



**Protesters walk against threats to Everglades**  
**COMMUNITY ♦ 5A**

**Ahfachkee artists glow in Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki spotlight**  
**EDUCATION ♦ 1B**

**Duelle Gore thrives as Haskell's top player**  
**SPORTS ♦ 1C**



# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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## State ends legislative session with no compact

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — March 11, the last day of the Florida 2016 legislative session, came and went without ratification of the Seminole gaming compact.

Senate Bill 7074 died without making it to the floor after weeks of critical legislative debate and backlash from outside gaming enterprises led to a handful of Senate and House amendments that muddied the issue and derailed any hope of passing before the deadline.

The compact would have entered the Tribe into a 20-year agreement with the state to conduct slot machines and live table games, such as craps and roulette, and banked card games, including blackjack, at its seven gaming facilities. In return, the state stood to receive revenue sharing payments that would have guaranteed \$3 billion in Florida coffers during the first seven years.

The Tribe already pays the state approximately \$240 million annually, based on the 2010 five-year compact which expired in July 2015 but that the Tribe continues to pay in good faith.

The actions of the Senate and House bring to question if legislators are versed in the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), which is intended to provide tribal gaming ventures on Indian land, through the National Indian Gaming Commission, advantages in the gaming world in order for Tribes to achieve economic development, financial independence and self-determination.

Further, exclusivity regarding some games is required by law in order for the state to get a revenue share.

President Mitchell Cypress said on March 17 that Tribal citizens should not be afraid of the future in any regard.

"Yes, the compact was not approved but there are better days ahead," President Cypress said. "We will continue with what we have; we will move forward."

Two moves could bring the compact

♦ See COMPACT on page 5A



Peter B. Gallagher

At one of several Bowlegs Town excavations, an archaeology team, with tribal historian and Seminole Chief Justice Willie Johns, fourth from left, is filmed by Committee Films March 12 for a future History Channel documentary.

## Bowlegs Town history, artifacts unearthed

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**OLD TOWN** — Not far from the Suwannee River, historic Bowlegs Town rests almost like a whisper within a wide vista of North Florida high ground. The town is flanked by coastal mangroves and grassy plains with fingerlike waterways that slither west into the Gulf of Mexico and thick oak hammocks that shadow the Dixie County outback to the east.

It was here, in 1818, that Gen. Andrew

Jackson, leading the largest army to invade Florida, brought guns to kill and chase away Seminole Indians, burn down their 80-acre village and stir the embers of the frontier conflict into the First Seminole War.

Today, Jackson is on the \$20 bill and Bowlegs Town sits like a terrestrial ghost covered by nearly 200 years of Mother Nature's rehab.

The property that contains the tiny town has gone through myriad owners over the years and is currently owned by realtor and rancher H. Dale Herring.

Upon discovering the history of what exists amid the 400 acres he purchased several years ago, Herring became a caretaker of Bowlegs Town and the first owner to allow professional archaeologists to undertake a thorough examination of the site.

"I don't want any money from this. I'm a businessman, but I don't look at this as a business opportunity," Herring told Seminole Chief Justice Willie Johns, who visited the area March 12. "I'm not going to sell

♦ See BOWLEGS TOWN on page 4A

## 'Citizen archaeology' bills die in committee

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — To the relief of Native American Tribes in Florida, the state Legislature ended its 2016 session March 11 with both House Bill 803 and Senate Bill 1054 dead in committee.

Had the Citizens Archaeology Permit (CAP) bills been passed and signed into law by Gov. Rick Scott, anyone with a \$100 permit, without any degree, license or experience in archaeology, would have been able to dig by hand or trowel to excavate artifacts in state-owned submerged lands, as long as they reported the location of any finds to the state.

"It's over. Unless they try to come back in a special session, we can stop worrying," said Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Paul Backhouse.

Florida had a similar program from 1994 until 2005 that was deemed a failure; it was not a law, but a program of the state Division of Historical Resources called Isolated Finds Program (IFP). It was killed when a Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR) study proved that most artifacts collected under the IFP were unreported and underreported. In fact, the BAR survey found 78 percent noncompliance, in line with a similar program tried temporarily — and killed — in South Carolina.

"These bills are not about children innocently picking up an artifact at the park," archaeologist Sarah Miller, of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, wrote on the South Florida Wildlands Association Facebook page. "They are about criminal mining of state resources ... The people of Florida already own them, and they are not for sale."

## Constitutional amendment ballots due noon, April 12

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

A secretarial election to amend the constitution and add a sixth Tribal Council member to represent Immokalee is underway.

The election is being administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Ballots were sent to Tribal citizens tribalwide by the BIA and must arrive in the Hollywood post office box by noon on April 12 to be counted. Ballots must be sent through the U.S. Postal Service.

Supervisor of elections Naomi Wilson said Tribal citizens should allow at least four days for the mailed ballot to get to Hollywood; more time may be necessary for ballots coming from outlying reservations, she said.

"People can even come to Hollywood and mail the ballots from here," Wilson said. "That would be the best thing to do." Registration ended March 18 and 582 of the 2,206 eligible voters ages 18 and older registered to vote. For the election to be valid, 30 percent, or 175, of those 582 must cast their vote. The outcome will be determined by a simple majority.

"If you registered, vote," Wilson said. "It's a very interesting process and it's not often you get to make a change. Whether you are for it or against it, you have to vote."

Tribal Council unanimously approved sending a request to the Secretary of the Interior for an election during its Nov. 13 meeting after Immokalee Reservation

♦ See AMENDMENT on page 5A

## Betty Mae feted at D.C. women's event

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A whirlwind trip to Washington, D.C. by family of Betty Mae Tiger Jumper featured the late Seminole leader among distinguished women, living and passed, who have contributed historically to public service and government.

The March 19 event, hosted by the National Women's History Project, honored 16 women whose dedication put faces to what it means to be powerful American females. They ranged from Isabel Gonzalez, who secured citizenship for the people of Puerto Rico, to NASA's Nancy Grace Roman, who is considered the "Mother of Hubble" in outer space.

A full page in the event program heralded Betty Mae Tiger Jumper's 88-year lifetime of accomplishments.

Her struggles began as a baby in 1922 when her very existence as the daughter of a Seminole mother and French father was threatened.

"Back then, the Tribe was prejudiced. My mother had to fight most of her life for not being full-blood but she proved not only was she Native American, she was tribal," her son Moses Jumper Jr. said during the first Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo Feb. 20 at Big Cypress Reservation.

Jumper rose to challenges early on. By age 14 she was the first Seminole to speak Creek, Mikasuki and read and write English so perfectly that she became an interpreter for Tribe leaders. Later, she became the first Seminole to graduate high school, first to earn a nursing degree, first woman to hold the seat of Tribe Chairman among all Tribes nationwide, and the only female founder of the United South & Eastern Tribes (USET) coalition of 26 federally recognized Tribes.

Jumper helped establish the Tribe's first newspaper, was the first Health Department director and served as the reservation truant officer and crossing guard at Stirling Road and State Road 441 for Broward County Schools.

Eight family members including Moses Jumper Jr. and

two of his siblings, Boettner "Ruggy" Jumper and Scarlett Young, attended the D.C. event dubbed "Working to Form a More Perfect Union; Honoring Women in Public Service and Government."

Also attending were Laquita Jumper, Mike Tiger, Judy Tiger, Alexis Jumper, Rhonda Jumper and TJ Young.

Molly Murphy MacGregor, executive director and a co-founder of the National Women's History Project, greeted the family before the presentation began.

"It's incredible that you could travel all this way to be here," MacGregor said. "We had to have Mrs. Jumper celebrated today. She was the first female chief among Native American Tribes and here it is 2016 and we might elect our first female president."

For tribal children, Betty Mae Tiger Jumper was always a mother figure. While she worked tirelessly to establish the Tribe, manage the newspaper, run the Health Department, write books about her life and timeless Seminole stories, she also fed and clothed countless children and ensured they attended school.

Mike Tiger recalled his aunt, the sister of his father Howard Tiger, catching children cutting school and countering their every excuse.

"The Tribe is just a big family. It always was and it still is," Mike Tiger said.

If the kids said they didn't have shoes to wear, she reached into her car and pulled a pair out. Every few weeks she'd park at a street corner, beep her horn and wait for children to gather around to receive clothes that she had collected from donations and sized specifically for them. In the mix were loads of canned goods and other staples,

♦ See BETTY MAE on page 8A



Eileen Soler

Family of the late Betty Mae Tiger Jumper pose March 19 at The Hamilton restaurant in Washington, D.C. following a National Women's History Project luncheon during which Jumper was honored along with 15 other women throughout the United States for contributions to public service and government.

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# Editorial

## Birthday number 72: Butterflies, J. Walker

• James E. Billie

March 20. On that morning I woke up, walked outside my chickee hut, sat down in a rocking chair on my porch and greeted the day. I thought my mind was playing with me when I looked out in my yard: There were hundreds of butterflies flying all over the place.

They were everywhere, even flying over my chickee hut. I thought this must be a special blessing for me – butterflies flying around on my birthday.

Then I realized that they were coming from the orange grove beside my chickee. The orange trees were in bloom and the familiar smell of orange blossoms filled the air. I suppose the butterflies were attracted to the flowers, but, yet for a brief moment, I thought the butterflies were there for me. LOL.

I have turned 72 years old. When I thought about that, I knew there were only 28 years until I hit 100 years old. If everything goes well, if there are no more strokes, no more gall bladder surgeries, no more back surgeries, I may be able to make it.

I started my birthday with a good ole friend of mine I met in 1965. His name is

Johnny Walker. Took a sip and then I washed it down with another friend of mine, Muscadine wine. Not Muscatel!

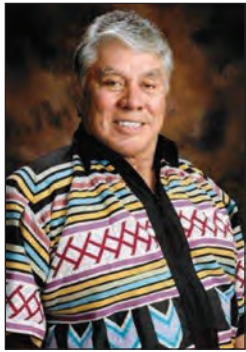
Later that day, during the evening, my family lit a cigarette lighter and sang the birthday song, with my dogs howling in the background. It was one of the funniest moments of my life. But I enjoyed it.

I know there are a few other people born on the same day I was and I would like to say, "Happy Belated Birthday" to you all. With all the physical problems I've gone through, I am limited to what I can do. No more wrestling alligators, no more flying helicopters and airplanes, no more walking the swamps like I used to. But the Seminole Tribe and life itself has treated me well.

For that, I thank you. And I hope you enjoy your birthday.

*Sho-naa-bish.*

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



Peter B. Gallagher

Milford Wayne Donaldson, president of the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Chairman James E. Billie sign a historic agreement March 24 on Harbour Island that will give the Seminole Tribe greater authority over its cultural places and resources.

## Seminole Tribe and mascots

• Stephanie Bowers Hiatt

I would like to continue the conversation regarding Native American mascots and Native American Tribes and offer my opinions. I am a citizen of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. My name is Stephanie Bowers Hiatt, and I was born on the reservation and raised in Florida until I was 18 years old when I moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota to attend college at the University of Sioux Falls.

The educational opportunities afforded to me because of my Native American heritage have been generous. Currently, I am working toward my doctorate of education through Hamline University. I am proud to call myself a Native American and feel honored that Florida State University chooses to use Seminoles as its mascot.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida and Florida State University have had a long-standing, great relationship. Currently at Florida State University, a reenactment is performed before football games. As written by NPR.org (Nov. 28, 2015), Osceola, one of the Seminoles' most iconic leaders is represented and enters the stadium wearing tribal patchwork with a "feathered, flaming spear in hand, on top of a galloping horse named Renegade." Upon approaching the 50-yard line, Osceola hurls the flaming spear among cheering football fans.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is known for being "The Unconquered Tribe" having never signed a peace treaty with the United States government. Seminole Tribe citizens are very proud of this fact and Florida State University understands this and celebrates it by having a life-size statue in front of their stadium titled "Unconquered."

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is called "The Unconquered Tribe" because between 1817 and 1858, the Seminoles fought three wars with U.S. troops. They never lost those battles, which they fought to a draw, and never declared surrender. Osceola was a military leader within the Tribe and he was determined to not leave Florida. As the story goes, during negotiations with the U.S. government, Osceola pushed

his way to the front of the meeting and put a knife through the peace treaty. I am very proud of my Tribe's history and heritage. This story of my "Unconquered" Tribe is very personal to me as well because my half-sister's last name is Osceola.

In recent years, the NCAA has attempted to remove the Seminole mascot from Florida State University. However, Seminole Tribe leaders are proud of the unconquered spirit that is symbolized by the representation of this mascot.

In fact, a former council member for the Tribe, Max Osceola, was quoted in the Sun-Sentinel, saying, "We never signed a peace treaty with the United States government, we're not about to roll over for the NCAA."

The relationship between the Seminole Tribe and the United States has been strenuous to say the least. For example, currently in Washington, D.C. at the Vietnam Memorial a statue stands representing the many different races who fought in Vietnam. Even though Native Americans were the largest minority group per capita who fought in Vietnam, a Native American is not represented on the statue. My father, Stephen Bowers, works for the Tribe and has been a liaison between the Tribe and the U.S. government for his entire career. He is currently working on the American Indian Vietnam Memorial Initiative (AIVMI) for the Seminole Tribe. If you're interested in reading more about this project, check out AIVMI.org.

What I find offensive is Andrew Jackson's picture on the \$20 bill because this is a man who is known for the Indian Removal Act and caused tens of thousands of Native Americans to leave their home and relocate during the Trail of Tears. Andrew Jackson had numerous chances to allow Native Americans to stay on their native land, but he rejected the Native American's wishes.

*Stephanie Bowers Hiatt is a second-year doctorate of education student at Hamline University. She has been married for 18 years and has three boys.*

## Historic agreement gives Seminoles cultural control

• Paul N. Backhouse

History will mark March 24, 2016 as the day the Seminole Tribe of Florida took a huge step forward in assuming greater authority over the cultural places and things Seminoles care about. At the Westin Tampa Harbour Island, Chairman James E. Billie added strength to Seminole sovereignty when he signed a unique agreement with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the independent agency of the United States' government that promotes the preservation, enhancement and productive use of the nation's historic resources.

Previously, decisions regarding American Indian cultural resources were made by federal agencies in Washington, D.C. except for the Seminole Tribe of Florida; that situation remains unchanged. But now, decisions regarding Seminole resources will be in Seminole hands and based on Seminole values.

To understand how this happened, we need to rewind time more than a decade. Since the establishment of the Seminole Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) by tribal resolution in 2001, THPO staff has been busily working toward one singular objective: to promote Seminole tribal sovereignty through protection of the Tribe's cultural heritage. We do this every day, working with community citizens, to identify the places and things that are important for future generations of the Tribe.

Our work puts us in contact with other departments involved with planning and development on the reservations. We coordinate with those departments to ensure that no places of cultural importance are impacted during the planning process. The trouble is that there are a huge number of non-tribal stakeholders required to sign off on any project, most of whom have never stepped foot on a Seminole reservation.

A trip to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians reservation several years ago demonstrated clearly the problem that Tribal citizens everywhere face: a frustrated planning director showed us a process whereby Tribal citizens had more than 100

forms to complete prior to getting a homesite on reservation. Clearly, the process was broken. Back in South Florida, Tribal citizens told the same story, sometimes waiting 10 years or more to receive authorization from federal agencies for a homesite.

Why does historic preservation matter in this process? The answer: review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is one of the processes that needs to take place as part of the application process for any on-reservation construction project. Authority to sign off on such reviews is retained by the federal agency that is permitting or funding the project – none of which have offices in Seminole country.

The Tribe must, therefore, complete a survey of the property and submit the resultant report to an agency for review and final authorization. Oftentimes, these reports sit on a desk somewhere, lost among the myriad of other reports requiring the attention of the agency official. In this system, delays are inevitable. The bottom line is that Tribal citizens have long wait times to get the housing and other projects they desperately need.

One of our primary goals is to work toward gaining greater control over the on-reservation process, giving greater authority over decision-making to the Tribal communities and government. We began work in 2009 on developing operational manuals of everything that we do, as the first step toward this goal. This was a laborious process, as no such manuals existed previously and there was no template to work from. Slowly but surely, a process emerged whereby on-reservation review projects could be tracked and the number of days for review tabulated. Once we had our processes in order, we began work on developing a Tribal Cultural Resource Ordinance that would put more control back in the hands of the Tribe.

Another step we have always looked toward was the ability to substitute federal provisions for Section 106 reviews with the Tribe's own Cultural Resource Ordinance. We knew that, theoretically, this was possible; however, only one Tribe to date (Narragansett Indian Tribe, Charleston,

Rhode Island) had achieved a similar outcome. Nonetheless, we continued with our work. By 2013, Tribal Council approved its own Cultural Resource Ordinance. In the meantime, the federal government, realizing that delays in tribal housing permitting were a big issue, passed the 2012 Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Home Ownership (HEARTH) Act. This act allowed the Tribe to adopt its own ordinances to govern leasing on tribal reservations.

For the THPO, the act simply passed Section 106 review obligations from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Working under the Tribal Cultural Resources Ordinance, we are very excited to have reduced the average project review time to 25.5 days in 2016 while maintaining a very high standard for the protection of important cultural sites and places. After two years of working closely with the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, we were finally ready to put an agreement in front of both the Seminole Tribal Council and the federal Advisory Council which would allow provisions of the Tribal Cultural Resource Ordinance to completely replace federal regulations for carrying out Section 106 reviews on reservations; an outcome that far exceeds what any other Tribe has ever accomplished.

Tribal Council unanimously approved the proposed agreement at the February 2016 Special Council Meeting at Big Cypress. The Advisory Council also approved the substitution by majority vote of its members in mid-March.

When the Chairman signed this historic agreement on Harbour Island on March 24, 2016, following an invocation by medicine man Bobby Henry, it represented a huge step forward: The Seminole Tribe of Florida can now look after its own resources and make the timely, efficient decisions that will ultimately affect its citizens.

*Paul N. Backhouse, Ph.D., RPA, is the Seminole Tribe of Florida Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.*

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# Community

A

## Another delay for Hendry FPL plant hearing

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**HENDRY COUNTY** — Florida Power & Light (FPL) was granted another delay by the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners for a final public reading of amendments to the county's comprehensive land use plan needed to pave the way for electrical power facilities on land adjacent to Big Cypress Reservation.

The last reading was to be presented March 8 but commissioners, citing ongoing discussions with landowners affected by the changes, voted instead to postpone the reading to April 12.

Three amendments likely to be passed include one that adds "electrical generating facility" as a new future land use category; one that adds a subarea policy specific to 3,127 acres next door to the Big Cypress Reservation; and one that changes the zoning on the 3,127 acres from agriculture to electrical generating facility on the county's comprehensive plan future land use map.

The continuance is the second delay in FPL's effort to tweak the language of the county land plan and ultimately allow power generating facilities whether solar, gas or other on FPL land immediately north of the reservation line through Deer Fence Canal along County Road 833.

Recent discussions with Tribe leaders have resulted in substantial modifications to previous amendment change petitions, according to documents filed with the county Feb. 22 prior to the rescheduled reading.

The most significant change is FPL's new plan to use the 3,127-acre area for solar power generation only, at least for 10 years. The solar panels and associated apparatus will be no higher than 20 feet tall and staged no less than 100 feet from County Road 833 and the north border of Big Cypress, according to documents.

A massive gas-powered electric plant — one of the largest in the United States — was originally planned for the site.

The power company also owns about 4,500 acres north of the proposed solar plant location flanked by several plots that still belong to McDaniel Ranch. During a Feb. 8 Big Cypress community meeting, FPL representatives used a map to illustrate that the original and larger plant, complete with three 15-story steam towers, would be moved to the northern site.

"We're committed to being a good neighbor in the communities we serve" read a handout provided by FPL to community residents. "Under the current draft agreement, FPL would limit future power generation on our southern property to low-profile solar facilities only." The handout also stated "FPL's potential natural gas-fueled power plant would be moved approximately 3 miles farther away."

County commissioners have so far sided with FPL against objections from environmentalists and Tribal citizens.

About a dozen protesters walked March 8 in front of the Clewiston city commission chambers where county commissioners met inside.

"They (commissioners) need to retire from their jobs if they think they represent any of us," said protester Samuel Tommie, a Tribal citizen and Big Cypress resident. "The fact that [FPL] will be polluting the water and destroying God's creation should be enough to stop them."

Commissioners did not discuss the issue but Hendry County Planning and Community Development Director Margaret Emblidge stated that the gas generation plant originally planned for the south property was off the table.

The name of the facility has also been changed from Hendry Next Generation Clean Energy Center to Hendry Solar Energy Center.

Still, concerned citizens, including Tommie, spoke publicly against the plant during a public comment period.

"You need to stop the rezoning and consider what is really happening. You will be opening the door and inviting the gas power plant to come in later on," Tommie said.

Ruddy Kijewsky, who represented Everglades Earth First, said the promise of solar power is not good enough.

"We need to remind people what industrial solar power will look like because it will still cut a swath through sensitive land. It will still be destructive," Kijewsky said.

But while ongoing discussions between FPL and Tribe officials have led to some hope for compromise, no mention of the north end property becoming home to a gas powered electric power plant is made in the amendment revisions.

The Tribe's struggle to block the power company from building near the reservation

◆ See FPL on page 5A

## Big Cypress cattle drive, rodeo honors the late Bert Frazier

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Honorary Trail Boss Bert Frazier was remembered fondly as a cattle owner, medicine man and church deacon during the 20th annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive & Rodeo on March 19 in Big Cypress.

Cattle owners were called cow hunters in the days of the open range and Frazier, 1898-1984, was one of the first.

"They had to chase cows in the woods," said Jonah Cypress, son of Junior Cypress, one of the first to help establish the Big Cypress cattle enterprise and for whom the cattle drive is named. "Today, we have them fenced in, but they were the ones who paved the way for us."

Those pioneers are honored annually with the cattle drive, which was created in 1997 by Paul Bowers, Richard Bowers and Moses Jumper Jr. President Mitchell Cypress said the idea stemmed from the state's Great Florida Cattle Drive in 1995 to commemorate the cattle industry. Cattle were brought to Florida by the Spaniards about 500 years ago.

"Tribal members have been in the cattle industry for centuries," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank. "In the 1700s they traded cattle with Cuba and the Bahamas. They were in international business before it was a term."

In Frazier's day in the 1940s, Big Cypress was 40,000 acres of open range with two or three pens. It would take days to round up cattle.

"This cattle drive is a way of honoring the founding group of cattle owners who got us started," Rep. Frank said. "Now we're one of the largest cattle producers in the country. If it wasn't for their perseverance, we wouldn't be where we are today."

President Cypress, grandson of the first Honorary Trail Boss Junior Cypress, remembered Frazier from his childhood in Big Cypress.

"He used to ride on an old military split Calvary saddle on a bay horse," President Cypress said. "I thought he was elderly but



Beverly Bidney

Gray skies and liquid sunshine do not halt the 20th annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive & Rodeo. Andre Jumper, at right, leads the drive March 19 through Big Cypress Reservation.

he was probably in his prime. He was quite a man and I'm proud the gentleman is being honored today."

Frazier had two sons, Robert and Henry Bert. Frazier's grandson Jimmie Bert participated in the cattle drive.

Frazier's nephew Billy Cypress said his uncle allowed children to fish in a lake near his home — mostly because the kids left

him with plenty of fish to eat. At one time he owned the only vehicle on the entire reservation — a truck with long running boards that people would hitch rides on while clinging for dear life. But he was also great about driving people to Immokalee for shopping and other needs.

"I remember him as a medicine man," Jonah Cypress said. "He used to doctor us.

He was a quiet man, a humble man."

By the 1970s, Frazier's cattle days were behind him. Frazier became a deacon at Big Cypress First Baptist Church and a healer in the Seminole ways.

"He was a well-respected man," President Cypress said. "We all looked up to him."

◆ See more CATTLE photos on page 5A

## Council Oak enlightens school band about musical namesake

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Members of the Cooper City High School band wind ensemble visited Hollywood Reservation on a recent February morning to sit under the canopy of the historic, revered Council Oak tree and ponder its greatness.

"Kids grew up playing under the tree. Once, it was hit by lightning and almost died ... it represents the undying life of the Tribe," Tiffany Cochran, a field technician for the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, told students during a brief presentation.

Cooper City High's band director

Chandler Wilson said he brought the students to the spot to "experience" the presence of the tree, learn about its place in Seminole history and use the newfound knowledge to better interpret and perform the symphonic piece "Council Oak" by contemporary composer David Gillingham.

"Musicians have to know what they are playing about to emotionally understand it. Being here, physically, makes it more monumental. It gives them an emotional connection," Wilson said.

Listed in the Tribal Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places, the tree was part of the original Seminole settlement in the early

1820s long before Hollywood existed. Held as a community meeting spot since the reservation was established as Dania Reservation in 1926, it became an official place for ceremonies in 1957 when the Tribe's constitution was signed in its shade.

Gillingham's 11-minute composition for band and wind ensemble, created to honor the Tribe and the Council Oak, was completed in 2001 and introduced publicly in 2002 by the Florida All-State Honor Band in Tampa.

Wilson said "Council Oak," a 13-stanza, 401-word poem written by Moses Jumper Jr. that personifies the tree's endurance and strength and inspired the symphonic piece, was read and discussed during band class.

The Cooper City teens presented the piece March 9 at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale during the District 15 High School Concert MPA South assessment of high school bands. On a scale of 1 to 6 in terms of performance difficulty, the composition is rated 6 by the Florida Bandmasters Association.

Wilson said Cooper City earned the highest (A+) scores in all areas of the assessment and will go on to compete at a statewide review in Vero Beach April 27-29.

Gillingham, professor of music composition at Central Michigan University, said he was commissioned in early 2001 by the Florida Bandmasters Association to write an original piece for band performances — but with the request, came a suggestion to research Seminole history.

A series of leads took Gillingham from a Jacksonville high school to a Hollywood historian, the Smithsonian Institute and the United States Printing Office in Washington, D.C., and to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at the Big Cypress Reservation. At the Museum, he came across Jumper's poem.

"When I found the poem and read it, I jumped for joy. I thought, 'Here is the whole story and it is all put down in poetry.' It was all lined up so well," Gillingham said in a telephone interview from his Michigan home.

Employing some recurring musical themes from Seminole songs recorded in the early 1930s and now held at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., Gillingham composed the piece to follow Jumper's poem. It begins with reflective percussion sounds that lead into Indian flutes. The composition develops and changes with intensity and reflective sound through poem text.

The music has been performed by high school and college bands nationwide, including the University of Minnesota, the Lakota West Symphonic Band from Lakota West High School in West Chester, Ohio, Moanalua High School in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Taravella High School in Coral Springs.

Guy Aloni, a senior percussionist in the band, said he was "intrigued" by the history of the Council Oak and surprised that it stands so royally and nearly untouched along Hollywood's urban State Road 7 corridor.

"Being here gives me a lot more context.



Eileen Soler

Historical photographs that depict the history of the Council Oak tree in Hollywood are displayed for band students of Cooper City High School to help prepare for a performance of a symphonic work that honors the tree, the Tribe and a poem called 'The Council Oak' written by Moses Jumper Jr.

◆ See COUNCIL OAK on page 5A

**◆ BOWLEGS TOWN**  
From page 1A

any artifacts. I want the history associated with this important site to be preserved and protected. I want to do the right thing out here. You folks tell me what I should do.”

Accompanying Justice Johns were Tribal citizens Quenton Cypress and Tucomah Robbins, Andrew Weidman from the Seminole Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Paul Backhouse and THPO chief data analyst Juan Cancel.

The subject of Bowlegs Town emerged on the Seminole radar three years ago when Silver River Museum Director Scott Mitchell borrowed several cases of artifacts unearthed on the Herring property to show his friend Mary Jene Koenes in Big Cypress. They brought the cases to Backhouse, who later discussed the site with retired South Florida archaeologist Brent Weisman.

Weisman, who has walked the site several times over the past 30 years, was also there to greet the Seminole visitors; he has advised SEARCH (Southeastern Archaeology Services), the Gainesville-based firm working the site.

“It is quite remarkable to find a private site this important which has an owner who is totally dedicated to historical research and preservation, who will protect the site from those who would plunder it for profit,” Weisman said. “It is no less than remarkable. I hate to say this, but more often than not, the opposite is usually the case.”

Both Weisman and Backhouse praised amateur archaeologist John Edwards, a surveyor by trade who has carefully documented the site with drawings and photographs and preserved each musket ball, tool, blade, bead, pot, etc. found on the site.

“How fortuitous it was that this man, with all of his local knowledge, was here in this area and able to connect and work with the owner so well,” said Backhouse, whose office regularly fields bad news regarding Seminole sites and artifacts on private property. “Every week we find out about people who ruin precious historical sites like this. And it is usually for greed, for personal profit.”

History is often both vague and incorrect regarding Seminoles named Bowlegs. What is known is that Bowlegs (referred to in modern times as “Billy” Bowlegs I) was a nephew of noted Seminole Chief Cowkeeper, brother of King Payne and uncle to Micanopy – all well-known to the U.S. military as important Seminole War leaders from the Alachua band situated in Paynes Prairie. In 1812, in retaliation for attacks on U.S. camps in south Georgia, a force led by Col. Daniel Newnan wiped out a Seminole camp at Paynes Prairie, killing leader Payne.

Bowlegs took over for his brother and eventually led the Seminoles 60 miles west to high ground just north of the Suwannee. There, more than 100 Seminoles settled in, building homes, hunting, farming, fishing, living life in the community eventually known to the enemy as Bowlegs Town.

Border conflicts between the United States and Spanish Florida and pressure from settlers moving south into Alabama, North Carolina and Georgia pushed more and more Southeastern Indians to join their brother Indians native to North Florida.

These migrations brought settlers and Indians to the brink of outright war. Jackson also stepped into the quarrel with a “cleansing” goal: to push Indians out of areas the whites wanted, recover runaway slaves and bring escaped criminals to justice. He roared into Spanish Florida, without congressional permission.

Secretary of State John Quincy Adams defended Jackson’s actions, describing Florida as “a derelict open to the occupancy of every enemy, civilized or savage, of the United States, and serving no other earthly purpose than as a post of annoyance to them.”

Leading a force of more than 3,000 troops, Jackson stormed across North Florida from Atlantic to Gulf, taking the “Seminole problem” head on. He burned all in his path, summarily executing captured Seminoles and plundering everything from tiny Negro camps to Bowlegs Town, the largest Seminole community in Florida,

starting the first of three Seminole Wars.

“To the Seminoles, it was all just one big, long war stretching over 40 years. There were no beginnings or endings of one war to another for the Seminoles,” Justice Johns said.

By the time Jackson reached Bowlegs Town, he found it already abandoned and ordered it looted for food and supplies.

“There wasn’t much there for 3,000 men,” Weisman said. “The Seminoles had taken their cows with them.”

Jackson torched the place, then left to search for the runaways.

The Indians who escaped were tracked down and captured and held at either Egmont Key (west of St. Petersburg) or Cat Island (south of Mississippi) until steamboats took the prisoners up the Mississippi River to join Cherokees, Choctaws, Creeks and other Southeastern Indians walking the “Trail of Tears” to Indian lands out west.

The Adams-Onis Treaty (signed in 1819 and ratified two years later) ceded Spain’s Florida territory to the United States. Further treaties cemented the deportation of Southeastern Indians.

Jackson’s attack on Bowlegs Town severed ancestral connections with indigenous people living to the north, separating off an enemy that the Americans would describe as “Seminole.”

Bowlegs eluded capture, doubled back from the coast and disappeared into the Central Florida jungles, where historians surmise he died in 1821.

Another Billy Bowlegs, who was 8 years old when Bowlegs Town was burned, emerged as a precocious leader alongside Osceola, Jumper, Wildcat and Sam Jones during the latter years of the Second Seminole War (1828-1842). Bowlegs’ 1855 ambush on 1st Lt. George L. Hartsuff’s Army detachment began the Third Seminole War, the unruly chief’s eventual “arranged” surrender and deportation fast-tracked the end of military conflicts between the few remaining Seminoles (hiding in the Big Cypress and Everglades swamps) and the U.S.

“There is so much history out here. This is a very special place to us Seminoles,” said Justice Johns, who was interviewed on camera for a Committee Films television documentary. “We hope this place and everything they find will always be protected and treated with proper respect, as they have been doing. This is a very good situation for historic preservation out here. Believe me, you don’t see this every day.”

Teams of archaeologists shoveled and sifted through small squared-off areas of land for historical items. Inside a nearby office building, display cases filled with artifacts found at the site cover desks and maps adorn walls.

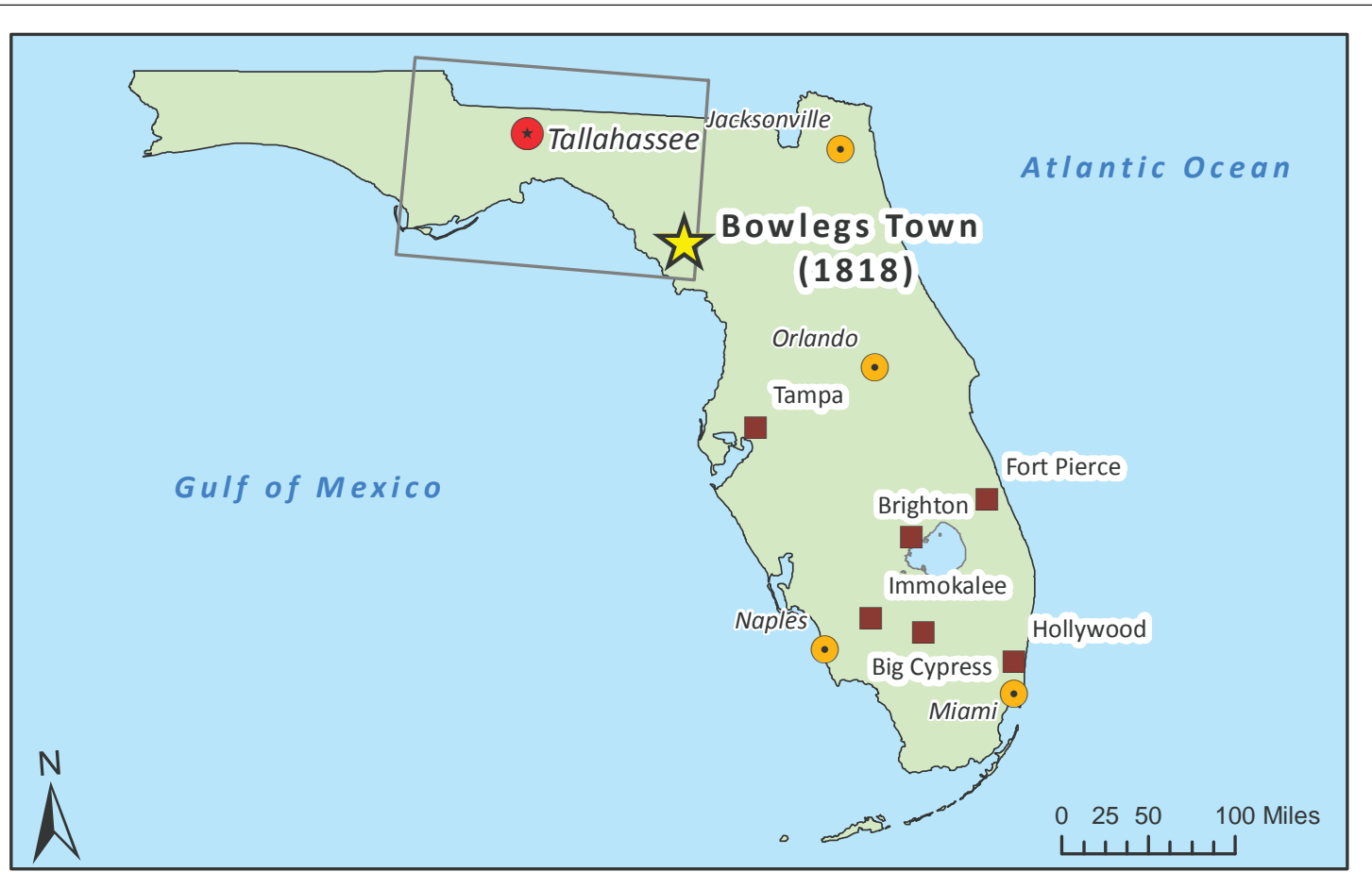
“I’ve never seen anything like this,” said Backhouse, who expressed the hope that someday the “amazingly well-preserved” artifacts would be housed in a public institution that can tell the significance of the Seminole story throughout Florida history.

Herring said that while the site “just fell into my lap ... it’s my responsibility to make the most of it. I want to make this site as good as it can be and shine a good light on the Seminoles, a people almost exterminated from their native lands.”

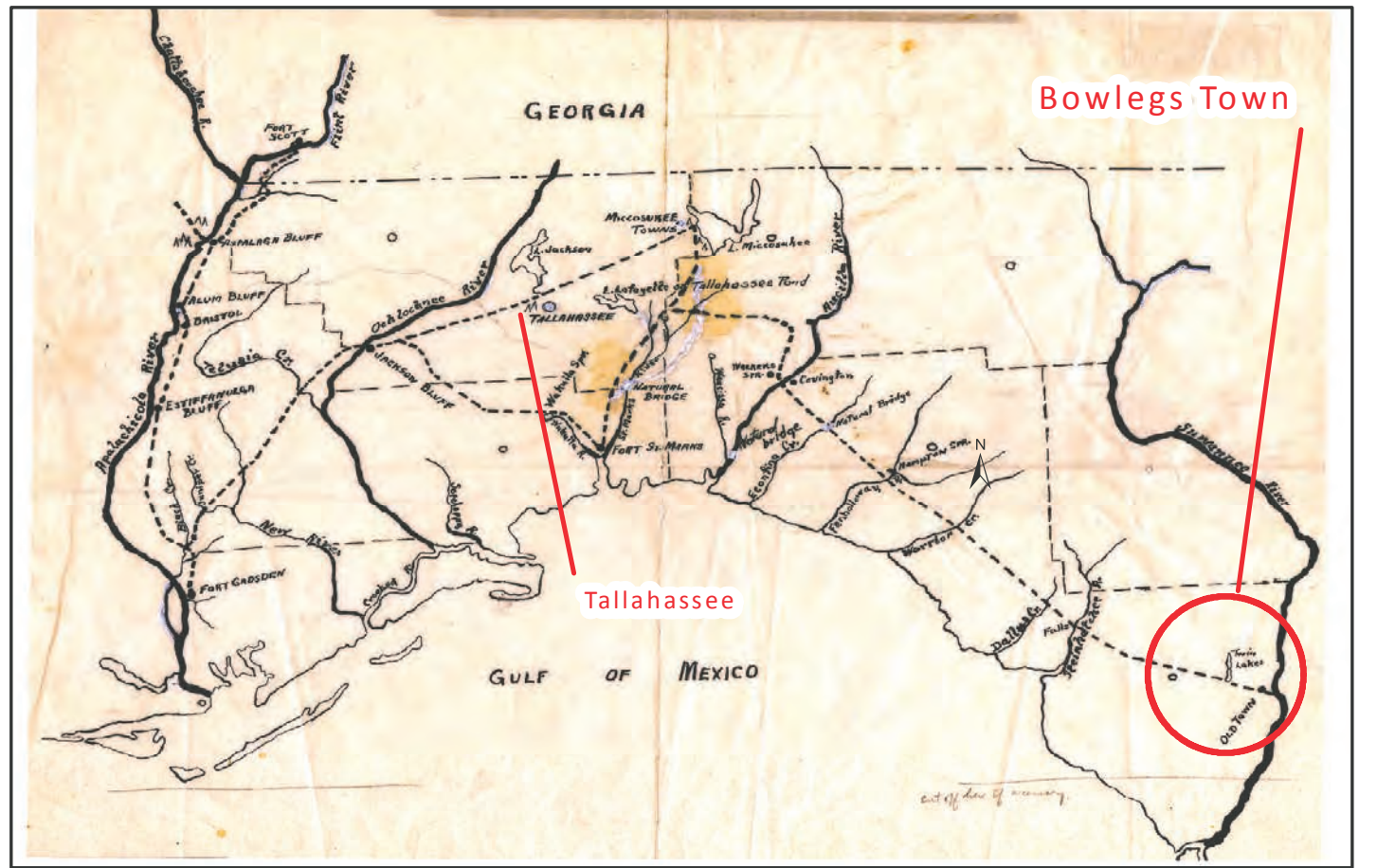
Herring hopes to oversee a complete archaeological project, an undertaking that could take years and cost a lot of money, said Weisman, who described a painstaking ordeal which may include the boring of test holes a few meters apart across the entire 80-acre site. “Don’t get me wrong. It can be done. And it can be done right.”

Herring hopes to form public-private partnerships in the creation of what he calls an “archaeology mitigation bank.” He described an infrastructure similar to current wetlands mitigation banks: a historic area of archaeological significance that finances restoration and/or preservation by using compensation provided by developers in other parts of Florida for unavoidable impacts to archaeological resources, including those permitted by government authority.

“Other states have this, but Florida does not,” Herring said. “This is something Florida really needs. How many other sites like Bowlegs Town are there out there, threatened with destruction?”



Top Map: Present-Day Map of Florida, Displaying Seminole Reservations and Major Cities  
Bottom Map: 1818 Boyd's Map of Jackson's Eastern Route in Northern Florida



Maps Provided by STOF THPO - Archaeometry Section



Peter B. Gallagher

Local archaeologist John Edwards, right, explains his artifact labeling system to Tribal citizens Quenton Cypress, Tucomah Robbins and Chief Justice Willie Johns.



Peter B. Gallagher

On site at Bowlegs Town, archaeologist Brent Weisman, left, answers questions from landowner Dale Herring, THPO chief data analyst Juan Cancel, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Paul Backhouse and Chief Justice Willie Johns.



Peter B. Gallagher

One of several display cases shows artifacts unearthed by archaeologist John Edwards at Bowlegs Town in the past few years.

# Eighty-mile Tamiami Trail trek conveys Everglades awareness

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**TRAIL** — More than 40 protesters walked an 80-mile stretch across Tamiami Trail from Miami to Naples March 20-25 to step up efforts for protecting and preserving the Florida Everglades.

Carrying signs and banners, demonstrators were out to spread awareness for current hot topic issues before lawmakers that could bring an expansion of oil fields and fracking; a bicycle roadway that would cut through native camps and sensitive lands; permission for amateur archaeologists to collect artifacts from culturally sensitive sites; and rules that would hinder Native Americans from gathering plants for medicine and shelter.

"We can't stop protesting. We have to stay persistent because once we stop talking

and walking, the people who want those things to happen will think we gave up," said Miccosukee citizen Betty Osceola, one of the organizers of the walk.

The group marched through seven national and state parks and other designated natural lands. Stops at key locations along the way were planned for protest rallies and press conferences.

Several Miccosukee Tribe and Seminole Tribe citizens; Bobby C. Billie, of the Original Miccosukee Seminole Nation Aboriginal Peoples; and concerned environmental activists and South Florida residents participated.

Leading the demonstration along the shoulder of the two-lane highway were Seminole citizen Samuel Tommie and Ishmael Golden Eagle Bermudez, an independent Native American from Miami who carried the Original Miccosukee

Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples' flag.

"You are here on this journey because you say you believe that people and nature need you," Billie told the walkers March 23 during a break at Monument Lake. Some protesters rested with their blistered feet wrapped in duct tape.

The site marks the spot where in 1936 about 300 Seminoles led by Josie Billie and Corey Osceola met with local and state leaders in the midst of the Great Depression. The gathering was called to discuss how the government could help assist the Natives "in those trying times."

According to a memorial sign erected at the site in 1976, the Indians replied, "Just leave us alone."

Betty Osceola, of the Panther Clan, said the message is the same today.

"We just want to live here. Whenever I come here I feel the heartbeat of everyone before me and I get emotional," Osceola said. "We value the life of the animals, the trees, the plants, the sky and each other."

Seminole citizen Ted Billie, who lives in Trail, said the environmental issues threaten all of Florida but will affect Tribal citizens in their own backyards. Most Seminole, Miccosukee and independent traditionalists still fish and hunt for food and collect plants for medicine and shelter.

"We're just trying to save what's left for future generations," he said.

Plans for the bicycle roadway, called the River of Grass Greenway, show the nearly 80-mile stretch would pass in front of Billie's home. It calls for public safety amenities that include turning lanes, restrooms and street lights.

Billie is concerned that the roadway, meant to bring businesses and sightseers to the area, will also attract gawkers.

"Our families are not tourist attractions. That's too much," Billie said.



Miccosukee and Seminole Tribe citizens march with environmental activists March 23 during a six-day, 80-mile walk across Tamiami Trail to protest changes that threaten creatures, plants, water and lives in the Everglades.

## More CATTLE photos from page 3A



Andre Jumper rides his horse into the midpoint break location March 19 during the Junior Cypress Cattle Drive & Rodeo.



Horses slurp up water during the midpoint break of the Junior Cypress Cattle Drive & Rodeo in Big Cypress. The 20th annual event paid tribute to the late Bert Frazier as Honorary Trail Boss. Frazier, 1898-1984, was a cattle owner, medicine man and church deacon in Big Cypress.



Hard working dogs corral the herd of cattle in a pasture during the midpoint break of the Junior Cypress Cattle Drive & Rodeo in Big Cypress.



Eileen Soler

Tribal citizen Samuel Tommie stands on the steps of the Clewiston commission chambers and speaks out against plans by Hendry County and Florida Power & Light to build electrical energy plants near Big Cypress Reservation.

## FPL From page 3A

has been ongoing since 2011 when the county issued an ordinance that allowed the plant.

FPL and the county argued for job creation, increased tax revenue and future electric power needs based on Hendry's plans for community growth and development.

The Tribe, environmentalists, local citizens and historians countered that the massive plant would interrupt or destroy endangered wildlife and plants; culturally sensitive property; and the quality of air, water and the night sky.

Subsequent court rulings deemed that plans for neither the power plant nor the ordinance passed by the commission were in agreement with the comprehensive land plan anyway.

In March 2015, FPL submitted three comprehensive land plan amendments to address ambiguous language and in July

2015 the county commissioner moved the process forward by sending the amendment changes to Tallahassee for state review.

Several state agencies, including the Department of Environmental Protection, Wildlife Conservation Commission and Department of Education were required to comment on the issue. Only one responded negatively. The Southwest Regional Planning Council recommended that the project meet Dark Skies lighting guidelines and firmly suggested that FPL and the Tribe negotiate ways to lessen other environmental effects.

Fort Myers resident Lex Hood, who has been a friend of the Seminole Tribe since 1960, said he traveled more than an hour to attend the county meeting in Clewiston.

"There is so much land in Hendry County, why does the power company have to have a plant abut right next to the reservation," he asked. "We could have a problem like in Flint, Michigan if politicians and corporations don't look to the future and make plans for what could ultimately happen."

## COMPACT From page 1A

back into the hands of Tallahassee lawmakers: Gov. Rick Scott could call legislators back to the Capitol for special session or the issue can be reconsidered in 2017.

Certainly, gaming in Florida will be argued in court.

The Tribe and state have both filed federal lawsuits, each claiming that the other is incorrect over whether blackjack games should have continued, and continue still, after the 2010 compact expired last year. The Tribe maintains that the state breached the compact agreement regarding blackjack by allowing some Miami-Dade and Broward gaming venues to offer electronic blackjack and baccarat after the compact expired.

However, under IGRA, the state was required by law to renegotiate and ratify a

new compact — which it did not.

Another Florida Supreme Court case argues that slot machines should be allowed at a Gadsden County horse track west of Tallahassee simply because voters of Gadsden voted for it.

If the Supreme Court finds on the side of Gadsden voters, gambling could open up in five other counties where voters have also voted in favor of gaming at local parimutuels.

Under all circumstances, no compact means the state will reap no revenue share but gaming will continue at all Seminole venues.

The Tribe and state have both asked for a delay in the Supreme Court case tentatively set for July, while plans to expand the Tribe's gaming facilities, hotels and related properties are uncertain.

"Still, Tribal members should be happy; live happy. We have come very far in a short time and we will stay the course," President Cypress said.

## AMENDMENT From page 1A

requested the change. Tribal Secretary LaVonne Rose submitted the request to the BIA, which approved the election on Jan. 6.

Since the election was approved, Wilson traveled about three times each week to community meetings and senior centers on every reservation to register voters and

gain feedback on the election.

Votes will be counted by the BIA and the results announced on April 12.

"It's important that people understand why we're doing this so the end result is what the majority of people wanted," Wilson said. "That way it's fair."

Ballots should be mailed to: Seminole Tribe of Florida Secretarial Election Board, P.O. Box 817570, Hollywood, FL 33081.

## COUNCIL OAK From page 3A

When I heard the music and read the poem I thought the tree would be in the Everglades," Guy said. "Now I know how significant it is and now I can know better how to play the music — where and how to put the sound of the cymbal crash."

Ariana Malian, a senior saxophonist, said she was in awe of the tree.

Knowing the poem brought her more understanding about the Tribe and what the tree represents.

"The Tribe's survival itself is a miracle,

but to come here and see the tree is to see Florida history. It does have a life of its own; there is depth to it," Ariana said. "It's rare that a random thing that we see every day would have such significance."

She referred to the line in the poem, "Some nations and trees have fallen in their attempt to grow, perhaps defeated, trodden and weakened to a slow. But in years we have faced the storm and the rain, stood above the flood as in stature we'd gain," as emotional.

"It is hard to display such a rich history in an 11-minute song," Ariana said, "but if we work to understand it, we can do it justice."



Eileen Soler

Cooper City High School band members sit in the shade of the historic Council Oak tree in Hollywood during an educational lecture about the tree by the Tribal Historic Preservation Office. The gathering was staged for the students to understand the significance of the tree and prepare them to perform a symphonic piece called 'Council Oak,' which was created in 2001 to honor the Tribe, the tree and a poem about the tree written by Moses Jumper Jr.

# Parade launches 2016 Chalo Nitka Festival

**STAFF REPORT**

**MOORE HAVEN** — More than 500 spectators lined sidewalks along Avenue J in Moore Haven on March 5 to cheer for a mile-long stream of marching bands, dignitaries, fancy floats and cowboys and cowgirls on horseback at the Chalo Nitka parade.

The spectacle marked the second day of the 2016 Chalo Nitka Festival, a 68-year tradition started in 1949 to celebrate the asphalt paving of the street. These days,

Chalo Nitka, which means “day of the big bass” in Creek, also features nearly a week of competitive events and activities that include a bass fishing tournament, a youth livestock show and two nights of rough and tumble rodeo.

Seminole participation has always been part of the celebration. Alligator wrestling, Seminole clothing contests, craft sales by Seminole artists, and free tastings of sofkee, frybread and gar cooked over a chickee fire are part of the tradition.



Eileen Soler

Sandy Billie marches with Seminole pride March 5 in the Chalo Nitka parade in Moore Haven.



Eileen Soler

Arrow Johns represents as Tiny Miss Glades County Women's Club while she rides in the Chalo Nitka parade in Moore Haven.



Eileen Soler

Candy and lollipops are handed out merrily by Tribal citizens to spectators along the Avenue J route of the Chalo Nitka parade in Moore Haven.



Eileen Soler

Miss Brighton Krysta Burton, left, and her sister, Jr. Miss Brighton Leilani Burton, represent Seminole royalty in the Chalo Nitka parade March 5 in Moore Haven.

## Unusual paintings of Seminoles on display at Arcadia gallery

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**ARCADIA** — The late artist Guy LaBree has inspired dozens of Florida artists. His richly-colored, religiously researched and painstakingly painted Seminole Indian scenes and Florida wildlife pieces capture the beauty and drama in stories of the Seminole and the plight of Florida endangered species.

In addition to LaBree's inspiration, local artist Elise Zarli has used LaBree's own brushes and paints on a series of paintings based on black-and-white photographs of

Seminole Indians from the first half of the 20th century.

“She puts color into portions of the black-and-white images that greatly enhance the dramatics of the scenes depicted,” said Mac Martin, who opened his Arcadia gallery for Zarli to exhibit 20 of her paintings of Seminoles, all completed since LaBree's passing, at 73, on Jan. 1, 2015.

Martin's gallery is located at 207 E. Magnolia St. in Arcadia. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. Those who wish to visit weekends or other times can make an appointment by calling 863-494-2100.

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# Months of work result in show ring success

**BEVERLY BIDNEY**  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The Brighton 4-H barn buzzed with activity March 10 as 88 youth showed animals to a packed house at the Seminole Indian 4-H Show & Sale.

The show and subsequent sale were the culmination of months of hard work and commitment by the 4-H'ers, who have cared for steer since last summer and hogs since fall. The 4-H program teaches youth how to raise livestock and send them to market.

Children join the 4-H Cloverbud program at age 5 and learn to care for small animals such as hamsters, chickens, rabbits, ducks, puppies and parakeets. By 8, they may take on the responsibility of hogs, and at 10 they can raise steer.

Alyssa Gonzalez has spent more than half her life as a 4-H'er, most recently in the heifer program. This year she showed a 2-year-old bred heifer and a cow-calf pair, no easy feat for the diminutive but tough 13-year-old. Alyssa also balanced school and softball with her 4-H responsibilities.

"Showing heifers is good because you

can start your own herd," said Alyssa, a Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School seventh-grader. "It's easier than showing a steer, which you only have for so long. You have the heifer for three years and you get to know each other."

During the three-year heifer program, participants show a yearling in the first year, a bred heifer in the second and a cow-calf pair in the third year.

Six girls showed heifers this year, the largest group to date, said Melissa Gopher, heifer program leader. Many of the bred heifers were artificially inseminated with Salacoa seed stock, she said.

Brianna Bowers, 14, showed her first heifer this year after working with hogs for several years. She wanted a change and looked forward to the three-year commitment. She worked hard to get it up to 1,000 pounds, taught it to walk on a lead and groomed it diligently.

The process also taught Dayra Koenes, 15, more.

"It teaches you responsibility and patience," said the Clewiston High School sophomore. "It matures you a lot. My friends think it's cool, but it's not their lifestyle. They are as mature as me, but not as responsible."

Kalgary Johns, 18, a senior at Moore Haven High School, participated in her last show. Her 1,261-pound steer took first in its class.

"I'm going to miss showing; it's a lot of fun," she said. She has raised 4-H animals since age 8. "It also teaches you responsibility since you have to work with them every day to break them. But it doesn't get in my way. I like it."

In the show ring, judge Kyle Mendes, a University of Florida graduate student studying meat science, critiqued the steer.

"There are lots of good parts and pieces," he said. "The balance and structure is there. You can see they put in the hard work, time and effort."

Oinks and squeals resonated in the hog barn as youth tended animals and waited for their turn in the show ring.

Illiana Robbins, 10, sat with her



Beverly Bidney

Alyssa Gonzalez leads her Grand Champion yearling heifer around the show ring during the 4-H show March 10 in Brighton. The 16-year-old has plans to take over her grandfather Junior Cypress' cattle brand in Big Cypress.

## 2016 Seminole Indian 4-H Show & Sale winners

### Heifers

Grand Champion Heifer: Ahnie Jumper, Big Cypress  
Reserve Grand Heifer: Morgan Yates, Brighton

### Steers

Grand Champion Steer: Nick Andrews, Big Cypress

Reserve Grand Steer: Priscilla Alvarado, Immokalee  
Senior Showmanship: Lahna Baker, Brighton  
Intermediate Showmanship: Harmony Cypress, Big Cypress  
Junior Showmanship: Jalee Wilcox, Big Cypress

### Swine

Grand Champion Swine: Illiana Robbins, Big Cypress  
Reserve Grand Swine: Lavin Billie, Big Cypress  
Senior Showmanship: Camryn Thomas, Brighton  
Intermediate Showmanship: Carlee Billie, Big Cypress  
Junior Showmanship: CeCe Thomas, Brighton

15-year-old Camryn Thomas as she tried to get her Hampshire hog up to the minimum required show weight.

"Two weeks ago he was only 199 pounds," said the Lake Placid High School sophomore. "I had to push it to get him to eat and get him to the magic number, 230."

The hog weighed in at 247 pounds, and Camryn's efforts earned her the Swine Senior

Showmanship title.

While the youth learn to care for animals and prepare them for market, they also learn the business of livestock. They carefully record each expense so when the animal sells they know their profit.

All 40 hogs and 25 steers were sold March 11 and the 4-H'ers were pleased with the prices, Hayes said.



Beverly Bidney

Lavin Billie shows his Reserve Grand Swine as judge Kendall Vierra points out the animal's winning attributes during the annual 4-H show in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Brianna Bowers brushes her yearling heifer before the start of the Seminole Indian 4-H show in Brighton. It was her first year showing a heifer; for the last three years, she showed hogs.



Beverly Bidney

Illiana Robbins sits and shares a loving cuddle with her Grand Champion Swine before the 4-H show on March 10 in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Jobe Johns shows his steer around the show ring at the annual 4-H show in Brighton. The 1,339-pound steer took second in its class.



Beverly Bidney

A group of 4-H'ers show their hogs at the annual 4-H show March 10 in Brighton. The show and subsequent sale were the culmination of months of hard work and commitment by the 4-H'ers, who raised and prepared the animals for market. On the night of the sale, March 11, all the animals were sold.

# Traveling exhibits: The Seminole story on the move

SUBMITTED BY SIOBHAN MILLAR  
 Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Long before Disney World, Universal Studios and other theme parks became popular tourist destinations there were "tourist camps."

Forerunners of today's attractions, tourist camps were located in Miami, Silver Springs and other locations throughout Florida. They included Musa Isle (1919); Coppinger's Tropical Gardens & Pirate Cove Indian Village (1911); Tropical Hobbyland (1930s); Seminole Indian Village (c. 1935); and Blind Pass Seminole Village (1930).

Not unlike the attractions of today that seek to capture one's imaginations of foreign environments and magical lands, the early attractions brought the "wildness" of the Florida frontier up close. The attractions emerged at the time the Florida Everglades landscape was undergoing significant changes impacted by early development. Heavy dredging equipment marred the serenity; waterways and traditional hunting grounds were replaced with roadways.

The way of Seminole life was interrupted and the people found themselves caught between two worlds – a world of tradition and a world of transition. In the world of transition, tourism provided the Seminoles with an economic alternative for the loss of traditional resources. Exposure to the tourist industry provided Seminoles with unexpected, transitional paths to self-governance.

A new traveling exhibit, "Postcards & Perception: Culture as Tourism," developed by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Seminole Traveling Exhibits Program (STEP), examines the role tourism played in developing the entrepreneurial successes of the Seminole Tribe.

To tell the story of the Seminoles' adaptive nature, the exhibit features enlarged images of original postcards from the early 20th century. The postcards capture moments from the late 1800s through the 1960s. Images depict the dredging and draining of the Everglades, Seminole and Miccosukee tourist camps and villages, the use of traditional arts and crafts, and the leaders who emerged from the camps to promote self-governance and recognition for Florida Tribes.

The postcards also address the preconceived notion of what "Indian" meant

to non-Seminoles in the early 20th century. Seminoles crafted items with generalized "Indian" motifs that were adopted for marketing purposes. These new beginnings helped Seminoles preserve and accentuate cultural uniqueness.

Similarly, a new mobile cattle exhibit currently under development also addresses the entrepreneurial spirit of the Seminole people and the 500-year tradition of cattle herding.

Quenton Cypress, who is a Big Cypress resident and participant in the Tribe's Work Experience Program, is assisting in the creation of the cattle exhibit. In the process, Cypress has reconnected with the Seminole cattle tradition and become more aware of his family's heritage and the adversities they eventually overcame.

"It helps me see how hard we had to work to get to the point where we are today. Looking at how far we've come along since then, is truly phenomenal," Cypress said.

But capturing the history and stories of cattle herding is best left to the voices of cattle-keepers. It is central to the exhibit.

Oral history coordinator Eric Griffiths and Cypress are assembling the stories.

When finished, the mobile exhibit will provide an overview of the STOF cattle industry via a timeline, maps, oral histories and interactive components that could include a "Toss in a Side of Beef" game. The cattle exhibit could be completed by fall. To book either of the STEP additions or for more information about all STEP exhibits, contact exhibits coordinator Siobhan Millar at 863-902-1113, ext. 12227.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

A graphic rendering shows examples of the double-sided banners. A separate topic is featured on the reverse side allowing for viewer approach from either side.

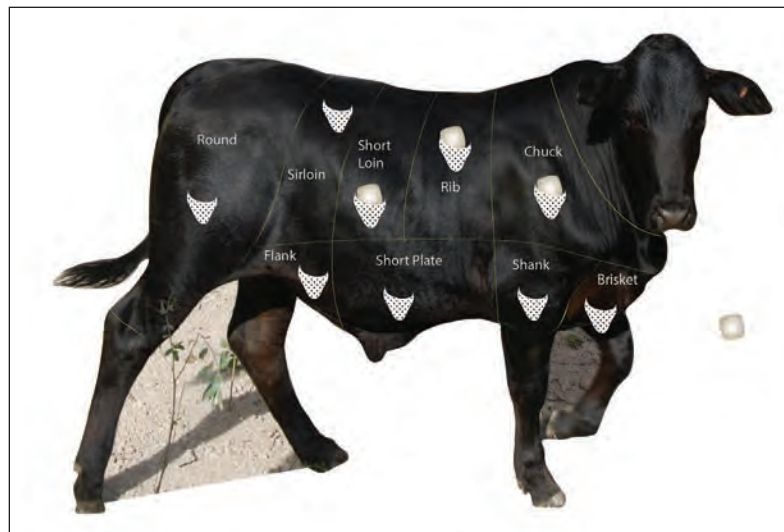


Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

'Toss in a Side of Beef' game. One to three people can play, and each gets three chances to toss a token into baskets with different points. The person with the highest number of points wins.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

A graphic rendering depicts kiosk stations with trapeze-style banners and listening station. Each station is equipped with a wooden top. The Oral History kiosk provides an audio tour with excerpts from Tribal citizens reflecting upon their experiences or those of family members. Topics include an Introduction by Howard Tommie, We Shall Never Forget, The Tourist Camps, Seminole Indian Village, Alligator Wrestling, Patchwork, Beadwork, Dolls and Baskets and Cory Osceola.

## BETTY MAE

From page 1A

especially Spam, coffee, sugar and flour.

"I remember going 'shopping' for clothes before the first day of school. We'd all get two pairs of pants, six pairs of socks, a pair of shoes and two shirts. She made our world a better place," Mike Tiger said.

Suzan Shown Harjo, a Cheyenne and Hodulgee Muscogee nations activist and journalist, was the only other Native American honored at the Washington, D.C. event. Harjo was noted for helping create the National Museum of the American Indian, which opened in 2004; for serving as a congressional liaison under President Jimmy Carter; and for her tireless efforts that led to the passage of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978.

She is also credited with regaining more than 1 million acres of land for Native Tribes and for the renaming of Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument in 1991, which had been known previously as the location of Custer's Last Stand.

Harjo, who in 2014 received a Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama, accepted the honor from MacGregor but shared credit for her greatest achievements with all those who worked with her.

"When I was a little girl I would get awards for things I did immediately, like a

ribbon after spelling better or being able to swim a certain distance ... those were things I strived for, planned, trained for and accomplished on my own," Harjo said. "Then somehow I got awards for conglomerate work that now I must accept for the greater collective."

According to the National Women's History Project (NWHF) website, the organization was founded in 1980 to spotlight historic accomplishments by women and to lobby Congress to name March as National Women's History Month.

Currently, NWHF is the national clearinghouse for multicultural information on women's historical achievements.

Annually, the group collects nominations nationwide for women to honor at the yearly luncheons. MacGregor said this year's nominations were whittled down to 16 honorees via four vetting cycles.

"This is about what women do and would do for free, in a country that does not give enough honor to the ones who did the work," MacGregor said. "This is where we can say we are grateful to women like Betty Mae."

MacGregor used Betty Mae Tiger Jumper's own quote to wrap up the presentation: "I proved I could do a lot of things. People also knew I do what I say I'll do."



Eileen Soler

Relatives of the late Betty Mae Tiger Jumper (from left) Laquita Jumper, Moses Jumper Jr., Judy Tiger and Mike Tiger pose March 19 for a photograph during a National Women's Project luncheon in Washington, D.C. at The Hamilton restaurant. Jumper, one of the most formidable women in Seminole history, was honored among 15 other women during the National Women's History Month event.

Betty Mae Jumper

## Wisdom from the past

# Grand opening of tribal hotel

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the February 9, 1987 issue of The Seminole Tribune.

I was overjoyed as I stood and watched as the ribbon was cut at the start of the official opening of the Tampa Sheraton.

The second-day ceremony was held on Jan. 22 and 23. Many people attended. Among those present were USET chiefs and chairmen for a USET meeting and Housing Committee meeting. Also Jr. Miss and Miss Seminole were present.

BIA Assistant Secretary of Interior Ross Swimmer was also on hand. He was a speaker at the luncheon. He was able to see for himself how tribal revenues were being put to use to further the economic development of the Tribe.

The motel is a beautiful structure with a first-class décor – one the Seminoles can be proud of.

There have been many things said about our Chairman, but I have to hand it to him. James Billie has brought the Seminole Tribe a long way with so many improvements on the reservations.

On employment and education, back in the 1940s many of us tried to find work. We worked hard for a few dollars a day.



When I look at the jobs today, I wish I'd have had such opportunities in my younger days. I would be rich today – living in ease and going fishing.

Wake up young people, take advantage and make the best of the opportunities coming your way.

After the grand opening, a budget meeting was called by the Chairman for all department heads and Council people.

The meeting, held in Marco Island, was called to review and revise the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

The main outcome was tighten up and try to make ends meet.

# Hah-pong-ke: Kenny Chesney

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
 Special Projects Reporter

When country music superstar Kenny Chesney decided to hold a free concert in August 2014 to promote his new album "The Big Revival," there was no doubt where he would stage the event.

The 10th cut on the LP is a rocking country drinking song titled "Flora-Bama," a tribute to the world-famous Panhandle drinking establishment that lies in both Florida and Alabama and drew an estimated 30,000 fans for the free concert. Penned by Chesney and songwriters Ross Copperman and David Lee Murphy, the song has since become a regular on jukeboxes throughout the South.

The song takes off like a dragster, the quintessential country bar party tune: "There's ball caps, photographs, dollar bills and bras/ License plates from every state nailed up to the wall/ Spring breakers, heart breakers, already getting loud/ Talladega's on the big screen, don't it make you proud?"

Around the middle of the song, a bridge appears including the word "Seminoles:" "Got your Who Dat?, Go Vols, Roll Tide and the Seminoles/ Old Dogs, War Eagle, green-eyed Gator, that's barely legal."

Those references to college sports mascots include the Florida State Seminoles, the Vols (Tennessee Volunteers), Roll Tide (Alabama Crimson Tide), Old Dogs (Georgia Bulldogs), War Eagle (Auburn Tigers' battle cry) and Gator (University of Florida Gators).

Most reviewers described the song as a return to the 47-year-old Chesney's traditional country rock roots or "vintage Kenny Chesney; a feel-good, live, free country rock anthem similar to past hits like 'Young' and 'Keg in the Closet.' There's not even a hint of hip-hop beats or drum machines. The song is plastered electric guitars and real drumming, with a clean production mixing it together

nically," summed up Derek Hudgin in the blog Country Perspective.

Opened in 1964, the down-home Flora-Bama waterfront bar/grill offers oysters, pub grub and live music. In September 2004, Hurricane Ivan damaged the Flora-Bama, causing the bar to operate out of tents, trailers and plywood shacks for the next six years until the main bar was rebuilt.

The bar is most famous for the Interstate Mullet Toss, where individuals compete on the beach throwing a mullet (the fish not the hairdo) from a 10-foot circle in Florida across the state line into Alabama. Additional events include the Polar Bear Dip, the Mullet Man Triathlon, Super Bowl Chili Cook-off, Shindig on the Sand, Flora-Bama Fishing Rodeo and Bulls on the Beach. The Flora-Bama is also home to the Frank Brown International Songwriters Festival, one of the oldest and largest songwriters' festivals in the world.

Chesney, a four-time Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year (2004, 2006-08), also sang about the Flora-Bama in "Coastal." Others who have used the bar for their songwriting muse include Jimmy Buffett ("Bama Breeze," "Rag Tip Day"); Chris Young ("Lighters in the Air"); JJ Grey & Mofro; ("Florabama"); and Blake Shelton ("Good Ole Boys").



Photo courtesy of Kenny Chesney publicity

Flora-bama Kenny Chesney concert.

## 'Flora-Bama' lyrics

Sitting here at the Flora-Bama  
 Bout to open up a big old can of good times,  
 unwind  
 Fall in and out of love in the same night  
 In the same night  
 There's ball caps, photographs, dollar bills  
 and bras  
 License plates from every state nailed up to  
 the wall  
 Spring breakers, heart breakers, already  
 getting loud  
 Talladega's on the big screen, don't it make  
 you proud?

Sitting here at the Flora-Bama  
 Bout to open up a big old can of good times,  
 unwind  
 Fall in and out of love in the same night  
 Can't say I got a whole lot of cares  
 I'm in the Redneck Riviera  
 It's getting crazy, getting hammered  
 Sitting right here at the Flora-Bama  
 At the Flora-Bama

Sitting here at the Flora-Bama  
 Bout to open up a big old can of good times,  
 unwind  
 Fall in and out of love in the same night  
 Can't say I got a whole lot of cares  
 I'm in the Redneck Riviera  
 It's getting crazy, getting hammered  
 Sitting right here at the Flora-Bama  
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 Bout to open up a big old can of good times,  
 unwind  
 Fall in and out of love in the same night  
 Can't say I got a whole lot of cares  
 I'm in the Redneck Riviera  
 It's getting crazy, getting hammered  
 Sitting right here at the Flora-Bama  
 At the Flora-Bama

There's hot time, low tide, years of history  
 Hurricanes with different names that almost  
 took the beach  
 The sign that says "live your life" just for  
 inspiration  
 Gonna raise a lot of hell tonight in the, in the  
 no shoes nation

Don't it feel good?  
 Don't it feel good?  
 Yeah, don't it feel good?  
 At the Flora-Bama  
 Sitting here at the Flora-Bama  
 Sitting here at the Flora-Bama



# Health



Beverly Bidney

Young chefs examine ingredients for healthy meatballs during the March 15 youth chef program at the Hollywood community culture kitchen.

## New chef program serves up food, fun for Hollywood youth

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Hungry Hollywood youth learned safe cooking techniques and the value of nutritious diets during a six-week youth chef program offered in the Community Culture Kitchen on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

A collaboration between the Health Department, Boys & Girls Club and Community Culture Department, it is designed for kids who do not want to participate in afterschool sports. The budding chefs dished out rave reviews for the pilot program.

"We have been doing cooking programs with the seniors and the preschool," said Suzanne Davis, Allied Health Program manager. "Here, we showcase Seminole chefs and the kids are really engaged."

Guest chefs, all who have graduated culinary school, cook side by side with the youth during the program. Chefs include Emma Cypress, Jimmy Osceola, Jennifer Billie and Lorraine Posada.

Spaghetti with chicken meatballs and zucchini was on the March 15 menu created by chef Cypress, who graduated in 2008 from Johnson & Wales University with a bachelor's degree in culinary nutrition.

"I like to integrate cooking class with nutrition so they know that healthy meals are beneficial for their health," said Cypress, who works at the Miccosukee Wellness Center. "I want the kids to know food can be medicine."

According to dietary guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Agriculture, healthy eating is one of the best ways to avoid chronic diseases like heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure. The guidelines recommend eating plenty of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, fat free or low fat dairy, lean protein and oils.

The program coincided with National Nutrition Month, created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics to emphasize healthy



Beverly Bidney

Chef Emma Cypress shows Jennie Osceola, Naleah Billie and the rest of the youth chef class the proper way to cut an onion.

eating and fitness.

"About three-fourths of the population is not meeting the recommendations for vegetables, fruits, dairy and oils," said Jessica Crandall, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics spokeswoman. "Small, positive changes add up over time. Start by making tweaks to your diet like adding leafy greens to smoothies or eating an apple with lunch. Small shifts in food choices can make a long-term difference in finding a healthy eating pattern that works for you."

Students learned cooking often requires math. They read recipe ingredients for Cypress to add to a mixing bowl. Because she needed to double the recipe, kids did the math and let her how much to add.

The cooking class also touched on science, as Cypress explained that chicken contains salmonella bacteria and must be

cooked to 165 degrees to prevent salmonella poisoning.

"It's really cool to have Seminole chefs teaching," Davis said. "They add tradition and cultural information to the class."

When the meat mixture was complete, Cypress divided it into small bowls so each child could form meatballs.

"It's just like playing with playdoh but it's more gooey," said Jayla Billie, 6. "And it's food."

The meatballs, zucchini, pasta and sauce were cooked, served and enjoyed.

Because of the number of returning kids each week, Davis considers the program a success.

"The kids are enjoying the hands-on lesson," she said. "We have some good partners who make it interesting, fun and still informative."



Beverly Bidney

Several youth including Wren Bankston and Alyssa Bowers make chicken meatballs during the March 15 youth chef class in Hollywood.

## Wellness in spotlight during National Nutrition Month

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

National Nutrition Month took center stage tribalwide for the Health Department's Pathways Seminole Wellness Program in March.

Created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, National Nutrition Month emphasized the importance of making smart food choices while improving healthy eating and fitness habits. The mission of the organization, founded in 1917 to help the U.S. government preserve food and improve public health during World War I, is to improve health through food and nutrition.

The Health Department used National Nutrition Month to promote participation in its own programs. The Pathways nutrition program focuses on providing Tribal citizens with healthy, fresh food made with minimal ingredients. In Brighton, participants received three nutritious meals and snacks daily. Portion sizes were determined by age, gender and activity level.

"We try to work with helping them set goals we can measure," said Barbara Boling, Brighton health education coordinator. "We consult with them on lowering blood sugar,

weight loss and all aspects of their health."

The fitness component of Pathways, a six-week poker run, pitted Tribal citizens against each other as they earned points and cards for a poker hand by walking 5,000 steps per day for seniors or 10,000 for adults. In Hollywood, participants received pedometers or Fitbit activity trackers to log steps.

"The Fitbit tracks much more than just how many steps they take per day," said Lauren Goas, Hollywood health educator. "We can track so many facets of health, such as steps, monitor heart rates and see how well they work out and sleep."

Because of its success last year, the poker program was repeated this year. Participants earned one card per week, and bonus cards were awarded for participating in special events.

"Everyone had fun with it last year," said Jamie Diersing, Big Cypress health educator. "People got competitive with their hands. The turnout was pretty steady. They enjoy participating in the group effort. Sometimes it's hard to walk on their own, but when they have friends or relatives doing it, it's easier."

At the end of the program, participants received recipes to help continue healthy eating habits.

## Protecting families with new 'Pool Safely' initiative

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA  
Florida Department of Health in Broward

The Florida Department of Health in Broward County has launched a new project to teach pool safety to homeowner associations, pool stores, city inspectors and paramedics. The effort is funded by a \$250,000 federal grant, one of just five in the nation from the Consumer Products Safety Commission's "Pool Safely" initiative.

"This grant will do a lot more to make our swimming pools safer and our families more aware about water safety," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of DOH-Broward. "Every drowning is a tragedy that is 100 percent preventable."

Drowning is the leading accidental cause of death for children younger than age 5, especially in Broward, with its 130,000 swimming pools and miles of beaches and waterways. In 2015, six kids ages 1 to 4 died by water, said Cassie McGovern, drowning prevention coordinator.

The best ways to prevent drowning are simple: Have a swim-capable adult watch children every second they are around water. Install fences, alarms and other barriers to block children from the water. Maintain a safe pool. Learn to swim.

The Pool Safely project is doing three things:

1. Educate paramedics, other first responders and code enforcement inspectors about pool safety problems, such as broken gate locks, dangerous filter drains and missing safety equipment.

In some drowning tragedies, pool safety protections were not there. The goal is to raise the likelihood that someone will notice and report unsafe conditions before a tragedy occurs. DOH-Broward inspects all public pools in the county.

2. Educate public pool owners, including homeowner associations, about safety protections pools should have — even if their pools are older and covered by looser rules. The information also is being shared with pool builders, installers, maintenance firms and supply stores.

The goal is to encourage everyone to bring unsafe pools up to standards. For the first time, pool stores will be asked to help promote drowning prevention to families.

3. Increase education for families, child care providers, health care organizations and social service agencies about pool safety and drowning prevention.

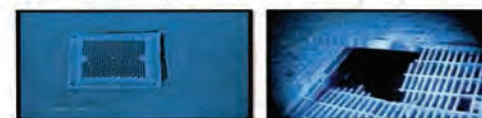
Also, the project will include giving out door alarms and promoting free and reduced-price swim lessons for children and adults.

More information, call 954-467-5695 or email [Cassie.McGovern@flhealth.gov](mailto:Cassie.McGovern@flhealth.gov).



### Pool Assessment Checklist

1. A main drain grate is missing, unsecured, improperly secured or damaged.



2. The clarity of pool water is such that the main drain grate is not visible from pool deck.



3. Safety equipment is missing or broken.



4. Ladders and handrails to enter or exit a pool are missing or broken.



5. Fences or latches to enter or exit the pool area are missing or broken.



6. The underwater light is not securely fastened to the pool wall.



Be assured, this effort is **not** to pursue violations, rather to protect children and their families from the devastating consequences of drowning.

# SEMINOLE SCENES



**LUCK O' THE IRISH:** Timothy Motlow hedges his chances to win a pot of gold (\$1,000 prize) by wearing a festive St. Patrick's Day T-shirt during a bingo game March 17 at the Hollywood senior Easter party.

Eileen Soler



Beverly Bidney

**BFFS:** Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School sixth-graders LaShae King, Angelie Melton, Penelope Rodriguez and Ryanna Osceola mug for a photo during culture day March 8 in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

**STROKE:** With guidance from Recreation supervisor Hector Casallas, Brian Billie Jr., 8, makes his way across the pool during a swim meet March 17 hosted by the Recreation Department and Hollywood Boys & Girls Club.



Beverly Bidney

**PRESIDENTIAL COMFORT:** President Mitchell Cypress handles double duty as an elected official and a cuddly grandfather for his sleepy grandson Jashia Garcia during the March 19 Junior Cypress Cattle Drive in Big Cypress.



Eileen Soler

**STORY TIME BREAK TIME:** Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club counselor Janice Perez reads a book about becoming a veterinarian during a break in more physical activities March 14 under the cool of a chickee.



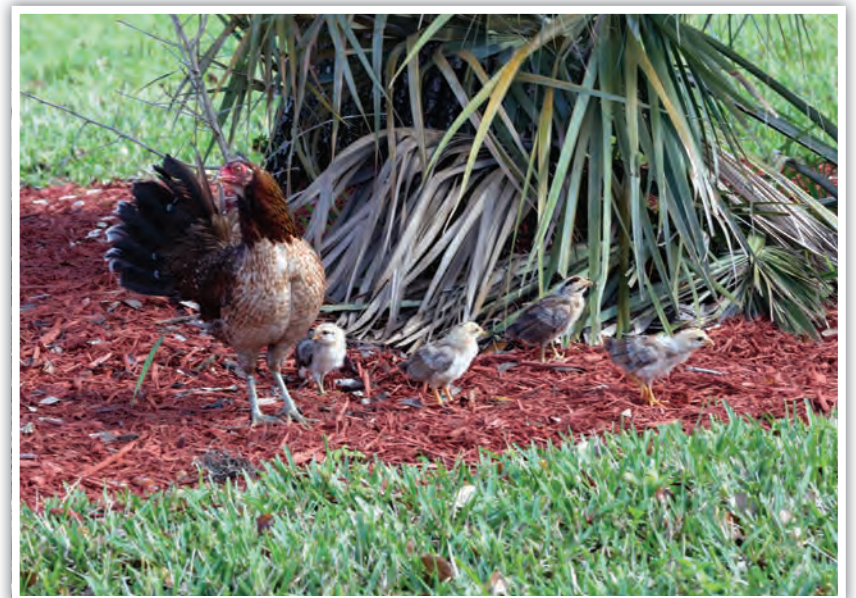
Beverly Bidney

**REPTILIAN REFLECTION:** An iguana seems intrigued by his own reflection in a window at the new Seminole village currently under construction on State Road 7 in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

**TARGET PRACTICE:** Sierra Billie and Recreation employee Marcus Thompson fly around in a virtual outer space shooting objects March 21 during a spring break field trip to Dave & Busters in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

**CLUCK CLUCK PEEP:** This chicken and her chicks are at home on a tiny patch of mulch surrounded by cushiony grass at the Hollywood Reservation.



Eileen Soler

**BIG KIDS READ TOO:** THPO archaeological field technician Dave Scheidecker and chief data analyst Juan Cancel cap a recent morning visit to Ahfachkee School with a stop to purchase books at the school's book fair.



Photo courtesy of Tara Backhouse

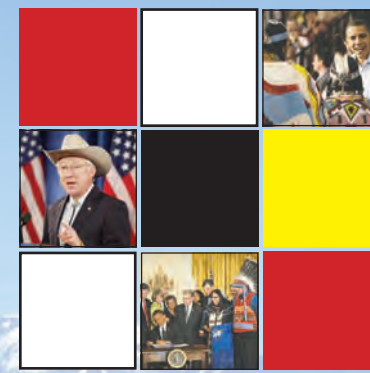
**GUTEN TAG IN BIG CYPRESS:** U.S. congressmen and a group from the German Parliament enjoy a culture-rich afternoon at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress. The March 5 cultural exchange was part of a seven-day adventure for the Germans that included visits to Boca Raton, Big Cypress, Washington, D.C. and Nebraska City.



Photo courtesy of Dinorah Ramos

**YUMMY IN THE TUMMY:** A St. Patrick's Day party for children at Billy Osceola Memorial Library in Brighton is super sweet thanks to delicious green icing cupcakes. From left, Landon Gloud, Jeremy Urbina, Jaydence Urbina, Hinton 'JB' Anderson, Raylen Smith, Jalene Smith and Jaiden Gloud were also treated to a scavenger hunt.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



## Nominee Merrick Garland has Native law experience

WASHINGTON — Merrick Garland, President Barack Obama's choice for the current U.S. Supreme Court vacancy, is the chief judge of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, which hears a significant number of Indian law cases.

Though he's never written a majority opinion in any of the biggest disputes that came before him, he sat on the panel that decided the infamous Feb. 7, 2007 tribal labor law case which ruled, by unanimous vote, that the National Labor Relations Act can be applied to tribal enterprises without infringing on their sovereignty. Tribes today are still fighting to overturn the decision in Congress.

Garland also has heard appeals in the Cobell trust fund case. One decision was extremely important: in November 2005, the court freed the Interior Department from conducting a comprehensive historical accounting long sought by Indian beneficiaries. The ruling essentially weakened the dollar amount for which the federal government was liable for failing to live up to its trust responsibilities.

Seven years later, Garland was scheduled to hear an appeal that challenged the fairness of the \$3.4 billion settlement to the case. But he didn't end up deciding that matter either after it was consolidated with other challenges. A different panel of the court affirmed the settlement and the first payments went out to Indian Country later that year.

In 2008, Garland was part of another panel in a big Indian law case: a lawsuit over the citizenship status of the Freedmen, who are the descendants of former African slaves, within the Cherokee Nation. The outcome was significant — the court held that individual tribal leaders were not entitled to sovereign immunity — but Garland did not write the ruling either. The dispute itself is still pending in the courts.

In an earlier case, Garland heard an appeal involving the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe of Massachusetts, whose federal recognition petition was subject to numerous delays. In August 2003, the court ruled that the Bureau of Indian Affairs could not be forced to make a decision by a certain deadline due to limited resources. The Tribe eventually won recognition and its status was finalized in May 2007.

"Now, I recognize that we have entered the political season — or perhaps, these days it never ends — a political season that is even noisier and more volatile than usual," Obama said in a White House briefing. "I know that Republicans will point to Democrats who've made it hard for Republican presidents to get their nominees confirmed. And they're not wrong about that."

"To suggest that someone as qualified and respected as Merrick Garland doesn't even deserve a hearing, let alone an up or down vote, to join an institution as important as our Supreme Court, when two-thirds of Americans believe otherwise — that would be unprecedented," Obama said.

The Supreme Court has a record four Indian law cases on the docket for its current term and decisions are pending in three of them. It's possible that more could be added to the list and the lack of a full slate of justices has been troublesome to tribal leaders.

"This is very serious business," Lee Juan Tyler, vice chairman of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Idaho, said at the National Congress of American Indians winter session in Washington, D.C., last month.

"It is out of line and unethical" for members of the Senate to refuse to give a nominee a fair shot, Tyler added. "This is a very, very sad situation in America."

— *IndianZ.com*

## U.S. cancels oil, gas lease on sacred Blackfoot land

BILLINGS, Mont. — The Obama administration has canceled a disputed oil and gas lease just outside Glacier National Park on land considered sacred to the Blackfoot tribes of the U.S. and Canada. The Badger-Two Medicine area, site of the Blackfoot creation story, is one of 18 leases of northwest Montana land that tribal leaders consider sacred and believe were illegally issued in 1982.

The move came after U.S. District Judge Richard Leon criticized the U.S. government over its decades-long delay in addressing the matter, accusing the government of trying to "run out the clock" on a lawsuit from Solenex LLC, a Louisiana company that wants to drill for oil and gas on the 6,200-acre site.

Government attorneys said the Solenex lease was improperly sold, in part because an environmental study on drilling did not consider its effect on the Tribes. The Badger-Two Medicine area is part of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, but it is not on Montana's Blackfeet Reservation. The government will refund Solenex \$31,235 for the original lease payments with no added interest, Interior officials said in a letter to the company.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom

Vilsack recommended canceling all the leases in an October letter to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel. Most of the 17 remaining leases in the area are held by Devon Energy of Oklahoma.

"We're pushing to have all the leases terminated," Blackfeet Tribal Chairman Harry Barnes told the Missoulian. "It's considered a very spiritual place, a base for spirituality from whence a lot of power comes for the Blackfeet people."

"Today's action honors Badger-Two-Medicine's rich cultural and natural resources and recognizes the irreparable impacts that oil and gas development would have on them," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said.

The remaining leases will be dealt with in coming weeks, department spokeswoman Jessica Kershaw said.

— *Missoulian.com*

## Delegate claims giving \$33,000 to children was not a criminal act

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The decision by Navajo Nation Council Delegate Mel Begay to give more than \$33,000 to his children from the Navajo Tribal financial discretionary fund may have been a violation of tribal ethics laws, but was it a crime?

Begay's attorney, Jeffrey Rasmussen, is asking that to everyone he runs into now that his client has been accused of conspiring with his children between 2006 and 2010 to defraud the Tribe as well as submitting a false tribal voucher. He also questions why the Tribe's special prosecutors didn't charge him with violating tribal ethics laws instead of filing a criminal complaint because "It was not criminal," Rasmussen told the Navajo Times.

Begay is still on the council, representing Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi and Bahastl'a'a'.

One thing he and Mark Lowry, who was prosecuting the case, agreed on was that the procedures used in giving out grants from the now discretionary fund were severely flawed.

More than 70 members of the Council who served between 2006 and 2010 have been charged with taking money illegally and almost all have entered into plea agreements with the Tribe's special prosecutor, admitting guilt without having to risk any jail time. None of these cases have come up for sentencing yet.

— *Navajo Times*

## Rising sea levels chase Tribe from Louisiana coast

ISLE DE JEAN CHARLES, La. — For 170 years, Isle de Jean Charles — a narrow ridge of land situated in the Gulf of Mexico, south of Louisiana — has been the historical homeland and burial ground of the state-recognized Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Indians.

Each year, the tiny island loses a landmass the size of Manhattan to coastal erosion. More than 98 percent of the island has washed out to sea since the 1950s. A study by Northern Arizona University shows the island's original 15,000 acres is today a strip a quarter-mile wide by a half-mile long. From a peak of some 400 inhabitants, only around 10 remain.

Loss of land to the sea, and houses to hurricanes, have caused families to leave. Boyo Billiot, the Tribe's deputy chief, said in a telephone briefing to reporters.

"No one likes to leave an area where they have history, a lot of memories," Billiot said. "We are people of the bayou. Water has played a central role in who we are."

In response to the crisis, two months ago, the state received \$48 million from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to relocate the Tribe to safer ground, to which they have finally agreed. This is the first time an entire community has had to be relocated due in part to rising sea levels, according to Marion McFadden, with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Climate advocacy group Climate Nexus said the relocation of the Tribe was creating new "refugees" of climate change. Both Louisiana and federal government officials bristle at that description: "We really don't think of the community as refugees. I think of refugees as being scattered and chaotic retreat. This is a resettlement and we are careful to use that word," Patrick Forbes, a Louisiana state official, told DailyMail.com.

Louisiana's coast has been sinking at a fast pace compared to most U.S. coastal areas, a phenomenon officials attribute to rising sea levels but also erosion, the official said. Sea levels have already risen by some 8 inches in coastal Louisiana over the last 50 years or so.

The continuous decline of the band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw population has been threatening the Tribe's ancestral traditions, including those related to fishing such as the weaving of catch nets.

"As the people leave out, culture goes with it," Billiot said.

Reflecting on the Tribe's attachment to Isle de Jean Charles, he recalled his late grandfather's prophetic words.

"He said, 'The people will have to leave from the island.' But he said you all don't disturb the dead that are buried there because now a lot are in the water where the graves were at."

— *DailyMail.com*

## Ojibwes fight for treaty rights after deer hunting arrest

BLACKDUCK, Minn. — On Nov. 1, 2015, two Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe citizens, Tony Morris and Randy Finn, went into a field near Blackduck, Minnesota with the sole objective to harvest a deer for dinner, not to trigger litigation.

They managed to do both.

As Morris and Finn dragged a dressed deer out of the woods, they were met by the landowner, who had heard their gunshots and accused them of trespassing. The confrontation led to a formal complaint filed in Beltrami County Court in January by the State of Minnesota charging both Tribal citizens with hunting out of season. If convicted, they could receive up to a year in jail and a \$3,000 fine. The Tribal citizens argued in their defense that they were merely invoking pre-existing treaty rights that supercede state law.

"These two gentlemen are not subject to state game laws because they are Indian," said attorney and White Earth Band of Ojibwe member Frank Bibeau. "The right to harvest that deer was never taken away by the various treaties negotiated with the United States."

He filed for a dismissal of charges. The two Leech Lake Band members are due back in court on March 24.

Tribal rights to natural resources in the upper Midwest have been the subject of years of legal battles between the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and the Ojibwe of the region. The situation finally culminated in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 1999 affirming tribal rights to natural resources (Minnesota v. Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa). The ruling affirmed the rights of Tribes to go off-reservation for hunting, fishing and gathering on land that their ancestors had ceded through the 1837 Treaty with the United States.

However, Blackduck, where Morris and Finn shot their deer, is located in the 1855 Treaty Ceded Territory, a vast area just north of the lands ceded in the 1837 Treaty agreement that covers practically all of north central Minnesota, including both the White Earth and Leech Lake reservations. Morris and Finn's case is proceeding through the court system on a parallel track with another case involving tribal assertion of treaty rights in the 1855 Ceded Territory.

Four other Ojibwe band members are challenging state requirements that they obtain permits for harvesting wild rice and fish in the 1855 Ceded Territory, according to Minnesota Public Radio. Bibeau, who is involved in both matters, notes that though this is all starting in state court, the federal courts ultimately must resolve these disputes.

"These treaties were between our people and the United States before Minnesota even existed," Bibeau said. "What the State of Minnesota can't seem to grasp is that the rights to natural resources that were affirmed through the Mille Lacs litigation for the 1837 Treaty Ceded Territory also apply to our rights in the 1855 Territory. Our people took part in both treaty sessions, and our historical understanding was that we retained the same rights under both processes. Our ownership rights to natural resources were never taken away, and therefore, remain."

— *Indian Country Today Media Network*

## Native American support group wants Wahoo logo removed

CLEVELAND, Ohio — As the 2016 Major League baseball season nears opening day, the Native American support group Committee of 500 Years of Dignity and Resistance has amped up its demand for the removal of the Chief Wahoo logo from all Cleveland Indian uniforms and merchandise.

Support group leaders Marjorie Villafane and Fern Clements say the logo is a racist, out-of-date logo, and after decades of protests, it's time for Chief Wahoo to be put out to pasture.

Villafane told NewsNet5.com she also questions whether Cleveland Indians banners posted on city power poles in front of Progressive Field — which show Cleveland Indian players wearing the Chief Wahoo logo — have the proper city permits.

"Change the name, change the logo. It's simple as that," Villafane said. "I don't think it's a nitpicking issue; if it's dangerous to the public, I think they should take down the banners."

Cleveland Councilman Zach Reed also told NewsNet5.com he believes the banners do not have the proper permits. Reed said the city Division of Licenses and Assessments believes permits for the

banners haven't been filed for 20 years.

The Cleveland mayor's office and the Cleveland Indians believe the banners have been given the proper approval through the Downtown Cleveland Alliance.

Either way, Villafane and Clements want Chief Wahoo logo removed.

"It's very racist, it's very derogatory," Clements said. "There is no place in this country for this type of racism anymore."

— *NewsNet5.com*

## In N.D.'s oil boom, one Tribe beats back fracking

BELCOURT, N.D. — The water, the pure water, more than anything, explains why members of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians acted so quickly when they learned their region was next in line for fracking. Within just a few weeks of tribal women meeting on the topic in late 2011, the council banned fracking on the 77,000-acre reservation.

Their ban was one of the first in North America.

It all started in November 2011 when Tribal elder Carol Davis called the women of the Tribe together. Fracking was booming on the Fort Berthold Reservation 190 miles away in the heart of the Bakken oil fields. Davis surmised the Turtle Mountain reservation could be next. In the Tribe's tradition, women are responsible for protecting the water, so she invited the women to discuss fracking over a meal.

When she first heard about fracking in Fort Berthold, Christa Monette, a citizen of the Turtle Mountain Tribe, thought that an oil and gas boom on her remote reservation would be a good thing.

"I remember thinking, 'Wow, how lucky they are! How come we can't strike oil here?'"

At a second meeting, Davis offered each of the women a tobacco leaf, telling them to accept it only if they were committed to work on the issue.

Monette took the tobacco reluctantly: She was a single mother of three and worked full time. But the more the women — and the men who joined them — learned about fracking, the more worried they became.

They learned that the frackers would drill right through their precious aquifer, risking contamination of their drinking water and lakes, and that the process produces large volumes of wastewater and contaminated materials. They learned about Dimock, Pennsylvania, where a well had exploded and groundwater contamination was linked to fracking.

And how about the Fort Berthold Reservation, where three affiliated Tribes, the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Tribes (collectively called the MHA Nation), are in the midst of the fracking boom ... and its companion corruption, crime, drug addiction, prostitution and human trafficking? According to the FBI, the area's violent crime rate rose 121 percent from 2005 to 2011.

"These dramatic increases have overwhelmed state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies," reported the 2014 National Drug Control Strategy.

And contaminated material, including radioactive material concentrated during fracking, has been found dumped on the reservation. The MHA Nation lacks the resources to oversee the many drilling sites and waste facilities.

In addition to pollution, expenses associated with the boom — from damaged roads to social services for the flood of new workers and their families — have eaten up the cash windfall that was supposed to support the Tribes for years once the boom ended, according to a report by the Property and Environment Research Center.

"We knew what was happening to other areas," Gillette said. "If we didn't protect our water, what would Tribal members have seven generations from now?"

Stunned Turtle Mountain citizens pressured their Council, which voted unanimously to ban fracking.

"What is sacred to our Tribe is water. We all know that in the very near future, water will be more valuable than oil or gold or anything else," Chairman Richard McCloud said. "This area is where our ancestors did their farming; the springs run through here, and this is how generations survived. The fracking ban will protect our water so future generations can continue to survive."

At the time, the Bureau of Indian Affairs had been meeting secretly and were on the brink of opening Turtle Mountain land for oil and gas leasing. The Tribe's action put a halt to the plan.

The Turtle Mountain Tribe recently adopted a new water code that solidifies the Tribe's stance on fracking, and with the help of a Department of Energy grant, the Tribe is moving into developing the abundant solar and wind energy resources of the reservation.

— *Yes Magazine*

## Yurok chairman quits over 'sacrifice murder' past

KLAMATH, Calif. — Yurok Tribal Chairman James Dunlap resigned, without

warning, after archived articles provided by the San Jose Mercury News surfaced alleging the "sacrifice murder" of his 3-month-old daughter Brittany at his half-brother's San Mateo home Sept. 9, 1988.

Dunlap told the Times-Standard he would be willing to be interviewed, but said he would "like to hear what their side is first."

Yurok Vice Chairman David L. Gensaw Sr. issued the following statement: "There is no doubt about it, this is a sad and frustrating day for the Yurok people, but we have prevailed over bigger challenges in our past and we will overcome this, too. Every day, the Tribe's 300-plus employees work hard to improve the economic, social and cultural conditions on the Yurok Reservation and in the surrounding areas. Their good work should not be overshadowed by this situation."

A Sept. 13, 1988 article provided by the San Jose Mercury News states Dunlap stabbed his daughter with a buck knife in her crib and was found by San Mateo police "lifting the girl over his head and yelling out that he had sacrificed her to God."

San Mateo County District Attorney Stephen Wagstaffe, the prosecutor in the 1988 Dunlap case, recalled that Dunlap entered a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity and the five psychiatrists who examined Dunlap agreed, finding him to have been insane at the time of the crime. Wagstaffe added that the insanity defense back then included heavy drug impairment, which he said is not included today: "[Dunlap] was a very heavy drug addict."

The jury found Dunlap guilty of second-degree murder but subsequently found him to be not guilty by reason of insanity. He was placed into a state hospital where he stayed until 1995 when a court deemed him sane and ordered his release.

Dunlap had defeated former Chairman Thomas O'Rourke in the November 2015 election with about 60 percent of the vote.

— *Times-Standard.com*

## Chumash chairman resigns to attend food school

SANTA YNEZ, Calif. — The Tribal chairman of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians has resigned to pursue a culinary arts bachelor's degree at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, more than 2,900 miles from his Central California home.

The departure of Vincent Armenta, tribal chairman since December 1999, occurs in the midst of the Tribe's complex negotiations with the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors over the development of the Tribe's 1,400-acre property in the Santa Ynez Valley. The 249-member Tribe is the only federally recognized Chumash Tribe in the nation.

Armenta denied to the Lompoc Record that the ongoing negotiations had anything to do with the timing of his decision: "My personal decisions I make on my own with input from my family ... I may be taking a break in doing something for myself, but I'm certainly going to continue to be involved with the Tribe," Armenta said. "I have a great relationship with the board. They know they can call me anytime, and I'm very confident that I'm going to continue to work with them to help progress our Tribe."

Armenta said his fellow Tribal citizens have been very receptive and supportive of his decision.

"They understand and they recognize and they're grateful for what I've done for our Tribe at their request," Armenta said. "I laugh, you know. I'm 53 years old and I'm doing something I have an extreme passion for. By the time I get finished, I'll be nearly 57. Someone asked me the other day, 'So you know what you're doing for almost four years ... What's your five-year plan?' And I chuckled and said, 'Don't break a hip?'"

— *LompocRecord.com*

## Hard Rock Hotels to offer 'Amplified' packages

Hard Rock Hotels — with destinations from Bali to Cancun, Ibiza to Palm Springs, Tampa to Hollywood — is inviting guests to turn up their stay with Amplified packages, available until Dec. 31 at all 23 hotels around the globe.

The Amplified package will provide hotel guests with a behind-the-scenes look at the world's largest collection of rock music memorabilia through a personalized, VIP tour during their stay. Guests will also receive a pre-reserved Fender guitar, complete with floor amp and headphones for in-room jam sessions, and a collectible pin and limited edition hat featuring the "I Got Plugged In @ Hard Rock Hotels" tagline.

"Amplified" guests will also be able to select extra services, such as booking a Rock Spa Rhythm & Motion treatment or acquiring tickets to a local event.

— *Hard Rock press release*

Compiled by special projects reporter Peter B. Gallagher.

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# Education



## Ahfachkee artists glow in Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki spotlight

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — A generous amount of art supplies and the eager hands of Ahfachkee School students proved a perfect recipe for artworks that make up the newest art exhibit at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress.

"You guys are awesome," Rebecca Fell, curator of exhibits, told a gathering of student-artists at the show's opening reception March 11.

Presented through May 22 in the Mosaic Gallery, the show features 26 pieces that illustrate student knowledge and personal application of works by "the masters," said art teacher Ivette Lopez.

Lopez said the children learned about some of the world's greatest 19th- and 20th-century artists, including Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, M. C. Escher, Paul Klee, Keith Haring and Wassily Kandinsky whose works propelled art movements such as cubism, expressionism and modernism.

"Our students learned about the artists' techniques, lives, artworks and art styles and by that, they were inspired. That way, they connect to the arts, appreciate art and want to do art," Lopez said.

Students borrowed from the masters to create their own expressive art that ranged from Eden Jumper's Picasso-inspired untitled ink on paper that can be imagined as a man's graceful bow to nature to Lauren Doctor's simplistic van Gogh-esque "Sunflowers" rendered in a vase painted in Seminole colors.

High school student Dasani Cypress said the art classes gave her plenty of ideas for taking something simple, like her own handprint, and turning it into something personal and artful.

Her untitled painting on paper, inspired by several artist techniques, serves as the exhibit centerpiece.

To arrive at the finished product, Dasani said she cut around her hand on construction paper then dismembered the paper hand parts into sections. She employed collage to paste the parts on paper, cubism to place them strategically and monochromatic colors to make a bold but simple statement.

"My idea was not original but making the



Ahfachkee School student Lauren Doctor shows younger children their artwork on exhibit in the Mosaic Gallery at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress. The 26 pieces will be on display through May 22.

Eileen Soler

art abstract and from me made it different," Dasani said. "I like the color scheme. To me it is organic and calming."

Ahfachkee assistant principal Gwendolyn Coverson congratulated the students and awarded each with certificates of achievement. On the boardwalk veranda outside the Museum, the children and adult guests were treated to pizza and peanut butter roll-ups and lemonade.

Paul Backhouse, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, deemed the show "very cool."

"To see the faces of the children right here at the Museum and their work on exhibit is what this place really is. It is a museum but it also about today. It is the Seminole people," Backhouse said.

Ewanteke Roberts, 7, is one of the

youngest artists with work on display but her night sky-inspired mixed media piece is not her first creation to go public. A clay tile she painted last year is one of scores from Ahfachkee school children that make up the base for the bronze sculpture "Florida - A Seminole Girl" on the New River in Fort Lauderdale.

♦ See ARTISTS on page 2B

## Living the ACD experience: Pushing limits of possibilities

BY AARON TOMMIE  
Contributing Writer

As Tribal citizens, we have numerous opportunities to prosper and achieve our dreams. It's a blessing to look forward to work every day without it feeling like a chore or an obligation. Had it not been for the foresight and sacrifices of our ancestors and Tribe leaders, our history would have been dramatically altered.

Despite every hindrance designed to enervate our optimism and spirits, we transformed those setbacks into advantages. It was common for us to abandon camps we lived in if danger became imminent. As nomadic people, we sought areas that provided stable establishments in which we could fortify and expand our communities. Solidarity allowed us to align our hearts and minds to evolve into business-savvy Seminoles.

I've often wondered how people such as Bill Gates and Oprah Winfrey continue to find passion in their work despite being successful billionaires. I think many people would retire if they became just millionaires. We all have heard the phrase that money is not everything, but who wouldn't want to have a lifestyle in which working wasn't necessary? Gaining ownership of Hard Rock International in 2007 greatly improved the Seminole Tribe of Florida's stature as an economic powerhouse throughout the world.

Being a Tribal citizen is still surreal to me. I grew up in an environment where struggles were commonplace, so I longed for financial stability.

When I was in eighth-grade, my mother bought my twin and me school shoes from a vendor in the parking lot of a gas station because that was all she could afford. In contrast to my upbringing, my 3-year-old son Nnamdi probably has had five new pairs of shoes within the last year alone. There were winters during my childhood in North Carolina when my family and I would leave the oven door open and boil water to warm up the house because of a broken heater. Those memories still cross my mind, occasionally serving as a reminder to be gracious and make the most of this blessing. None of this would be possible had I not been a Tribal citizen, so I try to never take it for granted.

Over the years, I've learned that as circumstances change, so must mindsets. Because I didn't grow up with much, I constantly think of everything coming to an end. I want to put myself in a position to be more self-sufficient and not rely fully on the Tribe's support. There is no guarantee that our business and profits will continue in the manner they have during the past decade.

As a die-hard fan of the Los Angeles Lakers since 2003, I'm well aware of Kobe Bryant's incredible performances that have made him one of the NBA's all-time greats. During the 2005-06 NBA season, Bryant was unequivocally the most dominant player in the NBA. He averaged 35.4 points per game and scored 81 points in a game, the second most in NBA history behind Wilt Chamberlain's 100. In order to achieve this level of play, Bryant spent countless hours improving his craft despite already being among the league's best players. It could have been easy for him to become complacent with solely the benefits of being a superstar. But his insatiable desire to be the greatest NBA player ever constantly pushed him to work arduously throughout his 20-year career to enhance his basketball skills. The fame and millions of dollars he amassed didn't eclipse his ambition to achieve greatness.

The same can be said for us. World-renowned brands such as Coca-Cola, Heinz and Hershey have all been around for more than 100 years. Hard Rock International, established in 1971, has the potential to be a perdurable brand as well. Since we became a federally recognized Tribe in 1957, we have come a long way from conducting bingo games and selling tax-free cigarettes. Hard Rock has greatly expanded its enterprises after we purchased it, with plans of even further expansion. As the Tribe continues to progress, so should we individually and collectively to enhance the strength of our people's future. If we don't adapt to changes like our forebears



Beverly Bidney

Aaron Tommie

## Traditions come to life at PECS

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders traveled back in time March 8 as they spent the day living like their ancestors in a traditional Seminole village.

The school's ninth annual culture days, March 7-9, featured tasks and activities for each student. Girls manned the cooking chickee and prepared a meal for more than 100 students, while boys honed carving skills and crafted wooden knives.

Students learned to butcher chickens, played traditional games like skillet tossing for girls and tomahawk throwing for boys, and listened to Seminole legends. Teachers spoke primarily in Creek, making each activity a language lesson as well.

"We want the kids to learn this is how it used to be," said Alice Sweat, culture education director, who grew up living in chickees in Brighton, Fort Pierce and Immokalee. "Some of them don't have a clue how rough it was out there. It's important that they know so if everything is done away with, they will be able to provide for themselves and their families."

Culture language instructor Jade Osceola coached the girls at the cooking fire, teaching them how to use utensils and know when the food was done. The girls cut 10 heads of cabbage and cooked them with bacon.

"They learned to work together around the fire and cook a meal," Osceola said. "It's good to see how much they grow. In fourth grade they are hesitant with a knife, by sixth grade they are more comfortable and by eighth grade we can sit back and watch."

Fourth-grader Keiyana Osceola, 10, had made frybread at school before, but she needed guidance from culture instructor Emma Fish, who told her not to knead the flour too much to prevent tough frybread.

"You just squish it and pat it a little bit," Keiyana said.

As a child, Lewis Gopher attended Okeechobee South Elementary school. His fourth-grade teacher, Debbie Waldron, now teaches his fourth-grade daughter Winnie Gopher at PECS. Both adults said they recognize the differences between the two schools' curriculums.

"Back then, the kids were saturated in the state's expectations and didn't get any background in Seminole history or culture," said Waldron, a PECS teacher for three

"Here our students are blessed with Seminole-specific history and are learning things their ancestors experienced."

— Debbie Waldron,  
Pemayetv Emahakv Charter  
School teacher

years. "Here our students are blessed with Seminole-specific history and are learning things their ancestors experienced."

PECS students also learn U.S. and Florida history but Gopher said he appreciates the culture curriculum, Seminole history and modern governmental structure.

"It gives them a sense of pride at an early age," said Gopher, who has three children at PECS. "They learn about the battles we won and that when we fight now, it is in a courtroom or an office setting. We still need to fight, but it's a different battle now."

Culture day volunteer Norman "Skeeter" Bowers said the smell of the cooking fire reminds him of home; a scent he does not take it for granted.

"My mother (Lorene Gopher) lived this way of life, so I was always around it," he said. "It's important to feed that part of them

♦ See CULTURE DAYS on page 5B



Beverly Bidney

Jayko Billie carves a knife from wood during Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School culture days March 8 in Brighton.

♦ See ACD EXPERIENCE on page 2B

# Large cat sighted in Hollywood, preschoolers safe

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Decked out in his signature striped hat, the Cat in the Hat served up rhymes and good times during the Hollywood Preschool's annual Dr. Seuss breakfast March 2, the 112th birthday of the late author Theodor Seuss Geisel.

"Kids like it and are excited about it," said Jennine Perez, Hollywood Preschool center manager. "Teachers have been reading Dr. Seuss books all week and parents love the character breakfasts."

The event coincided with Read Across America Day, created by the National Education Association in 1998 as a reading motivation and awareness program for children. According to the organization's website, research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school.

The preschool also scheduled the

Scholastic Book Fair to coincide with Read Across America Day.

Geisel wrote and illustrated 44 children's books, including the beloved "Cat in the Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham," "One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." He won two Academy Awards, two Emmy Awards, a Peabody Award and a Pulitzer Prize.

More than 20 volunteers from various departments read to students during the five-day reading event. It was the first year Perez reached out to tribal departments in Hollywood to enlist employees to read to the students. The school is considering expanding the volunteer readers to a tribalwide program, Perez said.

"It made my day; they were adorable," said Shammes El-Hout Freire, Executive Operations Office special projects coordinator. "They were almost sitting on my lap. I would definitely do it again. It was fulfilling and their interaction was adorable."

The U.S. Department of Education states parental involvement in a child's reading and education is crucial to success. A 1996 reading literacy study found "where parent involvement is low, the classroom mean average (reading score) is 46 points below the national average. Where involvement is high, classrooms score 28 points above the national average - a gap of 74 points."

At the breakfast, parents sampled their children's lives away from home.

"They always talk about their friends at home. Now I know who they are talking about and who they play with at school," said Audrey Osceola, who attended with three of her children and a niece.

Although Osceola Primus, 2, didn't like the green eggs and ham, his parents, Mike Primus and Ciara Billie, were glad to support the reading program.

"It's important for us to be involved and stress reading at an early age and support him throughout his school years," Primus said.

**Hollywood Cat**  
By Beverly Bidney

The sun did shine  
It was not too wet to play  
But the Cat in the Hat  
Made his entrance anyway.

Hollywood tots  
With their families in tow  
Were filled with excitement  
From their heads to their toes.

The children all looked  
Then they saw him come in  
The Cat in the Hat  
Had hugs for her and for him.

Moms and dads took the photos  
Of their children and Cat  
They all were quite spellbound  
By his fur and his hat.

Green eggs and ham  
Were served on the food line  
And most children ate them  
With nary a whine.

Now the breakfast was over  
The plates cleared away  
No crumbs on the table  
On this most special day.

Students went back to class  
Parents went on their way  
And the Cat in the Hat  
He just wanted to play.



Beverly Bidney

The Cat in the Hat gives Peyton Cypress a hug at the Hollywood Preschool annual Dr. Seuss breakfast.



Beverly Bidney

Decked out in Cat in the Hat gear, Hollywood preschoolers march to the Dr. Seuss breakfast March 2. The event coincided with Read Across America Day, created by the National Education Association in 1998 as a reading motivation and awareness program for children.



Eileen Soler

Audrey Osceola, feeding her son Dominic Osceola Jr., enjoys the meal with her children and niece at the Hollywood Preschool's Dr. Seuss breakfast.

## Pemayetv Emahakv students of the month



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School February elementary students of the month: Geonnie Koger, Mattie Platt, O-sha-nee Rodriguez, Braylen Thomas, Dyani Kayda, Devon Mitchell, Kieona Baker, Brody Riley, JB Anderson, Kashyra Urbina, Lason Baker, Carlee Osceola, Kalissa Huff, Keiyana Osceola, Jesseca Jimmie, Ashlynn Collins, Laci Prescott, Jace Brown, Janaya French and Caleb Burton.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Middle school students of the month: Kayin Hammil, Keely Billie and Silas Madrigal.

### ARTISTS From page 1B

The second-grader said she used her imagination to see a shooting star, the moon, a chickee and a fire in dark shadows against the midnight blue sky. Then she got busy with scissors, paper, paint and glue. And she made her mother proud.

Lenora Roberts, an award-winning sweetgrass basket and patchwork artist who attended the show's reception, was nearly speechless.

"It's overwhelming to see my daughter's talent and passion for art already. Now, what I have always seen at home is for everyone else to enjoy," Roberts said.

### ACD EXPERIENCE From page 1B

did, our prosperity will most assuredly be brief.

As I reach the six-month mark in the ACD program I'm continuously learning what it takes to be a future leader for the Tribe. I refused to pass on the chance to be part of something as unprecedented as the Tribe's growth. With the proper leadership, we can soar to greater

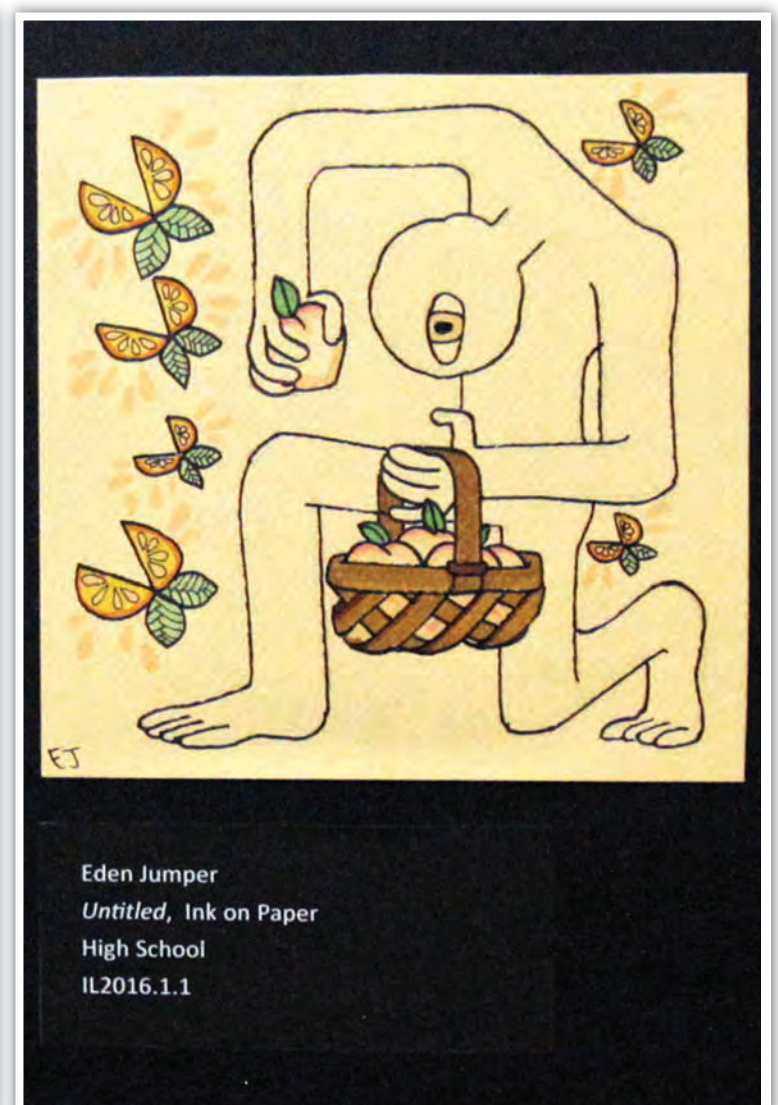
heights. Change is inevitable. I would often let people, doubts and money create ceilings for my accomplishments. Now that I've matured, I don't see any limitations, only obstacles to conquer.

Albert Einstein said, "Once we accept our limits, we go beyond them."

Mainly due to the strong influence my mother, Marilyn Brown, has had on me, I'm always seeking growth and improvement within myself and others around me. I'm all for maximizing potential.



Lauren Doctor  
Sunflowers, Acrylics  
Grade 6



Eden Jumper  
Untitled, Ink on Paper  
High School  
IL2016.1.1

Eileen Soler

'Sunflowers,' a painting in the bold and colorful style of Vincent van Gogh but by sixth-grader Lauren Doctor, is on exhibit with 25 other Ahfachkee School student works through May 22 at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress.

Eileen Soler

Eden Jumper's untitled ink on paper, on exhibit in the Mosaic Gallery at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress, is reminiscent of the great Pablo Picasso cubist style. The work is one of 26 Ahfachkee School student pieces on exhibit through May 22.

# PECS fine art program sparks creative learning, imaginations

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School fifth-graders are learning how painting, sculpture and music provoke thought and are creating their own versions of fine art in the process.

Held every three weeks, the PECS fine art program compares visual art with music of the same era. During a Feb. 24 class, about

30 students compared characteristics of sculpture and music created in the classical versus improvisational style. After the lesson, students sculpted colorful modeling clay.

Teacher Michelle Pritchard presented a slide show of sculptures from the Renaissance period — 14th to 17th century — to today. The differences between classic Michelangelo and modern Pablo Picasso were discussed.

"In Michelangelo's sculptures you can see great detail, even the veins in the hands,"

Pritchard said as she showed a detail photo of his famous sculpture "David." "During the Renaissance, artists studied dead bodies and sliced them open to learn the anatomy."

Pritchard said that classical is more regimented while improvisational is more abstract. She cited Mr. Potato Head from the movie "Toy Story," with his eyes, nose and mouth in the wrong places, as an example of cubism, a style Pablo Picasso founded.

Slides were also shown of works by sculptors Edmonia Lewis, a classical artist of Native American and African American heritage who worked during the Civil War era; Jeff Koons, a modern artist known for large balloon animals made of steel with colorful mirror finishes; and Ron Mueck, a modern hyperrealistic sculptor known for detailed oversized and small figures.

Students learned sculptures can be made from a variety of materials, including wood, stone, clay, glass, paper and bronze.

"A lot of sculpture

you chisel away from the original piece, like a canoe from a log," Pritchard said. "But sculpture can also make a statement and make you think."

The fine arts program started two years ago in individual classrooms but was expanded this year with the availability of the media/music room in the school's new gym. Pritchard said she always enjoyed teaching art and she incorporated music, art history and social studies this year. The goal is for students to gain an appreciation for art and music.

"Many of our students are ESE (exceptional student education) or challenged with regular learning and so often the ones that don't do as well academically and are very artistic," Pritchard wrote in an email response to The Seminole Tribune. "This is a way to let them shine and express themselves."

Pritchard explained how art can convey messages and showed an example of a sculpture of a gun with the barrel tied in a knot. "You kind of can't shoot a bullet when it's tied up like that," one student said.

As the students worked on their projects, Pritchard played two versions of George Gershwin's 1924 "Rhapsody in Blue." Classical music by Mozart and Beethoven were also played. Hip-hop and "Uptown Funk" by Mark Ronson with Bruno Mars offered examples of improvisational style music.

Winnie Gopher's sculpture of a person with a heart outside the body is "dying on the inside," she said. "It shows the world today is making everyone feel down and depressed."

Cheyenne Lara's dog with a mask was more than just cute; it made an important point.

"Even people with the brightest smiles can cry the most tears but hide behind a mask," she said.

Some students created art that reminded them of days passed. Shylynn Testerman constructed a snowman just like the ones she made when she lived in Oklahoma.

By the end of the class, students had created art and learned in the process.

"It feels like you're so alive," Pherian Baker said.

"It gets your imagination going," added Makya King.

Pritchard said the program will culminate with a visit to an art museum in May.



Beverly Bidney

PECS fifth-grader Shylynn Testerman reaches for more clay to add to his sculpture during the fine arts program Feb. 24. The class compares various styles of art and music for a fuller appreciation of the arts.



Beverly Bidney

Winnie Gopher works on her sculpture Feb. 24 during the Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School fine arts program, which taught students art appreciation while crafting their own creations.



Eileen Soler

Tucomah Robbins poses in the THPO office where he is stationed several days a week for training in the Tribe's Work Experience Program.

## WEP at THPO brings Robbins home again

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — For two semesters Tribal citizen Tucomah Robbins studied hard and earned good grades at Florida State University, but the 21-year-old with childhood ties to Big Cypress Reservation knew something was missing.

"I just needed at that time to know more about my culture. I felt like I didn't know enough about who am and I had to learn the language, the history, everything," he said.

Robbins soon returned to the reservation that he first called home and since January 2016 has been enthusiastically working at the Tribal Historic Preservation Office under the Tribe's Work Experience Program.

"It's a practical approach to where I want to be while I learn the language, history and culture. It all brings me back here," Robbins said Feb. 17 during a break at the THPO office.

The program, based out of the Education Department, is a two-year opportunity for Tribal citizens to experience on-site job training, professional awareness and eventual integration into careers that serve Tribe departments for the future.

Robbins is interested in the compliance and legal side of THPO operations. For now, he is primarily listening in and observing the Tribe's compliance team as they investigate and provide oversight on happenings that can or do compromise Native American cultural and historic sites.

The most recent issue revolved around Florida House Bill 803 and its companion Senate Bill 1054 that threatened to allow ordinary citizens to find and collect artifacts from Native American sites and sacred places. The practice was dubbed "citizen archaeology."

On the day of Robbins' interview with The Seminole Tribune, the THPO compliance team and Director Paul Backhouse were busily culling documents to fight the bills. Eventually, the bills both died in the legislative session.

"This is education at work," Robbins said.

Allyssa Boge, the education director for Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and THPO, said WEP participants get exposure to everything at both locations. Experience comes from helping out with all inter-department jobs from building interpretive exhibits in the Museum to collecting plugs of soil at construction sites for sensitive material analysis.

"They get to see then how all the departments in THPO and the Museum work together," Boge said.

Robbins, a 2012 American Heritage

School graduate, said he learned about the program from friend Quenton Cypress, who graduated from Ahfachkee School in 2014 and is now in his second year as a WEP participant at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Cypress called WEP an "eye-opening" and "door-opening" experience. He already boasts job offers from the Tribe's Gaming and Human Resources departments.

"The learning is enormous. I've done graphic design, exhibit set ups, land surveying and mapping. I had a chance to work with education and children's programs. There is so much," Cypress said. "WEP is about seeing what you like the best and then being able to do what you want to do later."

But for both men, earning college degrees is surely in the forecast. Both intend to earn bachelor's degrees at the very least.

"We (the Tribe) didn't get to this point without working for it. Today, that means we need college degrees, too," said Cypress, who hopes to be elected Big Cypress Councilman someday.

Robbins said he is aiming for the top. He hopes to be Chairman.

"To be part of a Tribe is to be selfless. I don't do this for me; I do it for the Tribe," Robbins said.

**"I felt like I didn't know enough about who I am and I had to learn the language, the history, everything."**

— Tucomah Robbins, Work Experience Program participant

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# Electronic recycling on spring break schedule

BY AARON TOMMIE  
Contributing Writer

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — Students from the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club kicked off spring break with a unique technological experience at ARC Broward IT Asset Recovery in Fort Lauderdale. Students toured the facility March 18 and learned about electronic recycling.

The IT Asset Recovery is a nonprofit organization that started 15 years ago to dispose of electronics safely and securely.

Electronic devices, also called assets, are brought to the facility and audited in one of two ways. A simple audit reads an asset for recycling or destruction. A complete audit tracks the asset and remarks it so it can be sold through eBay. All proceeds go to charities.

Twelve employees, some who have disabilities, work in the facility.

"They help contribute to the family atmosphere," said Tomas Leon, director of the recovery program. "We're motivated by the fact they have the attention to detail (that) resonates throughout the group."

The program is one of three mission-based enterprises under ARC Broward, which began in 1956 with the objective to

provide encouragement and opportunities to people with developmental disabilities. More than 1,200 individuals benefit from the agency's 21 Broward programs. Money raised helps defray costs for services.

More than 90 percent of the assets received at ARC Broward IT Asset Recovery come from corporations. The Seminole Tribe of Florida is one of its contributors, largely because of gaming.

"Natives, in general, are very hands-on people," said Dawna Bell, compliance manager for the Boys & Girls Club, who was joined by her daughters Kiana Bell and Adrienne Bell.

Tribalwide Boys & Girls Club youth events coordinator Tyrone Bryan coordinated the field trip after learning about ARC Broward IT Asset Recovery services after he disposed an old computer. Because STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) is often incorporated into school curriculum, Bryan thought the location was ideal to teach students.

"I thought it would be good exposure for the kids to see how technology is broken down," Bryan said. "We're the motivators. It's all about showing them something different. There's a world out there that exists."



Aaron Tommie  
Dawna Bell, her daughters Adrienne and Kiana, and Boys & Girls Club youth events coordinator Tyrone Bryan wait to test a shredder, while Tomas Leon speaks with one of his employees March 18 at the ARC Broward IT Asset Recovery facility in Fort Lauderdale.



Photo courtesy of Chris Goodwin

Middle school boys at Pematv Emahkv Charter School participate in a virtual archery tournament in late February at the Brighton gym.

# PECS kids take aim at archery

BY AARON TOMMIE  
Contributing Writer

**BRIGHTON** — Middle school boys at Pematv Emahkv Charter School experienced the ancient sport of archery in early February through a virtual tournament held at the Brighton gymnasium.

They joined thousands of students from schools throughout the world who compete in archery tournaments conducted by National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). Because of cultural reasons, girls were not allowed to compete.

"It went great," said PECS middle school teacher Chris Goodwin. "[It allows us] to introduce them to a skill. We're able to expose new things to them in this program."

NASP conducts annual archery tournaments in each state. For competitors unable to attend live tournaments, the virtual tournaments allow them to mail in scores to NASP locations. Trophies are awarded to the top three boys and girls in each division (elementary school, middle school and high school). There are also national and world NASP tournaments.

NASP originated in 2002 in Kentucky

middle schools to "improve classroom performance and reduce dropout rates," according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's website. The program teaches students archery skills and aids their development of self-reliance.

A cooperative effort between the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Education brought NASP to schools in the Sunshine State. In 2008, Florida became the 24th state to incorporate NASP into its physical education classes. There are currently more than 400 schools in Florida that participate.

"[We want] to bring archery to the largest number of students," said Florida State NASP coordinator Steven Robbins.

Archery's origins can be traced back thousands of years as one of the methods used for hunting and self-defense. Europeans used the bow as far back as 8000 to 9000 B.C., according to the Krackow Company's website, which is dedicated to promoting archery. Archery eventually became a game Egyptian pharaohs played as far back as 1567 B.C.

Native Americans started using archery around 500 A.D.

"I imagine that it was hard. They had to make their own weapons," said eighth-grader Dakoya Nunez.

To bring the archery program to schools, teachers must attend a one-day Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) workshop, which provides lessons on safe range setup, individual and coaching skills development and equipment inspection.

The virtual tournament took place over several days during PECS physical education classes. Participants took 15 shots from 10 meters and 15 shots at 15 meters. Prior to competing, students were allowed five shots for warm-ups.

"It was tremendous. I like doing archery," said eighth-grader Alex Valdes.

The national NASP tournament for the Bullseye and International Bowhunting Organization 3D challenge is May 12-14 in Louisville, Kentucky. The world tournament is June 24-26 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

"Archery is a great sport that helps build muscle endurance, flexibility, hand-eye coordination and grip and body strength," Robbins said in a press release. "You don't have to be able to dunk a basketball to participate."

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# Ahfachkee career day inspires students to think, dream big

BY AARON TOMMIE  
Contributing Writer

**BIG CYPRESS** — Career Day 2016 at Ahfachkee School encouraged students to “Think and Dream Big” to ensure they achieved fruitful futures.

“Nothing is out of reach, but it’s up to you guys [to put in the work],” Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola said to students during the March 16 event. “You got to put forth the effort.”

The agenda included 28 career-oriented individuals offering advice to students. President Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola and Chief of Police William Latchford were among the presenters.

“This annual event is important because it builds community relations,” said Ahfachkee School assistant principal Gwendolyn Coverson. “We want to make sure these students are productive citizens in society.”

Mauro Avalos said the “coolest” part of career day was when he and his classmates saw a Taser weapon that is used by law enforcement to subdue individuals whose actions physically threaten police and others. “The Taser looks really cool, but they

said that the best thing is to never, ever have to use it,” Mauro said.

Ezekial Billie, who wants to be a professional basketball, football or soccer player when he grows up, said he learned that college is important no matter what career he pursues.

“If I don’t play sports, I might be a teacher. I need go to college and stick to it if I want to be a teacher,” Ezekial said.

Presentations were held in classrooms throughout the school’s campus for grades three through 12. Big Cypress Fire Rescue Department firefighters gave students in pre-kindergarten through second grade tours of fire trucks and showed them how they catch snakes. Students also had a chance to spray cones with the fire truck’s water hose.

“It’s an honor,” firefighter David Harshfield said. “I love it. They ask good questions.”

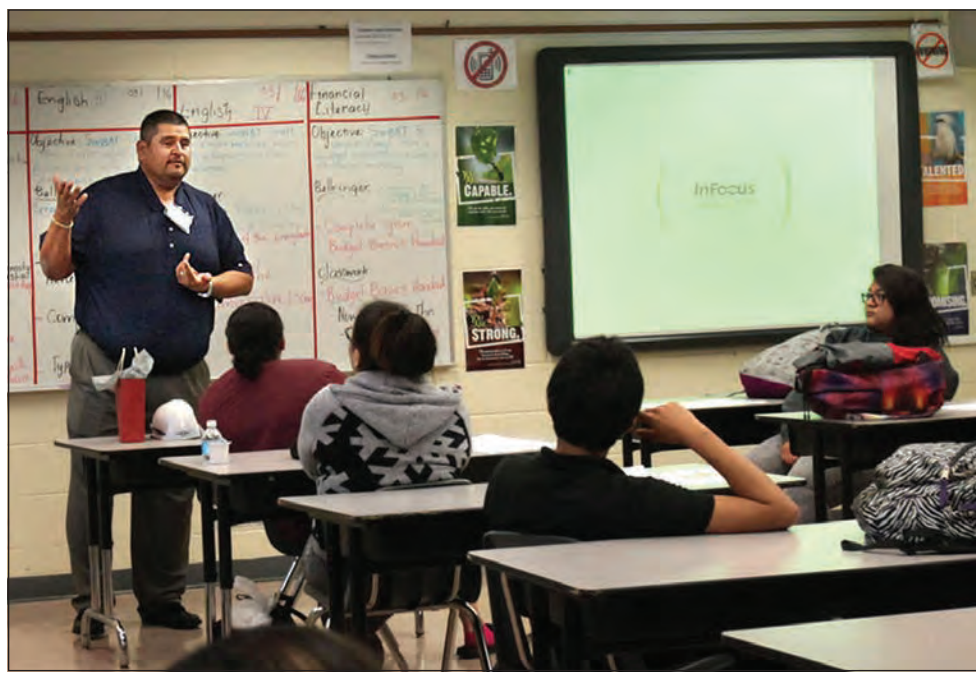
Presenters in various professions provided students with insights about their occupations.

Dave Scheidecker, a field technician for the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, spoke about archaeology. He told students about past adventures he had in countries such as Zimbabwe and Ecuador where he found many relics. On the Seminole reservations, he also finds interesting artifacts.

“You gotta like history and you

“There is a gift inside of you that everyone has. Use it and tap into your passion.”

– Courtenay McClain,  
FIU Golden Scholars Bridge  
program director



Aaron Tommie

Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola addresses students March 16 during Career Day at Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress.

gotta like dirt,” said Scheidecker when asked how he became an archaeologist. He explained that an interest in science and history are necessary and told students about his degrees.

Careers involving construction, science, history and counseling were also discussed.

Courtenay McClain, director of the Golden Scholars Bridge program at Florida International University, spoke to students about higher education and shared personal testimonies. She advised students to get involved in college activities and programs and to lead.

“You can do it,” McClain said. “There is a gift inside of you that everyone has. Use it and tap into your passion. I want you all to protect your future.”

Tenth-grader Elisah Billie said he wants to study animation in California. But he added that he is now also interested in attending law school after hearing Councilman Bowers, a lawyer, talk about law.

Councilman Osceola, who attended Ahfachkee School as a child, told students about the path he took to be in his position today. He worked as a cattle owner and had other businesses to support himself and his family. He said he learned to be self-sufficient at a young age.

“You guys are going to be running the Tribe one day,” Councilman Osceola said. “Take your road and move forward. Your road is to finish [your goals] and get what you want.”



Beverly Bidney

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School girls serve the traditional meal they cooked with all the fixings during culture days March 8.

## ◆ CULTURE DAYS From page 1B

(the students) that is Seminole. Today, there are so many distractions and if the school didn’t have culture day, the kids wouldn’t be doing this. I hope they understand that and have a deeper appreciation for the things they do here.”

Cultural Ambassador Everett Osceola and Van Samuels captivated students with stories about Seminole legends. Samuels told the story of why the possum’s tail has no fur. According to the legend, the possum wanted rings on his tail like the raccoon, so he tied bark around his tail and put it over the fire. When he saw the tail was charred and burned, he cried.

“The possum was so ashamed and embarrassed, which is why today they have no fur on their tails and never come out during the day,” Samuels said. “The lesson is to be proud of who you are as individuals and don’t want things other people have. Be happy with what the Creator blessed you with.”

Although most students had participated in culture days since kindergarten, they still viewed it as an important event.

“I learned about the old ways of our culture and what they did for fun,” said sixth-grader LaShae King, 12.

“Learning the traditions makes me feel like I’m proud to be a Native,” added Angelie Melton, 11.



Beverly Bidney

Fifth-grader Jaime Smith gets advice about turning frybread from Mollie Jolly during Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School culture days March 8. The students learned firsthand how to prepare and cook a traditional meal.

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# Sports



## Okeechobee's Drayton Billie wins district wrestling title

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

**OKEECHOBEE** — In the waning seconds of a district championship match, Okeechobee High School junior Drayton Billie was in a good position on the scoreboard but not on the mat. As he clung to a lead with Class 2A-District 14's 138-pound title at stake, his opponent rallied in the last minute of the final period Feb. 19 at Jensen Beach High School.

Determined to win his first district title, Drayton, of the Brighton Reservation, did everything he could to preserve his lead against Jensen Beach senior Devon McKinley.

"He caught me in a move. There was like 20 seconds left and I just held it," Drayton said.

The seconds could not evaporate fast enough for Drayton, but confidence — something that he accrued while racking up victories during a solid season — helped him secure a 17-13 win.

"I saw 10 seconds; I knew I had it. I just had to hold on for a little longer," Drayton said.

"He was hanging on," said Okeechobee wrestling coach Bruce Jahner. "He relaxed too much and he got put on his back and the last 10 seconds he just bridged, but he still won by four points."

Six Okeechobee wrestlers vied for district championships, but Drayton was the only Brahman who claimed a title, doing so in front of his parents, Emerson and Jeanne Billie, and his sisters.

Thanks to a fast start, Drayton built an early lead that he never relinquished.

"He scored some big throws at the beginning," Jahner said. "He threw him to his back for five once and took him down, and then we had him on his back for a tilt for another three."

Drayton admitted that thoughts of becoming the district champion flashed in his head during the match.

"Before it ended, I was surprised. I was like, 'I'm going to win districts for the first time.' It's something new," he said.

Having his arm raised in victory by referees is nothing new to Drayton, who compiled a 15-7 record this season. Drayton

♦ See DRAYTON BILLIE on page 2C

## Sammy Sanchez trending upward with third-place state finish

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

A year ago, Sammy Micco Sanchez ended his first appearance in the Oklahoma high school state wrestling championships knowing that something was missing.

The Fort Gibson High School standout had exceeded expectations by reaching states as a rookie, but a quick exit — two matches, two losses — gnawed at him because he didn't taste victory.

"He hates to lose," said Fort Gibson coach Sammy Johnson.

Filled with determination, Sammy — the wrestler — made returning to states and earning a place on the podium top priorities in his sophomore season this year. Sammy accomplished his goals Feb. 27-28 when he won three matches to finish in third place in the Class 4A championships at the State Fair Arena in Oklahoma City.

"I was going to come out with something. I wasn't going to go 0-2 like I did my freshman year," Sammy said while he worked out in the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood during Fort Gibson's spring break in mid-March. "My coach told me before the match, 'Don't be satisfied with getting here; go get something.'"

For the second year in a row, the other seven state qualifiers in Class 4A's 195-pound class were from higher grades than Sammy, but the sophomore started off by building a 5-0 lead on his way to an 8-5 decision against Elgin junior Zach Garrett in the opening round.

The victory moved Sammy into the semifinals, where he lost to Catoosa senior Branden Ferguson. Sammy and his coach didn't dwell on the defeat, which kept them

♦ See SAMMY SANCHEZ on page 2C

# Gore thrives as Haskell's top player, earns conference honorable mention

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

**LAWRENCE, Kan.** — Asked if there was anything Duelle Gore did not do for his team this season, Haskell Indian Nations University men's basketball coach Matthew Downing could only think of one minor task. "He didn't sweep the floor," Downing joked.

Gore was Haskell's Superman this season. The 6-foot-5, 210-pound senior guard/forward from Brighton and Hollywood led the team in nearly every category at both ends of the court.

Gore finished his final college season in February as Haskell's leader in points, 3-pointers, free throws, defensive rebounds, overall rebounds, blocks, steals and other departments. Despite playing the most minutes on the team and being so active on the boards, Gore avoided foul trouble. He was fifth on the team in fouls.

Downing described Gore as a "nightmare for a lot of teams" to play against. In addition to his defensive prowess, Gore's quickness, size and ability to score from beyond the arc and down low created matchup headaches.

"He was definitely a problem for other teams," Downing said.

Gore averaged 19 points and 8.5 rebounds per game. After Haskell finished its season with a 7-20 record, he was named an honorable mention selection by the Association of Independent Institutions (A.I.I.).

"I think if we had won some more games he would have been higher on the all-conference selection," Downing said.

Early in the season, Haskell's first-year coach determined Gore would be the go-to guy, a role Gore grew to cherish as he became a beacon of consistency with 24 games of double-digit point production.

"I did everything I could to help the team win," Gore said. "I like the pressure. Last year I was more of a second option."

Last year's "second option" turned into this year's star, which perhaps shined no brighter in Lawrence, Kansas than on Dec. 12 in Haskell's 94-83 win against William Woods University.

Gore scored a season-high 33 points in a dazzling shooting performance, which included 10-of-16 from the field and 11-of-

12 from the foul line. He also grabbed six rebounds, dished out five assists and made two blocks in an outing that helped him earn A.I.I. player of the week.

"He set the tone from the start that he would be a load to handle," Downing said. "In that game, there wasn't much he didn't do."

Haskell struggled early in the season with just two victories in the first 11 games but finished on a high note thanks to two wins in its final three games. Gore, who was joined by his mother, Claudia Gore, for the team's senior night ceremony, drained a team-high 23 points and had six steals in the season finale, an 84-64 win against Crowley's Ridge College.

"I had a blast," Gore said about the season. "We played a lot of good competition. Our record doesn't show how we improved from beginning to end."

Gore departed his collegiate career in style. He averaged 25 points in his final five games, including 30 against Central Christian College in early February.

Gore's improvement by more than six points per game compared to his junior year can be traced from the gymnasiums on the Hollywood Reservation — where he practices with his stepbrothers Trewston, Ty and Todd Pierce — to his home away from home: Haskell's Tony Coffin Sports Complex.

"He was a constant gym rat all year," Downing said.

With aspirations of playing professional basketball, Gore said he spends two hours in the gym each morning before classes and two to four hours every evening to hone his game and condition.

"I want to play basketball for as long as I can," said Gore, 23, who plans to participate in Las Vegas showcases in front of scouts and agents.

Depending on his basketball situation, the American Indian studies major said he could graduate this fall.

"It's a matter of timing. I'd love to finish school," he said.

Regardless of his next step on the basketball court, Gore's footprint at Haskell will not be easy to replace, Downing said.

"We'll miss him next year," Downing said. "This year he understood that he was part of a foundation that will move forward in a positive way."



Photo courtesy of Ryan Coody  
Duelle Gore takes a shot during a game against Baker University in the 2015-16 season. Gore, a senior, led Haskell Indian Nations University this season in several categories, including scoring.

# Seminole contributions felt throughout American Heritage softball program

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

**PLANTATION** — As winners of six softball state titles in the past dozen years, hoisting the championship plaque is annually the main objective for the American Heritage School varsity team.

So when the Patriots suffered their first loss of the season March 16, coach Marty Cooper was not concerned.

"Learn from it. It's going to build character. It's going to make us better," said

Cooper, who has been at the helm for all six state titles. "Being undefeated is not one of our goals; winning the state title is the only goal we have."

With two players from the Tribe in the starting lineup — junior catcher Ahnie Jumper and sophomore center fielder Kiauna Martin — the Patriots have been nearly unstoppable in the regular season. They cranked out 14 straight wins before suffering their first setback, 5-1, at St. Thomas Aquinas.

Heritage does not shy away from tough competition. Their victims have included

Barron Collier, Coral Springs Charter, Palm Beach Gardens, Westminster Christian and Winter Springs.

"This year is the toughest schedule we've ever had," Ahnie said.

In the Aquinas game, Ahnie belted the team's hardest hit ball of the night, a double to left-center on a 3-1 pitch in the top of the 6th inning when the game was knotted at 1-1.

"That was a great swing," Cooper said. "She made an adjustment from the swing just previous to that. I said let's make a little bit of an adjustment on that swing and she did."

**"Winning the state title is the only goal we have."**

— Marty Cooper, American Heritage School softball coach



American Heritage's Kiauna Martin tries to beat out a bunt March 16 against St. Thomas Aquinas. The Patriots cranked out 14 straight wins before suffering their first setback, 5-1, at St. Thomas Aquinas.

Kevin Johnson

She hit a double into the gap. That's a real nice thing for someone to do from one strike to the next."

Earlier in the game, Ahnie's sacrifice bunt attempt brought home Heritage's only run of the night when a throw from the pitcher sailed into center field.

Ahnie opened the season with three hits and two RBIs in a 10-0 win against Moore Haven, whose roster includes several players from the Tribe. Kiauna notched three hits in a win against Jensen Beach in March.

"They're both having a very good season," Cooper said. "Kiauna is doing well in center field. She's getting more balls in play hitting and becoming more of an offensive force for us in the lineup. Ahnie is doing a great job behind the plate. She's a leader. She makes great calls as far as what the plays are and what needs to be done. We're happy with both of them."

Ahnie and Kiauna were part of Heritage's state championship team two years ago. Last year, a bid to repeat came up short in a 1-0 loss to Baker County in the Class 5A title game.

Heritage is now in 6A, but its goal has remained the same.

"We're just improving on a lot of things that we needed to work on last season, and we're still working on those things," Kiauna said.

♦ See SOFTBALL on page 2C

# Trewston Pierce sets sights on college ball

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

As a player for IMG Academy's postgraduate basketball team this season, Trewston Pierce received exposure throughout the country. Wherever the Bradenton-based team played – from New England to the Rocky Mountains – eyes of college recruiters followed Pierce and his teammates.

"That was crazy. I've never experienced something like that. It felt good when they came to talk to you after the game," Pierce said in mid-March.

Pierce, a 6-foot-3 guard from the Hollywood Reservation, finished his high school career last year at Fort Lauderdale High, where he earned First Team All-Broward County honors. With a strong desire to play Division I college basketball, he honed his skills this season at IMG, a school that attracts elite high school and post graduate student-athletes from throughout the world in basketball, baseball, football, lacrosse, golf, tennis and other sports.

"It's the place to be if you're an athlete and trying to get to the next level," Pierce said, "but you've got to work hard every day."

IMG's roster included highly touted Florida State recruit Jonathan Isaac and Kenny Smith Jr., son of former NBA and college star Kenny Smith Sr. The team faced other top-level prep teams in showcases and tournaments that extended from Connecticut and Rhode Island to Colorado.

"I've never played against competition like this. It was crazy," Pierce said. "We played against guys who have signed with Duke, Kentucky, Louisville."

Pierce said schools that have shown interest in him include Florida State, Florida Atlantic, Florida International, Miami, North Florida, Temple, Tennessee, South Carolina and others.

He said he plans to sign with a Division I school in April.

"I've got to pick my top five and go from there," he said. "It's going to be big for us and my people."

## ◆ SOFTBALL From page 1C

Both players want another shot at a title this season.

"That's the only thing on our minds," Ahnie said.

The apple doesn't fall from Ahnie, whose leadership traits can be seen in her younger sister Canaan on Heritage's junior varsity squad.

"Canaan was helping one of her teammates and showing her how to throw properly," said Heritage JV coach Tammy Melton. "[My assistant coach] and I sat back and said, 'Look at that. Isn't that something? That's wonderful.' Canaan is in sixth grade. She's showing leadership."

When Ahnie and Kiauna graduate, the Seminoles' impact on the field won't dry up because Canaan, Alani Marks, Buddha Jumper, Madison Jumper, Jessalynn Osceola and Makayla Torres are preparing to step up. They helped the JV compile an 8-2 record heading into the final game.

The JV lost to Coral Springs Charter early in the season but bounced back to win a rematch late in the year, a sign of improvement that appeased their coach.

"The best thing for me is when I see them at the beginning of the season and see how much they've improved at the end of the season," Melton said. "This sport is not only teaching them about how to play the sport but how to be a team and help get self-confidence in them, knowing that they can do a sport. It's nice to see that come out of them and help each other out."



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage catcher Ahnie Jumper makes sure her teammates know the situation March 16 during a game against St. Thomas Aquinas in Fort Lauderdale.

# Service remembered, court champions crowned at Herman L. Osceola tourney

## New Breed, Sharpshooters take top honors in adult division

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — The sounds of bouncing basketballs, referee whistles and squeaks from sneakers ceased for a few minutes during the 31st annual Herman L. Osceola Basketball Tournament in the Big Cypress gymnasium that bears his name.

The break in action March 19 came on the final day of the three-day tournament as Herman's family, including his mother, Ruby, gathered on the court with Jeffrey Brodeur, a past national director of the Korean War Veterans Association. A year ago, Brodeur presented Ruby with Herman's Korea Defense Service Medal. This year he gave her a limited edition piece of wire fencing from the demilitarized zone (DMZ) that separates South and North Korea.

"Herman died for his brothers. That's what he is to me, a brother," Brodeur said.

Brodeur never met Herman, but he has become familiar with Herman's story ever since he saw his statue in front of the gym while driving through the reservation.

"When I first saw the statue ... I knew he died in Beirut or Korea. That's exactly the same gear we used at that period of time in the '80s," said Brodeur, who served in the Army.

When Brodeur saw the date of Herman's death on the statue – March 24, 1984 – he immediately knew what had happened to the 23-year-old U.S. Marine Corps Lance Corporal.

"I remember when the chopper went down. I was with the 25th Division at that time," Brodeur said. "We were told the chopper was actually shot down by the North Koreans and we were put on alert to go over there. We were on alert for about two weeks ..."

Brodeur is part of a national effort to build a memorial in Washington, D.C. to honor those who served and died on the Korean Peninsula since an armistice was signed in 1953.

"We're hoping to get the bill passed this year, to be put in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017," he said. "Hopefully they'll pass the bill and we'll erect the memorial at Arlington National Cemetery."

Brodeur said 1,250 Americans – including Herman L. Osceola – have died in Korea postwar.

"We'll never forget what the guys did during the war; they're real heroes, but Herman's life matters, too," Brodeur said.

As for the basketball tournament, action began on day one with the Legends Division for ages 40 and up. Hollywood Heat proved to be the class of the three men's teams. The Heat outlasted Big School, 39-29, in the championship.

"We get together and we get to have fun. No one got hurt; that's the key at this

point," said Heat forward Max Osceola III, who scored 11 points, including a 3-pointer just before halftime that put the Heat ahead for good, 24-21.

Smooth-shooting Vince Billie was a 3-point scoring machine for the Heat throughout the night. Billie had nine points in the final. He didn't miss in the first half of an earlier game when he sank five 3-pointers before halftime.

"He's always been able to shoot good," Osceola III said. "I was talking to him before and I asked him if he was ready and he said he didn't know, but I knew he was ready. You just have to give him the right spot and he's good. Once he's set, he's in there."

Osceola III and Billie were joined by Robert Landon, Kenny Tommie and Charlie Tiger in leading the Heat to the title.

With just four players, shorthanded Big School faced an uphill battle in all of their games. A gutsy performance earned them a spot in the final. Preston Baker scored 14 points in a win against Cicero's Team, and Elton Shore knocked down 17 points in the championship.

"We were missing a couple people. It was a struggle. We ran out of gas at the end," said Big School guard Chris Hulbutta.

Cicero's Team, led by Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola, finished third.

The women's Legends featured two teams and nine players. The BC Ladies had just four players. The Young Legends had five players, but opted to play with four in order to continue the tournament.

"We decided to play with four because we wanted to play," said Young Legends' Geraldine Osceola.

The teams split their first two games, but the winner-take-all third game was canceled because of an injury. Young Legends, with Shirley Clay, Faye Cypress, Stacey Jones, Geraldine Osceola and Wimberly Raban, were declared the champions.

Two days later, two more champions were crowned in the Adult Division. Hunter Osceola and Trewston Pierce were among the offensive standouts that led a stacked New Breed squad to the men's title in a division that featured five teams. New Breed, which went undefeated, also included DeForest Carter, Greg Carter, Dylan Isaacs and Dillon Thomas. Soul Clean finished runner-up.

On the women's side, 3-point specialist Jenna Plumley scored 28 points as the Sharpshooters cruised past We Got Next, 56-24, in the championship. Shae Pierce scored 12 points for the Sharpshooters, who also featured Sydney Cypress, Ashley Mitchell, Chelsea Mountain, Ariah Osceola and Tasha Osceola.

The Sharpshooters captured the title despite nearly not having enough players to field a team. They had to recruit Mountain at the last minute just to start with four players.

"The team needed help, so I said I would



Kevin Johnson

Hunter Osceola leads a fast break for the New Breed team March 19 in the Herman L. Osceola Basketball Tournament in Big Cypress. New Breed won the men's division.



Kevin Johnson

Chelsea Mountain, left, guards Anna Van Stippen during a women's game March 19 in the Herman L. Osceola Basketball Tournament in Big Cypress.



Kevin Johnson

Ruby Osceola, mother of Herman L. Osceola, and Jeffrey Brodeur, a past national director of the Korean War Veterans Association, stand in front of Herman's statue March 19 in Big Cypress. Brodeur presented the Osceola family with a piece of fence from the demilitarized zone between South and North Korea. Herman, a U.S. Marine, died in 1984 in a helicopter crash while serving in South Korea.

help," Mountain said.

Toward the end of the first game, other Sharpshooters arrived. Mitchell flew to Florida from Arizona just in time to suit up for the champions.

## ◆ SAMMY SANCHEZ From page 1C

out of the state title match. Finishing third or fourth – which would get a spot on the podium alongside the state champion and runner-up – was still up for grabs.

"I let him know don't be happy with just placing; let's get third," Johnson said.

"I don't like to think about losses," Sammy said.

Sammy didn't have to think about anymore losses because he won the consolation bracket's semifinal and final to earn third place.

"Third place is big for a sophomore to do," Johnson said.

Sammy trailed 2-0 early in the consolation semifinal but rallied to win 8-4. In the consolation final, Sammy outlasted Cushing junior Dalton Hockett in sudden death overtime, 2-1.

"I escaped with one second left to win the match. If he would have held me for that

one second, he would have won," Sammy said.

The dramatic victory capped an impressive season for Sammy, who said his 37-7 record met another objective.

"My goal was to keep it below 10 (losses), and I did. Next year's goal is to go undefeated or keep it below five," he said.

Already with more than 50 career wins in two years of high school wrestling, Sammy is on pace to reach triple digits. His progress at states from his freshman to sophomore years – which included runner-up at regionals – is another encouraging sign as Sammy sets his sights on winning a state title next season.

"I think it's an achievable goal," Johnson said.

Sammy's next goal will be to repeat as an All-American at the National High School Coaches Association National Wrestling Championships in Virginia Beach, Virginia, where he, his brother Jesse and several of their Fort Gibson teammates will compete in early April.



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee High School wrestler Drayton Billie stands next to the school's logo March 3, two weeks after he won a district championship in the 138-pound class.

## ◆ DRAYTON BILLIE From page 1C

gets the most of his 5-foot-6 frame whether he's on the wrestling mat or the football field.

"He's very quick. He's very strong. He's got great balance. His speed is incredible and he's strong for his size," Jahner said.

Drayton's victory in the district tournament catapulted him into the Class 2A-Region 4 tournament the following week. After winning both his matches on the first day against wrestlers from Boca Raton's Olympic Heights and Miami Central, Drayton returned to Jensen Beach High School on day two with only one more victory needed to earn a trip to the state tournament.

The victory proved elusive. He lost to South Broward's Andre L'Abadie in a 5-2 decision in the semifinals. In the consolation bracket, he faced Jensen

Beach's McKinley in a rematch. This time McKinley won 12-6 and sealed the final spot to states.

"I felt like I could have done better, especially since I already beat him," Drayton said. "I went in there with a different game plan. I should have stayed with the same game plan. I just keep shooting in and making mistakes instead of sitting back and letting him make mistakes."

With the wrestling season over, Drayton shifted his athletic focus to spring football, where he returns as a top Okeechobee running back.

Throughout the year, he stays in shape by training in Boca Raton with Kamaru Usman, a mixed martial arts fighter and former NCAA Division II wrestling champion.

Drayton said he trained harder in the offseason this year compared to previous years and now has a district championship to prove it.

"My hard work is paying off," he said. "I'm proud of myself."



Photo courtesy of Sammy Sanchez

Fort Gibson High School sophomore wrestler Sammy Micco Sanchez and his coach Sammy Johnson pose after the team finished runner-up in the Oklahoma high school state dual tournament Feb. 20. The following week Sammy Micco Sanchez placed at the Class 4A individual state tournament. He finished third.

# Seminal Seminole matriarch honored with memorial rodeo

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — To anyone who knew her well, Betty Mae Jumper was a straight talker who exemplified honesty, hard work, determination and success against all odds whether wrestling an alligator or running the Tribe as the first female "chief."

The inaugural Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo Feb. 20 at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena celebrated Jumper's lifetime of contributions to the Tribe with four hours of excitement from saddle bronc to bull riding.

Close to 200 people turned out to cheer on family members and friends who competed in the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association-sanctioned event mostly for fun and fellowship in memory of the tribal matriarch who passed on in 2011 at age 88.

"Nights like tonight take me back to seeing her at so many events, like Tribal Fair. She took the same booth at Tribal Fair every year and I knew when I ran through the place and turned that one corner, she would be there," said Naha Jumper, Betty Mae

Jumper's grandson. "She was a good lady."

A superhero of her time, she was the first Tribal citizen to achieve success in many areas: first high school graduate, registered nurse, newspaper editor, head of the Tribe's Health Department and female tribal chairman in all of Indian Country. A cattle owner and co-founder of the United South Eastern Tribes consortium of 26 Tribes, Betty Mae was a no-nonsense leader who demanded the best from all Tribal citizens.

For readers of The Seminole Tribune, Betty Mae's finger-wagging editorial columns, now republished as "Wisdom from the Past," still speak clearly: Respect Seminole tradition and culture; honor God; say no to drugs and alcohol; be strong disciplinarians to children.

But, said her son Moses



Eileen Soler

Josh Jumper ties down a calf in a calf roping contest at the first Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo Feb. 20 at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress.



Eileen Soler

The family of Betty Mae Tiger Jumper poses for a portrait Feb. 20 before the start of the inaugural Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.



Photo courtesy of Dallas Nunez

The Lady Seminole 12U volleyball team celebrates its first-place finish in the Palm Beach Classic's Silver Division. From left, front row: Winnie Gopher and Shyllynn Testerman. From left, back row: Karey Gopher, coach Kelly Smiley, Melina Steve, Tammy Martinez, Karlyne Urbina and Elle Thomas.

## Lady Seminole 12U capture silver in Palm Beach Classic

STAFF REPORT

**WEST PALM BEACH** — The Lady Seminole 12U travel volleyball team emerged from the Palm Beach Classic in West Palm Beach atop the Silver Division.

After posting a 1-2 record in pool play against teams from Miami, Palm Beach and Sunrise, the Lady Seminole roared through the Silver Division. They rallied past Sideout 12, of Jupiter, in the semifinals (14-25, 25-21, 20-18). In the final, the Lady

Seminole edged Vipers Black (25-19, 25-22), of North Palm Beach.

The 12U squad wasn't the only Lady Seminole team that shined in the tournament.

The 10U squad played in the 11U section and finished first in its pool with a 2-0 record against Jupiter Elite and Miami Hype. In the Gold Division semifinals, the Lady Seminole fell to FSVBC Suns, of Davie, in two close sets (25-21, 25-22) and finished third.

Jumper Jr., the woman who pioneered the future led more by example than words.

"I don't remember her ever saying she loved me, but she showed me. She would give her life to us," Jumper Jr. said.

His mother came close to death before her sixth birthday, Jumper Jr. said. By her own account in the biography "A Seminole Legend: The Life of Betty Mae Tiger Jumper," several men in the Tribe wanted her drowned because her father

was a French trapper.

On the night of the memorial rodeo, a Jumper family portrait showed the matriarch's five-generation legacy of cattle keepers.

Competing in the memorial rodeo adult divisions were seven family members: Blevyns Jumper, Naha Jumper, Andre Jumper, Josh Jumper, Boogie Jumper, Buddah Jumper and Ahnie Jumper. Jumper children who participated in youth rodeo events earlier in the day included Jacee Jumper, Canaan Jumper, Madison Jumper, Riley Jumper, Talen Jumper, Caden Jumper and Kalgary Johns. Blevyns Jumper and Buddah Jumper competed in both adult and youth events.

Betty Mae and her husband, World War II veteran Moses Jumper Sr., raised about 240 head in Big Cypress. Their successors now boast about 550 head that are worked family-wide.

But Naha Jumper said the family is close because Betty Mae handed down more than livestock.

"She raised my father (Moses Jumper Jr.) and he instilled in us all that was good about her. As I got older, I realized how good that is," Naha Jumper said.

The next Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo will likely be held in January 2017 with a larger audience, more competitors and bigger payouts, Moses Jumper Jr. said.

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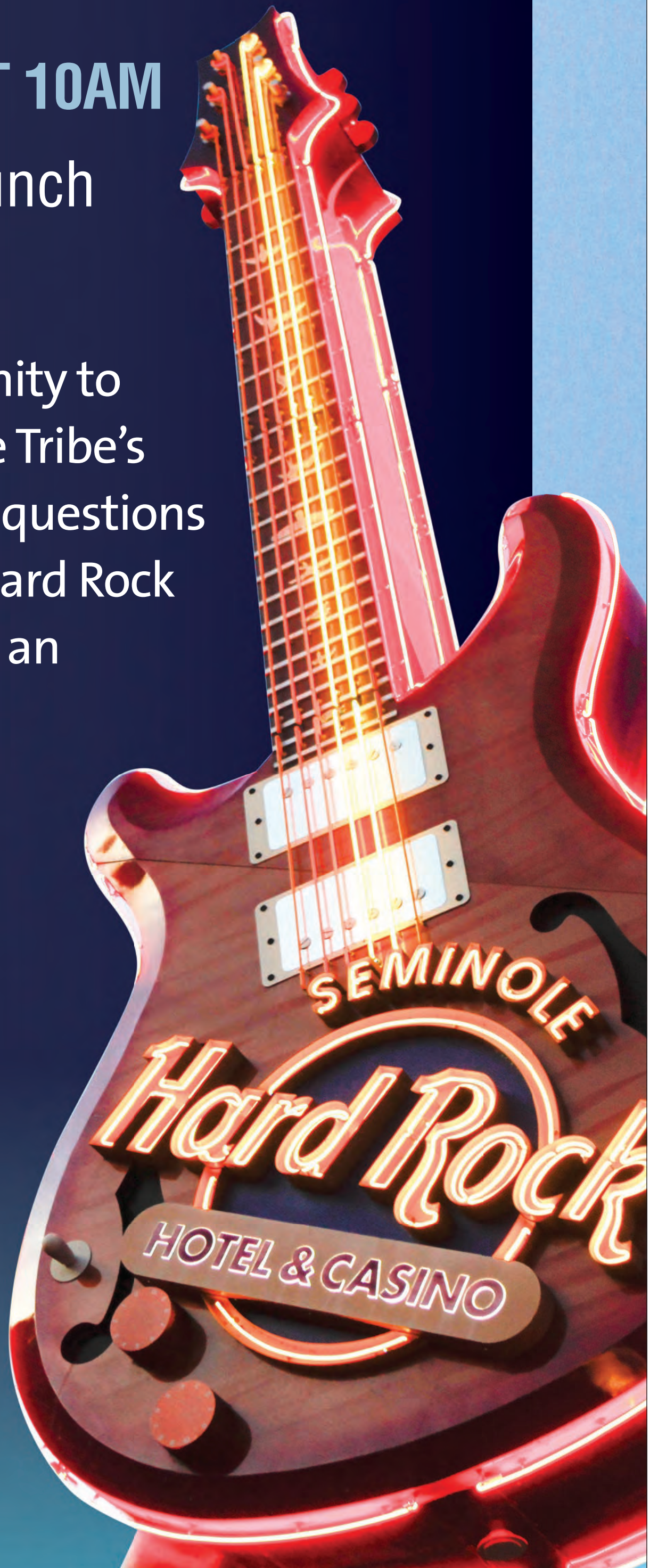


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Kevin Johnson  
Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School shortstop Dakoya Nunez tags out a Glades Day runner March 3 in Brighton.

# PECS softball season wraps up with consecutive victories

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

**BRIGHTON** — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School sports teams don't have championships to play for at the end of their seasons, but that didn't prevent the Lady Seminoles softball team from playing like champions as its season concluded in early March.

Eighth-graders Keira French, Jacee Jumper, Janessa Nunez, Julia Smith and Alaina Sweat ended their middle school softball careers on a high note thanks to shoutout victories. PECS blanked LaBelle, 1-0, on parent night March 7 and routed Glades Day, 9-0, the following day in the season finale.

The back-to-back wins came just in time to boost both PECS' record and the coach's confidence.

"I have seen major improvements defensively these last two games as well as team building," said PECS head coach Amber Thornton, whose team finished 5-4.

The leap in improvement was evident in the victory against LaBelle. The one-run nail biter came just four weeks after LaBelle handed PECS its worst loss of the season, 16-6. The second time around belonged to Janessa and the defense.

With Jacee behind the plate, Janessa was in control from start to finish in the circle. She fanned nine batters, scattered four hits and issued just one walk in a stellar complete game.

"She's very confident. She knows what she's doing. She did a really good job," Thornton said.

Janessa thrived in tough situations. After a one-out triple in the fourth by LaBelle, Janessa retired the next two batters on an infield pop up and a three-pitch strikeout.

"I usually try to push a little harder so there's less chance of them getting a hit and getting runs," Janessa said.

When PECS defense needed to step up, Alaina took charge at first base. She didn't allow anything to get past, including a hard line drive that she backhanded for an out in the sixth with runners in scoring position.

"She's very talented. She did a really, really good job. She was on her toes, and she knows the game inside and out," Thornton said.

Janessa scored the game's only run when she led off the bottom of the first with a single to left-center and crossed the plate when Jacee beat out an infield grounder.

PECS' sharpest game of the year earned praise from Thornton.

"They came ready to play. They were all respectful. They all had a good attitude today. This is the game that made me the happiest," said Thornton, who handed out flowers to her eighth-graders and their families during a pregame ceremony.

The Lady Seminoles carried their momentum into the next day against Glades Day. For the second straight game, Janessa pitched a shutout and struck out nine. Julia, the team's starting shortstop, stamped an exclamation point on the season with a home run.

The eighth-graders will likely be on opposing sides next year. Julia and Alaina indicated they will attend Moore Haven High School; Jacee, Janessa and Keira plan to attend Okeechobee High School.

"They have a lot of talent. If they stay focused, they're going to go places," said Thornton, who was assisted by Brittany Osceola, Dalaney

Osceola and Elton Shore. Brittany Osceola echoed those sentiments.

"We're sad to see them go," she said, "but they're excited to play high school ball."



Kevin Johnson  
Eighth-grade pitcher Janessa Nunez winds up during Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's 1-0 win against LaBelle High School junior varsity March 7 in Brighton.

## Early season improvement boosts PECS baseball team

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Copy Editor

**BRIGHTON** — Pitchers Ramone Baker and Silas Madrigal fired strikes, catcher Tanner Shore threw out a runner and Dante Thomas could not be caught on the base paths. Those were just a few examples that earned praise from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School baseball coach Preston Baker.

Even though PECS' home opener March 3 was spoiled with a 6-5 loss to Glades Day High School's junior varsity, coach Baker witnessed a far crisper performance from his players compared to their debut a few days earlier when they allowed 16 runs in a loss.

No matter what record the team compiles in its brief six-game sprint, Baker will not view wins and losses as gauges for success. His coaching philosophy extends beyond the numbers on the scoreboard.

"I want them to play as a team, play together, respect each other, respect the coaches, respect the game and have fun," Baker said.

Until Glades Day rallied late for the victory, PECS had plenty of fun while it

built a 5-3 lead.

The Seminoles fell behind 3-0 in the top of the first but answered with two runs in their first trip thanks to Dante's RBI groundout that scored Silas and a punt single and run from Dakoya Nunez.

In the third, Dante provided the spark with his bat and cleats. He led off with a single to left, stole second and third, and scored the tying run when Dakoya reached base on a fielder's choice. Tavis Jumper followed with a long RBI sacrifice fly that brought home Kaleb Doctor with the go-ahead tally. Dakoya made it 5-3 when he beat a tag at home plate following a wild pitch.

Behind Silas and coach Baker's son Ramone, PECS' pitching was far sharper compared to the season opener.

"The pitchers did much better this game than last time. We didn't have so many balls this game. Last game we had a walkathon," Baker said.

Ramone, who pitched the first two innings, emerged from a bases loaded threat unscathed in the second inning when he retired the final batter on a ground out. Silas took the hill in the third and fanned the first batter on his way to retiring the side in order.

Led by Dakoya at shortstop, Kaleb at second and Kamani Smith at first, PECS' infield generated a solid game defensively on a field that takes time to adjust for the younger players accustomed to playing with shorter base paths and smaller outfields.

"It's a pretty big field for seventh-graders," Baker said. "Some of them are still playing on Little League fields."

Glades Day scored three runs in the fourth to take a one-run lead. After PECS did not score in the bottom of the inning, the game ended because of darkness on the right side of the field with a few light stanchions out of order. Still, Baker shed light on his team's performance.

"We did much better tonight than our first game. I guess the first game we got all the bugs out of the way," he said.

Fourteen players came out for the team in late February; a dozen suited up in the home opener. The squad features five eighth-graders, seven seventh-graders and no sixth-graders.

"They've got good spirits," Baker said. "They're real happy about playing baseball. I'm not real hard on them; I just want them to play ball and learn."



Kevin Johnson  
Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School pitcher Ramone Baker stops a high chopper during the team's home opener against Glades Day High School's junior varsity.



Kevin Johnson  
Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School catcher Jacee Jumper is escorted past her teammates by Jo Jumper, left, and Naha Jumper during the team's eighth-grade parent night ceremony March 7 in Brighton.

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## 4-H thank you

I would like to thank our volunteer sifters who checked all of the steers that came in to make sure that each participant could handle their steers, and that was Victor Crews, from Okeechobee, and Amos Tiger. These two gentlemen have been around shows for a number of years and helped the kids. I would like to thank those parents/volunteers who come out to help every year.

Without them, the Seminole Indian 4-H Show & Sale could not go as smoothly as it does. Lewis Gopher, of the Boys & Girls Club, provided meals for all three days for the participants. Again, many thanks to them.

Polly Hayes,  
4-H coordinator

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101859	2007	FORD SEDAN	CROWN VIC	74,477	Poor	\$1,450.00
A87599	2004	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (RWD)	109,634	Poor	\$1,245.00
137703	2006	CHEVROLET MINIVAN	UPLANDER (RWD)	222,368	Poor	\$450.00

Note - Previously advertised items are not reflected on this advertisement, only new listings. For more information contact Fixed Assets Dept. 954-966-6300 ext. 20034.

NEW!! - Tribal Members only- access this information at the website: <http://semtribe.com/FixedAssets>. (Registration required)

## Poem: 'October 25, 1997'

SUBMITTED BY IKE T. HARJO

October 27, 1997, my freedom came to an end, so many years away from family and those few chosen friends.

It was my choice only for living that life of crime, because I was raised proper taught to work for mine.

I didn't listen to Amposhe, Aawaache and the other great elders too, for my stupidity I wear prison blue.

I always use myself as an example of what not to be, at the same time I keep it one hundred and only point the finger at me.

If you're going to be in those streets accept your

fate, do not make excuses and blame someone else for your mistake.

Life is whatever we make of it on our own, saltine crumble while the warrior stands strong.

There is no glory about living on the wrong side of the law, if you're weak in this evil confined world in blood you will fall.

October 25, 1997, I still remember it clear as today, to my family and those chosen few my loyalty is second to none it will always be on display.

Ike T. Harjo  
Koowaathi



## Theodore Nelson Sr.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker, SW5813, Indian Child Welfare Consultant-Expert, Board Member National Indian Child Welfare Association, Licensed and Insured, Seminole Health Plan Provider

Are you unhappy with your current counseling/child welfare services? Now there are alternative services for you and your family. Philosophically, we all have difficulty balancing social life, culture, health, substance use/abuse, self-esteem, sense of belonging, emotions, our hopes and dreams.

I offer 20 years of professional experience as a qualified therapist working with children, teens and adults in a confidential, private setting in your home or my office. I am available for individual counseling, dependency/custody cases and tribal court; services are available for all reservations.

Office: (954) 965-4414; cell: (954) 317-8110; 6528 Osceola Circle, Hollywood, Florida 33024



## Seminole Health Department

### Good News!!

Starting Monday, February 1, 2016 **all medical clinics will be open late every Monday until 7 pm.**

- Big Cypress Clinic 1-863-983-5151**
- Brighton Clinic 1-863-763-0271**
- Hollywood Clinic 1-954-962-2009**
- Immokalee Clinic 1-239-867-3400**

## Classified ad

Wanted to buy: collector who appreciates the art and culture of the Seminole seeks early (pre-1940) beadwork, baskets, soffkee spoons, turbans, patchwork clothing, silver, necklaces, moccasins, etc. Contact Keith Reeves, P.O. Box 1210, Winter Park, FL 32790 or ISKR5@aol.com, or 407-620-9744.

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