



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered www.seminoletribune.org • 50¢

Volume XXXIX • Number 8

August 31, 2015

Tribe travels intercontinental for Hard Rock Rising Barcelona

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

Chairman James E. Billie reveled in the electrifying sounds of rock-and-roll during a five-stop European business visit of Hard Rock cafes and hotels that began with a two-day seaside concert in Spain.

"I thought, 'Here we are. This is the avenue for getting out our music.' Rock-and-roll is in the hands of the Seminole Tribe," Chairman Billie said.

Seminole singer-songwriter Spencer Battiest and Hollywood Reservation's own The Osceola Brothers filled out a striking list of artists who performed at the 16-hour, two-day Hard Rock Rising Barcelona. Set on the picturesque Platja del Forum, the July 24-25 concert headlined with American rock band Kings of Leon, Latin superstar Juanes, American rock singer-songwriter Lenny Kravitz and Swedish electric dance disc jockey Avicii.

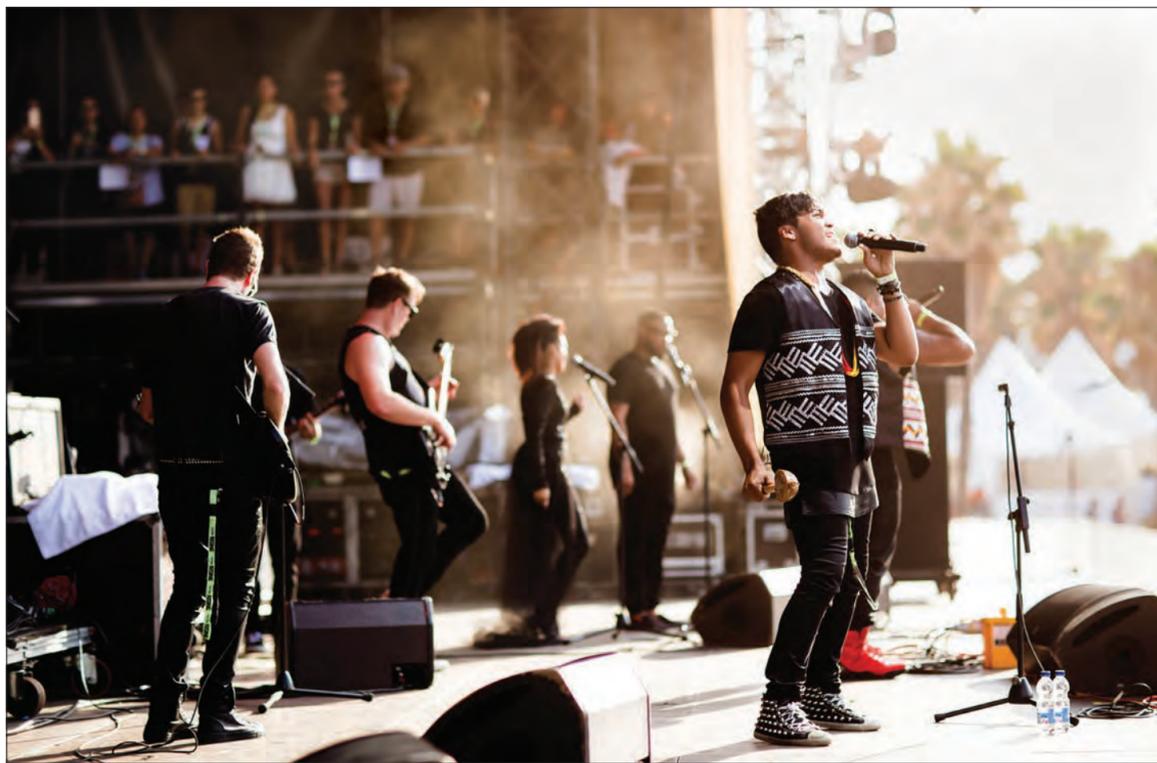
But while it's one thing for rock artists raised on the reservation to entertain hometown fans who already love them, it's another thing when they land on a beach in Spain to perform before a foreign crowd.

"To be in a place where people don't know you and they don't have to like you or applaud for you, you only have a few minutes to show who you are and become one with the audience," said Battiest.

More than 32,000 spectators attended the event produced by Hard Rock International and promoted by Live Nation. It was the second Hard Rock Rising music festival in 2015. The first was held March 26 at the Miami Beach Centennial celebration and featured Andrea Bocelli, Barry Gibb, Gloria Estefan and other music stars.

This year's concerts relaunched the brand's annual festivals that began nine years ago as Hard Rock Calling in London.

According to the corporate website, Hard Rock Rising continues the brand's commitment to provide a "forum for music



Singer-songwriter Spencer Battiest, accompanied by Zac 'Doc' Battiest, belts out 'The Storm' to an enthusiastic international crowd in Spain during the two-day Hard Rock Rising Barcelona. Nearly 32,000 spectators attended the event.

Photo courtesy of Hard Rock International

icons and today's hottest new talent to connect with music fans around the world."

James Buell, senior director of music and marketing for Hard Rock International Inc., said the London, Miami and Barcelona concerts presented rare performances.

"We've seen reunion performances from The Police in London, intimate acoustic sessions with Mumford & Sons in our private VIP tent, The Killers at the peak of their ascension to superstardom at the footsteps of Buckingham Palace, Andrea

Bocelli leaving thousands on Miami Beach breathless, and most recently Lenny Kravitz and Kings of Leon setting the coast of

♦ See **HARD ROCK RISING** on page 6A

Jarrid Smith appointed to Gaming Commission

BY GORDON WAREHAM
Contributing Writer

BRIGHTON — Tribal Council voted 5-0 to appoint Jarrid Smith to the Seminole Tribal Gaming Commission during the Aug. 14 Council meeting on Brighton Reservation. Chairman James E. Billie nominated Smith for the four-year term.

"It's an honor to be considered and a challenge," Smith said. "It's a good thing — and the challenge is to be prepared and ready for it."



The Seminole Tribal Gaming Commission is the regulatory body of Seminole Gaming. The five-member commission sets the rules and regulations for fair play on the gaming floor to maintain the integrity of the casinos and to protect casino assets.

♦ See **GAMING** on page 7A

Museum oral history project preserving past

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TAMPA — Bobby Henry has a story he must tell.

The medicine man first heard the story in the old days, when he was about 8 years old, sitting around the fire "where they put the logs together and everyone just talk and talk," he said, describing his early years of surviving in primitive camps scattered throughout the Everglades and swamps of interior Florida.

Always, in the chaos of weather and poverty, there was one constant: Always, there was a fire. And always "talkin' talkin'," he smiled, his face now just like yesteryear's Seminoles, eyes burning from a deep, innate obsession with the preservation of history. "Who we are," Henry calls it.

To Henry, his uncles' fireside words — tales of history and legend repeated over and over and over again, a veritable

♦ See **ORAL HISTORY** on page 4A

DeForest Carter makes pro basketball debut in Colombia

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

When DeForest Carter stepped onto a basketball court as a professional player for the first time July 28, he glanced into the stands out of habit. Even though the 22-year-old from the Big Cypress Reservation knew his family wasn't in attendance, he still looked.

"I can't lie. That first game I scanned the crowd for my mom (Myra Jumper) and remembered where I was again," Carter said in a Facebook response to The Seminole Tribune.

After starring for four years at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach — mostly as a creative and quick point guard with boundless energy — Carter and his sneakers landed on Colombian soil in late July for the next venture of his basketball career.

Carter said his thoughts shifted back to his family and the Tribe while he was in

♦ See **DEFOREST** on page 2C

Farm to fork: Seminole Beef hits Broward grocery store shelves

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

For the first time, Seminole Pride Beef is available for purchase at two retail grocery stores in Broward County. The meat debuted in April at the Broward Meat and Fish Co. supermarkets in North Lauderdale and Lauderdale Lakes.

President Mitchell Cypress, Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola and a group of Hollywood seniors toured the North Lauderdale store July 29 to witness the milestone.

"I was so proud to see Seminole Pride Beef there," said Lawanna Osceola-Niles. "I'm so proud of the cattle business and that we can put it out there for the public after all

these years; it's been a long time coming."

Many in the group purchased meat and raved about it afterward.

"It was really good," Loretta Micco said. "It was good to actually see it there on the shelves."

Since its introduction, the store has placed increasingly larger orders to meet demand. The first orders placed were

between 200 to 400 pounds; now the store orders between 5,000 to 6,000 pounds per week. Customers can find a variety of cuts, including inside rounds, peeled knuckles, back ribs, outside round flats, top blades, chuck tenders, oxtail and a Brazilian cut called picanha steak.

"The customers love it," said Broward Meat and Fish meat manager Rolando Otero. "When they see the quality, they come back and request Seminole Beef."

Selling meat to customers starts in the pastures. Natural Resource Director Alex Johns shepherds the product from farm to fork; he aims to expand the Seminole Pride Beef program to later supply larger retailers.

"Right now we are high quality but low volume," said Board Chief Financial Officer Mike Ulizio.

Johns' five-year plan to build the business includes creating a cooperative program with other Florida ranchers to supplement Seminole cattle. To offer beef year-round, Johns said the program needs cattle to be born throughout the year. The Tribe's cattle are typically birthed during a 100-day window; co-op ranchers will supply cattle for the remainder of the year to ultimately ensure a steady stock of beef.

"We have a higher demand than supply," Johns said. "The outside cattle must meet our health and genetic protocols. We want to give the opportunity to any rancher to participate."

Johns said he expects the program to provide about 1.4 million pounds of beef from October 2015 to October 2016. Seminole cattle will account for about 20 percent of the product. Johns aims to increase production of the cattle to 100,000 head, which accounts for 10 percent of all Florida cattle shipped out of state for finishing and slaughtering.

Through the co-op, the Tribe will have the right of first refusal for all carcasses. Premiums and discounts will be awarded based on the grade of the cattle.

"If the quality isn't high enough, we

♦ See **SEMINOLE BEEF** on page 5A



Photo courtesy of Kyla Davis

Alice Tucker peruses Seminole Pride Beef at the first retail outlet for the meat, Broward Meat and Fish Co. in North Lauderdale. She went to the grocery store July 29 with President Mitchell Cypress, Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola and a group of Hollywood seniors.

INSIDE:

Editorial.....2A
Community3A

Health9A
Education 1B

Sports1C
Announcements....6C

Campers captivated at Kulaqua.
See article on page 3A.

Editorial

Big Wind: Fub le che cho bee

• James E. Billie

Fub le che cho bee season is here. Seminoles say that the Big Wind is a female passing by. You must refrain from whistling or blowing into objects that make a sharp sound such as bottles or flutes.

If the Big Wind hears these sounds, she will come toward you with force trying to save her baby that is crying for help. If the Big Wind is coming your way on her natural course and your chickee (house) or village is in her path:

1. Ask your Wind Clan member to tell her to leave your village or chickee alone and not to harm them, or:

2. Place the sharp cutting edge of an object such as an ax or machete or knives in the direction of the *Fub le che cho bee*. This will cause Big Wind to split and go around you, causing no destruction.

Throughout my life on Earth, I've seen

hurricanes come and go.

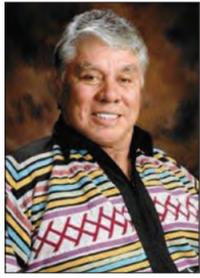
Wind Clan members are called up daily to provide clear air or to provide air to our medicine.

During this time of year, when air turns to strong wind, we call upon the Wind Clan's help for protection.

If you cannot locate a Wind Clan member, put up the ax or something sharp to split the *Fub le che cho bee*.

This is not a fable or a joke. It works! *Sho-naa-bish.*

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



14th Amendment did not include Natives

• Tim Giago

The Republican candidate for the presidency of the United States brought it up first.

Donald Trump suggested that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States be changed. That amendment automatically guarantees the right of citizenship to anyone born on American soil, even if the child's parents are in the United States illegally.

Trump's suggestion to deny citizenship to illegal immigrants immediately raised a stink among some of his Republican opponents, all of the Democrats running for president, judges, lawyers and the Hispanic community.

The 14th Amendment was ratified on July 9, 1868 as one of the reconstruction actions taken at the end of the Civil War to protect the rights of former slaves.

Did the 14th Amendment bring automatic citizenship to American Indians? No, it did not.

It took 56 more years after ratification for Indians to be finally awarded citizenship in 1924. The U.S. Constitution, which is the final arbitrator of American law, is

filled with flaws when it comes to Indians.

Where were those defenders of the 14th Amendment when Indians were still considered non-citizens even though they had been born on this soil, long before it was America? How did the government skirt this obvious discriminatory interpretation of the 14th Amendment? Quite simply, the government named American Indians wards of the government, which is a euphemism for "children" unable to understand or participate as a full-fledged citizen of the United States.

By naming Indians as wards instead of citizens, the government was able to take a free hand in divesting the sovereign Indian nations of land and natural resources. If the Indian was merely a ward instead of a citizen, the government was able to treat them as children, unable to fend for themselves thus allowing the government to make all of the decisions regarding land and resources for them. It was financially feasible for the government to keep the Indian people as wards.

During that period of 1868 to 1924, millions of acres of land was legally appropriated (a euphemism for stolen) from the American Indians. African slaves

brought to this country on slave ships and in chains became American citizens before the people indigenous to this country.

The 14th Amendment replaced the U.S. Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision, which said that black slaves were not and could not be U.S. citizens.

Many heinous acts were perpetrated against the "wards" of the U.S. from 1868 to 1924, including the illegal taking of the Sacred Black Hills of the Great Sioux Nation. So when those protectors of the 14th Amendment climb up on their soap boxes and pontificate about the sanctity of this constitutional amendment they totally overlook and deny the irrefutable fact that thousands upon thousands of indigenous Americans were denied citizenship by an act that would supposedly bring an end to discrimination in America by making all Americans equal.

Tim Giago is an American Oglala Lakota journalist and publisher who founded the Lakota Times/Indian Country Today, the Lakota Journal, Native Sun News and the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA). This column originally appeared in the Huffington Post.

Time to take back our cultural sovereignty

• Donna Ennis

David Wilkins, Lumbee Nation, has said that tribal sovereignty is arguably the most important, unifying concept across Indian Country. It is about more than political boundaries; it defines nothing less than our living, collective power which is generated as traditions are respectfully developed, sustained and transformed to confront new conditions. We as Native peoples have been too lax with these words, allowing their power to be misused and even turned against our own relatives.

Vine Deloria Jr. popularized the term "tribal sovereignty" in his 1969 book, "Custer Died for Your Sins." Placing the word "tribal" – meaning, "the people" – before the word "sovereignty," he reasoned "can be said to consist more of continued cultural integrity than of political powers," and he emphasized "to the degree that a tribal Nation loses its sense of cultural identity, to that degree it suffers a loss of sovereignty."

Thirty-six years later and the term no longer has the same impact, as it has lost its "political moorings," Vine Deloria Jr. said.

Sam Deloria, board chairman of the American Indian Law Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, cautioned tribal leaders to take care of how they wielded their delegate authority, lest they begin to act as powerful individuals whose behavior comes to threaten the sovereign people they are sworn to represent. Sovereignty is what allows tribal governments to abuse their power. Tribal governments do this through selective banishment of Tribal members, manipulation of tribal employment rights, treating band members as their "subjects," etc.

A closer examination of Vine Deloria Jr.'s definition of tribal sovereignty reveals the intent of the term: continued cultural integrity. To the degree that a tribal Nation loses its sense of cultural identity equates a loss of sovereignty. Tribal sovereignty was never about the tribal government, in this definition; it was about the cultural integrity of the people and their ability to hold tribal government accountable for their words and deeds. Viewed through this lens Native Nations must reclaim their culture to achieve cultural sovereignty and ensure the survival of their Tribes.

But reclaiming our culture isn't solely the responsibility of our tribal leaders. We must as families, communities and tribal government

work on this together. We can do this through practicing our ceremonies, speaking our language and practicing our traditional ways. Cultural sovereignty is something we can give ourselves and is separate from the trust responsibility of the federal government.

In her 2015 State of the Band Address, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin focused on the theme of cultural sovereignty:

"Cultural sovereignty is ancient and predates the arrival of non-Indians. It is a kind of sovereignty that we can only lose if we choose to give it up ... Cultural sovereignty is our inherent right to use our values, traditions and spirituality to protect our future. It goes much deeper than legal sovereignty because it's a decision to be *Anishinaabe*, to not just protect a way of life, but to practice living *Anishinaabe*, every day ... In 2015, we still deal with the aftermath of 150 years of attempts to destroy our culture and our identity. Forced assimilation, attempted genocide, relocation and boarding schools might be a thing of the past, but the ghosts of those policies still haunt us today ...

"There are no federal policies forcing our children into boarding schools. There are no laws against us practicing our religion. Our cultural existence cannot be lost, or destroyed, unless we allow it ... Upon the advice of spiritual leaders and elders, I am convinced that we must practice cultural sovereignty all day, every day, if we are to protect the gifts of our future generations."

There is a widespread federal attitude that supports our Native Nations sovereignty but only when it is politically advantageous to the colonists. It is disregarded when it is unprofitable. Indigenous people have shown incredible diversity in the face of centuries of federal policy aimed at the extermination of our people and yet our survival is in our own hands. The solution is to develop our cultural resources both our traditional ones and our new ones. Let's put sovereignty back in the hands of the indigenous community and out of the hands of the government.

Donna Ennis (Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa) is a Reservation community center manager and a writer specializing in American Indian issues. This column originally appeared on Indian Country Today Media Network.

Tiny horrors: Chilling artifact of Haskell

• Mary Annette Pember

For such small objects, the child's handcuffs are surprisingly heavy when cradled in the palms of one's hand. Although now rusted from years of disuse, they still convey the horror of their brutal purpose, which was to restrain Native children who were being brought to boarding schools. "I felt the weight of their metal on my heart," said Jessica Lackey, of the Cherokee Tribe, as she described holding the handcuffs for the first time.

Lackey, an alumnus of Haskell Indian Nations University, was working at the school's Cultural Center & Museum when the handcuffs were unwrapped last spring after being kept in storage for several years. I had heard rumors about the existence of the handcuffs during visits to Haskell over the years and had made numerous inquiries to school authorities about them, but people seemed very reluctant to discuss this touchy artifact. This past summer, however, Haskell agreed to allow a public viewing of the handcuffs. Andy Girty, one of the elders who first blessed the handcuffs when they were given to Haskell in 1989, helped unwrap them for me.

Known as the Haskell Institute in its early years, the school opened its doors in Lawrence, Kansas in 1884. It was originally founded as an instrument of the final solution to this country's "Indian problem;" Haskell Institute's mission then was embodied in the now infamous motto of Captain Richard H. Pratt, founder of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School: "Kill the Indian. Save the Man." This mind-set led to decades of forced acculturation through brutal military-style incarceration cloaked as education in U.S. Indian boarding schools.

Although begun as a model for assimilation, Native students have, over the years, transformed Haskell into a model for self-determination. The school's early curriculum featured training in domestic and farming skills but has since evolved into a four-year university.

Haskell's Cultural Center & Museum, located on campus, tells the full – and often cruel – story of Haskell's painful past, as well as providing a venue to showcase Native art, culture from the past and present. Opened in 2002, the center features the permanent exhibit "Honoring Our Children Through Seasons of Sacrifice, Survival, Change and Celebration," featuring artifacts, photos and letters from the school's early days.

Among the artifacts currently on display is a heavy iron lock and key for the school jail, which held unruly students. Letters, photographs, copies of early school newspapers and daily menus are among the more commonplace artifacts of early daily life displayed at the museum. Soon, perhaps, the handcuffs will be included among these artifacts, adding its chilling testimony regarding the practices used by early educators to kill the Indian and save the child.

Not much is known about the diminutive handcuffs, which were donated

to the Cultural Center in 1989 by a non-Indian man who described their use to Bobbi Rahder, former director of the Haskell Cultural Center & Museum. "He told us they were used to restrain captured Indian children who were being taken to boarding schools," Rahder said. The middle-age white man said his father had the handcuffs for years but that he no longer wanted to have them in his possession. "He seemed relieved to get rid of them," Rahder recalled.

I made many phone calls but was unable to track down the man, who is said to have lived in Lawrence. (Ed. Note: The handcuffs' donor was later revealed as Shane Murray, of Clarksville, Tennessee, who told the writer his grandfather had given the cuffs to him when he was 8 or 9 years old. "He told me the handcuffs were used to take Indian kids to school and warned me never to play with them," said Murray, who speculates they may have originated with his great-grandmother Hefer, who was Native of unknown affiliation.)

Mysterious donations are common at the Cultural Center. Rahder has witnessed scores of non-Indian donors dropping off important – and often poignant – historical artifacts relating to Haskell. Last year, Roger Bollinger, of Pennsylvania, donated an 1880s leather-bound photo album containing photos and corresponding identifications of Haskell's very first students in 1884. This album represents the only known identifiable photos from that inaugural class. Bollinger knew little of Haskell and had no idea how the album came to be in his family's possession. A supporter of education and cultural understanding, he decided to donate the album to Haskell.

The handcuffs, however, were different, noted Rahder, who took them from the man. "I was shocked and afraid to touch them," she recalled.

She said she immediately contacted administrative and spiritual leaders at the school for guidance on handling the handcuffs. Leaders at Haskell were overwhelmed by the brutality of the tiny handcuffs, she noted.

Girty, of the Cherokee Nation, who is a Cherokee language instructor at Haskell, and a number of other elders and leaders conducted a modest ceremony the next day at the school's medicine fire. His wife, Frances, of the Creek and Choctaw Nations, provided a tiny handmade quilt in which the handcuffs were reverently wrapped before being stored in the Cultural Center's archives. The handcuffs remained in storage for more than 20 years.

Although the Cultural Center displays a number of artifacts related to the harsh treatment of early Indian students at



Mary Annette Pember
These handcuffs, which were donated to Haskell's Cultural Center & Museum in 1989 by a non-Native, were used to restrain Indian children who were being taken to boarding schools.

Haskell, the handcuffs were simply too painful to be addressed, opined Rahder. She said elders blessed the handcuffs and instructed her to put them away. She did as she was told, trusting that students and faculty would one day decide on the appropriate treatment of this painful artifact. The handcuffs languished in the archives of the center until this past summer.

As word of the handcuffs began to leak out over the past few years, students and faculty began discussing the importance of acknowledging their existence and putting them on display. For whatever reason, no one at the school has been willing to take the lead in the handling of this powerful artifact, but with the approval of Haskell administration, Girty agreed to unwrap them for ICTMN.

For Lackey the handcuffs are a tangible example of the painful history between Native people and the U.S. "The history of our genocide has been so swept under the rug by the mainstream. People need to see the impact that these policies had on us," she said.

According to Girty, who was a student at Haskell in 1959, there are many stories of the brutal means used by authorities to bring and keep students at school in its early days. For instance, reservation authorities would hold back Native families' food rations if they refused to allow children to be sent to early boarding schools, he noted. "If those handcuffs could talk, they would tell some terrible stories," he said.

Steve Prue, spokesman for Haskell, said there are no immediate plans regarding how the handcuffs will be presented to the public, nor how they will be displayed. He agrees with students that the handcuffs are an appropriate item to be included in displays of other Haskell artifacts at the Cultural Center. "It's good to have these sorts of things on display in the Cultural Center," he said. "They tell the story of who paid the price for us to be here now."

Mary Annette Pember (Red Cliff Tribe of Wisconsin Ojibwe) is an independent writer and photographer specializing on Native people and issues. This column first appeared on Indian Country Today Media Network.

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

Letters/emails to the editor must be signed and may be edited for publication.

Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to:

The Seminole Tribune
3560 N. State Road 7
Hollywood, FL 33021
Phone: 954-985-5700
Fax: 954-965-2937

The following deadlines apply to all submissions to The Seminole Tribune:

Issue: Sept. 30, 2015
Deadline: Sept. 9, 2015

Issue: Oct. 30, 2015
Deadline: Oct. 14, 2015

Issue: Nov. 30, 2015
Deadline: Nov. 11, 2015

Please note: Submissions that come past deadline will be published in the following issue.

Advertising:
Advertising rates along with sizes and other information may be downloaded online at:
<http://SeminoleTribune.org/Advertise>

Postmaster:
Please send address changes to:
The Seminole Tribune
3560 N. State Road 7
Hollywood, FL 33021

Publisher: James E. Billie

Senior Editor: Brett Daly
BrettDaly@semtribe.com

Copy Editor: Kevin Johnson
KevinJohnson@semtribe.com

Staff Reporters:
Peter B. Gallagher, Beverly Bidney
Eileen Soler

Contributors:
Gordon Wareham, Emma Johns,
Braudie Blais-Billie

If you would like to request a reporter or would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem, please contact Senior Editor Brett Daly at 954-985-5701 ext. 10725 or by fax at 954-965-2937

© 2015 Seminole Tribe of Florida



Community

A



Beverly Bidney

Hunter Howard leads his team to victory as they drag another canoe across the center line in a huge wave pool during the Seminole Olympics canoe tug-of-war Aug. 5 at Camp Kulaqua.

Campers captivated by Kulaqua

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HIGH SPRINGS, Fla. — More than 200 youngsters ages 7 to 17 made memories to last a lifetime at Camp Kulaqua this summer. A week away from home provided campers with fun, facts and the experience of bunking with their peers.

From July 26-31, 97 teenagers started their days in High Springs — about 25 miles northwest of Gainesville — with brisk, early morning walks before they tackled sports, informative classes, water play, culture and crafts.

The camp welcomed 113 younger children who followed a similar schedule Aug. 2-7 with the added fun of the Seminole Olympics and a boxcar derby. Twenty-two teen campers served as junior counselors for youth camp and earned 80 high school service hours.

Both age groups spent a day lazily floating down the scenic Ichetucknee River on tubes and rafts, and both weeks culminated with a talent show where each bunk performed a creative skit for their peers.

Beyond the fun-filled schedule, campers experienced wholesome days and met kids from other reservations, the two most important aspects of camp, said former Family Services Director Helene Buster, who spearheaded camp.

"There is no other event where we gather together as a Tribe, other than Rez Rally," Buster said. "The kids develop relationships; I've seen those relationships thrive. It's different when they spend a week together."

Nariah Mata, 11, of Lehigh, and Jaime Smith, 11, of Brighton, met for the first time at camp and became fast friends. Both were surprised by the amount of fun they had.

"I expected it to be boring and all learning," Nariah said. "But it's fun, really fun."

"I thought they would be really strict," Jaime added. "And it's good to get away from my family for a while."

The blob, located in the camp's own freshwater spring, was a popular activity for most of the younger campers, including first-year camper Nakai Alex, 11, of Hollywood. While waiting their turns, kids organized the line into who would "blob," or jump

onto the blob, to launch another camper high into the air above the 72-degree water.

The first day of camp for the young campers was wet and gloomy, but rainy weather didn't slow them down. Staff brought outdoor activities — such as the ropes course — inside. The children learned to trust each other as they fell backward into their bunkmates' waiting arms. Cooperation was also part of the learning experience as they held onto each other and piled onto a 2-foot-by-2-foot board anchored by their counselor. And the children learned to provide guidance by leading a blindfolded bunkmate through a maze of "mousetraps" with verbal commands only.

Fun and games were the backbone of camp, but Buster said campers benefited from lessons taught by a variety of Tribe departments and Tribal members. Every afternoon, the camp assembled for classes that included the dangers of texting while driving, emergency exit drills in the home, personal hygiene, stranger danger, storytelling, puberty and life choices.

Lewis Gopher's powerful "Real Talk" presentation captivated the audience as he spoke about choices and consequences. He told them bad choices, if serious enough, will follow a person for a lifetime. Gopher said he made some poor choices, for which he paid heavy consequences. He asked if anyone knew someone who uses alcohol or drugs, has gone to jail or prison, or died as a result. For every question, every hand went up.

Gopher then told a story about a group of people who lived together and had a specific way of life. Another group came and wanted what they had, so they moved over to give them room. But it happened again and again. They kept coming, but the group stayed together and fought.

"They stayed united and survived," Gopher said. "Those warriors were strong, had courage, respect and unity. That's where you guys come from; the blood that was in them, you have it inside you. You can be that strong; all you have to do is let it happen. You are the future they were fighting for because you matter."

Nightly culture classes gave campers a chance to practice beading and carving. Culture teachers also taught respect, discipline, survival and history.

Buster brought the tribal departments to camp so children could bond with adults. Members of the Police, Fire Rescue and Recreation departments participated in every activity; many served as counselors and bunked in cabins with the campers.

The cabins supplied a treasure trove of fun memories for the Tribe's contingent, but campers also learned what it was like to live with unrelated kids. The 9-year-old girls of Mini Lodge 9 reflected on the camp before they returned home.

"We met new friends and had our good days and bad days," said Kateri Smith, 9, of Brighton. "We just let it go and stayed out of it when they fought."

"We had fun wrestling and dancing when we were supposed to be sleeping," added Kendra Thomas, of Brighton. "The counselors danced, too."

The boys of Cabin Jay said they will remember their shaving cream fight, going to canteen, the Yo Mamma jokes for the talent show, free time playing in the gym and making new friends.

"The kids who didn't come to camp missed it, and they need to come next year," said Jagger Gaucin, 12, of Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

The blob provides thrills in the air and chills in the 72-degree water at Camp Kulaqua.

♦ See CAMP KULAQUA on page 7A

Townhomes (part 2) debut in Hollywood

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — It took only eight months for the Tribe to erect eight townhomes for community members on the Hollywood Reservation, a testament to departments working together to keep on schedule, said Housing regional manager William Osceola.

"Everyone stayed involved and on the ball," he said, referring to the Housing Department, Construction Management Department, Seminole Stiles and Council and Board offices, among others. "We met regularly and planned ahead."

During a grand opening celebration Aug. 6, community members toured the buildings — complete with generators, granite countertops and fenced backyards — and renters signed the leases to their new homes.

The 2.7-acre parcel just south of the Hollywood Clinic contains two two-story buildings with three 2,000-square-foot units, each with three bedrooms and two-and-a-half baths. An additional single-story handicap accessible building features

two 1,900-square-foot units with three bedrooms and two baths built to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Patchwork accents and landscaping complete the façade.

Seniors received first dibs on the new digs, with some transferring from the Eight Clan Estates townhomes built in 1990. The vacancies from Eight Clan Estates will be filled with Tribal members on a waiting list.

"My priority for the next two years is housing," Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola said. "That's the biggest need for the Tribe right now. There are about 300 people on waiting lists tribalwide. That's got to be the priority."

Similar rental townhome projects in Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee were completed earlier this year, and more housing is planned tribalwide for 2016, said Adam Nelson, executive director of the Tribal Community Development Department.

In Hollywood four to five more ADA-compliant units will be built adjacent to the new townhomes with money left

♦ See TOWNHOMES on page 5A



Brett Daly

After living off-reservation for six months, Nettie Stewart happily signs the lease to her new townhome on the Hollywood Reservation Aug. 6 during the grand opening celebration.

Jara Courson competes for Miss Teen USA title

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

NASSAU, Bahamas — After a 10-month whirlwind of service as Miss Florida Teen USA, Jara Courson competed in the Miss Teen USA pageant Aug. 21-22 in the Bahamas. Although she did not win the national crown, the Seminole descendant and enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation gained confidence and social skills while representing Florida.

"I had the honor to represent the state that I love. It was the best experience of my life," said Jara, 18. "I felt so loved and I realize how blessed I am to have the people in my life that I do. That was the most important thing I learned this year."

Since she earned the Miss Florida Teen crown in October 2014, Jara received a glimpse into a life of glamour, but she also became closer to her parents, Jerry Wayne and Tara Osceola Courson.

"My mom put her heart into it and my dad coached me," Jara said. "My grandmother, Terry Hahn, gets things done; any time I needed anything, I knew I could always count on her."

Jara also learned practical skills, including how to interact with people from various backgrounds and speak in public without getting flustered.

"During my reign I've made speeches about self-empowerment and the importance of pursuing higher education," she said. "I want to continue to be a role model."

The week leading up to the pageant included filming, touring, rehearsing and preparing to compete for the title. The contestants' schedule was packed with events — including a pajama party, welcome reception and athletic competition called the obstacle course —

and plenty of rehearsals.

Jara and her family arrived five days before the pageant, which was held at the Atlantis Paradise Island resort. Tara went with one important job: support her daughter in any way she could.

"The Miss Universe organization kept them under very tight security. We couldn't get to them at all," Tara said. "But Jara texted me every day when she had time."

One text occurred after Jara's interview with judges BJ Coleman, Fred Nelson, Danielle Doty and Marc Passera. Jara felt it didn't go very well, so Tara lifted her spirits

♦ See MISS TEEN USA on page 7A



Darren Decker/For Miss Teen USA

Jara Courson, Miss Florida Teen USA 2015, competes Aug. 21 in an evening gown of her choice during the evening gown segment of the preliminary competition of the 2015 Miss Teen USA Pageant at Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas.

Historic preservation moves forward by sign-ifying past

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

By winter, four more heritage markers will likely be added to the Big Cypress and Brighton reservation landscapes to designate some of the Tribe's most significant historic locations.

The brown and white 3-by-4-foot embossed signs will herald sites added this year to the Tribal Register of Historic Places by the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO). The locations are the Charlie Micco Camp, Billy Bowlegs Camp and Tom Smith Camp in Brighton; and the first location to be officially marked in Big Cypress, Brown's Trading Post.

Though the Tribe boasts hundreds of notable spots on and off Seminole land, not all can be publicly marked, said Paul Backhouse, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

"It only happens after we consult with the families and they say it is appropriate. For some it's where they camp still today. Others only want a record of the spot. The ones that get marked are those that the cultural advisers, the families and the Councilmen think are appropriate," Backhouse said.

Salina Dorgan, granddaughter of Charlie and Emma Micco, said marking her family camp is both historical for the Tribe and personal for her family. The camp, directly next to the historic Red Barn, is where Charlie Micco launched the Brighton cattle program and served as one of the original cattle trustees.

For Dorgan, the camp represents a place where adults strengthened the Tribe's independence and children grew up to be the leaders.

"It's kind of a memorial and it's where our Tribe's government was structured. It's nice to see it preserved," Dorgan said.

Some of the earliest government leaders who were influenced as children growing up around the adults at or near the camp included Dorgan's parents, Alice Snow and Jack Micco, who became Brighton Board Representatives; Rosie Billie, Jack Smith Jr. and Roger Smith, who later served as Brighton Council Representatives; and Fred Smith, who grew up to become the Tribe's Secretary and served as President.

Dorgan said she checked with her older first cousins Billy Micco and Jennie Mae Shore before giving the go-ahead to THPO to designate the Charlie Micco Camp with the historical marker.

Still, Dorgan's fondest memories, which date back to when she was barely 7 years old, feature banana trees that grew along the back of the camp; pretend umbrellas made of huge elephant ear plant leaves; and her grandfather, though blind later in life, pulling out a large pickle jar filled with candy, asking the children what candies they wanted and then taking out the



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

This picture of Brown's Trading Post was published in 1913 by the U.S. government.

exact one they asked for.

"We never knew how he could tell which one was a peppermint, butterscotch or Tootsie Roll – and we sure tried to trick him. We didn't realize until we grew up that he knew how each one felt," Dorgan said.

Established in 2011, the tribal registry is designed to protect and preserve the Tribe's unique history.

THPO research assistant David Brownell, who gathers registry research data with Tribe archaeologist Maureen Mahoney, said the latest landmarks to be approved by Tribal members bring the total number of documented historical sites to 14.

Two among the 14, The Council Oak Tree in Hollywood and the Red Barn in Brighton, are also listed in the U.S. National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service, under the Department of the Interior.

Two on the future list for documentation by THPO are the Morgan Smith Camp in the Kissimmee Billie Slough and Josie Billie Camp not far from Eight Clan Bridge, both on Big Cypress.

"We're still working on those and we'd love to have people contact us if they have information or stores to tell," Brownell said.

The documentation requirements for the Tribal Register of Historic Places nearly mirror the national list criteria, but with a clear bent for what is vital to Seminole history. For example, no time element is fixed and no existing building or proof of building other than world of mouth is absolutely necessary for certification.

In all cases, oral histories and stories about the sight are compiled and a walk-through survey is completed. Photos taken from the day are reliable sources also. Sometimes, if a camp existed in the advent of aerial photography, aerial images can be used to compare geographic and topographic conditions for evidence.

"When we, as in everyone involved, feels the place is well described in multiple

ways we can move forward," Brownell said. "It's a long process, usually a year of two, but if anyone comes with details later we can always add."

In some cases, the key to unlocking the past has been a hand-drawn map provided by seniors who remember the camps from their childhood. In February, Virginia Tommie helped provide THPO with vivid memories of the Josie Billie Camp, across the street from her own childhood home that matched other oral accounts, old photographs and topographic conditions.

Uses for the designated areas can be whatever Tribal members decide.

The Tom Smith Camp, with fire pit and benches, is used as an occasional field classroom for Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School. The Red Barn – used from about 1941 through the 1960s for cattle ranch horses and later as a social hub for official meetings, family reunions and even a haunted house – is now renovated but not currently in use.

In Big Cypress, the only hint of the Brown's Trading Post is a marker post made of concrete placed in the 1940s by a Collier County historian a few feet off Snake Road. However, archaeological findings near the site, including beads, mechanical nuts and a Lea & Perrins bottle cap, prove its existence circa 1913.

Brownell said the Tribe is waiting now for word from Hendry County to determine where signs will be placed along the newly named Sam Jones Trail, a 20-mile stretch of Country Road 833 that runs from the intersection of State Road 80 through the reservation line where the road becomes Josie Billie Highway. Backhouse said a likely spot could be on Museum property closest to Josie Billie Highway.

Both Backhouse and Brownell agreed that listing places on the Tribal Registry of Historic Places has barely touched the surface. In all Florida, hundreds of sites exist that tie directly to Seminole history.

"We will never run out of important places to look at," Backhouse said.

ORAL HISTORY

From page 1A

soundtrack of his life as manhood approached – were his talking orders, delivered with spits and stares and stern voices he could never forget. He said he lies awake at night, now as he did then, his stomach gnawing with the knowledge he must pass on to the next generation. And so on and on, through time and talk, it would go: "Forever remember," he calls it. "Who we are."

Unlike the simple world that sustained the generation before Henry, however, modern times are wreaking historical havoc on the precious tradition. The storyteller's ritual fire has been replaced by a big-screen TV. The wisdom of elders is being trumped by the smart phone. The language, which forms the words and carries them through the wind, is dying. "I hate that," he said.

But what could he do?

Recently at the Big Cypress Reservation, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Paul Backhouse stopped in to see Museum staffer Eric Griffis, a Gainesville native and a Master of Arts/Southern Studies graduate from the University of Mississippi. Last year, Griffis moved from the Seminole Tribal Historic Preservation Office, where he had been a field archaeologist, to become the Museum's oral history coordinator, a post that has been both official and unofficial for the past 50 years.

The Museum's archives include taped interviews from as far back as Seminole leaders Josie Billie and Billy Bowlegs in the 1960s, to Henry, and to the newest Miss Florida Seminole Destiny Nunez. Some interviews were acquired as part of other collections, such as the University of Florida's Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, the state's Florida Memory project and the Smithsonian archives. The Museum staff has included a series of part-time, full-time and volunteer oral historians since opening in 1997, including Patricia Wickman, David Blackard, Patsy West, Elizabeth Lowman and Stephen Bridenstine.

But on the day Backhouse visited Griffis, he had a suggestion: "We should probably get down to Tampa to interview Bobby Henry. He's got a story about Osceola he wants us to tape. I have no idea what it is, but he brings it up all the time. He wants the story preserved."

As the leader of the Seminole Stomp Dancers and a well-known "rainmaker," Henry knows about show business. Cameras focus on his traditional clothing, topped by his ever-present turban, wherever he goes. He's been on display from the streets and malls of Singapore to the stage at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee. He's witnessed the way cameras and notebooks – and their resultant TV programs, movies, newspapers and magazines – document the world.

"Can't wait for a fire," Henry recently said, complaining about the wet conditions soaking the Tribe's Lakeland property, where he plans to live when the 900-acre site is named an official reservation. "Too wet. Wood won't burn. I gotta tell this story now."

Back in Big Cypress, Griffis was

excited. Henry was a respected Seminole elder who would be more than willing to talk to his video camera.

"We interview Tribal members and others with knowledge of the Tribe's history, culture and traditions. Our goal is to let members of the Tribe tell their own stories," Griffis said. "The interviews cover all aspects of Seminole culture – history, legends, crafts, foodways, various industries (cattle, tourism), government, family trees, camp life, whatever they want to talk about."

Griffis worries that many Tribal members don't know about the program and the restrictions and protections maintained by the Museum over the collections.

"All of the recordings in the collection are here to be a resource of information for Tribal members," Griffis said. "However, the person giving the interview can tell us who they want – or don't want – to be able to listen to the interview."

"The oral history coordinator oversees the collection and makes the recording available to those who have permission to hear them and protects them from those who do not have permission to hear it. For instance, recently a Tribal member recorded an oral history of his own life and told of things he wants his descendants to know. He stipulated that the interview be archived in the collection and that only his children could have a copy. The Museum makes sure that those conditions are adhered to," he said.

On occasion, non-Tribal members who spent time working or living with Tribal members are interviewed, such as Edna Siniff, whose family worked with the Tribe in the 1940s; Neal Brown, grandson of William Brown of Brown's Trading Post; and the late artist Guy LaBree, who specialized in painting oils of Seminole scenes of history and lifestyle.

Griffis said the oral history project will acquiesce to any Tribal member's stipulation concerning how the interviews are used, including limiting access of certain recordings to a specific Clan and keeping recordings private until the interviewee passes away: "Some recordings may be conducted entirely in Mikasuki or Creek language. Some may not be translated or have written transcriptions made if the interviewee wants to be recorded but does not want the language to be written down or want non-speakers of that language to know it."

Any Tribal member who wishes to record his or her history, or preserve his or her thoughts about Seminole history, culture, family or anything, in their own words, should contact Eric Griffis at 863-902-1113, ext. 12213.

"We'll come to you, if that is what you prefer," Backhouse said.

And that's what they did for Henry on Aug. 4. He met Griffis at the Tampa Seminole Field Office, in the conference room adorned with sketches of Seminole war leaders. Small talk only lasted a few minutes as Henry squirmed in his seat with the story he said he "must" tell. And he wanted it on camera and tape. When it was over, he was asked what restrictions he wanted to make regarding the story.

"Everyone see it, everyone talk about it," he sighed. "Keep it going on and on."

Bobby Henry's story: U.S. soldier murdered Osceola

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TAMPA — Tribal medicine man Bobby Henry says the famous Florida Seminole Wars leader Osceola did not die of malaria or complications from tonsillitis, quinsy or any other natural sickness, as popular history would have people believe. As Henry knows and trusts, the 34-year-old warrior was murdered by a frustrated United States military officer – shot point blank through the forehead at close range – for refusing to sign a document that promised Florida Indians would leave the state for reservation lands out west.

In a fascinating story Henry said he first heard as a young boy in the 1930s, one repeated to him many times throughout his youth by family uncles and other Tribe elders, Osceola's murder was covered up with elaborate subterfuge by an embarrassed U.S. military, including a faux dramatization of his pre-death rituals and a curious post-death beheading by the doctor who treated him at the end.

Dr. Frederick Weedon, history says, stole and embalmed Osceola's head while dozens of soldiers and Indians milled around, prior to putting the body in a casket for burial on the grounds of Fort Moultrie, South Carolina; legend says he brought it to his family home where he put Osceola's head on his children's bedpost to scare them when they misbehaved. Later, the head wound up in a New York medical museum where it supposedly burned in a fire.

"Never happened," Henry said, shaking his head at the incredulity of it all. "I never believed it."

In an hour-long session Aug. 4 with Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum oral history coordinator Eric Griffis – all recorded on video and audio tape – Henry told his story in English, his second language.

"... my uncle, let's see, my grandpa, grandpa he just keep, he just keep pushing me. 'You've gotta keep coming back, keep coming back,' (He'd) tell me same thing. Same thing," said Henry, whose family traveled throughout Florida in those days, picking fruits and vegetables; he was surprised to hear other elders he met during this time telling the same story that was also kept by his family.

The story begins during "wartime," Henry said, when talk around the fire told of a Seminole woman, long ago "with a child in her stomach." The story alleges that the father was non-Indian. Henry paints a haunting picture of the Everglades scene when the pregnancy first was revealed, highlighted by angry shouts and demands that the mother and baby be killed: "This is my enemy; my

enemy's in there," he said, quoting an angry Seminole elder.

But "medicine people," as Henry described them, gathered to calm the scene and discuss the situation. Soon, a wartime decision was made allowing the mother to give birth. When the baby boy was born, the mother's parents took the infant out into the dark woods and left it lying naked on the ground.

Back at the camp, the medicine people were upset, Henry said: "They said we right in the middle in the war and ... maybe we raise it and it give it medicine and we take care of it, so maybe it'll help us leaders in the wartime ..." Some were afraid the boy would turn on them. Others felt that if he was raised with medicine, "maybe he go for the Indian people."

Finally, the child – nearly dead and covered with ant bites, even in his mouth – was retrieved and brought back to the camp where he was administered medicine and recovered.

Cared for by medicine people, the half-breed boy would grow up strong and proficient in Seminole ways, especially medicine. The boy thrown out to the ants and then taken back to the village was Osceola. That's what Henry said he heard around the fire, many times, as he grew up.

Osceola hung out with other young Seminole leaders like Sam Jones, Wildcat and Billy Bowlegs "and that crew. Osceola, he had been learning with the medicine people and he can do things impossible," Henry was told, relating a story about Osceola's escape from a cave by making himself very small and climbing through a tiny hole.

By 1836, Osceola led an effective band of warriors during the Second Seminole War and soon became the face of the Seminole resistance to the United States' efforts to remove Seminoles from their Florida homelands. In fact, Osceola and his partner Sam Jones (Abiaki) dominated the war resistance until September 1837 when Osceola was captured by deception directed by U.S. General Thomas Jesup, under a flag of truce, when he went to a U.S. fort for peace talks – a black mark on U.S. military history to this day.

Flamboyant, colorful, brash and considered handsome, Osceola, by this time, was likely the most famous American Indian in the world. His exploits on and off the battlefield had been emblazoned on newspapers everywhere.

Though he was charged with the murder of a U.S. agent, Osceola was afforded VIP treatment in the Fort Marion Stockade at St. Augustine and later at the Fort Moultrie Prison on Charleston's Sullivan Island, where he died in 1838. He was escorted to a stage

play (where he was greeted by a standing ovation), allowed to fish, swim and canoe and walk freely around the prison grounds. He was allowed to receive visitors – including his wives – he entertained guests and posed for photographers and portrait painters.

But, as Henry was told, the soldiers fully expected Osceola to sign official papers of Seminole Indian surrender and removal to federal reservation lands out west.

As Henry recounted the story, soldiers and their superior officers soon became frustrated with Osceola's refusal to sign the papers. And one day, "one of the lower chiefs," as Henry described him, came into the cell, sat down across a table from Osceola and kept pushing a sheet of paper and a pen toward the warrior, who pushed it back each time.

Finally the officer broke, Henry said, ordering, "All right! One more time!" When Osceola refused, pushing the paper back, the officer pulled out his handgun and without warning, shot Osceola right through the forehead. That's what happened, according to the stories that began that day among Indians in the area who carried it "on and on and on," as Henry describes the march of history, south to Florida and Bobby Henry's fire, somewhere near Ochopee, off the Tamiami Trail, when he was 8 years old.

Osceola was murdered for not selling out his people and using his charm and oratorical skills to persuade them there was a better life out west. "That's why they killed him," said Henry, shaking his head. "And a lot of story about (Osceola) I don't believe. You know, he grow sick and die and the doctor (cut off) his head and he scared his kids or something like that."

"I think I know something, the old people tell me, so it never changed my mind, you know, but that's what I know ... where was his head? OK, you got it, bring it back, house burned. House burned down?" Henry smiled at the incredulity of it all – the only physical evidence demanded by any investigator of the story, the head with the bullet hole, missing all these years.

Historian Patsy West expressed astonishment over Henry's story.

"It does make sense and it really can't be discounted. It's certainly not the 'accepted' version of Osceola's death but ... well, coming from a man like Bobby Henry gives the story a lot of credence. I know Bobby Henry and he tells the truth. I believe he is telling the same story that has been handed down through his family," West said.

The story does not carry the name of the officer who shot Osceola, said Henry, who says all he heard is the soldier was a "third chief" down from the top who had bragged he could make Osceola cooperate when his



Peter B. Gallagher

Bobby Henry shares his story on video and audio tape with Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum oral history coordinator Eric Griffis on Aug. 4 in Tampa.

superiors had failed: "I don't read or write. I never went to school," Henry said. "All I know is from talk. From my uncles and my grandpa. All my life the story same."

At the time of Osceola's death on Jan. 30, 1838, "he was one of the most well-known American Indians in the world," West said. While there is no proof that Weedon and his associates participated in a government conspiracy to keep the impulsive murder of a beloved world figure secret (and thereby quell the enormous negative public reaction), it is "food for thought," she said. "Killing Indians like that, even cutting off heads and scalps were not that uncommon among our military in those days."

Legend says the head spent time on display on Weedon's St. Augustine pharmacy counter and at his home, then was given to Weedon's son-in-law, Daniel Whitehurst, who in turn sent it to Valentine Mott, a famed New York surgeon, in 1843; Mott placed Osceola's head in his Surgical and Pathological Museum and later sent it to be displayed at the Medical College of New York, where Osceola's head disappeared in an 1865 fire that destroyed the museum.

"I don't believe it," Henry said steadfastly. "Not what I was told. They killed him."

It is remarkable that such an artifact as a preserved head of the world's most famous Indian would spend 27 years on display, in several different venues, yet there is no known photograph to document its existence. In Patricia Wickman's book

"Osceola's Legacy," among an impressive array of Osceola images, not one photo of the embalmed head is found.

"That head means a lot more to us today than it meant to people way back then," Wickman said. "I interviewed all the members of Weedon's family, anyone who came into contact with that head, and there is no photo."

Wickman, however, does not doubt Henry's personal veracity: "I know Bobby Henry very well. He does not lie. Bobby's not a man who tells tall tales. I'm certainly willing to believe that story has circulated among the Seminole Tribe over the years, born from the fear of the atrocious events that occurred to Seminoles in those days. However, there is absolutely no evidence to support that conclusion (that Osceola was shot to death). On the other hand, there is copious evidence to support that he died otherwise."

In "Osceola's Legacy," Wickman lays out a well-researched chain of evidence pointing to the warrior's natural death from complications due to tonsillitis, exacerbated, the author wrote, by a severe head lice infection.

Henry hopes young people will take the time to hear his story when it is installed in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki oral history archives. It is part of his life's quest to bring back the culture he feels is being lost with each generation.

"I thought I want to share (the story) with people, that way I want to see your son, his son, his daughter, they should learn something with the language," Henry said.

Chickee-building lessons ensure legacy lives for future generations

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In its quest to pass Seminole traditions to the next generation, the Hollywood Culture Department recently taught young men and boys the ins and outs of chickee building. They started by collecting raw materials in the Everglades and finished by adding another completed chickee to the culture camp adjacent to the Howard Tiger Recreation Center.

"When we were young, we were told how to make chickees out of necessity," said Bobby Frank, Hollywood Community Culture Center manager. "I had to learn to build them to make an income."

Now the objective is passing along the skills and confidence to build chickees. While the group, ages 10 to 24, harvested logs in Big Cypress for the chickee frame, Frank taught them how to identify suitable cypress trees. Later, they collected palm fans in Brighton.

"We are passing along a legacy," Frank said. "It's our responsibility to know how to build these because when we get married, we have to provide."

Frank, Morgan Frank and Milo Osceola mentored the group as they learned to construct the 12-foot-by-12-foot chickee. As they stripped the logs, they learned the blades had to be sharpened often to make the job easier. The group effort with teachers and students often featured two or three people working on a single log.

Holly Bowers made sure her 16-year-old son Rhett Tiger participated to gain traditional skills, among other lessons.

"He's learning a lot beyond building a chickee," Bowers said. "He's learning social skills, discipline, taking direction, learning to speak to his elders and take part in community activities."

"It's a good experience and I've never done it before," Rhett said. "I learned what poles to cut and how to peel them. It's a lot of work, but it's fun. I'm looking forward to seeing it finished."

The project began in late July. One chickee has been completed and a second is expected to be finished soon.

Although Aaron Cypress, 24, participated in the class, he wasn't a novice; it was his third time helping build a chickee. He doesn't know many from his generation in Hollywood who want to learn traditional skills, but he hopes the project will spur interest.

At age 10, Tanner Gore already realizes

the importance of knowing how to build chickees.

"When I get older, it will be good for my own chickees," he said. "I'm happy that I'm doing it. It feels great."

Myra Frank, Culture Center assistant manager, said learning traditional ways is crucial for young men.

Throughout Seminole history, men have been responsible for providing shelter for their families.

"They go into the woods and figure out how to maneuver there and use tools," she said. "We need to pass it on because the older ones won't always be around someone has to learn and pass it on."



Beverly Bidney

Rhett Tiger, 16, learns to attach palm fans to the frame of a chickee he helped build on the Hollywood Reservation Aug. 14.



Beverly Bidney

Morgan Frank strips bark from a cypress log as Hollywood Community Culture Center manager Bobby Frank helps Tanner Gore, 10, get the hang of it during a chickee-building project July 29 on the Hollywood Reservation.

TOWNHOMES

From page 3A

over from the construction of the Howard Tiger Recreation Center. Construction is scheduled to begin by the start of 2016 with completion in the summer, Nelson said.

"The Tribe is going in the right direction to provide efficient housing," he said.

Plans are also in the works, said Construction Management Director William White, for more single-family home rentals and townhomes on other reservations. Tribal members can expect six townhomes and nine rental houses in Brighton; seven rental homes in Immokalee; and 18 rental homes in Big Cypress.

"We hope to break ground in about five months," White said, but completion dates are unavailable because project details have yet to be ironed out. The rental units help satisfy housing demands for younger Tribal members who may not have established credit or others who may not want to take on mortgages, Nelson said in a news report in April. He cited access to clinics, police and fire rescue, and after-school programs like 4-H and Boys & Girls

Club among the perks to living in tribal communities. Nelson said the townhome projects have proved successful. He said the Tribal Community Development Department — which consists of Community Planning and Development, Construction Management, Environmental Resources Management, Housing, Public Works, Tribal Inspector, Real Estate and Survey — will look to continue that success with other housing and infrastructure projects in the future.

"We're working with all Tribal Community Development departments to provide planning for the next five years to save money and create efficiency with development," he said.

Nettie Stewart, who received the keys to her new townhome Aug. 6, said she is thrilled to be coming "home" to the Hollywood Reservation. Although she has lived on the reservation most of her life, she has lived off-reservation for the last six months. "Being on the reservation is just being home," she said. "You know where everyone lives, and we are all connected to everyone either by blood or by Clan."

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Housing regional manager William Osceola and Board Construction project manager Jeremy Bowers pose with new residents of the Hollywood townhomes Aug. 6 during a grand opening celebration heralding the completion of the new buildings.

Brett Daly

Star Nayeia shines at Boys & Girls Club

Singer shares her triumph over tragedy story

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — As an infant, Star Nayeia was taken from her home in Canada and adopted by a white family in Detroit, Michigan under the Indian Adoption Project, a controversial federal program that placed Native children into adoptive homes from 1958 to 1967. She suffered years of abuse and does not know to which Tribe she belongs.

Nayeia overcame those obstacles and other subsequent issues to become a multi-award winning singer who shared her inspirational story with children at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club July 27-28.

"I was stolen and part of the illegal human trafficking ring," said Nayeia, who lives in Seattle. "I have no family name; it was cultural genocide. A Dakota leader once told me I may never find out where I came from."

According to a 1976 report by the Association on American Indian Affairs, 85 percent of Native children removed from their families from 1941 to 1967 were placed in non-Indian homes or institutions, leading to the loss of their Native roots and cultural identities. Nayeia said it is commonly referred to as the BIA Baby Ring.

Nayeia said her dysfunctional home life led to years of substance abuse. She fervently believes music saved her life. Now Nayeia uses her past to help shape children's futures through youth programs she brings to reservations nationwide. She

mentors youth touched by tragedy through her "Healing Through the Arts" camps.

The camps help children create music and videos to express themselves. The final videos of indigenous kids speaking out against bullying, drugs and alcohol abuse are posted on YouTube.

"This is the most important thing I do," said Nayeia, a 2006 Grammy-winning recording artist for best Native American music album. She also won a Native American Music Award in 2001 for best independent recording and another in 2008 for songwriter of the year.

To kick things off in Hollywood, Nayeia sat on the floor in a circle with the kids and asked if anyone was related to someone else in the group. All hands shot up. Then she found out every kid's favorite pizza, video game, M&M color, animal, fast food, movie and sport during a game that involved rolling a ball.

She also taught the Indian way to point — with lips, not fingers. Funny faces and giggles filled the circle.

Nayeia put her music career on hold six years ago to ensure her own son's success when he started middle school.

Since then, Nayeia has performed sporadically and spends most of her time introducing youth to the healing properties of music.

"You have to find a purpose in life, that one thing that makes you feel alive," Nayeia said. "Music was that thing for me; it was what I was born to do. But now I take that further and share it with every child I can."

Steve Osceola, more corn farmers will be needed to grow food for cattle. Farmers near the Quincy feedlot have already started to grow corn.

Rep. Osceola hopes to build a legacy program for Florida.

"The wheels are turning and the Seminoles are a big part of the story," Rep. Osceola said.

Seminole Pride Beef has been served in restaurants since 2014 via the large-scale Cheney Brothers distribution network. Additionally, as awareness of the brand grows, restaurant customers want to know where they can buy the product to enjoy at home, said Luis Acevedo, Board senior analyst.

"Awareness of the brand is paramount," he said. "But we needed a retail partner to help us grow the brand."

Acevedo believes that sharing the Tribe's cattle history will help command a luxury price that customers will be willing to pay. The fact that the product is locally grown, traceable and part of the Fresh From Florida program should also add to the brand's status, he said.

"Alex Johns and his team provide evidence that it is cost effective to raise cattle in Florida," Acevedo said. "The program is vertically integrated; the Tribe oversees every step of production."

To reach the retail market the Tribe conducted a vigorous grassroots awareness campaign by supporting various organizations that included the Farm Credit organizations, Florida Cattlemen's Association, Jr. Florida Cattlemen's Association and Women in the Outdoors. They also sponsored a farm-to-fork tour for hospitality food and beverage directors, chefs and retailers.

"We've done a lot to create awareness," said Mike Saucedo, sales representative for Seminole Pride Beef. "We've really tried to get the word out by feeding people."

The first retail deal began through word of mouth. Del Rosario Distribution, a distributor that targets smaller ethnic grocery stores, heard about Seminole Beef. Del Rosario then introduced the brand to Broward Meat and Fish, which liked the quality and presentation of the product. The store stocked it soon afterward.

"Seminole Pride Beef is a business idea that is finally moving," Rep. Frank said. "It doesn't just benefit the Tribe; it also benefits other producers in the co-op. When it gets rolling, it will put a premium on the product."

Broward Meat and Fish Co.'s two locations are 3388 N. State Road 7, Lauderdale Lakes, and 8040 W. McNab, North Lauderdale.

For more information, visit www.BrowardMeatAndFish.com.



Beverly Bidney

Louise Cypress, 7, left, and Arianna Osceola, 11, watch as Star Nayeia juggles balls during a visit at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club July 28.

SEMINOLE BEEF

From page 1A

would encourage [ranchers] to use the better genetics from Salacoa, which would improve the grade and the price," Johns said. "It's a win-win."

Prime, choice and select are the highest grades awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The quality of most producers' beef is usually about 40 percent choice and 60 percent select. Seminole Beef averages 66 percent choice, Ulizio said.

"It's a science of genetics and feed," he said. "You have to be on the ground with those animals to know what to do. That's what Alex does."

Seminole Pride Beef is also part of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Fresh From Florida program, which promotes local products and provides incentives to restaurants who use them. Johns, who also serves as second vice president of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, sat on the committee that set the standards for beef in the program. The criteria match Seminole standards.

"We set the bar for all the producers to meet," Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank said.

An increase in cattle production statewide could impact other industries. For instance, said Hollywood Board Rep.

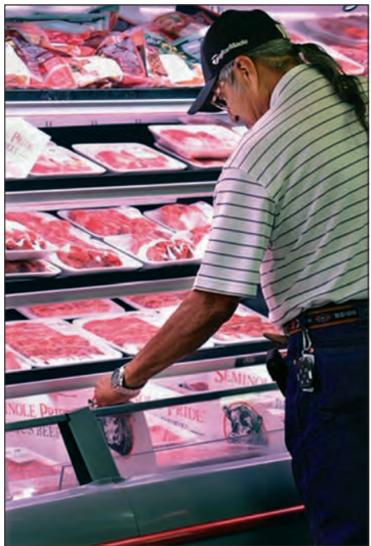


Photo courtesy of Kyla Davis

President Mitchell Cypress inspects the Seminole Pride Beef display July 29 at the first retail outlet for the meat, Broward Meat and Fish Co. in North Lauderdale.

Fond memories of Immokalee Reservation roots

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — With the stroke of a pen on Oct. 26, 1989, hundreds of Tribal members, local politicians and community members witnessed the birth of the Immokalee Reservation as William D. Ott, Eastern Area director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, signed the documents that placed 595 acres into trust for the Seminole Tribe.

But modern-day Seminoles were not the first indigenous group to call the land home.

For centuries, the Calusa sought the dry, higher ground of Immokalee. Seminoles arrived in the 19th century as they fled from the U.S. Army during the Seminole Wars. They found it an ideal location to hunt and live during the wet season and named it Gopher Ridge for the abundance of tortoises that burrowed in the loose sand of the ridge, according to an Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki academic paper.

After the Civil War, trader W.H. “Bill” Brown built a homestead near Seminole camps and traded with them for the rest of his life. His daughter Rose Brown named the settlement “I-mok-a-li,” which means “my home” in Mikasuki.

Businessman W. Dyess Roberts, another important figure in the history of the Seminoles, came to Immokalee in 1914. He allowed the Tribe to establish a camp on his property free of charge. The camp remained in place for about 50 years.

Nancy Motlow’s parents came from Hollywood to Immokalee in search of work in the 1950s. The family, including her sisters Louise, Mary and Alice, moved to the camp and lived there with about 45 people from seven or eight other families.

When she attended elementary school, Nancy Motlow realized that non-Indians lived very differently than the Seminoles.

“They had running water; we had a community pump,” she said. “We slept in chickees under mosquito nets. Now I think, ‘How did I live without air conditioning,’ but we survived. When that’s all you know, you think it’s good.”

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank also grew up in the camp, which was primarily Panther Clan. He became the first Tribal member from Immokalee to graduate from

college when he earned a bachelor’s degree in forestry from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas in 1982.

“The ladies who were there when I was growing up made it imperative that all the kids finish high school,” he said. “Education and a strong work ethic were stressed. There was no golden parachute; if you lived there you had to work.”

When the truck farming industry blossomed in Immokalee in the 1950s and 1960s, it created employment opportunities for Tribal members. Rep. Frank said there were always a couple empty chickees in the camp for people to stay while they worked in the fields. They came from Big Cypress, Brighton and the Everglades, he recalled.

By the late 1960s, the Roberts family wanted to sell the land for development. According to a Seminole Tribune article in November 1989, Tribal member Jimmy Cypress, with help from the justice of the peace O.W. Hancock, urged Collier County officials to find another location for the soon-to-be-displaced Seminoles. The county deeded the Tribe 4.7 acres on Stockade Road, where Seminoles built a new camp and resided in chickees for another 20 years until the BIA built houses in the 1980s.

Deloris Jimmie Alvarez lived in the Stockade Road Camp, which stood where townhomes are now located. She remembers living in the woods, going to school and working in the fields on weekends. She said they dug holes for water, scooped out the impurities on top and used the cleaner water beneath.

“We used to swim and wash our clothes in the canals,” said Louise Motlow, Alvarez’s aunt. “Now you see garbage in them.”

When running water finally arrived, Mary Motlow built a shower and laundry house near the camp.

“We grew up in chickees with no running water or electricity,” Alvarez said. “I enjoyed it, but it was the only life I knew.”

About 40 years ago, an influential and driven group of women, including Nancy Motlow, Louise Motlow and Elaine Aguilar, worked to place the Stockade Road land into trust with the BIA.

Louise Motlow pushed the Tribe to set money aside to purchase land, and Nancy Motlow served as an interpreter and then



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Nancy Motlow and Agnes Cypress pose for a photo in the 1980s in the old culture trailer in Immokalee.

as a liaison for the Tribe with the BIA. The Stockade Road parcel and three more parcels of the present-day reservation were assembled piece by piece in 1970, 1986, 1989 and 1992.

“Once the Tribe started making money from bingo, we were spending money on a lot of other things but I wanted something that would be here for a long time,” said Chairman James E. Billie in a 1989 interview in The Seminole Tribune. “Once we achieved the money, we purchased the land. Then it became a matter of time to put the land in trust.”

When Chairman Billie was elected,

Nancy Motlow traveled to Washington, D.C. repeatedly to present the Tribe’s dire need for housing to the BIA. She brought photos of the chickee camp to strengthen her case.

“When [the Tribe] purchased land it was put in my married name, McInturff, which kept it from being identified as Seminole,” she said. “They wanted to keep officials and other people from buying the property.”

Keeping the Seminole name out of the land purchase worked; the Tribe bought the land on which future generations could live.

Nancy Motlow wanted the same representation with Council as Big Cypress. In her tenure as liaison, she worked to build a clinic on Seminole land in the early 1980s, which meant Immokalee residents no longer had to travel to Big Cypress, Hollywood, Fort Myers, Naples or Clewiston for health care.

Alvarez called the clinic the biggest improvement for Tribal members.

By the early 1980s, Immokalee also had a trailer that housed a field office and a smoke shop, and it had a chickee from which to sell arts and crafts. The casino was built in 1994, the modern field office in 2003, the clinic was relocated into a large trailer in 2005 and the Seminole Casino Hotel opened in 2015.

Amy Yzaguirre also spent time as a child in the Stockade Road Camp when she visited her grandmother Alice Billie Jimmie.

“It was an adventure every night,” she said. “Sometimes you would wake up and there would be a snake on the floor. We would hear every animal and try to guess what it was. We’d sit by the fire and tell stories about our days. It was an adventure, especially for someone who was afraid of spiders.”

Today, Immokalee Reservation remains predominantly a Panther camp with many of the original families now living in modern houses.

About 200 call the reservation home, but 300 to 500 more live nearby waiting for housing to be available on the reservation, Nancy Motlow said.

She believes younger Tribal members differ from her generation because of money.

“Immokalee has come a long way,” Alvarez said. “We have more now but have lost the closeness of a family because we live in separate houses. When we were in chickees, we used to help each other, live and eat together.”

Aguilar grew up helping her mother build chickees at the original camp while helping raise her cousins. She said the younger generation has to be convinced to learn their culture.

“The seniors will never let go of their heritage and culture,” she said. “The best thing was to see the BIA create the reservation and know it would always be ours. It’s my home and nobody can take it away or ask me to move.”



Beverly Bidney

Donna Frank’s Stockade Road chickee, next to the new Immokalee townhomes, is the only chickee still standing from the 1980s.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

From left, Alice Billie, Ethel Santiago, Nellie Bain, Elizabeth Olea and Louise Motlow pose for a photo in a chickee on Stockade Road in the 1980s.

◆ HARD ROCK RISING

From page 1A

Barcelona ablaze,” Buell wrote in an email response to The Seminole Tribune.

But the truly standout performance, Buell said, “would be Bruce Springsteen and Paul McCartney onstage together in London’s Hyde Park, powering through the Queen’s curfew to lead the crowd in a stirring rendition of ‘I Saw Her Standing There.’”

Joni Josh, office coordinator for the Chairman’s Office on Hollywood Reservation, said a delegation of Tribal members who attended the Barcelona event was welcomed enthusiastically. Josh was among nearly a dozen in the Seminole group that also included Chairman Billie and Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.

“They definitely have deep respect for our people and are very interested in our culture,” Josh said.

During a sightseeing jaunt of Barcelona, Josh said a tour guide pointed to a 197-foot-tall monument of Christopher Columbus erected in 1888 and said, “This is the statue of that big, bad man.”

Battiest said the cultural paradox became profound during the middle of his solo show when he and his brother Zac “Doc” Battiest sang their Native American Music Award-winning song “The Storm.”

“It was a very brave thing to do when in the middle of the square there is a huge statue of Christopher Columbus. But the people applauded. They loved it and they received the message. That was a very deep performance for us,” Spencer Battiest said. “We were the foreigners this time.”

The brothers dressed for the song as they always perform – in patchwork vests handmade by their grandmother Judy Baker.

Josh said the concert experience, from being seated in the VIP section to watching onstage, was “mind-blowing,” though she has become accustomed to meeting international celebrities and rock stars since the Tribe opened the first Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in 2004. In 2007, the Tribe completed the purchase of the Hard Rock brand.

Chairman Billie, who gave credit to Hard Rock International Inc.’s top executives Hamish Dobbs and James Allen and President Mitchell Cypress, said he “never thought in a million years” that the company would grow so large with 145 cafes, 21 hotels and 10 casinos that span 59 countries.

Chairman Billie said future goals include 19 new locations in South America alone, including Panama, Columbia, Brazil, Peru and Argentina. He also hopes to build a Hard Rock Hotel on the east and west sides of the Berlin Wall. Another cafe is in the works for Tallahassee, Florida.

“When Hard Rock came to me, I was quick to jump on it. When Mitchell Cypress came in I just thanked him and God that whatever happened during that time, Hard Rock was brought home,” Chairman Billie said. “It was unforeseen good luck.”

Buell said the “Rising” events allow Tribal members to meet with cafe, hotel and casino employees worldwide, as well as investors, potential partners and media who may be in attendance and eager to learn more about the Tribe.

But Buell stressed an additional advantage: The festival is a chance to

showcase emerging Native American artists in front of thousands of spectators.

For Chairman Billie, seeing Seminole members perform made him very happy but a bit sad. A Grammy award-nominated singer-songwriter with three albums to boast, Chairman Billie wished he entered the Hard Rock business when he was a younger man.

“Way before Hard Rock I had been to London and to Denmark and other places all over the States riding a motorcycle with my guitar strapped to my back so I could play where I went. Now I have to watch,” Chairman Billie said. “But it brings me joy to see the Battiest and Osceola brothers do all over the world what I could have done.”

Josh, who watched from a small area onstage, said The Osceola Brothers and Battiest wowed the crowd.

The Osceola Brothers – Cameron, 18; Sheldon, 17; and Tyson, 14 – kicked off the Barcelona festival just 15 minutes after the gates opened.

“It was weird and awesome at the same time,” Cameron Osceola said. “For us, it wasn’t about proving who we are as Seminoles but proving we are not just a kid

band. I told my brothers to get out there and play like it’s the last time playing.”

It worked, said Battiest, who watched The Osceola Brothers’ impressive set and witnessed what happened next.

During the break, Cameron Osceola sat in an interactive photo booth that was equipped for VIP pictures with a backdrop, guitars and headphones, and began playing Jimi Hendrix’s “Purple Haze.” In seconds, Ben Gittins, of the London-based hit band The Carnabys, joined in. Zac Battiest reconnected the amps for the crowd to hear and the audience responded by reveling in the jam.

“It was such a cool moment,” Battiest said. “Cameron was the true definition of an artist. He was playing for himself and he drew a crowd ... to be able to see all of the Osceola brothers blossom into who they are and grab their destiny is such a cool thing.”

Josh said Spencer Battiest also delivered an awesome show. The set, with the exception of “The Storm,” premiered four of his newest pop love songs.

“Everyone was hyped and having a great time. People were dancing. Spencer alone, then with Zac, really rocked it for

a great opening to the rest of the concert,” Josh said.

Battiest said the Barcelona experience was so positive that “it confirmed what I am doing is what I am meant to do ... my life as an artist is on the right path.”

For Chairman Billie, the tour of the cafes showed him that Hard Rock is also on the right road. He said all employees were welcoming, courteous and helpful long before they realized that they were serving the Hard Rock owners.

While in each city, the Chairman met with media to discuss new growth opportunities for the Hard Rock brand.

Buell said the company is seeking to “dramatically expand its hotel and casino portfolio” and open new cafe locations around the world. Chairman Billie, who with President Cypress used to “knock heads” with mean kids who tried to put them down when they were boys in Clewiston, said Hard Rock will continue growing bigger and stronger.

“We knocked heads then and we’re still doing it,” Chairman Billie said. “Hard Rock will keep going a long way. Everyone on Earth loves the Hard Rock.”

Seminole patchwork to color radio show with fashion, culture

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Longtime National Public Radio (NPR) host and reporter Jacki Lyden recently visited the Hollywood Reservation to research Seminole patchwork for an upcoming series of radio broadcasts and podcasts about fashion as culture. “These people had to become invisible to survive the Seminole Wars,” Lyden said. “But in the 20th century, they had to become visible to survive in the tourism industry.” “Seminole People of the Cloth: A Patchwork History” will explore the history and impact modern patchwork has on today’s culture. Lyden believes the full story of patchwork hasn’t reached beyond Florida and the national broadcasts will help bring awareness to contemporary patchwork. The reports will begin broadcasting in October on NPR, which has more than 900

member stations nationwide and 34 million listeners per week. The series is being produced by Lyden’s independent nonprofit radio production company called The Seams, which focuses on the anthropology, culture, politics and business of fashion. Its motto is “Clothing is our common thread: In every stitch, a story.” “Food, clothing and shelter are part of the basic equation of life,” Lyden said. “Clothing is right there. It is a way of looking at the world through the eyes of what we have on our backs.” Princess Pageant Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers met Lyden at the Brighton Field Day Festival in February. Bowers and artist Jessica Osceola helped Lyden win a grant from the Florida Humanities Council by writing letters of recommendation for the project. “I base my work on the balancing of traditional and contemporary to show

a hybrid perspective. I have a toe in each world, which is a benefit to a well-rounded point of view. I appreciate both points of view, and I am positive this collaboration can offer an engaging and dynamic perspective. I have many stories to tell from ceremony to childhood to the sounds of my grandmother’s old Singer sewing machine. The smells of ceremonial smoke, rising of the full moon and the visions of young and old fully adorned in the latest trends in patchwork and beads,” Osceola wrote. During a close-up look at the Princess Pageant in July, Lyden and senior producer Elaine Heinzman were impressed by the details, designs and colors of the patchwork on stage. Bowers said they also spent time backstage with the contestants. “It was dazzling,” Heinzman said. “I couldn’t take my eyes off the patchwork.” Lyden admired the commitments made by contestants’ families to provide the many outfits worn during the competition. Prior to the pageant, Lyden toured the Hollywood Culture Department and interviewed women sewing patchwork. “Anytime we can highlight our patchwork is awesome,” Bowers said. “She talked directly to the seamstresses. It’s a different story when you talk to the ones that made it because they love to talk about their patchwork.” Lyden also interviewed youth and men who wear patchwork. “I was pleasantly surprised to learn how vibrant [culture] is among those who wear and make patchwork,” she said. “It is reviving and flourishing.” The series will delve into four areas about patchwork: pageantry and special tribal occasions; men’s patchwork; modernity, interpretation and appropriation; and collectors. For more information about “Seminole People of the Cloth: A Patchwork History,” visit www.TheSeams.org.

MISS TEEN USA From page 3A

and encouraged her to try her best during the swimsuit and evening gown competition during the preliminaries later that day. “[Jara] did wonderfully,” Tara said. “She has done some runway modeling and is very confident on stage. I texted her and said no matter what happens, you can be happy knowing you did your best.” Although Jara performed well, she did not advance to the top 15. “She is a competitive athlete and wants to win at everything,” Tara said. “She wanted to win; that’s why she was there.” Miss Louisiana Teen Katherine Haik captured the Miss Teen USA crown. Jara’s director, Grant Gravitt Jr., president and executive producer of Tel-Air Interests which produces the Miss Florida Teen pageant, was with Jara throughout the pageant and helped her through the rough spots. As winner of Miss Florida Teen, Jara received a full scholarship to Florida Atlantic University. “We couldn’t be prouder of her,” Gravitt said. “She may not have been Miss Teen USA, but I love the fact that I’m sending her to college.”

get nervous, but now I can handle myself. These are all invaluable things to a girl going into the workforce.” Tara has seen “phenomenal personal growth” in her daughter since she became Miss Florida Teen. Jara said she is grateful for the experience. “This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” Jara said. “But now I’m super excited to start college and the next chapter of my life.”



Darren Decker/For Miss Teen USA

Jara Courson, Miss Florida Teen USA 2015, participates in a relay race Aug. 20 at Atlantis Paradise Island resort in the Bahamas.



Beverly Bidney

Jacki Lyden, right, records audio July 25 while backstage during the Princess Pageant in Hollywood.

GAMING From page 1A

Smith, of the Big Cypress Reservation, graduated from Florida Atlantic University with bachelor’s degrees in political science and multicultural studies in 2007 and 2008. He earned his master’s in communications in 2010. Smith was a Florida gubernatorial fellow for the Executive Office of the Governor, an adjunct professor at Miami Dade College and Broward College, and an instructional aide at Ahfachkee School. He

currently teaches economics at Hollywood Hills High School. Smith replaces Marcellus Osceola Sr., whose term expired July 30. “Jarrid Smith is welcomed and he’s joining the commission at a very, very important time for gaming and the commission,” said Gaming Commission Chairman Allen Huff, of the Brighton Reservation. “We have compiled a lot of data and things we have done through the commission to keep the integrity of the games. We welcome Jarrid because he’s going to have view points from the younger generation.”

CAMP KULAQUA From page 3A

Whether Camp Kulaqua will happen next year remains undecided because of budget cuts, Buster said. “The teens had the idea to create a petition, which they all signed,” she said. “I told them they have a voice. I will present the petition to Council.” Buster sees the value of camp and hopes other parents do, too. “I would send my grandchildren here and pay for it,” she said. “They are taught good values here.” Sometimes campers learned lessons without realizing it. “I’ll remember how much fun it was,” said Kaden Grimaldo, 12, of Immokalee. “Living in a cabin is fun. It’s like living and taking care of myself. It feels like they are trying to get us to be responsible.”



Beverly Bidney

Campers and counselors race through Camp Kulaqua’s go-cart course Aug. 4 during youth camp in High Springs, Florida. The camp welcomed 97 teenagers from July 26-31 and 113 youth from Aug. 2-7.



Beverly Bidney

Leilani Burton, 10, learns about trust when she falls into the arms of waiting friends during the ropes course Aug. 3 in the gym at Camp Kulaqua.



Beverly Bidney

During the Seminole Olympics on Aug. 5, campers participate in the water fill relay, in which two teams competed to fill a hole-filled bucket with water and run it over to a larger container before the water spilled out. The first team to fill the large container won the relay.



Beverly Bidney

Bouncing off the blob proves to be a popular activity at Camp Kulaqua during youth camp Aug. 2-7.



Beverly Bidney

Campers race across the field in the boxcar derby at Camp Kulaqua Aug. 5.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

This group of kids seems ready for mischief. Who knows what they were up to at the Tribal Fair in February 1995?

Blast from the past: A Field Day and Tribal Fair

SUBMITTED BY TARA BACKHOUSE
 Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

This past month, two funny pictures were found while preparing photographs in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's database for posting to the online collections section of the Museum's website.

Through the online collections, individuals can search for basic terms like "skirt" or "doll" to see examples of those items in the Museum's possession. A person's name can also be searched to see if the Museum has any photos or other objects associated with him or her. The two photos featured aren't online yet, but they will be soon. They are fun examples of the photographic gems staff members come across daily.

The photograph at right shows a group of unidentified boys. A few wear shirts bearing images and names of Clans. The Museum knows the picture was taken at the Gathering of Clans in 1993. This event was the first Field Day held on the Hollywood Reservation. According to The Seminole Tribune's April 23, 1993 issue, the event was organized by a number of Seminole Tribe departments and was sponsored by both Council and Board members. The goal was to encourage pride and self-esteem without the use of drugs or alcohol. There were speakers from each Clan and lunch. In the afternoon, activities like softball throws, horseshoes and basketball throws were enjoyed. The overall winner of the competition was the Wind Clan, but from the picture, it looks like everyone had fun.

The top picture was taken two years later at the Tribal Fair held on Feb. 12,



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

These boys seem ready for a race, or at least ready to outdo each other at the Gathering of Clans in April 1993.

1995. The children pictured are taking advantage of the camera that has distracted their friends. A few kids may not have been happy to see the results later when they realized what their friends were doing behind their backs. Others point slingshots at the camera.

Museum staff members think it would be fun to find the now grown-ups in these photographs and recreate the scenes. If

any reader can identify the children in the photographs, please contact the Museum.

As always, if you'd like to see more of the Museum's photographs, just make an appointment. Also, you can visit the online collections section at <http://semtribe.pastperfect-online.com/34687/cgi/mweb.exe?request=ks>. For help searching, call 863-902-1113 and ask for the Collections Division.

Chief Jim Billie Band guitarist Dave Shelley passes away at 57

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
 Special Projects Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — Famed singer, guitar slinger and percussionist Dave Shelley, 57, for many years a fixture in the Chief Jim Billie Band, died Aug. 10 in hospice care at his daughter's home in Fort Lauderdale after a long bout with cancer.

Though Shelley had a storied career that took him around the world as the guitarist for numerous touring bands, including superstar Cher in the early 1990s — he can be seen back-to-back with Cher in the video for the song "If I Could Turn Back Time" — he always returned to his South Florida haunts, where the California native first burst onto the music scene three decades ago.

Shelley's last project was ongoing with his band Bluestone. Their albums included "That's My Train" (2012) and "Trick Bag" (2013), and they opened for The Charlie Daniels Band at Sunfest in 2010.

Shelley's last appearance in Seminole Country came in November 2014 when he joined Chairman James E. Billie and his band for a reunion concert at the American Indian Arts Celebration on the Big Cypress Reservation. He also spent time co-writing and co-producing the musical pursuits of Seminole Tribal member Paula Bowers. He often appeared on stage with The Osceola Brothers and mentored its lead singer/guitarist Cameron Osceola, who produced

a touching YouTube tribute to Shelley and included the message: "...I hope you know that I love you, we love you man, and that I am forever thankful and grateful for you. Thankful for everything you've shown me, for taking a chance on me, and mostly for believing in me. I am so glad that I got to have a great soul like you in my life."

Over the years, Shelley nurtured an affinity for contemporary American Indian music.

He played with numerous American Indian artists and others, including the Mud Ponies (sometimes called Seventh Son), John Trudell, Floyd Red Crow Westerman, Robbie Robertson, the late Jessie Ed Davis, Coco Montoya, Government Mule, the late Allman Brothers alumnus Dan Toler, Anson Funderburg, Billy Branch, Ronnie Baker Brooks, Tommy Castro and Larry McCray.

As an actor, Shelley appeared in "The Guiding Light," "General Hospital," "Touched by an Angel," and "Promised Land." He was also cast as a rock musician in Roger Vadim's motion picture remake of



Peter B. Gallagher

Guitarist Dave Shelley harmonizes with the lead singer of the Chief Jim Billie Band.

"And God Created Women."

Shelley's musical pedigree includes his mother, Martha, who sang with Glenn Miller's band and acted in films and television under the name Martha Stewart, and his grandfather Buddy DeSylva, co-founder of Capitol Records.

More than 100 people attended a beachfront tribute Aug. 23 in Fort Lauderdale for a scattering of the ashes and an appreciation of the life and art of Dave Shelley.

Betty Mae Jumper

Wisdom from the past

So near Heaven and Agnes

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the August 21, 1998 issue of The Seminole Tribune.

As I sat coming home in the tribal jet that our Chairman let us use to fly to Utah, I couldn't help remember my cousin Agnes Parker Denver.

Just hours before, I had stood there watching her body lowered into the ground in her grave, my tears dropped as memories flooded back. Memories from childhood.

Agnes was the sister of Mary Bowers and the cousin to me and Charlotte Osceola. We were raised together. Her mother died three days after she was born on July 22, 1924, in Indiantown.

My Aunt Missy took her to raise as her own. My mother said they had time to teach her how to drink milk out of a bottle and that was why she survived the loss of her natural mother.

We were among the first of our Tribe to go to school. We both went to Cherokee, North Carolina. I went first and was so lonely. Agnes came after me and her presence helped me find the strength to continue.

A few years later, the Haskell Indian School in Lawrence, Kansas opened, and Agnes transferred while I stayed in Cherokee to finish high school. I missed her, but she had already helped me.

After we finished high school, we got together again in nurse's training at the Kiowa Indian Hospital in Lawton, Oklahoma. After our training, Agnes went to work in Utah in the Indian Hospital, while I returned home to work with our Tribe.

While Agnes was working in Utah,

she met a Ute Indian and fell in love. She married Ellis Denver on June 22, 1947. She made her home in Utah and never returned to Florida, except for visits. She spent the remainder of her life there.

There were nine of us who flew from Hollywood to the funeral: Mary Bowers, her son Truman, Ester, Judybill, Yvonne, Elsie Bowers, Priscilla Sayen, Scarlet and myself. On the way out on the jet, I thought that if her funeral had been in Florida, a lot more people would have come to say their goodbyes.

But, any thoughts that Agnes was forgotten were quickly eliminated. At the funeral home, the big room was packed and people spilled outside waiting to pay their last respects. It was a testimony to her. She made many friends and it seemed like the whole Ute Tribe turned out to show their love.

Many came up to me and told me how much they were going to miss her. I knew what they meant. Agnes was a special woman, and by the turnout at her funeral, her life was full of love, shared with three children and numerous grandchildren.

Agnes was more than a cousin to me. She was my friend, my pal. We at times would call each other to talk and be on the phone for hours. What did we talk about? Anything. Everything. Nothing. It was just sharing time with someone who has always been here for me.

I thought of that when I was in the jet flying home. I was high. In the clouds. I thought about Agnes.

Like me, she is a Christian. That thought gave me comfort, flying in the sky so near Heaven.

I know I'll see Agnes again some day.



"Like me, she is a Christian. That thought gave me comfort, flying in the sky so near Heaven."

Under attack: Tribes urged to fight for ICWA

• Ted Nelson Sr.

How much money is an Indian child worth? The sky is the limit for attorneys who feed off non-Native people willing to pay any cost to adopt an Indian child. Indian child adoption is an industry and attorneys will go to the lowest level to prey upon the emotions of non-Native clients, inflating their hopes and dreams that they can win their case.

Currently, a suit, filed by the Goldwater Institute in U.S. District Court in Phoenix, challenges portions of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) as it applies to Native American children living off-reservation. The suit details the cases of two Arizona families, each of which has sought to adopt a child with Native American heritage only to have their plans stalled by provisions of the 37-year-old federal law. Also, the suit states, "Alone among American children, their adoption and foster care placements are determined not in accord with their best interests but by their ethnicity, as a result of a well-intentioned but profoundly flawed and unconstitutional federal law, the Indian Child Welfare Act."

There are three ongoing federal lawsuits challenging the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978. In 2013, Indian Country lost *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl* case because "the adoption industry won the public relations battle before Indian Country even noticed."

Since 1978, the ICWA has continuously been challenged by non-Native adoption attorneys who reject the rights bestowed upon Indian Tribes by

Congress. Subtle loopholes are constantly interpreted by unprincipled adoption attorneys representing well-meaning non-Native people who illegally have an Indian child placed in their care, a clear violation of federal law protecting Indian children, families and Tribes.

The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) is defending the ICWA by upholding the rights of Tribes to maintain distinct identity, traditions, law and human rights of Tribes most important resource — Indian children.

NICWA is writing letters, testifying before congressional committees, lobbying, alerting Tribes, and defending the attacks against ICWA.

All NICWA board members have pledged to defend and take the call to arms to Indian families, relatives and Tribes.

The attacks against ICWA are serious to Tribes, for without our greatest, most important resource — our children — we as Indian people will no longer exist. What can you do? Take the pledge to defend and protect the ICWA and support the work NICWA, Native American Rights Foundation and National Congress of American Indians do to combat these attacks upon all Indian people.

For more information, visit NICWA.org.

Ted Nelson Sr. is a Seminole Tribal member and serves on the Board of Directors of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA). He is a licensed clinical social worker with a master's degree from Barry University, Class of 1997.

Health



Photo courtesy of Cydney Webster

Dan Bowers poses on his new scooter with, from left, Seminole Police Department Officer Jack Nash; daughter Rosetta Bowers; wife, Agnes Bowers; daughter Danette Bowers; and Marc McCabe, bureau chief and regional director of Vietnam Veterans of America.

Scooter donation provides boost for Vietnam veteran Dan Bowers

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Dan Bowers' life became a little easier Aug. 12 when the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) presented him with a motorized scooter at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building on Brighton Reservation. A Vietnam War veteran, Bowers suffers from the effects of Agent Orange, a toxic defoliant used during the war.

"I've had diabetes since 1979, but I'm still hanging around," Bowers said. "I've been using the scooter and it's a big help."

The Invacare Lynx L-3X compact scooter was donated by Mo Krausman, of St. Petersburg, whose mother used it and wanted it to go to a veteran after she passed away. Krausman reached out to Mike Bousher of the VVA Chapter 522 in St. Petersburg, who contacted Marc McCabe, bureau chief and regional director of VVA,

who knew exactly who needed one.

Bowers, 73, had previously contacted McCabe's office, which found the scooter and refurbished it.

"Dan reached out because of his failing health due to Agent Orange," McCabe said. In addition to diabetes, Bowers requires dialysis three days a week. He may not be as healthy as he once was, but as a strapping young man of 23, Bowers enlisted for a four-year tour in the U.S. Marine Corps.

He reported for duty at Camp Pendleton in southern California, where he learned basic combat operations, rifle squad tactics, visual communication, land mine warfare and wire communications. He was then sent to Okinawa Island in Japan where he acquired more intensive radio and wire communications skills.

Lance Cpl. Bowers arrived in Vietnam as a wireman and radio specialist in 1966. After noncommissioned officer (NCO)

training, he was promoted to sergeant and sent to Da Nang, Chu Lai and Phu Bai in Vietnam.

For his service, Bowers was honored with the Vietnam Campaign, National Defense Service, Vietnamese Service and Good Conduct medals. He was released from combat duty in 1968, honorably discharged in 1970 and continued to serve as a reservist until 1972.

"That was 50 years ago, but it doesn't seem that long ago," he said. "I was hoping to make a career of it, but Vietnam was enough. It wasn't like a normal war that you could win right away; it was a political war."

After his military career, Bowers worked in construction and built Housing and Urban Development (HUD) houses in Brighton, Hollywood, Sunrise and Miramar. In the 1980s, he worked for the Tribe as director of its Construction Department.

Native oncologist influences cancer care, prevention

BY MALLORY BLACK
Native Health News Alliance

Judith Kaur first began to think of herself as a healer at 5 years old.

She said her grandmother, Ada, introduced her to nature and medicine by listening to animals outside and picking plants in the yard.

Ada would tell Judith her life path was to heal.

"I didn't know what that meant," Kaur said. "It wasn't a very logical path for me because neither of my parents graduated from high school. [My grandmother] instilled in me the thought that I should go on with my education."

Today, Dr. Judith Salmon Kaur (Choctaw/Cherokee) is one of only two American Indian medical oncologists in the country. Now an oncology professor at the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center in Rochester, Minnesota, she also directs the clinic's Native American outreach programs.

Oncology, Kaur said, keeps her busy. In 1994 she was first recruited to the Mayo Clinic to start a women's cancer program and help develop its hospice initiatives.

Since then, she's expanded its reach to Native communities by building a professional network for American Indian physicians and student mentoring program called Spirit of Eagles.

"This is what I was meant to do," Kaur said. "I really found my calling by taking care of cancer patients when I was a third-year medical student. One of the things I tell pre-medical students and medical students is that, 'You don't know what's going to really excite you until you get exposed to things, so leave your mind open.'"

Kaur specializes in women's breast and gynecologic cancers, some of the most common types of cancer in American Indians.

While American Indian and Alaska Native women have the lowest risk of cervical cancer in the country, they are about three times more likely to die of the disease than members of all other U.S. races, according to the latest data by the Indian Health Service.

Across the nation, there are an estimated 3,500 American Indian physicians and specialists in practice today and roughly 400 Native students are enrolled in the country's medical schools.

Since the 1960s, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has recorded disparities in the number of American Indians in the field, said Marc Nivet, chief diversity officer at the AAMC.

More recently, the rate of American Indians entering medical school plateaued in the mid-2000s, which has remained a steady trend in recent years.

"Our minority students, not just Native students, but African-American and Hispanics have always been lower [in numbers], but Native Americans have always been an extreme outlier," Nivet said. "It's less than 1 percent of the students in medical school who are Native American."

Dr. Andrew Haputa (Cherokee), a surgeon and president of the Association of American Indian Physicians, said for many young American Indians the road to becoming a physician is often its own challenge, one that can require them to leave their family and homelands behind.

"Suddenly you put [American Indian] people from a fairly different place in sort of like a pressure cooker and you tell them, 'You have to compete against some very smart people, work hard to be as good as them — and by the way, you're going to be there by yourself,'" Haputa said.

Nivet said most of the academic challenges Native students face in medical school stem from inadequate education systems both inside and outside of Native communities.

Society suffers, he said, when talented Native American students who aspire to become physicians don't reach their full potential.

According to the AAMC, American



Photo Courtesy of Mayo Clinic
Judith Salmon Kaur

Indian physicians are more likely to serve as primary care providers rather than specialists in areas like oncology and endocrinology.

Nivet believes that's because most students want to return to their own underserved communities to practice as community physicians. Kaur said few public health scholarships allow students to specialize.

"That's one of the policies that really does need to be changed," Kaur said. "In fact, there are very few general surgeons

who are Native. There are some, but the system is geared to provide primary care because that's the basic requirement for the Indian Health Services is to provide primary care."

Back at the Mayo Clinic, Kaur also spearheads other programs such as Native WEB, which involves breast and cervical cancer prevention and screening training for nurses serving Native American and other underserved women.

She's also involved in Native C.I.R.C.L.E., which develops culturally appropriate cancer education materials for clinicians working in Native communities.

Over the years, Kaur said, the discussion about cancer in Indian Country has changed.

"The conversations now across Indian Country recognize that cancer is a common disease in Indians [when] people thought it wasn't, and that we can prevent cancer in some cases with lifestyle changes, and we can diagnose it earlier in a lot of cases," she said.

Kaur hopes her work inspires young American Indians to take up the issues of Native health, particularly in cancer.

"I'll continue to do what I do as long as I have health and the ability to do it, but at some point, the next generation has to pick up the challenge," Kaur said.

Local hospitals join push for breast-feeding

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Department of Health in Broward

The Florida Department of Health in Broward County launched a project to help eight birthing hospitals become "Baby Friendly," meaning they more strongly encourage new mothers to breast-feed their newborns.

Each hospital received a \$10,000 state grant to change policies and procedures to better promote the benefits of breast-feeding and to teach new mothers to overcome problems and misconceptions that discourage them from nursing.

"Hospitals play an important role in ensuring that mothers have the information, support and skills to make an informed decision when it comes to breast-feeding," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of DOH-Broward.

Among Native Americans in Florida, about two-thirds of mothers start breast-feeding after having a baby, which is lower than the statewide average of 81 percent, according to the Florida Department of Health.

The grants come from the state's Healthiest Weight program and go to 27 hospitals in 15 counties that embrace the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative. The campaign started small in Europe in 1991 and has grown worldwide.

Research shows that mothers who breast-feed are at a healthier weight than average and are at a lower risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, breast cancer and ovarian cancer. Children who are breast-fed have a lower risk of developing respiratory and gastrointestinal infections, asthma, obesity, diabetes and sudden infant death syndrome.

The local project is led by Esther March Singleton, of DOH-Broward's Women, Infants and Children program. The project

will help hospitals adopt the "Ten Steps to Successful Breast-feeding" that birthing locations must follow to win the Baby Friendly designation.

"The 10 steps consist of evidence-based practices shown to increase breast-feeding initiation and duration," Singleton said.

Hospitals must:

1. Have a written breast-feeding policy.
2. Train all health care staff about the policy and skills needed to carry it out.

3. Inform all pregnant women about the benefits and management of breast-feeding.
4. Help mothers start breast-feeding within one hour of birth.

5. Show mothers how to breast-feed and how to maintain lactation, even if separated from their babies.
6. Give infants no food or drink other than breast milk, unless medically needed.

7. Practice "rooming in," which lets mothers and infants remain together 24 hours a day.
8. Encourage breast-feeding on demand.

9. Give no pacifiers or artificial nipples to newborns.
10. Help start breast-feeding support groups and refer new mothers to them.

The hospitals also are encouraged to stop putting samples of formula in goodie bags they give to new mothers.

Participating hospitals are Broward Health Coral Springs, Broward Health Medical Center, Holy Cross, Memorial Regional, Memorial West, Memorial Miramar, Plantation General and Northwest Medical Center.

For more information, call the Seminole Health Department at 954-962-2009 or visit www.FLbreast-Feeding.org/hospital.htm or www.BabyFriendlyUSA.org.



Keeping families together

SUBMITTED BY JONATHAN VAZQUEZ
Animal Control

As an Animal Control wildlife officer, I am frequently asked questions regarding the health and care of domestic animals. Most of those questions are standard. What can I do to get rid of ticks and flees? How often should I bathe my dog? Is it bad to bathe a dog? What is the best way to keep my dog from barking? How do I stop my dog from destroying everything it can get? We love being asked questions because it assures us that the animals are cared for and thought about.

Far too often we encounter animals that are neglected or abandoned in a yard with no care from or interaction with their owners. I don't mean physically abandoned or neglected. You can provide food, water and shelter to a pet and still neglect that pet.

We often forget the time when we first brought that puppy home. It was a family member. Everyone played with it and allowed it to do whatever it wanted. Once the puppy grew into an adult the circumstances changed, but what really changed? Yes, the puppy is not a puppy anymore size-wise, but mentally it only knows what it's been taught. If you allowed your puppy to jump on your bed to snuggle, you can't expect it to know any different when it's full-grown.

Often the animal is confused and doesn't understand why it's not allowed on the bed anymore. Suddenly, everything the dog does is wrong and the last straw is when it has an accident because no one took the time to walk it outside. Then it is removed from the house and sentenced to a life in the yard.

The dog is fed every morning and afternoon, but that's the extent of the interaction. Other life issues take priority and we lose touch on the importance of that dog, that family member. This is what I mean by neglect and abandonment.

Taking 30 minutes a day to walk your dog will show the dog that it remains an important part of your life.

Let's face it; we spend hours in front of a television watching other people's lives instead of living it ourselves. Go out and play fetch. Make it a family event and get everyone involved.

I have recently made this change in my life and not only did I bond with the family dog (that used to hate me by the way), but I have made some amazing and fun memories that made our bond even tighter. If this helps even one family or one dog I will consider this article a success. I also wanted to share a poem I found by Sandi Thompson titled, "Do I Go Home Today."

I hope you enjoy it.

"Do I Go Home Today"

By Sandi Thompson

My family brought me home
cradled in their arms.
They cuddled me and smiled at me,
and said I was full of charm.

They played with me and laughed with
me,
they showered me with toys.
I sure do love my family
especially the girls and boys.
The children loved to feed me,
they gave me special treats.

They even let me sleep with them
all snuggled in the sheets.

I used to go for walks,
often several times a day.
They even fought to hold my leash,
I'm very proud to say.

These are things I'll never forget
a cherished memory.
I now live in a shelter
without my family.

They used to laugh and praise me
when I played with that old shoe.
But I didn't know the difference
between the old ones and the new.

The kids and I would grab a rag
for hours we would tug.
So I thought I did the right thing
when I chewed the bathroom rug.

They said that I was out of control,
and would have to live outside.
This I did not understand
although I tried and tried.

The walks stopped, one by one;
they said they hadn't time.
I wish that I could change things;
I wish I knew my crime.

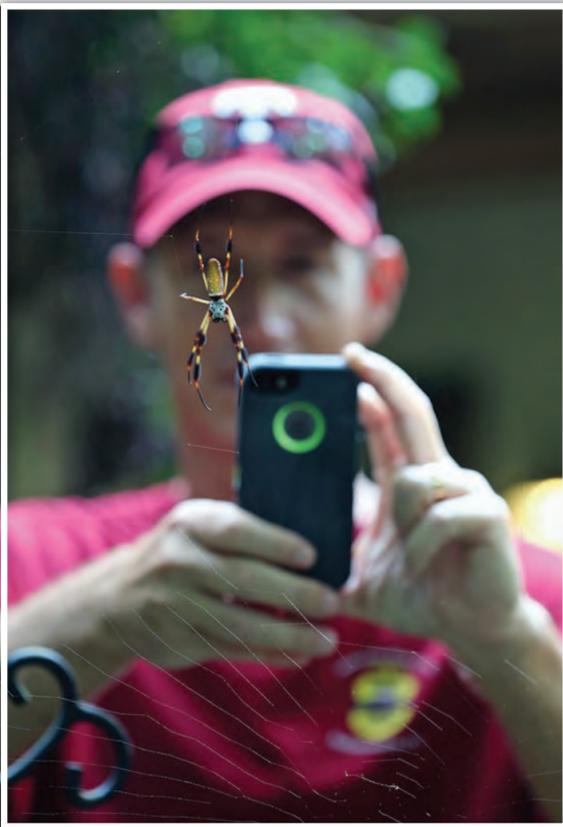
My life became so lonely,
in the backyard on a chain.
I barked and barked all day long
to keep from going insane.

So they brought me to the shelter
but were embarrassed to say why.
They said I caused an allergy,
and then, kissed me goodbye.

If I'd only had some classes,
as a little pup
I wouldn't have been so hard to handle
when I was all grown up.

"You only have one day left,"
I heard the worker say.
Does this mean a second chance?
Do I go home today?

SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

NOT SO ITSY BITSY: A banana spider is ready for a close-up as SPD Officer Thomas Apsyey takes a cellphone photo at Camp Kulaqua.



Eileen Soler

IN OTTER NEWS: Otter sister siblings frolic in a new otter habitat at Billie Swamp Safari. The new digs include a meandering swimming moat, waterfall and native plant landscaping.



Eileen Soler

MUSEUM MANEUVERS: Workers toil inside Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum to remove treasured Guy LaBree artworks Aug. 17 during a five-week maintenance project. The Museum will reopen Sept. 25 on American Indian Heritage Day.



Eileen Soler

SWEP SWEEPS: Jada Holdiness, of Immokalee, is presented with a bag of back-to-school goodies that includes a pen, flashlight and notebook Aug. 7 from Education Department Assistant Director Brenda Gillis during the Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) celebration at Big Cypress Reservation.



Beverly Bidney

RAISING THE ROOF: Construction continues July 31 on the Big Cypress Clinic as a steel girder that will be part of the roof is lifted into place. The nearly 30,000-square-foot facility, located across from the Frank Billie Field Office on Josie Billie Highway, is scheduled for completion by February 2016.



Beverly Bidney

HEADQUARTERS AT 20: The Tribe Headquarters building turns 20 years old this month. The architecture of the modern building is far from a traditional chickee; The 100,000-square-foot building located on 5.62 acres in Hollywood is home to 278 employees in 21 departments.



Beverly Bidney

'HAY,' NEIGHBOR: Horses greet each other over the fence at Camp Kulaqua. One was heading in from a pasture for lunch; the other was waiting his turn at the feeding trough.



Beverly Bidney

SWEET TREAT: A Gulf fritillary butterfly enjoys the tasty nectar of a penta flower poolside at Camp Kulaqua.



Photo courtesy of Woody Hanson

I DO: Bobby Henry, right, officiates the wedding of Woody Hanson Aug. 15 on Pavilion Key in the Ten Thousand Islands. Hanson leads the Hanson Family Archives, a collection of more than 1,000 historic documents and images, many of Seminoles, from 1884 to the mid-20th century passed down through five generations of one of Fort Myers' first families.



Emma Johns

LONGEST RIDE: Tribal member Dyami Nelson poses with the winners of the Ride Up or Shut Up Bull Riding Invitational held July 18 at the Okeechobee County Agri-Civic Center & Fairgrounds. Nelson, 15, hosted the event, in which nearly 40 bull riders competed. Nelson not only manned the front lines of hosting the event, but he also entertained the crowd by being the last bull rider and nearly making the eight-second whistle. He hopes to host similar events in the future. From left are Collin Henderson, Dyami Nelson, Dustin Kinsey, Austin Sellers, Devote Lewis and Tevin Cameron.



Eileen Soler

GOODBYE, HELLO: Vickie Stuart, former Education Department adviser for Brighton Reservation, is lauded Aug. 13 at the incentive awards celebration in Brighton for seven years of service to the Tribe. At the same time, she was welcomed as a new member of the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School staff family. Stuart is now a PECS eighth-grade classroom aide.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Catawbas, Hard Rock in talks for casino

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The Catawba Indian Nation recently announced that the Tribe is in negotiations with Hard Rock International. The chief of the Catawba said his Tribe is considering the brand for a potential casino in Kings Mountain, North Carolina.

David Dear, special projects manager with Cleveland County Economic Development, said that while obtaining the Hard Rock brand would be a great opportunity, the announcement was premature.

“We need to wait and let the Hard Rock people and the Catawba Nation make an announcement,” Dear said, pointing out that the Catawbas submitted an application in September 2014 to the U.S. Department of the Interior for land trust and casino rights and the Bureau of Indian Affairs has yet to give any indication the plan is even being considered.

“It’s working its way through the process,” he said. “They have a very defined process, and it is very time consuming. We are awaiting a decision in the near future. They totally review the property in question and review the legality of taking the property into a trust for the Tribe,” he said.

Despite the wait, Dear is hopeful regarding the outcome.

“We still feel very good about the chances of it happening,” he said. “Everything is still very positive at this point.”

Adam Forcade, of the anti-casino Kings Mountain Awareness Group, said the branding of a casino makes no change in the social impacts on the community, alleging that casino operations are traditionally directed at those most vulnerable to addiction, cause economic damage to existing businesses and increase crime.

— *GastonGazette.com*

Redo for Choctaw election

CHOCTAW, Miss. — Votes for Chief of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians were scheduled to be cast again after the Tribal Council overturned the initial results. Tribal voters were scheduled to return to the polls Aug. 25 to elect incumbent Phyliss J. Anderson or challenger Beasley Denson.

Anderson was sworn in for a second term on July 14 after she received 1,907 votes in a June election compared to Denson’s 1,746 votes, or 48 percent. But on July 24 the election was overturned by the Tribal Council after members heard almost nine hours of testimony, mostly centering on absentee ballots. The Tribal Council voted 9 to 8 to overturn the election after the Choctaw Election Committee originally voted to certify the results.

Anderson called the Tribal Council’s decision to toss the election “a slap in the face of Choctaw voters. More than 3,600 ballots were ignored in overturning this election. I honestly believe the Choctaw people want what is best for the Tribe, and I believe I’m the best person to lead this Tribe.”

Denson, a former Chief who has been involved in tribal business and politics since the 1970s, matches Anderson in the confidence arena: “I sometimes tell people I’m a walking computer about the Tribe – where we’ve been and where we need to go,” Denson told the Clarion-Ledger. “Voters need to see the difference.”

Central to the issue is the relationship between the Atlanta-based Mercury Gaming Group and its marketing arm, the Titan Agency, which Denson had hired during his last term as Chief. The FBI was looking into the situation after it was revealed that Denson had given Mercury CEO Doug Pattison a raise from \$60,000 a month to more than \$200,000 a month and invested millions in a sponsorship of the Atlanta Braves Major League Baseball team – a move that gave Mercury and Titan access to the Choctaws’ skybox.

Denson defended the skybox, saying it was used to entertain high rollers, helping lure them to Choctaw gaming. Since Anderson took over, “we have lost a lot of our high rollers,” he said. “There’s been a study made, and we only cater to people within a 100-mile radius. We’re thinking inside the box. We’ve got to think outside the box.”

Anderson responded that 68 percent of their customers come from more than 100 miles away.

“We are not a locally dominated casino,” she told the Clarion-Ledger. “[The Skybox] did little to benefit Choctaws. That cost the Tribe millions of dollars, but I’m not sure what benefit because not a lot of Tribal members used it. Who was it for? Gamers? But gamers want to be where there’s gaming action.”

When she took office in 2011, the companies quit.

On his Facebook page, Denson makes a not-so-subtle reference to Anderson, who is half Choctaw: “I am Beasley Denson, a full-blooded Choctaw. You know me and what I stand for.”

He said these appeals are a part of an attempt to preserve traditions, such

as speaking Choctaw, which both he and Anderson can do.

Anderson points out that 45 percent of the Tribe is full-blooded Choctaw and 55 percent is not full-blooded.

“There are many of our children and grandchildren that are raised on our reservation and in our Choctaw homes that may even be one-quarter blood,” she said. “Being one-half blood or three-quarters blood does not make any other fellow Tribal member less Choctaw. There is great pride amongst all our people in our heritage as Native Americans.”

The Choctaw Tribe runs the largest consolidated school district in Indian Country.

— *ClarionLedger.com, NeshobaDemocrat.com*

New Cherokee casino expected to provide 900 jobs

MURPHY, N.C. — Owned by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and operated by Caesars Entertainment, the \$110 million Harrah’s Cherokee Valley River Casino is scheduled to open Sept. 28 in Murphy, North Carolina at the confluence of the Hiwassee and Valley rivers, less than a two-hour drive from Chattanooga.

The casino is a smaller version (50,000 square feet of gaming space, 1,050 slot machines, 70 traditional table games, 300-room, full-service hotel) of North Carolina’s only other casino, Harrah’s Cherokee Casino Resort.

“It’s very small, relative to Cherokee,” said Lumpy Lambert, a Tribal member who will be the new casino’s general manager. “Cherokee is a full-blown resort, where the Valley River [Casino] will be a day-trip destination.”

The plan, however, is to attract day-trippers from Chattanooga, Knoxville and Atlanta, who will then consider a longer stay at the Cherokee resort, which is a gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The new casino will provide about 900 jobs to Murphy, a city with a population of 1,627 residents (2010 U.S. Census), and the county seat of Cherokee County, which has about 27,000 residents.

“What I’m very excited about is the \$32 million to \$39 million payroll every year,” Phyliss Blackmon, executive director of the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center told TimesFreePress.com. “That payroll is going to help every business that we have.”

Mayor Bill Hughes thinks Murphy can attract tourists to its downtown, which has restored historic buildings, including a Louisville & Nashville Railroad depot and a 4-mile riverwalk.

“As a rule, gamblers go straight to the casino,” Hughes said. “We’re going to try to lure them [downtown].”

He said the casino will create steady jobs with benefits – mostly for support workers such as housekeepers, landscapers, plumbers and electricians – that will complement jobs provided by the city’s other big employers: Snap-on Tools, Moog Components Group and MGM Brakes.

“If [the casino hires] the full 900 people, that will definitely make them the largest employer in the county, no question,” the mayor said.

The Tribe’s Cherokee casino, which draws almost 4 million people annually, and produces gaming revenues over \$500 million, has been a boon to that area, according to a June 2011 study commissioned by Tribe. The Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill study estimated the Cherokee casino had a \$300 million economic impact on Jackson and Swain counties, and that it was responsible for 5 percent of the jobs in the two counties and 8 percent of wages and salaries.

The report also found that the casino had positive social impacts for the Tribe; it lifted Tribal members out of poverty, improved life expectancy and led to more students enrolling in community college. The Tribe’s roughly 15,000 registered members, mainly descendants of Cherokee who avoided being forced on the Trail of Tears to Oklahoma, each get a share of casino profits that are distributed through two annual checks, which totaled \$7,700 in 2012, according to a report in The News and Observer in Raleigh, North Carolina.

— *TimesFreePress.com*

Natives on ‘enviro-totem pole’ journeys

PORTLAND, Ore. — A team from Washington’s Lummi Nation is on a 1,300-mile journey from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada to Missoula, Montana – with multiple stops in Washington and Oregon – transporting a 22-foot totem pole to protest proposed coal export terminals planned to export millions of tons of coal annually to Asia.

The symbolic journey includes blessing ceremonies at each of the proposed coal ports and in tribal communities and houses of worship along the oil train route. The totem pole will be offered to the Northern Cheyenne Nation at Otter Creek in Montana. That Tribe will then take the pole on another three-week

journey to oppose the coal expansion. Afterward, it will be placed upright at a raising ceremony on the Cheyenne Nation Reservation.

The Lummi Nation and other Tribes say the coal terminals will disrupt treaty-protected fishing rights, contaminate air and water, and harm sacred sites, including the Lummi Nation’s ancestral sites and traditional fishing grounds at Cherry Point.

Traditionally, totem poles utilize powerful symbols to depict visions, pass on tribal mythology, mark important tribal or family events, and are used at ceremonies to honor the deceased or to record stories, said Lummi master carver Jewell James Jewell, whose House of Tears Carvers made the pole.

Over the past years, however, the Lummi have taken specialized totem poles off the reservation to disaster areas or areas facing a crisis as symbols of strength and wisdom. In this way, the Lummi delivered totem poles to New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Last year, the Tribe took a totem pole to Sioux territory in northern Alberta to oppose tar sand mining and the previous year to Vancouver to protest a proposed oil pipeline.

The symbols carved into the current totem are to encourage wise decisions that protect the environment, Jewell said. They include a medicine wheel, which symbolizes the transfer of traditional knowledge to Tribal members; a flying eagle, which stands for spiritual knowledge; and a turtle representing the earth.

“We’re all united as Tribes in not wanting coal coming to our territory,” Jewell said. “The coal will contaminate the air and leak into the water supply. And it will drop as acid rain when it’s burned.”

— *Associated Press*

Pine Ridge kids learn tennis from British coach

PINE RIDGE, S.D. — Since 1997, longtime British tennis coach Leigh Owen, 50, has visited Pine Ridge and offered free tennis classes on the Oglala Lakota Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Owen began coaching at Red Cloud Indian School in February, spending one day a week at the school. Although Red Cloud does not have a formal tennis court, the school’s gym is perfect for what Owen calls “mini-tennis,” allowing his students to work on technique.

“The kids really liked it,” he said. Reservation kids know basketball, football and cross-country running, but tennis was foreign to them until Owen started the classes.

“Leigh got the kids interested. He grabbed their attention right off the bat,” said Patrick Welch, a physical education teacher and assistant athletic director at the middle school.

Owen said the United States Tennis Association has provided more than \$1,200 in equipment for the fledgling tennis players.

Owen said he is determined to turn the reservation he loves into a mecca for the sport he loves, and he and Welch are thinking big. They want to renovate some outdoor courts for what could become a tennis center.

— *Argus Leader*

Menominee Tribe members favor selling marijuana on reservation

KESHENA, Wis. — In an “advisory” vote – meaning tribal leadership isn’t bound by the results – almost 58 percent of Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Reservation members who voted support recreational marijuana use and 76.5 percent said yes to medical marijuana. According to Fox News, 13 percent of Tribal members voted in the poll.

This follows the Tribe’s unsuccessful effort to open a casino in Kenosha and a raid last month where federal and state authorities seized at least 12,000 marijuana plants and more than 100 pounds of processed marijuana from two California Tribes.

“We have to be very, very cautious how we move forward, and not only looking at the welfare of the Tribe and trying to maximize what we think are the benefits, [but] minimize what we think are the consequences,” Menominee Tribal Chairman Gary Besaw told ForexReportDaily.com. “This is all new ground we’re breaking.”

“As a white guy I would fully expect that I’m getting pulled over if I drive off the [Menominee] reservation” if marijuana sales there are legalized, R. Lance Boldrey, a Michigan Indian law attorney, told ForexReportDaily.com.

Assembly Majority Leader Jim Steineke, R-Kaukauna, said in a statement he was disappointed in the Tribe’s vote, saying eventual legalization could pose “serious challenges for law enforcement.”

If the Tribe does move forward with the proposal, leaders say there are other issues to consider, such as making sure minors do not have access to it, gangs do not become involved, and that it does not go outside the reservation to places where it is illegal.

— *ForexReportDaily.com*

Toxic spill hurts Navajo crops

MEXICAN WATER, Utah — Thousands of Navajo residents downstream from Colorado’s Gold King Mine have been impacted since Aug. 5 when the mine began spewing toxic wastewater into a river that feeds the San Juan River, prompting an estimated 2,000 Navajo farmers and ranchers to stop pumping water for their animals and crops.

Hundreds of miles upstream from Mexican Water, the location of the Navajo Nation Northern Agency, a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) crew accidentally released 3 million gallons of wastewater into Cement Creek. The plume was making its way from there to the Animas River, which joins the San Juan River in Farmington, New Mexico, then continues on a 215-mile journey of mustard-colored sludge through the Navajo Nation in New Mexico, Utah and Arizona before emptying into Lake Powell.

Details trickled in slowly. First, the EPA reported that samples taken from the river contained extremely high levels of heavy metals, including lead at 12,000 times higher than normal. In preliminary statements about contamination and cleanup, the EPA estimated it could take decades to rid the river and its sediments of toxins.

Two weeks after the initial breach, the EPA reported that the river returned to its pre-incident condition. The color has faded, and all three states have lifted restrictions on river usage.

But the Navajo Nation has not given the OK to resume using the water. Citing long-term effects of toxins in the riverbed and banks, Navajo President Russell Begaye continued to warn residents to stay clear while the Nation conducts an independent analysis. Begaye has launched a website called Operation Yellow Water, where he plans to keep residents updated on river conditions and said he plans to hold the EPA accountable for cleaning up the mess.

Tanks filled with thousands of gallons of non-potable water have been serving ranchers and farmers along the river’s corridor. Trucks hauling bottled drinking water were dispatched to the more remote areas where residents rely on wells.

— *Indian Country Today Media Network*

California Tribe welcomes microgrid energy system

BLUE LAKE, Calif. — A groundbreaking for the Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe’s new low-emission, microgrid energy system was held Aug. 24 at the Blue Lake Casino and Hotel in Northern California.

According to Blue Lake Rancheria Energy Director and the Tribe’s project manager Jana Ganion, the multi-component grid will serve two purposes: to provide community resiliency – or “life and safety level power” – and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by using renewable energy sources such as solar, biomass and energy storage.

“While the international and the national discussions move along at their own pace, the Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe just decided we’re just going to implement,” Ganion said. “The science is there – let’s implement.”

The grid system will allow the Tribe to use self-generated renewable power to literally go off the grid in cases of emergency or in periods of high energy use. The project is a collaborative effort between the Tribe and the Humboldt State University Schatz Energy Research Center and is funded through a \$5 million Electric Program Investment Charge grant from the California Energy Commission.

Once completed, nearly 50 percent of the power required for the Tribe’s government offices and business entities will come from renewable energy sources – far exceeding the state’s goal of 33 percent renewable power by 2020.

If the power supply line to the county becomes damaged or if a natural disaster should occur, the system would be able to provide and store enough power to keep the rancheria powered on its own for months at a time. The rancheria also serves as a certified Red Cross emergency shelter.

“We knew that in an emergency, people are going to come,” Ganion said. “... We’d better be prepared for them.”

The project is slated to be completed in the summer of 2016.

— *Eureka Times-Standard*

Tribes receive help from Feds for national crime databases

WASHINGTON — A deadly shooting at a high school in Washington State in 2014 is one reason why the Justice Department is trying to make it easier for Native American Tribes to gain access to national crime databases. Authorities believe the program could prevent criminals from buying guns and help keep battered women and foster children safe.

Deputy U.S. Attorney General Sally Yates recalled the shooting, “where a 15-year-old boy got access to a gun that his father should not have been able to purchase had the information been

available at the time.”

A court connected to the Tulalip Tribes had issued a restraining order against the boy’s father for domestic violence. But that information never showed up in the federal criminal database, leaving the man free to purchase a gun. The boy used that same gun to kill four classmates and himself. His father now faces criminal charges.

“We live in an information age right now,” Yates said, “but unfortunately some of our communities don’t have access to the information that they really need to keep their communities safe.”

Under the Justice Department pilot program, 10 tribal communities will get their own hardware and training, so they don’t need to rely on local authorities.

“The states have been, you know, some of them are good to work with, some of them don’t work with Tribes, so it’s been an issue that’s been going on for a long time,” said John Dossett, general counsel of the National Congress of American Indians.

Dossett said Tribes have been pressing the federal government to open up the criminal databases for 10 years. And Congress has made it a priority, too.

He added that Tribes are watching now to make sure the Justice Department program will be a continuing effort, one that will expand all over the country.

“We’re in a trust-but-verify situation,” Dossett said.

— *NPR*

Schools eliminate Native logos

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. —

Two public high schools in West Hartford will no longer be represented by Native American imagery. The city’s school board opted this summer to discontinue using Indian mascots for the Hall Warriors and Conard Chieftains and also replaced the schools’ logos. The board will allow the schools to continue using the Warrior and Chieftain names.

“We never want to disrespect Native Americans. Our students are our mascots, and we remain the Conard Chieftains,” Conard football coach Matt Cersosimo said.

The Conard student newspaper, the PowWow, eliminated an Indian head logo in its masthead and changed its name to “Wow!Pow!”

— *The Hartford Courant*

Tribe leads tree cutting effort to fight drought

MADERA COUNTY, Calif. —

In the Madera County foothills, Native American Tribes and the Forest Service are working together to battle California’s drought. They’re chopping down trees in an ancient practice to produce more water.

About a dozen people gathered in a circle at the Progeny Meadow in the Sierra National Forest on a July morning and heard Ron Goode, Chairman of the North Fork Mono Indians, asking in prayer for ancestors’ blessing before the day’s work began.

Goode pointed out a section overgrown with trees.

“These are water suckers. They take a lot of water,” he said.

Goode knows a thing or two about the forest ecosystem. His people have been here for thousands of years.

“The more water they’re pulling out of the meadow, that’s also less amount of water going down to the valley,” he said.

Goode is leading the effort to restore the thousands of meadows that dot the Sierra Nevada, to restore them to the way they were when his people lived on these lands – wide open, lush and thriving with plants and animals.

“We spent two weeks cutting and we’re only at 70 percent, but look at what we’ve accomplished. That can be done to every meadow. Every meadow can be opened up,” Goode said.

While chopping down trees might not seem like restoration, Goode says it’s vital. When the meadows become overgrown, any rain or snowfall gets sucked up by the trees, instead of soaking into the aquifers and feeding the streams. Thanks to their efforts the water is flowing, even in late July. This is the same water that eventually ends up in the Valley’s rivers and reservoirs. A University of California study found forest thinning could add up to 16 percent more water flow yearly out of the Sierra Nevada and into California’s water supply.

“As Native Americans we know for a fact that there’s another drought coming in the next 10 years,” Goode said, “but if you’re not preparing for the future, you’re gonna have the same problem the next time a drought comes.”

Since the meadow restoration work began, dozens of species have returned to live in the meadow, from birds, to butterflies, to beetles. Some species are not so welcome, like the invasive thistle plants, which are removed. Forest service crews work side by side with the Native American Tribes in a partnership that is now looking to expand to the public.

— *ABC7news.com*

Compiled by special projects reporter Peter B. Gallagher.

South Florida's ONLY PLACE TO ROCK!



September 2
RICK SPRINGFIELD
LOVERBOY &
THE ROMANTICS



September 5
WORLD
HEAVYWEIGHT
CHAMPIONS
FIGHT NIGHT



September 12
OLGA TAÑÓN
& GILBERTO
SANTA ROSA



September 21
BILLY IDOL
& THE LONDON
SOULS



October 15
BUDDY GUY



October 22
CHEAP TRICK



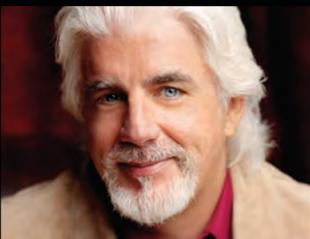
October 23
ROB THOMAS



November 12
AMERICA &
THREE DOG NIGHT



November 13
JASON DERULO



December 17
MICHAEL
MCDONALD

GET TICKETS!



Ticketmaster.com or charge by phone:

1-800-745-3000



HOLLYWOOD, FL

Education



PECS school year kicks off with new gym, media center

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Open house for students and families of Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School featured a doubleheader celebration for the Brighton community and the entire Tribe.

“It’s been quite a while since we’ve seen so many good things open up out here in our cow pasture,” said Chairman James E. Billie before a ribbon cutting Aug. 13 at PECS’s sparkling new gymnasium and media center.

The two stand-alone additions, separated by a common breezeway on the campus’s north end, were built in less than a year.

Inside the gym, principal Brian Greseth addressed nearly 400 people who packed bleachers and lined walls that are decorated on the bottom with cheerful murals of ocean fish and on the top with Seminole warrior colors. School staff, dressed in PECS uniform code attire, flanked the room’s expansive stage.

Greseth provided the audience with back-to-school announcements that included cellphone rules, dress code reminders, and absence and tardiness warnings.

He also heralded last year’s successes at PECS, including a 93 percent daily attendance rate and a 95 percent pass rate in the Florida Standards Assessments tests for third-grade reading and seventh- and eighth-grade algebra tests. Additionally, PECS seventh-graders ended the year with the highest civics grades in the Heartland Education Consortium, which consists of six area county school districts.

FCAT grades for the 2014-15 school year will be announced before winter break.

“Our parents, students and teachers are consistently doing a good job. We’ve always been A or B in FCAT grades,” Greseth said.

Several elected officials, including Chairman Billie, offered congratulatory words before the crowd filed to the breezeway for the ribbon cutting. Brighton



From left, Chairman James E. Billie, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Louise Gopher, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola and Tribal Community Development Director Adam Nelson cut the ribbon Aug. 13 to the new Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School gymnasium and media center on the Brighton Reservation.

Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. credited PECS administrators and teachers for making the school successful. President Mitchell Cypress and Greseth singled out Louise Gopher for establishing the school’s first steps in 2001 as a weekly one-day cultural education program.

“The school has gone beyond my wildest dreams,” Gopher said. “I thought at first it would be a satellite campus, but we went by the way of charter school and it became so much more.”

Gopher helped cut the ribbon with elected officials and Greseth, all armed with

super-sized scissors.

Ron Rudner, the Tribe’s Construction Management Department’s administrative services manager, said the 19,374-square foot gymnasium features a regulation size

◆ See RIBBON CUTTING on page 4B



Eileen Soler

New Ahfachkee School principal Guy Cooper addresses students on the first day of school Aug. 17 in Big Cypress.

Ahfachkee School new principal to bring big changes

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Students at Ahfachkee School weren’t the only ones to start the 2015-16 school year at new desks.

New principal Guy Cooper, uniformed on opening day Aug. 17 in khaki pants and blue polo shirt, greeted students with fresh optimism and a pleasant but firm attitude.

One by one and in groups of brothers, sisters and cousins, students filed out of cars and into school as two school staff members flanked Cooper and provided him with too many names to remember — for now.

Cooper, who replaces acting principal Jillian Wilson, was introduced to Big Cypress residents at a community meeting a week before school started.

“We have big things to tackle,” Cooper said at the meeting.

Tardiness and truancy are at the top of the list.

“I want to make sure the children are in school ... students need the maximum instructional hours,” he said. “My job is to make Ahfachkee a better school, but I can only do that if students are present.”

The school is in “corrective action status,” according to a 2013 Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) report, largely because of low academic scores and low high school graduation rate. By nature of Ahfachkee’s remote location and tribal school board leadership, it is considered a true “community school” to which Cooper is responsible for the education of all students for the good of families, the community and the Tribe.

Members of the Ahfachkee School Board are Chairman James E. Billie, Vice Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.

Cooper said he will utilize positive behavior intervention assistance, which he referred to as PBIA, to maximize instruction. In short, PBIA leads by teaching students rules of conduct and follows with actions that reward or punish behavior.

Cooper is what the U.S. Department of Education calls a “turnaround principal,” charged with dramatically improving student performance, even if that means the principal must replace teachers, change curriculum and scheduling, and set a higher bar for attendance, behavior and achievement.

Armed with a master’s degree in education leadership from Nova Southeastern University, a bachelor’s degree in special education from Florida Memorial University and two decades of experience, Miami-raised Cooper is poised for the task. Prior to Ahfachkee, he served as the administrator of Caddo Parish Ombudsman Alternative Education in Shreveport, Louisiana.

“You name it, I’ve done it. I’m a turnaround principal whose job is to go to a school and make huge changes,” he told 44 Ahfachkee high school students on the first day of school.

Teens taste campus life

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — Two weeks of cramped quarters, strict schedules and cold pizza gave 56 Florida teens a genuine taste of college life at some of Florida’s leading institutes of higher learning.

“The dorm was good. The food was not so good. Being without parents? No problem,” said Kyle Alvarado, 17, of Immokalee.

Kyle, a senior at The Vanguard School in Lake Wales, was one of 15 Seminole Tribe members who attended the Florida Indian Youth Program hosted for the 35th consecutive year by the Florida Governor’s Council on Indian Affairs in Tallahassee.

Teens who reside in Florida and are members of the Miccosukee Tribe and other groups, including the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Navajo Nation and Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, also participated.

The program, called “camp” by lead organizer and training coordinator Terrence Clark, was divided into two sections by age. In all, 34 incoming high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors made up the Youth Program and 22 incoming high school seniors and recent high school graduates comprised the Leadership Academy.

“The program keeps students in school and shows them the importance of education beyond high school, whether it’s a tech degree, junior college degree or joining the military. It’s what’s after high

school for them,” Clark said.

Native American youth have the lowest high school graduation rate in the nation, according to President Barack Obama’s 2014 Native Youth Report released in December 2014. Only 67 percent of Native students graduate high school. And only 53 percent of students who attend schools run by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) graduate.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, however, the graduation rate is improving. The latest statistics, released in March, show a 4.7 percent increase from the class of 2011 through the class of 2013.

Closer to home, Florida Department of Education statistics reveal bigger Native American graduation rate increases: from

67.3 percent for the class of 2010 to 76.8 percent for the class of 2013. The class of 2014 dropped to 73.8 percent, still higher than the national rate.

Clark said credit for Florida’s high school Native student retention figures cannot be solely attributed to summer camp in Tallahassee. At the time of the state program’s creation, the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes also launched initiatives to increase high school graduation.

“All we know for sure is that graduation rates have increased,” Clark said.

At the 2015 youth program, kids were exposed to 10 days of intense science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) classes and sessions in tribal government, writing, computers and cultural art. The leadership teens, mostly ages 17 through 19, received higher levels of writing, computers and art plus personal and business finance lessons.

Students lived in freshman dormitories on Florida State University campus’ SouthGate Student Centre. Leadership teens attended classes at Tallahassee Community College (TCC) while classes for the younger set were staged at FSU. A side trip for the leadership group included tours of TCC and Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University.

Nights and weekends were filled with adventures that included zip lining at the Tallahassee Museum and exploring nearby historic Blue Springs, known by 15th century Natives as *Calutoble*. Roller skating, bowling and swimming provided other summer diversions.

Kyle said mixing serious classes and fun activities kept kids interested and busy. Kyle, who plans to study graphic arts, especially enjoyed the culture classes where he fashioned a Navajo dream catcher and learned to weave a Seminole basket.

“My grandmother (Nancy Garza) used to try to teach me how to weave baskets, but I just didn’t get the hang of it. Now that I am older, I get it because I know it’s important,” Kyle said.

Kyle’s brother Alphonso, 18, also a Vanguard senior, said he most liked touring the three college campuses where he might be led to his dream career of helping children — maybe with the Tribe’s Boys & Girls Club.

While visiting buildings and departments dedicated to different degree programs that included law, medicine, architecture and even meteorology, Alphonso found his future at FSU’s College

◆ See CAMPUS LIFE on page 4B



Photo courtesy of Marty Tommie

Teens from all over Florida have a blast posing for a photograph after a class about money management during the two-week, camp-style Florida Indian Youth Program hosted at Florida State University in Tallahassee. Cherokee Nation member Patti Mitchell, center, of the Seminole Native Learning Center, taught the financial literacy camp.

Education incentives awarded to Brighton, Big Cypress students



BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

McKayla Snow, of Brighton Reservation, always looks forward to a guaranteed rush of personal pride she receives every summer thanks to the Tribe's Education Department incentive awards.

"It's not just me who feels it. It's every student who hears their name called and then hears everyone cheering for them because they did a good job at school," McKayla said minutes after she was honored with a certificate of recognition in front of nearly 100 Brighton residents for recently graduating from Okeechobee High School.

This year, Brighton students were lauded for school achievements by the Education Department with certificates, new backpacks and a home-style chicken and hamburger dinner Aug. 13 at the new Pemayety Emahakv Charter School gymnasium. Days later, the department congratulated students from Big Cypress Reservation with certificates, backpacks and a Saturday afternoon meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, subs and chicken tenders at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Awards were provided to students at Trail, Immokalee, Tampa and Hollywood in July.

Honored students met at least one of 15 goals required by the department for recognition. The criteria included advanced placement classes, honors classes, "A" honor roll, "B" honor roll and one of three GPA ranges from 3.0 to 4.0 or higher. Certificates also went to students who completed kindergarten, earned a high school diploma, secured a GED or had perfect attendance.

At Brighton, Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. praised the students.

"This is your night to shine.

Congratulations for all your hard work last year," Councilman Bowers said.

But he also advised the children that their work is not done – nor are their opportunities for rewards.

"As you go on in life, you will find out that you have to do your best day in and day out and that you will be rewarded with a job someday that you like and you want to do," he said. "If you get it together now the rewards will come, I guarantee it."

Brenda Gillis, Education Department assistant director, distributed awards with help from former Brighton adviser Vickie Stuart and Brighton's cultural events specialist Lewis Gopher.

In Big Cypress, Councilman Cicero Osceola and Gillis handed out certificates.

"Congratulations on the awards," Councilman Osceola said. "As the new year begins, reach for your goals. We will continue to support our students with every resource we have."

Gillis said both events, hosted just days before the first day of school, were held just in time to support back-to-school momentum.

"We're not only celebrating accomplishments from last year, but we are looking forward to the coming year," Gillis said.

Nancy Jimmie, PECS softball coach, said children love the attention. Her daughter Miley Jimmie won a certificate for excellence in education and overall achievement.

"I know Miley works so hard at school, so she likes it when she is recognized," Jimmie said. "It's not everywhere that the community comes out to show such support."

Staff reporter Beverly Bidney contributed to this report.



Beverly Bidney

Solomon Cypress, 8, is thrilled with the education award he earned at the Big Cypress incentive awards celebration Aug. 15. Behind him are Hollywood Preschool Director Tommy Doud, Education Assistant Director Brenda Gillis and Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola.



Eileen Soler

McKayla Snow, a recent graduate of Okeechobee High School, is congratulated by Brenda Gillis, Education Department assistant director, during the incentive awards celebration on Brighton Reservation.



Beverly Bidney

A group of students have a little fun climbing the bleachers during the Big Cypress incentive awards celebration.



Eileen Soler

Families mark the Tribe's annual incentive awards celebration on Brighton Reservation with a hearty home-style meal of chicken, burgers, corn and macaroni and cheese.



Beverly Bidney

Joe Don Billie II, 3, hides in a bunch of balloons at the Big Cypress incentive awards celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Harmony Cypress picks a backpack for the new school year from a table overflowing with choices at the Big Cypress incentive awards celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Sarah Robbins, 9, eagerly awaits fresh popcorn at the Big Cypress incentive awards celebration.



Eileen Soler

Bakari Micco, of Okeechobee High School, honored for a GPA of 3.0 to 3.75 and for succeeding in honors classes, boasts a No. 1 sign during the incentive awards celebration on Brighton Reservation.

A Native American in Paris

Ivy League education extends across the Atlantic for Hollywood Seminole

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

When Braudie Blais-Billie refers to home it begs the question “which one?”

Blais-Billie, 22, can call “home” a few miles from the Hollywood Reservation, a flat in New York City where she attends Columbia University and an apartment in Paris where seven recent months of academic immersion added up to an experience of a lifetime.

“Paris was one of the best decisions I’ve made in my life,” said the senior scholar. “The place was incredible.”

A published writer, artist and photographer, Blais-Billie spent fall, spring and half a summer in the light of such Parisian spots as Notre Dame Cathedral, Le Jardin du Luxembourg and other landmarks most people see only in movies.

Living with a host family during the semester abroad and later in her own place while fulfilling a fellowship award, she was immersed in French language, food and culture. Visits to world-renowned art destinations such as the Louvre, Pompidou Centre and Picasso Museum were bicycle rides away. Four-hour train trips led to London, Madrid, Amsterdam and other cosmopolitan cities.

The semester abroad, through

Columbia University’s Summer French Studies at Reid Hall program, was paid for by the Seminole Tribe. From early January to late May, Blais-Billie studied varied and intense topics that ranged from French migration and globalization to the economy of sex during the French Revolution.

Scheduled to end in May, Blais-Billie’s stay in Paris was extended to mid-July after a chance encounter with two long-haired men wearing Plains Indian buckskin. She and her mother, France Blais-Billie, and sisters Tia and Brianna, had just come from visiting Disneyland Paris when they spied the pair.

“A train station café in Paris, France was the last place I’d expect to see another real Indian,” Braudie Blais-Billie said. “I had to ask them, ‘What are you doing here?’”

The two men – brothers Timothy and Juddson Reevis from Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana – perform in “Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show” at Disneyland Paris. The show is derived from popular traveling acts from the late 1880s that starred American scout William “Buffalo Bill” Cody and Lakota leader Sitting Bull. The brothers ride bareback in the spectacle as young warriors. All auditioned via professional casting calls in the Midwest and Canada.

“No matter how scary and horrible it can seem at times ... do it anyway because if you want something you have to do it yourself.”

– Braudie Blais-Billie

Blais-Billie swiftly applied for and won a summer fellowship through Columbia via the European Institute’s Initiative on Cultural Power in International Relations program. The fellowship allowed Blais-Billie to turn her curiosity about the Reevis brothers into a research study on transcontinental identities.

“I wanted to know how two Native men, who are so close to their own culture spiritually and otherwise, adjust from being isolated in Montana one day to being dropped in Paris the next,” Blais-Billie said.

Her report was to be turned in by the end of the summer, but Blais-Billie will likely continue gathering and analyzing data on the same topic for her senior thesis. She hopes to graduate in May 2016 with a bachelor’s degree in ethnicity and race studies with a focus on Native American studies.

France Blais-Billie, who speaks fluent French, said she worried for her daughter while she adventured through Europe, but she was proud of her just the same.

“Braudie is so fortunate to be able to do this,” France Blais-Billie said during an interview in June. “She gets to explore her French ancestry, be immersed in the language and work on a project about Native Americans in France. It’s perfect.”

Instead of heading “home” to spend the rest of summer in Hollywood, Braudie Blais-Billie detoured to New Mexico where she and eight Columbia undergraduates presented the alterNATIVE Education program to teens on five reservations. The program is geared to motivate young Natives to aim high when it comes to education and career plans.

Blais-Billie has already begun to move toward her goals. She writes and submits photographs for several online publications, including Thought Catalog and SoGutsy. So far, she has been published in Rubina Design magazine, The Seminole Tribune and Complex Media.

For now, Blais-Billie encourages others to follow their dreams, travel to foreign countries and be courageous in the face of hard tasks on the way to the future.

“No matter how scary and horrible it can seem at times – when there is a language barrier and a different culture and it’s hard to be away from home – do it anyway because if you want something you have to do it yourself,” she said. “You will be alone, but you will be independent. And the travel is amazing. You learn more and discover things that you weren’t even looking for.”



Photo courtesy of Braudie Blais-Billie

Braudie Blais-Billie, third from left, and other Pine Hill program participants pose for a photo in Pine Hill, New Mexico.

AlterNATIVE: How a Native-to-Native nonprofit is decolonizing education

BY BRAUDIE BLAIS-BILLIE
Contributing Writer

In 2013, a classroom full of Columbia University undergraduates started a nonprofit that could change the way Native American students connect across the nation.

AlterNATIVE Education is a peer-education and mentorship initiative aimed at bridging the gap between Native American high school and college students. Its humble beginnings in the Columbia seminar course “Approaches to Contemporary Native American Education” speak to its innovation and relevance to Indian Country today.

Native Americans have the highest high school dropout rate of any other minority at more than 60 percent. Of the 40 percent who graduate high school, less than 10 percent pursue higher education, and of that 10 percent, less than 5 percent graduate with degrees. Co-founder Fantasia Painter (Columbia College ’13) and her peers agreed that the best way to combat these discouraging statistics is to be at the forefront of the battle: in reservation classrooms.

“Ultimately, we believe that through discussion, mentorship and knowledge, we can empower young Native people, ourselves included, to be agents of change in Native communities,” Painter said about the nonprofit.

Two years ago, the pilot run launched. Last year, CNN covered alterNATIVE. Flash-forward to 2015 and it’s growing slowly but surely into something incredible.

I’m an ethnicity and race studies major, with a track in indigenous and Native American studies, scheduled to graduate spring of 2016. This is my second year as an alterNATIVE peer facilitator. There is a philosophy behind the word choice of “facilitator.” With every interaction and presentation of ourselves as indigenous college students, we’re trying to break the barriers so often presented in academia. We aim to facilitate conversations, ideas and aspirations among peers, not stand in front of a classroom lecturing with an inaccessible vocabulary or condescending tone. Because after years of schooling as Natives in the American education system, we all know how that feels.

I’m the only Seminole Indian on the alterNATIVE team. Of the eight facilitators, we have students from multiple Nations and Tribes across the country. We may have different majors and backgrounds, be it in Columbia College (CC) or the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), but our motivation to change the Native American education narrative brings us together. These varied points of view help make alterNATIVE a relatable and adaptive program.

“I joined alterNATIVE because I wanted to have a positive impact on Native students. Without a doubt, Native Americans have a very small presence in higher education,” said facilitator Christian Gould (SEAS ’18) from the Navajo Nation.

Senior facilitator and co-founder Danielle Lucero (CC ’15) invited us back to her home on the Pueblo of Isleta. Her community, as well as Zuni Pueblo, Laguna Pueblo, Pine Hill Navajo and To’hajiilee Navajo, are the communities in New Mexico we’ve been graciously welcomed to run our program. It’s a weeklong curriculum that covers Native history, policy and identity, as well as sensitive subjects like Native stereotypes, racism and social issues on reservations. Each week, we run our program simultaneously from two separate locations. My team was at the Pine Hill Navajo Reservation and Laguna Pueblo, while Lucero’s was at Zuni and Pueblo of Isleta.

The first day is always the hardest. We arrived at the Pine Hill high school in matching black T-shirts with “alterNATIVE” scrawled across the front, anxiously searching for Room 5. It was a sweltering July morning as the dry heat already began rising from the chalky, red dirt. As returning facilitators, Michelle Crowfeather (CC ’17) and I felt an unspoken responsibility for the week. Our other team members, Olivya Caballero

(SEAS ’17) and Gould, were joining alterNATIVE for the first time.

Though the student-to-facilitator ratio wasn’t ideal and the awkward silences were tangible, the day picked up when we started talking about personal experiences. Creating “identity charts” revealed what’s important to us as both Native community members and individuals. Being outsiders to such a tight-knit community, it was a magical feeling to hear the students speak candidly about their experiences as Pine Hill youth.

As the week progressed, the facilitators and students became more comfortable with sharing ideas and pushing them forward. I swelled with pride watching the new facilitators take the floor and explain with ease complex concepts such as colonization or historical trauma. We exchanged excited eye contact with each other whenever quiet students added nuanced perspectives to discussions like the meaning of history or micro-aggression.

“AlterNATIVE is a great experience for learning about Native history or the college process. All the information I’ve obtained from the program has helped me tons,” Morning-Rae Yazzie, 15, said about the week.

She’s an active member of the Pine Hill community and an incoming sophomore at Navajo Preparatory. This is her second year participating in alterNATIVE.

In high school, they don’t really talk about the genocide committed against the indigenous population in North America or the legislation that, to this day, keeps us marginalized peoples. To be honest, I didn’t truly understand what systematic oppression was until I was well into my sophomore year of college. These types of discussions are something I and all involved with alterNATIVE wish we had in high school.

We, as the Seminole Tribe of Florida, are lucky to have retained a lot of sovereignty because of our courageous ancestors, but many Tribes are not so lucky. Too many have been swindled out of their land, resources and political agency. Poverty, substance abuse, racism and suicide are just a handful of the consequences indigenous people experience today from colonization hundreds of years ago. In order to collectively heal as Native Americans, we must take the first step and talk about the issues at hand. We must educate ourselves and learn the alternative history, the truth hidden beneath the Founding Fathers or Manifest Destiny. We must decolonize the way we approach education.

On the last day of the program in Pine Hill, facilitators spoke about the college application process, our struggles as Native students and where everyone saw themselves in the future. Things turned very real as we confessed our fears of inadequacy, our homesickness and our battles with discrimination. But we also spoke about the greatest opportunities, friendships and lessons learned since our time at university.

After our college talk, we had the students do a personal presentation. Yazzie taught us how to speak about the sacred mountains in Navajo. Another student played her favorite pow-wow song and we round-danced in the classroom. A huge component of decolonizing education for Pine Hill was incorporating Navajo tradition into the curriculum. I couldn’t believe how mature and intelligent these students were, how important they would be for their communities in the future.

“I was impressed and glad to see how knowledgeable the students were about their own traditions and language. I didn’t realize how much I would learn from the students,” Gould said.

I consider myself very lucky to have found the Native community I did at Columbia University, and I hope all indigenous students can have the same experience and support. We hope that with alterNATIVE Education, those communities will be built across the nation, regardless of which Tribe or school one belongs.

For more information about alterNATIVE Education, visit <https://www.facebook.com/alterNATIVEeducation1>.



Photo courtesy of Braudie Blais-Billie

Braudie Blais-Billie, right, and friends take a few minutes from a busy night to capture a photo of themselves at the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France.



Photo courtesy of Braudie Blais-Billie

Columbia University students Heather Akumiah and Braudie Blais-Billie pose in Amsterdam, Netherlands during a break from classes at the university’s Paris, France location.

CAMPUS LIFE

From page 1B

of Human Sciences. Kyle discovered that he is ready to explore options so that he can choose a major later. Both brothers recommend the camp to all high school students, starting with ninth-graders. "Kids can get ideas at the very beginning of high school for what they could focus on. And everyone you meet says that they changed their majors; some a lot of times. It's what you do to figure your life out," Kyle said. "I was always serious about wanting to go to college, but now I am sure."

For Kyle, Alphonso and their sister Amber, 16, also a high school senior, the college sneak peek was worth abiding by certain rules. All three siblings will be the first in their family to attend college.

"A sub-goal at FSU was to introduce the teen to campus life, live in a dorm with a roommate, and just like in college, roommates are assigned randomly. You learn to live with another person – not your family," Clark said. "However, rule No. 1 is stick to the counselors. If you look around

and don't see your counselor, you are in trouble."

The price for "trouble" was costly. Each provided with a daily allowance, the teens were docked dollars for infractions like being late for class (\$1) or speaking disrespectfully to teachers (\$7).

The teens could also find trouble if they were caught with personal electronics during daytime hours. Phones, iPads and other devices were collected before lights out at 11 p.m. and not returned until after classes at 4:55 p.m. the next day.

Marty Tommie, 26, who attended the camp when he was 14, returned this year as a leadership counselor. He said the program is more intense than it was a dozen years ago.

"It's more informative, more structured and less lenient now. It must have made an impact on me when I was 14, but it is not so etched in my memory," said Tommie, a former Seminole Gaming employee and Valencia College student. "Coming back, though, was a great opportunity for me."

This year's class will likely remember two popular teachers, Tommie said: Cherokee Nation member Patti Mitchell, of the Seminole Native Learning Center, who taught financial literacy – starting with budgeting dividends; and superstar tech student Lucas Von Hollen, of FSU's Florida IT Career Alliance, who proved that engineering a video game is as much fun as playing it.

Tommie said some of the Seminole students also learned the unexpected – that most Indian Country kids outside Florida face uphill battles against poverty and other social problems when they seek college educations.

"Our teens got to see the diversity of other Tribes and what other kids go through. Now they know that being Seminole is different and that adversity is something they don't really know. They can't even fathom it," Tommie said. "Bringing the Nations together and sharing our stories benefits all of us."

Kyle said the fact that teens from other Tribes struggle to pay for college hit him the hardest.

"It made me think about what I would do without my money. What if the Seminoles run out of money and cut out college?" Kyle said. "It makes me grateful for youth camp because the camp urges me further – to go to college, really learn a lot of things and then bring the knowledge back for the next generation to build on."



Eileen Soler

PECS students stream into the school's new media center after a ribbon cutting ceremony Aug. 13. The ribbon cutting also marked the official opening of the school's new gymnasium.

RIBBON CUTTING

From page 1B

basketball/volleyball court that can convert to two half courts; a music classroom; two sets of restrooms; and a large stage with lighting, backstage and big-screen projection.

"It's got all the bells and whistles," Rudner said.

Other features include a concession area and a spacious after-school, play-and-learn room for children too young to join Boys & Girls Club activities. The lobby doubles as the school's hall of fame trophy display.

Harry Tewksbury, the school's head baseball and assistant boys basketball coach, said the new gym gives student-athletes more time for books and balls. In the past, players had to walk from mandatory after-school homework programs to practice and games in the community gym, also shared with other tribal programs.

"Now, we have our own real home court and we'll have more time for practice, games and studying," he said. "It's just a great thing for the kids to have their own gym; they will take a lot of pride in that."

The new 6,898-square-foot media center, a quick skip from the gym, features hundreds of new books, a broadcast studio for student-led news and announcements, a teacher training area and a specialized reading assistance room for children who need extra help.

A section for new readers and elementary-level books is punctuated with orange overstuffed modular couches and ottomans that can be arranged to shape small or large reading zones. In the section for older students, several tables surrounded by wooden chairs that boast engraved motifs of the Tribe's eight Clans allow ample seating.

Media specialist Alisha Pearce said cool posters and hip displays that dot walls and reading cubbies support this year's reading theme, "Be a Reading Rock Star." Book choices range from "Pete the Cat: Rocking in My School Shoes" to Lemony Snicket's "Who Could That Be at This Hour?"

"Before, we had a regular classroom divided into two sections; now we have a real media center. This is a great improvement and we are excited about it," Pearce said.

Chairman Billie said the two new

additions came after months of meetings and discussions with Councilmen about budgets and needs.

"Now they are part of our school and the whole school system ... Our school is standing out," Chairman Billie said.

"Now, we have our own real home court and we'll have more time for practice, games and studying. It's just a great thing for the kids to have their own gym."

– Harry Tewksbury, PECS assistant boys basketball coach



Photo courtesy of Marty Tommie

A teenager at the Florida Indian Youth Program in Tallahassee, hosted on the Florida State University campus to give kids a taste of college life, treks across an obstacle on the way to a zip line at Tree to Tree Adventures.

MICCOSUKEE TRIBE CELEBRATES AMERICAN INDIAN DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2015
10AM - 6PM



SHARING OUR HERITAGE

NATIVE AMERICAN DANCERS & FOOD
WOOD CARVING
BEADWORK

AIRBOAT RIDES
ALLIGATOR WRESTLING
AMUSEMENT RIDES
CRAFT & MORE

FREE ADMISSION



500 SW 177 AVENUE, MIAMI, FL 33194 • 305.222.4600 • MICCOSUKEE.COM

SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION. A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT.

#AMERICANINDIANDAY



123456789

MATH GEOGRAPHY

BACK TO SCHOOL



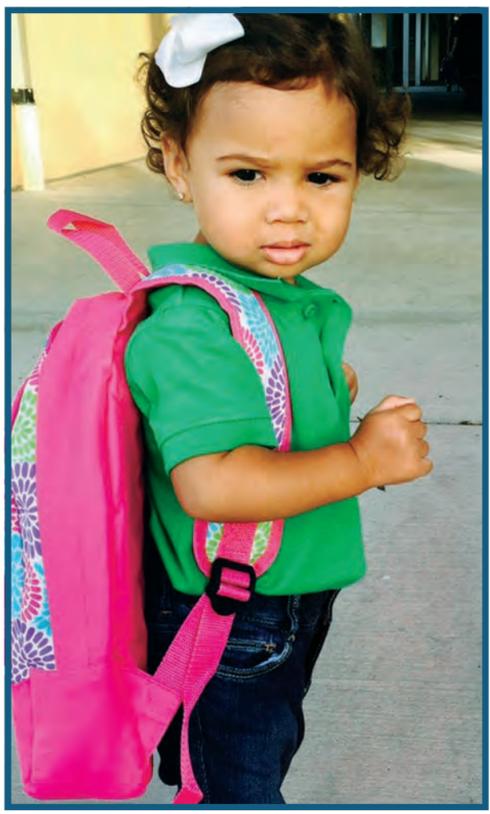
Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School preschoolers use crayons to mark their first assignment of the school year: a tour of the campus to meet important people like the principal, librarian and art teacher Aug. 17 on the first day of school in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Gunnar Frank-Bad Bear, 10 months, learns how to shake, shake, shake scarves Aug. 25 in the infant classroom at the Hollywood Preschool.



Emma Johns

Her backpack is almost as big as Arrow Johns, who arrived at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Aug. 17 for the first day of the new Creek language immersion program for toddlers.



Eileen Soler

High school students Arnold Billie, Darren Cypress and Gabriel Billie check out new class schedules on the first day of school at Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress.



Eileen Soler

Preschool students walk in a straight, respectful line to meet School Resource Officer Michele Harbin, of the Seminole Police Department, during a first-day-of-school tour at Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress.



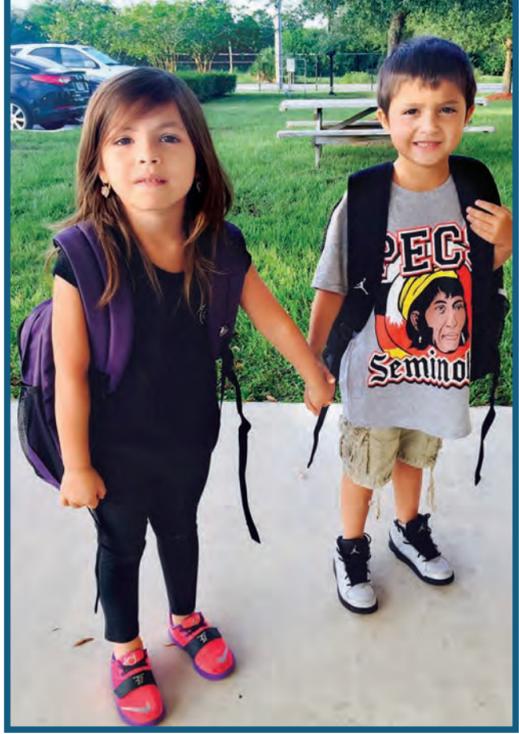
Beverly Bidney

The Hollywood Preschool's 1- to 2-year-old class has a blast Aug. 25 with rainbow-colored bubbles during the third week of school.



Kevin Johnson

Ariannah Julien, left, and Natarsha Hall enjoy pizza while taking a break from swimming during a back-to-school pool party Aug. 12 at Chupco's Landing Community Center in Fort Pierce. Youngsters also played basketball and snacked on ice cream as they cherished their final full week of summer break.



Emma Johns

Kindergartner Kesha Jenkins and first-grader Kyler Jenkins hold hands to offer each other moral support during their first day of school at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School.



Emma Johns

Brothers Tavis and Corey Jumper are ready to kick off the school year at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School.



Kevin Johnson

Ariannah Julien catches a beach ball while swimming with friends during Chupco's Landing back-to-school pool party in Fort Pierce.



STAND OUT.

PROMOTE YOUR EVENT WITH
SMP PRODUCTION SERVICES

DESIGN | PRODUCTION | VIDEO
WWW.SMPBUSINESSMARKETING.COM



FREE
FAMILY
EVENT!!!

2016 SEMINOLE TRIBAL FAIR AND POW WOW

45th Annual Celebration of Native Arts and Culture

February 5-7, 2016

Seminole Hard Rock Live
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood
1 Seminole Way, • Hollywood, FL 33314

\$140k in Pow Wow Prizes
Live Music
Alligator Shows
and more!

Tribal Fair Hotline - 866.625.5374

Vendors contact:

Virginia Osceola - 954.292.2597 or
Holly Bowers - 954.562.9005

Pow Wow information call:

Jackie Osceola - 954.850.3100,
Trudy Osceola - 954.347.6347,
Wanda Bowers - 954.444.9827
or Eugenia Osceola - 786.537.1905

Camping information call:

Alice Tucker - 954.732.8353

*Primitive camping will be available.
No alcohol or drugs allowed.



Join us on



HAVE YOU SEEN US ONLINE?



The **Seminole Tribune**
Voice of the Unconquered www.seminoletribune.org • 50¢

THE SEMINOLE TRIBUNE IS NOW BRINGING YOU
DAILY UPDATES ON ALL THE LATEST TRIBAL NEWS.



Follow us on Facebook:
The Seminole Tribune



Visit our website at:
www.seminoletribune.org



Follow us on Twitter:
@SeminoleTribune

Sports



Rivalries renewed as NASA softball crowns champions

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

STUART — As players took the field for the final game of the Native American Sports Association (NASA) Softball Tournament, dark clouds hovered nearby, but they proved to be more of a tease than a threat.

Hosted by the Seminole Tribe Recreation Department, the tournament featured nearly 40 tribal teams and 70 games Aug. 6-8 and somehow managed to avoid rain and delays, a rare accomplishment for outdoor summer sports in Florida.

Played in a Martin County facility whose Indian name means "Alligator Water," the tournament at Halpatiokee Regional Park in Stuart drew seven Seminole teams and dozens of squads from Alabama, Louisiana, New York, North Carolina and Mississippi Tribes.

The Seminole contingent generated a strong performance by winning the coed and



Hayla Boys' Leon Wilcox scores a run Aug. 8 in a Native American Sports Association (NASA) Softball Tournament men's division game at Halpatiokee Regional Park in Stuart. Hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Recreation Department, the tournament featured nearly 40 tribal teams and 70 games from Aug. 6-8.

Kevin Johnson

"It comes down to Choctaw, Seminoles and Poarch Creek every year. It's never blowout wins; it's always close."

— Trent Flowers,
Poarch Creek

women's divisions and finishing runners-up in the men's, women's and women's legends. The Poarch Band of Creek Indians, from Alabama, claimed the men's and men's legends titles, and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians captured the women's legends.

Champions won jackets, runners-up received sweatshirts and the tournament earned praise.

"Everything was run good," said Trent Flowers, a player on Poarch Creek's Sneaky Creek team that won the men's championship. "The games were pretty much on time, very smooth. It was a great Indian tournament."

Flowers' team finished undefeated after surviving a slugfest against the Seminoles' Hayla Boys in the championship. The lead seasawed in nearly every inning.

A grand slam by Emerson Billie and home runs from Randy Wachacha and Garrett Thomas gave Hayla Boys a 12-8 lead through five innings, but a late rally by Sneaky Creek — including a grand slam from Stevie Carpenter — propelled the Sneaky Creek team to a 19-16 win in the latest chapter of a long rivalry.

♦ See NASA on page 3C

Formation of all-Native pro team excites veteran players

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — A trio of 30-somethings brought more than their gym bags to the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in August. After sweating through an upbeat morning of shooting and passing drills, the three players shared their enthusiasm about being part of a local all-Native American professional basketball team set to debut this

fall in the American Basketball Association (ABA).

"I'm just excited for the opportunity to try to be part of the first Native ABA professional basketball team," said Jim Archambault, 31, of the Standing Rock Sioux in the Dakotas. "I've always known Indians could compete on a higher level than they get a chance to. Now we can prove we can play with players of a higher caliber."

Officials for the team, whose name has yet to be announced, said six players attended the first day of a two-day tryout session Aug. 12-13 at the Hollywood gym. On day two, Archambault joined fellow candidates Jay Liotta and Jesse Heart for half-court drills led by team administrator Federico Brodsky.

"It's the first all-Native American ABA team, which is mind-blowing to me to be part of something special and making

history," said Liotta, 36, a Comanche who grew up in Oklahoma City.

Liotta and Archambault are brothers-in-law who live on the Miccosukee Reservation. Both are veterans of tournament basketball throughout Indian Country. They are eager to face non-Indian competition, especially on a pro level in a 95-team league that spans coast to coast.

"Instead of battling against each other, we get to put all our talents together," Liotta said. "When we do that, that's when we jell and create a monster team."

According to the ABA's website, the league includes former NBA, college and international players.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how we're going to do," said Archambault, who played for United Tribes Technical College in North Dakota. "We will be competitive. It's just a matter of seeing how many people we can get to buy into the team concept and not be worried about themselves, make the extra pass, take a charge, sacrifice the body because that's what it's going to take to play on a higher level."

The players pointed to the Schimmel sisters and the University of Wisconsin's Bronson Koenig as success stories that have garnered well-deserved adoration in the Native American community.

"There's a lot of talent out there in Indian Country that doesn't get exposed," Liotta said. "This is an opportunity for those who can play to showcase their skills on a higher level."

Heart hopes to showcase his skills with the Native team in any capacity needed. The 6-foot-4 forward from the Oglala Sioux in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, moved to the Hollywood Reservation earlier this year.

"This is an opportunity for all the best Natives," he said. "We know everybody. I've been playing for years. I'm 35. I told them if anything I could be a good recruiter. I can still play, but Father Time is against me."

Team officials said the coming weeks will include practices and perhaps additional tryouts. A previous tryout session was held in New Mexico. The team's first game Nov. 7 is scheduled to be a home game at a site to be determined.



Kevin Johnson

Jay Liotta receives a pass during a tryout for a new all-Native American basketball team in the American Basketball Association. The team is scheduled to play its first game in early November.

Toronto to host 2017 Indigenous Games

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) will remain north of the U.S. border.

NAIG leaders voted unanimously in June to select Toronto, Ontario as the site for the next NAIG scheduled for 2017.

NAIG brings together thousands of young indigenous athletes from the U.S. and Canada every few years in Olympics-style competitions. Opening and closing ceremonies, concerts and culture villages round out the event.

NAIG aims to improve the quality of life for indigenous people by supporting self-determined sports and cultural activities that encourage equal access to participation in the social, cultural and spiritual fabric of the community in which they reside, according to the organization's website.

"No doubt (Toronto) can handle it; they handled the Pan Am Games. They've got the accommodations," said Seminole Tribe Recreation Director Richard Blankenship, who serves as NAIG Council vice chairman.

Blankenship said dormitories at the University of Toronto will be used for housing. Some facilities featured in the Pan Am Games, an international multi-sport event held every four years since 1951, are slated for use during NAIG. These include the pool and track.

The awarding of the Games to Toronto marks the seventh time in the event's 15-year history that NAIG will be held in Canada, but it will be the first time a non-western province will host it. NAIG has been held twice in the U.S. (Minnesota in 1995 and Colorado in 2006).

Toronto's bid was led by the

♦ See GAMES on page 2C

Hard Rock boxing night to spotlight heavyweight champions

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Eight bouts are scheduled to be on the card Sept. 5 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, but the boxers inside the ring won't garner all the attention.

Dubbed "World Heavyweight Champs — Saturday Night Fight," the event will feature an arena chock-full of famous spectators. Boxing greats Evander Holyfield, Lennox Lewis, Riddick Bowe, Leon Spinks, Michael Spinks, Larry Holmes, Roy Jones Jr., Michael Moorer, James "Bonecrusher" Smith, and others are scheduled to attend the event, according to promoters. Mike Tyson is scheduled to attend pre-fight festivities and perhaps the bouts.

"This has never before been done in the history of this planet; there's never been this many champions in one room," said two-time world heavyweight champion Shannon Briggs during a press conference Aug. 11 at the casino.

Unlike his peers, Briggs won't have the night off. The Brooklyn, New York native will face Vero Beach's Mike Marrone in the evening's main event slated to go 12 rounds, but few of Briggs' fights last that long. Briggs, 43, has 51 career knockouts, including 38 in the first round. He's won all seven of his fights since returning to the ring in 2014 following a four-year hiatus.

"This is not hype, but Shannon, right now, I would say is the baddest man on planet Earth because no other

♦ See BOXING on page 2C

PECS volleyball primed for home debut in new gym

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — Asked why their new gymnasium is superior to their old digs, the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School girls volleyball players served up plenty of answers.

Brighter, larger, shorter walk, more volleyball-friendly court, easier to slide, locker rooms and concession area led responses that summed up new advantages.

"It's awesome," eighth-grader Janessa Nunez said.

After years of playing its home matches about a half-mile away in the

Brighton gymnasium, the volleyball team will christen its new on-campus gym Sept. 14 with a home opener against Osceola Middle School at 4:30 p.m.

The timing of the new gym could not have been better considering the program has grown to 22 players this year compared to 12 a year ago. More space allows the team to split the gym and set up two courts with two separate regulation nets for practices, something that was not possible in its previous home. The boost in numbers means PECS will field a junior varsity team, which it also did not have a year ago.

"They'll have at least six games, if not more," PECS coach Kim Jackson said. "It

gives them game-time experience, and they get practice experience. It really builds up the program for following years."

As for the varsity, 10 players were selected after two days of tryouts. They did not waste any time making a positive impression on their coach.

"I've been very pleased with how they've come in and the improvements they've made over the club season," Jackson said.

This year's squad will have big gaps to fill after losing four players to graduation from last year's undefeated squad. Raelley Matthews, one of those graduates, is on the varsity squad at Okeechobee High as a freshman after she led PECS in several categories last year.

Despite the departures, PECS returns a good chunk of its roster, which features an abundance of eighth-graders. The returners are Jenna Brown, Jacee Jumper, Janessa Nunez, Madisyn Osceola, Aubrey Pearce, Julia Smith and Alaina Sweat. A trio of rookies — Mariah Billie, Karey Gopher and Elle Thomas — made the varsity team as sixth-graders.

Leadership from the older players was on display during the team's first practice Aug. 26, Jackson said.

"I set them up in a drill today, and I found it very encouraging that I split them up with the JV players and the majority of them were taking the time to help them," Jackson said. "I think they'll be a good example for the younger kids."

PECS' 10-match schedule starts Sept. 2 at Clewiston Middle School. The regular season, which includes four home matches, will conclude Oct. 6 when PECS hosts Clewiston in the annual eighth-grade parent night game.



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School girls volleyball player Alaina Sweat controls the ball Aug. 26 during practice in the school's new gym.

♦ GAMES

From page 1C

Aboriginal Sport & Wellness Council of Ontario and the Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation. No other bids were submitted.

"The Council was extremely impressed by the level of detail presented by the Bid Committee and their high degree of professionalism," NAIG Council President Rick Brant said

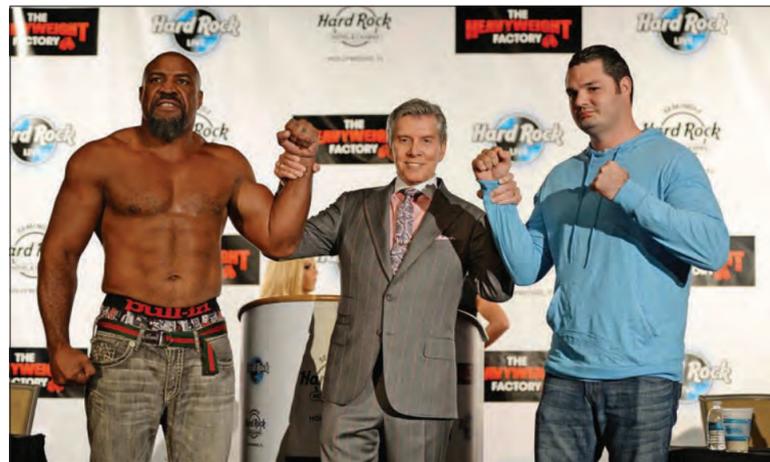
in a press release. "We are excited about the opportunity to gather our Indigenous Nations in Toronto in the summer of 2017. It will be an extraordinary celebration of athletic excellence, cultural unity and pride."

NAIG was last held in 2014 in Regina, Saskatchewan and included about 25 Seminole athletes ages 9 to late teens. Wrestler Sammy Micco Sanchez won the Seminole's only gold medal. His brother Jesse earned a silver medal, also in wrestling.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School 2015 volleyball schedule

(All opponents are middle school teams)

- Sept. 2 PECS at Clewiston, 5 p.m.
- Sept. 3 PECS at LaBelle, 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 14 Osceola at PECS, 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 16 PECS at Yearling, 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 18 PECS at West Glades, 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 21 Yearling at PECS, 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 24 PECS at LaBelle, 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 28 PECS at Osceola, 4:30 p.m.
- Sept. 30 West Glades at PECS, 4:30 p.m.
- Oct. 6 Clewiston at PECS, 5 p.m.



Larry Marano/Getty Images

Heavyweight boxers Shannon Briggs, left, and Mike Marrone are joined by ring announcer Michael Buffer during a press conference Aug. 11 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. Briggs and Marrone will be the main event on the casino's eight-fight card Sept. 5.

♦ BOXING

From page 1C

heavyweight can punch the way he can punch. His hand speed is unbelievable," Briggs' trainer Stacey McKinley said.

One of Briggs' most noteworthy accomplishments came 18 years ago when he defeated George Foreman in Atlantic City.

It was the final fight in Foreman's Hall of Fame career.

Marrone, 29, has a 21-4-0 career record and plenty of respect for Briggs.

"I have nothing but good things to say about Shannon Briggs," Marrone said. "He's always been a good guy to me and very polite to me and has had nice things to say about me, but that doesn't matter on September the 5th because I'm coming to win."

Longtime boxing voice Michael Buffer, best known for his catchphrase, "Let's get ready to rumble," will be the ring announcer.

♦ DEFOREST CARTER

From page 1A

South America.

"Everyone from home has shown love and support and I appreciate it all. Reminds me who I am playing for every day," Carter said.

Carter's path to Colombia started a few weeks after he signed in early July with a sports agency in San Diego. He inked a deal with a team called UBC Muisecas for a month-long stint in Colombia's DirecTV League, whose rosters include former college and homeland players. Carter teamed up with his former Embry Riddle big man Cesar Pastrana in UBC Muisecas' starting lineup.

"I got to play here with a great friend and teammate from college," said Carter, who fed a good chunk of his all-time Embry Riddle record for assists to Pastrana during their college days.

According to statistics on LatinBasket.com, Carter played 20 minutes in his first pro game and had two points, three assists and three rebounds in an 80-55 loss to Bucaros. The following day Carter scored three points and had two assists, one rebound and one steal in another loss to Bucaros.

"The first couple games were rough because we played the reigning champions and they were a good squad," Carter said. "But I am learning a lot and will have to change some of my game and mental aspects. They want the American imports to score more and my game is almost a pass-first kind. Don't get me wrong, I can score but assists have been such a huge part of my success at Embry Riddle, so it is hard to go away from that in a few short weeks."

Although his team continued to suffer losses, Carter became more acclimated to his new environment, which included adjusting to a 24-second shot clock compared to 35 in college. His top games statistically came Aug. 7 in a 91-72 loss to Astros (13 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 6-7 from free-throw line) and July 31 in a 78-51 loss to Aguilas (10 points, 3 steals, 2 rebounds).

"The style of play is a lot faster," he said. "I think at every level it gets a bit faster and the tempo increases because of the 24-second shot clock."

Carter concluded his duty in Colombia in mid-August and returned to Florida with aspirations of continuing an international career.

"I am hoping this experience will prepare me for a career across the ocean in Europe or Australia," he said.

Train to be a Specialist and create New Job Opportunities

HVAC TECHNICIAN

PROFESSIONAL WELDER

Call today or visit online!
855-269-2305
WELDINGSCHOOL.COM
3500 SOUTHSIDE BOULEVARD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32216

"PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF"

HardRockEnergyDrink.com

Accredited School, ACCSC. TWS-Jacksonville located at 1750 Southside Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32216 is recognized by ACCSC as a satellite location of TWS-Jacksonville located at 3500 Southside Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32216, which is a branch campus of Tulsa Welding School, located at 2545 E. 11th St., Tulsa, OK 74104. Licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education, License No. 2331, and by the Mississippi Commission on Proprietary School and College Registration, License No. C-668. This institution is regulated by: State Workforce Innovation Council, Office for Career and Technical Schools, 10 N. Senate Ave., Room 5E 304, Indianapolis, IN 46204; OCTS@owd.in.gov; 317-234-8338 or 317-232-1122. For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who complete our programs, and other important information, please visit our website at: http://www.weldingschool.com/student-resources/regulatory-information/.

Tearful goodbye for longtime, beloved Recreation employee

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Children waved farewell signs, wept a few tears and in unison shouted, “We will miss you!” during a retirement party for Hollywood Recreation Department employee Kristin Duda, who devoted more than two decades of her life to the lives of Tribal members.

“I’m sad because every time when I needed a person to talk to, I could talk to her. Now that Kristin is leaving, it hurts,” said Alexa Tosca, 8, at the July 30 two-hour send-off.

Hired as a swimming pool lifeguard in 1992 at age 19, Duda retired July 31 to move to Florida’s west coast with her sweetheart and the couple’s menagerie of Chihuahuas for a life in a new home. Her other half, Joshua Harrison, also retired July 31 after serving 13 years as a logistics supervisor with the Seminole Police Department.

News of Duda’s departure was bittersweet for fellow employees and Hollywood community members.

“You can grab anyone to do paperwork and keep a budget straight, but Kristin brought that and herself to the department and everybody. Her work was a personal relationship,” said Joe Collins, Hollywood Recreation site manager. “I’m not saying no one could do her job, but no one will do it like Kristin did. She will be sorely missed.”

Recreation Director Richard Blankenship said Duda’s institutional and cultural knowledge will not be replaced easily. He credited Duda for helping him learn how to conduct himself within the expectations of the Tribe when he was a newly hired employee more than three years ago.

“I will miss her consistent demeanor. She is very even-keeled. No one would know if she was sad or mad,” Blankenship said.

Duda’s responsibilities expanded several times during her tenure. While earning a liberal arts degree from Broward College, the teenage lifeguard eventually became the Tribe’s aquatic supervisor. The promotion put Duda in charge of pool operations in Hollywood, Big Cypress and Brighton.

She began holding swimming lessons for children and babies. By 1995, Duda had created a competitive swim team called Team Florida. She went on to coach swim teams for three consecutive North American Indigenous Games.

“I was raised around the water and was taught to swim at 6 weeks old by my father. I think I followed his footsteps,” Duda

said. Her father, David Duda, is a sports fitness, recreation and therapy professor at Broward College.

Kristin Duda made a dramatic department switch in 2006 when she became the purchasing supervisor for the Tribe’s police department.

In short time, Duda realized she missed spending days and nights surrounded by children. Eleven months later, she returned “home” to Recreation, but in an administrative role as the office coordinator.

Duda said she found it “kind of neat” during the last few weeks before retirement to look around and realize that some of the youngest children she met 23 years ago now have children of their own — and some of the oldest teens from back then are now grandparents.

Juanita Carlene Osceola, 28, said she was about 9 years old and the youngest among a gaggle of girls who made up the now defunct Girls Club created by Duda.

The girls, with Duda at the helm, went on adventures that included Women’s National Basketball Association games, camping trips and tours of Washington, D.C.

Osceola said the club formed tight friendships and Duda helped make the memories.

“[Duda] was always a person to count on. She’d go out of her way to help whenever you needed her,” Osceola said. “I’m glad she is in my life, but it’s going to be weird without her every day ... but she said she’ll visit, so...”

Duda said she is grateful to the Seminole Tribe for personal and career opportunities that helped her mature from teenager to mentor, golfer, scuba diver, and swimming, track and volleyball coach. In November 2002, she won the employee category award in the Seminole Weight Loss Contest by losing 22.1 pounds in just two months. Twice, Duda was awarded



Photo courtesy of Joe Collins

Kristin Duda receives loving goodbye hugs from Hollywood Boys & Girls Club children during a farewell gathering July 30 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center. Duda worked for the Seminole Tribe for 23 years.

plaques for going above and beyond employee duty.

Having assisted other departments at many Tribe events, Duda said she will miss Trike Fest the most because she loved interacting with elders.

Among the younger crowd, cherished friendships evolved that she believes will endure across miles.

But mostly, Duda said she left the job with memories of countless children she watched over and helped grow up. She said the mentoring was mutual.

“I never had children of my own, but I treated all of the kids like they were mine. I was only 19 when I started working here so taking care of them taught me how to be an adult,” Duda said. “There have been times when I would stand back, look at them and be happy.”



Kevin Johnson

Seminole Patchwork second baseman Salina Dorgan records a force out in a women’s legends division game Aug. 7 at Halpaticoke Regional Park in Stuart.

NASA

From page 1C

“We had a pretty good tournament,” said Hayla Boys second baseman Naha Jumper. “I hate getting beat by them Creeks, but we’ve been playing those boys ever since we’ve been in NAYO. We’ve been playing them for 20, 25 years some of us. It’s a rivalry every year.”

The men’s division featured 14 teams. “It comes down to Choctaw, Seminoles and Poarch Creek every year,” Flowers said. “It’s never blowout wins; it’s always close.”

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard was in uniform and served as a first base coach for Hayla Boys, who already look forward to a rematch in 2016.

“This year they just happened to come out on top,” Jumper said. “You’ve got to give them props. They played their game and they got us. We’ll get them next year.”

Hayla Boys, which came out of the losers’ bracket, would have needed two wins against Sneaky Creek to win the title. Instead, Hayla Boys departed with the runner-up trophy and a solid performance that included a memorable win in an elimination game against the Indians from Mississippi.

Down by three runs, Hayla Boys rallied for an 18-17 win in their final at-bat. Billie, Duke McCoy and Charlie Micco delivered RBI hits to knot the game. After Garrett Thomas was intentionally walked to load the bases, Leon Wilcox delivered a game-winning single into left field.

Women’s Legends (40 and older)

Seminole Patchwork belted 15 hits in the championship, but it wasn’t enough to claim the women’s legends title. The top honor went to Mississippi’s Diamond

Ladies, which edged Seminole Patchwork 17-13 in the championship of the three-team division.

It was the fourth game for Seminole Patchwork on a warm, sunny day that started with a win in the opener despite playing with just eight players. Between games, the team picked up an additional player — Selina Steele from Poarch Creek — to round out the squad.

In the final, an RBI triple from Seminole Patchwork’s Laverne Thomas and a run-scoring single from Susan Davis knotted the game 2-2 in the first inning.

In the second inning, Seminole Patchwork showed no signs of letting the sun slow them down. A double by Rita McCabe, who had an outstanding game at the plate, and RBI hits from Salina Dorgan, Leslie Osceola and Wendi Riley helped knot the game again at 6-6.

Seminole Patchwork pulled ahead 11-6 in the middle innings thanks to a two-run double from Osceola and RBI singles from Davis and Virginia Billie.

The Diamond Ladies struck back to take a 13-11 lead. Another RBI hit from Dorgan closed the deficit to one run in the sixth, but the Diamond Ladies held on to win the title.

Men’s Legends (40 and older)

The LA Legends won their third straight NASA men’s legends title. The Poarch Creek team knocked off the Mississippi Legends in the final.

LA Legends player and coach Ronnie “Pooky” Jackson said some members of his team have been teammates since the mid-1980s.

“We’ve been playing together for a long time,” he said. “I’ve just kept them together.”

Native Young Guns, a Seminole team, went 0-2 in the four-team division.



Kevin Johnson

Ginger Jones belts a base hit for the Lady Seminoles during a NASA women’s division game Aug. 8 at Halpaticoke Regional Park in Stuart.



Photo courtesy of Joe Collins

Children from the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club wave signs and cheer for now retired Recreation employee Kristin Duda during her farewell gathering at Howard Tiger Recreation Center.

Even a fish wouldn’t get caught if it kept its mouth shut

Protect yourself from making a mistake. Practice these simple phrases!

“No, you can’t search my car.”
“No, you can’t search my home.”
“No, I don’t want to talk with you.”
“Call my lawyer!”

Call Guy Seligman
954-760-7600
24 hours a day

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should be based solely upon advertisement. Guy J. Seligman worked as a Certified Legal Intern in both the State Attorney and Public Defenders offices in Dade and Broward County; he has been in private practice for 16 years. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1987, and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988.

Are You Cowboy Enough?

Real Cowboy. Real Western.

GRITS western

South Florida’s Largest & Most Complete Western Store & Showroom

Davie: 954-587-9000 • 6211 Orange Drive, Davie, FL 33314

Seminole women, men team up to clinch NASA coed championship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

STUART — When Elton Shore organized a coed team for the Native American Sports Association (NASA) Softball Tournament, he knew he didn't have to worry about the half-dozen women on the squad.

"All of them can hit. It doesn't matter where you put them in the lineup," Shore said. "And all the guys can hit, too."

With an abundance of offensive power from the women and men, and from the left and right sides of the batter's box, the Seminoles captured the NASA coed championship Aug. 6 at Halpatickee Regional Park in Stuart.

Hoisting the championship trophy in the middle of field C didn't come easy. The Seminoles won their first game of the five-team tournament, but a loss in the second game dropped them into the losers' bracket in the double-elimination format.

The Seminoles staved off elimination in the finals of the losers' bracket when Poarch Creek, with the winning run at second base and nobody out, didn't score in an extra-inning tilt.

"I thought they were going to bring him in. We held them and got another inning," Shore said.

Given another chance, the Seminoles pounced. Delaney Osceola scored the go-ahead run when Shore reached on an error. Amanda Julian drove in an insurance tally as the Seminoles advanced to the championship round with a 13-11 win.

As winners of the losers' bracket, the Seminoles needed two wins against the undefeated Redskins from the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

The first order of business was accomplished as left-hander Layton Thomas, who drilled balls over the fence

throughout the tournament, smacked a three-run home run and Garrett Thomas had an inside-the-park three-run homer to spark the Seminoles to a 23-14 win. Layton Thomas and Richard Osceola also had two-run doubles and Emerson Billie had a two-run single.

In the winner-take-all finale, the Seminoles never trailed on their way to a 19-16 win against the Redskins. Mary Huff ignited the Seminoles at the plate and in the field. Her RBI double in the first inning brought home the game's first run. While playing first base in the second inning, Huff stopped a deep grounder, sprinted to the bag and dove headfirst to record the out on a close play.

Huff drove in another run in the second on a single. Shore, Layton Thomas and Malaney Nickey also had RBIs in the inning.

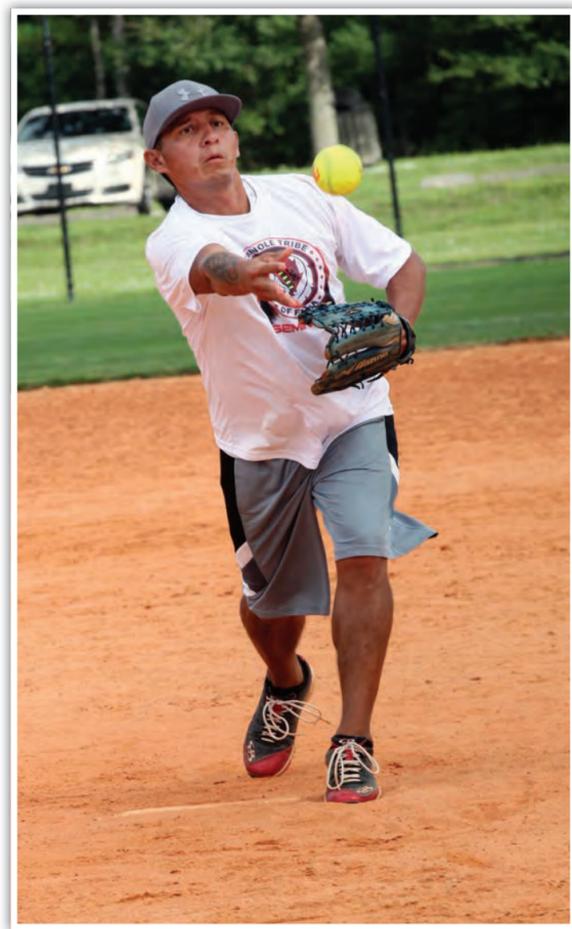
Nickey faced plenty of familiar faces on the Choctaw side. She's Choctaw, but she opted to play for the Seminoles when asked by her cousin Richard Osceola.

Osceola's bases-loaded stand-up triple gave the Seminoles an 11-3 lead in the third inning.

The lead seemed to be comfortable when Shore belted a two-run double to make it 14-3 in the fourth, but the Choctaw clawed their way back and trimmed the deficit to two runs before Layton Thomas, Garrett Thomas, Shore and Delaney Osceola drove in runs to secure the title.

In addition to the trophy, every Seminole player received black NASA championship jackets.

Members of the championship squad included Emerson Billie, Mary Huff, Anthony Harjochee, Amanda Julian, Malaney Nickey, Delaney Osceola, Richard Osceola, Wendi Riley, Arla Shawnee, Elton Shore, Garrett Thomas, Layton Thomas and Marshall Tommie.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole pitcher Elton Shore delivers a pitch during a NASA coed division game Aug. 6 at Halpatickee Regional Park in Stuart.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole outfielder Garrett Thomas catches a deep fly during a NASA coed division game Aug. 6 at Halpatickee Regional Park in Stuart.



Kevin Johnson

The Seminoles celebrate their championship victory in the NASA coed division Aug. 6 at Halpatickee Regional Park in Stuart. From left, front row: Garrett Thomas, Layton Thomas, Anthony Harjochee, Emerson Billie, Elton Shore and Richard Osceola. Back row: Delaney Osceola, Malaney Nickey, Arla Shawnee, Amanda Julian, Mary Huff and Wendi Riley.



Kevin Johnson

Anthony Harjochee smiles as he delivers a pitch for the Seminoles coed softball team Aug. 6 at the NASA Softball Tournament in Stuart.

Dr. Brian C. Rush
Chiropractic Physician
Successfully Treating...

- Neck Pain
- Lower Back Pain
- Headaches
- Leg & Arm Pain
- Joint Pain
- Muscle Pain
- Auto Accident Pain

We accept your insurance plan, PPO's, POS, Medicare, Auto Insurance.



FREE SPINAL EXAM & CONSULTATION TO ALL TRIBAL CITIZENS AND EMPLOYEES (\$150 Value)

Dr. Rush Can Help You!
Dr. Brian C. Rush
Chiropractic Physician
10830 Pines Blvd. • Pembroke Pines
(954) 432-5006
(Located next to Bally Gym in the Bahama Breeze plaza.)

Hendry Law Group, P.A.
— 24 Years of Experience —



Jody M. Hendry II
jhendry@gate.net

Travis D. Hendry
travis@hendrylaw.com

Jay M. Hendry III
jay@hendrylaw.com

- **Criminal Defense**
 - All Felonies and Misdemeanors
 - DUI
 - Juvenile Crimes
 - Probation Violations
- **Family Law/Divorce**
 - Child Custody and Support
- **Guardianship**
- **Probate, Wills, and Trusts**

Additional Practice Areas: Speeding Tickets, Real Estate Law, Civil Litigation, Personal Injury

First Consultation Free When You Mention This Ad

863-983-5297

606 West Sugarland Hwy, Clewiston, FL 33440 220 Dal Hall Blvd, Lake Placid, FL 33852



Kevin Johnson

Players from Onna B's and the Lady Seminoles gather for a photo following the final game in the NASA women's division Aug. 8 at Halpatiokee Regional Park in Stuart.

Softball teams play for more than wins at annual NASA tournament

Seminoles compete in honor of Breanna Billie, in memory of Parker Jones

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

STUART — After battling on opposite sides for a championship during the Native American Sports Association (NASA) Softball Tournament, two women's teams filled with Seminoles and sentimental determination met in the infield for photos.

Their uniforms — the grey shirts of the champion Onna B's adorned with a purple ribbon on the front, and the white shirts of the runner-up Lady Seminoles with "In Memory of Parker Jones" stamped on the right shoulders — told part of the warmhearted stories that compelled both squads through the women's division Aug. 7-8 at Halpatiokee Regional Park in Stuart.

Catcher Jo Jo Osceola formed Onna B's as a tribute to Breanna Billie, 19, who would have played in her first NASA tournament this year but instead watched games and the championship from the sidelines as she wins a fight against cancer.

"She's like my little sister," Osceola said. "I think we played better when she [watched us]."

"We decided to do a team together because she would have played with us this year," said Onna B's outfielder Darlah Cypress. "It was good to be out here and be able to play for her."

Not only did Hodgkin lymphoma — a cancer of the lymph nodes and immune system — rob Billie of playing in the tournament, it also forced her to miss her senior softball season this spring when she would have played alongside Cypress for district and regional champion Moore Haven High School.

Although unable to play her favorite sport, Billie looked at home amid smiling faces when she joined the celebration after Onna B's captured the championship. Onna B is Billie's nickname.

"Them having a team and do stuff for me that I can't do, that's really kept me motivated," she said.

Billie said her doctors consider her in remission. Her final chemotherapy

session was scheduled for a week after the tournament.

"In about three months I'll be able to get my port out and that's when I'll be able to come back, able to start working out," she said. "I'm recovering and everything. The chemo really broke my body down a lot."

Onna B's also included a few players from other Tribes. The team won five of its six games and sipped Hard Rock Energy drinks while celebrating with Billie and the championship trophy.

"It's really good to be able to win it for her and her being here to witness it," Cypress said.

Onna B's only loss came in the first game of the championship round — referred to by some as the Seminole Showdown — when they were edged by the Lady Seminoles, 2-1.

The Lady Seminoles' impressive run to the title match came as they played in memory of Parker Jones, a father and coach who helped establish interest in softball among many of the players when they were youngsters in Brighton.

This year marked the first NASA tournament since Jones passed away earlier this year.

"When we were kids we started playing NAYO under Parker and his brother Johnnie and Jack Chalfant," recalled Lady Seminoles outfielder Wendi Riley, whose love of the sport had her playing in 16 games in three days for teams in the coed, women's and legends divisions. "He would take us to tournaments. He was our biggest fan and our biggest supporter for years. If it weren't for him, a lot of us probably wouldn't have started together."

A lot of those former youngsters still play together as adults. Jones' daughters Laverne Thomas and Ginger Jones suited up for the Lady Seminoles and contributed with key hits to help the team emerge from the losers' bracket.

Both teams displayed passion for the sport and their causes with extra efforts in the field, including an all-out dive by



Kevin Johnson

Lady Seminoles third baseman Mary Huff tags out Onna B's Meaghan Osceola during the NASA women's division championship Aug. 8 at Halpatiokee Regional Park in Stuart.

Cypress for a shallow fly ball; a highlight-reel, backhanded stop and throw from deep third base by Jaryaca Baker; a headfirst slide from Mary Huff; a bullet fired from right fielder Brianna Nunez to nab a runner at third; and an amazing over-the-shoulder catch by Amanda Smith in left-center.

After suffering its first loss, Onna B's bats exploded in the winner-take-all finale for a 12-1 win.

Arla Shawnee had two doubles and four RBIs and Baker slammed a two-run double as a memorable tournament concluded for both teams.

Members of the NASA women's champion Onna B's were Jaryaca Baker, Kristen Billie, Darlah Cypress, Shaylon Farmer, Kritter McGirt, Jo Jo Osceola, Meaghan Osceola, Arla Shawnee, Audrey Snow, Stephanie Snow, Elishia Thompson and Charity Waller.

Keep Your Grades In Focus.

\$49 COMPLETE EYEGLASS PACKAGES
Complete eyeglass packages including frames from a special selection, polycarbonate lenses, 1 year warranty against scratches and breakage.

25% OFF DESIGNER FRAMES
from such names as Nike, Converse, Lucky, Guess and more.

Eye Centers of Florida
David C. Brown, M.D. and Associates • 12 Convenient Southwest Florida Locations
239.939.3456 • www.ecof.com

*This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Not valid with insurance or managed care plans. Complete pair includes frames and lenses. Expires 9/30/2014.

His future is in my hands. He deserves to be healthy.

Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Health Insurance Marketplace offer free or low-cost health coverage for our families.

Enroll today

Learn more about programs in your state:
healthcare.gov/tribal, medicaid.gov, or call 1-800-318-2596

Health Insurance Marketplace

@CMSGov
#CMSNativeHealth

Announcements



Motorcycle momma

We ride our Harleys every weekend. My son and I are never home; we are always on the road. Here are some pictures to share with you. I just love to ride on my Harley, so sometimes you all should come and join us. I am a mom and a great-grandma. My next ride is the Big Poker run in September – going to Key West.

Love all,
Ollie Tiger Balentine



THRIFTARELLA'S

Furniture-New and Used Home Goods-and More!
4300 Davie Road-across from Rodeo
Tuesday-Saturday 10-6 pm
www.thriftarellas.com
954.587.0818
Christine & Dominick

Signed sports memorabilia, jewelry & more!

VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT FOR SALE						
LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
B16671	2002	FORD CARGO VAN	ECONOLINE E250 V6 RWD	201,931	Poor	\$1,400.00
A13240	2005	FORD MINIVAN	FREESTAR	46,441	Fair	\$950.00
214776	1993	CHEVROLET PICKUP	CHEYENNE CK1500 (RWD)	84,237	Poor	\$500.00
017691	N/A	MMD EQ / HONDA PORT GENERATOR	NGK-4300H GENERATOR	N/A	Poor	\$170.00
158528	N/A	TITAN PORTABLE GENERATOR	COMPRESSOR TAC-2T	N/A	Poor	\$200.00
172249	N/A	TITAN PORTABLE GENERATOR	TG8500E GENERATOR / ELECTRIC START	N/A	Poor	\$300.00
182960	N/A	TITAN PORTABLE GENERATOR	TG8500E GENERATOR / ELECTRIC START	N/A	Poor	\$300.00
182961	N/A	TITAN PORTABLE GENERATOR	TG8500E GENERATOR / ELECTRIC START	N/A	Poor	\$300.00
182969	N/A	TITAN PORTABLE GENERATOR	TG8500E GENERATOR / ELECTRIC START	N/A	Poor	\$300.00
183292	N/A	TITAN PORTABLE GENERATOR	TG8000E GENERATOR	N/A	Poor	\$200.00
183298	N/A	TITAN PORTABLE GENERATOR	TG8000E GENERATOR	N/A	Poor	\$200.00
183300	N/A	TITAN PORTABLE GENERATOR	TG8000E GENERATOR	N/A	Poor	\$200.00
183302	N/A	TITAN PORTABLE GENERATOR	TG8000E GENERATOR	N/A	Poor	\$200.00
242326	N/A	MI-T-M CORP PRESSURE WASHER	2405 HONDA MOTOR 9HP 2500PSI	N/A	Poor	\$60.00

Note - Previously advertised vehicles are not reflected on this advertisement, only newly received vehicles. For more information please contact Fixed Assets Dept. 954-966-6300 ext# 20034

NEW!! - Tribal Members only- access this information at the website: <http://semtribe.com/FixedAssets>. (Registration is required)

Theodore Nelson Sr.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, SW5813, Indian Child Welfare Consultant-Expert, Board Member National Indian Child Welfare Association, Licensed and Insured, Seminole Health Plan Provider

Are you unhappy with your current counseling/child welfare services? Now there are alternative services for you and your family. Philosophically, we all have difficulty balancing social life, culture, health, substance use/abuse, self-esteem, sense of belonging, emotions, our hopes and dreams.

I offer 20 years of professional experience as a qualified therapist working with children, teens and adults in a confidential, private setting in your home or my office. I am available for individual counseling, dependency/custody cases and tribal court; services are available for all reservations.

Office: (954) 965-4414; cell: (954) 317-8110; 6528 Osceola Circle, Hollywood, Florida 33024

In Loving Memory

VINCENT W MICCO
1960 - 2011

THE BROKEN CHAIN

We little knew that morning
that God was going to call your name
In life we loved you dearly
In death we do the same
It broke our hearts to lose you
You did not go alone
For part of us went with you
the day God call you home
You left us precious memories
Your love is still our guide
And though we cannot see you
you are always by my side
Our family chain is broken
and nothing seems the same
But as God calls us one by one
the chain will link again

Author Unknown

Til We Meet Again, Vincent
Love Always, Loretta Micco

Sonny's Famous Steak Hogies

"With pride we make and bake our hogie rolls the old fashioned way."
-Sonny

Established 1958

1857 N. 66th Avenue
Hollywood, FL 33024

Tel: 954-989-0561
Fax: 954-964-3838

www.SonnysFamousSteakHogies.com