

The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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International visitors meet with Seminole Tribal Court officials

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — A host of international visitors converged at the Tribal Headquarters auditorium in Hollywood May 21 for a special session with Tribal Court officials. The group was visiting to learn about the Seminole Tribal justice system and Tribal court administration.

Participants in the International Visitors Leadership Program are part of an exchange program organized by Global Ties Miami and the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

"These are professionals in the fields of law," said Jacqueline R. González, special projects administrator for the Seminole Tribal Court. "They are attorneys, secretary generals ... who want to take a look at our justice system," she said.

Indeed the participants carry impressive professional titles in their respective countries — senior counsel, deputy director of the secretariat, state secretary and federal public defender, to name a few.

Fourteen countries were represented by the 14 visitors — Argentina, Bahamas, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Japan, Laos, Mexico, Morocco, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. They visited Washington, D.C., and made



From left, Chief Judge Moses B. Osceola, Chief Justice Willie Johns and Seminole Court Director Stan Wolfe listen to insight from the international visitors who visited the Tribal Court on May 21.

stops in Miami prior to coming to Hollywood to meet with Seminole Tribal Court officials Willie Johns, chief justice; Moses B. Osceola, chief judge; and Stan Wolfe, Seminole Court director.

One of the participants, Patricia C. Colombo, is from Salta, a province in northern Argentina. She is the former secretary of justice and is now the second in command in the general attorney's office.

"In my province we have been working hard in judicial reforms in the past years," Colombo said. "[I've] had the opportunity to work with the U.S. State Department and to share different experiences with U.S. professors, among whom are judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and [Drug Enforcement Agency] special agents."

She said through the U.S. Embassy in Argentina she has collaborated with her U.S. counterparts on several issues related to criminal law — including the accusatory system, a bill to implement jury trials and a task force for drug crimes. Her province has its own natives and Colombo said she was excited to learn about how the Tribal Court operates.

The Seminole way

Wolfe, Chief Justice Johns and Chief

Judge Osceola gave the group an overview of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and some of its culture and customs.

Wolfe noted that of the 567 tribes that are recognized by the U.S. government, in Florida there are just two — the Seminole and Miccosukee, both with a unique history.

Chief Judge Osceola said that today there are about 4,500 members of the Seminole Tribe, not only scattered across six Florida reservations, but living in areas across the globe.

"We fought hard for 40-something years in the 1800s in the Seminole Wars," he said. "At least we didn't end up in Oklahoma."

Due to the U.S. government's forced migration policy, many Seminoles were relocated to Oklahoma. The Seminoles who resisted now form the modern day Tribe in Florida.

As the presentation moved toward Tribal Court topics, Chief Judge Osceola related a story about how the Seminoles used to have a very specific system of capital punishment.

"Usually it was ordained through the [Green] Corn Dance and the medicine men," he said. "They would appoint somebody to take you out. We didn't have a formal electric chair or a rope where we hung you. We invited someone to take you out and that's



Jilliane J. De Dumo of the Philippines during the question-and-answer session.

what they did."

Chief Justice Johns said his grandfather was someone who "had to go and avenge a murder."

"It was a court order basically to avenge a family murder," he said.

Modern day

Wolfe spoke of the complexities of the Seminole Tribe and how it interacts with state and federal governments. He also said that when it comes to Tribal Court, much of it is straight-forward because it is a relatively new court — about three years old — that deals with civil, not criminal cases.

The most common civil cases before the court, Wolfe said, are disputes that involve division of property or family issues like divorce or child custody.

"People that come before the judges know the families and the clans," Wolfe said. "You will see them eventually at events. Tribal court is more of a community-based court."

After a question-and-answer session the group made the short trip to the Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for lunch.

Army Corps reveals new plan for Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

The Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project, an initiative developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District to improve the watershed surrounding Lake Okeechobee, met strong criticism with its original plan to build a reservoir along the northeast border of the Brighton Reservation. After months of debate from Tribal members, organizations and county officials, USACE has developed a new alternative plan.

The new proposed Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), called Alt 1BW (K05 Wetland Attenuation Feature), is a \$1.31 billion project that includes 43,000 acre-feet of shallow storage in a reservoir, 80 Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells and an estimated 448,000 acre-feet of storage every year. If constructed, the northern part of the reservoir would run alongside Paradise Run Wetland while the main body of the reservoir would run along the southern border of the Brighton Reservation. The closest distance between the reservoir and the Brighton Reservation would be .47 miles.

The previous TSP, called Alternative 1B Shallow, had approximately 65,000 acre-feet of storage within two reservoirs — K-05 North and K-05 South — and was situated along the entire northeast border of the Brighton Reservation and the west border of Paradise Run Wetland. The alternative contained the same plan for ASR wells. Other original alternatives included a reservoir in Highlands County just west of the Kissimmee River Center Wetland as part of Alternative 2Cr and two reservoirs — one in Highlands County and one North of Brighton just west of Paradise Run — as part of Alternative 2B.

USACE's Lisa Aley said during a Project Delivery Team (PDT) meeting on May 2 that there were many issues expressed

♦ See WATERSHED PROJECT on page 4A

Seminole Tribal Court Structure

- Appellate Court: Chief justice, two associate justices, judicial advisor
- Trial Court: Chief judge, two associate judges, judicial advisor
- Administrative office: Director, special projects administrator, clerk of court, deputy clerk

Miss Florida Seminole competes in Miss Indian World

BY RANDEE OSCEOLA
Miss Florida Seminole

Editor's note: The annual Miss Indian World contest was held during the Gathering of Nations, North America's largest pow wow, April 26 to 28 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The event attracted more than 10,000 attendees and included 3,600 dancers who competed in a variety of traditional dances.

Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola and 29 other contestants vied for the title of

Miss Indian World, who spends a year as a cultural ambassador for Native Americans. Taylor Susan, 25, of the White Mountain Apache/Walker River Paiute tribes of Arizona was crowned April 28. What follows is Osceola's experience in her own words.

I started the week at Gathering of Nations and the Miss Indian World pageant at orientation where I met all 30 contestants. I was scared and nervous but ready for the experience. At orientation, they went over all the rules of the week and the requirements for the title as Miss Indian World. Overwhelmed with joy and jet lag, I went straight to sleep.

Before my interview the next morning, where I wore a long skirt and button-up shirt with a blazer, I turned in the money and the tickets I sold. I sold all of the tickets and raised more than \$2,000 and am so thankful for everyone who bought tickets from me and helped support me on my journey.

During interviews, I smiled and answered every question to the best of my abilities. Before having dinner in Old Town Albuquerque, New Mexico that evening, we had a chance to explore. I wore a traditional outfit and was asked a lot of questions while wandering around town. I looked in shops and at beadwork and picked up a few items for my family back home.

Raffle tickets were drawn during dinner; however none of the Florida tickets were called. I and the contestants received raffle tickets of our own for door prizes and I won beaded napkin holders, which I will give to my grandma

for her collection.

The next morning, we practiced all day for the talent competition, from 7:30 a.m. until the opening of the doors at 6 p.m. For my talent, I told the story of the traveling song and how it was used for protection. Once the talent portion was over, I was excited and overwhelmed with joy when I saw the familiar faces of Junior Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola and her family. They gave me words of encouragement that kept me going throughout the week, especially during the public speaking and dance competitions the next day.

For public speaking I was asked to describe the outfit I was wearing, which was a modern traditional dress with our medicine colors on it. I explained the dress was made by my mother and what the colors mean to the Tribe. After that I had a short break to wander around the Gathering of Nations, look at all the vendors and take pictures with many other princesses.

While looking around, I found Miss Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Summer Leigh-Ann Foster, and did an interview for the tribe's website. They all are more than excited to come down to Florida for the Miss Seminole pageant in July. After meeting with them it was time to grab my shakers and head to the Miss Indian World dance competition.

On my way, I got a lot of questions about my shakers and how they are made. I explained to people that they are traditionally made with turtle shells and rocks to make the noise, but the turtles that we use are on the endangered species list. As such, we now use milk cans and BB bullets.

We were split into three groups for the dance competition. I was in the second group so I got to see how fast the drum was going and how hard I needed to stop my shakers. When it was my turn, I walked over to the section where my mom, Kailani and Kailani's

family were sitting. Before the drums started, I gave them a smile and started to stomp with the beat.

I danced the Corn Dance and started low looking for the corn while stomping my shakers as hard as I could. Since I didn't have a partner I smiled to the crowd while shaking my cap and asking for corn. When it was time for my last move, I smiled to the crowd while putting the corn in my camp. I managed to do this around the arena four times before the drums stopped, and luckily, I stopped on beat.

Once the competition was over I sat with my mother and Kailani's family. They were all so proud that I brought tears to their eyes; they said that I represented the Tribe beautifully. Kailani's mother Melody was amazed that she could hear the shakers over the crowd and the drums. To her surprise I was only wearing eight of them on each side versus the 12 that I usually wear. I told her, "I was stomping hard; I wanted everyone to hear them."

After the competition I got a quick



Courtesy Gathering of Nations/Facebook

Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola, center, participates in the Grand Entry with the other 29 Miss Indian World contestants at the Gathering of Nations.

bite to eat and headed off to sleep since the crowning was the next day.

As I prepared for the day, I felt proud about what I accomplished the day before. Regardless of the outcome, I felt great about the week and how I represented the Seminole Tribe.

The Miss Indian World contestants had two grand entries that day; one in the morning and one during the evening before the crowning. The first grand entry that day is what broke my spirit.

After the grand entry there was a middle-

♦ See MISS INDIAN WORLD on page 4A



Courtesy Miss Florida Seminole

Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola and Miss Indian World Taylor Susan pose together April 28 at Gathering of Nations in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Editorial

Sports betting ruling a game-changer

• Daytona Beach News-Journal Editorial Board

A U.S. Supreme Court ruling May 14 literally was a game-changer. By striking down a 1992 federal ban on sports betting outside Nevada, the court opened the door to states legalizing one of the most popular forms of gambling.

The effects will be felt from coast to coast, not just in the states that adopt sports betting, but in the way professional sports leagues incorporate legal wagering into their game experiences.

In March, Sports Illustrated's Albert Breer reported that in anticipation of the Supreme Court ruling, NFL executives and team owners already were hashing out how to exploit the new reality. Ideas included having fans in attendance at games using a phone app to place live prop bets on certain outcomes, such as whether a team will score a touchdown or a field goal on a drive, or whether the possession will end with a punt.

Mark Cuban, owner of the NBA's Dallas

Mavericks, said the court's opinion caused the value of every major professional sports team to "double."

However, if you're looking for an enticing location in Florida to open a sportsbook, don't be in a rush – you'll probably have plenty of time to conduct your search. That's because although at least 18 states reportedly already are prepared to allow legalized sports betting by the end of this year, Florida hasn't even taken the first steps, largely because it has more moving parts than most others.

That starts in November with Amendment 3, which if passed would require voter approval of any expansion of casino gambling, taking the decision out of the hands of the Legislature. That's a much higher bar to clear.

Then there's the Seminole Compact, in which the Native American tribe pays the state more than \$250 million a year for the exclusive rights to operate slot machines outside of South Florida and to conduct table games at all of its casinos. If Florida authorized sports betting it would have to renegotiate the compact, which would be an arduous and lengthy process.

At least Floridians will have a choice to make, instead of Washington making it for

them. The Supreme Court correctly sided with the states, representing a welcome retrenchment of broad federal powers over economic activity.

The ruling also reflects the realities of a post-1992 world. Back then, when the federal prohibition was enacted, 56 percent of Americans opposed legalized betting on professional sports events. Today, 55 percent approve of it.

In addition to all the legal forms of government-sanctioned gambling that have flourished over the last quarter century – state-run lotteries, Native American casinos, etc. – more than \$150 billion is illegally bet each year, according to the American Gaming Association. The high court decision will bring that activity out of the shadows and into the open, where it will be taxed and regulated.

Similar to how the repeal of Prohibition transformed American society, taking the lid off sports betting will push the nation more toward the European experience. There, legal gambling is ubiquitous in every facet of the sporting culture. The U.S. is about to graduate from office pools, fantasy leagues and backroom bookies to something much, much bigger.

Tribes focus on the farm bill, agriculture

• Marshall Matz, Agri-Pulse

Indian tribes in the heartland have focused on the opportunities presented by the farm bill in a more organized way than ever before. To help Native American communities shape this massive legislation, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community commissioned the "Regaining Our Future" report to analyze the risks and opportunities for Indian Country in the 2018 Farm Bill.

The report, authored by Janie Simms Hipp, Esq. and Colby D. Duren, Esq. of the Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative at the University of Arkansas School of Law is the most comprehensive analysis ever conducted on farm bill issues as they relate to indigenous populations in the United States.

"Regaining Our Future" discusses how the economic and dietary health of Native Americans can be greatly influenced by the 2018 Farm Bill and reflects that, in order to make those gains, Native communities must be prepared to better advocate for their interests, defend programs on which their most vulnerable members depend and look for new ways to achieve greater food sovereignty and food security.

As the report notes, in recent years, there has been a growing grassroots movement within Indian Country to reclaim Native food-ways and establish better food security. But federal policies that lack any tailoring to Indian Country continue to have an outsized and often detrimental influence on Native nutrition, agriculture, ranching, farming, conservation, trade and forestry.

"Today a food and nutritional health crisis grips most of Indian Country. As Congress prepares to shape the next farm bill, there has never been a more critical time for Native Americans to unite to defend our interests," said Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) Chairman Charles R. Vig. "Tribal governments, Native producers, environmental stewards and Native community members must work together to involve Congress in helping us solve this crisis."

The report contains specific suggestions for each title of the farm bill, including commodities to conservation, trade, research, forestry, crop insurance and nutrition.

The significance of the report beyond the farm bill, is that tribes are expanding their focus from enforcement of their treaties with the United States to economic development in an attempt to drive down the high unemployment rates (averaging 80 percent on South Dakota's nine Reservations). The treaties remain important to Indian law but are not a business plan.

The report goes on to say: "Indian Country's relationship with the farm bill has clearly been complex. We have sought changes to sections that directly affect us and we have partnered with others, Native and non-Native alike, to have our voices heard. But we have not taken a deeper, more targeted approach to exerting ourselves in large ways across the entire farm bill landscape. Tribal lands are deeply engaged

in agriculture. In fact, more than 50 million acres of our lands are engaged to some extent in food production and agriculture. Our lands participate in the programs; our people have farm and ranch loans and guaranteed loans; our tribal colleges and universities receive funding under the research title; our food products are the subject of trade and are affected by the trade title; and on and on. We are entering a period when Indian Country voices in the farm bill debate need to be louder. The full scope of food and agriculture programs must be available to us in order to turn the page on the significant food and health-related impacts within our own Native communities.

Our rural reservation and isolated communities are in dire need of infrastructure and economic development focus."

The report has been presented to the Secretary of Agriculture and to Congress. It also recognizes that for rural tribes far from population centers, agriculture drives the economy and represents the best opportunity for economic development. The new Native Farm Bill Coalition has developed in its wake and now has over one-quarter of all tribes in the United States as coalition members.

Secretary Perdue, the point person for the administration on barriers to rural prosperity, has met with tribes and pledged to continue government-to-government relations between USDA and tribes. The secretary then asked Diane Cullo, a senior advisor, follow up on his meeting by meeting with many tribal representatives to discuss the report and the importance of agriculture to rural tribes. Joining Diane Cullo were representatives from Farm Services Administration, the Forest Service, Rural Development, the Office of Tribal Relations at USDA and the newly confirmed Assistant Secretary for Congressional Affairs Ken Barbic.

During House consideration of the farm bill, the House approved on an amendment by Congresswoman Kristi Noem, R-SD, to have USDA match funds devoted to Indian higher education by states and 1862 land grant universities. While this farm bill failed, the amendment was agreed to on a bipartisan basis without any opposition and will likely be included in the next version of the farm bill. It is being called the "New Beginnings Initiative" or "Wokini" in Lakota developed by Dr. Barry Dunn, president at SDSU. The Wokini proposal is destined to become an important initiative for Indian students, agriculture and land grant universities for education must be the first step in creating a private sector economy on the Reservations.

In short, whenever the farm bill becomes law, the tribal effort to increase their focus on USDA will continue along with the central importance of agriculture development for rural Tribes.

Marshall Matz specializes in agriculture at OFW Law in Washington, D.C. Formerly, he was Counsel to South Dakota Legal Services, based on the Rosebud Indian Reservation, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Farm Corporation.

Love the outdoors? That's why we must conserve public lands

• Bob Schneider, The Desert Sun

As the owner and operator of the original and largest outdoor adventure and eco-tour company in the California desert, I understand and value the many discoveries that await every guest who boards one of our Desert Adventure Red Jeeps.

The excited and awe-struck reaction from my tour guests always brings me back to the main reason I bought this 30-year-old business eight years ago: To celebrate and share the beauty and majesty of these untouched landscapes. Giving guests a rare look at these magical geological formations, animals and plants that only survive in our California deserts, not to mention the rich historical remnants of our past, is my No. 1 goal on every tour. For this reason, I am concerned that some of these natural treasures may be in danger.

In February, the Trump Administration ordered a review of the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). The DRECP is designed to balance the

conservation of public lands with development of renewable energy in the environmentally sensitive deserts of California.

The DRECP strikes an appropriate balance between land conservation and developing renewable energy sources, such as windmills and solar farms. Despite this, the Trump Administration claims even more energy development is needed in the desert. By ordering a review of the DRECP, President Donald Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke are effectively opening the land for commercial activities that could limit public access and hurt the vital tourism economy that is the lifeblood of many desert communities, including our own.

Re-evaluating the already approved DRECP is a waste of taxpayer dollars and does a disservice to all stakeholders, including industry. The existing plan benefits renewable energy companies by providing access to existing data compiled through the DRECP rather than initiating expensive and lengthy new environmental studies, which helps streamline permit applications in specific, set-aside areas. In fact, experts confirm that the 400,000 acres authorized for development by the DRECP are beyond sufficient to generate enough energy for California to reach its mandate of running on

50 percent renewable energy by 2030.

The millions of acres under the DRECP's protection span seven counties and create wildlife corridors linking three national parks, five national forests, three national monuments and 70 BLM wilderness areas. Jeopardizing the DRECP's implementation risks the public's access to millions of acres of lands in California, including desert wilderness areas. If these irreplaceable public lands are open for development, the iconic landscapes of the Mojave and Colorado Deserts will be marred, Native American heritage sites will be destroyed, recreation areas will become inaccessible and sensitive species will be at higher risk to endangerment and extinction through habitat destruction.

I am concerned that Secretary Zinke may potentially put our California desert lands in danger. Please join me in preventing this from happening by reaching out to our local representatives and urging them to keep the present DRECP plan intact.

Together, we can protect our precious desert lands.

Bob Schneider is the owner of Desert Adventures Red Jeep Tours and Events in Palm Springs, California.

Supreme Court ruling on Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association

• National Indian Gaming Commission

As questions arise from the Supreme Court ruling on Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association, the NIGC is issuing the following statement:

Gaming by tribal nations as a means of generating governmental revenue initially began as an exercise of the inherent authority tribal nations have over their lands and predated the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. While IGRA set forth a statutory framework for the regulation of Indian gaming, it explicitly recognized that a principal goal of federal policy is to promote tribal economic development, tribal self-

sufficiency, and strong tribal government.

In the nearly 30 years since IGRA was passed, the Indian gaming industry has grown, matured, and evolved in ways that almost no one could have predicted at the time. And while that growth is due primarily to the ingenuity and hard work of the tribal communities that built the industry, it has occurred in the context of a piece of legislation that was enacted with core tribal self-determination goals in mind. The NIGC takes seriously its role to regulate the Indian gaming industry to ensure these goals are achieved.

The NIGC understands the unique and often complex nature of tribal gaming and the difficult questions it sometimes poses related to issues such as jurisdiction and permissible gaming. Moreover, we have worked with gaming tribes on a daily basis and have developed a deep knowledge of the

industry. Should new opportunities be made available through legislative changes, we are prepared to continue to fulfill our statutory responsibilities to regulate gaming on Indian lands.

As federal regulators, we have learned first-hand that there is tangible benefit to having tribes, as primary regulators, driving decisions as to how gaming will operate on their own lands. As federal and state governments consider how to address sports betting in light of yesterday's decision, we anticipate that Tribes will be given a seat at the table to voice their positions, bring their perspectives and collective expertise, and maintain regulatory and operational control over all the gaming that occurs on their lands.

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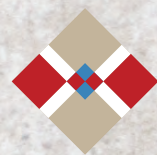
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Community



Economic opportunity, freedom for tribes focus of May training in Hollywood

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tanya Sangrey tears up when she talks about jobs and the economy at the Yurok Tribe in northwestern California.

"My mission is to create jobs and a sustainable income for my tribe," Sangrey said. "I take it very seriously."

Sangrey has made headway during her eight years as director of the Yurok Tribe Economic Development Corp. She and her team have seen the creation of two Fuel Marts, five RV parks, a hotel, restaurants, casino, mobile home park and a butterfly farm, among other projects.

But Sangrey wants more, including housing options for many of the Tribe's 6,500 members.

"We want to build homes for them and bring them back," she said of those who currently live off the reservation. Sangrey thinks the knowledge gained at a recent Seminole Tribe of Florida-hosted training will help.

Sangrey was one of 19 attendees

Acronyms learned at CDFI

- CAMELS (Capital adequacy, Asset quality, Management capability, Earnings, Liquidity, Sensitivity)

- LLR (Loan Loss Reserve)

- NACA (Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America)

- NCDFI (Native Community Development Financial Institutions)

- SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time bound)

- SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)

- TDR (Troubled Debt Restructures)

representing tribes across the U.S. at the Oweesta Native Community Development Finance Fundamentals Week, held at the Native Learning Center (NLC) in Hollywood.

The four-day training covered a lot of ground, namely a deep dive into the world of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). These institutions are private organizations focused on bringing economic opportunities to communities.

Native CDFIs (NCDFI) were the focus of this particular training, which took place May 8 to 11.

The lead trainers were Lanelle Smith and Heather Rademacher Taylor, both officials with First Nations Oweesta Corp., based in Longmont, Colorado. Oweesta is a Mohawk word meaning "money or item of exchange." Oweesta is a subsidiary of the First Nations Development Institute.

Smith has extensive experience in CDFIs. Prior to becoming a program manager with Oweesta, she ran an NCDFI on the Navajo Nation in the southwestern U.S. Smith and Taylor were also joined by Lisa Wagner, a principal for Bluestem Consulting in Buffalo, Wyoming.

"With the changes in the growing field of the Native CDFI industry, we feel that the Fundamentals Week is an important training to continue to grow the capacity of both individual Native CDFIs and the industry as a whole," Smith said.

Attendees represented the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Shoshone Tribe of Idaho, Lakota on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana, the Oneida Tribe in Wisconsin, the Navajo Nation and the aforementioned Yurok Tribe, among others.

While the trainers admitted it was easy to get bogged down in a stew of acronyms, in a nutshell, the idea of a NCDFI is to offer those in Indian Country access to capital. The money can go toward a small business or a housing project and comes in a number of forms from micro-loans to more traditional and larger loans.

Attendees were given information about many subjects, from how to become a certified CDFI to financial management,

public policy, loan underwriting and policies, portfolio management and business models.

There is an entire human resources side to becoming a CDFI, which includes hiring loan officers, project managers, chief financial officers, bookkeepers and administrative assistants. The HR side also entails putting together a governing board of directors.

Each NCDFI differs in the mission and projects it takes on in its respective community.

Whitney Burns, a member of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe at Fort Hall, Idaho, said she came to the training not knowing what to expect.

"We just barely got approved to get a CDFI; we're just starting up," Burns, who works in the Tribal Housing Opportunities Program, said.

"We want to help tribal members to get qualified for their own home mortgages for moderate to higher incomes," she said. "A lot of members are no longer lower income."

Part of that help is to promote the Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program from Housing and Urban Development. The HUD loan is designed for American Indian communities.

Burns planned to go back and help members navigate all the departments of homeownership, including building from the ground up and home rehabilitation. She



Courtesy Native Learning Center

Attendees at the Oweesta Native Community Development Finance Fundamentals Week came from tribes across the U.S. to the Native Learning Center in Hollywood.

wants to be a conduit for banks to help with the lending process.

"People sometimes don't know where to start," Burns said. "Our passion for this is why we're here. You can't just give someone a loan and wish for the best."

Burns said her department is in the process of hiring a CDFI program manager.

At the end of the week, attendees were given a certification exam to become certified NCDFI practitioners.

"I feel like participants came into the week with a lot of questions that [were answered] about what a Native CDFI is and what it can do for their community," said

Taylor. "I also feel like we're really building a strong foundation for them to develop Native CDFIs that will serve the needs of their community members with accessible capital and associated development services."

The Native Learning Center also hosted a grants management training program from May 2 to 3. The NLC offers free training and technical assistance to Native Americans and those working within Indian Country.

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◆ WATERSHED PROJECT From page 1A

by communities, government officials and the USACE Jacksonville District's vertical team. Among those concerns were dam safety, stakeholder coordination, invasion of habitats and the Tribe's water entitlement.

To help alleviate these issues, the new TSP has the following features: Provides more wetland habitat and avoids grasshopper sparrow habitat, adjacent ASR wells provide maximum storage and flexibility, and a shallow wetland attenuation feature that buys down dam safety risk.

The Tribe also expressed concerns about the original TSP invading culturally significant sites.

"Because of all of these questions and concerns about formulating for storage within the project area, the team went back and looked at the study area to see if there are other potential locations to consider," Aley said. "What we've learned from our model results is that water availability along with the ability to collocate reservoirs with ASR wells exceeds maximizing our performance. It is much more cost effective to build one large reservoir rather than to build numerous smaller ones."

Aley went on to say that the K-05 footprint, which Alt1BW is a part of, is the most efficient compared to other sites USACE tested. This is because the K-05 reservoir would pull water directly from Lake Okeechobee and the engineers can place ASR wells with the reservoir to increase its overall water storage. The primary differences between Alt 1BW and the previous TSP is that Alt 1BW uses a smaller revised footprint within K-05, has a shallower depth and would operate like a flow-through wetland to capture flows and provide a wetland habitat.

Cultural considerations

While improvements were made, according to the Corps, some of the revisions were not approved or even seen by the Tribe prior to the May 2 meeting.

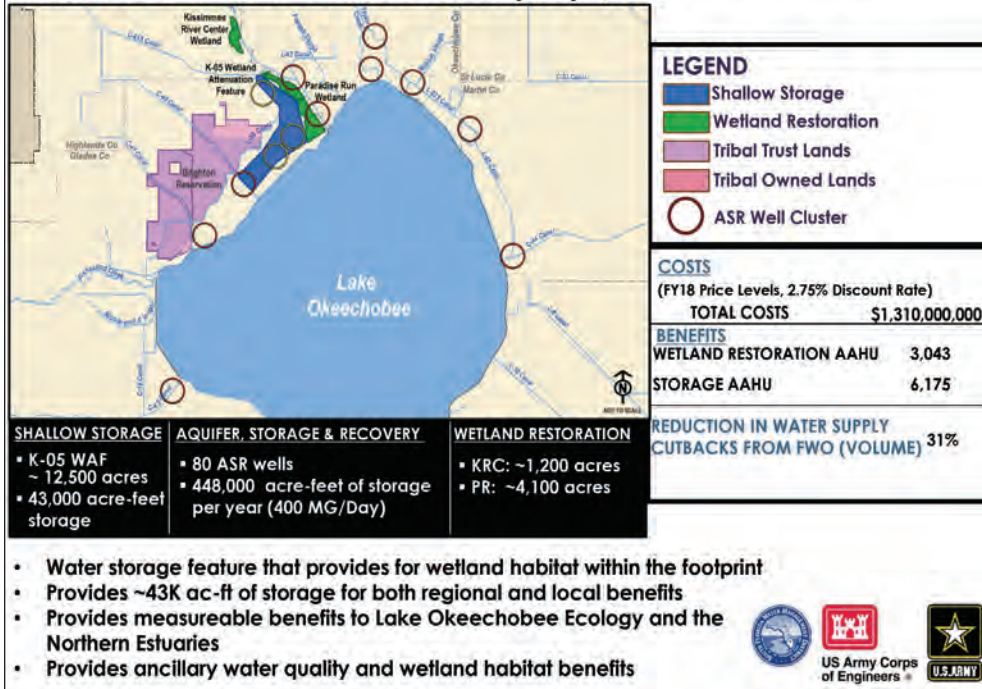
Anne Mullins, assistant director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, said that the Corps presented the new TSP to Tribal Council and Board on April 25. At the meeting, Tribal officials recommended changes to the plan, but did not see the updated version before the Corps released the plan to the public. It wasn't until THPO staff acquired the presentation and presented it to Tribal leadership on May 7 that they saw the presented revisions.

"We had not taken it back to leadership at that point," Mullins said. "So leadership had not had any chance and the community had not had any chance to review any of this yet."

After reviewing the material, Mullins and Bradley Mueller, THPO compliance review supervisor, found that although the

PROPOSED TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN (TSP)

ALTERNATIVE 1B Wetland Attenuation Feature (WAF): \$1.31B



Courtesy U.S. Army Corps Jacksonville District

The Army Corps of Engineers announced a new Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) on May 2 that features a shallow reservoir and 80 Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells. The reservoir is slightly less than half a mile away from the Brighton Reservation at its closest point.

new planned reservoir pulls back from the reservation lines on the north side, the overall design still infringes upon cultural sites.

"There is a cultural site, a prehistoric mound site that would be within the reservoir boundaries as the Corps presented them. It's called the Mulberry Mound. That's one of the obvious concerns that we would like avoided somehow," Mueller said. "Most of the rest of the reservoir area has yet to be surveyed for cultural resources, so there are huge unknowns here as to what they are going to find once they start working."

Despite the cultural resources, the Army Corps will not complete a cultural survey of the area until they have a more final plan. Mueller said that cultural surveys are one of the final steps prior to construction because much of the plan takes place on private lands.

"We still have considerable concern about what they're going to find when they survey these areas because if you look at previously recorded sites around this area there is a lot," he said. "This is a heavily occupied area."

Next steps

There are currently no meetings planned between the Army Corps and the Tribe, but the Tribe is still planning to present their response and recommendations for the new TSP in the coming months.

The Corps presented the new TSP to the vertical team in Atlanta on May 4. The vertical

team approved the plan for agency and public review and comment. The plan can still change pending recommendations.

Over the next 90 days, the Corps plans to complete their Environmental Impact Statement, agency technical review, independent external peer review, public review, assurances modeling and TSP optimization and refinement. They also plan to have a draft of the Project Implementation Report and Environmental Impact Statement available for review June 29. The public review and comment period will be from June 29 to August 13.

REVISED FINAL ARRAY OF ALTERNATIVES

Alt 1BW (K05 Wetland Attenuation Feature) – NEW



- Utilizes the K05 footprint [1/2 MILE BUFFER] with an average 4' pool depth
- Will be operated more like a flow-through wetland for storage and in-feature habitat benefits to provide both storage and wetland benefits
- Will create an additional 4,050 habitat unit lift of wetlands that are treated as ancillary benefits

Alt 1B Shallow (K05 North & South) – RETAINED (Previously recommended TSP)



- Utilizes the K05 footprint with an average 5' pool depth
- Will be operated to maximize regional (northern estuaries and Lake Okeechobee) storage benefits

Alt 2Cr (K-42 Deep) – RETAINED



- Utilizes the K42 footprint with an average 15' pool depth
- Will be operated to maximize regional (northern estuaries and Lake Okeechobee) storage benefits

Courtesy U.S. Army Corps Jacksonville District

The final array of alternatives for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project include Alt 1BW – the new TSP – Alt 1B Shallow, which is the previously selected TSP, and Alt 2CR, which was in the final array of alternatives. The Army Corps of Engineers presented this array May 2.

COMPARISON AND EVALUATION

Benefits (Qualitative & Quantitative) & Tradeoffs

SELECTION CRITERIA	1BW (4') w/ASR	1BS (5') w/ASR	2Cr (15') w/o ASR
	K05	K05	K42
Effective, Efficient, Acceptable, Complete	✓	✓	✓
Estuary Benefits	✓	✓	✓
Lake O Benefits	✓	✓	✓
Wetlands within storage feature	✓	✓	✓
Operational Flexibility	✓	✓	✓
Seepage Maintenance Reduction	✓	✓	✓

✓ More effective
 ✓ Less effective

1B Shallow and 1BW provide more estuary benefits

- Larger effective storage
- ASR wells provide more frequent storage opportunities for reservoir and Lake O

2Cr provides more Lake Okeechobee benefits

- Large reservoir can capture larger pulses of water more quickly

1BW provides the most wetland benefits

- Revised footprint avoids high quality wetlands
- Additional wetland benefits within the storage area due to less depth

1B Shallow and 1BW co-locate with wetlands

- Reduces costs and enhances effectiveness

1B Shallow and 1BW may have reduced seepage

- Natural adjacent wetland seepage barrier
- Reduced storage depths=reduced seepage rates

Dam Safety Risk Reduction

- Lower depth buys down risk

Courtesy U.S. Army Corps Jacksonville District

This slide from the May 2 presentation compares the Army Corps' final array of alternatives.

The bash was a smash

Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach to have big economic impact, officials say

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

The grand opening of the new Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach brought out a formidable crowd May 1 to enjoy music, the sound of ocean waves and guitars smashing.

Part of the Hard Rock and Seminole Tribe tradition is to have dignitaries smash Hard Rock guitars – as opposed to champagne bottles – to mark the celebration of a new property or casino. A lineup of those associated with the new hotel did just that for the crowd and photographers. Tribal officials who participated in the smash were President Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger and Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.

The seven-story, 200-room property at 918 N. Atlantic Avenue comes with an impressive array of amenities – a spa-salon, outdoor pool-bar, fitness center, the

"Sessions" restaurant, open-air "Wave Terrace" eatery and bar, coffee shop, retail and 20,000 square feet of meeting and event space.

But beyond all the perks, rock memorabilia, shiny new rooms, balconies and ocean views are a lot of new local hospitality jobs as well. Officials say the hotel will average about 160 workers, and several temporary construction-related jobs were created in the process of development. The up-and-running hotel is likely to be a shot in the arm for the bottom line of area businesses too.

"The new Hard Rock



Courtesy photo

Hard Rock officials, Tribal officials and special guests smash guitars at the grand opening of the new Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach on May 1.



Courtesy photo

A view of Daytona Beach's new Hard Rock Hotel and its pool area.

◆ MISS INDIAN WORLD From page 1A

aged man standing there with his regalia shaking each contestant's hand as we were lined up to leave the arena. He was telling each contestant that they made their tribe proud and to keep smiling. However when he got to me, he skipped me. He didn't shake my hand, he didn't smile at me, he acted like I wasn't there. I wanted to break down and cry, but maybe that's what he wanted to do to me. So instead I walked away with a smile on my face while he shook the contestants' hands behind me.

I didn't tell my mom and didn't want to tell anyone what happened because I felt embarrassed. I went about my day, still a little down about what happened but I was ready for the crowning that evening.

Before the crowning, we had a special walk where each contestant waved to the crowd. However during my walk a little girl ran up to me, smiled and told me "I want to be just like you one day." I smiled and told her "she can be anything she wanted to be, just don't give up."

Then she asked if she could stand with me and wave to the crowd. I told her of course and that is exactly what she did. She stood there waving to the crowd with one hand and holding mine in the other. Before the actual crowning took place her mom came and got her and told me she wanted to see me after crowning. During the crowning I walked away with nothing, but I was proud of myself for doing the pageant.

But right after the crowning was the highlight of my entire week of the pageant because the little girl's mom pulled me aside and gave me a hug. I was surprised and I hugged her back. We had a conversation about her daughter, who is usually very shy and doesn't do well with strangers. But she was amazed that she jumped out of her seat and ran to me. The mother told me I had a good heart and that I was going to go far in life. I told her thank you with tears in my eyes.

Now I believe that the Creator made the little girl run up to me that day; he knew I needed a boost because I was feeling down about the man not shaking my hand. That little girl reminded me why I always have a smile on my face and try to my best ability to be a good role model to all.

I had a wonderful time at Gathering of Nations. I met beautiful people and learned amazing things about tribes all over the United States and I learned that we are all the same, we are all connected. We may be taught differently and practice our cultures differently, but we all come from the same colors and were taught to respect Mother Earth and what she does for us.

I want to thank everyone who bought tickets from me and even donated to help me. It meant the world to me and I cannot thank everyone enough. I love you all and thank you for supporting me throughout my reign I hope I made you all proud.

in Daytona Beach will create jobs and stimulate the local economy," said Cissy Proctor, executive director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. "With more than 116 million visitors to the state last year, we know that tourism plays a vital role in the state's economy and will give a boost to the Daytona area and families in the surrounding communities."

One of those nearby communities is Daytona Beach Shores. Mayor Harry Jennings joined other local dignitaries at the grand opening. "It's a marvelous, marvelous facility," Jennings said. "Abbas Abdulhussein has a hotel in the Shores. He's a terrific citizen and businessman."

Abdulhussein is the president of Summit Hospitality Management Group, the developer of the Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach. Summit sunk a reported \$40 million into the property that it acquired in 2013 for \$6 million. A Desert Inn was previously on the site.

"What happens in Daytona Beach has an impact on the greater Daytona area," Jennings, in his eighth year as mayor, said. "If they succeed, we all do. It provides opportunity for additional jobs and a strong economy."

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In addition, the potential influx of new visitors both in Florida and outside its borders, as well as internationally, wasn't lost on officials whose job it is to try and woo folks to the Sunshine State. "We could not be more excited about the Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach – what an iconic brand that fits perfectly into the destination's growing mix," said Lori Campbell Baker, executive director of the Daytona Beach Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. "Visitors will be arriving from all over the world to check out this upscale property and its unique vibe, and our local residents are already booking their staycations. This unique property has so much to offer. [I] can't wait to watch it thrive."

Work and home get together for Take Your Child to Work Day

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Maintaining a positive work and life balance takes practice, especially for full-time workers. For Tribal employees, the work load of the balance was lightened April 26 as the Tribe hosted its annual Take Your Child to Work Day.

"Family is everything and the Tribe is definitely an entity that likes the home life and work balance," said Erika Perez, Human Resource's organizational development specialist. "I think that just goes to the Tribe's quality that they actually promote this and allow children to come in and see what we do and what their parents do for us."

Perez helped organize the day along with Laurell Battiste. Approximately 55 children between the ages of 6 to 18 took part in the day's festivities, which included breakfast, lunch and demonstrations from Tribal departments. Children and their parents met with Seminole Police Department officers, rode stationary bicycles with blenders attached to make healthy smoothies with the Health Department, learned about Seminole culture with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and learned beading techniques from Richard Billie.

The most popular part of the day, however, was after the Billie Swamp Safari alligator demonstration when children and their families had a chance to get their photos taken sitting on top of the alligator.



Courtesy photo

Contracts Grant Specialist Carolina Fernandez and her daughter Mischa Fernandez pose with an alligator from Billie Swamp Safari during Take Your Child to Work Day on April 26.

Children received specially-made badges for the day, which included a photo of them that their parents provided prior to the event. They also received gift bags with items donated from 17 departments, including dream catchers, tape measures, flash drives, beaded jewelry, stress alligators, planners, pens,



Courtesy photo

Tribal employees and their children couldn't wait to learn more about the Tribe's different departments and celebrate families April 26 as part of Take Your Child to Work Day.

anti-bullying bracelets, lanyards and snacks. The festivities lasted until around 1 p.m. Afterwards, citing permission from department supervisors, children spent the rest of the afternoon in their parents'

respective departments.

Perez said that this merger of work and family helps children understand how important their parents are to the Tribe.

"It's nice to be able to not only show the

children what their parents do but to also show how we're involved in the community," Perez said. "It also gives children a background as to who the Seminole Tribe of Florida is and what they do."

Tribes unite for grants management training

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — From May 2 to 3, more than 50 people representing tribes throughout the U.S. visited the Native Learning Center in Hollywood for free grants management training.

The training, formally called "Grant Management with the New Uniform Guidance 2 CFR Part 200," focused on how tribes and their employees can efficiently and effectively apply for federal grants. Topics at the training included compliance standards, monitoring and reporting requirements, procurement standards, allowable and unallowable costs, conflicts of interests, and more. The training was led by Lucy Morgan, a CPA who runs MyFedTrainer.com.

Vince Franco, compliance and resource development director at the Native Learning Center, said that NLC offers the program because tribal entities that use federal funding must abide by specific federal regulations. Many of those regulations can be challenging to understand.

"[The training] helps people so much. Not only does it raise the bar a little bit and make everyone in the playing field just a little more savvy in what they do, it also helps our Tribe and a lot of other tribes have the skill sets they need and the know-how to keep their programs on track," Franco said. "If they're audited, everything will be clean."

The federal grants discussed in the training come from the various federal departments, including the Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Education. Franco said that although many grants offered are science and research



Courtesy photo

Grants management training attendees received certificates after they completed their training May 2 at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood.

based, there are millions of dollars of funding available for all topics, including youth issues, elders and senior care, and training and education. All of the available grants are applied to through grants.gov, a federally run website that provides information on grants, their policies, applicant and grant information, and more.

Robert Delorimiere, accounting grants compliance coordinator, said the training was a great way to learn updated information about grants and the federal regulations surrounding them. In his position, Delorimiere makes sure the Tribe is eligible for grants departments are interested in and ensures that those grants will not infringe on

Tribal sovereignty or be an overall negative investment.

While Delorimiere has attended multiple grants management trainings in the past — even leading a few alongside Franco — he said the event was interesting and Morgan did a great job of keeping the audience's attention.

"Even though most of this stuff was a

refresher for me, it was nice to attend and make everyone realize that even though I've been doing this for 18 years or so, you can always learn something new," he said.

Accompanying the topics was a lesson on the federal websites newest feature: Workspace. Workspace is a process that allows multiple people to work on a grant application simultaneously. Prior to its development, only one person could access an application at a time, making the application timeline long and strenuous and usually resulting in one person doing the majority of the work. Workspace seeks to expedite that process so applicants get faster access to grants they apply to.

The NLC hosts this training and many others throughout the year, all free of charge to tribes and tribal entities. The training is not available for non-tribal entities. Franco said that while a lot of the information the center presents is available online, much of it is confusing and can lead to many people not fully understanding the information. Having the in-person training allows people to have all their questions answered and better understand the material so they can effectively use it.

"It's so much more user friendly this way [rather than online] because the people we have doing this, like Lucy for example, have 20 years of experience if not more. And they're right on top of federal regulations," Franco said. "You need to have that level of expertise to facilitate these programs. Just about any question you can think of to ask Lucy, she knows the answer to it. That's the same with a lot of our instructors."

Now in its 10th year, the NLC has worked with more than 100 tribes. All upcoming trainings are listed online at NativeLearningCenter.com.

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Mother's Day



Damon Scott

Madeline Tongkeamha and her daughter Stephanie Garcia celebrated Mother's Day on the Brighton Reservation May 10.



Kevin Johnson

Sunni Billie Hiers, 7, and her mom Mary Ella Hiers are all smiles at the Hollywood Mother's Day lunch May 12 at the Council Oak restaurant.



Beverly Bidney

Tatiana Herrera gets some bingo help from her son Sullivan Cypress at the BC Mother's Day luncheon.



Beverly Bidney

Wanda Billie gets some love and affection from her son Drew Osceola at the Big Cypress Mother's Day luncheon May 10.



Beverly Bidney

Rachel Billie, center, is surrounded by family members Miriam Colon, Danielle Colon, Allen Venzor, Rebecca Osceola, Aliyana Posada, Anaiah Posada, Nehemiah Posada and Alexandra Posada at Immokalee Mother's Day dinner.



Kevin Johnson

Victoria Josh, with son Daylan Sample, and Dorothy Josh and Salli Josh enjoy their Mother's Day lunch May 12 at the Council Oak restaurant in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

Michelle Aguilar Ford, Sheila Aguilar, Jose Solano, 3, Chelsey Ford, Jessica Lopez and Ezekiel Roberts revel in each other's company at the May 4 Immokalee Mother's Day dinner.



Damon Scott

From left, Toni Johnson, Joni Johnson, Paulette Lawrence and Marilyn Doney celebrate Mother's Day with their good friend Lewis Gopher at the Brighton Mother's Day celebration May 10.



Kevin Johnson

Patrick Doctor with mom Minnie Doctor at the Hollywood lunch.



Beverly Bidney

Mary Jene Koenes, Nancy Motlow and Charlotte Tommie get with the Hawaiian theme and dance the Hula at the BC Mother's Day soiree.



Kevin Johnson

Mom Eteau Huggins with her family Marsha, Marissa and Donovan Osceola gather in front of the Council Oak restaurant for the Hollywood lunch.



Courtesy photo

Celeste Stockton and Virginia Tommie take in a day at the spa at White Orchid Spa in Vero Beach as part of the Chupco Community Mother's Day activities which also included an oceanside lunch at Cobalt restaurant.

Appreciation shown for PECS staff

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Borrowing from an old proverb, it takes a village to educate a child. At Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton, that village was recognized for the work it does all year long. Classroom teachers, culture employees and non-instructional staff each had their moment in the spotlight May 9 at the annual staff appreciation banquet.

Principal Brian Greseth opened the festivities by calling the name of every teacher, who stood up to be recognized. Applause filled the room as each teacher and staff member accepted the acknowledgment of their efforts in the classroom and around the school.

Greseth then announced the Employees of the Year, including fourth-grade math teacher Joy Prescott, who was named PECS Elementary Teacher of the Year, Glades District Teacher of the Year and a 2019 Florida Teacher of the Year finalist.

"This is the first time I've worked with a final five finalist," said Greseth, who has been in education for 35 years and a principal for 22.

Earlier in the day, Florida Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart surprised Prescott in her classroom with the news she is one of five finalists statewide and presented her with a \$15,000 check.

"Joy Prescott is an excellent example of a teacher who exemplifies commitment, determination and the importance of being a lifelong learner," said Stewart in a press



The 2017-2018 PECS Teachers and Employees of the Year proudly display their awards May 9 at the annual staff appreciation banquet. Front row: Non-Instructional Employee of the Year Vickie Stuart, Elementary Teacher of the Year Joy Prescott, Middle School Teacher of the Year Mindy Wells and Culture Employee of the Year Ginger Jones. Back row: Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, Principal Brian Greseth and Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr.

three years ago. "I love the kids here," Stuart said. "Our goal is to get them all educated." The immersion program culture and language instructor Marcus Briggs-Cloud introduced culture employee Jones, who joined the staff in 2015.

"Instructors of endangered languages create our own curriculum," Briggs-Cloud said. "She's crafted effective lessons to impart the language to her students. It takes a deep desire and commitment to save an ancient and dying language and a special person to take on that role."

Jones acknowledged her passion for teaching the language.

"I don't want to see it die," she said. "To be able to work at a school that teaches this is special. I will keep going and see how far I can take this."

After a game of Dr. Seuss trivia led by the school's student council, Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard congratulated the staff for a job well done.

"Every one of you sacrifices to come out here to teach our kids the way they should be taught," Howard said. "Congratulations and keep doing what you're doing."

After an evening filled with food, laughter and well-deserved accolades, Greseth concluded with an anonymous, yet apt, quote.

"I like a teacher who gives me something to take home to think about besides homework," he said. "We are fortunate to have a whole school of teachers who do that."



After leading the crowd in a Dr. Seuss trivia game, student council members Tiyanni Anderson and Santana Alvarez hand out some memorable Seuss quotes to teachers in the audience.

release. "After 17 years as an educator, Prescott continues to pursue professional development opportunities to help her empower students to develop the skills necessary to succeed academically and personally. I appreciate that she sets high expectations and provides her students the support and encouragement they need to meet and exceed them. I am thrilled to congratulate her on this tremendous honor."

The other PECS Employees of the Year were Middle School Teacher of the Year Mindy Wells, Culture Employee of the Year Ginger Jones and Non-Instructional Employee of the Year Vickie Stuart.

Jenny Shore, National Indian Education Association Elder of the Year, was also recognized and a video from the October 2017 NIEA convention was shown.

Honorees had the opportunity to accept the award and say a few words. Teachers were introduced by students.

"What makes a great teacher?" asked fourth-grader Miley Jimmie as she introduced Prescott. "A passion for teaching, keeping it fun, a love for her students and a love of the subject. I have a teacher who went above and beyond that."

Prescott tried to describe her day, which was supposed to be a testing day in class.

"This was the most crazy, amazing, coolest day," she said. "I was surprised, humbled, shocked and felt every emotion. I want to thank my biggest fans, Ms. [Diana] Harrison [paraprofessional/teacher's aide] and Ms. [Mary] Bond [ESE inclusion teacher]. They allow me to do what I need to do every day, and that is to teach."

Prescott believes any teacher at the school could have earned the honor bestowed on her. She noted the approach at PECS is different than any other school at which she has taught.

"I work with the best of the best," Prescott said. "We are treated as professionals and are expected to do what's best for the kids."

Sixth-grader Jace Brown introduced his math and social studies teacher Wells, who has taught at PECS for almost 10 years.

"I get to see my students transform, grow and blossom," Wells said. "Seeing that transformation and knowing I had a part in it makes me proud."

Non-instructional employee Stuart used to work as a K-12 advisor in the Tribe's education department and knew many of the Brighton students before she joined PECS



Instructional coach Vicki Paige and other teachers applaud their colleagues as they are each recognized at the PECS staff appreciation banquet May 9 at the Veterans Building in Brighton.



Glades County School District Superintendent Scott Bass and Florida Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart present fourth-grade math teacher Joy Prescott with a check for being one of the five finalists for Florida Teacher of the Year. PECS Principal Brian Greseth stands next to Prescott.



Culture employee Jimi Huff stands and waves as she is recognized by Principal Brian Greseth at the PECS staff appreciation banquet.

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SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA AH-TAH-THI-KI M U S E U M A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

Lacrosse: Native sport, Native life

BY JUSTIN GILES

Oral History Coordinator, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Memorial Day weekend is a hallowed holiday in which we remember and honor our military personnel who died or were wounded in battle. It is a great tradition that many in Indian Country know well as we often have a relative who served or is serving in the armed forces. We recognize our warriors sacrifice as we are reminded that Native Americans have served in the U.S. military in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group and have done so since the American Revolution.

Surely we also remember and honor the warriors who fought against the U.S. and European nations to maintain our culture and life ways today. Native American history is United States history full of warrior struggles, defeats, and victories. So it seems befitting that another hallowed warrior tradition, rooted in centuries of Native American culture, takes place this month as well. On Memorial Day weekend, the NCAA Lacrosse Finals will be played at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, home of the New England Patriots. The NCAA Lacrosse Finals are always fun to watch and we have our Native American culture to thank for providing this sporting spectacle.



Courtesy photo

Justin Giles wearing a Tulsa Lacrosse jersey while playing the "attack" position.



Courtesy photo

"Stickmaker" by Brian Larney Yahvlane (Seminole Nation/Choctaw).

While many people today are familiar with the contemporary game of lacrosse, which looks like hockey on turf, many people don't know the roots of the game begin with tribal nations from multiple regions of North America. The modern one stick version of lacrosse played during the NCAA Lacrosse Finals is modeled after the Iroquois or the Haudenosaunee, the People of the Long House. A two stick version of lacrosse stems from the southeastern tribes of the Seminole, Muscogee (Creek), Cherokee, Choctaw, and Chickasaw. Lastly, there is another one stick version of lacrosse found among the Great Lakes tribes such as the Menominee, Ojibwe, and Sac and Fox. With all these Natives playing a similar form of lacrosse, one might ask, who invented the game?

The modern game of lacrosse has a vast and rich history reaching back centuries. In fact, many oral histories from differing tribal nations say the first game was played in the heavens and the first game on earth was played by the animals. All tribal nations which play a version of this "stick and ball" game have a common creation story that often refers to the game as the "Creator's Game," "Little Brother of War" or the "Medicine Game." The varying indigenous stories say the game is a gift from the Creator and has the ability to heal or drive away sickness. Lacrosse or stickball requires focus and intensity and the energy from the game

has been used as medicine to cleanse players and their communities. Players need to be healthy and in shape to play well, adding to the "medicinal" properties of the game.

Stickball and lacrosse were often used as a means to settle disputes between neighboring towns, clans and tribes. The winner of "Little Brother of War" decided how the dispute would be resolved and had bragging rights to boot. Lacrosse was also played just for fun and recreation. To this day, the southeastern version of stickball includes a social game played between men and women which is more about community fellowship than an intensive ceremonial "Little Brother of War" game. The commonality of the varying versions of stickball and lacrosse provide further evidence that our ancestors traveled far and wide sharing culture and spreading the game. After all, we love to visit while sharing stories, songs and food.

Do you have any stories about lacrosse or stickball you would like recorded? The Museum's Oral History Program's mission is to serve the Seminole community in preserving your story. Please contact me if you have any story to tell and have it archived to be heard for generations to come. I can be reached at 863-902-1113 extension 12213 or by email at justingiles@semtribe.com. Hope to see and hear you soon!

Maddux Motlow honored for fundraising efforts

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

person, his mom and older sister shared the information on social media to get others to help.

It only takes one person to make a large difference. At only 10 years old, Maddux Motlow fundraised \$700 for the American Heart Association for their ongoing research and community involvement.

The fifth-grader raised the money through a fundraiser at Driftwood Elementary School in April. He raised more money than the other students, so for his efforts, Driftwood named him "Officer for the Day," a title that he proudly carried with him as he helped school resource officer Catlin Giffen keep the premises safe.

"It felt pretty nice knowing I'm helping people with sick hearts," Maddux said.

As an officer, Maddux helped keep the gates locked, read to a kindergarten class and monitored the hallways. The Hollywood Police Department provided Maddux with a Hollywood Police Department hat, T-shirt and a duffel bag filled with gifts, including a soccer ball, shirts and a water bottle.

Even though the day was full of excitement, Maddux said that his favorite part – aside from not having to do schoolwork for half the day – was the sweet treats.

"My favorite part was having donuts; they were pretty tasty," he said. "My mom only lets me have cereal for breakfast."

Maddux's mom, Tomie Motlow, said she couldn't be prouder of Maddux's accomplishment. Maddux raised the money with help from his family and friends. While he encouraged his loved ones to donate in



Courtesy Tomie Motlow

Sporting his new gear from the Hollywood Police Department, fifth-grader Maddux Motlow stands next to school resource officer Catlin Giffen after spending a day helping keep the school safe.



Courtesy Tomie Motlow

Maddux Motlow and school resource officer Catlin Giffen read to a kindergarten class at Driftwood Elementary School.

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Health



Got WIC? Don't wait

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Department of Health Broward County

Families may be missing out on valuable nutrition benefits because they delay signing up for the Women Infants & Children program (WIC).

These families apparently do not realize they can enroll in WIC as soon as a woman becomes pregnant. No waiting for a pregnancy confirmation. No waiting for the birth. Seminole Tribe members are eligible.

Only 80 percent of 58,750 Broward residents who are eligible for WIC participate in the program. For the rest, it's a missed opportunity, says Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of the Florida Department of Health in Broward County, which operates WIC locally.

"Some women do not enroll early," Thaqi says. "We want women to sign up when they learn they are pregnant so they can receive WIC benefits right away. WIC helps mothers, babies and young children be healthier."

Services include nutrition counseling, breastfeeding counseling, referrals to other programs and an electronic benefits card to buy nutritious food and artificial baby milk, if necessary.

What foods are covered? Cereal, whole grains (bread, rice, tortillas, pasta), canned tuna and salmon, fruits and vegetables, baby foods, eggs, milk, yogurt, cheese, peanut butter, beans, fruit juice and more.

WIC serves pregnant women, mothers for six months after delivery, breastfeeding women and children under age 5.

Families are eligible if household

income is below 185 percent of the federal poverty level. That means monthly income under \$1,860 for one person, \$2,504 for two, \$3,793 for a family of four, etc. Florida Medicaid recipients qualify automatically.

In addition to nutrition services, DOH-Broward offers free dental fluoride varnish to children up to age 20 in WIC-eligible families. The treatment, which comes in kid-friendly flavors and is painted onto the teeth, prevents cavities.

All WIC services are available at the seven Broward offices in Hollywood, Pembroke Pines, Fort Lauderdale, Pompano Beach, Coral Springs and Lauderdale Lakes.

For more information call 954-767-5111 or visit broward.floridahealth.gov. Appointments are available.

Karen's Corner: Learning mindful eating

BY KAREN TWO SHOES
Health Clinic Dietitian and Nutrition Coordinator



When people find out I am a dietitian, the first thing they want to know is what to eat. It makes sense, I suppose – I am a DIETitian. Meal plans are the most sought after and the one thing most dietitians are most reluctant to give. Think about it. If it was that easy, everyone would get a meal plan and everyone would be healthy or thin or buff. So much information leans toward what to eat or what not to eat. Has anyone ever asked you about why you eat? Or how you eat? Have you ever asked yourself those questions?

Eating when you're bored, sad or mad, munching a whole bag of chips while binge-watching Netflix or scarfing down food when you're already full can result in poor health. Whether you're trying to lose weight, manage disease or live a healthier lifestyle, negative nutrition behaviors affect your mind, body and spirit. Understanding these behaviors is a considerable task that is well worth the effort, whatever your goal may be.

Mindful eating means eating with complete awareness and being present in the moment. This involves being aware of your food, your body and your emotions before, during and after you eat. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recommend these mindful eating techniques:

- Slow down: Chew your food until the food is liquefied. This not only slows your intake but it also aids digestion. Take smaller bites by using chopsticks or a baby spoon. My personal favorite is putting your fork, spoon or chopsticks down between each bite. It really does take 20 minutes for your stomach to tell your brain you've had enough, so use this time wisely and slow down.

- Notice your food: Take the time to notice the appearance, aroma, taste, texture and sounds of what you are eating. Is it salty or bitter? Crunchy? Does it smell delicious? Enjoy the moments you spend eating your food.

- Decrease distractions: This is a biggie – no screens during meal times. Wherever you eat, at home or at work, turn off your device and only eat in places away from televisions or computer screens, like the dining table or break room. Eating while driving is also a

definite no-go. Driving is a distraction from proper digestion. If you're pressed for time, stop somewhere and take the time to notice your food.

- Notice your body: How do you feel before you eat? Are you really hungry or is something else driving you to the fridge? Maybe a walk around the block or writing in a journal would serve you better. Notice how you feel after each bite (preferably after you have put your fork down and are chewing until liquefied). Find that point of fullness and satisfaction. Ask yourself, "Do I really need this next bite, or am I mindlessly eating it because it is in front of me?" After a meal, give gratitude that you have nourished your body to the best of your ability, especially in a world where many go without.

Taking these steps forces you to slow down and concentrate on what you're eating. Next thing you know, you're full, you have eaten less and you have really enjoyed the food you have eaten. When was the last time that truly happened?

Karen Two Shoes is a registered dietitian and the nutrition coordinator for the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Health Department. She is a member of the Panther Clan and is a married mother of two.

Attorney General Bondi sues major opioid manufacturers and distributors

PRESS RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE — Attorney General Pam Bondi filed an action in state court May 15 against some of the nation's largest opioid manufacturers and distributors for their role in the national opioid crisis. The complaint names as defendants opioid manufacturers Purdue Pharma L.P., Endo Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc., Cephalon Inc., and Allergan plc and related companies, and opioid distributors AmerisourceBergen Drug Corporation, Cardinal Health Inc., McKesson Corporation, and Mallinckrodt LLC and related companies.

"We are in the midst of a national opioid crisis claiming 175 lives a day nationally and 15 lives a day in Florida, and I will not tolerate anyone profiting from the pain and suffering of Floridians," said Attorney General

Bondi. "The complaint I filed today, seeks to hold some of the nation's largest opioid manufacturers and distributors responsible for their role in this crisis and seeks payment for the pain and destruction their actions have caused Florida and its citizens."

The opioid manufacturers allegedly used a campaign of misrepresentations and omissions about the use of opioids to doctors and consumers in order to increase prescriptions and opioid use, including false statements about the addictive nature of opioids and omissions of the severe risks posed by taking opioids. The opioid distributors allegedly shipped inordinately high volumes of opioids to customers in Florida and failed to report these suspicious orders of opioids, thereby fueling widespread diversion of opioids throughout the state.

The lawsuit alleges, among other things, that the opioid manufacturers used front organizations and key opinion leaders to

promote false messages about opioids. This conduct was particularly abhorrent because the front organizations and key opinion leaders appeared to be neutral advocates for the use of opioids to treat chronic pain but were actually paid mouthpieces of the manufacturers. The distributors failed in their duties under Florida law to stop the suspiciously high orders of opioids they received. Instead, the distributors placed profit over safety and continued filling the suspicious opioid orders. In the complaint filed in Pasco County Circuit Court, the Attorney General's Office alleged that the defendants' actions violated the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, the Florida RICO Act, and violated common law public nuisance and negligence. The complaint seeks damages, injunctive relief, restitution, and civil penalties for defendants' conduct.

Tribe represented at Arthritis Walk



Courtesy photo

Team Seminole was represented by members of the Health, Housing and Construction Management Departments of the Tribe at the Walk to Cure Arthritis at Nova Southeastern University in Davie on May 19.

Seeds of Native Health plans nutrition conference

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

Seeds of Native Health, a national campaign focused on Native American nutrition and health, will host the third annual Conference on Native American Nutrition Oct. 2 through 5. Tribal officials, researchers, practitioners and others will attend the conference to learn the science behind Native American nutrition. The conference will be held at Mystic Lake Center in Prior Lake, Minnesota.

Session topics will include nutrition across the life cycle, intergenerational learning about food and nutrition, learning

from indigenous communities worldwide, linking agriculture to nutrition, and recovering from historical trauma.

Optional workshops on Oct. 2 will include "Native Infusion: Reclaiming Ancestral Beverages," "Dream of Wild Health – Youth Garden Tour," "Preparing Healthy Traditional Food with the Sioux Chef," "Foraging for Native Edible Plants," and "Indigenous Wellness: Ancestral Food Ways, Indigenous Fitness and Movement, and the Inter-connectedness of Wellness, Culture and Indigenous Language."

Registration for the event is open until Sept. 17 and includes attendance and six meals. To register or for more information, visit seedsnativehealth.org/conference.

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New Medicare cards coming

SUBMITTED BY PAUL ISAACS, MD
Department of Health and Human Services

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will mail you a new Medicare card between April 2018 and April 2019. Medicare is removing your social security number from your card and is replacing it with a number that is unique to you. Your new Medicare number will contain

a combination of numbers and uppercase letters. This change will help protect your identity.

Once you get your new card, safely and securely destroy your old card and start using your new card right away. Protect yourself by making sure no one can get your personal information from your old Medicare card.

Please make sure your mailing

address with Medicare is up to date. If your address needs to be corrected, contact Social Security at ssa.gov/myaccount or 1-800-772-1213. TTY users can call 1-800-325-0778. You may also contact one of the medical social workers at the STOF Health Clinic for assistance in updating your address.

Beware of anyone who contacts you about your new Medicare card. CMS will never ask you to give them your personal or private information to get your new Medicare number and card.

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SEMINOLE SCENES



HOT STUFF: This frybread simmers in the oil in a Brighton cooking chickee during the PECS culture camp May 17. The pan of deliciousness is tended to by students during their day of learning the traditional Seminole way of life.



PROUD GRANDPARENTS: Mary Jene Koenes and Camellia Smith share the love with their grandson Caleb Smith, 4 months, May 16 at the Big Cypress Preschool graduation. Koenes' daughter Desiree Smith is married to Smith's son Jarrid Smith.



IT'S WILD: Animal staff at Billie Swamp Safari let children hold one of the alligators at the park May 12.



YOUNG CARPENTERS: Alice Jimmie, Chris Smith Denise Gonzales and other members of the Immokalee Boys & Girls Club made a special gift just in time for the Immokalee Mother's Day party. The handmade picnic table was eventually finished and given a coat of paint along with colorful hand prints from all the kids and raffled off at the event.



RAINDROPS ARE FALLING: PECS students take shelter in the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena May 17 during a deluge that interrupted the fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade culture camp. These girls tried to catch some rain from the top of the bleachers.



INTERNATIONAL APPEAL: A host of international visitors converged at the Tribal Headquarters auditorium in Hollywood May 21 for a special session with Tribal Court officials. Chief Judge Moses B. Osceola, Chief Justice Willie Johns and Director Stan Wolfe led the session.



A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER: The 123rd Big Cypress Celebration on April 28 featured all kinds of fun activities for the community. Above, Philip Blackwell from Billie Swamp Safari tells visitors about how he takes care of a small otter. Below, these cultural dancers entertain the crowd at the at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena. Other acts included country artists Josh Turner and Adam Craig.



CLOWNIN' FOR A CAUSE: Hard Rock Café Malta, through the Hard Rock Heals Foundation, presented a donation of \$5,000 to the Dr. Klown organization in April. The Dr. Klown organization features volunteers who entertain children in hospitals as clown doctors. The group was formed in 2010. The donation will be used to purchase musical instruments for the clowns and for professional training on how to use these instruments to interact with children in hospitals around Malta. "It is our pleasure to help organizations such as Dr. Klown. A word of thanks goes to our staff who helped in the collection of the funds," Shandelle Azzopardi, director of operations for Hard Rock Cafe Malta, said in a Times of Malta story.



Explorers soak in history, law enforcement remembrances in Washington, D.C.



Courtesy photo

Explorers Dorian Osceola, TL Gopher, Pedro Martinez Jr. and Jarrett Beecham attend the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's annual candlelight vigil to remember fallen officers May 13 on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. In the back are SPD Officer Milton Oramas and Ashton Doctor.



Courtesy photo

Participants in the Tribe's Explorers program gather outside the U.S. Customs & Border Protection building during their trip to Washington, D.C. in May.

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Young people interested in a career in law enforcement or the fire department took a trip to Washington, D.C. in May as part of the Seminole Public Safety Explorers program.

The program is designed for youth ages 6 to 18 to learn more about what Tribal Police and Fire Rescue personnel do on the job. Officials hope to inspire kids to consider a career in the fields after high school graduation.

About 100 kids, parents and staff took the trip this year.

"We teach them all the things we'd go through on a daily basis – the functions of police and fire departments – in the hopes that the little ones from the Tribe will take an interest," Sergeant Angela Margotta of the Seminole Police Department said.

The Tribe has conducted the program for about six years. Meetings take place about twice a month during the school year. A variety of learning experiences are provided to the kids, ranging from first aid skills to what to do if they see something in the community that should be reported.

"It teaches them respect for themselves and those around them," said Margotta, who's been with SPD for 18 years.

The trip to Washington, D.C. from May 12-15 corresponded with National Police Week – a time in the nation's capital when thousands of law enforcement personnel and families from across the globe gather to honor those who have been killed in the line of duty.

The trip also included visits to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, which features a wall with more than 21,000 names of those who perished on the job.

Among the names on the memorial wall are two Tribal police officers from Florida – Seminole Police Department officer Lt. John K. Healy, who was killed in an automobile accident in 1986, and Miccosukee Tribal Police Department wildlife officer Donald Dante Thornbury, who drowned in 1991. In all, 55 members of Tribal Police departments across the U.S. have died in the line of duty.

The trip also exposed the kids to the organization C.O.P.S. – Concerns of Police Survivors – a group that assists family and coworkers of those in law enforcement who are killed in the line of duty.



Courtesy photo

From left, Bill Osceola, Oreste Perez, Phillip Frank and SPD Officer Tom Beezley pose in front of George Washington's mansion at Mount Vernon during the Explorers trip to the Washington, D.C. area.

C.O.P.S. statistics state that on average between 140 and 160 officers are killed in the line of duty each year. In 2017, 134 officers were killed. Gunfire is the most common cause of death, followed by automobile

accidents. The first recorded police death was in 1791.

The Explorers and their families attended an annual candlelight vigil May 13 to pay tribute to fallen officers. Ten Florida



Courtesy photo

From left, Bailey Latchford, SPD Detective Vanessa Baker, Kaitlynn Gorney, Madison Martinez, Marcie Osceola and Rubie Osceola visit the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

law enforcement officers were on the vigil roll call this year.

Some of the other sites the Explorers visited were Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery and a variety of memorials, monuments and museums.

Students interested in being part of the program can contact Tribal Police in their respective communities.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Idaho's Nez Perce Tribe sues pharmaceutical industry over opioids

The Nez Perce Tribe is the latest indigenous government to sue drug makers over the opioid crisis gripping the nation.

The complaint from the Nez Perce lists over a dozen manufacturers and distributors of opioids as defendants responsible for the toll addiction has taken on their community.

University of Idaho law professor Dylan Hedden-Nicely specializes in Native American law and isn't involved in the case. He says it looks like the Nez Perce are taking a similar approach in their suit as other tribes.

"They've used public nuisance theories, fraud theories, negligence theories," says Hedden-Nicely. "They've also used statutory deceptive trade practices theories as well on a state and federal level."

The tribe's complaint cites data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showing Native Americans having the highest death rate from prescription opioids of any ethnic group in 2014.

"Indian tribes have been disproportionately affected by this opioid

epidemic," Hedden-Nicely says. "There's been statistics that've indicated that on certain reservations there's somewhere in the realm of 107 to 136 opioid pills per every adult, which is just an astronomically large number of medication to be available for any sort of legitimate use."

The complaint from the Tribe is the latest to come out of Idaho. Several counties across the state are pursuing litigation centering on the opioid epidemic.

- Boise State Public Radio

Native American effigy mounds intact after Supreme Court split

With one justice on the sidelines, the Wisconsin Supreme Court split 3-3 on a case involving whether a mining company could disturb Native American effigy mounds surrounded by land the company owns, leaving a lower court decision in place.

The Wisconsin Appeals Court upheld an agency decision that said the mining company, Wingra Stone Company, could not have a permit to disturb the effigy mounds, which the Wisconsin State Historical Society

added to its catalog of burial sites in 1991.

A circuit court reversed that decision, but a three-judge panel for the District IV Court of Appeals, in *Wingra Red-Mix Inc. v. State Historical Society of Wisconsin*, reversed the circuit court. The supreme court split leaves the appeals court decision in place. Justice Daniel Kelly withdrew from participation from the case, leaving only six justices.

The votes of particular justices were not disclosed in the per curiam opinion that was released May 22 and Justice Shirley Abrahamson wrote a separate opinion arguing they should be, which has been the court's practice in the past, she said.

Appeals court decision

Last year, a three-judge panel ruled that the effigy mounds, known as Ward Mounds in the Town of Blooming Grove near Madison, "have historical significance" that was not outweighed by any stated land use interest that would support a permit to disturb them.

Wingra Stone Company sought a permit to disturb the Ward Mounds burial site under Wis. Stat. section 157.70(5)(c)2., which says

a hearing must be conducted on a petition to disturb a burial site and the various interests must be weighed to reach a conclusion.

Reviewing the decision to deny the permit by the Division of Hearings and Appeals (DHA), the appeals court said it had no grounds to overturn the DHA's decision, which found that cultural, tribal, and religious affiliation weighed against disturbing the site.

"More generally, the DHA decision is reasonably read as concluding that there may come a day when granting a petition to disturb will be appropriate, but the balancing of the various factors does not favor disturbing the Ward Mounds at this time," wrote Judge Paul Higginbotham, who retired the same day the decision was released.

- State Bar of Wisconsin

Health in Grassy Narrows 'significantly worse' than other First Nations: report

TORONTO — The physical and mental health of people living in Grassy

Narrows is "significantly worse" than other First Nations since mercury was dumped into a river system near the northern Ontario reserve half a century ago, a new health survey suggests.

The community commissioned the survey to examine the fallout of eating fish caught from nearby waterways contaminated by mercury. It found that there are fewer elders in the community, which the report suggests means that people are dying there prematurely.

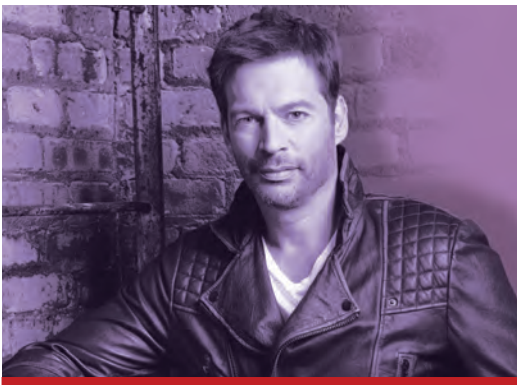
"The results provide clear evidence that the physical and mental health of (Grassy Narrows community) members is poorer than that of other First Nation communities in Canada and Ontario," said the report. The health and well-being of the community "cannot be understood without taking into account their history of mercury poisoning and its consequences," it said.

It also found that 33 percent of residents have lost a close friend or family member to suicide, which is five times the rate documented in other Ontario First Nations.

- CTV News

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HOLLYWOOD, FL

Education

B

Tribe celebrates success of college-bound seniors

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — After prom and graduation day, one of the most exciting days for high school seniors is college signing day, when students finally announce where they will go for the next leg of their educational journeys. On May 4, Tribal students celebrated the momentous occasion with friends, family and education mentors during the Tribe's second annual College Signing Day.

In Hollywood, the Center for Student Success and Services (CSSS) celebrated seniors Trinity Bowers, Kalani Bankston, Elizabeth Frank — all who attended Nova Southeastern University School — and Franklin Jumper, who received his GED in April. Bowers will attend Nova Southeastern University for English, Bankston will attend Syracuse University in New York for biology, Frank will attend High Point University in North Carolina for biology, and Jumper will attend Broward College for a woodworking and carpentry program.

During the celebration, the group watched a video message that former First Lady Michelle Obama released in honor of National College Signing Day earlier in the week, shared their future plans and received friendly advice about college from current and former students.

For Bowers, deciding where to attend college was as simple as pointing out a member of the family. Along with attending NSU's high school, her mom Holly Bowers attended the university for her law degree, which she is expecting to graduate with this



High school seniors announce their college decisions May 4 in Hollywood. From left, GED recipient Franklin Jumper and Nova Southeastern University School seniors Trinity Bowers, Elizabeth Frank and Kalani Bankston.

year. "If there's an opportunity to be in school I want to take it," Trinity Bowers explained of pursuing higher education. "My parents always told me if you're able to, you should go to college and I figure I might as well go. If anything, I'll know much more information and be able to get a better job because I'll have my college degree."

While Trinity Bowers' ideal college experience is close to home, Frank decided to use the new chapter as a chance to go somewhere new. She said she chose to move to North Carolina because the school has an unbeatable biology program that will prepare her to be a cardiovascular or neurosurgeon.

"I took anatomy and my teacher showed us surgery videos and they were very interesting," she said of her planned career. "[Going to college] is the way I'm going to

succeed in life. It's going to help me get to the program I want to be in."

Following the announcement of their plans, CSSS Student Success Coach Kajir Harriott and other CSSS staff members offered words of advice for the rising college freshmen.

"It's very important to stay focused. The only thing I can really leave you guys with is don't be silent while you're in school. It's not like high school where you can sit in the back row and the teacher's going to tell you what the lesson is," Harriott said. "You're going to have to take a lot of it home and you're going to have to practice and practice and come back to class with the results."

Tracey Walton, CSSS K-12 program manager, added that getting involved in the college community is equally important.

"I got involved with student government and I traveled more than I had ever traveled before," she said of her time in college.

She also added that as students are successful throughout their college endeavors, it's up to them to help encourage other Tribal members do the same. She encouraged them to take time to serve as role models for younger students.

"All I can say is it's a great experience so take advantage of it," she said. "Take the knowledge and come back and share it with other students as encouragement."

Renee Tigertail earns duo master's

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Renee Tigertail already had a busy life as site supervisor of the Big Cypress Health Clinic, secretary treasurer at Big Cypress First Baptist Church and as an involved grandparent, parent and aunt when she enrolled in graduate school in 2013.

Four years later, Tigertail earned not one, but two master's degrees from the University of Phoenix; a Master of Science in Nursing and a Master of Business Administration in Health Care Management.

It was a long road, from candy stripper to RN to MSN/MBA for Tigertail.

"I've always been interested in nursing," she said. "A lot of that has to do with my aunt, Alice Tigertail. She's my inspiration."

Alice Tigertail spent 30 years working as a nurse's aide at Hendry Regional Medical Center in Clewiston, which inspired Renee Tigertail to do the same. She was a candy stripper in high school at that very hospital.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) from the University of Miami in 2004 and has worked for the Tribe ever since. In 2011, Tigertail was promoted to site supervisor, which compelled her to get her Registered Nurse license. In 2013 she took the 265-question test and passed it on her first try.

Knowing that after so many years away from school, she could go back and be successful motivated Tigertail to pursue an advanced degree. She registered at University of Phoenix online not long after she passed the test.

"I finished the schoolwork the night before Hurricane Irma," she said. "I had a clinical project to do and a year to complete it. I knew I needed to get it done tonight, not tomorrow. I didn't know if we would have electricity after the storm."

She was right; Big Cypress didn't have electricity for a few weeks after the hurricane, so her decision paid off.

Despite working full-time and pursuing two advanced degrees, Tigertail found time to spend with her family and even go on the road to cheer for her nephew DeForest Carter as he played basketball for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

"I was stretched very thin," Tigertail said. "I thought after I was finished with school I'd have more time. But no, God has other plans for me. I still have things to do when I get home, there's still a lot of work."

She hasn't had the time to get her diplomas framed or mounted on plaques for her office wall, but she plans to do so soon. Tigertail is focused on work and her role



Site manager Renee Tigertail in the Big Cypress Health Clinic.

at the clinic. Her goal is to bridge the gap between the outside medical world and the Tribe.

"My plan has always been to help my community because who better than the people in the community to understand it and be able to provide what they need?" she said. "You have to have an understanding of the people you serve. I see non-Indian people come and try to work with the Tribe, but they don't understand the culture and the needs. I feel I can help with that aspect."

Recently, Tigertail served as a translator for an elder who wasn't fluent in English but needed to communicate with the medical staff. She also aims to educate the staff on cultural customs and nuances that will help them serve the community better.

"I try to find a happy medium between the community and the staff," she said. "When there are complaints I try to help the patient see what the staff has done and try to get what the patient needs. The staff here goes above and beyond and we try to provide all we can, but sometimes it isn't enough."

Tigertail fills a role at the clinic and in the community which gives her a lot of satisfaction; she enjoys being an advocate for the patients and the community. Outside of work, she hopes she can be a role model.

"I'm relieved to be finished with school," Tigertail said. "I want to be able to set a good example for my grandchildren and daughters. I hope and pray that they see how important education is. My mother (Judge Mary Tigertail) never had to push me to go to school, I always wanted to go. We didn't have a television, or when we did it only had six channels. You had more fun at school than staying home."



Trinity Bowers, left, a high school senior at Nova Southeastern University School, talks about her plans to attend Nova Southeastern University with Center for Student Success and Services Higher Education Academic and Career Advisor Sarahjoy Brown Somarriba.

SCAD graduate draws up future

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

With a Bachelor of Fine Arts in hand, Acealyn Youngblood is ready to embark on a career as an artist. A graduate of Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia, she studied illustration and plans to work in either package or magazine design.

"Ever since I was a child I always liked drawing, it was my favorite thing to do," said Youngblood, 22, who grew up in Brighton. "I'd draw in school and had trouble getting my work done because I wasn't paying attention. But my parents encouraged me to draw and that pushed me into a creative field."

Youngblood chose SCAD because of its reputation as one of the best schools for fine arts in the country and she thought she could excel there. Leaving home and going out of state was a little frightening at first since Youngblood was on her own and didn't know anyone. Seeing how talented all the other students were inspired and intimidated her at the same time.

"I doubted myself; I didn't think I was artistic enough," she said a few weeks before graduating on June 1. "I thought about quitting at one point and thought I wasn't as good as everyone else. I told myself I had to finish this and that everyone else had issues too. I was able to push through my struggles and here I am four years later about to graduate."

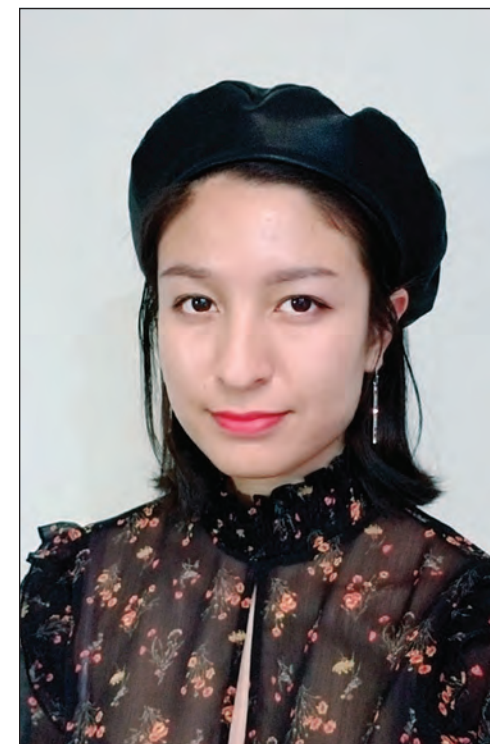
Having a professor who served as a mentor helped her to thrive and succeed. Her advertising professor always had good things to say about Youngblood's work and said he could see her doing this type of work.

"He liked my ideas and helped me



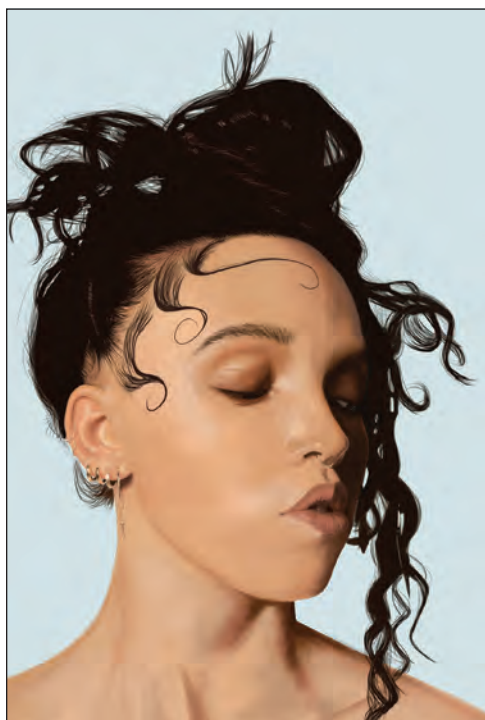
Courtesy Acealyn Youngblood

Youngblood created this greeting card just for fun. She wanted to capture the spring vibes of warmth, bright colors and relaxation.



Courtesy Acealyn Youngblood

Acealyn Youngblood portrait



On left, Youngblood created this digital portrait for a portrait painting class in which she focused on faces and facial structure. The point of the assignment was to capture the characteristics of the person. On right, Youngblood painted these watercolor flowers for a botanical illustration class during which she learned to understand form, composition and color. This is a typical example of an illustration that can be used for garden books, textbooks, magazines or for a client to use.



Courtesy Acealyn Youngblood (2)

develop them," she said. "He was very inspirational."

SCAD has a campus in Hong Kong and during her junior year, Youngblood spent a semester there studying illustration. She said the teaching style was very different than in the U.S.

"The Savannah professors are more strict; they give us an assignment and tell us what to do," she explained. "The Hong Kong professors let you do your own thing and grade you on your process. It was more relaxed and I was able to be more creative there."

One of the most important lessons Youngblood learned in college is the value of experience.

"It takes time and patience to build skills and technique," she said. "You have to really work to improve yourself. It's very difficult

to overcome self-doubt, but once you get passed that you can do anything."

One day Youngblood hopes to open her own business that specializes in branding concepts for companies and corporations. Until then, she wants to work for a company that lets her make the most of her creativity.

"Going to college is scary because you are alone and it is hard," Youngblood said. "But there are so many doors you can go through that will lead you to so many different experiences. A lot of people are willing to help but you have to give it time, stay strong mentally and work toward what you really want and you'll be OK."

Preschool Graduations



BY BEVERLY BIDNEY AND DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporters

Immokalee Preschool graduating class largest ever

Immokalee preschool's 2018 graduating class was the school's largest class ever with 15 children, but despite its size the May 3 graduation ceremony went off without a hitch. The eager young grads marched down the aisle as Pomp and Circumstance played over the sound system and family and friends cheered them on.

Decked out in colorful red caps and gowns trimmed with patchwork, the children introduced themselves to the audience in Mikasuki. The students learned to speak the language from culture teacher Tammy Billie, who worked diligently with them all year. She told the assembled crowd she taught them to speak Elaponke, or Mikasuki, as they would to an elder and to count to 20 this year instead of the usual 10.

Elected officials congratulated the young graduates with words of praise and advice. President Mitchell Cypress was sure they would all be Tribal leaders one day and told them to continue their education so they could come back and help their Tribe.

Immokalee Council Project Manager Ray Garza attended and cheered on his grandchildren.

"The next thing you know its high school and then college," he said. "I see a lot of potential here."

"This is a very proud day," added Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger. "It won't be long until I'm up here asking for their vote."

The graduation ended with some parting words from preschool staff.

"Work hard, stay straight and may you stay in your spirit and soul forever young," said Alejandra Ibarra, head teacher of the four-year-olds.

Preschool Director Michelle Ford addressed her comments to the parents.

"Today we give you back your child pounds heavier, inches taller and years wiser," Ford said. "It has been our pleasure and privilege to marvel at the splendor of their development. We've lived, loved,

laughed and enriched our lives together this year. They are all precious, special and unique. May angels always watch over and protect them as God has a plan for their lives."

Big Cypress preschoolers earn diplomas

Big Cypress preschoolers took their place in the spotlight May 16 as they donned caps and gowns to get their preschool diplomas. The 14 proud graduates mostly made it down the aisle easily, but a few were distracted by grandparents or parents or maybe just wanted to get on stage in a hurry.

But first the little graduates entertained and showed off their skills with a program that began with the pledge of allegiance in Mikasuki and English and finished with songs in both languages. Tribal leaders were impressed.

"Back in my time we had one big classroom," said President Mitchell Cypress. "We didn't have preschool or head start. Today things have changed and these 14 graduates are going to the next level. I'm very proud of this class."

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger spoke with an eye to the future.

"They will be the leaders of the community one day," he said. "My late grandmother and mother used to tell me education is everything and they knew what they were talking about. I want these kids to have the ability to learn and then come back to take care of this community."

Big Cypress Board Representative Joe



Emnelahikiyo Anderson Jr. shows his enthusiasm for graduating preschool as he walks to get his diploma in Big Cypress.

Beverly Bidney

noted how much parental involvement has grown at the school and how important it is to the development of the children. Then he introduced guest speaker and Ahfachkee School Principal Dorothy Cain.

"We are happy to have a strong partnership with the preschool," said Cain. "Our teachers are ready for the students. School is about learning and is extremely important. We teachers are the educators and without us, no other profession would exist."

Cain had a message for the parents and grandparents in the room.

"We give our children lots of choices, but we want to be there to catch them if they fall," Cain said. "We are their guide and push them to move forward. Never step away, you always need to be there even in middle and high school. That's the time to tighten up, that's when they need you the most to guide them on their path."

Hard work pays off for Brighton preschoolers

The Brighton Preschool class of 2018 marched down the aisle May 18 and accepted what was rightly theirs – a preschool diploma. As is

the tradition in Brighton, the preschoolers were flanked by parents as they walked down the aisle to receive their diplomas.

Each one of the 16 children earned the document after years of learning shapes, colors, numbers, and how to follow directions and play nicely with others.

The young grads also boasted knowledge of culture and language by saying the Mantele, pledge of allegiance and singing songs in Creek thanks to the hard work of the Brighton culture department. As a thank you for years of service to the preschool, the department was given an award for their commitment and dedication to the preschool students.

Tribal dignitaries spoke about the importance of the day. President Mitchell Cypress thanked the staff and the parents for all they do since these children are the Tribe's future leaders.

"They are our future and are who we look to to carry the torch one day," said Brighton Board Representative Larry Howard.

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. spoke to the parents.

"One day these youngsters will grow up but you must stay with them every step of the way," he said. "Don't lose sight of them. Stay with them even when they are old enough to reach their own way of thinking."

Hollywood preschoolers up to bat at graduation

It's not every day Miami Heat mascot Burnie and two members of the HEAT dancers come to Tribal Headquarters, but it made perfect sense at the sports-themed graduation for the Hollywood Preschool class of 2018.

Nineteen youngsters took to the stage in the Hollywood auditorium May 23 for a string of performances – songs, poems and dance – in front of more than 120 family members and friends.

On the stage to hand the kids their diplomas were Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, President Mitchell Cypress and Hollywood Board Representative Gordon Wareham.

The audience was treated to a slideshow with pictures of the graduates as Queen's "We Are the Champions" played in the background.

After the ceremony, the kids received sports-themed gift bags, a lunch of tailgate-style food, face-painting and pictures with Burnie.



Beverly Bidney

The graduates receive their diplomas and then, in a very grown up way, shake the hands of dignitaries including Immokalee Council project manager Ray Garza, Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola and Preschool center manager Michelle Ford.



Beverly Bidney

David Clay feels like a star as he walks down the red carpet to collect his preschool diploma at the Big Cypress Preschool graduation ceremony.



Damon Scott

Jayleen Frank is excited to lead the way down the graduation aisle at the Hollywood Preschool ceremony on May 23.



Beverly Bidney

Emanuel Estrada shakes hands with Brighton Board Representative Larry Howard after receiving his preschool diploma.



Beverly Bidney

Shawnie Tommie finds it hard not to wave at mommy and daddy but she managed, along with the other Big Cypress preschoolers, to say the pledge of allegiance during graduation May 16.



Beverly Bidney

Preschool Director Thommy Doud congratulates Cleofas Yzaguirre Jr. on a job well done as President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, Immokalee Council project manager Ray Garza, Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola and Immokalee Preschool center manager Michelle Ford look on.

Preschool Graduations



Beverly Bidney

Dylan Garza is excited about walking the red carpet to get his preschool diploma at the Immokalee Preschool graduation May 3.



Beverly Bidney

Having completed the school year and graduated from preschool, these Brighton grads proudly drink in the applause of the audience after the ceremony.



Damon Scott

Aislinn Cohen-Osceola introduces herself to family members and guests at the Hollywood Preschool graduation May 23.



Damon Scott

Hollywood Preschool students join Paul "Cowbone" Buster in two songs. From left to right are Tenia Tommie-James, Caden Jumper and Albert Brooks.



Beverly Bidney

Brighton Preschool graduates wait eagerly in the hallway before they walk down the aisle to get their diplomas at the graduation ceremony May 18.



Beverly Bidney

Mitchellanie Cypress and the rest of Immokalee's class of 2018 say the Manteele, the pledge of allegiance in Mikasuki.

Living and learning at PECS culture camp

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON— Every year, the students at the Pemaevt Emahakv Charter School learn their ancestors' culture by living it for a day, thus gaining a tangible appreciation for the past.

At the PECS annual hands-on culture camp May 17, students in grades 4, 5 and 6 cooked lunch in the cooking chickee, carved

wood using sharp knives, learned how to make lye, played traditional games such as horseshoes and cornhole, tossed skillet and hatchets and practiced their archery skills.

On May 18, in addition to what the younger kids did the seventh and eighth graders butchered a 300 pound hog, made swamp cabbage, roasted a couple water turtles over the fire, made roasted corn sofkee and learned how to create the traditional Seminole women's hairstyle.

"We're going to be working hard, not hardly working," culture instructor Jade Osceola told the students. "Use your language. Today you will make lye, which is very rare. Not a lot of people know how to do it."

Making lye was a new activity this year. Traditionally, lye was used as a thickening agent in sofkee, but today's sofkee is usually made with baking soda instead. Lye can be used to make soap, pretzels, tortillas and other items. Culture and language instructor Ben Yahola demonstrated how it is done by using nothing but ashes and hot water.

"Respect the fire, only burn wood," Yahola said. "It's always best to use fresh ashes; these are from local oak trees."

A cloth was placed over an empty pot, ladies of ashes were put on top and hot water was poured over it. Yahola let the students carry out the steps under his supervision.

"I'm bringing this tradition back to you," he said. "You don't have to use baking soda for sofkee. Use your language, too. We are trying to keep what we have left."

Seminole Creek was heard throughout the day. One student, who was busy making fry bread dough saw a bird and used the Creek word for bird to point it out to a nearby teacher. That sparked a conversation in Creek and some English among the students and teachers at the work table. Plenty of laughter was peppered in for good measure.



Beverly Bidney

Girls and women make a traditional lunch of Indian dogs, spam and rice, green beans and fry bread at the PECS culture camp May 17 in Brighton.

Living in the 21st century makes it hard to get away from modern conveniences. When the sky darkened and storm clouds loomed, the lightning alarm sounded. Students were sent safely inside the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, where horseshoes and cornhole games were already set up.

That left the culture staff and volunteers to have the authentic experience of finishing up the cooking despite the thunderstorm. Although water found its way into the chickee through a few holes in the thatch, the fire stayed strong and the food was cooked.

As skies opened up, the deafening sound of rain on the arena roof drowned out the sounds of the students inside. During a break in the deluge, the food was brought into the arena one pan at a time, including a steaming cauldron of sofkee. The girls served, lunch was consumed on the bleachers and the students then went back to school.

The following day, seventh- and eighth-graders took over the camp.

The students spent the morning learning to butcher a hog, roast corn and grind it for sofkee and get to the tender hearts of the cabbage palm to make swamp cabbage. After the feast, which of course centered on pork, the eighth-grade girls learned how to create the traditional hairstyle of their ancestors.

Alice Sweat and Jennie Shore taught the girls how to style the hair and had each one tackle it, with some help from other volunteers. The students were each given a crescent-shaped piece of cardboard, a hairnet and plenty of bobby pins.

"The boards used to be made of thin plywood," recalled Onnie Osceola. "They were very stiff and hard to cut. My mother used to wear it every day."



Beverly Bidney

Creating the traditional Seminole hairstyle was both challenging and hysterically funny, at least for this trio consisting of Mabel Tichenor, Tammy Martinez and Rita Youngman. PECS eighth-grade girls learned how to form the hairdo with the help of culture instructors and community members during the culture camp May 18.

The consensus among the elders was that the hairdo served as decoration but also had an important function: to provide shade.

To create the iconic style, the hair is gathered into a ponytail on top of the head. The board is placed at the hairline and the hair is carefully wrapped around it, secured with pins and covered in a hairnet to keep it in place. It sounds a lot easier than it is. Once the hair is on the board, it must be fanned out to cover it, which proved to be tricky for some of the girls to perfect. However, with help they all managed to get it done.

"It takes the hair off the neck and gives you a breeze," said Virginia Garcia, 14. "It feels way better. I also like it because it's a tradition that we should be proud of."



Beverly Bidney

Carlee Osceola gives it her all during a game of horseshoes in the Fred Smith Arena, where the fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders took shelter from the storm.

Miccosukee Indian School honors class of 2018

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Students had graduation gowns neatly pressed and caps and tassels squared away for a packed crowd in the Miccosukee Indian School gymnasium.

MIS marked the students' 2018 graduation milestone May 16 on the Tamiami Trail Reservation.

Family and friends of the students gathered at long tables decorated with flowers and glossy programs while food was prepared in the adjacent cafeteria. Dotting the circumference of the gym were stanchions with large TVs displaying the MIS emblem on the screens.

After the presentation of colors by the Miccosukee Police Department, the third- and fourth-grade students led the crowd of about 300 in the Miccosukee Pledge.

Little Cypress Osceola and Garrett Rockwell served as the masters of ceremony for the event and kicked it off by announcing the opening procession. The procession and graduation included students in the Early Learning Center, kindergarten, fifth grade, eighth grade and senior class – 49 graduates in all.

After the procession, administrators and the Miccosukee Tribal Business Council were

recognized and several made comments. Miccosukee General Council representatives at the event included Assistant Chairman Roy Cypress Jr., Secretary Talbert Cypress, Lawmaker Petties Osceola Jr. and Treasurer Jerry Cypress.

The keynote speaker for the event was Jason Simon, a former National Hockey League player for the Phoenix Coyotes and New York Islanders and member of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation of the city of Sarnia, Ontario, Canada.

Simon, who is now a motivational speaker and youth fitness coordinator, told the students about his life in the NHL and about his struggle with drugs and alcohol after retirement. He particularly addressed the seven seniors who were seated on stage. Simon spoke about the importance of family and community and of setting short and long term life goals.

After Simon's keynote, teachers from each of the respective classes took to the podium to announce the Student of the Year awards. The awards went to Jamere Osceola for primary school, Kristyanna Tigertail-Alicea for intermediate school, Jayden Billie for middle school, and Cedric Sanders for high school.

The presentation of diplomas commenced with each student walking on stage to shake hands with the Business Council. Many students also gave the seniors who were seated on stage high fives as they made their way off stage.

Last but not least was the presentation of diplomas to the senior class. Before the diplomas were handed out, a slideshow presentation appeared on each of the TV screens with photographs of the seniors from their early years through their school years.

The senior class of Demetric Billie, Saige Osceola, Cedric Sanders, Kailani Osceola, Davena Osceola, Charlie Osceola and Skaila Tiger then went back on stage to receive their diplomas. Each senior addressed the crowd, thanking teachers, family and friends for their love and support.

After an end of the year schoolwide slideshow, the graduates made their way out of the gym with their families and friends, diplomas in hand, for a luncheon reception.



Damon Scott

Primary students wait for their turn to walk across the stage at the graduation ceremony May 16.



Damon Scott

The Miccosukee Indian School senior class of 2018 prepares to enter the gym for the procession.

High school grads make triumphant return to PECS

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The high school graduates had been gone for four years, but on May 14 a dozen former Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students proudly walked through the halls of the K-8 school dressed in colorful caps and gowns for all to see.

Every PECS student and teacher lined up outside of their classrooms to celebrate the success of these hometown grads. The young adults shared high fives, hugs and even a few tears with students and teachers as they walked by culture, elementary and middle school classrooms.

"We want you to walk the halls so the younger ones will want to do the same," PECS administrative assistant Michele Thomas said to the grads. "We want you to keep in touch with us. Don't think no one is watching you, because we are."

It was the second year PECS invited high school graduate alumni to show off and set an example for younger students. The event has caught on around the country and, as at PECS, the grads are met with cheers and accolades.

Before they took to the school's hallways, the graduates convened in a room off the gym to put on their caps and gowns, pose for photos, enjoy a snack and watch their PECS eighth-grade video. Giggles, groans and comments erupted during the video. Afterward, the Center for Student Success and Services staff addressed the grads.

"Our job is to support you beyond today," said Alvaro Perez, higher education program manager. "Whether you stay locally or are going away, we will always be able to help you out."

Brighton K-12 advisor Keivon Bell had some practical words for the grads.

"Find something you are passionate about and can do for another 10 or 20 years," Bell said. "Do what you feel is best for you. Don't do something because of the money, follow your passion."

The grads' first stop was in the PECS office. They wanted to see school counselor Jeanine Gran, who couldn't stop her tears of joy as she hugged each former student.

The procession snaked through the school's halls to applause, festive signs and

more hugs from teachers. In the middle school area, sixth-grader Cece Thomas proudly held up a sign touting her big sister Camryn Thomas's success. It read "My sister is a grad PECS to LP now to ABAC." LP stands for Lake Placid High School, ABAC is Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Georgia.

"It was heartwarming and cute," said Camryn, 18.

Camryn's wasn't the only heart that was warmed by the experience.

"It was nostalgic and brought up complex feelings," said Pernell Bert, 18, who plans to enlist in the Marines. "I saw a lot of old teachers, nieces and nephews here today."

"It felt great to go back and reminisce about old times and all the fun we had at this school," said Morgan King, 18, who plans to attend Indian River State College or South Florida State College.



Beverly Bidney

Richard Harris and Camryn Thomas watch as teacher Lisa Clements embraces graduate Sunni Bearden on the PECS campus.



Beverly Bidney

Jalynn Jones, Layne Thomas, Sunni Bearden and other grads receive congratulatory high fives from PECS students May 14 during their Grad Walk through the halls of their former school.



Beverly Bidney

Members of the graduating class of 2018, all former PECS students, gather in the school gym for a portrait. From left are Sunni Bearden, Morgan King, Camryn Thomas, Chandler Pearce, Layne Thomas, Ivess Baker, Richard Harris, Sean Osceola, Brady Rose, Pernell Bert, Rodolfo Juarez and Jalynn Jones.

PECS April Students of the Month

PECS Elementary

Kaison Bush
Aiyana Robinson
Nakoa Smiley
Onnie Cypress
Jon Jones

Beni Girtman
Geonnie Koger
Kowi Osceola
Augustana Banda
Dyani Kayda
Khoal Cochran

Layda Choquette
Jordyn Tomattis
Jace Johns
Jolyene Nunez
Greyson Johns
Steel Gopher

Kashyra Urbina
Waylon Yates
Madison Taylor
Jordan Johnson
Jayshawn Henderson

PECS Middle

Zach Riley
Winnie Gopher
Kalyn Hammil



Arts & Entertainment

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki's new exhibits span generations

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is known around the country for its representation of Seminole history. In its two newest exhibitions, the museum is going beyond the scope of history and instead is intertwining generations of culture.

The two exhibits, one by children at Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School in Brighton and the other by the museum's village crafters, feature traditional arts and crafts by Tribal members; the PECS exhibit with work from nine students in kindergarten through eighth grade and the village crafters exhibit with work from adults, primarily elders.

Rebecca Fell, curator of exhibits, said that having the two exhibits side-by-side is a great way for people to see how Seminole cultures span across different generations. She said that having the two shows is particularly beneficial for the children, as they are able to see how significant the work they are doing really is.

"One of the things we wanted to share with the students was that their work is really great quality and here is some other work that is actually being sold by an older generation," Fell said. "That just happened to be a nice segue between the two shows."

Some of the work includes a beaded medallion necklace, a patchwork pillow, a woven basket with a beaded bear embellishment and baseball caps with patchwork on the brim. Fell explained that the traditional pieces alongside the new artistry are something that truly separates this exhibit from others the museum has opened.

Village crafters bring tradition to light

The village crafters are Tribal members who work for the museum part-time in a traditional village setup along the boardwalk. The crafters have been a part of the museum since it first opened in 1997. Along with their creations, the exhibit features panels with the history of how village crafters got started.

Fell explained that Seminole crafters started selling their products after people began buying up land Seminoles were living on and turning them into tourist camps.

"Since the land was being overhunted and the Everglades were being drained at the time, [the Seminoles] had to adapt, which as we know the Seminoles were very good at," Fell explained. "The women started selling their crafts and the skirts that they wore and that sort of thing to tourists to make money."

The museum opened this particular exhibit as a way to celebrate the village crafters and to share a unique part of the Seminole story.

"We're coming up on 21 years of history [at the museum] and their village has been a part of the museum since day one," Fell said. "We just try to make sure we include everyone who's been a part of it."

Similar to that of the PECS students, the village crafters' work uses beads, wood and patchwork. Many of the participants create traditional pieces while others integrate that tradition into more modern pieces, such as creating baseball caps with patchwork bills.

While the museum tried to get at least one object from everyone who has been part of the village crafters, not everyone had objects available. Fell said that the museum is displaying photos of those individuals instead as a way to honor their work.

"We try to feature everyone past and present in the exhibit one way or another," Fell said. "We missed a few people because we just didn't have a photo, have an object, or anyone we could think to ask who may have something, but with a show like that, for me, it's celebrating what they did and saying 'look at this awesome stuff.' If a Tribal member comes up to me and says they weren't featured, I'll tell them to send me a photo and we'll make sure they're featured."

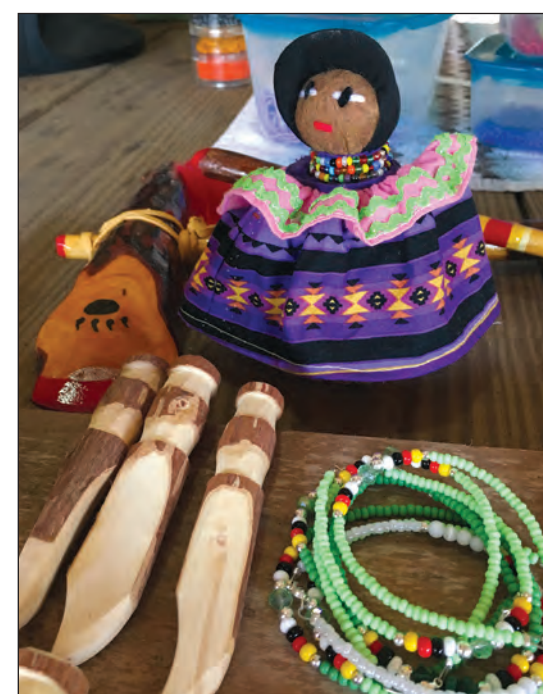
PECS students keep tradition alive

While the work of village crafters is shown daily along the boardwalk, PECS students have their work featured in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum once a year. The museum usually acquires between 16 and 24 pieces from the students for an annual



Courtesy Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Student artists from Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School promote their work at the exhibit reception May 3 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Courtesy Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Some of the items the village crafters contributed to their exhibit at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum include dolls, beaded jewelry and woodwork.

exhibit, but this year's exhibit featured less because of Hurricane Irma. The hurricane's arrival in September put many classes and opportunities to create pieces behind schedule. Through the school's traditional arts program, students create woodwork, patchwork, beadwork and baskets. The museum tries to feature work from at least one student per grade every year.

Fell said that the students always produce exceptional creations.

"It's a great show. What I'm always impressed by is the quality of work that those kids have and the skills they're demonstrating," she said. "Every year we have visitors come in and they're looking and you'll hear them say, 'Those are really kids? Are you sure that was really done by a kindergartner?' The work is that good. It's something we can sell in the shop. The kids do a really great job."

Museum promotes traditional engagement

Though the creators of these exhibits are different in age, the products are similar and the museum's purpose for them is the same.

"It's really an opportunity to show off community and celebrate community, to make people feel like this is their museum," Fell said. "I think that's one of the things we really strive for at this museum and one of the things that make us different from other museums is that we're not trying to say 'this is the history of the Seminole people,' we're saying, 'look what's going on right now, what's happening today.' We do want to share the history and the culture but we also want to give that extra piece of connection and we want to make sure the community feels that way."

The museum hosts multiple exhibits every year that highlight various aspects of Seminole history and culture. Fell and other museum staff members plan each exhibit around feedback they receive from Tribal

members. At every opportunity, Fell said that staff members ask people at events or even just those who are passing by what they are interested in, what people should be featured and what they feel is most important that visitors know about when visiting Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki.

"We could just have a museum that just tells the history and have a lot of non-Seminole visitors come in and there's a lot of value in that," Fell said. "But I think the greater value for us is to make sure the community feels like they're welcomed and that this is their museum."

The PECS exhibit will be on display until Aug. 12 and the village crafters exhibit will be on display until Oct. 7. More information on these and other exhibits is available at ahtahthiki.com.

Heith Lawrence stars in 'Little Shop of Horrors'

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Heith Lawrence made his stage debut May 11 in a school production of "Little Shop of Horrors," a horror/comedy/rock musical from the 1980s. The Moore Haven Middle-High School freshman played the

lead role of Seymour Krelborn, a meek flower shop employee.

"I tried out because people were talking about it and I thought maybe I could do that," said Heith, 14. "I like music and I like performing."

When he auditioned, Heith didn't know what role he would get and was surprised when he got the lead.

In the show, Seymour discovers a new species of plant that only eats human flesh. Smitten with his co-worker Audrey, Seymour named the plant Audrey II in her honor. The more Audrey II grows, the hungrier it gets. Seymour learns the plant's secret and feeds it his own blood. As the plant gets larger, it gets hungrier and more aggressive. The show gets a little gruesome, but in a humorous way.

"It was a lot of fun," Heith said. "The character is kind of like me in real life; I can be clumsy at times, too."

Heith's mother Myra Gopher knew she had a talented son, but didn't know the extent of it. They like to sing in the car together and Heith has taken piano lessons since he was 7 years old.

"He surprised us all," Gopher said. "Some teachers from [Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School] came to the play and truly enjoyed it. They asked where he got his voice."

Heith is taking guitar lessons at school; it was the music teacher who suggested he try out for the show. Once he got the part, Heith had to dedicate time to rehearsals, which he said was fun and worth the effort. He learned he has a good memory; it wasn't difficult for him to memorize the lines and the songs. He thinks that could help him in his academic classes as well.

"Being in the play meant a lot to me because coming to a new school with a lot of people that don't know me, I would just be an ordinary student," he said. "Now that I've performed on the big stage with a whole bunch of people watching gave me a chance to get some attention. I learned to be more sociable and definitely more confident. It was the best thing ever, it was amazing."



Courtesy photo

Heith Lawrence, center, poses onstage with other cast members and Audrey II on the Moore Haven Middle-High School production set of "Little Shop of Horrors."



Courtesy photo

The Moore Haven Middle-High School cast of "Little Shop of Horrors" with another star of the show, Audrey II.

AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM Seminole Discovery Days

Bring friends & family!

Get crafty, explore the Everglades, taste tradition, enjoy demonstrations and more!

June 16th: Art at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

July 28th: Seminole War Day

September 15th: We Are Here



All activities are free for Tribal Members, museum members, or included with your admission.

Arts & Entertainment

FGCU's new exhibit 'sews a Native truth'

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

What started as a class project for a museum studies class at Florida Gulf Coast University turned into an educational display of culture and a stance against cultural appropriation.

This display and platform is in the shape of a Seminole fashion and culture exhibit, called "Sewing A Native Truth: Florida Seminole Fashion and Culture" at the IMAG History & Science Center in Fort Myers. Approximately 30 students from Felicidad Noemi McDonald's Museum Exhibit Design class researched, curated and designed the exhibit.

Julie Evo, a student in the class, said that FGCU currently has Seminole patchwork in its collection and has worked with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum as well as other Tribal departments in the past. Students used that background as a platform for a larger message.

"This is what we wanted to do to show that patchwork isn't something that's old; it's a tradition that's still used in every day wear," Evo explained. "We wanted to tack on appropriation too because we feel that there is not a lot of accreditation [to Seminoles] and a lot of people thinking they're paying homage when they're not taking the time to understand culture. It's really just to educate."

Part of the reasoning for that education also stems from the fact that there are not many places in the Fort Myers area to learn more about Seminole culture. Students traveled throughout the area to see what they could learn and find, but Evo said that their search turned up short. While some museums in the area offered a few collection pieces

related to Seminoles, the majority of them did not offer any thorough insight.

To understand more about the culture and history, Evo and other students set out to learn from Seminoles themselves. Tribal members from Hollywood and Brighton, as well as Miccosukee tribal members, provided the group with items to place in their exhibit and also agreed to do some recorded interviews. A video of the interviews will be played at the exhibit.



Courtesy Matthew Johnson/IMAG History & Science Center

Part of Florida Gulf Coast University's "Sewing a Native Truth" exhibit features traditional Seminole dolls, many of which were loaned from the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Evo said the interviews are one of the most significant pieces of the exhibit.

"When I spoke with some of the Tribal members, one of the main questions I asked was what it means to be a Seminole or Miccosukee. Three out of the five people I interviewed got very emotional with that question because they said that they never get asked that question. They only get asked why they're like this or why are they different but never get asked why they are proud. That, in itself, really struck home with me."

Situated around the video of these interviews is a collection of patchwork shirts, wooden dolls on loan from the University of Florida, an old Singer sewing machine, traditional outfits, photos, and a video recording of a song that a Seminole Tribal member, who wished to remain unnamed, provided.

Evo and the design class hope that the collection, which will be open until December, will help open the community's eyes to a culture that is in their backyard. To them, patchwork is one of the most common representations of the Seminole Tribe, but it isn't the only representation. Their goal is for people who sport patchwork designs and other cultural symbols and artworks to understand the cultural significance of those items and respect the decades of hard work and history encompassed in them.

Tamiami Trail's anniversary celebrated in special edition book

BY LI COHEN
Copy Editor

For 90 years, the Tamiami Trail has served as a shortcut route for Floridians and visitors from around the world to get from one coast to another in South Florida. To celebrate its significance to the area, ECity Publishing, an independent publishing company in Everglades City, decided to republish acclaimed local author Maria Stone's book, "The Tamiami Trail: A Collection of Stories."

The book, originally published in 1998 for the 70th anniversary of the Tamiami Trail, is a series of recorded interviews with people who have lived and worked along the trail since the 1920s. There were only 100 spiral-bound copies of the original book, as they were all created with a typewriter and based off recorded interviews on cassette tapes. ECity's Publisher Marya Repko decided to reprint the book with some additional material, including a timeline, maps and photos.

Repko explained that prior to Stone's death in 2009, Stone, a former Immokalee teacher, gave her research to her friend Lila Zuck, a Naples historian. When Zuck moved locations, she decided to donate the information to ECity Publishing. With dozens of files, transcriptions and cassette tapes in tow, Repko found that the book's unique perspective on South Florida life and history would be the perfect way to commemorate the trail that has served millions for nearly a century.

"This is unique because it's peoples' stories. It's first-hand experience," Repko said. "It's not a history book or a textbook ... as a historian, I think it's interesting because you get a picture of [that time]."

One of those unique stories goes back to before the Tamiami Trail was paved and had just opened in 1928. Because the new trail went through acres of wildlife, people often came face-to-face with wildlife and got into serious accidents.

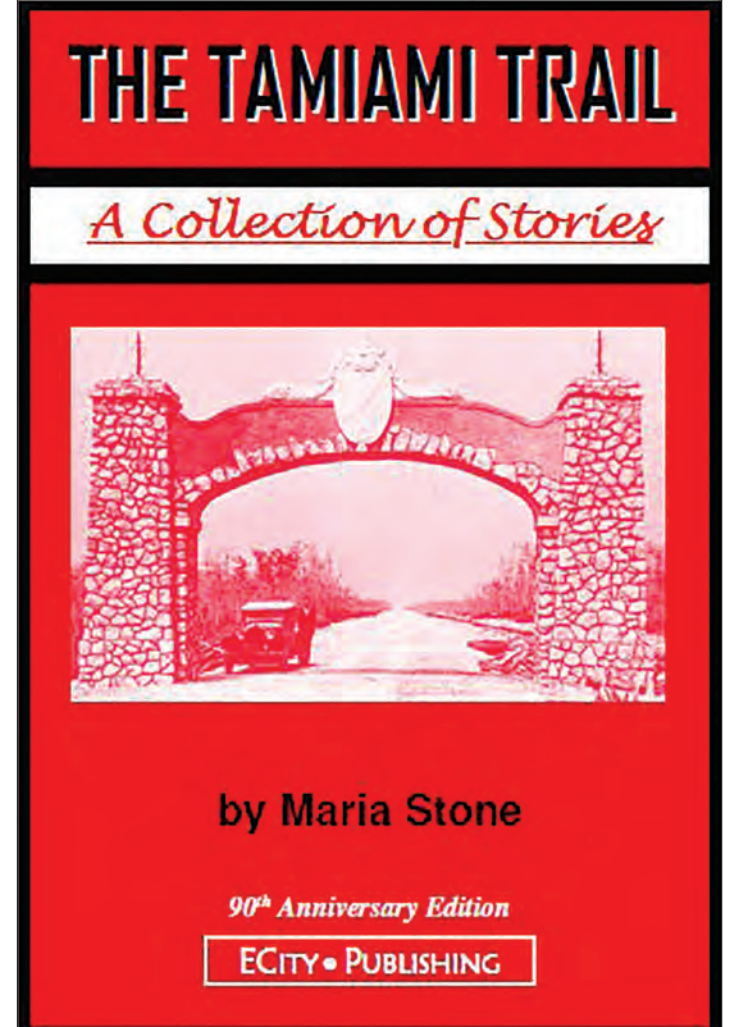
"People would get flat tires or hit alligators or have other incidents, so there were these six stations [along the trail]. A man would go out on his motorbike and drive five miles to the east and then turn around and go five miles left to look for people who were in trouble. He carried a gun, but it wasn't because he was a police officer or looking

for criminals; he was looking for alligators or other animals that might be dangerous," she explained. "Because the road was higher than the rest of the swamp around it, during the rainy season the animals would come up on the road and he'd try to scare them away so the cars wouldn't hit them."

The man who patrolled this area was the owner of Monroe Station, one of the six waystations along the trail, located in Big Cypress National Preserve. Collier County founder Barron Collier established the stations to help motorists safely get across the trail. Each station, run by a husband and wife, offered fuel, food and car services. The husbands were responsible for patrolling five miles on either side of their stations while the wives upheld the station's services.

Sharing service in the areas were Seminole and Miccosukee tribal members, who Repko explained regularly worked with the families at Monroe Station. Tribal members would often set up souvenir shops and other stores and businesses adjacent to the stations to meet visitors and become friends with service station owners. Accounts of these interactions are depicted in interviews with Seminole Tribal members within the book as well.

Upon republishing the book, Repko printed only 25 copies, all of which sold out almost immediately. The success persuaded her to order more copies, which are now



Courtesy Marya Repko

The cover of "The Tamiami Trail: A Collection of Stories" by Maria Stone.

available for purchase at \$10 each at ecity-publishing.com.

Though nobody interviewed in the book is alive today, Repko said that their stories will live on forever.

"Maria Stone did a huge favor to the whole area by recording these stories," Repko said. This road opened up South Florida. ... Life is better because we have the road and because we can get from A to B. Even though things have changed a lot in 90 years, I think the quality of life is probably better for everybody."

Poems of the month

Getting started

He's standing in front of an easel in the studio, searching for the ultimate painting that's seeking him out. He's contemplating guitars in a city where the buildings are shaped like guitars and the fact that he doesn't play guitars and yet they work for him as art. He likes horses, too, though he doesn't ride so he strums and he gallops with the canvas and easel and paintbrushes and paint and palettes and the imagination, where he sees a friend from around the way who paints castles shaped like guitars and "end of the trail" horses in the stars, reciting painted verses of Jackson Pollack guitars on painted warhorses and did he become one with the ultimate sun? There was a focus being sought, yes. He's designing a hard ride across the

canvas in a city where the buildings are shaped like colossal guitars and wild horses from Mars, galloping up from afar and rumbling through the midnight streets, so he dreams painted guitars and rides the morningstar and yet he dreams of a friend from across the way painting porcelain guitars and horses near and far while reciting the verses and all at once he has the ultimate painting right where it wants him and so he transcends the focus, in perfect harmony, becoming one with everything, and gently, gently, he feels it, heaven and earth and the universe together, and presently, he begins to paint.

- Elgin Jumper

The origins of happiness

When often we venture, when often we strive, when quiet cry shakes walls, when we take our own paths to arrive there together, seek for me, we'll play in the laughter and the smiles, for we are made from the reflections of dawn, stormclouds, and lightning, reverberating their enchantments. This maintains poetic quality, you see. This heightens everything and all I know is the journey then, where we dream of sawgrass, a river, the origins of happiness.

- Elgin Jumper

The prose poem

The prose poem is a 1.5 – million – acre wetlands on the southern tip of Florida, the words flow in a slow-moving river southward, there are kingdoms of mangroves, realms of sawgrass marsh and worlds of pine. Endangered creatures dwell there, and furthermore imagine you are travelling in Florida and you see it, a swampland of words away from the quagmire of city life. During the wet season rainfall words overflow cypress swamps and shallow rivers, sunset orange-red sacred, and just like that insisting tropical, maintaining sub-tropical, wild, ancient.

Ultimately speaking, the prose poem can be crossed in a canoe with highlights of the expedition posted online somewhere.

- Elgin Jumper

Calendar of events

June 2

Big Cypress Fishing Tournament
7 a.m. Jr Cypress Rodeo Grounds

Kite Festival

11 a.m. New Smyrna Beach

Dragon Boat Festival

8:30 a.m. Sombrero Beach

June 4

Billy Bowlegs Pirate Festival
3 p.m. Fort Walton Beach

June 7

Wine & Film Festival
12 p.m. Vero Beach

June 8

Wine & Film Festival
12 p.m. Vero Beach

Sea Turtle Festival

6 p.m. Titusville

June 9

Phillipine Summer Festival
10 a.m. South Florida Fairgrounds

Wine & Film Festival
12 p.m. Vero Beach

Hulk Hogan & Ric Flair
9 p.m. Hard Rock Hollywood

June 10

Wine & Film Festival
12 p.m. Vero Beach

June 11

Wine & Film Festival
12 p.m. Vero Beach

June 16

Festival Of The Sea
11 a.m. Orlando Festival Park

June 22

West Palm Beach Boat Show
12 p.m. South Florida Fairgrounds

June 23

Zephyrhills Summerfest
4 p.m. Zephyr Park

Summer Jazz on the Gulf
6:30 p.m. Naples Beach Hotel

Ladies Night Out Comedy Tour
8 p.m. James L Knight Center

June 24

St. Pete Pride Festival
9 a.m. St. Petersburg

June 28

Donny & Marie
8 p.m. Hollywood Hard Rock



Courtesy Elgin Jumper

The new guitar-shaped Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel as seen from Seminole Estates.

Sports



Another state title for American Heritage softball

Budha Jumper plays key role in program's 8th championship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

VERO BEACH — After helping her team win yet another state championship, American Heritage's Budha Jumper talked about how important it is to keep the proud tradition of players from the Tribe contributing to the success of one of the state's most successful softball programs.

In recent years, Ahnie Jumper and Kiauna Martin were key parts to American Heritage's title teams; now it's Budha's turn. "They're my family and I'm just trying to keep the legacy going," Jumper, a sophomore also known as Analise Jimenez, said after the Patriots won their eighth state championship with a 5-1 win against Land O'Lakes in the Class 6A final May 24 at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach.

"She's doing a great job. She's representing the Tribe very well," said American Heritage coach Marty Cooper.

After nine seniors graduated from the 2017 team, including Ahnie and Kiauna, Budha Jumper's role increased this season and she didn't disappoint. She was used as an outfielder and designated player and became a regular contributor in the batting order, hitting over .400. In a game against Riverdale in the middle of the season, she went 3-for-3 with a home run, three RBIs and three runs scored.

In the team's seven postseason games, she scored seven runs and had four hits and five RBIs.

"She's doing a great job," Cooper said after Jumper smashed a hard-hit RBI single in a 4-1 win against Rockledge in a regional final. "She was our DP and she came through and drove in a run in a critical situation of the game."

In the state semifinals, Jumper had a single and scored a run in a 3-0 win against Lake Wales.

The following day American Heritage avenged a loss to Land O'Lakes in the 2017 state championship.

With the score of the rematch tied 1-1, Jumper led off the second inning with a walk and scored what turned out to be the winning run on a wild pitch.

Not many teams can lose a huge chunk of their roster to graduation and return the following year to win a state title, but the American Heritage's 2018 edition did just that.

"It's very special. Everyone basically in the county doubted us because we lost nine seniors — which is like a whole team — so this is very special," Jumper said.

Heritage had twice as many losses (8) this season than a year ago, but peaked at the right time of the season.

"What I'm most impressed with is that we lost nine seniors — five of them were starters — and we're back here again and the kids battled and battled," said Cooper, who has been at the helm for all eight titles.

American Heritage dominated the postseason to the tune of outscoring opponents by a staggering 64 to 3 in seven games on its way to winning district, regional and state titles. In the finale, the



The American Heritage softball team, including Budha Jumper (2), enjoys the sweet taste of victory as the Patriots celebrate after winning the Class 6A state championship May 24 at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach. It was the program's eighth state championship.

Kevin Johnson



American Heritage erupts after the final out in its 5-1 win against Land O'Lakes in the Class 6A state championship.

Kevin Johnson



With American Heritage coach Marty Cooper behind her, Budha Jumper puts on the brakes after rounding third base in the second inning of the Class 6A state championship May 24 against Land O'Lakes. Jumper went on to score to give American Heritage a 2-1 lead and the Patriots cruised to a 5-1 win.

Kevin Johnson

Patriots played a far sharper game than Land O'Lakes. Julia Grobman fired a complete game four-hitter with four strikeouts and no walks. After a shaky first inning, Grobman pitched one-hit ball the rest of the way and her team's defense was flawless. Second baseman Marissa Soterakis and shortstop Katherine Rodriguez each turned difficult groundballs into outs. The offense put the ball in play via bunts and hard-hit RBI singles from Rodriguez in the first and Kelly Torres

in the fifth which gave American Heritage a 4-1 cushion. One of Land O'Lake's four errors brought home the fifth run. Olivia Mason had an RBI bunt single in the second.

After the final out, American Heritage erupted in celebration. Torres performed a wrestling-type leap onto the top of the pile while Grobman tried to survive at the bottom of it. Sandwiched somewhere in between the joyous mayhem was the Jumper and the rest of the squad.

Even though Ahnie and Kiauna weren't part of this year's championship team, they weren't forgotten. Jumper said playing with them the previous season helped her improve this year.

"I watched how they approached the game and that I need to approach the game the same way," she said.

Seminole Sportsmen's Fishing Series wraps up season

BY DAMON SCOTT
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Bass were caught, weighed and released.

Starting in March, 16 fishing teams joined the Seminole Sportsman's 2018 Triple Crown Fishing Series, which culminated in a final event May 12 on the Big Cypress Reservation.

The March event was the Bass Buster's Fishing Tournament, while the April event was the Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament.

The overall series champion is decided from the total weights from all three tournaments.

Darren Marlin and Joe Collins of the

Hollywood Recreation Department oversaw the final weigh-ins of the live bass fish at Big Shot's Fishing Dock during the 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. event. Eight teams participated in the final round. (See final results below.)

The tournament was open to all Native Americans, community members and Seminole Tribe of Florida employees. At least one Tribal member had to be on each team. The department has held about 30 such fishing events over the years.

Fishing events coming up on the Big Cypress reservation include the Big Cypress Fishing Tournament on June 2 followed by the "Fish At Safe Light" tournament Sept. 8. For more information about both events call 863-902-3200.

The Triple Crown event was sponsored



Participants in the Seminole Sportsmen's Triple Crown Fishing Series gather May 12 in Big Cypress for the final event.

Damon Scott

by Hollywood Councilman Christopher Osceola. Tournament shirts, hats and trophies were given to participants and winners.

Series Results

George Grasshopper Memorial Big Bass Series Champions (first place)
Allen Benzor and Ralph Sanchez
40.78 total pounds for all three events.
Big Bass champions with a 3.96 pound bass.

Second place
Josh Jumper and Cicero Osceola
24.96 total pounds for all three events.
Big Bass of 3.75 pounds.

Third place
Walter Summeralls and Sara Osceola
14.5 total pounds for all three events.
Big Bass of 2.66 pounds.



Ralph Sanchez and Allen Benzor were overall series champions and "Big Bass" winners.

Damon Scott



Walter Summeralls and Sara Osceola took third place in the series.

Damon Scott



Kevin Johnson (2)

Above, multi-sport student-athlete Jeremiah Pickup receives Ahfachkee's Athlete of the Year Award from Assistant Principal Philip Baer, left, Principal Dorothy Cain, center, and Athletic Director/coach Matt Beckham during the school's sports banquet May 4 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium. At right, Timothy Tigertail receives the school's Scholar Athlete Award from Cain.



Ahfachkee honors its student-athletes

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BIG CYPRESS – The tide is turning in the right direction for sports at the Ahfachkee School.

Better grades, more school spirit and increased participation were among the talking points emphasized during the school's sports banquet May 4 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

"We're proud of everything you've done," Principal Dorothy Cain told the student-athletes.

It was only a couple years ago when the school's athletic programs were mostly dormant due to lack of interest and/or poor grades, but the Warriors – with new leadership – have experienced a resurgence lately both on the courts and fields and in the classrooms. Five teams (cross country, boys basketball, girls basketball, track and field, and volleyball) now comprise the school's athletic menu.

Student-athletes from each team were recognized for their participation; some were awarded trophies for most valuable player, sportsmanship, and up and coming.

Among all the examples of excellence who made their way to the stage, two shined above others for the year's biggest awards. Timothy Tigertail earned the Scholar Athlete Award and Jeremiah Pickup was named Athlete of the Year.

Before Cain and Athletic Director/coach Matt Beckham handed out trophies and other accomplishment awards, the students heard from guest speaker Essie Hollis, who played basketball for St. Bonaventure University in New York and was selected by the New Orleans Jazz in the second round of the 1977 NBA Draft. Hollis played one season for the Detroit Pistons and also played professionally overseas. These days Hollis, 63, is a Spanish and physical education teacher in Broward County Public Schools and serves as an assistant coach for the Pine Crest School varsity boys basketball team.

At 6-foot-6, Hollis delivered a message that came through loud and clear.

"Get your education. Education is the most important part of your life," he told the students.

Hollis said his basketball experience as a teenager – which included spending an average of 15 or 16 hours per day on the courts during one summer – helped open several academic doors, including scholarship offers from Indiana, North Carolina and UCLA. He picked St. Bonaventure to stay close to his family in the Northeast. After his speech

and the awards ceremony, Hollis signed autographs for the students during lunch.

Ahfachkee presented an appreciation award to Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger. The school's parent-teacher-student organization also gave awards to the student-athletes.

2017-18 AHFACHKEE SPORTS BANQUET

Scholar Athlete of the Year: Timothy Tigertail

Athlete of the Year: Jeremiah Pickup

Cross Country

Head coach: Matt Beckham

Asst. coach: Gualberto Mollings

Team: Anthony Avalos, Alonie Gore, Franklin Jumper, Gordon Jumper

Up and Coming Award: Anthony Avalos

Most Valuable Player: Franklin Jumper

Volleyball

Head coach: Miliani Quinsaat

Asst. coach: Alicia Richards

Team: Thomlynn Billie, Mya Cypress, Crystal Garcia, Leilani Gopher, Alexis Gore, Alonie Gore, Aniya Gore, Mariah Smith, Abigail Tigertail

Up and Coming Award: Thomlynn Billie

Defensive MVP: Leilani Gopher

Offensive MVP: Mya Cypress

Boys Basketball

Head coach: Cicero Osceola

Asst. coach: Greg Carter

Team: Anthony Alvalos, Mauro Avalos, Cordell Baxter, Leviticus Buster, Les Gopher, Franklin Jumper, Gordon Jumper, Romeo Jumper-Garcia, Jeremiah Pickup, Abraham Tigertail, Tim Tigertail

Sportsmanship Award: Les Gopher

Up and Coming Award: Gordon Jumper

Defensive MVP: AJ Tigertail

Offensive MVP: Jeremiah Pickup

Girls Basketball

Head coach: Eddie Redd

Asst. coach: Miliani Quinsaat

Team: Thomlynn Billie, Billie Cypress, Mya Cypress, Alexis Gore, Alonie Gore, Aniya Gore, Leilani Gopher, Keithana Osceola-Onco, Mariah Smith, Abigail Tigertail

Sportsmanship Award: Thomlynn Billie

Up and Coming Award: Alonie Gore

Defensive MVP: Leilani Gopher

Offensive MVP: Abigail Tigertail



Kevin Johnson

Sixteen Ahfachkee student-athletes are honored for maintaining a 3.0 GPA or higher through the 2017-18 school year.

Track and Field

Head coach: Matt Beckham

Asst. coach: Michael Daniels

Team: Alonie Gore, Gordon Jumper, Jeremiah Pickup, Abigail Tigertail

Up and Coming Award: Jeremiah Pickup

Most Valuable Player: Gordon Jumper

Student-Athlete Academic Recognition

These student-athletes were recognized for maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher during the 2017-18 school year while maintaining their commitment to their teams:

Cordell Baxter, Thomlynn Billie, Leviticus Buster, Billie Cypress, Crystal Garcia, Leilani Gopher, Les Gopher, Alexis Gore, Alonie Gore, Aniya Gore, Franklin Jumper, Romeo Jumper-Garcia, Jeremiah Pickup, Abigail Tigertail, AJ Tigertail, Timothy Tigertail



Kevin Johnson

Former NBA player Essie Hollis signs autographs after he spoke to student-athletes at the Ahfachkee School's sports banquet.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee coaches are recognized during the school's sports banquet. From left, Eddie Redd (girls basketball), Alicia Richards (volleyball), Miliani Quinsaat (volleyball, girls basketball), Michael Daniels (track and field) and Athletic Director Matt Beckham (cross country, track and field).



Kevin Johnson

The Ahfachkee volleyball team is honored at the school sports banquet.

Sean Osceola leads Okeechobee High on memorable postseason run

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Nobody would have been surprised if the Okeechobee High School baseball season had ended April 30.

Indications pointed to a fast exit from the postseason for the Brahmins, a team with a sub .500 record in the regular season and the fourth seed in a four-team district playoff.

But huge upsets paved the way for a memorable postseason run that lasted three weeks for the Brighton Reservation's Sean Osceola, Ozzy Osceola, Lucas Osceola and Layne Thomas and the rest of the Brahmins.

The pitching of senior right-hander Sean Osceola led the squad throughout the playoffs as the Brahmins beat quality opponents along the way, including one pitcher who has a verbal commitment to the University of Florida and is expected to be a first or second round MLB Draft pick and another pitcher who has signed with the University of Miami.

The Brahmins reached the regional final for the first time in 13 years. The magical journey ended with a loss to Doral Academy, but the memories will last forever.

"Hard-fought games and all the chemistry we have and all the good times; I'm soaking it all in because it's one last time," Sean Osceola said after the victory against Martin County.

"It's been very special," added right fielder Ozzy Osceola. "For these seniors and for us as a team, it's one of the most special things that I'll cherish forever as a I move on as a baseball player."

Here's a recap of Okeechobee's postseason run:

Class 7A-District 13 semifinal: Okeechobee 2, Jensen Beach 0

STUART — Sean Osceola and Lucas Osceola helped Okeechobee High School shock top-seeded Jensen Beach, 2-0, in a Class 7A-District 13 baseball semifinal April 30.



Okeechobee's Lucas Osceola gets ready to steal second base in a Class 7A-District 13 semifinal against Jensen Beach on April 30 at Martin County High School. Okeechobee eliminated the No. 1 seed in a big upset.

Sean Osceola, the Brahmins starting pitcher, delivered six scoreless innings. Lucas Osceola scored the go-ahead run as a pinch runner in an eight-inning thriller at Tiger Stadium on the campus of Martin County High School in Stuart.

The victory lifted fourth-seeded Okeechobee into the district championship game against No. 2 Martin County at 7 p.m. on May 3 at Tiger Stadium. Both teams have qualified for the 7A regionals, which will start next week.

Sean Osceola and his good friend and travel club teammate Lyon Richardson -- Jensen Beach's hard-throwing ace -- kept the scoreboard full of zeroes.

"He was in there throwing strikes, getting ahead of guys, and I was trying to match him every pitch," Osceola said. "As we got into the late innings, my command got a little bit away, but I just knew that if I threw strikes and let my defense do the work we were going to be in the game."



Third baseman Sean Osceola tags out a Martin County runner during the Class 7A-District 13 championship game May 3.



Sean Osceola delivers a pitch against Martin County during Okeechobee's 2-1 win in a Class 7A-Region 4 semifinal May 18 at Martin County High School in Stuart. Osceola threw six innings of two-hit ball to notch the victory as the Brahmins advanced to the regional finals for the first time since 2005.

Osceola worked out of a few jams and scattered five hits, fanned five, hit one batter and walked none. He was ahead in most counts for most of the night.

Osceola didn't get the decision before being lifted after six, but his gutsy effort paved the way for the extra-inning victory. Mason Adams notched the victory with two strong innings of no-hit ball.

"Sean did a phenomenal job. He's

one hit, which came from Sean Osceola, who muscled a single into shallow center in the fifth.

Okeechobee pushed across the only runs of the game in the eighth. Joyner reached on an outfield error to lead off. Lucas Osceola pinch ran for Joyner and with two outs stole second base, went to third on a wild pitch and scored the first run on a misplayed bunt off the bat of Deven Tedders. Two batters later, JJ Guyton scored an insurance run on a passed ball.

Okeechobee's victory avenged an extra-inning loss to Jensen Beach in last year's title game.

"We lost the district championship to them last year 2-1 in nine innings, so we just knew if we could get past Lyon we had a better chance," Kindell said. "That guy is a first or second round (MLB Draft) pick. It was just a good job by the kids; a great team win tonight."

Class 7A-District 13 final: Martin County 4, Okeechobee 0

STUART — By virtue of its semifinal win against Jensen Beach, Okeechobee had clinched a bid into the regional tournament, so a 4-0 loss to Martin County in the Class 7A-District 13 championship didn't sting as much as it could have.

Okeechobee was held hitless until the top of the seventh when Sean Osceola, who had the night off from pitching but started at third base and later moved to first, led off with a clean single to left field for the team's only hit of the game.

Class 7A-Region 4 quarterfinal: Okeechobee 2, Dwyer 0

PALM BEACH GARDENS — For the second time in eight days the Okeechobee

High School baseball team pulled off a major upset to keep its season alive.

The Brahmins eliminated Dwyer, 2-0, in a Class 7A-Region 4 quarterfinal May 8 at Dwyer High School in Palm Beach Gardens.

Okeechobee senior pitcher Sean Osceola fired five scoreless innings against Dwyer. He combined with Mason Adams for the shutout against the 7A-District 14 champions. Dwyer has a handful of Division I college signees on its roster.

Osceola also hit a home run, one of just three hits for Okeechobee which scored its runs in the first and sixth innings.

Okeechobee upped its record to 12-13; Dwyer, which reached the state semifinals last season, finished 19-9.

Okeechobee's victory is somewhat of a payback from a year ago when Dwyer eliminated the Brahmins in the regional quarterfinals and went on to reach the state semifinals.

Class 7A-Region 4 semifinal: Okeechobee 2, Martin County 1

STUART — Sean Osceola helped his own cause at the plate and received all the offense he needed thanks to the bat of cleanup man Koby Chapman as Okeechobee edged Martin County, 2-1, in a Class 7A-Region 4 semifinal May 3 in a rematch of the district final on Martin County's home field.

Hooked up in another scoreless pitching duel, Osceola led off the fourth with a single to left. Chapman followed with a two-run home run to left. Chapman accounted for two of the team's three hits.

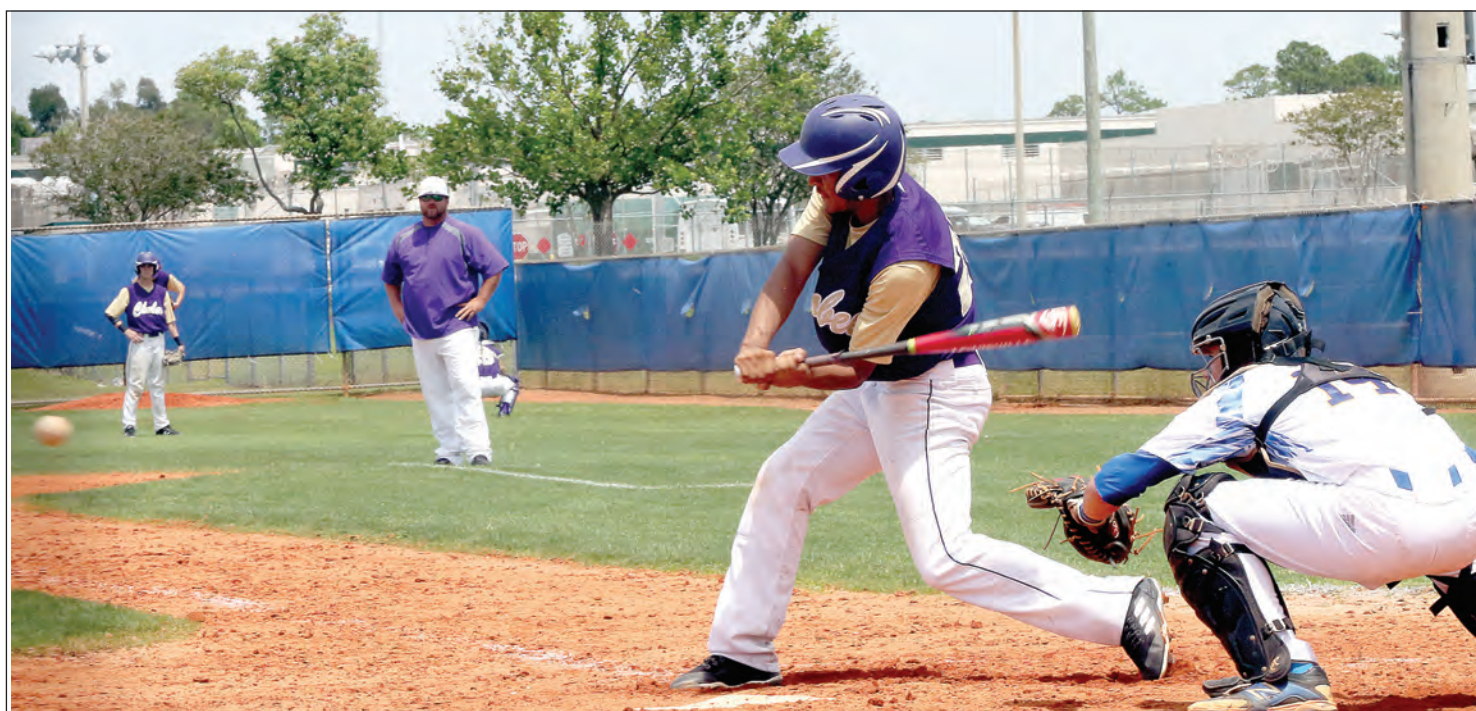
Osceola fired six strong innings of two-hit ball with four strikeouts and one earned run. He went to three balls in the count only once all game, and that was to the leadoff batter in the first inning. As usual, his management of the strike zone was just about flawless.

"The big thing for Sean is if he gets ahead, he has three pitches he throws for strikes; not everybody has that in high school and to be able to go to other pitches where you don't have to feed somebody a fastball that's a nice thing to have," said Okeechobee coach Eric Kindell.

An assist came from pitching coach Cameron Tewksbury, who calls all the pitches for Okeechobee pitchers.

"It's been working out good the past couple games. Everything he's called I've wanted to go with it. I've been trusting all my pitches," Osceola said.

♦ See OHS BASEBALL on page 4C



Ozzy Osceola takes a swing as he reaches base on an infield error in the 7A-4 regional semifinal against Martin County.



Okeechobee's Lucas Osceola, Layne Thomas and Ozzy Osceola shake hands with Doral Academy following the Class 7A-Region 4 final May 22 in Doral. The Brahmins' postseason ended with a 2-0 loss.

Tribal players making big impact for Chobee Volleyball Academy

Karey Gopher, Elle Thomas help 14U team qualify for AAU Nationals

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Chobee Volleyball Academy is rapidly making its name known, and youngsters from the Tribe are helping pave the path.

In only its second year, the non-profit CVA already has about 60 girls – ages 8 to 16 – and seven teams. They can often be found in gymnasiums most weekends vying for tournament titles against club teams from around the state.

“We’re hoping to keep building on that and have more teams next year,” CVA Director LiAnn Whipple said May 12 during a break between matches as she coached one CVA team and watched others at the AAU South Florida Super Regional tournament at Sportsplex in Deerfield Beach. The program also has one boys team.

Most CVA players come from Okeechobee and the Brighton Reservation. The Tribe has players on just about every team.

“There’s quite a few girls from the reservation,” Whipple said. “We’re lucky to have them, we’re happy to have them. Their

families are very supportive. A lot of them help out on the side and coach. We have a lot of people helping out. We’re very thankful for the community out there.”

As the program grows, so too does the accolades it earns. For example, CVA’s 14-and-under team, which includes the Tribe’s Karey Gopher and Elle Thomas, has been gobbling up championships from coast to coast. The team, whose head coach is Jerry Veloz, dominated the tournament in Deerfield Beach, winning 10 of 11 sets in five matches. That triumph came on the heels of other big tournament wins, including the Gasparilla Volleyball Kickoff in Tampa and the Super Regional Volleyball Tournament in Tavares. The Tampa championship came against a field of 58 teams in their age category. In club volleyball, the road to success leads to Orlando, which is where the 14s will be June 17-20 because by winning the Super Regional they earned a bid to the AAU National Volleyball Tournament at the ESPN Wide World of Sports and Orange County Convention Center.

“We’re really excited for them to win their first bid,” Whipple said.



Courtesy photo

The Chobee Volleyball Academy’s 14U team, which includes Elle Thomas (10) and Karey Gopher (3), of the Brighton Reservation, is all smiles after winning the South Florida Super Regional on May 13 in Deerfield Beach. Other players are: Ashley Phares, Callie Rucks, Kiersten Kennedy, Morgan Tucker, Jaclyn Pearce and Joy Whipple. The head coach is Jerry Veloz; the assistant coach is Sarah Phares.

Gopher and Thomas, who will be heading to high school this fall, were standouts for Pemayev Emahakv Charter School the past few years, and are doing the

same for CVA.

“Elle has a lot of attack hits; she’s really good with those. She’s really good with tipplings,” said CVA 14U assistant coach Sarah Phares. “Karey has had a lot of digs and she’s had some good hits, too. You can tell they’ve been playing together for a while.”

Thomas and Gopher are among the older girls from the Tribe in the CVA, but there are plenty of younger Seminoles – such as Preslynn Baker, Talena Holata, Lexi Thomas, Nena Youngblood, TT Anderson, Marley Jimmie, Joleyne Nunez and others – who are also working hard developing their skills in practices and tournaments.

CVA uses school gyms in Okeechobee to practice, but ideally the program would like a permanent facility to call home.

“We don’t have a home court facility,” Whipple said. “We would actually love to have one; that’s kind of one of our goals is to bring something into Okeechobee, not just that we could use for volleyball but hopefully spread the love and have other different non-profit organizations use the facility as well. So maybe one day.”

As for growth on the court, Whipple said the program’s popularity continues to blossom.

“This level is very competitive,” Whipple said. “Most of these girls have been playing from August until now, all season long. There’s no break whatsoever. Very dedicated. This is a great sport. Most of the time when kids who come out and try it they end up loving it.”



Kevin Johnson

Talena Holata, second from left, and the Chobee Volleyball Academy 13U team celebrate a point during a tournament in Deerfield Beach. Holata is among several Seminoles playing in the CVA program.

Halifax selected as site of NAIG 2020

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The North American Indigenous Games continue to move in an eastward direction across Canada.

After being held in British Columbia (2008), Saskatchewan (2014) and Ontario (2017), the Games will head to the scenic Atlantic coastal province of Nova Scotia in two years.

Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia, won the bid to host the 2020 Games. The announcement was made May 3 in Montreal.

“We are honored the North American Indigenous Games Council has selected Nova Scotia to host the 2020 games and look forward to welcoming the participants,” said Norman Bernard, chief of Wagmatcook and president of Mi’kmaq Sport Council of Nova Scotia, in a press release. “I am confident the Games will provide opportunities for all Nova Scotians to learn more about the contributions of our Mi’kmaq and Indigenous culture across the province and

North America.”

The Mi’kmaq are a First Nations people who are among the original inhabitants of Canada’s Atlantic provinces. Nova Scotia’s government website mentions the Mi’kmaq are the founding people of Nova Scotia and remain the predominant Aboriginal group in the province.

“This is a very proud moment for the Mi’kmaq Sport Council, our Mi’kmaq communities and all Nova Scotians,” said Premier Stephen McNeil, who is also Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. “The games will be an exciting opportunity to showcase our province and celebrate Mi’kmaq culture and heritage as we cheer on the athletes.”

NAIG features thousands of Indigenous athletes about ages 12 to 18 from throughout Canada and the U.S., including from the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The Tribe’s Aubee Billie, Santiago “Echo” Billie, Sammy Micco Sanchez and Connor Thomas won medals for Team Florida at the 2017 Games.

Nova Scotia’s bid was prepared by the

Mi’kmaq Sport Council of Nova Scotia with the support from Nova Scotia’s 13 Mi’kmaq communities, the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Halifax Regional Municipality, Discover Halifax, Dalhousie University, Saint Mary’s University, Sport Nova Scotia, the Halifax Stanfield International Airport and several community supporters.

“It is an honour for Halifax to help make the 2020 NAIG the biggest sporting event our municipality has ever experienced,” Halifax Mayor Mike Savage said. “Hosting NAIG will showcase Mi’kmaq culture and strengthen our understanding of the vibrant Indigenous cultures across North America, while offering excellent sports entertainment and bringing significant economic activity to the region.”

Halifax, population of 400,000, served as a major recovery post when the Titanic sank in 1912 about 700 miles from the city. The bodies of 150 victims from the Titanic are buried in Halifax cemeteries.



Kevin Johnson

Team Nova Scotia shows its spirit during the opening ceremony of NAIG 2017 in Toronto, Ontario. The 2020 Games will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

◆ OHS BASEBALL From page 3C

Mason Adams pitched the final inning. Ozy Osceola snagged the final out of the game on a fly ball to right field with the tying run at third base.

**Class 7A-Region 4 final:
Doral 2, Okeechobee 0**

DORAL – Okeechobee High School’s formula for its surprising run deep into the baseball postseason – relying on outstanding pitching and defense to go along with just a few hits each game – finally ran out.

The solid pitching was still there as starter Sean Osceola, of the Brighton Reservation, kept a powerful Doral Academy offense quiet for most of the Class 7A-Region 4 final May 22 in Doral, but the Brahman’s bats failed to generate any support.

A two-run home run by freshman slugger Gabriel Gutierrez in the third inning

was all Doral needed in a 2-0 win that ended Okeechobee’s remarkable playoff push that saw the underdog Brahman – a .500 team in the regular season – eliminate Jensen Beach, Dwyer and Martin County.

“I’m super proud of these guys. They fought hard this year. We played a lot of tough teams,” said Okeechobee coach Eric Kindell, whose team finished with a 13-14 record and played in its first regional final since 2005.

Doral didn’t take Okeechobee lightly. In fact, its coach Ralph Suarez watched Okeechobee last week in the regional semifinals. He was impressed by the Brahman in victory and in defeat.

“The boys played hard. They’ve done a tremendous job. They should be very proud,” Suarez said. “They beat some great arms. They beat the Jensen Beach kid that’s going to be a first rounder (in the MLB Draft). They beat the kid from Dwyer who signed with Miami. They play the game the right way. They make you earn your runs. They don’t give you anything for free. The

coaching staff should be very proud. They’ve done a tremendous job.”

Doral will face Mitchell or Venice in a 7A state semifinal May 30 in Fort Myers.

Much of Okeechobee’s success in the playoffs came from the crisp pitching of Osceola, who, with strong late-inning appearances by Mason Adams, outdueled two of the state’s top aces: Jensen Beach’s Lyon Richardson and Dwyer’s Ryan Wimbush. Against Doral, Osceola was sharp again as he retired eight of the first nine batters from an explosive squad that averages six runs a game. Doral struck with two outs and nobody on in the third when Lency Delgado reached on a wind-affected double to the outfield that likely would have been a routine out in normal conditions, but some fly balls became adventurous with the combination of a swirling wind and part of the school building that towers above a portion of the outfield that likely impacts air currents.

Gutierrez followed by drilling a home run – his 11th and the team’s 46th of the

season – into netting in right-center.

The blast didn’t rattle Osceola. He responded by retiring the side in order in the fourth on just 11 pitches with a groundout and two strikeouts. In the fifth, Doral loaded the bases with one out, but Osceola countered with a strikeout and fly out to keep Okeechobee’s hopes alive. In five innings, he scattered six hits, struck out seven and walked none.

“He attacked the strike zone and when he got hit he wasn’t afraid to come back. You can tell he’s pitched in a lot of big games, and you can’t teach that,” Suarez said.

Adams’ one inning of relief in the sixth was impressive as he struck out the side in order.

In previous playoff games, Okeechobee took advantage of the few scoring chances it had, but this time the Brahman didn’t come through with clutch hits, or any type of hit until Adams launched a double to the left-center gap with two outs in the last inning. Adams was left stranded, similar to the first inning and fifth innings when Okeechobee

left two runners each. Okeechobee didn’t help itself on the paths as one runner was picked off and another was caught stealing on a first-and-third situation.

Adrian Figueroa and reliever Victor Cabrera combined for the one-hitter as Doral improved to 25-6-1.

“I’m impressed by (Doral) and I’m impressed by my guys, too. They had a great run,” Kindell said. “They should be proud. They made Okeechobee proud.”

The loss marked the final game for the Tribe’s seniors Osceola and Layne Thomas, who did not play. The Tribe’s Ozy Osceola, who played right field, and Lucas Osceola, who did not play, will be back next season as the squad will try to build on this year’s memorable spring.

“That’s a fun team to coach,” Kindell said. “Big group of seniors. Awesome guys. They’ve done a phenomenal job and I’m proud of all of them.”

Shot put standouts Robert Harris, Andrew Fish shine for Moore Haven High

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN – As towering linemen on the football field, Robert Harris and Andrew Fish are tough to miss on Friday nights in the fall. Harris is 6-foot-6, 320 pounds; Fish is 6-4, also 320 pounds. But this spring the large duo from the Brighton Reservation made their presence felt elsewhere.

Harris and Fish, who helped Moore Haven High School's football team produce an undefeated regular season in 2017, showed their athletic abilities in shot put for the Terriers' track and field team.

Both athletes qualified for the Class 1A state championship May 5 at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, and they were the only two athletes from Moore Haven to do so.

In order to reach states, Harris and Fish needed strong performances in the preceding weeks at districts and regionals.

Up first was the Class 1A-District 8 on April 17 at St. John Neumann Catholic High School in Naples. Harris, a sophomore, won the shot put title and Fish, a junior, finished a close third. Harris heaved the shot put ball

42 feet, 11 inches while Fish's hurl went 40 feet, 11 inches. Both performances helped the Moore Haven boys team finish seventh.

A week later at the 1A-Region 2 championship at Cypress Creek High in Wesley Chapel, both Harris and Fish surpassed their throws at districts and finished in the top four out of 16 competitors. Harris missed winning a regional title by a fraction. He finished runner-up at 44-05 while champion Marterrian Davis of Wildwood High School near Orlando won the title at 44-08. Fish finished fourth at 42-08.

For the state finals, Harris was seeded eighth and Fish was seeded 19th out of 23 competitors from throughout the state in Class 1A. Both finished in the top 15. Harris's throw of 43-02 was good enough for 11th; Fish finished 15th with a throw of 42-00. State champion Taquan Brown of Victory Christian Academy-Lakeland launched a winning throw of 50-06.

Harris was the top sophomore out of the five sophomores in the 1A state final.

Both players and the rest of the Terriers football team will be back on the football field in the coming months. The games start Aug. 17 at Marco Island Academy.



Andrew Fish, left, and Robert Harris, shown here during Moore Haven's 2017 football season, qualified for the state track and field finals in shot put.

Kevin Johnson



Atlantic Sun

The Florida Gulf Coast University softball team, including Ahnie Jumper, center back row, celebrates a home run in a 6-1 win against the University of South Carolina Upstate on May 10 at the ASUN Conference playoffs in DeLand, Fla.

Ahnie Jumper wraps up first season with FGCU Eagles

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Ahnie Jumper's first collegiate softball season concluded May 11 when Florida Gulf Coast University was bounced out of the ASUN conference tournament in DeLand.

Jumper is one of the few athletes in the history of the Seminole Tribe to play for an NCAA Division I sports program.

Jumper, of the Big Cypress Reservation, described her first year as "an amazing experience."

"It's a really good opportunity to better yourself," she said.

FGCU had plenty of success along the way to posting a 39-17 record, marking the program's most victories in a season since 2012. The Eagles were tough to beat at home, winning 20 of 26 games in Fort Myers including a doubleheader sweep against the University of South Florida. On the road, FGCU aced a road trip to California by going 6-0. The Eagles also went toe-to-toe against Oregon in two games at Florida State's tournament in March. The Eagles essentially held their own against the nation's No. 1 ranked team for 12 of the 14 innings in a pair of losses to the Ducks.

Jumper wasn't one of the 18 players that FGCU took for road trips in the first half of the season, but by the second half she had earned a spot on the travel roster.

"I worked hard and made the travel team the rest of the season," she said.

FGCU coach Dave Deiros said next season's out-of-conference schedule includes spring break games in San Diego.

In May, FGCU was the No. 2 seed in the ASUN tournament and won its opener, 6-1, against USC Upstate, but then dropped two in a row the next day to end their conference title hopes. They did not receive an at-large

invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

Jumper had to adjust to a new role this season. After being a key starter in high school the past few years for American Heritage's powerhouse program in Plantation, she didn't see much playing time as an Eagle freshman.

"I knew coming in it would be hard. The best nine play and this year I wasn't one of the best nine, but I played other roles," she said.

Jumper didn't make any trips to the plate, but she made the most out of her role as a frequently used pinch runner. She scored eight runs, including the winning runs against Stony Brook and the University of Connecticut. She stole one base, which came against Southern Illinois.

"She actually won a couple games for us," Deiros said. "She has really good instincts on the bases. She's pretty quick. She makes good reads."

Jumper saw very brief action in the field as a backup third baseman behind senior starter Brittany McGuire.

"As it happened, the senior got the starting job and was healthy all year long, so there weren't a lot of opportunities to get her into games at third base," Deiros said.

Jumper's position next season will likely be as a catcher, which was her primary spot in high school.

"At the end of the year we were having a little more trouble behind the plate, so we gave Ahnie a lot more of her practice time there," Deiros said. "I believe that's where we're going to go ahead and use her next year. She's just a lot more comfortable ... working behind the plate and I think that's going to be the better place for her and that's where she's going to be working all summer to get herself ready to go."

Jumper is the great-granddaughter of

the late Seminole leader Betty Mae Jumper, the first and only woman to lead the Tribe as chairman who also was a pioneer in several fields for the Tribe such as health, education, cattle and journalism. Ahnie Jumper's career goal is also to give back to the Tribe. The Elementary Education major has aspirations to become a teacher within the Tribe. She's already got a head start in certain areas. Last winter, she gladly shared her skills and knowledge with Tribal youngsters during a softball clinic with other FGCU players and coaches on the Brighton Reservation.

"She's got a definite mission in her educational plans," Deiros said. "She wants to go back and teach on the reservation; that is her number one goal. She doesn't miss out on chances to go back to the reservation and help the younger people that are there. Her family is unbelievable as far as trying to help those who are less fortunate than her, so she's got great role models at home and she really is doing everything she can to pass on that mentality to the next generation."

One difference between high school and college that has benefited Jumper is a far shorter commute. Instead of driving an hour each way between Big Cypress and American Heritage, now she only needs a few minutes to walk to class.

"It's easier for managing school and softball," she said.

As for the team, Jumper said one of her goals next season is to earn a starting spot.

"She's hungry to do more," Deiros said. "The end-of-the-year meeting was very positive. She's eager to get herself some more [playing] time and beat out the people in front of her. She's going to work hard this summer and get herself ready to be able to do that."

Moore Haven MVP Sunni Bearden signs with South Florida State College

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN – Sunni Bearden has kept busy since the Moore Haven High School softball season ended.

Bearden, a senior centerfielder from the Brighton Reservation, was named the team's Most Valuable Player during the school's spring sports awards ceremony May 17. She also signed to play for South Florida State College in Avon Park.

Bearden, a four-year varsity player, was the team's leadoff batter and a defensive star during her tenure at Moore Haven, including the past two seasons playing for coach Clint Raulerson. She helped Moore Haven win the Class 3A-District 6 title April 26 when the Terriers defeated St. John Neumann-Naples, 12-5. Moore Haven won district championships in all four of Bearden's seasons.

Moore Haven's season this year ended May 3 with a 3-1 loss at home to St. Stephen's Episcopal-Bradenton in a Class 3A regional semifinal.

Bearden was a multi-sport standout at Moore Haven where she also excelled in volleyball and basketball. She and the rest of Moore Haven's Class of 2018 were scheduled to graduate June 1.



Sunni Bearden

Nunez smacks home run in final game

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Cheyenne Nunez ended her first softball season at State College of Florida with a bang.

Nunez, of the Brighton Reservation, hit her first collegiate home run and went 3-for-4 in the final game of the season. The dinger came in an 8-4 loss to College of Central Florida on April 24 as the Manatees wrapped up their season with a 35-21 record.

Nunez's stellar season in Bradenton included being among the team leaders in several categories. Her .373 batting average was second on the squad. She had 28 hits, five doubles, the one home run and nine RBI in 75 at-bats over 33 games.

When she reached base, which she did often with a team-leading .451 on base percentage, she was tough to catch. Despite missing a month of the season due to an arm injury, Nunez still led the team with 23 stolen bases, a staggering 10 more than the next player.

"Cheyenne has a great passion and intensity for the game of softball. Had she not

been injured she would have broken a couple SCF records including single season stolen bases," said SCF coach Mandy Schuerman. "She now is tied for the No. 2 spot in single season stolen bases with 23."

Nunez's prowess on the base paths actually had an inauspicious beginning. She was caught stealing in two of her first three attempts of the season, but then went unconquered the rest of the way as she reeled off 22 stolen bases in a row.

She finished second on the team in slugging percentage (.480) and tied for first in both hit-by-pitches (7) and sacrifice flies (3).

Defensively, Nunez was equally impressive, committing just one error while playing in the outfield for most of the year.

Nunez's solid first year has Schuerman already eager to see what next season brings.

"I look forward to Cheyenne excelling next year and emerging into a leader," Schuerman said. "She most definitely has all the tools for success and I am very excited to see what next year brings for her as well as SCF."

Hard Rock to host Light Heavyweight title bout

ATLANTIC CITY – Two-time light heavyweight world champion Sergey "Krusher" Kovalev will put his WBO Light Heavyweight World Title on the line against long-time WBC Light Heavyweight number one contender Eleider "Storm" Alvarez at the Etesse Arena in the new Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City on Aug. 4. The match will be televised live on HBO World Championship Boxing at 10 p.m.

Kovalev vs. Alvarez will be the first professional boxing event at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City, which is scheduled to open June 28.

"Entering our 40th year in this business, we are so excited to return to Atlantic City and honored to be the first fight in this

beautiful new venue," said Main Events' CEO and Kovalev's promoter Kathy Duva in a press release. "Atlantic City, and the Etesse Arena in particular, were home to so many amazing fights with Evander Holyfield, Michael Moorer, and the late, great Arturo Gatti, just to name a few."

"This event will mark the first sporting event at Hard Rock Live at Etesse Arena which is all new venue that our boxing fans will truly enjoy. Our world-class facility will be the ultimate location for events and entertainment," said Bernie Dillion, vice president of Entertainment at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City.

Tri-athlon to be held this summer in BC

BIG CYPRESS – The Chairman's Tri-Athlon, featuring fishing, archery and billiards, will be held Aug. 11 on the Big Cypress Reservation. The event is for Tribal members only.

The day will start at 6 a.m. with fishing from boats or banks with a weigh-in at 12 p.m. Fish must be alive to be counted. At 1 p.m., archery will take center stage at Billie Johns Ballfield. The

final event will be billiards at 2 p.m. at BC Billiards.

Lunch will be provided at the ballfield.

For more information call 863-902-3200, exts. 13324, 13336 or 863-651-4191.

Announcements



Happy Birthday, KyLynn Lawrence/Vpeyet!

To our little girl/sister: You are now 3 years. You have always been a blessing to us in every way possible. We will forever love you.

Dad, Mom, Heith



Comedy tour comes to Hard Rock Event Center

HOLLYWOOD — Comedic superstars from the Emmy Award-winning comedy series "In Living Color" are coming to Hard Rock Event Center at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, "The Off Color Comedy Tour" featuring Keenen Ivory Wayans, Shawn Wayans, Tommy Davidson, and David Alan Grier will take place Oct. 6 at 8 p.m.

Keenen Ivory Wayans is a multi-talented writer, director and producer. His first hit film, "Hollywood Shuffle" showcased the

comedian's unique and hilarious point of view highlighting the plight of black and Hispanic actors in Hollywood. In 1990, Keenen Ivory Wayans' creative primetime comedy series, "In Living Color" exploded on the pop culture scene.

Keenen Ivory Wayans and his brother Shawn Wayans have collaborated on various feature films. Shawn Wayans made his acting debut in Keenen Ivory Wayans' film, "I'm Gonna Get You Sucka" in 1988. Following Shawn Wayans' feature film

debut, he joined the cast of "In Living Color." Shawn Wayans later began co-writing a string of blockbuster movies including the hilarious horror spoofs, "Scary Movie" and "Scary Movie 2," which were both directed by Keenen Ivory Wayans.

Tickets cost \$90, \$70 and \$50. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets, online at www.myhrl.com, www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone: 1-800-745-3000. Doors open 60 minutes prior to show start time.



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79508	N/A	VALLEY COUGAR POOL TABLE	COIN OPERATED 7FT POOL TABLE	N/A	Poor	\$100.00
79564	N/A	VALLEY COUGAR POOL TABLE	COIN OPERATED 7FT POOL TABLE	N/A	Poor	\$100.00
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C48807	N/A	VALLEY TIGER POOL TABLE	COIN OPERATED 7FT POOL TABLE- PANTHER	N/A	Poor	\$100.00
B46996	1997	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F-250 XL (4WD) CREW CAB (GAS)	130,361	Poor	\$292.00
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A73948	2009	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F-150 REG CAB (RWD)	259,307	Poor	\$968.00
A32794	2006	FORD SUV	EXPEDITION XLT (RWD)	161,396	Poor	\$1,000.00
307279	2006	CHEVROLET SUV	TRAILBLAZER (4WD)	160,449	Poor	\$1,120.00
099559	2001	BLUEBIRD SCHOOL BUS	65 PASSENGER # 1	141,821	Poor	\$1,705.00
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A62087	2012	FORD CARGO VAN	E250 CARGO VAN ECONOLINE EXTD (RWD)	104,265	Good	\$10,575.00

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.

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Nashville, TN 37214

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AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs
ACTION: Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Eastern Regional Office has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed federal approvals and funding of road improvement projects on Billie Road, Billie Road Extension, and Frank Shore Road on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation in Glades County, Florida. The scope of work would be to pave and widen (to 24 feet) the existing roadways with a 6-foot grass shoulder on each side. The roadway improvement projects are needed to provide safe access for tribal members. To move forward with the project, the Tribe will need funding and various approvals from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Due to the need for federal approvals and funding, this project was reviewed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability, that the Environmental Assessment, supporting documentation and FONSI for the project are available for public review. The FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore cannot be appealed.

For further information please contact Chet McGhee, Regional Environmental Scientist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6830.

Bruce W. Maytabby, Sr. Date 5/2/18
Regional Director

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Eastern Regional Office
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
BILLIE ROAD AND FRANK SHORE ROAD
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs
ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Eastern Regional Office has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed federal approvals and funding of road improvement projects on Billie Road, Billie Road Extension, and Frank Shore Road on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation in Glades County, Florida. The scope of work would be to pave and widen (to 24 feet) the existing roadways with a 6-foot grass shoulder on each side. The roadway improvement projects are needed to provide safe access for tribal members. To move forward with the project, the Tribe will need funding and various approvals from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Due to the need for federal approvals and funding, this project was reviewed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department to determine the environmental impacts associated with the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

DETERMINATION: Based on review and analysis of the EA and supporting documentation, the BIA has selected the preferred alternative (roadway improvements). It has been determined that the implementation of the preferred alternative, along with the environmental mitigation measures specified in the EA, will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, according to Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and the BIA is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact. This finding is based on the following factors:

A. There will be less than significant impacts to land resources. See EA, Section 10.1.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- The Food Banks Cattle Dip Vat Site will be avoided during construction by placement of temporary fencing around the site. No access roads.

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staging areas, vehicle or equipment parking, or work areas will be placed in proximity to the site.

B. There will be less than significant impacts to water resources. See EA, Section 10.2.

C. There will be less than significant impacts to air quality. See EA, Section 10.3.

D. There will be less than significant impacts to living resources. See EA, Section 10.4, and Appendix B.

E. There will be no impacts to archeological and cultural resources. See EA, Section 10.5 and correspondence from Tribal Historic Preservation Officer in Appendix A.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Three weeks prior to construction, the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer will be provided written notice, so a decision can be made whether to have cultural resources monitors present prior to any ground-disturbing activities occurring.
- Should undiscovered archeological resources be encountered during the project, work will stop in the area of discovery and the stipulations in 36 CFR 800.11 will be followed.

F. The proposed action would improve Public Health and Safety by providing safe travel for emergency vehicles and tribal members.

Bruce W. Maytabby, Sr. Date 5/2/18
Regional Director

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Eastern Regional Office
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs
ACTION: Notice of Availability

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed federal approvals and funding of road improvement projects for Snake Road (BIA 1281) on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's (Tribe) Big Cypress Reservation in Florida. Snake Road is a narrow and curvy two lane road that begins south at the intersection of I-75 and continues north through both the Miccosukee Indian Tribe's Reservation and Big Cypress Reservation. Portions of the roadway are considered unsafe and need to be reconstructed and realigned to improve safety. The Tribe has already completed several phases of the roadway project, but more work is still needed. To continue the project, the Tribe may need funding and various approvals from BIA. Due to the need for federal approvals and funding, this project was reviewed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability, that the Environmental Assessment, supporting documentation and FONSI for the project are available for public review. The FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore cannot be appealed.

For further information please contact Chet McGhee, Regional Environmental Scientist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6830.

Bruce W. Maytabby, Sr. Date 5/4/18
Regional Director

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Eastern Regional Office
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
SNAKE ROAD (BIA 1281)
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs
ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed federal approvals and funding of road improvement projects for Snake Road (BIA 1281) on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's (Tribe) Big Cypress Reservation in Florida. Snake Road is a narrow and curvy two lane road that begins south at the intersection of I-75 and continues north through both the Miccosukee Indian Tribe's Reservation and Big Cypress Reservation. Portions of the roadway are considered unsafe and need to be reconstructed and realigned to improve safety. The Tribe has already completed several phases of the roadway project, but more work is still needed. To continue the project, the Tribe may need funding and various approvals from BIA. Due to the need for federal approvals and funding, this project was reviewed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The BIA initially reviewed this project in 2007 and issued a FONSI for public review. Due to the passage of time the BIA has conducted a re-evaluation of the potential environmental impacts associated with this project. During the re-evaluation the BIA reviewed, adopted and incorporated by reference the following documents:

- Environmental Assessment (EA), titled Snake Road (BIA 1281) Widening Project Miccosukee Tribe of Florida, prepared by Johnson Engineering dated February 2018
- Biological Assessment, titled Snake Road (BIA 1281) From I-75 to 6-miles South of CR835 prepared by Johnson Engineering dated February 2018
- Florida Department of Transportation 2012 Project Re-evaluation Form dated June 19, 2012
- EA title Snake Road prepared by BIA dated May 15, 2007
- Florida Department of Transportation Environmental Determination February 2007

Incorporation by reference is specifically allowed by NEPA at 40CFR1502.21 and was recommended by the Council on Environmental Quality in the 2012 Memorandum titled "Improving the Process for Preparing Efficient and Timely Environmental Reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act."

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DETERMINATION: Based on review and analysis of the EAs and supporting documentation, it has been determined that the proposed federal action is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, according to Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and the BIA is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

This finding is based on the following factors:

A. There will be less than significant impacts to land resources.

B. There will be less than significant impacts to water resources.

C. There will be less than significant impacts to air quality.

D. There will be less than significant impacts to biological resources.

E. There will be no impacts to archeological and cultural resources.

Should undiscovered archeological resources be encountered during the project, work will stop in the area of discovery and the stipulations in 36 CFR 800.11 will be followed.

F. The proposed action would improve Public Health and Safety by providing safe travel for emergency vehicles and tribal members.

Bruce W. Maytabby, Sr. Date 5/4/18
Regional Director