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Voice of the Unconquered



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Controlling Lake Okeechobee water levels

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

A record-high wet season has the Seminole Tribe, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) working to manage water flowing south from Lake Okeechobee to prevent Big Cypress from flooding.

Even with the intricate system of canals built beginning in the 1840s, the lake and its water require close attention and management.

"When the lake goes up or down, it affects the Tribe the same as anyone else," said Cherise Maples, acting director of the Environmental Resource Management Department. "We need a way to store water when it's wet so when it's dry the water is available."

To help control water on Big Cypress, the Tribe partnered in 1996 with the Corps to improve 14,000 acres of swamp, hardwood hammocks, cypress sloughs, prairies and pine flat woods. Called a "critical project," the Tribe built two storage basins and a 17-mile canal, which created the infrastructure to route water appropriately. Additionally, a much-needed third storage basin is about to be built.

♦ See LAKE OKEECHOBEE on page 5A

Tribal Council convenes in Brighton

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Tribal Council meeting Aug. 9 in Brighton resulted in decisions for nearly 40 Tribal concerns, including the approval of a \$28.7-million construction plan to expand Seminole Casino Immokalee and a \$3.6-million construction agreement for the Big Cypress townhomes project.

The casino project will include a 100- to 120-room hotel; a 5,000-square-foot casino expansion to accommodate up to 160 slot machines; a 100-seat, cafe-style restaurant with kitchen; an 11,000-square-foot, pavilion-style event center replacing the existing event tent; 8,000-square-foot of office and storage space to replace two modular units; and a 190-space parking lot. The job is expected to be finished in mid-December 2014.

"Tribal members, this is not just Immokalee; it's going to happen here in Brighton. It's going to happen in BC, too," Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger said. "This is part of our expansion and our Compact looks real good. With that being said, eventually, we'll try and do this on all the reservations."

♦ See COUNCIL MEETING on page 2A

Brown family touches down at Brown's Landing

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Neal Brown, 81, rested in a chickee on a scorching hot July morning and gave the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) and guests at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Seminole Village an insider's take on the first white man to trade with and live among the Seminoles in Big Cypress — his grandfather William Henry Brown.

"Most times we are out in the field and digging up history. We rarely have the real people right here," said Maureen Mahoney, a THPO archeologist who helped organize the event.

Among 35 captivated listeners for the peek to the past were five generations of Brown offspring who traveled from Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina and throughout Central Florida where William Henry Brown, originally from England, settled in 1885.

♦ See BROWN'S LANDING on page 7A

Princesses crowned



Eileen Soler

For the first time in Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant history, sisters take the crowns — Brianna Blais-Billie, left, for Jr. Miss Florida Seminole and Tia Blais-Billie for Miss Florida Seminole.

Tia Blais-Billie crowned Miss Seminole; Brianna Blais-Billie is new Jr. Miss

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Brains, beauty, a flair for Seminole fashion and a gift for intelligent gab was all it took for two Hollywood sisters to take both crowns in the 2013 Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.

The new Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie, 17, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie, 16, won July 27 after nearly two hours of competition featuring 11 equally pretty and talented contestants.

The daughters of France Blais-Billie and the late July Billie, of the Otter Clan, are the only sisters to serve simultaneously

since the pageant began more than five decades ago.

Brianna, a junior at Pine Crest School, was first to walk across the stage at Tribal Headquarters as new royalty. She was crowned and sashed by outgoing Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez.

"I was thinking it would be crazy and cool if both of us won, but when they actually called (Tia's) name I just started crying. I am so proud of her," Brianna said.

Tia's eyes also welled with happy tears as she was decked in pageant regalia by outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar. The senior at Pine Crest School said she looks forward to representing the Seminole Tribe throughout her one-year reign.

"I want to educate people outside of the Tribe about how the Tribe works," Tia said. "I want them to know that we have our own government and that we function as a modern society."

Tia also wants to bring awareness to Native issues and support positive change throughout Indian Country.

"Not all Native people are as blessed as we are," she said.

Brianna said she wants to take her crown to Disney World — but not for fun. She wants to enlighten the corporation about Native American stereotypes that are perpetuated at the resort.

Wanda Bowers, chairwoman of the pageant and Miss Florida Seminole 1968 and 1969, said pageant winners get plenty

of opportunities for the "very serious matter" of representing the Tribe. The girls will be the face and voice of the Tribe at events nationwide and perhaps, in foreign countries.

"In our matriarchy, being a woman does not mean you stand in the background. She'll be ready to stand up and speak up to answer any question in the Tribal realm," Bowers said.

Pageant rules required all contestants to model traditional Seminole dresses, demonstrate a cultural skill and answer impromptu questions about Tribal history, structure and ways to improve the community.

♦ See PRINCESS PAGEANT on page 8A

A visit to Egmont Key as it slides into the sea



Peter B. Gallagher

From left, Quenton Cypress, Juan Cancel, Paul Backhouse, Bobby Henry, Shannon Purvis and Willie Johns stand near the spot where Seminole Indians were imprisoned during the Third Seminole War.

Trail of Tears started here for Seminole Indians

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

EGMONT KEY — Paradise. Tom Watson knows where that is. He lives there.

For the past 16 years he has been the only full-time human resident of an exotic island perched atop the world's largest underground gopher tortoise community, super-roost to thousands of soaring, diving, squawking seagulls, cormorants, anhingas, night heron, egrets, ibis, willet, heron and spoonbills. Palm trees wave over the deserted castaway beach where breathtaking big sky sunsets and sunrises streak the salty sky, enough to glean glossolalia from the poet's pen or light lounge chairs in a lover's eyes — and it happens every single day and night.

Every 15 seconds a 155-year-old lighthouse — Florida's sixth brightest — makes a rotation that catches the eyes of sailors, seagulls, seashell seekers and supertankers swimming through the nearby deepwater shipping channel heading toward

the busy Port of Tampa far away. Schools of the best sport and eat fishing imaginable — redfish, snook, speckled trout, tarpon, grouper, mangrove snapper, kingfish, cobia — surround this finger-shaped island of sand and sea oats where the Gulf of Mexico marries Tampa Bay.

Anytime Watson throws out some bait, he reels it in.

Dinner. And, late at night, Watson said, you can reach up high and put your hand into the Milky Way.

Watson works for the state of Florida as an assistant park manager with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, which operates Egmont Key State Park. He's the only person allowed out there 24 hours a day. Everyone else — except for a handful of Tampa Bay harbor pilots who bunk there some nights — must be off the island by dark. Egmont averages more than 200,000 visitors a year, including hikers, swimmers, divers and sunbathers, and Watson answers their questions.

♦ See EGMONT KEY on page 4A

Editorial

From wars to prosperity, Florida Seminoles survive

• James E. Billie

When the Spanish got here in 1513, for the first 100 years, the Indians were still carrying on their traditional ways. But during that 100-year stretch, the Indians began slowly assuming certain European ways. And then, when the 1600s came, they were definitely wearing European clothes and trying to live that lifestyle. By the 1700s, many Indians had started to become businessmen, tradesmen selling deer hides. In those days, some Indians even went to Europe, selling their hides.

As the 1700s went on, the Indians were trading and dressing like the white folks. The white folks, the Spanish people had knives, pot and pans, clothing that you could wash and re-wear. Indians were in leather. You could wash it, but the clothes would become stiff. In fact, a lot of good things came from Europe that made the Indians' lives a lot easier.

To sit here and think that American Indians were very savage and a threat to the white man is not particularly true; there was a time when they were living and working together. But dissension started to develop because new people coming from Europe were all trying to find a piece of land and, of course, they began encroaching on Indian land. And that is when the attacks and killings began to take place. Indians were protecting their land.

So in 1830, President Andrew Jackson passed a bill called the Indian Removal Act. And with that vote (the Senate passed the bill 28-19, the House 102-97) soldiers immediately started chasing the Southeastern Indians out of their homelands, shipping them west of the Mississippi. And here came the Indian Wars.

I get a tickle out of the Indian Wars. I was always fascinated with Tennessee. The Tennessee Volunteers, they called themselves. Well, let's tell the rest of the story about the Tennessee Volunteers. About that time, there were more than several million white people already in the United States and they were starting to outnumber the Indians, themselves. So here come the Tennessee Volunteers who, for some reason, were supposed to be brave men volunteering to go and beat the Indians.

But the truth of the matter about why they joined and became Volunteers is starvation. A lot of these white folks were starving to death. They had just jumped on a boat and come to America and they were literally starving to death. They soon found out that if you joined the military, they had food rations. If you joined the military you could eat every day. And that is why there were a lot of Volunteers.

Then when they came down to Florida and got their butts kicked, a lot of them went AWOL. That's right, the brave Volunteers went AWOL and some even became friends of the Seminoles. So, you see, these Indian Wars, a lot of these skirmishes were started

because of starvation. You had all these white people crying, "The Indians are hostile again," because they were starving to death and they wanted to get the rations.

Yes, the Seminole Wars were kind of fascinating. Since I learned about the Seminole Wars, I always thought Seminoles deserved a lot better than what they had when I was young. I wondered what could put the Indians back on top, so to speak. Then it started to happen right before my eyes.

Somebody approached Howard Tommie about something called Bingo and he left it on the table for the next challenger to take. I always felt that somewhere down the line we deserved to get on top of the world, so a guy named James Billie carried it on a little further and brought us to the doorstep of the Hard Rock.

But the one I like the best, because he deserves many merits, was Mitchell Cypress, who as Chairman, carried us even further to where we now own businesses around the world with the Hard Rock. So, if it wasn't for Mitchell being in the right place, if it wasn't for James Billie being in the right place or Howard Tommie being in the right place, we probably wouldn't have what we got today. So hats off to all those guys.

But Mitchell was the one who signed the contract with the advice of Jim Allen, the CEO of Hard Rock. I'm glad Mitchell listened to Jim. We've got to give credit, also, to David Cordish who finally brought us into the business world and somehow, with the advice of Jim Allen, we bought out Hard Rock, Mitchell signed the deal and we have continued further on.

Next time I see Mitchell, I'm gonna give him a kiss.

Not! Matter of fact, the dividends that we receive today, the substantial amount of dividends that we have, happened during the time of Mitchell and we are all enjoying that benefit right now. Next time you see Mitchell, give him a hug and say, "Thank you." And, of course, you had other Councilmen, too. You had David, Max, Roger and a lot of the time you saw Andrew in there. And Richard Bowers. Those were the guys who made the deal go through.

It's been an interesting turn of events. And now, our budget is substantial. And my departments are telling me it's not enough.

When is it ever enough? Does anybody know? *Sho-naa-bish.*

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



Where's the beef? It's in Seminole Pride

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

There has been a lot of movement behind the scenes here at Seminole Tribe, Inc. that we have been talking a lot about, as we have been going through the process of asking questions, making decisions and forming our commitment to various projects. There are press releases going out, that are being tweaked right now. So many exciting projects we can't fit them all in this one column.

But I think one thing that everyone will gravitate toward is what we are doing with our beef. It has always been a mainstay of the Seminoles throughout our entire Tribal history. Beef has played a significant economic and social role, maintaining our government and way of life when we had nothing else. And it is continuing to do well. This year we had a great calf crop, through the hard work of Alex Johns and our Seminole cowboys.

The big news is we are actually building a feed lot. It's been tried many times in Florida by others with the same dream and always failed. Usually cattle in hot, sweaty Florida do not eat enough and cannot gain any weight, so they are shipped out to Texas to get fat. We are building a feed lot where independent Tribal cattle owners can finish their own cattle here on the Brighton Reservation, bypassing the lesser income of shipping them out of state.

They will also be harvested in Florida at a company we are partnering with, Central Beef Industries LLC, in Center Hill, and the meat will be sold here in Florida. The animal spends its whole life in Florida. A great story – one that we will be telling, along with our Tribal history, in all our marketing.

We have a brand – Seminole Pride – and the moniker Florida Native. This will be hormone-free, antibiotic-free, Seminole Pride choice beef. We received our government certifications to go to market just last month. We are certified to go select, choice, prime. We partnered with Cheney Brothers as our distributor and did a major food show with them June 25 at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. We were featured at the show and there was a lot of interest, especially from local and national chain restaurants.

Sales are already starting to come in. National chains are very interested with large requirements: 40 cases a week. We have to be sure we can deliver.

That is a major amount. But we can do it. We are No. 2 in the state (behind the Mormon Church) with total live head of cattle. We will have the only feed lot in the state. Nobody else is doing cattle this way. We are the first ones to do vertical integration all the way to the consumer. We have a great partnership with Cheney Brothers – they have committed to the program. We are also bringing to fruition our website, www.SemBeef.com, where you can access the product and other info.

We have always raised cattle, then sold our calves at the market and took what the market would bear. Now we have mounted a concentrated effort to go with a consistent program to the market. Before we had a market that was all over the place, lacking the predictability that we have now.

We are doing a much better job than what was done with the catfish farm, for example. We made the investment, but we did not realize the level of commitment (financial investment, logistic capability) that we needed to make to satisfy that buyer. We attempted to enter that market but did not understand the total commitment required and when we were able to get into the stores for a short amount of time, we did not last because we could not meet their expectations.

We are trying to learn from the past in order to make sure we are more successful this time around with the beef. We know the beef industry but in order for us to be more successful we need more vertical integration to better position ourselves.

Look, we aren't trying to feed the entire world here. We are trying to feed one community at a time, i.e. the local market. You know what? I think if we could supply a number of major outlets here in Florida, we'd be tickled pink.

All independent cattle owners will have the opportunity to diversify their operations and not rely solely on the calf crop as their whole means of income. We are exploring ways to increase the amount of revenue that the independent could enjoy personally. If cattle owners choose to use the feed lot program, they will have an opportunity to make more money.

The feed lot is half done. It should be finished in a couple months. We have decided against continuing what we have always done. We know the business. So now it is all about making the move to control our destiny right here in Florida.

With consistency and commitment, there is huge potential. The Tribal members will start to see these things very soon. Soon you can walk into a restaurant and ask for Seminole beef!

As I have been saying in this column, nothing happens overnight. We are taking the steps to success. We are asking ourselves the important questions: Are we satisfied with where we are today? What else can we do with what we know?

We are answering those questions and making the commitments. And we will deliver.

Sho-naa-bish.
Tony Sanchez Jr. is President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.



◆ COUNCIL MEETING

From page 1A

Unresolved issues with the city of Immokalee concerning water and sewer capacity to support the expansion bothered Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr.

"I know I've said before that more rooms in Immokalee could probably help the situation down there. Not that they need that much help. I think they grow just about every year anyway," he said. "So I'm not against this project. But I can't see myself going forward today with some uncertainty still out there about the water stuff. I'm voting no right now."

The townhouse project on Big Cypress will be comprised of several multi-family dwellings, most with multiple bedrooms and one to two baths.

Postponed from the Council's 21 item consent agenda was a resolution from the Tribal Environmental Resource Management Department to create a wetland mitigation site of 212 acres of backwoods recreational land in Brighton – known as the FBI tract. The plan would bank more than \$2 million in mitigation points that would allow the Tribe to build homes and roads throughout the reservation later. But, it would also limit the use of FBI land by Tribal members.

Lewis Gopher, who stated that the issue was never officially brought to the community, except through social media, told Council that people could still go on the land but would not be permitted to drive trucks onto it.

Councilman Tiger suggested the resolution be tabled until "we can have a town meeting on this before everything is set."

Items passed by unanimous vote included several regarding homesite leases: issuing homesite leases to Minnie Belle Tigertail, Gregory Jamael Thomas and Charlene Baker; assigning leases to Jason Gregory Melton II and Nelda Vanessa Melton and Randy Lee Osceola; modifying a lease for Weems Buck, terminating a lease for Milo Louis Osceola and the dissolution of a lease to Raynaldo Yzaguirre.

With the vote, Council also renewed a permit with Frank Billie Jr. (Scrubs Cleaning and Sanitation) for an automobile wash and detail business at Big Cypress; approved a Housing Department request for occupancy and use of land rights for rental residential purposes at

33000 Arrow Road in Big Cypress; approved a request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to establish new direct service contracts for Harney Pond Road in Brighton and NW Canal Street in Big Cypress; and approved improvements for Brighton's 4-acre Red Barn historic site as managed by the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO).

Council also approved an agreement with CenturyLink to locate a service line to the Sprint Spectrum communications facility at the water tower along East Harney Pond Road in Brighton and a lease with Seminole Taft Street Properties for office space.

Amendments were made to a lease agreement for the Tamiami Trail Liaison Office to the annual South Florida Water Management District work plan and a grant application to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Tribal wildlife programs.

Tribal Treasurer Michael Tiger opened up the regular agenda with a resolution asking Council to write off \$246,772 in deceased Tribal member loans. Several in the audience agreed with Lorene Gopher, director of Culture, who said the Tribe should do everything possible to recover the money, not just write it off.



Tribal Council convenes at the Brighton Veteran's Building Aug. 9 to discuss nearly 40 Tribal issues.

Councilman Tiger indicated he was researching an insurance scenario that would ease this burden on the Tribe: "It will be expensive, but in the long run it might be the way to go. There are some people who have several hundred thousand dollars of outstanding debt."

The resolution passed, as did a \$307,908 fixed-price contract with Converged Solutions and Services for the installation of the cabling infrastructure for the Brighton Public Safety and Administration Building.

Health director Connie Whidden questioned construction plans for a new Big Cypress clinic, citing several obstacles they have encountered trying to relocate the current offices. Councilman Tiger said he would start the process for building a new clinic and seeking funding.

An annual application to the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund grant program for \$53,896 to supplement funding for THPO operations was approved.

The regulation of Tribal lawn mowing services was streamlined in a resolution that spelled out new procedures in awarding work to qualified vendors and giving Tribal members a voice in who they want to do

the work. The regular meeting concluded with an approval of the mutual nondisclosure and confidentiality agreements with Numerex, which provides GPS tracking devices to the Tribe.

Prior to going into executive session, Chairman James E. Billie asked Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Paul Backhouse to brief Lorene Gopher on issues regarding plans of the Creek Council House Museum Association to close the Creek Council House Museum and auction off hundreds of Tribal artifacts. The auction is set for Sept. 20 in Cincinnati.

"Hear it out. Give us some advice," Chairman Billie said to Gopher. "There may be some artifacts we might like to look at."

Next Council meeting is set for Sept. 13 at the Hollywood Headquarters Auditorium.

Board gives go to solar power, trading post

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Board of Directors, at the July 24 Board meeting held at Tribal Headquarters in Hollywood, voted to move forward with two issues.

The Brighton Trading Post will continue operating on a Tribal revocable permit. The two-year agreement, not a contract, allows the business and the Tribe more flexibility to make changes and adjustments as needed during the permit course.

The Board also voted to approve the submission of a grant application to the U.S. Department of Energy that will help fund a community solar energy project on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Peter B. Gallagher

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Community

A



Eileen Soler

The Big Cypress dental clinic is staffed and ready to serve. From left, pediatric dentist Dr. Victor Oramas, dental assistant Robin Fountain, dental assistant Jacqueline Arce, Dr. Claudia Otero, dental assistant Meghan Mirabal and the Tribe's dental program manager Dr. Juan Packer.

New dental clinic equals happy smiles

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The difference is between toothy grins and grumpy frowns. "It's like night and day," said Celeste Billie in the waiting room of the new, state-of-the-art dental clinic at Big Cypress.

Night is the dank 1980s dental office that was squeezed into a tiny space at the Big Cypress Health Clinic and served Tribal members only three days a week.

Day is the 1,200-square-foot, stand-alone dental clinic that opened Aug. 1 with three patient treatment rooms, sunny waiting room, cheerful reception area, wheelchair access, portraits of smiling Tribal members on all walls and a full-time dentist.

Dr. Juan Packer, manager of the Seminole Tribe's dental program and an officer of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service, said the new clinic features all new equipment and furniture — including flat-screen televisions mounted to ceilings over all three dental patient chairs.

"The TVs provide another level of comfort for patients so they can be more at ease. What's better than watching your favorite television show while getting dental work?" Packer said.

For dental professionals and patients, the best feature of the clinic is a Panorex digital X-ray machine that rotates around the head to display both the upper and lowers jaws and teeth in one picture. The addition means patients get a faster diagnosis because they will no longer travel off the reservation for dental images.

Also new are two UltraClave sterilizers, computer monitors in each patient room to read digital X-rays, wall-mounted X-ray heads, a dental lab and a dentist's office. By next year, the office should be 100 percent paperless because all records will be converted to digital files.

Staff dentist Dr. Claudia Otero said the new, more private clinic provides a more pleasurable patient experience.

"We've found that it decreases patient anxiety. They are more relaxed and I am more relaxed," she said.

Otero said the larger space also allows her staff of five to see more patients. Dr. Victor Oramas, a pediatric dentist, is available all day on Wednesdays.

"We see patients of all ages. All people have to do is call for an appointment," Otero said.

Packer said the Seminole Tribe of Florida's dental program is one of the top three in Indian County. The award-winning program meets or exceeds all Government

Performance and Results Act (GPRA) requirements for funding purposes, which includes providing dental care access and preventing dental disease.

Dental care is a huge issue across Indian Country, Packer said.

According to the Center for Native Oral Health Research at the University of Colorado, Denver, a 2010 dental survey in Pine Ridge Indian Reservation revealed that 90 percent of the 292 responding adults and children had active tooth decay, about half the adults were missing teeth and a large percentage were in near constant tooth pain.

Overall, according to a 2011 Institute of Medicine report, Native children ages 2 to 5 throughout the nation suffer tooth decay three times more than the U.S. average.

"Here, our patients are much more fortunate. The (Seminole) Tribe can invest in patients from preventative care to complete treatment," Packer said.

The new hurricane-proof dental clinic, located behind the Big Cypress Health Clinic on Josie Billie Highway, is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Billie couldn't be happier. "It's nicer, cooler and roomier. It's great," Billie said.

For appointments, call 863-983-0180.

Senior profile: Jimmy Hank Osecola

Hollywood senior celebrates 77 years of life based in Seminole tradition

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — With his 1-year-old granddaughter, Teyah, nestled on his lap and dozens of family and friends singing in the background, Jimmy Hank Osecola blew out the candles atop his birthday cake on July 10. He celebrated his 77th birthday — he thinks — and his granddaughter's first.

"I feel just the same as yesterday and the day before," he said about turning another year older.

Born sometime around July 10, 1936, Jimmy may never know his exact birthdate. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) assigned him the date using the best estimate from his parents, Jimmy Osecola and Mary Motlow Osecola.

"I was born in the Everglades where they don't keep dates," he said. "A BIA agent came through the different camps to get a census and the closest dates of the kids' births. They guessed my birthday."

Jimmy and his 13 siblings — four of whom passed away as children — lived solitary lives amid swamps and alligators in Tamiami Trail. To support the family, their father hunted and operated a "little Indian village," where they sold souvenir dolls and beadwork and displayed caged wildcats, bobcats, raccoons and alligators for tourists.

"People came to learn about our culture," he said.

Jimmy's mother maintained their camp and cooked for the family. Common meals consisted of garfish, mudfish, turtles and birds foraged by their father and sweet potatoes, beans, corn and pumpkins grown in the family garden.

During season, the Osecolas traveled across South Florida searching for vegetable fields in need of harvesting. They picked

tomatoes and potatoes, mostly, in Miami and Homestead, and gathered hay in Moore Haven. Selling and trading alligators, birds and garfish scales — for use in jewelry making — supplemented their income.

"We used to travel what seemed like a long way but today you get there in 20 minutes," Jimmy said. He was responsible for carrying pots and pans and water when they traveled, on foot, in search of work.

When he was 9 years old, Jimmy and his family built chickees for their first permanent camp built on land owned by his brothers' employer. Prior to that, they lived in tents that easily set up and broke down. But in 1946 when Jimmy's father passed away, the family found themselves again traveling around to make a living. Three years later, they made their way to the Indian Reservation in Hollywood, where Jimmy's brother Bill — the Tribe's first President — lived.

"In 1949 we came and never left," Jimmy said. "Everything was different because we never lived close to non-Indians. They were all around us."

The lifestyle change brought new opportunities for Jimmy. In 1952, his brother Max sent him to an Indian boarding school in North Carolina for a formal education. Two years later he transferred to Sequoyah High School in Oklahoma.

"I didn't know how to speak English," Jimmy said, "but they didn't let us speak Mikasuki because they wanted us to learn to speak English. If we spoke our language we had to wash dishes."

Jimmy also learned mathematics and reading, and although he admits to not liking school at first, he later adapted to his environment and graduated with his high school diploma in 1958.

♦ See JIMMY HANK OSCEOLA on page 13A

Immokalee shakes it into first place



Photo courtesy of David Diaz

The Immokalee community gathers to film their version of the YouTube video craze, the Harlem Shake.

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

IMMOKALEE — The Harlem Shake video craze went viral earlier this year as thousands of people uploaded their versions of the dance movement to YouTube. Seminole Media Productions' Broadcasting Department invited all reservations to strut their dancing skills in a Harlem Shake video contest, and the Immokalee community took first place with 54 votes out of nine videos submitted.

Broadcasting manager Sunshine Frank presented the award to the community on July 30.

"We knew of the contest going on, so we said it'd be a perfect opportunity to have fun and to get Immokalee a first-place trophy," said Culture aide Amy Yzaguirre, who accepted the award on behalf of the participants.

Videographer David Diaz proposed the video contest as a way to generate interest among Tribal members, especially youth, in the media field.

"Social media is so powerful right now that whatever is trending, people want to be a part of it," Diaz said. "I think it went great. It's the biggest response of anything we've put out there."

Yzaguirre coordinated the Immokalee video by gathering the community at their Mother's Day event. About 60 participants came together to shake it up, decked out in costumes ranging from Mickey Mouse to Elmo to Hello Kitty. When it came time to vote, she spread the word by notifying every department, posting the video on Facebook and even standing over people's computers



Amanda Murphy

Culture aide Amy Yzaguirre accepts the first place award on behalf of the participants.

as they voted, just to make sure. The Hollywood Senior Center came in a close second with 40 votes, and Paul Buster and his Harlem Shaking puppets came in third with 12 votes.

Seminole Media Productions plans to hold another video contest in the fall and encourages participation from all reservations and communities.

To view the videos from the Harlem Shake competition, visit www.YouTube.com/watch?v=8fho4MXta5A.

Native journalists bolster modern-day storytelling

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

TEMPE, Ariz. — In the spirit of past Sioux *eyapaha*, village criers who heralded the news of warriors and chiefs, members of the Native American Journalist Association (NAJA) gathered to share the latest about Native issues, media technology and ways to advance communication throughout Indian Country.

"We are blessed with special gifts to tell our stories whether it is through writing, videography, radio or television. Yes, the Creator blessed us to use the gifts to help people — our people," said Tom Arviso, CEO and Publisher of *Navajo Times*, the largest independent Native newspaper in the United States.

Attended by 205 NAJA members

from Canada, the U.S. and Australia at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, the July 18-21 conference featured nearly 30 workshops geared to support and strengthen journalism. Classes and lectures included a National Public Radio discussion about audio storytelling; a class in accessing facts and figures through the Freedom of Information Act; and a half-day course about using smart phones to produce news articles, photos and videos.

NAJA Membership and Communications manager Rebecca Landsberry said the 30-year organization grew by 17 journalists in the weeks before the event. She credited the sudden hike to the membership of first-time NAJA convention participants from Native Public Media, a national radio broadcast service dedicated to the advancement of all forms

of media that serve sovereign Tribes.

Awards were given at the 29th annual event for exceptional work in newspaper and broadcast journalism during 2012.

The *Seminole Tribune* brought home three third place awards among Division 5 newspapers with circulation of less than 5,000: Best Layout, General Excellence and Associate-Best News Story for the December 2012 feature story *Native Relief Foundation makes Christmas merrier for Pine Ridge* by staff reporter Beverly Bidney.

The story reported a series of charity collections led by Tribal members determined to bring holiday cheer to poor families on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The report could have ended there, but Bidney included heartbreaking facts to show the inhumane poverty that exists year-round on Pine Ridge.

Bidney revealed, among other sad truths, that unemployment on the reservation averages 83 percent; infant mortality is the highest in the United States and life expectancy is only 48 years for men and 52 years for women — the lowest in the Western Hemisphere second only to Haiti.

"The kids up there don't often have shoes without holes in them," Native Relief Foundation member Jody Osceola said in the story. "This is poverty I don't think anyone in the Seminole Tribe can even grasp."

Tribal members created the foundation in 2011 after seeing an ABC News documentary about Pine Ridge.

Deborah Parker, vice chairwoman of the Tulalip Tribes Board of Directors in Washington state, said Tribal leaders should embrace the media. She is the face and voice behind sweeping changes this year in the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.



Eileen Soler

Journalists at the Native American Journalist Association conference July 18-21 in Tempe, Ariz. could not help but crowd the stage for photos of a performance by hoop dancer Derrick Suwaima Davis.

♦ See NAJA on page 10A

EGMONT KEY

From page 1A

He travels all over the island's roads and paths, sometimes by foot and sometimes in one of the park's golf carts, looking for something out of place – like a flipped over gopher tortoise.

"These guys like to fight each other and they flip one another on their backs all the time. They can't flip back upright, so I do it for them," he said. "I feel like I'm saving their lives."

He also picks up trash. "Everything that falls into Tampa Bay eventually ends up here on the shores of Egmont Key," said Watson, who supervises an ongoing army of volunteers who work thousands of hours annually picking up everything from old tires and buoys to parts of boats, Styrofoam coolers and lots of fishing line.

Bobby Henry to the rescue

In fact, Bobby Henry was the first to spot a brown pelican paralyzed from monofilament line. While riding in a golf cart with Watson at the wheel giving visitors from the Seminole Tribe a personal tour of the southern part of the island, which is also a National Wildlife Refuge, Henry leapt off the vehicle, grabbed a knife from his pocket and with the assistance of other state rangers, carefully extricated the line from the bird's wings and feet.

Tentative at first, the goofy-looking pelican hobbled across the beach toward the water, taking off with a graceful swoop just inches above the breaking waves, joining other pelicans and seabirds that play through the sky with shrieks, laughs and powerful high dives.

"Good medicine," Henry joked, twirling his trusty pocket knife.

Earlier that morning, Henry, Tribal community outreach specialist and historian Willie Johns, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Paul Backhouse, Juan Cancel and Shannon Purvis, of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), Tribal member Quenton Cypress and Seminole friend and Florida folksinger Valerie Caracappa climbed aboard the Tampa Bay Ferry, piloted by Capt. Jeff and his assistant Laney, and filled with fishermen, sunbathers and sightseers for the short 20-minute trip from Fort Desoto southwest to Egmont Key, which is reachable only by boat at the very southern tip of Pinellas County.

The trip had several agendas. Museum and THPO staff went to investigate reports that the island was seriously eroding because of global warming-increased wave action from the nearby Tampa shipping channel. A survey in the 1850s estimated Egmont's land area to be more than 580 acres; today, it has dropped less than 250 acres.

"This would threaten Seminole gravesites we know are out here," Backhouse said, referring to an unknown number of unmarked burial sites stemming from the days that Egmont Key served as a holding stockade and embarkation point for Seminoles captured by the U.S. Calvary and sent to Indian lands out West – a journey for South Florida Indians that began by boat from Egmont Key.

"First and foremost, the state and federal government have a responsibility to protect the Seminoles buried there. The Tribe would certainly not want those graves to just wash out to sea," said Johns, who noted that Billy Bowlegs, himself, had been held at Egmont Key during the Third Seminole War. "And there is very important Seminole history involved. You might say this is where the Trail of Tears began for the

Seminoles."

The old Spanish-American-style fort, which later became a U.S. Army Military Reservation named Fort Dade, can still be seen in mid-crumble from the harsh sea and wind elements, which include several brushes with hurricane-force winds. Abundant reminders of a unique historical era – when military strength was determined by who controlled the waterways – are scattered throughout the island today: a white-cross military-style graveyard, silent gun batteries, including a few already surrounded by the water, but the old stockade area is gone and, for the most part, the Seminole Indian part of Egmont Key's rich history is only briefly mentioned at all.

"We would love to work with the Seminole Tribe in improving our educational displays and interpretative historical message," said Michael Lusk, the manager for all the Southwest Florida Wildlife Refuges, including the three in the Tampa Bay area.

He showed the visitors the large radio and generator building, a high-ceilinged empty block house that could easily handle a museum-style display about the years after the Second Seminole War when Egmont "processed" hundreds of Indians and sent them on the first leg of the journey to new life out West.

Spanish, English, North, South all ruled Egmont Key

First mapped by Spain in 1757, the English named the island after John Perceval, the second Earl of Egmont. Capt. Robert E. Lee was there in 1849; he praised Egmont's strategic position and military potential. The first lighthouse was built in 1848 and was destroyed by a hurricane called "The Great Gale of 1848" four months later. Ten years later the current lighthouse was erected; the Coast Guard still maintains it as a navigational aid for ships and recreational boaters.

Egmont Key hosted both North and South during the Civil War and was a quarantine site for troops returning from Cuba during the Spanish American War. Sick soldiers were once nursed back to health by the famous Clara Barton, who wrote that Egmont Key was a great place except for the "gnats, mosquitoes, sand fleas, snakes and daily storms."

When Union soldiers captured the island for use as a Civil War blockade, fleeing Confederates removed the lighthouse lens, rendering the lighthouse dark for the entirety of the war.

During World War II, the fort, originally built for 300 soldiers, was crammed with 600. In fact, the first 50 years of the 20th century was the island's boom time. Brick roads were installed. Real residences were built. There was a bakery, gymnasium with a bowling alley, dance floor and movie theater. An extensive sewer system and railroad tracks were installed as well.

But Egmont Key's boom period has come and gone. Many of the crumbling coastal batteries and garrisons are crumbling or have already been washed away. An odd ghost town of brick roads and naked foundations sits in the middle of the island, marked by photo displays of "what used to be out here," Watson said.

The constant, pounding erosion from the Gulf of Mexico and the tides sweeping in and out of Tampa Bay will not stop. One day Egmont Key will be covered just like nearby Passage Key, one of the first federal bird reservations proclaimed by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1905.

Once a healthy rookery, it is now an occasionally seen sandbar.

Nearby, the old Egmont power plant



Peter B. Gallagher

Built in 1858, the Egmont Key lighthouse is still an important navigational aid, rotating every 15 seconds at the entrance to Tampa Bay.

has collapsed into the bay. The western gun batteries once had 100 yards of sand in front of them; they are now 100 yards off shore and have become popular snorkel and dive sites. Egmont Key has lost 100 acres since it became a National Wildlife Refuge in 1974.

A 2009 plan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to shore up the sinking patch of earth by burying concrete sheet pilings (to anchor the dredge material) on the island's west side is still on the table, waiting for Congressional funding from a gaggle of legislators who dislike the word "earmark." The tab? About \$8 million – a hard sell in gloomy economic times, despite Egmont's list of credits, which include a spot on the National Register of Historic Places, designation as a Hillsborough County historic landmark, "and important part of our Seminole history and heritage," Johns said.

Quick Fix

When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers performs its seven-year Tampa Port Shipping Channel re-dredge in 2014, they promise to drop 1.3 million cubic yards of gulf bottom on Egmont, a temporary fix where, Watson sighed, "it will slowly flow right back out to the channel and the cycle starts all over again."

"We are still at the status quo," Lusk said. "Still waiting on getting the help we need."

Also at risk are the great colonial seabird populations, from the brown pelicans that roost in the mangroves to the least terns who drop their eggs on the beach; many are endangered or threatened species. So are the gophers, the box turtles, the hummingbirds and dozens of plants (the strangler fig) walking the edge of the endangered species list. In addition, Egmont Key is an important and historic nesting site for the most endangered of the world's sea turtles – the leatherback.

The loss of Egmont Key, for example, will cause the worldwide populations of



Peter B. Gallagher

Thousands of seabirds cover much of the beach and sky along the western and southern shorelines of Egmont Key; thousands more perch on rookeries in bushes and trees just to the east.

the brown pelican to plummet toward extinction, said Ralph Heath, founder of the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary, who has spent more than 40 years rescuing birds hung up in the mangroves at Egmont and other Gulf islands.

"They really need to do something now," he said. "I don't believe they've got 10 years."

After the Seminole Tribe contingent returned to brief Tribal leaders, Chairman James E. Billie quickly penned a letter to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. (See the letter on page 10A.)

"The history of the island is a matter of cultural memory for our people and we wish that it be preserved if at all possible so that the youth of our Tribe can visit this place and learn how far we have come together,"

Billie wrote in the July 29 letter. "I wanted to write personally and let you know that I fully support any current or future preservation efforts that respect the cultural integrity of this important place."

The Chairman also asked that the direct descendants of Seminole Polly Parker be invited to take a boat ride this fall, from Egmont Key to Saint Marks in the Florida panhandle where Parker made her infamous escape back in the 1850s.

Later, as Capt. Jeff steered the Tampa Bay Ferry back to the Fort Desoto docks, Henry said he really needed to eat something right away. In fact, just about everyone felt the same way.

"It was seein' all those gophers," Henry said, and he was serious. "Can make you very hungry."



Peter B. Gallagher

GOOD MEDICINE: Bobby Henry helps park rangers remove hooks and monofilament line from this endangered brown pelican.



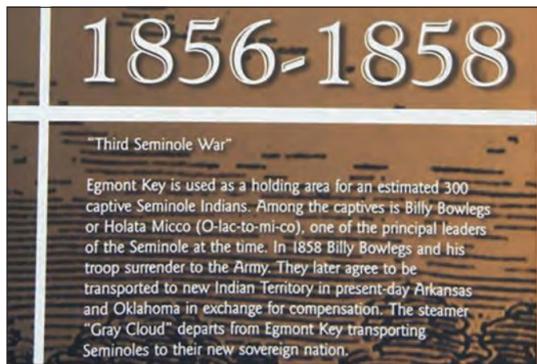
Peter B. Gallagher

Freed from the monofilament, this lucky pelican toddles away, preparing for takeoff.



Peter B. Gallagher

What was once a working power plant is now a pile of concrete rubble and rusted steel. The structure fell victim to beach erosion that has already robbed Egmont Key of nearly half its original land mass.



Peter B. Gallagher

A time line on the island briefly explains the Seminole connection to Egmont Key.



Peter B. Gallagher

Seminole representatives tour this high-ceilinged, empty block building, imagining a Tribal history museum display there someday.

History comes to life at BC Senior Center

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Seminoles living in Brighton and Big Cypress are connected to Moore Haven and Clewiston through more than proximity; the development of these towns was not only paramount in bringing the agriculture industry to the Lake Okeechobee area, but it also changed the Seminole way of life forever.

Butch Wilson, director of the Clewiston Museum, gave a historical presentation at the Big Cypress Senior Center Aug. 6, where seniors were enthralled by the rich history of the area. The presentation was provided by the Willie Frank Library.

"I want people to understand how the area was developed," Wilson said. "The story I'm telling is the story of the Seminole way of life coming to an end. The drainage changed their lives; they no longer had the Everglades as they knew it."

Evidence of agriculture existed near the lake decades before Americans thought to develop the area. During the Second Seminole War in the 1840s, American soldiers found an abandoned Seminole village on the south shore, where sugarcane was being cultivated. Indians were known to have traded with the Spanish in Cuba since the 1700s, and Wilson believes the sugarcane was brought in from Cuba.

Congressional passage of the Swamp Land Act of 1850 encouraged businesses to come to Florida by allowing drainage of the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee. Hamilton Disston, of Philadelphia, purchased 4 million acres of land from the state in 1881 with the intention of turning it into farmland.

"His vision was to make South Florida the winter bread basket for the nation by bringing in agriculture," Wilson said. "All this had a negative impact on the Seminoles living here."

In the 1880s, Disston dug canals wide enough for steamboat travel from Moore Haven to Lake Okeechobee, which connected the Caloosahatchee River to the Kissimmee River. At the turn of the 19th century, Gov. Napoleon Bonaparte Broward continued the vision to drain the Everglades by creating canals from the lake to the Atlantic. The North New River, Miami, Hillsboro and West Palm Beach canals were completed in 1917. The last of the canals, the Saint Lucie, was completed in 1925.

As hoped, the canals attracted people to the area around the lake, including James A. Moore, who died two months after purchasing the land. The town of Moore Haven is named for him. His widow, Marion, married his business partner John O'Brien and together, along with banker Alonzo Clewis, of Tampa, they built a railroad from Moore Haven to what would become Clewiston. With the railroad — completed in 1921 — Clewiston was connected to the Atlantic Coast Line Terminus and could ship crops north.

Land speculators brought industry to Clewiston, but Marion O'Brien wanted Clewiston to be more than just a farm town; she had dreams of it becoming another Chicago. In 1923, she hired renowned city planner John Nolen to create the city on the lake. The design included a grand hotel and a yacht basin, but the plan was never realized because of an overabundance of rain in 1924 followed by two destructive hurricanes in 1926 and 1928.

The 1926 behemoth destroyed Miami and swept



Beverly Bidney

Butch Wilson, director of the Clewiston Museum, tells Big Cypress seniors about the history of Clewiston and Moore Haven.

over Lake Okeechobee, breaching the 6-foot dike protecting Moore Haven and its fields. More than 400 people died as a result.

"Seminoles knew all about hurricanes; they had lived through them for hundreds of years," Wilson said. "But white Americans were completely surprised by it."

The 1928 hurricane did little or no damage to Miami, but it devastated the Lake Okeechobee area, where more than 2,500 people perished. The loss of life made it the second largest natural disaster in the U.S. to date, second only to the Galveston hurricane of 1900 which killed an estimated 8,000 to 12,000 people. As a result of the hurricanes a 65-mile long, 35-foot-tall dike on the south bank of the lake was completed in 1936 and a 15-mile stretch on the north bank was completed in 1938.

With the formation of the South Florida Water Management District in 1949, the dike was extended to the east and west sides of the lake. The 144-mile dike, which controls the flow of water throughout South Florida, was completed in the 1960s.

"The dike has protected people ever since," Wilson said. "During Hurricane Wilma the water came to 1 foot from the top of the dike. Without the dike, it would be too dangerous to live around the lake."

◆ LAKE OKEECHOBEE

From page 1A

"When there is extra water it goes to the basins, which are historic wetlands," said Maples, noting the Tribe is responsible for the water leaving the reservation regardless of the quality of water flowing in. "The pollutants, which come from the agricultural areas north of here, mostly phosphorus, settle out there before it's pumped out to the canals. The water always leaves the reservation cleaner than it came in."

Agriculture started around the lake because of the availability of water. Too much water, however, leads to flooded fields and ruined crops. Because of the periodic flooding, a barrier to the lake was built.

Protecting the Herbert Hoover Dike

The 144-mile Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee has protected nearby communities since the 1930s. Vigilant monitoring by the Corps ensures the dike remains viable and structurally sound, regardless of the lake's water level.

The spring and summer of 2013 have been the wettest since 1932. In addition to saturating the land, the water level of the lake has increased from a normal range of 12.5 to 15.5 feet above sea level to as high as 16.03 feet above sea level. Last summer the lake remained slightly more than 12 feet above sea level until Tropical Storm Isaac increased it 3 feet in six weeks. Some of the heaviest rain this summer fell directly on Lake Okeechobee.

"The dike is 35 feet above sea level; our concern is not overtopping," said John Campbell, public affairs specialist with the Army Corps of Engineers in Jacksonville. "It's the additional pressure put on the dike from added water. Erosion, pressure and water seepage could lead to problems and a possible breach in the dike."

The southeast quadrant of the lake has an area with an active seep. To prevent the worst from happening, once the lake level reached 15.5 feet, the Corps began weekly inspections, looking for any changes in the condition of the dike. If the water level reaches 16.5 feet, they will inspect the dike daily.

"Most of the issues we have with the dike are in the southern half of the lake," Campbell said. "It was built in the 1930s, but we built on top of it in the 1940s and the 1950s. Methods used then aren't the same we would use today. The dike is porous and not compacted well, which leads to the issues we have today."

To lessen the possibility of catastrophe, the Corps has a stockpile of rocks and boulders nearby to use immediately in the event of a breach.

"We've never had a breach but we've had a lot of erosion and other issues that cause a lot of angst," Campbell said. "Many of the issues developed in the 1990s and early 2000s when the lake was at the 17- to 19-foot range."

The Corps is responsible for the water, dike and locks on the 730-square-mile lake. When the water level is too high, the Corps releases water down the Saint Lucie Canal to the Atlantic Ocean and the Caloosahatchee River to the Gulf of Mexico. Tropical Storm Dorian brought an abundance of rain in late July, so the Corps increased the discharge of water to manage the rising water level and continue to do so as necessary. Even with all the water releases, the level of Lake Okeechobee is still higher than average.

The water release, part of the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule master plan for water

management of the lake, is controversial because of the environmental impact it has on the estuaries of the Saint Lucie Canal in Stuart and the Caloosahatchee River in Fort Myers. The fresh water from the lake decreases the salinity, or salt content, of the water in the estuaries, which in turn affects the ecosystem.

The salinity condition in the Saint Lucie estuary is poor, which creates an adverse effect on the adult eastern oyster and other species. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), a state agency that oversees the water resources from Orlando to the Keys, provides the Corps with a weekly ecological report. The SFWMD strives to manage and protect water resources, as well as clean up and restore the Everglades.

To help alleviate the environmental impact of the water releases, SFWMD since 2005 has worked with agencies, environmental organizations, ranchers and researchers to store excess water on private and public lands. The Dispersed Water Management Program encourages land owners to retain water on their land as a tool to reduce the amount of water discharged into the coastal estuaries.

"We are storing water in every nook and cranny we can find," said Gabe Margasak, SFWMD spokesperson. "We are actively searching for land. The ground is saturated and there is just nowhere to store the water."

The Tribe is not involved in the program, but stores as much water as possible in the basins on Big Cypress.

SFWMD currently has 131,500 acre-feet of water, which amounts to one foot of water on one acre of land, on which they store water. The storage is located on 37 sites, of which 72,000 acre-feet are in regional public facilities, reservoirs, storm water and Everglades restoration areas and 61,500 acre-feet are on private land. The program started with eight projects; today more than 100 land owners participate.

The storage basins on Big Cypress can hold runoff expected through November of about 4,450 acre-feet in basin one and 1,339 in basin four of runoff water.

"Every little bit helps," Margasak said.

Tracking rainfall across the Tribe

This historically wet summer has created ponding and flooding in Brighton as well, specifically in the recently developed Harney Pond Road area. Extreme rain allowed the Environmental Resource Management Department to see the result of the drainage system and where improvements can be made.

"Public safety is our first concern and secondly the drainage," Maples said. "It helped us identify areas we need to focus on, especially the Harney Pond Road corridor, which is something of a bowl as far as drainage goes. The data we gathered from this rainfall season will help us be that much more successful in the master drainage plan."

Ponding and flooding is less of a problem so far on Big Cypress because the soil drains faster and the canals are bigger, allowing the department to move more water faster. The southwest corner of the reservation is the native area where the water flows in a sheet into Big Cypress National Preserve.

"It's hard to predict how drainage will act, but having a rainy season like this helps us identify areas that need better capacity so you can make right what might have been done wrong in the past," Maples said. "The system is in place and working. We didn't record any major damages."



Photo courtesy of Cherise Maples

Rain falls on a storage basin on the Big Cypress Reservation during October 2012. The basin has the capacity to hold 4,450 acre-feet of water.

Briefs from Big Cypress community meeting

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Big Cypress held a community meeting on Aug. 13 and discussed the following:

Transportation: Construction along Josie Billie Highway on Big Cypress Reservation could wrap up three months ahead of schedule if work continues at a steady pace. Four miles of road improvements, from Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena to Bert Frazier Road just north of the Public Safety Complex, will improve traffic flow, provide pedestrian walkways and enhance water drainage on the main thoroughfare. Work began on Feb. 4 with completion expected to be in September 2014. Currently, 191 work days of the intended 536-day job are finished, putting the entire project at 30 percent done.

Public Safety: Five sightings of black bears have been reported recently in Big Cypress residential areas. The Seminole Police Department and Animal Control & Wildlife urge residents to ensure all food garbage

is covered tightly when placed in trash containers outside homes. Bears naturally forage for food all day in their natural habitat but when food is made easily available from household waste, they can get a full day of calories in 15 minutes — and they will return for more. According to state wildlife laws, the bears are unable to be trapped and relocated to outside the reservation. Trapping and moving them deeper into the woods on any other Seminole Tribe reservation is futile, as bears most often find their way back to the food source within a 100-mile radius.

Environmental Resources: A recently released vegetation report using infrared imagery, aerial sketch mapping and a computerized analysis program is indicating good news about Big Cypress Reservation's wetland mitigation and restoration effort. Images taken in 1999 compared to 2012 reveal that exotic trees and other plants that have been systematically removed so far are not returning. Instead, native plants and trees are taking over. With that, more native flowers, insects, birds and animals are also returning.

Calling all Polly Parker descendants

EGMONT KEY — If you are related to Polly Parker, the Seminole Indian heroine who escaped forced deportation from Florida in 1858, then Chairman James E. Billie is looking for you.

All Polly Parker descendants are encouraged to contact Culture director Lorene Gopher as soon as possible regarding a historic boat trip the Chairman is organizing for Nov. 3-4. Contact Gopher at 863-763-7501 ext. 14607 or administrative assistant Yvonne Roux at ext. 14605 for the latest details on the all-expenses-paid adventure.

The group of decedents will retrace the route taken by the steamer Grey Cloud as it carried Parker and a boatload of other Seminole prisoners from the stockade at Egmont Key to refuel at Saint Marks in the Florida panhandle, on the way to the Mississippi River, the Trail of Tears and new lives out West.

Parker escaped, however, during the stop in Saint Marks, evaded a search party and, walking only at night, trekked nearly 400 miles back to the

Okeechobee area, where she stayed in a remote camp, living beyond 100 years of age.

"I would like to recreate that voyage from Egmont to Saint Mark's, so her family can better understand what their ancestor went through to keep her freedom," Chairman Billie said. "A large number of the great leaders and thinkers of the Seminole Tribe have come from her family. I can't imagine what the Seminole Tribe of Florida would be today if she had been killed or sent out to Oklahoma."

The Florida Fisherman, a 72-foot, air-conditioned, double-decker catamaran licensed for 95 passengers and operated by Capt. Mark Hubbard of Madeira Beach, will leave with the group after a special bon voyage party at 3 p.m. on Nov. 3. The boat will arrive in Saint Mark's around noon Nov. 4 for a special welcoming party. Buses will transport guests back to their homes, after an overnight stay in Tallahassee and a visit to the state's Museum of Florida History.

Details may change.

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American Indian Veteran Memorial Initiative update

Vietnam Veterans of America passes resolution in support of American Indian Veteran statue on National Mall

SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN BOWERS
Liaison, Government Council on Indian Affairs



JACKSONVILLE — The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) delegates in attendance at the VVA Convention held in Jacksonville the week of Aug. 13, passed a resolution to support an effort to establish a statue on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. — near the Vietnam Memorial and Education Center at the Wall — that would represent an American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian.

I, a Vietnam Veteran and a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, have spearheaded a project to build this veteran statue on the National Mall with support from my Tribe.

Many of the VVA delegates stopped by our booth to tell us that they served with American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians during their tour in Vietnam, and they felt that their comrades deserved recognition on the National Mall alongside the Three Servicemen statue.

Through the American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative (AIVMI), I, my wife, Elizabeth, and other American Indian Vietnam Veterans traveled around the country meeting Indian and non-Indian veterans asking them if they thought it was important to have a statue on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. that would represent the American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian veteran.

The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is seeking to have this statue placed at the museum, but the veterans we have met, do not want it there. They have strongly expressed support for having it by the Vietnam Wall Memorial.

Jeff Begay, a Navajo Vietnam Veteran living in Phoenix said, "Putting this veteran statue at the museum instead of down by the Three Servicemen statue by the Vietnam Memorial is like putting us

back on the reservation. We want to be down in the area where over three million people visit each year so we can educate the visitors on how our ancestors have fought in every war in which the United States have participated."

The effort of obtaining support from the VVA culminates after two years of traveling to promote the initiative.

Support behind the scenes came from Ben Humphries, President, Florida State Council; Ric Davidge, Chair, Government Affairs Committee; Jerry Yamamoto, Chair, Minority Affairs Committee; and Rick Weidman, Congressional Relations Officer. Local Chapter support was proved by Chapter 23, Connie Christensen, President, Jim Ellard, Vice-President, and Pat Dunne, Treasurer. A Special "Thank you" goes to William C. Triplett for the article he wrote for The VVA Veteran magazine published in the July/August issue.

I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank all VVA members for their support of my fellow Native Veterans in achieving this resolution of support for the American Indian Veteran Memorial Initiative.

Seniors experience Hawaiian culture on trip

BY CHRISTINE E. MCCALL
Freelance Writer

Hollywood seniors, chaperones and accompanying staff made the 11-hour flight to the tropical paradise of the Hawaiian Islands on July 11. On arrival, the smiling seniors and chaperones began an exciting vacation exploring the islands of Oahu and Maui.

Fifteen seniors made the trek, planned by Hollywood Senior Center staff, and once in Oahu many jumped in the clear ocean water of Waikiki Beach and dabbled in water activities. Tribal seniors Wanda Bowers and Lawanna Osceola-Niles adventurously paddled a Hawaiian-style wooden racing canoe, the Malia.

"My arms are so sore," Bowers said the morning after the canoe trip.

After all the fun in the sun, the group was treated to dinner at Benihana, sponsored by Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.

While in Oahu, the seniors experienced an excursion to Paradise Cove, known for hosting Hawaii's best luau. The group participated in Hawaiian games, arts and crafts, dancing and sampled traditional Hawaiian food. Nettie Stewart's chaperone and son, Roy Stewart, joined the dancers on stage to learn the hula.

After four days on the island of Oahu, the seniors continued their vacation with a short 20-minute flight to Maui.

The planned excursion for this leg of the trip began with a 12-hour tour on the Hana Highway. The curvy roads took seniors through the rainforest where they saw and swam in the Ohe'o Gulch, a series



Christine E. McCall

Hollywood seniors relax in Hawaii. The seniors traveled to the island state to experience its rich culture.

of waterfalls and freshwater pools.

The tour continued and dramatically changed to dry climate and red clay scenery. The one-lane road kept seniors on their toes as the bus bounced on the terrain. The roads finally became smooth and lead the tour to Ulupalakua Ranch, where Maui's Winery is located. After a quick stop, the tour ended with a smooth ride back to the Royal Lahaina hotel.

As the Hawaii trip ended, the

seniors were grateful for a steak dinner at Ruth's Chris Steak House sponsored by Hollywood Board Rep. M. Steve Osceola. After dinner they visited the Hard Rock Cafe Maui for last-minute souvenirs.

The Hollywood senior Hawaii trip had a theme — no one is too old to travel and explore new cultures.

With great memories made, the Hollywood seniors made another 11-hour flight back home to Florida.



Christine E. McCall

Seniors watch a Hawaiian luau while at Paradise Cove on the island of Oahu. Nettie Stewart's chaperone and son, Roy Stewart, eventually joined the dancers on stage to learn the hula.



Christine E. McCall

The natural beauty of Hawaii is prevalent during the Hollywood senior excursion.

A case for the American Indian Veteran statue on the National Mall

Native history should 'be memorialized and appreciated, not tucked away'

BY JAY PFEIFFER
AIVMI Board Member

I enjoy the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and find it to be informative. However, having a museum doesn't mean that "all things Native American" should be put — or more appropriately, stuck — there. That tends to suggest a notion that Native American events such as history, contributions and service did not happen in context to the rest of the country, but that they were isolated events, segregated from all that occurred.

For example, many people know the Iwo Jima Memorial statue features Ira Hays, a Pima American Indian from Phoenix, back when it was Indian land. Many don't realize he was also an outstanding Marine who served with many comrades who died around him in battle.

They don't know that his loyalty to his comrades took him across thousands of miles, mostly on foot, to be sure that one of them — a non-Indian — was appropriately recognized for his participation in the flag-raising event depicted by the statue; the Marine Corps planned to forget about it and proceed with a mistaken identification.

Telling Hayes' story only at the museum would be a travesty both to his story and his devotion. He was constantly ridiculed; some

officers did not recognize him as a sentient being (like USMC General Vandergrift). And the Phoenix we know now is nothing like the Phoenix of the Pima; the travesties are too numerous to account for. The intensity of his service and devotion is unique, even amazing, something everyone can learn from if they dig deeper than just his name.

In spite of all the untoward (I am trying not to use words like "obscene" and "genocidal") parts of American history regarding the treatment of the original Americans, when this country needed help, since its very beginnings, it was unselfishly and completely given by American Indians. It is forever unique and amazing.

The "unique and amazing part" is the story. It is what needs to be represented in the broader context of the National Mall memorials — including the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

It is what needs to be memorialized and appreciated and not tucked away where the "Indian stuff" is located. The nature of their service was different, and in all respects, on a higher level. That is not to say that the stories should not be told at the museum, too.

Submitted May 13 by Jay Pfeiffer, a Vietnam Veteran, and a Board Member of the American Indian Veterans Memorial Initiative (AIVMI) from Quincy, Fla.

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Poker players hope for win at Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Poker players from around the globe descended on the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood in August for the world's richest poker tournament. The \$10-million guaranteed payout was the largest offered at any tournament worldwide.

The three-week Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open broke Florida records for participation with the first event and broke it again during the sixth event. With 33 events between Aug. 8 and 29, more records were sure to fall. Event seven, a \$560 No-Limit Hold'em with a prize pool of nearly \$1.7 million, attracted 3,389 players and took four days to complete.

"This is the premier event on the property," said William Mason, director of poker. "It's more than just a local tournament; it's a global tournament."

The ballroom at the Hard Rock was transformed into a mega-card room with enough tables to seat 760 players and dealers at a time. The room was filled with a quiet intensity; there was little banter between players. Wait staff served food and drinks while a cadre of masseuses offered chair massages to players as they sat at the tables and contemplated their hands.

Buzz for the tournament took off in April with the announcement of the Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open, which was made exclusively on social media.

"Word spread so quickly — Twitter went wild," Mason said. "That's all anyone talked about at the World Series of Poker in Las Vegas."

It was enough to get thousands of players interested in winning a piece of the pie. But for those knocked out of the running, the Hard Rock poker rooms were open for business, lots of business. Players not competing in the tournament flocked to the rooms anyway just to play with the big players, giving Hard Rock a diverse pool. Novices and seasoned players sat side by side, all hoping to get a lucky break.

"I always have a strategy," said Larry Kusch, a Florida-based player. "You try



Beverly Bidney

Players from around the world compete in the Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open.

to get a little lucky, but you need to have skill and luck. Without both, you don't win."

With so much money at stake, players showed up in a multitude of guises and brought a variety of electronic distractions. Most will do almost anything to help avoid a "tell," a small change in behavior that could give competitors an inkling of a player's cards. Sunglasses, hoodies and hats were common attire.

Smart phones, tablets and headphones were also popular. One player wore sunglasses and played Candy Crush on his iPad while he played poker on the table. Superstitions were also on display — one player decorated his stack of chips with something that looked like Mickey Mouse lost in *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.

Players were assigned seats and paid a flat fee to play in each of the tournament's events. The buy-in gave them each the same amount of chips to start play. The chips don't represent monetary value, so a player can't cash out during the game.

For example, in event eight the buy-in was \$240 and the prize pool was \$21,000 even though the total chips in play had a

so-called value of \$840,000. Payouts are based on percentages of the pool, not an actual dollar amount. The winner of the event won \$5,458 even though a player had a stack worth \$610,000 in front of him during play.

Players were impressed with the payouts and the structure of the tournament.

"It's very well organized; the set-up is perfect," said Vitor Coelho, of Tampa, an experienced player who has competed in two dozen tournaments. "When people lose, they can buy in again."

Tim Worley and Susie Brame, of Ridgely, Md., have competed in major tournaments together since 2008 and have done well. They prefer not to play at the same table, unless they both make it to the final table of a tournament.

"I got into poker because it was an opportunity to spend time together," Brame said. "I would rather beat Tim than anyone else in the world, but I don't have a good track record. I knocked him out of one tournament and it was joyous." Coelho said the only way to win is not to be afraid to lose.

"Come play, be positive, be aggressive and hope for the best," he said.

Braudie Blais-Billie thrives at Columbia University

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

NEW YORK CITY — A sophomore at Columbia University, Braudie Blais-Billie has a different perspective on life than she did just a year ago. After getting over the freshman anxiety of living away from home and off the reservation, she found her place and is thriving at the Ivy League university in New York City.

"It's been really awesome. I've learned a lot about myself and the different niches in the world I want to be part of," Blais-Billie said. "It was overwhelming at first, but now I really love it."

Although she hasn't declared a major, she loves the humanities and writing and is leaning toward majoring in English.

In addition to making academics a priority, Blais-Billie keeps busy with many other pursuits, including editing an online magazine called *Rubina*, an

online publication with a focus on women entrepreneurship, artisans, culture and ethical fashion.

Blais-Billie is also a member of the Native American Council at Columbia. She helped organize the group's Taking Back Manhattan Pow-Wow in April and is working on the on-campus Native American Heritage Month activities in November.

This year Blais-Billie will live in a special interest community building off campus with about a dozen members of the Council, and she hopes to serve as its social media chair.

Although Blais-Billie is the only Seminole at Columbia, she looks forward to mentoring a Native American freshman.

Blais-Billie's natural curiosity is leading her to a diversity of experiences, including earning her bachelor's degree from Columbia University.

The article below is a feature story Blais-Billie wrote for *Rubina Magazine*.

Cultural Craft Profile: Patchwork from the Seminole Tribe of Florida



Photo courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

A Seminole woman sews patchwork in her chickee.

BY BRAUDIE BLAIS-BILLIE
Rubina Magazine

The Seminole Tribe of Florida. We pride ourselves in being the "Unconquered." As a federally recognized Tribe, we've never signed a peace treaty or surrendered in any way to colonial powers. During the Seminole Wars, a span of more than 40 years, Native refugees from Tribes across the south successfully resisted forces by settling in the heart of the Everglades. They refused to be displaced onto reservations by the government. This mélange of Creek, Hitchiti and other Tribes secluded in the swamps' harsh environment formed a unique, resilient culture. After hundreds of years, pride in tradition and family brought us as a Tribe to where we are today; but what was also important was our ability to adapt.

Patchwork is a textile craft of methodical patterns and symbols, and has been a significant part of Seminole identity and progress. In the 1920s, Tribal members began selling Indian dolls with patchwork dresses, baskets, beads and other cultural crafts to tourists. The Tribe quickly realized that to remain a thriving, sovereign nation, becoming financially self-sufficient was necessary in the wake of Florida's growing economy. Patchwork's colorful, distinct and exotic appearance became the Seminoles' cultural mark.

Patchwork is commonly incorporated into jackets, shirts, vests and dresses. It comes in a variety of symbols: Turtle, Bird, Crayfish, Broken Arrow, Lightning, Fire, etc. The patterns are intricate constructions of fabric pieces, and must be crafted separately before they're sewn into a base fabric. Sewing patchwork is a highly regarded skill that is delegated to the women of the Tribe; after all, most Native American social structures are matriarchal.

A traditional Seminole woman's dress consists of a full, floor-length skirt adorned with a ruffle at knee-length, a long sleeved cotton blouse, bead necklaces and a ruffled cape. Anywhere from two to six rows of traditional patchwork (like Man on Horse or Trees) and biased tape can be found on both the cape and the skirt. A traditional Seminole man's dress consists of a patchwork long shirt, a plaid wool turban and a leather or beaded belt.

Alison Osceola, a Tribal member from the Hollywood Reservation, joins many other women in continuing the patchwork tradition. In her late teens, she learned to sew patchwork from her mother and other women in the Tribe. As a tight knit community, elders take pride in teaching the youth the necessary skills for cultural crafts.

"I slowly picked it up. For me, it was very important to learn our traditional crafts so that I can pass it on to my kids. I have that knowledge and ability to share it. It's a dying art," Osceola said.

Not only is it a dying art, but a livelihood. Since patchwork has come to the point of artificial manufacture outside of the Seminole Tribe, authentic patchwork



Braudie Blais-Billie

On display are Alison Osceola's patchwork skirts.

is in high demand. Nontribal and Tribal members alike commission Osceola for her patchwork clothing. She works from home, and has created a gorgeous collection of skirts. Depending on the material and amount of patchwork, full skirt and cape dresses can sell on average around \$1,000-\$1,500. Men's jackets, a more modern and very popular item, can sell for around \$700-\$1,000, also depending on patchwork amounts and material. Traditions can be valuable.

But as an evolving nation, our clothing and patchwork is constantly changing as well. More modern skirts are knee length, can have only one row of patchwork, and are made of more flashy materials as opposed to the conventional cotton. They also sport rickrack (a zigzag, mercerized cotton thread) instead of biased tape.

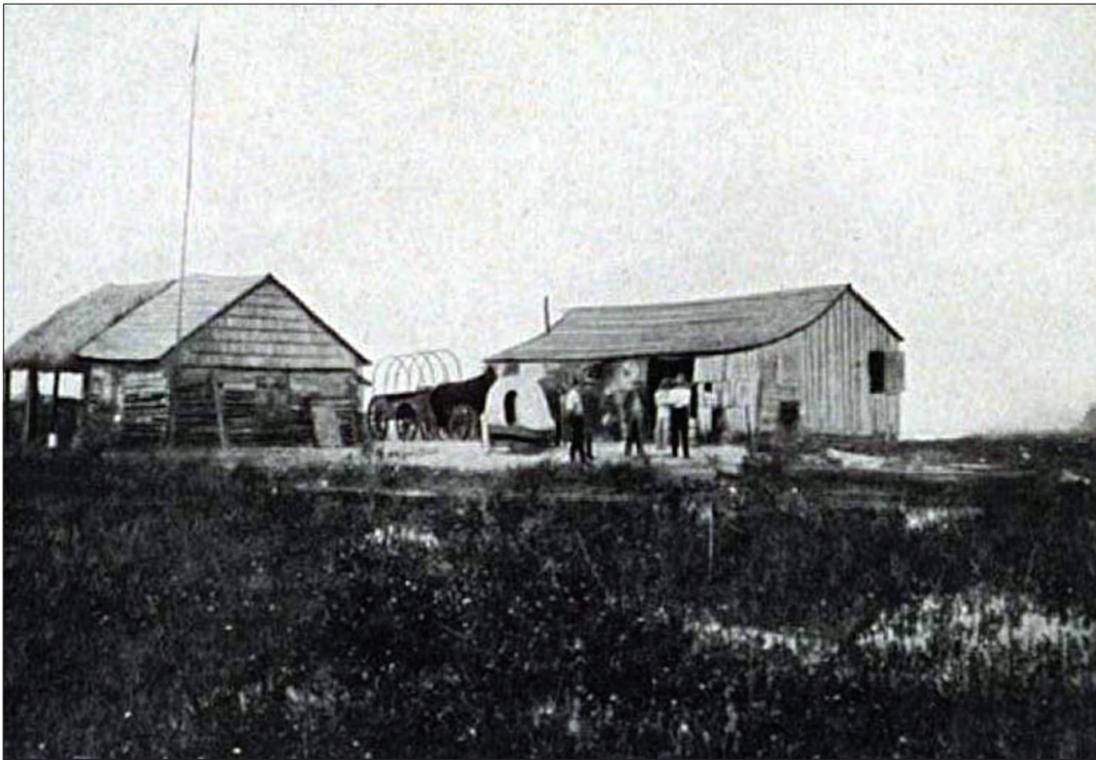
"I'm trying to keep a very traditional feeling to the clothes but with a modern twist. I like to use more traditional patchwork with more modern materials, like sequins or satin. Our clothing is the one type of clothing that can really be modernized to make it every day wearable," Osceola said.

Though the Seminole Tribe has branched out in other ventures to sustain itself financially, patchwork is still going strong. Skirts and jackets are worn casually, and can be seen and admired at any community gathering. It's safe to say even a baseball cap has been seen sporting some rickrack and Man on Horse.

Today, many women know how to sew patchwork, whether it's for artistic or economic reasons. Daughters, granddaughters, nieces, cousins and anyone willing to learn is taught with pleasure. The Cultural Department offers materials and guidance for any Tribal member looking to learn a cultural craft or two. It's a great place for youth to stop by and learn to sew patchwork. It encourages the perpetuation of a beautiful, strong, transforming art.

Sho-naa-bish.

Rubina Magazine is an online publication that empowers women, women entrepreneurship, artisans, culture and ethical fashion. As an offshoot of Rubina Design, an e-commerce company that works closely with artisans around the world to craft high-end fashion products, it embodies the socially conscious integrity of its products.



U.S. government archive photo

Brown's Trading Post and Boat Landing circa 1913.

◆ BROWN'S LANDING From page 1A

William Henry Brown owned Brown's Trading Post and Boat Landing, at the head of the canoe trail on Big Cypress, where he traded alligator skins, otter hides and bird plumes with Seminole hunters. He also sold sugar, flour, grits, glass beads, fabric and other goods there and at a small grocery in present day Immokalee.

Born in Fort Myers and raised in the woods, Neal Brown said he did not know for many years that his family was different from the people who lived there first. His father, Frank Brown, was a close friend of Josie Billie and spent many days hunting in the woods with Josie and his father, Billie Conapatchee, who taught Frank how to speak Mikasuki.

"I reckon Josie Billie's daddy took my daddy in. He was more Indian than white; he even thought like an Indian," Neal Brown said.

Once, when Frank Brown, who had become a cattleman, and an elder Seminole went to a cattle auction, Neal Brown's mother stayed with the elder's family as a sort of deposit until the two returned home. But Frank Brown's relationship with the Tribe was not all business. The Brown family was held in high regard — enough to be invited to Corn Dance and for Tribal families to camp at the Brown's for Christmas holidays.

The Brown family lived part time in Immokalee and part time at the trading post, depending on the dry and wet season.

Under the chickee, Big Cypress elder George Billie, who works at the Museum's cultural village, shook hands with Neal Brown and sat down to reminisce about days long gone. Though the two do not recall ever meeting, they shared stories about Charlie and Junior Cypress and Henry Billie (George Billie's brother.) They laughed about the antics of some community characters and wondered what happened to a few more. They recalled the hardships and the simple life.

"I like the Indians," Neal Brown said. "I like all men. That's why I wear a cowboy hat," George Billie said.

Soon, everyone piled into cars and trucks to make the drive to the site on Big Cypress where Brown's Trading Post and Boat Landing stood made of wood that William Henry Brown lugged himself from Fort Myers.

Stone and wood posts, put there in 1943 and now flagged with green plastic fence about 3 miles southwest of Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena on Josie Billie Highway, marked the spot.

There, they walked the nearly 1.5-acre area, posed for photographs and Neal Brown turned a 1947 map over to Mahoney, clearly illustrating significant landmarks throughout Broward, Palm Beach, Collier and Martin counties.



Eileen Soler

Neal Brown and George Billie, of Big Cypress, chat about old times under a chickee at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Seminole Village.

Mahoney said surveys and excavations of the area unearthed enough evidence to indicate that where they stepped was surely where patriarch William Henry Brown, his children and grandchildren walked through the last century and more.

Willie Johns, an outreach specialist at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, said the Brown family descendants were "lucky" to be able to experience the land — and swamp — where their forefathers made friends and flourished.

"Not many families can trace the path to where grandma and grandpa made a living in such a hostile environment," Johns said.

Neal Brown said the land was underwater for nine months of the year and full of mosquitoes. Ox-driven carts and walking were the only ways to travel the land, even along the "dry weather route." The water teamed with alligators and the woods were full of parakeets and wolves.

For a while Neal Brown and his 12 siblings also lived on 10 acres of fenced-off government land in a wood building that sat on blocks. His father was hired to convince Seminole families to live on the land but Neal Brown said they refused.

"They believed they might be captured and sent to Oklahoma. They (Seminole) lived scattered out in the hammocks," he said.

The house was blown away one year in a storm and was never rebuilt.

Neal Brown put his childhood adventures to good use. He worked cattle ranches for 42 years and hunted alligators for skins that he traded for extra money. One year he was short \$600 to send his son to college. He killed enough gator to send him off with \$950.

Naples resident Pam Brown, great-granddaughter of William Henry

Brown, said she also continued the family tradition, sort of. She became a community leader, who last year ran for State Representative District 80, and a caterer who canned her family's recipes and sold the goods at farmers markets in downtown Naples. Among her favorites is swamp cabbage chow chow.

"So I guess I've been a trader, too," she said.

Another great-granddaughter, Beth Brown Suggs, works for the Tribe's Accounts Payable Department in Brighton. She mentioned the connection during a conversation with Willie Johns in early 2011.

"It came up. I said my grandfather (Frank Brown) was friends with Josie Billie and that was that," she said.

Paul Backhouse, Museum director, called the Brown family reunion on Big Cypress "a real treat."

For Neal Brown it was about reliving the old days. He spoke of childhood memories when his grandfather could out trail a dog and young men created their own recreation with "wrestling" each other and hunting. He remembered how trusted his grandfather and father were among the Seminoles because they were men of their word. One time, after two white boys were arrested for stealing hogs, Frank Brown testified at their trial, in favor of the Seminole farmer, and the boys served five years building Route 27.

Life was never easy but William Henry Brown set a path to the future with a simple gesture that is told from generation to generation. On day one, he pulled into a Seminole camp, said something in Mikasuki to an elder, the elder smiled and the rest is history.

"(The Browns) wanted their life here but they did not know the Indian way, not really," Johns said. "They had to embrace that first."



Eileen Soler

Neal Brown and THPO archeologist Maureen Mahoney ponder a map from 1947 that illustrates landmarks of Palm Beach, Collier, Broward and Martin counties.



Eileen Soler

A marker on the west side of Snake Road, a few miles south of Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena, designates the Brown's Landing site.



Miss Florida Seminole 2012-2013 Alexis Aguilar crowns her successor, Tia Blais-Billie, at the Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.

Eileen Soler

Farewell letter from Alexis Aguilar

Miss Florida Seminole 2012-2013

What a wonderful year this has been. One can accomplish much in just a year, even if it is one like this past fleeting one. However, there is no possible way in which I could have made it on my own. Every princess needs someone "working backstage" so to speak. My mother kept me on schedule and on time at every function and event. The Education adviser from Immokalee helped immensely in making certain that grades and college were in proper order, so as not to interfere with my princess duties. Grandma patiently answered any and all questions I had, concerning anything under the sun. And of course, I can't forget about Miss Wanda and Christine who taught me along the way.

There are countless others who have aided me on my journey, ranging from the Princess Committee, my family, my community, other royalty, past royalty and random people I have met along my travels. I would never have been able to enjoy such a wonderful year without God and these strong, intelligent women to guide me every step of the way. I thank you all so very much for helping this be a year to remember forever.

I am a bit saddened by the fact that my travelling is about to be reduced dramatically, and therefore so will the number of new people and places I will come across. However, my sadness is greatly overshadowed by my happiness of another beautiful,

bright young woman taking a stand in goodwill with a yearning to grow for and with the Tribe. As a very wise woman and my role model once stated quite succinctly: "The crown goes to where it is needed." With this in mind, I am happy to be passing on the crown, and I am happy to know that the Creator, in His infinite wisdom, is going to place the crown where it will do the most good. So farewell for now. I wish the best for the successor of the crown, and may your journey with the crown be as awe-inspiring, fulfilling and spiritually enlightening as it has been for me.



Alexis Aguilar
Miss Florida Seminole 2012-2013

PRINCESS PAGEANT

From page 1A

Miss Florida Seminole contestants also included Kirsten Doney, of Brighton, and Alexis Jumper, of Hollywood. Other Jr. Miss hopefuls were Thomlynn Billie, of Big Cypress; Jennifer Holdiness and Baylee Micco, of Hollywood; Deliah Carrillo and Brydgett Kooztz, of Brighton; and Randee Osceola and Marris Sanchez, of Immokalee.

Gloria Wilson, Miss Florida Seminole 1975 and 1976 and now the Tribe's director of Community Planning, said the pageant experience gives contestants confidence to go on to bigger adventures.

"The more they get out there, the more they learn, become known and earn respect," said Wilson, who serves with 10 other former princesses on the pageant committee.

Since holding princess titles, Wilson has been the Policy and Information Development specialist for United South & Eastern Tribes Inc., managed an Elvis impersonator in Nashville, revamped *The Alligator Times* into *The Seminole Tribune*, contributed to the foundation of Seminole Media Productions, started the Seminole Police Explorers program and fostered 13 children – among other things.

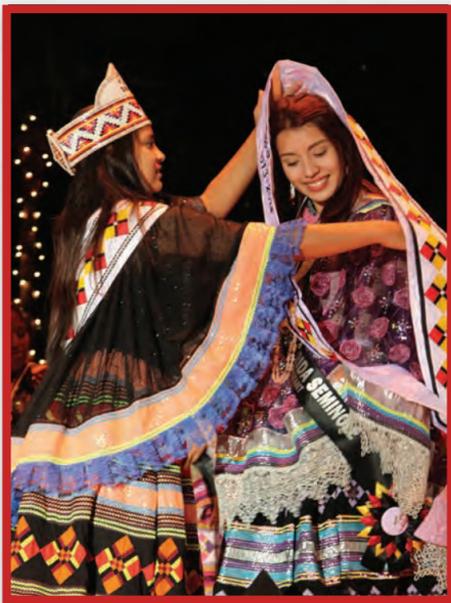
"This year, all of the young women in the pageant made up a very dynamic group. It didn't matter who won because every one of them could do the job and do it well," Wilson said.

The Blais-Billie sisters stood side by side for photographs with Tribal officials, visiting Seminole Nation of Oklahoma princesses and pageant judges: Miss Indian World 2013 Kansas K. Begaye, of the Navajo Nation; Northern Cheyenne Tribe member Manny King, of Haskell Indian Nations University; and Miss Florida USA Brittany Oldehoff, of Fort Lauderdale.

Grant Gravitt Jr., executive producer and director of the Miss Florida USA Pageant, has attended the Seminole pageant for decades as a guest and friend of the Tribe.

"What Wanda Bowers and the entire committee do for the pageant is a gift of love to the Tribe," Gravitt said. "Every year it gives me goose bumps to see the girls grow into young women and take over the family legacy."

Bowers' daughter, Christine McCall, does that



Brett Daly

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole 2012-2013 Brianna Nunez places the sash around her successor, Brianna Blais-Billie.

literally. McCall was Miss Florida Seminole in 2005 and is now the pageant's secretary and stage director.

For Connie Gowen, the first Miss Florida Seminole who was appointed with the crown in 1957 by Tribal Council, being the official "backstage grandma" to countless contestants has been a blessing and honor. Sprite and cheery, Gowen arrives prepared with makeup mirrors, hair pins and last-minute sewing supplies. A Tribal elder now, Gowen is best known in the Tribe for making sweetgrass baskets, Seminole dolls and patchwork jackets.

"I'm still doing what I learned as a girl and now want the young people to carry on the language and culture to their children," she said. "Every year we can't lose because they all try their best to learn all they can. They are all winners."

Farewell letter from Brianna Nunez

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole 2012-2013

It has been an honor and a privilege to represent my Tribe as Jr. Miss Florida Seminole 2012-2013. During my reign, I have had many occasions to meet new people and learn new things. My favorite event of the year was going to and participating in the Gathering of Nations PowWow in New Mexico. Our Miss Florida Seminole competed in the Miss Indian World pageant and I was able to be there to support her efforts.

I would like to take this time to say thank you to the people who helped me throughout my reign as Jr. Miss Florida Seminole. First off, I want to thank God for blessing me with this opportunity to represent myself and my Tribe; also, for watching over everybody as we traveled to events. Secondly, I would like to thank my mom, Deanna Nunez, for being my chaperone to every event. She took the time to be with me on my endeavors throughout the year while finding time to be a mother to my five siblings.

I would also like to thank my Tribe and my reservation, Brighton, for all the support they have given me throughout my reign. The Tribal Council and the Board of Directors gave me many opportunities to introduce myself to the people and represent the Tribe in all the best ways. Also, I would like to thank the entire Princess Committee for arranging the pageant. If it wasn't for their hands-on service during pageant week, a lot of this would not be possible. I especially want to thank our Miss Florida Seminole, Alexis Aguilar, for making my year memorable and unforgettable. I will cherish the times we spent waiting on top of cars for parades to start and wondering if we should be in certain places. I have learned a lot from you this year and I am glad to have spent my reign with you. Last but not the least, I would love to thank Wanda Bowers for everything she has done for me. She has given

me tools in life that will benefit me for the long run. Without Wanda, every event would have been hectic and there wouldn't be as many photos to cherish the splendid moments as Jr. Miss Florida Seminole. So thank you Wanda Bowers, for being there to guide and teach me all the things to know about being Jr. Miss Florida Seminole.

I will pass my crown and my title as Jr. Miss Florida Seminole to another girl so she may experience the many things I did and hopefully even more. To whomever it will be, my advice to her would be to enjoy everything that you will be able to do. We all say "time flies," and your time as Jr. Miss Florida Seminole will definitely be over before you know it. So enjoy the time you have to wear the crown and represent us well.

I will say this is the experience of a lifetime and I am blessed to have had opportunities such as this at this point in my life. I would like to say "see you again" instead of "goodbye" because this will not be the last time you will see or hear of me.

MVTO - Thank you.

Brianna Nunez
Jr. Miss Seminole 2012-2013



Letters of appreciation to Seminole Tribe of Florida

Dear Wanda,

I would like to thank you and your committee for inviting me to your 2013-2014 Miss Florida Seminole Pageant.

This event was one of my most prominent and favorite events thus far. I already feel like I miss Florida.

Thank you for showing us your culture and heritage. I especially liked interacting with the girls

running for Jr. Miss Florida Seminole and Miss Florida Seminole. You are going to have some wonderful ambassadors representing your Tribe.

I loved your Swamp Safari and the plane ride. This was definitely an experience of a lifetime!

Thank you for your wonderful hospitality. Ahe'hee' - Thank you!

Kansas K. Begaye
Miss Indian World 2013-2014

Dear Ms. Wanda Bowers,

I just wanted to drop you a note to tell you how much we enjoyed the Miss and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Pageant. I hope that your superiors realize you are a "jewel."

I have had the fortune of attending two of your Miss and Jr. Miss pageants; the events have always left me with more education on how the Seminole Tribe of Florida has developed throughout the years and why tradition and the past is so vital for the Seminole youth of today to carry on these traditions.

I commend you and your staff because a leader's staff is only a mirror image of themselves. You are a great leader. I hope you know that you have instilled so much into these young women by having this event to honor the past present and future of the Seminole women.

I wish you well and good luck for all future events. Thank you for allowing us to be present for this event.

Michelle Whitman
First Place Trophies



The new Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie and new Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie pose with Tribal leaders and other contestants after winning the coveted crowns and sashes.

Eileen Soler

2013 Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant



Eileen Soler

Brianna Blais-Billie displays a traditional Seminole hairstyle with help from her sister Braudie Blais-Billie for the talent section of the Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.



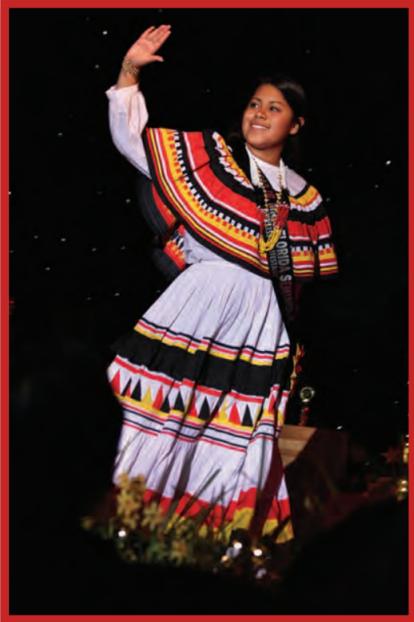
Eileen Soler

Judges Miss Indian World 2013 Kansas K. Begaye, Manny King and Miss Florida USA Brittany Oldehoff pay close attention to contestants.



Brett Daly

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestant Brydgett Koontz shares the history of Seminole patchwork during the talent portion of the pageant.



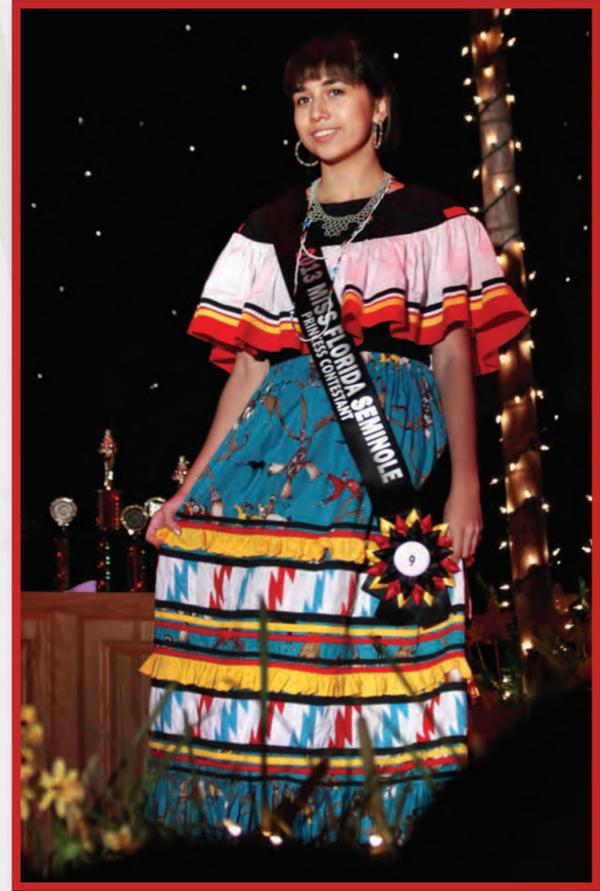
Eileen Soler

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole contestant Baylee Micco waves to the crowd during her introduction.



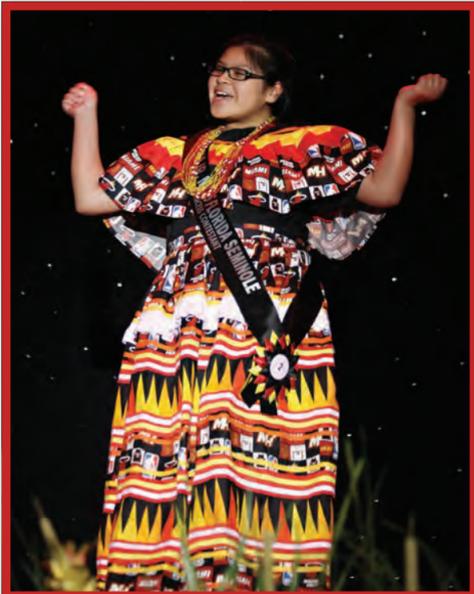
Eileen Soler

Little Miss Seminole Sarafina Rose Billie finishes an impromptu speech and gets unexpected hugs and love from outgoing Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez and Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar.



Eileen Soler

Tia Blais-Billie models traditional Seminole attire during the clothing section of the 2013 Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.



Eileen Soler

Thomlynn Billie shows off her Miami Heat-inspired Seminole patchwork during the clothing competition.



Eileen Soler

Contestants of the Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant wave to the judges and the audience.



Brett Daly

Miss Florida Seminole contestant Kirsten Doney demonstrates how to make sofkee during the talent competition.



Eileen Soler

The first Miss Florida Seminole Connie Gowen, who was crowned in 1957, is among many former princesses and current pageant committee members to receive awards during a banquet held the night before the pageant.



Eileen Soler

The new Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie and new Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie pose with Tribal leaders after winning the coveted crowns and sashes.



Eileen Soler

Chairman James E. Billie awards outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar with a beautiful crown to commemorate her reign.



Eileen Soler

Pageant Chairwoman Wanda Bowers and outgoing Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez and Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar share a laugh during a banquet on the night before the 2013 pageant.

Musical mystery needs solving



Photo courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Unidentified women sing at Frank Billie's church sometime between 1967 and 1971. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is seeking help identifying the women in the photograph.

SUBMITTED BY REBECCA FELL
 Exhibits Coordinator

This month the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum wants to solve a musical mystery. This image, taken sometime between 1967 and 1971, was donated to the Museum in 2011. The caption says that the women in the picture are singing at Frank Billie's church with an organist playing in the background, possibly during a wedding, but the people are unidentified.

As with many other cultures, music plays a vital part of identifying what it means to be Seminole. Any additional information on this photo will help tell the story of Seminole music.

Coming in January, the Museum will install a new exhibit on modern Seminole music. This exhibit will look at, and listen to, gospel music and how it inspired generations of performers. Seminole artists realize music does not grow in a vacuum but is influenced by the cross currents of modern life, in and off the reservation.

Genres like rap, country, rock 'n' roll, heavy metal and pop have become outlets for younger talent to find their own voices and express their part in the Seminole story. In doing so, they reflect upon the values instilled by their Tribe, often in their own language.

Many people have come forward with their own photos, videos and memorabilia for this exhibit. However, images like this one provide a small but important link to the better known concerts and help tell the story of why music is important to the Seminole Tribe.

If you would like to provide further information about the image shown, or simply take a look at the collection, contact Collections manager Tara Backhouse at 863-902-1113 ext. 12246 or TaraBackhouse@seminoletribe.com.

If you would like to share your own photos, stories, videos or songs, contact Museum curator John Moga at 863-902-1113 ext. 12227 or JohnMoga@seminoletribe.com.

Creek culture under the hammer

SUBMITTED BY PAUL BACKHOUSE
 Museum Director

On Sept. 20 a significant portion of cultural history of the Creek people will come under the hammer at a Cincinnati-based auction house. The sale will see treasured objects from the Creek Council House Museum in Okmulgee, Okla. placed on sale and sold to the highest bidder.

Reasons for selling museum collections vary but are most often related to budget cuts. On Aug. 3, the *Washington Times* printed an article reporting events in bankrupt Detroit where a city council battled an \$18-billion budget deficit. Christie's, a world-renowned auction house, has been brought in to evaluate several properties, including the Detroit Institute of Arts Museum. Although no official action has been taken, citizens are understandably worried that cultural treasures will be used to financially plug the budget gap.

This is not a typical situation; a 2010 *New York Times* article reports that the Philadelphia History Museum, the National Academy Museum in New York, Fisk University and Brandeis University have all encountered some choppy waters for selling or planning to sell parts of their collections. The Philadelphia History Museum reportedly sold a painting of former President, and well-known foe of the Seminoles, Andrew Jackson for \$80,500.

One of the most infamous recent museum sales occurred when the Swedish automobile manufacturer SAAB went

bankrupt and the entire 123-car collection in the SAAB Museum was sold at auction. As for the Creek Council House Museum, various emerging reports suggest that while the Muscogee Nation owned the building that housed the Tribe's artifacts, it did not in fact own the collection itself. According to the Creek Council House Museum website (a website no longer working as of Aug. 14) the current National Register of Historic Places-listed facility was built in 1878 and was first used for the purpose of Creek cultural heritage as early as 1923 by the Creek Indian Memorial Association.

An Associated Press report indicates that the Muscogee Nation bought the building from the city of Okmulgee in 2010 for \$3.2 million but that this sale did not include the collection that remained under the control of the non-Indian Creek Council House Museum Association. It is the association that is now offering the collection for sale after they received no offer from the Muscogee Nation to buy the artifacts – many of which appear to have been donated to the museum over the years.

"It's a belief among the Creek people that history is not for sale," said George Tiger, Principal Chief of the Muscogee Nation, to *Tulsa World*.

A resolution passed in July by the Intertribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes supports this position and states the items should be "preserved and retained in perpetuity for educational benefits and enjoyment of the Creek people."

Unless something changes between

now and Sept. 20, these 200 items will be offered to the highest bidder. In all likelihood, the collection will be broken up, displaced from Oklahoma and removed from public access into the hands of one or many private collectors.

What is to stop such a tragedy befalling the museum collections of the Seminole Tribe of Florida?

Thankfully, the examples of museums selling off all or part of their collections are not the norm because of strict ethical guidelines that museums must follow.

Fortunately, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum building and collections are entirely owned and operated by Tribal Council.

All Tribal members are automatically members of the Museum and there are many ways to get involved; one way is to simply stop by for a tour. Another way is through the Museum Advisory Committee, a group that meets every quarter to discuss new exhibits and ideas to help the Museum move forward.

Things are always coming into the Museum and keeping up with them can be a challenge.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki is the first Native American owned and operated museum to be accredited by the American Association of Museums, which means the Museum has policies and procedures in place that will prevent a tragic loss of culture from occurring.

The highly trained, professional staff at the Museum is dedicated to protecting the objects in the collection so they will always be available to the community.

◆ NAJA From page 3A

Parker, who fought two years for changes in the law that allows Tribal government to prosecute offenders, including non-natives, of crimes against Native women and children, credited the media for keeping the issue alive.

Eighty-eight percent of crimes against Native American women are perpetrated by non-native men, she said, but justice is rare.

"We won't ever stop abuse until we speak about it – and until we speak loud," Parker said.

Newspapers and television stations seized the story when Parker came out with her own personal story of abuse while Congress and the Senate bickered along party lines.

She used the momentum to keep

the fight moving forward.

"The media kept opening dialogues," Parker said.

President Obama signed the law in March. Tribes have until 2015 to prepare for implementation through the Justice Department.

Harnessing the power of the media compelled Tim Giago, publisher of the first independent Native paper, *The Lakota Times*, and author Adrian C. Louis to call 30 Native American journalists for a meeting in 1983 at Pennsylvania State University.

Though Native newspapers had existed since *The Cherokee Phoenix* became the nation's first bilingual paper in 1828, Giago was concerned that recent historic events such as Wounded Knee and the termination of 109 recognized Tribes had gone unreported by the mainstream press.

"No one was telling our story but us. We needed to find our own Walter

Cronkite," Giago said.

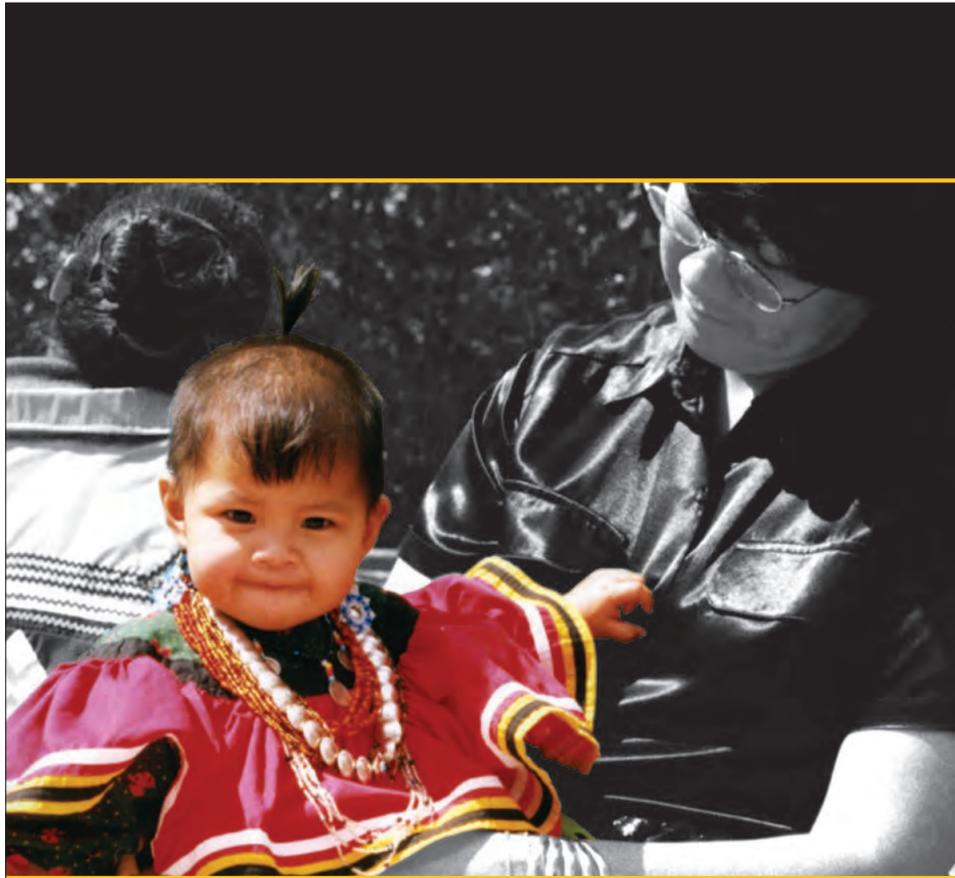
In 1984, the Native American Press Association (now NAJA) was established with Giago as the first president.

In his quest for the truth and the freedom to tell it, Giago has been shot at and has seen his offices firebombed.

"Getting the news out is imminent to the future of our people. I'm not the most popular guy in the world, but I always tell the truth," Giago said.

Arviso, a strong proponent of the First Amendment and for the media's government watchdog role, called Native journalism a "special" responsibility.

"We take into consideration our traditions, our language and we always respect our elders," he said. "There are some things we don't talk about, but when we do tell our stories, it is always dynamic."



STAND OUT.

[DESIGN SERVICES]



SEMINOLE MEDIA PRODUCTIONS.COM

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Tribal Officers:
TONY SANCHEZ, JR.
 Vice-Chairman
PRISCILLA D. SAYEN
 Secretary
MICHAEL D. TIGER
 Treasurer

July, 29th 2013

Re: Egmont Key State Park and National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Ms. Jewell

I am writing to inform you of my support for efforts to preserve Egmont Key, which is located off of the west coast of Florida. I understand that the key is currently eroding at an alarming rate and will potentially be lost within the next ten years. This small island is of high cultural and historical importance to the indigenous people of Florida. During the Third Seminole War (1855-1858) Egmont Key was used as a concentration camp to detain Seminole Indians prior to being transported by boat to what is today Arkansas and Oklahoma. More than 100 men, women, and children, already tired and weary from years of resistance, were held at this facility. Conditions would have been extremely difficult as they were not allowed to leave the island, and during the time of their incarceration, several Tribal members died and were buried at Egmont Key. Tribal cultural advisors were able to visit the island recently and witnessed the small cemetery on the north end of the island which is said to house the remains of our ancestors. A small plaque is located there that records this important history.

The history of the island is a matter of cultural memory for our people and we wish that it be preserved if at all possible so that the youth of our tribe can visit this place and learn how far we have come together. I wanted to write personally and let you know that I fully support any current or future preservation efforts that respect the cultural integrity of this important place.

Sho Na Bish,
 (Thank You)

James E. Billie,
 Chairman, Seminole Tribe of Florida

"BUT I HAVE PROMISES TO KEEP & MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP"

Health

Annual Wellness Conference inspires healthy lifestyle changes

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

MARCO ISLAND — Tribal members, young and old, from all reservations converged in Marco Island from July 21-26 for the Seminole Wellness Conference, a Tribalwide health-based event that provides participants with tools to make better choices for healthier futures.

The conference, now in its 20th year, educated, counseled and informed participants of the resources available within the Tribe to help them make positive changes in their lives.

"We are trying to get people into a different routine," said Helene Buster, conference organizer and Family Services director. "We hope it's a different routine that gets you out of that rut that makes you feel like, 'I'm not worth a flip.'"

Guest speakers from all over the U.S., including motivational speaker Lester Brown, conference favorite Denise Alley and Sonya McKee gave personal testimonies and expert advice to inspire participants.

Most topics discussed related to addiction and recovery, but other topics included bullying, domestic violence, co-dependency, gambling addictions and adapting to change.

Seminole in Recovery sponsored the event along with other Tribal departments, including Family Services, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Allied Health and Recreation.

Tribal member Wesley Garcia has attended the conference for the last few years. He said the conference helped him become aware of some personal traits he would like to improve.

"I learned something about myself and sometimes you don't want to learn (bad) things about yourself but if I can learn about it, maybe I can try and correct it," Garcia said. "That's what the Wellness Conference provides us. It provides hope."

Every day at 6 a.m., participants began their day walking along the beach with Health Department staff, followed by breakfast and a day of classes and

activities filled with valuable information.

Seventh-year inspirational speaker and director of Corporate Culture for Seminole Gaming Doug Cox spoke about family history to adults.

"I had the privilege to speak on the legacy of the family," Cox said. "How it was in your family history, it doesn't have to be in the future. We can change and that's the whole point of this conference."

Cox also addressed the 9- to 16-year-olds who participated in separate, more age appropriate activities. His main idea for the youngsters was "the magic of self-esteem."

Thunderhand Joe, drummer of the Native American rock band Redbone, spoke about the importance of following your dreams. He is known for his onstage energy and songs that celebrate Native American culture.

Youth also took daily fitness classes provided by the Recreation and Fitness departments, ending each afternoon with an outing to the movies, bowling, canoeing or water park.

Even the smallest of them all, the 5- to 8-year-olds had a part in the conference. Mary Baxley, conference volunteer for the past eight years, helped organize the children's program along with Buster.

"They learn too," Baxley said. "We have Dental, Fitness, Nutrition, Seminole police, firefighters and Culture come (to talk to youth)."

Cox presented the last lecture of the conference on "sweet freedom," or "making the right choices moment to moment, day to day to maintain our sobriety, our clean living and our leadership to family."

Every year, the sobriety countdown serves as the highlight of the conference. Starting from 50 years on down, conference participants stood up to testify their years in recovery and encourage one another to live a drug- and alcohol-free lifestyle. This year participants exceeded more than 700 years combined.

"The bottom line is whether you have one hour of recovery or 25 years it really doesn't matter," Buster said. "It boils down to one day at a time. Make yourself important and love yourself."



Boys pull their way to victory in a friendly game of tug-of-war against the girls during the Seminole Wellness Conference.

Andrea Holata



Thunderhand Joe, conference speaker and drummer from the Native American rock band Redbone, challenges 10-year-old Luxie Billie to an arm wrestling match.

Andrea Holata



Cynthia Osceola, Mary Jane Vasquez and Cyiah Avila wear traditional garb for dinner during Seminole Pride Night.

Andrea Holata



Andrea Holata

Youth enjoy a game of two-hand touch football during the Seminole Wellness Conference at Marco Island July 21-26. The Recreation Department provided fun physical activities for youth to enjoy every day of the event.

Shape our children well

Use positive reinforcement for healthy heart, body and mind

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez

I was approached by a grandmother with serious concerns for her granddaughter's health. She told me the child makes poor food choices and is sometimes depressed. When I discovered her grandchild was 9 years old and weighed 140 pounds, I realized her concerns are becoming all too common in our Tribal communities.

We have to make changes.

I believe it is our responsibility to make sure our children receive proper nutrition, exercise and positive reinforcement to maintain a healthy heart, body and mind.

I have made changes in my own family by only allowing my son to eat fast food once a week (his favorite is Chick-fil-A). Since the end of school, he has participated in summer camp and activities from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, in addition to his regular "kid fit" classes (i.e. karate, kid Zumba, tennis and swimming). Remember to get your children off the couch and outside for some physical activity.

We, as parents and grandparents, have an obligation to give our children the tools they need

to make sensible food choices and to teach our children the importance of exercise in their daily lives. In doing this we provide critical training in developing a healthy lifestyle children will carry into adulthood.

Children learn from their environment, so if we model healthy eating habits and regular

exercise, they can't help but pick it up and copy our behavior. My mom always said, "Your son will do what you do, so set a good example for him."

Two important aspects of healthy eating are portion control and reducing the fat and sugar children eat. A few simple changes you can make include:

- Choose low-fat or non-fat dairy products
- Buy only low-sugar cereals
- Take skin off poultry
- Reduce or eliminate soda
- Choose regular size meals, NOT supersized
- Include fruits and veggies whenever possible
- Incorporate fish and chicken (not fried) into weekly meals
- Avoid high-fat condiments like mayonnaise, cream and butter
- Limit intake of treats like cookies, candy, pastries and donuts

Making small changes can make a big difference.

I strongly believe in positive reinforcement and encouragement.

Children prosper and excel when they emerge from an environment filled with encouragement and positive motivation. Always treat children as children; they do not have the experience of adults.

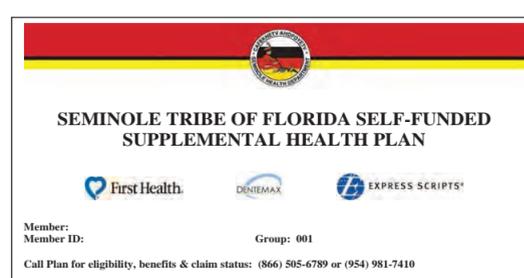
Remember, children are like little sponges, and we shape who they are and who they become. So, the more positive reinforcement they receive, the more encouragement and uplifting feedback we provide them, the more they will realize their potential.



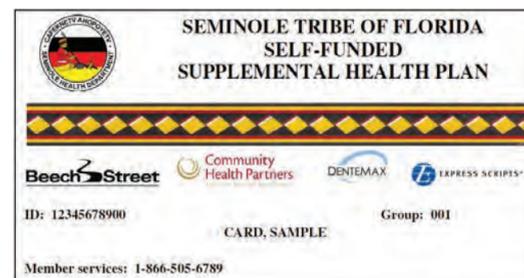
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA MEMBERS HAVE A NEW HEALTH PLAN CARD

NEW HEALTH PLAN CARD

July 1, 2013 please begin using your new Health Plan card.



OLD HEALTH PLAN CARD



The medical network that the Tribe uses is changing on July 1, 2013 to First Health. Therefore it is very important that you begin using your new card with the First Health logo. A new Health Plan card and Health Plan book were mailed to you in June. If you did not receive your card and book in the mail, please contact the Seminole Clinic. Please begin showing your new card to medical and dental providers and to the pharmacy on July 1, 2013.

- ❖ Hollywood Health Clinic (954) 962-2009
- ❖ Brighton Health Clinic (863) 763-0271
- ❖ Big Cypress Health Clinic (863) 983-5151
- ❖ Immokalee Health Clinic (239) 867-3400

Can you canoe?

Living with bats in Florida



Eileen Soler

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger heads one of three canoe races July 31 that pit employee teams in good-natured, wet and hilarious heats.



Eileen Soler

Cynthia Osceola raises her oars in victory during one of three canoe races at employee fun day held by the Council Office to show employee appreciation.



Eileen Soler

Two teams head out onto the water for a race.



Eileen Soler

Employees savor the impending flavors of a barbecue lunch.



Eileen Soler

Employees row, row, row canoes in a race on the pond near the old bingo hall on Big Cypress.

SUBMITTED BY CELIA ARCIA
Environmental Health Program Coordinator

Due to complaints of bats on the reservations, the Environmental Health Department has gathered information from the Florida Bat Conservancy regarding the species of bats found in South Florida and their role in the eco system.

Florida is home to 13 species of bats that are either year-round or seasonal residents, with some forming colonies and some roosting alone. All 13 species eat insects only. There are also seven accidental species of bats that have occasionally been found in Florida but do not normally live here. Three are from more northern climates and also eat insects, while four are from more tropical regions and feed on nectar, pollen and fruit. The latter have only been found in South Florida and the Florida Keys.

Many myths and misconceptions regarding bats exist. Bats are not blind; they have the same five senses as humans. Some, however, have highly developed sonar capabilities, called echolocation. Also, bats do not attack people and are actually quite timid. They are not flying rodents either, as they are categorized in their own scientific order called Chiroptera.

In addition, vampire bats do not suck blood but rather lap it up from a small scrape made with their sharp incisor teeth. These bats reside only in southern Mexico, Central and South America, not the United States.

The most common misconception is that all bats are rabid. Studies have shown that less than 1 percent of bats contract rabies, and when they do, they usually die within three or four days. Although they do not become aggressive, they can end up on the ground, and if handled, may bite in self-defense, transmitting the disease. So never handle a wild bat with bare hands and keep pets' vaccinations current.

Seventy percent of bats eat insects. One bat can devour up to 3,000 insects in a night. Most insectivorous bats eat their body weight in insects each night. It is little wonder that bats are considered the most important natural controller of night-flying insects. In the tropics, fruit and nectar-feeding bats play a vital role in the survival and re-growth of the rainforests. Fruit bats spread seeds as they fly and digest their food. Nectar-feeding bats pollinate many valuable plants including banana, avocado and mango trees, and agaves, saguaro and organ pipe cactus. Even the huge baobab tree in Africa, commonly called the "Tree of Life," relies on bats for its survival.

Where Do Bats Live?

Bats do not want to live in homes or roof tops, but move in because their own habitats get destroyed. The following are examples of natural bat roosts.

Dead trees (also known as "snags") – Evening bats, free-tailed bats and big brown bats like to roost in dead trees. They hide behind loose bark, in cracks within the trunk or branches, or in holes carved out by birds or insects. These bats roost together in colonies ranging in size from just a few bats to hundreds or more, depending on the availability of space within the tree. In modern times they have adapted to manmade structures, such as buildings and bridges, and often form very large colonies numbering in the thousands

Spanish moss – Seminole bats, yellow bats and pipistrelles often roost in Spanish moss. They do not form colonies but usually roost singly. Mother bats, however, will stay with their young until they learn to fly and find insects for themselves; they hang onto her or roost by her side. Years ago, when Spanish moss was harvested for padding furniture, it is likely that thousands of these bats were killed in the process.

Dead palm fronds – Although yellow bats roost in

Spanish moss, they also roost in dead palm fronds. Their yellowish color blends in with the color of the fronds, making them almost invisible. The dead palm fronds hanging down on the sides of sabal palms, also known as cabbage palms, are one of their favorite roost sites.

Caves – Some Florida bats roost in caves, particularly in the Florida Caverns State Park in North Florida. Florida bats do not hibernate in caves during the winter like bats up North, but they do lower their body temperature and heart rate and go into what is referred to as torpor to save energy on cold or rainy nights. Unfortunately, bats in caves are vulnerable to disturbance and vandalism.

You have a bat in your house. Now what?

Bats found in houses are usually younger bats that have lost their way or adult bats that accidentally fly through an open window or door. The first step in removing a bat from the house is to stay calm. If the bat is flying around, it is not trying to attack anyone; it is only attempting to find a way out. Turn on the lights in the house so you can easily see the bat and they can also see you (bats are not blind, nor afraid of the light). Next, close the doors to adjoining rooms to confine it to one room. Open any exterior doors and windows in the room the bat is flying around (more bats will not fly in). More than likely, the bat will just fly out the open door or window within a few minutes. Do not chase the bat out. It will think you are attempting to harm it and will take longer to find a way out.

If the bat does not fly out on its own, wait for it to land. Bats can be gently captured with heavy leather work gloves or a thick towel. A large can or plastic bowl can also be used to capture the bat by slowly walking toward it and placing the container over the bat and slipping a piece of cardboard underneath it. Take it outside and let it go. Never try to handle a bat with bare hands because, like other animals, it may bite to protect itself.

If you are unsure or unable to remove the bat, call Animal Control.

If anyone is bitten by the bat – or if saliva transferred from the bat to an open wound, eyes, mouth, or nose – seek medical attention immediately.

You may have bats living in your house

A single bat in a room may only mean that a bat has lost its way and accidentally ended up in the house. If there is more than one or two bats entering the home within a season, there may be bats living in the roof, eaves or attic.

Timing is an import factor in deciding whether to perform an exclusion, a non-harmful method of removing bats. Exclusions are illegal from mid-April through mid-August when mother bats are birthing and rearing their young. Performing exclusions during this time of year will create major problems for both the bats and the homeowner. Young bats trapped inside will desperately try to escape and often find their way into the living areas of the home. Eventually, they will starve to death and may cause an odor or possible health problem.

Furthermore, purposely causing animals to die of starvation or dehydration is a form of animal cruelty. For these reasons, it is illegal to conduct bat exclusions in Florida from April 16 through Aug. 14. Proper exclusion should be conducted by trained personnel as proper care should be taken for both humans and bats.

Understanding that bats mean no harm and learning to live with bats is important for the eco system. If you have any questions regarding this or any other animal concern, contact the Animal Control Program at 954-985-2300 ext. 1815 or 954-965-1321.

TRIBAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Tribal Community Development Departments are dedicated to servicing the Seminole Tribe of Florida communities and its members by providing sound and well thought-out development through coordinated efforts, partnerships and out-reach. We strive to exercise good judgment by "doing the right thing" instead of just "doing things right."

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"The Seminole Tribe of Florida became the authors of their own destiny and the protectors of their inherent sovereignty."



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Generator— After Hours Emergency

Hollywood Reservation
954-325-3230

Big Cypress Reservation
800-617-7517

Brighton Reservation
863-233-1833

Tampa Reservation
813-363-0013

Hah-Tung-Ke: Jessica Buster

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — At the age of 17, Jessica Buster achieved something no other Seminole Tribal member ever had. An accomplished singer and budding songwriter from a talented musical family, and a regular performer as a vocalist and occasional drummer with the Buster family band Cowbone, she recorded and released a solo album of her favorite songs.

Under the tutelage of producer and engineer Jim Bickerstaff, with backing by a sterling band of super musicians, including Michael Doucet, founder of the Cajun band BeauSoleil and legendary Grand Ole Opry fiddler Hoot Hester, Buster sings 10 of her favorite songs — including Kris Kristofferson's *Me and Bobby McGee*, Hank Williams' *Jambalaya* and Lynryd Skynryd's *Free Bird* (in memory of brother Sigmund). The album reveals her personal background, marked by the measured quietness of the church singer she became on Sundays and the hypnotic euphony common to the best modern young country female singers around.

The album, on the Seminole

Records label, is named *Clan Song*, after the title track, Jessica's own lyrical anthem to her Tribe's Clans. The song is a poem set to music listing the eight traditional Seminole Clans.

Daughter of Paul Buster, a well-known Tribal clergyman and singer and songwriter, and granddaughter of Junior Buster, whose ballads on his mail order guitar were part of the Big Cypress landscape when she was a child, Jessica participated in the Buster "family tradition" until she graduated from Nova Southeastern University and took a full-time job as an investigative aide for the Seminole Police Department two years ago.

"I really was interested in police work. I just walked up to the Chief one day and asked him for a job and he said yes," she remembered, with a sigh. "I couldn't maintain the music and my career together and one had to go. And that was the music."

Jessica said she loves that her father still maintains an active musical career in addition to his pastoral and language instructor duties.

"It's not that I don't want to be singing and playing music," she said. "I still really love doing it. But it's just not what's there for me right now."



Beverly Bidney

Jessica Buster comes from a long line of musicians, including her father, Paul Buster, who she performed with in their band called Cowbone.



Brett Daly

Jimmy Hank Osceola celebrates his 77th birthday July 10 with granddaughter, Teyah Osceola, who shares the same birthday.

♦ JIMMY HANK OSCEOLA From page 3A

He returned home to a newly recognized federal Tribe.

"I read about the recognition of the Tribe in an Oklahoma newspaper while at school," Jimmy said. "I saw the picture of my brother. It was exciting."

Also in the photograph — unknown to him at the time — was his future wife's grandmother, Louise Billie, casting her vote in the ballot box.

Because Jimmy was responsible for cutting his classmates' hair while at boarding school, he decided to pursue the trade as a career back home. He completed six months and about 2,000 hours of school to earn a barbers' license and landed his first job shortly after, he said. He earned \$1 per haircut.

"You had to be fast to make money," he said.

Jimmy met his wife, Marie, in 1959, and married her just one year later at Miccosukee Church. Bill officiated. During the ensuing years, the couple had four children and adopted one: Jimmy III, Tammy, Todd, Amy and Matthew Paul. Raising their children with Christian beliefs and educating them about

their Seminole heritage was a priority for Jimmy and Marie.

"They learned about Clans, and the other reservations and their lineage," Jimmy said. "At the same time, we wanted them to learn the Bible and obey the word of God. They seem to be doing that pretty good."

Jimmy later went to work for a Tribal neighborhood youth program geared toward teaching kids responsibility. In 1971, he became the Miccosukee Church pastor, a position he held for 17 years. Through it all, he kept returning to the barber shop.

"There was just a feeling I had at a barber shop," he said. "I liked working with the people."

As his children grew, Jimmy discovered a love for traveling and he now hopes his future includes exploring new cultures. Paris is on his bucket list.

Still setting a good example for his family and his Tribe, Jimmy enjoys spending time with his 24 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren who he sees as often as possible. He remembers his roots and looks forward to continued prosperity.

"It's a lot of fun to be alive today and enjoy what we can from our Seminole Tribe's doing," he said.

'Clan Song'

I'm an otter, playful fun-loving and sweet
I'm a panther, an animal, a beast when I'm given meat
I'm the wind, searching and looking for nowhere
I'm a bird with tender, sweet loving care

I'm a bear, serious, strong and mean
I'm a deer, fast, swift and keen
I'm a snake, slowly creeping and crawling
I'm a wolf, crying, howling and snarling
(Repeat)

I'm a bear, serious, strong and mean
I'm a deer, fast, swift and keen
I'm a snake, slowly creeping and crawling
I'm a wolf, crying, howling and snarling

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SEMINOLE SCENES



Eileen Soler

ONE FISH. YELLOW FISH. YUMMY FISH? Joseph Lee Sanders show off the one that did not get away but was not a keeper, either, during a sunny afternoon of catch and release fishing on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Photo courtesy of Gary McKechnie

ROAMING WILD: Tourist Gary McKechnie captures a photo of a wild panther casually hanging out by the Billie Swamp Safari on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Beverly Bidney

LIGHT IT UP: Hollywood residents won't miss a thing now that an LED sign has been installed on the rez near the corner of 64th Avenue and 30th Street. It stands 25-feet tall; the display area is 4-feet high and 16-feet wide and will convey Tribal announcements thanks to the Hollywood Councilman's Office.



Eileen Soler

READY. AIM. BULL'S EYE: Akira Cabral keeps an eye peeled on the prize (bragging rights) during archery practice on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Eileen Soler

CHILLIN' WITH THE MAN: New Testament Baptist Church on the Big Cypress Reservation calls the faithful to beat the summer heat with a bit of Christian fellowship.



Photo courtesy of Kathreen Martinez

MARSHMALLOW MADNESS: Handsome Fanning shows off his marshmallow creation during the Fort Pierce storytelling event on July 31 under the Chupco Youth Ranch chickee.



Photo courtesy of Bobby Frank

BOWLING STRIKES: Congratulations to the 2012-13 Cecil Johns Youth Bowlers: Jordyn Cypress Ellison, Jaden Bankston, Jonah Billie, Elizabeth Frank, Kalani Bankston, Zachery Cypress Ellison, Skylar Cypress Ellison, Arek Jumper, Brent Frank, Tristen Wilcox, Justin Frank and Jonathon Frank. Pictured are the 2013 48th Florida State Youth Tournament participants.



Photo courtesy of Bobby Frank

KING PINS: Congratulations to the 2013 48th Florida State Youth Tournament, Division 3, Handicapped first place winners, the 'King Pins.' From left, Brent Frank, Jonathon Frank, Justin Frank and Arek Jumper.



Brett Daly

ON THE LOOSE: This red deer roams the neighborhoods of the Big Cypress Reservation without a care in the world.



Eileen Soler

PICTURE PERFECT PASTIME: Children from the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club of Big Cypress spend a peaceful afternoon paddling across a scenic watery landscape.



Beverly Bidney

SUMMER SHOWERS: Rain clouds roll over the Big Cypress Reservation.



Beverly Bidney

BACKLIT: This common cabbage palm off the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum boardwalk becomes nature's art when backlit.



Amanda Murphy

BUMPY ROAD AHEAD: The Public Works Department installs three new speed bumps on the Hollywood Reservation – two on Josie Billie Avenue near the Clinic and one on North 63rd Avenue just south of 35th Street.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Ancient dwelling divides archaeologists

AVELLA, Pa. — A fluke rainstorm at an ancient rock shelter in western Pennsylvania has brought a renowned archaeologist back to the site of where a furious debate was launched in 1973 over when the first humans came to the Americas.

As a young archaeologist, Jim Adovasio found radiocarbon evidence that humans had visited the Meadowcroft site 16,000 years ago. To archaeologists it was a stunning discovery that contradicted the so-called Clovis first theory, which dated the first settlement in the Americas to New Mexico about 13,000 years ago.

The question is important because it ties into bigger questions on how and why so many different cultures developed in the Americas, and whether they all descended from one group that came across from Asia or arrived in multiple waves.

On that question, Adovasio's theory of multiple visits has mostly won out since other pre-Clovis sites have been discovered in North and South America.

The picture of early humans in the Americas "is so much more complicated than we ever thought it was 40 years ago," said Adovasio, a Mercyhurst University professor who returned to Meadowcroft after a decayed tree root let heavy rain flow into a part of the enclosed dig area in late July. The damage was unfortunate but presented an opportunity to re-examine the site, he said.

Meadowcroft is located on the banks of a small stream, about 7 miles upstream from the Ohio River. The overhanging sandstone ledges provided a perfect place for roving band of early humans to shelter from the elements.

"It has all the attractions of a prehistoric Holiday Inn, and that's why they used it," Adovasio said, noting that some early groups stayed for only a few days, but the spot was passed down through oral histories and people returned, eventually for longer periods.

The site was discovered when local historian Albert Miller found artifacts in a groundhog hole on family land in 1955, and he sought out professional archaeologists to investigate.

Dennis Jenkins, a leading archaeologist from the University of Oregon, agrees with Adovasio's broader points about the Clovis debate, but said some still have questions about Meadowcroft's exact age.

Jenkins said the main concerns are whether the earliest plant remains that helped date the Meadowcroft site are accurate, but he added that it looks like Adovasio "has done very meticulous work at Meadowcroft."

A recent poll of archaeologists found that opinions on Meadowcroft are still divided, with about 38 percent agreeing with Adovasio's dates, the same number unsure, and about 20 percent saying it isn't that old, according to a study published last year in the Society for American Archaeology.

— Associated Press

Totem honors Quinault elders at Paddle Fest

TAHOLAH, Wash. — A new totem is keeping watch over Taholah in the center of the Washington's rugged Pacific Coast.

The 70-foot-tall structure was dedicated recently to Emmett Oliver, 99, oldest living member of the Quinault Tribe, and the man whose efforts led to the renewal of the canoe journey tradition with the Paddle to Seattle in 1989; and Phil Martin, 82, community leader and grandson of the Tribal leaders who signed the treaty making the Quinault a sovereign entity.

The totem overlooks an encampment where more than 10,000 members of Tribes from the Pacific Northwest, Canadian First Nations and even Hawaii and New Zealand have gathered for celebrations.

The new totem was carved by Quinault Tribal members James DeLaCruz, Jr., Marco Black and Brian Comenout, from a 1,000-year-old red cedar tree selected from a section of Quinault Reservation forests set aside for ceremonial purposes.

"The totem reflects the connection of the Quinault people with the land and the animals," said Guy Capoeman, Canoe Journey coordinator for the Quinault Tribe. "These are the things that make us Quinault."

— PeninsulaDailyNews.com

Navajos, stars battle over wild horses

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — When former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson

and staunch preservationist actor Robert Redford joined animal rights groups in a federal lawsuit to block the revival of horse slaughter in the United States, they proclaimed they were "standing with Native American leaders," to whom horse slaughter "constitutes a violation of Tribal cultural values," *The New York Times* reported.

The Navajo Nation, however, refused to sign on. In a letter to Congress on Aug. 2 Navajo President Ben Shelly asserted his support for horse slaughtering. Free-roaming horses cost the Navajos \$200,000 a year in damage to property and range, said Shelly, who objected to "outsiders" like Redford interpreting the struggles of American Indians, according to *The New York Times* article.

In Navajo territory, one feral horse consumes 5 gallons of water and 18 pounds of forage a day, *The Times* reported. There are estimated to be 75,000 native feral and wild horses without owners on Navajo lands.

Although it is common to shoot old horses — viewed as more merciful than slaughtering — it is cheaper than taking them to auction, the article stated.

Sovereignty also needs to be addressed; one point raised in a resolution endorsing horse slaughter issued by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) accuses the federal government of failing to consult Tribes before proposing an Agriculture Department appropriations bill to again withhold money for slaughterhouse inspections.

The United States has refused to support any market for horse meat, a dietary staple in places like Belgium, China and Kazakhstan. Congress' refusal to finance inspections made slaughtered horse meat ineligible for the seal of inspection. The U.S. does have a history of horse slaughtering, though; there were once as many as 10 such slaughterhouses in the country. The last three (one in Illinois and two in Texas) were closed by Congress in 2007.

Shelly questioned whether it is best to slaughter the horses or let them die slowly.

"Maybe Robert Redford can come and see what he can do to help us out," Shelly said in an interview with *The New York Times*. "I'm ready to go in the direction to keep the horses alive and give them to somebody else, but right now the best alternative is having some sort of slaughter facility to come and do it."

— Source: *The New York Times*

Micosukee: 'Pollution killing our home'

MICCOSUKEE RESERVATION, Fla. — According to a recent *Sun Sentinel* article, Micosukee Tribal Chairman Colley Billie said pollution is killing the Everglades.

That is why Chairman Billie traveled to Washington, D.C., recently, to implore members of the Congressional Everglades Caucus to give the Indians a seat at the table.

"That is how we survived. We were taught to never, ever leave the Everglades. If you leave the Everglades, you lose your culture, you lose your language, you lose your way of life," Micosukee Michael Frank told the *Sun Sentinel*. "That's part of my ancestors out there. When you see a big old tree dying, that's grandfather dying. That's grandmother dying. That's part of me that's dying out there."

"The Everglades are dying," Billie told them, detailing the disastrous effects of the fertilizer pollution flowing from surrounding farmlands and the encroaching development of man's progress. "We cannot grow corn. We cannot teach our young the traditional way of life. Now even the animals are disappearing," the *Sun Sentinel* article stated.

The Micosukees are the only full-time residents living in the midst of a state and federal restoration project intended to clean the water and restore a natural flow from Lake Okechobee to Florida Bay. They have long objected to parts of the project, so they may retain more control of waters flowing through their lands.

— Source: *Sun Sentinel*

Casino mistake makes two millionaires

CINCINNATI — It was a good night for Kevin Lewis, both of them.

Horseshoe Casino Cincinnati announced the name of Kevin Lewis as the latest winner of \$1 million in its summer promotion Saturday evening.

As Lewis spoke to the media and collected the prize, the casino, doing a final verification check, realized a second Kevin Lewis was the actual winner of the prize.

"This was our blunder," said Horseshoe Cincinnati Senior Vice President and General Manager Kevin Kline. "So, consistent with our commitment to do the right thing for our guests, Horseshoe awarded a \$1 million prize to both men."

Horseshoe properties in Cleveland and Cincinnati are in the midst of their \$3 Million Summer Giveaway where casinos in each city will award three \$1 million

prizes over the summer. Now with the error in Cincinnati, Horseshoe properties in Ohio will be awarding a total of seven million dollar prizes instead of the planned six prizes.

"We'll be giving away a final million dollar prize over Labor Day weekend as promised at the beginning of the Summer Giveaway promotion," said Kline. "No matter what your name is, it's not too late to enter!"

— NewsNet5.com

Romance off: Caesars sells Macau land

COTAI STRIP, Macau — Casino giant Caesars Entertainment Corp. said it is selling its property in Macau to an Asian developer, ending the company's six-year negotiation with one of the two special administrative regions of the People's Republic of China (Hong Kong is the other).

The \$438-million deal, for the site of the old Macau Golf Course, was inked with Pearl Dynasty Investments Ltd., disclosed within the company's quarterly report filing with the SEC, and will close by the end of the year. Caesars paid \$578 million for the land in 2007.

The \$420 million proceeds from the deal will be used to pay down the company's debt, which sits at \$23.7 billion.

Caesars Entertainment Chairman Gary Loveman conceded that the company should have entered the Macau gaming market when the opportunity was presented in 2006.

Macau recorded \$38 billion in gaming revenue in 2012, which is more than six times the amount generated by Las Vegas casinos.

— Source: *Las Vegas Review Journal*

Caesars using comps to fight Hard Rock

CLEVELAND — Caesars Entertainment Corp. has been offering millions of dollars of free slots play at its Horseshoe Casino Cleveland and ThistleDown Racino in North Randall. By flexing its Northeast Ohio muscles, Caesars hopes to score a strike against competition that's headed its way, experts say.

Hard Rock International will open a gaming and entertainment complex at the Northfield Park harness track in December. This indicates Caesars is just trying to get out ahead of Hard Rock, said David Schwartz, director of the Center for Gaming Research at the University of Nevada Las Vegas: "It's totally possible that they're trying to build loyalty preemptively."

Casino consultant Paul Girvan and Mark Nichols, an economics professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, agreed Caesars may be trying to load members into its customer-rewards program before Hard Rock attempts to horn in. Gamblers who amass points with Caesars might view going to Hard Rock like paying switching fees.

Caesars vice president Marcus Glover said Hard Rock's impending arrival had no bearing on the decision to sharply ratchet up free play in the region.

— Source: *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

NY governor OKs four new casinos

ALBANY, NY — Backed by legislation, Gov. Andrew Cuomo has given his consent for four new Vegas-style casinos to be built in the state, leaving the matter to voters at a November referendum.

Cuomo previously suggested dividing New York into non-Indian regions and allowing a resort casino to be built in several of them, all protected from downstate competition for seven years. Cuomo told *LegislativeGazette.com*, "Revenue has left New York for our neighboring states. Today, we are putting New York in position to have those dollars spent here in our communities, which will benefit our local economies and tourism industries, as well as support education and property tax relief."

New York certainly has some tough competition in the neighborhood.

Nearby New Jersey and Massachusetts are expanding gambling industries, and New Hampshire is trying to keep up. Delaware is seeking online gambling, and Pennsylvania has established a solid reputation for gambling as the second-most profitable casino state in the nation.

— Source: *LegislativeGazette.com*

Marijuana divides man and his Tribe

TULALIP, Wash. — Dennis Boon was hit in the head with a 7-iron when he walked into one boy's swing while swatting Wiffle balls with his eighth-grade PE class.

"It put a hole in my skull," he told the *Everett Herald*. Soon afterward, Boon started having small epileptic seizures; years later, he began to have larger, violent

ones. The episodes took over his life for the next decade, said Boon, now 47, in the *Everett Herald*.

When conventional treatments didn't help, he turned to marijuana.

"The results were immediate," said Boon, a Tulalip Tribal member, in the article.

Despite the success he has had with marijuana, and the state of Washington's recent OK for medicinal marijuana, Boon had to accept a deal banning him from the Tulalip Reservation after the Tribe found him guilty of marijuana possession. Medical marijuana is illegal on the reservation.

The Tulalip Tribes are a federally recognized Tribal combine made up of the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skagit, Suitttle, Samish and Stillaguamish Tribes (and allied regional bands). While marijuana has been legalized both for medicinal users and others in Washington, it's still illegal under federal law. As a sovereign nation under federal law, the Tribes do not have to recognize state laws that conflict with those of the U.S. government.

Boon knew this before he smoked. At the spring 2011 Tribal Council meeting, Boon made a motion to legalize medicinal marijuana on the reservation, according to the *Herald*. The motion was tabled and never discussed again. Boon said he personally knows more than 40 other Tribal members who use marijuana medicinally but that most are afraid to make themselves known, the article stated.

— Source: *Everett Herald*

The 2014 Native American U.S. dollar coin



2014-NA-R-06

CoinUpdate.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) has reviewed seven proposed designs for the 2014 Native American one dollar coin and made its recommendation to the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Native American one dollar coin has a portrait of Sacagawea on its obverse (heads) side and features a different themed design each year on its reverse (tails). The 2013 Native American one dollar coin commemorates the Delaware Treaty of 1778.

The theme for the 2014 coin is the cooperation among Natives and the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-06. The CFA chose a depiction of Chief Cameahwait recommending the alternate route to Captain Lewis.

The Secretary of the Treasury will consider the CFA's recommendation, as well as that of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, the Congressional Native American Caucus, the National Congress of American Indians and the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee, before making a final selection.

— Source: *CoinUpdate.com*

EPA allows dumping on rez land

WIND RIVER RESERVATION, Wyo. — The Environmental Protection Agency is proposing to let oil companies continue to dump polluted wastewater on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. This includes chemicals that companies add to the wells during hydraulic fracturing, an engineering practice that makes wells produce more oil.

An NPR investigation last year discovered that the EPA was allowing oil companies to send so much of this contaminated water onto dry land that it was creating raging streams. At the time, there was a controversy within the agency over whether to keep allowing this practice, according to documents NPR obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Recently, the EPA will close the public comment period on proposed permits for several oil fields on the reservations. The proposed permits include some additional restrictions but would allow companies to continue releasing the water.

Some scientists and environmental groups said allowing companies to release the wastewater is wrong, especially since it contains hazardous chemicals. And on Wyoming land outside of the reservation, state rules ban companies from dumping water after it's been used for hydraulic fracturing or other chemical treatments.

"I am surprised that it's still allowed. It looks like the protections for Tribal citizens here are weaker than those for

citizens in Wyoming that surround them. If so, that's wrong," said Robert Jackson, a professor of environmental science at Duke University.

On a visit to the Wind River Reservation last fall, I saw streams of wastewater flowing from several oil operations. Some of the water had oily sheens on top. At one operation, something in the wastewater was creating solid formations under where pipes dumped water into a lake. And some of the wastewater smelled very strongly of rotten eggs — a sign of hydrogen sulfide, which can be deadly if inhaled at high enough levels.

Signs near the wastewater warned of the danger, and when I stood near one of these water outflows with Tribal representatives, oil company workers drove up and warned us to leave quickly because of the dangerous gas.

As we stood at one raging stream of the wastewater, watching cows and wildlife that drink the dirty water, Tribal leader Wes Martel told me it's clear to him that the EPA should not let this happen.

"Well, especially this volume of water," Martel said as the water flowed by. "And this is constant. So it really makes you wonder what kinds of impacts is this having, on not only aquatic life but our wildlife."

He also voiced concerns about whatever chemicals might be accumulating in the cows we saw near the stream. "And when that goes to the slaughterhouse, what's in your steak, right?"

One of the EPA permits up for renewal belongs to Eagle Oil and Gas Co. Darrell Lohoefer, president of the Dallas-based company, said the water that comes from his operation "looks like a flowing small creek."

Lohoefer said the water has created artificial wetlands and "extensive wildlife are thriving in it." He admitted it's rare for companies to dump their wastewater on the surface like this. In most of the country, oil companies aren't allowed to do that. But decades ago, an exception was made in the West, if ranchers wanted water. And in this arid land, any water is appreciated.

But Lohoefer said his wastewater is fresher than most oil field water elsewhere, and neither the livestock nor the wildlife show negative effects.

Lohoefer said he never adds any chemicals to his well, but other operations do. That's clear from documents NPR obtained from the EPA and from the new permits the EPA has proposed for those operations. Other companies with permits being renewed refused multiple requests for interviews.

Under the new permits, companies would have to test for naturally occurring chemicals that could be flushed up with the oil from deep underground, and the EPA would set some stricter limits for how much of some of those naturally occurring chemicals could be in the water.

But some environmental groups said the permits ignore the chemicals companies add to their wells.

"What they don't mention is the maintenance fluids and the fracking fluids — chemicals that have been introduced down-hole, as it were," said Jeff Ruch, executive director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, an environmental watchdog group.

Ruch said he had to do the research to find out that companies regularly add to their wells hazardous chemicals such as glycol and xylene. And he criticized the EPA for failing to require companies to reveal what chemicals they use when they hydraulically fracture their wells or set limits for how much of those chemicals can be released.

"They don't disclose what chemicals are involved," Ruch said. "They don't have any kind of plan to monitor for them. There are no safeguards for wildlife or livestock. EPA should be ashamed of itself for this permit."

EPA officials refused to give NPR an interview about these proposed permits, saying they will speak after the public comment period ends.

Scientists who reviewed the proposed permits for NPR said they did not appear to set strong enough limits to protect wildlife, livestock or people. For example, EPA mentioned levels of benzene that far exceed safety standards but failed to set a limit for how much is allowable.

"The biggest concern is still what's in the water," said Duke University's Jackson. "It has salts, metals, radioactive elements like radium, and chemicals such as benzene, and sometimes at levels 150 times what's allowed in drinking water. Who wants to eat a cow that drinks water laced in benzene?"

The proposed permits require more testing than is currently required. But Jackson said it still would be easy for oil companies to time their sampling to make the water seem cleaner than it actually is.

"If I were working on that site, and I knew there was a week where the discharges [of chemicals] would be high, I certainly would not be taking my water sample at that time," Jackson said.

— Elizabeth Shogren, NPR

Information compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher

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Education

B

Camp Kulaqua kids learn, laugh, grow



Eileen Soler

Budah Jumper races for her team in the wacky boxcar competition at Camp Kulaqua. The five-day sleepaway camp for children was preceded by a five-day camp for teens.

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

HIGH SPRINGS, Fla. — Every single second from dawn until deep into the starry night was filled with fun, adventure and learning for about 235 Tribal children at Camp Kulaqua sleepaway summer camp.

Nearly 80 teens participated in the first week, July 28 through Aug. 1, at the camp in High Springs, just north of Gainesville. The youth camp, held the following week for ages 7-12, was attended by 134 kids.

"Everything we need is there. The place supports everything we want to do and more," said Helene Buster, director of the Tribe's Family Services Department who led the annual event for the 10th consecutive year.

Owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the 600-acre place in the woods includes several villages of rustic cabins, a water play and swim park, challenge ropes course and tower, 72-degree spring lagoon with diving dock and rope swing, theater, gymnasium, horse stable, sports fields and mini-zoo.

Most campers felt right at home with friends, school classmates and family members.

"The best part was floating down (Ichetucknee River) with my cousins," said Destiny Diaz, 11, of Hollywood.

Some campers made new friends, like Mocha, a 600-pound black bear who one camper renamed "Curtis," and Poncho, a 13-year-old clownish Capuchin monkey who entertained spectators with goofy antics during a walk through the zoo.

Teens and youth were treated to similar activities, but teen life skills lessons were

more intense, said Fred Mullins, a Family Services counselor from Immokalee.

For instance, all age groups swam, played sports, tubed down the Ichetucknee and performed in a talent show. But when it came to health workshops, the teens also learned about the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases. And both groups attended a class about money management and then did good works for pay that could be used for shopping later; the teen transactions were made via checking account while the children were paid in toy paper dollars.

Family Services assistant director Debra Ray said the free summer camp is a dream come true for Buster who — along with Allied Health Program manager Suzanne Davis and staff from departments Tribalwide — provides a safe environment where kids play and learn.

"It's about health and well-being and becoming well-balanced adults," Ray said. "One objective is for the campers to practice what they learn in a venue where they can have a lot of fun doing it."

Dozens of the Tribe's police officers, firefighters, educators, nutrition experts, health care professionals and Culture teachers devoted three or more weeks preparing for the camp and then serving as counselors and support staff.

Every evening after dinner, children and teens created traditional crafts under the direction of Culture teachers, including Vinson Osceola, of Big Cypress, who taught the boys canoe carving and chickee-thatching techniques.

Buster said the camp has grown over the years. The first summer provided only one week of camp for all age groups and



Eileen Soler

Camp Kulaqua isn't all fun and games. Here, children take a test that will measure what they learned about money management, the dangers of drug abuse, healthy eating and other important life lessons taught by representatives from several Seminole Tribe departments.

only for children from Big Cypress and Immokalee. The two groups this year had more participants than ever from every Seminole reservation and community.

"It's probably getting more popular because of word of mouth, but I'm not really sure," Buster said. "What we do know is that kids have a great time and then

they tell all their friends."

Hilarious, laugh-filled events were held daily. The teens' Wacky Seminole Camp Sports Wednesday was highlighted by a "build a snowman" event that employed massive amounts of shaving cream and a handful of willing victims.

♦ See CAMP KULAQUA on page 5B

Teens mean business at Lead America conference

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

WELLESLEY, Mass. — Innovators of tomorrow gathered at Babson College in Wellesley, Mass. for the Lead America Business & Entrepreneurship High School Conference.

Held July 6-15, the event provided an opportunity for high school students to network and gain experience in the business world.

"It's a world-renowned program and being part of it makes you more knowledgeable," said Luis Yeguez, an adult vocation recruiter with the Seminole Tribe's Education Department, who attended the conference with Tribal students Joslyn Cypress and Sierra Bowers. "It really tells students what they need for success."

During the nine-day event, students attended college-accredited classes at the No. 1 undergraduate entrepreneurship program in the country — a distinction held by Babson for 16 consecutive years. They learned time management, decision making, team building, conflict resolution, public speaking and communication skills through classes, field excursions and renowned business experts.

♦ See LEAD AMERICA on page 6B

Students excel at Florida Indian Youth Program

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — For 33 years, Native American students in Florida have chosen to spend two weeks of their summer learning science, technology, engineering, math and writing at the Florida Indian Youth Program (FIYP) in Tallahassee. The rigorous program combines a strong academic component with cultural, social, job and life skills.

Forty-nine kids representing 14 Tribes, including Larissa De La Rosa, Ashley Faz and Ke'Yhara Tommie from the Seminole Tribe, attended the program July 13-27. During the program students created their own Tribe, wrote a constitution and elected a Tribal Council. De La Rosa was elected Chairwoman.

"I loved learning about the constitutions of Tribes and being around people from other Tribes and learning their cultures," De La Rosa said. "We learned about Tribal government and how they are set up."

After students created their Tribe, named the Sovereign Indigenous Tribe, they wrote a preamble to the constitution stating what they wanted to accomplish.

"Our Tribe's plan was to teach Tribal members to treat others with respect and be contributing members of society," De La Rosa said.

FIYP is the longest-running Indian youth program in the country, said Robert Kellam, Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs employment and training director, who runs the program.

♦ See FIYP on page 4B

Motivated job hunters flock to career fair

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Professional Development program, which helps Tribal members pursue careers in the Tribe's various departments, recently hosted a career fair to show about 100 go-getters how to do it.

Held July 31 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, the event encouraged attendees to ask questions about certifications and academic degrees required for employment in Tribal departments.

"It was a positive exchange between departments and Tribal members," said Marie Dufour, Tribal Professional Development program manager.

The event was geared to help people align academic pursuits with Tribal job opportunities in the future.

"The goal was not to fill positions today but to look to tomorrow to see what they need to do to pursue their dream job," Dufour said.

Employees from 70 Tribal departments

had manned tables filled with information and answered questions from prospects. Resume building and dress for success workshops further assisted job hunters.

"I'm learning what every department does," said Amy Dimas, Immokalee library assistant.

Participants ranged from students to adults of all ages, employed and unemployed. Justine Osceola just finished two years in Seminole Gaming's Tribal Career Development program and came to the Career Fair to look around.

"I'm open to everything, but I eventually want to wind up as a chef," said Osceola, who also attended culinary school. "But maybe I'll go into the government side of the Tribe; I'm not sure yet."

Departments as varied as Accounting and Finance, Education, Community Development and Tribal Historical Preservation Office (THPO) shared information with prospective employees while looking for suitable candidates for their departments.

"We are looking for people who

have a passion and interest in preserving their culture," said Kate Macuen, THPO Collections manager.

Most departments contain jobs that require a variety of education levels. The Community Development Department, for example, has positions where a bachelor's degree in engineering, architecture, planning or management is necessary. But other jobs require only technical school certification or a high school diploma. Jobs exist for every skill level.

Members of the Accounting and Finance Department know of some people's aversion to math but still optimistically promoted their department during the event.

"We want to get the fear of accounting out of there and let them know it's a rewarding career field to look into," said Cindy Pino, Accounts Receivable manager. "Business in general is a great career."

High school students and brothers Alphonso and Aaron Alvarado came to look for interesting opportunities and ways they could help their Tribe in the future.

♦ See CAREER FAIR on page 6B



Beverly Bidney

Career fair participants receive information from a variety of Tribal departments, including the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO). Here, Kate Macuen hands out a THPO brochure.

Super students get end of summer super fun day



Eileen Soler

A supersized circus-themed bounce house makes for lighthearted laughs and giggles at the Big Cypress incentive awards Aug. 17.



Eileen Soler

Harmony Cypress and Cyiah Avila are adventurous on a 50-foot zip line at the Big Cypress incentive awards at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.



Eileen Soler

Members of the Sugars Drop Shop skateboarding team, from Miami, pause for their turns on extreme ramps during a show at the Big Cypress incentive awards.



Andrea Holata

Youth gather around to watch the all-time favorite sumo wrestling competitions at the Brighton incentive awards on Aug. 15.



Eileen Soler

Nicholus Andrews and Caleb Billie display skateboarding attitude during a professional skateboard show at the Big Cypress incentive awards.



Andrea Holata

Aaryn King flies high in the sky on Aug. 15 during the incentive awards sponsored by the Education Department in Brighton.



Andrea Holata

Talena Holata is all smiles as she reaches the top of the rock climbing wall at the Brighton incentive awards.



Eileen Soler

Students get a kick out of the bounce house at the Big Cypress incentive awards.



Andrea Holata

Cousins Malcolm Jones and Ryanna Osceola enjoy spending the afternoon together in Brighton.



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Youth explore media careers

BY ELIZABETH OSCEOLA AND ROYCE OSCEOLA
SMPW Reporters

HOLLYWOOD — Ten Tribal youth united at the seventh annual Seminole Media Productions Workshop (SMPW) to test their skills in journalism, graphic design, broadcasting and technical production. During the four-day workshop held July 23-26, students had the opportunity to listen to a motivational speech and watch a live art performance given by Bunky Echo-Hawk, a world-renowned Native American artist.

Sunshine Frank, SMP Broadcasting manager and SMPW coordinator, explained the importance of exposing Tribal youth to the media industry.

Started in 2007 by then-SMP director Danny Jumper, the event aimed to introduce youth to the possibilities of a career in communications. Frank said workshops in the past were classroom settings, while this year was more hands-on.

“We hope to give an educational experience that they’ll enjoy,” she said.

For the first time in the workshop’s history, students had the opportunity to focus on technical production. In this area, students learned the ins and outs of audio,

lighting, video, event coordination and all the elements needed to produce an event.

On the journalism side, students learned the basics of reporting and were introduced to interviewing, editing and photography, while broadcasting students learned the same techniques for a different medium. The students’ work is featured in *The Tribune* and on the Seminole Channel.

Tori Osceola, 14, who participated in broadcasting for the third year, said the workshop gave her an opportunity to learn more about film production, including lighting, camera and sound. Osceola plans to pursue a career as a television producer or as an on-air personality.

“I keep learning more and more each year,” Osceola said.

Bunky Echo-Hawk was invited to perform for the entire Tribal community at the Hollywood Gym. In preparation for the event, students in the graphic design program created banners and fliers to promote the show.

Deven Osceola was one of three students who designed the promotional materials. Originally, he wanted to be a video game designer but came to the workshop to try his hand at graphic design.

He looks forward to coming back next year.

“I learned a lot about myself during my time in this workshop,” Denise Osceola added. “You never know how it’s going to be [until] you try it out.”

While Echo-Hawk was transforming a blank canvas into a “Modern Day Warrior,” the SMPW participants covered the event by using the tools they learned while in the workshop: journalism students reported and photographed, broadcasting students shot video and technical production students staged the lighting and audio.

Maleah Isaac had a great time while in technical production. Prior to the event, Isaac assisted in arranging everything from the soundboard and lights to the wires and cables.

“I actually had fun; I learned a lot,” she said.

Isaac plans to attend community college in Mississippi to play basketball and might take a class for technical production to increase her skill portfolio.

Frank said the students got real world experience and learned the importance of being flexible in real life scenarios – it helped teach the kids an important message.

“You always got to finish what you started,” she said.

Artist generates awareness with stroke of a brush

BY ELIZABETH OSCEOLA AND ROYCE OSCEOLA
SMPW Reporters

HOLLYWOOD — Through a visual art performance, Native celebrity Bunky Echo-Hawk painted his version of a “Modern Day Warrior” for future generations of the Seminole Tribe.

Echo-Hawk, a designer for Nike’s Native N7 clothing line, travels the country to give motivational speeches and paint live for his audiences. On July 25, he brought his talents to the Hollywood Gym to perform for all Tribal members.

He engaged the crowd by asking them, “What does it mean to be a Seminole?” and incorporated their responses into his painting.

“We have a voice as Indians,” he said. “It’s our job as Natives to celebrate our culture and put it out there and be proud of it.”

Echo-Hawk’s interest in art began at the age of 3. His father introduced him to drawing by doodling comics while reading the Sunday paper. This sparked Echo-Hawk’s love for the arts. He eventually went on to receive a formal education at the Institute of American Indian Arts.

Through his work, Echo-Hawk conveys messages ranging from environmental and political injustices to health issues depicting Ronald McDonald using a bow and arrow to inflict diabetes on a Native American. Because his father was a human rights attorney, Echo-Hawk was compelled to expose issues affecting Indian Country. His Native heritage has also influenced his art; he is a traditional singer and dancer of the Pawnee Nation and an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation.

The painting created at the Hollywood event showcases the struggle to maintain Tribal culture in the *hvtke* man’s world, or the white man’s world.

Doris Osceola said the event was very inspiring and added she was pleased that youth – including her granddaughter, Denise Osceola, who participated in the Seminole Media Productions Workshop – had the opportunity to experience something new.

“There’s more to life than just rock ‘n’ roll,” she said.

Kyle Doney, deputy director of the Native Learning Center, said that he didn’t know much about Echo-Hawk prior to the event but left with a new perspective on what kind of art he creates. Doney wants to learn more about his work with Nike.

When Nike was in search of a Native artist for the N7 line, they heard about Echo-Hawk through his online presence. He signed a three-year contract and began creating art for T-shirts, shoes, basketball shorts and jackets. Proceeds from the line benefit Native American athletic programs for youth across Indian Country.

“It’s a way for Nike to give back to the Indian community,” Echo-Hawk said. “It’s been a big blessing for me to be a part of it.”

During the event, two people had the opportunity to win a pair of customized shoes; Echo-Hawk painted Native American images on each of the shoes and autographed them.

Echo-Hawk’s performance left a lasting impression on community members of all ages.

“There’s no limit to what you can do with what you love,” said Non-resident Liaison Kevin Osceola.



Elizabeth Osceola
Bunky Echo-Hawk performs a live art show at the SMPW community event.



Miguel Freire
SMPW participants pose with artist Bunky Echo-Hawk and Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola at the community event July 25 at the Hollywood Gym.



Elizabeth Osceola
Keyana Nelson learns the basics of camera setup from Broadcasting senior editor Deana Johnson.



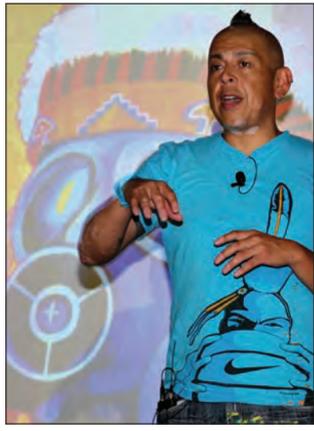
Amanda Murphy
Journalism participants Royce Osceola and Elizabeth Osceola and broadcasting participants Tori Osceola and Keyana Nelson team up to interview Bunky Echo-Hawk after an art demonstration and show during the 2013 Seminole Media Productions Workshop.



Miguel Freire
Royce Osceola and Ozzie Holdiness pose with Bunky Echo-Hawk after winning a pair of his Nike N7 shoes in a surprise raffle for the SMPW participants.



Amanda Murphy
Bunky Echo-Hawk invites Maleah Isaac and Denise Osceola to help paint during his show for the participants.



Elizabeth Osceola
Bunky Echo-Hawk speaks to the crowd during the community event.



Royce Osceola
Bunky Echo-Hawk paints a portrait in front of a live audience based on crowd responses to the question, ‘What does it mean to be a Seminole?’



Amanda Murphy
Tori Osceola puts newfound production skills to work while filming Bunky Echo-Hawk’s live art show.

Youth unite for social change

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

WOODLAND HILLS, Calif. — This summer, Native American youth took the reins of their respective Tribes and steered them toward positive changes, all the while preserving tradition.

Youth Councils from across Indian Country met in Woodland Hills, Calif. for the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Conference to discuss issues in their communities and learn new ways to resolve them. Among the 1,200 students striving for social change were Tribal members Alexis Aguilar and Aaron Alvarado.

"I think it makes them aware of other issues that Native Americans face and makes them realize how lucky they are, and [that] they can share similar issues," said Paola MoneyMaker, Higher Education coordinator, who was along for the ride.

From July 12-16, students participated in workshops, listened to guest speakers and posted their experiences to Twitter and Facebook to share with all Native American youth.

Alvarado, a senior at Immokalee High School, attended the conference because he was curious about the differences and similarities of common issues affecting Tribes across Indian Country.

"I also wanted to see how other Tribes motivate their youth to come together for a better future," he said.

The teens selected the theme of the 37th annual conference, "Technology and Tradition for Today and Tomorrow," fitting for the nonprofit organization's mission to foster spiritual, mental, physical and social development in Native American youth.

Workshops like "Facebook Indians," "I Spy a Champion for Change" and "Building Your Authentic Network" showed youth how to use social media to grow their councils, increase fundraising, promote activities and build relationships with Indians across the nation.

Aguilar, 18, of Immokalee, who attended the conference for the third time, said she went to support the Tribe's Youth Council and to observe how other councils operate to possibly bring back new material. The conference also provided her the opportunity to catch up with old friends, while discussing ways to encourage more involvement in the community.

Topics discussed in the workshops included Native American identity and culture preservation, healthy lifestyles, HIV and AIDS, aggressive behavior, substance abuse and sexual abuse.

"Too many people die too young from drugs, alcohol and diseases that come from abuse," Alvarado said.

Two workshops stand out in his memory: a self-defense class that he attended with Aguilar and a self-awareness and motivation session.

"It (self-defense workshop) was about being aware of your surroundings and learning about how to respond to various situations you may be put in," Aguilar said.

Though Alvarado joined the self-defense class initially to support Aguilar, he said he learned a few tips about how to take down an attacker using defensive moves, pepper spray and Tasers. The motivational session focused on helping teens identify individual interests, strengths and talents then using those attributes to forge futures.

"It was about feeling good about yourself, about seeing all the positive things that make you who you are and who you want to be," he said.

Although the conference covered some serious topics and important constitutional changes, there was time for entertainment. Aguilar said her favorite part of the

conference was a show where a hypnotist made volunteers from various Youth Councils perform activities under hypnosis, ranging from boys believing they were pregnant to all volunteers speaking Chinese and competing in a worldwide "twerk" competition.

Even though UNITY happens once a year, Youth Councils work hard all year long brainstorming ideas for community outreach and implementing them through service. The Seminole Tribe of Florida Youth Council, formed in 2011, has attended the conference ever since and actively participates in community service. In the past, they have organized food drives and school supply drives to help less fortunate children and teens. They also have mock Tribal Council meetings to practice leadership skills.

The Youth Council's next big endeavor is a Thanksgiving turkey drive.

Education adviser Reginal Belizaire, who also attended the event, works with the council and has big plans for the future.

"The ultimate goal is to host a UNITY conference here," he said. "We have to have a significant amount of kids involved."

With six students in the council this year, the social media skills gleaned from the UNITY Conference will be put to the test to encourage other Native youth to join in the effort for a brighter future.

UNITY, a national organization with more than 150 Youth Councils operating in 35 states and Canada, is open to all Native American youth ages 15-24.

"It promotes Tribal leadership among Native youth and they also have scholarships for college and resources. I think it's a really neat opportunity to work on leadership development," MoneyMaker said. "I encourage a lot of students to get involved."



Alexis Aguilar

NLC adds sessions to Indian Housing Training Conference

HOLLYWOOD — The Native Learning Center (NLC), a Seminole Tribe of Florida housing program dedicated to the development of cultural and quality of life skills for all Native and Indigenous people, announced the addition of a fourth day to the Indian Housing Training Conference.

The event takes place at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Tulsa-Downtown in Tulsa, Okla. from Sept. 10-13.

The extra day will add 16 sessions to the agenda to further diversify the conference, bringing the total to 34 sessions geared toward providing housing professionals the building blocks necessary to create healthy communities.

New sessions include the History of Indian Housing, Housing Construction, Crime Prevention, Indian Housing Plan (IHP) Training and Proper Maintenance Inspections. During the four-day conference, participants will also join critical sessions related to Tribal housing programs that are imperative to HUD's Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Program.

"By moving our Indian Housing Training Conference to a more centrally located region, we hope that more Tribes and TDHes (Tribally Designated Entity) will have a better opportunity to participate in our free training," said Georgette Palmer Smith, NLC executive director. "Our training will include NAHASDA (Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act) and Indian Housing training to ensure financial accountability, growth, sustainability and safety programs that every Native American community needs to thrive."

The Indian Housing Training Conference sessions include but are not limited to:

Indian Housing Plans & Leveraging IHBG Funds – Instructor Wanda Jean Lord (Cherokee/Choctaw descent), of Lord & Associates, will focus on Section



5 Budgets of the IHP. Participants will receive instruction and hands-on examples on how to develop a funding strategy leveraging federal and other funding sources to support the construction of community facilities for their housing projects, increase Tribal member assets via IDAs and explore options for creating housing endowments or Tribal community foundations.

Affordable Housing Construction – Instructor Gregory Giakoumis, of Travios Design & Construction Services, will walk participants through the construction process, discussing common pitfalls and recommending a strategy for a smooth construction process that will ensure participant projects meet budget and timing requirements.

Strategic Planning for Board of Commissioners and Executive Directors – Instructor Joanie Buckley (Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin) will discuss the process of strategic plans and simplify it into road maps that can be used for various projects. The strategic planning process will be correlated to various department goals and outcomes, including housing programs, so the audience can see applications of the strategic process.

Low Income Tax Credit Compliance – Instructor Robin Thorne, of Travios Inc., will provide professionals with an overview of the federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program and its interaction with Tribal housing initiatives. The session provides both a general explanation of the program, as well as detailed procedures and requirements for continuing operational compliance.

To register for the Indian Housing Training Conference and view a complete agenda, visit NativeLearningCenter.com/IndianHousingTrainingConference.

"Our training will include NAHASDA and Indian Housing training to ensure financial accountability, growth, sustainability and safety programs that every Native American community needs to thrive."

– Georgette Palmer Smith, NLC executive director



Aaron Alvarado

FIYP From page 1B

"We want students to be exposed to things they wouldn't be at home," he said. "The goal is for them to go on to college, vocational school or the military. Just about 100 percent of them do so."

Activities during the program were not all academics. Weekends included visiting the Tallahassee Museum, zip lining and canoeing at the Florida State University recreation area.

"They were in class every day from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.," Kellam said. "They worked very hard and every one of them met their goals and received a \$500

achievement allowance in addition to the \$6 per hour they earned for class time."

This year, FIYP included a STEM program comprised of science, technology, engineering and math. To make it more interesting, students created superheroes and used them in each lesson.

"It's a tactile program to get them interested in science," Kellam said. "They used data, algebraic formulas, the nature of science, Newton's laws of motion, aerodynamics and design to create their hero's superpowers."

The students used science to create tools and shields for their superheroes and learned to use the scientific method to solve crimes.

"It was challenging but everything

was taught so well," De La Rosa said. "It was hands-on so we really learned it – even math. Everything was in front of us and we had to figure things out."

The superhero theme was used throughout the curriculum. The writing instructor had students create the origin of their characters from their imaginations, write an ode, poem or essay, and draw a picture of their superhero.

In the computer class, students built their own websites.

"The program was a blast," De La Rosa said. "Yes, you're learning but you're having a fun time meeting people. You get paid to go; you make money and are getting a great education. Everyone should just do it and go to the program."

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◆ **CAMP KULAQUA**
From page 1B

The younger kids' silly Seminole Olympics required water provided by fire hose, scores of Styrofoam cups, dozens of colorful balloons and 200 soaking wet campers and counselors.

Teamwork and respect were recurring lessons in all activities – whether building a boxcar for zany racing or taking directions blindfolded through the gym during a “walk of trust” exercise.

Sidney Nunez, 17, attended for the fifth consecutive year but for the first time as a junior counselor. The Immokalee High School student said all her six brothers and sisters have also attended.

“Camp helps kids grow. It teaches us how to manage money and how the

Education Department is always there all the way through college,” Nunez said. “This year I started working the minute I stepped off the bus and I didn’t stop until the second I got back on the bus – but it was all the fun I expected.”

For Javian Cypress, 9, the most fun came from spying flying fish, sunbathing turtles and a huge manatee resting on the bottom of the grassy, sun-dappled Ichetucknee.

But camp wasn’t all fun and games. Morning activities on the last day included a final exam that tested the children’s knowledge about the serious issues learned in camp: drug abuse, money management and character judgment.

“When someone breaks a promise after you believed in them, it’s hard to get the promise back,” Cypress said. “We have to always try to be trustworthy people.”



Eileen Soler

Boys gather around Seminole Culture instructor Vinson Osceola at Camp Kulaqua during a workshop that taught about chickee thatching.



Eileen Soler

Jaylee Jimmie, of Immokalee, strings pretty beads during a Seminole culture workshop.



Eileen Soler

One bounce is all it takes to be thrust from an inflated contraption called The Blob at Camp Kulaqua during the Tribe's summer camp.



Eileen Soler

Girls line up at Camp Kulaqua for a blindfolded lesson about trusting and being trustworthy during a workshop hosted by the Family Services Department.



Eileen Soler

Members of the LadyBugs team relax after winning for most creative boxcar creation.



Eileen Soler

Free falling is fun over a lagoon at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs.



Eileen Soler

Winners of a water competition rejoice during the Seminole Olympics at Camp Kulaqua.



Eileen Soler

Soaking up the sunshine, campers tube and raft down the Ichetucknee River.



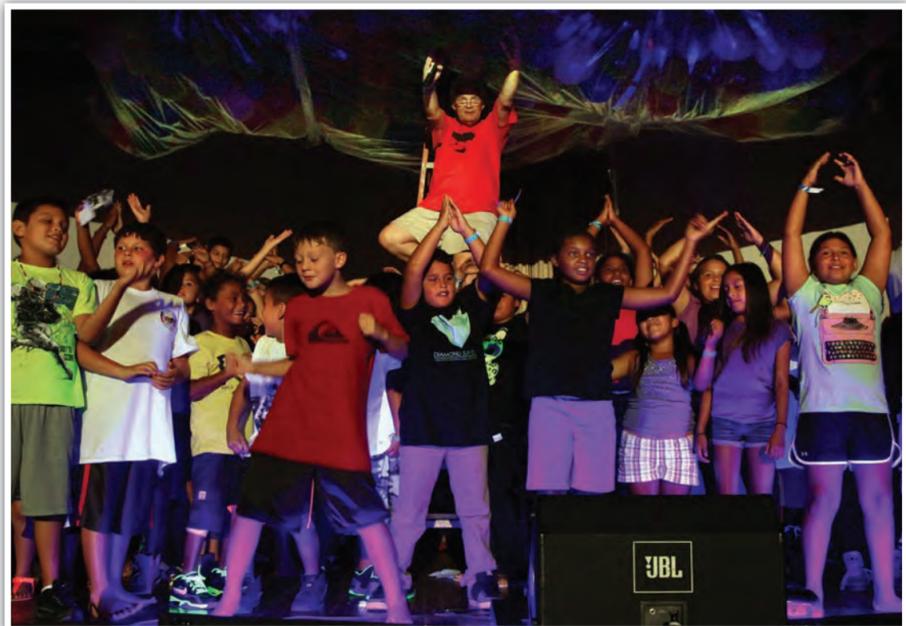
Eileen Soler

Boys fashion a furious and hopefully fast boxcar for the Camp Kulaqua boxcar races.



Eileen Soler

Reginald Ling, of Big Cypress, concentrates while learning to carve during a Seminole culture workshop.



Eileen Soler

The entire Camp Kulaqua talent show cast takes the stage for the grand finale – a rendition of the '70s pop song YMCA. The talent show capped the five-day camp adventure.

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Seminole Tribe of Florida
Education Department 

CAREER FAIR

From page 1B

"I want to work with kids and with the Tribe," said Aaron Alvarado, 17, a senior at Immokalee High School. "I want to help kids stay off the streets and keep positive."

This was the first year the Tribal Professional Development program held a career fair and attendees

had positive feedback. Participants who responded to a survey after the event thought it was excellent or very good, while Tribal departments were pleased with the exposure they got.

After talking to people in other departments, one participant in the Work Experience Program asked for a transfer to a department in which he has always had interest.

"Overall, the Tribal members and departments were happy with the event," Dufour said.



Beverly Bidney

The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood ballroom is filled with information tables brimming with details about career opportunities for anyone interested.

LEAD AMERICA

From page 1B

By picking the brains of these business buffs – including Dr. Dennis Hanno, Dean of the Undergraduate School at Babson College – students gained the skills necessary for creating their own business model. They divided into groups and voted on leadership roles, such as CEO and vice president, simulating a real corporation. The students, many of whom had never met before, pulled their individual ideas together to draft a corporate vision, develop a strategic design, create a formal business plan and ultimately, sell it to mock investors.

Cypress, 18, didn't know what she was getting into when she arrived at the conference, as business is not her main interest, but she wanted to try something different. She found the conference very informative.

"I wasn't really going to be an entrepreneur, but it's really good to know if my plans in the future change," she said.

Cypress said she is more inclined to drawing and writing, but she learned that businesses need artists to market their ventures. Her artistic talents came in handy during the group project.

"One of the kids caught me doodling and

he asked if I could draw the products and the commercial," she said.

Not only did Cypress and Bowers make new friends, but they also networked with 98 students from countries like China, Japan and Australia, among others, who share common interests.

"Some people in the program and the faculty advisers got me really inspired to actually be serious," Cypress said. "It got me really thinking about what I want to do."

Lead America partners with top colleges and universities in the nation to host college immersion programs to prepare middle and high school students, academically and emotionally, for the transition into college. Conference topics range from engineering to medicine to media, creating opportunities for students with all types of interests.

The Education Department caters to the interests of students and gladly sends them to any of the Lead America conferences.

Yeguez hopes to have more students attend next year's conference.

"It really prepares the students to take the business side of the Tribe to a higher level," Yeguez said.

To participate in an educational conference or to enlist assistance with college applications, contact the Education Department at 954-989-6840.

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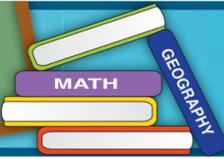


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BACK TO SCHOOL



Ina Robbins rushes to class Aug. 19 on the first day of the 2013-2014 school year at Ahfachkee School on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Eileen Soler



Justin Billie descends from the school bus Aug. 19 ready for the first day of the school year at Ahfachkee School on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Eileen Soler



Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School second-grade teacher Dixie Ball welcomes her new students on the first day of school Aug. 19.

Andrea Holata



Ahfachkee School principal Lucy Dafoe calls a cafeteria filled with students and parents to order on day one of the 2013-2014 school year.

Eileen Soler



Kindergartners from Mrs. Kimberly Toms' class get ready to begin their first day of school at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School.

Andrea Holata



Mom Amy Cypress hands a curious Peyton Cypress, 14 months, to teacher Dorothy Williams for her first day of school at the Hollywood Preschool.

Beverly Bidney



Curtis Fountain, left, and Blake Baker are all smiles as they walk to class on the first day of school at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School.

Andrea Holata



Kindergarten teacher Renee Barry escorts a stream of kindergartners (and some parents) into their elementary classroom first thing Aug. 19 for the first day at Ahfachkee School.

Eileen Soler



From left, brothers Jayko, Ukiah and Quayton Billie are ready for class at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School, equipped with snacks, backpacks and matching outfits.

Andrea Holata



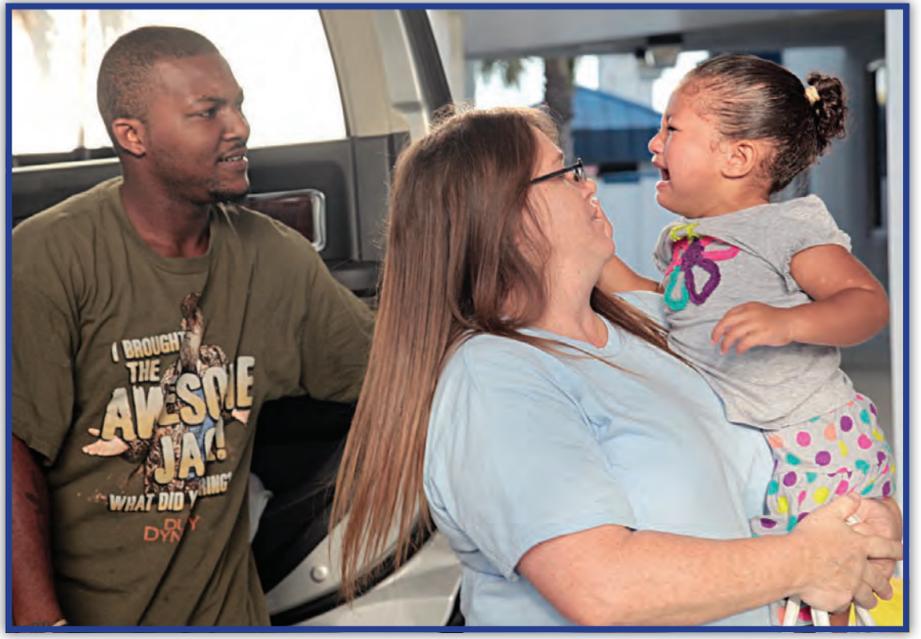
Teacher Nicole Terry walks Eli Odem, 3, into the Hollywood Preschool as he rubs the sleep from his eyes.

Beverly Bidney



First-time student Michael Jumper, 1, seems happy to be in Hollywood Preschool teacher Stacey Wyckoff's arms on the first day of school.

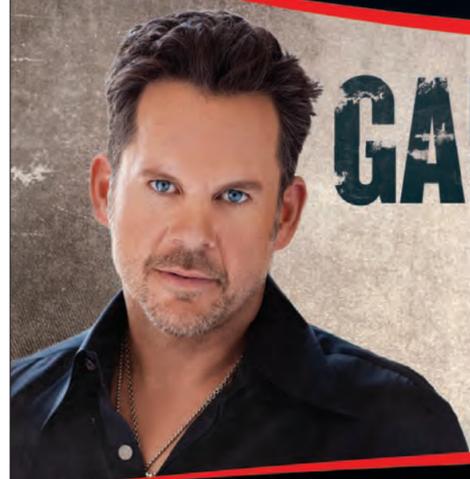
Beverly Bidney



Not every child is eager to start the school year. At right, Sue Forbes-Osceola, 2, doesn't want her father, Anthony Forbes, to leave her with teacher Stacey Wyckoff, who whisks her away into the Hollywood Preschool. By the time they got inside, the tears had abated.

Beverly Bidney

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Sports

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Kirsten Doney takes second in national golf tournament

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

GREENEVILLE, Tenn. — High school senior Kirsten Doney recently used her formidable golf skills to earn a second place finish in her division at the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Golf National Championship, held July 18-21 in Greeneville, Tenn. About 300 kids in age groups from 6U to 18U played in the tournament, but Doney was the only member of the Tribe to compete.

"Golf is really a mind game," said Doney, 17, who played in the girls' 18U division. "You can't blame anyone else for your mistakes on the course; you are you own team. During tournaments, you can't talk to your coach so you are on your own. You just have to take what you've learned and put it into practice."

Her record doesn't reveal it, but Doney has only played golf for about four years. She comes from a family of golfers, so family time includes a day

on the links. Doney has played on the Okeechobee High School varsity team, and Jason Tommie has coached her for the last three years.

"She is willing to learn any aspect of the game and try anything," said Tommie, Brighton Gym field supervisor. "She's a very positive thinker, which affects her game. Golf is a thinking person's game; you have to be able to think your way around the golf course. Any wrong thought and your game can get out of whack."

The AAU championship took place in Tennessee, which has a very different terrain than Florida. The Robert Trent Jones-designed course at the Link Hills Country Club features plenty of rolling hills to challenge any golfer, but it is Doney's favorite course so far.

"This was one of my biggest tournaments," Doney said. "I was pretty nervous about it, but after a few holes it got easier and it came naturally."

Doney enjoys golf and finds it relaxing, regardless of the challenges. Her least favorite aspect of the game is the water traps; like any golfer, she gets frustrated when she hits a ball into the water.

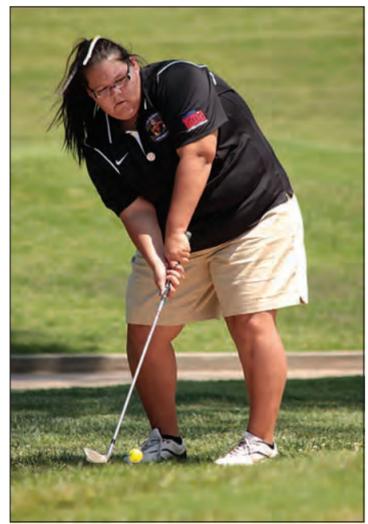
"It doesn't happen often, but when it does it gets into my head," she said. "I need to learn to leave it behind and move on to the next hole."

Tommie believes it was a significant accomplishment for Doney to come in second in a national championship tournament.

"Going into her senior year it will be a confidence booster," he said. "It will help her out in her final year on the team. Kirsten's a very intelligent student in school and on the golf course."

Doney looks forward to her next big tournament during the North American Indigenous Games in Canada next summer. She believes golf is a good game for any kid to learn.

"It's a game that lets you focus on yourself and the game," she said. "It's not just about winning; it's about learning. It will take years to understand how to play. Even the professional golfers are still learning how to play."



Beverly Bidney

Kirsten Doney competes in the Jim Thorpe Games in Oklahoma on June 11.



Andrea Holata

Brianna Billie starts off the pitching for the Lady Seminoles during the championship game.

Seminoles win three NAYO championships

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE — Forty-five Native American teams converged in Okeechobee, Fla. July 18-20 to compete in the annual Native American Youth Organization (NAYO) baseball and softball tournament hosted this year by the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Tribes from across the southeast United States were represented, including the Cherokees, Choctaws, Poarch Creek, Iroquois and Seminoles. The Seminole Tribe had nine teams comprised of various age groups and different reservations and captured three championship trophies.

The 7- to 8-year-old division started off tournament play on July 18. Four girls' teams and six boys' teams competed in the double-elimination tournament.

In the first round, the Lil' Seminoles fast-pitch softball team lost 17-1 to MBCI

Elite, of Neshoba County, Miss.

The Seminole Warriors baseball team rallied back and forth with the Native Giants, from Choctaw, Miss., during their first round of play.

One key player, Ramone Baker, helped keep the Seminoles alive with a triple, but the Native Giants came out on top during the fifth inning. The Seminole Warriors lost 9-6.

The Seminole baseball and softball teams were eliminated during the second round of the tournament; the boys lost 8-7, and the girls were shutout 7-0. MBCI Elite went on to win the softball championship, while Poarch Creek won the baseball championship in their division.

In the 9- to 10-year-old division, the Seminole Warriors baseball team started off with an 8-0 win against the MBCI Krushers, and eventually defeated the Nation 1 team in the championship game.

♦ See NAYO on page 2C



Beverly Bidney

Hunter Osceola, No. 11, dribbles past an Ak-Chin player at the 11th annual Native American Basketball Invitational.

Seminoles trek to Arizona for NABI tournament

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

PHOENIX — Phoenix became a basketball haven from July 17-21 when more than 1,900 athletes and coaches representing 167 Tribes competed in the 11th annual Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI). The tournament, one of the largest in Indian Country, featured players ages 13 to 19.

Seminoles competed on inter-tribal teams: boys played on the J.U.S. Nation team, and girls played on the BBall Divas team. Neither team won, but J.U.S. Nation made it into the final eight and BBall Divas made it to the final 16 in the gold division bracket.

Games were held in nine high school and college gyms, and the finals took place at the U.S. Airways Center, home of the NBA Phoenix Suns and WNBA Phoenix Mercury.

Before their first game of the tournament, J.U.S. Nation coach Andrew Jordan Bowers said the team was focused and felt good about their chances. They had been working toward winning NABI for the last four years, but J.U.S. lost by eight points to the Northern AZ Elite, known to be tough competitors.

"The game we lost was the epitome of the tournament," Bowers said. "The gym was so crowded, people had to stand. We had about 20 fans; the rest were theirs and they all dressed in black shirts. It was so loud I could barely yell over the crowd to the team. That's what makes it fun; you as brothers versus the whole crowd. In the last minutes of the game, we missed our free throws and they made theirs."

Although the players were upset about the loss, it was the furthest the team had made it in four years of NABI



Beverly Bidney

A determined Lady Magic player moves the ball down the court for another score.

tournaments.

"They definitely made a name for themselves," Bowers said. "People recognized the J.U.S. name and other coaches even came to watch their games."

College recruiters also took an interest in J.U.S. By the end of the tournament most of the team received scholarship offers, some from multiple schools, which included Little Big Horn College in Montana, Tohono O'odham Community College in Arizona and Scottsdale Community College.

"The tournament means a lot to me," said J.U.S. point guard Phillip Jones, who received offers from United Tribes

Technical College and Wentworth Military Academy. "I've been trying to win since I started coming here in my freshman year."

The BBall Divas — comprised of three Seminoles, one Miccosukee and members of the Lakota Tribe from South Dakota — dominated in their early games. Their strength of play led them to the gold division bracket.

"It's awesome to play with different Native Americans and get to know them," said BBall Divas center Maleah Isaac. "They're my people."

♦ See NABI on page 5C

Baseball season is eternal on the rez



Beverly Bidney

Sarah Descheene practices a catching and throwing drill with coach Richard Gonzalez.



Beverly Bidney

Like a graceful ballet move, coach Richard Gonzalez shadows Sarah Descheene as he teaches her the proper way to quickly turn and throw a ball.



Beverly Bidney

Tyson Osceola practices a catching and throwing drill during a recent practice at the Hollywood Ball Field.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The end of summer doesn't portend the end of baseball season in Seminole country. With weekly baseball clinics by Press On Sports and DeMatties Baseball, the season continues year-round.

To measure the progress of players, coach Richard Gonzalez, of Press On Sports, hands out incentive awards every

few months. Immokalee players received their awards in the beginning of August, while players in Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood will get theirs soon. Gonzalez believes it's important for kids to learn a variety of sports.

"We want them to know baseball is an option," said Gonzalez, who played ball at Manhattan College in New York and has coached baseball for more than 20 years. "We train whoever comes and wants to

learn, at any age. It's not all drill and skill; we always play a game."

The incentive awards are based on effort, progress, attitude, participation and performance.

"We want kids to get an understanding of baseball," said assistant coach Alex Zapata. "We try to show them you can have fun at more things than basketball. Baseball is a mental sport - it works your brain."

It also works muscles and reflexes,

as a few Hollywood kids demonstrated at practice in August. They worked on drills to improve eye-hand skills, throwing accuracy and batting proficiency.

"I come out here to play because I'm good at it," said Sarah Descheene, 13, who plays on the softball team at Nativity School in Hollywood.

Other kids at the practice also play on their school teams; Kenny Descheene, 16, plays third base at Chaminade-Madonna

High School and Tyson Osceola, 15, plays third base and outfield at University School.

Baseball clinics are held every week from 5 to 8 p.m. on Mondays in Hollywood and Big Cypress; Tuesdays in Immokalee; and Thursday in Brighton.

The clinics focus on fielding, hitting, pitching and game strategies.

For more information about the clinics, contact your reservation's Recreation Department.

◆ NAYO
From page 1C

The Seminole team in the 13- to 15-year-old division, Independentz, also won a championship trophy, rallying against the team Native Intensity.

The Seminole started off strong with a 3-0 win against the Poarch Creeks, but a 4-5 loss against Native Intensity in the next game put them in the loser's bracket. Independentz went on to play Native Stunners, shutting them out 15-0, and Native Intensity, winning 2-1. Independentz and Native Intensity headed to the championship game.

Independentz, coached by Naha Jumper and Brighton Board Rep. Larry

Howard, battled it out through three innings, in which the teams were tied 2-2. However, due to rain, both teams agreed to be declared co-champions for the tournament.

In the 16- to 18-year-old division, the Lady Seminoles never let up: They defeated the Poarch Creek Band of Indians from Alabama 7-3, the Cherokee team 5-2 and went on to defeat the Poarch Creek 8-1 in the championship game. Player Janet Smith hit several home runs throughout the tournament, helping lead the team to victory.

The Hollywood Seminoles baseball team, coached by Leon Wilcox, suffered a tough 6-2, loss against the Poarch Creeks from Alabama in the championship game, putting the team in second place.



Andrea Holata

Sydney Cypress is ready for her pitch during the tournament.



Andrea Holata

Jaryaca Baker, center, and teammates celebrate winning the NAYO tournament for their division.



Andrea Holata

The Lady Seminoles wait for the first game of the tournament to start in the dugout.



Andrea Holata

Bryce Baker touches home plate, scoring a run for the Seminole Warriors.



Andrea Holata

Lahna Baker scores for the Lady Seminoles.



Andrea Holata

Independentz joins Native Intensity to pray after the game.



Andrea Holata

Team Independentz, comprised of girls from several Seminole reservations, pose for a picture with the championship trophy. Because of rainstorms, they were declared co-champions along with the Choctaw team Native Intensity.



Andrea Holata

The Seminole Warriors pose for a picture with their championship trophy. The Seminoles, coached by William Cunningham, back right, and Matt Jones, back left, won the NAYO tournament for the 9- to 10-year-old division.

City kids live country life at Davie rodeo

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

DAVIE — Hollywood residents may live in the city, but many have enough country inside them to compete in the rodeo arena. During the summer, some city kids saddled up for the Kids' Summer Buckle Rodeo Series at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in Davie.

The young cowboys and cowgirls train at Linda Sluder's Spun Gold Equestrian Center in Davie where they learn horseback riding and rodeo skills.

On Aug. 14, the final rodeo of the 20 plus-year series sponsored by the Davie Rodeo Association, featured 13 Seminole youth in pole bending, ribbon pull and barrel racing events.

Awards were given to those with the top scores in each event.

Takoda Howard, 6, earned a buckle for all-round cowboy in the peewee division and another as the highest scoring competitor in the ribbon pull. Regardless of whether the kids won awards, they all boosted their confidence learning to ride rodeo.

"It's fun," Takoda said. "But sometimes it's hard to control the horse. You have to turn it and pull back and not hold the horn [on the saddle]."

Before the last rodeo of the summer, the kids gathered at Spun Gold to prepare. Because it was the last night of the series, they decorated their horses with festive washable paint and glitter. With the horses saddled, painted and secured in the horse trailers, the group of enthusiastic riders drove to the arena.

The series, held June 12 through Aug. 14, allowed scores of kids ages 3 to 17. Events included pole bending, goat tying, ribbon pull, barrel racing, breakaway roping, tie down roping and team roping. About 60 kids participated in the final competition.

The lessons learned from rodeo go far beyond the arena. Sluder ensures the kids take care of the horses and themselves. They



Despite her size and weight, Kayle Alex, 5, puts the saddle on her horse all by herself during rodeo practice at the Spun Gold Equestrian Center.

Beverly Bidney

come to the stables often to feed, bathe and exercise the horses.

Jaime Osceola, mother of competitor Jessalynn Osceola, said Sluder's training makes her more responsible all around.

"She takes more responsibility around the house," said Jaime Osceola.

Most Hollywood kids also compete in rodeos at Big Cypress and Brighton. The close-knit group sat together between their events and cheered on their peers in the ring.

"They love it and want to ride every day," said Danielle Howard, mother of Takoda, Tehya, Hunter and Lance Howard. "It teaches them to respect people and animals and to trust yourself. It's hard to work a big animal like that."

Living in the city doesn't stop these kids from the cowboy life, at least in the rodeo arena.

"Hollywood kids are really into it," said Christine Nevaquaya, grandmother of competitors Janae and Wren Bankston. "You have to give them what they are interested in."

Hunter Howard is glad he participates in the rodeo and thinks kids should give the sport a try.

"Every kid should sign up because it could have been the dream of his life," said Hunter, 11. "All my buddies just learned how to ride and we ride in a big group. My mom signs me up and cares about me very much."



Beverly Bidney

Janae Bankston jumps her horse Amber, an appaloosa, as her sister Wren Bankston watches in the background.

Seminoles ride English

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Janae and Wren Bankston have been riding horses since they were too small to ride bikes. At the tender ages of 4 and 3 respectively, Janae and Wren learned to control 1,000-pound horses with confidence. Now at ages 10 and 7, the equestriennes are old hands at horsemanship, whether competing in a rodeo or English riding ring.

There are significant differences between riding English and Western style: English riders jump over obstacles, ensuring proper style and form, while Western rodeo riders, specifically barrel racers, focus on time in the ring, as well as steering clear of barrels.

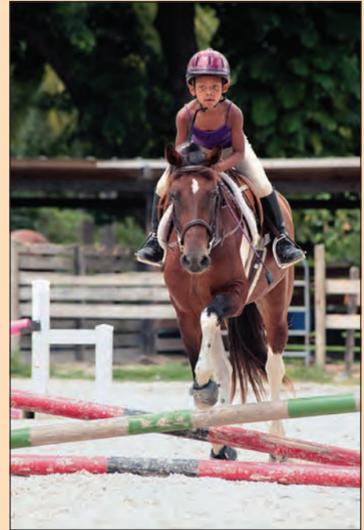
The Bankston girls enjoy both equestrian pursuits and have earned about 30 ribbons each in their English riding competitions. The girls compete at the Heritage Horse Show at Volunteer Park in Plantation from September through July, and at the Circuit Awards Banquet held Aug. 17, they each earned awards for their performance through the season. Janae got 10th overall jumper rider, was runner up in the Froggy Jumper division (2-foot, 3-inch jumps) and received a saddle rack. Wren was the reserve grand champion for the walk and trot division and received a director's chair with her name embroidered on it.

"English is weird because the bridle, saddle, girth and stirrups are different," Wren said. "You have to be careful not to lean back and sit up straight."

"I use my legs more in English and can't be sloppy," added Janae.

Dressed in their classic tan jodhpurs, helmets and shiny black riding boots, the girls elegantly take jumps with ease. They started riding English about two years after learning to ride Western style.

"Linda saw how well they ride," said Celeste Foster, about her mother, Linda Sluder, who owns the Spun Gold Equestrian Center in Davie. "Their body style is built to ride English; it just comes naturally to them. Not many kids are



Beverly Bidney

Wren Bankston jumps her horse.

versatile enough to do both."

When riding English, Janae and Wren handle the horses differently than riding Western style; they ride in smaller saddles, control the reins with two hands, and post – or rise and sit in the seat of a saddle – during a trot.

"They just love to ride," said Christine Nevaquaya, the girls' grandmother. "I'm glad they ride English because I think it makes them better horsemen."

Their grandfather Sonny Nevaquaya couldn't help but notice his granddaughters are often mistaken for Hispanic.

"It's not often you see Native American girls riding English," he said. Regardless of the ring they compete in, both girls are happy to be riding.

"I like winning," said Wren, who at age 5 won the peewee division at the Kids' Summer Buckle Rodeo Series at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in Davie.



Beverly Bidney

Tehya Howard, 8, rides with gusto in the pole bending competition.



Beverly Bidney

Takoda Howard shows off the buckle he earned as all-round cowboy in the peewee division for the Kids' Summer Buckle Series.



Beverly Bidney

Hunter Howard, 12, rides with confidence at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds.



Beverly Bidney

Children hang out at the Spun Gold Equestrian Center after decorating their horses before the rodeo at the Bergeron arena in Davie.



Beverly Bidney

Wren and Janae Bankston take a moment to pose with their horses.



Beverly Bidney

Kayle Alex gets a helping hand from trainer Celeste Foster while riding the pole bending event.



Beverly Bidney

Amare Alex competes in the barrel racing event at the Kids' Summer Buckle Rodeo Series.

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Crossroads Management, LLC is accepting pre-applications for very low income families to reside at 2800 NW 43rd Terrace Miami, FL 33142. The pre-application form is available below. No telephone calls, walk-ins or drop-off applications will be accepted.

Rules of Participation:

- Pre-applications must be accurately completed (NO BLANKS) and mailed to the following address: Crossroads Management, LLC P.O. Box 421340 Miami, Florida 33242-1340. Pre-applications will not be accepted in person. Only applications sent via regular mail, certified mail, FedEx, UPS or other similar means will be accepted.
- Any pre-application that is not fully and accurately completed and /or is received after **August 30, 2013** will be disqualified. The waiting list will be closed **August 30, 2013 at 5:30 P.M.**
- Pre-applications received by **August 30, 2013 at 5:30pm** will go through a lottery process and assigned a randomly selected number. Only pre-applications with random numbers 1 through 150 will be placed on the wait list. The 150 selected pre-applicants will be notified after **September 12, 2013**. **Of the 150 applications placed on the wait list, priority will be given to the applicants listed in the Pre-Application below.
- Only one pre-application per household will be considered throughout the entire process. Any household that submits more than one application will be disqualified. If any member of a household is included on multiple pre-applications all the pre-applications will be disqualified.

Eligible income limits for program participation are as follows

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HAMPTON VILLAGE APARTMENTS Pre-Application Rental

Mail your completed form to: CROSSROADS Management, LLC, P.O. Box 421340 Miami, FL 33242-1340. Applications must be received on or before **August 30, 2013**. Please print neatly in ink. All fields are required. Submit this form only. Incomplete pre-applications will be disqualified. Crossroads Management, LLC shall not be responsible for materials lost/delayed through the mail.

Please complete applicable below information - **DO NOT LEAVE BLANKS** (indicate N/A if not applicable)

List all Household Members - Please use a separate sheet for any additional members			
Name (First, Middle, Last)	Relationship	Date of Birth	Social Security #
	HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD		

Address:	City, State:	Zip Code:	Day time phone #:	Email Address:
*Annual Household Income (see below) \$ _____		As per below description, indicate if you meet any priorities DO NOT LEAVE BLANK - indicate N/A if not applicable		

***ANNUAL INCOME:** Indicate the approximate TOTAL amount of all family's YEARLY gross (before taxes) income. Include all sources of income for all the family members who are 18 years of age or older. (Income includes: child support contribution, interest and dividends, wages, self employment, unemployment benefits, Social Security disability, workers comp., pension or retirement benefits, welfare income, veteran's income, alimony and any income sources not specifically excluded in 24 CFR Part 4.609)

**** PRIORITIES:** 1) Formerly Homeless Residents in Supportive Housing. 2) Section 8 VASH and Section 8 Voucher Holders who have been displaced from a Public Housing Project 3) Immediate neighborhood applicants on existing Carrfour wait list. 4) New Applications from Advertisement prioritizing the immediate neighborhood.

I swear and/or affirm that all information contained on this pre-application is true and complete. I understand this is a pre-application and not an offer of housing. I am aware that I must immediately notify Crossroads Management, LLC, in writing of any change in my address. I understand that any misrepresentation or false information will result in the disqualification of my pre-application and that additional information will be required to determine eligibility

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This free concert is a tribute to the Seminole Tribe's acquisition of Hard Rock International, which inspired Lee Tiger to write the song "Red Rocks the Earth"

**Doors open at 9:00 pm
Concert at 11:00 pm**

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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Castillo worked as a Public Defender in Broward County from 1990-1996 and has been in private practice for nine years. In 1995 he was voted the Trial Attorney of the year. He graduated from Capital University in 1989 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1990, Federal Bar in 1992, and the Federal Trial Bar in 1994.

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NABI
From page 1C

Jude Schimmel, a star player for the University of Louisville and a member of the Umatilla Tribe in Oregon, was presented with the NABI Leadership Award at the final game. Although she never competed in NABI, she knows playing in basketball tournaments offers a positive experience for Native American youth.

"I'm impressed with the size of the tournament and the talent out there," Schimmel said. "I believe it's possible for anyone to achieve anything if they put their minds to it. When the door is open, you have to take advantage of it. That's what Shoni (her sister and teammate) and I hope to do; just open people's eyes to what's possible."

The AZ Warriors and Alaska teams vied for the championship in the boys' finals; Alaska took the title.

The final girls' game was between Lady Magic and Big Ballers; Lady Magic won the championship.

Since its founding in 2003, NABI has followed through on their commitment to support Native American youth through programs that encourage sports, higher education, health and wellness, and community building. The nonprofit organization's board of directors includes the former president of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA), the Principal Chief of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the vice president of the Phoenix Suns, among others.

"NABI is a great opportunity to showcase their talent and get college scholarships," said GinaMarie Scarpa, NABI Foundation CEO. "We want them to use basketball as a tool to go on to higher education."



Beverly Bidney

BBall Divas, in black jerseys, take on the Gila River team during the first round of play. Shea Pierce, with the ball, tries to get past defenders as teammate Maleah Isaac, No. 42, covers her back. BBall Divas won the game 101 to 8.



Beverly Bidney

Maleah Isaac dribbles the ball past the Gila River player.



Beverly Bidney

Annie Osceola, No. 22, of the Miccosukee Tribe, takes aim before taking a shot at the basket.



Beverly Bidney

Miss Native American USA 2012 Shaylin Shabi sings the national anthem before the NABI finals.



Beverly Bidney

Trewston Pierce takes a shot as the Ak-Chin Tribe team, in white, futilely tries to stop him.



Beverly Bidney

Trewston Pierce, with the ball, gets through the defense of the Ak-Chin Tribe team during the second round of play. J.U.S. Nation won the game 80 to 57.

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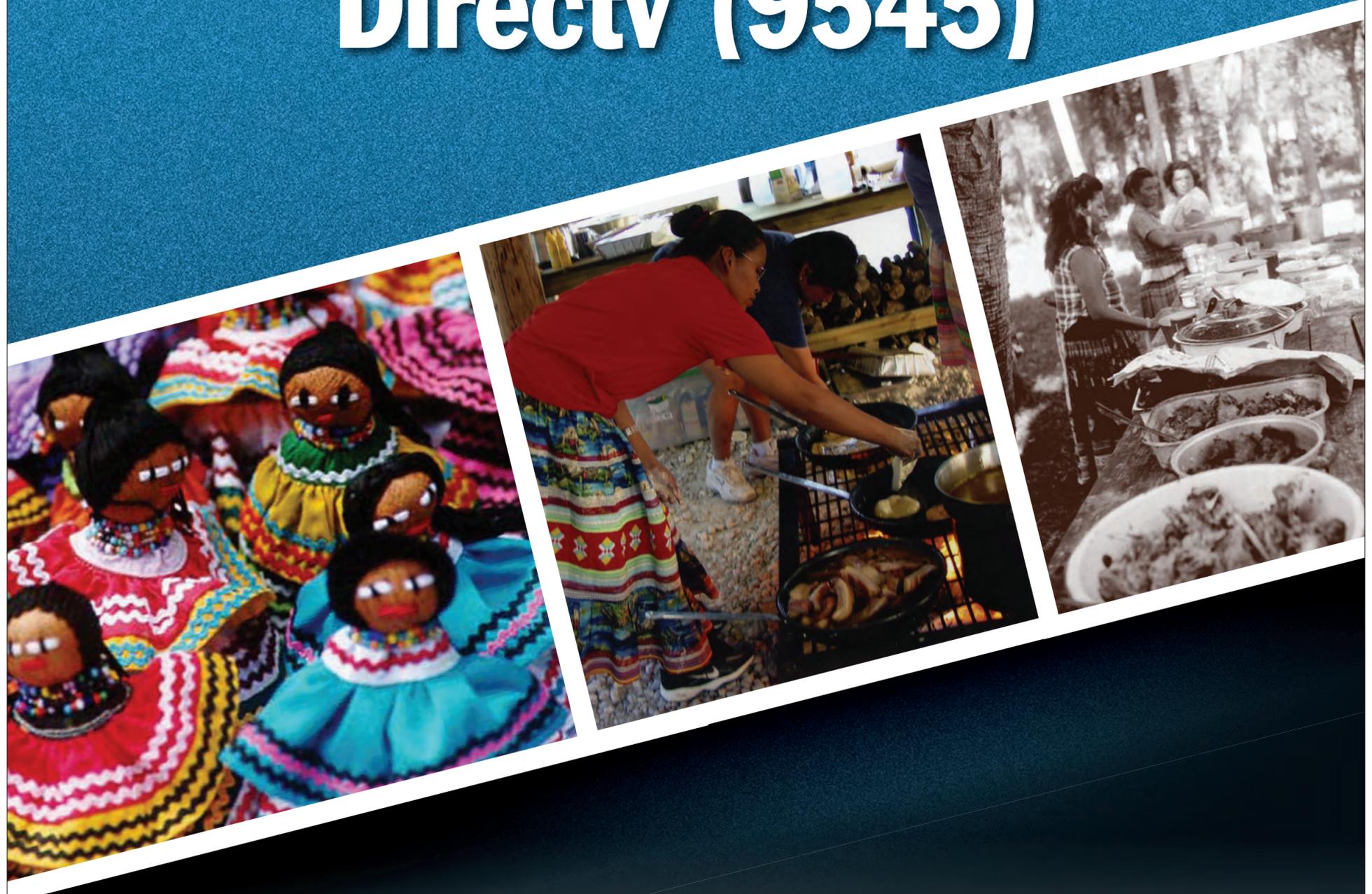
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