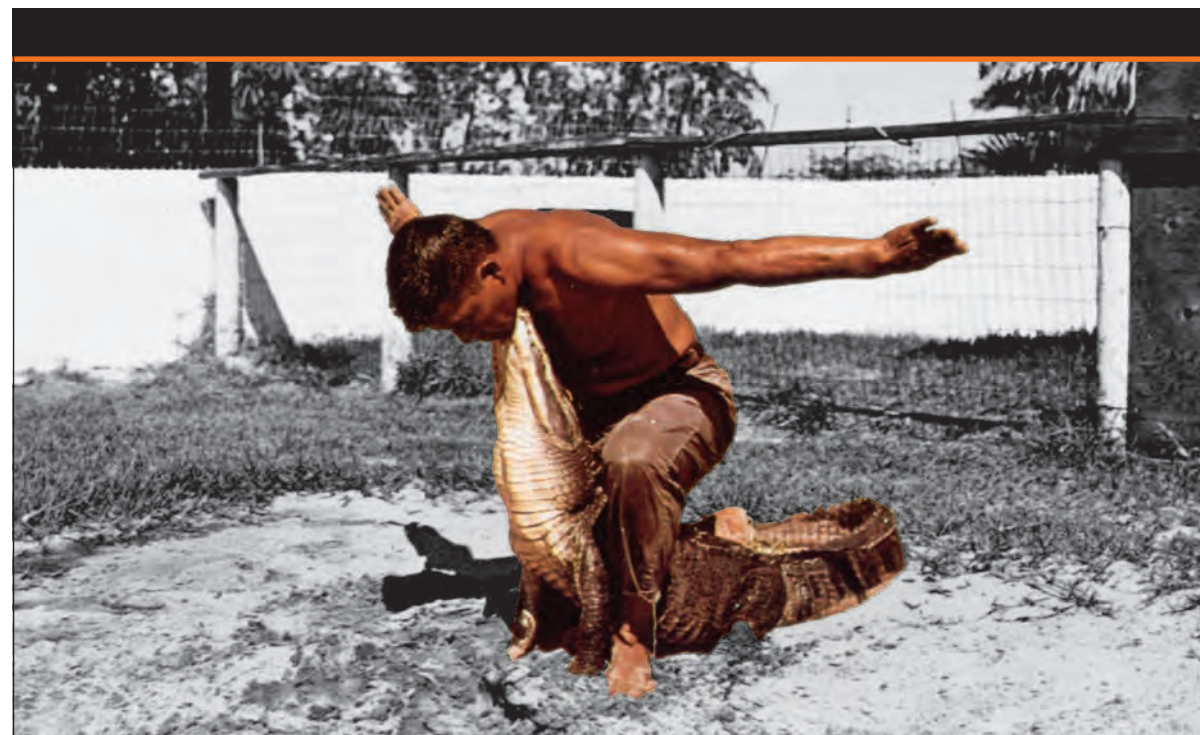
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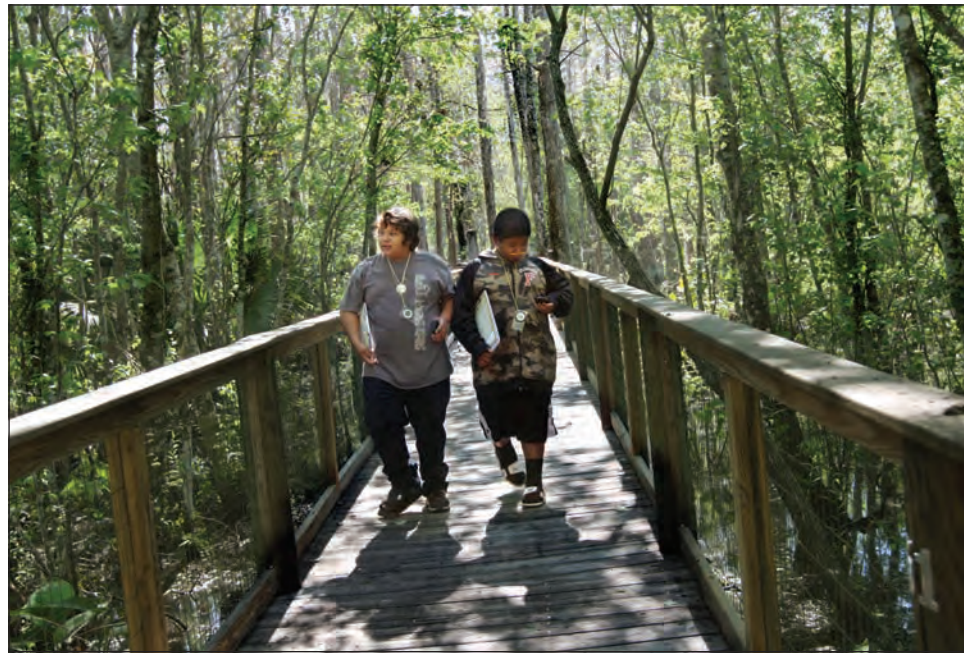


LOOKING BACK on 2013



Beverly Bidney

A ribbon cutting ceremony held Jan. 17 celebrates the Hollywood Classic Casino's \$10-million renovation, which included new efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning units, a new color scheme, wider aisles between slot machines and a refurbished bar.



Eileen Soler

Drake Lawrence and Donovan Harris, of Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School, use compasses Jan. 19 to walk the boardwalk during an educational Archaeology Day at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Beverly Bidney

Rebecca Vasquez shows off her bass guitar skills at the Boys & Girls Club concert Jan. 18.



Beverly Bidney

Chris Osceola competes in the NASA Legends tournament Jan. 10. Seven teams from three different Tribes competed and were comprised of players older than 40, with the average age being about 45.



Eileen Soler

Re-enacting a battle scene, Tylor Tigertail, of Big Cypress, lets out a battle cry after defeating U.S. foe James McMullen, of Everglades City, March 2 during the Big Cypress Shootout – Second Seminole War Reenactment.



Eileen Soler

Participants take off after 'Ready, set, go' is called at the start line for the 13th annual Rez Rally Jan. 19 in Hollywood.



Eileen Soler

Students Alexis James, Courtney Gore and Echo Billie ride Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's float Feb. 16 in the Brighton Field Day parade.



Beverly Bidney

A WISDOM Native American dancer performs at the opening of the 42nd Tribal Fair Feb. 8. The group consists of Winnebago, Iowa, Shawnee Sioux, Otoe and Missouri Tribes.



Beverly Bidney

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students stand still as Kenny Dobbs dunks a ball. Students were treated to the amateur slam-dunk champion's performance Feb. 15 as part of Brighton Field Day.



Eileen Spiegler

Amarani Brook takes her turn sifting corn during a traditional corn roasting lesson for preschoolers Feb. 7 in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

During the Roger Smith Memorial Cattle Drive, about 100 people led by his riderless horse Goldie, move a herd of cattle through Smith's four pastures and into a field in Brighton March 16.



Eileen Soler

Seminole Tribe elected officials pose for photos April 16 during the groundbreaking for the new Brighton Public Safety Administration Building.



Beverly Bidney

Rhett Tiger paces himself during the 800-meter race at the Jim Thorpe Games in Oklahoma City June 9-15. Tiger won the gold medal for this race and a silver in the 1600-meter race.



Beverly Bidney

A group of Police Explorers smiles in front of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C. during National Police Week May 12-16.



Eileen Soler

From left, Ahfachkee School graduates Bradley Osceola, Tylor Tigertail, Ronnie Billie, Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, Dannie Jae Tommie and Tequesta Tiger celebrate by tossing their mortarboards seconds after commencement exercises May 28 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.



Beverly Bidney

Democracy is on display June 3 as representatives of the Council and Board of Directors are inaugurated in Hollywood, assuring a smooth transition of leadership within the Tribe.



Beverly Bidney

Boys splash around June 24 during the Education incentives celebration at the Hard Rock pool.



Eileen Soler

During the California College Tour in June, students pose for a scenic photo at Santa Barbara City College.



Eileen Soler

Teens inaugurate the first Ahfachkee School prom May 10 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium turned high-end banquet hall.



Beverly Bidney

Norman 'Skeeter' Bowers scales fish with Bayra Boromei and Cady Osceola during Brighton Culture Camp in May.



Judy Weeks

The Immokalee Seminole Culture float wins first place in the Harvest Festival Parade for the third consecutive year April 13.



Peter B. Gallagher

During a trip to Andros Island June 15 to visit Seminole descendants, Chairman James E. Billie is interviewed by Bahamas National TV at the Andros Crab Fest.



Eileen Soler

Nearly 100 students from Miccosukee Indian School in Miami and Ahfachkee School on the Big Cypress Reservation converge at Ahfachkee's campus field Sept. 26 to play in the first Seminole versus Miccosukee stickball game.



Miguel Freire

Seminole Media Productions Workshop participants pose with guest speaker and artist Bunky Echo-Hawk after the community event staged entirely by the participants July 25.



Andrea Holata

Jaryaca Baker and teammates celebrate winning the NAYO tournament for their division in August.



Brett Daly

Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie, left, and Miss Seminole Tia Blais-Billie pose with Chairman James E. Billie after being crowned July 27.



David Diaz

A freeze frame of Immokalee's Harlem Shake video shows why they took first place in the Seminole Media Productions video contest in July.



Beverly Bidney

Players sit at the final table of the main event of the Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open in August.



Beverly Bidney

Hunter Osceola, right, takes aim at the basket during the Native American Basketball Invitational in Phoenix July 17-21.



Eileen Soler

A Camp Kulaqua teen junior counselor gets in on wet and wacky fun off The Blob during the second week of camp in August. Every second from dawn until deep into the starry night was filled with fun, adventure and learning for about 235 Tribal children at the sleepover summer camp.



Beverly Bidney

Tribal representatives and officials pose with the new Seminole electronic cigarette vending machine at the Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas in September.



Eileen Soler

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Sally Tommie, movers and shakers of the Fort Pierce Community Hope Center, walk off the construction site Sept. 20 as a bulldozer takes the first step in building the long-awaited project.



Beverly Bidney

Youngsters compete in a hog chase during the Hollywood Fourth of July celebration.



Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola holds one of the first Hard Rock Energy drink cans. The first set came off the assembly line Dec. 5 in Miami, filling 72,000 by the end of the day.

Color Run participants start the event with a ceremonial tossing of the colors on the Hollywood Ball Field Oct. 25 as part of Red Ribbon Week.

Tribal members represent the Seminole Tribe at Florida State University's Homecoming game, posing with Osceola and Renegade Nov. 16.



Tribal seniors take their marks during the Trike Fest Oct. 24 on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Tribal member Andre Jumper, No. 15, and the American Heritage Patriots celebrate after winning a state title Dec. 13 at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando.

Jacoby Johns is jubilant after scoring a 74 in the saddle bronc third round at the 38th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo in November.



Kindergartners wave red ribbons during the Walk out on Drugs March Oct. 22, part of Red Ribbon Week in Brighton.

Jane Stockton and beloved family members show Christmas love Dec. 17 at the Fort Pierce Christmas dinner.

This child flies high on bungee cords, among the many attractions at the Immokalee Halloween festivities in October.



Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie, Staff Sgt. Gabriel Coppedge, Ben Humphries, of the Vietnam Veterans of America, and Chairman James E. Billie share a laugh during the Veterans Day event in Brighton Nov. 7.

Marcela Osceola leaves a trail of yellow as she runs to the next obstacle station Oct. 25 during the Color Run in Hollywood, as part of Red Ribbon Week.

Marilee Johns, of Brighton, runs full speed toward the finish in the barrel racing event during the 38th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in November.



Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank poses with representatives of the Swinomish Tribe, of Washington. The Seminole Tribe and the Swinomish Tribe cemented the first native-to-native business endeavor in the U.S., trading Seminole Pride products for Swinomish Fish Company products.

During the College Fair Oct. 4, Nicole Osceola, a Tribal student ambassador for Cosmix School of Makeup Artistry, provides a visual aid for her school by giving makeovers to prospective students.