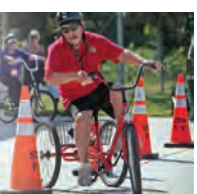




DeForest Carter faces FSU men's basketball team
SPORTS ♦ 1C

Students invade Fort Lauderdale for National Youth Leadership Initiative
EDUCATION ♦ 1B

Big Cypress captures Trike Fest trophy
COMMUNITY ♦ 11A



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Seminole Country



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress and Immokalee seniors wave from a chickee-inspired float Nov. 7 during the FSU homecoming parade in Tallahassee.

Seminole Tribe members revel in Florida State homecoming spotlight

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — The tradition of Seminole princesses crowning Florida State University's homecoming chief and princess at Doak Campbell Stadium has endured since 1976. As 82,325 fans watched from the stands Nov. 8, Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Nunez crowned the school's latest royalty on the field during halftime.

The spectacle of FSU's iconic Osceola riding Renegade onto the field fired up the crowd, paying homage to this year's homecoming theme "Fueling the Flame."

Osceola threw his flaming spear into the 50-yard line of Bobby Bowden Field to start the game, and the crowd erupted. Seminole fans had plenty of reasons to cheer throughout the evening as FSU topped Virginia, 34-20.

Two new traditions may have been born this year at FSU: Tribal seniors as

part of the homecoming parade and a Tribal member on the team roster.

The Immokalee and Big Cypress seniors had such a good time as participants in the homecoming parade they want to return next year, said Angie Arreguin, elder services activities coordinator.

The float featured a 6-by-6-foot chickee, which was built Nov. 6 in Tallahassee the day before the parade.

♦ See **HOMECOMING** on page 3C

Creek language added to Florida Course Code Directory

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Muscogee Creek is now recognized by the Florida Department of Education and fulfills the high school requirement as a foreign language for Penamayev Emahakv Charter School students in Brighton.

In July, the school requested the language be added to the Florida Course Code Directory (CCD), the state's list of approved courses, so students could earn foreign language credit toward high school graduation and college admission. The Florida Department of Education approved the request Oct. 24.

"The students already think learning their language is very important," said PECS principal Brian Greseth. "Allowing them to earn high school credit will encourage them to take the Creek language classes even more seriously."

PECS began language classes for all students about two years ago. Daily culture classes include at least 30 minutes of Creek language instruction, and the rest of the 75-minute class includes conversational use of the language.

"The state is recognizing our language with all other languages," said Jade Braswell Osceola, PECS Creek teacher. "It's a chance for kids to go to any college in the state. They aren't limited, which is what we want."

According to state statute, two credits of foreign language instruction at the secondary level are required for admission to Florida state colleges and universities. Creek 1 and Creek 2, which are included in the CCD as foreign language credits along with Spanish, French, German, Italian and Mandarin Chinese, fulfill that requirement.

PECS' charter mission is to develop students' abilities in Creek language and Seminole culture. Creek is woven through the culture curriculum, including Florida Seminole history and arts and crafts classes. The language is used in daily morning announcements, and each week a common phrase, such as "are you hungry" or "how are you feeling today," is used throughout the school.

♦ See **LANGUAGE** on page 4B

Howard Tiger Recreation Center opening evokes fond memories

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Nov. 20 grand opening of the 39,000-square-foot Howard Tiger Recreation Center signaled the beginning of a new generation's home-court advantage in sports and in life.

The late Howard Tiger, a decorated Marine who devoted his life to serving his country and community, created the Tribe's Recreation Department and coached a generation of youth. During the facility's dedication ceremony, his family and some of those now grown-up kids paid tribute to him for positively influencing their lives.

"He was a great coach and Tribal member," said Howard Tiger's son Mike Tiger. "He started the Recreation Department for us when the field was all pine trees and palmettos. We thought we were on cloud nine. It was great, and it will continue to be great for our people. This will help keep our youth out of trouble and set them on the right path, which was my father's biggest message."

Visitors to the center will see a likeness of Howard Tiger in bronze thanks to the skills of Bradley Cooley Sr., who with the help of Mike Tiger, sculpted a bust for the occasion. Through photos and videos, Tiger consulted with Cooley on the details of his father's face.

Memories of the old Hollywood gym, built in the 1970s, were shared during the ceremony.

"That gym served its purpose for many years," said Moses Jumper Jr., master of ceremonies and former Recreation director. "It was the center of everything that happened on the reservation."

The new two-story building houses the Culture, Fitness and Recreation departments, gym, and Boys & Girls Club. Construction by Seminole/Stiles began in January and finished more than a month ahead of schedule.

♦ See **GRAND OPENING** on page 5A

Tribal members: Register to vote before Jan. 31

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

For the first time, Tribal members must register to vote or they will be turned away at the polls.

The deadline to register is Jan. 31 to vote in the May 11 General Election.

Naomi Wilson, supervisor of elections, said the change is due to a voting ordinance that was rewritten in 2012 for the first time since 1964. Council passed the law and the BIA approved it in 2013.

According to the Seminole Tribe of Florida Election Ordinance (C-06-13), "in order to vote in any Regular of General Tribal Election, all Tribal Members must register to vote any time within the five (5) months from Sept. 1 through Jan. 31 preceding the date of a Regular of General Tribal Election."

To register, Tribal members must be 18 years old by April 11, 2015 and must show proof of residency, such as a valid driver's license, valid state ID card or valid voter registration card. Members who cannot produce any of those items may submit a Tribal ID, along with a statement from an Election Board member from the same reservation verifying residence.

Wilson mailed letters to every Tribal member to explain the process and provided each with a voter registration form. She has also been to Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood, Naples and all senior centers to register people. More opportunities will be available on all reservations before the deadline. Wilson said 2,146 Tribal members are eligible to vote.

Tribal members may also register in the Secretary's Office at Tribal Headquarters in Hollywood. For more information, contact Naomi Wilson at GeneralTribalElection2015@semtribe.com or call 954-966-6300 ext. 11461.

Alice Micco Snow honored with Naples Botanical Garden lake

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

NAPLES — The late Seminole herbalist and medicine carrier Alice Micco Snow received an honor no other Seminole has ever been granted when a Florida lake was named for her in a moving ceremony Nov. 15 at Naples Botanical Garden (NBG).

Tiger-striped butterflies flitting about the cool breeze, ospreys soaring beneath blue Florida skies and 170 acres of plants and trees created a picturesque landscape as Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry removed a patchwork dress covering a permanent plaque dedicated to Snow. A photo of her as a young woman — hoisting a huge stalk of bananas — adorns the sign.

Dignitaries and members of the Tribe, tourists, workers and the curious saluted the newly named Lake Tupke amid applause in the pastoral scene. As a child, Snow received the nickname Tupke from her father. Tupke is a derivative of Snow's Indian name *Tefolothok*, which is Florida Creek for "go around each other."

And "go around" Snow did in more than 75 years of finding, preserving and carrying natural Florida medicine plants and herbs to Tribal medicine men across Seminole Country.

"A lot of people knew Alice Snow. She traveled to all of our reservations," said Chairman James E. Billie. "But they knew her all over Indian Country; all the way out to Oklahoma, Tribes knew about her and sought her advice."

Her impact was felt outside Indian Country as well. Duane L. Burnham, a retired CEO with the Chicago-based global pharmaceutical giant Abbott Laboratories, and his wife, Sue, donated \$1 million to Naples Botanical Garden for dubbing the previously unnamed lake after Snow.

"Sue and I both met Alice at the very beginning of our association with the NBG," Duane Burnham said. "She gave us our first tour, and we were so impressed with her knowledge, her passion for Florida's natural healing plants."

The Burnhams, well-known philanthropists, revisited the area last spring.

"We took another tour down the same road through this undeveloped area and I could visualize Alice leaning down and explaining each of the herbal plants, what their function was and how they could be used for medicinal purposes," Duane Burnham said. "I worked in the pharmaceutical industry for a great portion of my career. Our whole industry started with medicinal and natural plants before chemical drugs were ever invented."

The things Alice Snow knew were the foundation of this industry. When it became time to memorialize our gift, we both knew it should be to recognize Alice Snow."

Snow, the daughter of Charlie Micco and Emma Micco, spoke both Creek and Mikasuki, an important skill when dealing

♦ See **LAKE TUPKE** on page 8A



Peter B. Gallagher

Accompanied by Tribal dignitaries, family members of Alice Micco Snow and Naples Botanical Garden staff, Bobby Henry removes a patchwork dress covering a permanent plaque dedicated to Snow during the lake dedication ceremony honoring the late Seminole medicine carrier Nov. 15.

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Seminole Tribe celebrates Halloween. See page 6A for photo coverage.

Editorial

Thanksgiving Day is here!!!!

• James E. Billie



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

ALL IS WELL!!!!
ALL IS WELL!!!!
Whatever The Situation
ALL IS WELL!!!!
ALL IS WELL!!!!
Sho-naa-bish!

A time for thanks and reflection

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

grateful for.

This year has been challenging for us, but we are turning challenges into successes.

Let this serve as a reminder that life is about living with joy and sharing love.

I hope your day is filled with blessings. I also ask you all to say a prayer of thanksgiving for those serving our country who cannot be with their families for the holidays.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!
 Sho-naa-bish.

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



Thanksgiving cartoon



The Russell Means I knew

• Robert Chanate

Russell Means was not only a visionary, he was also keeper of memories. Russell was both an orator and a man of action. Inspired by a legacy of strength, Russell was one who walked his talk and inspired others to follow his example.

Many words have been written and spoken about his highly publicized leadership roles during the Red Power era. This is important but just as significant were the little-known or unheralded actions Russell did to support Indigenous Peoples.

Russell was one of a very small group of leaders who responded to many calls from Indigenous Peoples and arrived to help out in whichever way he could. From personal experience, I've witnessed Russell travel at his own expense to support a cause even when it was not something that he had a personal stake in. The compelling reason was often that a small group of Natives were attempting to stand up to some injustice and decided to reach out to Russell.

Russell was often described as a figure of publicity but I've seen him avoid the spotlight in many public gatherings and rallies. At other times, organizers would have to encourage him to take a turn on the microphone or suggest that he share words of inspiration with those on hand. When news cameras were on hand, Russell wouldn't hesitate to do an interview and call out the local media if they had an anti-NDN bias in their reporting. His concern was not with being a media NDN darling but giving NDNs a voice in the media.

Another trait of Russell's that I witnessed was that he led from the front and took the same risks as anyone else. Whether that meant going to jail, standing vigil in uncomfortable weather or carrying out tasks while exhausted, Russell wasn't one to skip out on us. Many times we'd complete a rally and Russell would jump in his van to travel to a different state so he could fulfill another request for his support. A friend and I had discussion about this and



Photo courtesy of Robert Chanate

A portrait of Russell Means done by Andy Warhol for his American Indians series in 1976.

we agreed that Russell was someone we could depend on while many young NDN men we knew who spoke loudly about supporting Native Peoples always seemed to have good excuses for never showing up for anything.

Russell was also someone who was willing to share a needed perspective for young people. He often spoke to small groups of Native youth about what motivated and inspired him. I've listened to Russell share lessons from his personal history about the early AIM days up to the present and what he's learned from that. Often those lessons had to do with perseverance, sacrifice and compassion.

Several years ago I was struggling with how one overcomes anger and hatred when violence is inflicted on them for seeking justice for Indigenous Peoples. It was a period when many Native friends were the victims of police brutality and they were wondering if the pain was worth it.

Russell was visiting in town so I sought him out and had a discussion with him. I related that many of my friends were

questioning their choices – choices that brought public attacks from other NDNs for some, physical violence for others and for all, an overall sense of personal setbacks bordering on humiliation.

After listening and thinking about it for a bit this is what he said: "The way I've seen it is that every injury I took, every sacrifice I made and every personal cost I paid has been done on behalf of our people and ancestors. So I take these things as a badge of honor and they are things that I am proud of."

He continued on with giving advice about how I could help out those who were going through tough times. He drew on his firsthand experience and shared stories of his younger years. As we sat there I realized how much of an honor it was to know this man: Russell Means, Oglala and Indigenous Patriot.

Robert Chanate, a member of the Kiowa Nation, is a contributor to Indian Country Today Media Network, where this column first appeared.

Foxwoods: A modern Pompeii in the making?

• David Collins

Vast is a word that comes close to describing the expanse of the (Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation's) sprawling Foxwoods Resort Casino. But even "vast" comes up a bit short in describing this little "city" that has grown up along the borders of three rural New England towns here.

I took a self-guided tour of Foxwoods (in early November) trying to put the news from the recent election in Massachusetts, which gave a final green light to casino gambling there, in some perspective.

Some industry analysts have said Massachusetts players probably account for about one-third of the gamblers at Foxwoods, a higher percentage, most suggest, than at nearby Mohegan Sun. Of course, the casinos, which keep close track of their players and their habits, know quite precisely the percentage of their customers who come from Massachusetts.

One wonders if it was that insider knowledge of the number of Foxwoods gamblers from Massachusetts that was part of the reason Foxwoods' chief executive recently announced his departure. Who could blame him for not wanting to preside over a business sinking that has the makings to be of Titanic proportions?

I applied a little license plate test to the question of assessing the possible scope of Massachusetts gambler flight from Foxwoods, and it wasn't very pretty. I wouldn't say that Massachusetts license plates account for one in three plates in Foxwoods' many parking lots and garages. But it's close. I parked between two Massachusetts cars, one with a Seekonk car dealer sticker and another with a

Boston parking permit. Flash forward two years, and you can be pretty sure they won't be here. Indeed, the vast gaming halls and corridors, already looking a little underpopulated after long recession years of declining attendance and revenue, would be eerily empty if you suddenly removed one in three people.

It makes you wonder how the Tribe will eventually be able to sustain the whole enormous enterprise, which is already buckling under a crushing debt burden taken on to make it so big in the first place.

The folly of the yearslong expansion strategy at Foxwoods is most evident at the newly christened Fox Tower – what was MGM at Foxwoods until MGM took back its branding, ready to install it on a new, competing Massachusetts casino in Springfield. The Fox Tower is located well beyond the original Foxwoods complex, at the end of an endless and largely empty corridor that is so long, there are moving sidewalks, like an airport terminal without gates.

One of the cavernous Foxwoods slot halls is closed most weekdays, a dark and empty reminder of what may come. Some restaurants are closed many days. I couldn't help but think of what may become a modern Pompeii, after the volcano of Massachusetts casino openings finally erupts.

The strategy of partnering with a retail outlet giant for a new mall at Foxwoods was probably as close to brilliance as we've seen in any of the Tribal business planning in recent years.

But will it stave off what may be the inevitable?

The entire facility still looks tended, well maintained and adequately staffed.

But how long will the Tribe be able to sustain such a big enterprise when a large piece of the revenue rug is pulled out? We might look to Atlantic City to plot a model of casino industry decline. But the Connecticut casinos are unique in that they are allowed to be run by sovereign Tribes and can't simply be sold off to the highest bidder.

On my way into Foxwoods, I struck up a conversation with Ron Beaulieu, who had just driven down from his home in Hudson, New Hampshire – a trip that took him two hours and 40 minutes. He most certainly will go instead to Steve Wynn's new Everett, Massachusetts, casino – less than an hour's drive from home – when it opens, he said.

I also chatted with a Massachusetts resident who made one of his regular trips to Foxwoods for some hands of poker. He actually voted recently to repeal the Massachusetts casino law because he figures it is better not to have one too close to home.

Still, he said, he will stay close to Boston when Massachusetts gets into the casino business.

After that, he added, New England will begin to find the saturation point for new gambling. "They'll find it," he said, still in good spirits after some profitable hands of Texas Hold 'Em. "Don't worry. They'll keep going until they find it."

I worry we will know here, first.

David Collins, a resident of southeastern Connecticut and graduate of Connecticut College, is a columnist for The Day newspaper in New London, Connecticut, where this column was first published.

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Community



Art, culture, dance, music fills Big Cypress

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS — Buyers who purchased Marty Bowers' photography at the American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) can thank — to a certain degree — Howard Stern.

Bowers, who grew up on the Big Cypress Reservation where AIAC was held Nov. 7-8, followed in the footsteps of his favorite radio personality.

"Howard Stern's hobby was photography, so I took it up," said Bowers, who was among nearly 40 vendors at the annual celebration that highlights American Indian arts, culture, dance and music.

Bowers' portfolio of work — most of which are photos on canvas — includes peaceful landscape images from remote areas of Big Cypress, such as the Kissimmee Billie Slough. Bowers literally immersed himself in his work by wading into a wet portion of the slough to get the shot he wanted.

The extra effort paid off at AIAC because his work from the slough proved to

be popular with festival attendees.

Bowers, 43, arrived during AIAC's second day as a rookie vendor, setting up a display for the first time anywhere. The Tampa resident had never sold any of his work but that quickly changed. Within the first five hours, six of his pieces, including a canvas print of the slough that fetched \$350, were bought.

"It's humbling and gratifying," Bowers said.

The financial rewards for hard work in the field wasn't what made Bowers bask while he sat encircled in his display. Instead, he said chatting about photography with people who stopped by was his biggest thrill.

"The thing I'm enjoying the most are the questions," he said. "They take out their phones and show you their photos. They're letting you into their lives."

While Bowers and other vendors worked under tents, lively entertainment filled a nearby patch as Van Samuels served as emcee. Performances ranged from a stomp dance led by Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry — whose procession included

spectators — to the folksy sounds of the Chief Jim Billie Band to a dazzling display of hoop connectivity by world hoop dance champion Nakotah LaRance.

AIAC organizer Carrie Dilley said the event featured more performers this year compared to last. She added that with almost 40 vendors, it was a "full house."

The 17th annual event also paid homage to skateboarding. With the "Ramp It Up: Skateboard Culture in Native America" exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service nearing its final weeks at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, young skateboarders took part in a parade, a Museum tour and a competition.

Motor vehicle traffic at the corner of West Boundry Road and Josie Billie Highway was briefly shut down in front of the Museum to allow the "rolling parade" to commence. The parade attracted about a dozen skateboarders — including a few Museum employees — and kids on scooters.

Under the guidance of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki and Tribal Historic Preservation Office trainee Quenton Cypress up front and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki director and THPO Officer Paul

Backhouse in the back of the pack, the group exited from the western driveway of the complex, cruised onto an open straightaway and then hung a right into the Museum's main entrance.

Inside the Museum, the kids carried their skateboards as they toured the "Ramp It Up" exhibit before it was scheduled to depart later in the month.

Chief Jim Billie Band strikes familiar chord at 17th annual AIAC

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — James E. Billie's musical career, dormant for nearly three years while he recovered from complications sustained in a horse training accident, came alive with fervor Nov. 8 when the Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and his longtime six-piece band took the stage at the American Indian Arts Celebration sponsored by the Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

"About three years ago I caught myself a stroke and it took away a whole bunch of things that I used to enjoy doing. The things I liked to do back in the old days was fly the helicopter and the airplanes, play my guitar and sing," Chairman Billie told the crowd. "For about two months there I lay in bed. I could hardly talk, could barely get up to eat or go to the bathroom or anything. It's been about three years since I tried to sing a song, so if it don't sound quite right, we might give you a CD."

Under breezy blue skies, around 200 people waited to hear from the singing Chairman, a Grammy nominee who was named a Living Legend at the 1999 Native American Music Awards and was given the Outstanding Music Achievement award the same year by the First Americans in the Arts. The crowd included dozens of young Seminole children who have listened to Chairman Billie's records but had never seen him perform live.

During the 1980s and '90s, especially, the Chief Jim Billie Band was in great demand at indigenous events, pow-wows and music festivals both inside and outside Indian Country.

The band warmed up with "Girl From Immokalee" sung by guitar whiz Raiford Starke, before Chairman Billie took over with his familiar catalogue of stories and original songs — his trademark since he first began appearing on stage at the Florida Folk Festival in the early '70s: "I wrote a song one time. I think it was about 1982 and I was flying my airplane over Lake Okeechobee and, man, Lake Okeechobee was dryin' up."

"That son of a gun was shrunk to about 100 yards from the center and I took my airplane down — I was about a mile and a half up — to see what was going on. I put the airplane in a stall, went way down to 50 feet and flew over thousands and thousands and thousands of alligators. Back when we were selling hides, I would have been a billionaire that day. I went back up to 10,000 feet and on to Tampa. As I was flyin', words came into my head."

"Now (Seminoles) do things in a sequence of fours. Yellow, red, black and white — everything is a sequence of fours and we do things counterclockwise when we dance. I came up with the idea that in my business there were a lot of alligators that used to help me out, so here is what I came up with — it sounds like this:

"Big Alligator, he's mysterious. Big alligator, he's amphibious. Big alligator, he's dangerous. But, with a big alligator you can be prosperous ..."

From his signature song "Big Alligator" to his yearnings for his favorite Florida places in "High Tide at Chokoloskee" and "Sawgrass Flower," and from his deep-voiced rendition of Joe Dan Osceola's "Josie Billie: Seminole Medicine Man" to his poetic salute to nature's predators and prey in "Ways of the Glades," the Chief Jim Billie of yesteryear was back in great form. Each song carried a story, a history lesson, a Florida Seminole theme.

As a surprise, Chairman Billie's 19-year-old son Kowako appeared on stage with a guitar and rocked the joint with a boisterous rendition of "Seminole Man" and a sensitive version of his father's tender ballad "Try and Try Again." Another son, 13-year-old Echo, jumped up on stage as well, singing along in his father's microphone.

"That was the tightest we've ever played," said pianist Bob Taylor after the show, "and we really haven't played together in years."

"I didn't know what to expect," admitted Texas fiddle champ Erik Hokkanen, who flew in from Austin for the occasion. "But what we saw today was vintage Chief Billie. That voice and those wonderful stories and songs, it all came back to me — all the memories we have shared in music."

Other than strumming a few tunes with the Chairman at his home during a recent filming, guitarist Starke admitted, "We really never rehearsed. I was a little wary of what might happen." Starke put together the original band, including Hokkanen, Taylor, drummer Jeff Renza, guitarist/percussionist David Shelley and bassist Stevie Grandmaison.

"Those guys are the best around," Starke said. "I figured we could pull it off. But, as it turned out, we really didn't need to worry. From the first note he sang until the end, it was a great show."

"That was fun," said the Chairman, who was surrounded by well-wishers and smiling broadly after the show. "Let's do it again."



Kevin Johnson

Photographer Marty Bowers, of Tampa, glances at his work Nov. 8 at the American Indian Arts Celebration on the Big Cypress Reservation. The event marked the first time Bowers, a former Big Cypress resident, sold his photographs.

Broward mayors honor Florida firsts, Seminole Tribe included

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — Fort Lauderdale's foremost conference center sparkled on a recent Saturday thanks to the United Way of Broward County Mayor's Gala and a guest list of movers and shakers from the county's 31 municipalities.

The Oct. 25 fundraiser at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center also helped mark Broward County's 100th anniversary.

"Tonight is about 100 firsts and tonight we pay tribute to Broward County firsts who have also been pioneers," said Broward County Mayor Barbara Sharief.

But the black-tie affair was not about

the pioneers of a century past, she said.

The mayor's "Celebration of Firsts" heralded 27 people to the stage to accept crystal-engraved awards for being the firsts of modern times, including Bobbie H. Grace, the first female African-American mayor of Dania Beach; Kathy Kenyon Conover, the first female police officer of Hallandale Beach; and John Fiore, the first openly gay elected official in Broward County.

Seminole artist Elgin Jumper, also called to cross the spotlight, was honored for an entire people that long predate the county's existence. His crystal was inscribed: "Member of the True First Floridians — Seminole Tribe of Florida."

Jumper was the only Native American

"Tonight is about 100 firsts and tonight we pay tribute to Broward County firsts who have also been pioneers."

— Barbara Sharief,
Broward County mayor

honored at the event attended by more than a dozen Broward mayors, including Mayor Lori Moseley of Miramar, Mayor Walter Duke of Dania Beach and Mayor Frank Ortis of Pembroke Pines.

"Here, we have people who are the best of the best. Tonight we celebrate the past, present and the future while raising money for people who are suffering," Sharief said.

Well-known and respected in South Florida art circles for his vivid, modernistic depictions of Seminole pride, culture and history, Jumper said he was surprised when he was invited to attend the event as a special guest. He was further "amazed" when called to the stage to stand amid others lauded for individual achievements.

"I am speechless, maybe for the first time in my life," Jumper said after the ceremony. "A lot of good things have happened in my life during the last few years. I hope the good things keep coming."



Eileen Soler

Elgin Jumper accepts a crystal award Oct. 25 from Broward County Mayor Barbara Sharief during the United Way of Broward County Mayor's Gala in Fort Lauderdale.



Kevin Johnson

Chairman James E. Billie performs Nov. 8 at the American Indian Arts Celebration in Big Cypress.



Peter B. Gallagher

From left, Kowako Billie, Erik Hokkanen, Echo Billie, Chairman James E. Billie, Raiford Starke and David Shelley perform at the American Indian Arts Celebration in Big Cypress.

ERMD workers praised for years of labor

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

of dedicated individuals. Today, the Tribe asked us to show appreciation and thanks for all you do," ERMD director Cherise Maples told a room filled with workers during an Oct. 27 meeting in Big Cypress. From those who work at desks to those who toil in the trenches, employees with five or more years employment with the Tribe were recognized with service awards,

applause and huge slices of vanilla and chocolate cake.

Roberto Castillo and Tribe members Linda Billie and Debbie Carter received special honors with crystal plaques for 21, 24 and 37 years of service, respectively.

"Some people in this room aren't even 37 years old yet," joked Carter, who was hired in 1977 and now works in water quality as the administrative service manager.

The laughs kept coming when some names that were called to receive pins seemed oddly unfamiliar.

"Who are these strangers, anyway?" called someone from the crowd.

Few knew that "Cotton" is actually Scotty Baxley, "Eric" is really Norman Johns and "Jeri" is a nickname for Edith Eshkibok.

Johns, the ERMD supervisor for Brighton Reservation, earned a 15-year service pin.

Maples said the department operates with about 40 employees assigned to various sub-departments that include operations and maintenance, administration, water quality, environmental science (wetlands and wildlife) and environmental compliance.

Surface water management, caring for wetlands and wildlife, and protecting the Tribe's water rights are the department's top three priorities.

During the past year, ERMD completed all project goals that included the removal of invasive species in designated areas tribewide and the installation of drainage pipes in Brighton south of Harney Pond Road.

Many daily tasks demand hours of hard labor in sweltering heat and relentless wetlands that teem with insects and wildlife. Castillo, for example, is a geographic information systems (GIS) specialist, which requires his frequent presence in the field for data collection and other duties.

"We're a close group that watches out for each other. We try to never send anyone into the field alone. We travel together and protect each other," Maples said.

Some hazards, like Africanized bees and poisonous snakes, require employees to depend on each other for additional eyes and ears.

Carter said she has been called on by workers who "pick my brain."

She served on the land use commission for two decades, attended business college part time in Sunrise and labored with a skeleton crew under the first director Craig Tepper for more than 25 years. In the early days, when two or three people made up the department staff, Carter sprayed ditches for mosquitoes, ran the office, dug drainage



Eileen Soler

Environmental Resource Management Department employees honored for decades of service pose with awards Oct. 27 and department director Cherise Maples. From left are Linda Billie (24 years), Debbie Carter (37 years) and Roberto Castillo (21 years).

Under construction: Tribe communities flourish, expand

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Major construction projects have sprouted new buildings and infrastructure throughout Tribal communities this year and more growth is forecast for 2015.

From high visibility structures to less noticeable below-ground improvements, the projects are keeping the Tribal Community Development and Public Works departments busy.

"It's been a long time coming," said Adam Nelson, Tribal Community Development executive director. "It takes the right team to put these projects together. Seminole Stiles has helped the Tribe see them get off the ground, but a dozen departments work to put these projects together."

Hollywood projects begun in 2014 include the Howard Tiger Recreation Center, Tribal member homes, privacy wall on 64th Avenue and 4-H facility that features hog pens and a rodeo arena with horse barn, tack room and meeting room. Fort Pierce saw the building and completion of the Chupco's Landing Community Center, while new townhomes and the renovation of Josie Billie Highway were improvements made in Big Cypress.

In Brighton, the Public Safety Administration Building nears completion and Harney Pond Road improvements were finished.

"Pre-construction planning takes longer than actual construction," Nelson said. "We've found a more efficient process and schedule and have stepped

it up in the last year and a half."

Projects set for 2015 include townhomes in Hollywood, Immokalee and Brighton; medical center and new Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress; Okalee Village and medical center in Hollywood; and new gym at Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School in Brighton, complete with locker rooms, classrooms and music hall.

Water, wastewater collection, sewer lines, lift stations and a master plan are all part of an ongoing Public Works Department project to bring equipment and facilities up to standard. The Tribe has been responsible for water treatment since 2006 and follows the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) standards.

"As a sovereign nation, we don't have to (follow DEP standards)," said Anthony Osceola, Public Works director. "But as a good general practice we adhere to those standards to be good stewards of the environment."

A challenge for Public Works is locating projects from 20 years ago while undertaking general maintenance and expanding facilities for additional development.

"Waste treatment needs to grow along with the growth of the Tribe," Osceola said.

Nelson said the Tribe will continue to see growth.

"It's like when a family grows, you get a van instead of a four-door car," he said. "We are working to get the equipment updated to meet the needs of the Tribe."

culverts and did anything and everything that needed doing.

"We went out there and we did it ourselves. It was always an honest day's work," Carter said. "It became part of my life. I can't retire. I wouldn't know what to do with myself."

For Billie, two dozen years with the department seems like no time at all.

"I am just happy to still be here," she said.

Billie has held many positions. She started as a laborer who cut paths through woodland for land surveyors. Soon, she began teaching others how to use the surveyor rod. Later, she collected water for samples to be tested at laboratories. Much later, she became a department cultural adviser. Today, she records rainfall at scattered water gauges.

Working for ERMD is not for everyone, Billie said. Employees need to be good swimmers, be aware of existing allergies to plants and creatures, and be willing to spend long, hard days under the broiling sun while wearing layers of protective clothing.

"A lot of people find that the job is not their cup of tea. But today, here are the people who stayed because they love the job and the challenge. When you love what you do, it's not like work at all," Billie said.



Eileen Soler

Norman 'Eric' Johns, ERMD supervisor for Brighton Reservation, receives a 15-year service pin from ERMD director Cherise Maples.

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

Tribal Officers:

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www.seminoletribe.com

What: All eligible members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida must register to vote by January 31, 2015 for the General Tribal Election on May 11, 2015

Why: As accorded by Tribal Ordinance C-06-13

How: Complete the Voter Registration form received in the mail

Voter Registration

If you did not receive a form in the mail, please contact the Supervisor of Elections office at 954/966-6300, ext. 11461 or at GeneralTribalElection2015@semtribe.com.



You may also come by the Secretary's Office to complete your Voter Registration form.

IN ORDER FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS TO SHOW RESIDENCY, AT LEAST A COPY OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM: valid State Drivers' License, valid State ID card, valid Voter Registration card, or for those who cannot produce any of the aforementioned items, a Tribal ID along with a statement from an Election Board member from the same reservation verifying residence. Please ensure all information is current and valid as they will be used in determining the Tribal Member's voting location/residence.

Supervisor of Elections Office • Seminole Tribe of Florida

Traditional meets modern at culture camp

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — To help ensure the longevity of Seminole culture, a new community culture camp was erected in the shadow of Hollywood's newest building just in time for the reservation's Indian Day celebration Sept. 26.

Located on the east side of the Howard Tiger Recreation Center, the camp features one eating/meeting chickee, one cooking chickee and six smaller living chickees. It took nearly a month to complete.

"It was designed as a living camp and will teach our young ones how we used to live in the early days," said Bobby Frank, Hollywood culture center manager. "We brought it here so they can see it and understand it."

Miccosukee and Seminole Chickee Builders, owned by Trail Liaison Norman Huggins, built the cooking and eating/meeting chickees using raw materials from Big Cypress Reservation. The company used 160 cypress trees and about 9,300 palm fronds for the two chickees.

The 26-by-24-foot cooking chickee has an 8-foot area that can be used for storage. The 40-by-20-foot eating/meeting chickee

can easily accommodate a hungry crowd, as demonstrated on Indian Day. During the daylong celebration, Tribal members prepared flat bread, lapale, frybread and pumpkin bread for the community in the cooking chickee, while residents escaped from the heat under the eating/meeting chickee.

The camp's 12-by-12-foot living chickees were built by Frank Billie's company.

It took 178 cypress trees and 5,600 palm fronds — also collected from Big Cypress — to build them.

Since the Seminole Wars in the 1800s, chickees have served as the heart of Tribal life, Frank said. As the traditional and modern worlds intersect, the chickee still serves as a symbol of the Tribe; it even has a prominent place on the Seminole flag.

The Hollywood culture camp will evolve, much like old villages when chickees were added as needed. There is space for two additional small chickees, and Frank plans to teach boys and men how to build them.

"Having it right next to the Culture Department makes it efficient and the availability is second to none," Frank said. "We're really going to utilize this."



Beverly Bidney

The Hollywood culture camp is abuzz with activity during its first event — breakfast for a crowd on Indian Day Sept. 26.



Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

GRAND OPENING

From page 1A

"It's been a long, long journey to get here," Mike Tiger said. "Council has done well by creating a new facility for our youth and the community to use for learning, physical fitness and events like this one."

Tribal members and leaders celebrated the achievement and spoke about the importance of athletics.

"Sports prepared me to be competitive on a greater level," said President Tony Sanchez Jr.

"Howard Tiger let people like me come out and showcase what we could do," added Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard. "He laid a good foundation for our youth."

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola spent a lot of time in the gym as a kid —

so much so he was referred to fondly by Jumper as a "gym rat." As a Tribal leader, Councilman Osceola shepherded the building from concept to construction to ribbon cutting.

"Howard Tiger instilled a lot of values to the kids he coached and they are being passed along today," Councilman Osceola said. "Recreation centers are extremely important on the reservations. They give our kids someplace to go. Without them, there would be a lot less Seminoles today."

Trophies, plaques and memorabilia celebrating decades of Tribal members' athletic conquests line the center's entrance and hallway.

Councilman Osceola said the trophies are a testament to the Recreation Department; Tribal kids now compete on a national level and play sports in college. In July, a Tribal team won the prestigious

Native American Basketball Invitational.

"I think Howard would have appreciated this," said Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. "I don't think he expected perfection, but he believed if you are going to do something, do it right."

Some Tribal members remember playing barefoot on the concrete basketball court as kids.

"We've come a long way; from nothing to anything we want," William Osceola said. "We thought we had everything when we got the outside court. This is for our youth. They'll make memories here. The decision to build this gym is an investment in our people."

Howard Tiger's legacy continues to carry a lasting impact, including within his family. Nicholas DiCarlo never met his great-grandfather Howard Tiger, but he said sports made him the man he is today.

Councilman Osceola said he looks forward to the influence the center will have on the community.

"It's something to be proud of and it's an honor to be part of it all," he said. "I learned from the guys before me."

Mike Tiger was impressed with the facility and said anyone would be proud to own it. He believes it will help improve Tribal members' quality of life.

"This is another star in the crown of Council achievements," he said. "It's not just about sports; it's about learning. We're passing along something to the next generation and saying, 'Take notice, we're here to help you do better, learn more and stay fit.'"

Howard Tiger's resume includes playing football, basketball and baseball, riding rodeo and boxing.

"Howard Tiger was the Jim Thorpe of our Tribe," Jumper said. For some, he was more than that.

"He coached us all and made sure we learned the game," Max Osceola Jr. said. "I want to thank Mike for sharing his father with us; he had a big impact on our lives."



Beverly Bidney

Rusty Tiger, Mike Tiger and Bradley Cooley Sr. unveil a bronze bust of Howard Tiger.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Joe Osceola Jr., Mingo Jones and Max Osceola Jr. examine Seminole sports memorabilia Nov. 20 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center grand opening event.



Beverly Bidney

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola addresses the crowd at the grand opening event.

Happy Halloween!



Tampa senior women get their costumes graded by a group of judges from Seminole Fire Rescue during the reservation's Oct. 25 Halloween celebration on the Lakeland property.



Ariel Concepcion, 3, enjoys a snow cone during the Immokalee Community Halloween Bash Oct. 24.



Dressed in their Halloween costumes, Amber Cypress, 8, left, and Ashlee Cypress, 10, enjoy the giant carnival swings Oct. 24 at the Big Cypress Fall Festival.



Paulette Bowers, left, and Shani Billie compete in an arm wrestling battle that went on for more than five minutes at the Big Cypress Fall Festival. Bowers ultimately won.



With a little help from his friends, Lance Howard successfully grabs the envelope on the greased pole during Hollywood Halloween festivities.



William Osceola and Cornelia Osceola show off their costumes Oct. 17 during a party at the Hollywood Senior Center.



Ariah Osceola as a batwing princess and Skyla Osceola as Xena the Warrior Princess show they are costume ready for Halloween in Hollywood.



Glamorous Wanda Bowers is decked out for Halloween Oct. 31 in Hollywood.



Antillis Stockton, 5, enjoys cotton candy while playing a carnival game with Shelby Schutt, of the Recreation Department, during Chupco Landing's Fall Festival Oct. 31 in Fort Pierce.



Kanaya Billie, 11, left, and Jordan Osceola, 10, fly through the air on a zip line at the Immokalee Community Halloween Bash.



The Fort Pierce costume contest is a hit with youth during the reservation's Fall Festival.



Families compete in the costume contest at the Big Cypress Fall Festival.



Angel Dillon poses with a pumpkin he carved at the Tampa Halloween celebration.



Barbara Cypress rolls a pumpkin during Tampa's annual closest to the pin pumpkin rolling contest.

Brighton Veterans Day ceremony honors Purple Heart recipient David 'Bob' Motlow Sr.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — One sentence from Cheyenne Nunez's poem epitomized the appreciative atmosphere inside the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton Nov. 6.

"I wake up without fear on this day and every day thanks to the brave men and women who have fought for this country," the Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess read aloud to the audience during a morning ceremony that honored and remembered military veterans from the Seminole Tribe.

One of those brave men was the late David "Bob" Motlow Sr., who served two tours of duty in Vietnam with the U.S. Army and earned a Purple Heart for wounds received in combat. As part of the 27th anniversary Seminole Veterans

Celebration and Recognition, U.S. Army Vietnam veteran Stephen Bowers presented Bob's family with a plaque on behalf of the Florida Seminole Veterans Foundation.

The legacy of David "Bob" Motlow Sr., who died earlier this year, was fondly recalled during an emotional presentation.

"I've always felt privileged to know that he was a man that cast such a huge shadow, that I want my kids, my grandkids, my great-grandkids to always know who (he) was," said Bob's son, David Motlow Jr., who fought back tears as he spoke to the audience alongside his mother, Agnes Motlow, his aunts Shirley, Leonna and Bonnie, and other family members.

Born on Oct. 15, 1949 to Jack and Mary Motlow, Bob primarily grew up on the Hollywood Reservation. A member of the Panther Clan, he was one of 10 children. He joined the Army in 1967, and after

completing basic training at Fort Lewis in Washington, Bob was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam. As part of his second tour of duty in Vietnam, he completed Ranger school and worked in reconnaissance.

Bowers referred to an article about Bob's military service that mentioned "(Bob) was always looking out for other Rangers."

Bob and Agnes wed in the early 1970s. In their 43 years of marriage, the couple had three children — David Motlow Jr., Davina Motlow and Kenny Kittle Jr. They also have 12 grandchildren.

David Motlow Jr. shared stories with the audience about his father's military service, including a chaotic and smoky scene during an attack in Vietnam in which his father raised his rifle to the chest of an older man who was fleeing the scene. He said his father realized this man was "running for his life" and let the man go.

"He realized at that moment he had gotten too good at 'hunting men,'" he said.

After serving in the war, Bob returned to Florida and worked as the water resource coordinator for Big Cypress for more than 10 years and served on the board of the South Florida Water Conservation Committee on behalf of the Tribe in the early 1980s.

Other tributes in the ceremony came from U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Seminole Police Officer Jack Nash, who read the names of all living and deceased veterans from the Tribe.

Nash also presented a plaque to Bowers, who was recognized for his dedication and service to the Tribe's veterans and other American Indian and Native Alaskan veterans throughout Indian Country.

The plaque included praise for Bowers' efforts in organizing the Tribe's annual Veterans Day ceremony and for his "tireless support" to achieve congressional approval

for the American Indian Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Marc McCabe, a U.S. Marine Corps Vietnam veteran who works with Tribal veterans on benefits, served as the guest speaker.

The ceremony also included patriotic performances from Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School students and remarks from Miss Florida Seminole Princess Brianna Nunez, Jr. Miss Cheyenne Nunez, Little Mr. Seminole Roberto Benard, Little Miss Seminole Madasyn Osceola, Miss Brighton

Princess Harley Johns and Jr. Miss Brighton Alaina Brady.

Tribal leaders also praised the group of veterans, which included Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., a U.S. Marine Corps veteran. The veterans lined



Kevin Johnson

With his mother, Agnes Motlow, next to him, David Motlow Jr. speaks about his father, David 'Bob' Motlow Sr., during the 27th anniversary Seminole Veterans Celebration and Recognition Nov. 6 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton.

up in front of the stage for handshakes from audience members at the conclusion of the ceremony.

"You all served as guardians of our American way of life," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank.

"You all served as guardians of our American way of life."

— Joe Frank,
Big Cypress Board Rep.



Kevin Johnson

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, left, shakes hands with veteran Mitchell Cypress during the 27th anniversary Seminole Veterans Celebration and Recognition Nov. 6 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton.

Military service recalled by young, seasoned vets at Big Cypress ceremony

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS — Memories of military service in the Vietnam War filled the Big Cypress Community Center during a Veterans Day Luncheon Nov. 11.

Gerald Wellington, the event's guest speaker, had yet to put his feet on Vietnam soil when he saw the sky light up as his airplane descended.

"The airport had just got hit with a rocket attack, so we just circled around. They scrambled F-4s to go after the people who sent those rockets," said Wellington, 68, from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Wellington's "welcome to Vietnam" moment occurred at the start of his three tours of duty in country with the U.S. Navy. He worked in construction battalions and security.

"I just praised the Lord that I didn't get hurt over there. I know my church was praying for me. At that time, I didn't know Christ. I accepted the Lord after I got back," said Wellington, who now assists Native American ministries with his wife.

Other veterans echoed Wellington's sentiments.

"I'm so glad I made it back," said Paul Bowers Sr., a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and Purple Heart recipient who served in Vietnam.

David Whidden, another Marine veteran, said he served in the late 1960s close to where Bowers was located in Vietnam. Whidden told the audience that he joined the Marines "to find out if I was man enough to do the things you have to do in a war."

Whidden said he "talked to God a lot" while in Vietnam.

"With the good graces of God, I came home and started a family," he said.

Serving in the military for Mike Onco was just like being in a family.

"We all looked out for each other," he said.

Drafted in 1969 by the U.S. Army, Onco said he wanted to go to Germany but was sent to Vietnam.

"The first thing I remember when I got off the plane was the smell," he said.

Onco recalled sleeping in fox holes filled

with rain, describing conditions as "wet and miserable."

Joe Osceola Jr. had never been on an airplane until he was drafted. He volunteered for jump school and served in Vietnam with the Army.

"I'm proud to be a veteran," he said.

Younger veterans, such as Salli Josh, also participated in the Veterans Day event. Josh joined the U.S. Navy in the mid-1990s and served until 2008.

"I really enjoyed my 14 years in the Navy," she said.

Josh's family spans generations of military service. Her father, Coleman Josh, served in the Army, which is where her son, also named Coleman Josh, recently enlisted.

Other speakers included Army veterans Don Mitchell, who is part of four generations of military service in his family; Mitchell Cypress, who hosted the program; Joseph Morgan; and Kenneth Ward.

Before lunch was served, Paul Bowers Sr. read the roll call of names of living and deceased Seminole veterans.



Kevin Johnson

U.S. Marine Corps veteran Paul Bowers Sr. talks about his service in the Vietnam War during a Veterans Day Luncheon Nov. 11 at the Big Cypress Community Center. U.S. Army veteran Mitchell Cypress is at the podium.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee School students sing during the 27th annual Veterans Day Celebration Nov. 3 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena entertainment complex.

Patriotism abounds at Veterans Day celebration

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS — Giant red, white and blue drapery in the form of the American flag provided a patriotic cover for more than 300 people at the 27th annual Veterans Day Celebration Nov. 3 inside the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena entertainment complex in Big Cypress.

From the welcoming remarks by Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger to the closing sound of Taps from Lawrence Morse's trumpet, patriotic themes were woven together for more than two hours through speeches, poems and music.

"I respect all you guys that protect my freedom so I can raise my family and kids, have a job," Councilman Tiger told veterans in the audience. "Thank you for everything you all do for us. If it wasn't for you guys putting your life on the line, I wouldn't have the education I have, I wouldn't have the wonderful kids I have, I wouldn't have such a free country."

Councilman Tiger presented a special recognition award from the Tribal Council to Mitchell Cypress.

The former Tribal Chairman and U.S. Army and National Guard veteran co-founded the celebration.

"I'll accept it for all the veterans," said Cypress, who drove tanks in Germany during his service in the late 1960s.

"I was a loader for a while, then the driver got discharged," Cypress said after the ceremony. "The commander told me to get in that seat. I stayed there. It was easy.

You don't have extra duty. You just drive."

Cypress also remembered tense times in 1968 when the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia.

"We had to be ready. We were on alert all the time," he said.

Nearly three decades ago, Cypress, along with Jacob Osceola Sr. and the late Roy Nash Osceola, became the driving force behind the formation of the Tribe's veterans celebration.

"Native Americans always celebrate their warriors," said Cypress, who served as co-emcee of this year's celebration with Sally Tommie.

Osceola's military service came in the early 1970s after he graduated high school and found there weren't many employment opportunities available.

"So I joined the service. I wanted to see what it was about," said Osceola, who served in the Army's 82nd Airborne in Vietnam.

Daryl Jones, the event's guest speaker, started his military career in the Air Force Academy only after he initially showed no interest in the academy as a high school student.

"(An academy liaison officer) told me there had never been a black from the state of Mississippi ever to go to any military academy and that I probably didn't have what it took to make it. That's all he needed to say; I was gone," Jones said.

opened his own law firm and served in the state legislature.

Jones outlined his recipe for success with four points: believe in yourself, have clear written goals, work constantly toward those goals and learn from the best.

Alexis Jumper and Thomlynn Billie, representing Miss Florida Seminole Princess and Jr. Miss, respectively, thanked the veterans during their remarks as did Pastor Salaw Hummingbird, who urged the audience not to forget those who are currently serving the country.

"I think about our men and women that are still over there fighting today, still battling today. Some of them are not going to come home," Hummingbird said.

Ahfachkee School students played a big role in the ceremony, including singing patriotic songs.

Peggy Sue Cypress and Sarah Osceola led the pledge of allegiance. Janessa Jones read a poem that she wrote.

"I am a Veteran" poem was spoken by Sally Tommie. Names of the 26 deceased Seminole veterans and nearly 50 living Tribal veterans were also read aloud.

Hundreds of handshakes ensued as Tribal veterans and those who work for the Tribe were thanked by audience members.

"Please hug a veteran today," Councilman Tiger said. "Tell them thank you for what you've done. A lot of mothers and fathers lost their sons and daughters so we could have freedom. A lot of men and women have come back crippled. If you get a chance, hug a veteran today. Tell them, 'I love you very much.'"

A silver bracelet mystery

SUBMITTED BY JAMES H. POWELL
 Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Interesting donations to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum collections often come unexpectedly. Last month, the Museum received a donation of a silver cuff bracelet decorated with Native American designs. Museum staff has been unable to discover much information about the bracelet, including the connection of this style of bracelet and the designs on it to the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

In October, Judy Cox contacted the Museum and generously donated the bracelet to the Tribe. She and her husband, Julian, shared the story of the bracelet. Judy said her father, Marvin Scally, was a friend of Josie Billie. Judy explained that in the early 1940s, at the request of Marvin Scally, Josie Billie gave the bracelet to him in order to give it to his wife, Judy Cox's mother, Nellie Scally.

Judy and Julian Cox believe that Josie Billie may have made the bracelet and that he may have created it from repurposed silver dollars he received from Marvin Scally.

Although Museum staff is uncertain about this particular bracelet, it is certain that the Seminole Tribe of Florida has a small but strong connection to silverwork, even during the most difficult circumstances in the 1800s. Seminole silversmiths produced many types of silver items, including brooches, gorgettes, turban bands, and wrist and arm bands. Most commonly, these items were made from Spanish, British or U.S. silver currency coins and were stamped, incised or embossed with decorative lines and designs.

As part of its permanent exhibitions, the Museum has materials related to Seminole silverwork on display. Several notable silver items featured are on long-term loan from the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). On display are earrings, brooches, bracelets,



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
Josie Billie, 1942.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
This silver cuff bracelet with stamped Native American designs may have been made in the 1940s from silver coins.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
Pictured is a pair of women's silver bracelets on loan from the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), which were collected by NMAI from Lucy Gopher.

rings, gorgettes, turban band and a complete silver worker's toolkit.

But none of the silver items on display or any additional silver items held by the Museum resemble the bracelet donation. There is no maker's mark on the bracelet. In addition, many of the designs on the bracelet more closely resemble Native American designs of the Southwest.

If anyone has any information about

the bracelet or would like to help solve this mystery, stop by the Museum, visit www.AhTahThiKi.com or call 877-902-1113.

The Museum would like to thank Judy Cox and her family for their generous donation.

The bracelet will be added to the Museum's silver holdings, and the story of this bracelet will be added to the Museum's archive as the mystery unfolds.

Remembering the Huff Camp

SUBMITTED BY ERIC GRIFFIS
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office Tribal Archaeology Section began research on the historic Huff Camp (Bird Clan) on the Brighton Reservation for possible inclusion on the Tribal Register of Historic Places at the request of the Huff family.

Research consisted of interviews with John Wayne Huff, who was raised at the camp, archival inquiries and an archaeological survey. John Wayne's parents – Frank Huff and Mary Osceola Huff – moved to Brighton sometime in the 1940s. Mary was originally from the Bluefield area, and John Wayne remembers his dad saying he moved to Brighton because the Trail was getting too crowded. The family periodically moved around to different places until they finally settled at the historic location of the camp on the west side of Reservation Road, just north of what is now Frank Huff Road. The family moved there in the early 1950s when the main road was being built so the children could more easily travel to school in Okeechobee.

Frank and Mary raised six children – Frank Jr., Stanley, John Wayne, Roy Rogers, Josephine and Agnes – and hosted many frequent visitors to their camp. Of course, many Bird Clan relatives would visit the camp, but many of Frank's relatives would as well.

Frank's mother, Jenny (Rosalie) Tiger, lived at the camp for a while, and Frank's father, Sam, would stay at the camp when he visited from Hollywood.

Mary's brother, Robert Osceola, lived at the Seminole Village at Silver Springs and his family would stay in one of the Huffs' visitors chickees when they traveled to Brighton.

The Huff family also took frequent trips to visit Robert's family in Silver Springs and to visit Sam who worked for Reverend Genus Crenshaw at the First Seminole Baptist Church in Dania. Other visitors to the camp included Onnie Osceola and her family, Stanford Jumper, Willie Gopher and John Henry Gopher.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
Lena Gopher, right, grinds corn with a large mortar and pestle. Standing around her are Stanley Huff, Mary Osceola Huff holding James Jumper and Agnes Huff Jumper. Seated in front of Stanley is Josephine Huff holding Cardell Jumper.

Mary's other brother, the Rev. Billy Osceola, had a chickee built at the Huff Camp that served as a Baptist church. Billy led the efforts to adopt a Tribal Constitution. When the Tribe voted to incorporate in 1957, Billy was then elected to serve as the first Chairman – a position he held for several years. The New York Times' coverage of the constitutional election profiled Sam Huff, saying he was the oldest voter in the Tribe (thought to be 94 at the time) and noted that he was the last Seminole to always wear the traditional long shirt that was popular in the 19th century.

As if the Huffs didn't have enough visitors already, Mary had an arts and crafts chickee built next to Billy's church along Reservation Road to attract tourists to the camp. After Lottie Tiger married Stanley Huff, they eventually started a camp just north of the Frank Huff Camp. Lottie

worked at Mary's crafts store when she was younger and she continues that tradition from her own home today.

One more thing that drew people to the camp was a pool table that was kept on a concrete slab under a chickee that Frank acquired when the Recreation Department got rid of it. Frank was the director of Recreation at Brighton, and he enjoyed working with kids to give them activities to avoid bad influences. Many people would come to play at "Frank's Pool Hall."

Mary was known to welcome visitors at all hours of the day and night and was always happy to start cooking food for whoever showed up, even if it was 3 a.m. Between the Huffs and Osceolas' involvement in Tribal government, community events, cattle, tourism, church and recreation, as well as the central location in Brighton, the Huff Camp was an important institution for many years.

The camp was used as a holiday camp for years after family members moved into HUD houses. During the archaeological field survey for the project, John Wayne pointed out the location of all the historic structures and landmarks, and the crew recorded the layout of the camp using GPS coordinates. The survey also revealed evidence of many years of home-cooked meals and family fellowship in the form of dishware, animal bones and soda bottles. Now family members and descendants live around the site of the camp, and John Wayne would like to see some type of memorial chickees built to represent the camp where he was raised.

Each site found by the THPO is recorded so that the information is available for future generations. By understanding the past, THPO staff can better understand the ever-changing landscape on the Brighton Reservation. If you have any information about this site or any other historic places on any of the reservations, or would like any further information about the Huff Camp, contact the THPO at 863-983-6549.



Photo courtesy of State Archives of Florida, Florida Memory
Three Seminole children of the Huff family clean laundry on a log. The photo was taken at a creek or pond located south of the Huff Camp.

Betty Mae Jumper

Wisdom from the past

Faa-tee-empeke (Thanksgiving)

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the November 26, 1997 issue of The Seminole Tribune.

Indian stories about Thanksgiving are a little different from the stories told by white people. Indians recall that when whites first arrived from Europe, they didn't know how to survive. Food was running out as the winter was approaching, leaving them hungrier and hungrier.

When the Indians saw the whites going hungry – especially the children – they knew they had to do something to help. They began to talk among themselves about what they could do.

They solved the problem by bringing deer meat and fish.

Some Tribes were afraid to kill turkeys because they believe turkeys

are spirits and you shouldn't eat those birds. But, others said white people won't mind eating turkey because they don't know better. Also, Indians had planted corn, pumpkins and all kinds of beans. The Indians sat down with the whites so they would see the food was good to eat. Afterward, they taught the whites how to make gardens of plants that would grow in their area. This is a belief among many Indians that this was the beginning of Thanksgiving, which we still celebrate to this day.

Most Indians today eat turkey, but whether you have turkey or not, Thanksgiving is a day to stop and think about what you have. It's a day to spend with family and friends and to give thanks for all that God has given you.

I hope you all take time to remember the real reason for *Faa-tee-empeke*, Thanksgiving.



LAKE TUPKE

From page 1A

with medicine, said Salina Dorgan, Snow's daughter.

"My mother's vision about the medicine to us in our family was she tried to educate us as to the importance of medicine among our Seminole people," Dorgan said. "One of the things she always explained was that the medicine songs were always in the Seminole (Creek) language but the medicine people were more often the people who spoke Mikasuki. That played an important role for my mother because she could speak in both languages. We were very fortunate because her father ... brought up his children – she was one of seven siblings – and made sure that each and every one of them knew both languages."

Dorgan said she convinced her mother to share her knowledge with the world.

"There were limited areas where you can find certain medicine," said Dorgan, who told her mother, "If you don't start to share some of this knowledge, there's gonna be nobody who knows where these plants are at. You got to give the location."

Snow agreed and the book was published.

"It doesn't give you the remedies; all it does is just talk about the plants or the herbs that the medicine man requires," Dorgan said.

Chairman Billie described Snow as a visionary, whose inspiration lasted for decades around important Tribal affairs.

"One inspiration of Alice's that I remember was, I think it was maybe about the middle of the '70s, Alice had this business side to her and she said she wanted about 2 to 3 acres to put a hotel up and a restaurant on the Brighton Reservation. I was sitting on the Council in those days and I remember thinking, 'What the heck is she gonna do with a motel and a restaurant?' That's how far backwards we were in our thinking. As time went along I kind of pondered on that. She did put up a little restaurant over there. It is called Alice's Restaurant. We

still visit that place and a lot of us folks eat our breakfast there.

"As time went along, the idea of the motel lingered among myself and our people, and it happened on occasion, in the last 10, 12 years or so, that Seminole Tribe businesses have flourished. Seminole Tribe's business is one of the best or is the best in the world. I didn't say in Naples, I said the world. It is branded Hard Rock cafes and hotels and casinos – over 153 locations on Earth.

"Our management is the best in the world. The country of Vietnam gave us a call the other day and I went over there to check them out. We flew into Hanoi. They told us they don't have casino management there, so they wanted our people to go over and help them and write the casino rules and regulations of casinos. That is the inspiration that Alice Snow gave us, and to this day we are very thankful that we knew her. I just wanted you to know that Alice Snow's ideas linger on and we are doing very well with them."

Also during the event, Henry and his family demonstrated several Tribal stomp dances similar to those that occur at the annual Green Corn Dance, while Chairman Billie narrated.

NBG executive director Brian Holley praised Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff for helping plan the event.

"What we never expected was the wonderful relationship that would begin to evolve with Ah-Tah-Thi-

Ki Museum and the staff. I think this has been a wonderful catalyst for wonderful things to occur in the future," Holley said.

Museum director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Paul Backhouse agreed. He described the NBG staff as "incredibly gracious and hospitable."

Attendees toured the garden's habitats and landscapes, many of whom stopped to stare out from the shoreline of Lake Tupke, calm and serene, honoring forever Tupke, the special Seminole herbalist also known as Alice Micco Snow.

"There are moments in one's life when things come together in ways that are almost magical; I think Alice probably had more of them than most of us, given her approach to life," he said. "She created (magical moments) for others and she is still doing so, as today is another one."

"There are moments in one's life when things come together in ways that are almost magical; Alice ... created (magical moments) for others and she is still doing so, as today is another one."

– Duane Burnham, philanthropist



Photo by Peter B. Gallagher
With Lake Tupke in the background, Bobby Henry leads his family in a stomp dance demonstration Nov. 15 for attendees of the dedication ceremony for Alice Micco Snow.

Health



Brighton residents 'Run for Pie'

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — Tribal and community members of all ages braved the cold and light drizzle Nov. 18 in Brighton to participate in the first Run for Pie event. Hosted by the Brighton Health Department, Run for Pie replaced the seasonal Turkey Trot held in previous years.

"Someone had an idea for a run for pie," health educator Terri Anquoe said. "It's kind of a way to make it a little different event."

Participants ran 3.1 miles for the sweet reward of a pumpkin, apple or guava pie

awaiting them at the finish line.

The top three qualifying youth who crossed the finish line also received a trophy along with their tasty treats.

"I was telling myself I was going to be first so that's what made me win," said first-place youth Jaylen Baker.

Friends and family ran together around the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena as members of the Health Department cheered them on.

"Our overall goal is to encourage exercise so we try to make our activities fun and enjoyable for all," Anquoe said.

While the Run for Pie was considered just a fun run and not competitive, some Tribal members came out to compete with themselves.

"They had one of these on Indian Day and I didn't have a chance to do it," Lewis Gopher said. "I started one on Fourth of July so I decided to come out and pick up my slack."

The Brighton Health Department continues to hold new activities and events to send the message to Tribal members that they can beat and manage diabetes with the proper diet and exercise.

"It's good just to give everyone an incentive to come out and be active and move around more," Gopher said.



Tribal and community members warm up for the inaugural Run for Pie event on Brighton Reservation Nov. 18 with the Health Department's Lance Vaz.



Leviticus Berry collects his pumpkin pie after his 3.1-mile run.

Breastfeeding, meds not necessarily incompatible

BY LENZY KREHBIEL-BURTON
Native Health News Alliance

Despite evidence to the contrary, health care providers are still regularly getting questions and comments about prescription medication use being unsuitable for breastfeeding mothers.

"It's a huge misperception," said Dr. Jenny Thomas, breastfeeding coordinator of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. "I've seen everything from patients who just had a single X-ray to mothers who were prescribed an antibiotic who were all told by clinicians or other well-meaning people to 'pump and dump' just to play it safe. It runs the gamut but the overwhelming majority of prescriptions are compatible with breastfeeding."

Most medications pass through breast milk to a certain extent, including both prescription and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals. Not all are necessarily harmful to an infant, but given the size discrepancy between mother and child, it takes significantly less for a nursing infant to feel the pharmaceutical's impact.

comes to breastfeeding.

Relatively newer selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, such as Zoloft, Paxil or Celexa, are more likely to transfer into breast milk at lower rates than their older counterparts, such as Prozac, Valium or Lithium, making them a safer option for breastfeeding mothers wrestling with postpartum depression or other behavioral health issues that require a prescription.

In most studies, any negative effects from medication usually appear in the first two months.

"A lot of moms dealing with it (depression) are on something beforehand," Richardson said. "If you're on anti-depressants during pregnancy, the baby got a larger dose in utero than via breastfeeding. There are safer meds than others, but you've got to check the medication information closely."

Several other common conditions have little, if any, impact on breastfeeding. According to the American College of Asthma, Allergies and Immunology, an estimated 8 percent of women in their childbearing years have some form of asthma that requires treatment via prescription. However, a study by the National Institutes of Health states that Albuterol and other short-acting bronchodilators are safe for use while breastfeeding thanks to the medication's low excretion rate.

At the end of the day, it is up to the mother to take the initiative and determine if and how her health needs can be safely managed while breastfeeding. To facilitate that research, the National Institutes of Health maintains LactMed, a regularly updated online database and mobile app of medications and their impact on breastfeeding, including a list of alternative compatible prescription drugs.

"Don't walk into it blindly, assuming that the doctors and nurses are going to lead you by the hand," Richardson said. "That's probably not going to happen."

Regularly incompatible pharmaceuticals generally fall into three categories: chemotherapy drugs, medications that could be classified as controlled substances and nuclear medicines. However, depending on the child's age and whether the mother is exclusively breastfeeding or supplementing, other medications might not jive with nursing.

"The rest are on a case-by-case basis," Thomas said. "In general, if it's safe to give to a baby or a small child, it's generally compatible with breastfeeding."

That frame of mind was why Lauren Ashley Locklear, a member of the North Carolina-based Lumbee Tribe, opted to refrain from breastfeeding. Locklear has been on epilepsy medication for more than a decade and upon learning of her



Photo courtesy of Native Health News Alliance

pregnancy, started researching whether her prescriptions would allow her to nurse her son.

The fourth most common neurological disorder behind migraines, strokes and Alzheimer's Disease, epilepsy is a condition that causes seizures thanks to disturbances in the brain's electrical activity. An estimated one-third of epileptics live with uncontrollable seizures because no available treatment works for them.

Locklear ultimately decided not to nurse her son Brennan after researching the potential side effects of her epilepsy medication. She takes Topamax and Lamictal twice a day to keep her condition in check, and both are linked to adverse side effects in breastfed infants whose mothers are on higher doses, as is the case for Locklear.

"Although the amount of medicine that Brennan would have received through breast milk was smaller than while he was in the womb, it was still too risky in the eyes of me and both his and my health care providers," Locklear said.

"In the 11 years that I have been on Lamictal, I have had my blood levels tested once and there was no way I could put my newborn through that on a regular basis," she said.

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Healthy holiday eating tips

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Department of Health in Broward

The start of the holiday season means social calendars may be jammed with parties, family gatherings, faith-based events, buffets and all kinds of festivities.

But celebrating doesn't have to mean overeating, excessive drinking or adding extra pounds around the midsection.

"With some planning, smarts and a bit of self-control, you can have a fantastic time without indulging," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of the Florida Department of Health in Broward County.

Native Americans in Florida need to be especially mindful about calories. About 40 percent of Tribal members are obese, compared to 25 percent of the general population, according to the state health department. Among teens, 14 percent of Native Americans report being obese compared to 11 percent of teens overall.

In keeping with Florida's "Healthiest Weight" initiative, here are 10 tips for healthy holiday eating:

1. Don't deny yourself. Skipping all the fun food and drinks will increase your desire to binge.
2. Don't go to a large dinner on an empty stomach. Eat a healthy breakfast or lunch with higher-fiber fruits and vegetables, and be sure to have some protein, such as tuna or chicken salad, a hard-boiled egg, low-fat yogurt, nuts or cheese.
3. Try to view holiday events as being less about food and more about spending time with family and friends.
4. As long as it would not insult the hosts, bring a healthy dish to share. That provides something to eat if the rest of the food is waist-busting. Make baked goods healthier by using whole grains in place of white flour and applesauce in place of oil.
5. Hold off filling your plate at the buffet. Scan the spread to find your favorites

and identify goodies worth passing up. Then let others be first in line. Eating last means finishing last and being less tempted to go back for seconds.

6. Are you truly hungry or just tempted? The desire to eat normally comes not from hunger but from seeing, smelling and thinking about food.

If you are only "yummy hungry," satisfy yourself by just nibbling on small portions of your favorite foods.

7. Set a mental goal of filling half your plate with fruits and veggies, one-quarter with protein and one-quarter with whole grains.

8. Walk away from the buffet table to mingle while you eat. Hang out with the talkers, not the eaters.

9. Hold off for a bit on getting seconds. Your body may take 20 minutes after eating to feel full. Give yourself that time before diving back in.

10. Drink water with food to help you feel fuller, quicker. Also, limit alcohol. Not only does it have calories, alcohol can increase your appetite and decrease your willpower.

If you overdo it, don't despair. Taking a nice walk after a big meal will help you digest and make you feel better. The next day, get back on track with some healthy and delicious meals, Thaqi said.

For more information on healthy eating, visit:

- Tribal Health Department: 954-962-2009 or www.SemTribe.com/Services/Health.aspx.
- Florida Department of Health: www.HealthiestWeightFlorida.com.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guide to eating out: www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/nutrition/pdf/r2p_away_from_home_food.pdf.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture food and exercise tracker: www.SuperTracker.usda.gov.



Be thankful, grateful and give

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez

Thankfulness seems to be less abundant these days. But, as we fast approach this Thanksgiving holiday, let us take a step back and think ... really THINK about all we are blessed with and all there is to be thankful for.

We live in the most wonderful, beautiful, FREE country in the world. We wake up with a roof over our head. We have shoes to put on our feet. We have food to eat! Although these things may seem trivial and hardly worth mentioning, I want you to think about all those who don't live where we live and must live their lives in fear of not waking

up tomorrow, who don't even own one pair of shoes, who don't have food to feed their families. Maybe we can help make someone's day a little brighter by giving.

I am so thankful and grateful, for my life is truly blessed. I always give a little to those in need, and I encourage everyone to give a little this holiday season.

So, this Thanksgiving, be thankful, grateful and give to those less fortunate than we.



Tips for ensuring payment of medical and dental bills

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE WHIDDEN
Health Department

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

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

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

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

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

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

clinic.

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

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

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

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

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



Trike Fest tricks, Halloween treats for seniors

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Filled with team spirit thanks to some encouraging words from elected officials turned cheerleaders, 82 seniors mounted trikes Oct. 30 and competed for the coveted tribalwide Trike Fest trophy.

“Go BC,” yelled Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger as he rallied his team.

“Team Hollywood, let’s bring home some gold,” called Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola.

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank kept it real.

“Everybody knows this is to promote health, so let’s stay active, seniors,” he said.

Seniors from Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood, Immokalee and Tampa competed in the 10th annual event held at the aviation hanger in Big Cypress. It was the largest crowd ever, said organizer Lauren Goas.

“It was a really successful Trike Fest; it was really smooth,” said Goas, Hollywood health educator. “More people dressed up than ever before and they went all out decorating the trikes this year.”

The Halloween theme prompted seniors to don fantastic, frightful and fanciful costumes and get into the festive atmosphere of the day. Categories in the costume contest were best dressed male and female, prettiest, scariest and most original.

Trike decorations varied by reservation: Immokalee’s celebrated the fall harvest; Hollywood seniors turned their trike into a mini-haunted house;



Members of the Big Cypress Trike Fest team celebrate a big win Oct. 30 at the 10th annual tribalwide Trike Fest in Big Cypress.

Beverly Bidney

another purpose: friendship.

“This gives them the chance to keep their competitive spirit going,” Rep. Frank said. “A lot of them have been competing against each other for 40 or 50 years – all their lives. It’s good to see them still going at it.”

Moses Jumper Jr. was proud of winning four medals but especially enjoyed seeing his buddies.

“It feels good to see old friends and the fellowship is great,” he said. “We all have that competitive edge; we all want to win.”

Events included the cone weave, target toss, maze, puzzle challenge and team relay. Throughout the day, but especially during the team relay race, seniors waved pom-poms and cheered for their teammates who wove through the cones as fast as they could.

“My competitive edge is still sharp,” said Diane Smith, of Brighton, who still plays softball.

Seniors competed within their age groups; super seniors ages 55-61, golden seniors ages 62-98 and diamond seniors ages 69 and up. Those unable to ride bikes, known as hikers, competed in the ring toss, target toss and ladder ball.

Tampa seniors won the prize for having the largest percentage of their reservation’s seniors compete. With the most points earned, Big Cypress won best overall for the first time in four years.

“The teams came out and did what they had to do,” said Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard. “I look up to them. They paved the way and one day I’ll do the same thing.”

Big Cypress seniors built a truck filled with bloody body parts; Tampa’s was taken over by witches; and Brighton’s trike was decked out as a pumpkin. Judges went for gore this year and awarded the trophy to Big Cypress. In addition to fitness, the day’s fun had



Beverly Bidney

Louise Osceola cheers wholeheartedly for her team during the 10th annual event.



Beverly Bidney

Connie Whidden, right, and Nancy O. Frank show off their costumes at the 10th annual Trike Fest.



Beverly Bidney

Sandy Billie Jr., of Team Brighton, aims during the target toss competition.



Beverly Bidney

Judge Matt Tiger takes notes while judging each reservation’s decorated trikes.



Beverly Bidney

It’s hands up as Joe Osceola Jr., of Team Hollywood, completes his puzzle quickly.



Beverly Bidney

Old friends prepare for the Trike Fest competition with a few three-wheeled stretches.



Beverly Bidney

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard joins Team Tampa with their trophy for having the largest percentage of seniors compete at Trike Fest.

SEMINOLE SCENES



Peter B. Gallagher

LIVING DOLL: A life-size Seminole doll recommends The Seminole Tribune at the Micosukee Service Station on Alligator Alley.



Kevin Johnson

HELPING HERO: U.S. Army veteran Stephen Bowers, second from left, receives a plaque in appreciation of his service to veterans and dedication to veteran issues within the Tribe and outside of the Tribe during the Seminole Veterans Celebration and Recognition Nov. 6 in Brighton.



Peter B. Gallagher

TRIBAL TRIO: Former Tribal Chairman Mitchell Cypress, left, and his brother, former Big Cypress Councilman David Cypress, center, stop by to chat with Chairman James E. Billie before showtime at the American Indian Arts Celebration on Big Cypress Reservation Nov. 8.



Beverly Bidney

SOFKEE SERVE: Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students Alyssa Gonzalez, 12, left, and Caylie Huff, 11, serve sofkee to their peers Nov. 12 as part of the Culture Department's cooking and carving program.



Kevin Johnson

ROCKIN' RED RIBBON: From left, Adrienne Bell, youth education coordinator James Payne, Ozzy Holdiness and Kyrell Josh perform during the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club's Red Ribbon talent show Oct. 24 at the airnasium.



Eileen Soler

APACHE APPRECIATION: Tribal elder and church deacon Joe Osceola Sr. and his daughter Janice Osceola admire an Apache basket gifted to Joe Oct. 24 for providing the opening prayer at the National Youth Leadership Initiative, a weekend of training workshops for Indian Country teens hosted by the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in Fort Lauderdale.



Eileen Soler

PUMPKIN PATCH: From left, Ahfachkee Preschool students Bernard Robbins III, Terrance Robbins and Dustin Osceola check out a box full o'pumpkins Oct. 17 during a class field trip to the Flamingo Road Nursery's Fall Harvest Festival in Davie.



Beverly Bidney

IDYLLIC LANDSCAPE: A tranquil waterway in Brighton provides shade and protection for creatures, hidden from view, as they rest during the heat of the day.



Photo courtesy of Construction Management Department

HEALTHY HORIZON: An artist's rendering depicts the potential view of a new Big Cypress medical center that will house doctor offices, nursing stations, dental care, all Health Department offices, physical rehabilitation rooms and drive-through pharmacy.



Peter B. Gallagher

TRIBUTE TO TRADITION: Minnie Doctor and her display are a veritable living museum of Seminole arts and crafts Nov. 8 at the American Indian Arts Celebration on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Beverly Bidney

SHOW NOLE MERCY: From left, Joni Josh, Melissa Picardo, Tomie Motlow, Kyle Doney, Baylee Micco, Kirsten Doney, Amy Yzaguirre, Lucas Paugh and Jonna Paugh get up close and personal with Bobby Bowden Field during halftime of FSU's homecoming game Nov. 8.

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Education

B



Apolonia Nunez on track to become youngest Seminole to earn associate degree

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Freelance Writer

OKEECHOBEE — Most 15-year-olds are busy texting, hanging out with friends and anxiously awaiting their 16th birthdays. Apolonia Nunez, known as Apple to friends and family, is no exception. She does all those things. Except, she is far from typical.

Next May, Apolonia, the daughter of David and Anita Nunez, will likely become the youngest Tribal member to graduate with her associate of arts degree.

She has been a full-time student at Indian River State College (IRSC) since August 2013.

"It was one of the best decisions for my education," she said.

Apolonia, who grew up in Okeechobee, has always excelled academically — she tested at a gifted level, one point away from genius, in the second grade — but she struggled socially. She said being an introvert made socializing with kids her own age difficult.

"I recognized she was so intelligent that it was bothering her socially," her mother, Anita Nunez, said. "It made me feel nervous."

In a seven-year span, Apolonia switched schools 13 times in an effort to find the school that "clicked," she said.

It wasn't until her mother suggested dual enrollment classes at IRSC during her ninth-grade year that it finally clicked.

"The idea was crazy, so out of the ordinary," Apolonia said. "It sounded so far-fetched."

Anita had tried to enroll her oldest daughter Alicia in the seventh grade but the Okeechobee school system didn't allow it at the time. Only 11th-graders were eligible to take college classes. But this time, Anita knew how to qualify her youngest daughter.

In order for Apolonia to be eligible for dual enrollment at IRSC, she had to be home-schooled and had to pass the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT).

Apolonia passed the reading and writing portion of the PERT with flying colors. Math, not one of her favorite subjects, posed a challenge. But Apolonia enlisted the help of tutors, studied hard and eventually passed math as well, making the start of her college career at 14 one step closer to reality.

Her mother helped with home schooling, narrowing down all the college classes that would count toward high school credits and associate degree credits. She also found a teacher to oversee Apolonia's home-school curriculum and sign off on her classes upon completion.

"I had a mother that believed in me more than I believed in myself," Apolonia said.

During her first semester at IRSC, Apolonia took five classes and was on campus three days a week. She said she finally felt at ease and enjoyed the challenges of college.

Picking her own classes allowed Apolonia to have more flexibility with her curriculum. She has taken a culinary class, as well as oceanography. Along with fun and intellectual electives, she also balances her semesters with college freshman- and sophomore-level classes including English, critical thinking, life science and American history.

Apolonia admitted she had to learn how to adjust to college classes. She said she wasn't used to having a month to work on school projects. But she learned quickly why students receive extra time for certain assignments.

"At first it caught me off guard," she said. "I crammed my first essay the night before. I definitely learned my lesson on that. It really challenges your self-control and your self-discipline."

Since then, Apolonia has continued to excel in college and has learned to balance her schoolwork with everyday life. She pushed forward and is passing through high school requirements so she can concentrate on college.

"My focus is not high school," she said. "My A.A. and bachelor's are my focus and everything else is just the building blocks for college."

Apolonia is a year ahead in high school and hopes to finish all her requirements this school year.

♦ See APOLONIA on page 4B

Youth leaders invade Fort Lauderdale

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — Ancient Tribal drums mixed with cool hip-hop beats sounded a call for nearly 75 Indian Country youth Oct. 24-26 to the Sheraton Fort Lauderdale Beach Hotel.

But the boom, boom, boom did not announce fun in the sun for the teens who traveled from as far as Oregon and as close as the Seminole Hollywood Reservation.

The rhythmic beat signaled the start of the National Youth Leadership Initiative, a weekend of training workshops hosted by the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

"The belief is that kids who run together will work together as adults in the future," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank during opening remarks. "And if one Tribe moves forward, we all move forward."

Other Seminole VIPs — including Little Mr. Seminole Roberto Benard; Joel Frank, director of Government Relations & Initiatives; and Tribal elder Joe Osceola Sr., a deacon at Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church — welcomed the group.

"As long as someone is here to teach you, you must open your ears and open your eyes, learn what they say, take it home with you, share it with others and keep it in your heart always," Osceola said.

Teen representatives from more than a dozen Tribes then launched into 22 hours of leadership training that could enable them to help others face down common social problems, such as bullying, substance abuse, teen pregnancy and suicide.

But first, they divided into groups to choose a specific issue that affects the community at large and create a project that could bring awareness to the concern. Issues included loss of language, unemployment and drug abuse.

The teens, most of whom are members of Tribal youth councils, learned how to brainstorm ideas and then conduct "brain-mapping" to outline plans on paper.

Step by step, they whittled lofty ideas into doable goals.

A handful of young adults who are the

"The belief is that kids who run together will work together as adults in the future. And if one Tribe moves forward, we all move forward."

— Joe Frank,
Big Cypress Board Rep.



Eileen Soler

Seminole and Miccosukee teens gather in a circle to discuss ways to make positive community changes during the National Youth Leadership Initiative leadership training held Oct. 24-26 in Fort Lauderdale.

recipients of UNITY's 2014 inaugural "25 Under 25 Native Youth Leadership Awards" served as mentors.

Melea McGhee, of the Porch Creek Youth Council in Atmore, Alabama, said she and three other council members attended to "get information, soak it up to take it back and make the most helpful council program ever."

For Melea's group, addressing loss of culture made sense.

"It's a no-brainer because no one knows your community better than you," Melea said.

Six Seminole Tribe members, five Miccosukee Tribe members and two Florida independent Native American teens also attended — nine of the attendees are students at Miccosukee Indian School in Trail.

The Miccosukee school participants also chose to tackle loss of culture. They devised a plan of attack that could require an entire culture day made up of presentations, walks and cooking classes.

Kaylene Osceola, of Trail, said language will play a big part in the culture day.

"Sometimes kids are afraid to speak to our elders in our language because we don't feel confident enough. But we just have to keep trying because that's how we'll learn from them," Kaylene said. "Without the words and the elders we'll lose our culture. We have to start off somewhere."

Kids received tips from UNITY members and directors for fundraising, advertising and media relations. Social networking factored high for keeping in touch and getting the word out.



Eileen Soler

John Kyle Osceola, a Seminole Tribe member and student at Miccosukee Indian School, raises his hand to answer important questions about volunteerism and community service during the recent National Youth Leadership Initiative leadership training.

"Everyone needs Facebook these days," said Quenton Cypress, a 2014 Ahfachkee School graduate.

Quenton, of Big Cypress, joined forces with Thomlynn Billie, Miss Florida Seminole Princess Brianna Nunez and several teens from the Cherokee and Mohawk youth councils to deal with unemployment.

The team will Skype, Facebook and email through similar events that will include job fairs and a career shadowing program.

Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, who served as a speaker during the event, advised teens to never stop networking.

♦ See LEADERSHIP on page 3B

PECS, Muckleshoot Tribe share culture

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students recently had the unique experience of seeing their own culture through the eyes of another Tribe, the Muckleshoot of Washington state.

On Nov. 12, before attending the American Indian Science and Engineering Society conference in Orlando, 12

Muckleshoot high school students and their chaperones visited Brighton Reservation.

After viewing the Red Barn, Florida Seminole Veterans Building and Lake Okeechobee, the Muckleshoot students joined in at the school's culture camp. Together with PECS students, they cooked Indian dogs and carved soap while sharing stories about life and legends of their Tribes.

"We carve Sasquatch and you carve alligators," said Kenny Louie, 17. "We do

beadwork, make drums from deer hide, and carve paddles from cedar and Douglas fir."

Boys from both Tribes compared the types of birds and trees on their reservations and discussed hunting. The conversation eventually moved to alligators, and the Muckleshoot boys found it hard to believe the Seminole kids actually wrestled them.

Chickee building was another topic the local kids shared with visitors.

"If you have a team of four or five people, you can get it done in a few days," said Conner Thomas, 13.

Helped by culture staff, Seminole and Muckleshoot girls kneaded frybread dough before wrapping it around hot dogs. The Muckleshoot girls had never before cooked over an open fire.

"I think it's really cool that we are using actual firewood instead of a stove," said Karrena Heredia, 17. "I think I'll show my mom this way to make frybread, with self-rising flour."

Although they don't traditionally cook Indian dogs outside, the Muckshoots enjoy the same treat at home and call them rez dogs.

"We hope they learn about our culture," said Emma Johns, PECS dean of students who organized the visit. "We've been to their reservation; now it's an opportunity for them to see our Tribe."

The physical environments of the two Tribes vary drastically: rolling hills and salmon-filled rivers in Washington versus flat Florida scrub land and alligator-infested canals.

The Muckleshoot students were eager to see an alligator in the wild, so a bus trip was organized to find the reptiles in their

natural habitat. They only saw two, an adult who quickly scurried from the bank into a tributary leading to Lake Okeechobee and a young gator in the shallows of the lake behind the Brighton Trading Post.

Johns met Willard Bill Jr., Muckleshoot Tribal School dean of students, through her work with the National Indian Education Association when she served as director of the Education Department. Bill invited Tribal youth to join the Muckleshoot on a canoe journey in 2010.

The department brought 14 students to Washington that summer, and the group spent a week on a canoe journey with Muckleshoot youth learning about Northwestern Tribal customs.

This time, the Muckshoots learned about Seminole culture.

"We want to broaden their horizons so they can see what other reservations look like, how they are different and how they are alike," Bill said. "Firsthand cultural activities is what we really want them to take away from the visit."

The two Tribes emphasize teaching native language to preserve it for future generations, creating traditional arts and crafts, taking care of the environment and participating in philanthropic endeavors in surrounding communities.

The Seminole's relationship with the Muckleshoot Tribe began in the 1980s when the Tribe, located about 30 miles south of Seattle, wanted to open a bingo hall. They couldn't get a bank loan, so the Seminole Tribe stepped in and loaned them money to get started.

♦ See CULTURE EXCHANGE on page 4B



Beverly Bidney

Muckleshoot student Natasha Underwood-Elkins, 16, left, gets some assistance making Indian dogs from Emma Fish, of the Culture Department, as PECS student Janessa Nunez, 12, watches.

Preschoolers celebrate spooktacular Halloween



Beverly Bidney

Betty Osceola, 1, decorates her first pumpkin at the Hollywood Preschool Family Fun Day pumpkin patch event Oct. 24.



Eileen Soler

Mahala Billie-Osceola, left, and Kalaney Hannahs are gung ho about painting pumpkins Oct. 17 during a class field trip to the Flamingo Road Nursery's Fall Harvest Festival in Davie.



Beverly Bidney

Jose Serrano holds his daughter Aries Serrano, 1, as they trick-or-treat with the Brighton Preschool Oct. 31.



Beverly Bidney

Little Rayelle Alvarado is a cheerful sight surrounded by sunflowers at the Hollywood Preschool trick-or-treat event Oct. 28.



Beverly Bidney

Daryn James, 3, creates a cheerful pumpkin at the Hollywood Preschool Family Fun Day pumpkin patch event.



Beverly Bidney

Escaped prisoner Miguel Estrada, 1, reaches for candy during the Brighton Preschool Halloween trick-or-treating event.



Eileen Soler

Allekeao Billie doubles as Frankenstein and Cookie Monster Oct. 30 during the Big Cypress Preschool Halloween party.



Eileen Soler

Orlando Chance Covarrubias and his father, Orlando Covarrubias, play a game of pinky monsters during the Big Cypress Preschool Halloween party.



Eileen Soler

Joshua Billie runs first, followed by classmates, through a pumpkin patch maze during an Ahfachkee School Preschool field trip to Flamingo Road Nursery's Fall Harvest Festival in Davie.



Beverly Bidney

Dressed in their finest Halloween costumes, Hollywood preschoolers collect candy from Tribal department employees, who happily dole it out to the adorable crowd at the annual trick-or-treat event.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School children play role in local art show

Students' pen-pal letters offer inspiration for Norwegian artist

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

WEST PALM BEACH — Crayon drawings of chickees and crosses, baseballs and bobcats meshed with children's musings for a wallboard collage at the Armory Art Center in West Palm Beach.

The piece, created by Norwegian artist Inger Hansen, featured pen-pal letters and drawings exchanged last year between 10 Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School children from teacher Traci Mendez's class and 24 children from teacher Hilde Haakelien's classroom in Norway.

"It is a cross-cultural exchange. I visited and the children painted for me, but I was only a courier," Hansen said.

A former high school teacher and publishing house editor in Norway, Hansen was impressed with PECS students, teachers and principal Brian Greseth.

Hansen's project with PECS came at the end of several fortunate happenings.

A snowbird who lives part-time in Naples, Hansen's first encounter with a Native American came during a five-day painting marathon in 2010 at the Naples Philharmonic Center with renowned realist and New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting and Sculpture dean Graham Nickson.

Hansen recalled that the man, who identified himself as Rob Roy, was an art model with very long black hair and a distinct way of speaking.

"I was curious. I wondered if his

"I can see the culture in the new generations. And I can see how activities of war have joyfully become about sport and competition."

— Inger Hansen, Norwegian artist



Eileen Soler

Norwegian artist Inger Hansen joyfully shows pen-pal letters and drawings exchanged last year between 10 Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School children from teacher Traci Mendez's class and 24 children from teacher Hilde Haakelien's classroom in Norway. The art wall was recently on exhibit at Armory Art Center in West Palm Beach.

manner was cultural or about the language somehow and then I wondered if Native American people ever become part of the American dream," Hansen said.

Her interest led to a mission to study and paint life in the Everglades, which shortly became learning all she could about the history and culture of the Seminole Tribe. She visited Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, attended cultural events open to the public, painted in the Grassy Waters Preserve and read books about the Tribe, including "A Seminole Legend" by Betty Mae Jumper and Patsy West.

"Betty Mae Jumper wrote that if the trees could speak they would tell about her great-grandmother ... the Second Seminole War and how all the men were out hunting

and the women and the children were captured," Hansen said. "The water, the trees, the people — it is a story about survival, courage and love."

Strikingly positioned on six walls, Hansen's works ranged from stark plain air black and white oils to brilliant green cypress islands and vibrant mixed media collages that employ recent photographs, headlines and stories from The Seminole Tribune.

In an elongated, multi-image piece composed of 18 Seminole photos, the Red Barn and Seminole War re-enactments evolved into school and community scenes. The photos included Seminole royalty, soccer, stickball, cooking and archery. Underneath the images, Hansen offers

miniature paintings like mirages of the photos.

"I can see the culture in the new generations. And I can see how activities of war have joyfully become about sport and competition," Hansen said.

The children's wall was innocent and carefree.

PECS kids colored clan symbols, wrote poetry and boasted about their favorite sports teams — mostly the FSU Seminoles. Norwegian kids sent letters describing their homes, school and life.

And it took very little time for Hansen to learn that principal Greseth is of Norwegian descent.

"So, the world is small, after all," Hansen said.

Pop-up museum coming to Big Cypress, Hollywood

STAFF REPORT

The Dorothy Scott Osceola Memorial Library in Hollywood and the Willie Frank Library in Big Cypress will host a traveling exhibit about the transatlantic slave trade from Dec. 1-26.

"Spirits of the Passage: Stories of the Transatlantic Slave Trade" was created for Florida libraries by the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum in Key West. The exhibit provides an overview of the economics of the slave trade and highlights the unique role Florida played during those years.

The exhibit tells the story of the slave ship Henrietta Marie, which sank off the Florida Keys coast, and the story of the African Cemetery located in Key West. Panel topics include cultural diaspora, merchant or slave ship, piracy and slavery, and underwater archaeology. Each panel also includes the inspiring story of a Person of Note.

Referred to as a pop-up museum, the temporary exhibit is a series of informative panels which are installed in a non-traditional space in an effort to reach new audiences.

LEADERSHIP

From page 1B

He used the Seminole Tribe communities as an example for the importance of communications.

"We are geographically disconnected but here we are with great need for understanding what is going on. We have to network because we are all one people. Let's help each other ... let's work together to be self-sustaining," Rep. Osceola said.

At the helm of the event were UNITY staff members led by executive director Mary Kim Titla. Based in Mesa, Arizona, UNITY was established with a small group of teens from Oklahoma City in 1976 but now makes up a network of 142 youth councils in 35 states and Canada.

The UNITY mission? "To foster the spiritual, mental, physical and social development of American Indian and Alaska Native youth, and to help build a strong, unified and self-reliant Native America through involvement of its youth," according to its website.

"What it boils down to is having young people exposed to positive role models and positive energy so that they leave energized, encouraged, with a strong voice and knowing they have an important place in this world," Titla said.

New Safety Patrol inducted at PECS



Emma Johns

Newly inducted members of the Pemayetev Emahavk Charter School Safety Patrol pose for a picture Nov. 11 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton. Members are Myron Billie, Elle Thomas, Hyatt Pearce, Karey Gopher, LaShae King, Dwayne Billie, Mariah Billie, Giselle Micco, Winnie Gopher, Gabe Williams, Ramone Baker, Leilani Burton, Dalence Carrillo, Jahcole Arnold, Pherian Baker, Cheyenne Lara, Mariana Mora-Lara, Alliana Brady, Aleah Pritchard and Tafv Harris.



Beverly Bidney

PECS culture teacher Johnny Jones gives a group of Muckleshoot boys a lesson in carving. It was the first time the boys had tried their hands at the craft, so like PECS kindergarten students, they began with a soft bar of soap.

◆ CULTURE EXCHANGE

From page 1B

“Now we are a multibillion dollar corporation and one of the largest employers in the area,” Bill said.

Today the Muckleshoot Tribe’s enterprises include the Muckleshoot Casino, Muckleshoot Bingo, Muckleshoot Seafood Products, the Muckleshoot

Market and Deli, the Salish Tree Farm, the White River Amphitheatre, the Salish Lodge and Emerald Downs. Education is a top priority for the Tribe and revenue from their businesses fund the school and the Muckleshoot Tribal College.

Johns was pleased with the outcome of the short visit.

“Anytime we get Native American students from across the country together, it’s a real blessing,” she said.

◆ APOLONIA

From page 1B

If she does, she can graduate with her high school diploma and her associate degree in May.

“Apple is one of a kind who is a good example of hard work and dedication,” said Higher Education coordinator Linda Iley. “She is definitely a pride of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.”

Following her associate degree, Apolonia plans to pursue a bachelor’s in criminal justice from IRSC. She hopes to transfer to the University of Florida to work on her master’s and prepare for law school with the hope of returning to the Tribe and working as a judge in its court system.

“I’ll always be thankful for the Tribe because they are the reason I have this opportunity,” Apolonia said. “Now that they have the whole court system it honestly opens up a whole opportunity not only for

me but any other Tribal member who wants to do something in criminal justice.”

Apolonia encourages other Tribal students to take advantage of the education opportunities that the Tribe offers.

“Even if you don’t excel at education, even if you don’t get straight A’s, it doesn’t mean you’re dumb,” she said. “It does not test your success rate and your ability to do things. If you just take it one day at a time and slowly knock things out, you’ll get closer and closer to your goal.”

◆ LANGUAGE

From page 1A

PECS offers Creek classes to academic teachers and aides, who then use Creek commands in the classroom.

Muscogee Creek is spoken by about 5,000 people, a majority of whom live in

Oklahoma.

About 200 people speak Creek in Florida.

In PECS’ request for recognition of Creek as a foreign language, the application noted that because no Muscogee Creek course exists in the CCD, the need to develop a new course code is both critical and urgent.

A letter from Chairman James E. Billie urging the state to approve the language course was sent with the school’s application.

He wrote: “As a parent of a student at the school I have witnessed the importance of language acquisition in the educational development of students attending the Charter School.”



Beverly Bidney

PECS sixth-grader Dalence Carrillo, 13, PECS dean of students Emma Johns and Muckleshoot Tribal School dean of students Willard Bill Jr. walk along the boardwalk with Muckleshoot students at Lake Okeechobee near Brighton during their visit Nov. 12.

Little Mr. & Miss. Seminole 2015







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Little Miss Seminole 2014 - 2015

Roberto Benard
Little Mister Seminole 2014 - 2015

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February 6th, 2015
at the Seminole Hard Rock Live







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Little Mr. & Miss. Seminole Contest 2015

at the 44th Annual Seminole Tribal Fair

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Little Mr. & Miss. Seminole Contest
Hard Rock LIVE

Friday, February 6, 2015
at 6:00 p.m. Contestant # _____

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

Date: _____ Reservation: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Enrollment #: _____ Date of Birth _____

Print Name of Parent or Legal Guardian (circle one)


Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Cell #: _____

Contestants must be an enrolled tribal member, between the ages of 5 – 7 years old by February 5, 2015 and reside in the state of Florida. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Registration deadline is Monday, February 2, 2015 at 5:00pm. All contestants must be preregistered. There will be no applications taken on the day of contest.

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

CONTACTS
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Big Cypress – Alice Billie, (954) 790-0237
Trail Seminoles – Michael Cantu, (305) 553-8245 ext. 18702
Immokalee – Crystal Salinas, (239) 867-5300
Tampa – (813) 246-3100 Vicky Aspey ext. 19312 or Sunny Ploch ext. 19300



PECS October students of the month



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Elementary students of the month: Kieona Baker, Joleyne Nunez, Adarius Ford, Miley Jimmie, Malakai Garland, Keanu Bert, Neela Jones, Maylon Foster, Maricella Garcia, Summer Gopher, Keerian Jones, Jrayko Billie, Laci Prescott, Jace Brown, Peareetin Trammell, Lake Goodwin, Isaac Watford, Aleah Pritchard and Caleb Burton.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Middle school students of the month: Daven Carrillo, Waylynn Bennett and Conner Thomas.

Academic, culture achievements of Charter School kids lauded

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON

Halloween held some real treats for Pemaetev Emahaky Charter School students who earned awards for nine weeks of jobs well done. Principal Brian Greseth, dressed in a medieval king costume, proudly shook students' hands as they accepted their awards. The entire school staff dressed in medieval attire, which tied into the medieval theme of the school's recent book fair.



Beverly Bidney

Students proudly accept nine week awards from a medieval king, aka principal Brian Greseth, at Pemaetev Emahaky Charter School in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Principal Brian Greseth distributes nine week awards in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Fifth-grader Leilani Burton, 10, beams as she holds her nine week award at the PECS ceremony Oct. 31 in Brighton.

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“ John Hager is an amazing lawyer. My case was handled with care and professionalism, two terms that don't often appear in the same sentence when speaking of law & lawyers. The payment terms were adjusted so that the impossible was made possible. 5 stars here. ”



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“ John Hager was amazing throughout the process of a case for one of my family members. He was very aggressive in pursuing all of the necessary evidence. Not only that, but he really showed that he cared. ”



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A Seminole faces FSU Seminoles

Embry-Riddle standout DeForest Carter scores 16 points in loss

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

TALLAHASSEE — DeForest Carter grew up as a Florida State fan. He wanted to attend FSU. Even though his college path brought him to Daytona Beach, he has remained an FSU supporter.

But for 40 minutes Nov. 3, Carter put aside his affection for FSU and did everything he could to beat their men's basketball team, which proved to be a tall order.

"I'm guarding a guy 6-foot-8. I'm 6-1. They had three 7-footers," Carter said after his Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University team came up short in its upset bid against FSU in a preseason game at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center in Tallahassee.

Despite suffering a 95-73 loss, the game that featured a Seminole from Big Cypress versus the FSU Seminoles proved to be a memorable evening for Carter.

"A dream come true. To play against them was pretty awesome," said Carter, whose entourage in the stands included his mother, Myra Jumper; stepfather, Robert Hill; grandmother Mary Tigertail; aunt Renee Tigertail; and friends.

David versus Goliath matchups are common in preseason college basketball. FSU, an Atlantic Coast Conference team whose schedule includes powerhouses Duke and North Carolina, was expected to cruise past Embry-Riddle, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) team whose schedule includes tiny schools such as the University of Maine at Fort Kent and Alice Lloyd College in Kentucky.

Embry-Riddle hung with FSU longer than expected and even led by six points with about seven minutes left in the first half. A surge by FSU gave the Seminoles a 49-40 lead at halftime.

"We were feeling pretty good, but then they went on a run," Carter said. "They started to wear on us."

FSU didn't relinquish its lead in



Embry-Riddle point guard DeForest Carter controls the ball against Florida State during a preseason game Nov. 3 in Tallahassee. Carter scored a team-high 16 points in Embry-Riddle's 95-73 loss.

Photo courtesy of Mike Olivella/BaselineShots Photography

the second half, but Carter finished with impressive numbers at both ends. The senior point guard picked up where he left off last season when he earned Honorable Mention NAIA All-American and First Team All-Sun Conference honors.

He drained a team-high 16 points on

a solid 6-for-8 performance from the floor, which included a pair of 3-pointers. He dished out a game-high nine assists, four more than anyone else on the court, and he accounted for all four of his team's steals, also a game-high. His five rebounds — including two on the offensive boards — tied

for the team-high.

Carter said he wasn't surprised Embry-Riddle gave FSU a tougher game than most people expected.

♦ See CARTER on page 2C

Neko Osceola enjoys the ride as Flanagan High football flourishes under former FSU Seminole

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

PEMBROKE PINES — Neko Osceola is making the most out of his brief tenure with the Flanagan High football team.

After three years at American Heritage School in Plantation, Neko switched to Flanagan for his senior season. He arrived just in time to be part of the most successful season in Flanagan's history. As of mid-November, Flanagan was in the midst of its postseason, but the Falcons had already chalked up plenty of accomplishments, notably the program's first undefeated regular season, first district championship and first playoff victory.

"We're trying to do a lot of good things around here," said Flanagan coach Devin Bush. "We're progressing and growing, trying to build a good program that we can nurture our kids and get them things they

need to be successful, not only in football, but off the field as well."

Neko said the transition to a new school and new team has been smooth.

"It's been a fun experience. My teammates are cool. We all get along," he said before a practice in early November. "It's been a good year. I'm getting a lot more playing time over here."

When Neko joined Flanagan he figured he would continue playing his usual position at linebacker, but Bush — who was a strong safety on Florida State's first national championship team in 1993 — had other plans for the 5-foot-10, 220-pound transfer.

"I switched him to the (defensive) line," said Bush, who also won a Super Bowl with the St. Louis Rams. "He has a big strong body, wide shoulders, thick build, so I moved him to the defensive tackle/defensive end spot because we had a need there. He helped us fill that role. He

has good strength to stop the run, so we like to use him a lot in running situations."

In addition to head coaching duties, Bush also handles defensive coordinator chores. Flanagan's defense was tough to score against in the regular season. It allowed only 19 points during a five-game stretch against Boyd Anderson, Cypress Bay, McArthur, Everglades and Cooper City.

"He's very passionate about his defense. He knows a lot about football. He's helped me a lot," Neko said.

In just his second year at the helm, Bush has shifted Flanagan's program — which had never made the playoffs before he arrived — into another gear. Being a disciple of Bobby Bowden — major college football's winningest coach of all-time — has its benefits, as Bush applies what he learned in Tallahassee to what he's developing in Pembroke Pines.

"Coach Bowden meant the world to



Kevin Johnson

A former Florida State Seminole poses with a Seminole from the Hollywood Reservation Nov. 5 as Flanagan High football coach Devin Bush, left, joins his senior defensive lineman Neko Osceola. Bush, who played on FSU's national championship team in 1993, is in his second season as head coach at Flanagan, which went undefeated in the regular season and won its first district championship.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

Seminole football players helped their high school teams capture district championships this fall.

Plantation's American Heritage, which includes Big Cypress brothers Andre Jumper and Blevyns Jumper, won the Class 5A-District 16 title. The defending 5A state champions finished the regular season with a 7-3 record and opened the playoffs Nov. 14 with a 51-0 win against Immokalee in a regional quarterfinal.

Andre, a senior linebacker/defensive end, notched three assisted tackles in his final regular season game at Heritage, a 35-13 win against Lakeland-Kathleen on Nov. 7. He tied his season-high with seven tackles in the victory against Immokalee, giving him 50 for the season. Blevyns is a junior wide receiver/long snapper who is in his first season on Heritage's varsity.

Pembroke Pines' Flanagan, which includes former Heritage player Neko Osceola, finished its regular season undefeated (10-0) and won the program's first district championship by capturing the Class 8A-District 12 crown.

Neko is in his first and last season playing for Flanagan, which cruised past Coral Springs, 49-28, in a regional quarterfinal. Neko, a senior lineman from the Hollywood Reservation, plays on a defense that held opponents to a total of 66 points in the regular season.

Oklahoma's Class 4A only had two undefeated teams after the regular season and both squads have Seminoles on their rosters.

Sophomore running back Jesse Sanchez and his younger brother Sammy Micco Sanchez, a freshman linebacker, helped Fort Gibson win the Class 4A-District 4 title and finish the regular

♦ See DISTRICTS on page 2C



Kevin Johnson

Flanagan senior Neko Osceola, center, listens to an assistant coach during a defense meeting on the sidelines Nov. 14.

Indian National Finals Rodeo results



Photo courtesy of Bates Photography

Dyami Nelson, 15, competes in the Indian National Finals Rodeo bull riding division Nov. 5 in Las Vegas.

◆ INFR From page 1C

"I look forward to it every year. It's fun to go against hard competition," said Hipp, of Brighton, who has been roping for about half her life.

Hipp's top performance came in the short go round in calf roping where she placed fourth. She said her time of 4.8 seconds didn't come close to her best time ever, but it still netted her nearly \$1,200.

Jumper shined in tie-down roping's

second round when he finished sixth out of 31 competitors. His time was 11.16. In August, Jumper and Justin Gopher teamed up to win EIRA's team roping title.

Other top performers from the nearly two dozen local competitors at INFR included EIRA bareback riding champion Jacoby Johns, who was sixth in short go, 10th in the first round and 12th overall; EIRA calf roping champion Ivan Bruised Head, who tied for seventh in steer wrestling in round 2; and Cisco Rodriguez, who was 11th in a field of 32 in junior breakaway roping's round 2.

◆ DISTRICTS From page 1C

season undefeated. Fort Gibson (11-0) defeated Cascia Hall, 39-21, in a first round playoff game Nov. 14.

Jesse rushed for four touchdowns in the regular season on a potent offense that averaged 40 points per game. Sammy, who has also seen action carrying the ball but mostly plays defense, registered two tackles in a 42-7 win against Stillwell in

the regular season finale.

Curtis Osceola provided the spark in Anadarko's final regular season game, a 31-7 win against Weatherford on Nov. 7.

Curtis, a sophomore wide receiver/cornerback, put the first points on the board when he returned an interception for a touchdown as Class 4A-District champion Anadarko capped an undefeated regular season.

Anadarko, which won state titles in 2011 and 2013, routed Tuttle, 47-7, in a first round playoff game Nov. 14.

◆ CARTER From page 1C

"We're a good team, too," he said, noting that this year's returnees from last year's 24-7 club include six seniors and the Sun Conference Freshman of the Year. "Most of the seniors, we've known each other for three-plus years. They're like my other family."

Carter's strong performance against FSU dismissed any concerns about how an off-season leg injury that kept him off the court for part of the summer would affect his game. He admitted he spent too much time on the couch while recovering and at one point weighed 250 pounds. But after returning to the court and to workouts, he shed more than 30 pounds and started the season "in the best shape of my life."

"I've always been a big guard," he said. "I feel like I'm lighter. I was able to stay up with some of (FSU's) really quick guards."

The FSU game didn't count in the standings, but it still meant a lot to Embry-Riddle as the Eagles prepared to embark on their regular season in the NAIA.

"We lost by 20, but we put it all in perspective and take the positives out of it," Carter said.

Embry-Riddle took those positives and promptly started with a 4-0 record through mid-November. Carter scored 10 points and had five steals and four assists in a season-opening win against Sterling. In the

next three games, he amassed 23 assists and 12 steals.

As for Carter's allegiance to the Seminoles in Tallahassee, the preseason game didn't change a thing.

"I'm still an FSU fan," he said.



Photo courtesy of Mike Olivella/BaselineShots Photography
Embry-Riddle's DeForest Carter, left, battles Florida State's Aaron Thomas during a preseason game Nov. 3 in Tallahassee.

- ROUND 1**
- Jacoby Johns, 10th, bareback riding, 65 points
 - Trina Hipp, 13th, ladies breakaway roping, 4.80
 - Ivan Bruised Head, 14th, tie-down roping, 14.09
 - Dayne Johns, 16th, steer wrestling, 7.50
 - Naha Jumper, 18th, tie-down roping, 16.30
 - Leanna Billie, T17th, ladies breakaway roping, 12.60
 - Marilee Johns, 21st, ladies barrel racing, 17.01
 - Brenda Youngblood, 23rd, ladies barrel racing, 17.28
 - Ivan Bruised Head, steer wrestling, NT
 - Justin Gopher, team roping, NT
 - Hilliard Gopher, team roping, NT
 - Leanna Billie, team roping, NT
 - Ivan Bruised Head, team roping, NT
 - Dyami Nelson, bull riding, NS
- ROUND 2**
- Naha Jumper, 6th, tie-down roping, 11.16
 - Ivan Bruised Head, T7th, steer wrestling, 5.3
 - Dyami Nelson, 8th, bull riding, 66 points
 - Leanna Billie and Ivan Bruised Head, 15th, team roping, 12.20
 - Justin Gopher and Hilliard Gopher, 18th, team roping, 14.14

- Marilee Johns, 25th, ladies barrel racing, 17.23
 - Brenda Youngblood, 26th, ladies barrel racing, 19.20
 - Jacoby Johns, bareback riding, NS
 - Dayne Johns, steer wrestling, NT
 - Ivan Bruised Head, tie-down roping, NT
 - Leanna Billie, ladies breakaway roping, NT
 - Trina Hipp, ladies breakaway roping, NT
- ROUND 3**
- Trina Hipp, 14th, ladies breakaway roping, 5.6
 - Ivan Bruised Head, 12th, tie-down roping, 12.90
 - Dayne Johns, 16th, steer wrestling, 8.8
 - LeAnna Billie, T16th, ladies breakaway roping, 12.5
 - Naha Jumper, 19th, tie-down roping, 20.50
 - Marilee Johns, 24th, ladies barrel racing, 16.79
 - Brenda Youngblood, 28th, ladies barrel racing, 17.12
 - Jacoby Johns, bareback riding, NT
 - Ivan Bruised Head, steer wrestling, NT
 - LeAnna Billie/ Ivan Bruised Head, team roping, NT
 - Justin Gopher/Hilliard Gopher, team roping, NT
 - Dyami Nelson, bull riding, NT

- SHORT GO**
- Dyami Nelson, 2nd, bull riding, 76 points
 - Trina Hipp, 4th, ladies breakaway roping, 4.8
 - Jacoby Johns, 6th, bareback riding, 71 points
 - Naha Jumper, 12th, tie-down roping, 25.25
- JUNIOR/SENIOR ROUND 1**
- Dyami Nelson, T4th, jr. bull riding, 66 points
 - Daniel Rodriguez, 18th, jr. breakaway roping, 20.35
 - Cisco Rodriguez, jr. breakaway roping, NS
 - Budha Jumper, jr. barrel racing, NS
 - Dayra Koenes, jr. barrel racing, NS
 - Norman Johns, sr. breakaway roping, NS
 - Todd Pierce, jr. bull riding, NS
- ROUND 2**
- Cisco Rodriguez, 11th, jr. breakaway roping, 4.86
 - Budha Jumper, 24th, jr. barrel racing, 17.37
 - Dayra Koenes, 25th, jr. barrel racing, 17.38
 - Norman Johns, sr. breakaway roping, NT
 - Daniel Rodriguez, jr. breakaway roping, NT
 - Todd Pierce, jr. bull riding, NT
 - Dyami Nelson, jr. bull riding, NT

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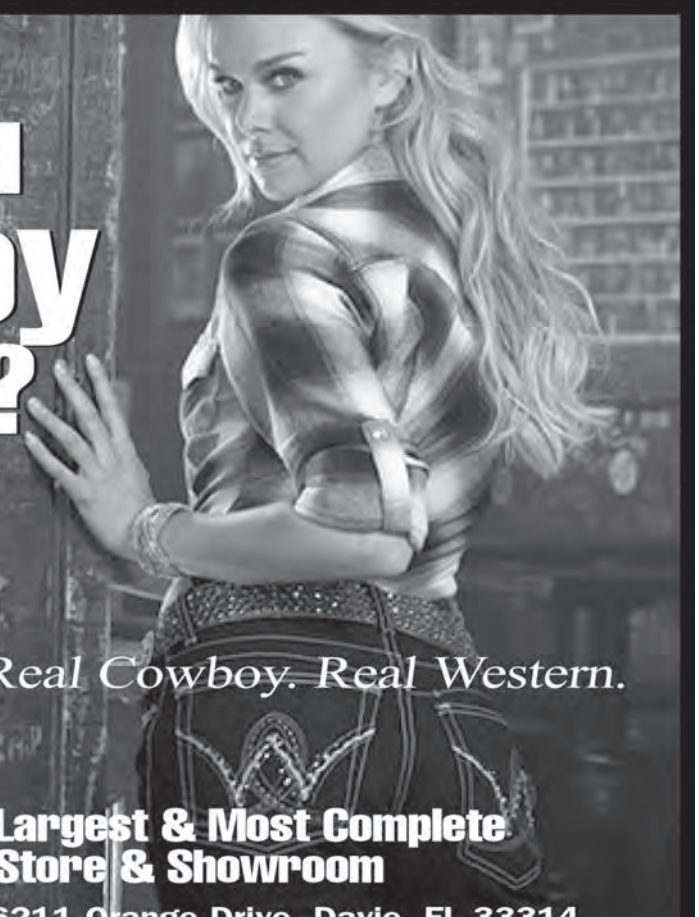
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◆ HOMECOMING

From page 1A

"Everyone was so nice. You could tell they accepted us as real Seminoles," Nancy Motlow said. "It was an amazing experience."

Tribal member and FSU freshman wide receiver Justin Motlow, who is redshirting this season, didn't play, but he cheered on his teammates from the sidelines as the Seminoles stretched their winning streak to 25. After a victory against Miami the following week, undefeated FSU reclaimed the top spot in the Associated Press and coaches polls.

The Nunez princesses, Little Miss Seminole Madasyn Osceola and Little Mr. Seminole Roberto Benard were invited to attend events throughout homecoming week, including a parade luncheon at the alumni center, the pow-wow pep rally at the Civic Center, the alumni association's homecoming awards breakfast, the alumni tailgate party in the president's backyard and the big game itself.

When they weren't on the field waving to the crowd or fulfilling their duties with FSU royalty, the princesses and Little Mr. Seminole greeted guests and posed for pictures in the president's suite at the stadium.

"Homecoming is the highlight of every princess's year," said Wanda Bowers, chairwoman of the Princess Committee. "They all did really well."

During events, Seminole royalty represented the Tribe, charmed attendees and reveled in the festive homecoming atmosphere. It felt like a second home to Cheyenne.

"It was cool because I felt so loved - everybody wanted me to be there," she said. "It was an honor to meet the president and the homecoming court. Walking on the field for the crowning ceremony was great. I learned so much about Florida State; now I really want to go there."

Newly installed FSU president John Thrasher met the princesses and Tribal members and said he looks forward to continuing the school's long-standing relationship with the Tribe.

"We cherish and honor the relationship with the Seminoles and I will do everything to sustain it," Thrasher said. "I plan to meet with Tribal leaders and ask them if there is anything they want. I would love to increase the Seminole student population. To sustain our relationship in a positive way is beneficial to the Seminole Tribe and to FSU."

The relationship has endured since 1947 when the school chose Seminoles for the team's nickname.

"They love us," Bowers said. "We're just as proud of FSU as they are of us and being able to use our name."



Wide receiver Justin Motlow greets fans as he runs out of the tunnel after the half at FSU's homecoming game against Virginia Nov. 8.



Osceola rides Renegade onto Bobby Bowden Field to plant the flaming spear and signal the start of the FSU homecoming football game.



Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Nunez, left, and Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez wave to football fans at FSU's Doak Campbell Stadium during halftime of the homecoming game.



FSU President John Thrasher poses with Tribal royalty during an alumni association function Nov. 8. From left are Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez, Little Mr. Seminole Roberto Benard, Little Miss Seminole Madasyn Osceola and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Nunez.



Little Miss Seminole Madasyn Osceola and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Nunez wave to the crowd of 82,325 fans from the sideline at Doak Campbell Stadium at halftime during the FSU homecoming game.



Little Miss Seminole Madasyn Osceola and Little Mr. Seminole Roberto Benard wave to the crowd at the FSU homecoming parade Nov. 7.



Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez is interviewed by Tallahassee media during halftime of the FSU homecoming football game.



Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Nunez greet guests in the president's suite during the FSU versus Virginia homecoming game.



FSU marching band sousaphone players feel the beat when they aren't playing during the homecoming parade.



Miss Florida Teen Jara Ann Courson waves to the crowd at the FSU homecoming parade.



Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Cheyenne Nunez and Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez crown FSU's 2014 homecoming princess and chief during halftime.

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Skateboarders strut their stuff at AIAC competition

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS—Skateboarders and their wheels concluded a busy day Nov. 8 in a competition that was part of the American Indian Arts Celebration. After participating in a rolling parade and a tour at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in the morning, youngsters spent the afternoon tackling ramps at the Big Cypress skate park in front of about 30 spectators.

Personnel from The Ramp Doctors and Jay Ramps served as judges. Caleb Billie finished first in the beginners category, and Anthony D'Agostino captured top honors in the advanced category. Alena Stockton won the design-a-deck contest.



Kevin Johnson

Tommi Stockton cruises along during a skateboard competition at the American Indian Arts Celebration.



Kevin Johnson

Kelsey Blumstein, 13, competes in the American Indian Arts Celebration skateboard competition.

AIAC skateboard competition results (top 3):

Beginners:
1. Caleb Billie
2. Kassim Stockton Jr.
3. Nicholas Andrews

Advanced:
1. Anthony D'Agostino
2. Alena Stockton
3. Kelsey Effs

Design-a-deck contest:
1. Alena Stockton
2. Jalycia Billie-Valdez
3. Javian Cypress



Kevin Johnson

Nicholas Andrews, 10, reaches the top of a ramp during a skateboard competition Nov. 8 at the American Indian Arts Celebration on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Kevin Johnson

Liam Stockton, 2, skates among the big boys during a warm-up session.



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Zachariah Stockton goes airborne during the skateboard competition on Big Cypress Reservation.

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Brandi, Kalina, Klaressa and Joel

In loving memory of a wonderful, loving, caring, supportive husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle, cousin, nephew and friend: Raleigh Osceola.

We are very saddened by your sudden departure. We made it through so many obstacles but faced with one we couldn't overcome. It breaks my heart to think that you will not be here to see our children grow up, especially our granddaughter as her journey in life is only beginning. But God saw your work was done here on Earth and called you home. Though it seemed all too soon, we understand you had to go. We will miss your laughter, support, guidance and wisdom for the years ahead, especially for our children. You have taught them and guided them over the years; you have instilled values and knowledge that they can carry on and pass down to their children.

Though the days have been hard to deal with not having you here and wish you were still here with us, we know you're in a better place. You have left us with a lot of good memories that we will treasure. You will never be forgotten. We were very blessed to have had you in our lives.

We the family of Raleigh Osceola would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to family, friends, Councilman Mondo Tiger, Board Rep. Steve Osceola, other Tribal departments, the individuals who brought the firewood and to the ladies who prepared the meals during our time of grief and hardship. We would also like to

express our sincere appreciation to Pastor Salaw for officiating the funeral service, for your words of comfort and encouragement. Thank you again everyone for all your support, thoughts and prayers. You are all greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
The Osceola family

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