



Tribe holds first flag retirement ceremony
COMMUNITY ♦ 5A

Students receive boost at FIU program
EDUCATION ♦ 1B

Brighton hosts Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo
SPORTS ♦ 4C



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Voice of the Unconquered

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Jim Allen receives lifetime achievement honor

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Jim Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming and Chairman of Hard Rock International, was honored with the Casino Marketing Lifetime Achievement Award July 13 at the Casino Marketing and Technology Conference in Las Vegas.

The award was established in 2004 to recognize those who have made outstanding contributions to the industry.

Allen, who began his career in Atlantic City in 1979, has led the Seminole Tribe's gaming operation since 2001 and helped build it into one of the world's most successful gaming companies.

"I happen to love work," he said. "[Coming to work for the Seminole Tribe] was the luckiest and wisest decision I ever made in my life. What we've been able to do has been a lot of fun and has allowed me to expand my horizons."

Conference attendees filled the ballroom at the Paris Las Vegas hotel. Allen spoke for about 20 minutes

about the industry, his career path, his work with the Tribe, and even gave some career tips to those starting out.

"I have had the opportunity to work with and for some of the legendary people in industry," Allen said. "For 38 years, the industry has been so good to me, but I've never forgotten where I have come from."

During Allen's tenure with the Tribe, Seminole gaming revenue has increased by 673 percent. He directed the successful 2007 purchase of Hard Rock International. Since then, the globally recognized Hard Rock brand has grown significantly, approximately 40 percent, and currently has more than 200 hotels, cafes, casinos and concert

♦ See ALLEN on page 3A

Tribe crowns new princesses

Kirsten Doney named Miss Florida Seminole; Thomlynn Billie earns Jr. Miss title



Beverly Bidney

Newly crowned Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie, left, and Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney take their place in history July 23 at the 59th annual Miss Florida Seminole pageant in Hollywood.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Kirsten Doney, 20, and Thomlynn Billie, 16, were crowned Miss Florida Seminole and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole, respectively, July 23 at the 59th annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant at the headquarters auditorium in Hollywood. The two were the only contestants this year.

"This is more of a coronation than a competition," said Wanda Bowers, chairwoman of the Princess Pageant Committee. "These two girls are ready."

It was Kirsten's second time competing for Miss Florida Seminole and Thomlynn's fifth year vying for Jr. Miss Florida Seminole.

Tribal Secretary Lavonne Rose will present a resolution to Council recognizing Kirsten and Thomlynn as Princesses, similar to what was done in 1964 when Priscilla Doctor Sayen was named Miss Florida Seminole.

"We seek to empower young ladies as ambassadors of our Tribe," Rose said. "Tonight's program is not a competition but an exhibition of their hard work."

Kirsten, of Brighton, and Thomlynn, of Big Cypress, worked diligently to prepare

for the pageant and were proud to be named Seminole royalty. Each has a clear vision for their reigns.

"I want to be the Princess who held her head high always and shared her culture and history to the best of her ability," said Kirsten, a sophomore at Tallahassee Community College majoring in sports management. "This is a big title and even though it isn't a competition, I'm still going to perform as if it is."

Thomlynn plans to be an active Jr. Miss Seminole who helps break through Indian stereotypes.

"It doesn't matter who you are, no one

likes to have a label," she said.

The pageant is familiar territory for the Ahfachkee School junior, whose sister Alice Billie was Miss Florida Seminole 1997. Thomlynn always wanted to follow in her footsteps.

"Even if it wasn't a family tradition, I would still do this pageant," Thomlynn said. "Even though there are just two of us, we are still doing the whole pageant. I'm going to do my best and even if there were other contestants, I think I'd be chosen."

Whether there are two contestants or 20, the pageant is organized in the same

♦ See PAGEANT on page 4A

Osceola Brothers release new EP



Stephanie Rodriguez

The Osceola Brothers rock on during a performance for the release of their new EP on July 15 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood's Paradise Live Theater. From left, Tyson, Sheldon and Cameron. The band's seven-track album is titled "Out of Nowhere."

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — How can such young guys be so incredibly talented? The question lingered in spectators' minds like a broken record, but the fresh mystical musical presence was nowhere near broken.

The Osceola Brothers entertained an audience-filled theater with their rock 'n' roll skills during the trio's debut EP release party July 15. The seven-track album titled "Out of Nowhere" was a big hit for fans at Hollywood's Paradise Live Theater at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

"It's really exciting to see something so small blow up to what it is today," said lead vocalist/guitarist Cameron Osceola. "To actually be successful and for our music to be available across the world is amazing."

The group, which consists of the three brothers all under the age of 20, has performed as opening acts for popular artists such as Kenny Wayne Shepard, Lenny Kravitz, Kings of Leon, Creedence Clearwater Revisited, Johnny Lang, and Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Additionally, the trio held a coveted spot on the 2014 and 2016 Experience Hendrix Tour and 2015 Hard Rock Rising Festival in Barcelona, Spain.

The band worked hard on the new album as they entered the studio in 2015 with award-winning musical artist Derek Miller, who also co-produced and engineered the EP.

Fans gathered around the stage to rock out to the melody that synchronized harmoniously through speakers.

Cameron fiddled through his electric guitar like a young version of Jimi Hendrix.

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Editorial

A circle and a line

• Patricia Riles Wickman, Ph.D.

Right down at its basis, it's as simple as that, and a lot more complicated, too. Non-Indians live in a world that is constantly unfolding, unrolling or, as they perceive it, developing. But, among the Seminoles, the world simply is; it doesn't need to unfold, unroll, or develop. Let me explain.

The Seminole world is a circle, in which all things have a place and a value: women and men each have their value, and their values are equal, because it takes both of them to survive. Trees have value: they have given their lives over the centuries and centuries for the fires, and dugout canoes, and bows and arrows, and many critical parts of Seminole life. The deer have their value; they have fed and clothed the people. No Seminole woman would allow the deer's hair to fall into the fire as she cleans it, or the deer would be insulted, and its kin might not be willing to give up their lives any more, and the people might starve.

And, even today, as the world continues to change around them, the Seminole people cling to many of the traditions that make them who they are, even as they accept those things that do not conflict with the core of Seminole being.

The white man's world, in contrast, is a long straight line. It can be taken apart: into "economics," and "politics," and "religion," and even into "love." It is a world that is constantly changing, developing, and striving to be "better." And all too often, in striving to "better" itself, that world loses the best of itself.

Most important of all, the Seminole world has, at its core, *reciprocity* and *equilibrium*. Actions all have their reactions. It is for this reason that the Elders traditionally thought long and hard before they imposed any kind of punishment. They understood that any decision made today might well come back around on the people one day soon. If the

Elders and the *hilis'haya* were wise and not overly harsh in their judgments, they would get back good; if they were too harsh or judgmental they would pay for it also.

The old ones knew that they were part of the wider world, their Clan and their Tribe. The way it was explained to me, their world was made of circles within circles, and each of their actions had an impact on the all the other circles. It was the job of each person to keep all the circles in equilibrium. In the white man's world, this means individuality has become far more important than a sense of community. Far too many people will think of themselves first and the community second – or not at all. In this way of thinking, assertiveness is more valuable than personal dignity. In the Seminole world, dignity is expressed as silence while, in the non-Indian world, asserting one's self is viewed as strength regardless of whether one's words express any dignity at all.

In a world such as that of the Seminoles, *being* is far more important than *becoming*. Many words that break the English world into fragments do not even exist in the two languages still spoken among the Seminoles – words such as "politics" and "religion" and "economics," and even "love." The Seminole world is one in which actions really do speak louder than words. In the Seminole world, where everything has both a reason and a right to exist, there is no "natural" hierarchy either, so humans are not "naturally" at the top of anything. In the Seminole world, however, unless you really practice what you preach, even "love" is just another four-letter word.

Patricia R. Wickman, Ph.D. is an Ethnohistorian and former Director of the Tribe's Department of Anthropology & Genealogy

Government hospitals are failing Indians

• Senators John Barrasso and John Thune

Needless patient suffering, fatal delays in medical treatment and retaliation against whistle blowers. These are among the well-publicized failures investigators found at hospitals run by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Yet they are also the shameful hallmarks of another federal health-care system: the Indian Health Service.

Part of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Indian Health Service is required by treaty to deliver health care to Native Americans around the country, with more than 2 million depending on this federal agency. Unfortunately, it appears to be failing. Tribal members have told the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs about alarming conditions at hospitals run by the IHS. During the committee's investigation, which began last summer, we have heard accounts of nurses unable to administer basic drugs, broken emergency-resuscitation equipment, unsanitary medical facilities, and seriously ill children being misdiagnosed.

The heartbreaking story of 45-year-old Debra Free provides one example. The Winnebago tribal member was a patient at an IHS hospital in Nebraska in 2011. Overmedicated and unsupervised, she became dizzy and fell out of bed. Ms. Free died a few hours later. An incident like this never should have happened, and nothing can make up for the loss, suffering and injustice that her family has endured.

Ms. Free's sister, a nurse at the facility, demanded answers. Rather than help, hospital staff retaliated by reporting her to the state board of nursing, which found the accusations against her baseless. "For years we have trusted the IHS to do its job," Debra's niece told our committee at

an oversight hearing in February. "Over and over again, the IHS has failed."

The situation has gotten so bad that multiple Statements of Deficiencies have been issued over the past few years identifying four IHS hospitals in the Great Plains that are putting patients in "immediate jeopardy." Our investigators have found evidence that the IHS, like the VA, maintains a culture of cronyism and corruption. Many staff members collect government paychecks without fear of accountability.

Tribal leaders have written to the Department of Health and Human Services identifying underperforming supervisors and upper-level management personnel who deserve firing. Our committee's investigation found no sign that these employees were terminated. Instead, poorly performing employees are transferred to other facilities and, in some cases, even given pay raises and promotions with no record of bad performance ending up in their work file.

Quality health care for Native Americans will require a culture change at the agency—from the leadership in Washington down to hospital staff in the field. Simply sending more money to IHS is not a solution, and it ignores the magnitude of the problems. According to HHS, Indian Health Service funding has grown by 43 percent since 2008. Some IHS hospitals in the Great Plains Area — which includes Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota — actually had money left over at the end of the last fiscal year, and chose not to spend it on patient care.

Tribes urgently seek accountability from the IHS. This should include mandatory reporting for patient-safety violations and cases of alleged retaliation against patients and whistle-blowing employees. Partly because the federal hiring process is so cumbersome, it can take a year to fill staff

vacancies. Firing a poor performer can take even longer, and requires an enormous amount of paperwork and documentation.

Hospitals make do by using temporary and costly doctors and nurses who may leave after only a few weeks. This is unacceptable. Where there are vacancies, hospitals should be required to fill them with permanent, quality providers. And they should be allowed to do so without months of wasteful bureaucratic delays.

The IHS employs many good people. They work under difficult conditions to deliver care in some of the poorest and most remote areas of the U.S. Although its employees deserve support and assistance, the agency has lacked competent and accountable leadership for far too long.

Because the IHS can no longer be a place where inept, entrenched employees come first and patients come last, we have introduced the IHS Accountability Act of 2016.

Our bill improves transparency, makes it easier to fill jobs and reward good workers. It also eliminates barriers to disciplining or firing problem employees. The legislation requires Health and Human Services to increase its oversight of the IHS, including taking more responsibility for investigating patient deaths. It also improves protections for employees who report patient safety concerns.

The IHS's neglect of these Americans is appalling. No one should be treated like Debra Free and her family. They deserved better, and so do all tribal citizens.

John Barrasso is the junior U.S. Senator from Wyoming and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. John Thune is the senior U.S. Senator from South Dakota. Both are members of the Republican Party.

From dolls to dividends

• Patsy West

Dolls were the most consistent income for Seminole and Miccosukee families throughout the 20th century, before dividends. It seems unbelievable today, but it's a fact that in the past many families depended highly on the doll market for their livelihood. Those little palmetto babes made their way all over the world, becoming the Tribes' sole ambassadors from far away Florida... and the dolls were often those little girls' cherished link to the Florida Everglades and the peoples who resided here.

Dolls were the first Seminole craft to be massed produced as well as "assembly-line" produced. In season, camps might gather the palmetto husk and make the bodies, others made heads and stitched on the faces, while still others clothed and finished them. Then they were taken to commercial markets at the large "Seminole" tourist attraction venues in cities like Miami and Silver Springs (Ocala). There, anthropologist Ethel Cutler Freeman recalled seeing "pillowcases" full of dolls in the 1930s. Indeed major orders for dolls were filled in those years, as predominantly Mikasuki-speaking families were taken by promoters out of State to special engagement "Seminole Villages" that participated in the large scale expositions in Toronto, New York, and Chicago; while a growing number of small tourist attraction gigs contracted individual families of Seminoles and Miccosukee, to set up tiny villages at various locations in Florida or along the Atlantic coast from Florida to New York and as far west as Texas.

Because of the high collectability of the palmetto dolls over the decades, today many are found in museum collections, where they have been donated. The Florida Museum of Natural History has recently gone live with a new webpage on Seminole Dolls from their collection. The site was developed by Curator of South Florida Archaeology and Ethnography William Marquart's student, Katie Matthew. Dr. Marquart tells me that their team is: "...especially interested in hearing reactions from doll makers themselves."

According to Deaconess Harriet M. Bedell's Glade Cross Mission's Price List compiled around the 1950s, a 14-inch doll with "two rows of designs and ornaments" sold for \$2.50 (or \$25.05 in today's dollars). The "ornaments," representing the women's silver jewelry, were made of pierced tin strung on beads and attached to the cape. The value today on the sale of "antique" tribal dolls is a whole different matter, with "appraised value" kicking in, which is based on the selling market and rarity. In recent auction news two 12-inch dolls, a man and a woman (but not a matched "pair"), sold for just over \$650.

The dolls can also be the markers of Seminole/Miccosukee fashion. For instance, I recently saw the first example that I have ever seen of a doll with a beaded hair net. This was a short-lived fad specifically among Mikasuki-speaking women 1927-1929. The hand-netted hair accessories utilized integral beaded designs in colors that contrasted dramatically against their black hair. This art form appears to have originated in the tourist attractions at Miami, where cultural tourism and leisure time reigned.

In 2014 Seminole Tribune reporter Eileen Soler wrote about a 69-piece doll collection of Phyllis Cofrancesco that had been newly acquired by the Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum, noting: "Phyllis Cofrancesco received her first doll in the early 1950s when she was a young girl living in Connecticut." As an adult, Phyllis began to collect them. The museum's Collections Manager, Tara Backhouse tells me that today, Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki's doll collection totals 258. [If you would like to make a donation to the Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum, they would be happy to speak with you. Please contact Tara Backhouse at tarabackhouse@semtribe.com 863-902-1113, ext. 12246, to learn about this process].

Some of the Cofrancesco doll collection originated at the Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations. We know this as these crafts retained their hang tags of authentication from the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, Washington, D.C.

Dolls were the catalyst when Edith M. Boehmer and craftswomen at Brighton Reservation established the Seminole

Arts and Crafts Guild in 1938 (a program that was soon activated in Big Cypress). For standard quality and marketing Edith worked closely with Alice Marriott, the head of the fledgling Indian Arts and Crafts Board, who trademarked the first "brand of authenticity" for American Indian Crafts. The Seminole Guild was a pioneer member of the IACB that further aided the new craft program with important marketing venues. One of the Seminole Arts and Crafts Guild's most consistent marketing contacts was the Musee de l'Homme in Paris, where the most popular item was the Seminole doll!

As I wrote this article, my longtime friend Claudia Shiner Mize was visiting back in Florida from Houston, where she has lived for many years. She was at the beach with her daughter and granddaughter when she astounded me by texting me this photo. What a strange and unbelievable coincidence and how odd to see a Seminole doll at the beach. "Why?" I asked, and she replied, "I have a modest shelf of Seminole babies [in Texas], but she's the one who wanted to come back home," providing yet another example in the ongoing saga of "A Little Girl and Her Seminole Doll."

On Aug. 21, 2004, the United States Postal Service presented "Art of the American Indian," a full sheet of 37-cent commemorative stamps that depicted tribal artifacts. One of the stamps was a "Seminole man doll" included to represent the "Southeastern Indian culture area." Exploring the cultural and economic history of the popular palmetto dolls of Seminole and Miccosukee manufacture, it can be seen that indeed they have travelled world-wide for over 100 years as good will ambassadors, while providing vitally needed income to families "back home."

Ethnohistorian Patsy West is Director of the Seminole/Miccosukee Archive in Ft. Lauderdale and author of "The Enduring Seminoles, A Seminole Legend" (with Betty Mae Jumper) and "Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes of Southern Florida." From 1985-2000, Ms. West wrote the award-winning "Reflections" column for the Seminole Tribune.



A Seminole doll visits Fort Lauderdale Beach.

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Community



Alex Tommie right at home in St. Lucie candidates forum



Kevin Johnson

Alex Tommie, left, participates in a candidates forum June 30 at the St. Lucie County Commission chambers with Kim Jackson, center, and Cathy Townsend. Tommie is seeking the District 5 County Commissioner seat.



Kevin Johnson

St. Lucie County Commission candidate Alex Tommie talks with host Greg Wyatt following a televised candidates forum June 30.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

FORT PIERCE — Alex Tommie's quest to be a St. Lucie County commissioner brought him to the place where he hopes to serve for at least the next four years.

Tommie, a Seminole from Fort Pierce, participated in a televised candidates forum June 30 at the chambers where the commission holds its meetings.

"I had fun," Tommie said after the forum. "It was good talking about the issues and the stuff that I believe in for St. Lucie County and, if I'm elected, where I want to take the county to because I really think we need to open up our dialogue."

Tommie and his opponents in the District 5 race — incumbent Kim Johnson and Cathy Townsend — answered questions from WPSL-Radio's Greg Wyatt and Carol Wyatt for 35 minutes in the last session of the daylong forum hosted by the League of Women Voters of St. Lucie County. The forum included candidates seeking election in county court judge, sheriff, Fort Pierce City Commission, state representative, Port St. Lucie City Council, St. Lucie School Board and St. Lucie County Commission. The county's primary election will be held Aug. 30 followed by the general election Nov. 8.

Tommie, 34, who describes himself as a moderate Democrat, wore a red tie and a black, red and yellow patchwork jacket. Greg Wyatt provided a glimpse of Tommie's



Kevin Johnson

Following a candidates forum June 30, Alex Tommie chats with voters.

background as he read a brief biography of each candidate in front of an audience of about 20 people.

"Alexander Tommie's family has been here in St. Lucie County long before any of us," Wyatt said. "As a member of the Seminole Tribe, Tommie's family is one of just 300 Indians who managed to elude capture and that unconquered spirit propels him today," said Wyatt, who noted Tommie was just the second Seminole ever to seek public office.

Each candidate in District 5 was asked the same five questions that included their qualifications, economic growth, the Indian

River Lagoon crisis, the airport and port sites and the primary issues he or she would

tackle if elected.

In regard to the qualifications question, Tommie emphasized his work as the manager of the Tribe's Fort Pierce community for three and a half years and having been in charge of day-to-day operations and working closely with police, health care and recreation.

He stressed the importance of everyone being good stewards to the environment in the county, especially in the wake of the lagoon's algae infestation that has brought national media attention to the area.

"I've had a few opportunities to go out and look at a few areas in the past week, and it's terrible," Tommie said.

In response to a question about airport and port development, Tommie said he would work at bringing in long term jobs to help make the areas vibrant.

"Not the short term, but the long term type jobs," he said.

As for major issues he'd like to tackle

as a commissioner, Tommie mentioned the tax burdens younger people face, bettering community relations with law enforcement and urban areas, improving the county's park system and working together with legislators to help solve the environmental issues facing the county.

After the forum, Tommie spent another half hour talking to people he just met. One woman approached him and asked, "So, you're a real Indian?"

Tommie explained his Seminole heritage to her. If elected, Tommie said he always wants to get together and make sure the community is well informed about a lot of things," he said. "I want to make sure we do the same exact thing here."

ALLEN From page 1A

venues in 64 countries as well as more than 80,000 pieces of music memorabilia.

Prior to presenting Allen with the award, Casino Journal Executive Editor Charles Anderer shared some information about Allen's career, which started at Bally's Park Place in Atlantic City. Allen also worked at the Hilton Atlantic City, the Trump Organization, Hemmeter Enterprises, and Sun International Resorts before joining the Tribe.

"He's an MVP in our industry, no doubt about it," Anderer said. "With the Hard Rock, he's been so smart about how they have le-

veraged that brand and they've done it perfectly. He has an intrinsic understanding of branding and also customers. You've got to keep the Hard Rock entertainment brand strong but the gaming product has to be just as prestigious, and he has kept the product mix right."

Next up for Hard Rock is expansion of the hotel sector with new properties announced for New York City, Atlanta, London and Berlin.

"Every day has a highlight and a low point; I just try to navigate them all," Allen said. "My ultimate goal was and is to maximize the equity value for the Tribe and create diversity on a global basis."



Contributed photo

Jim Allen, left, receives the Casino Marketing Lifetime Achievement Award and a framed historical photograph of Atlantic City from Charles Anderer, executive editor of Casino Journal Magazine. Allen grew up in the area of Atlantic City and began his gaming industry career there.



Kevin Johnson

With help from her son Ronnie, and encouragement from Nelly Bain, Alice Billie blows out the candles on her birthday cake July 15 in Big Cypress.

Birthday celebration held for Alice Billie

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BIG CYPRESS — Even though he is 61, Ronnie Billie Sr. doesn't mind that his mother calls every other day to check up on him, similar to the days when he was younger, but without phones.

"Back in the day, it used to be the same thing, but there was no phone. She'd walk around looking for me. Now she calls me," Ronnie said as he helped prepare a birthday party for his mother, Alice Billie, July 15 at Alice's house in Big Cypress.

Mondo Tiger recalled Alice's generosity to anyone who stopped by years ago.

"Back when she lived in a chickee, if you were wanting fry bread or sofkee or something to eat, you could come to her chickee and she said you're welcome to

get frybread or sofkee or water or whatever you wanted. She was very welcoming," said Tiger, who was among the party's attendees which included Alice's sons Ronnie and Thomas, her sister Ollie and other family, friends and caretakers who enjoyed a midday meal before watching Alice blow out candles on her birthday cake.

Alice's exact age is unknown because "back then they didn't keep records; they were born out in the woods," Tiger said.

Ronnie said the party was for his mom's 102nd birthday. According to a story in The Seminole Tribune in 2012, Alice was assigned a Jan. 1, 1922 birth date by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, but her recollection as an adult of events from her childhood pointed toward an earlier birth date.

Regardless of her age, Alice remains active. She can walk at times with no

assistance. She goes to the Big Cypress Senior Center twice a day during the week.

"It's awesome to see. She does her stretches and comes in for breakfast and lunch," said Angelita Arreguin, Senior Center activity coordinator.

Alice's appetite extends beyond the Senior Center. She eats at Swamp Water Café on weekends when the Center is closed. Her off-reservation favorites include a Chinese restaurant in Clewiston and the Island Café in Everglades City.

Every Sunday Alice attends church at Big Cypress First Baptist Church.

"When I was a little boy, maybe four years old, I remember her going to church," Ronnie said. "I'm 61 now, and she's still going to church. She's a strong woman. Maybe that's why she's lived all these years."

◆ PAGEANT
From page 1A

way; they model traditional patchwork dresses, demonstrate a cultural skill and answer impromptu questions about Tribal history, structure and ways to improve the community.

For her cultural talent presentation, Kirsten sang "This Land is Your Land" in Creek.

"It's way out of my comfort zone, but sometimes it's better to step out of your comfort zone," she said. "That's when great things happen."

Thomlynn's talent was storytelling. She told a story about a mother whose two daughters' hearts were taken while they slept. The mother asked for help and two mice said they could get the hearts back, but she resisted. As the deadline neared for retrieving the hearts, she accepted the mice's help and celebrated the return of her daughters' hearts.

"The moral of the story is we must believe in others and get help when we ask for it, but most of all not to give up any hope," Thomlynn said.

A gifted artist, Thomlynn illustrated the story with drawings that were projected on a screen behind her as she spoke.

Emcees Wovoka Tommie and Lewis Gopher kept the show moving with commentary interspersed between events.

"It's a big responsibility to represent the Seminole Tribe," Tommie said. "They will become strong women; this is like a stepping stone in their lives."

Outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Destiny Nunez and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Skyla Osceola held the basket as the contestants randomly chose their impromptu questions; Thomlynn's asked what she believed was the most important aspect of Seminole culture.

"Language; I'd like to preserve it," she said. "We have culture classes in school and if you need to go to the restroom, you have to speak in our language or you have to hold it. Also, I'd like to learn so I can speak to my grandmother."

Kirsten's question had her name all the Tribal officials, their positions and the reservations they serve. She nailed it and received hearty applause for her accomplishment.

Before the new Princesses were crowned, the outgoing pair gave emotional farewell speeches. Skyla was thankful for the year filled with positive experiences.

Destiny was sad to give up her crown, but thanks to the confidence she gained through her reign, she is ready to participate and give back to the community.

"I remember sitting backstage scared," Destiny said. "The transformation from last year to now has been amazing. I'm so proud of myself."

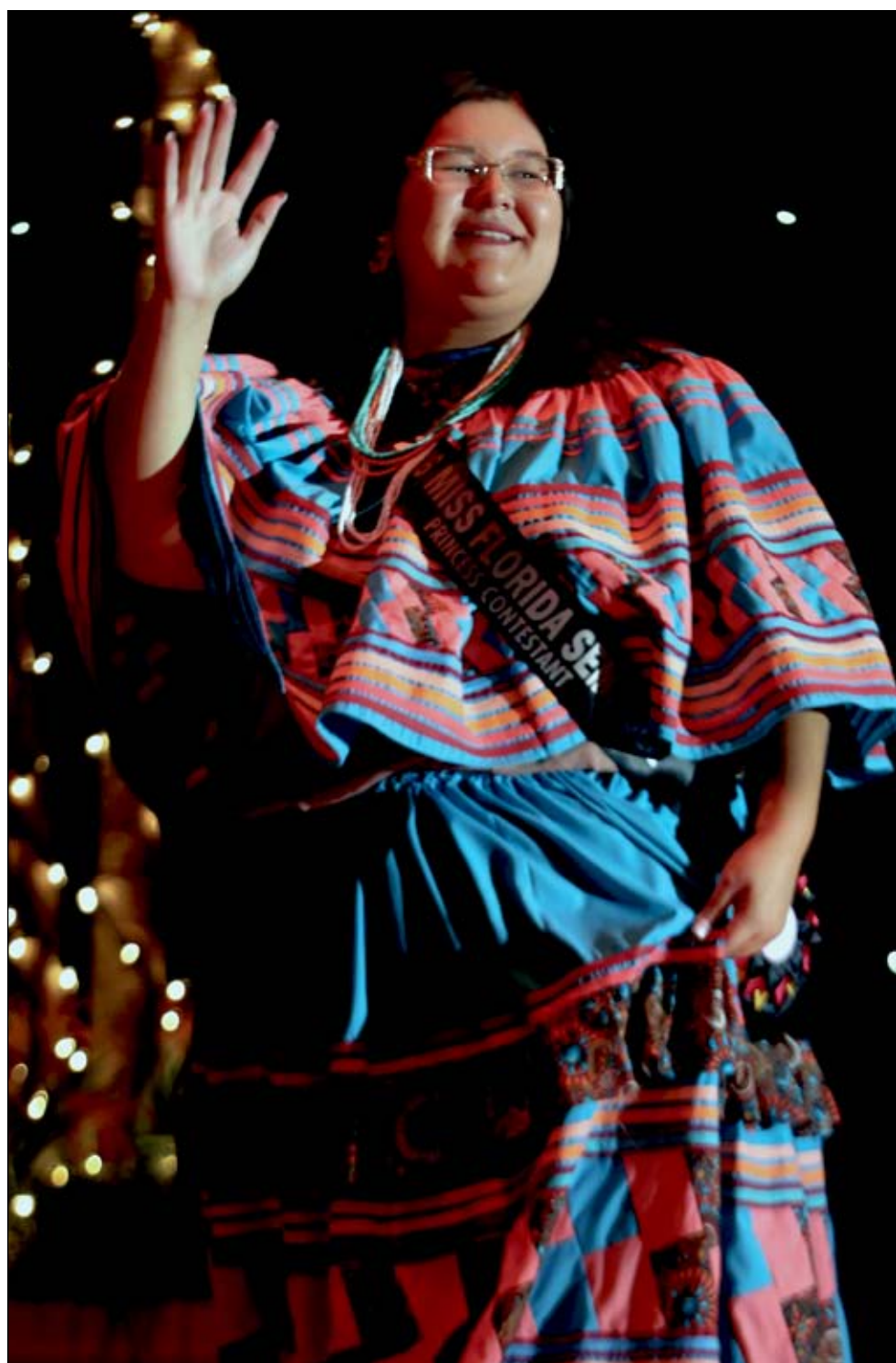
Kirsten and Thomlynn beamed through tears of joy as they were crowned and posed for photos in the auditorium filled with family, friends and well-wishers.

Before the pageant began, Kirsten talked about its importance to the Tribe.

"I want to get girls more involved," she said. "[The pageant] is our culture and tradition. We need to keep this going and keep it alive."



Above left, Thomlynn Billie shows her artwork as she tells a Seminole story during her talent demonstration at the Miss Florida Seminole pageant July 23. Above right, Miss Indian World Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn serves as a judge at the Miss Florida Seminole pageant in Hollywood. Emcees Wovoka Tommie and Lewis Gopher are in the background.



Above, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola, President Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank join the new Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie and Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney on stage after the conclusion of the Miss Florida Seminole pageant July 23. At left, Kirsten waves to the audience.

Pageant preparations include educational visit to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Four Miss Florida Seminole hopefuls went the extra mile toward winning the crown by attending two workshops sponsored by the Miss Seminole Princess Committee on July 6 and 7. The first focused on culture at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and the second highlighted pageant techniques with professional pageant coach Jules Meyer.

Contestants Kirsten Doney, Rande Osceola, Gherri Osceola and Thomlynn Billie attended the workshop at the museum led by Miss Florida Seminole 1986 Tina Osceola.

"Miss Florida Seminole is not a beauty pageant; that's not the way we are," Osceola said. "This is about Seminole women. We are an institution within the Tribe. Everyone who competes becomes part of the legacy of Seminole women."

Osceola wanted the workshop to be an engaging discussion. She gave the contestants tips on how to relax on stage as well as potential topics for judge's questions. She also provided an informational packet with a timeline of Seminole history, federal policy on American Indian Tribes, an article about Seminole heroine Polly Parker and a poem "Phenomenal Woman" by Maya Angelou.

"I hope they all find the connection between their heart, passion, mind and voice," Osceola said.

When Osceola was a contestant, she realized meeting other Seminole women was an important part of the pageant process. She asked the contestants why they want to be Miss Florida Seminole.

Thomlynn Billie said the reign of her sister Alice Billie in 1997 as Miss Florida Seminole inspired her to try to follow in those footsteps. Rande Osceola wants to make her mark on the Tribe and practice for her future career as a motivational speaker.

"I want to learn more about our culture and traditions," said Gherri Osceola, 16. "Representing the community is important

to me." While explaining the history of the Tribe, Tina Osceola said learning about it

gives relevance to what is happening today and that the struggle for survival is ongoing. She said the Seminole Wars were a direct

result of the Indian Removal Act passed by Congress in 1830.

"They couldn't get us out of Florida," Osceola said. "Go talk to your elders; nobody knows the story better than the elders. The books only tell part of the story. They (U.S. soldiers) wanted everything we had. We wouldn't die. We were like fire ants; they extinguished us over here and we popped up over there."

The contestants also weighed in on their thoughts about the Seminole Wars.

"We didn't ask for this to happen, but it brought us closer as a Tribe," said Kirsten, 20. "We had to come together to protect who we are."

"It made us stronger," added Thomlynn, 16. "I stand tall and don't smile. I always look shocked when people say hi to me at school."

Since the judges want to see how well the contestants communicate, Osceola continued to ask questions and made sure they thought about their answers.

"As a Princess, you have to be prepared for weird questions," she said. "You have to come back with an answer that educates. When you wear the crown you have to be ready."

Osceola told the girls that as Miss Florida Seminole contestants, they are part of a community of strong women. She believes standing up and moving forward makes leaders and every stumble and mistake is an opportunity to become stronger.

"There is a sisterhood among us that is founded on mutual respect," Osceola said. "We are all Seminole women who cared enough to show up. People listening to you will remember what you say. You are the role model and belong there on that stage. This process will be important to you for the rest of your lives."



Miss Florida Seminole hopefuls Thomlynn Billie, Kirsten Doney, Gherri Osceola and Rande Osceola tour the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum July 6 after completing a cultural workshop led by Tina Osceola, Miss Florida Seminole 1986.

Retirement ceremony honors U.S., Tribal flags

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BRIGHTON — A quiet, peaceful ceremony on the grass behind the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton during a hot afternoon July 7 marked the inaugural flag retirement ceremony for the Tribe. Hosted by the Florida Seminole Veter-



ans Foundation, Stephen Bowers served as emcee. Bowers was among a group of about seven veterans and other personnel who placed pieces of what were once Seminole Tribe of Florida, United States of America and Prisoners of War/Missing in Action flags into a brown barrel where flames took over from there.

The flags arrived at the Veterans Building no longer in service quality, having been tattered or torn from years of use. They were ready to be retired and the veterans were glad to provide the proper farewell.

"We thought this would be a great opportunity to have us, as veterans, properly, with dignity and respect, have the ceremony here," Bowers said.

Bowers said he used to direct people who inquired about what to do with tattered or worn flags to other veteran groups because flag retirement ceremonies were not part of the Tribe.

"The idea came through me and [receptionist] Donna [Kahn] because I was getting calls from the offices [about the flags]," Bowers said. "At first, I told them to just drop them off at the local VFW or VVA, but after we talked about it we said we can do it ourselves."

Many of the flags involved in the ceremony came from Tribal offices and resi-

(Kevin Johnson)

Stephen Bowers begins a flag retirement ceremony July 7 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton.

dences. Bowers said the ceremony tried to follow proper retirement protocol as closely as possible, including the cutting of the stars and stripes of the U.S. flag before being burned.

"Each stripe is burnt individually," he said. "I was told that if you burn the whole flag, you're burning the flag, like in protest. But if you cut the stripes into strips you're essentially not burning the flag; you're burning what was a flag."

At the start of the ceremony, Bowers read the "I Am Your Flag" passage.

Participants included Bowers and fellow veterans Billie Micco, Jack Smith Jr., Eddie Shore and Curtis Motlow along with Jim Schneider and Dan Hunt from the Okeechobee chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

A solemn part of the ceremony came when each veteran walked across the grass and placed strips into the barrel's flames. After he deposited the last piece of the former flags into the barrel, Bowers stepped back, stared straight ahead and provided a final salute.

"I think the veterans appreciated doing something like this, and I think hopefully it will be an annual thing where the office managers for each of our Seminole Tribe offices can have a place to send their flags that are tattered," Bowers said. "It's disrespectful to fly a flag that is tattered and showing wear and tear; that's why we want to have a central place to deposit each flag."



(Kevin Johnson)

Above, from left, Billie Micco, Eddie Shore and Jack Smith Jr., and below, Curtis Motlow, place what were once U.S. flags into a burning barrel as part of a flag retirement ceremony July 7.



(Kevin Johnson)

Veterans gather around the flames of a barrel during the Florida Seminole Veterans Foundation's first flag retirement ceremony July 7 in Brighton. From left, Jim Schneider, Dan Hunt, Billie Micco, Jack Smith Jr., Eddie Shore, Stephen Bowers and Curtis Motlow.



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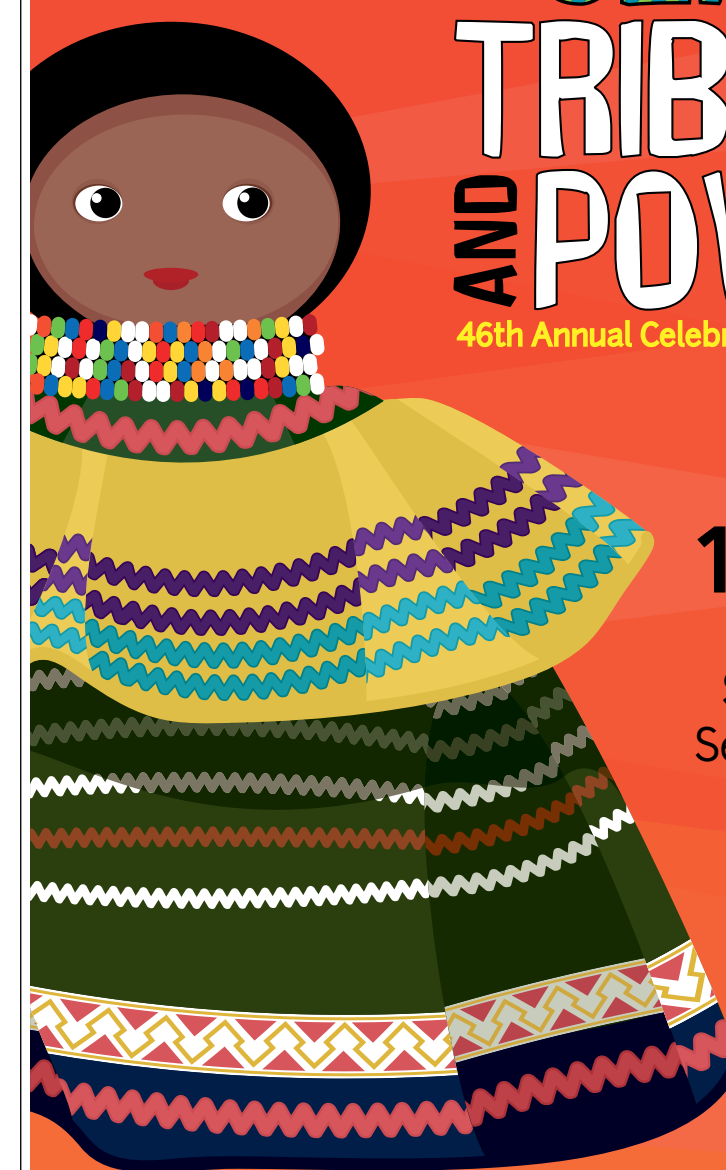


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Longest Walk 5 reaches Washington



Beverly Bidney

The Longest Walk 5 crosses the Arlington Memorial Bridge from Arlington National Cemetery to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on July 15 after a 3,600-mile journey that began in February in California. The goal of the journey was to raise awareness and find cultural solutions to substance abuse and domestic violence plaguing Indian Country.

BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON — About 200 Native Americans stepped into history July 15 as they completed the final leg of The Longest Walk 5, which began in California in February. The purpose of the 3,600-mile journey was to find cultural and spiritual solutions to the epidemic of drug abuse and domestic violence prevalent in Indian Country.

Led by American Indian Movement founder Dennis Banks, the group carried flags on its walk from Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River on the Arlington Memorial Bridge and to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., where speakers, singers, dancers and drummers filled the daylong program dubbed "Visions- A Call to Action" to raise awareness of the issues facing Native Americans.

"We went to find out how deep we are involved in drugs," Banks said. "I thought 50 percent of Native Americans used street and prescription drugs, but it's much higher."

Across the country, Banks and the walkers met with tribal communities to gather information and share ideas about battling addiction and domestic abuse. They used a survey developed by Penn State University to collect data. The goal is to combine cultural and spiritual aspects of Native American life with techniques used in mainstream recovery programs to create a successful model for recovery.

"We listened to people and we have more hard data than they do in Washington, D.C.," Banks said. "We have the answers; they are in our sweat houses, drum circles, long houses. This walk is a voice for people who need to be heard. The giving up stops here, let's not be that generation that gave up. Never give up, never give in."

The crowd on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial chanted loudly along with Banks, filling the area with their shouts.

Seminole citizens and members of We Do Recover Charlie Tiger, Kenny Tommie,

Christopher Billie and Arnie Gore, who met with the group in Big Cypress in June, walked the final mile and a half across the Potomac.

"It is very spiritual to participate," Tiger

of the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians in California, joined the walk in Atlanta in mid-June.

"I felt I needed to walk not just for my people but for all people," he said.



Beverly Bidney

Members of We Do Recover Charlie Tiger, Kenny Tommie, Arnie Gore and Christopher Billie pose for a photo with American Indian Movement founder and leader Dennis Banks of the Longest Walk 5 as they arrive at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. on July 15.

said. "The message is powerful and true. This is a piece of the solution for everyone. Doing something like this, we realize we are useful and worthy and can help."

Billie carried the Seminole flag as the group walked into the District of Columbia.

"It was a great honor to carry the tribal flag and represent We Do Recover here in D.C.," he said. "This wouldn't be possible if we weren't in recovery. This is a great day."

Native Americans from all over the country took part in the walk; some for a few hours, some for weeks at a time and a core group did the entire walk. Danny Cox, 21,

"I thought I'd be homesick, but instead I found unconditional love. This is like a family. When I get home, I'll tell my people that drug abuse is all over and not just on reservations. Love is the key; freely forgive and love unconditionally."

Bobby Wallace served as emcee at the rally, but he also had an important role behind the scenes as fundraising coordinator, one of the walk organizers and spokesman for the group.

"This is historic and I hope it will grab the eyes of communities around the country," said Wallace, of the Barona Band



Beverly Bidney

Carrying the Seminole Tribe of Florida flag, We Do Recover members Kenny Tommie, Charlie Tiger and Christopher Billie arrive at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, with the Washington Monument in the background, for the Longest Walk 5 event July 15, which marked the end of the 3,600-mile journey across the country.

of Mission Indians in California. "No one has done anything of this caliber for drug and substance abuse. We are sending a message of togetherness. Maybe it is the Native community that will bring out ideas that will change things. It may take 100 years. Change affects a few at a time but with time, it will be a million people."

As the group walked through communities nationwide, they presented a sight not often seen in some areas, Wallace said. They carried tribal flags and traditional tribal staffs bedecked with feathers and the name of the American Indian Movement and weren't always well received.

"My bandana is off to everyone who walked, they are unique and special," he said. "These people are doing something selfless and it takes strength to stand up and make a change for a better future."

During the event at the Lincoln Memorial, many presenters spoke about substance and domestic abuse, which was added to the theme for the Longest Walk after Banks' lost his granddaughter to domestic violence in October.

"Let's stand up, let's be strong," said Shelia Hansen, of the Shenandoah Valley Shawnee Tribe in Virginia, with her fist raised high. "This is a fight, this is a battle, this is a war. It's about our Seventh Generation and hope."

Despite temperatures in the high 90s,

sage was burned throughout the day and interest in the event remained steady. Tourists came to pose for photos at the reflecting pool and stayed to listen and look at the artwork displayed on the steps with messages such as "Break the silence", "Reclaiming our sacredness", "Everybody has a right to be protected." A large teepee was set up on the site next to a message in red wooden letters that stated "We are still here."

Kid Valance, the run captain for the walk and a musician, entertained the crowd with the theme song he wrote for the occasion, "To Be Here (A Blessing)," in which he sang "every step is a prayer, every mile a ceremony."

Traditional drummers and chanters, and three-time Grammy award-winning musician Bill Miller also performed. The event wrapped up with the traditional Choctaw dance.

In the early morning, as the group met at Arlington National Cemetery, Banks put the event into perspective before they took the final steps.

"I want you to understand how powerful you really are," he said. "Remember those who perished during forced marches and those whose lives were taken. We walk for them; they're watching us. We made it because we never gave up on our traditions and ceremonies. We will never abandon those ways of life."

◆ BROTHERS From page 1A

Sheldon, the band's youngest member and drummer, beat his drums with the exact sounds ears craved while Tyson, the middle brother and bassist, created art as he panned the stage and built the framework for the set with his electric bass guitar.

"I'm a whole different person when I play my drums," said Sheldon, 14. "Being a drummer is fun and it's what I enjoy doing. I can hit my drums as hard as I want and show people my skills."

The band has been playing since 2012 and their musical journey has been an adventurous one.

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola remembers when they used to be part of the Boys and Girls Club.

"It's been great to watch them grow, and I couldn't be more proud of these guys," Councilman Osceola said. "I first saw Cameron as a musician when he was 14 years old, and he said he wanted to inspire people; I think he's done that."

The Osceola Brothers hope to headline at multiple venues while they continue with their studies.

"I think they're great role models for all kids, not just Seminoles," Councilman Osceola said. "I think it's great that they're pursuing their education while chasing their dreams."

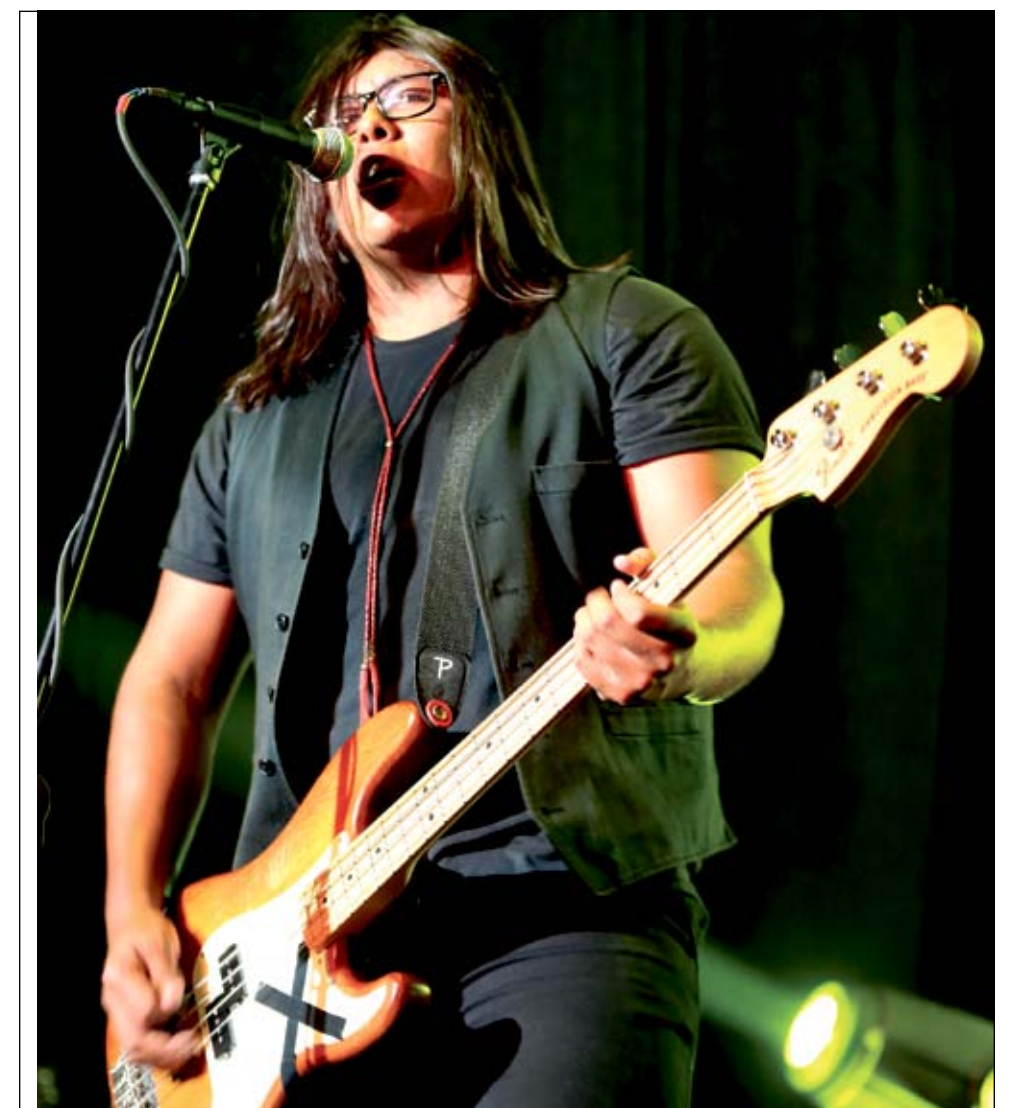
Music has become such a big part of the Osceola Brothers' lives that in addition to their busy performance schedule, Tyson and Cameron all pursuing college degrees in music.

"I love the feeling, the soul, and the groove of the music," said Cameron. "I really like the aggression in rock 'n' roll."



Contributed photo

Cameron, Sheldon, and Tyson Osceola are joined by Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola at the band's party for the release of their new EP July 15. Councilman Osceola surprised them with a special Hard Rock guitar-shaped cake after their performance.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Tyson Osceola performs during the Osceola Brothers EP release party July 15 at Paradise Live in Hollywood.

Coming soon: Polly Parker Park

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

ST. MARKS — More than 150 years after young Seminole Indian Emateloye (Polly Parker) escaped her U.S. military captors here, hid in the palmettos, then evaded a hunting posse for more than 300 miles through the snakes and panthers and thick Florida oakback all the way back home to Lake Okeechobee, she will be officially honored for her defiant act.

Fully aware of Polly Parker's legend and importance to the survival and history of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner, St. Mark's Mayor Charles Shields and City Manager

Zoe Mansfield are proposing Polly Parker Park, located only a short distance from the St. Mark's River where the Grey Cloud steamboat, filled with captured Seminoles, would stop for fuel-wood on the way to deported Indian lands out west.

"This is an honor for our city to create this park in the name of Polly Parker and everything she represents to all of us who love our freedom," said Mayor Shields, who hosted Seminole Chairman James E. Billie, Tribal Executive Administrator Danny Tommie, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Paul Backhouse and Assistant Director Anne Mullins at a special City Hall meeting in mid-July to announce the project.



St. Marks Mayor Shields explains the proposed park plan to Chairman James E. Billie while Secretary of State Ken Detzner and State Legislative Affairs Director Christie Fitz-Patrick look on.

Peter B. Gallagher



Peter B. Gallagher

Chairman James E. Billie meets with local and state officials to discuss the proposed Polly Parker Park in St. Marks.

"I've heard about this place all my life," said Chairman Billie, who acknowledged that Polly's escape from the deportation voyage was directly responsible for the survival of the Seminole Indians in Florida: "There were special genes coming down from Polly Parker. Most of her descendants, to this day, are geniuses, real smart people, especially politics-wise."

Billie cited former Chairmen Howard Tommie and Betty Mae Jumper and current Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. as examples of highly successful Polly Parker descendants. "There is a lot that has been told about this one woman and how she came through the swamp," he said. "I heard many stories passed down about her. I'm happy you all are pursuing this project to let everyone know who she was and what she meant to the Seminoles and to Florida."

During the Seminole Wars of the 1800s, many captured Seminoles were kept

imprisoned at Egmont Key (off the coast of St. Petersburg) where the Grey Cloud would pick them up and steam across the Gulf and up the Mississippi, where they were disembarked to join the Cherokee and other Southeastern Indians in the infamous Trail of Tears forced-march to Oklahoma.

It was routine for the steamboat to stop in St. Mark's to pick up wood to burn for fuel, before heading west toward New Orleans. It was on one of these stops that Polly Parker jumped ship. She made it back home and lived past 100 years old before she died in 1921.

For Secretary Detzner, who spoke fondly of his memories of riding his bicycle from Tallahassee to St. Marks daily while a student at FSU, the ongoing transformation of St. Marks from an industrial town to an ecotourism destination "couldn't make me happier. This is a special place, but we have to be careful. This community is just be-

ginning to be modernized and when it does change — and it will, based on Florida population growth — we want it to be the right thing. Polly Parker Park is the right thing."

The plan, as Detzner described it to the meeting attendees (which also included State Department Legislative Affairs Director Christie Fitz-Patrick and State Historic Preservation Officer Timothy A. Parsons) would be to tie together the (inactive) St. Mark's Lighthouse (now undergoing a grant-financed restoration) and the Fort San Marcos de Apalache, a 1500s structure with the proposed Polly Parker Park.

"This all started to evolve after the group from St. Petersburg came up here," said Detzner, referring to the 2013 re-enactment of Polly's trip from Egmont Key to St. Mark's — which was reported in newspapers across the world.

Chairman Billie visits Bowlegs Town

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

BOWLEGS TOWN — There is really no substitute for personally standing, feet on the ground, right in very spot where history happened. That is what James E. Billie was trying to say: "I've heard about this all of my life," said the Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman, staring out at the high grassy plains and thick woodlands hiding the red brown Suwannee River.

"I've always wondered about Andrew Jackson. I've read all about the things he did to the Seminoles. But this is the first time I can really understand Bowlegs Town and what happened here. Looking out at the land, you can feel what happened here."

In mid-July, on the way back from a meeting with Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner at St. Mark's, Chairman Billie and his Executive Assistant Danny Tommie dropped in on the site of the 1818 General Jackson-led torching of a peaceful 80-acre community of over 100 Seminole Indians. At the largest Indian community in the state, the Seminoles built chickee homes and survived on hunting, fishing and farming, isolated from the skirmishes which sent them running over here from Paynes Prairie 60 miles to the east.

No Indians were killed in what history has incorrectly recorded as the "Battle of Old Town," (Old Town is four miles away and there was no battle; the Seminoles had left days before Jackson arrived, taking their cows and important possessions with them.)

One-hundred and ninety-eight years later, the current Seminole leaders were welcomed by landowner H. Dale Herring, who purchased 400 acres in this part of Dixie County unaware of the 80-acre Bowlegs Town which Jackson had burned here near the end of his rampage across Florida initiating the First Seminole War.

"I had no idea," said Herring, a realtor and rancher who keeps cows, horses, a muscadine vineyard and one of the nation's richest archaeological sites on his property. "And when I found out (local archaeologist John Edwards told him), I decided to do the right thing."

Herring did what no other landowner there had done — he instigated and financed a professional archaeological examination of the site. Soon, the effort had produced thousands of artifacts, including weapons, ammunition, jewelry and coins — from the Seminole, U.S. Military and Spanish who came through here.

"I wanted to bring the Tribe together with the archeologists and landowner. I wanted to make this place the best it could be. I'm not here to capitalize on anything. I don't want to sell anything," he said. "I really just want to be a part of it and build long lasting friendships."

"I want to shine a good light on the Seminoles. People don't realize the struggles the Seminoles had. What they see is when they ride by the Hard Rock, 'man, they got it made!' But people also need to see where the Seminoles come from."

"Well, I have never seen anything like this. You must be having a lot of fun out here," said Chairman Billie, who spent an hour look-

ing at artifacts, aerial maps and diagrams of Jackson's path. "I have often wondered where Andrew Jackson came and went."

Just before leaving, Herring took his guests for a tour of the property in his truck, including the locations of Jackson's camp, the Seminole Council House, and the community, itself.

"This is where we found the iron kettle," Herring offered non-stop historical anecdotes. "Over there we found 1700 Spanish coins . . . the old slave town was nearby, that way . . . that's where we found seven British uniform buttons. There were actually two British officers who were helping the Seminoles."

"When Jackson caught them, he hung one from the bow of his boat and executed the other by firing squad."

The History Channel will soon broadcast a feature on the excavations at Bowlegs Town, including an interview with Seminole Chief Justice Willie Johns, who visited the site during the filming.

Herring has invited any Seminole who is interested in Bowlegs Town to contact him to arrange a visit.



Peter B. Gallagher

With cases of artifacts found at the Bowlegs Town site on the table before them, Chairman James E. Billie and landowner H. Dale Herring discuss the history that has emerged since archaeologists began examining the area.



Near the site, Herring maintains a Florida muscadine wine grape vineyard.

Peter B. Gallagher



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Historic trip to Florida Cypress Gardens?

SUBMITTED BY TARA BACKHOUSE
 Collections Manager

Anyone been to Legoland in Winter Haven recently? You might have noticed that, as you passed well-known animals, people and buildings recreated in colorful brick-shaped blocks, tucked away in one corner of the park there are signs pointing to Cypress Gardens. If you head off the beaten trail to check out the gardens, you'll encounter a beautiful and serene setting of native plant life and peaceful waters.

You may not know that this part of the park is a remnant of an older park. Indeed, the site where Legoland now sits was once home to a different theme park. Florida Cypress Gardens, which later became Cypress Gardens Adventure Park, opened in that location in 1936, and did not close its doors until 2009. It went through many changes over those 73 years, but the beautiful botanical garden section of the park was always the park's iconic symbol. Presumably, that's why you can still enjoy the Cypress Gardens today.

Recently, in the Museum's photo

collection we found the pictures below of one particular trip to the Cypress Gardens. A group of distinguished young men pose in front of a Spanish style building in one of the photos. They are all dressed smartly and look dignified, although we wonder if that composure disappeared after the cameraman turned away. Surely during any of the decades of the park, young men would have wanted to run free and enjoy the experience, rather than be told to stand still for a photograph. In the other photo, a larger group poses on a bridge with two "Southern Belles" - a character played by employees of the park. The bridge is a well-known photo spot.

At first glance, the black and white tones of the photos, the well-dressed young men, and the costumed Belles, give the photographs a vintage feeling. We found ourselves thinking that this trip took place in the 1940s or 50s, until we looked closer. If you recall last month's article, I talked about how clues in a photograph can reveal the photo's age. What does the camera around one man's neck tell us? Does it look more like a camera from the 1960s than one from

the 50s or 40s? What about paisley and plaid shirts? They were certainly popular in parts of the 1960s. But I believe I saw them well after that, too. Jeans and shorts, although they vary in style from decade to decade, are also somewhat timeless, and these are some classic examples.

So we turned to hairstyles, and again we were unsure. Do we see shades of the 70s in the brushed forward styles? Finally, one pair of sunglasses challenged every other perception we had about the photographs. I found myself looking at them and thinking, could this be the 80s after all? This is why we need you! Someone in our audience has the power to solve this riddle with one easy phone call. If you remember this trip, I'm sure you can easily tell us who went on this trip, why they went, and when? Then we'll be able to settle the question of the sunglasses.

All jokes aside, keeping records of current and past events like this is a job we take very seriously at the Museum. Come visit us to join us in this mission. If you choose to accept, you'll be able to help solve more of our mysteries. Thank you.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is trying to find out more information about these undated photographs taken at Florida Cypress Gardens in Winter Haven. The Museum would like to hear from anyone who has information about the photos.



Betty Mae Jumper

Wisdom from the past Choctaws have come a long way

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the August 20, 1999 issue of The Seminole Tribune.

Even Wal-Mart and McDonalds have come and many other food stands.

While I was there, I thought of all the jobs that have been created. In fact, the Choctaws are one of the ten largest employers in the state, with over 6,600 full and part time employees. And, the tribe operates the largest unified school system in the United States with 1,700 students.



It's a far cry from the time Phillip and I went to school together at Cherokee. I never dreamed I would see the Indians in every office on the Choctaw Reservation. The day I was there I said to myself, 'thank God I've lived to see this tribe come to the top.'

It's nice to see that the Choctaws can eat steak instead of hamburger meat.

Even the buildings and schools have every modern convenience.

I wanted to write this because I know where Phillip and most of us Indians come from. I know it hasn't been an easy trip. I remember when sometimes we went without because we didn't have anything.

Now, finally, thanks to leaders like Phillip Martin, Indians are getting a better chance at life. And for that, I say again, thank God.

A long time ago, I went to the Indian Boarding School in Cherokee, N.C. I met a lot of fellow Indians from across the country and most of us were from the same background - we were poor.

We didn't have the money to travel to our homes during holidays. We wore hand-me-down clothes and spending money just didn't exist.

One of my fellow students from that time was Phillip Martin. If you don't know Phillip, he's the Chairman of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians based in Philadelphia, Miss.

Recently I visited Philadelphia to go to the 50th Annual Choctaw Indian Fair. I have to give Phillip credit for transforming his community and his people. Under his guidance, the Choctaws have used Indian gaming to change their lives. The whole town is lit up to the sky. He has helped turn Philadelphia into a rich town from a poor folk's town.

I remember when there was nothing in Philadelphia. Now, today, I see people all smiling at Phillip when he comes around.

Seminole Restaurant Review Marino's Italian Restaurant:

A recommendation by Seminole Tribal Elder Mary Osceola Moore

BY GORDON WAREHAM
 Contributing Writer

DAVIE - When entering Marino's Italian Restaurant it feels like going back in time to the old Italian restaurants that I used to go with my parents. We would order a huge plate of spaghetti and meatballs.

Established in 1970, the decor of Marino's hasn't lost its charm as I discovered June 29 when one of my moms' Mary Moore and my very good friend and brother Frankie Moore joined me for dinner.

We were seated at a table that Mary

and she has never been disappointed with their food.

Frankie ordered the chicken fraicaise. After he ordered, Frankie said that he usually orders the sausage and green peppers but he wanted to try something new tonight.

For my dinner, I ordered the chicken parmigiana. You can ask to have it baked unbreaded so it can be somewhat healthy covered with sauce and cheese.

All the dinners come with a choice of soup or salad and garlic bread.

Even though the table had empty plates



Gordon Wareham

Mary Moore and Frankie Moore enjoy dinner June 29 at Marino's Italian Restaurant in Davie.

mentioned was "her table."

"Every time we come here, even when it's really busy, this table is always opened and waiting for us," she said.

Our servers for that night were Debbie and Jodi. They greeted us with warm smiles and already knew what our appetizer orders would be.

To start off our evening dinner, Mary ordered fried zucchini with marinara sauce. Frankie ordered the chicken livers sauté. I selected fried calamari.

As our appetizers were placed on the table, I knew that this was going to be a major cheat night on my diet, but it would be worth it.

The fried zucchini was breaded to a light color of brown and had a wonderful taste. The chicken liver sauté was served in a glazed sauce that made the dish amazing. I will say that you should be a fan of chicken livers before ordering this dish. The fried calamari was also breaded to a nice golden brown and perfectly cooked, served with marinara sauce.

Our table was full of food and smiles and we had only begun our night's dinner.

As our servers cleaned our table of our empty plates, I asked Mary to share her favorite memory about coming to Marino's.

"It was the first time I came here with my husband Frank," she recalled. "It was for Mother's Day dinner back in 2001 when we first moved to Hollywood. There was so much food. We had plenty to eat."

The best part of coming to Marino's is their world famous bean salad and cornish hen which come as part of every meal. The bean salad is a simple dish of two beans, chopped onion and dressing, and it's so good that it's worth another hour walking on the track to burn off the calories.

For an entrée, Mary ordered the red snapper fraicaise baked in butter, wine and lemon. Mary said she orders this every time

and full bellies, there was room for dessert. I asked Jodi and Debbie about other dishes on the menu. Their pizza comes in one size: 12 inches and 8 slices with various toppings. Another customer favorite is the cheesy bread and the baked ravioli.

Lunch hours are Tuesday through Friday 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dinner hours are Tuesday- Thursday 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday-Saturday 5-10 p.m. and Sunday 4-8:30 p.m. The restaurant is closed on Mondays.

Marino's is located at 5191 South State Rd. 7 in Fort Lauderdale, just a few blocks north of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. The phone number is 954-581-8570.

This has been your Seminole Review on Restaurants. If a Seminole Tribal citizen has a recommendation for a restaurant that they would love for their fellow Tribal citizen to know about, please message me through The Seminole Tribune. Rules to the review are The Seminole Tribune does not pay for the meal, photographs will be taken but not while you're eating, and questions will be asked.



Gordon Wareham

Pasta dishes at Marino's.

Health

Advice to prevent Zika virus

COMPILED FROM PRESS RELEASES

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued precautions against the Zika virus outbreak, including a warning to pregnant women to avoid travelling in several countries.

The Zika virus transmission is spreading in Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific areas.

Transmission

- Through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito

Symptoms

The most common symptoms are fever, rash, joint pain, conjunctivitis, muscle pain and headache. The illness is usually mild with symptoms lasting for several days to a week. The incubation period (the time from exposure to symptoms) for Zika virus disease is not known, but is likely to be a few days to a week.

Treatment

No vaccine or medications are available to prevent or treat Zika infections. To treat the symptoms:

- Get plenty of rest.
- Drink fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Take medicines such as acetaminophen or paracetamol to relieve fever and pain.
- Do not take aspirin or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.
- If you are taking medicine for another medical condition, talk to your healthcare provider before taking additional medication.

Prevention

- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
- Stay in places with air conditioning or use window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Sleep under a mosquito bed net if you are overseas or outside and are not able to

protect yourself from mosquito bites.

- Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellents. All EPA-registered insect repellents are evaluated for effectiveness.

- Always follow the product label instructions

- Reapply insect repellent as directed.

- Do not spray repellent on the skin under clothing.

- If you are also using sunscreen, apply sunscreen before applying insect repellent.

- If you have a baby or child:

- Do not use insect repellent on babies younger than 2 months of age.

- Dress your child in clothing that covers arms and legs, or

- Cover crib, stroller, and baby carrier with mosquito netting.

- Do not apply insect repellent onto a child's hands, eyes, mouth, and cut or irritated skin.

- Adults: Spray insect repellent onto your hands and then apply to a child's face.

- Treat clothing and gear with permethrin or purchase permethrin-treated items.

- Treated clothing remains protective after multiple washings. See product information to learn how long the protection will last.

- If treating items yourself, follow the product instructions carefully.

- Do not use permethrin products directly on skin. They are intended to treat clothing.

If you feel sick and think you may have Zika, the Seminole Health Department recommends that you talk to your doctor if you develop a fever with a rash, joint pain, or red eyes. Tell him or her about your travel.

For additional information contact the Seminole Health Department's clinics: Hollywood 954-962-2009; Brighton 863-763-0271; Immokalee 239-867-3400; Tampa 813-620-2860; Big Cypress 863-983-5151.

Vaccination venues available for back-to-school

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Dept. of Health in Broward

Summer vacation quickly flies by, so parents are wise to start thinking about back-to-school immunizations for the kids.

The best choice for parents is to have children vaccinated by their family doctors or at tribal clinics. But for those who do not or cannot, Florida Department of Health (DOH) offices have stepped up immunization efforts with special events and expanded efforts.

"Vaccines have helped us wipe out diseases that used to kill our children by the thousand. But a few cases are starting to appear among unvaccinated children," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of DOH in Broward. "Parents who want to protect their children fully should have immunized."

Public schools open Aug. 22. Florida law says children cannot start school unless they are up to date on six vaccinations that protect against nine contagious and potentially fatal childhood diseases. The same is true at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School and Ahfachkee School.

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

The DOH gives free immunizations paid for by the federal Vaccines for Children program:

DOH-Broward – All recommended immunizations are offered at DOH-Broward health centers. In addition, free shots will be given from August 8 to 23 at Lauderhill Mall, 1267 NW 40 Ave., including an outreach event and health fair on Saturday, August 13. For details, visit <http://broward.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-and-nutrition-services/>

immunizations/index.html or call 954-467-4705.

DOH-Hendry – For details, visit <http://hendry.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-and-nutrition-services/immunizations/index.html> or call 863-674-

services/immunization-services/index.html or call 813-307-8077.

DOH-St. Lucie – For details, visit <http://stlucie.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-and-nutrition-services/immunizations/index.html> or call 772-462-3800.

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

- Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough) – DTaP vaccine is given to babies and pre-schoolers in four to five doses. One additional dose, Tdap, is given before seventh grade.

- Polio – Vaccine is given to babies and pre-schoolers in three to five doses.

- Measles, mumps, rubella (German measles) – MMR vaccine is given to babies and pre-schoolers in two doses.

- Chickenpox – Vaccine is given to babies and pre-schoolers in two doses.

- One additional dose is given by the start of seventh grade. In adults, the virus can re-emerge and cause the painful skin condition called shingles.

- Hepatitis B – Vaccine is given to babies in three doses.

In addition, federal health officials recommend several other immunizations not required for school. These include vaccines against flu (every year starting at age six months), rotavirus (three doses for babies), Haemophilus influenzae B (three to four doses for babies), pneumococcal disease (four doses for babies), hepatitis A (two doses for babies), human papilloma virus (three doses at age 11 or older) and meningococcal disease (two doses at age 11 or older).



4041. **DOH-Okeechobee** – For details and appointments, visit <http://okeechobee.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-and-nutrition-services/index.html> or call 863-462-5819.

DOH-Collier – For details, visit <http://collier.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/wellness-programs/immunizations/index.html> or call 239-252-7300 or 8207.

DOH-Hillsborough – For details, visit <http://hillsborough.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/clinical-nutrition->

Partnership seeks reduction of cancer impact

STAFF REPORT

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Indian Health Service of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Roswell Park Cancer Institute announced a partnership July 8 to reduce cancer's impact on American Indian and Alaska Native communities. The agreement focuses on health care and cancer prevention as well as facilitation of research and expansion of career and educational opportunities for Native American populations.

"This important collaboration between the Indian Health Service and Roswell Park offers a unique opportunity to provide access to a broad array of cancer prevention services to American Indian and Alaska Native communities," said Mary Smith, IHS principal deputy director and an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, in a press release. "IHS partners with many organizations to bring additional resources and capacity to the Indian health system, and with these experts we can better address the needs of our patients and native communities."

"The agreement will strengthen our relationships with Native American communities and help us to ensure that culturally appropriate cancer education, research and services are accessible to everyone," said Rodney Haring, PhD, MSW, assistant professor of oncology in the Office of Cancer Health Disparities Research at Roswell Park in Buffalo, N.Y. "The values and traditions of Native American culture will inform and enhance our efforts to reduce the devastating burden of cancer, not only in Native communities but for everyone."

Dr. Haring is an enrolled member of the Seneca Nation and a delegate to the American Indian and Alaska Native Health Research Advisory Council within HHS.

Roswell Park and the Indian Health Service have agreed to collaborate in the following areas:

- Research addressing health disparities
- Cancer risk reduction, prevention and early detection of cancer
- Cancer-related medical care
- Community outreach and training
- Expanded career and education opportunities in oncology

According to a press release, IHS will use its resources and expertise to facilitate relationships of trust between Roswell Park Cancer Institute and the members and leaders of Native communities. Through these relationships, Roswell Park and IHS can work with the communities to ascertain cancer-related needs and address health disparities that are unique or prevalent in these communities.

Firecracker Walk lights up Hollywood



Charlie Tiger, Kenneth Tommie and President Mitchell Cypress participate in the annual Firecracker Walk on June 30 in Hollywood. Walkers and runners participated in a healthy start to the reservation's Fourth of July activities which wrapped up with a celebration July 4 at Seminole Estates.



Antonio Tosca tries to outrun Jillian Guralski while Kristi Hinote carries young Kenneth "KJ" Tommie Jr. on her back during the Firecracker Walk.



Health Department employees Joel Palau, Jillian Guralski, Kristi Hinote, and Lauren Goas help out with the annual Firecracker Walk.

SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

COWBOYS AT REST- Andre Jumper and Chris Green take a break from the work of rounding up, sorting and loading calves for shipping at the cow pens in Big Cypress July 19. The annual calf shipping took place from July 11-21 in Brighton and Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

FLAGS OF MANY NATIONS ENTER THE CAPITOL: Members of the Longest Walk 5 display flags from various Tribes, including the Seminole Tribe, as they cross the Arlington Memorial Bridge from Arlington to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. during the final mile of the 3,600-mile journey. The purpose of the Longest Walk was to seek cultural and spiritual solutions to drug abuse and domestic violence in Indian Country.



Stephanie Rodriguez

TASTY TURF: A horse enjoys a quiet moment while gnawing on grass July 14 on the Brighton Reservation.



Kevin Johnson

LAZY DAYS OF SUMMER: Youngsters on the Brighton Reservation take a break while playing on an inflatable water ride July 1.



Photo courtesy Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Tampa

TAMPA HONORS: For the second time in five years, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa has received the S.A.V.E. Award (Sheriff's Alcohol Vendor Enforcement) from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. The award was presented to the property for its continued efforts in being a responsible vendor on the consumption of alcohol. The Sheriff's Office singled out the property's effort to train more than 455 of its staff and personnel about the dangers of over serving patrons. Given an average of 25,000 patrons entering Seminole Hard Rock Tampa on a daily basis, the Sheriff's Office noted there was a 10 percent reduction in DUI arrests throughout 2015. In the photo, Seminole Hard Rock Tampa's General Manager Peter Wu holds the 2015 S.A.V.E. Award. Joining Wu at the award ceremony were Donny Crawley, left, the property's director of beverage, and Capt. Kyle Robinson of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.



Photo courtesy Paul Backhouse

BARN ON BOARD: Brighton's Red Barn is featured on a preservation in Florida display at the State Capitol's new exhibition titled 'Irreplaceable Heritage.'



Photo courtesy Nancy Motlow

BEAR SIGHTING: A bear roams on the side of Immokalee Road. Nancy Motlow captured a photo of the visitor.



Stephanie Rodriguez

COOL POOL: Omar Ridley, 3, enjoys a day out in the sun and in the pool at Chupco's Landing Community Center during Fort Pierce's Fourth of July celebration July 2.



Beverly Bidney

OPEN WIDE: This mockingbird, the state bird of Florida since 1927, feeds her fledgling chick a tasty insect July 5. The chick fell from the nest near the Boys & Girls Club in Brighton, which is not an unusual occurrence for young mockingbirds. Most chicks leave the nest at about two weeks old, whether they can fly or not. The mother will feed the fledgling on the ground for a few days until it can fly. So, if you see a baby mockingbird on the ground, leave it in its mother's capable hands, or beak.



Beverly Bidney

SWEET FAREWELL: Prior to the Miss Florida Seminole Pageant July 23, outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Destiny Nunez, left, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Skyta Osceola pose for a photo before cutting the cake celebrating the soon-to-be-crowned 2016-17 royalty at headquarters in Hollywood.



Arnaldo Arboines, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa

GOING WITH THE FLO: Recording artist Flo Rida wears a Tampa Rowdies jersey while performing in concert following the pro soccer team's game July 2 at Al Lang Stadium in St. Petersburg. Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa is the team's front jersey sponsor.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Sheshatshiu man opts for rare Innu sentencing circle

SHESHATSHIU, NL, CANADA — A Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation man facing two counts of assault recently chose to have a sentencing circle as part of his court proceedings — the first of its kind to take place in about a decade among this First Nations Tribe, which lives in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Sheshatshiu Innu First Nation Justice Coordinator David Penashue hopes more people will do the same.

“We’re trying our best to bring it back to the community,” he told CBC News.

Penashue described the tradition as similar to American courts.

“When they ask you to hold the bible, ‘Are you telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?’ That’s almost like this. If you do that, then the healing part starts. Then you talk about deep stuff, what happened to you when you were young. What happened to you in that cycle of your life,” he said.

For a sentencing circle to take place, both the accused and the complainant have to agree to it. The accused must also admit guilt and own up to his or her actions. Penashue said the process lends itself well to cases where alcohol or substance abuse is involved.

A circular room for the proceeding fits the purpose well. During the circle, it is filled with court staff — judge, crown and defense, as well as anyone affected by the crime. Community members offered their stories and, in some cases, shared their own struggles with substance abuse and how they continue to work through it. All were called upon to speak.

“It was very emotional, actually,” Penashue said. “I think there is a situation where the accused is asking the court to hear the history, and also echo some of the challenges in terms of what he has gone through and set a picture.”

“He’s not making up excuses in terms of more leniency. But more of a process where we can have a dialogue between the court system and the Innu and have that discussion. It’s much more inclusive.”

—CBC News

Florida high court to hear gaming arguments

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Supreme Court issued an order scheduling arguments Nov. 2 on a proposed ballot initiative designed to make expansion of gaming more difficult in Florida.

Pari-mutuel facilities statewide contend that the proposal, known as “Voter Control of Gambling in Florida,” should be kept off the 2018 ballot. The initiative would require future statewide votes to authorize casino-style games including blackjack, craps and roulette. The amendment, which has received financial backing from the group No Casinos Inc., would take away the Legislature’s ability to approve casinos in Florida but would not affect tribal casino operations, which are regulated by federal law.

Justices do not rule on the merits of proposed constitutional amendments but must sign off on the ballot wording.

—northescambia.com

Band of Mission Indians get sacred village land

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif. — For 12,000 years, the Acjachemen Nation lived and thrived on land in what is today Southern California.

Then the Spanish came. The Tribe has had to watch over the years as their lands were first pillaged, then developed.

Hundreds of years later, the federally recognized American Indian Tribe known as the Juaneño Band of Mission Indians still rever and hold ceremonies at their most sacred site, a 1.3-acre village called Putuudem owned by Capistrano. But, recently, the city council approved a \$3 million plan to turn the spot of land into a park and education center for the Tribe, essentially giving it back.

Putuudem is the center of the Tribe’s roots and culture, and that is what the Tribe is gaining control over, though the actual land will still be owned by the city. It is part of a plan that includes an entry road, a picnic area and a cultural center, according to the Los Angeles Times, which reported: “Not only will the center educate the public about the Tribe, but four times a year the 1,900 tribal blood descendants will have exclusive use of the center for private prayer ceremonies — essentially a day during spring and fall equinoxes and summer and winter solstices.”

A statue will be erected of Coronne, the Tribe’s first female chief, who ruled from Putuudem.

“We’ve never had a piece of land dedicated to our sole use since the Spanish,” said Juaneño band Chairwoman Teresa Romero. “We haven’t had any land to conduct a ceremony. For the city to recognize that is tremendous. The fact that we can connect with our ancestors here is a great victory.”

American Indian farms get help

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Council for Native American Farming and Ranching — which helps American Indians across the country navigate the many regulations and challenges facing Indian farmers — is preparing to reconvene, and it is taking applications to serve on its Council.

Janie Hipp, director of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law and a member of the Chickasaw Nation, said Arkansas’ agricultural law puts the state in the center of American Indian agriculture issues because of the complex rules dealing with agriculture on American Indian lands. Hipp said Tribes must deal directly with the federal government to get approval to use land for commercial agriculture because of the treaties that serve as basic law for American Indian lands.

“There’s a layer of bureaucratic approval and coordination with the federal government. It’s different than any other producers in the U.S.,” she said.

In addition, waterlines don’t always extend out to the far reaches of the U.S. that the Department of Agriculture has designated “Indian Country,” she said. Roads, sewer systems and Internet access also limit Native people’s ability to operate farms. “Many of our lands are among the most remote lands possible in the U.S. The infrastructure is not as readily available.”

There are 821 farms operated by American Indian or Alaskan Natives in Arkansas, according to the last USDA agriculture census in 2012. Nationally, the number of American Indian farmers rose 5 percent from the last census, in 2007, to about 58,000. American Indian farm operators sold \$1.8 billion in agriculture products in 2012.

More than 75 percent of American Indian-operated farms specialized in livestock production, compared to 50 percent of all farms, according to the USDA. About 13,700, or 36 percent, of American Indian operated farms raised beef.

“It’s not impossible to do things [on Indian lands]; it’s just additionally complicated,” Hipp said pointing out that American Indian farm operators have less access to the Internet, according to the 2012 USDA agriculture census. While 70 percent of farm operators had Internet access overall, only 46 percent of American Indians were able to connect to the Internet. American Indian farms also tend to be smaller than farms overall, with 57 percent of American Indian farms smaller than 50 acres, compared to 39 percent of all farms being smaller than 50 acres.

The median household income of single-race American Indian and Alaska Native households in 2014 was about \$37,000. This compares with a median income of about \$54,000 for the country as a whole, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

More American Indians and Alaska Natives were in poverty in 2014 than any other race group, at 28.3 percent. The nation’s poverty rate at the same time was 15.5 percent.

“It’s really important for these Tribes to diversify their remote economies,” Hipp said. “The levels of chronic food and health related issues are so profoundly greater than any other people in the U.S.”

Anyone interested in serving on the Council should visit <https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-16099>.

—arkansasonline.com

Ale sales support Florida panther conservation

NAPLES — The Riptide Brewing Company unveiled its brand new UNO Ale at a Brew for the Zoo event recently at Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens — a beer brewed in honor of a blind Florida panther with proceeds from the event benefitting the zoo’s panther conservation projects.

Bar co-owner Scott Alexander named his new frosty beverage after Uno, the permanently injured blind panther that lives at the Naples Zoo. The idea for UNO Ale emerged from a bar conversation between Alexander and Danielle Green, the zoo’s director of gardens. The two were talking about their love of beers and how that might be used to raise money.

The beer also contains “the tears of a panther,” Green said jokingly.

For every pint sold, Riptide will donate \$2 to panther conservation at the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, the Big Cypress National Preserve, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The zoo can fund projects like radio-tracking collars that allow FWC biologists to study Florida panthers in the wild.

Uno was born in the wild, but after he was shot multiple times with a shotgun, he lost sight in both eyes and became unable to survive independently. In spring 2015, Uno was nursed to health at Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa and then transported to a brand new

panther habitat at the Naples Zoo, arriving underweight but mostly recovered from his injuries.

“Uno has been a great ambassador,” said Liz Harmon, the zoo’s director of animal programs, told the Naples Daily News. “Funds from this event will go to care for Uno’s wild relatives.”

Scientists estimate that as many as 180 panthers are living in Florida, including a breeding population that roams Collier and Lee counties. A genetic restoration project brought the panther back from the brink of extinction, but now the growing numbers are prompting controversy about how to manage the population.

“The reason for us to have Uno on display is to educate the people of Collier County how there are panthers in our backyards and how we can coexist with them,” Harmon said. “People don’t realize how large a panther can be, or even what they can look like.”

—ICTMN

Oneida consider reservation sales tax

ONEIDA, Wisc. — The Oneida Nation of Wisconsin is debating a reservation sales tax.

The 5 percent tax on retailers would be in addition to the state’s 5 percent tax. It would be imposed on all businesses. Walmart, Sam’s Club and Home Depot are among those operating on tribal land, IndianZ.com reported.

Revenues could be used to fund the Tribe’s per capita payment, according to a referendum approved by tribal members in July 2015. This year’s payment was \$1,000, with elders over the ages of 62 and 65 receiving additional funds.

—IndianZ.com

Brazil condemns plans to contact lost Tribes

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL — In a tersely-worded open letter released in the Guardian newspaper, Brazil’s Department of Indigenous Affairs criticized a proposal by U.S. anthropologists Robert Walker (University of Missouri) and Kim Hill (Arizona State University) to initiate contact between South America’s most isolated Tribes and the scientific community.

The professors, however, had argued in a Science magazine article published last year that the continuing isolation of the estimated 50 to 100 Brazilian Tribes, “is not viable in the long term,” proposing that “controlled contact is the only possible strategy for protecting these people.”

But in the state letter, 18 scientific experts with Brazil’s Department of Indigenous Affairs, known by the Portuguese acronym FUNAI, said contact with the outside world carries far greater risk than does isolation. Contact with outsiders often results in loss of land, population, and self-determination for Amazonian Tribes. Lost Indigenous Tribes are vulnerable to disease such as measles and flu. The Amazonian Kawahive Tribe, for example, has lost nearly half its population over the past 30 years, the FUNAI scientists wrote.

“It is worth remembering that the practices Brazil adopted during the intense economic expansion of the 1970s and 1980s resulted in widespread disintegration and population loss for indigenous peoples who, until then, had been uncontacted,” read the letter.

In the magazine article, Hill and Walker disagreed with the “leave them alone policy.” While acknowledging “poorly planned contact” with Amazonian Tribes led to indigenous deaths historically, the anthropologists wrote that “conceiving a well-organized plan” could help avoid “disastrous contacts.”

“Controlled contact,” they wrote, “is better than no contact.”

The FUNAI experts said such a strategy did not respect uncontacted Tribes’ wish to be left alone and was a “violation of these people’s rights to determine their own lives.”

—Axisoflogic.com

Winnebagos back Nebraska casino initiative

LINCOLN, Neb. — A group that wants to legalize casino gaming in Nebraska told the Des Moines Register that they’ve gathered more than enough signatures to qualify for the ballot and placing the controversial issue before voters in November.

Workers for the group, called Keep the Money in Nebraska, hauled boxes into the state capitol from the back of a rental truck and presented them to the Secretary of State’s office for verification.

Spokesman Scott Lautenbaugh said the group collected roughly 130,000 signatures for a constitutional amendment petition to allow gaming and 90,000 for

each of two other petitions that would specify how casinos are regulated and how their tax revenue is distributed.

Keep the Money in Nebraska had raised \$1.25 million as of June 25, according to its latest campaign filing. The vast majority came from Ho-Chunk Inc., the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska’s economic development corporation. Ho-Chunk has said it wants to reopen Atokad Downs, a South Sioux City race track that closed in 2012, and operate a casino on the site.

The Tribe owns and operates Winna Vegas Casino Resort in Sloan, Iowa, but Ho-Chunk CEO Lance Morgan told the Register the facility lost some of its market share when the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino opened in Sioux City in 2014.

Even so, the group is likely to face challenges from gambling opponents who have derailed similar proposals in the past. Nebraska allows keno, horse racing and a lottery, but voters have repeatedly rejected video gambling machines.

Pat Loontjer, executive director of Gambling with the Good Life, said she plans to travel the state to urge a “no” vote on the measure in a series of town hall events and news media interviews. The state’s three Catholic dioceses have agreed to help, as have Methodist and Jewish groups.

Loontjer said her group is also considering a lawsuit to keep the measure off the ballot. That tactic proved successful in 2014, when the Nebraska Supreme Court struck down a proposal to allow machine betting on previously run horse races.

Gambling with the Good Life has raised a little more than \$25,000, according to state campaign filings. Last month, the Archdiocese of Omaha gave the group \$12,500.

—Des Moines Register

Native activist praised for ‘sticking neck out’

RAPID CITY, S.D. — The Giraffe Heroes Project announced that Oglala Lakota activist Charmaine White Face has received their most recent commendation “as a Giraffe Hero, an award given to people around the world who stick their necks out for the common good.”

“White Face was honored for her actions on behalf of her fellow Oglala-Sioux,” according to a press release from the Project. “She has fought against corruption that has left too many Oglala-Sioux in extreme poverty.”

Reached at her home by ICTMN, White Face, longtime spokesperson for Defenders of the Black Hills, said she was not aware of even being nominated.

“Of course, it’s a great honor to be considered in this way. It is very humbling. I only hope it brings added attention to the fight we’re engaged in.”

“In recent years, White Face has [continuously] sounded the alarm on the dangers of ambient radiation from abandoned uranium mines in the area,” according to the commendation.

Defenders is an organization dedicated to resisting ongoing environmental degradation of the He Sapa, the sacred Black Hills, through uranium mining and other forms of extraction of minerals they believe are a danger to the area’s water supply and local habitat.

The Giraffe Heroes Project states that “Her efforts have been opposed by many who benefit from the corruption she’s worked to stop; White Face has been repeatedly threatened and the brakes on her car have been cut.”

—ICTMN

Tribal report: Region’s salmon remain in peril

PUGET SOUND, Wash. — According to the 2016 State of Our Watersheds report produced by the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the \$84 million in grant funds spent on 139 salmon recovery projects in the Skagit River watershed between 2000 and 2015 really did not accomplish anything, at least as far as the salmon are concerned.

According to Skagit Watershed Council records, monies spent on research/restoration projects aimed at protecting the region’s salmon fisheries and salmon habitat in Puget Sound is not as healthy or abundant as needed to support recovery of the fish.

The commission, which represents 20 treaty Tribes in western Washington, first published a look at the state of area watersheds in relation to salmon habitat in 2012. The 2016 update released last week concludes that salmon and tribal treaty rights remain at risk due to habitat loss and degradation throughout the region.

“Unfortunately the findings depicted here are grim; we are losing the battle for salmon recovery because we are continuing to lose habitat faster than it can be restored. Unless we can slow, stop and reverse this trend, salmon will continue to disappear along with our treaty rights,” Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Chair Lorraine Loomis said in the report.

“Still, with all this work ... we’re still losing habitat faster than we’re gaining it,” commission Habitat Services Director Fran Wilhusen said in a statement on the commission’s website.

Key findings in the report show that the amount of land covered by pavement and shoreline wrapped in armoring — including dikes and rock to prevent erosion — continues to increase, while the amount of land that is forested continues to decrease. Between 2006 and 2011, the amount of forest lost in the region amounts to an area larger than the city of Seattle, according to the report.

Meanwhile twice as much armoring was built along shorelines in Puget Sound than was removed.

The commission suggests government agencies should declare the status of the region’s salmon an emergency, put development that would destroy habitat on hold and continue work to improve water quality.

The report concludes: “If we do not, we will continue down the path we are on now, leading to the extinction of salmon and the loss of tribal treaty-reserved rights, economies and cultures. This vision of the future is unacceptable to the treaty Indian Tribes in western Washington.”

The Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Sauk-Suiattle Tribe are concerned about the fate of Puget Sound salmon, specifically the runs on the Skagit River and its major tributaries, the Sauk, Cascade and Baker rivers. The Tribes’ ways of life have been tied to the Skagit River watershed and its salmon runs for hundreds of years.

—guskagit.com

Navajo Nation inaugurates an eagle aviary

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo people know it as Atsá: the fearless golden eagle, which represents eternal life and can see where no man can see. The eagle’s spirit is a healer of the human spirit, thus the Native people use its naturally molted feathers and parts to cure illness and keep evil at bay in ceremonies. The golden eagle is a protector of the Navajo, the elders say.

The golden eagle is also protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as well as the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. But through regulations and permitting via the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Division of Migratory Birds, Native people have access to these culturally significant animals for use in indigenous religious ceremonies and customs.

Toward that end, the Navajo Nation dedicated its Eagle Aviary and Education Center at Navajo Zoo — sixth largest in the United States — in Window Rock on July 1 highlighted by two Native USFWS employees releasing four golden eagles into the new aviary as the huge, silent crowd looked on.

“I appreciate the collaboration of Native people to support the conservation of birds of prey that are culturally significant to Tribes and that are a Trust responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,” said Benjamin Tuggle, regional director of the USFWS Southwest Region.

—ICTMN

Paiute boy given sacred mantle of song carrier

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The elders of the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe — who have always told stories of song carriers who carry on the sounds of their sacred Salt Song ceremonies — were surprised when the responsibility — and the songs — chose nine-year-old Tobyas Spotted Eagle to perform the Salt Songs.

It may have been “his innocence or maybe a combination of things,” said his father, Chris Spotted Eagle, a spiritual leader for the Tribe. “I like to believe that the songs were actually calling out to him, and that’s the way it’s been told to me by some of the elders. We didn’t know how the other elders were going to perceive it or accept it, with him sitting with us. We were really leery. We didn’t want to offend.”

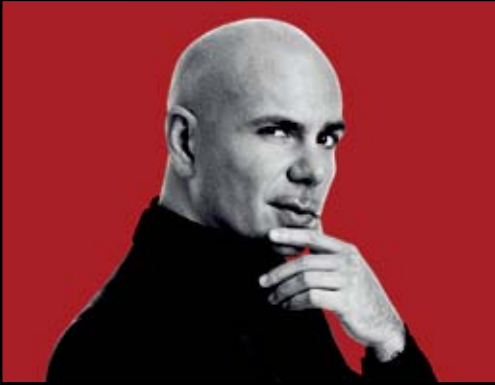
Two years ago Tobyas first stepped up at a dusk-to-dawn ceremony and performed over the departed body of a tribal member, where the singers perform a collection of about 140 songs in a sacred ceremony that prepares the spirit to cross over to the other side.

The father is convinced his son’s unusual participation is all pre-ordained.

“I feel the creator is saying, ‘I’m going to plant these kids strategically in these certain areas, and it’s up to you guys to cultivate them and give them an environment where they will thrive, and that will magnify, and help this earth out,’” he said.

Compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher

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Education



Seminole Summer Boost Program introduces students to college life

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

MIAMI — High school may not be in session during the summer, but for 14 Seminole students it was the perfect time to explore college life. They moved into the dormitories at Florida International University in Miami on June 19 and took college-level classes as part of the Seminole Summer Boost program, which ended July 22.

All students earned college credits. Classes included computer programming and ACT and PERT preparation. Nine students enrolled in 2-D design while six participated in the MORE (Mentorship, Opportunity and Readiness for Excellence) Program and took medical simulation lab, shadowed professionals at the FIU Health Department and performed community outreach off campus.

"It's great to have a college experience and have to do things on your own," said Deliah Carrillo, 18, of Brighton, who participated in the MORE Program. "This has given me a head start to my college career. It's great that they're doing this for us."

FIU liaison and education specialist Brenda Gillis, formerly an employee of the Tribe's Education Department, wanted to offer Tribal students an opportunity to experience college as a summer activity. She looked at a few colleges and chose FIU because of its proximity to the reservations, variety of courses and willingness to fine tune the program based on students' needs. Development of the program began in October 2015.

"We wanted to expose kids to a college environment and ultimately increase the number of students who go to college," Gillis said. "The students are getting a beneficial experience that makes the idea of college less intimidating. They know it's something they can manage and handle. We are giving them the skills to be successful when they do go to college."

During the 2-D design art class, students worked on their projects closely with Professor Roxana Corradino. The course provided them a background in the elements of art and how artists incorporate line and texture into their pieces. The class also required students to complete assignments in a sketchbook and journal.

"I want them to explore the process and learn from it," Corradino said. "For one of the journal entries I asked them if they could open a gallery, what kind of art they would have in it. I don't want to make it too tough; it's summer and should be fun."

Elishah Billie, 16, of Big Cypress, has always enjoyed drawing and has even created his own cartoon characters. He wants to be an artist.



Students in the FIU MORE program listen to Dr. Dorothy Contiguglia, a family medicine physician and College of Medicine assistant professor, in an examination room at the FIU health clinic June 28. From left are Dr. Contiguglia, Gherri Osceola, Dasani Cypress and Deliah Carrillo.

"Art is an amazing thing and I think everyone should take at least one art class," said the Ahfachkee School junior. "I really like this class because it lets you explore everything, take what's in our hearts and translate it onto paper."

In the art studio classroom, students talked about why they chose the Summer Boost program as they worked on their projects.

"Pretty soon I'll be going off to college and I wanted to know what life is like and what they expect of us," said Tyrek LaSane, 17, of Tampa. "I learned school work is not a joke. They give you a lot to do and expect you to be responsible and do what you need to do."

"I wanted to know about college and see what it's like to do college work," added Alicia Fudge, of Brighton. "Most of my cousins went to college and they inspired me to go."

But the program wasn't all about work; there was plenty of time to get to know each other, especially in the dorms.

"I am meeting new friends," said Aldricia Cypress, 16, of Immokalee. "We're always together. We never met before and now we're like best friends."



Eric Puente listens to Florida International University art professor Roxana Corradino as she explains how to complete a project in the 2-D design art class June 28. Seminole Summer Boost students display their art projects with professor Roxana Corradino, far left, in the FIU art studio June 28.

The MORE students spent time at the FIU Health Clinic, where they met with Dr. Dorothy Contiguglia, a family medicine physician and assistant professor at the College of Medicine. She told the students that she wasn't the best student and didn't get into medical school on her first try, but she persevered. It took her 11 years of school to become an MD.

"My GPA wasn't great and I didn't test well, but I knew I'd be a good doctor," she said. "Sometimes it's not about being the best; it's about knowing what you can do inside."

Students asked a variety of questions ranging from what is the most common ailment Dr. Contiguglia treats (high blood pressure and diabetes) to why doctors use a

popsicle stick to look in the mouth (so they can see past the tongue and down the throat) to what does pancreatitis do (the pancreas controls blood sugar, so patients with the disease need a lot of insulin).

"The ultimate lesson is to do whatever you want; if you think you can do it, go try it," Dr. Contiguglia said. "Don't let people tell you you can't; you know your capabilities better than anyone."

Most of the students in the MORE Program expressed interest in learning about medicine and careers in the medical field. They were drawn to STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) courses in general.

"I wanted to do something different this summer," said Maleah Smith, 14, of Hollywood. "I learned how long it takes to become a doctor. I want to be a registered nurse. Everyone is interested in different things."

Living the ACD experience: The power of video

BY AARON TOMMIE
Contributing Writer

Video has touched the masses in more ways that probably no other form of media. Television shows, documentaries and films are powerful because they can visually influence our perspectives, beliefs, and expose us to experiences and a world far different than those with which we are familiar. Images can become branded within our psyche, and they change the way we view our lives.

I recently watched a special on ESPN about a group of Hopi teenagers in Arizona who ran cross-country. The boys cross-country team for Hopi High has won 26 straight state titles. Some of the runners mentioned they enjoy running because what they do is bigger than them. Many of the Hopi people who live on the reservation are surrounded by poverty-stricken conditions.



Aaron Tommie

The head coach Rick Baker, who grew up on the Hopi Reservation, ran in college and started the cross-country program. He mentioned that he wants his runners to venture outside of the reservation and accomplish more than what they normally see. Due to the harsh living conditions and barrenness of the region, there are not many opportunities for its residents.

It is easier for us to achieve what we see, whether that involves good habits or destructive behaviors. By nature, we are creatures of imitation.

Earlier this year, during the General Assembly, there was a video of Chairman James E. Billie talking about the growth and history of the Seminole Tribe of Florida over the decades since we have become a federally-recognized Tribe. The video was probably more than 30 years old, but it was great to see how far we Seminoles have come in such a short amount of time. From the history of us having to hide in swamps from safety to how we generated revenue from wrestling alligators, is timeless and has relevancy today.

It is a stark contrast to the many negative images of Native Americans in films. Too often, Natives have been portrayed as savages with headdresses and animal skins on them. Many people don't know about the rich culture and issues that exist within Native American communities; partly, I believe, because there just simply is not a lot of exposure about these communities.

This is one of the reasons why the tasks and duties we have in the Broadcasting Department, as well as the rest of Seminole Media Productions, are so crucial. We have the power to tell our story and control how people view us by documenting our history through video. Thirty years from now, I would love to see how much more we have progressed as a Tribe. We have a responsibility to educate others and ourselves about Seminole culture and history. By doing that, we continue to preserve our heritage. We should never take for granted or lose sight of the importance of knowing who we are as people. I take great pride in knowing that in Broadcasting, I am part of the documentation of history.



Seminole Summer Boost students display their art projects with professor Roxana Corradino, far left, in the FIU art studio June 28.

♦ See BOOST on page 3B

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students earn honors in May

BRIGHTON— The following Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School elementary students earned Student of the Month honors in May 2016: Zoie Snow, Dominic Gaucin, Jayshawn Henderson, Logan French, Ross Jones, Josiah Robinson, Airo Tommie, Charisma Micco, Miley Jimmie, Keany Bert, Chaka Smith, Tiyanni Anderson, Merlelaysia Billie, Cakiyah Koger, Landon Lachman, Kendra Thomas, David King, Leviticus Berry, Janaya French and Steel Gopher.

The following Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School middle school students earned Student of the Month honors in May 2016: Kayven Emley (grade 6), Laila Bennett (grade 7) and Keira French (grade 8).

Photos courtesy PECS

PECS middle school students, right, and elementary school students, far right, are recognized for their outstanding work in May.



SWEP kids rethatch Brighton chickee

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton Boys & Girls Club chickee wasn't in terrible shape, but Brighton Community Culture was willing to replace the old thatch to use it as a teaching opportunity for youth. From July 5-8, nine students in the Summer Work Experience Program toiled in the heat and learned what it takes to keep a chickee in good repair.

"Chickees used to be our houses and people had a lot of respect for them," said Johnny Jones, who led the project. "Now you see them with holes; we want to teach you how to do it. This is your time to help and learn something."

On July 5, Jones, who works in the Culture Department, first showed the youth how to take down the thatch and then let

I'd make them proud."

The Brighton Culture Department devotes a week each summer to SWEP participants so they can learn arts, crafts, beading, carving, traditional foods, and language. Throughout the summer, elders demonstrate skills and host workshops that are open to community members and for those who want to learn Creek and/or Mikasuki. Teachers are on hand to impart their knowledge.

After the thatch was cleared and the nails removed from the chickee, the group headed out to a wooded area of a Brighton pasture. The temperature reached 100 degrees with no breeze, but the youth were enthusiastic as they ventured into the woods with machetes in hand.

"It's hard work, but it's different," said Layton Thomas, 18. "It's easier to collect fans than take them down."



Beverly Bidney

Layne Thomas swings the machete to cut the cabbage palm fan to be used to rethatch the Brighton Boys & Girls Club chickee. A group of SWEP youth learned every aspect of rethatching during a culture project July 5-8.

them do it. He led them into the woods to find the proper size fans and explained how to cut them down. He taught them how close together the fans need to be tacked onto the frame.

The thatch roof of a chickee has a life span of about eight to 10 years, unless there is a strong wind, which can wreak havoc on the cabbage palm fans.

"If you don't do it right, we're going to take them down and do it again," Jones said. "You will learn."

The boys got inside and on top of the chickee to dislodge the old thatch. The girls picked up the fans and threw them into a waiting truck for disposal.

The Brighton SWEP students, who work in Culture, Recreation, IT, Seminole Police, and the library, chose the summer program to get work experience. The week in the Culture Department was a bonus.

"This means a lot to me. It's taking us back to how they did things in the old days," said Tyra Baker, 18, a SWEP participant in the Culture Department. "My grandparents grew up in chickees. Now I understand and feel closer to them. I never got to know them, but think

"It's new and mostly painful," added Dante Thomas, 14. "I've got blisters, bro."

Trudging into the thickets of cabbage palms, Jones showed them how to choose the best undamaged fans. He demonstrated how to wield a machete and where to cut the stalk to leave enough room to tack it in place



Beverly Bidney

Culture instructor Johnny Jones, center, shows Dante Thomas and Malcolm Jones how to remove the old fans from inside the chickee as part of a rethatching project July 5.



Beverly Bidney

Layton and Layne Thomas remove old thatch from the Brighton Boys & Girls Club chickee July 5. The boys learned how to rethatch thanks to the culture department, which taught a group of youth daily from July 5 to 8.

on the chickee.

"This gives us the meaning of our history and shows us how they lived," said Layne Thomas, 16. "This would probably be light work for them."

By the time all the fans were loaded onto the truck, the group was tired, thirsty, and hot. Once back at the Boys & Girls Club, they unloaded the haul and stacked the fans up neatly. In the days following, they tacked them onto the chickee.

"Back in the past, they just put us to work," Jones said. "Now, if it wasn't for the Culture Department, it would slowly go away. One day, these kids will be the oldest ones, and at least they can teach it."



Beverly Bidney

Dante Thomas carries cabbage palm fronds back to the truck July 5 during a Brighton culture department project that taught SWEP youth how to rethatch a chickee.

4-H'ers honored at annual banquet

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — 4-H youth and livestock owners were honored for their commitment to the program June 27 at the annual Seminole Indian 4-H banquet in Big Cypress. The event capped the end of another year that the 4-H'ers raised steer, swine, and small animals while attending school, playing sports, and just being kids.

Polly Hayes has seen a lot of children grow up and learn responsibility during her 20 years as 4-H coordinator.

"I see the different attitudes from when they first come in the program," Hayes said. "I see how they evolve. You can always tell a 4-H kid by their attitude and maturity. The strength of their knowledge rubs off on who they are."

Children may join the 4-H Cloverbud program at age 5 and learn to take care of small animals such as rabbits, ducks, and puppies. By age 8, they have sufficient experience to raise a hog, and at 10 are responsible enough for a steer.

4-H'ers agree to make a long-term commitment to care for the animals while they learn the business of raising livestock for sale. Early morning feedings, daily exercise, and keeping a log of expenses for the animals are some of the requirements of the program.

"I was Miss Polly's 4-H subject all the time," said Hayes' son Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola. "It [4-H] mentored me into leadership roles. This is a great organization; we have one of the strongest ones in the country."

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank echoed Osceola's praise for Seminole 4-H.

"We raise quality steer, hogs and heifers around and I support 4-H's plans to take it to the next level," he said.

Emcee Aaron Stam thanked Hayes, Florida Cooperative Extension coordinator assistant Lonnie Gore and the many volunteers who made the program successful as he put out the call for more volunteers to step up and donate their time.

"There is no way for 4-H to exist without community members pitching in and getting involved," said Stam, Florida Cooperative Extension agent.

Cattle owners whose animals earned grand champion and reserve champion were presented with awards, as were the 11 high school graduates leaving 4-H. Herdsman awards, which recognizes youth for leadership as well as care and handling of their animals, were given to Camryn Thomas for swine and Lahna Baker for steer.

"They are ambassadors of 4-H," Stam said. "These awards reflect so well on these kids."

The trajectory of Rep. Osceola's life as a business owner and tribal leader was established by his years in 4-H, where he acquired real leadership skills.

"It taught me not to be afraid, to take the reins in a leadership role and take control to get things going in the right direction," he said.

One of 4-H's goals is to prepare youth to enter the cattle program, but that is only one of its objectives.

"Our finished product is not an animal; it's these young people who go on to be productive members of society," Stam said.



Beverly Bidney

High school grads and former 4-H'ers Jobe Johns, Blevyns Jumper, Dalton Koenes, Chelsey Alvarado, Kathlynn Kippenberger, Tyra Baker and Preslynn Baker stand with Aaron Stam at the annual Seminole Indian 4-H banquet June 27 in Big Cypress.

Workshop helps students prepare for college decisions

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON – Going to college is one of the most important decisions that one can make in life.

Deciding which school to choose, determining whether or not to move away from your hometown, and picking the path that will allow you to follow your dreams for the rest of your life are among the most stressful decisions anyone can make—and for some tribal members the process for this major decision started early.

Six students from the Brighton Reservation attended a college-bound workshop July 14 as part of Higher Education's Summer Program where they learned more about college choices, SAT/ACT needs, deadlines, and the college application process.

"What we were taught was very inspirational about what we're supposed to

do in the future and our careers," said Kaleb Thomas, 14.

Students learned about what extracurricular activities they can get involved in to stay ahead of the game, strategies on how to choose the right school that fits them individually, and study tips for standardized tests.

"Every student is unique; however, tribal students are that much more unique," said Higher Ed program manager Edward Amador, who hosted the workshop. "You try to bring out the passion from within the tribal student; the reasons why they go to school comes from within their hearts."

Students enjoyed sandwiches, fried chicken, fruit, dessert and beverages as they learned about the differences between 2-year and 4-year colleges. Other key points that were discussed were institution size, location, academic programs, campus life, costs, diversity, and retention and graduation rates.

Trevor Thomas, 17, said he wants to prepare himself so that he's not behind.

The workshop focused on self-exploration and exercises that revolved around success, career exploration, jobs available, interests, and abilities.

Students watched an engaging video and listened to a guest speaker to help them with their quest. All of them had ideas about where they already see themselves in the future, whether it is baseball, theology or philosophy, physical therapy, or the law.

"Make sure that you're passionate about what you're doing so that you're successful," said Brydgett Koontz, 18.

The workshops were also offered in Fort Pierce, Hollywood, Trail, Big Cypress, Immokalee, Tampa and Naples in June and July.



Trevor Thomas, left, and Kaleb Thomas attend a college-bound workshop July 14 in Brighton.

Stephanie Rodriguez

Tampa area students earn accolades

Tampa area students Deven Osceola and Corrina Smith were recognized for their outstanding achievements during the 2015-16 academic year.

Deven, whose parents are Charlie and Ruth Osceola, made the honor roll for maintaining a minimum 3.0 grade point average at Mount Dora Christian Academy. Deven also received Musical Achievement and Outstanding Service awards

for symphonic band and an achievement award in Drama.

Corrina, whose parents are Jahna and Candy Smith, made the Principal's List and received a certificate of honor in the most improved category at Grace Christian School in Plant City. Corrina also made the President's Education Awards Program which recognizes outstanding academic achievement.



Corrina Smith



Deven Osceola

◆ BOOST From page 1B

Although Dasani Cypress, 16, doesn't want to work in the medical arena – she wants to go into environmental law – she was glad she attended the MORE Program.

"It tells me what I can do outside of high school," said the Big Cypress teen. "It's a good opportunity. The Tribe has all these resources, but we have to make a conscious effort to do it."

The highlight of the program for Dasani was the community service in a clinic in the community.

"I was surprised by how much the STEM area is set up to give back to the community," she said. "I've always wanted to help my community and I was interested to see how much work it is. Doing community outreach was really cool."

Gillis has received nothing but positive feedback about the program from students, parents and the community. Seminole

Summer Boost will be an annual program and plans are already underway for next summer, she said.

Students also appreciated the taste of independence they received from the program and believe everyone should "just sign up", said Dasani. "It doesn't even feel like school."

"A lot of people think school is negative, but when you get here you want to learn new things," Deliah added. "I'm learning coding and animation. There is a lot of hands-on. You can't look at your phone or you'll miss something."

The college credit was attractive to the students. It ranged from three to six credits depending on the courses. But the overall experience wasn't lost on them.

"People get so wrapped up in the reservation, but there's a whole world out there," Dasani said. "This program provides everything. All you have to do is be respectful and abide by the rules."



Franklin Primeaux participates in a health-related activity July 14 during Triple Play Day at the Boys & Girls Clubs in Hollywood.

Photo courtesy Seminole Boys & Girls Clubs

Seminole Boys & Girls Clubs participate in national health initiative program

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe's Boys & Girls Clubs hosted "Triple Play Day" in Hollywood to educate area youth on the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle for their mind, body and soul. As part of a national initiative, the event featured collaborative exercises that focused on moving, thinking and working together. Members contributed to a collective goal of achieving one million minutes of activity among participating Clubs across the country.

Activities included relay races, the Healthy Habits My Plate Challenge and human foosball.

Triple Play began in 2005 and focuses on nutrition and health education, access to healthy meals, and teaching youth how to commit to fitness as well as positive relationship building and self-confidence elements.



Daveny Osceola-Hahn shows an award she received alongside counselors at the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Photo courtesy Seminole Boys & Girls Clubs



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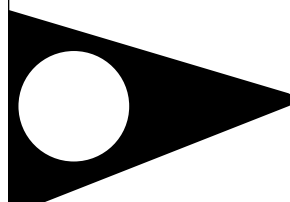
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Tribe marks Fourth of July with games, family, fun



Naomi Griffin, 3, enjoys her strawberry-flavored Cold Stone ice cream with her favorite toppings July 2 at Fort Pierce's Fourth of July celebration. Stephanie Rodriguez



Youngsters enjoy their trip on an amusement ride at Brighton's Fourth of July celebration July 4. From left, Cole Cochran, Jesse Gabbard and Ysla Gopher soar through the air. Kevin Johnson



April Billie feeds her daughter Azaliah Billie, 1, corn on the cob at the Big Cypress Fourth of July festivities at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena July 1. Beverly Bidney



Draycen Osceola, 9, takes a big bounce before heading down a giant inflatable water slide at Hollywood's celebration. Kevin Johnson



Kaila Race, from the Tandy Leather Co. and Avery Miller are all hands at the crafts table during Tampa's Fourth of July celebration. Peter B. Gallagher



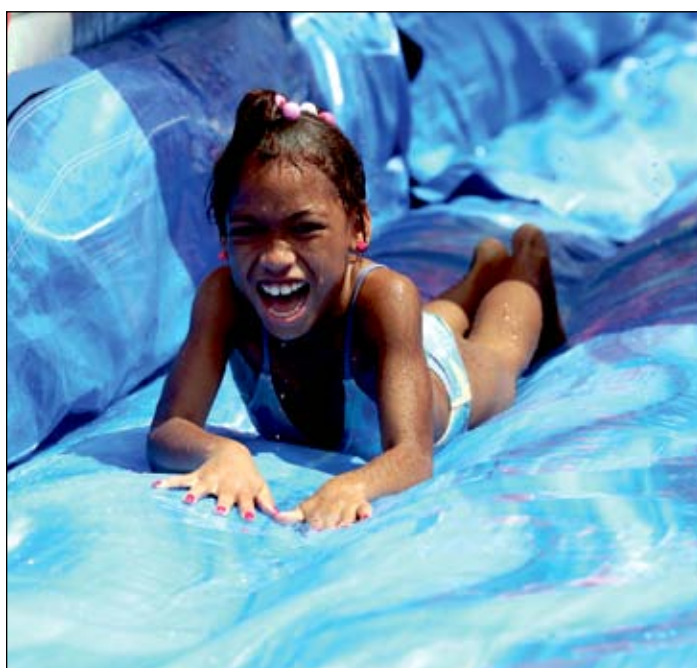
Frankie Concepcion watches as Willie Collins throws the horseshoe during a tournament at Immokalee's 4th of July celebration July 1. Beverly Bidney



Jaelle Weimann, 5, launches a ball at a basketball hoop during a game at Brighton's celebration. Kevin Johnson



Miley Jimmie, 8, goes airborne on a ride at Brighton's celebration. Kevin Johnson



Harmonie Moss, 8, goes head-first down a water slide to start off the Fourth of July celebration July 2 in Fort Pierce. Stephanie Rodriguez



Mason Foret grabs a handshake from SPD Officer Thomas Apsey at Tampa's Fourth of July bash. Peter B. Gallagher



Kevin Johnson

After being yanked into a mud pit, Billie Tiger continues to battle for victory in the women's tug-of-war competition at Brighton's Fourth of July celebration.



Kevin Johnson

Pedro Fuentes gets ready to make a big splash in the belly flop competition at Seminole Estates during Hollywood's Fourth of July celebration July 4.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Siblings Hope and Josh Sneed try their luck at bingo July 2 during Fort Pierce's Fourth of July Celebration.



Beverly Bidney

The Big Cypress Fourth of July celebration included this nearly vertical water slide for thrill-seeking kids July 1 at the rodeo grounds, as well as burgers and dogs, bingo and horseshoes.



Peter B. Gallagher

The Henry sisters made a formidable team at horseshoes during Tampa's Fourth of July celebration.



Beverly Bidney

As Kingston Billie and Jacob Osceola watch, Big Cypress Recreation employee O'bryan White fails to prevent the Jenga Giant game from falling at the Big Cypress Fourth of July celebration July 1.



Kevin Johnson

Mary Cypress, 11, left, and Mayli Tommie, 8, enjoy playing on an inflatable amusement slide at Hollywood's celebration July 4.



Beverly Bidney

Randall Billie, 9, doesn't let a little rain stop him from attempting to get his patriotic flag in the air July 1 at the Big Cypress Fourth of July festivities.



Kevin Johnson

Alyssa Bowers, 10, smiles as she reaches the peak of a rock climbing exhibit at Hollywood's celebration July 4.

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Sports



10 Seminole teams compete in NAYO softball, baseball

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

CHOCTAW, Miss. — The Seminole contingent came close to returning to Florida with championships, but a pair of runner-ups turned out to be the top performances out of the 10 teams that made the 800-mile trip to Mississippi for the annual Native American Youth Organization's softball and baseball tournaments.

Hosted by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the tournament drew 80 teams from the Choctaw, Seminole, Cherokee, Poarch Creek and Seneca Tribes July 21-23. Games were held at Northside Park in Philadelphia and Choctaw Central High School.

The top performing Seminole teams came from the older softball squads. Both the 13-15 team and the seniors (16-18) finished in second place.

Coached by Kelley Smiley, the 13-15s started off strong with three straight victories thanks in part to the pitching of lefty Jillian Rodriguez and Aleina Micco. Timely hitting came from a variety of players, including Budha Jumper.

The team's second win in pool play came in a lengthy Texas tiebreaker that lasted three innings against the Cherokees' Pitch Slap team. Budha delivered a key hit to fuel the victory.

"Our pitching has been holding up very well," Smiley said. "When (opponents) hit the ball, our defense is there. At the plate, we're hitting hard shots."

Jillian and Aleina handled pitching duties.

"We switched them in and out. They've been done an excellent job," Smiley said.

The Seminoles entered the championship undefeated, but a controversial call in the championship against Pitch Slap halted the team's momentum. With no score in the second inning, a Pitch Slap runner got caught in a rundown between third and home. When Budha applied a tag to the runner on the third base line, the runner was called out by the base umpire. The Seminoles' celebration lasted only a moment because after huddling, the umpires apparently deemed there was obstruction by the Seminoles during the rundown. They awarded the Pitch Slap runner home plate for a 1-0 lead.

The Seminoles argued their case, but they never recovered from the reversal.

Shortly after play resumed, the Seminoles encountered another tough break when the home plate umpire ejected catcher Jacee Jumper.

Pitch Slap went on to post a 6-0 win against the shorthanded Seminoles, who played with eight players. Pitch Slap wrapped up the championship in a winner-take-all game that followed.

The losses stung, but didn't dampen the Seminoles' outstanding tournament.

"I'm very proud of them," Smiley said. "They've definitely been working hard. They made it through the heat. They've done everything. They just came out here and given it their all."

The defending champion Seminoles senior softball team made a gallant run at a repeat, but settled for runner-up.

Similar to a year ago when they lost their opening game, the Seminoles — this time playing under the name Independentz — once again played their best softball in elimination games after dropping game one.

A bad hop during a tiebreaker cost the team a victory in the opener, but Independentz responded with three straight victories thanks in part to solid defense, such as a game-changing diving catch made by right-fielder Diamond Shore.

Tied at 3-3 in the fourth inning of a losers' bracket game, Diamond chased down a fly ball that was earmarked for the right-center gap. Sprinting to her right, Diamond made a diving backhanded stab and hung onto the ball despite losing her glasses on impact with the ground.

"She hustled," said Independentz head coach Marvin Newkirk, who was assisted by Cassandra Jimmie. "It was a nice shot, about 20, 30 feet from her. She ran up under it and brought it in."

Diamond's clutch grab provided a spark for the Independentz.

"That was motivational. The girls built off of that," Newkirk said.

In their next at-bat, the Independentz scored three runs, including a pivotal RBI single by Diamond that put Independentz up 6-3. They hung on for a 6-5 win.

The Independentz received outstanding pitching throughout the tournament from Kylee Ann Warrington, one of a few players on the team from another Tribe. Kylee, of Norman, Okla., will be headed to Colorado this fall to play softball for Fort Lewis College.

Pitching shined for the Independentz in 2-0 and 3-1 victories in the losers' bracket.

Tough Seminoles bounce back

Bruises and blood couldn't keep two Seminole shortstops from staying off the field at NAYO.

Cheyenne Nunez, from the high school division softball team, and Lucas Osceola, from the 13-15 baseball squad, were shaken up in collisions with opponents. Both players



Despite losing her glasses, Diamond Shore, of Brighton, makes a diving catch in the outfield during the NAYO softball tournament July 22 in Choctaw, Miss.

Kevin Johnson

suffered wounds — namely a black eye and forehead bump for Cheyenne and a bloodied mouth for Lucas.

Cheyenne's mishap occurred as she raced around the bases after hitting a grounder that was thrown away. Cheyenne dove head first into a base and paid a price on a play that was already ruled dead.

"This whole time it was a dead ball, but I didn't know it, so I kept running," Cheyenne

said. "I dove under the girl, but she had got the ball and tagged me. My body got jammed and she stopped me."

Cheyenne's head took the brunt. She emerged with a black eye, a knot on her forehead and a twisted neck.

"My whole upper face was messed up," she said. "They gave me a few minutes. I didn't know where I was at, but then I got back out there and played."

The collision came just three days after Cheyenne had four wisdom teeth removed.

"That made it even better because I got hit in my mouth, too," she joked. "But I wanted to play."

Lucas returned to his shortstop duties in the 13-15s final game, one day after he was taken from the field by ambulance after his mouth area was cut open in a collision. Lucas wore protective face gear in his return.

Softball youngsters earn third place

The Seminoles' 7-8 softball squad lost its tournament opener, but then cranked out three straight wins before being eliminated. The team finished in third place out of 15 teams.

"The girls had a good time," said Seminoles head coach Daniel Nunez Sr.

Carly Osceola was a hitting star for the Seminoles. She belted four home runs in one game.

First victory for coach Thomas

It was only a year ago when former Okeechobee High standout Layton Thomas, of Brighton, played in his final NAYO before he departed for college.

This year Layton returned to NAYO not as a player but rather as the head coach of the Seminoles 13-15 baseball squad.

After a loss in the team's opener, the Seminoles bounced back and gave Layton his first victory as a coach, a 10-8 win against the Choctaws' It's All Glitz on July 22.

Nursing an 8-6 lead, the Seminoles picked up a couple of vital insurance runs late in the game on an RBI double from Jaylen Baker and a run-scoring triple from Bakari Micco.

It's All Glitz pushed across two runs in its final at-bat, but the rally was halted when Seminole catcher Tanner Shore threw a bullet to shortstop Ozzy Osceola to nail a runner at second base to end the game.

Layton's first victory came with his father, Jason, serving as assistant coach, and younger brother Layne closing out the game on the mound.

The Seminoles nearly advanced to the championship round the next day, but fell to the Cherokees' Dirt Bags in the losers' bracket final, 8-6. With the game knotted at 4-4, walks to Myron Billie and Ives Baker and an infield single by Tanner helped ignite the Seminoles. Myron scored on a wild pitch and Lucas Osceola brought home Ives with a long sac fly.

But the Dirt Bags, in their final at-bat, rallied with four runs to advance.

Despite being just a few years older than his players, Layton said his team treated him with respect.

"I play college ball, so they do listen to me. They know I have experience," said Layton, who played for Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers as a freshman last season. Layton's playing career will be headed north for the upcoming season. He said he plans to play for Tallahassee Community College. As for his coaching career, Layton said he enjoyed the experience being at the helm.

"It shows me the coach's perspective, and what they have to deal with," he said.

Busy weekend for coach, parents

Immokalee's Armando Nunez and his wife Rhonda had a busy NAYO hopping from field to field. Two of their children and one grandchild played on different teams.

Armando was the head coach for the Seminoles 11-12 softball squad that included



The Seminoles' 13-15 baseball team tips their caps to the crowd after notching a victory in the NAYO tournament July 22 at Choctaw Central High School. The players are, from left, Ozzy Osceola, Tavis Jumper, Brandon Williams, Bakari Micco and Kaleb Thomas.

Kevin Johnson



Seminole infielder Budha Jumper shows an umpire the ball after she tagged out a runner from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' Pitch Slap team during a rundown in the championship round of NAYO's 13-15 softball tournament July 23 at Choctaw Central High School in Mississippi. The play turned out to be one of the most controversial in the tournament because the umpires reversed their initial decision for an out and instead awarded the runner home plate for the game's first run. Pitch Slap went on to win the game and the championship.

Kevin Johnson

Seminoles in action at NAYO



Kevin Johnson

Seminoles third baseman Elle Thomas tags out a runner from MBCI during an 11-12 softball game.



Kevin Johnson

Bryson Smith delivers a pitch for the Seminole's 9-10 baseball team July 22.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole batter Layne Thomas leans back to avoid a high and inside pitch during a 13-15 baseball game.



Kevin Johnson

Caylie Huff belts a base hit for the Seminole's 11-12 softball squad.



Kevin Johnson

Jillian Rodriguez winds up for a pitch in the 13-15 softball championship July 23.



Kevin Johnson

Ava Nunez fires a pitch in an 11-12 softball game.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole catcher Aundre Baker tags out a runner at home plate in a 9-10 baseball game.



Kevin Johnson

Seminole first baseman Jaydence Urbina tries to reel in a throw that took a bad hop on a play at first base during a 9-10 baseball game.



Kevin Johnson

Joleyne Nunez makes solid contact for a hit in a 7-8 softball game.



Kevin Johnson

Silas Billie, from Hollywood's Native Warriors, cranks out a hit in a 7-8 coach-pitch baseball game July 22. Clayton Osceola handles duties for the Seminole squad from Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

Ukiah Billie slides into second base as infielder Samuel Josh catches the ball during a 7-8 coach-pitch game between teams from Hollywood and Brighton.

Seminoles thrive in Arizona

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Seminole basketball teams made the most out of a cross country trek with a pair of top three finishes at the annual Native American Basketball Invitational.

The Seminole girls team shined the brightest in the Arizona desert by reaching the semifinals of the Gold Division in a tournament that featured 60 teams June 26-July 2.

"The team's full court press and up-tempo style quickly wore down teams in the desert heat," said Seminole coach Andrew Jordan Bowers. "The turnovers created off of the press created easy buckets for the team. When we were required to execute in the half court Skyla [Osceola] and Shae [Pierce] were hard to stop."

The Seminole team included two Choctaws from Mississippi and one Miccosukee.

The Seminole tore through pool play, winning their three games by margins of 22, 25 and 30 points. They encountered tougher foes in the playoff round, but didn't flinch. The Seminole topped South Dakota's Fighting Sioux, 37-33, and beat Idaho's NM Lady Warriors to reach the Final Four before they were tripped up by Nevada's Nettriperz, 42-37. Nettriperz went on to win the Gold championship — the tournament's highest honor — 73-69 against Montana's Big Sky Freeze.

Standouts for the Seminole throughout the tournament included Skyla Osceola, Shae Pierce and Sydney Cypress.

"Skyla was unstoppable inside and Shae attacked the basket every game and finished at the rim. Sydney set the tone on defense for the team each game," Bowers said.

In the semifinal, Skyla produced another determined effort.

"Skyla played her heart out as she played every minute of the game," Bowers said. "She personally tried to will the team to the championship as Shae struggled to find her shot in the second half following a hard foul."

Thanks to a 5-1 record and appearance in the Final Four, the Seminole departed in an upbeat mood and already looking forward to

next year's tournament. "I am extremely proud of how well the team played," Bowers said. "The team was comprised of juniors, sophomores, freshmen, and eighth-graders. As long as the team stays together they will be a favorite to win next year."

On the boys side, 1Fire, whose roster featured mostly Seminole and Miccosukee players, didn't look like they would make much noise. 1Fire lost its first two games in pool play, but suddenly found their groove. A 3-point victory in the final pool game spawned a five-game winning streak and an appearance in the Silver Division championship.

1Fire head coach Josh Boromei said the sluggish start might have been due to the team's lack of practice time before the tournament.

"The first two games were practice games, I guess, but at NABI every game counts," he said.

The losses prevented 1Fire from reaching the Gold Division, but they made an impressive run in the Silver Division where they won four games by fairly comfortable margins of 14, 16, 8 and 10 points.

1Fire's quest for a title fell short with a 65-44 loss to Northern AZ Elite in the championship game.

Being part of a championship game at NABI was nothing new for Boromei, who was a guard on the Seminole squad that captured the boys Gold Division crown two years ago.

"It was nice just to be out there again. You get a lot more into it," Boromei said about his coaching experience.

Quick point guard Charlie Osceola and sharp-shooting guard Ethan Cypress were among the offensive standouts for 1Fire. Boromei said Charlie scored about 27 points in one game and Ethan was consistently notching 20-plus point games.

Boromei said the team was confident it would win the final, but lost some steam toward the end.

"We were sure we were going to win," he said. "We were up by 10 until the last six minutes, then the boys lost their energy. It would have been nice to win it, but the boys had fun."



Photo courtesy Ak-Chin Runner

The 1Fire team, which featured mostly players from the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes, pose with the runner-up trophy after finishing second in the Silver Division at NABI on July 1 at Maricopa High School in Maricopa, Arizona.



Photo courtesy Ak-Chin Runner

Ethan Cypress handles the ball during the NABI tournament in Arizona.



Photo courtesy Ak-Chin Runner

1Fire's defense proves to be tough to penetrate at the NABI tournament in Arizona.

Successful start for new softball tournament

BRIGHTON— Rain turned out to be the only sour note for what organizers deemed an otherwise successful debut of the Firecracker Softball Tournament.

Dozens of players vied for the first title July 16 at Ollie Jones Memorial Park in Brighton. Since the tournament was cut short due to rain, co-champions were declared. Got Wheels and Yuck Ducks shared the top honors.

"We were very glad with the turnout, especially since it was our first tournament," said Billie Tiger, one of the organizers.

The tournament was hosted by Seminole in Recovery.

"Being a part of Seminole in Recovery, we were happy to raise a lot of money to go towards our Florida Native American Convention held in March," Tiger said.

Stephanie Rodriguez

Naha Jumper delivers a pitch during the Firecracker Softball Tournament on July 16 in Brighton.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Above, teams show good sportsmanship as they line up for handshakes after a game at the Firecracker Softball Tournament on July 16 in Brighton. Below, all proceeds collected from the tournament's food stand went to the Seminole in Recovery program.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Maggie Osceola gets ready to belt the ball during the Firecracker Softball Tournament in Brighton.



EIRA comes to Brighton for Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo

STAFF REPORT

BRIGHTON — The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association series made a stop at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton on July 2 for the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo.

Josiah was posthumously inducted into the Indian National Finals Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2012. His Hall of Fame biography highlights Josiah's accomplishments, including being an all around cowboy winner several times, a steer wrestling champion in the Florida Cowboy Association and a co-founder of the Southeastern Indian Rodeo Association, which later became the EIRA.

The EIRA is scheduled to return to Fred Smith Rodeo Arena for its regional finals Sept. 16-17.

Here are results of the top performers from the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo:

Saddle Bronc Riding - T.O. Yazzie

Calf Roping

- 1st: Blevyns Jumper
- 2nd: Justin Gopher Sr.
- 3rd: Happy Jumper

Team Roping

- 1st: Justin Gopher Sr./Naha Jumper
- 2nd: Connor Osborn/Ed Harry
- 3rd: Blevyns Jumper/Naha Jumper
- 4th: Justin Gopher Sr./Hilliard Gopher

Lady's Barrel Racing

- 1st: Loretta Peterson
- 2nd: Ashley Parks
- 3rd: Kalgary Johns
- 4th: Brenda Youngblood

INFR Jr. Breakaway Roping

- 1st: Cisco Rodriguez

INFR Jr. Barrel Racing

- 1st: Jacee Jumper
- 2nd: Budha Jumper
- 3rd: Jaylee Wilcox

INFR Sr. Breakaway Roping

- 1st: Ed Harry

INFR Sr. Team Roping

- 1st: Jeff Johns and Ed Harry



Keith Lovejoy, Keith Lovejoy Photography

Jacee Jumper, of Brighton, guides her horse around a barrel during junior barrel racing July 2 at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena. Jacee finished in first place.



Keith Lovejoy, Keith Lovejoy Photography

Justin Gopher Sr., of Brighton, delivers the early lasso in a team roping event with Naha Jumper at the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo on July 2. The duo won the event.



Keith Lovejoy, Keith Lovejoy Photography

While Big Cypress's Josh Jumper ropes the steer's head, teammate Connor Osborn gets ready to rope the feet during team roping at the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo on July 2 in Brighton.



Keith Lovejoy, Keith Lovejoy Photography

EIRA Senior Rodeo Queen Randee Osceola, of Immokalee, rides her horse through a clean turn in lady's barrel racing.



Keith Lovejoy, Keith Lovejoy Photography

Above, Kalgary Johns, of Brighton, gets the attention of spectators while competing in lady's barrel racing. At right, Loretta Peterson, of Brighton, and her horse make a tight turn on their way to winning lady's barrel racing.



Tug-of-war champions



Kevin Johnson

Clint Bowers, left, Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, center, and Bobby Yates pull their team to victory in the men's tug-of-war championship match at the Brighton 4th of July celebration July 4. The team went undefeated, including a win against Preston Baker, Vernon Baker and Justin Gopher Sr. in the final.



Kevin Johnson

Jaryaca Baker, front, leads her team to victory in the women's tug-of-war championship match at the Brighton 4th of July celebration. Jaryaca's teammates included Brittany Macias and Clarissa Urbina.

Sammy Micco Sanchez earns All-American honor for second straight year

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Next summer Sammy Micco Sanchez plans to return to Canada as a defending champion in the Native American Indigenous Games. But before he hits the mats in Toronto, Sammy has plenty of other athletic endeavors that will keep him busy, notably his junior seasons in football and wrestling at Fort Gibson High School in Oklahoma.

It's been an active offseason, too, for Sammy. After he helped Fort Gibson finish runner-up as a team in Oklahoma's state duals and he placed as an individual at states, Sammy hit the road for wrestling tournaments in Missouri and Virginia.

In April, Sammy finished second at Brute Nationals wrestling championships and earned another All-American wrestling honor.

"Two years in a row he's an All-American, which is pretty special," Sammy Johnson said.

As Fort Gibson's head wrestling coach and assistant football coach, Johnson has witnessed first-hand how much Sammy has moved up the charts.

"He's improving every time he steps on the football field and on the wrestling mat," Johnson said. "Wrestling-wise, for starting as late as he did and doing the things he's doing, he's doing an amazing job. On the defensive side [in football], he's doing special things."

So special, in fact, that Sammy was invited to attend Oklahoma State University's mini-football camp for high school juniors and seniors in late July. The camp in Norman is led by OSU head coach Mike Gundy.

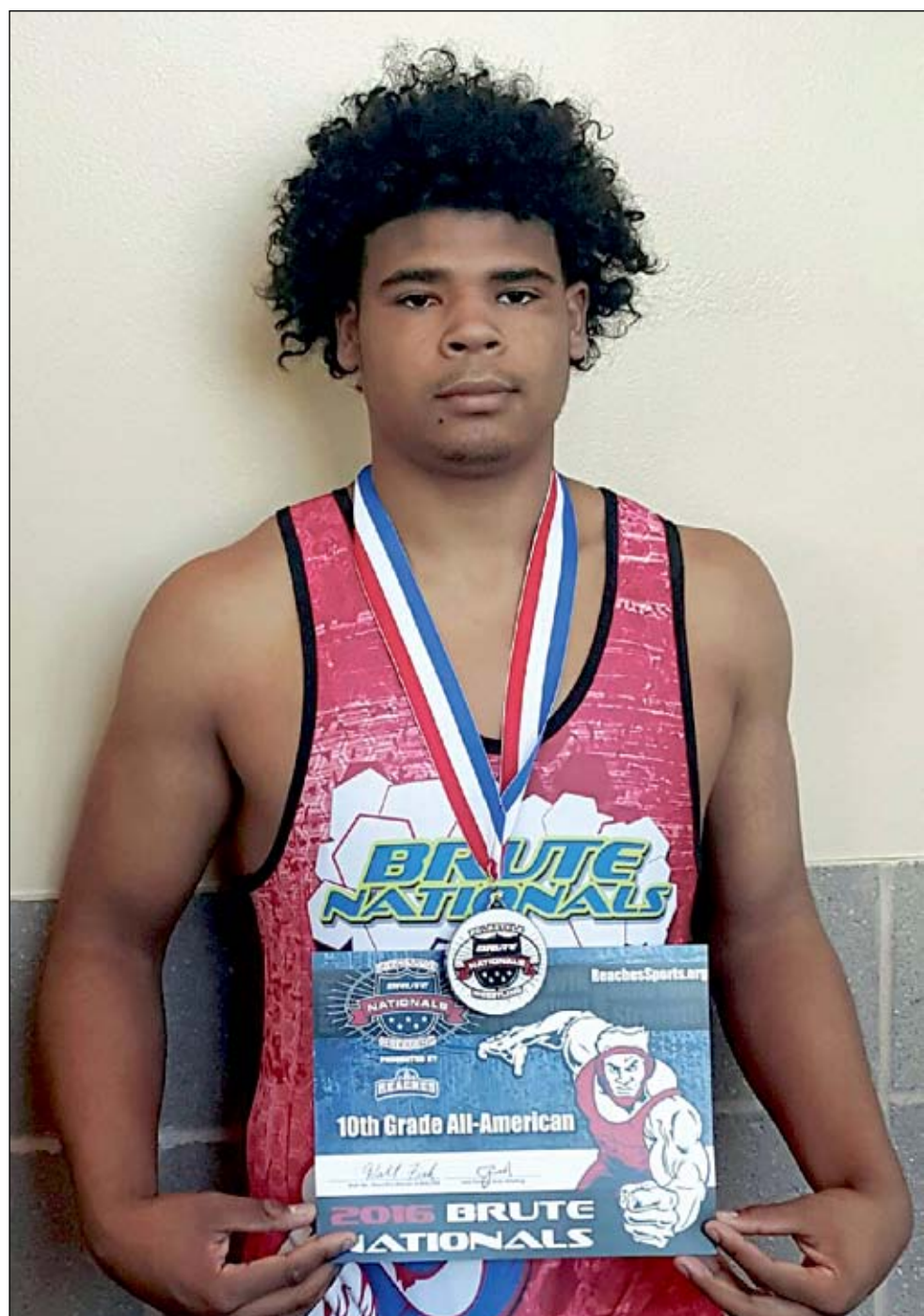
While Sammy has started to earn more recognition and accolades in his sports, he's making sure he remains grounded. He said the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has become a bigger part of his life.

"I'm working on my FCA thing, trying to give more glory to God," he said. "I went to FCA camp this year and I realized that I loved it and it's fun to be part of it. That's something I really enjoy doing."

Sammy also enjoys winning, which he did a lot of during his trip to Independence, Missouri for Brute. He won a handful of matches — mostly by pins — before losing to a fellow Oklahoma high school wrestler in the final.

"It didn't go my way in the final match. I thought I had points I should have scored, but they didn't give it to me," Sammy said.

In Virginia, Sammy was seeded No. 4 at the NHSCA tournament. He reached the quarterfinals and held a big lead but lost late in the match, an experience he said he will



Contributed photo

Sammy Micco Sanchez, 16, wears the runner-up medal and holds the All-American honor he earned in April at the Brute Nationals wrestling championships in Missouri.

learn from and apply to his future matches.

At 16, Sammy is 6-foot. His weight fluctuates with his sports seasons. Heavier for football, lighter for wrestling.

"For a little while, I was losing weight and I didn't know why. I went from like 210 to 185," Sammy said while visiting

the Hollywood Reservation with his family during the Fourth of July holiday. "My coach told me I need to get back up. I think I'm at a solid 195, 199 now. Hopefully I will get back up to 210 for football."

Fort Gibson's football team is slated to start practicing in mid-August.

Brighton's Big Ball Tournament



Kevin Johnson

Third baseman Jesse Urbina fires a throw to first during the Big Ball Tournament on July 1 in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

Ramone Baker slides safely into second base as second baseman Boggie Jumper receives a throw from the outfield during the Big Ball Tournament on July 1 in Brighton.



Contributed photo

The Big Ball Tournament champions gather on a muddy field after winning the title at Ollie Jones Memorial Park in Brighton. From left, Brandon Gabbard, Jovanny Torres, Mallorie Thomas, Jessie Osceola, Brooke Osceola, Danny Bonilla, Louvella Yates, Marc Macias, Brittany Macias, Yo Osceola, Carla Rodriguez, Lalo Rodriguez, Christian Crews, and Trisha Osceola. The softball tournament was part of Brighton's 4th of July celebration which also featured basketball and fishing tournaments leading up to the big celebration on July 4.

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NAYO
From page 1C

his daughter Ava Nunez. Another daughter, Jillian Rodriguez, played for the 13-15 girls and a granddaughter, Jaylynn Rodriguez, played for the 7-8 coach pitch softball team. Ava and Jillian produced some of the top pitching performances as top pitchers for their teams.

The 11-12s, which featured a blend of players from Immokalee and Brighton, earned a couple of wins before being knocked out.

"They've done well," Armando said. "Three or four of them have played with us on our travel team. We're all from different towns. The other half is from Brighton. I've only met them in the last week."

It didn't take long before the players who didn't know each other became friends.

"They're having fun. They're friends now. They all want to go movies and do things together,"

Armando said.

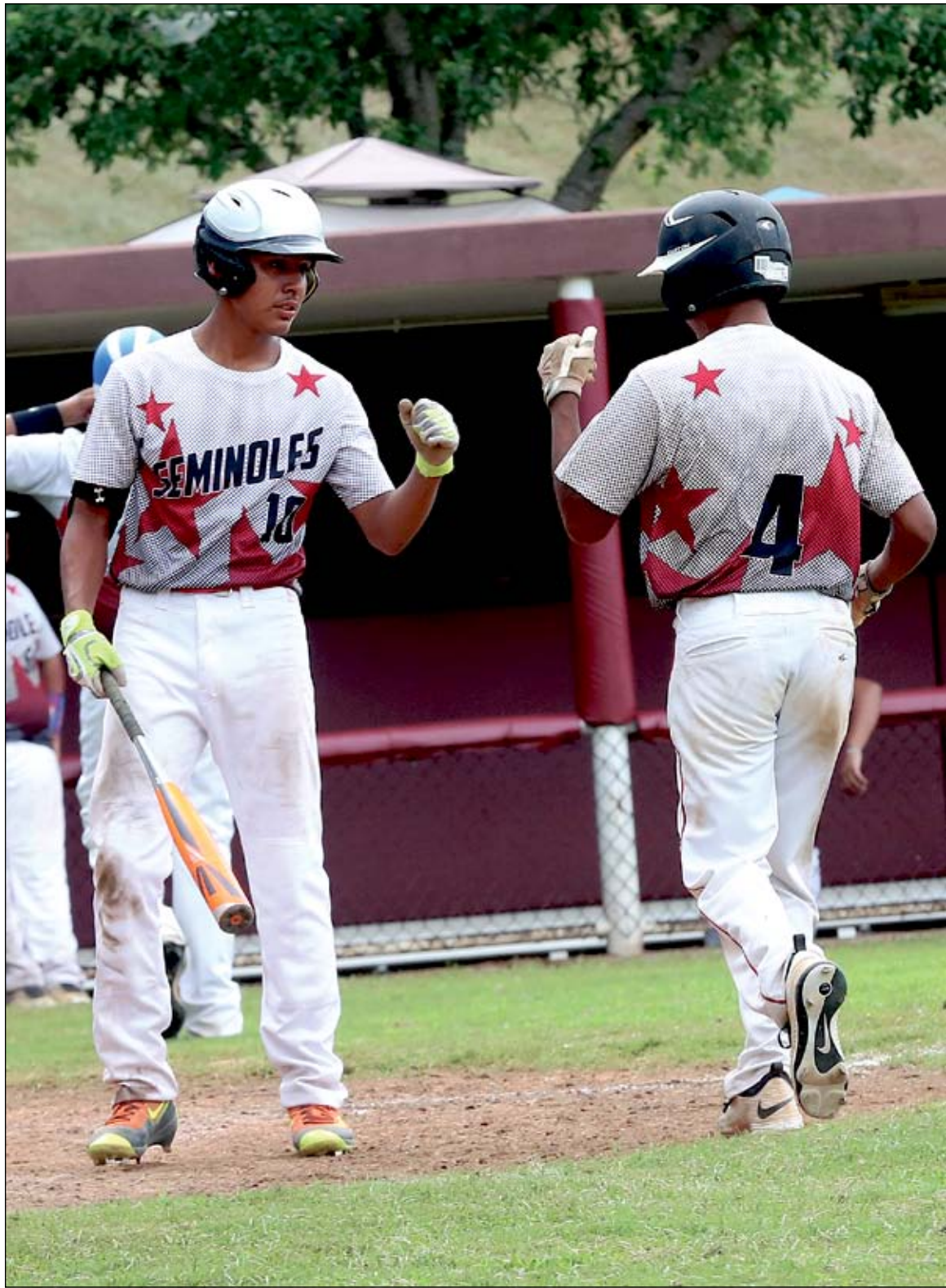
Hollywood tops Brighton

Hollywood and Brighton youngsters faced each other in the coach-pitch 7-8 division. Hollywood earned bragging rights with an explosive offense that outlasted Brighton, 20-9, in a losers' bracket slugfest July 22.

Kayden Warrior did his part to keep Brighton close early. Kayden belted a high fastball for a 2-run home run, but Hollywood, led by Syllas Billie, responded. Syllas displayed plenty of speed as he raced around the bases for a 3-run home run that gave Hollywood a 9-2 lead.

Alex Rodriguez showed opposite field power by drilling a 2-run triple to right field.

Alex and Syllas also combined for outstanding defense, including one play in which Alex made a tough stop at third base and fired a long throw across the diamond to Syllas, whose long stretch got the out.



Kevin Johnson

Ozzy Osceola, left, congratulates Lucas Osceola after Lucas brought home a run with a sac fly in a 13-15 baseball game at the NAYO tournament July 23.

Announcements

Tampa's Council Oak earns Award of Excellence



Photo courtesy Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa

For the ninth consecutive year, Council Oak Steaks & Seafood in Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa has been awarded the prestigious Award of Excellence by Wine Spectator Magazine for its impressive menu of 278 fine wines and staff trained in all of the exacting nuances of proper wine service.

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