



Burton sisters shine at Brighton pageant
COMMUNITY ❖ 3A

Creek immersion program speaking volumes at PECS
EDUCATION ❖ 1B

Seminoles ride high in Davie youth football
SPORTS ❖ 1C



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

www.seminoletribune.org • 50¢

Volume XXXIX • Number 10

October 30, 2015

Agencies respond to Hendry County proposed land plan amendments

Changes would pave way for FPL power plant

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Hendry County's push to amend its comprehensive land plan, so Florida Power & Light can build one of the largest electrical power plants in the nation next door to the Big Cypress Reservation, is taking due course but not in the direction environmentalists and Tribal members hoped.

According to the state land planning agency's review process, certain government agencies are required to provide comments on issues, such as transportation, before the land change proposals can be made law.

In the case of the three Hendry County land plan proposed amendments, all comments were sent to the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) by Sept. 1.

The agencies, including the Department of Education, Department of Transportation, Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council, South Florida Water Management District, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and others, provided no roadblocks to adopting the new amendments.

A final public hearing date — followed by the BCC vote — will occur no later than March 2016. According to the state-mandated timeline, the county board has 180 days from receipt of comments to finally vote the amendments in or out.

♦ See FPL on page 7A

Seminole Indian remains complete circle of life

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

OKEECHOBEE — The burial of 21 Seminole Indians took place Oct. 15, more than 150 years after their deaths.

Skulls from three children, two women and 16 men were placed in graves during a ceremony at an undisclosed location near the flat and vast Okeechobee Battlefield.

Their stories included a warrior decapitated on the battlefield of the Dade Massacre (1835), two warriors killed at the Battle of Okeechobee (1837) and one warrior shot to death at St. Joseph Plantation, 30 miles from St. Augustine (1836), reportedly killed by U.S. Army Capt. Justin Dimick, who was later promoted to brigadier general.

The details behind the other 12 male skulls are unknown, lost to history. Like the others, they were "collected" in Florida during the years around the "Seminole War," as Tribal member and Chief Justice of Tribal Court Willie Johns calls it.

"One big long war, from 1817 to 1858," Johns said. "The U.S. likes to make it three separate wars, but to us it was just one. There was no beginning, no ending; it just kept going on."

Johns carried a cardboard box containing several skulls that were carefully wrapped in white burial cloth by the Seminole Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) staff in Philadelphia several days before.

He walked across grass poking from the dark black Lake Okeechobee watershed muck and set the box next to a deep hole dug earlier by a backhoe from Buxton & Bass Okeechobee Funeral

♦ See REPATRIATION on page 7A



Richard Hood, of American Marketing Services, hustles as he handles the high-energy auction floor Oct. 10 during the Cattle Country Replacement Female Sale at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.

Cattle keepers buy, sell at Salacoa Seminole market

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Salacoa Valley Farms, a division of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., hosted its first cattle auction on Seminole soil before an ample crowd eager to buy and sell.

"Today is unique. We've always had the sales in Salacoa (Georgia), but now we have the first one in our own backyard," said Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard. "For cattle people from all over to come out and see what we have, and what we can bring to the table, has been a long time coming."

The Oct. 10 Cattle Country Replacement Female Sale at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton featured 530 head of bred (pregnant) heifers and plenty of ready-to-breed but never-impregnated

(open) heifers. All were commercial cattle either seed stocked by Salacoa Brangus bulls or crossbred with Salacoa bulls.

"You talk about calf-raising mommas, we got 'em right here," called Mark Cowan, of American Marketing Services (AMS), one of the nation's leading cow and bull sales management teams, to the audience of buyers. Cowan sat at the auction table between event auctioneer Tommy Barnes and Alex Johns, who oversees the Tribe's cattle program and the Salacoa operation.

Seminole Pride is the Tribe's brand under the Seminole Tribe Board of Directors, which purchased the Georgia-based Salacoa Valley Farms in December 2013. At 4,500 acres, Salacoa is the fourth-largest purebred Brangus ranch in the United States.

Johns, who also serves the Florida

Cattlemen's Association as its second vice president, said the customer appreciation event generated \$1,288,850 in sales.

"It's the biggest sale the Tribe has had in Florida. Our goal is to eventually have the biggest sale in the state," Johns said.

Buyers were about 50-50 Tribal member cattle ranchers and other ranchers from Florida and out of state.

The two-hour event was broadcast live on the rural RFD-TV cable network and live-streamed via Internet at DVAuction.com. The online auction company boasts 93,000 registered viewers. More than a dozen auction staff workers fielded online absentee bids, telephone call-ins and live audience bids.

Hammer prices for bred Brangus

♦ See CATTLE SALE on page 4A

Indigenous day of action, common ground found in Miami

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — On the same day Native American environmental groups across Indian Country took to the streets to raise awareness about global warming, organizations in South Florida marched in Miami to demand action against climate change.

"The seas are rising and so are we," chanted hundreds gathered at the Stephen P. Clarke Center government office campus.

Organized by the New York-based People's Climate Movement, the Oct. 14 march was one of about 100 events scattered across the nation from Seattle to South Florida. The national effort was endorsed throughout Indian Country by the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) based in North Dakota, which named the day Indigenous National Day of Action and called for Native Americans to make their voices heard.

Marcos Vilar, regional director for New Florida Majority, was among the organizers of the People's Climate March in Miami. Vilar said the event drew nearly 2,000 protesters who carried signs, waved banners and shouted slogans demanding that the government seek cures to rising sea levels.

Participants included diverse groups, such as the Madre Tierra radio show, the Everglades Coalition and Fann Ayisyen nan Miyami — a Haitian women's community empowerment group.

"No matter where we came from

♦ See INDIGENOUS DAY on page 6A



Wayne Smoke Snellgrove, of the Fishing Lake First Nation of Saskatchewan, Canada, addresses the crowd during the People's Climate March in Miami. The Oct. 14 event occurred on Indigenous National Day of Action.

Alligator namesake trumps Trump

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — What's in a name? At Billie Swamp Safari, separated from otherwise friendly alligators, is a bully of alligators named in 1996 by Chairman James E. Billie after a memorable guest to the Big Cypress Reservation who came, saw and obviously left a lasting impression.



Trump, an alligator named after Donald Trump in 1996 following a visit to Big Cypress Reservation by the current presidential candidate, is coerced above water in his private pit at Billie Swamp Safari.

His name is Trump.

"We named the alligator and then we found out he was out there in the swamp killing the other alligators. He ate them alive. Here's 20 years later and the man and the gator are still able to do the same thing," said Chairman Billie to a CNN online political reporter during a Sept. 24 interview.

The reporter met with the Chairman at Billie Swamp Safari after research revealed

good potential for a novel news story: An alligator named for billionaire Donald Trump, a presidential candidate and leading Republican contender, was alive and well and living on an Indian reservation in the Florida Everglades.

The CNN interview was planned weeks before the first Republican debate Sept. 17 when Trump denied past attempts to bring gambling to Florida, but it took on deeper significance in light of the debate remarks. The alligator was named during a time when the Tribe was broiled in a legal battle with the state over gambling sovereignty rights and Donald Trump was sipping up opportunities to expand his own gambling interests into Florida.

The Tribe was notified in mid-October that the news piece was to appear online the day before or hours before the next Republican debate on Oct. 28.

According to an archived Seminole Tribune report, Trump's early March 1996 visit to Big Cypress was short and unremarkable except that he ended his jaunt to Florida by flying an entourage of tribal leaders to New York to attend a Rod Stewart concert — and he made a few now controversial comments.

He was quoted in The Tribune report: "I've been the biggest enemy of Indian gaming," Trump said. "And why not? They are my competition. I want to defeat them. It's business."

And he was quoted further during the same visit: "I just need a few acres and I could build the biggest casino in the world

"We named the alligator and then we found out he was out there in the swamp killing the other alligators. He ate them alive."

— Chairman James E. Billie

down there in Hollywood."

Shortly after Trump's Big Cypress stop, the alligator was named. But it didn't take long, the Chairman told CNN, until the gator's aggressive behavior was found out.

Though not the largest gator in the swamp, the beast was deemed dangerous, captured and forced into isolation. He has lived alone in his private pit ever since.

INSIDE:

Editorial.....2A

Community3A

Health9A

Education 1B

Sports1C

Announcements....6C

Seminole Tribe celebrates Indian Day. See Section D for full coverage.

Editorial

Fossil fuels bad for breasts

• Winona LaDuke

Honor the Earth is introducing the Pipeline-free Breast Campaign as a part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Noting, “Fossil Fuels are bad for your boobs. Chemicals created and used during petroleum extraction, refining and use – benzene, toluene, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and a few other bad guys – are known carcinogens.”

The organization points to last year’s controversy over a corporate “pink-washing” of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, as one reason it was important to inform the public of health risks: “Baker Hughes, who makes drill bits for the fracking industry introduced some pink drill bits for breast cancer awareness month and donated some \$100,000 for the second year in a row to Susan G. Komen, the best-funded breast cancer organization in the U.S. In return, apparently Baker Hughes got to use the specific shade of pink Susan G. Komen has trademarked.”

National and international research has linked fossil fuels and breast cancer. Bio medical researchers at Lawrence Livermore Labs in California, Jack Bartley and Martha Stampfer, documented breast cells growing in culture exposed to benzopyrene, the most common carcinogen in the environment that results from burning fossil fuels. The researchers found that benzopyrene was taken up by the breast cells and altered the cells genetic makeup, changing them to malignant cells.

Benzene itself is a well-established carcinogen with links to leukemia, breast and urinary tract cancers. One of the largest-volume petrochemical solvents, benzene is used as a major component in all major fossil fuel production: oil, coal and gas.

In the campaign, the organization also notes radon is another major danger, with levels rising substantially in the Bakken oil fields of North Dakota. A colorless, odorless, tasteless radioactive gas, it is the second largest cause of lung cancer in the U.S. after cigarette smoking. There is no known threshold below which there is no risk from radon.

The newly developed extraction

method of fracking natural gas represents a significant new and increased source of radon exposure to potentially millions of people and animals. Radon is released into local groundwater and air during fracking operations. It also travels through pipelines to the point of use – be it a power plant or a home kitchen.

This past year, North Dakota began discussing new rules that would result in dramatically increased radiation exposure to North Dakota citizens, largely because of radioactive fracking wastes. The debate on so called “technically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive materials” would dramatically increase radiation exposure to those who live near the fracking fields. This also increase cancer risks, according to Honor the Earth.

Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons, or PAHs, are known human carcinogens and genetic mutagens. In addition, there are particular prenatal health risks including childhood asthma, low birth weight, adverse birth outcomes including heart malformations, and DNA damage. Recent studies link PAH exposure and early childhood depression. According to a study in Environmental Health Perspectives, infants found to have elevated PAH levels in their umbilical cord blood were 46 percent more likely to eventually score highly on the anxiety/depression scale than those with low PAH levels in cord blood.

The rapid development of the Alberta “tar sands” oil fields in Alberta, Canada has coincided with dangerous levels of PAHs in the region and multiple reports of significantly higher rates of cancer and health effects.

More women in remote tribal communities are contracting lupus and very rare forms of cancer (i.e. bile duct cancer). During the summer months, it is not uncommon to find mysterious lesions and sores after swimming in Lake Athabasca.

“When you look at what is happening in the area, it can’t not be related to development,” said Eriel Deranger, a spokesperson for the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. “Too many times, we see things in the animals and health that the elders have never seen before.”

Following the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010, scientists found PAH levels to be 40 times higher than before the spill. Local fishermen reported finding horribly mutated shrimp with tumors on their heads, some lacking eyes and eye sockets, clawless crabs “with shells that look like they’ve been burned off by chemicals.” The effects of PAHs to wildlife in the Gulf waters may merit attention in North Dakota and the region.

On its own, North Dakota had more than 300 oil spills reported as of 2012, but the self-reporting of oil and pipeline companies, including Enbridge (with 800 spills in a decade), is, according to Honor the Earth, a risk to your breasts and your health. For sure, the 17,000 miles of pipeline in North Dakota, as well as nearly 10,000 miles of pipeline in Minnesota, pose some risks.

Models for the campaign continue to come forward. Jane Kleeb, executive director of Bold Nebraska, a lead organization fighting the Keystone XL pipeline, joined for a picture, noting, “I’m standing up against Keystone XL because of the risks to our water and our health. The oil and gas industry denies the link of their risky product and cancer, just like the tobacco companies did years ago. Today, we stand up for women’s health.”

Kandi Mossett, of the Indigenous Environmental Network posed with two logos; Mossett is from the Ft. Berthold Reservation, where radioactive and salt spills, as well as radioactive fracking socks litter sections of the reservation. Supporting groups include VDay, Indigenous Women’s Network and Babes Against Biotech. Other women are encouraged to join, and the materials can be downloaded off the Honor the Earth website.

Winona LaDuke is an Anishinaabekwe (Ojibwe) enrolled member of the Mississippi Band Anishinaabeg who lives and works on the White Earth Reservations. She is the executive director of Honor the Earth, where she works on a national level to advocate, raise public support and create funding for frontline Native environmental groups.

What Trump would mean for Natives

• Gyasi Ross

No saviors. There are no saviors for Native people in the 2016 elections. The privileged white folks running for president (and one crazy-a-- black dude who literally said, “...Obamacare is really I think the worst thing that has happened in this nation since slavery. And it is in a way, it is slavery ...”) are gonna have a hard enough time keeping this ridiculously fractured nation together to focus on building Native nations.

But that’s cool – Native people don’t need saviors. We survived before “America” was a thing, and if we reconnect with our homelands and ancestral ways, we will be here long after.

If the U.S. simply lived up to its treaty obligations like an honorable nation/dealmaker, Tribes could navigate our own ways. Obama spoiled Tribes and actually largely dealt with Tribes as Nations in a way that no president has never done before; imagine that – a leader of the U.S. actually honoring its agreements. No other U.S. president has honored its obligations to the degree Obama has done it and there’s no sign that any of the 2016 candidates have Obama’s sort of pedigree (although I think Bernie Sanders could get it, with proper training). The best of the presidential candidates from both parties are folks who have never taken a leadership role in helping Native communities. The worst?

That’s right: There is one singularly bad candidate for Native people who shows an ugly hate toward Native people and just shows a nastiness toward brown people in general. That’s right: Donald Trump. He’s kind of a scumbag. I laughed about it early on, “He doesn’t even believe what he’s saying.” And I still don’t think that he believes 90 percent of what he says – but it doesn’t matter. If you rile up enough racist/xenophobic/misogynistic energy – as he has done – things get dangerous. It changes the tone; America already struggles getting past its racist past. It certainly doesn’t need new bigots stirring the pot.

And even if Trump doesn’t believe the racist garbage that he spews, it still has a hateful effect and stirs up the genuinely racist folks within America. And it’s not just the toothless, uneducated masses that have latched onto Trump’s prejudiced dog-whistles (they have); the neo-conservative bigots who utilize passive aggressive race-neutral language to antagonize people of color also have heeded his call.

Of course his hate speech toward brown-skinned migrants is epic; he seems to despise our brothers and sisters to the south (who have more right to be on this continent than he does). Yet, he says that the Mexicans who come here “... have lots of problems, and they’re bringing those problems with us. They’re bringing drugs.

They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists.” Well, it’s no surprise that his hate speech inspired hate crimes by some Neanderthals in Boston against a homeless Latino man. When the men were arrested they said, “Donald Trump was right, all these illegals need to be deported.”

Idiots call this type of racism “Nativist,” but that’s an evil lie. Donald Trump is not Native to this land and it’s not Native people carrying out this hate. It’s other immigrants. White immigrants who don’t like brown immigrants.

He’s kinda equal opportunity in his hate of people of color. When speaking about the Black Lives Matter movement, a movement dedicated to securing basic human rights for black folks in this nation, Trump said, “I think they’re trouble. I think they’re looking for trouble ... and I think it’s a disgrace that they’re getting away with it.”

But even with his obvious distaste of Mexican folks and black folks, he has the longest history of antagonizing Native people.

Obviously, there’s the history of Trump crying to Congress that American Indian casinos should be shut down because Indian casinos are going to create “...the biggest organized crime problem in the history of this country. Al Capone is going to look like a baby.” Then, there was Trump playing racial police about mixed members of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe saying, “They don’t look like Indians to me.” Additionally, recently Trump was kind enough to speak for Native people about the Washington Redskins franchise, saying, “I know Indians that are extremely proud of that name.” (In fairness, Jeb Bush did this same thing – these over-privileged and rich white men love to speak for Native people.)

Trump also recently went on record to say that if he were elected president, “I will immediately approve the Keystone XL pipeline...” that tramples on the sacred sites and water supplies of many, many Native people.

Bad news.

There are plenty more examples. And while we don’t have absolute certainty as to who will be best for Native people in this upcoming election cycle, we do know who will be the worst for Native people, Mexicans and black folks.

Thank you Donald Trump for making that clear.

Gyasi Ross (Blackfeet) is an author, speaker, lawyer and storyteller who resides on the Port Madison Indian Reservation near Seattle. Ross is the author of “Don’t Know Much About Indians (but I wrote a book about us anyways)” and “How to Say I Love You in Indian.” He writes for the Huffington Post, Deadspin, Gawker and Indian Country Today Media Network, which first published this column.

Emergency contraception now available at IHS

• Mary Annette Pember

American Indian and Alaska Native women can now access the emergency contraception pill, Plan B, under the same circumstances as their non-Native U.S. sisters.

The Indian Health Service (IHS) finalized its policy recently, making the over-the-counter pill available at its clinics to women of any age with no questions asked in keeping with federal law for all U.S. women.

“We have been fighting for this for over five years,” said Charon Asetoyer, director of the Native American Women’s Health Education Resource Center (NAWHERC) in Lake Andes, South Dakota.

The updated policy was released after more than two years since a 2013 federal court ordered the Food and Drug Administration to approve Plan B as an over-the-counter drug for women of all ages without a prescription.

The NAWHERC has published several surveys exposing a lack of coordinated policies among IHS Clinics regarding dispensing the pill. Some clinics, according to the surveys, required women to be at least 18 years old, required a doctor’s prescription or did not offer the medication at all.

Citing U.S. Justice Department statistics that one in three Native women is raped in her lifetime, Asetoyer said, “Given the statistics on rape, Indian Health Service should be doing everything they can to reduce the residual trauma of sexual assault.”

IHS clinics are required to provide health care and medication, including Plan

B, free of charge to Native Americans in the U.S.

Asetoyer said Micha Bitsinni, a Native women’s health care advocate, has made it a habit over the years to occasionally ask for the Plan B pill at her IHS pharmacy.

“Just two weeks ago I was at IHS and decided to ask for Plan B with my prescription. They made me fill out a form and wait four to five hours. So I left and came back. They lost the form. Fill it out again. Wait a couple of hours and at the end of the day they told me I needed a doctor’s appointment and a pregnancy test,” reported Bitsinni, of the Navajo Nation. She currently works as an Academic Writing Teacher at Native America Community Academy. She previously worked at First Nations Community Healthsource in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

If their local IHS clinic refused to dispense the pill, Native women had the option to purchase the drug, which is often more than \$50 at commercial pharmacies.

According to an Oct. 16 press release from the American Civil Liberties Union, “For some Native American women, if emergency contraception is unavailable at their IHS facility, the next alternative may be hundreds of miles away. However, emergency contraception is most effective the sooner it is taken, with effectiveness decreasing every 12 hours. The distance and potentially insurmountable transportation costs make timely access to emergency contraception difficult, if not impossible, for many women.”

The ACLU joined Amnesty International and NAWHERC in efforts to convince IHS to standardize policies

related to Plan B. U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) also conducted a survey in March 2015 exposing lack of access for Native women to Plan B and urged Health and Human Services to improve access to emergency contraception for Native women at IHS facilities.

Asetoyer said IHS had left the decision regarding dispensing the pill up to individual service units.

“You can’t do that with federal policy; it needs to be standardized,” she said. “This policy is way overdue. Denying equal access to health care for Native women is a violation of human rights.”

Susan Karol, chief medical officer for IHS told the Associated Press that urban and tribally operated health programs are not required to follow IHS policies.

However, she said that IHS policy now has clear expectations that Plan B, or a generic equivalent, be stocked in pharmacies so it’s easy for Native women to get.

IHS has posted the new policy on its website at www.IHS.gov.

Mary Annette Pember (Red Cliff Tribe of Wisconsin Ojibwes) is an independent photojournalist and writer based in Cincinnati, Ohio specializing in Native American people and issues. She is past president of the Native American Journalists Association and has worked as a staff photographer and photo editor at The Green Bay Press Gazette, The Arizona Republic, The Oregonian and The Lexington Herald-Leader. She is a regular contributor to Indian Country Today Media Network, where this column first appeared.



Eileen Soler

Trump the alligator rears his massive head during a photo-video shoot for a CNN online political report.

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

Issue: Dec. 31, 2015
Deadline: Dec. 9, 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, Rachel Buxton

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



Eileen Soler

Wanda Bowers, right, and Gloria Wilson, two of the Native Relief Foundation leaders, show off one of two intricate homemade quilts up for raffle to help raise funds for the organization dedicated to providing clothes, shoes, food and toys to desolate and poor reservation communities in the cold upper Midwest.

Jessica Osceola featured in major Native exhibition

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

NAPLES — A 75-mile walk to protest the possible construction of a bicycle path through the Everglades inspired Jessica Osceola to create a work of art currently part of a Native American contemporary art exhibit.

“Return from Exile: Contemporary Southeastern Indian Art,” which features Osceola and 17 other Native American artists with ties to the Southeast, opened Oct. 16 at the Collier County Museum in Naples and will run through Jan. 15, 2016.

“The name of the show came from the point of view that we are still fighting for our culture and way of life,” Osceola said. “Although we were never exiled, we are still fighting for our land, culture and family.”

In March, Osceola joined the five-day Walk for Mother Earth along the Tamiami Trail from Naples to Miami to protest the River of Grass Greenway project proposed to run adjacent to the Trail through the Everglades. The resulting artwork is an 11.5-inch-by-8.5-inch-by-1-inch bronze relief sculpture titled “Mother.”

“Mothers are the keepers of everything,” Osceola said. “It’s up to us to teach our youth to protect and preserve everything. Now that I have a son, I understand that.”

With the exception of Osceola, the other artists in the exhibition are from Oklahoma but have roots in the Southeast. Their ancestors were forced into exile after the Indian Removal Act of 1830. “Return from Exile” opened in August at the Lyndon House Arts Center in Athens, Georgia and will travel the country through 2017.

The show’s curators — artists Tony Tiger and Bobby C. Martin, and Jace Weaver, director of the Institute of Native American Studies at the University of Georgia — asked the artists to create work to fit the theme of the show: removal, return and resilience. Museum curators usually create exhibitions based on existing work and create a theme around it.

“We went out on a limb and hoped the artists would catch the vision of the show, which they all did,” said Martin, of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. “This show was powerful in that it felt like the artists invested so much into the theme, which was very gratifying as the curator.”

The 24-piece show includes paintings, printmaking, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, basketry and jewelry. Most of the artists are well established in their careers and have won prestigious awards for their work. Four of the top 11 major awards at the Santa Fe Indian Market in August 2013 were won by Southeastern Tribal members from Oklahoma, and all are featured in the exhibition.

“This is a departure for us, doing a more contemporary modern exhibit,” said Jennifer Guida, curator of collections at Collier County Museum. “It’s nice to feature living and established artists and to have Jessica, who was born and raised in Naples, as part of the show.”

Osceola was delighted to have been asked by Tiger and Martin to participate in the show with more experienced artists.

“This is a huge honor,” said Osceola, who at 30 is the youngest artist in the show. “They are at the top of their game and represent the best of contemporary Native American art. The depth of their work is inspiring.”

Osceola is working on her Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. She has been studying the work of these other artists for her master’s thesis — which is a personal



Beverly Bidney

Jessica Osceola stands among artwork created by Native American artists for the ‘Return from Exile: Contemporary Southeastern Indian Art’ exhibition on display at the Collier County Museum in Naples through Jan. 15, 2016.

Tribe helping Tribes endure bitter winter

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Two quilts will help hundreds throughout Indian Country brave the upcoming winter.

Native Relief Foundation (NRF), led by a core of Seminole Tribal members, is raffling off the elaborate handmade quilts to help send a truckload of donated warm clothing, shoes, blankets plus food and toys to poor, remote upper Midwest reservations in time for Christmas.

Raffle tickets are \$5 for one or \$20 for five and can be purchased from Tribal members in each Seminole community.

“I’ve seen the conditions out there. I’ve seen the kids,” said Wanda Bowers about the poverty found on some of the most desolate upper Midwest reservations.

Since 2011 Bowers, Gloria Wilson and Jennifer “Ebo” Osceola have held leading roles in the grassroots, nonprofit collection drive based out of Hollywood Reservation. Alice Billie, Esther Gopher and Charlotte Burgess head the effort in Immokalee, Big Cypress and Brighton, respectively.

Wilson, the foundation’s spokeswoman, said the handful of friends was inspired after seeing a television news special five years ago about desperate conditions on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. According to the Department of the Interior’s 2013 American Indian Population and Labor Force Report, up to 47 percent of Natives who live and work in South Dakota earn wages below poverty level.

Running Strong for American Indian Youth, one of the nation’s leading Native support charities, reports that two of the poorest counties in the United States encompass Indian reservations — some communities languish with 85 percent of adults unemployed.

Wilson said the television exposé drew a huge humanitarian response nationwide that inundated Pine Ridge but left poorer and more isolated communities in the cold. NRF concentrates on providing those forgotten populations with donations of warm clothing, shoes, food and toys.

“Access is the biggest problem for the people out there,” Wilson said. The poorest communities are spread apart. Residents who lack jobs cannot afford vehicles and public transportation is sparse to nonexistent.

For the past four years, Bobbie “BJ” Billie, of Big Cypress, who has lived off and on in South Dakota including Pine Ridge, has been the go-between for Seminole goodwill and the people who need help most. With help from friends in the region, Billie connects one-on-one with the community and personally sees that needy families are served face-to-face. Nothing goes to waste.

Tribal members last year donated enough goods to brim two units in a local Hollywood storage facility and some cargo haulers hitched to personal trucks.

This year’s collection is in dire need of men’s warm clothing and sturdy shoes for all genders and ages. Flip-flops, sandals and summer shorts are not functional in the upper Midwest weather and terrain.

“Think winter, think warm. We always need blankets and throws, too,” Wilson said.

Non-perishable food, such as canned goods, dry macaroni products and cereal, is additionally needed. Also, toys and school supplies will be accepted. Bowers said collection boxes will be placed in administration buildings, but volunteers are also willing to pick up donations at homes or other locations.

Last year, Tribal members Christopher Billie and Obadiah Osceola trekked the nearly 2,150-mile course in a 24-foot diesel truck filled with cartons packed with clothing, shoes, food and toys to Rapid City, South Dakota where they met Bobbie Billie.

Christopher Billie said the duo was slammed with a snow storm and persistent engine trouble during the four-stop journey to Red Scaffold, Dupree and Cherry Creek on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation and finally to tiny Red Shirt just outside of Badlands National Park north of Pine Ridge.

The planned five-day mission that began on Dec. 12 became a nine-day quest.

“It was unreal. It was freezing. We could barely see through the snow — it was a whiteout — and were stuck in a truck for nine days. Once, we had to pull over and check into a roadside motel. We were afraid we would be stranded there,” Christopher Billie said. “But would I do it again? Yes, it was worth it.”

At each stop, the group was met by volunteers and recipients who unloaded the truck and then organized the donations. Christopher Billie said he was moved by the gratitude that people showed them, but they did not engage very much.

“People were grateful. There were adults and kids who were like, ‘You guys came all the way from Florida for us?’ It was something to see but we stayed humble. We did our job and went to the next stop,” Christopher Billie said.

Wilson said this year’s goods will also be delivered by Christmas. Money raised from the quilt raffle will go toward truck fuel and packing supplies but outright donations of boxes, reinforced packing tape, magic markers and gas cards will be accepted happily.

Sorting and packing will begin Nov. 14. The raffle drawing will take place Nov. 16 in Hollywood.

Ticket holders need not be present to win.

To help, contact:

Big Cypress and Immokalee:
Alice Billie
863-677-1469
Esther Gopher
954-304-1892 or stop in the Big Cypress SMP office

Brighton:
Charlotte Burgess
863-634-8924 or visit her at the Brighton Casino

Hollywood:
Wanda Bowers
954-444-9827 or visit the Secretary’s office in Hollywood
Jennifer “Ebo” Osceola
954-410-3255
Gloria Wilson
954-253-6877

Burton sisters shine at Brighton pageant

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Sisters Krysta and Leilani Burton shared the spotlight Sept. 26 when they were crowned Miss Brighton and Jr. Miss Brighton, respectively, during the 35th annual Miss Brighton Princess Pageant at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building.

“I want to represent Brighton and help youth learn about their culture,” said Krysta, 14, a ninth-grader at Okeechobee High School.

Founded in 1979, the pageant provides young girls an opportunity to represent their reservation while learning the ins and outs of competition. Many winners and contestants go on to compete in the Miss Florida Seminole Pageant.

“Our pageant is formatted like Miss Seminole, so the girls will have the experience and be able to present

themselves,” said Salina Dorgan, Miss Brighton 1981. “We’ve had a lot of winners come from Brighton, and we hope it’s because our pageant prepares them and they know what to expect.”

During the pageant, the five contestants introduced themselves to judges, modeled traditional patchwork outfits, showcased their talent and answered impromptu questions. Before the pageant, the girls wrote essays about what Brighton Reservation means to them.

Dorgan, the mistress of ceremonies and a pageant committee member, kept the evening moving at a crisp pace and shared information about the contestants while they changed clothes between events backstage.

“My mother’s family has been here for many generations,” read Dorgan from Krysta’s essay. “I love hearing about my people and how they fought for what we have. Brighton is rich in tradition and culture and I’ve learned many things about our traditional ways. Learning about it is very important for our Tribe to survive.”

Jr. Miss contestants kicked off the talent competition; Leilani, 11, dressed in vintage 1950s-era clothing, performed a rousing dance

to Elvis Presley’s “Jailhouse Rock.” She was followed by Karey Gopher, 11, who used display boards to explain the history of the Seminole Tribe. Winnie Gopher, 10, gave a brief lesson in beading, and Alaina Sweat, 13, explained sweetgrass basket making. Miss Brighton contestant Krysta brought two children, her brother Caleb Burton and Harmony Urbina, onstage and told them a Seminole legend by the light of an electric “fire.”

All contestants answered the impromptu questions with grace and confidence. Questions included why they want to represent Brighton, the meaning of the tribal flag colors and the reason education is important.

“Education is important because if we want to go outside of the reservation to get a job, we need to have a good education,” said Leilani, a sixth-grader at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School.

Judges Tammi Kelley, of the Okeechobee News; Teresa Bishop,



Beverly Bidney

Newly crowned Miss Brighton Krysta Burton, left, and Jr. Miss Brighton Leilani Burton pose Sept. 26 after the Miss Brighton Princess Pageant.

♦ See RETURN FROM EXILE on page 4A

♦ See PRINCESSES on page 5A



Eileen Soler

Workers and managers gather for a hearty barbecue lunch Oct. 20 at the Big Cypress Medical Center, which is under construction. The midday meal marked the near halfway point to the project completion, set approximately for late spring 2016.

Midway to medical center at Big Cypress

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A long lunch dished out plenty of thanks Oct. 20 to about 100 construction workers and staff at the construction site for the new Big Cypress Medical Center.

“You guys are building something for my people and you are doing a good job at it. So for lunch today, we’re having a little camaraderie and a little hanging out,” said Jeremy Bowers, Board Construction project manager.

The 20,000-square-foot, two-story structure is a Seminole/Stiles construction project set for completion by late spring 2016.

Terry Hardmon, project executive for Stiles Corporation, said the event took the place of a “topping off” ceremony, which

typically marks when the building has reached its highest construction point.

In this case, the midday lunch also was held to herald the workers’ continuing attention to on-the-job safety.

“We just want to thank you all for your great attention to safety and for tolerating us and the safety rules,” Hardmon said.

The bottom floor of the clinic will feature a welcoming lobby, several physician offices with examination rooms, pharmacy and pharmacy drive-through window, full kitchen, exercise room and physical therapy room. A pediatric suite and dental offices will occupy much of the second floor. The top level will also feature a nurse’s station and other offices.

The new facility will replace the cluster of portable health service buildings on Josie Billie Highway across from the Frank Billie Field Office.



Beverly Bidney

Jessica Osceola and her son Joaquin McKinley Velasco-Osceola, 2, view a painting by Native American artist Starr Hardridge at the ‘Return from Exile: Contemporary Southeastern Indian Art’ exhibition at the Collier County Museum.

RETURN FROM EXILE

From page 3A

narrative of identity. Identity is the foundation of her work.

“My work, life and identity as an artist are defined but not limited by the decisions of my ancestors. This body of work bridges the gap between past, present and future. I blend traditional craft passed down to me with contemporary process and experimentation. A central theme to all of my artwork is identity and in this body of sculpture it is narrated by combining symbols with perspective. The use of cultural symbols in a modern context creates a visual language that says, ‘I am not just a part of history, I am here now!’ Seminoles existed then and they are still alive today,” wrote Osceola in her artist statement in the “Return from Exile” catalog.

Martin said her work is impressive. “She’s taking traditional ideas and reimagining them in contemporary directions. Her work is definitely not traditional, but it still speaks to tribal unity and family,” Martin said.



Beverly Bidney

“Mother,” a bronze by Jessica Osceola, is featured in the ‘Return from Exile: Contemporary Southeastern Indian Art’ exhibition at the Collier County Museum in Naples through Jan. 15, 2016.

Southeastern Native American artists rarely receive the same recognition or exposure for their art compared to counterparts in the Southwest and Plains, Tiger said.

“We have tremendous artists in our midst and felt this exhibition was really important to explore their art,” he said. “In the last 10 years, they’ve won just about every award in Native art exhibitions, most have MFAs and many have been featured in First American Art magazine.”

Tiger met Osceola about eight years ago at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. While looking for a contemporary Florida Seminole artist for this exhibition, he reached out to her after viewing the work on her website.

During the opening of “Return from Exile” in Georgia, Osceola met other female Native American artists.

“She realized there is a place for her in the art world,” Tiger said. “It’s exciting to see what she’s going to do in the next few years. I’m very excited for her.”

Raising her 2-year-old son Joaquin McKinley Velasco-Osceola consumes much of Osceola’s time, forcing her to make time for art between family obligations. In Georgia, she bonded with other working mother artists who create art after their children have gone to bed.

“Speaking to them pushed me to keep on and keep going,” she said. “The other females gave some encouragement that it’s challenging to have a career and children but with persistence, it is possible. The message in my work has become so much more important since the birth of my son. There is little time to create something without a deeper message. This makes the work all that much more worth doing.”

Healing on menu at Trail community annual Fish Fry

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TRAIL — Camaraderie, fellowship and fish lured about 75 Tribal members and others from the sober community Oct. 10 to the seventh annual Fish Fry in Trail.

The group feasted on 50 pounds of tilapia, 30 pounds of snapper, nearly 40 slabs of ribs, hamburgers, hot dogs, hush puppies and frybread, but they received a different kind of nourishment from one another.

For those in recovery, ensuring their spiritual, physical and emotional needs are nurtured and healthy is crucial.

“There has to be a balance in recovery,” said Helene Buster, coordinator of Seminoles in Recovery events. “If one is

out of kilter, it just doesn’t happen. We are always working for that balance in our lives. Once you are in balance, you are a happy person and can be there for your family and community.”

Fitness is an important component of any recovery, but it isn’t always given the same priority as staying sober, Buster said. Once addicts understand why they abused and why they shouldn’t use again, they can put their efforts into staying clean.

“People don’t put enough focus on fitness,” Buster said. “It’s usually the last thing they do.”

Buster pushes herself to exercise regularly. She runs about 3 miles three times a week and watches her diet. She organizes the Seminoles in Recovery 5K event to encourage people to concentrate on fitness.

Jeremy Bowers works out about twice a week and watches what he eats. Since he’s been in recovery, his weight loss has made a big difference in his life.

“It makes me feel better about myself,” Bowers said. “It changes my thought process and I can move better and easier now. When I work out, it’s like a self-cleanse. We’ve damaged our bodies for years, but physically you want to be healthy.”

Several attendees shared experiences about their road to recovery during one of the two Alcoholic Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous meetings, where they found support and encouragement from the group.

Anonymous testimonials included: “I knew that I loved what I was using but I knew I was going to die.”

“I’m happy to be sober; now there is a joy to life.”

“Having clean time and being a mother again is a blessing.”

“Some of the blessings of sobriety are friendship, having love and compassion. Life is beautiful; I hear birds chirping again.”



Beverly Bidney

Bruce Duncan prepares fish for the seventh annual Fish Fry in Trail. About 80 pounds of fish made their way into the fryer and fed about 100 hungry folks.



Beverly Bidney

Miguel Cantu puts one of about 40 slabs of ribs on the grill Oct. 10 during the Seminoles in Recovery seventh annual Fish Fry in Trail.

CATTLE SALE

From page 1A

heifers ranged from \$2,700 to \$4,000. Some open, ready-to-breed heifers sold for \$1,700 or higher.

Wes Williamson, owner of Williamson Cattle Company in Texas, Alabama and nearby Okeechobee, sold about 200 head.

“We sold a bunch of heifers all bred by Salacoa bulls. Seminole Pride is the best and the word is spreading,” said Williamson, who attended the auction with his wife, Darin, and grandson Brady, 7.

But raising Brangus is not new to the Tribe. Johns said tribal cattle owners began breeding the cross between Angus and Brahman cattle in the 1940s. A concerted effort to build the Seminole cow/calf operation with Brangus cattle began about two decades ago.

“We know Brangus works because we have the research ... but what works in Florida doesn’t work for the boys in South Dakota,” Johns said.

Brangus have proven especially resilient to subtropical heat and humidity. They are strong foragers and rapid weight gainers; resistant to fleas, ticks and bloat; hardy and nurturing mothers; and produce leaner and thicker, yet tender and tastier, meat.

Salacoa general manager Chris Heptinstall said science is behind the high-quality product. Armed with a degree in animal sciences from Auburn University, Heptinstall has more than 20 years in the business.

“We are scientists,” he said. “We take the scientific approach to mating and breeding with the branded beef program in mind. They have to be genetically engineered for better rib-eye meat and

intramuscular fat because that leads to a happy housewife and a pleasurable eating experience, and when she comes back to the store to buy more meat at premium cost, that’s a good thing.”

Seminole Pride Beef cuts, ranging from inside rounds and peeled knuckles to top blades and Brazilian picanha steak, are sold at Broward Meat and Fish Co. supermarkets in North Lauderdale and Lauderdale Lakes and served in more than 200 restaurants nationwide.

Heptinstall said initial breeding decisions make all the difference in the commercial cattle beef industry. Superior genetically produced offspring, called progeny, could take up to five years to engineer. Brangus is five-eighths Angus and three-eighths Brahman.

Typically, Brangus heifers are impregnated at about 2 years old and are able to birth a calf every year. New calves feed with their mother for about six months before they are sent to a feedlot. About a year later or less, when they reach about 1,300 pounds, they are slaughtered for beef.

In the case of Salacoa and Seminole Pride Beef, live cattle Brangus rib-eye sections are tested by ultrasound to determine the percentage of its intramuscular fat (IMF) where taste derives. IMF relates similarly to the degree of marbling in the meat and fat.

“We average 4 percent IMF. It’s through the IMF program that we can correlate carcasses back to the [parents],” and in turn re-ensure that progeny continues and improves, Heptinstall said.

The heifers sold at the Brighton sale were the best in Florida cattle country, said Richard Hood, a veteran cattle genetics executive of AMS who fielded bids from the auction floor.

“This is cattle country in Florida, right

here in Brighton and Okeechobee, with the largest ranches and some of the best genetics in the United States,” Hood said.

According to the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association’s most recent industry report, Florida cow-calf operators take four spots in the nation’s top 10 list. The Seminole Tribe’s combined operations in Florida and Salacoa ranks seventh.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Agriculture ranks Florida 10th in the nation for beef cow population. The state’s top eight cow inventory counties include Glades and Hendry counties where Brighton and Big Cypress reservations are located, respectively.

Johns said he aims to continue building and expanding the Seminole cattle business. Interest in forging a cooperative venture with other Florida cattle operations is growing. About 20 recent buyers were potential co-op members.

Heifers from the recent sale were replacement females for reproduction only.

“We’re trying now to build the brood stock base to produce even more cattle,” he said.

Johns hopes to eventually host a cattle sale that will feature 1,000 head or more.

The takeaway message of the October sale sounded good news for the future, Heptinstall said. Buyers who were already customers of the program were provided first dibs on the choicest and most premium heifers available.

“We’re offering customers a place to market commercial females. We’re already marketing the steer so this is one more step in defining the Seminole program,” Heptinstall said. “We’re a reputation program that pulls customers through the process. Because we offer the whole wheel, the whole circle, it makes sense to buy from Salacoa Valley and the Seminole Tribe.”



Eileen Soler

Brighton cowboy Bobby Yates steers a load of newly purchased heifers toward transport cattle trucks Oct. 10 following the Cattle Country Replacement Female Sale at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.

New book builds on sharing tribal culture

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — For the first time in architectural academia, a book uniquely devoted to Seminole chickees past and present is available for scholars, history buffs and everyday readers.

“Thatched Roofs and Open Sides,” written by Carrie Dilley with significant input from Seminole Tribe members including Chairman James E. Billie, explores and explains the architecture of chickees and the humble abodes’ changing role in Seminole society.

“You can find books about teepees and other Native American architecture, but if you Google ‘Seminole chickee’ nothing comes up,” said Dilley, the architectural historian for Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress.

Dilley worked for nearly five years on the text-bookish yet reader-friendly, 216-page hardback published by University Press of Florida. All sale profits from the \$74.95 book, which hit bookstores and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum shelves in early October, go to the Tribe. In mid-October, it received the 2015 Book Award from the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians.

Dilley unknowingly began collecting data for the book in early 2009 when she launched a chickee survey project with the intent to document all chickees in every Seminole community. In 2010, she was

approached by the publisher, who suggested that she compile the information for an academic work.

Dilley knew the topic was indeed underrepresented in the field of architecture and anthropology, but with respect for the Seminole culture and people, she took the idea in a different direction.

“For sure, it became collaboration. I know that the book would not be what it turned out to be without the voices of the chickee makers. It is a critical component to have the other voices and to stick to what they told me and share what they wanted to share,” Dilley said.

Chairman Billie, Norman Huggins, Sandy Billie Jr., Norman “Skeeter” Bowers, Lonnie Billie, Ronnie Billie, Joe Dan Osceola, Wade Osceola and Bobby Henry were among a list of master chickee builders who granted Dilley interviews. Surely not all chickee builders were represented in the book, but Dilley ended the interview process with 11 tribal voices and representation from all reservations.

Conversations happened at the builders’ homes, driving through reservations while checking out remnants of old, abandoned chickee camps, inside still functioning camps and underneath the thatched roofs of backyard chickees. No discussions occurred in Dilley’s Museum office.

Norman Bowers said he was honored to participate in the book’s creation. For him, the chickee is a symbol of culture, tradition and survival. His mother, like scores of elder

Tribe members, was raised in a chickee as a matter of necessity. Bowers grew up participating in ceremonies in chickee camps and became a master chickee builder.

“For me, the chickee is still necessary, but it evolved into a way to earn a living that only a Seminole man can do the best,” Bowers said.

Bowers’ signature L-shaped, 100-foot-long chickee flanks the east side of Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.

Sharing the culture in a book does not bother Bowers. Several of his chickees already dot university campuses.

“For readers, finding out about chickees gives them insight into the how Seminoles live. For me, it’s a side job, a business and life,” Bowers said. “It’s good to let people know that even though we have casinos and money, we have our ways. A Seminole man can fish, hunt, build a chickee, sing our songs, honor our traditions ... and always be able to survive and make a living.”

Dilley’s book takes the chickee through its early temporary function into today’s evolved multi-functional structure, she said. The perfect example, as described and pictured in the book, is Chairman Billie’s home.

“It’s as original and current as it possibly can be. It’s the epitome of the evolution,” Dilley said.

Completely modern with top plumbing and kitchen conveniences, plus a living room that boasts a flat-screen television, the chickee home in Brighton features an entirely thatched roof — no man-made barriers rest between the organic roof and the sky.

Photographs and text reveal the basic configuration and makeup of chickees from the four-post cypress log frame to the roof’s ridge cap reinforcements that sometimes employ asphalt or tar paper. One photograph shows a chickee structure with plywood walls; another shows a “Seminole Cook House” chickee circa 1910.

But the book reveals only what is meant for public consumption. It maintains a line of discretion of which only Tribal members are aware.

“I knew when to back off when broaching a subject too closely,” Dilley said. “I did not try to pry because I knew there would be things that I will just never know.”

Dilley said cultural education leaders Willie Johns and Lewis Gopher reviewed the book for content and accuracy from the Seminole perspective. Chairman Billie and the late Lorene Gopher also read the book and gave approval.

“There were checks and balances,” Dilley said. “The book was not written in a vacuum.”



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The Cherokee dance group Warriors of AniKithwa will perform at 11:45 a.m. Nov. 6 and Nov. 7 during the 18th annual American Indian Arts Celebration at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress.

Native art to spotlight Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki’s AIAC

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff has been so intensely immersed recently in preparation for the Seminole Tribe’s upcoming 18th annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) that the event is being heralded as the “most anticipated AIAC ever.”

“We have fantastic performances slated for both days. People will be coming from out of state to attend and to participate because we have a very strong, strong lineup,” said Annette Snapp, the Museum’s operating manager.

Snapp, who holds a doctorate degree in philosophy and archaeology, said highlights of the Nov. 6-7 art and culture extravaganza include performances by the award-winning Cherokee dance group Warriors of AniKithwa, a 20-30 piece pop-up photography exhibit and video presentation called “Seminole Spirit” by world-renowned fashion photographer Russell James, and the soulful Seminole sounds of the Rita Youngman Band.

Works by Leonard Peltier, a Native American activist and member of the American Indian Movement, will be exhibited by his son Chauncey Peltier, of Oregon. Leonard Peltier has been imprisoned for 40 years, some say for political reasons, due to a 1975 shootout on Pine Ridge Reservation that resulted in the deaths of two FBI agents.

Last year hundreds packed the festival to watch entertainment, learn more about Native history and culture, and purchase artwork created by more than 30 artists and crafters from throughout Indian Country.

Medicine man Bobby Henry will open the event at 10 a.m. Nov. 6 with a ceremonial Stomp Dance at the chickee camp adjacent to the Museum parking lot. Greetings from Brighton Seminole princesses will be followed by genuine Seminole alligator wrestling by tribal culture keeper Billy Walker.

On Nov. 7, Snapp will kick off festivities with a 7-8 a.m. Audubon Society-sanctioned bird watching tour along the Museum boardwalk.

The \$10 admission charge to the event includes the bird-watching tour and access to the Museum exhibits, gift shop and boardwalk.

Tribe employees, who show work identification badges, and three guests, will get in free.

Current exhibits inside the Museum include “It’s Not a Costume: Modern Seminole Patchwork” and more than a dozen pieces from the collection “Guy LaBree: Painted Stories of the Seminoles.”

Recently installed interactive exhibits dot sections throughout the Museum to help guide visitors through past and present cultural experiences of the Seminole Tribe.

In addition to typical festival fare, Seminole food favorites such as Indian tacos, pumpkin frybread and spam covered in tangy tomatoes will be available for purchase.

“If you’ve never been to the American Indian Arts Celebration at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, this is the year to come on out,” Snapp said. “If you’ve been here before, be prepared for something more and better than ever.”

For more information, visit www.AhTahThiKi.com or call 863-902-1113.



Eileen Soler

Carrie Dilley poses Oct. 10 at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress during a meet the author book signing event for her ‘Thatched Roofs and Open Sides.’

◆ PRINCESSES

From page 3A

of Waste Management and B.R.A.T. (Building Relationships Among Teens) Club of Okeechobee; and Okeechobee City Councilman Gary Ritter had the difficult task of choosing the winners.

“They all know what their culture means to them,” Kelley said. “It’s a fantastic foundation.”

While the judges deliberated, the girls waited backstage.

“Win or lose, it was pretty fun,” Winnie said while the girls waited onstage for the pronouncement.

Krysta and Alaina won best essay in the Miss and Jr. Miss categories.

Krysta, daughter of Micki and Chris Burton, was crowned by outgoing Miss Brighton Harley Johns and reigning Miss Florida Seminole Destiny Nunez. Outgoing Jr. Miss Brighton Alaina Brady crowned Leilani.

The Brighton princesses will appear at tribal events, including Brighton Field Day, and represent the Tribe at annual festivals in the area, including Chalo Nitka in Moore Haven, Speckled Perch in Okeechobee and Swamp Cabbage in LaBelle.

“The girls have a lot of fun and learn a little bit about competition,” said Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. “They get something out of it in the way of sportsmanship. They all have their chance but someone has to win and others have to wait.”



Beverly Bidney

Jr. Miss Brighton contestant Karey Gopher explains the history of the Seminole Tribe Sept. 26 during the talent portion of the Miss Brighton Princess Pageant.



Beverly Bidney

Leilani Burton holds the Jr. Miss Brighton crown as outgoing Jr. Miss Brighton Alaina Brady secures it during the Miss Brighton Princess Pageant.



Beverly Bidney

Jr. Miss Brighton contestant Alaina Sweat waves to the audience during the pageant.



Beverly Bidney

Jr. Miss Brighton contestant Winnie Gopher models clothing at the Miss Brighton Princess Pageant at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton.



Eileen Soler

Protestors from diverse groups gather Oct. 14 at the People's Climate March at the Stephen P. Clarke Center to demonstrate for action against global warming and climate change.

INDIGENOUS DAY

From page 1A

originally we share only one Earth," said Marleine Bastien, executive director of Fanm Aiyisyen nan Miyami.

Demonstrators rallied amid musical entertainment, spoken word performances and speeches. William Smoke Snellgrove, of the Fishing Lake First Nation of Saskatchewan, Canada, addressed the crowd and led a prayer to the Creator



Eileen Soler

Esperanza Rodriguez, an environmental science teacher at Hialeah High School and member of the Sierra Club, marches atop stilts dressed like a great blue heron to raise awareness against climate change.

before leading the march to the Torch of Friendship monument on Biscayne Boulevard.

"We have to pray for Mother Earth because when we poison her, we poison each other," Snellgrove told the crowd. "All humans have the responsibility to care for the Earth, not the power over the Earth. Indians have always known that and sometimes it falls to us to remind others that the power over everything comes from the Creator."

Seminole Tribe member Sam Tommie marched in solidarity with the crowd and shot video for a documentary he is producing about activism for political, environmental and sovereign rights throughout Indian Country.

Tommie said he recognized several non-Native protestors who consistently stand with the Seminole and Miccosukee tribes on South Florida issues, such as the ongoing fight against Florida Power & Light's proposed electrical power plant near Big Cypress Reservation and the proposed River of Grass Greenway that would negatively impact wildlife, wetlands and Native camps along the Tamiami Trail.

Tommie said Native tradition requires that when guests visit their homes, they should be provided with food or, at the very least, a drink of water. With that in mind, he treated the familiar faces with dinner at a nearby restaurant.

"We indigenous have lived close to the land, water and we try to follow our values, but I feel we've been holding our breath for a very long time. When I see other people marching for the environment, for human rights and all the justices given to us by the Creator, from the bottom of my heart I cannot thank them enough," Tommie said. "Diverse people have to work together to solve common problems - it's a very Native American philosophy."

Seminole Restaurant Review

Temple Street Eatery: A recommendation made by Everett Osceola

BY GORDON WAREHAM
Contributing Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE — Temple Street Eatery is a mixture of Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Vietnamese comfort foods located in the heart of downtown Fort Lauderdale. It's not a typical Asian restaurant with egg rolls and pork fried rice; it features a menu filled with Asian fusion foods that bring customers an experience of Asian cuisine.

As Everett Osceola and I entered the restaurant, we were greeted with warm smiles and an eagerness to explain the menu to us. Being there for the first time and not finding the typical egg drop soup and sweet and sour chicken left me confused and puzzled as I stared at the menu.

The waitress explained their signature dishes - bibimbap rice bowl and bulgogi rice bowl - and the ingredients. She said everything was homemade.

I felt adventurous splitting the sweet soy glazed chicken wings appetizer with Everett. I tried the bulgogi rice bowl, whose ingredients include rice, marinated beef sautéed with onion, carrot, scallion and shoga, and found the food absolutely delicious. Everett had the bulgogi sandwich, which contains marinated beef, sautéed carrots, onions, scallions and provolone cheese. He let me try a small piece.

"It was a good balance of texture with meat, bread and the bulgogi Korean spices," Everett said. "I initially thought the bread would take away the taste but it actually enhances it, different from the usual lettuce leaf that is commonly used to eat bulgogi steak."

We returned Oct. 19 to Temple Street Eatery for its one-year anniversary celebration. The owners Alex Kuk and Diego Ng welcomed customers as they entered their establishment. The restaurant was filled with family and friends celebrating the restaurants' accomplishments.

Created especially for that night's menu was Asian-style seafood boil with shrimp, rib eye, beef balls, tofu puffs, daikon radish and mushrooms, all boiled in their special pho broth. We also tried the red miso marinated lamb lollipops and summer rolls.

My favorite dish of the night was the crispy shrimp tacos, whose ingredients



Gordon Wareham

Wonton noodle soup.



Gordon Wareham

Crispy shrimp tacos and yuzu ceviche.



Gordon Wareham

Bulgogi sandwich.

are tempura fried shrimp, lettuce, tomato, pineapple salsa and wasabi mayo. The texture of crispy shrimp with the sweet taste of the pineapple salsa mixed beautifully with wasabi mayo gave the dish a perfect blend, which prompted me to order seconds.

Excitement filled the air when the John Wai Kung Fu Academy performed the Lion Dance, which aims to bring good health and prosperity to the place.

I asked owner Alex Kuk what he would like Seminole Tribal members to know about his restaurant. His response: "What we're trying to do is educate our culture through food, serving food with integrity. Everything is homemade. Soups are

homemade, all 15 sauces are homemade and all dumplings are homemade. Everything is healthy but also it's pretty good food."

Temple Street Eatery is located at 416 North Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale. Prices range from \$6 to \$12. If you're in the Fort Lauderdale area and want to try special and delicious Asian fusion food, then Temple Street Eatery is the place to visit. For more information, including a menu, visit www.TempleStreetEatery.com.

If a Tribal member has a restaurant recommendation, message Gordon Wareham through The Seminole Tribune. The Tribune does not pay for the meal.

2016 SEMINOLE TRIBAL FAIR AND POW WOW

45th Annual Celebration of Native Arts and Culture

February 5-7, 2016

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

\$150k+ in Pow Wow Prizes
Live Music
Alligator Shows
and more!

Tribal Fair Hotline - 866.625.5374

Vendors contact:
Virginia Osceola - 954.292.2597 or
Elrod Bowers - 954.383.6771

Pow Wow information call:
Wanda Bowers - 954.444.9827
Jackie Osceola - 954.850.3100,
Trudy Osceola - 954.347.6347,
or Eugenia Osceola - 786.537.1905

Camping information call:
Alice Tucker - 954.732.8353 or
Intaz Kahn - 954.818.6065

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

FREE FAMILY EVENT!!!



Join us on



HOLLYWOOD, FL

SEMINOLE HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO

LIVE

IN GOD WE TRUST

Who are the Seminoles?

Seminole Tribe to bring history to Mission San Luis Winter Festival

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — Two questions — who are the Seminole Indians and when did they get to Florida — have both politicized and trivialized the Seminole Tribe of Florida's cultural and anthropological equity in the state.

Decades of shortsighted history in textbooks and research papers identifying today's Seminoles as 18th century newcomers to Florida who came here to escape soldiers from homelands in northern climes and discounting the Tribe's direct descendancy to the aboriginal Tribes of Florida, have pigeonholed Seminoles as strangers in their own homeland.

Such direct attacks on the Tribe's sovereignty continue to this day, always hovering in the background, fueled by opponents to tribal development and protection.

Only last month, an international story on Indian cowboys published online by National Public Radio used information from

a Florida Department of State spokesperson that differs from the Seminoles' account of their own history in Florida.

In an effort to set the record straight, Florida Secretary of State Ken Dentzner, in partnership with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, has approved a "Who Are The Seminoles?" symposium on Dec. 12 as part of the two-day Winter Solstice Celebration, an annual festival of Southeastern Indian culture and heritage at the Mission San Luis de Apalachee in Tallahassee.

Included in the four-hour Seminole session will be presentations from moderator Dr. Patricia Riles Wickman, a former state and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer whose research and books have established firm foundations for the Seminoles' aboriginal equity in Florida; Dr. Andrew Frank, of Florida State University, who will present his recent paper "Creating a Seminole Enemy: Ethnic and Racial Diversity in the Conquest of Florida;" Seminole Tribal member Marty Bowers, who will provide a Seminole perspective on growing up on the Big Cypress Reservation,

along with his family's history of the Tribe; Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry and Seminole Culture expert Herbert Jim, who will discuss the origin story of the Seminole people and the history of the Tribe in the land that came to be known as Florida as it was handed down through the decades within their own families; and Seminole Chairman James E. Billie, who will discuss the past, present, future and truth of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Following the end of the program, Henry and Jim will direct an intertribal Stomp Dance for all Native demonstrators and attendees.

The Mission San Luis Winter Solstice Celebration, Dec. 12-13, will feature two full days of Southeastern Native American culture, crafts, demonstrations, living history, astronomy, lectures, a stickball game, theater and presentations by historical scholars, the Tallahassee Astronomical Society and Theater with a Mission.

For more information about the Winter Solstice Celebration, visit the events section at www.MissionSanLuis.org.



Peter B. Gallagher

Willie Johns delivers a eulogy Oct. 15 at the Okeechobee gravesite where 21 Seminole skulls from the 1800s were repatriated. The Seminole Tribal Historic Preservation Office worked for a year to have the Seminole remains returned to the Tribe for burial in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

◆ REPATRIATION

From page 1A

Home. One by one, THPO staff carried 10 more boxes to the site.

THPO collections manager Kate Macuen lowered herself into a vault donated by the funeral home. Assisted by Johns and THPO bioarchaeologist Dominique deBeaubien, she laid each cloth-wrapped skull along the bottom of the vault.

Although documentation was necessary, photographs were not allowed to be taken of the open vault.

"This is very serious to the Seminole Tribe. These are our relatives. It is very sad that it took this long to bring them back home," said Johns, who has been proactive in matters both local and national regarding the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Passed in 1990, NAGPRA provides a process for museums and federal agencies to return Native American cultural items — including human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony — to lineal descendants, culturally affiliated Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.

While exact figures are difficult to determine, NAGPRA's website estimates more than 50,000 human remains and more than 140,000 objects have been repatriated since the law went into effect.

Charles Coleman, one of the nation's first Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, observed the repatriation services while representing Thlopthlocco (Creek) Tribal Town of Okemah, Oklahoma. Retired from the military and as a teacher, Coleman rejoined his tribal government to "work on getting the remains back. They are all over the place and sometimes they have been in a box in some basement for many, many years," he said. "Tribes need to support one another to get them out of the box and back in the ground where they belong.

"It's not easy. They don't always want to give them up. I'm proud of the Seminoles. It is really a privilege for me to be here to observe this one. It is important to Tribes to keep working on these repatriations."

The journey of the Seminole skulls included being unceremoniously stored in plastic bags and bubble wrap in a university basement. They were among skulls taken legally and illegally, and with and without permission, from battlefields and burial sites across America and other parts of the world by a legion of skull robbers, medics and funerary fanatics eager to make money or gain praise from Dr. Samuel George Morton, a Philadelphia physician who believed that cranial capacity determined intelligence. He combined data from skull measurements with analysis of known principles of anthropology to create "evidence" for racial stereotypes and justification for a racial hierarchy that put Caucasians on the top rung and Africans on the bottom. Native Americans were in the middle.

Where he described the Caucasian as "distinguished by the facility with which it attains the highest intellectual endowments," Native Americans were described as "averse to cultivation and slow in acquiring knowledge; restless, revengeful and fond of war; and wholly destitute of maritime adventure."

In fact, Morton's "systematic justification" for the separation of races, gave racists of the era powerful scientific ammunition to support both slavery and forced American Indian removals.

Morton's theories have been debunked several times since he died in 1851. A 2014 study of Morton's data by University of Pennsylvania philosophy professor Michael Weisberg concluded "there is prima facie evidence of racial bias in Morton's ... measurements," further calling Morton's work "a cautionary example of racial bias in the science of human differences."

After Morton's death, the Academy of Natural Sciences, also in Philadelphia, purchased Morton's collection of 967 skulls from his wife and in 1966 loaned and later donated the collection, which had nearly doubled since 1852, to the university, where it exists to this day, only partially on display.

In 2014, the Seminole Tribe of Florida was contacted by Dr. Pamela Geller, a University of Miami Department of Anthropology assistant professor, who reported that in the course of her graduate research, she discovered the Morton collection contained Seminole skulls. The Seminole THPO immediately began the laborious process to have the Seminole skulls returned to the Tribe for burial. The application included 11 letters of support from cultural-affiliated Tribes, including the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

It took a year. "It is like that in a lot of university museums," Macuen said. "By law they have to work with the Tribes to return this material. I think a lot of people are trying to make the right decisions, but they also have a different mindset and feel very possessive about their collections."

"We started an official conversation with the museum, requesting their whole inventory. It took a year to get all the documents, which is one of the great frustrations. They already had it all and they dragged their feet. In most cases you call a museum and ask for that and they give it to you that day, that week; never something that would take a year."

Stacey Espenlaub, NAGPRA coordinator at University of Pennsylvania said she believed the two entities worked well together.

"We finally came to a common ground and it worked well," she said.

Espenlaub reported that a full inventory of the university's skull collection was mailed to THPOs, including the Seminole THPO in 2001. However, the Seminole THPO office was not established until 2002; it was not until 2006 that a Historic Preservation Plan was established and the duties of the State Historic Preservation Officer were shifted to the Tribe's Historic Preservation Officer.

Espenlaub also indicated that the inventories are posted on the Federal Register.

Eventually, in mid-October, a team from the Seminole THPO office and Johns flew to Philadelphia to accept the skulls, which were stored in plastic bags with bubble wrap. The team spent an entire day unwrapping the skulls and repacking them according to the strict Seminole THPO carrying standards, said Macuen, who credits Johns and Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry for their guidance.

"It made it a whole lot better when you know you are bringing them home and it is the right thing to do," Macuen said.

Because grave robbers still exist, the location of the burial site is not being released, though there are plans to erect a monument or sign nearby.

During the ceremony, Johns gave a eulogy to a small crowd gathered around the site.

"Normally in our funerals we do a handshake, but these guys here have been in heaven a long time," he said. "We are just bringing their remains back where they belong. I always thought, what if they ask me to say something, what would I say? I would say, 'Welcome home, welcome home. And, oh, by the way, did you hear? We won! Your people are still here in Florida. And they are doing well ... So welcome home, rest in peace forever and ever more. You are here back in your beloved homeland.' Wildcat couldn't say that. You remember: he was the one who kept saying, 'I was made of this land and I am going to die here.' But he never did. These guys here made the trip, the big circle. And their circle is over today. So, on behalf of the Seminole Warrior Society and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, I want to thank everybody, especially the THPO department for diligently going after this because when we found out they were Seminoles, our hearts just kind of went that way; we had to do this. So I guess we can all leave in peace knowing that we all did our part."

Each person shoveled a piece of earth and tossed it over the open grave.

As the backhoe pushed the small hill of sand atop the closed vault, the skulls of the 21 Seminoles, which had rested on shelves and boxes for more than 160 years, were finally at rest in peace.

"There are a lot more out there in boxes," Johns said. "I hope we can get them all."

◆ FPL

From page 1A

Some Seminole Tribe members are already shaking their heads in disbelief.

"Approval of the amendments by the county is going to happen and we will have to keep fighting it," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank. "Business monopolies like FPL have done environmental, social and economic injustice to the citizens of Florida for years, and now with this proposed plant by the border of the reservation, the health and welfare of the residents of Big Cypress is threatened for generations. The county and state will not listen to our concerns so we will have to be heard in court."

The amendments, written by FPL and accepted by Hendry County, will respectively create a new electrical generating facility land use category; set criteria for FPL specifically to build the utility's massive power plant on land that abuts the Seminole reservation; and amend the county's map to change the current designation of the land use from agriculture to electrical generating facility.

The agencies were directed by the land planning agency, also known as the Department of Economic Opportunity, to address only the specific agency's concerns.

For instance, the Department of Transportation wrote that all three proposed amendments "are not anticipated to adversely impact important state transportation resources or facilities." A chart was provided to predict no negative traffic impacts on nearby roadways during the building of the plant or when the finished plant employs operational staff.

The Department of Education responded with "no comment" because "the proposed amendments do not appear to have the potential to adversely affect public educational facilities." It is unknown if the department knows that tribal land 1 mile south of the FPL property is designated for the future Ahfachkee High School.

The Tribe's legal team, Lewis, Longman & Walker, commented in a letter to the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

In the Aug. 21 letter, attorney Stephen Walker implored the agency to address the Tribe's water resources and wetlands, which directly affect the Tribe's culture, quality of

life and land use compatibility.

Noting that the Tribe has federal water rights via a compact with the Tribe, state and SFWMD, the letter stated that the plant, on 3,100 FPL acres, will require up to approximately 22 million gallons of water per day, which will exceed standards set by SFWMD to prevent impact to onsite and adjacent wetlands. Further, the plant's water needs will interfere with needs of the Big Cypress Reservation. The Tribe uses 89 million gallons per day for its entire 55,000-acre community; 95 percent of the water is used for agricultural purposes, according to the letter.

"FPL has declined to address its potential impacts on water supply based on an assumption that these issues can be addressed at a later date through a future permitting process. Unfortunately, that will be too late," Walker wrote.

However, SFWMD's comment to the county, also dated Aug. 21, stated: "There appear to be no regionally significant water resource issues associated with the text and map amendments; therefore, the district forwards no comments on the proposed amendment package." In the next sentence, however, the SFWMD notes that the amendments will involve Seminole land and that future activities on the land will be evaluated by the agency in respect to the water compact.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection also reported no concerns with the land use changes but stated in the comment letter that it conducted a detailed review on potential impacts to air and water pollution, wetlands and other surface water, lands — whether state or federally owned — and a handful of other issues.

While the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) offered "no objections to the amendment," it offered technical assistance to the county, particularly when FPL prepares later to apply to the governor and Cabinet and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for certification and license for the plant per the Power Plant Siting Act process.

The FWC noted FPL's proposals to provide habitat for more than 30 wildlife species, which include several on threatened and endangered lists such as the bald eagle, Florida panther and Everglades

"We have to be very careful what they say and what they write as law. A person has to look behind all that at once and think of every word by itself."

— Sam Tommie,
Big Cypress Reservation

snail kite. The FWC maintained confidence that impacts to fish and wildlife would be addressed during the Power Plant Siting Act process and other regulatory requirements.

Only the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council addressed tangible tribal concerns, specifically negative "impacts on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation," though the group agreed that the amendment proposals are consistent with other local government comprehensive plans. The council also suggested that protection of the Florida panther should be addressed in detail with the FWC: "Although promises have been made to add infrastructure to the area, none are currently ready."

Promises and proposals are huge problems, according to Tribal members like environmental artist Sam Tommie. He fears that if the three amendments become law, FPL will build the plant around legal technicalities with little concern for the land, water, animals or the living culture of its neighbors.

"We have to be very careful what they say and what they write as law," Tommie said. "A person has to look behind all that at once and think of every word by itself."



Eileen Soler/Seminole Tribune archive photo

This massive sprawl of an FPL power plant in Palm Beach County could be duplicated right next door to the Big Cypress Reservation.



Old Tribunes: Now available for your viewing pleasure

SUBMITTED BY MARY BETH ROSEBROUGH
 Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Old newspapers? Isn't that what you use for kindling or lining the bottom of the bird cage? Not at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. We love old newspapers. They paint a vivid picture of the past, recent and distant, with words and images. And that's why we treasure old newspapers – especially old copies of The Seminole Tribune. Lucky for us, we recently received a generous donation of newspapers dating back to 1985 – ancient history to some and like yesterday to others. Either way, the articles and even the feel of the yellowed paper is a trip through time.

Looking through the newspapers proves the saying, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." This sense of continuity amid change is a hallmark of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The Tribunes clearly illustrate the point: celebration, community and tradition form the cornerstone of the Seminole Tribe's efforts to maintain its unique place in history as the

Unconquered. What was important then is important now.

At the end of November the Museum will install a new exhibit highlighting recent award-winning photographers of The Tribune. This is of special note as the Museum now has in its collection thousands of photos taken by Tribune staff. In speaking with the Museum's curator of exhibits Rebecca Fell about the exhibit's point of view, it became clear The Tribune photos tell a story – a story different from what the general public may believe or generalize about the Seminole Tribe. The exhibit's images synthesize the history and culture of the Tribe so a true "picture" emerges. The history books may get it wrong, but The Tribune gets it right.

Researching is easier because the newspapers are housed and stored in a non-archival way. Instead of being behind heavy vault doors in special acid-free boxes to be touched only with purple-gloved hands, the collection is out on a library table easily accessible by researchers, staff or community members.

Every visitor to the library can relax and get lost in the past while reading the wise advice of Betty Mae Jumper after the Challenger exploded in space (life is precious, don't take it for granted) or where and who and what the Blind Pass Seminole Village was all about (open for one winter in 1928-29 on Treasure Island employing Josie Billie and 40 others).

Every visitor who spots the old papers has been intrigued and delighted with what they find behind the front page. A recent visitor found her birth announcement, yet the newspapers chronicle and inform on many subjects. Decades of reporting on tribal news and events, editorials and essays have formed a library of invaluable information comparable to none. Come see our exhibit of Tribune photos, view our own collection or visit us in the library on a day you have a little or a lot of time to take a step back and "identify (with) the past."

Call us at 877-902-1113 to make an appointment in the library and that way we'll be sure to be here to help you with your search.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Pictured are The Seminole Tribune newspapers at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum library.

Hah-pong-ke: Jerry Mincey

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
 Special Projects Reporter

LAKELAND — With five generations of Florida cracker heritage for inspiration, Polk County singer-songwriter-storyteller Jerry Mincey embodies the authentic Florida folk musicologist. Through his music and stories, the listener learns of legends and heroes, the natural beauty of a now lost landscape, the sounds of the gospel sung on his grandmother's front porch, and characters of distinction, from Seminole Indian chiefs to cowboy settlers and orange grove pickers to black bears, cooters and Florida panthers.

Mincey's gift for language and lyrics, combined with a musical talent he has crafted since childhood, is evident in one of his signature songs, "Echo Chipco," named for a North Florida Seminole war chief who refused to join surrendered Seminoles on the Trail to Oklahoma, and like Sam Jones (Abiaki) to the south, helped hide and protect dozens of hunted Indians whose descendants include the old Cow Creeks and many of the Brighton Seminoles of today.

Mincey's narrative describes, in musical verse, nearly a century of Seminole history. He mentions the death of Echo Chipco's father at Horseshoe Bend, a significant battle site in the Mississippi

Territory, now central Alabama, where, on March 27, 1814, United States forces and Indian allies under Major General Andrew Jackson defeated the Red Sticks, a part of the Creek Indian Tribe who opposed American expansion, effectively ending the Creek War.

Many Indians refused to move to lands out West.

Over the next decades, Chipco and his Tallahassee band kept on the run from Jackson, whose government eventually put out a bounty (\$400 for warriors, \$100 for children) on the renegade Seminoles.

They ran south to the Suwannee River, south to the Peace River and over near Tampa on Lake Thonotosassa, where Chipco traveled about Hillsborough County and made friends among white settlers, who gladly traded food and supplies for furs and pelts.

The friendship paid off. Chipco's white friends informed him about a planned ambush by the U.S., information that allowed Chipco to move his large band in the stealth of night and disappear in the Green Swamp, slowly migrating to the cypress swamps north and east of Lake Okeechobee, where they hid until the start of the Civil War.

Several years after the war ended, Chipco found himself in the Kissimmee River Valley, then Lake Pierce west of

Lake Wales, where he is said to have died between 1881 and 1884.

He had married a Cow Creek woman, who bore him no children, so Chipco bequeathed his chieftainship on his nephew Tallahassee.

Mincey's mention of Cowpen Slough marks for history one of Florida's most impenetrable swamps near the Myakka River and present-day Sarasota – a prime hiding place for dozens of Florida Indians who resisted removal. His last verse captures the mysticism of the place.

Mincey's musical credits include the Florida Folk Festival, Will Fest, Gamble Rogers Music Festival, Cracker Storytelling Festival, Gram InterNational in Nashville, and college and university appearances. Mincey, who makes his living in the Florida orange juice business, is a principle organizer in restoring the old Derry Down club where he, Winter Haven songwriter Gram Parsons, Jim Stafford and other Florida songwriters performed in the 1960s and '70s.

According to his press release, Mincey's music "will take you on a meandering trip of history and fun. The performances will leave you asking for more."

Mincey will perform on the Big Cypress Reservation during the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's 18th annual American Indian Arts Celebration Nov. 6-7.

'Echo Chipco,' words and music by Jerry Mincey

Born free in Alabama
 His Daddy died at Horseshoe Bend
 They chose the wilds of Florida
 To the dust in the Oklahoma wind
 With his cousin Osceola
 And his uncle Peter McQueen
 They fled to the green horizon
 Where the land was pure and clean

Chorus:
 Echo Chipco was a great Muskoki war chief
 Echo Chipco was a lover of the peace

Echo Chipco was a steward of the land
 Echo Chipco still walks this Florida sand
 Esti Seminoli Yat Seminoli
 Free people walk Florida sand
 Esti Seminoli Yat Seminoli
 Free people walk Florida sand

The Crackers called him Chipco
 He helped sustain their lives
 Dishonored and barred from the Council
 After quittin' Bowlegs fight
 He overcame his hatred
 Came to love his fellow man

He worked to share his vision
 To save and preserve this land

Now Chipco's walked the Bridge of death
 His spirit echoes through Cowpen Slough

The lights of his soul shine brightly
 Showing the way for me and you
 Preserve the land for your children
 Don't let it slip away
 He found his green horizon
 His spirit remains today

Betty Mae Jumper

Wisdom from the past

Letter sparks memories

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the April 16, 1999 issue of The Seminole Tribune.

Today, I sat in my office cleaning out papers. I saw many letters that came to me. Some telling me they are Indian and wanting to know how they can find people who might be related to them. Then other letters talking about wanting information of why and how Indians live and what they eat. Things of such and it goes on and on.

Then there are letters that give you encouragement about the things you do and write. When you get letters like this, it makes your day. One of those letters made my day. It was from the family of a man I met long ago. The letter made me remember my past.

When I returned from school to my people the only thing on my mind was to help them face the new world we are stepping into. The reason I went to school was to learn how to cope with the outside world. When I was young it was difficult.

The older people in the Tribe would tell me that I was selling us to the white people. They said, "We don't need to change our lives. We are Indians. Our life is different and we live different ways."

Back then, my mother told me and taught me that we can't turn back. She told me that even our own people don't live the same as they did long ago. There is no more hunting and fishing. People don't find much food or berries in the woods as they used to. People are getting sick and children are dying with diseases such as chicken pox, measles, whooping cough and many more.

I knew that the people needed immunizations, which couldn't be done by the Indian doctors. Indian doctors are good, but they could only go so far.

A long time ago when I walked into the chickees where sick people were lying down or some sick babies were kept, I tried my best to make them go to the doctor. Many times I put them in my car and took them to white doctors miles back into town. If they couldn't go, I had penicillin that I gave to them if they had high fevers. It was a rough life.

We used to listen to the older people when I was a young person, which made it hard for me to stand and argue with them to seek modern medicine. I returned back to the people so many times that some began to believe in me because their children were getting well and so were the old people. Little by little over two years or so they began to have more faith in me, mostly the women.

During this time, I was working as a nurse in Jackson Memorial Hospital when they brought in an old medicine man. He fought the doctors and nurses. He had cancer and was operated on which made him very mad. He wouldn't do anything for them, not even take his medicine.

I was called to talk to him. I didn't know this man; he was from Trail and had lived only by the Indian way of life. His name was Osceola.

I walked up to his bedside. I touched his arm and said to him in Indian, "How you feeling?" He answered and said, "No good, they cut me up is the reason I am feeling bad all day, worse today." He was mad. When I stood beside him he looked at me and asked, "Do you work here?" I said yes and told him who I was.

He said, "Oh, yes, I heard of you." "Nothing bad, I hope," I told him. He kind of smiled. Then I said to him, "I'm not here to make you do anything." I told him I was there to help him any way I could.

"Get me sofkee," he said in Creek. I said, "Do you talk Creek?" He said no. I said a few words to him and told him whenever someone comes, I'd send word to get some sofkee. He said, "OK, I really like to drink it."

One afternoon a lady came to see

the medicine man, so I sent word by her to ask of his kinfolks to bring sofkee that night. After all this, he became friendly with me. Some nurses asked, "How did you make him talk to you when he is so mad at us?" I told them I was taught to meet older people with kind words, and this is what I did.

One week later he sent his grandson looking for me. When I went up to see him he smiled. I thought maybe someone done something and he didn't like it, but instead he said, "Remember you told me if you talked to the Heavenly Father, he would help you and make the hurting quit? Tell me more about it. I've been thinking about it. If I talk to the Father up above, that I might believe and



don't hurt any more. Also, you said if things bother you and you're upset, tell Him."

I said, "Ever since I was a little girl, without Him I wouldn't be where I am today." He lied there and seemed to think, "She's so young and yet telling me all this." Then he turned to me again and said, "Tell me more."

So I got the Bible that was in the hospital and read some to him and told him the best I knew how.

"How do people join and go on that road?" was his next question. I said, "I am not too knowledgeable, but we have preachers and they tell a lot more. I think Bill Osceola is your kin. He is my pastor."

I asked him if he wanted me to call Bill. The medicine man said yes, would I get him. So I went and called Bill, but no one was home. I went back and told him I can't get him, but there are white preachers and easy to get from the hospital. I said, "I can talk for you." He said, "Alright." So I went to the front desk and told them the Indian medicine man is requesting a preacher. I went back and told him they were trying to find one. A half-hour later a white preacher came, not knowing what to expect as he never knew Indians before.

I explained to him this is an old medicine man who never heard God's word, but he would like to hear from you. "Yes, yes," he said and got the Bible out and began telling him how Jesus loves everybody. We spent over an hour or so and he asked to hear more and more.

In the Indian language, he said, "Tell the preacher I am ready." Then the preacher told him how to get saved and what to say. He did all this and after everything was said he lied there and seemed so relieved. He smiled at everyone who came to his room.

Later that night his kinfolk came to visit him. He was talking in a way in which they never heard him talk. He talked about what he heard and what happened to him. The visitors – old Jack Motlow and Mary Osceola and Bill Osceola's mother – couldn't believe what they were hearing from him. People began to come and see a change in him.

A week or so later, I went by his room and he was so glad to see me he

had a big smile for me. I told him, "I won't be by this weekend. I'm off this weekend." He said, "Fine, I'll see you when you come back." So, I left that weekend.

This was the first Indian medicine man I ever gave advice to. The day I returned to the hospital, I went to the third floor and found an empty bed. He had left to be with the Father he found. I said, "Thank you to Jesus that he is well."

Many times I heard Bill Osceola preach about his grandfather who never heard God's word before, but heard them in a hospital. If this medicine man can find Jesus through God's word, you can too, Bill would say. It was his letter that sparked my memory.

Now, I think of all the things I did and went through – many things that were tough to do or say – though with God's word nothing is impossible. I read the letter again and it reminded me of that time so long ago. The important thing is the peace this old man found in belief.

I hope everyone takes the time to find Jesus before it's too late.

– Betty Mae Jumper

"Back then, my mother told me and taught me that we can't turn back."

Health



New Florida KidCare health insurance changes explained

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Department of Health in Broward

Some families who obtain state-sponsored Florida KidCare health insurance for their children have seen their monthly premiums or out-of-pocket costs increase as of Oct. 1.

The price increases affect only a portion of KidCare families, those who buy "full-pay" policies because they do not qualify for subsidized coverage.

Lower-income families are not affected by the change and still qualify for a subsidized price of no more than \$20 per month to cover all their children.

"KidCare is still a great deal for most of our families," said Rebecca Miele, manager of KidCare Outreach at the Florida Department of Health in Broward County. "People should certainly consider this option for their children."

KidCare is especially popular with families working at small employers and in service jobs that do not offer health insurance. Families earning less than twice the federal poverty level – up to \$48,504 for a family of four – qualify for subsidized coverage that costs them \$15 to \$20 per month per household. About 150,000 children statewide had the coverage as of May.

Families with higher incomes can still buy KidCare's full-pay coverage, which is not subsidized but has long been less

costly than private insurance. About 36,000 children statewide have the coverage, but these are the families affected by the price increases.

Premiums on full-pay plans have doubled from \$153 per month per child last year to \$299 now. That's for a "Stars Plus" plan with dental care and zero or \$10 co-payments, which mirror last year's coverage.

The increases are partially the result of the federal government requiring KidCare policies to offer better benefits, especially eliminating a yearly maximum on how much medical costs were covered. The coverage is sold by Sunshine Health, a private insurer.

To give families a lower price option, KidCare and Sunshine are offering a new "Stars" plan costing \$205 per month with higher co-pays and a \$3,000 deductible. Dental coverage costs \$15 more.

Miele said some parents are concerned by the increases and are hearing some misinformation. Despite the increase, she said full-pay KidCare remains less costly than many of the insurance plans available at the workplace and through the private market. She strongly urges families not to drop coverage. The children would be uninsured in an emergency and also might not get preventive care. Plus, families without coverage are liable for a penalty on their taxes.

For more information, call 954-467-8737.



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress Senior Center employees are pretty in pink outfits as they pose in the kitchen Oct. 23 in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Big Cypress thinks pink for breast cancer awareness

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A pink fire hydrant in Big Cypress helped mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Tribe land in October. Other members of the community showed their support by pulling pink clothes out of their closets Oct. 23 for Pink Out Day at the Frank Billie Field Office in Big Cypress.

Community outreach coordinator Edna McDuffie and health educator Jamie Diersing assembled tables filled with information about breast cancer, stickers to promote awareness and prosthetic breasts to teach individuals how to search for lumps.

"It's a good reminder for people to be aware of breast health," Diersing said. "They (prosthetic breasts) each have five lumps, but there are some that cannot be felt, which is why you need to get a mammogram every year."

Early detection is crucial to surviving breast cancer, the second most common cancer in women after skin cancer. Native American women have the lowest incidence based on race and ethnicity, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. White women have the highest rate of breast cancer followed by black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander and American Indian/Alaska Native women.

However, mortality rates vary depending on location. Those in Alaska and the Southern Plains have the highest mortality rates, while those in the Southwest have the lowest, according to the Susan G. Komen organization.

On Oct. 20, the American Cancer Society announced new breast cancer screening guidelines, which recommend women at average risk for breast cancer get their first mammogram at 45 instead of 40. The guidelines also state that women



Beverly Bidney

Natasha Billie learns how to detect lumps in a prosthetic breast from health educator Jamie Diersing at the Big Cypress Pink Out for breast cancer awareness on Oct. 23.

should have the option to begin screenings earlier.

Those at a higher risk should consult their physicians about when and how often to undergo breast screening. Women at high risk include those who have been diagnosed with breast cancer in the past, have a BRCA gene mutation, family history of breast cancer or a history of chest radiation as a child or young adult.

To provide easy access to screenings,



Beverly Bidney

Even the fire hydrants at the Frank Billie Field Office in Big Cypress get into the Breast Cancer Awareness Month spirit with a fresh coat of pink paint.

the Radiology Regional Center mobile mammogram truck stopped in Big Cypress on Oct. 28 and will trek to Brighton Dec. 8. To make an appointment, contact the Health Department.

The Tribe also marked breast cancer awareness with color runs in Immokalee, Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood. Tampa residents joined more than 200 Hard Rock employees at the Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk on Oct. 24.



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress residents and employees show off their pink for the annual Breast Cancer Awareness Month photo at the Frank Billie Field Office.

Understanding the difference between mold and mildew

SUBMITTED BY KIRK TRENCHFIELD
Health Department

Mold and mildew are generally used interchangeably by many people to describe growths of fungi on various surfaces. Mildew also is actually a scientific term that describes a type of plant disease. Most commonly, the difference between mold and mildew usually is in their appearance and the surfaces on which they grow.

Mold often appears thicker and in various colors, mainly black or green but can also be red or blue. Conversely, mildew usually is lighter, powdery and gray or white. Both mold and mildew often grow in moist and warm environments, but mildew is more often found in showers and on paper and fabrics, while mold is often found on foods, walls, ceilings and other building materials.

Mold: Mold often looks fuzzy or slimy, depending on the genus and species. A heavy mold might begin to look like a plant growth covering the surface. Some surfaces that are covered by mold might begin to rot. Mold can also appear in various colors. On a wall or ceiling, some types of mold might appear to be irregularly shaped spots of black or gray.

The Health Department advocates the use of safer "green" products. In situations where there is significant mold growth, consult with a licensed professional to properly and safely address the mold or mildew.

Mildew: There are two main types of mildew: powdery and downy. Powdery mildew is commonly found on flowering plants and usually looks like white or gray splotches. Downy mildew is from a different type of fungus and is found in agricultural products, such as grapes and potatoes. Its appearance may vary from plant to plant. Mildew also produced spores just like molds.

Safety precautions: The most effective way to prevent mold and mildew is to keep surfaces dry. Moldy food should not be eaten. If the mildew grows on porous items, such as paper or fabric, it usually cannot be scrubbed off effectively. However, common household cleaners usually get rid of mildew on harder surfaces, such as those found in bathrooms. Some mold and mildew removal products should not be used by people who have health issues, such as asthma. In addition, such products should not be used in areas that are not well-ventilated.

The Health Department advocates the use of safer "green" products. In situations where there is significant mold growth, consult with a licensed professional to properly and safely address the mold or mildew.

SAVE THE DATE
for the
11th ANNUAL
SENIOR TRIKE FEST



Please Note: New Event Date

Thursday, November 19, 2015

More Information to Follow

SEMINOLE SCENES



Eileen Soler

TOTALLY TOTEM: Gary Bitner, the Seminole Tribe of Florida spokesman and head of the Bitner Goodman public relations firm, takes a break during a media visit to Billie Swamp Safari.



Eileen Soler

FUTURE HEROS: Students from Ahfachkee School are proud to pose wearing fire helmets on a real fire engine hook and ladder during a recent educational visit to the Seminole Tribe of Florida Fire Rescue Department's Station 2 in Big Cypress.



Photo courtesy of Matt May/Tampa Bay Rowdies

ROCKIN' ROWDIES: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa is in its second year as the front-jersey sponsor of the Tampa Bay Rowdies in the North American Soccer League. Hard Rock's logo is prominently displayed on the team's game jerseys. The Rowdies average more than 5,500 spectators for home matches at Al Lang Stadium. Midfielder Georgi Hristov, of Bulgaria, and the rest of the Rowdies will conclude their fall regular season Oct. 31 in New York.



Eileen Soler

SNAP JUDGMENT: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum tour guide by day and cowboy for life Wilse Bruised Head gives a bullwhip demonstration for tourists at the Museum's chickee cluster Living Village where Tribal members demonstrate and sell handmade crafts.



Eileen Soler

READ ALL ABOUT IT: Visitors to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress take a moment to catch up on all the latest happenings in the Seminole Tribe by combing through the pages of The Seminole Tribune.



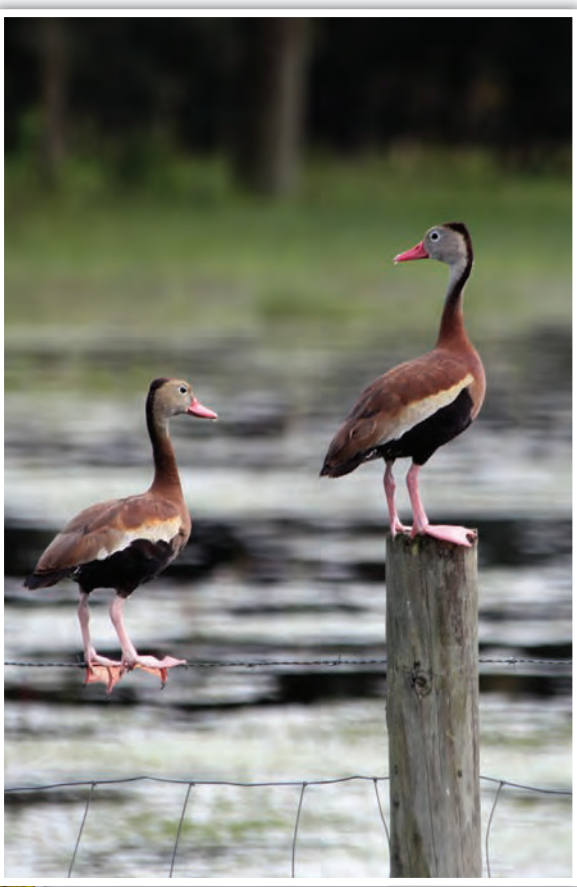
Beverly Bidney

ROYAL TREATMENT: Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. poses with newly crowned Miss Brighton Krysta Burton, left, and Jr. Miss Brighton Leilani Burton Sept. 26 during the 35th annual Miss Brighton Princess Pageant at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building.



Beverly Bidney

SUNFLOWER SEASON: A field near Brighton is in full bloom with sunflowers in mid-October. Fall is Florida sunflower season, but the daisy-like flowers last only a couple weeks.



Beverly Bidney

DUCKS IN A ROW: Black-bellied whistling ducks enjoy a pleasant early fall day balancing on a fence in Immokalee. The ducks, which are year-round residents of the state, have a distinctive whistle-like call and usually reside near wetlands, ponds and flooded fields like this one on the Immokalee Reservation.



Gordon Wareham

BULL'S-EYE: Leon Wilcox does his best Robin Hood Oct. 5 during the hatchet throw at Hollywood Indian Day.



Brett Daly

LOCAL HERO: Dane Martin, a forestry technician with the Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue Forestry and Wildland Division, is honored Oct. 9 during the Council meeting in Big Cypress for rescuing three young girls who were stuck in a ditch off State Road 78. While traveling home from the Brighton Reservation during a thunderstorm, Martin noticed a car turned on its side and stopped to assess the situation, despite not being trained as a first responder. He, with the assistance of two other passers-by, pulled the three girls from the vehicle as it was filling up with water. Glades County EMS later arrived to treat the girls.



Eileen Soler

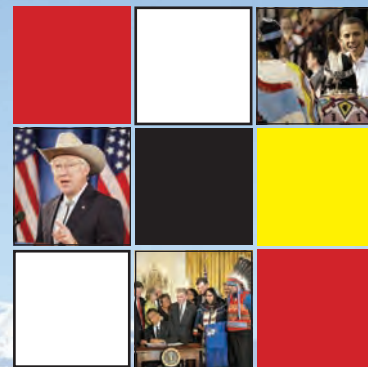
NECK AND NECK: A wild ostrich at Billie Swamp Safari peers over a fence at the tourist attraction's Seminole chickee camp.



Photo courtesy of Kathrine McCoy

CULTURE EXCHANGE: From left, Tallahassee Band of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma General Council Representative Kathrine McCoy, Miss Seminole Nation Faith Mae' Jean Lena, Miss Florida Seminole Destiny Nunez and Tallahassee Band of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma General Council Representative Charlie Hill pose for a picture during Seminole Nations Days Sept. 19 in Oklahoma.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Yakama Nation freed from PL280

TOPPENISH, Wash. — The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) recently officially ended 52 years of state Public Law 280 jurisdiction on the 1.1 million-acre Yakama Nation of Washington Reservation, an incursion the Tribe worked decades to reverse.

“Termination-era policies like Public Law 280 should be rolled back,” said Assistant Secretary of the Interior (and BIA Head) Kevin Washburn, at the National Congress of American Indians NCAI annual convention in San Diego. Yakama Chairman JoDe Goudy presented Washburn with an eagle feather and sang a prayer song for him after the announcement was made. Visibly moved, Washburn urged others in Indian Country who are “suffering under Public Law 280” to consider taking similar steps to remove state jurisdiction.

“The Yakama Nation is really leading the way,” he said.

Public Law 280 is a federal law of the United States that established a method whereby states may assume jurisdiction over reservation Indians.

The BIA’s decision does not affect the Tribe’s jurisdiction over non-Indians on the reservation. It also does not disturb the state’s authority over non-Indians.

The retrocession will become effective on the Yakama Nation on April 19, 2016.

—IndianZ.com

Obama to hold annual Tribal Nations Conference

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will convene his seventh White House Tribal Nations Conference on Nov. 5.

Tribal leaders are being urged to come up with key policy goals that can be implemented before Obama leaves office, according to Jackie Pata, executive director of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI).

“We probably only really have the next six to nine months to institutionalize policy before they get into a mode that they can’t move anything else,” Pata said.

Last year’s conference brought in initiatives for Indian Country, including the inclusion of Alaska in the Violence Against Women Act and the launch of Generation Indigenous, a government-wide initiative aimed at improving the lives of American Indian and Alaska Native youth.

—WhiteHouse.gov

Sitkas seek apology over festival ‘slave auction’

SITKA, Alaska — The Sitka Tribe of Alaska has demanded an apology from organizers of the Alaska Day Festival for presenting a “slave auction” fundraising skit at an event that is supposed to promote cultural diversity.

General manager Lawrence SpottedBird told the Associated Press that the name of the fundraiser was offensive and supported the Anchorage NAACP Chapter, whose president also objected to the name.

“I stand with them,” SpottedBird said. “There should be basically an apology for using that term.”

Festival organizers changed the name of the fundraiser to Alaska Day Auction. Alaska Day chairman Ted Allio said the matter has been blown out of proportion.

The Alaska Day Festival commemorates the transfer of Alaska from Russian to American control in 1867. The event “celebrates the diversity of cultures and historical perspectives of our people,” according to its website.

—JuneauEmpire.com

\$86 million settlement for Choctaws, Chickasaws

WASHINGTON — The Choctaw and Chickasaw nations have agreed to a \$186 million settlement with the U.S. Department of the Interior to solve a long-standing land trust dispute. The Chickasaw Nation will receive \$46.5 million of the settlement, with the balance going to the Choctaws.

“This settlement represents a significant milestone in helping solidify and improve our relationship with the United States,” Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby said.

The agreement resolved a lawsuit — nearly a decade in litigation — in which the Tribes alleged that the U.S. mismanaged 1.3 million acres of timberlands belonging to the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations. The case reached back more than 100 years to just before Oklahoma became a state.

That’s when the U.S. government took control of more than a million acres of Chickasaw and Choctaw tribal lands.

“The U.S., as federal trustee, held those lands in trust for the benefit of the Nations,” the Choctaw Nation explained in its media release. “In December 2005 the Nations filed suit in U.S. District Court seeking a long overdue accounting of the

federal trustee’s management of those resources and an equitable restoration of the value of that trust.”

The agreement ends all litigation and was inked at the Choctaw Event Center in a ceremony that capped a two-day visit by Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to both nations on Oct. 5 and 6.

“Today’s agreement is the latest addition to a record number of long-standing settlements resolved under this Administration,” Jewell said in a statement after the signing. “This historic settlement is the start of a new chapter in our trust relationships with the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations and underscores our commitment to fulfilling those responsibilities to Native communities across the country.”

“Perhaps more important than the actual dollars, this settlement turns the page,” Anoatubby said. “It represents the United States’ acknowledgement of its mistreatment of the Chickasaw Nation and American Indians of Indian Territory during those early decades of the 20th century. We continue to actively protect and defend our sovereignty, but we will continue to strive to improve our working relationship with the government and its agencies and agents.”

—IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork

Moapa Band settles for \$4.3M from power plant

MOAPA TOWN, Nev. — An energy company operating a coal-fired power plant next to the Moapa Band of Paiute Indians Reservation will receive \$4.3 million under a recent settlement approved by a federal judge, who also ordered NV Energy to shut down the Reid Gardner Generating Station by the end of 2017.

Moapa Tribal citizens have suffered from asthma, respiratory illnesses and other health problems that they attribute to pollution from the power plant. The facility spewed coal ash into the air for decades.

—IndianZ.com

Lawmaker support slim at Flandreau pot facility

FLANDREAU, S.D. — The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe invited more than 100 lawmakers to an informational event about their marijuana cultivation and distribution efforts, hoping such an event would increase transparency with lawmakers about the steps they’re taking to create a marijuana resort that is set to open Dec. 31.

Only five showed up for a facility tour and Q-and-A session.

In a presentation to the handful of lawmakers, Tribe President Tony Reider explained safety protocols the Tribe was undertaking. He said the Tribe had approved a 36-page control ordinance, added a marijuana control commission and took additional precautions in tracking plants to keep the growth, distribution and consumption of the drug on tribal property air tight.

“We’ve decided to be as stringent as possible initially — we can always loosen up,” Reider said. “We don’t want this stuff hitting the streets; we don’t want to sell it by the pound.”

Santee Sioux leaders plan to grow pot and sell it in a smoking lounge that includes a nightclub, arcade games, bar and food service and eventually, slot machines and an outdoor music venue.

“We want it to be an adult playground,” Reider said. “There’s nowhere else in America that has something like this.”

The project, according to the Tribe, could generate up to \$2 million a month in profit, and work is underway on the growing facility. The first joints are expected to go on sale Dec. 31 at a New Year’s Eve party.

The lawmakers spoke to Jonathan Hunt, vice president of Monarch America Inc., a Colorado-based marijuana consulting company. He demonstrated electronic key access points, security cameras and tracking systems used to monitor each plant.

Lawmaker Elizabeth May expressed worry that nearby counties struggling financially wouldn’t be able to bear the burden of taking on additional expenses (i.e. arresting and jailing non-members who leave tribal land under the influence). “I’m all about the marijuana, but the fact of it is that we’re still the state of South Dakota. So we have one country inside another country,” May said. “I’m concerned about what that’s going to do for revenues with our counties because our counties are in a terrible financial situation.”

Reider and tribal attorney Seth Pearman said they would work with surrounding counties and would consider providing revenue from the marijuana sales to offset their costs.

“We have no desire to bankrupt the county by any means, or anything to that extent,” Pearman said. “I would say, however, that people who are smoking marijuana in this state know those risks now and are taking them every day.”

Pearman said state officers wouldn’t be able to enforce the state’s drug laws on tribal grounds without the Tribe’s consent.

“Although the state may maintain jurisdiction, this is a victimless crime ... and because we are a sovereign nation, the state would need to either get consent through tribal warrant or by permission,” Pearman said.

The five legislators said they came away with a better understanding of the Tribe’s intentions but still had questions about potential state-Tribe conflicts.

“You guys are doing it no matter what,” Rep. Spencer Hawley told Monarch’s Hunt. “It doesn’t matter what we in the legislature say.”

—Argus Leader

High Court denies move of Jim Thorpe’s body

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court denied a motion Oct. 5 to hear the attempt by Jim Thorpe’s sons to move their father’s remains back to his native Oklahoma.

A five-year effort led by William and Richard Thorpe sought to retrieve the Olympics star’s remains from the tiny borough of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. The brothers, along with their late brother, Jack Thorpe, and the Sac and Fox Nation, originally brought suit in 2010 to gain control of Thorpe’s final resting place.

The sons contend their father’s body was taken to Pennsylvania against their wishes not long after Jim Thorpe died in 1953. Thorpe’s third wife, Patricia, a non-Native, had put Thorpe’s body up for auction.

Thorpe was a football, baseball and track star who won the decathlon and pentathlon in the 1912 Olympics, and was known as the greatest athlete in the world. He died without a will in 1953 at age 64.

After Oklahoma’s governor balked at the cost of a planned monument to the athlete, his wife had Thorpe’s body seized by police during his Indian funeral service and sent it to northeastern Pennsylvania.

Two small struggling coal boroughs in Pennsylvania — Mauch Chunk and East Mauch Chunk — that were seeking a way to attract tourists won the bid, received the body, merged into one town and named the new town after Jim Thorpe. His remains are kept in a roadside mausoleum surrounded by statues and interpretive signage.

The town of Jim Thorpe throws a Jim Thorpe birthday bash every year. And the local high school’s athletic teams are named the Olympians.

The sons and Tribe won the 2010 lawsuit, but an appeals court in Philadelphia reversed that decision in 2013, ruling that Thorpe’s body should remain in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, determining that U.S. District Judge Richard Caputo erred in his application of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) that protects the remains of American Indians.

The motion filed in June sought to have the U.S. Supreme Court hear an appeal based on a violation of NAGPRA.

—NativeNewsOnline.net

Historic election day for Canada’s First Nations

Canada’s elections Oct. 19 were historic for the First Nations community as 10 indigenous members of Parliament were elected. The election featured a record 54 indigenous candidates seeking office.

Grand Chief Derek Nepinak, of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, was pleased with the indigenous voter turnout.

“It’s a really great day because so many people went out to put their words into action,” he said. “So many of our indigenous people across the country recognize that to participate in a Canadian federal election does not compromise their sovereignty.”

Grand Chief Sheila North Wilson, of Manitoba Keewatinowik Okimakanak, estimated that more than 11,000 new voters went to the polls in northern Manitoba.

Manitoba’s Grand Chiefs attributed the strong voter turnout to a desire to replace Stephen Harper, Canada’s incumbent prime minister who was ousted by Justin Trudeau.

“I believe that Mr. Harper, when he was prime minister, awoke a sleeping giant in our people, and that giant is awake,” Wilson said. “The new Liberal majority government under Mr. Trudeau is going to have to deal with a giant in the indigenous people of these lands.”

Trudeau has promised to increase aboriginal education by \$1.6 billion and provide an additional \$200 million for employment training.

—CTVNews.ca

Tribes partner to compete against planned casino

EAST HARTFORD, Conn. — Tribal casino rivals for two decades have decided to join together in an attempt to keep Connecticut’s gamblers from fleeing to Massachusetts.

The Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes, which separately operate casinos in southeast Connecticut, agreed in October to be part of a corporation that

the state has authorized which could result in a casino being built in the Hartford area.

The move comes as a response to MGM Resorts’ planned \$800 million casino in Springfield, Massachusetts, a few miles from the Connecticut border.

Kevin Brown, chairman of the Mohegan Tribe, described the planned Springfield casino as an attempt at “siphoning revenues from Connecticut to benefit a Las Vegas company while at the same time moving thousands of existing jobs from Connecticut to Massachusetts.”

A new Native American casino in Connecticut would need final approval by the state’s legislature.

In recent weeks, MGM announced changes to its downtown Springfield project, including building a six-story hotel rather than a 25-story hotel.

—BostonGlobe.com, MassLive.com

Native language immersion bill clears Senate committee

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee advanced legislation Oct. 21 that would strengthen and preserve Native languages.

The Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act creates a grant opportunity for Tribes to establish Native language immersion programs.

“Preserving Native languages will keep students connected with their culture and heritage,” said Sen. Jon Tester, the bill’s sponsor. “This bill will limit overhead costs that often keep Tribes and schools from establishing Native language immersion classes and will ensure the survival of these historic languages.”

Under the Department of Education, the act would create \$5 million in grants per year for five years. Tribes, tribal organizations, tribal colleges and universities and local education agencies are eligible to qualify.

—ABCFoxMontana.com

Tribes propose national monument in Utah

ST. GEORGE, Utah — A coalition of Native American nations has proposed the creation of a 1.9 million-acre national monument in southeastern Utah.

The Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, a group of five tribal nations, presented their proposal to the Obama administration Oct. 15, according to a press release, and sent a copy to Utah Congressmen Rob Bishop and Jason Chaffetz.

Bishop and Chaffetz have been working on the Public Lands Initiative, which seeks to address federal land management in the Bears Ears and other regions of eastern Utah. The Tribes claim they have been excluded in spite of efforts to have the Bears Ears proposal considered as part of the Public Lands Initiative.

In response to the proposal, members of Utah’s Congressional delegation issued a joint statement, saying there are many Native Americans in Utah who oppose the monument.

The monument, as proposed, would not change the ownership of the land, the Tribes’ statement said; instead the area would be collaboratively managed by the federal government and the Hopi, Navajo, Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute, and Zuni tribes.

—StGeorgeUtah.com

Cladoosby (Swinomish) re-elected NCAI president

SAN DIEGO — Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Chairman Brian Cladoosby was re-elected president of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) by unanimous acclamation, recently, at the group’s annual meeting in San Diego.

“Never in my wildest dreams as a little Indian boy growing up on a tiny reservation in the Northwest corner of our country did I ever imagine that I could have been given the opportunity to serve an organization like the National Congress of American Indians,” said Cladoosby, who was uncontested in his re-election campaign, the first time in recent history that any candidate for the position did not draw an opponent.

Cladoosby listed his priorities as NCAI president as strengthening tribal education, health care, mental health and family support systems by protecting treaty rights, tribal lands and natural resources, and by ensuring that elected officials at the local, state and federal level hear and understand the aspirations and challenges of Indian youth.

“I will work every day to do what I can to make sure that NCAI lives up to the goals of tribal leaders past and that our work is worthy of the hopes and dreams of our children,” said Cladoosby, who has been Chairman of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community for 19 years and on the Tribal Senate for 31 years.

—Native Times, NCAI.com

Stolen totem pole returned to Alaska after 84 years

HONOLULU — In 1931, Hollywood screen legend John Barrymore

was traveling along the Alaska coast by yacht and directed crew members to take a totem pole from an unoccupied Tlingit village — known as Tuxecan on Prince of Wales Island, University of Alaska Anchorage — professor Steve Langdon told Alaska Dispatch News, who has long researched the object.

Barrymore, star of “Grand Hotel” and grandfather of actress Drew Barrymore, displayed the pole in the garden of his California estate. After Barrymore’s death in 1942, actor Vincent Price, known for horror flicks such as “House of Wax,” bought the item to use as a yard decoration, eventually donating it to the Honolulu Museum of Art in 1981.

The stolen totem pole that went from the garden decor of two golden-age Hollywood actors to the basement of a Hawaii museum was returned recently to Alaska Tribal members after 84 years.

Langdon’s interest in the piece came from a visit to an Alaska museum where he saw a photo of Price standing next to the approximately 40-foot-tall pole.

“It was totally out of place,” he said. “Here’s this recognizable Hollywood figure in a backyard estate with a totem pole ... that was surrounded by cactus.”

Langdon learned the pole was used for burials and that there were remains of a man inside before Barrymore stole it. Langdon said he does not know what happened to the remains, only that they were removed from the pole.

Museum officials didn’t know the pole was stolen. With permission from tribal leaders, Langdon came to Honolulu in 2013 to examine the pole, setting into motion a repatriation process funded by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Seven Tlingit Tribal members traveled to Honolulu from the village of Klawock wearing leis, singing somber songs, handing out gifts, thanking Hawaii for taking good care of the pole.

“We, too, also are ocean people,” said Jonathan Rowan, a Tlingit master carver and cultural educator. “We live on an island also.”

With the scent of cedar wafting in the air, his daughter Eva Rowan brushed three feathers along the pole pieces bearing carved images of a killer whale, a raven, an eagle and a wolf.

“It gives my heart great peace that my ancestors can go home,” she told Alaska Dispatch News. “I feel my father’s people here. I feel my grandfather’s people here, giving us strength right now.”

The pole was among more than 100 totem poles that once stood in the Tlingit Alaskan village, the museum said. Of the original Tuxecan poles, only two remain, both in Klawock, the village of 800, where the Tribe moved years ago.

—Alaska Dispatch News

Redford to produce Carlisle Indian School movie

PORT TOWNSEND, Wash. — Motion picture actor/director Robert Redford has agreed to be executive producer of “To Save the Man,” a new independent film about the early history of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, the flagship United States government American Indian boarding school from 1879-1918.

The movie will tell the story of Capt. Richard Henry Pratt, founder and first superintendent of the Carlisle school, founded on the principle that Native Americans were the equals of European-Americans and that Native American children immersed in mainstream Euro-American culture would learn skills to advance in society. Pratt’s famous quote — “To save the man, you need to kill the Indian” — gives the movie its name.

Filming for “To Save the Man” is set to begin this spring in Port Townsend, Washington, the Jefferson County Leader reports. The former Carlisle facility in Pennsylvania is now the U.S. Army War College — a circumstance that prevents filming “To Save the Man” on the original location.

Writer/director John Sayles (“Lone Star,” “Men With Guns”) spent time at the Carlisle Historical Society archives in developing his script, reading campus newspapers produced by Indian school students.

“[Sayles] had the broader plot. He was trying to fill in the details and bring life to the story. He wants to make it as good as possible,” said Cara Curtis, Carlisle Historical Society librarian.

“I’ve carried this story with me for many years,” Sayles told the Jefferson County Leader. “I want to reveal a chapter in the history of the cultural genocide practiced against the Native American people and their heroic efforts to survive it.”

The essential goal of the Carlisle Indian School was to assimilate Native American children to the white man’s culture.

Sayles is conducting a nationwide search for 13 young Native actors, ages 14-22, to portray Carlisle students.

—IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork

Compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher.

South Florida's ONLY PLACE TO ROCK!



November 7
**BILL O'REILLY
& DENNIS MILLER**



November 12
**AMERICA &
THREE DOG NIGHT**



November 13
JASON DERULO



November 27
DAUGHTRY



November 28
**DARYL HALL
JOHN OATES**



December 17
**MICHAEL
MCDONALD**



February 26
**FALL OUT BOY
AWOLNATION
PVRIS**



February 27
**THE BEACH
BOYS**



March 16
**GEORGE
THOROGOOD &
THE DESTROYERS**



March 19
**KC & THE SUNSHINE
BAND**

GET TICKETS!



Ticketmaster.com or charge by phone:

1-800-745-3000



Education

B



Creek immersion program speaking volumes at PECS

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The room was like any other day care center; babies sat on caregivers' laps and clapped along to the "Itsy Bitsy Spider" and the "ABCs." But what made this room special was language. Everything from the cartoons to the conversation was in Creek.

The sign on the door to the Creek Language Enrichment House at the Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School in Brighton reads "English Stops Here" and they mean it.

"The babies are learning in a fluent speaking environment," said Marcus Briggs-Cloud, culture language instructor. "And we are blessed to have elders interact with them. It is remarkable that we can have five speakers in the room at one time. Any language program would be envious of that."

The immersion program, which began in August, is filled to capacity with 10 babies — from 4 months to 3 years old — and there is a waiting list for families hoping to enroll their children in the class.

After only two months, success is already apparent, said Alice Sweat, PECS director of traditional language and history. Children know and use their Indian names and understand words and commands.

"It's exciting to see them pick up the words," Sweat said.

With only 30 to 40 fluent speakers in the community, there are significantly fewer Creek speakers compared to Mikasuki speakers in the Tribe, which threatens its survival, said Briggs-Cloud, who has been a consultant to language programs around the world. His experience with other programs confirms that the most effective method of teaching fluency is through immersion.

"It's a now or never situation," Briggs-Cloud said. "If we don't do it now, we won't be able to save this language from extinction."

Briggs-Cloud has long been involved in language revitalization. In 2010, he addressed the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and spoke about language as identity, history and



Beverly Bidney

Language enrichment teacher Janelle Robinson, with her grandchildren Chaeyton Apelahoyet Robinson and Gracie Kise Robinson in her lap, raises her hands Oct. 14 to illustrate the numbers being sung in Creek in the video 'Ten Little Indians' at the Creek Language Enrichment House at Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School in Brighton.

culture. He also has a bachelor's degree from the University of Oklahoma, a master's in theological studies from Harvard Divinity School and is working on a doctorate in ecology at the University of Florida.

The Enrichment House program is tailored to non-verbal babies who learn through conversation, which allows them to acquire the correct syntax. Non-fluent adults on staff are learning Creek as a second language along with the babies.

"It's been hard," said Janelle Robinson, language enrichment teacher. "I have the commands and some words down, but I need to work on sentence structure. The babies are learning quickly, but I don't know exactly what they're picking up since a lot of them don't speak English yet. But they all understand."

Robinson hopes to test her newfound knowledge when she gathers with family elders during the holidays.

Because real fluency depends on usage at home, parents are required to attend an adult class once a week, attend lunch at school weekly, use words and commands at home and take their children to see an elder speaker every week.

One-on-one time is vital to the process. The children receive daily individual lesson time. Adults and babies sit on the floor and

♦ See CREEK IMMERSION on page 2B

Kids fired up for fire safety

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

When children are raised to respect fire as a daily and necessary part of life, teaching them about the dangers of flames can be tricky, according to the Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue Department.

"Herbert Jim once called us 'the fire keepers,'" said Fire Marshal Robert Brown. "So during National Fire Prevention Week we don't teach that fire is bad. We teach fire safety."

And because homes within the Tribe's eight communities dot thousands of Florida acres from Tampa to Fort Pierce to Hollywood, Fire Prevention Week becomes fire safety month — plus one week.

This year's National Fire Protection Association's theme, Hear the Beep Where You Sleep, focused on installing smoke detectors in home bedrooms and how to respond when the detector sounds the alarm.

In Naples, one two-hour class on Sept. 23 served about 18 big and little kids. On Oct. 5 in Big Cypress, lessons for Ahfachkee

School's 164 students took nearly seven hours in 30-minute increments. Tribalwide, more than 500 children and teens learned how to react quickly and effectively when a smoke alarm blares.

Tony Billie Jr., of Ahfachkee, called the experience "fantastic."

"We got to go through a maze and pretend we were in danger in the middle of the night," Tony said. "It was good practice for us."

Fire inspectors Susan Hastings, Reagan Bauman and Bill Boss led reservation

presentations with Brown and Assistant Fire Marshal Edward Mullins.

On all reservations, teaching areas were equipped with demonstration bedrooms that featured beds, carpets, toys and pop-up walls complete with windows, doors and smoke detectors.

There, children learned how to respond in cases of a house fire when the smoke detector goes off. At the sound of the shrill beeps, they practiced slipping out of bed and crawling on the floor under smoke to exit safely through a door or window.

In a maze obstacle, kids practiced crawling and feeling their way through pitch black turns and household items. Once "escaped," the children were rewarded with red plastic firefighting helmets and treated to a frank talk about harmful chemicals that are created when household items burn and smoke, how to make a family house escape plan and the importance of naming a family meeting spot outside the home.

Later, children from tots to teens were given up-close views of fire and emergency medical vehicles and age-appropriate glimpses of lifesaving tools and equipment. Each was allowed to sit in the driver/engineer seat of a fire truck complete with hook and ladder apparatus.

Fire safety events were also held at the Immokalee gym Oct. 9; Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School in Brighton Oct. 14; the old gym in Hollywood Oct. 19 and the community center in Fort Pierce Oct. 30.

In Brighton, firefighters showed off their tools before letting students have some fun spraying the water hose from their truck. The firefighters assisted students in aiming the heavy hose at orange hazard cones to knock them down.

"We remind the students on a regular basis about the risks that occur with carelessness around fire as part of our youth safety program," Brown said. "The danger associated with fire has lifetime consequences, and we have a passion for teaching the children about those dangers."

But fire safety is only one lesson the children learn throughout the year. Hastings said classes are offered nearly monthly on a variety of topics that include bicycle safety,

♦ See FIRE PREVENTION on page 4B



Beverly Bidney

Reese Bert Jr. checks under the hood of an SUV at his mother's home on Brighton Reservation. Bert graduated from Universal Technical Institute in Orlando on Sept. 4.

Reese Bert Jr. finds his niche in auto repair

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — As a recent automotive graduate of Universal Technical Institute (UTI) in Orlando, Reese Bert Jr. feels like a kid playing with Legos again.

"It's fun to put things together and know you did it right," said Bert, 21, who graduated Sept. 4.

Bert wasn't always interested in cars, but he noticed people always needed their cars fixed on the Brighton Reservation. He wanted to fix them. After he earned his GED, Bert enrolled in UTI and spent the last two years earning his certificate. He also took the Ford accelerated credential training course to give him a head start in the job market.

"I liked learning every little thing about cars," he said. "It was hard at first, but I found ways to study and take notes. I finally got everything down."

Things weren't always easy for Bert as a kid. He tried to stay out of trouble but didn't always succeed, he said. Completing the automotive program was a milestone for him, said his mother, Andrea Bert.

"I'm very proud of him," she said. "Out of six kids, he was my troubled child. But he's come a long way. He has his goals and knows what he wants to do. He's confident in himself and I'm confident in him."

Bert is pleased to make his mother proud and said her support makes him want to achieve more.

"I've come a long way and didn't expect this," he said. "I have two children and that pushed me into this. I want to do well for myself, my kids and my family."

Bert is engaged to Abril Maldonado, of Okeechobee, who is the mother of his children Alakai James Bert, 2, and Jaynaleigh Bert, 9 months.

While at school, Bert remained focused on his goal and worked hard, which kept him away from Brighton for long stretches.

"He was determined to finish, even if he missed some family events," Andrea Bert said.

Bert is taking time off in Brighton while he contemplates his next move. He would like to work for Ford and learn to work on diesel engines. After he gains more experience and a degree in business, he hopes to open his own automotive shop.

While he was at school Bert learned more than just how to repair automobiles; he also learned a lesson about life. It took him longer than expected to complete the program, but he persevered.

"It doesn't matter how long it takes, just get it done," he said. "I saw a lot of people drop out, but I just kept my head down and kept on going. Every day you learn something new and that's cool."

"It's fun to put things together and know you did it right."

— Reese Bert Jr.



Eileen Soler

Firefighter-driver/engineer Karlos Suarez gives Ahfachkee School students an up-close look at firefighting tools Oct. 5 during a morning of fire prevention education at Fire Station 2 in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Alice Sweat holds Daniel Nunez III in the Creek Language Enrichment House Oct. 14 at the Pemaeytv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton.

◆ CREEK IMMERSION

From page 1B

Children are told to get an item of a certain color and then give it to an adult. The children are rewarded by applause, smiles and high-fives.

Visitors who have observed the program include Tribal members from Big Cypress and members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians from Alabama. Jeannette Cypress and Mary Jene Koenes, who teach language at Ahfachkee School, are interested in bringing a more intensive language program to Big Cypress.

"We grew up speaking Mikasuki as our first language and didn't learn English until we went to school," said Koenes, traditional preservation curriculum specialist at Ahfachkee. "They (the children) aren't going to miss out on English; it's everywhere."

"It's fascinating," added Cypress, director of traditional preservation at Ahfachkee. "We all have the same goal: to save the language. It's a different language, but it's the same goal."

The Poarch Creek, who have no fluent Creek language speakers among their 3,000 enrolled members, are interested in starting a language program for adults and youth. Ancestors of the Poarch Creek served as interpreters for the federal government in the late 1700s for settlers passing through their land in what is now Alabama.

"It's time for us to reclaim the language as part of our historical legacy," said Karla Martin, Poarch Creek cultural director. "It shows respect to know the language and we need to get it back."

"Our Board of Directors is looking at programs and this is most comparable to what we want to do," added Poarch Creek Tribal Council member Sandy Hollinger. "We would like to implement something for our children, and this seems like it



Beverly Bidney

Janelle Robinson helps Jolietta Hvsehecet Osceola learn by playing at the Creek Language Enrichment House in Brighton.

could work for us."

Briggs-Cloud hopes to continue the immersion program through kindergarten and then continue with a bilingual program in first grade.

"We have a lot of volunteers. Students come by after school and help us because they want to learn, too," Sweat said. "I'm so thankful to Council that they are willing to help with anything we need to keep the language going. It means so much."

The Creek Language Enrichment House is located in the former Boys & Girls Club at the Charter School. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. To be added to the waiting list for the program, call 863-824-6059.

Kitchen competition boosts teen teamwork

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood Boys & Girls Club kitchens were transformed into competitive arenas recently as teens worked to outdo each other in a pair of after-school cook-offs.

At stake were bragging rights and popsicles; winners got the glory while losers had cleanup duty.

The good-natured contests were designed to build camaraderie among the teens while teaching them valuable life and kitchen skills, said Boys & Girls Club counselor Andrea Stinson.

"We're trying to teach them self-sufficiency," Stinson said. "Since a lot of the teens don't go to the same school, they don't really know each other. This helps them learn to coordinate and work together."

The first contest on Sept. 21 pitted a boys team against a girls team. The menu consisted of burgers and fresh fruit smoothies.

Wielding spatulas and seasonings, the kids got busy on the stove top and grill. An assortment of cheeses found their way onto the burgers while apples, bananas and strawberries were fed into the blender with yogurt.

Judges, who considered taste, originality and presentation, deemed it a close call, but the boys won.

The next match on Oct. 13 mixed up the genders as both teams had boys and girls. Grilled cheese, fruit parfaits and smoothies were on the menu. This time, some kids came prepared with recipes; others searched online; and some let their taste buds be their guide.

"Sometimes you just go by instinct," Anthony Gentry, 14, said. "I cook whatever I think will taste good. I don't do anything stupid."

Anthony's grilled cheese had plenty of cheese along with ham, bacon and a burger for good measure.

C.J. Osceola, 14, learned to cook by volunteering in the Boys & Girls Club kitchen over the summer. He still cooks for youth almost every day. He made French toast roll-ups with ham and cheese and came up with a dessert in the last five minutes.

On the other team, Nae Nae Wilson, 12, who wants to be a chef when she grows up, created a recipe using turkey breast and just the right amount of cheese.

"It's going to be delicious and awesome," said Lee Sanders, 13, as he warmed up a pot of tomato soup to accompany the sandwiches.

Lee and Eden Billie, 12, made smoothies garnished with strawberries and grapes.

On the competing team, Trinity Bowers, 15, created smoothies made of apples, bananas and strawberries.



Beverly Bidney

Eden Billie, left, and Nae Nae Wilson have a good time making hamburgers Sept. 21 during the heated competition of the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club cook-off.



Beverly Bidney

Anthony Gentry adds some seasoning to a hamburger as C.J. Osceola tends to his grilled cheese roll-ups Oct. 13 during the cook-off.



Beverly Bidney

Nae Nae Wilson and Eden Billie work together to create a healthy smoothie Sept. 21 at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club teen cook-off.

In the last few minutes, C.J. made a cake in a mug from scratch. That and their perfect score in creativity put C.J., Anthony and Trinity's team on top.

Stinson hopes to add more cook-offs to

the teen schedule.

"The kids get a lot more confident during the contests," she said. "Now that they are working in teams, they talk to each other more."

Charter School September students of the month



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Pemaeytv Emahakv Charter School elementary students of the month: Augustana Banda, Aurelius Lara, Layda Choquette, Marley Jimmie, Melaine Bonilla, Kiera Snell, Ila Trueblood, Charisma Micco, Penny Jimmie, Alyssa Madrigal, Chaka Smith, Serenity Lara, Logan Butler, Alton Crowell, Sydney Matthews, Nena Youngblood, Jarrett Beecham, Pearcetin Trammell, Cheyene Lara, Caitlyn Olivarez and Ringo Billie.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Middle school students of the month: Aleah Pritchard, Davin Carrillo and Jenna Brown.

Students cook first traditional meal of school year at PECS



Photo courtesy of Jill Carner

Pemaeytv Emahakv Charter School middle school students cook a traditional meal for the first time during the school year with help from teachers and staff. After the girls made the frybread and pumpkin bread, they served it to their classmates and the toddlers of the Creek Language Enrichment House.



Photo courtesy of Jill Carner

Students of the Creek Language Enrichment House at the Pemaeytv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton sample the frybread made by middle school students during culture class.

New Student Council takes office at PECS

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School held its annual Student Council inauguration ceremony Sept. 24 in the school gymnasium.

Parents, community members, fellow students and staff watched as Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. swore in the 10 elected Student Council representatives.

The elected representatives raised their right hands and placed their left hands on the Bible as they repeated the oath of office after Councilman Bowers.

Following their swearing in, Student Council members received a sash from the outgoing members and then addressed the audience.

Councilman Bowers pressed upon the elected members the importance of what they had accomplished.

“Student Council, do you know what you just said?” Councilman Bowers asked the representatives. “What you’ve just said and done, you have to live up to. We are going to be watching. Set a good example.”

The ceremony concluded with a traditional receiving line, giving peers and guests a chance to congratulate and shake the hands of the newest members of the Student Council.

2015-16 Student Council

- Kindergarten: Cherrish Micco
- First Grade: Layton Joiner
- Second Grade: Hinton Anderson
- Third Grade: Carlee Osceola
- Fourth Grade: Saniya Rodrigues
- Fifth Grade: Winnie Gopher
- Sixth Grade: Alliana Brady
- Seventh Grade: Jaylen Baker
- Eighth Grade: Luzana Venzor
- Chairwoman: Alaina Sweat



Rachel Buxton

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. swears in Alaina Sweat as the 2015-16 chairwoman Sept. 24 at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Student Council inauguration ceremony.



Rachel Buxton

Carlee Osceola addresses her peers during her acceptance speech. Carlee returns as a Student Council representative for a second year.



Rachel Buxton

Winnie Gopher introduces herself during her acceptance speech at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Student Council inauguration ceremony.



Rachel Buxton

Students shake hands with their elected Student Council officials during the inauguration ceremony.

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI
MUSEUM
A PLACE TO LEARN. A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

Telling Our Stories

AN ORAL HISTORY EXHIBIT



Nov. 16, 2015 - May 10, 2016

RECEPTION TO BE HELD
January 9, 2016, 1:00-3:00 PM
Refreshments will be served

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.



What are you waiting for?

“My son and I deserve the security health insurance gives us. So do you.”

Sign up during open enrollment, now through January 31.

www.healthcare.gov/tribal or call 1-800-318-2596



Big Cypress Reservation
34725 west Boundary Rd., Clewiston, FL 33440
(863) 902-1113 / www.ahtahthiki.com



Health Insurance Marketplace



@CMSGov #CMSNativeHealth

Seminoles voted to Moore Haven homecoming court



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven High School senior Yopalakiyo Osceola acknowledges the town's elementary school students who gathered outside to watch the middle school and high school's homecoming parade Oct. 16. Yopalakiyo was part of the homecoming court for the Class of 2016. The parade wound through the streets near the school. During the homecoming football game later in the day, Yopalakiyo's teammate D'angelo Ware was named king and Brittney Drayton was selected queen.



Kevin Johnson

Conner Thomas waves to the crowd outside Moore Haven Middle-High School during the school's homecoming parade Oct. 16. Conner and Lacy King served as homecoming representatives for the Class of 2019.

◆ FIRE PREVENTION

From page 1B

poison control and awareness, drowning prevention and pedestrian safety.

Wildlife Protection Field Ops supervisor Michael Lightsey demonstrated how he and other wilderness firefighters can shelter inside aluminum foil, silica and fiberglass fire cocoons if a raging inferno should overtake a fire battle.

"It's kind of neat for the kids to see the shelter," said Lightsey after climbing out from under his portable, massive green cocoon. "But the most important thing kids learn from us is to never play with fire."

House fires rarely happen on the reservations, said Brown, but when a fire does occur it is usually in a kitchen and typically because a resident left a cooking pot unattended on the stove.

"They might leave the kitchen to answer the phone or whatever and when they come back they see a roaring fire," Brown said.

Hastings said every Seminole child likely had one or two chances to experience a fire safety lesson during October during a reservation special event after school, at a reservation school during school hours or at schools they attend off the reservation.

Tony Billie Jr. said he would not mind another lesson – and more.

"It was 100 percent cool," he said. "If I ever got stuck in a fire I would be really, really ready."

Freelance writer Rachel Buxton contributed to this report.



Rachel Buxton

Kindergarten students at Pemahtv Emahakv Charter School learn about fire safety from Seminole Tribe firefighters Oct. 14 during Fire Prevention Month.



Eileen Soler

Tony Billie Jr. plays firefighter/engineer Oct. 5 during a morning of fire prevention education at Fire Station 2 in Big Cypress.



Rachel Buxton

Firefighter Sal Zocco assists Ila Trueblood with the fire hose during fire prevention activities at Pemahtv Emahakv Charter School.

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



Students dress to impress at annual clothing contest



Rachel Buxton

From left, Ciani Smith, Jenna Huff and Kulipa Julian proudly show off their ribbons Sept. 24 during Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School's annual traditional clothing contest.

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — Students donned their best patchwork and Seminole attire Sept. 24 for Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School's annual traditional clothing contest in the school's gymnasium. Members of the Seminole Police and Seminole Fire Rescue departments served as judges. Boys and girls from each grade vied for first-place ribbons as they took turns standing in front of the judges. Winners were announced after each round.



Rachel Buxton

From left, Jeremy Urbina, Clayson Osceola and Ukiah Billie are dressed to the nines in patchwork for Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School's traditional clothing contest.



Rachel Buxton

From left, Dakoya Nunez, Justin Gopher and Jayton Baker place in Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School's annual clothing contest for their outstanding traditional patchwork.



Rachel Buxton

From left, eighth-graders Julia Smith, Luzana Venzor and Madisyn Osceola earn first, second and third place, respectively, during the Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School's traditional clothing contest.



Eileen Soler

Pastor Salaw Hummingbird, of Big Cypress First Baptist Church, lets kids recite the Seminole Pledge into the mic Sept. 23 during the See You at the Pole event in Big Cypress.

Prayer at pole events bring God to school

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

Prayer is as welcome at Seminole schools as pencils, books and recess.

"I am thankful that our Tribe honors God and that you all are able to be standing here today for Him," Josh Jumper said to more than 100 Ahfachkee School students, teachers, parents and community leaders gathered just after dawn Sept. 23 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.

At the same time, nearly 70 miles north at Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton, another crowd of students, teachers and staff mustered for collective prayer under a campus breezeway.

Worldwide an estimated 3 million students and adult leaders congregated for the 25th annual See You at the Pole day of prayer.

The tradition was conceived in 1990 when a handful of Texas public school teenagers became determined to pray at school for fellow students, teachers and community leaders even though classroom prayer had been banned.

The students first gathered under the cover of night at the outdoor flagpoles of three schools. Within a year, the practice had spread to 20,000 students in four states.

See You at the Pole is now an annual Seminole school event, said Pastor Salaw Hummingbird, of the Big Cypress First Baptist Church. Musical performances, recitations of biblical verses and communal prayer are common backbones for the demonstrations.

"For some of you children, if you are not sure how to pray, just ask for help," Hummingbird told the students.

In Big Cypress, the 45-minute event under the Seminole, United States and Florida flags began with a united invocation of the Lord's Prayer.

Later, Sarah Robbins led students in the Pledge of

Allegiance and the Seminole Pledge.

Inspirational words by Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church Pastor Arlen Payne, Tribal elder Jonah Cypress and Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank inspired the children to live their faith with courage and strength, regardless of what religion they practice.

"Today with Yom Kippur, a holy day for our Jewish brothers and sisters, it is a good day for everyone," Rep. Frank said. "The Creator goes by many names. We have to remember to thank Him for His biggest gift, which is life, and the second, which is learning."

At PECS, Luke Enfinger, from Moore 2 Life Ministries, blessed the audience with Christian songs before everyone joined hands to pray.

The PECS event was sponsored by PECS Fellowship of Christian Athletes and served as a reminder of the importance of intercessory prayer to help others.

Freelance writer Emma Johns contributed to this report.



Emma Johns

Eighth-grader Alex Armstrong and community member Jewel Buck engage in praise and worship Sept. 23 during the See You at the Pole event at Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton.

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.

N&A CATERING

LOCATED IN IMMOKALEE
CALL ANITA YZAGUIRRE (239)823.0777

MEXICAN & BBQ FOOD

CATERING AVAILABLE ON ALL RESERVATIONS!



STAND OUT.

BRAND YOUR BUSINESS WITH
SMP DESIGN SERVICES

DESIGN | PRODUCTION | VIDEO

WWW.SMPBUSINESSMARKETING.COM

SMPTM
SEMINOLE MEDIA PRODUCTIONS.COM

Sports



New role, same leadership from Okeechobee's Cheyenne Nunez

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

OKEECHOBEE — The collage of flattering testimonials plastered on posters against a wall in Okeechobee High School's gymnasium for senior night served as written proof to the significant contributions Cheyenne Nunez made in the Brahms' volleyball program.

Basketball and softball senior nights will come in the months ahead for the three-sport standout from the Brighton Reservation, but it was her volleyball teammates' turn Oct. 16 to honor a four-year varsity player whose impact won't soon be forgotten.

Josie Griffin, a junior, wrote: "I look up to you in the way that you are able to constantly be uplifting and motivate us to never give up. Even when I'm completely [upset] you manage to get my head back in the game."

Junior Andee Garcia penned: "You have helped me both on and off the court. I enjoy having you in the back row. Whether they were balls that were mine or yours, you always seemed to get them!"

Accolades also came in the verbal variety for Cheyenne, whose position on the court this season changed because of a teammate's injury, but her leadership skills remained intact.

She was the first of three players from the Class of 2016 recognized in a pregame ceremony prior to the team's 3-1 win against Lake Placid.

"The girls all love her and are drawn to her because she's intense and because she has so much faith in the team all the time," Okeechobee coach Taylor Padrick said after the match. "She never wavers or gets upset or gets down on herself or anybody else. Her critiques are always positive; they always come at you in a constructive way, never a negative way, and I think that's why the girls pull to her."

Padrick gave Cheyenne a long, heartfelt hug during the ceremony.

"I told her how proud of her I was and that I refused to cry because ... the season wasn't over yet. There was no room for tears yet," Padrick said.



Kevin Johnson

With her family at her side, Okeechobee High School senior Cheyenne Nunez is greeted by her teammates during a senior night ceremony Oct. 16 prior to the Brahms' 3-1 win against Lake Placid. The three-sport standout from Brighton Reservation will have earned 12 varsity letters by softball season this spring.

Cheyenne arrived at the greeting line with family members by her side that spanned three generations, including her mother, Peggy; father, Daniel Sr.; brother and 2015 Okeechobee High graduate Daniel Jr.; younger sisters Dalayah and Joleyne; and nephew Daniel III, the newest Nunez who is also known as D3.

The nickname that accompanies Cheyenne — "Shy" — has far more to do with her first name than her demeanor. In fact,

ever since she arrived at Okeechobee High from Yearling Middle School, Cheyenne has been known for her strong determination to succeed while encouraging others to do their best.

"The best thing about Cheyenne is that she has an attitude that never changes," Padrick said. "She's intense and she's constant and she's positive all the time. That's something that only got more intensified as she got older."

Before she even walked through the doors at OHS as a freshman, Cheyenne already had devised a game plan to tackle upcoming challenges.

"When I was in eighth grade — I remember this like it was yesterday — I told myself, 'Cheyenne, you have to stay determined and you have to stay positive. There are so many girls that are better than

♦ See CHEYENNE NUNEZ on page 2C

Seminoles ride high in Davie Broncos youth football program

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

DAVIE — Riley Jumper knows what it's like to see a high school football team win a state championship. Two years ago in Orlando's Citrus Bowl, he cheered for his cousin Andre Jumper and American Heritage as they won a state title.

"It was awesome," said Riley, who, as a fifth-grader, is a few years away from the start of his high school career.

Riley is one of eight Seminole in the Davie Broncos youth football program, which helps plant the seeds of future high school players. But before Riley and the rest of the Broncos graduate to perhaps play under Friday night lights someday, they're learning all aspects of the game, from proper tackling and blocking to mastering playbooks to even learning how to get fired up before games.

For 5- to 7-year-olds on the Mighty Mites team, such as cousins Antonio Tosca,

Logan Wilcox and Quinton Wilson, games are played on Thursday nights with coaches on the playing field to provide assistance.

For older kids, such as Riley, Gregory "Xavier" Thomas, Thomas Tigertail, Sam Josh and Jay Stewart, prime time arrives on Saturday mornings.

Davie's home games at Bamford Sports Complex feature a flair that adheres to the Western motif of the town and the team's NFL namesake in Denver. Two horses and their riders in cowboy hats provide a

colorful, blazing backdrop as they sprint onto the field before kickoffs carrying giant U.S. and Broncos flags.

The Broncos belong to the American Youth Football League, whose teams include Coconut Creek, Cooper City, Coral Springs, Delray, Fort Lauderdale, Miramar Plantation, Pembroke Pines, Sunrise, Tamarac, Weston and West Pines. Practices began in the summer. Following an 11-week regular season, the playoffs were slated to start Oct. 31 and run through November.

Davie enjoyed a perfect homestand Oct. 3 when all six of its teams from 8U through 13U won their games against the Delray Rocks.

9U team

Davie's 9U team, which includes Gregory Thomas, Riley Jumper and Thomas Tigertail, used a late touchdown to improve its record to 3-4 with an 18-12 win against Delray.

"We've lost four games, but we're catching up," Riley said.

Riley saw action on special teams, including a kickoff where he and Gregory lined up next to each other. Riley also handled duties on the offensive line late in the game. He said next school year he might attend American Heritage, where his cousins Blevyns and Ahnie Jumper are multi-sport athletes.

"All my grandkids are athletes," Riley's grandfather Moses Jumper Jr. said.

The American Heritage-Seminole football pipeline also includes Gregory's father, Greg, who played for the Patriots in the early 2000s and now serves as an assistant coach for his son's team.

Gregory, a fourth-grader in his third year of football, started as an outside linebacker on defense against Delray, but in the first half he relieved an injured offensive player and immediately provided a block on a run to his side that sprung a teammate for a long touchdown run.

With the score knotted at 12-12 in the fourth quarter, Gregory and the Broncos defense held Delray to three-and-out, which paved the way for the go-ahead score.



Kevin Johnson

Davie Broncos 9U players Gregory Thomas, left, and Riley Jumper focus on tackling a Delray player during a kickoff Oct. 3 at Bamford Sports Complex in Davie.

♦ See DAVIE BRONCOS on page 4C



Kevin Johnson

While playing linebacker, Lake Placid's Wyatt Youngman (60) chases LaBelle running back Maynard Blackmon during the Green Dragons' senior night game Oct. 16 in Lake Placid. Wyatt also plays center on offense. Lake Placid has played most of the season with only 15 players.

Wyatt Youngman tackles ironman football season for shorthanded Lake Placid

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

LAKE PLACID — The Air Force could be in Wyatt Youngman's future, but the Marines' advertising slogan — "the few, the proud" — best sums up the Seminole's senior season on the Lake Placid High School varsity football team.

Lake Placid has spent most of the season with only 15 players, dwarfed in comparison to the 30-, 40-, 50-man squads they face. Such a thin roster means nearly every Green Dragon — including the 6-foot, 220-pound Wyatt — plays entire games, which has led to some notoriety for the Highlands County team.

"You get kind of known when you only have 15 players," Wyatt said. "We've been on the news a couple times. I think it was ABC."

At the helm for just five months, coach Jerry Hudnell pointed to several reasons behind the sparse numbers, including low participation, ineligibility issues and frequent coaching changes.

"They have performed better than what I expected," said Hudnell, who is the third varsity head coach in less than a year.

As tiring as playing the full 48 minutes might seem, Wyatt said it's not a big deal.

"You get kind of used to it. We run a lot in practice," said the son of Frank and Rita Youngman.

The loneliest place in town on Friday nights might be the Lake Placid sideline.

"Usually the only [player] on the sideline is a quarterback. We have to dig deep," Wyatt said.

As of mid-October, the team had notched wins against St. Petersburg Catholic and Gateway Charter.

Some of its six losses have been lopsided; others have been close right up to the final buzzer when perhaps having a few extra bodies could have altered outcomes. Playoff hopes were crushed with an overtime loss to Mulberry.

"We play against teams with 50 [players]. We give them a run for their money, but they usually score [late in the game]," Wyatt said.

Wyatt is in his third year on varsity and his second playing center. This season he became a full-time, two-way player with the addition of linebacker duties. He doesn't have a preference which side of the ball he plays, as long as he plays.

"I just like playing. I love it," he said.

No matter which position he plays, Wyatt has earned the respect of his coach.

"He is what I would think of if I were to go back 150 years and witness the Seminole Tribe here in Florida; he's what I would imagine. He's tough, he's resilient and he just loves life," Hudnell said.

Even though this is Wyatt's final year, the varsity squad might not be without a Youngman at center for too long. Wyatt's brother Tiger, a seventh-grader, plays center for the middle school team.

Wyatt also belongs to the school's weightlifting team. He said joining the Air Force is a possibility after graduation. If he does become a military man, his

♦ See WYATT YOUNGMAN on page 4C

Fun-filled family feud hits volleyball court at PECS

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — The Pemaevtv Emahakv Charter School volleyball teams faced one of their toughest opponents of the season Oct. 5. The faces on the other side of the net in the school's gymnasium didn't belong to students from rival schools West Glades or Yearling, but rather from the same households, as mothers, fathers and sisters squared off against PECS' varsity and junior varsity teams in two exhibition matches.

Lewis Gopher, father of sixth-grade varsity player Karey Gopher, helped organize the event, which featured a healthy dose of competitiveness from both sides mixed with plenty of laughter.

Even the concession stand menu was

upgraded with rib dinners.

"We thought it would be a fun thing for the parents and kids to do," Lewis said. "A lot of the mothers of these girls played volleyball in high school."

Two of those moms — Jo "Boogie" Jumper and Laverne Thomas — played middle school volleyball together but attended separate high schools. They were reunited on the court with the parents' team in the varsity match that required an extra session before PECS emerged with a hard-fought 2-1 win and bragging rights.

"We were trying to place our selves; we should have just tried to get them in," Jo said.

Miss Florida Seminole Destiny Nunez, a former student-athlete at Okeechobee High School, played in the varsity game against her sister Janessa, an eighth-grader

who plans to attend OHS.

"We're always competitive with each other," said Destiny, who went airborne several times to blast the ball over the net.

Alice Sweat, who raises eighth-grade players Alaina Sweat and Julia Smith, came off the bench to provide support in the backcourt for the parents' team.

"We lost," Alice said, "but it was fun." The family side fared better in the junior varsity tilt. Moms and dads won, 2-0.

Varsity coach Kim Jackson and junior varsity coach Jordan Maynard officiated the matches.

Jackson said this was the first time such an event was held with the volleyball program and it proved to be a big hit.

"I think the kids really enjoyed it, and the parents enjoyed being out there," she said. "It was a good time."



Kevin Johnson

Theresa Frost tries to hit the ball over the net as Pemaevtv Emahakv Charter School's Julia Smith plays defense Oct. 5 during a match between the varsity team and its family members.



Kevin Johnson

Jo 'Boogie' Jumper prepares to smack the ball as her teammate Laverne Thomas and Pemaevtv Emahakv Charter School player Karey Gopher look during a match between the varsity team and its family members.



Kevin Johnson

Miss Florida Seminole Destiny Nunez drills the ball over the net during a volleyball match between PECS varsity players and their family members.

◆ CHEYENNE NUNEZ

From page 1C

you in basketball, volleyball and softball," she said.

The approach worked. As a freshman, Cheyenne made varsity in all three sports. By the time her senior night for softball comes this spring, she will have earned 12 varsity letters, all while maintaining a grade point average of around 3.5, as well as spending a year representing the Seminole Tribe as Jr. Miss Florida Seminole.

"I worked my butt off," she said.

Her job for the volleyball team unexpectedly changed this season. After spending three years as an outside hitter, Cheyenne was placed in a new position because of a season-ending injury suffered by the team's starting libero, a position whose main responsibility is to do whatever it takes — be it squatting, diving, lunging — to make sure that blasts from opponents don't hit the floor while keeping the ball in play for teammates.

Determined to continue playing volleyball and/or softball in college, Cheyenne admitted she had second thoughts about a switch so late in her high school career, especially moving to a position she had never played.

"At first, I'm not going to lie, I was pretty upset," she said.

But noting that "God has his ways," Cheyenne decided to grasp the position with vigor.

"If it's going to make my team better, then by all means, I'm going to do it," she said.

Cheyenne has done more than just fill in at libero; she's excelled, so much that the 26 digs she recorded against Lake Placid brought her season total to 233.

"There were a couple of balls in the third set that she got up, that in my head no normal player would have been able to get there, but she just anticipates and she reads the ball so well; balls that you don't think anyone would be able to get to, she can get her hands on and make a decent pass out of it," Padrick said.

At times in the match, Cheyenne and fellow Seminole Odessa King played next to each other in the back row. Odessa, a junior, is fifth on the team in digs with 44, which included 13 in a win against Sebring.

"She's an amazing back row player. I trust her. If something happened to me, I would want her to take my spot," Cheyenne said.

Cheyenne, who made a season-high 47 digs in a five-set win against John Carroll on Oct. 6,

said this year's team is the strongest in her four years, which will make saying good-bye — whenever that time comes — tough.

"These girls, they inspire me," she said. "I'm going to miss them so much."

Cheyenne explained that during her four years, the squad has always been "scrappy" but not very tall. However, this season there's plenty of height, which helped the Brahms generate a 16-2 record entering the final week of the regular season.

Some of that new height comes from former Pemaevtv Emahakv Charter School player Raeley Matthews, an outside hitter who leads the team in kills as a freshman.

"She's doing amazing," Cheyenne said. "She is our powerhouse. Before our game against Jensen Beach, I told her, 'Rae, you go out there, you do your job. You put that ball on the floor and Jensen will not defend it.' What did she do? She did her job. She put the ball on the floor. Jensen couldn't bring it back it up."

Raeley delivered 14 kills against Jensen Beach, which has won three state titles since 2007 and is Okeechobee's big rival. Jensen Beach won the match in three tough sets, but it still proved to be a memorable night at home for Cheyenne, who had 27 digs.

"We came out so pumped, so hyped," she said. "I've never seen this gym be so full. It was the greatest feeling I've ever had. If we would have won that first set, this entire gym would have went upside down because they were so excited."

Whenever Okeechobee's season ends, Cheyenne won't get a recess. She will jump into basketball season and continue playing on a travel volleyball team with her fellow senior teammates Baylee Farless and Makayla Root.

"It's a good experience for us to be seen," Cheyenne said. "I just got an email that we're going to Las Vegas for a regional qualifier. I'm pretty excited for Vegas; I've never been."

She's also excited about heading off to college next year. Her radar includes a few Florida schools for volleyball and/or softball. She probably won't make a decision until the spring, but figures her performance at the libero position should boost her chances to land on a college roster.

"Defense is one of my strongest things," she said. "I'm going to be a [defensive specialist] or a libero whenever I get to college, so I might as well get used to it now."

"If it's going to make my team better, then by all means, I'm going to do it."

— Cheyenne Nunez



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee High School senior Cheyenne Nunez, a four-year varsity player, goes airborne to deliver a serve Oct. 15 against Lake Placid.

VEHICLES, MOBILE HOME AND HORSES FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
B83208	2002	FORD PICKUP	F-450 XLT SUPER DUTY DIESEL (4WD)	295,542	Poor	\$7,350.00
C12689	2002	FORD PICKUP	F-250 XLT SUPER DUTY (4WD)	156,554	Poor	\$5,960.00
A94058	2007	FORD PASSENGER VAN	E-350 ECONOLINE WAGON	112,419	Poor	\$4,950.00
18717	1998	HOMES OF MERIT TRAILER	DOUBLE WIDE	N/A	Poor	\$4,500.00
D98068	2006	FORD PICKUP	F150 XLT (4WD)	273,885	Poor	\$4,200.00
B22150	2006	FORD PICKUP	F-150 XL (Long Bed 4WD)	167,158	Poor	\$3,850.00
B27099	2007	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT	167,090	Fair	\$2,700.00
B57635	2003	FORD PICKUP	F-150 XL (4WD)	107,322	Poor	\$2,250.00
A62153	2002	FORD PASSENGER VAN	E-350 ECONOLINE WAGON	94,152	Poor	\$1,300.00
B42285	1997	FORD PICKUP	F-350 XL FLATBED / W LIFTGATE	77,487	Poor	\$680.00
7820	2000	ANDALUSIAN HORSE	BLACK & WHITE STALLION - STUD/DONE RANGER	N/A	Fair	\$340.00
6295	1999	GELDING ROPING HORSE	BAY QUARTER - HILDAGO	N/A	Fair	\$320.00
GRAPE	1993	SMALL BAY MARE HORSE	NEUTERED / CASTRATED MALE - GRAPE	N/A	Fair	\$200.00
16299	2002	QUARTER HORSE	BAY FEMALE - SQUAL	N/A	Fair	\$180.00
DORA	2012	PAINT HORSE	SORREL/WHITE FEMALE - DORA	N/A	Fair	\$140.00
CHOCOL	2013	QUARTER HORSE	DUN GELDING - CHOCOLATE	N/A	Fair	\$140.00
SHORTY	2000	PONY	SORREL GELDING - SHORTY	N/A	Fair	\$130.00
PAINT	2001	SMALL PONY	BAY MARE - PAINT	N/A	Fair	\$110.00
ABEL	2007	PONY	DUN GELDING - ABEL	N/A	Fair	\$100.00

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 required)

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

Fond farewell for eighth-graders as season ends with shutout

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — Pema yetv Emahakv Charter School eighth-grade volleyball players concluded their varsity middle school volleyball careers Oct.

6 by receiving roses and a coach's hug before they stamped an exclamation mark on another winning season.

The Lady Seminoles rolled past Clewiston Middle School, 2-0.

This season's 8-2 record combined with last year's undefeated run means Jenna Brown, Jacee Jumper, Janessa Nunez, Madisyn Osceola, Aubrey Pearce, Julia Smith and Alaina Sweat posted a 21-2 record in the past two years.

"That's saying a lot," said PECS varsity coach Kim Jackson, who doled out purple, red and yellow flowers to the eighth-graders and their families during a pre-match ceremony.

PECS has served as a feeder program for area high school volleyball teams and this year's class will likely continue the trend. Three players said they will attend Moore Haven (Alaina, Julia and Jacee) and three said they will head to Okeechobee (Janessa, Aubrey and Jenna). Madisyn said she will be home-schooled but hopes to play for a high school.

"I think most of them would really like to continue. I'm excited to go see them if they do," Jackson said.

After the ceremony, there was still work to be done

on the court against Clewiston. As a tribute to her graduating players, Jackson started an all-eighth-grade lineup for the first time this season. They didn't disappoint her.

A barrage of aces from Jacee and Alaina staked the Lady Seminoles to a 12-4 lead in game 1. Aubrey continued the hot serving streak with a series of aces to close out the game, 25-6.

Game 2 featured more serving dandies, this time from Madisyn and sixth-grader Elle Thomas, whose serves overwhelmed Clewiston. PECS won the game, 25-10.

Elle finished with a team-high six aces followed by Aubrey with five and Jacee with four and a kill. Madisyn had three aces and three kills. Alaina added three aces and Mariah Billie had two aces. Jenna had one kill.

The victory came on the heels of the team's most impressive win of the season. A week earlier, PECS rallied to edge West Glades, 2-1, which included a 20-18 thriller in the third game.

"That was the best I've seen the girls play," Jackson said.

Jacee led the team with five kills and three aces. Alaina added four kills and an ace. Madisyn had two kills. Julia contributed one kill. Elle and Aubrey each delivered three aces. Janessa had two aces and Mariah added one ace.

Being able to shift momentum in their favor during matches proved to be a character-building theme for the Lady Seminoles. The win against West Glades was the second straight match PECS won after erasing a one-game deficit. In the middle of the season, the team bounced back after consecutive losses to Yearling and West Glades to win their final five matches in a row.

"We tried, but Yearling got the best of us," Madisyn said. "But we came back and beat them next game."

With no seventh-graders on this year's team, next year's "veterans" will be the trio of this year's sixth-graders: Elle, Mariah and Karey Gopher.



Beverly Bidney

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School eighth-grader Araya Youngblood (10) soars near the net during a junior varsity volleyball match Sept. 18 at West Glades Middle School.

PECS junior varsity shines in first year

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — Most of the points in the junior varsity match went the way of Pemayetv Emahakv, but even those won by visiting Clewiston didn't dampen the spirits of the young Lady Seminoles who had a blast in their 2-0 win Oct. 6.

"Whether they win or lose, they always smile and they're always happy," PECS JV coach Jordan Maynard said.

The JV squad had plenty of reasons to smile this season. They lost only one match, and they avenged that setback by knocking off West Glades in the rematch.

"They've improved a whole bunch," Maynard said. "This is my first year out here and I thought it was going to be kind of rough, but they did really good. They've all learned a lot this season."

LaShae King served about 10 consecutive aces in game 2 to seal the victory against Clewiston.

The JV squad was created for the first time this year because there were enough

players to fill JV and varsity rosters.

"Instead of doing one big team, they decided to split into two teams. It's worked out really well," Maynard said.

Ten sixth-graders and two eighth-graders comprised the team. The eighth-graders — Justina Martinez and Araya Youngblood — were honored with their families before the season finale against Clewiston. They won't be back next season, but the rest of the players will vie to fill the numerous holes on varsity, which will only have three returning players.

Also, additional depth is expected to enter the program behind the sixth-graders.

"We have quite a few fifth-graders who play club and that I've seen play in [physical education class]," varsity coach Kim Jackson said. "I think we'll have some good, young girls coming up next year."

The JV players were: Allianna Brady, Leilani Burton, Alyssa Gonzalez, Kalyn Hammil, Tafv Harris, LaShae King, Justina Martinez, Tammy Martinez, Angelie Melton, Alice Osceola, Morgan Yates and Araya Youngblood.



Beverly Bidney

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Leilani Burton is ready to hit the ball as Tammy Martinez rushes to help during a junior varsity volleyball match at West Glades Middle School.



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School eighth-grader Jenna Brown delivers a serve in the team's season finale Oct. 6 against Clewiston Middle School.



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School volleyball players Alaina Sweat, left, and Julia Smith, right, join their parents Alice and James Sweat during the team's eighth-grade parent night ceremony Oct. 6 before the Lady Seminoles concluded their season with a 2-0 win against Clewiston Middle School.

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.)

**Are You
Cowboy
Enough?**



Real Cowboy. Real Western.

**South Florida's Largest & Most Complete
Western Store & Showroom**

Davie: 954-587-9000 • 6211 Orange Drive, Davie, FL 33314

Davis experiences pro ball in Mexico

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

The injury-bug bit Jerome Davis at the most inopportune time.

Davis was in the midst of attending training camp with one of Mexico's top professional basketball teams when a knee injury sidelined the former Boyd Anderson High School standout in early October.

"Everything was going good. If I didn't get injured, I would have made the team," said Davis, a 6-foot-2, 215-pound guard who joined Soles de Mexicali of the Mexican Professional Basketball League just days after he played on the championship team in the annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament in Big Cypress.

In mid-September, Davis, 27, flew from Florida to San Diego, where he was met by Soles officials who brought him into Mexico for the training camp.

"It was good, very high intensity," Davis said about the camp.

Davis was about two weeks into the camp when the on-court injury occurred only a few days before the team's preseason schedule started.

The injury was severe enough to bring him back home to the Hollywood Reservation for recuperation.

Davis has been involved this year in the

creation of an all-Native American semi-pro team in South Florida that is slated to start playing in the American Basketball Association this fall, but his plans changed when Federico Brodsky, the Native team's manager, helped land him a spot with Soles Mexicali.

"He's a combo guard," Brodsky said. "He can play [the] 1 or 2 [positions], and because of his physicality, he can defend 1, 2 or 3. He's a very strong, knockdown shooter – very smart court awareness. He's very coachable and works hard."

Davis is not sure if he will return to pro basketball in Mexico when he is healthy again or play in South Florida, but he said he enjoyed his brief stay in Mexicali, a city with about 700,000 residents.

"I really liked the city. Everybody knows the basketball team," Davis said.

Soles Mexicali won its league championship last season and has played against NBA Development League squads.

High on the new Native team's agenda is providing exposure and opportunities for Native American players to play at high levels of pro basketball beyond the American Basketball Association. Team officials said Davis' stint in Mexico is a step in the right direction.

"We achieved the goal before launching the team," Brodsky said.



Kevin Johnson

Quinton Wilson (54) lines up on the offensive line for the Davie Broncos Mighty Mites in their game Oct. 1 against the Weston Warriors at Tequesta Trace Park in Weston.

◆ WYATT YOUNGMAN

From page 1C



Kevin Johnson

Lake Placid High School senior center Wyatt Youngman battles LaBelle's defensive line during the Green Dragons' senior night game Oct. 16 in Lake Placid.

sights are set on being a paramedic specialist, who, as the Air Force website describes it, "do whatever it takes to save a person's life," including going into hostile territory.

On Lake Placid's senior night Oct. 16, Roger Scarborough Memorial Field wasn't a hostile place for visiting LaBelle, which won 33-0. Wyatt was the last of 19 football players, cheerleaders and band members honored on the field before the game.

After seven games with barely enough players, reinforcements arrived in the form of junior varsity players because their season ended. Hence, Wyatt actually received a well-earned break on defense for most of the game.

Following a shaky first half in which LaBelle took a commanding lead, Lake Placid responded with a sharper performance in the final two quarters and held LaBelle to just three points, displaying the type of determination that the undermanned, understocked and underdog team has personified.

"Everybody on the team plays with all their heart; they really do," Wyatt said.

◆ DAVIE BRONCOS

From page 1C

Thomas, the third member of the team's Seminole trio, missed the game because of illness, coaches said.

8U team

In the 8U game, third-graders Sam Josh and Jay Stewart had active days on both sides of the ball to help the Broncos post an 8-0 win.

Sam recovered a fumble while playing cornerback on defense. On offense, he carried the ball a couple times on reverses from the wide receiver spot.

When asked what he likes most about playing football, Sam echoed the sentiments expressed by other Seminoles who said they enjoy the physical part of the game.

"To be able to tackle somebody," Sam answered.

Jay, a guard and linebacker, registered a tackle for a loss in the third quarter when he smothered a Delray player in the backfield, which helped keep the visitors off the scoreboard.

"[Sam and Josh] get to play both ways," 8U assistant coach Jarrod Hedrick

said. "They are integral parts of both sides of the ball, offense and defense. They're both outstanding. Jay got to help us out a lot on offense today playing right guard. Sam helped us out at receiver. He did an excellent job blocking and ran a couple of reverses."

Davie upped its record to 2-5.

"We're gaining by leaps and bounds, getting better every week," Hedrick said.

Mighty Mites team

Earlier in the week, Davie's Mighty Mites – the program's youngest players – visited Tequesta Trace Park to face the host Weston Warriors. Only half the field is used for games.

Most of the players – ages 5 to 7 – are rookies.

"Probably 75 percent of our kids are first-year players," Mighty Mites head coach Doug Skelton said. "This is the year to be able to tell whether they want to come back next year or not. As coaches, we want to make sure they like it and come back."

The three Seminoles – Antonio Tosca, Logan Wilcox and Quinton Wilson – played several series on defense. Logan and Quinton played outside linebacker. Antonio, one of the taller players on the field, was in the mix on the defensive line

and also saw plenty of playing time on a strong offensive line that opened huge holes for four long touchdown runs in the first half.

"All three of them start. They're really good players," Skelton said.

With many of the youngsters new to the game, some rituals – such as exuding intense emotion just before kickoff – need to be explained. Coaches helped the kids get in rhythm with their thigh pad slaps and vocal chords.

"How do you feel?" a coach barked to the players huddled together.

The young lungs roared back, "Fired up."

The Seminoles shifted the emotion from the sideline to the playing field. In the second half, Logan rushed the quarterback and notched what would have been a sack if not for the official's whistle that blew the play dead.

A Davie coach yelled from the sideline, "Hey, Logan. I want to see the same thing again."

Indeed, on the next play Logan reached his target and knocked the quarterback to the ground just as he threw the ball to a receiver.

"That's our goal," Skelton said. "Get better every day."

ROCK NATURALLY™



NATURAL ENERGY
NO ARTIFICIAL COLORS
NATURAL CAFFEINE

NATURAL FLAVORS
B-VITAMINS
PURE CANE SUGAR



ROCKNATURALLY.COM

#ROCKNATURALLY



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

COLLIER COUNTY MUSEUMS

NAPLES EVERGLADES IMMOKALEE NAPLES DEPOT MARCO ISLAND

Return from Exile:
Contemporary Southeastern Indian Art
Oct. 16, 2015 - Jan. 15, 2016
Free Admission

Exhibition featuring top Native American artists of Southeastern tribal affiliation working today. All works included in the show will address the themes of *Removal*, *Return* and *Resilience*. Artwork is a variety of two-dimensional paintings, printmaking and drawings; and three-dimensional objects (sculpture, ceramics and basketry).



Bobby C. Martin, *Uncle David (Killed in Action, 1944)* encaustic, oil, collage and screenshot on panel, 72" x 48"

EIRA winners to compete at INFR in Las Vegas

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Tribal rodeo riders competed in the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) regional finals Sept. 26 in Brighton, trying to secure their spot in the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR). Regionals featured the 30 competitors with the highest accumulated scores during EIRA's six-rodeo season, which ran February to July.

When the doubleheader at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena ended, 16 Seminoles learned they will head to Las Vegas to compete against other Native Americans

from throughout Indian Country Nov. 3-7 at the South Point Equestrian Center.

The regional finals were highly competitive because only the top contenders participated. In the team roping event, header Justin Gopher competed on two teams; one with Jobe Johns, the other with Naha Jumper. The team of Gopher and Jumper won in both rodeos and will compete at INFR.

Johns lassoed the highest score in men's all-around points for the season, 187, and will compete at INFR in the team roping and calf roping events.

In calf roping, Logan Hyatt placed first and second in the two rodeos, which was

enough to send him to Las Vegas. Ladies breakaway roping was a close contest. Trina Bowers-Hipp squeaked past Leanna Billie to earn her place at INFR. Billie will also compete in Las Vegas based on her ladies all-around season score of 64.5, highest in the EIRA this year.

Bull riding is often referred to as the eight most dangerous seconds in sports, and four brave cowboys tried their best to hang on to bucking, stomping, angry bulls. Only Dyami Nelson succeeded and stayed on the bull, but he was still one point short of qualifying for the INFR. Kelton Smedley's 30-point bull riding season score wrangled him a place in the INFR arena.

Ladies barrel racing drew the largest field of competitors, 13, but only two qualified for INFR. Loretta Peterson and Ashley Parks had the top scores in barrels for the season, 101 and 66, respectively, and will compete in the adult category.

Ahnie Jumper, who competed as an adult in ladies barrel racing at the regional finals, also participated in the youth rodeo throughout the season. Her season-long performance earned her a spot in the junior breakaway and junior barrel racing in Las Vegas.

Daniel Rodriguez will compete in INFR in the junior breakaway and junior bull riding.

Jaylen Baker qualified for INFR and will compete in junior bull riding. Junior barrel racers in Las Vegas will include Budha Jumper and Madisyn Osceola.

Jacoby Johns, who spent the season on the INFR Tour Rodeo, will also compete. Wrapping up the Tribe's presence at INFR will be Norman Johns in the senior breakaway roping event.

Between the two rodeos, Rande Osceola and Madisyn Osceola were crowned 2015-16 EIRA Senior Rodeo Queen and Junior Rodeo Queen, respectively, after a competition in which four contestants demonstrated horsemanship, submitted essays and answered questions from judges



Beverly Bidney

Budha Jumper competes in barrel racing during the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association regional finals Sept. 26 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Dyami Nelson competes in bull riding and stays on for the required eight seconds during the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association regional finals in Brighton.

Young bucks rodeo across continent

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Young rodeo riders Kelton Smedley, Jobe Johns and Logan Hyatt lived the cowboy life out West this summer while

competing on the rodeo circuit. Kelton traveled on his own, while Jobe and Logan traveled with Jobe's mother, Tara Johns.

A bull rider, Kelton, 18, spent about a month exploring Montana and South Dakota rodeos with his girlfriend, Kayla McMann. The trip was worth his while; he won several rodeos and made money.

"It was the first time I was alone on the road," he said. "It was amazing. I saw a bunch of mountains and animals. In Oregon I shot a buck."

Kelton plans for a life in the rodeo and already spends every weekend competing regionally in the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA), Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association and Southern States Bull Riders rodeos. Kelton said there is one thing harder than getting on a 1,200-pound bull and hanging on for eight seconds: driving long hours to travel to the next rodeo. But he loves meeting people, seeing new places and competing.

"I ain't the best, but I ain't gonna say I'm the worst," he said. "Everyone has their ups and downs."

This season Kelton was the best EIRA bull rider, which earned him a spot at the INFR in Las Vegas. Jobe and Logan were tops in their EIRA categories and will also compete in the INFR: Jobe in calf roping and team roping and Logan in steer wrestling.

Jobe, 17, competed in INFR as a child, but this is the first time he will battle adults.

"I'm excited, anxious and ready to get there," he said. "I've got just as much of a chance to win as anybody."

It will be Logan's first trip to INFR, but because he spent the summer competing at rodeos, he feels confident he can perform well against the competition.

Jobe and Logan, 18, met at a junior rodeo several years ago and became fast friends; they even live together with Jobe's family in Brighton, where they are home-schooled seniors.

"Logan's like a brother," Jobe said. "When we met, he broke his arm so I put out a tip jar to help pay for his arm. He gave the money back to every person who donated. We've been good friends since then."

Their summer sojourn across the country and into Canada was epic, the boys said. They covered 9,000 miles in 70 days and competed in about 15 rodeos, including eight Indian rodeos in Canada, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oklahoma, California and South Dakota. Tara Johns drove the RV, which hauled a trailer with four horses and measured 67 feet.

"It was a great opportunity," said Logan, a member of the Muskogee (Creek) Tribe. "Not many kids get to do something like this."

Although the road trip was long and hard, Jobe said the best part of the trip was winning. He and Logan both won several events. Jobe said he earned money but that staying motivated was his big challenge. He credited Logan with helping him stay focused.

Logan said he enjoyed meeting new people and appreciated the change of scenery.

"But I missed home," he said. "I didn't mind being on the road, but there's nothing like being in your own bed at home."



Beverly Bidney

Kelton Smedley attempts to ride a bull for eight seconds during the EIRA regional finals rodeo.



Beverly Bidney

Jobe Johns, left, watches as Logan Hyatt dismounts his horse to wrestle a steer Sept. 26 during the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association regional finals at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Daniel Rodriguez, left, earns a buckle and Cisco Rodriguez earns a saddle for their achievements during the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) season. The brothers celebrated their non-sanction awards in junior bull riding Oct. 17 at the EIRA banquet in Brighton.

EIRA doles out season honors during banquet

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The end of the 2015 Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) season was celebrated Oct. 17 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton with a parade of winners who collected buckles and saddles to commemorate their season. The banquet also featured the newly elected EIRA directors, who will serve through 2018.

Leanna Billie and Jobe Johns earned all-around cowgirl and cowboy, respectively, based on their high scores during the six-rodeo season. Leanna, who started in rodeo about 16 years ago riding an "old cow horse," was named all-around cowgirl for the sixth time.

"I like the thrill of it," she said. "Rodeo is a great atmosphere and it keeps me out of trouble."

Getting to the top of her game was hard work. Leanna practices every day for about six hours and cares for her eight horses. She competes in breakaway roping, barrels, team roping, tie down and steer wrestling. She will participate in breakaway roping at the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) in Las Vegas Nov. 3-7.

Jobe, a high school senior, said keeping up with his school work and staying healthy are his biggest challenges. He practices three or four hours a day and will compete in the INFR in steer wrestling and calf roping.

"It feels outstanding," said Jobe, 17, who plans to rodeo professionally after graduation.

As the banquet festivities began, emcee Moses Jumper Jr. introduced the newly crowned EIRA Senior Rodeo Queen Rande Osceola and EIRA Junior Rodeo Queen Madisyn Osceola.

"The youth mean a lot to us," Jumper said. "We need a youth organization to have an adult one."

Excitement filled the air as cowboys and cowgirls anticipated the INFR, the final event of the year.

At 16, Ahnie Jumper is a veteran cowgirl and INFR competitor, but this

will be the first time she will compete in breakaway roping. She aims to stay consistent and place in every round.

Daniel Rodriguez, 16, will attend INFR for the third time. He will compete in junior bull riding and junior breakaway roping. He feels confident that he is as good as the other competitors.

The new EIRA directors are Josh Jumper, president; Mackenzie Bowers, vice president; Melissa Gopher, secretary; Moses Jumper Jr., special events director; Ivan Bruised Head, bareback riding; Billy Joe Johns, saddle bronc riding; Justin Gopher, steer wrestling; Dayne Johns and Jobe Johns, calf roping; Leanna Billie, ladies breakaway roping; Paul Bowers Sr., team roping (header); Naha Jumper, team roping (heeler); Lisa Osceola, ladies barrel racing; and Paul Bowers Jr., bull riding.



Beverly Bidney

Tehya Howard picks up the saddle earned by Wren Bankston for 4-8 barrel racing during the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association banquet.

Announcements

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI & **The Seminole Tribune**
M U S E U M A PLACE TO LEARN A PLACE TO REMEMBER

PRESENT Conversations

by Award Winning Seminole Tribune Photographers
 EILEEN SOLER BEVERLY BIDNEY KEVIN JOHNSON



EXHIBIT OPENS
 NOV. 27, 2015 - FEB. 28, 2016



RECEPTION TO BE HELD
 January 9, 2016, 1:00-3:00 PM
 Refreshments will be served



Big Cypress Reservation
 34725 west Boundary Rd., Clewiston, FL 33440
 (863) 902-1113 / www.ahtahthiki.com

Congratulations...



Photo courtesy of Keith Lovejoy

Congratulations to Rande Osceola, center, and Madisyn Osceola, left, who were crowned 2015-16 EIRA Senior Rodeo Queen and Junior Rodeo Queen, respectively, during the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) regional finals Sept. 26 in Brighton.

Memories! by Billie R. Garcia

They are important so we should cherish and hold them close when our friends or family members are no longer around to share them with! It seems like a few months ago we were hanging out making noise and stuff we had no business doing. As I sit here thinking about old times going over all the mixed memories we created when you were all still around, it makes me smile and yet I feel sadness on all the things we could've done but didn't have the chance

to do. I miss you all more than words could describe. I'm not sure where we land after our departure from this world but I'm sure of one thing. If I know you all like I think I do, then you all are a sight to see on the other side! You all are always on my mind forever holding the memories! I got all the names tattooed on me with love. RIP Lucky, J-Campos, G-Jumper, Stephanie.

Submitted by Billie R. Garcia

When: January 16, 2016
Where: Big Cypress Reservation

**For more information contact:
 Kristi Hinote 954-985-2335 x11831
 or Edna McDuffie 863-983-5798**

Seminole Tribe of Florida

Education Department

SAT and ACT

Stanford Achievement Test and American College Test
 College Admissions Test

TEST DATES

Date of Test	Test	Register by
November 7, 2015	SAT & SAT Subject Test	October 27 (10/28 with late fee)
December 5, 2015	SAT & SAT Subject Test	November 5 (11/23 with late fee)
December 12, 2015	ACT	November 6 (11/20 with late fee)
January 23, 2016	SAT & SAT Subject Test	December 28 (1/12 with late fee)
*February 6, 2016	ACT	January 8 (1/15 with late fee)
March 5, 2016	SAT only	February 5 (2/23 with late fee)
April 9, 2016	ACT	March 4 (3/18 with late fee)
May 7, 2016	SAT & SAT Subject Test	April 8 (4/26 with late fee)
June 4, 2016	SAT & SAT Subject Test	May 5 (5/25 with late fee)
June 11, 2016	ACT	May 6 (5/20 with late fee)

* 10th grade students should take the PSAT, please check with their schools.

Resources:

- College Board: <https://sat.collegeboard.org/home> (provides free practice test, SAT and PSAT)
- Miami-Dade Public Library: <http://www.mdpls.org/teens/teens.asp>
- Broward County Library: <http://www.broward.org/Library/MyLibraryOnline/LearningServices/Pages/K12Assistance.aspx>
- The ACT: <http://www.actstudent.org/> (provides free practice test)
- Test Prep Review: <https://www.testprepreview.com>
- Number2: <http://www.number2.com>
- 5,000 Fee SAT Vocabulary Words: <http://www.freevocabulary.com>
- Khan Academy: <http://www.khanacademy.org>
- I Need A Pencil: <http://inedapencil.ck12.org/>

Questions please contact: LaVonia Chambers, K-12 Program Manager at 954-989-6840 ex. 10558.

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

Indian Day



D

'Indian Day is every day'



Eileen Soler

Clinton Billie Jr. concentrates on the bull's eye Oct. 1 during Big Cypress Indian Day festivities at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena grounds.



Beverly Bidney

Chad Billie competes in the log peeling contest Oct. 5 during the Hollywood Reservation Indian Day celebration at the ball field.

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

Ask a dozen Tribal members what Indian Day means to them and most answer in the same basic way.

"Indian Day is every day," said Jennie O. Billie, of Trail.

"It's all the time," said Josh Jumper, of Big Cypress.

"It's life," said Mary Tommie, of Fort Pierce.

Though observed throughout Indian Country on various days and under different monikers, the designated holiday for celebrating all things Native for the Seminole Tribe fell on Sept. 25 with a tribalwide day off.

Individual reservation celebrations were staged during late September through early October. Schedules were packed with clothing and craft competitions, traditional meals and fun contests that included frybread cooking, canoe races and skillet tossing.

Amy Yzaguirre, special event coordinator for Big Cypress, said the games provoked easy laughs but also reminded participants of hard times when life depended on surviving in the Florida wilderness. The Big Cypress event was held Oct. 1 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena grounds.

"Today we compete against each other by doing things our parents and grandparents did to live. For instance, those skillets get very heavy when you move them around all day long cooking over a fire," Yzaguirre said.

Shamy Tommie, director of Chupco Youth Ranch in Fort Pierce, agreed.

While flipping burgers Sept. 23 on a backyard barbecue grill complete with a smoker, Tommie shared memories of his great-grandmother Sally Chupco, who spent entire days toiling in a cooking chickee just to keep his family fed.

"I can see her now at the fire making spam and rice. And when she wasn't at the fire, she was at the sewing machine making our clothes," Tommie said.

For Mary Tommie, who grew up in a camp just 2 miles southeast of the Fort Pierce community where there was no electricity or plumbing, Indian Day fueled her growing concern that younger Tribal members could

easily lose touch with their roots.

She worried that the Seminole culture and tradition could be a thing of the past in the very near future if younger members do not "learn and live" Seminole ways.

"Kids these days have to think twice about our heritage and what it took to actually, really survive the hard way. It wasn't that long ago at all when checks did not appear like magic," Mary Tommie said.

Native American Day, American Indian Day or Indian Day is usually established by proclamation by state or city governments for the fourth Friday in September. No national day for Native American recognition has been set aside by Congress. Some governments recognize the day after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day. Four states — California, South Dakota, Minnesota and Washington — have officially replaced Columbus Day (Oct. 12) with Native American Day or Indigenous People's Day.

Last year Florida Gov. Rick Scott declared Sept. 26 as American Indian Day.

Attempts to create national recognition began in 1914 when the Boy Scouts of America set aside a day for "First Americans." The move was fueled in 1915 when the National Congress of the American Indian Association approved a plan to make the second Saturday of each May as American Indian Day. The plan planted a seed, but no formal designation was made.

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a resolution that made November 1990 National American Indian Heritage Month. Similar proclamations have been made by the White House annually since 1994, the last by President Barack Obama on Oct. 31, 2014.

"The funny thing is that non-Natives give us one day, but we live it every day," said Jennie O. Billie.

Huggins Camp set the scene Sept. 30 for the Trail community Indian Day festival where deer skinning and bingo drew equal attention. Frybread, clothing and log peeling contests were scattered throughout the afternoon.

Ted Billie, who placed first among men ages 55 and older in the log peeling contest, said he waited all day to win something that is second nature.

"There was no way I could lose at what

I've been doing all my life," Billie said.

On Sept. 25, about 300 members of the Brighton community celebrated Indian Day at Tucker Ridge, a former rock mine on the Brighton Reservation. Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard said he hoped the event would be the first of many at the site.

"There are no houses out here, just Mother Nature. We brought the event out to the woods where it should be, in the midst of our land," Rep. Howard said.

Norman "Skeeter" Bowers said he remembers swimming and fishing at Tucker Ridge when he was a child.

"We want to revitalize this area again," Bowers said. "Indian Day is time for us to celebrate that we're Native Americans. All the activities are traditional; we do it to get the community outdoors together."

Brighton's radio station, WTIR-FM 91.9, blared what a disc jockey called "traditional Indian music" but mostly country music and classic hits. Like other reservations, families gathered under pop-up canopies and used recipes passed down through generations to compete in pumpkin and regular frybread cooking contests.

"It's all in how you knead the dough," said Salina Dorgan, who cooked with her niece Andrea Holata, but refused to divulge a secret family ingredient. "My mother, Alice Snow, taught me."

Dorgan's pumpkin frybread won first place in the 40-59 age category.

Hollywood's Indian Day on Oct. 5 launched with canoe races on the lake at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. Meanwhile at the Culture Department, Seminole Police Department officers judged clothing, crafts and patchwork.

Competitions at the Hollywood ball field all related to chickee building and were dubbed "the warrior challenge."

"We do things involved with our daily living in the Everglades," said Bobby Frank, community culture manager. "It's like work

we used to do but we make fun out of it."

Using a post hole digger, men swiftly dug 3-foot-deep holes to place thick cypress logs for chickee support. With brute strength, women gathered and then carried for 10 yards as many palm fans as possible. The most carried were 37 fronds.

"Indian Day is educational," the Rev. Paul Buster said. "It's good to take the time to learn our traditions and way of life. We pass on our knowledge to the younger generation, so it is very important."

In Tampa, the community gathered Sept. 26 at the Lakeland property for a day of horseshoes, wood and soap carving, patchwork clothing contests and traditional meals.

Intermittent rain showers lowered the humidity and sent children and adults running back and forth from the horseshoe pits and playground areas to shelter beneath the cook chickee, where a dozen pans and pots of traditional food and sofkee simmered over wind-beaten flames.

On Oct. 7, Immokalee residents mixed things up when men and women competed in log peeling, fan tacking and log run

events.

"It's a challenge, but I always try to overcome challenges," said Norita Yzaguirre, who peeled a log for the first time.

About 130 members of the community basked under the sun and in the company of loved ones.

Overall, the recurring answer for "what makes Indian Day special" was as commonly sweet as a grandmother's frybread.

"It means a lot to see my family and everyone out here having a good time," said Immokalee Reservation administrator Ray Yzaguirre III.

"It's good to have the community come together and experience what our elders used to do to make a living," said resident Gale Boone.

"Family comes out to visit and we get to make new friends. Everybody has fun and everyone is happy and positive," Jennie O. Billie said.

Staff reporter Beverly Bidney and Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher contributed to this report.



Beverly Bidney

Rebecca Yzaguirre competes in the fan tacking contest Oct. 7 while Ruby Anzualda, left, times her effort to tack nails into five fans during the Immokalee Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Children enjoy Brighton Reservation's idyllic landscape Sept. 25 during the Indian Day celebration at Tucker Ridge. When not cooling off in the water, community members enjoyed a day chock-full of competition and camaraderie.

2015 FORT PIERCE INDIAN DAY



Eileen Soler

While showing her handmade jewelry and patchwork, Mary Tommie reminisces about the old and harder days Sept. 23 during Indian Day in Fort Pierce.



Eileen Soler

Jane Stockton has her eye on a ringer as she aims for the win in horseshoes during Indian Day games in Fort Pierce.



Eileen Soler

Antillis Stockton and his sister Marisa Stockton tease each other for selfie picture time during Indian Day.



Eileen Soler

Shamy Tommie flips burgers for a hearty barbecue lunch during Indian Day in Fort Pierce.



Eileen Soler

Judy Jones, of Brighton, displays a table filled with her handmade Seminole jewelry and dolls during Indian Day festivities in Fort Pierce.



Eileen Soler

Jimmie Fanning rides like the wind through an inflatable midway during Indian Day festivities.



Eileen Soler

O'Hara Tommie Jr. rolls about in an inflatable fun ball during Indian Day at Chupco's Landing Community Center in Fort Pierce.



Eileen Soler

Kids leap for joy totally unafraid of blow up alligators inside an inflatable ride during Indian Day in Fort Pierce.



Eileen Soler

Little and big kids, Tristen Wilcox and Brian Villegas, try their hands at the corn hole challenge.



Eileen Soler

Shamy Tommie, director of Chupco Youth Ranch, gets a big ol' hug from his granddaughter Tamia Tammie Frierson during Indian Day festivities in Fort Pierce.



Eileen Soler

Men line up for a chance to win at archery during an afternoon of fun and games that marked Indian Day in Fort Pierce.

2015 HOLLYWOOD INDIAN DAY



Beverly Bidney

Elliot Young aims his bow and arrow as Bobby Frank, dressed in traditional clothing, looks on Oct. 5 during the Hollywood Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Samantha John strategically carries 26 palm fans during the fan carry competition at the Hollywood Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

While men peel logs and other women carry palm fans, Savannah Huggins shows her skill throwing a skillet at the Hollywood Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Lily Mora winds up to throw a cast-iron skillet as far as she can during the skillet throw competition.



Beverly Bidney

Jr. Miss Seminole Princess Skyla Osceola shares a laugh with Courtney Osceola between events at the Hollywood Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Kenny Tommie, back, and Pedro Fuentes steer their canoe back to land during the canoe race at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood lake.



Beverly Bidney

Eric Osceola quickly works his way through the log peeling contest during the Hollywood Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Morningstar Osceola Rodriguez, 9, takes the lead against her cousin Betty Osceola, 8, during the 50-yard dash.



Beverly Bidney

Juanita Jo Jo Osceola carefully lifts 37 fans during the fan carry competition.



Beverly Bidney

Bobby Frank monitors the depth and time as Leon Wilcox competes in the post hole digging contest. Contestants had to dig two 3-foot-deep holes and then place two chickee legs, or cypress logs, in them.

2015 IMMOKALEE INDIAN DAY



Beverly Bidney

Rebecca Osceola makes good time Oct. 7 during the fan tacking contest at the Immokalee Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Cecilia Pequeno concentrates on peeling a log during Immokalee Reservation's Indian Day.



Beverly Bidney

Nathaniel Osceola Billie, 1, is happy to be in his cousin Susan Davis' arms at the Immokalee Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Young competitors Remy Rodriguez, 7, Lynn Osceola, 2, and Dakota Mariscal, 5, show their mettle in their version of the log run at the Immokalee Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Elijah Garcia, 3, tackles his electric blue snow cone at the Immokalee Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Susan Davis shows good form as she hurls her cooking utensil in the skillet toss competition.



Beverly Bidney

Bows in hand, men line up for the archery contest at the Immokalee Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Jordan Rodriguez races to the finish line as Immokalee administrator Ray Yzaguirre III emcees the pole run.



Beverly Bidney

Cheyenne McInturff shows her stuff while competing in the log run during the Immokalee Indian Day celebration.

2015 BIG CYPRESS INDIAN DAY



Eileen Soler

Father and son Clinton Billie and Clinton Billie Jr. concentrate on the bull's-eye Oct. 1 during Big Cypress Indian Day festivities at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena grounds.



Eileen Soler

Alice Billie's little boy Allekeao Billie is quite manly during a toddler version of the log run at the Big Cypress Indian Day celebration.



Eileen Soler

Toi Koenes dashes with a cypress log on her shoulder during a log run contest at the Big Cypress Indian Day celebration.



Eileen Soler

Nicolus Andrews, Lane Andrews and Leviticus Buster throw canoeing tradition overboard for a carefree frolic on the lake.



Eileen Soler

Big Cypress culture leaders Billy Walker and Vincent Jimmie begin a deer skinning demonstration by providing a lesson first about respecting life and giving thanks to the Breath Giver and the deer for food.



Eileen Soler

Big Cypress kids learn the tradition of deer skinning during a demonstration by Big Cypress culture leaders Billy Walker and Vincent Jimmie.



Eileen Soler

Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola shows Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum employees Indian Day T-shirts featuring artwork designed by Ahfachkee School students.



Eileen Soler

Clinton Billie positions himself for a huge win in the spear throwing competition at Big Cypress Indian Day.



Eileen Soler

Indian Day competitors and timekeepers share laughs during fun and games at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena grounds.



Eileen Soler

The Huggins family walks a beeline while carrying traditional dinners across the festival field at Big Cypress Indian Day.



Eileen Soler

Naha Jumper, left, and Billy Walker seriously take on a challenge to be top winners in the canoe during Big Cypress Indian Day.

2015 TAMPA INDIAN DAY



Peter B. Gallagher

Maggie Garcia demonstrates the intricate weaving that creates Seminole sweetgrass baskets Sept. 26 during the Tampa Indian Day celebration at the Lakeland property.



Peter B. Gallagher

Naomi Sherwood registers her vote in the Indian Day patchwork clothing contest.



Peter B. Gallagher

Exhibitor Pedro Zepeda demonstrates wood carving for community members at the Tampa Indian Day celebration.



Peter B. Gallagher

Delayne Henry takes aim during the Indian Day horseshoe tournament at the Lakeland property.



Peter B. Gallagher

Tampa maintenance supervisor Paul Simmons stirs the swamp cabbage pot.



Peter B. Gallagher

Kowoko Billie hoists his son, Clive Billie, during Tampa Indian Day.



Peter B. Gallagher

Bobby Henry places the finishing touches on a big wooden knife during the Tampa Indian Day celebration.



Peter B. Gallagher

Kanika Walkingstick, left, carves a small animal from soap with her friends during the Indian Day event.



Peter B. Gallagher

Kaylin Henry watches her newborn baby Kingston Hughes be silly with dad, Mark Holmes.



Peter B. Gallagher

Beautiful Seminole patchwork skirts hang in Arnie Garcia's booth.

2015 BRIGHTON INDIAN DAY



Beverly Bidney

Alex Buck aims for the best score Sept. 25 during the archery contest at Brighton Reservation's Indian Day celebration at Tucker Ridge.



Beverly Bidney

Tribal members of all ages compete in the skillet throw at Brighton's Indian Day celebration, including Preslynn Baker, at right.



Beverly Bidney

Laden with palm fans, Trisha Osceola hurries through the obstacle course at Brighton's Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Weighed down by two heavy cypress logs, Shane Buck maneuvers through the course during the log race.



Beverly Bidney

Andrea Holata, left, and Salina Dorgan prepare pumpkin frybread for the Indian Day contest. Dorgan's bread took first place in the 40-59 age category.



Beverly Bidney

Tahniah Billie, 7, Mohayla Billie, 5, and Jayleigh Braswell, 7, play on the Tucker Ridge shore during the Brighton Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Adrian Baker and Amanda Julien head for the finish line during their winning canoe race against Kelton Smedley and Justice Baker.



Beverly Bidney

Leviticus 'Lee' Berry races after a chicken during the chicken chase at Brighton's Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Brittany and McKenna Macias, 3, follow the action during the log and fan obstacle course races at Brighton's Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

The competition is fierce at the Brighton Indian Day horseshoe tournament.

TRAIL INDIAN DAY



Eileen Soler

Excited to compete, Paris Huggins gets help dressing from Lorelei Tommie for an Indian Day clothing contest in the Trail community Sept. 30 at Huggins Camp.



Eileen Soler

Children gather around a table outside a cooking chickee to mix and knead pumpkin frybread for competition during the Trail community Indian Day festivities.



Eileen Soler

Dwight Cypress cleans deer meat during a deer skinning demonstration at the Trail community Indian Day celebration.



Eileen Soler

Michael Osceola demonstrates how to skin a deer while Daewon and Addison Huggins stand by and learn.



Eileen Soler

Ted Billie pushes himself to the limit and first place in his age category during the Indian Day log peeling contest at Trail.



Eileen Soler

Trail Liaison Norman Huggins and Ania Martinez pose in front of the stage at Huggins Camp during the Trail community Indian Day celebration.



Eileen Soler

Kathy Billie is cute as a button at the Trail community Indian Day celebration.



Eileen Soler

Jennie O. Billie puts all her strength into log peeling during an Indian Day contest at Trail.

Eileen Soler
From left, Byron Billie Jr., Calvin Huggins Jr. and Teegan Osceola-Bartlett compete in the Trail community Indian Day clothing contest at Huggins Camp.



Eileen Soler

The Andy Buster Band performs 'Kaw-Liga' for a crowd gathered at Huggins Camp in Trail for Indian Day.



Eileen Soler

Clothing contest contestants take the stage during Indian Day festivities at Huggins Camp.