



Education incentive awards honor hard-working youth
EDUCATION ♦ 2B

Billie Swamp Safari celebrates new beginnings
COMMUNITY ♦ 3A

Rez Runners capture NABI championship
SPORTS ♦ 1C



The Seminole

Voice of the Unconquered



Tribune

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First Creek dictionary set for publication

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

The endangered native language of Brighton residents will get a reprieve from extinction when the first Creek language dictionary is printed in book form early next year.

Tribal Council recently approved an agreement with University Press of Florida to publish *Este Semvnoivke Enponakv, The Language of the Seminole People: An Outline Grammar and Basic Dictionary of the Florida Seminole Creek*.

The project, founded by Brighton Cultural Programs director Lorene Gopher, is nearly 20 years in the making.

"I went to a culture workshop in the early 1990s and realized that our people were losing the language. We still had it, but there was no way to maintain it," Gopher said. "If we don't do what we can to preserve our language, then when it's gone, it will be totally gone."

Gopher, Jenny Shore and world-renowned linguist Julian Granberry began a campaign to list, define and phonetically express Creek words that for centuries had been passed orally. The language is named for those whose ancestral bloodlines hail from lands near watery passages in regions that became Georgia and Alabama.

Paul Backhouse, director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, said language is the "heartbeat of the culture; the central thing that makes a culture. When it disappears, so does the way of thinking – the very pattern of thought."

According to a 2010 report from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, only about 175 of the original 300 reported Native American languages still exist. Five of the top 25 most endangered languages of the world are Native American.

♦ See DICTIONARY on page 2A

Gaming boasts two promotions in TCD program

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The best advice Jim Osceola III received propelled him into a career with Seminole Gaming, where as a member of the Tribal Career Development (TCD) program he was recently promoted to director of Hospitality.

"Back in 1979, Chairman James Billie told me when I get my degree, don't come back here," Osceola said. "He said, 'Go somewhere, learn something. When you have something to teach us, come back.' I took it literally and worked all over the world."

A graduate of Johnson and Wales University with a Bachelor of Science in culinary arts, Osceola has worked in 15 countries. Knowledge and experience in hand, he returned eight years ago and joined TCD. He said the highlight of the program is gaining in-depth knowledge of the gaming industry.

"I've seen it grow and all the legal battles," Osceola said. "It's really satisfying sitting on top of the pile as king of the hill, not just in Indian gaming but in gaming in the U.S."

TCD aims to train Tribal members to manage the Gaming business. Paid trainees work their way through each Gaming department, receive mentoring from supervisors and learn from on-the-job training.

♦ See PROMOTIONS on page 5A

Seminole warriors compete at North American Indigenous Games

Sanchez brothers earn gold and silver in wrestling



Ryan Watson

Team Florida's Samuel Micco Sanchez, top, gains the upper hand against an opponent from Quebec's Eastern Door and the North team during a wrestling match at the North American Indigenous Games in Regina, Saskatchewan July 22. Samuel, 14, weighs 187 pounds, but he wrestled in the 220-pound division and won the gold medal.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

REGINA, Saskatchewan — Getting to western Canada turned out to be only part of the challenge that Team Florida's medal winners had to tackle in the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG).

Similar to others from the Seminole Tribe of Florida contingent that competed as Team Florida, Samuel Micco Sanchez and his older brother, Jesse Sanchez, endured travel difficulties trying to get to NAIG in Regina, Saskatchewan, where thousands of athletes from throughout the U.S. and Canada gathered for the Olympic-style competition July 20-26. Team British Columbia finished with the most medals (160) and Team Saskatchewan captured the most gold (72).

Stuck in a Detroit airport due to

airline problems, the brothers from Fort Gibson, Okla. were in danger of missing a mandatory weigh-in for wrestlers. That's when the Tribe's jet came to the rescue and whisked the boys from the Motor City to Regina.

The move paid off as Samuel, 14, won the gold medal in the 220-pound class and Jesse, 17, earned silver in 187. Having medals placed around their necks came despite the competition being held in a freestyle format, which surprised the brothers who wrestle a different style in Oklahoma.

"When they said freestyle, we had no idea what to do," Samuel said the day after his victory while sitting with his family in the lobby of the Regina Radisson.

In addition to the travel issues and being unfamiliar to the format, Samuel also had to wrestle in a heavier class. Both

brothers weigh 187 pounds. Since two members from the same team can't wrestle in the same class, Samuel was booted up to 220 while Jesse stayed at 187.

"It was a big deal," Samuel said about the shift.

"[Samuel] was wrestling kids 40 pounds heavier; it was almost like David and Goliath in the finals match," said Sammy Johnson, Fort Gibson High School's wrestling coach who coached the brothers at NAIG.

Samuel won his first two matches to reach the championship bout against Nick Metoxen from Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin. NAIG's final match of its one-day wrestling segment at the University of Regina proved to be golden for Samuel, who overcame an early points deficit.

♦ See NAIG on page 4C

Naples lake to be named for Alice Micco Snow

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

NAPLES — A freshwater lake on the grounds of the Naples Botanical Garden will be named for the late Seminole Tribe traditional herbalist Alice Micco Snow during a Nov. 15 ceremony in her honor.

Snow's acquaintances, Collier County residents Sue and Duane Burnham, have bequeathed a large monetary gift to the Gardens asking that the lake be named in memory of the Seminole "medicine carrier," who passed away in 2008. Snow was known to provide instruction at Naples Botanical Garden for persons interested in native Florida plants.

Currently closed during construction of a new Visitor Center, the Naples Botanical Garden will reopen just prior to the Nov. 15 event, which will be free to Seminole Tribal members and will include tours of one of Southwest Florida's most dynamic collections of natural Florida flora.

Planning is ongoing for the event, which will include the unveiling of a sign adorned with Snow's photo that will be installed permanently on the edge of the lake.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff will meet with Naples Botanical Garden staff regarding a planned exhibit associated with the work of Snow, who spoke English, Creek and Mikasuki and worked most of her life as a translator and an herbalist for the Seminole Tribe.

Tribal members interested in attending the event should contact Salina Dorgan, the youngest daughter of Snow, at SalinaDorgan@semtribe.com.



State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory, Irvin M. Peithmann Collection

Alice Micco Snow, left, and Leona Smith sit in front of a church on the Brighton Reservation in this 1950s-era photo.

Tribe versus FPL is war of words

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

LABELLE — The Tribe's three-year legal battle against a 2011 Hendry County land zoning change that could clear the way for a mammoth electrical power plant to be built next door to the Big Cypress Reservation has become a war of words.

For the Tribe, lawyers argued in trial July 14-17 at the Hendry County Courthouse that the zoning change cannot be interpreted to allow the power plant because it is inconsistent with the county's comprehensive land plan – a document that precedes and trumps zoning changes.

On the other side, lawyers for Florida Power & Light (FPL), Hendry County and McDaniel Reserve Realty Holdings maintained that both the zoning change and comprehensive land plan allow the power plant because, though the documents use different words to describe the land uses, the words are interchangeable.

Definitions of "utility" and "electric generation" clashed, according to witnesses called to testify by either side.

The property, about three football fields from the future Ahfachkee High School on the west side of County Road 833, was rezoned from agricultural to PUD, a planned unit development of mixed uses, such as homes, shops, schools, industry and utilities. However, do the words "utility" and "industry" sanction plans to build one of the largest power plants in the United States on the property?

"Yes," said Roxane Kennedy, an operations vice president for FPL during

testimony. Hendry County associate planner Sarah Catala agreed on the stand as defense lawyers moved to prove that a power plant is equally a utility and an industry.

Robert Pennock, a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners and a professor of applied demographics at Florida State University disagreed. He said the use of different words to define the same thing in a comprehensive land plan "would lead to mass confusion." Pennock said the rezoning order and the land use plan are contradictory and poked with "jibbery general statements."

Pennock testified that the county had already defined "utility" and "electrical generation" by use of the very words in the comprehensive land plan. "Utility" showed up 275 times in the land plan but never in the context of a power plant.

"The term 'electrical generation' shows up only in industrial use," Pennock said. "Utilities" is used throughout the plan when referring to water, sewer, electricity and other services for common use, such as in homes and businesses.

"There is no logical reason to think that 'utility' means electrical power plant," Pennock said.

The fight was initiated in June 2011 by the Tribe after the county changed the property's land zoning from agriculture to PUD at the urging of former landowner Eddie Garcia, who sold the property to FPL. Garcia is a developer from Virginia Beach and the owner of McDaniel Reserve Realty Holdings.

Samuel Tommie, who attended the trial as a concerned member of the Seminole

"At the core of the community, we live here because we enjoy being a part of nature. It's who we always were. If we want to be in the city we can go there, but this is our home. This is literally our ancestry."

– Samuel Tommie, Seminole Tribe member

Tribe, said the defendants have been "working the system all along."

"It seems to be that they have language written certain ways so they can say it means something different. They keep trying to reinterpret for their own good to get what they want," Tommie said.

In pretrial hearings, Lee County Judge Donald Mason laid ground rules that wildlife, wetland or water were not to be argued. Testimony could only apply to whether the zoning change was made in harmony with the county's comprehensive land plan.

"If the answer to the question is, 'Yes, a power plant is allowed,' then you can get

into the appropriateness," Mason said. "If no, it's a game ender."

Mason hopes to deliver his decision by Sept. 1.

But the gorilla in the room for Tribal members was exactly the wildlife, water and wetland, and also the cultural and historical significance of the land. And because some land use policies require that environmental and historical aspects of land be surveyed and documented, some wetland maps and archaeological reports were permitted as evidence to prove that mandated reports were completed.

An assessment of the land provided by FPL via veteran Florida archaeologist Bob Carr, however, revealed a military trail used during the Seminole Wars that could be entered into the National Register of Historic Places.

Among nearly 30 identified archaeological sites, eight were listed as possible for the historic register. The trail runs diagonally from the northwest corner to the center border along Snake Road. Items found at some sites, according to documents, were prehistoric shell mounds, possible munitions from the 1800s, a Seminole brass strip likely from the 1800s and at least one indicator of a prehistoric burial.

In the context of water and wetlands, a map of the area used at trial showed the rezoned area and where FPL might build the electrical plant structure. Not permitted was testimony that the map included 850 acres of nature preserve.

♦ See FPL on page 2A

INSIDE:

Community3A
Health8A

Education 1B
Sports1C

Announcements....6C

Seminole Tribe celebrates Fourth of July. See photos on page 6A.

Native American Journalists Association welcomes new media

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) embraced the past and present at its annual conference July 10-13 in Santa Clara, Calif. The conference theme, "Going Tra-Digital," marked the combination of honoring Native traditions while using modern technology, including social media, in newsrooms throughout Indian Country. "Our traditions shape our culture and we are carrying that into the digital realm," said Rebecca Landsberry, NAJA membership and communications manager. "Social media is changing the way we do journalism."

NAJA strives to improve communications among Native people and between Native Americans and the general public. Founded in 1984, it began as a conversation between Native American journalists who agreed an organization was needed to address the barriers and challenges facing Native American

journalists and to build on the strengths of Native communications.

NAJA also provides a network of support for its members, including a legal hotline.

Conference seminars and panel discussions touched on ways to tell stories using new platforms, while protecting the Native voice in the media.

"Mobile training is important to get the stories out," said Dalton Walker, of the Ojibwe Tribe. "We need to take the traditional and bring it to the digital so our stories aren't lost. Digital will capture stories for the future. It is the new tradition."

Former NAJA president Mark Trahan, of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, said Native stories cannot be told unless they are shared, re-posted and sent around using new media.

"Social media is our history," said Trahan, an independent journalist and teacher at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

For 20 years the conference has offered student journalists hands-on experience in

the field. This year five high school and nine college students worked with mentors in print, radio, video, social media and online mediums to cover the conference and develop feature stories. The stories were shown in video presentations and were printed in the Native Voice newspaper.

"Establishing NAJA as a pipeline for Native students going into the media is one of the most important reasons we're here," said Landsberry, of the Muskogee Creek Tribe. "Whether the students go into mainstream or Tribal media, NAJA is proud to highlight them as they move up in their careers. Former students are now on the NAJA Board of Directors. It's come full circle."

The conference boasted its highest attendance in years; 310 journalists came from around the U.S. and Canada.

"There's an energy I haven't felt before, a momentum," said NAJA executive director Pamala Silas, of the Menominee Tribe. "People are revved up and ready to get serious. There's a renewal of confidence and people are taking a breath."

The 30th anniversary of the organization was also commemorated with a panel discussion on freedom of the press. NAJA president Mary Hudetz kicked off the anniversary luncheon.

"Thirty years ago, some people gathered to discuss the challenges facing them, including freedom of the press," said Hudetz, of the Crow Tribe. "Thirty years later, that's still a challenge."

A panel of journalists from the Osage News, Cherokee Phoenix and Navajo Times discussed free press issues they have faced. The Osage, Cherokee and Navajo Tribes all have constitutional amendments allowing for free press, but the newspapers still run into issues with their Tribes.

The Osage News and the Cherokee

Phoenix have editorial boards to buffer them from conflict with Tribal leaders. The Navajo Times is incorporated as a for-profit corporation with shares owned by the Navajo people.

"We gained the trust of our readers, and they trust us to tell the truth," said Tom Arviso Jr., CEO of Navajo Times Publishing Co.

Certain information will never be covered through their respective newspapers, radio broadcasts and television stations.

"We all share a respect for our culture," said Bryan Pollard, executive editor of the Cherokee Phoenix. "We don't report on some ceremonies; our people determine our boundaries."

Seminole Tribune earns 10 NAJA Media Awards

STAFF REPORT

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The Seminole Tribune earned 10 awards in the 2014 Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) Media Awards competition. The awards were presented during NAJA's annual conference July 10-13 in Santa Clara, Calif.

The competition recognizes excellence in reporting by Native and non-Native journalists working in Indian Country across the U.S. and Canada.

The Tribune won first-place awards for general excellence and best layout. Reporter/photographer Eileen Soler won six awards for stories and photos, and reporter/photographer Beverly Bidney earned two awards for photography.

"The Media Awards are an important part of NAJA," said Rebecca Landsberry, NAJA membership and communications manager. "We recognize our members and their excellence in the field."

The Tribune competed against other monthly and semimonthly publications with circulations between 4,000 and 8,000. The reporters competed in the Associates Division for non-Native reporters.

The Seminole Tribune awards are:

Best Layout – Print
First Place

General Excellence – Print
First Place

Best Environmental Story – Print

Second Place
Eileen Soler

At Big Cypress, invasive species on eviction list

Best Sports Photo – Print

First Place
Eileen Soler

Bucking bronco challenges Rodeo cowboy

Second Place
Beverly Bidney

Slam-dunk champion Kenny Dobbs jumps youth

Third Place
Beverly Bidney

From the sand trap

Best Feature Photo – Print

First Place
Eileen Soler

Elder's hands create Seminole keepsakes

Second Place
Eileen Soler

Shawl dancer exemplifies tradition

Best Feature Story – Print

Second Place
Eileen Soler

Cattlemen forge ahead

Best News Story – Print

Third Place
Eileen Soler

Seminole Swinomish secure first intertribal commerce



Beverly Bidney

From left on panel, Shannon Shaw Duty, of the Osage News; Bryan Pollard, of the Cherokee Phoenix; and Tom Arviso Jr., of the Navajo Times, speak on freedom of the press July 11 during the 30th anniversary luncheon at the Native American Journalists Association conference in Santa Clara, Calif.

◆ FPL From page 1A

According to the South Florida Water Management District, the property is in the Lower Western Basins, which are tributary to the Everglades and subject to regulation by the state's Everglades Forever Act.

The trial also did not include a Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service letter sent to FPL in 2011 stating that the land is a proven habitat for several endangered species, including the caracara bird and the Florida panther. All but 6 acres of the land is included in the agency's Panther Focus Area.

But FPL spokeswoman Sarah Gatewood said that no definite plans have been made to build any electrical power facility on the land.

"We are always conducting ongoing plans and looking into places all over the state. No definite site has been picked out or plans made. Hendry County is just one place we are looking," Gatewood said. "Basically, we're always looking and planning toward the future."

However, FPL has filed a succession of 10-year plans in recent years to the Florida Public Service Commission that exponentially expanded plans for a site in Hendry County.

In 2010, the plan called for a solar energy facility on a 1,500-acre location to be determined later; in 2011, the plan suggested a solar or a fossil fuel energy facility. In 2012, the plan put the plant on the 3,120-acre site immediately north of the Big Cypress Reservation boarder. By 2013, the 10-year plan revealed that the plant would likely be a natural gas-fired combined combustion operation to be constructed after 2016 with the possibility of solar produced energy.

During testimony, Kennedy said the footprint of the plant could be the size of the West County Energy Center in West Palm Beach, which could cover 300 to 400 acres and consist of three sets of three 15-story

steam emission towers, combine generator units for each set and large peripheral water cooling pools.

The company's 2014 10-year plan indicates that about 22 million gallons of water per day will be required from the Florida aquifer to operate the plant. The aquifer is the main source of water for Hendry, including all predominately agriculture dependent neighbors.

Gatewood said the community, local government "and all stakeholders" will be notified if or when plans to definitely built the plant move forward.

"Every decision we make is focused on what is right for our neighbors, stakeholders and the environment," Gatewood said.

The Tribe is also in the midst of a second separate lawsuit with Hendry County to overturn an amendment to the zoning change, passed by county commissioners in May, that the lawyers say opens the door further to industrial intrusion countywide.

For Tommie, too much is at stake for the Big Cypress community for the power plant to be allowed. Wildlife, water, the night sky and the everyday peaceful environment will be damaged. He said the power plant would be like a knife in the back of all Tribe members.

"At the core of the community, we live here because we enjoy being a part of nature. It's who we always were," Tommie said. "If we want to be in the city we can go there, but this is our home. This is literally our ancestry."



Eileen Soler

The West County Energy Center in West Palm Beach could be duplicated right next door to the Big Cypress Reservation.

◆ DICTIONARY From page 1A

Backhouse, who is serving as publication coordinator, said early translations of Creek to English were problematic because they were made by colonizing and missionary English who recorded what they thought the Creeks were communicating. In the case of the Creek dictionary, words were presented to language-fluent elders and then fit to English.

Many new words, such as "computer" and "astronaut," had not yet evolved to 21st century Creek vocabulary, so they were created by elders for succinct and final translation. New words include *ccto soponakv* for "television," which literally means "metal to talk with," and *estzketz* for "airplane," which literally translates to "something to fly with."

Lewis Gopher, tribalwide cultural events specialist and head of culture education at Brighton, said only about 20 elders speak Creek fluently. But there is hope, he said, adding that the language is part of Brighton's Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School curriculum, which makes the dictionary a vital classroom component.

"It's entirely needed. On a personal basis alone, I will be able to learn on my own and my kids will have a book in school," said Lewis Gopher, the son of Lorene Gopher.

About 3,000 words are ready for the dictionary, which will list words from Creek to English and from English to Creek.

Backhouse said the completed manuscript is to be delivered to the publisher Sept. 1.

Royalties will be paid to the Tribe for use by the Tribe.

But the dictionary comes with some controversy, Lewis Gopher said. Tradition holds that language is provided by the Creator, the Breath Giver, and not meant to be written on paper or available to the world. To do so could bring harm.

"Now here we are, ready to be published and my mother is sick and aware of the consequence. What a sacrifice she made to preserve our identity that goes much deeper than modern buildings or the Red Barn," Lewis Gopher said. "The depth of her work will go on to the next century."



Eileen Soler

An example of the Creek alphabet, which consists of 19 letters, hangs in art form at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Mosaic Gallery.

The Seminole Tribune is a member of the Native American Journalists Association.

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Community



Growth spurt at Billie Swamp Safari spawns new life

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Life is blooming at Billie Swamp Safari from a sunflower cluster at the Seminole village to the triplet of mischievous toddler otters named River, Kora and Daisy.

Two infant bobcats, a 6-month-old grizzly bear, a cadre of new staff members and a handful of venue renovations are bringing new face to the 21-year-old, eco-friendly tourist destination.

“It’s much better than I remember. So much is improved,” said Paul Mack, of Plantation, who visited recently for the first time since 2007.

Acting director Wovoka Tommie said the place, first and foremost, has a new attitude. Nearly 34 staff members are now cross-trained to handle several job descriptions, which allows for improved customer relations. Everyone is expected to promote a cheerful and welcoming environment.

“We are strong in teamwork and camaraderie. Here, everything is your job,” Tommie said. “These days, when our staff goes out there smiling, people smile back and talk to us. That’s how it should be.”

Small changes paint the bigger, better picture, Tommie said of the makeover that began in mid-2013.

The alligator pit now includes cypress tree features and a waterfall in the sandy upland area. Three large amphitheater chickees provide stadium seating and clear views for spectators of all sizes. Paths that lead guests through the area are artistically fossilized with animal tracks, palm fronds and small swamp creatures.

Inside the gift shop, where recordings of Seminole songs and Everglades wildlife gently sound, the sales floor is cleanly divided into sections for authentic Native American-produced items and souvenirs.

Seven knowledgeable eco-tour guides are on hand for swamp buggy and airboat excursions through the 2,200-acre preserve.

At the expanded Seminole village, a large vegetable garden stands out amid new cooking, sleeping and work chickees. There, tourists view how Tribal families survived, and how some still live, in the Everglades. A pathway cuts through a series of closed, but rustic, chickee cabins for overnight stays.

Mack, who visited with his wife, Marlene, and twin granddaughters Lily and Madelyn, said he would “love” to

“It’s a fantastic idea to come out and stay for a few days. Just to be out here in the wilderness would be an adventure not far from home.”

— Paul Mack, Billie Swamp Safari patron



Noogie, a six-month-old grizzly bear, is the center of attention for tourist cell phone photographers on a recent day at Billie Swamp Safari on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Eileen Soler



A youth travel baseball team with players from California, Nevada and Florida take in the watery vista aboard an airboat at Billie Swamp Safari.

Eileen Soler

Seniors catch Seminole fever at meet and greet

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — Meeting a fellow unconquered people was a memorable experience for a group of Big Cypress seniors who traveled to Florida State University July 17 to meet members of the undefeated 2013 BCS championship Seminoles football team.

“The players wanted to meet the seniors,” said Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, a newly minted senior himself. “The coach wants to have a better relationship with the Tribe; this is the third

or fourth time the seniors have been invited back.”

Decked out in traditional patchwork, some incorporating FSU colors and logos, seniors watched nearly 600 high school players participate in the Jimbo Fisher Football Camp at the team’s training facility on campus. Past and present FSU football stars, including NFL Hall of Famer and former FSU outside linebacker Derrick Brooks, safety LaMarcus Brutus, tight end Nick O’Leary and FSU athletic director Stan Wilcox, came by to greet them and to pose for photos.

◆ See FSU on page 4A



Beverly Bidney

Stacy Cypress, Mary Robbins and Nancy Motlow are happy to be in the company of FSU defensive end DeMarcus Walker during a visit to Florida State University July 17.

stay in the chickees that line the adjacent wetland where alligators and other wildlife proliferate.

“It’s a fantastic idea to come out and stay for a few days. Just to be out here in the wilderness would be an adventure not far from home,” Mack said.

About 2,000 visitors a week come through the place during tourist season, Tommie said.

“We’re the only park in Florida that offers everything we do,” he said. “But we’re not extravagant with any of it. What people see is what was always here.”

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger said current renovations and upgrades will be completed by the end of summer. A rustic aviary for three falcons and an owl, an otter habitat that will include a river feature and shelter, and a half-acre cage for Noogie,

the ever-growing baby grizzly bear, are in various phases of construction.

Meanwhile, tourists can watch Noogie, the otters and the bobcats learn to play and thrive in temporary homes under the direction of trainers Jodi Reynolds and Jasmine Shotts.

“We don’t teach the animals to do tricks – it’s about interaction, creating bonds and learning limits. These are never just animals in a cage,” said Reynolds, a 28-year veteran animal handler.

Visitors can see and touch an anteater, skunk, armadillo and other four-legged friends during daily shows at Fort Critter animal theater.

Reynolds said Noogie and most of the other exotic animals are rescues. Liberty, an 8-year-old Florida panther housed at the attraction, was also rescued.

Councilman Tiger said the future will bring more new beginnings. He hopes to see a zip line installed at the scene.

He also noted continuing customer service and menu improvements at the Swamp Water Cafe, under different Tribal management, where tourists can taste Seminole fare: frog legs, gator tail and Indian tacos. For the first time, he said, the restaurant is on the brink of turning a profit.

“Tourists are coming back to the safari, eating at the cafe and giving both better reviews,” he said. “We know where we were at Billie Swamp a few months ago and where we are now. There has been a big difference made but there are more improvements to come.”

◆ See more SAFARI news on page 4A

Lady gator wrestler a first for Billie Swamp Safari

Sarah Hall captivates crowds at Big Cypress attraction

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — For the first time since Billie Swamp Safari opened 21 years ago at Big Cypress Reservation, a female employee is wrestling alligators.

Athletic, pretty and brave, Sarah Hall, 27, captivates crowds several times a week when she enters the gator pit for go-rounds with some of the largest and meanest of the attraction’s super-toothy beasts.

“I was raised rough out here in the woods. I’m really just a little country girl or a big tomboy. You pick,” said Hall, who is married to Seminole Tribe member Eli Hall.

A fighter in the Tribe’s youth boxing program when she was just 15, Hall earned her mettle by hunting armadillo, snakes and hogs with her bare hands in nearby Cannon Hammock just 10 minutes from Billie Swamp. She became a tour guide at the venue in 2013.

Wovoka Tommie, acting director of Billie Swamp, said Hall was trained in late June by long-time alligator wrestler Paul Simmons. A male employee, Julian Keen, also completed training. Both debuted to public audiences that same week.

According to tradition, potential wrestlers must request permission from a member of the Snake Clan. In this case, Esther Gopher, who has carried on the tradition of her matrilineal ancestors, granted the approval.

Everett Osceola, an alligator wrestler and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum management trainee who has lectured about the practice, said Tribal women are traditionally prohibited from alligator wrestling. The unwritten law dates back to times of great strife, including wars, when the lives of women were held more sacred than men because they ensured the continuation of the matrilineal society.

“Only women bear children and carry on the family,” Osceola said.



Sarah Hall, the first female alligator wrestler at Billie Swamp Safari, puts on a show July 10.

Eileen Soler

Hall, who is Mexican, said no formal schooling could teach her how to maintain control over an alligator in face-to-face performances. For her, experience provided the best education.

“I did some research to be a tour guide and then the critter shows taught me more about the do’s and don’ts,” Hall said. “The only creatures I am afraid of – do not like them one bit – are spiders. They make the hairs on my arms stand up.”

Before entering the pit, Hall surveys the scene to assess the location of every living creature inside, including other handlers who assist during the show, other alligators, turtles and birds. She then says a silent and

short prayer before confronting the gator. “I ask God to guide my hands over the animal,” Hall said.

After the brief meditation, she surrenders her attention entirely to the massive amphibian that can rip limbs from humans in the blink of an eye.

In the past year alone, three wrestlers have been bit by alligators on Seminole reservations. In fact, Billie Swamp employee Mike Alvarado suffered a bite to his hand while training with Hall and Keen. He is recuperating.

“Is it worth the risk? Yes, definitely. My attitude has always been, ‘Whatever it kill you, makes you stronger,’” Hall said.



Gordon Wareham

From left, Van Samuels, Everett Osceola and Ian Tyson lend their expertise on Seminole culture and alligator wrestling June 18 during a culture sharing event at Stranahan House in Fort Lauderdale.

Tribe shares culture at Stranahan House

BY GORDON WAREHAM
Freelance Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE — A cool summer breeze blowing in from the New River and James E. Billie's song *Big*



Gordon Wareham

Everett Osceola describes how Seminoles used alligators for food, clothing and trade.

Alligator playing in the background created the ambiance for a Seminole culture sharing event June 18 at Stranahan House in Fort Lauderdale.

Dubbed *Seminole Stories: History of Seminole Alligator Wrestling*, the event was held in conjunction with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and featured Museum management trainee Everett Osceola.

It was the first in a three-part lecture series on Seminole history at the Stranahan House.

"The Seminole people, Fort Lauderdale and the Stranahan House have a history together, and it's important to teach that history and keep that friendship going," Osceola said.

Seminoles have traveled to Stranahan House since the early 20th century where they traded with Frank Stranahan and learned English from his wife, Ivy Stranahan.

During his lecture, Osceola explained to attendees that Seminoles captured alligators for food and weapons and used their hides for clothing and trade. He explained how alligator capturing techniques evolved into alligator wrestling to entertain tourists; a PowerPoint presentation showed alligator wrestlers past to present.

A question and answer session followed the lecture, and the audience had a chance to take photos with Wall E Gator, a baby alligator provide by Ian Tyson, of Native Village.

The second lecture will be scheduled soon.

East meets West as Hollywood seniors visit California Tribe

Seminoles, Graton Rancheria Tribes share culture, history

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

SAN FRANCISCO — A group of seniors from Hollywood went on a sightseeing trip last month to San Francisco, a city known for its vintage cable cars, picturesque Fisherman's Wharf and steep hills covered in quaint Victorian homes.

The group was also enriched by a newly found kinship with the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. Meeting and having a cultural exchange with members of the Graton Rancheria Tribe were highlights of the trip.

"They had to start from scratch," Ruggy Jumper said. "It's good to see how far they've come."

During their trips, the seniors make a point of visiting other Tribes; last year they visited the Oneida Indian Nation in Syracuse, N.Y., and they will visit the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage next month. Plans for next year include attending a pow-wow in Denver.

The Graton Rancheria Tribe, a federation of Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo groups located an hour drive north of San Francisco, was removed from federal trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1958 to assist their assimilation into mainstream society. In 2000, they were reinstated when President Bill Clinton signed the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act, which restored the Tribe and all their rights and privileges, including the right to trust land.

"It's nice to know they are federally recognized again," Nettie Stewart said. "They started with about 14 people and now they have about 1,300 enrolled members."

The seniors learned about the Tribe's government, culture and casino. Members of the Tribe met with the group and showcased their arts and crafts. Mary Moore presented Graton Rancheria Tribal Council Representative Joanne Campbell with a beaded necklace in medicine colors.

"They make baskets like we do, but they make some to carry infants and to cook in," Stewart said. "They have to gather the material for their baskets, which is getting hard to find."

Stewart plans to send the Tribe examples of Seminole arts and crafts, including a doll, skirt and wood carving.

The California Tribe's hilly reservation is small, with only 254 acres. Jumper said the houses sit closely together.

"Their land used to encompass the area from the Golden Gate Bridge to about 100



Photo courtesy of Nettie Stewart

Mary Moore, right, presents Graton Rancheria Tribal Council Representative Joanne Campbell with a beaded necklace in medicine colors during a senior trip to San Francisco.

miles north," Jumper said.

The Seminoles share a tradition with the Graton Rancheria Tribe; both have important annual events only for Tribal members. One calls it Green Corn Dance; the other just calls it a community gathering. Like the Seminole Tribe, the California-based Tribe struggles with passing down their culture to the next generation.

"One lady said her grandfather comes down from northern California to test her language skills," Stewart said. "She is learning the language but none of the adults or kids speak it. She's concerned it is dying and is trying to teach her children."

Other memorable aspects of the trip included a visit to Muir Woods, north of San Francisco; dinner on Fisherman's Wharf; a ferry ride across the bay to Sausalito; and tours of Alcatraz and Golden Gate Park. The rapid weather fluctuations surprised Jumper.

"The tour guide told us someone, maybe Mark Twain, said the coldest winter he ever spent was a summer in San Francisco," Jumper said. "When we were on the ferry it was 70 degrees at Alcatraz and in the 40s by the Golden Gate Bridge."



Photo courtesy of Nettie Stewart

Nettie and Lee Stewart take a picture with a Graton Rancheria quilt.

Educators get schooled at Billie Swamp Safari

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The tables were turned on more than 30 teachers this summer when the Tribe's Florida Seminole Tourism Department hosted daylong learning adventures just for them at Billie Swamp Safari.

"I loved every minute," said Tiqua Carty, a fifth-grade teacher from Riverland Elementary School in Fort Lauderdale.

Carty was one of five educators to get schooled on Native turf July 11 during a free summertime tour. Other Florida teacher groups were welcomed on different days throughout July when airboat rides, swamp buggy excursions and visits to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum provided bushels of knowledge within the sights and sounds of the Big Cypress Reservation.

"It's one thing to watch a video of butterflies in the Everglades. It's another thing, and a great thing, to see them in

reality, in the very biome that they live," said Faith Chambers, a second-grade teacher from Riverland Elementary.

Melissa Sherman, the promotional coordinator for Florida Seminole Tourism, said teachers were invited via the department's Partners in Education Fam Tour. A fam tour is designed to familiarize business representatives, usually in the tourist industry, with a particular destination in hopes of luring more business.

"They get enhanced tours that are made relevant to them. For educators, our goal is to provide an exciting learning experience that brings in new teachers, new schools and new field trips," Sherman said.

As a parent, Sherman knows that the Big Cypress attractions provide fun learning opportunities in many disciplines, including math, science, social studies and art. But when applied to the state's Department of Education Sunshine State Standards, the experience satisfies specific mandated benchmarks.

An afternoon at the Museum can hit on 12 social studies standards, including one that requires students to identify Native American Tribes from different geographic regions in North America and another that requires them to identify the causes and effects of the Seminole Wars.

A guide provided to educators lists 29 science and social studies benchmarks for grades three through seven that can be met during a school trip to Big Cypress.

Two teachers from Hendricks Day School in Jacksonville were impressed enough after an hour-long swamp buggy tour through Everglades uplands with guide Colin Andrews that they began planning a future trip with 25 students.

Andrews described the "sawgrass prairie" plants, wildlife and water in academic terms while keeping guests entertained and interested. Every minute was filled with information that ranged from how Asian buffalo arrived on the scene to what makes one of the most common plants in the hammock also the most important.

"Call it the cabbage palm, the sabal palm or the swamp cabbage tree, it is not really a tree at all; it is a foundation for life," Andrews said. The sabal palmetto was historically used for food, shelter, hunting tools and fire and for making clothing, rope and fishing nets.

Jennifer Yates, a special education and entomology teacher, said that she and fifth-grade teacher Amba Kone attended the free tour to check out Big Cypress. Last year, a school field trip to another destination turned to disappointment when promises made on a website proved simply untrue.

"This year we did reconnaissance and found ourselves pleasantly pleased. We'll be taking back good news because this is absolutely a possibility," Kone said. "It's probably the best science and social studies field trip we can give the kids."



Eileen Soler

Faith Chambers, left, and Tiqua Carty, both teachers at Riverland Elementary School in Fort Lauderdale, check out alligators at Billie Swamp Safari. The teachers were treated to a daylong tour of Big Cypress Reservation tourist attractions July 11 by Florida Seminole Tourism to prove the destination's educational value for school field trips.



Beverly Bidney

Mary Robbins tries out the equipment in the FSU training room July 17 during a visit to Florida State University with a group of Big Cypress seniors.

◆ FSU
From page 3A

"We're all fans," Betty King said. "I like them all; it takes a whole team to win it."

Led by Monk Bonasorte, senior associate director of athletics, the group toured the training and weight room and the rehabilitation facility.

They also had the opportunity to tour the locker room, players lounge, trophy room and coaches' offices currently under construction. Renovations will include

the incorporation of the new FSU logo. Patchwork symbols — including fire, man on horse and arrow — and traditional Tribal images adorn the walls.

Seniors ate lunch in the players cafeteria, where team members posed for photos and autographed each item the Tribal members brought.

After bowling in the FSU lanes and some shopping, seniors boarded the bus and returned home, hoping to see the team again during the season. Councilman Tiger already has his eye on the season opener versus Oklahoma State in Arlington, Texas.



Beverly Bidney

Kyle Doney and Ken Doney watch the Jimbo Fisher Football Camp at the FSU training facility.

Indian Country profile: Journalist Hattie Kauffman impacts media world

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Hattie Kauffman has the distinction of being the first Native American television reporter to file a story on a national evening news broadcast, but she hopes she won't be the last.

"Our culture is vibrant with storytelling; that's what reporting is," said Kauffman, a four-time Emmy Award winning journalist and member of the Nez Perce Tribe. "I often talk to Native American kids and encourage them to go into the news business. That's our culture; we are storytellers."

The story by Kauffman in 1989 that turned out to be historically significant reported on an airliner whose fuselage peeled back after taking off from Hawaii. It aired on ABC's evening newscast. Unknown to Kauffman, she had broken a barrier for Native American journalists, and the story was later featured in a display of firsts at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

"I was just doing my job. I didn't know I had broken that barrier until they called me years later," she said.

During her childhood, Kauffman's parents moved the family of seven children between the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho and Seattle. Those years gave her a strong work ethic.

"Our culture is vibrant with storytelling; that's what reporting is. I often talk to Native American kids and encourage them to go into the news business. That's our culture; we are storytellers."

— Hattie Kauffman

"We were a poor, urban Native American family," Kauffman said. "I always knew I had to work. I didn't want to go back to poverty."

Her journalism career began with a scholarship to the University of Minnesota, an internship at WCCO-TV in Minneapolis and an apprentice program at KING-TV in Seattle, which led to jobs as general assignment reporter and news anchor. Kauffman said she learned to report without bias. As a reporter covering a fishing dispute between Native American Tribes and Washington state in the 1970s, she had to remain objective.

"I went into it as a reporter, not a Native American," she said. "I interviewed both sides and told the story objectively. I couldn't take my culture into the job."

After leaving Seattle, Kauffman became a correspondent for ABC's *Good Morning America* and then went to CBS, where she had an esteemed 22-year career.

She was a correspondent and substitute anchor on *CBS This Morning*, as well as a reporter for *48 Hours*, *Street Stories*, *Sunday Morning*, *CBS Special Reports*, *The Early Show*, *CBS Evening News* and *CBS Radio*.

Throughout her career, Kauffman volunteered for assignments other people didn't want; she credits that for her success. "I became the go-to gal because I was always saying yes," she said. "It opened doors; one door leads to the next. You don't know what saying yes at this moment will lead to down the road."

Kauffman learned from the people she reported on, including an impoverished woman in Mexico City. On assignment for *Good Morning America*, she told the story of 30,000 people who lived at the Mexico City garbage dump.

"It was the worst poverty I could imagine and it changed my perspective on the poverty of my childhood," Kauffman said. "I asked a woman what was the most valuable thing she owned and she said it was her family. It changed my life."



Courtesy photo

Broadcast journalist and author Hattie Kauffman, of the Nez Perce Tribe, became the first Native American reporter to file a story on a national evening news broadcast.

The encounter prompted Kauffman to always have a balanced view her work and the people she interviews.

"I always attempt to treat everyone with the same type of dignity and tell their stories in the most honest way I can," she said.

Watching Tanna Beebe, of the Cowlitz and Quinault Tribes, report the news on KIRO in Seattle inspired Kauffman as a child.

"She was a role model for me," Kauffman said. "She showed me an American Indian woman could be on TV."

While frequent travel meant time away from her two children, Kauffman found strength through her faith and her family.

"My son says he grew up in an editing room," Kauffman said. "But it gave them a worldly view, a bigger picture of what America is and who we are in it. There are sacrifices and rewards in all the choices we make."

Kauffman retired in 2012 and returned home to Seattle to write her memoir *Falling Into Place: A Memoir of Overcoming*, which was published last year.

The book is available on the websites of Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Christian Book and IndieBound.

On May 31, she was the commencement speaker at College of Menominee Nation, where she gave the graduating class of 2014 a recipe for success.

"I told them they can succeed," Kauffman said. "It's just showing up and doing more than is expected of you."



Beverly Bidney

Raw material is dumped into the Powerscreen Titan 1800 sorting machine for separating cobblestone, large pebbles and fine-screened shell at the Brighton Reservation shell pit in late May.

Brighton shell pit digging up profit

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — A steady procession of dump trucks has traveled in and out of the Brighton Reservation shell pit thanks to an abundance of work from multiple sources, including the Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

"It's in full throttle now," said Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard. "Everything is running like a well-oiled machine. We're just trying to make things more efficient."

The Army Corps and the SFWMD are using the shell pit fill to rebuild the 1930s-era levy around Lake Okeechobee. The Brighton pit also provides material for private companies, area counties (including Glades, Okeechobee and Highlands) and the reservation.

"If it's on the reservation, we do it," said Preston Platt, shell pit superintendent. "For anything built on the rez, the material comes out of our pit."

In addition to road work and buildings under construction, projects underway in Brighton include land improvements, culverts, ditches and pasture improvements for cattle owners.

The 125-acre site opened in the late 1960s. The Tribe utilized the land as a fish, turtle and gator farm before turning into a mining operation about 15 years ago. The Board took over the venture in 2011 and now makes a profit, Platt said.

"It's been a long, hard journey and we had plenty of help," he said. "We do a lot of business away from the Tribe; most of it is outside work."

Like oversized toys, earthmoving excavators dig in, take huge bites out of

the ground and release it into massive haul trucks. A machine called the Powerscreen Titan 1800 then sorts the raw earth.

All material from the pit complies with state regulations and is certified by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Products from the shell pit include limestone or cobblestone, FDOT-certified large pebbles and fine-screened shell, or rough sand.

The Brighton pit is the only one in the area with FDOT-approved shell for road bases, so towns including Lake Placid, Sebring, Avon Park, Clewiston and Moore Haven are customers. Recent upgrades on State Roads 70 and 78 were completed with Seminole fill.

"Our closest competitor is in Ortona about 33 miles away," Rep. Howard said. "We're the only show in town."

Each heavily laden truck represents income for this Board operation. On one recent day, 337 trucks from several companies filled up. Typically, around nine or 10 trucks from about three or four companies pass through the check-out scales. Through the weigh station window, Melissa Gopher tracks every load that leaves.

"I feel that we're getting out there in the business world and competing against other mining operations," said Gopher, scale house attendant. "We're doing it pretty good. We get a lot of return customers."

The shell pit will run out of fill in three to five years, at which point Rep. Howard envisions the land used as a recreation area. Because the pits are only 8 feet deep, they can be turned into lakes for swimming, boating and jet skiing. Platt said they will look for other land on the reservation to continue the mining operation in Brighton.

Fort Pierce community center construction passes halfway mark

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

FORT PIERCE — Standing amid the construction of a gymnasium, Seminole/Stiles Construction officials declared the newly dubbed Chupco's Landing Community Center on the Fort Pierce Reservation slightly more than 50 percent completed. To celebrate the completion of the building's shell, the company hosted a catered lunch for construction workers and community members July 3 on the location of the gym's future basketball court.

The gym is expected to occupy about two-thirds of the approximately 18,000-square-foot complex that will also house Tribal departments, community meeting space, lounge and rooms for activities. Officials said the gym floor will be a rubber-type material that has the appearance of a wooden court. When construction is finished, kids will have a new indoor facility to practice their jump shots and layups.

"Right now, they play in their front yards," said Alexander Tommie, Hollywood Council special assistant, who addressed workers at the luncheon along with Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola.

A grand opening ceremony for the center is scheduled for Sept. 25.

Tommie said recent decisions made about the center include finalizing its name — Chupco's Landing Community Center — and determining the facility will have two swimming pools. A regular outdoor pool and a kiddie pool are slated for completion in October.

In addition to being a "topping off ceremony," the lunch served as an appreciation for the workers' safety.

"This celebrates the safety of the workers and encourages them to continue with no accidents," said Terry Hardmon, Seminole/Stiles senior project manager.

Hardmon and project manager Peter Picard handed out more than a dozen raffle prizes to workers. The prizes included gift cards, tools and a shiny, new hard hat.



Kevin Johnson

Alexander Tommie, Hollywood Council special assistant, speaks to construction workers and community members during a luncheon at Chupco's Landing Community Center in Fort Pierce July 3. Officials said construction of the center is more than halfway completed.

Princess Committee collecting school supplies for Flandreau Indian School

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

To help students at the Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota kick off the new school year right, the Princess Committee is holding a school supply drive through August. Collection bins are located in Tribal offices at Hollywood, Big Cypress and Brighton Reservations.

"The kids in Flandreau can't get supplies easily," said Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers, organizer of the drive. "I remember getting new notebooks, pens and pencils every year, and it made me feel good. I hope our community will feel good by giving to these kids who can't afford supplies."

A boarding school founded in 1892, Flandreau houses 380 students in grades nine through 12.

The Princess Committee will send the donations in time for start of the new school year Sept. 4.

Supplies needed include pens, pencils, loose-leaf paper and spiral notebooks.

The Princess Committee has collected clothing year-round since 2006, but this is the first time it organized a drive specifically for school supplies. Bowers is spearheading the effort with Gloria Wilson.

"I just like to motivate the community,"



Photo courtesy of Wanda Bowers

Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie, left, and Jr. Miss Brianna Blais-Billie donate school supplies at Seminole Tribe Headquarters for students at Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota.

Bowers said. "When they are out shopping for supplies for their kids, maybe they can

get some for the Flandreau kids. I hope everyone will donate something."

PROMOTIONS

From page 1A

Departments include Table Games, Slots, Cash Operations, Poker, Marketing, Food and Beverage, Hard Rock Live, Hotel Operations and Hard Rock Cafe. The program began in 2003 as a two-phase program but now has five phases. Trainees work with more senior members of the Seminole Gaming team as they complete each phase.

The program is open to all Tribal members ages 18 and older who have at least a high school diploma or GED. Not everyone who enters the program graduates, but some continue to work in Gaming without continuing in the program, said Ervina Capricien, TCD director.

"We have 18 in the program and would like to have 25 by the end of the year," said Capricien, a graduate of the program. "To garner more interest in the program, I tell everyone I meet that even if they don't want a career in Gaming, they should know the business of the Tribe. Come into the program just to learn about the gaming business."

Osceola and Karissa Tommie are the first to graduate to the third phase.

Tommie said she joined TCD four years ago to make something of herself. With her promotion into phase three, Tommie was named Revenue Audit assistant manager at the Hard Rock Tampa. She has worked in every department except Audio/Video and IT.

"Graduating to phase three means a lot because now I know how each department works with one another and how the casino flows," said Tommie, originally from Fort Pierce Reservation. "It's almost like going to college, finishing your degree and having a career out of it. It's a big accomplishment for me."

Tommie is also working toward a bachelor's degree in finance.

"I just love numbers; I'm so passionate for it," she said. "They just make sense to me."

Tommie wants to work her way up in the Finance Department to become manager and director. The program motivates her, she said.

"I never know where I'll find myself years down the line, but I'll be prepared for whatever comes my way," she said. "It makes me want to push myself further. I'm still young and have a lot more to gain and I'm willing to do it."

Eight trainees have graduated from TCD. Current trainees are younger than ever, with the average age in the late 20s. When Capricien joined the program in 2005, ages averaged in the mid-30s.

"It excites me because they grew up with distributions and are still interested in the program," Capricien said. "Some college kids have picked certain degrees, so they can come back and work for Gaming, which is awesome."

Osceola's responsibilities as director of Hospitality include orientation instructor to help new hires understand the casino atmosphere.

"I'm the first person team members hear from; during orientation I'm the first speaker," he said. "I shake them up, wake them up and get them rocking and rolling."

Osceola also helps recruit employees, cultivates relationships with universities, and helps Capricien find and retain TCD participants.

"We encourage people to finish the program," Osceola said. "If they find a department they excel in or enjoy, they can usually wind up working there. The program helps people find their niche in Gaming. There are a lot of careers in Gaming, not just on the casino floor."

Tommie has learned a lot about the gaming business and about herself through TCD, she said.

"We have to do something for ourselves to grow," she said. "Whatever we do, we have to do it to the best of our abilities and at the highest level. You have to work hard for what you want."

Capricien hopes more hard working Tribal members will join the program.

"It's rewarding when they are here, want to learn about our business and go out into the community and tell other people why they should join the program," Capricien said. "Gaming is a major part of our Tribal business; it's how we get most of the money. More Tribal members should know more about the business."

For more information about the Tribal Career Development program, contact Ervina Capricien at Ervina.Capricien@seminolehardrock.com.

Fourth of July festivities ignite explosion of fun



Kevin Johnson

Joellen Schillaci applies face paint to Akeelah Mitchell during Brighton's Fourth of July celebration at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena July 4.



Eileen Soler

Dosia Osceola and Elizabeth Rodriguez soar through the sky on a zip line ride during the Big Cypress Reservation July 4 celebration.



Eileen Soler

July 4 fireworks light up the sky over the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena at the Big Cypress Reservation.



Kevin Johnson

Amya Gomez goes headfirst into the water at the bottom of a giant water slide during a Fourth of July celebration at Chupco's Landing in Fort Pierce July 3.



Eileen Soler

Lonnie Billie eyes up the mark during a horseshoe match July 4 at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena on Big Cypress Reservation.



Eileen Soler

Comedian George Lopez is honored with a Seminole patchwork jacket from the Big Cypress Council Office following a July 4 special performance at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena show barn.



Kevin Johnson

Chance Doctor enjoys a beverage during Brighton's Fourth of July celebration.



Gordon Wareham

Isabella Motlow chows down during the watermelon eating contest at the Hollywood Reservation July 4 celebration.



Kevin Johnson

Dakoya Nunez grabs the rope during a tug-of-war contest at Brighton's Fourth of July celebration at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena July 4.



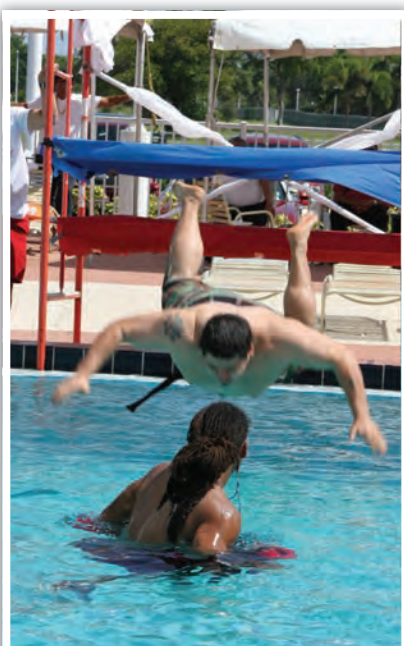
Kevin Johnson

Max Violot takes the plunge down a giant inflatable water slide at Fort Pierce's Fourth of July event.



Gordon Wareham

Pete and Rossana Hahn, along with their festively dressed baby Skylla, pose for a photo July 4 during the Hollywood Reservation's Fourth of July celebration at Seminole Estates.



Gordon Wareham

James Holt competes in the belly flop contest during Hollywood's Fourth of July celebration. His splash won him first place.



Kevin Johnson

Tyra Baker, left, and Kalgary Johns show their Independence Day spirit during Brighton's Fourth of July celebration. In addition to balloon hats, the community offered a variety of activities, including cornhole and horseshoe tournaments, carnival rides and fireworks.

Boy's anguish captured by teacher's keepsakes



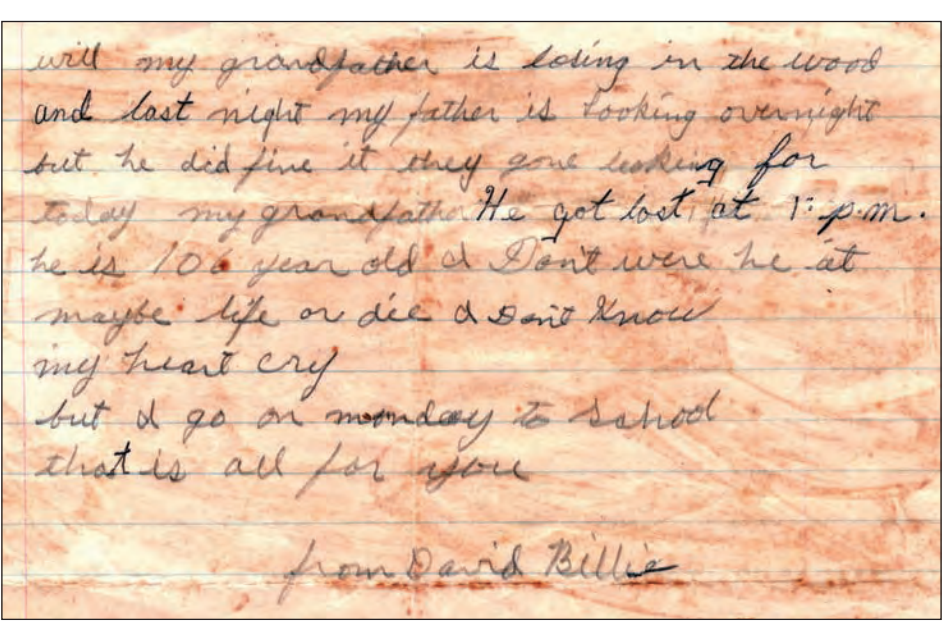
This photograph shows the sixth-grade class at Clewiston Elementary School, 1958-59. David Billie may be the second boy from the left in the last row.

SUBMITTED BY TARA BACKHOUSE
 Collections Manager

The objects that the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum preserves for the Seminole Tribe often record a moment in time. A letter written by a soldier during the Seminole War, a newspaper documenting the opening of the Tampa Hard Rock or a photograph of a church event in the 1930s all tell the story of the Tribe through a singular point in the past.

The photograph cannot show what happened the second after the photographer snapped the picture, the newspaper cannot tell another person's perspectives of the recorded events, and the letter from a soldier cannot explain what happened to him after he put the pen down. But looking at a historic object can mentally transport people back in time to experience that moment, even if they were not there in the first place. If they were there, then each piece of the past – whether a photograph or other memorabilia – brings back a flood of memories, so they can experience them all again.

James Kimbrel, a teacher at Clewiston Elementary School in the 1950s, kept a note from a Seminole child in his class, David Billie, and a picture of the class. One day, David was absent from school, and the next day he brought a note to explain his absence. In the note he tells the heartbreaking story of his family's search for his missing elderly grandfather. It does not mention if David's family ever found him. The poignant note stayed in Kimbrel's heart. He and his wife, Glenda, kept the note and the picture for many years, even after they moved from Clewiston to the Florida panhandle. And after Kimbrel



A handwritten note by young David Billie explains his absence from Clewiston Elementary School.

passed away, Glenda Kimbrel still treasured the memories. She contacted the Museum a few months ago to tell the story and share the memories. She wondered if the Museum could find the boy who wrote the note. He was a part of Kimbrel's class in 1958-59.

Tribal historian Willie Johns filled in some blanks for Glenda Kimbrel. He identified members of David's family, including his grandfather. The grandfather mentioned in the note was Charlie Cypress, the talented canoe maker who spent many years working at a Seminole village in Silver Springs, Fla. And he did indeed

survive the incident detailed in David's note. Cypress was well-known for his longevity, and it is said he live well into his 100s. The Museum is proud to have one of his canoes in its collection.

But the Museum does not have a key to every part of the past and needs the community's help to fill in the pieces of other life stories. If you would like to help, or if you have a story you'd like help with, contact the Museum at 863-902-1113. Ask for the Collections Division. Museum staff can help find pictures and other objects to bring back treasured memories to you and your family.

Betty Mae Jumper Wisdom from the past

The Start of The Tribune

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the July 9, 1999 issue of The Seminole Tribune.

I have been asked many times: How did The Seminole Tribune get started? The Tribune has a long history. It actually started back in 1956 before the Seminole Tribe was even organized.

At that time the late Alice Osceola and I began writing the Seminole News. We ran the paper out of my home. I supplied news about the Holly wood Reservation, and Alice brought in news from the Trail.

We charged 10 cents a copy, and we usually sold just enough to afford to put out the next paper. It was pretty simple by today's standards, but we kept it going.

The paper went on for three months. Then, I got sick and Alice didn't think she could do the paper by herself, so we stopped.

But some other people thought they would put the paper out, and they took over. They changed the name to the Smoke Signal. They tried to run it but dropped the project after a few times. Then, some other people picked it up and they put out more issues and they dropped it, too.

Then one day in 1979, Chairman James Billie called me into his office and asked me if I could run the newspaper again. At first I told him I didn't want to, but I thought it was important to have the paper for Tribal news and to let people know what was going on.

I talked to two ladies about what James had asked. The two ladies – Barbara Doctor and Twila Perkins – got excited about the idea of a newspaper and they said, "Betty, do it! We'll help you. We're both good typists. We'll work hard."

After thinking about it some more, I decided to give it a try. So, I went back to the Chairman and told him I thought it over and I will try to make the newspaper go for the Tribe.

So, we started – the three of us ladies – and in two weeks the Alligator Times came out for the first time, replacing the old Seminole News. I handed over the

first issue to James Billie and told him this was our first.

I think he was surprised to see it and that we produced the newspaper in two weeks. This was our beginning, and we promised to get the paper out on time. We did the paper for a long time.

For some time, my son Moses Jumper Jr. was the editor.

By 1982, the newspaper was changed again. The Chairman changed the name to The Seminole Tribune and I came back to be the editor. Around this time we added Virginia Mitchell and later Marlin Billie. Later, we added Pete Gallagher.

Today, we have many new people and faces. Virginia, Pete and I are still here, but we also got Dan McDonald, Melissa Sherman, Ernie Tiger, Elrod Bowers, Libby Blake and Valerie Frank on staff, and a bunch of freelance writers and contributors. Now we have people covering events from other reservations and wherever news pops up. We are also responsible for the Tribal Internet content.

Sometimes I think of the old days, and I get sad because some things aren't as good as they once were. But I'm glad to see the changes in The Seminole Tribune. This newspaper has come a long way and I'm happy to say it's a lot better now than it ever was in the old days.

One of the reasons I think the paper is still around and still will be around is the spirit of my grandmother Mary Tiger. She always told me that once you start something, make sure you finish it. She didn't like me going off to school in Cherokee, N.C. to learn the white man's language. She was against it.

But when I finally graduated and came home, she was proud of me for sticking with it and finishing. She was one of the first to give me a hug and to tell me she was proud of what I had done.

That's the way I feel about The Seminole Tribune. I feel it won't stop now. It has been started and it's on its way and it won't stop. I'm proud that I've had a part in helping to keep this Tribal newspaper going and trust it will be going for a long time to come.



Former editor-in-chief Betty Mae Jumper reviews copies of The Seminole Tribune.

Keeping up with the Johnses: A history of the Johns Camp

SUBMITTED BY MATTHEW G. FENNO
 Archaeological Field Technician

The Johns families are Oconee descendants who settled on the Brighton Reservation in the 1930s and into the 1940s.

They established several camps on the reservation, one of which consisted of dozens of family members, including Tribal

historian Willie Johns.

Son of Arlene Johns, Willie lived at the camp for many years. His mother and her sisters also lived in the Bluefields area, located approximately 18 miles west of Fort Pierce. In the 1940s, the family moved to Okeechobee and then to Brighton Reservation, traveling between the two areas when work was available.

The first camp was located in the northern portion of the reservation, but they did not live there long. The hammock flooded. After their occupancy of that camp, the Johns family moved back to Okeechobee. At some point in the 1940s the Johns set up a second camp near the Red Barn and the John Josh Camp to work on the reservation. The third camp was located near present day Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School and Field Office in the north central portion of the reservation.

Willie was born in an Okeechobee hospital in 1951 but was raised on Brighton Reservation in the fourth camp, the Johns Camp, located in the central portion of the reservation. Willie had two sisters and 22 cousins living at the camp at one point. Connie Whidden, a cousin of Willie, has continuously inhabited the camp for 40 years.

The camp had nine permanent structures and a few temporary structures. Willie said six were living quarters. The structures were chickee-style houses with pine posts and palm thatch roofing. The buildings were enclosed on all sides with two-by-four studs and plywood with an opening at the top for light and circulation.

The main structure in the camp was the Big House, which belonged to the camp's matriarch, Dolly Johns (Figure 1). The camp also included a flower garden that had all types of Hibiscus bushes.

Before electricity, the camp only contained a hand pump, but once electricity was installed in 1957, the inhabitants of the camp built a shower with an electric water pump. The camp also contained a basketball

hoop – made out of a bicycle tire – on a cabbage palm tree. After basketball games, the family would sometimes play baseball next to the camp and football under the water tower. The area would flood but they would play in the mud, using no equipment besides the balls. Willie said they played with boys from around the reservation and games would get rough.

"Everyone wanted to challenge the Johns boys," he said.

In another hammock to the east, the Johns Camp had a garden (Figure 2) that was used by both the Johns family and Lois and Howard Micco. They mainly grew corn, beans and squash, but they also grew pumpkins – in a unique way. Willie and his family burned a palm tree and allowed it to fall. They then planted the pumpkins and grew them along the fallen palm.

The hammock around the camp had many mulberries that were collected for food. Bananas were grown behind a few houses with citrus in the neighboring hammocks. The family hunted daily for meat and fished in a pond across the road to the east of the camp. The pond dried up when they drained the Everglades. The inhabitants also fished in Harney Pond Canal, which, Willie said, was beautiful before it was expanded and dredged.

To the south of the camp, Willie's uncle Barfield Johns had a house. In between Barfield's house and the Johns Camp, Barfield had a large hog pen that was located in the pond bordering the eastern portion of the hammock. Barfield was also a cattle hand at the Robert's Ranch in Immokalee. He traveled back and forth to his house in Brighton when not working at the ranch.



Figure 1: Johns Camp matriarch Dolly Johns poses with Julie Johns on her knee.

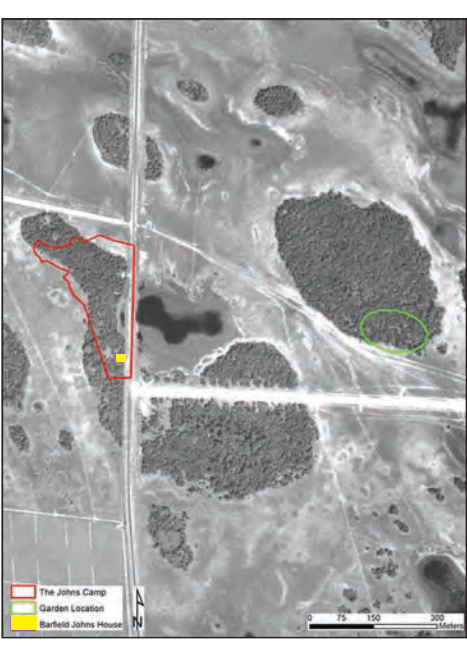


Figure 2: Pictured is a 1957 aerial with site boundary (red), garden location (green) and Barfield Johns house (yellow).

The Johns Camp is a lasting impression of the life and family-clan organization on Seminole reservations. These traditions and historical accounts must be recorded to preserve the information for future generations.

If you have any information about the Johns Camp or if you would like to nominate a site to the Tribal Register, contact the Tribal Historic Preservation Office at 863-983-6549.

Health



Help protect your family from lead contamination in the home

SUBMITTED BY MISHKA SHAW
Environmental Protection Specialist

Lead is a highly toxic metal that when absorbed into the body may cause a range of health problems, primarily in young children. If absorbed into the body, lead may damage the blood, nerves, brain, kidney and other vital organs. It may also cause behavioral problems, learning disabilities, seizures and in very extreme undetected cases, may lead to death.

Even though lead-based paint was banned in the United States in 1978, many other finishes besides paint contain lead. It is most commonly found in ceramic tile from Mexico and other Latin American countries that still use lead paint in tile and ceramics manufacturing. These tiles only pose a problem when the glazing is damaged.

It is important to use a trained contractor during any home renovations to take special precautions during and after the repair to minimize and remove any lead dust from the home. Particular attention should be paid to homes built before 1978 and any renovations utilizing imported ceramics.

Deteriorated, lead-based paint or lead dust can mix with soil and become tracked in to the home; children may play in this contaminated soil or put contaminated objects in the mouth. While the Environmental Protection Agency has made a significant effort to clean up lead dust and to train contractors, it is important to stay informed. Here are a few tips to protect families from lead in the home:

- If young children live in or frequently visit a home built before 1978, have their blood level tested as early as age 1.
- Frequently wash toys and surfaces with a damp paper towel to reduce dust contamination; discard the paper towel.
- Take off shoes when entering the house.
- Always use caution when using imported ceramic tableware. If broken or cracked, discontinue use and discard immediately.
- When remodeling or renovating, stay away from the area if possible; if that is not an option, use a trained contractor and ensure dust is removed daily.
- Renovate one room at a time, and seal off the work area from the rest of the house, including any heating or ventilation ducts,

using heavy plastic sheets (6-millimeters thick is good).

• Mop and vacuum regularly to eliminate lead dust contamination. Debris from lead-based paint, dust removal or renovation should be double bagged and disposed in limited quantities in household trash. Never burn lead debris.

• Never dump liquid wastes, including wash water, onto the ground. Filter waste water through a cloth filter before dumping into a sanitary sewer or toilet.

• Keep guns and ammunition away from children. Ammunition, including pellets from pellet guns, often contains lead. Children who come in contact with or who play with lead ammunition can have elevated levels of lead. It is always best to store all guns and ammunition away from children and preferably out of the home altogether.

• Have homes and yards tested for lead by a professional.

If you are planning any home renovations or repairs and believe you may be exposed to lead, contact the Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) at 954-965-4380 for more details on prevention and cleanup.

Summer fun safety: Prevent skin cancer

• **Paula Bowers-Sanchez**

This month I'd like to focus on summer fun safety for your skin. I'm talking about skin cancer and prevention. Living in Florida, we have to be extra careful about the sun and its ultraviolet (UV) rays, which may not only cause wrinkles, blotches and spots on the skin but may also cause skin cancer.

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States. Melanoma is the most dangerous type of skin cancer and the leading cause of death from skin disease. Melanoma can also affect the iris, or colored part of the eye.

The good news is skin cancer can almost always be cured when detected and treated early.

To help prevent skin cancer, get in the habit of always wearing sunscreen. The best sunscreens are SPF 15 or higher. SPF stands for sun protection factor, a way to rate sun exposure. The SPF of a sunscreen is a measure of the time it takes to produce a sunburn on a person wearing sunscreen compared to the time it takes to produce a sunburn on a person not wearing sunscreen.

This varies from person to person, so apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes prior to sun exposure and be sure to reapply every two to three hours. Whenever possible, reapply after sweating or swimming.

Cover up the most delicate parts of your body like your face by wearing a

hat, which will help prevent wrinkles. The sun's UV rays are at their strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Try to avoid direct sun exposure during these hours.

Skin cancer affects people of all ages, so remember to protect your little ones while out playing in the sun.

Wearing dark-colored clothing offers more protection against the sun. A white T-shirt, for example, provides little resistance to UV rays, particularly if it gets wet. It is also important to protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses to shield not only your eyes but also the delicate skin around the eyes. Sunglasses with 100 percent UV protection are best.

Another important thing to remember is to check your skin once a month for anything that may look unusual. Learn where your moles are and their usual look and feel. Check for anything new, like a new mole that looks different from your other moles; new red or darker color flaky patch that may be a little raised; change in the size, shape, color or feel of a mole; sore that doesn't heal; or new flesh-colored firm bump.

Contact your doctor immediately if you find anything that concerns you. Better to be safe than sorry.

Protect the body's largest organ: your skin. You will be glad you did.



Plan now for back-to-school immunizations for kids

Tribal clinics, Florida Department of Health offer required shots

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Department of Health in Broward

No time passes faster than summer vacation, which means it is never too early to think about back-to-school immunizations for kids.

Florida Department of Health (DOH) offices have revamped their immunization campaigns to help parents who do not have their children vaccinated by their family doctors or Tribal clinics, which is the preferred way. Special events and expanded efforts are underway.

"One of the most important things parents can do is to protect their children against diseases by having them fully immunized," said Paula Thaqi, health officer of DOH-Broward. "Vaccines have helped us wipe out diseases that used to kill our children by the thousand."

Public schools open Aug. 18. According to Florida law, children cannot start school unless they are up to date on six vaccinations that protect against nine contagious and potentially fatal childhood diseases. The same is true at Pemaquid Emahakv Charter School and Ahfackkee School.

Seminole clinics give all required back-to-school immunizations. Parents can make an appointment for their children and be ready for school in advance. For details, visit www.seminole.com/Services/Health.aspx.

In addition, the DOH gives free immunizations paid for by the federal Vaccines for Children program:

DOH-Broward: All recommended immunizations are offered at DOH health centers. In addition, a two-week back-to-school event is set for Aug. 4-19 at

Lauderhill Mall, 1267 NW 40 Ave., Lauderhill. The highlight will be an outreach event and health fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Aug. 16. For details, visit www.browardchd.org/vaccinations.aspx or call 954-467-4705.

DOH-Hendry: For details, visit www.floridahealth.gov/chdHendry/index.html or call 863-674-4041.

DOH-Okeechobee: For details and appointments, call 863-462-5819.

DOH-Collier: For details, visit www.floridahealth.gov/chdcollier/immunizations.html or call 239-252-7300.

DOH-Hillsborough: Back-to-school immunization events are set for Aug. 9 and Aug. 16. For details, visit www.hillscountyhealth.org/immunizations.htm or call 813-307-8077.

DOH-St. Lucie: For details, visit www.floridahealth.gov/chdStLucie/services/immunizations.htm or call 772-462-3800.

Immunizations are especially important for children entering kindergarten and seventh grade because different requirements kick in at those grade levels. Vaccinations required for school include:

Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough): The DTaP vaccine given to babies and preschoolers in four to five doses protects against the three bacterial diseases. One additional dose, called Tdap, is given before seventh grade.

Polio: A vaccine given to babies and preschoolers in three to five doses protects against the virus. Polio can lead to paralysis and death, but the vaccine has eliminated it from the United States.



Measles, mumps, rubella (German measles): The MMR vaccine given to babies and preschoolers in two doses protects against viruses that cause the three respiratory diseases.

Chickenpox: A vaccine given to babies and preschoolers in two doses protects against the varicella virus that causes chickenpox. One additional dose is given by the start of seventh grade. In adults, the virus can re-emerge and cause the painful skin condition called shingles.

Hepatitis B: A vaccine given to babies in three doses protects against the virus, which can cause liver damage, chronic disease, cancer or even death.

However, there are additional immunizations recommended by federal health officials. These include vaccines against flu (every year starting at age six months), rotavirus (three doses for babies), Haemophilus influenzae B (three to four doses for babies), pneumococcal disease (four doses for babies), hepatitis A (two doses for babies), human papillomavirus (three doses at age 11 or older) and meningococcal disease (two doses at age 11 or older).

Talk to your family doctor about those vaccines.

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) requires health insurers to cover all the recommended vaccines for free, although some doctors charge for an office visit to give vaccines.

Tips for ensuring payment of medical and dental bills

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE WHIDDEN
Health Director

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

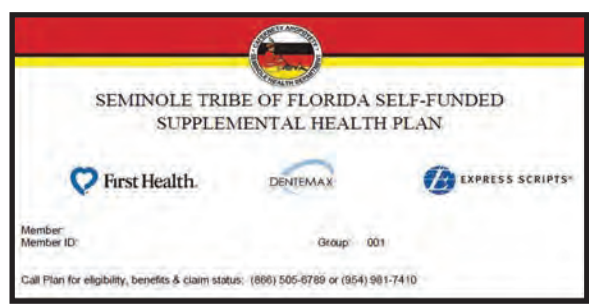
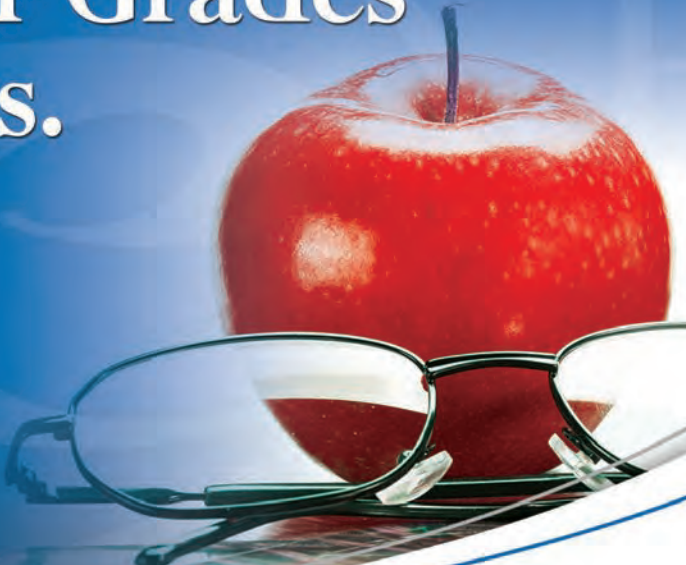


Photo courtesy of Connie Whidden
Pictured is the STOF Member Health Plan card.

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Denise's Health Insurance Story

Last year Denise, an Alaska Native who lives in Washington DC, was uninsured. She could use IHS services, but the nearest clinic was hours away. She needed more options. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act and the special provisions for American Indians and Alaska Native shareholders, she qualified for free health care. Signing up took her only 20 minutes.

"Once I finally got insurance I felt relieved...Having [insurance] has helped me have options for preventative care and I'm not waiting until I'm really sick to be seen. I am actually going to the doctor before things get worse." - Denise

With insurance Denise can visit any doctor or hospital that accepts her plan, including IHS, tribal, and urban Indian health clinics. **Get peace of mind like Denise.**

To learn how insurance can help you and your family, contact your Indian health clinic, visit www.healthcare.gov/tribal, or call **1-800-318-2596** anytime (TTY: 1-855-889-4325).



Health Insurance Marketplace

Tribal members cross the peninsula for Wellness Conference

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

MARCO ISLAND — Bright yellow T-shirts filled the lobby, beach and meeting rooms at the Hilton Marco Island Beach Resort and Spa on opening day for the 21st annual Seminole Wellness Conference.

"We fought too long to die by our own hands," read the back of the shirts. On the front was a drawing of a happy family.

Five days of intensive health workshops, fun fitness activities, exciting field trips and emotional addiction recovery meetings followed for 200 adults and nearly 200 children and teens on a mission to take charge of their bodies, minds and souls.

Family Services Department director Helene Buster, who started the tribalwide Wellness Conference more than two decades ago, said the event provides a safe environment for Tribal members to seek or continue life-long healing after years of physical, mental and spiritual pain.

Drug and alcohol recovery were at the core of the convention. Buster said 75 to 100 Tribal members are typically in recovery programs at any given time, but those numbers represent only a portion of the people who use drugs and alcohol every day.

"I hope everyone eventually learns that because you fall, it doesn't mean you have to stay down. The No. 1 message is that we all have choices regardless of our circumstance," said Buster, a recovering addict who is 26 years sober.

Held July 20-24, the conference covered alcohol, drug and gambling addiction, and it also provided sessions on often connected issues, including diabetes, common childhood illnesses, obesity, codependency, mental health and family happiness.

Attendees ranged from preschoolers to the elderly, from concerned community members to those who shared heartbreaking personal stories.

"For me, the conventions are like coming home to visit family," said Harold



A group of boys stay active on the beach at the Hilton Marco Island Beach Resort and Spa during a Recreation Department-led pickup football game. The game was one of many healthy activities available for kids and adults at the 21st annual Seminole Wellness Conference held from July 20-24.

Eileen Soler

Baxter, who worked in the Tribe's recovery program for more than a dozen years before becoming a Wellness Conference speaker.

Baxter, a recovering alcoholic and current substance abuse counselor with a master's degree in Christian psychology, said he still deals with the psychological scars of his childhood – even at age 68. He

began drinking heavily at age 17 to escape a chaotic home life caused by alcoholic parents.

"We all have to find our own bottom before climbing out. Usually that happens after a great and horrible consequence," Baxter said. "I have 40 years of recovery and going to meetings, but I still haven't

heard it all."

Daily activities began with a sunrise beach walk.

For children, sessions included arts and crafts, recreational sports and discussions about bullying and healthy communication. The Tribe's Health Department Fitness Center provided older teens, adults

and seniors with water aerobics, beach volleyball, personal workout sessions and kickboxing.

Representatives from many Tribal social service departments offered information on myriad health-related topics at tables placed outside meeting rooms.

Tribal members, none with less than one year of sobriety, peppered the conference with personal testimonials.

Real Talk, a presentation created by Lewis Gopher, shared the hard truth about how "partying" nearly destroyed his life. Trouble with the law and the threat of losing his children led to his breaking point.

"On May 30, 2011, I woke up scared. God put the fear of consequences into me, but at the same time, I knew that if I didn't get high or drink that I had nothing to fear," Gopher said. "I never knew life could be so simple."

Hope and faith were recurring themes in all presentations.

Guest speaker Sonya McKee, a former heroin addict who is now a hard-core drug abuse counselor, said most addicts undergo a "spiritual awakening" during the recovery process that has little to do with formal religion. Instead, it has to do with several spiritual principles that include honesty, hope, faith, integrity, humility, awareness and love.

The principles are included in Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous programs. All the speakers and guests in recovery credited formal programs for their sobriety.

For Buster, helping others get straight through sobriety programs is not only a function of the Family Services Department, it is a mission.

She said the door is always open.

"We can never make you do what you don't want, but we can help you do what is mandated to stay out of jail, keep your children and turn your own problem into something that helps our Tribe," Buster said. "And we will help you do it one day at a time."



Eileen Soler

During a girls-only activity, moms, daughters and grandmothers participate in the *Family Happiness: Working Together for Wellness* session. Here, after drawing faces on paper plates, they show how frowns can be turned upside down into smiles.



Eileen Soler

Native American comedian and actor Tatanka Means gives a laugh-inspiring lecture about being Native in America during his *Healthy Lifestyle Through Leadership* session at the 21st annual Seminole Wellness Conference.

Florida Department of Health in BROWARD COUNTY

Mosquitoes can carry dangerous diseases.

Remember that mosquitoes can breed in even a bottle cap of water. Protect yourself and your family. Drain and Cover to stop mosquitoes from multiplying.

DRAIN and COVER

DRAIN and COVER

DRAIN standing water to stop mosquitoes from multiplying.

- **Discard:** Old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that are not being used.
- **Empty and Clean:** Birdbaths and pet's water bowls at least once or twice a week.
- **Protect:** Boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that do not accumulate water.
- **Maintain:** The water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

COVER your skin with clothing and use mosquito repellent.

- **Clothing:** If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves.
- **Repellent:** Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months.

COVER doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out.

- Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

For more information on mosquito-borne illness,

please visit
www.browardchd.org
or



<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/mosquitoes/mosquito.htm>

Revised 06/03/2014

SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

LIMBER LIMBO: Trey Wilson resembles a rubber band as he bends and balances his way under the bamboo limbo stick during the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club poolside luau June 25 at Seminole Estates.



Eileen Soler

FLIPPING FOR SUMMER: Troy Yescas flips a cartwheel on top of a high hill at the Big Cypress Reservation.



Michelle McCoy

SYNCH OR SWIM: Seminole women enjoy the Tampa water classes held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa pool every Wednesday from 1-2 p.m. From left are Susie Doctor, personal fitness trainer Nancy Clites, Linda O. Henry, Linda J. Henry, Maggie Garcia, nutritionist Korin Dietch, Nancy O. Frank and Trisha Doctor.



Beverly Bidney

CORRALING COWBOYS: Justin Hipp and Keith Lewis corral a group of bred 2-year-old cows July 18 for the trip back to their respective pastures on Big Cypress Reservation. About 200 cows were separated by cattle owner and moved back to the pastures to await the birth of their calves.



Eileen Soler

TAKING THE PLUNGE: One of three new baby otters at Billie Swamp Safari is enticed during a training session to swim into a fresh pool of cool water. The otter siblings are part of a growth spurt happening at the Big Cypress Reservation tourist destination.



Beverly Bidney

SENIOR MOMENT: Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger celebrates his birthday at Florida State University July 17 with a cake presented to him by the athletic department.



Beverly Bidney

PRIVACY, PLEASE: A worker moves a prefabricated section of concrete wall to the side of Charleston Street adjacent to the Hollywood Reservation. The wall is similar to walls already in place on Atlanta Street and N. 64th Avenue.



Beverly Bidney

STEAM CLEANED: A worker pressure cleans the frame of a 102-by-70-foot airnasium being built on the Hollywood Reservation June 24. The 30-foot-tall roof will offer permanent shade and cooler temperatures at the outdoor basketball court.



Beverly Bidney

LAZY LIZARD: A brown basilisk lizard basks in the sun on a tree trunk outside the Seminole Estates clubhouse. Known as Jesus Lizards, this species of lizard can 'walk' on water on their hind legs, which have webbed feet. Males of this non-native species can grow to 2 feet long.



Beverly Bidney

SOS: Fire Rescue employees throw out a life preserver for Michael Onco, not pictured, as Melvin Lewis struggles to stay afloat after capsizing during the Big Cypress employee fun day canoe races July 18.



Photo courtesy of the Tampa Bay Rays

MEDICINE MANAGERS: Tampa Bay Rays manager Joe Maddon dons a Seminole patchwork shirt he received from medicine man Bobby Henry during a post-game conference June 9. Henry 'cleansed' Tropicana Field in an attempt to help improve the team's record. Since his visit, the team has improved from a .365 winning percentage to a .618 percentage.



Beverly Bidney

PADDLE FRENZY: In foreground, Brian Billie rows his hardest against the winning team of Stephen Luongo and Jason Allis, of Fire Rescue, during the Big Cypress employee fun day canoe races.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



California Tribe claims sovereignty, launches online poker site

SANTA YSABEL, Calif. — PrivateTable.com, launched by the federally recognized Santa Ysabel Band of Diegueno Mission Indians, is positioned to be the first regulated poker site in California, according to the Tribe's claims of sovereign law.

The move by Santa Ysabel comes in the face of lengthy fights between competing interests that have effectively stopped the state from passing an online gambling bill.

"The Tribe's I-gaming poker website, PrivateTable.com, accessible to adult California residents who register through the website, will be a legal alternative to the unregulated, illegal Internet-based gambling websites, operated from off-shore locations by operators of questionable character," a Tribal press release stated.

According to the release, the Tribe has decided to offer online poker based on its own Tribal sovereignty and provisions of the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) that they say allow them to offer such games from their reservation. No other casino games will be offered through their site, though the Tribe left open that possibility in the future if allowed by IGRA.

The PrivateTable site will only be available for real money play to residents located inside California.

According to Casino.org, "challenges to the site are likely to emerge soon, either from the state or from other gaming interests in California who have been long lobbying for online poker legislation."

—Source: Casino.org

Choctaws plan casino renovation

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. — Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Chief Phyllis J. Anderson has signed refinancing documents with Trustmark Bank and Fifth Third Bank for a new loan package to renovate the Silver Star Hotel and Casino and reopen the Golden Moon Hotel and Casino. This connects with her previous signing of a \$78-million loan package with Trustmark to refinance the Choctaws' Pearl River Resort in Choctaw and the Bok Homa Casino in Jones County.

Anderson assumed office in July 2011 facing a decline in her Tribe's most lucrative businesses and heightened scrutiny of Tribal finances, including an FBI raid on the Tribe's Pearl River Resort and Casino.

She became the Choctaw's first elected female chief, running on a platform that declared "financial stability" as her "top goal," despite intimidation, use of fear tactics and/or threats of jobs issues that plagued her predecessors.

—Source: BayouBuzz.com

Rookie Shoni Schimmel named WNBA All-Star Game MVP

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Shoni Schimmel was recently named Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) All-Star Game most valuable player for scoring a record 29 points and leading her Eastern Conference All-Stars to a 125-124 victory over the West in this event's first-ever overtime game.

Schimmel became the first rookie to earn WNBA All-Star MVP honors as she sank seven 3-pointers, also an All-Star record. A rookie who was an all-American at Louisville last season, Schimmel is a reserve guard for the Atlanta Dream; she had a solid rookie season and was voted a spot on the All-Star team by her fans with the third most votes (25,601).

Schimmel, a 5-foot-9 point guard, was raised on the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Mission, Ore. She was the subject of a documentary by filmmaker Jonathan Hock called *Off the Rez*, which chronicled her journey to earn a NCAA scholarship with her basketball ability. She became the highest drafted Native American player in the WNBA when she was drafted eighth overall by Atlanta.

—Source: WNBA.com

Mohawks seek to restore sacred sturgeon

HOGANSBURG, N.Y. — The lake sturgeon, one of about 25 species of sturgeon, is sacred to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, which historically has prized the fish as a food source and cultural icon. With numbers steadily declining since Europeans first came to the Hogsburg, N.Y. area, the Tribe is ambitiously taking action on restoring the sturgeon's population and habitats in a partnership with Clarkson University, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and Mohawk traditional sturgeon fishermen.

The lake sturgeon is an evolutionarily ancient bottom-feeder that uses its elongated, spade-like snout to stir up substrate and sediments on the beds of rivers and lakes while feeding. Lake

sturgeons can grow to a relatively large size, topping 6 feet long and weighing nearly 200 pounds. Female sturgeon can live 80 to 150 years but are sexually mature between 14 and 33 and spawn once every four to nine years. Lake sturgeon require fast flowing waters and rocky bottoms with living spaces between aquatic sediments for the eggs to be protected while spawning and to protect the fry after they hatch.

"Populations appear to be rebounding in comparison to the past 100 years, most likely due to stocking and habitat restoration programs," Jessica Jock, the Environmental Division program manager for the St. Lawrence River Area of Concern, said in an email to the Watertown Daily News.

Jay Wilkins, the Tribe's Environment Division wildlife technician, has been working with Mohawk fishermen to explore their traditional fishing techniques, practices and eco-knowledge.

"Lake sturgeon are considered sacred in that they are highly valued as a traditional and current food source, specific body parts used for spiritual medicinal purposes, and held in high esteem as fulfilling an important role and duty in the natural world as assigned by the Creator," Jock said.

—Source: Watertown Daily Times

Native students use drones at scientific summer camp

RAPID CITY, S.D. — Native American high school juniors are flying drones — with iPhone apps — for the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (Mines).

Its GEARUP program — a six-week scientific summer camp — features an interactive project where 300 students fly real menacing, black drones around campus in mock missions to find missing or kidnapped hostages.

A few dozen juniors from across the state and nine reservations were selected for a smaller program that tasks them with creating and flying a different drone mission each week.

Usually within a day, students who know nothing about drones have the flying part down and start having a little fun with the machine, Mines professor Dan Dolan told the Rapid City Journal.

As Mines looks to diversify its student body, Dolan described programs like GEARUP as necessary in encouraging women and minority students to consider a STEM field (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) for a career. Hands-on emphasis gives students a taste of being a real engineer using basic concepts to solve real world problems.

—Source: Rapid City Journal

Grand Canyon view threatened?

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Ariz. — One of the world's most spectacular natural vista experiences — standing on the edge of the Grand Canyon's South Rim and gazing over a dizzying panorama of receding canyons and sheer rock walls with the Colorado River cutting through the canyon floor — may be threatened by a planned development on a distant Navajo Indian Reservation mesa.

What generations of park managers have tried to preserve over the 95-year history of the park could be replaced by a hive of construction, including restaurants, hotels and shops; a gondola ride to the canyon floor; and an elevated riverside walkway to a restaurant at the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers.

And that's only one plan. Another plan, named the Tusayan Development, is a major South Rim housing and commercial development that would put 2,200 homes and 3 million square feet of commercial space — a veritable town two blocks long — encroached on canyon borders.

"They are serious threats to the future of the park," said park superintendent Dave Ueberuaga. "When you have that size and scope of potential development that close to the park, it will impact our visitor experience."

The Grand Canyon attracts more than 5 million visitors every year, the great majority of whom stop, look out and leave. Native Tribes, however, have changed that. Grand Canyon West, on Hualapai land, operates the Skywalk — a glass walkway jutting out over the canyon — as well as helicopter tours to Tribal property next to the river.

The park service offers nothing more than "a drive-by wilderness experience," said Grand Canyon Escalade gondola developer R. Lamar Whitmer, who is working with the Navajo.

"The average person can't ride a mule to the bottom of the canyon. We want them to feel the canyon from the bottom."

The conflict lies at the bottom of the Canyon as the Navajo claim that they have rights to property above the high-water mark of the rivers.

Park officials say the Navajo are mistaken. Federal jurisdiction extends a quarter-mile on either side of the Colorado, the park says, and no development can occur any closer to the water.

—Source: Los Angeles Times

They still say squaw in Oregon

JACKSONVILLE, Ore. — Squaw Lake, a tiny seasonal lake southeast of Bend, Ore., is the only remaining "squaw location" in central Oregon. Thirteen years after the state Legislature formally called for eliminating the term "squaw" in geographic names, the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB) has had no requests to change its name.

In fact, fewer than one-third of Oregon's squaw locations have been officially changed. Of the 172 squaw place names in Oregon in 1993, the OGNB has considered a change for all but 30.

The front lines of the push to eliminate the derogatory term is the OGNB, which considers public requests, case-by-case, and proposes new names recommended by Native Americans in the area.

Phil Cogswell, OGNB president, said that the word "squaw" is believed to have originated with the East Coast Algonquin Tribes as a term for woman, then spread westward by white settlers who often used it in a derogatory fashion.

Cogswell said Squaw Lake is like many of the places that retain a squaw name, a place few have heard of or can find on a map.

"There's some features that are so obscure, they're never referred to as anything. Just about anything can have a name, but a lot of times, the names aren't used," he said.

Cogswell indicated OGNB board members have heard complaints that alternative names proposed by Oregon Tribes are unpronounceable. Other opponents of the squaw name change say they don't consider "squaw" a slur, and others reject the idea of Tribes having any influence beyond reservation boundaries.

"I can understand, it's like a lot of cultural change," Cogswell said. "People — who may be well-intentioned, there's no reason to doubt their sincerity — you're kind of telling them they've been wrong or incorrect in something they've been doing their whole life."

—Source: The Bulletin

Native-only landscaping for Senecas

CATTARAUGUS RESERVATION, N.Y. — The Seneca Indian Nation has formalized a practice that Tribes throughout the country are embracing as a way to preserve Native American culture and the environment.

The Senecas will only use indigenous plants and trees in its public landscaping, such as outside Tribal schools, office buildings and casinos on Seneca land. Instead of Austrian pines and Norway maples, there will be more balsam firs and white ash trees. Wild bee balm, cinnamon fern and other medicinal plants will take the place of non-native flowers and shrubbery.

The Senecas, from western New York, are believed to be the first to formalize such a policy. Seneca President Barry Snyder said the policy was born in efforts to reduce diabetes by encouraging diets of locally grown fruits and vegetables.

—Source: FoxBusiness.com

Tennessee park welcomes white buffalo

MORRISTOWN, Tenn. — Briarwood Safari Ranch in Tennessee has a white buffalo roaming its premises.

The odds of an American buffalo being born white instead of brown are about a million to one, said Ron Nease, who brought the buffalo to the 150-acre rolling woodlands park he owns with his wife, Deborah.

Though he did not specify which Tribe, Nease said that an Indian from Florida was among those who flocked to Morristown to see an animal considered culturally sacred by many Native Americans. The Florida Indian, he said, performed chants and dances and asked about bringing other members of his Tribe.

"I'd searched for years to try to find a white buffalo. I'd only ever seen one," Nease said, before finding a 7-year-old bull for sale in North Dakota and shipping it to East Tennessee, where it is now one of about 70 species of exotic animals found at Briarwood. Some are kept in pens and others, including the white buffalo, free range throughout the park.

—Source: Citizen Tribune

Oil byproduct spilled under North Dakota reservation

FORT BERTHOLD RESERVATION, N.D. — Briny saltwater, spilled from an underground North Dakota oil pipeline that extends 2 miles down a steep ravine, only seeped 200 yards from the spill source and did not get to the area's drinking supply, Crestwood Midstream Partners vice president of environmental safety Miranda Jones told Aljazeera America.

Jones said a separated pipe was to blame for the spill, estimated at 1 million gallons. Saltwater — also called brine — is a natural, but unwanted byproduct of oil and natural gas production that can be 10 to 30 times saltier than seawater

and may contain petroleum and residue from hydraulic fracturing operations. Crestwood subsidiary Arrow Pipeline owns the pipeline.

Trees, brush and grasses were damaged in an area described by Claryca Mandan, natural resources administrator for the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Tribes Natural Resources Department, as "one of the worst places it could have happened" because the pipeline sits atop a bluff, which sent the poison saltwater straight down the rugged terrain.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) assessed the site to ensure that none of the brine affected Lake Sakakawea, which provides drinking water for the Three Affiliated Tribes at the Fort Berthold Reservation in the heart of western North Dakota's booming oil patch. The EPA said it also had no confirmed reports that the saltwater had reached Bear Den Bay, which feeds into Lake Sakakawea, but rather was pooled on the ground, soaked into the soil or held behind beaver dams.

The cleanup at the reservation site is expected to last for weeks, Jones said. The EPA will issue a final report at a later date.

Fort Berthold is home to the nation's second highest oil production, responsible for 300,000 gallons of North Dakota's 1 million daily produced gallons, according to the state's Department of Mineral Resources.

—Source: Aljazeera America

Audit: Millions misspent by Apache housing

WHITERIVER, Ariz. — The White Mountain Apache Housing Authority is so badly managed it should be considered for receivership, according to a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) audit released in July.

HUD offered evidence of misspent millions in federal dollars on entertainment, gift certificates and other improper items in a report issued by the agency's Office of Inspector General (IG), which also recommended that HUD's Southwest Office of Native American Programs should order the Tribal Housing Authority to reimburse \$2.3 million and acknowledge the unsupported spending of an additional \$8.2 million.

The audit found that misappropriated, or not properly accounted for, funds made up more than two-thirds of the \$14.4 million in Indian Housing Block Grant money provided to the Tribe during 2011 and 2012. The misfeasance included the hiring of vendors without an open bid process and millions spent for "ineligible" purchases. They found evidence of double payments, and disallowed and undocumented spending.

Previously, a forensic audit looking at 2006 to 2010 exposed possible embezzlement, misappropriations, mismanagement and nepotism. In 2013, a dozen Tribal and housing authority officials were charged in Apache court with embezzlement, conspiracy and other crimes.

The Tribe has been submerged in political, financial and legal turmoil for three years amid allegations of cronyism, nepotism, embezzlement and fraud that are frequently related to the housing authority.

The White Mountain Independent reported in May that three board members and two administrators were convicted.

Though auditors recommended that Carolyn J. O'Neil, administrator for HUD's Southwest Office of Native American Programs, "consider receivership" for the Apache housing agency, a HUD regional spokesman said the agency is not going to move toward receivership but will work with the housing authority to "foster good processes and proper record-keeping."

The audit, conducted in late 2013 and early this year, says the Apache nation has more than 2,000 poverty-level families on a waiting list for subsidized housing. Dwellings, however, were provided to tenants whose incomes exceeded HUD limits for eligibility, including a member of the Tribal Council.

"In some instances," inspectors concluded, "this condition occurred at the request of Tribal leadership ... This condition occurred because the authority disregarded its policies and HUD regulations."

—Source: AZCentral.com

Will Irene Bedard be Will Smith's next leading lady?

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — Rumors are running rampant that Alaska Native actress Irene Bedard has emerged as the female lead in *Hancock 2* starring Will Smith, projected for a 2015 release.

Only nobody has told Bedard. Yet. The project got a big publicity boost June 24 when news sources reported that Beyoncé Knowles would appear in the film as Carly Kicker. That turned out to be untrue, and news stories were retracted or corrected. Some stories mentioned, almost as an aside, that Bedard had been cast opposite Smith as the character Knowles Neeson.

On June 28, Bedard posted this update to her Facebook page:

"So I have had a lot of inquiries asking

me about the film *Hancock 2*. According to news agencies and the IMDB site, I will be appearing in the film. Hmmmm. What do you think Facebookers? would this be as much fun as it looks?"

A big misunderstanding? No one seems to know. Smith is not talking. Still, perhaps just for fun, the actress kept dropping mentions of the possible role on her Twitter page. Then Bedard posted this update to Facebook:

"Hope everyone is having a fantastic weekend! Still waiting to hear from Will Smith's people on *Hancock 2* (Cross your fingers!) but it brings up an interesting question: Why aren't there more American Indian/Alaskan Natives cast in Hollywood blockbusters?"

—Source: Indian Country Today Media Network

Cherokee Nation settles with feds over unpaid health funds

TALEQUAH, Okla. — After a decade of negotiation, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma has agreed to accept a \$29.5-million settlement from the federal government for the failure of Indian Health Service (IHS) to pay for support costs, such as human resources, information technology and finance, between 2005 and 2013.

"The settlement is a major milestone for the Cherokee Nation and our health centers," Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker said in a statement. "Payment of these millions of dollars from the federal government is long overdue, and now these funds will be utilized to provide expanded and improved health care services to our citizens. We will be able to equip our new centers with state-of-the-art medical devices and technology."

The IHS funds eight health centers and a hospital on the Nation, where more than 1 million patients depend on their care.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has demanded the U.S. "promptly settle all outstanding IHS claims." Dozens of Tribes are owed hundreds of millions of dollars, the NCAI estimates.

"Native people have been historically underserved when it comes to access to quality care, and this is a step in a positive direction," Baker said.

—Source: Aljazeera America

Ancient Clovis culture elephant hunting camp discovered

EL FIN DE MUNDO, Mexico — A rancher's tip of unusual bones eroding out of a cut bank some 200 kilometers south of the Arizona border has led scientists to an unexpected find in the Sonoran Desert: an ancient camp where natives of the prehistoric Paleo-Indian Clovis culture hunted, more than 13,000 years ago, an elephant-like animal — a gomphothere — never before known in North America's archaeological record.

The camp also turned up a host of rare stone points and bone ornaments — organic material dated to 13,400 years ago; the site, called El Fin De Mundo (translation: The End of the World) is one of the oldest and southernmost Clovis sites yet found on the continent.

The remains of two animals initially puzzled the scientists.

"At first, just based on the size of the bone, we thought maybe it was a bison because the extinct bison were a little bigger than our modern bison," said University of Arizona archaeologist Vance Holliday in a press statement.

The discovery of an ancient jawbone, however, made them realize they had found gomphotheres, odd-looking, long-jawed ancestors of modern elephants once thought to have vanished from North America before humans arrived.

"This is the first archaeological gomphothere found in North America, and it's the only one known," Holliday said. "It's the first evidence that people were hunting gomphotheres in North America, and it adds another item to the Clovis menu."

—Source: WesternDigs.com, ScienceRecorder.com

Pressler: Memorial needed at Wounded Knee

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — Independent U.S. Senate candidate Larry Pressler said that if he's elected, he'll push for a American Indian "holocaust memorial" museum at Wounded Knee.

Pressler said he got the idea from journalist and Oglala Lakota Tribe member Tim Giago.

Pressler said the project, which would need federal and state funding, could include other facilities for use by tourists as a base for touring the Black Hills.

Pressler is a former Republican who served two terms in the House followed by three Senate terms from 1975 to 1997. He is seeking the seat being vacated by retiring Sen. Tim Johnson.

—Source: SFGate

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Education



Students learn responsibility, reap rewards during Summer Work Experience Program

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

“We encourage students to take advantage of the program. It gives them an insight into their business; the Tribe is their business.”

– Luis Yeguez,
professional development program manager

The Education Department is giving teens a glimpse into the working world this summer through its Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP), which kicked off June 9.

More than 40 SWEP participants wake up for work Monday through Friday, clock in and out, and get treated like any other Tribal employee. The program, for high school students ages 14 to 18, has put youth to work in Tribal departments every summer since 2005.

“I wanted to learn about how adults do stuff,” said Leonna Pichardo, 14, who will be an eighth-grader at Jupiter Christian School in the fall.

Students chose a department that

interested them, attended orientation like every new employee and embarked on their summer careers. Participating departments include Culture, Recreation, Housing, Seminole Media Productions (SMP) and Billie Swamp Safari. Students may transfer to other departments during the program to increase their experience.

SWEP aims to prepare students for the workforce and to expose them to employment opportunities within the Tribe.

“We have them working in areas that is like training for the future,” said Luis Yeguez, professional development program manager. “It’s been a good year; everyone is learning a lot, and the supervisors are pleased with them.”

Ethan Balentine elected to work at Billie Swamp Safari where he handles the animals, works in the gift shop and helps clean the park.

“I like it; I get to make money,” said Ethan, 14, who will be an eighth-grader at Ahfachkee School in the fall. “The anteater is my favorite animal because it can’t bite me.”

Kiara Pichardo, 15, is working with commercial artists in the SMP Business Marketing Department where she helps design business cards, fliers and T-shirts.

“I didn’t expect to do this much; I thought I’d just watch other people work,” said Kiara, who will start her sophomore year at Jupiter Christian School in the fall. “It’s better than I expected. I’m



Beverly Bidney

Seminole Media Productions videographer David Diaz shows Leonna Pichardo how to edit video June 26 at the department’s office in Hollywood.



Eileen Soler

Ethan Balentine handles an anteater July 8 during a show for tourists at Billie Swamp Safari.

getting experience and learning from professionals.”

Leonna also chose SMP but she decided to follow the Broadcasting track. She learned about shooting video, working in a studio and editing in Final Cut Pro.

In June, she went out in the field with SMP crew members to work on a docudrama about Native American actor Saginaw Grant. She saw how each shot was composed and learned how to shoot from different angles to tell a story.

“I learned to use the camera, edited five shots, recorded stuff and watched what they did,” she said. “The biggest challenge is editing. I’m a perfectionist and like to do things well. My goal for the summer is to learn everything I can, not just the basics.”

Although she enjoyed her SMP experience, Leonna transferred to the Treasury Office.

Throughout the summer, the Education Department kept in touch with supervisors to track the students’ progress.

At the end of the program Aug. 8, students will be evaluated.

“We encourage students to take advantage of the program,” Yeguez said. “It gives them an insight into their business; the Tribe is their business.”

Ethan enjoyed his first work experience and plans to return next summer.

“I learned you have to work hard to get things done and to get a paycheck,” Ethan said. “It was a good thing to do for the summer.”

Science program stimulates educational exploration

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Preschool graduates stepped into big kid school with a summer prekindergarten boost at Ahfachkee School.

“They are loving it and learning at the same time,” said Gina Goldsmith, an early childhood intervention specialist with the Tribe’s Children’s Center for Diagnostics and Therapy (CCDT.)

Developed by the Health Department, the summer education enrichment program – known as Cool Science – is all about hands-on kindergarten readiness, loaded with everything squirmy, tasty, wet and wacky.

“It could seem like silliness, but there is a lot of education on the agenda,” said Ali Molina, also an early childhood intervention specialist with CCDT.

On a recent Thursday, while dressed in laboratory jackets and armed with containers of water, test tubes and clementine tangerines, a handful of the school’s tiniest students performed science experiments to “discover” the words “float” and “sink.”

At desks sized for tykes, they dropped the whole fruit into the water. Next, they peeled the fruit and dropped the peels into the water. Some, like John Hall, sneaked quick nibbles of the sweet treat.

Others, like Terrance Robbins, were mesmerized by the displacement of water that occurred when fruit slices were added



Eileen Soler

Early childhood intervention specialist Gina Goldsmith and incoming prekindergarten student Terrance Robbins enjoy a just-for-kids science project at Ahfachkee School.

Ahfachkee summer school spells f-u-n

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Education did not take the summer off at Ahfachkee School, at least that’s what nearly two dozen children discovered during the school’s four-week, fun-drenched Ahfachkee Summer Survivor Enrichment Program.

“They have fun learning every day,” teacher Billie McDonald said during a tour of classrooms where children absorbed knowledge and enjoyed the experience July 9.

Based on the reality television series *Survivor*, the program allowed kids to explore a different world biome – or climate environment – each week. The tundra, desert, ocean and rainforest were visited via entertainment, arts and crafts, reading, math and science.

During ocean week, second- and third-graders met sea creatures through the book *Deep Sea Dive* by Salina Yoon. Sea eels, though dangerous in the deep blue sea, were not scary at all when the class decorated toy sea eels using bright-colored Magic Markers.

“But if you touch a real sea eel it will zap you – so don’t,” Peggy Sue Cypress said.

Teacher Cynthia Wilkes said students

had already spent almost an hour solving math problems, including two-digit addition and subtraction. They also used computers to research and read about other marine life on the Internet.

Across campus, middle school students relaxed on beanbag chairs in a room where fish, crustaceans, seaweed and fishing net hung from the ceiling. They were captivated by the BBC documentary *One Life* that depicted the interconnectivity of Earth’s biomes.

Handmade sun catchers, in various fish shapes, dried on tables nearby. Some students would later attach hollow metal bars to the fish to create fanciful wind chimes.

Incoming sixth-grader Brandi Osceola said the documentary inspired her to someday visit Madagascar, an island country off the coast of Africa that is considered a biodiversity hotspot of the world.

“I want to see monkeys break open nuts with rocks like in the movie,” Brandi said.

But first, ocean week was capped with a summer school trip to Miami Seaquarium. McDonald, who ran the program with instructional aide Jonelle Pollard, said music, health education, technology exploration and physical activities were

“It could seem like silliness, but there is a lot of education on the agenda ... We get to every area of development, and we get there in a good, good way.”

– Ali Molina,
Children’s Center for Diagnostics
and Therapy childhood intervention specialist

to test tubes filled with water.

Cool Science was also provided to children at the Hollywood Preschool and for incoming prekindergarten students at Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School. The CCDT program is managed by Lisa Izenwasser through Health Department director Connie Whidden.

Allison Mason, CCDT therapy coordinator, said the curriculum focuses on the holistic development of each child. The early childhood specialists zero in on many developmental aspects from fine motor skills and cognitive thinking to building vocabulary and understanding mathematics.

“We make it very fun, but the child is always learning,” Mason said.

At Ahfachkee, excitement for science came with a chant: “Science, science ... fun, fun, fun.”

The children absorbed vocabulary that included funnel, pipette and test tube.

Meanwhile, the children practiced following directions and working in groups. Social benefits include opportunities to share, help others, make friends and build self-esteem, Goldsmith said.

“We get to every area of development, and we get there in a good, good way,” Molina said.



Eileen Soler

Incoming Ahfachkee School prekindergarten student John Hall works on a science experiment during the Cool Science summer enrichment program.

♦ See SUMMER SCHOOL on page 4B

Higher education students score academic accolades

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

PEMBROKE PINES — Adult graduates from institutes of higher learning, including universities and trade schools, were awarded July 10 with dinner and gifts at Brimstone Woodfire Grill in Pembroke Pines.

Six of 13 Tribal members who completed various degrees and certificate programs from July 2013 through June 2014 attended the Tribe's Education Department event.

"We prove that you will never know your own potential, or possibilities, unless you try," said Edward Aguilar, who earned a bachelor's degree in culinary arts from the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. He is currently working through the Tribal Career Development program.

Other graduates in attendance were: Larissa Tucker (certificate in makeup artistry, Cosmix School of Makeup Artistry); Billie Tiger (associate in human services, Palm Beach State College);

Krystle Young (bachelor's in English, University of Miami); Tony Sanchez III (bachelor's in entertainment business, Full Sail University); and Gabriel Stockton (MBA, DeVry University).

Tucker, who works in the Hollywood Council Office, credited the Education Department for guiding her through cosmetology school from start to end.

"They have been wonderful — always there to discuss issues and concerns," Tucker said.

At the beginning of her journey, Tucker was unsure of what supplies she would need. A department employee advised her to purchase a computer, an item Tucker never thought she would need for cosmetology.

"I was so wrong. It wasn't long before I became very grateful for all their support," she said.

Shruti Elliott, a higher education recruiter for the department, spoke highly of all the students and highlighted three: Stockton, as a well-rounded student and an example to others; Tiger, who will continue

her education at Florida Atlantic University in the fall; and Agnes Billie-Motlow, who started college in the 1960s, earned several certificates and degrees since then and will earn a doctorate in December from Barry University.

Billie-Motlow, the assistant to Tribal attorney Jim Shore, recalled the early 1960s "flower power era" when the nation was in social chaos and money for college came haltingly to Native Americans from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"There was little money and 15,000 others applying for it. One year I had to work in the school cafeteria just to pay for basics," Billie-Motlow said. "We (Seminole Tribe) are very fortunate to get the help we need."

Veronica Ramsundar, program manager for the Education Department, said the office provides help every step of the way from discussing what schools to attend through graduation.

Achievement certificates and professional pen and pencil sets were awarded to recent graduates.

Billie-Motlow and other Tribal graduates were invited to the dinner to represent career success after college and to offer advice about life-long learning.

Jarrid Smith, who graduated from Florida Atlantic University "several times" since 2001, has since become a teacher at Ahfachkee School. He earned his teaching certificate just last year. Moses Osceola, who graduated in 1978 from Florida International University with a degree in business, is currently taking law courses online.

"In December I was appointed as a judge for the future Tribal Court. Now, I want to learn the law so I can do the best job possible," Osceola said. "When I started in the '70s I had to rely on a \$652 grant. Today, the Tribe's Education Department has grown so strong that I believe it's the best thing we've ever done."



Eileen Soler

Drew Osceola, a student at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, shares with Tribal members about his quest for a college degree during the Education Department's July 10 incentive awards dinner at Brimstone Woodfire Grill.



Eileen Soler

Current college graduates, past graduates, future grads and staff from the Education Department pose for a photo July 10 during an incentive awards dinner at Brimstone Woodfire Grill in Pembroke Pines.



Beverly Bidney

Nathaniel Fewell-Jim, left, and Donavin Osceola are glad to have their certificates in hand at the June 12 Trail education incentive awards dinner.

Trail students snag education awards

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

MIAMI BEACH — Hard-working Seminole students from Trail celebrated their school-year achievements with an awards ceremony at Texas de Brazil restaurant June 12 in Miami Beach.

While kids seemed eager to relax into summer, Education director Santarvis Brown had some sage advice for students.

"Through education, they can succeed in anything they do," Brown said. "Over the summer they should keep reading, keep reading, keep reading."

Each student received a certificate and a sweatshirt as a gift from the Tribe.

"It was the hardest year yet," said Katherine Jim, who finished her junior year at Florida Christian School in Miami. I took more honors and science classes, so I could knock them out before senior year."

Trail Liaison Norman Huggins congratulated students and thanked their parents for getting their children off to school.

"It does take a whole village to raise a kid," Liaison Huggins said. "To the Education staff, *sho-naa-bish* and congratulations on a successful year."



Beverly Bidney

From left, second-graders Paris Huggins, Kelvin Huggins Jr., Roberto Osceola Benard and Kassiah Robbins proudly pose with their end-of-the-year certificates June 12 at the Trail education incentive awards dinner.



Beverly Bidney

Alessandra Cypress, left, and Kyla Cypress pose with their end-of-the-year certificates.

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Tampa Seminoles honored at incentive awards event

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TAMPA — The Tampa community celebrated personal accomplishments by students, Police Explorers and elders July 14 with a buffet dinner and incentive awards ceremony at the Sheraton Tampa East Hotel.

Tampa Education recruiter Frank Birts presented awards to Christina Clark, Shane Clay, Ricky Dillon, Angel Dillon (who only missed two days of school all year), Julian Dillon, Miguel Dillon, Mason Foret, Avery Miller, Desmond Miller, Nigel Osceola, Devon Osceola, Dominic Osceola, Jeremiah Santiago, McKenna Smith and Katie Smith for their academic achievements throughout the 2013-14 school year.

Seminole Police Officer Tom Apsey also took the podium to recognize the Tampa Police Explorers, singling out two Explorers for special praise.

"When we were all in D.C. for [National Police] Week, there was a parade that honors all the officers who died in the line of duty..." Apsey said. "That parade was more than 20 minutes long and this young man (Dominic Osceola) saluted all those officers as they passed."

Dominic demonstrated his salute as the crowd cheered.

"In the four years we have had this program," Apsey continued, "we have held 109 Police Explorer meetings. One young man — Desmond Miller — has missed only four of those meetings. He attended 105 meetings over four years. That is quite an accomplishment."

Elder Services project coordinator Lola Juarez gave out the evening's final awards for the academic achievement of Tampa's Tribal elders: "Knowledge is power. The more you learn, the more you learn. The more you learn, the better prepared you are to deal with life's changes. It never matters



Peter B. Gallagher

Dominic Osceola demonstrates the salute he held for 20 minutes during the parade for fallen officers in Washington, D.C. where Officer Tom Apsey guided his Explorers on a field trip in May.

how old you are. It is always good to feed it," she said.

Honors were given to Linda Lee Henry for advancing to the GED level in social studies and science; Annie O. Henry for expanding her understanding of basic cycles; Linda O. Henry and Maggie Garcia for both achieving one grade level of improvement on the group reading assessment and diagnostic evaluation exam; and Nancy O. Frank for being the most advanced in vocabulary and reading fluency.

"Younger children, take pride in your grandparents coming to school," Juarez said. "They did not have that when they were younger. This should make you guys

want to learn now instead of having to wait. It's never too late to pick up a book and learn how to read."

Tampa Reservation administrator Richard Henry praised the accomplishments of those honored.

"Keep up the good work," he said. "We got young and old here today being represented. It is never too late to learn anything. Always get ready to learn something because one day you are going to be our future."



Peter B. Gallagher

Tutor Michael Kraft presents an award to Linda O. Henry, who achieved one grade level of improvement on the elders group reading assessment and diagnostic evaluation exam.



Peter B. Gallagher

For being the most advanced in vocabulary and reading fluency, Nancy O. Frank receives a certificate from tutor Michael Kraft.



Peter B. Gallagher

Katie Smith receives her certificate of excellence from Education director Santarvis Brown.



Peter B. Gallagher

Miguel Dillon earns a Seminole Police Explorers award of excellence from SPD Officer Tom Apsey.



Gordon Wareham

Melissa Billie and Kai Tommie take a break from the pool for a picture together at the Hollywood incentive awards June 16. The event featured a bounce house, water slide and bumper cars.

Kids celebrated with fun-in-the-sun event

BY GORDON WAREHAM
Freelance Writer

HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood incentive awards were all about having fun

in the sun while honoring Seminole kids for their academic achievements during the school year.

More than 200 Seminole students from the Hollywood community were honored during the June 16 event, with more than 50 students and 30 parents making their way to the Seminole Estates clubhouse to celebrate the end of the school year.

"Today we recognized our students who have performed exemplary during their school year; we recognized their academics, attendance and overall performance for the school year," said Education Department director Santarvis Brown to both students and parents. "We present them with certificates to motivate them to move them forward."

Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola also attended the event and offered his praise.

"I get to see each one of the kids being a good citizen, a Seminole, who is excelling and taking their schooling seriously. It gives them something to shoot for..." he said.

After the awards were handed out, kids were entertained with music, water bounce house and super water slide located next to the pool. An inside bumper car arena capped off the activities for the kids.



Gordon Wareham

Chade Osceola swings upside down on bungee cords during the incentive awards event.



Gordon Wareham

Doreen Torres and Armani Torres stop for a quick photo during the Hollywood incentive awards event June 16.

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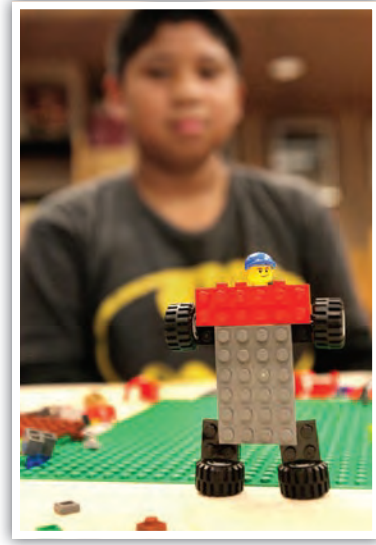
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Library builds on books



Eileen Soler

Hank Jumper reaches for colorful bricks to build a Lego tower June 25 during Lego Build It at the Willie Frank Memorial Library on Big Cypress. The library hosted a menu of free activities, storytelling and movies all summer for children.



Eileen Soler

Kylen Jumper displays his 'Carman' Lego creation during Lego Build It.



Eileen Soler

Mishell Grasshopper, Kylen Jumper, Eden Jumper and Hank Jumper create and play with colorful Legos during Lego Build It at the Willie Frank Memorial Library on Big Cypress Reservation.

◆ SUMMER SCHOOL

From page 1B

also daily components of the program. Participants received breakfast and lunch.

Brandi said the best part of summer school was learning with friends and having fun with teacher Yesenia Gaviria. Earlier in the day, Gaviria

instructed students to read the novel *Eagle Feather* out loud to each other in pairs.

"Kids really get excited about being here when it's summertime - it's enjoyable and it's educational," Gaviria said.

The final week gave students a chance to discover the rainforest and end summer school in a shower of laughs. Kids were treated to a field day on the school campus with everything wet, including a massive water slide.



Eileen Soler

Middle school students relax on beanbag chairs for a screening of *One Life*, a BBC documentary that depicts the world's biodiversity.



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Emma Johns

Second-year National Elementary Honor Society members, from left, Ramone Baker, Aubee Billie, Caylie Huff and Haylie Huff pose with their awards May 27.

PECS recognizes scholars

BY EMMA JOHNS
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — Pemaeytv Emahakv Charter School's National Honor Society members were honored by the school May 27.

The National Honor Society recognizes outstanding students nationwide who demonstrate excellence in areas of scholarship, leadership, service and character.

The following Pemaeytv Emahakv students were inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society for the 2013-14 school year:

First-year NEHS: Jahcole Arnold, Alliana Brady, Tayla Burns, Leilani Burton, Kayven Emily, Lake Goodwin, Landon Goodwin, Karey Gopher, LaShae King, Diego Meras, Dakoya Nunez, Joss Youngblood, Davin Carrillo, Morgan Yates, Elle Thomas and Kyra Toneges.

Second-year NEHS: Ramone Baker, Aubee Billie, Caylie Huff and Haylie Huff.

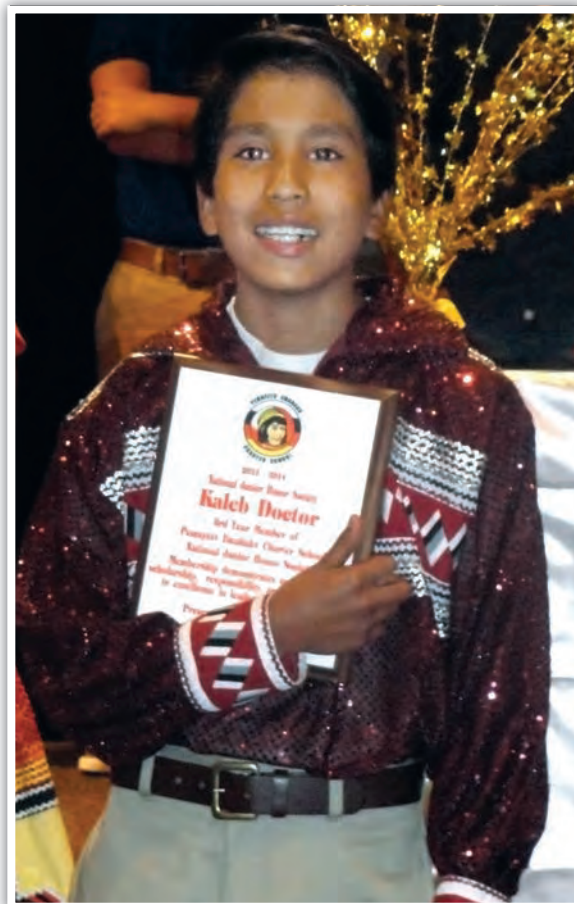
The following Pemaeytv Emahakv students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society for the 2013-14 school year:

First-year NJHS: Alex Armstrong, Waylynn Bennett, Brienna Brockman, Lucy Cypress, Tucker Johns, Alaina Sweat, Luzana Venzor, Nyah Davidson, Bakari Micco, Satie Rico and Alex Valdes.

Second-year NJHS: Pernell Bert, Julia Smith, Chynna Villarreal, Janessa Nunez and Dante Thomas.

Third-year NJHS: Katie Beck, Eecho Billie, Jenna Brown, Krysta Burton, Kaleb Doctor, Edward Gaucin, Silas Madrigal, Kyle Palmisano, Aubrey Pearce, Brady Rhodes and Kamani Smith.

Fourth-year NJHS: Jalynn Jones, Rudy Juarez, Raeley Matthews, Aleina Micco, Chandler Pearce, Kano Puente, Camryn Thomas, Conner Thomas, Layne Thomas, Aidan Tommie and Aiyana Tommie.



Emma Johns

Third-year National Junior Honor Society member Kaleb Doctor shows off his plaque.

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Beverly Bidney

Angel Stewart rides piggyback across the pool during free swim June 25 at the Hollywood Recreation summer camp at Seminole Estates.



Beverly Bidney

Shilin Huggins connects with the ball while playing pingpong June 25 at Hollywood Recreation's summer camp at Seminole Estates.



Eileen Soler

Barbara Jimmie, left, and Justicean Morrison are thrilled to catch a gar June 26 during a fishing outing with the Recreation Department at the Big Cypress Reservation.



Beverly Bidney

Angel Stewart watches as her sister Eva Stewart sends the disc down the court during a shuffleboard game June 25 in Hollywood.



Eileen Soler

Elisah Billie feigns injury by fish hook during a fishing excursion June 26 at the Big Cypress Reservation.



Eileen Soler

Children from the Big Cypress Recreation Department's summer fun program play atop a hill made for a future target range.

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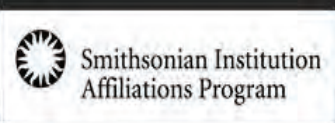
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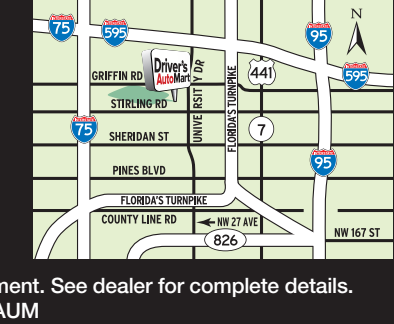
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Sports



Rez Runners capture NABI championship

Seminole lead the way to undefeated record during four-day tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

PHOENIX — Seminole basketball players had a memorable trip to the Valley of the Sun earlier this month.

J.U.S. Nation, whose intertribal roster includes a half-dozen Seminoles from Florida, won the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) in Phoenix, Ariz. July 5 while using the name Rez Runners. The Rez Runners blazed an undefeated path through the desert by winning all eight of their games, including the championship tilt in the 18,000-seat US Airways Center, home of the NBA's Phoenix Suns.

"They run it like an NBA game with announcers, dancers, a mascot. The kids got the full experience," said Rez Runners coach Andrew Jordan Bowers.

Described by organizers as the nation's largest Native American basketball tournament, NABI featured high school players (including 2014 graduates) who comprised 64 teams in the boys division and 64 in the girls division. As the only squad from east of the Mississippi River, the Rez Runners had the farthest to travel. The trip turned out to be worth every mile as they notched their first NABI title with wins against squads from Arizona, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

"It's a big tournament. Our goal has been to win it for the past six years," said Bowers, whose team played games in Phoenix and neighboring Scottsdale.

The Rez Runners were determined to go further than last year when they were

ousted in the quarterfinals. That's one reason the team celebrated its championship victory as if it had captured the Final Four.

"It was a huge celebration; everyone jumping on everyone. Just like the NCAA championship, there were hats and T-shirts and a trophy," Bowers said.

Seminole on the Rez Runners are Trey Boone, Josh Boromei, Christopher Briscall, Dennis Gonzales, Hunter Osceola and Trewston Pierce. They teamed up with Tristin Fierro and Mathew Wingett from the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Draven Hickman from Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Ryland Moore from Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma.

The journey to the final started when the Rez Runners finished first in their four-team pool with a 3-0 record. Two more victories pushed the team into the quarterfinals, where they edged the AZ Warriors from Arizona, 61-58.

The semifinal proved to be the toughest and most dramatic game for the Rez Runners, whose third win of the day July 4 was a double-overtime thriller, 78-73, against Many Feathers from South Dakota.

"That was one of the craziest games I've ever played. Every shot they put up was falling," Pierce said.

Many Feathers sank a 3-pointer in the waning seconds of regulation to force overtime. In the second overtime, the Rez Runners trailed by four with about 50 seconds left, but the deficit was erased thanks to sharp shooting from Osceola, the team's top guard who signed with Barry University earlier this year and won a state title with American Heritage School.

Osceola scored 27 points in regulation and all but two of his team's points in the overtimes, including a pair of crucial baskets from beyond the arc.

"Hunter brought us back with two 3-pointers," Bowers said.

Despite playing three games plus two overtimes in one day, the Rez Runners still had plenty of energy left for the championship game the following afternoon. The Rez Runners made sure



Photo courtesy of NABI Foundation

Comprised mostly of Seminoles and coached by Andrew Jordan Bowers, the Rez Runners boys basketball team is joined by family and fans July 5 to celebrate its championship victory in the Native American Basketball Invitational in Phoenix, Ariz.

overtime wasn't required, as they surged past Oklahoma's Cheyenne Arapaho, 66-51.

The teams were knotted 31-31 at halftime.

When Cheyenne Arapaho took a three-point lead with about 10 minutes left, Bowers decided that his defense needed a pep talk.

"We were playing good defense for 20 or 25 seconds, but then in the last second we'd give up an offensive rebound or something," Bowers said.

Bowers called a timeout and urged his defense to step up. The players responded to their coach's words.

"Finally, we locked in and got a

complete stop," Bowers said.

The complete stops on defense kept coming one after another as the Rez Runners scored 14 unanswered points to seize control of the championship.

"We went on a run that gave us a cushion," Bowers said.

Pierce led the Rez Runners with a game-high 22 points and was named the tournament's most valuable player.

The championship victory included an additional perk because it came against a familiar foe.

"We always end up playing [Cheyenne Arapaho] in quarterfinals, semifinals or finals. It's kind of even sweeter to beat them," Bowers said.

After the victory, the Rez Runners visited slam dunk legend Kenny Dobbs at his home in Phoenix. Last year, the Choctaw Nation member entertained youngsters during a performance at the Brighton Reservation Gym.

Winning the NABI championship isn't the first time a J.U.S. Nation team has hoisted a championship trophy. J.U.S. has won titles at NAYO, the All-West Native American Basketball Classic and elsewhere. "But this is the biggest," Bowers said.

Road to the title

Eight wins in four days from July 2-5 propelled the Rez Runners to win the Native American Basketball Invitational title in Phoenix, Ariz.

W 59-51 vs. NM Flight (N.M.)

W 60-40 vs. Baboquivari (Ariz.)

W 99-51 vs. Isanti Oyate (Neb.)

W 63-38 vs. Dine Rebels (Ariz.)

W 51-46 vs. Rockhaws (Mont.)

Quarterfinal: W 61-58 vs. AZ Warriors (Ariz.)

Semifinal: W 78-73 vs. Many Feathers (S.D.)

Championship: W 66-51 vs. Cheyenne Arapaho (Okla.)



Photo courtesy of NABI Foundation

Rez Runners defender Mathew Wingett extends his arms to block the path of a Cheyenne Arapaho player during the Native American Basketball Invitational championship game.

REZ RUNNERS (J.U.S. NATION) 2014 NABI Boys Champions

Head coach:
Andrew Jordan Bowers
Assistant coach:
Scott Aldrich

Roster:
Trey Boone, Josh Boromei, Christopher Briscall, Tristin Fierro, Dennis Gonzales, Draven Hickman, Ryland Moore, Hunter Osceola, Trewston Pierce, Mathew Wingett

Trewston Pierce earns MVP award

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

PHOENIX — The tallest player on the Rez Runners made a big impression at the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI).

After scoring 22 points in the championship game, Trewston Pierce was named the tournament's most valuable player July 5 in Phoenix, Ariz. The 6-foot-5 forward/center from Hollywood received the award at midcourt in the US Airways Center following the Rez Runners' 66-51 win against Cheyenne Arapaho.

Pierce said getting acclimated to shooting in a big arena was "no problem," but sprinting up and down the NBA court — 10 feet longer than high school courts — took some adjustment.

"It's harder to run on it because it's longer," he said.

Rez Runners coach Andrew Jordan Bowers said Pierce's combination of size, skill and speed makes him tough to defend.

"He's 6-5 and he can handle the ball like a guard," Bowers said.

Considering the tournament drew 64 teams, Pierce's selection as MVP came from a field in the neighborhood of 700 players.

Pierce said the award means a lot to him because he practices and works out about four hours every day at the

Hollywood Reservation Gym.

"I put in hours daily for that. It paid off," he said.

Pierce played for American Heritage School in Plantation as a junior last season. He said he plans to play for Fort Lauderdale High in his senior year.



Photo courtesy of NABI Foundation

Trewston Pierce passes the ball during the championship game July 5 at US Airways Center in Phoenix, Ariz. Pierce's 22 points in the final helped lift the Rez Runners to a 66-51 win against Cheyenne Arapaho of Oklahoma and helped secure him the MVP honor.



Photo courtesy of NABI Foundation

Hunter Osceola, center, and his Rez Runners teammates check out the championship trophy after winning the Native American Basketball Invitational at US Airways Center in Phoenix, Ariz.

Advice for youngsters that stretches for Miles

Native American lacrosse star eager to help kids

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BOCA RATON — Growing up with three fellow lacrosse-playing siblings practically made Miles Thompson an expert in sharing. Equipment, headlines and even college lacrosse's top individual honor have been shared in some manner in the Thompson household. Now, at 23 and in the infancy of his professional career, the Native American lacrosse star from upstate New York's Onondaga Nation wants to share his recipe for success with youngsters.

"I feel that I can be a great influence on the younger kids and younger generations and help them out as much as I can," Miles said after the Rochester Rattlers rookie attackman finished a morning practice at FAU Stadium June 20. He later faced the Florida Launch in his fourth Major League Lacrosse game.

Finding backs of lacrosse nets rather than bottoms of bottles is one bullet point on Miles' resume for being a role model to kids on and off reservations.

"I've never touched drugs or alcohol," said Miles, whose 82 goals as a senior for the University at Albany led the nation and matched the NCAA Division I record set in 1990. "Even my friends look up to me because I didn't get caught up in that lifestyle. I don't need to do drugs or alcohol to have fun; I can have fun without being messed up. That's one thing I want to tell the kids."

A sturdy will, imbedded beliefs and excelling at one of the most inherent sports among Natives have helped Miles avoid temptations.

"(The Creator) gave us this game for us to go out and give it our all and play with a clear state of mind, and to have fun," he said. "There really is no secret when you work hard at what you believe."

Miles' clear state of mind is covered by dark hair that escapes from his helmet in a neatly braided ponytail that dangles between the 7 and 4 on the back of an orange, black and white Rochester

Rattlers' jersey.

"I've had it forever. It means a lot to me," Miles said. His father encouraged his brothers and him to grow out their hair as children and then gave them the option to cut it when they turned 18. None of the brothers opted to cut.

"Back in the days, everyone had long hair. We're proud to say we're Native Americans and we carry on the tradition," Miles said.

The ponytail sways, but its owner doesn't when it comes to remaining steadfast about staying away from alcohol and drugs. Miles said he's had friends with enough talent to play Division I college lacrosse, hockey or basketball, but they didn't make it that far.

"They chose that lifestyle to drink and do drugs," he said. "That's something on our reservation that is addicting. We do have a lot of people that fall that way."

Such struggles impacted his oldest brother Jeremy.

"He did that stuff. He got caught up in it for a couple years, but he's 27 now and he's been four years sober," Miles said. "He experienced that, but he brought us back together as a family, and we're together now and we learned from that."

Miles' story extends beyond resisting drinks and drugs. His ascension to becoming one of the most heralded college lacrosse players in the sport's history emerged from meager surroundings.

"When we grew up, we didn't have PlayStation, we didn't have electricity or running water, but we always had a lacrosse net and lacrosse sticks," Miles said.

A family who didn't have power years ago eventually produced college lacrosse's most powerful 1-2 scoring punch this season at Albany. While Miles cranked out the most goals in the country and finished second in points, younger brother Lyle smashed the NCAA record for most points in a season with 128.

Their final college game together proved to be a memorable exit. Miles had



Kevin Johnson

Rochester Rattlers attackman Miles Thompson, right, tries to avoid Florida Launch's Joe Cinosky during a Major League Lacrosse game June 20 at FAU Stadium in Boca Raton. Thompson, a Native American from New York, joined the Rattlers in early June after completing his college career at the University at Albany. Thompson and his brother Lyle were named co-winners of the Tewaaraton Award, the nation's top collegiate lacrosse honor.



Kevin Johnson

Rochester Rattlers attackman Miles Thompson smiles before facing the Florida Launch in a Major League Lacrosse game at FAU Stadium in Boca Raton.

three goals and one assist, and Lyle had three goals and three assists in Albany's 14-13 overtime loss against Notre Dame in the NCAA quarterfinals.

In late May, their outstanding seasons were rewarded as they became the first Native Americans to win the Tewaaraton Award, college lacrosse's highest honor that is given to its best player, or in this case, players.

The award, whose roots are Mohawk, was presented to the brothers at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

"A lot of people ask if we really wanted to split it, and we did. We don't mind sharing," Miles said.

Last month the brothers — Miles, Jeremy, Jerome and Lyle — and a cousin, Ty, who played at Albany, accounted for nearly a quarter of the Iroquois Nationals team in the FIL World Lacrosse Championships in Denver.

Their stories about learning to play lacrosse while growing up on reservations and thriving in the college and pro ranks

have reached far beyond the Onondaga Nation borders. They've welcomed national exposure from The New York Times, ESPN, CBS News, Lacrosse Magazine, Inside Lacrosse and The Medicine Game documentary.

"I like it," Miles said. "I'm not just saying it because I'm on big-time television or in big-time newspapers. The reason I like it is because we have a story that we want to get out there and we want to tell the kids."

With Lyle being the last Thompson still in college, the brothers have decided to dive into the lacrosse camp industry. Miles arrived in Boca Raton from Maryland, where he attended a camp hosted by the newly formed Thompson Brothers Lacrosse.

"We're trying to limit our camps to where we have more one-on-one time with everyone. We teach them what we know," he said.

A sample of Facebook comments show the nationwide breadth of the brothers' popularity with posters begging for camps to be held in Lake Tahoe, Austin, Minnesota and Maine, among others.

The Thompsons aim to grow the sport. Early stops for the camps also included California, Utah and New York. Miles said the brothers want to hold a camp this winter in Florida, where interest in lacrosse is on the rise, but far from matching its popularity in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. The goal to increase interest also includes reservations.

"We want to help spread the game," Miles said. "That's something we really want to do, give back to not only the Iroquois but other Native Americans. We've been doing research. We know out west there are reservations where there's poverty and the death rate [is high]. We want to give back to our people."

As for his game against the Florida Launch, Miles had a quiet night and limited playing time with just one assist in Rochester's 18-13 win. However, his goal-scoring prowess hasn't dissipated. In his first six games with Rochester, he had five goals. He made sure the ball from his first professional goal made it home to New York, where his father keeps such mementos.

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Sean Osceola helps California team win two East Coast tournaments

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

JUPITER — A California youth baseball team won two major tournaments on the East Coast in July, and Seminole Sean Osceola was in the middle of it all.

Osceola's teammates on Team Phenom don't live a couple houses or streets or towns from his family's home on the Brighton Reservation.

Try several time zones away.

For the past few years, Osceola has played for Team Phenom, often joining the club at tournaments in Arizona, California, Nevada and other western venues and on its occasional journeys to the East. Although a Florida teen playing for a travel team on the other side of the country is rare, Osceola has made it a perfect fit in more ways than one.

Comprised of 14- to 15-year-olds, the club is based in Moreno Valley, about an hour's drive east of Los Angeles. Most of the players are from western states; Osceola is an exception who has done exceptionally well in Joe Keller's program.

"To me, as a character, as a person, he's unbelievable as a person," said Keller, Phenom's founder and coach who first noticed Osceola during a tournament in Florida several years ago. "Talent, he's one of the strongest 14-year-olds I've ever seen. He plays the game the right way. It's been an honor to have him in our program."

Osceola — a 6-foot-1, 225-pound right-handed power pitcher, first baseman and clean-up hitter — will be a high school freshman this fall. Home-schooled as an eighth-grader, the son of Reno and Kelli Osceola was still considering where he'll attend high school when Team Phenom captured USA Baseball's National 15U East Championship in mid-July at Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter.

The tournament featured 36 teams. In addition to two California teams, the array of out-of-state license plates in the parking lot during one session — Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Virginia — served as geographic proof of the tournament's broad reach.

Pitching at the spring training home for the Miami Marlins and St. Louis Cardinals, Osceola delivered a four-hit gem in the championship game, a 3-0 win against Palm Beach County PAL. He registered eight strikeouts in five and one-third scoreless innings to notch the victory against a club that had racked up double-digit runs four times in the tournament.

Osceola didn't allow any walks and helped his

own cause at the plate with an RBI single and a walk.

An impressive performance by Osceola in a clutch game is no surprise to Keller.

"He's a guy that will play in the big games," Keller said following a game early in the tournament. "He's the kind of guy that will step up and want to play in those situations. He strives for that."

Osceola, who recently turned 15, had plenty of other highlights in the tournament, as Team Phenom posted a 7-1 record. He went 3-for-3 with three RBIs in a 7-3 win against Palm Beach Select. The following game he drove in the winning run in extra innings with an opposite field single into the gap.

"I was just looking for a fastball away that I could hit hard and give my team a chance to win," Osceola said.

Team Phenom's title run in Jupiter came on the heels of the club winning USA Baseball's 14U Cup in North Carolina. Osceola cranked out a mammoth home run in the semifinals.

"He hit a ball out of the stadium at USA Baseball that I don't think ever came down," Keller said.

"It got us up early in the semifinal game. It gave us confidence," Team Phenom catcher Austin Wells said.

Wells has been Osceola's battery mate for the past few years.

"He's a phenomenal pitcher," said Wells, who is heading into this freshman year at Bishop Gorman High School in Las Vegas. "He throws pretty hard. He's got a nice off-speed and hits his spots real good."

Playing for Team Phenom has hit the spot for Osceola.

"The West Coast has a lot of competition for baseball. It's good competition. I get to face good pitchers and it makes me a better player," Osceola said.

During a game in Jupiter, Osceola handled designated hitter duties. He drew two walks and sprinted to first base both times. Between innings, he stayed active by bringing bats, gloves and helmets to his teammates. Those protocols are emphasized in Team Phenom's program.

"(Coach Keller) has always taught us that coaches and scouts look for the little things players do, not just performance, but how you act as an individual, picking up your players. I just try to do little things to help out my teammates," Osceola said.

Whether it's little things or big things, Osceola has provided ample help to Team Phenom.

"He's definitely one of the top players in the nation for sure," Keller said. "I've been doing this for 24 years. He definitely has a shot to do something. It just depends on how much he continues to grow and continues to love the game and have the right guidance."

As for Major Leaguers, Osceola said he admires Cardinals ace Adam Wainwright "because he goes after (batters) and his confidence level is high" and Detroit Tigers star Miguel Cabrera.

"He can hit for power, he can hit for doubles and everything," Osceola said. "He's good at placing the ball. He's a smart hitter."



Kevin Johnson

Samuel Micco Sanchez, left, and his older brother, Jesse Sanchez, wear the medals they won for finishing in third place in their divisions at AAU's First Nations National Wrestling Tournament in June. The brothers live in Fort Gibson, Okla.

Sanchez brothers medal at national wrestling tourney

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The Sanchez brothers primarily play football, but their athletic talents expand beyond the gridiron.

Jesse Sanchez and Samuel Micco Sanchez excelled on the wrestling mats in early June as they earned third-place medals at AAU's First Nations National Wrestling Tournament in South Dakota.

Jesse and Samuel are three-sport students who attend Fort Gibson High School in Oklahoma.

Jesse will enter his sophomore year in August, while Samuel will begin his freshman year. The sons of Alicia Cabal and the late Clifford Sanchez spent part of their youth on the Hollywood Reservation before moving to Oklahoma.

Football, wrestling and track keep the brothers busy during the school year, but that doesn't mean summer break offers any relief. Nearly every day is occupied with football and crossfit workouts that start at dawn and wrestling sessions that conclude in the evening.

"It's cardio and self-discipline," said Jesse, who is on the comeback trail after suffering an ankle injury in a football scrimmage last year. The injury kept the tailback on the sidelines for all his sports. Getting back on the mats marked another step in the right direction for Jesse; he returned to the football field in spring and played in Fort Gibson's annual red-white scrimmage.

As a running back, Samuel also operates out of the backfield. His four years of wrestling experience are twice as much as his older brother. In 2013, Samuel placed sixth in the 161-pound class at Oklahoma's junior high school state tournament and placed fourth in the Oklahoma Kids Wrestling Association's state championships.

In the 180-pound class at the First Nations tournament, Samuel competed in

a division that included opponents four years older than him. He opened with a loss against a wrestler from Arizona.

"He was stocky and big and strong," Samuel said. "Because he was so strong, I was trying to use strength against him, but I should have used technical stuff against him."

But Samuel bounced back. He responded with consecutive wins, including one against the eventual first-place winner.

Although their weights are similar, Samuel and Jesse didn't wrestle in the same division at First Nations. They've only butted heads in a competition once two years ago when Jesse edged Samuel by one point. Samuel, who smiled when saying he let Jesse win, wants a rematch; Jesse said he's ready.

"I'll whoop him," Jesse said.

The brothers' wrestling coach is Sammy Johnson, a former Haskell Indian Nations University football player.

"He's kind of taken them under his wing. He's a really good coach," said Frank Cabal, the boys' stepfather.

When the high school football season starts in September, Jesse will likely see most of his playing time on the junior varsity squad and possibly some time with varsity. Samuel will play for the freshman team and could see action on the JV as well.

Although wrestling is big in Oklahoma, football is king, especially in Fort Gibson. The town of 4,000 residents in the northeast corner of the state makes high school football a top priority.

"The whole town goes on Friday nights," Jesse said. "You see everyone there."

"I didn't realize *Friday Night Lights* was real until we moved to Fort Gibson," Frank Cabal said. "You drive down a highway on a Friday night and you see all those stadium lights in different towns lit up. It's all about football."



Kevin Johnson

Team Phenom's Sean Osceola, 15, takes a cut during a quarterfinal at USA Baseball's National 15U East Championship in Jupiter July 14. Osceola, from Brighton Reservation, helped Team Phenom win the title in the 36-team tournament.

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NAIG

From page 1A

"We were down in the first period, at one point, 8-0 or 8-2," Johnson said. "I changed some things that needed to be changed. We went to a crotch-lift late and ended up scoring a bunch of points off it. That kind of changed the whole match for us and put us in a place to win. We stayed in good position and wrestled really smart."

A vocal throng of supporters from the Tribe in the gym helped boost the spirits of Samuel, who won by points on technical superiority. "I started hearing everybody in the stands. I could tell [Metoxen] was tired. I used that as an advantage," Samuel said. "[Samuel] is a pretty mentally tough kid," Johnson said. "He doesn't ever quit. He's a really tough kid. He really represented the Tribe well and he represented our school in Oklahoma."

Just like his brother, Jesse reached a final by winning his first two matches. Both were by lopsided scores, but in the 187 final, Jesse had to settle for silver after losing to Daniel Cyr from Saskatchewan. "He was really strong. I had no cardio left. I couldn't keep up with him," Jesse said.

The brothers, who earned the only medals for Team Florida, were part of a small, but well-dressed contingent of Seminole athletes. The Seminole Recreation Department provided all of its athletes with team shirts, jackets and backpacks embroidered with their name and the Tribe's logo.

ARCHERY

The bears, buffalo, deer, turkeys and wolves never moved on the winding trails at the Wascana Archers Club, a forested patch amid rolling plains about 15 miles north of Regina. Even if the wooden animals were mobile, they probably wouldn't have stood a chance fleeing NAIG's archers, including Team Florida's Valholly Frank.

Competing against teenagers who were up to five years older than he didn't faze Valholly, a sixth-grader at The Sagemont School in Weston. The 11-year-old competed in the 16U female division in Traditional style.

Similar to golf, the archers were sent out in threesomes and foursomes on basically a front nine and back nine, which consisted of 20 targets a side. Archers often had narrow clearings between themselves and their prey, which sometimes were partially hidden behind brush and trees.

Piercing a bull's-eye painted in the middle of a circle on the animal was worth 11 points, but going for aces wasn't Valholly's strategy.

Her focus was making sure she hit targets anywhere there were points. For archers who missed targets, their wayward arrows tended to be lost for good amid dense brush.

Valholly's first round on the morning

of July 24 turned out to be her highest scoring among five rounds spread across three days. She registered 101 points in the round, which was third highest out of seven competitors.

"I was shooting to hit the targets because points you can add them, but if you hit three 11s and you miss all the rest, that's 33 points, not 101," Valholly said.

Valholly warmed up for NAIG by practicing, as she always does, on Sundays at a range in Immokalee. Hunting live animals is something she would like to learn someday, but for now she enjoys competitions such as NAIG.

"I like the competition, but I also like seeing how well others can shoot," she said.

The future bodes well for Valholly, who finished fourth overall with 390 points.

Valholly's Team Florida teammate Raylon Eagle, who is heading into her sophomore year at Okeechobee High School, finished eighth in 19U female Compound.

"It was OK. I missed a few shots," Raylon said after her first round in which she notched a couple 10s.

Her best round came in the afternoon on day two when she scored 121 points. Also on day two, Team Florida's Kyler Bell, 14, scored his most points, 113. He finished eighth in the 16U male Traditional.

ATHLETICS (track and field)

Nikko Doctor didn't win a medal in athletics, but the 9-year-old from Hollywood still emerged as a star, at least for one day.

Facing kids twice his size who were far older and jumped far greater distances, Nikko earned plenty of admiration from officials and spectators as the youngest and perhaps the smallest competitor of all NAIG track and field athletes. In fact, after finishing well back of the pack in the long jump, Nikko sprinted through an impromptu high-five line with spectators. Soon after, a mother approached Nikko and his coach, Eric McCree from the Seminole Recreation Department.

"Can my daughter take a picture with him? She's inspired by him," the mother asked.

Nikko gladly obliged as he posed with Ava Owl, 9, from Manitoulin Island, Ontario before returning to the stands with his mother, Meka Burgess-Doctor; grandmother, Vivian Braswell; and younger sister, Mailanie Doctor.

"I think I did terrific. I like running and exercising," Nikko said.

Earlier in the day, Nikko competed in an 80-meter heat. McCree videotaped the race on his phone and then proudly showed how Nikko blew past two runners to finish fourth.

"He just missed a time to make the finals. He passed one and saw another one and passed him," said McCree, whose trip to Canada was somewhat of a homecoming. McCree played in a couple exhibition games last year for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the Canadian Football League.

Nikko concluded his track events in a

150-meter heat. His time of 27.23 seconds wasn't fast enough to advance.

BASKETBALL

An undermanned, but determined Team Florida 19U basketball team managed to end its trip to NAIG on a positive note.

After losing its first three games – including two by five points – Team Florida outlasted Team Colorado, 67-60, at a noisy University of Regina gym July 23.

"It was a big deal to get a win," said Marcellis Thomas, Team Florida's top rebounder who snagged pivotal boards down the stretch to preserve the victory.

Back-to-back 3-pointers from Trey Boone and Ricky Garza sparked Team Florida to 58-53 lead. Trey drilled another 3-pointer from in front of the team's nearly vacant bench with one minute left to seal the victory.

Afterward, Chairman James E. Billie and coach Charles Fisher praised the team as the sweaty players, most of whom played with injuries, sat in a hallway outside the gym.

"They were resilient. They played with a lot of heart and a lot of character," Fisher said. "We grew as a family. We played the Seminole way, never giving up and always fighting. Every game [opponents] were taller and bigger... but every game we had the biggest heart."

Trey, a smooth-shooting guard on a team full of only guards, was Team Florida's top offensive player, scoring 18, 35, 33 and 27 points in the four games. The team also included Alphonso Alvarado, Josh Boromei and Damian Garza.

Team Florida's losses came against champion British Columbia (82-26), Nanavut (80-75) and Eastern Door and the North (71-66). In one game, Team Florida finished with four players; in another, it was down to three due to players fouling out.

GOLF

It's easy to know which PGA Tour golfer is the favorite among members at hilly Tor Hill Golf Course in Regina. A life-sized poster of Saskatchewan's Graham DeLaet greets golfers as they enter the pro shop.

No pros were on the course for NAIG, whose field included four members from Team Florida. The Osceola brothers, Conchade, 11, and Byron, 9, competed against older golfers in the 17U division.

Conchade was the only member of the team who broke 100. He shot a 99 on the first day of the three-day tournament and followed up with a pair of 105s.

Byron was the team's most consistent



Kevin Johnson

Nikko Doctor soars through the air during NAIG's long jump competition at Douglas Park in Regina July 23.

with rounds of 107-106-107.

Quenton Cypress' best round (101) came on the final day in the 19U male division. Kirsten Doney improved by 14 shots from day one to day two, as she shot her best round, a 106, in the 19U female division.

Medals eluded all Team Florida golfers.

RIFLE SHOOTING

The smiles Team Florida rifle shooting members sported when they hit a bull's-eye were right on target.

Shooting at a cardboard target filled with six circles about 54 yards away, Tanner O'Donnell fired his .22-caliber rifle and then paused to peer through his diascopie to see the result.

With a bull's-eye confirmed, he turned around and flashed a broad smile to his father, Robert O'Donnell, during NAIG's 19U male rifle shooting competition.

The perfect shot was one of a few for Tanner on the final day of shooting, which featured shooters in a prone position, or lying on their stomachs. Earlier in the event, shooters shot from their knees and while standing.

Whatever position, Team Florida, which was coached by Joe Frank, enjoyed their days on the Regina Wildlife Federation's range.

"It's real nice up here. The wind is a little bit of a challenge, but we're willing to take it," said Tanner, 9, who was up to a decade younger than some of his competitors in the 19U division that included teammate Conner Thomas, 13, who finished 10th overall, three spots ahead of Tanner. Conner

earned second place in the prone position for group A on the final day.

Tanner has been shooting since age 4. His friend and teammate Echo Billie started even younger. Echo first picked up a BB gun at age 2 and has moved all the way up to a .243 rifle.

Everyone used .22s in NAIG, which was Echo's first competition with guns.

"I've done archery competition; this is my first time for riflery, but I've been shooting for so long," he said.

Echo produced Team Florida's top result. He finished fifth in the overall 16U male division.

Both Echo and teammate Hunter O'Donnell – Tanner's brother – shined on the final day as each had third-place finishes in their divisions in the final prone competition.

SWIMMING

While most of NAIG's venues were in Regina or close by, Team Florida swimmers Jada Holdiness and Danyelle Boromei had to travel an extra 45 miles to compete in Moose Jaw on three different days.

Both 13-year-olds debuted in the 50-meter freestyle.

Jada finished 12th, two spots ahead of Danyelle.

Jada finished 13th in the 100 free.

On day two, Danyelle was 12th in the 50 backstroke, one spot ahead of Jada. Later, Jada, who swims for the Fort Myers-based club program Gulf Coast Swim Team finished seventh in the 50 breaststroke. She concluded her events with a ninth-place finish in the 100 breast.

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More NAIG photos from page 4C



Kevin Johnson

Josh Boromei smiles as he prepares to take a foul shot for Team Florida during a game against Team Colorado at NAIG July 23.



Kevin Johnson

Raylon Eagle draws back her bow during archery competition at NAIG July 24.



Kevin Johnson

Conchade Osceola watches his tee shot sail down the fairway during the NAIG golf competition at Tor Hill Golf Course.



Ryan Watson

Team Florida gold medal winner Samuel Micco Sanchez, center, takes part in a selfie with wrestlers from Wisconsin and Ontario at NAIG in Regina, Saskatchewan.



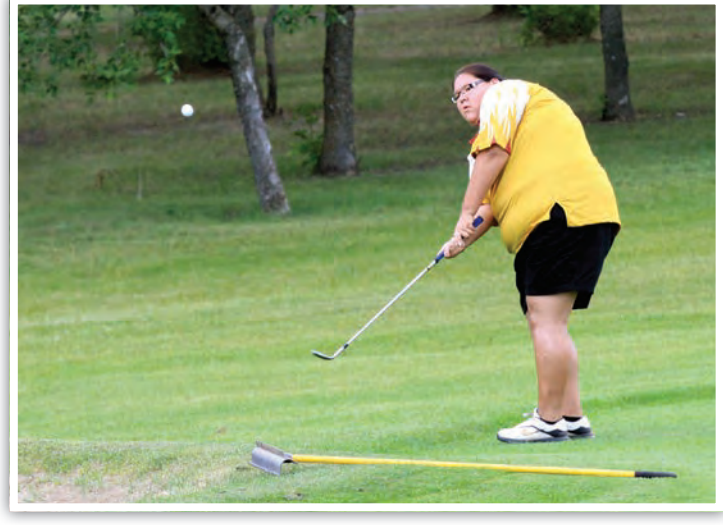
Kevin Johnson

Quenton Cypress blasts out of a bunker during the NAIG golf competition at Tor Hill Golf Course July 24.



Kevin Johnson

Valholy Frank, second from right, checks her shot during NAIG's archery competition at the Wascana Archers Club's range in Regina.



Kevin Johnson

Kirsten Doney hits a chip shot during the NAIG golf competition at Tor Hill Golf Course July 24.



Kevin Johnson

Team Florida's Marcelis Thomas wraps up an opponent from Team Colorado during a basketball game at NAIG July 23.



Kevin Johnson

Echo Billie takes aim during in NAIG's rifle shooting event at the Regina Wildlife Federation July 24.



Kevin Johnson

Marcelis Thomas grabs a rebound for Team Florida during its 67-60 win against Team Colorado at NAIG in Regina, Saskatchewan July 23.



Kevin Johnson

Team Florida gold medal winner Samuel Micco Sanchez, left, and silver medal winner Jesse Sanchez, right, pose for a photo with Chairman James E. Billie at the University of Regina.

Announcements



As you have noticed there is a donation box located in the lobby of the Tribal Office. The Tribal Princess Committee has started a collection of school supplies this summer to donate to the Native children at Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota. Anything that you can donate will be sent to the children at the end of August for this upcoming school year. It is very hard for these children to get a new start at school without a nice set of supplies and we intend to change that.

For each child to start school with at least the basics.

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Any other donations are gladly accepted:

4. Highlighters
5. Magic markers
6. Paper dividers
7. Crayola crayons
8. Pens

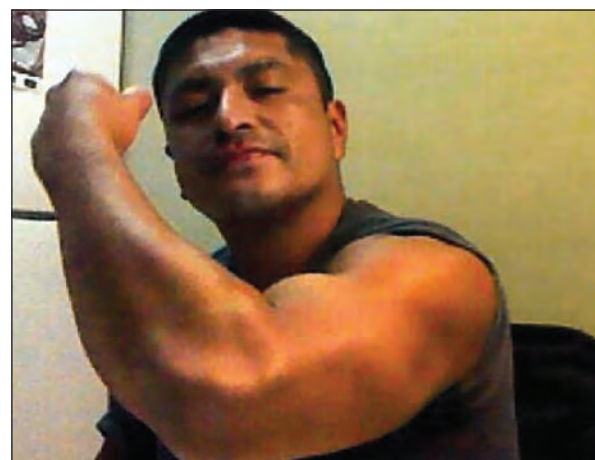
~ Seminole Princess Committee ~

Letter of appreciation from Hannah Billie

This letter is to everyone who participated in the first bike Rally in honor of my son July Billie. I want to say thank you to Connie Whidden and her staff for coming out and taking part in the rally. I want to especially thank Suzanne Davis for taking my ideas and turning them into a reality. Many thanks to those of you who did not know and may have never met my son, yet all you came out to participate. I want to also thank my daughter, Lisa, for thinking of this event, as I, his daughters (Braudie, Tia and Brianna) and the rest of our family were deeply touched.

I didn't know what to expect as I entered the Museum parking lot; however to my surprise, there were quite a few people there warming their bikes. The race began a moment behind schedule as the sun attempted to slow us down; nevertheless there was no stopping us.

Some accomplishments my son achieved were to aid greatly to the human body. He went to school and became a masseur, then a sports therapist, as well as a physical personal trainer. He spent four months in Orlando where he rode his bike 14 miles to school and 14 miles back to his residence. Sometimes he did that six days in a row. He worked out all the time making sure that his body was in tip-top condition so that he could be most successful in all areas he embarked upon.

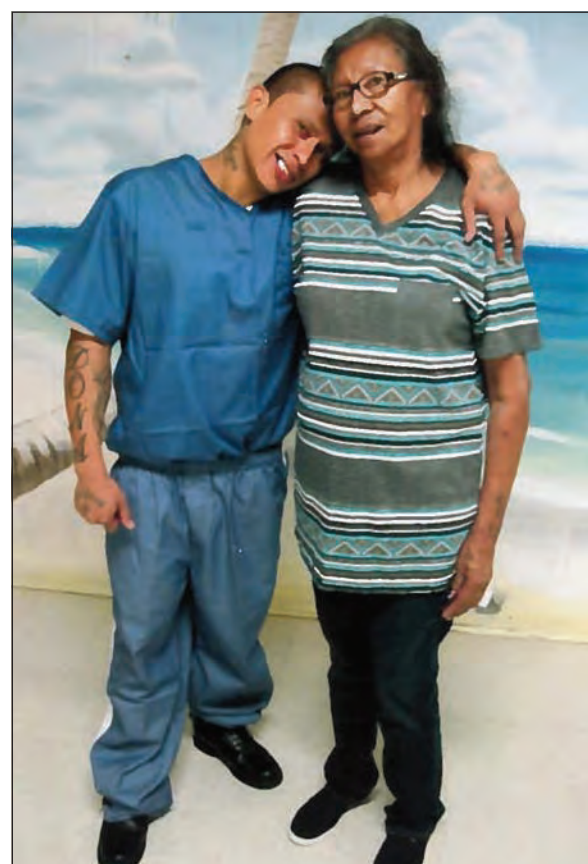


However, he never got the chance to share this with others. As a mother, I am proud of him and what he was doing, and I would like to take that further by having the rally to bring the message to everyone out there that you only have one body so let's take care of it.

To Mondo, you can be my wingman anytime.

– Submitted by Hannah Billie

Happy Birthday, Tommie Jumper



I want to wish you a happy birthday. I love you and miss you. I also want to wish all the mothers a belated happy Mother's Day – better late than never. And to my sisters, as far as holding my head up, I'm most definitely going to do that because

one thing is for certain: Nobody is going to do it for me and time changes things and things change with time. I miss all the Seminole women.

– Submitted by Billie Garcia

Tribune Deadlines 2014

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

VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
108737	2005	CHEVROLET	TRAILBLAZER LS (RWD)	108,737	Poor	\$2,000.00
015156	2007	FLEETWOOD TRAVEL TRAILER	TERRY 240	N/A	Fair	\$6,165.00
341687	2006	FLEETWOOD TRAVEL TRAILER	TERRY 320DB	N/A	Fair	\$7,400.00
011713	2006	FLEETWOOD TRAVEL TRAILER	MALLARD 300BHS	N/A	Fair	\$4,664.00
A79554	2004	FORD	E250 ECONOLINE (RWD)	88,236	Fair	\$2,503.00
192178	2008	CHEVROLET	TRAILBLAZER LT (RWD)	337,534	Poor	\$2,563.00

Note - Previously advertised vehicles are not reflected on this advertisement, only newly received vehicles. For more information please contact Fixed Assets Dept. 954-966-6300 ext# 20034

NEW!! - Tribal Members only- access this information at the website: <http://semtribe.com/FixedAssets>. (Registration is required)



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