



**Students take part in
Archaeology Day**
EDUCATION ♦ 1B

**Tribal 4-H'ers compete at
South Florida Fair**
COMMUNITY ♦ 3A

**Recreation launches
youth sports programs**
SPORTS ♦ 1C



The Seminole

Voice of the Unconquered



Tribune

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Classic Casino builds on history

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In 1979, the Tribe's first foray into high-stakes bingo opened on the site of today's Classic Casino with an unassuming metal building; now, 34 years later, it celebrated a \$10-million renovation and continues to be a big draw.

Looking back, it's easy to see the evolution from bingo to the Tribe's wildly successful and wide-ranging gaming business. But from the perspective of the leaders of the time, it was all a gamble — one that paid off in spades for the Seminoles and other Tribes across the United States.

"There were laws in place at that time and we didn't know if we could stay," Chairman James E. Billie said. "So we put the least amount of money into the metal building and started bingo, which generated more income than the casinos in Las Vegas and Atlantic City."

Former Chairman Howard Tommie considered the concept of high-stakes bingo but left office before implementing it. When Chairman Billie took office in 1979, he saw a huge opportunity in bingo, even though Florida law only allowed nonprofit bingo halls to open two days a week and have a maximum jackpot of \$100. The Seminoles opened the bingo hall anyway and became the first federally recognized Tribe to operate one on a reservation. When it opened, then-Broward County Sheriff Bob Butterworth immediately tried to shut it down. The Tribe sued the state, claiming sovereignty rights protected them from state interference by the U.S. government. The legal war had begun.

"Our attorneys gave us advice that we couldn't open, but we tried anyway," Chairman Billie said. "We opened in December 1979 and didn't know if we would survive. If we didn't, we planned to make the building a skating rink."

♦ See CLASSIC on page 12A

Hollywood hosts, wins Rez Rally

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The 13th annual Rez Rally got off to a soggy start, but by the time 672 runners, walkers, strollers and wheelchairs crossed the starting line, the sky had cleared to let the sun shine bright on the Hollywood Reservation. The weather held the rest of the day and was pleasantly cool, perfect for a 5K race.

"We could have used the rain yesterday or tomorrow," said Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., who walked the route with his family. "Even if we just get together, it isn't a lost day."

The Tribe gathered on Jan. 19 for a day of fun, fitness and camaraderie. The added dimension of competition between reservations and individuals made the day a full experience. The competition was fierce yet good-natured; everyone wanted their reservation to come out on top. Hollywood/Fort Pierce/Trail boasted the largest team with 337 participants, while the next highest were Brighton/Tampa with 130, Big Cypress with 129 and Immokalee/Naples with 76. Within each team, additional rivalries and individual goals could be found.

"My archival, Skeeter Bowers, is injured today," Hollywood Board Rep. Chris Osceola said. "This might be the year I beat him."

The Tribalwide race was begun to create an enjoyable day for people to get together and experience a positive wellness event for the entire family, said Suzanne Davis, Allied Health program manager.

"[We wanted] an event that would appeal to both the avid fitness enthusiast and someone who was just starting out," Davis said. "[It] incorporates both a 'fun run' and the competitive spirit to try to bring out the most people to represent the each rez team. It started with 300 people and has grown from there."

♦ See REZ RALLY on pages 10-11A

Seminole Tribal Fair celebrates 42nd year

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter



Beverly Bidney

Seminole children take in the atmosphere of the grand entry at the 42nd annual Tribal Fair as a WISDOM Native American dancer performs.

HOLLYWOOD — Not everyone is familiar with Native American culture but many have a natural curiosity about it. For those inquisitive types, the 42nd annual Seminole Tribal Fair at the Hollywood Hard Rock from Feb. 8-10 was the place to be. People from all over South Florida — and far beyond — learned about Tribal culture, enjoyed authentic Seminole food and witnessed daredevils wrestle alligators.

The weekend began with the grand entry of Seminole dignitaries, royalty and preschoolers. Tribes from across the country displayed their cultural heritage through traditional dances and colorful costumes as about 2,000 school children watched in awe.

Throughout the weekend, visitors were treated to music, dance, wildlife, alligator wrestling shows, canoe races, concerts and rodeos. Another highlight was a performance from Native American Kenny Dobbs, the 2012 NBA All-Star Weekend Amateur Slam Dunk Champion, in which he jumped over Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. before reaching the basket.

"I look forward to Tribal Fair every year," Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard said. "Our ancestors paved the way; I just wish they could see this today. They passed the culture on to us."

The Tribal Fair committee worked long and hard to produce the event, which ran smoothly.

"I'm getting a lot of positive feedback," said Virginia Osceola, an organizer of Tribal Fair. "Thanks to the hard work of everyone on the committee, we've met our expectations."

The purpose of Tribal Fair is to showcase Native American culture, including Seminole.

"People don't know we are here. They know the Hard Rock, but they don't always know the Tribe," said Gloria Wilson, another organizer of Tribal Fair. "It's good to get our message out to the general public."

Members of the public appeared to be impressed by what they saw, which included 52 Native American vendors from Indian Country. The booths were busy as people bought items, including patchwork clothing, Seminole dolls and jewelry, both beaded and silver.

"We just love learning about the culture," said Stephanie Christiansen, of Davie, who attended the fair with her son Cade, 6, and their home school group. "Cade's great-great-great-great-grandfather on his father's side was Mohawk."

A couple from Italy perused the vendors searching for the perfect item.

"Everything looks interesting," said Virginia Girolami, who attended with her boyfriend, Michael Lee. "I was interested to

♦ See TRIBAL FAIR on pages 6-7A

Brighton Red Barn: back in the saddle again

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

BRIGHTON — The historic Red Barn, abandoned and covered with vines for decades, flashed back to its agrarian

past on Jan. 26 when cowboys herding cattle and horses, a hayride, a barbecue and the sounds of country western music once again filled the air amid blue skies, green pastures and the bright winter sun of Florida Seminole Cattle Country.



Peter B. Gallagher

Seminole royalty led by Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar and Jr. Miss Florida Brianna Nunez unveil the plaque designating the Brighton Red Barn on the National Register of Historic Places on Jan. 26.

At one time the largest and most important building in the Seminole Tribe, the Red Barn was built by the federal Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) — Indian Division in 1941, an effort to help kick-start the fledgling Seminole cattle industry. The Red Barn was placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2008, though few in the Tribe knew.

That honor was celebrated, before hundreds of guests, complete with the unveiling of a plaque, speeches, a cattle drive handled by the Florida Seminole Cattle Women's Association, an oil painting from artist Dorothy Gardiner and a full day of quips, one-liners and precious history from master of ceremonies (and Brighton's eldest male senior) Stanlo Johns.

"The Seminole Tribe did not get organized until 1957. That's just been a couple years ago," Johns said. "This cattle program's been going on since the 1930s. At one time there were seven sets of cow pens on this reservation. All this was all native pastures. Only thing we had at that time was some old milk cow someone drug up here."

"All of a sudden the federal government came in and said, 'We gonna send you some cattle to take care of.' I don't know whose idea that was, but it worked out pretty good cause they sent us 400 head of straight Hereford cattle up here. Everyone in this area said the straight Hereford will

not make it in this environment here.

"A terrible ordeal we had here...We had to doctor these cattle wherever they were, anywhere. When this started there were no barbed-wire fences. We had a heck of a time keeping our cattle together."

"Then they built this barn."

The celebration was organized by Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Paul Backhouse and Tribal architectural historian Carrie Dilley, with assistance from the offices of Chairman James E. Billie and Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Seminole Media Productions, Florida Seminole Cattle Women's Association and the Seminole Police Department.

"I really don't know why [the NRHP designation] was never really officially announced before," said Dilley, who wrote successful NRHP applications for both the Red Barn and the Council Oak.

Despite the fact the Tribe had a limited history of preserving historic buildings, she found strong support among Tribal members to save the barn.

"When we inspected the structure it was clear that the entire barn was in extreme disrepair, in real danger of falling down. Everyone we talked to was in favor of saving the structure. So a committee was formed and we decided a celebration like this would be the best way to get the ball rolling."

♦ See RED BARN on page 9A

INSIDE:

COMMUNITY: A

HEALTH: 14A

EDUCATION: B

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 5B

SPORTS: C

Editorial

Seminole Tribe, Hard Rock move forward

• James E. Billie

Christmas is past. We are moving through a new year. As usual, I like to hang onto my Christmas tree until about February. So the first week of February I finally took my Christmas tree down. I like to enjoy the Christmas tree. This was one of those trees that comes from the North, some kind of cedar tree; when it starts drying up, the leaves of the cedar tree have a nice aroma that I enjoy smelling.

But even though it still smelled good, the leaves started to clutter the house and my wife made me get rid of it. So, I'll have to wait until next year and I'll have another Christmas tree – the longest I've ever had a Christmas tree standing up is through May. And that was a smaller tree. The one I had this year was about 15 feet tall and it was nice.

On the business scene of the Tribe, our Hard Rock International opened up another hotel franchise in Cancun, Mexico. It is an all-inclusive hotel, approximately 600 rooms, in a beautiful location with a nice blue turquoise ocean around it. We brought in our different managers from around the world to visit and let them enjoy themselves and relax in the sun. My wife and I went there and stayed for two days. It was very nice. Hard Rock International is out creating more business for the Seminole Tribe, and it was nice to witness another successful opening in our Hard Rock business.

If you notice within the last couple years, I really don't talk about business so much. It is because the Seminole Tribe's Hard Rock is one of the most successful businesses in the world. It is hard to compare other businesses with what we've got. It is so huge that we have several thousand people employed and the jobs are not duplicated. Everyone from janitors and lawn maintenance persons to the top executives are all involved in the running of a casino, a hotel, food services, building and maintenance – almost anything you can think of, we have it. And we have the best managers

around the world operating these facilities. So I don't go over there and try to interfere. But I do enjoy a new franchise opening and enjoy helping open the new hotel or casino.

If we successfully maintain this business in Florida and we have no complications from outside casinos threatening to come in, we will probably be doing well for many, many years to come.

As far as our Tribal operation goes, for the past two years, I've tried to maintain status quo. But I did feel that we were over-populated with employees and my job was to possibly thin this situation down.

But that is a very difficult thing to do. I know, especially in the time of this recession that we are supposed to be in, it is very hard to let people go unless we really have to. So whoever is working with us in the Tribe – and you still have a job – I would consider myself very lucky to still be working.

If we are able to create other businesses here in Florida, even if it is another gaming facility that could possibly create another 20,000 jobs or so, it will mean that we are successful. This way, people who have been laid off may easily find themselves working again in one of our facilities.

I am excited about the 75th anniversary of Brighton Field Days. Andrew Bowers, with the assistance of Lucy Bowers, has put on a fine program for this year's Field Day event. Seventy-five years used to seem like a long time and as I have said before, I am 68, so it doesn't seem so long anymore and it doesn't seem so old either.

For a long time, I was looking forward to seeing some of our older people attending the 75th anniversary, but many had passed on just last year. But there are still a few old-timers left and it is always great to see them out and about.

Sho-naa-bish.

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



New business starting to thrive

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

When this administration came into office 20 months ago, there were enterprises that were in existence that were failing – investments had been made in finances and manpower, equipment purchased, etc. These were projects that hadn't really gained any traction (i.e. Seminole Pride Water, Seminole Pride Juice, the convenience stores, among others).

One of the things we had been working on, from the very beginning, was to increase the distribution of the water, juice and beef. It was a long road, filled with many meetings, emails and frustrations. So you can imagine how excited we were to finally reach our goal – we have distribution agreements with U.S. Foods and H.T. Hackney. U.S. Foods has continental United States distribution; H.T. Hackney services a lot of independent and mom-and-pop stores.

In fact, with the improvements we have made in those stores, we have already exceeded, in just the first quarter, the revenue projection we had forecasted for the entire fiscal year. And, that number is just going to increase.

It took a while because we had to go through the in-house approval process with both distributors. It's just not a matter of showing up and they say, "Oh OK." They have their quantity demands, you have to negotiate the pricing and it goes on and on. H.T. Hackney currently services 500 stores in the South Florida area. U.S. Foods is also using our water as their in-house water because we can get it to them cheaper.

We are just very excited. It took a while and a lot of emails and paperwork going back and forth and then finally, WHEW. OK.

So the opportunity to have our water in big grocery store chains is forthcoming.

There are many other things we are excited about: We have received our fuel distributor license, so we will be able to buy fuel at the port at a much cheaper rate, which will translate into lower pricing at the pump, which will mean more business. Previously, we were buying it from another distributor. Now, we have cut out the middleman. We know gas is a volume business and we are talking pennies...but when you are talking about millions and millions of gallons, those pennies add up. We just got this license on Feb. 12.

That is just one of the changes that will affect how profitable the convenience stores will be because more business at the pump means more business at the stores as well.

I have discussed our strategy at community meetings: We could have easily said, "Existing operations haven't made any money," and just tossed them. But how do you do that when an investment has been made, in some cases a significant investment had been made? We decided to take another approach.

For the stores, we brought them up to the level of a Circle K or a 7-Eleven. That's what people are looking for, that's what people want to see, so you have to make that initial investment to upgrade to that level.

Look at what's been done, in sales, in Hollywood alone. We have taken sales from \$3.5 million to \$5.5 million.

Our Electronic Cigarettes are really starting to take hold. We are getting a lot of Internet orders, not only for the starter kid but also for the disposable filters. We are scheduled, at the end of the month, to travel to Temple, Texas to meet with McLane – the company that holds the distribution agreement with 7-Eleven. We sent them samples; they called back. And we are going there to

discuss getting a chain authorization agreement so our product can be sold in 7-Elevens.

All these things I have been talking and writing about month after month are starting to come in. The budget that we prepared for this year was based on the assumption that none of this was going to show up this year. But it is and that just makes the financial picture even better. And, of course, we plan to do a forecast – it will show what we prepared for, what we saw after the first quarter and what we can expect – that we will show at the shareholders meeting.

We are still moving forward with the manufacturing facility for the e-cigs. Right now, we still have to use Foxconn – the company that manufactures all the Apple products – based out of China. All these products are assembled in China, but in order for us to meet the demands of all the various brands and become the manufacturer of choice, our facility will be semi-automated. The space we are considering is in Coral Springs, where we will rent warehouse space. Once we work out all the operational issues there, yes, we would love to be located on the reservation.

Changes are coming to our beef program. The Seminole Tribe has always sent our cattle out to Northwest Texas. But now we have identified a feed lot in North Florida near the Suwannee River. Of all places, Rep. Larry Howard and Alex Johns went up there and looked at it. They also have identified a slaughterhouse in Leesburg.

So the plan is not to ship it so far, have better control of the finishing out, maintain closer interaction with the slaughterhouse and keep this whole process here in Florida. More and more upscale restaurants want to know the origin of the cow, where it has been, what the cow has been fed...so we want to be able to make a statement that our beef is fully grown and finished out here in Florida.

There are a lot of restaurants that don't mind paying more because they have customers who don't mind paying more for a good piece of meat. The word "organic" is everywhere.

That's big. It's a trend. That's what we have tried to do with all these business enterprises, including the ones from the past administration. Research, find out the trends, then take advantage of the trend and position ourselves so if people want a certain product we are there to offer it.

We have some good people in-house. Alex Johns has been invaluable. I can't say enough about the job he's done. I'm still learning the business, the lingo. Just so that I don't say something wrong when we are talking about cattle, I've told Alex I need to be attached to his hip. The progress that we have made, the pregnancy rate that we have been able to achieve recently, I think is a direct result of the changes recommended by Alex. We have a better product and we are going to market that product as Seminole Pride Beef to be the meat of choice for grocery chains and high-end restaurants.

Based solely on my personal observations, I think a lot of Tribes have been spoiled by gaming, so they end up putting all their energies and efforts in protecting that. But you always have to ask yourself, "What if we are no longer successful at gaming?" There are so many factors outside the control of any Tribe, no matter how hard you fight. When you are fighting large numbers of people and companies, they are going to spend more than we do. What if it all disappears and you've had all your eggs are in one basket? All the progress you have made and now you are back to square one.

The Seminole Tribe has always been a leader in exploring the differ-

ent possibilities. In fact, everything we are doing now is just a continuation of that legacy. I always talk about "legacy." It is taking the vision of the founding members and framers of our Constitution and Corporate Charter to that next level. We'll fight the fights that we have to fight. It's keeping their vision and their dream going. I think that we do that with a level of conviction that some Tribes don't exercise.

There are some other projects on the board that are still being worked through the legal and taxation issues. The Tribe is looking into acquiring a deep-water port and an oil refinery plant. Those are two big items that, if we are able to work through the various legal issues, will really enhance our distributorship opportunities. Again, this will position us to do business with the rest of the world. Import/export.

The Yakama Tribe in upstate Washington has some sort of agreement that allows them to transport fuel without tax. I need to go sit down with them and explore how they are able to do it and see what kind of partnership we could work out. Is there anything there? I have no idea. But I think I should go out there and find out. The only investment would be time and the cost to get out there and back.

We have reached out to FSU. We've been made aware they have a housing project that will be let out for bid in April. We made sure we are on their list to be contacted so we can submit a bid. The thought has always been not just to do work here on the rez, but if the Tribe is going to pay anyone, why not pay ourselves and the money stay right here on the reservation?

I think it is important to note that it was the goal of this administration to be self-sufficient with no subsidy from Council, and this fiscal year we have not submitted any subsidy requests to Council. Anything we are doing is strictly with Board funds. Not from Council. For the first time in Seminole history, there has been a fully self-sufficient Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

In just a short time we are showing we can be self-sufficient and we are going to keep moving in that direction. This administration is working. That's what it means to Tribal members. This administration is not about showing up on Fridays and picking up a paycheck. We don't rely on subsidies from the Council. No. The Council has enough on its plate – we don't need to add to that.

You don't just snap your fingers and it happens. A lot of meeting, back and forth, give and take. It is always with the mindset: We have to come to work. Nothing is going to be given to us. We have to make things happen. And are going to do it without any assistance.

When you are talking about the methods of madness, that is what it is. There is a goal we are trying to reach and everything we are doing, every step we take, is putting us closer to that goal. We want to share the wealth. That is what the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. was created for, and we are going to make that dream and vision come true.

A regular Board dividend to our shareholders, the members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Sho-naa-bish.

Tony Sanchez Jr. is President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.



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Community

A

Boys & Girls Club musicians rock out

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Boys & Girls Club offers opportunities for kids to explore their creativity through music.

“We want the youth to focus on something that is positive and encourage them to develop their talents,” said Robert C. North Jr., Boys & Girls Club youth events coordinator. “Music teaches discipline; they have to set goals to learn a song all the way through.”

A few Hollywood kids showed how far they have come in the program at a concert on Jan. 18.

Three performers each played a song, with backup from the Boys & Girls Club staff on drums and guitar. Aaron Osceola, 17, and his sister Anissa Osceola, 16, both played guitar, while Rebecca Vasquez, 15, played bass. The music rocked, and the audience enjoyed the show.

“The goal of the program is to get kids interested in music and give them outlets for individual expression,” said James Payne, Boys & Girls Club music teacher. “The kids get out of it what they put into it. We have kids who work really hard and try to improve, and we have others who start and don’t continue with it. We’re only here as facilitators; it’s the kids who have to do the work.”

Started in 2009, the music program is offered at the Hollywood and Big Cypress Boys & Girls Clubs, with talks to expand to Brighton. Kids choose guitar, bass, drums or piano and get individual lessons

once a week. Between 11 and 20 kids on each reservation participate in the program. Although the club had not held a concert in about a year, North plans to hold one every few months.

“The kids were pretty excited to perform but a little nervous,” North said. “They looked forward to trying out new songs. Some talked about getting butterflies, but it happens to everybody. We tell them to do their best and concentrate on their song and they will do fine.”

The concerts normally generate more interest in the music program among other kids and attendance spikes. Plans for the program include a joint concert between the Hollywood and Big Cypress clubs and studio recording workshops.

The chance to learn about recording and producing CDs shows kids who don’t play an instrument that they can also be in the music program.

“We have to stay on our toes and have fresh material,” Payne said. “And we have to keep challenging those kids who have been in the program for a while.”

When they play together as a band, the kids learn teamwork and cooperation. One of the tougher issues is scheduling practices around the young musicians’ other obligations, including school, tutoring and sports. The kids who performed at the concert found the time to practice together.

“The program is growing, and we want to give kids different avenues to explore,” North said. “The idea is to have them be independent thinkers, do their own thing and follow what they are interested in.”



Aaron Osceola, left, performs with Boys & Girls Club staff, while fans look on.

Beverly Bidney

Museum hosts FSU Day

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — FSU Day with the Seminole Tribe at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum was like homecoming of a different kind.

Nearly 175 Florida State University alumni, called FSU Seminoles, were welcomed on Jan. 26 with open arms by Museum staff and Tribal members for a daylong experience on Seminole Indian turf at the Big Cypress Reservation.

“Many FSU alumni think football when they think Seminoles. We’re going to show them the meaning behind ‘The Unconquered,’” said Seminole Tribe IT Tech Services supervisor Douglas Zepeda, an FSU graduate and member of the alumni Seminole Club of Naples.

The FSU Alumni Association and Seminole Tribe partnership event featured tours of museum exhibits, traditional

Seminole art demonstrations, a behind-the-scenes peek at the library and archives, and a mile-long boardwalk stroll over marsh that led to a chickee village where Tribal elders fashioned jewelry, clothing and sweetgrass baskets.

Dozens met under a large chickee for one of the day’s highlights: a discussion with FSU Department of History associate professor Andrew K. Frank, who specializes in Florida Seminole Indians, and the Museum’s Traditional Arts and Outreach coordinator Pedro Zepeda.

Seated on rows of massive cypress logs, guests asked questions that ranged from the complicated, “How does the Tribe benefit from its thriving casino business?” to the basic, “What language is spoken by the Seminole people?”

The latter question was harder to answer. It depends.

“Creek primarily in Brighton; Mikasuki in Big Cypress. But people on both reservations will say they speak Seminole, and we all say we ‘speak the talk,’” Pedro Zepeda said.

Frank said student interest in Seminole culture is growing. About 1,200 students have completed his class, *History of the Seminoles and the Southeastern Tribes*. So far this year, 330 students have registered for the class.

“It’s one of the school’s most popular classes,” Frank said. “The biggest thing students learn is that the Seminoles and Seminole culture is living. It is not just historical.”

Students are also surprised to learn that “The Unconquered” was rooted long before becoming a slogan on FSU T-shirts.

During the Second Seminole War from 1835-1842, the Seminoles outgunned the United States Army thanks to long-established trade relationships with European countries, Frank said. For generations, people of southeastern Tribes made deals with government leaders abroad and in the United States. Trading led to Seminole survival, freedom, cattle and tourism markets, and eventual wealth.



Inside the library at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Florida State University alumni check out archived maps, newspapers and photographs that document Seminole history.

Eileen Soler



Beverly Bidney

Caleb Billie and Rosalinda Lopez keep their eyes on the judge during the South Florida Fair competition.

Kids show swine at South Florida Fair

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

WEST PALM BEACH — Youth in 4-H spend a lot of time and energy raising and caring for livestock, with the goal of bringing them to market after about 100 days. Nine Seminole kids and their hogs joined 107 others at the South Florida Fair in West Palm Beach for the Youth Market Animal Program Hog Show and Sale from Jan. 25-26.

Children between the ages of 8 and 18 competed in the show, which was open to everyone, not just 4-H members. Each purchased a 3-month-old pig and fed, groomed and exercised the animal. They kept detailed record books, outlining each expense during the 100-day period.

“The kids learn responsibility,” said Melonie Hamlett, 4-H leader in Immokalee. “The pigs are locked up in a pen and can’t fend for themselves. The responsibility of caring for the animals is a big thing for the kids.”

The young pigs weigh about 75 pounds in the beginning, about the size of a German Shepherd, but they gain weight quickly. By the time they go to the show, the hogs weigh between 230 and 300 pounds. To keep the animals in good shape, the kids walked them every day for about

30 minutes and practiced guiding the pig with a stick as they must do in the show ring.

Although kids spend a lot of time with the animals, they are not pets. From the start, kids learn that raising the pig is a business venture with the purpose of making a profit.

“You always need to get it food and water and brush it daily so the oils get into the skin,” said Valholly Frank, 10, of Big Cypress, who showed a hog for the first time. “I let the pig exercise by letting it out of the pen so it can run around and get all its energy out. Then I walk it with the stick. It like it, but walking it is the hardest part.”

In addition to learning responsibility, youth honed math and bookkeeping skills. In record books, they tracked the cost of the pig, food, wormer pellets, brushes, show sticks, pans, shampoo, clippers and other grooming supplies. If they had a veterinarian bill, that cost is recorded. They also have to depreciate the cost of the items they use from year to year, such as the clippers, by 10 percent.

Because the hogs normally sell between \$3 and \$7 per pound, profits are not guaranteed. The young pig initially costs about \$210, the 14 bags of feed they need cost around \$212 and wormer pellets added to the feed cost \$5 per bag; the costs add up, which affects the profit margin.

At the South Florida Fairgrounds, classical music played in the cavernous barn as pigs spent show day dozing, getting bathed and behaving like swine. The cacophony of pig-emitted sounds easily drowned out the calming music. Despite the noisy atmosphere, the Tribal kids made sure they and their hogs were ready for their big moment in the show ring.

“You get to work with the pig and go to the fair,” said Troy Cantu, 12, of Immokalee, who showed a hog for the third year at the South Florida Fair. “Selling them is a little hard because you love them. Keeping the record book is the hardest part.”

“We learned responsibility and that we have to be on time,” added his sister Rosalinda Lopez, 16, who also showed a hog for the third year at the South Florida Fair.

During 4-H meetings, kids learn the basics of showing a hog and get showmanship tips.

“I tell them to extend your arm with the show stick to turn the pig,” said Hamlett, who was the 4-H leader in the city of Immokalee for 18 years before she joined the Tribe four years ago. “Keep your eye on the judge. Keep your shirt tucked in. Don’t kick the pig, don’t knee the pig and don’t touch the pig with your hands or any other body part to get it off the fence in the ring.”

For the show, hogs were divided into classes by weight and were presented to the judge in the ring as a group. After determining showmanship scores for the kids, the judge noted how each hog was built, gauged the amount of fat to meat and assessed the overall quality of the animal.

“It’s her first year, so it’s been quite a learning experience for her,” said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Valholly Frank’s father. She took second place in her weight class.

Brighton resident Rosa Urbina, 17, has showed hogs since she was 8 years old and has showed for five years at the South Florida Fair. Because she will turn 18 in May, this was her last time showing at the fair.

“I like coming to show. I have fun getting out there in the ring and showing my project to people,” she said. “It’s exciting and a little sad that this is my last show here.”

Her mother, Emma Urbina, has been through this with all her children.

“It’s time consuming, but as a parent you have to do what you can for your kids,” said Urbina, of Brighton.

Dionne Smedley had two children and a granddaughter at the show. “It’s a family thing,” she said. “All my kids have shown since they were 9 years old. It can be stressful. I put a lot on my daughter; she helps a lot.”

By the end of the night, all the hogs sold for a profit, and the price far exceeded Hamlett’s expectations. Tribal members who turned out to support the sale included President Tony Sanchez Jr., Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, Rep. Frank, Paul Bowers Sr., Raymond Garza representing Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger and Emma Urbina.

“We always appreciate the support of Tribal members for the youth programs,” Hamlett said. “Everyone was very pleased with the result of the sale.”

The participating kids were: from Immokalee 4-H: Brianna Bowers, Caleb Billie, Troy Cantu and Rosalinda Lopez; from Big Cypress 4-H: Valholly Frank; and from Brighton 4-H: Rayven Smith, Rylee Smith, Rosa Urbina and Karalyne Urbina.

The kids all brought home the bacon after the fair.



Beverly Bidney

Valholly Frank grooms her pig before the show.



Beverly Bidney

Rylee Smith, front, and Karalyne Urbina stand out in the ring in their patchwork shirts.



Beverly Bidney

Van Samuels talks to guests after the Seminole Stories presentation at the Stranahan House on Jan. 16.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki sponsors Seminole Stories at Fort Lauderdale Stranahan House

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — The history of Fort Lauderdale couldn't be told without including the relationship between local pioneers Frank and Ivy Stranahan and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Van Samuels, from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, discussed the bond at a lecture held at the Stranahan House in Fort Lauderdale on Jan. 16.

It was the first lecture in a series called Seminole Stories, aimed at educating the public about the Tribe.

"The Stranahans and the Tribe were very good friends and had a great working relationship," said Samuels, Museum Community Outreach specialist. "It's good to be able to come together and tell these stories; there is no more fitting location than the Stranahan House. Ivy Stranahan would be happy to see a group of Seminoles here now."

In the beginning of the 20th century, the Tribe regularly traveled by canoe on the New River to trade at the Stranahans' trading post. They sold deer hides and purchased fabric. Frank Stranahan built his house with wide porches on the river, also the site of the trading post, so the Seminoles would have a place to sleep when they came to trade — sometimes for days at a time. A former school teacher, Ivy Stranahan founded Friends of the Seminoles to educate Tribal members, which she led for more than 50 years.

During the event, Samuels also discussed food and clothing customs of the Seminole Tribe. In his introduction to traditional Tribal food, Samuels explained that all things in nature were given by the creator for the Tribe's survival, but they had to find it. Staples included corn, beans and squash — the three sisters — but they also grew pumpkins, potatoes and tomatoes. Wild foods included swamp cabbage — the heart of the Sabal palm tree, coontie — for making flour, bananas, coco plum, pond apples, oranges and guava.

"A great deal of effort was put into these foods," Samuels said. "The women would grind the corn with a heavy pestle every morning. They would grind enough



Beverly Bidney

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Community Outreach specialist Van Samuels gives a presentation at the Stranahan House in Fort Lauderdale.

corn for the entire camp to eat for the day; it was hard work. The men hunted, the women prepared the food and took care of the camp. But the men and children always ate first."

Today, he explained, Tribal members enjoy the same food as everyone else in addition to traditional frybread, stewed beef, sofkee and Indian tacos.

"A lot of folks who come to the Museum think we still eat berries and hunt in the wild," Samuels said.

Today's familiar patchwork clothing was originally made on hand-crank Singer sewing machines invented in the mid-1800s. It has always been an artistic, yet tedious, endeavor for the women who create it. Men traditionally wore big patchwork shirts with loincloths underneath, as well as colorful sash turbans decorated with ostrich feathers.

Deerskin was an integral part of men's clothing for life in the Everglades; deerskin leggings and moccasins helped protect legs from sharp sawgrass. The skins were tanned with a mixture of deer brains and

water, which gave them a uniquely soft and supple texture. This quality also made them popular at the trading post.

Samuels showed numerous photos dating from the 1800s to present day illustrating how traditional clothing hasn't changed significantly over the years. After the presentation, the crowd at Stranahan House perused a display of traditional items, including dolls and clothing.

"We've been so excited to have the Seminole program here," said Sandy Casteel, president of the Board of Directors for the Stranahan House. "We are so glad they are bringing their culture to the east side."

About 40 people gathered at the historic site for the presentation.

Other programs in the Seminole Stories series include *The History of Seminole Wars*, March 20; *Camera-man: The Seminole through the Lens of Julian Dimock*, June; *Alligator Wrestling and Tourist Camps*, Oct. 16; and *Christmas with the Stranahans*, Dec. 4.

FSU From page 3A

"My great-grandfather used to buy baby alligators from Seminole men in the parking lot of University of Miami. The Seminole were never disappeared," Frank said.

And there is much more to the tradition of beloved school symbols Osceola and Renegade than what happens on the football field.

The 35-year practice calls for a student dressed as the historic Seminole leader to ride an Appaloosa bareback onto the field while brandishing a flaming spear, then planting the spear in center field at the start of bowl and home football games. Fans don't know that the student is recruited from an elite list of champion equestrians who are required to study and write about Osceola and then follow guidelines that honor the Seminole Tribe.

FSU alumnus Kyle Doney represented Osceola several times. Now deputy director of the Native Learning Center, Doney said he hoped the event at the Museum would give alumni a more intimate view of the Seminole people.

"Seminole is more than a college nickname," he said.

Allen Durham, the head of the school's Osceola and Renegade program, explained how the tradition was started by his father, Bill Durham, in 1977, with permission from then-Chairman Howard Tommie.

"We promised to portray Osceola with reverence and respect," Allen Durham said. "When our student takes the football field, it is done in the spirit of Osceola's memory and a chance for him to ride again. It's a great tribute to a great people."

The program accepts no outside endorsements, makes no commercial appearances and never uses Renegade and Osceola to market the college, yet it is continually named first among the greatest stadium traditions of universities in the



Eileen Soler

FSU alumni gather under the meeting chickee at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum for an open discussion with Pedro Zepeda, Traditional Arts and Outreach coordinator, and Andrew Frank, FSU Department of History associate professor, about Seminole history and culture during FSU Day.

United States.

John Day, class of '65, said he always felt honored that the Tribe allowed the school a portion of the Unconquered tradition.

"It's not silliness on the sidelines. It's almost religious and we respect that," Day said.

Sandy and Paul Lambert, both '68 FSU graduates, attended the first game that Osceola and Renegade charged the field. They drove from their Tallahassee home to attend the Museum event. More than a quarter of alumni traveled from North Florida and beyond for the event.

"It made a deep impression on all of us that Osceola was real, and we were and always will be honored to have such a hero be associated with our team," Sandy Lambert said.



Eileen Soler

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Traditional Arts and Outreach coordinator Pedro Zepeda accepts a gift of appreciation from Allen Durham, head of FSU's Osceola and Renegade program.

Business profile: Skyz The Limit Clothing

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Brande Clay has always liked the convenience of shopping for her family's clothing in one store, rather than going store to store in a mall. The problem was finding a store with the right selection of men's, women's, boys', girls' and baby's clothing and accessories.

She solved the problem by opening a store of her own.

Skyz The Limit Clothing in Hollywood carries something for everyone in a wide selection of urban wear, shoes, handbags and jewelry.

"I've always liked fashion; I went to The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale for fashion design," said Clay, a single mother of five. "I've made traditional clothing and patchwork for my kids, and I wanted to try nontraditional fashion."

Her children keep her busy, so she hasn't had time to finish her studies yet, but Clay plans to go back to school and get her degree in fashion merchandising.

Owning a store is a labor of love. She has grown accustomed to keeping up with paperwork, buying new inventory each season and figuring out how to sell last season's fashions.

"It's always hard to know what people will like and what sizes to get," Clay said. "In fashion, everything is in and out so quickly it's hard to figure it out."

Although Clay had never owned a business before, or worked in a retail clothing store, she created Skyz The Limit herself. Growing up, she didn't have the means to shop for the latest styles as often as she wanted and mostly wore hand-me-down clothing.

"I'm not brand loyal," she said. "If I like something and I know it looks good, I'll buy it. Younger kids today are all about the brand."

At Skyz The Limit, plus sizes and children's clothes are the biggest sellers, so Clay plans to stick with what customers want.

The store has a Facebook page, and



Beverly Bidney

Cheri Paikin sells her Rock-ur-Style jewelry at Skyz The Limit Clothing.



Beverly Bidney

Brande Clay, left, is with her mother, Cheri Paikin, in Skyz The Limit Clothing.

plans for a website are in development.

"My whole life has been raising my kids, but I squeezed in some college and some jobs," Clay said. "I didn't know I could do this, but it's an accomplishment to put a store together from scratch."

Clay is fortunate to have a helping hand in the store. Her mother, Cheri Paikin, comes in and stocks the store with jewelry for a business within a business called Rock-ur-Style. The in-store boutique, which features one-of-a-kind pieces, came to be after people noticed the bold pieces Paikin wore to work.

"People loved the jewelry, so I started buying more and selling it," said Paikin, a former Tribal employee.

The handcrafted jewelry is made of sterling silver with precious and semi-precious stones. Prices range from \$2 to \$700. When Paikin's jewelry source passed away, his heirs sold her the inventory because she was such a good customer.

"I bought it all," Paikin said. "I have thousands of pieces, enough to fill the store completely. I like to have unusual pieces, from very delicate to chunky. They are perfect for gifts."

The mother-daughter duo fashioned a store with something for everyone, and they did it in a challenging economic time. Although she didn't get any advice before opening, Clay knows any motivated person can succeed in business.

"If someone really wants to open a business, anyone can do it," she said. "I named my store Skyz The Limit because it's a positive term. You can do anything you put your mind to."

Skyz The Limit is located at 4860 S. State Road 7 in Hollywood, just south of Griffin Road in the La Granja shopping plaza. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday 12-6 p.m. For more information, call 954-804-5749 or email BranClay27@aol.com.

If you are a Tribal member and business owner who would like to be featured in *The Tribune*, email BrettDaly@semtribe.com.

Tax returns not so taxing

Tribal members may be eligible for additional refunds

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

The long story short: Changes in income tax for 2012 could cause a little more hassle this year but the changes, by and large, benefit Tribal members, according to information provided at a recent community meeting on the Big Cypress Reservation.

"Generally, it's good, good news for everyone," said Tribal Chief Financial Officer Jim Raker, during the presentation.

Still better, changes are retroactive to 2009, which means that a little extra paperwork could add up to retro-refunds for 2010 and 2011. Research by the Tribe's Accounting Department to amend 1099 income tax forms for those years showed that 2009 is not likely to garner refunds.

It's a general Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rule that all income, whether provided in goods, services or money, is taxable. But the IRS general welfare exclusion allows for Native Americans to receive benefits based on financial need which unfortunately excludes Tribal members. The exclusions that are applicable to Tribal members are certain benefits for health, education or family services that are excluded from taxable income.

According to an IRS update issued in December 2012, additional items can include: basic housing repairs and utility charges; transportation to and from school, preschool programs, job training and counseling; and cultural programs or events that are Native American related.

However, each benefit that a program provides does not mean that a particular service is currently offered.

Suresh Geer, the Tribe's Finance director, said the benefits are not all black and white.

"It all depends on how it is used and documented," he said.

For instance, costs to attend pow-wows and other cultural events, including those on or off reservations in other states, were taxable in the past. Now, they are not. However, if a Tribal member travels to Europe for a cultural experience, the trip is taxable unless there is clear relevance to a Native American event or concern.

Criteria to have specific benefits excluded from Tribal member gross income include: the benefit must be part of a specific Tribal government program; must have guidelines to spell out qualifications; cannot be lavish; or cannot be compensation for services. Also, the benefit should not discriminate in favor of Tribal government and it must be available to any in the Tribe who qualify.

Amended 1099 IRS forms for 2010 and 2011 and Summary of Benefits reports should be available for all Tribal members by Feb. 28.

Free tax return preparation for 2012 will only be provided to Tribal elders or incarcerated and incapacitated members. Tax preparers from McGladrey & Pullen accounting firm will be available at Tribal offices to help other Tribal members at reasonable rates. Members can have fees deducted from per capita distributions.

"The biggest issue has always been incorrect filing by Tribe members or tax preparers who are unfamiliar with unique issues like the per capita distribution," Geer said. "(McGladrey & Pullen) is the alternative the Tribe is most comfortable with."

The deadline to file 2012 federal income tax returns is April 15.

"Do not stress," Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger advised Tribal members. "It may all seem confusing and complex, but keep it simple, keep receipts and use a certified public accountant (CPA)."

Geer offered more cautious advice: Beware of identity theft.

"Do not carry your Social Security card with you, and if it goes missing, call the IRS and report it right away," he said.

For more information, call the Accounting Department at 954-966-6300.

Senior profile: Mitchell Cypress

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Mitchell Cypress is a sober reminder that redemption after addiction is possible.

The 65-year-old has lived for the past two decades painfully aware that his past had caused those he loved the most to suffer the worst.

"I drank alcohol all the time, and when I met my wife and we had our two daughters, I was still drinking," said the former Tribal Chairman.

In 1983, Mitchell was diagnosed with diabetes; even that was not enough to make him quit the bottle. It was a rollover car accident, after a night at the bar in 1990 that scared him into rehab.

"That night I tossed my last can of beer away," he said.

Today, he is a different man. Mitchell, who adopted healthy eating and daily exercise as a way of life through the Seminole Health Department Diabetes Program, was elected Chairman of the Tribe in 2003 and helped establish the annual Rez Rally to prevent and combat diabetes.

In 2004, the Mitchell Cypress Fitness Trail was created to provide a pleasant outdoor workout environment for all Tribal members. In 2007, he put his unhealthy, destructive life experiences on the pages of his inspirational book, *Having Diabetes & Acting in an Honorable Way*.

Mitchell's road to recovery was potholed by years of excuses.

He grew up hard on the Big Cypress Reservation just off the Josie Billie Highway where the clinic now stands. His father abandoned his mother, Mary Frances Cypress, who was left to raise nine children on her own while she worked at the Indian Village's Thompson's Wild Animal Farm.

"Tourists used to come by to take pictures of us," he said. "They'd give us candy and at the same time, we were told how the government worked against us. We were never sure if we could trust them."

As a student, Mitchell learned about American history — how Europeans took over the country and how the U.S. Army battled the Seminoles into the Everglades. Still, he knew he was an American citizen and at age 16, while attending the Chilocco Boarding School in Oklahoma, he joined the 45 Infantry Division of the U.S. National Guard.

Meanwhile, Mitchell collected \$90 each month as a reservist and worked as often as possible as a laborer on cattle

farms to buy his own clothes and food and to help support his mother back home.

After his high school graduation, during the Vietnam era, he was drafted into the U.S. Army Infantry where he played softball and was a boxer in the United States and Germany. When the war ended, Mitchell became involved in Tribal government, eventually holding several high-profile Tribal positions through 1989, which required an intense work schedule and plenty of nights out.

All the while, Mitchell was drinking. Being a husband and father of two daughters came second and third.

"I should have been a better father, but I wasn't and now (my daughters) are deceased — both from alcohol-related reasons," he said.

His wife is also gone. Mary Ann Billie-Cypress died before their daughters in 1987, while in his arms on the way to hospital, from complications of kidney disease.

Mitchell regrets that he used alcohol to ease his own pain of living with a sick wife rather than putting drink aside to give her a happier life. And he is forever saddened that his behavior likely led to his daughters making dangerous choices that ended their lives — Michele Cypress in 2002 at age 30 and Angie Cypress in 2010 at age 35.

Mitchell has found love again. "I know God has given me a second chance," Cypress said. He has a daughter, Nichele Brandy, now 2, with his girlfriend of five years, Amy Adame, who is expecting a second daughter soon.

"I feel that the two daughters I lost to my alcohol days are returning to me," Mitchell said. "That's how God is working. It's time to be a good father."

Mitchell has no desire to return to Tribal office, but he continues community service. Daily, he helps out at the Big Cypress Senior Center.

On certain days, he heads a pack of seniors on three-wheel bikes, works out with senior friends at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium or checks his zen in yoga class.

"I'm not a role model by any means. I just want people to understand the two sides of life," he said. "I was the dark side once. Now I am living brighter in recovery."

He wants seniors — and everyone else — to know it's never too late to adopt a healthier lifestyle and start over.

"The first step is the heaviest, but the second one is easier," he said. "Think of it as having a tool within your reach, but the tool only helps if you pick it up and use it."



Eileen Soler
Mitchell Cypress.



Eileen Soler

Friends and family of Thomas Mark Billie take over the road during a 250-mile motorcycle run on Jan. 20 to celebrate Billie's 64th birthday.

Free-wheelin' at 64 and enjoying the ride

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — When a cavalcade of motorcycles owns the road on the Big Cypress Reservation, you can bet a few old-time Tribal riders are in the pack. It's practically tradition.

"It's like you're coming back home," said Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger after an all-day run through Big Cypress, into Immokalee, through the Big Cypress National Preserve and, finally, to the Tamiami Trail. "The closer and deeper we got, the more I was home. At Osceola's Camp everyone was talking about tradition and telling stories. Even talking with friends about the weather is like being home."

The Jan. 20 run was Councilman Tiger's first on his new fire-orange Harley-Davidson Touring Road Glide but was an annual event planned nearly all year by friends and family of Thomas Mark Billie, whose 64th birthday was celebrated with the 250-mile, round-trip run.

"Every year we get T-shirts, and every year the back of the shirt has a road sign on it. This year it was route 64. Last year it was route 63, the year before 62. You get the point," said Gene Davis, one of the annual riders and operations manager at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Davis, a retired Collier County sheriff's deputy, recalled the Thomas Billie Birthday Run from 2011 when a massive birthday cake capped the day — it was baked in the full-size shape of the birthday rider's own motorcycle.

This year, the festivities ended with a full-course family barbecue at Tina Osceola's Osceola Panthers Small Airboat Rides on the Trail. And, this year, other family birthdays were marked: Lupe Osceola's 54th; Magnum Osceola's 2nd and Geneva Linda Mae Beletso's 57th.

Riders woke with the sun to rendezvous and gas up at Frankie's in Big Cypress. Heading west on Josie Billie Highway, the convoy of a dozen bikes passed farmland



Eileen Soler

Friends and family members of Thomas Mark Billie make a pit stop at the Miccosukee Indian Village during an all-day motorcycle run.

and sugar cane fields in the brisk morning cool. Osprey, hawks, egrets and heron made way for the oncoming roar of 75 horsepower engines.

For a food fill-up, the group stopped at Lozano's Mexican Restaurant in Immokalee, then hit Route 29 to the Tamiami Trail.

"You know Mondo is on the ride when we stop at Lozano's," Ricky Garza said.

Ronnie Billie, cousin of Thomas Mark Billie, said he had been riding motorcycles since the 1970s and never gets tired of riding the open road with family and friends. A patch on the back of his black leather jacket said it all: "Live Free; Ride Free."

Miles of bald cypress and Australian pine under clear blue skies flanked the riders, who stopped next at the Miccosukee Indian Village and Museum at Mile Marker 70 on U.S. 41. Resting in the shade of

a chickee, where redfish and bay snook swam with softshell and red glider turtles underfoot, set the scene for wild and funny storytelling by Big Cypress Council Rep. manager Charlie Cypress.

A few miles down the road, just past his family's old chickee village, Councilman Tiger was home again under a party tent where a feast of barbecue ribs, macaroni and cheese, string beans, carrots and birthday cake was served.

At dusk, on the ride back to Big Cypress Reservation, hundreds of alligators and birds rested on marshland banks.

"The first run on my new bike brought back so many memories. It hit me when I saw the tall wooden fence where just beyond I lived from age 6 to 12," Councilman Tiger said. "I saw myself giggling and spearing gar and bass."

Tampa seniors, Navajo artist recognized at community meeting



Peter B. Gallagher

Navajo artist Rex Begaye presents Tampa Council Liaison Richard Henry with a portrait.



Peter B. Gallagher

Peggy Cubis, Nancy Frank, Linda Henry and overall winner Maggie Garcia show off their awards for placing in the Fitness Challenge.

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TAMPA — Tampa community members gathered at the Embassy Suites ballroom on Jan. 23 for their first community meeting in two months.

The meeting, which included a presentation on kidnapping by the Tribal Fire Department and an instructional PowerPoint on changes in income tax reporting regulations laws for Tribal members presented by the Tribal Finance Department, also featured a dinner and an impromptu address by Brighton

Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr.

Navajo artist Rex Begaye appeared at the meeting with a portrait he had recently finished depicting the late Tampa matriarch Ruby Tiger Osceola; Begaye presented the artwork to Tampa Council Liaison Richard Henry.

Tampa nutritionist/health educator Korin Deitch and LPN/site supervisor Michelle McCoy presented Fitness Challenge awards to Seminole elders Peggy Cubis, Nancy Frank, Linda Henry and overall winner Maggie Garcia.

Councilman Bowers praised the Tampa community for their "great health."



Peter B. Gallagher

Tampa health educator Korin Deitch and LPN Michelle McCoy present Annie Henry with a Trike Fest Target Toss Award.

Hard Rock Tampa keeps growing



Peter B. Gallagher

Hard Rock Tampa public relations manager Gina Morales gives a sneak peek into the casino's exclusive, new High-Limit Table Games Room.

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TAMPA — After the completion of its \$75-million expansion last summer, the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa was ranked as the fourth largest casino in the United States and the sixth largest in the world.

But the growth hasn't stopped. The Casino recently added a High-Limit Table Games Room, which includes 17 table games for blackjack and mid-baccarat. The area offers higher table limits, a personal cashier and bartenders amid a luxurious ambiance.

The casino also recently added Jubao Palace, an Asian-themed gaming complex offering games most popular among Asian players, including 17 tables for mini-baccarat, pai gow poker, Asia poker, pai gow tiles and blackjack.

In addition to its outreach to Chinese American and Vietnamese American casino guests, the Seminole Hard Rock is also reaching out to individuals from many other Asian communities in Florida, including Korean, Japanese, Cambodian

and Filipino gamers. Team members who work in Jubao Palace will be able to converse with customers in each of the major Asian languages.

Seminole Hard Rock created two additional web landing pages for the Chinese and Vietnamese guests who prefer to read in their native languages.

Open to all casino guests, multiple entrances to the 4,000-square-foot Asian gaming area are located on one side of the main casino floor, near the lobby bar at the Seminole Hard Rock.

Jubao Palace will also include a 15-seat, quick-service noodle bar featuring authentic Asian cuisine (with a Hard Rock twist) such as beef pho, roast duck and fried dumplings.

Feng Shui was used in the space design: Noodles are long, elongated and have movement which is a reference to prosperity. The bar counter and soffit above it are soft and have a line that is a nod to the shape of noodles. Eight pendants within the soffit represent good luck.

The restaurant is located near the High-Limit gaming area right off the main casino floor.

Crowns, sashes for Tribe's littlest royalty

Sarafina Billie crowned Little Miss Seminole during Tribal Fair; Choviahoya Weimann is new Little Mr.



Eileen Soler

Choviahoya Weimann, of Brighton, proudly shows off his trophy and sash.

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Pint-sized princesses and princes dressed in Seminole regalia strutted across the stage at the Hollywood Headquarters auditorium to vie for the title of Little Miss and Little Mr. Seminole 2013.

Nine boys and 20 girls, ages 5 to 7 from all reservations, showcased poise and personality while answering important questions, such as "What is your name?" "What school do you attend?" and "Who is your teacher?"

Judges came from near and far to judge the contest.

On hand were: Miss Indian World 2012-2013 Jessa Rae Growing Thunder of the Fort Peck Assiniboine/Sioux Tribes of Poplar, Mont.; Miss Florida USA 2012-2013 Michelle Aguirre, of Miami; sculptor Bradley Cooley Jr., of Tallahassee; program coordinator of Miss Indian World pageants Melonie Mathews, of Santa Clara Pueblo/Navajo Tribe in New Mexico; and U.S. Rep. Ponka-We Victors (D-Kan.), who hails from the Ponka Tribe in Wichita, Kan.

Hosted by Miss Florida Seminole 2005 Christine McCall with assistance from Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar, of Immokalee, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez, of Brighton, the pageant featured a lineup of shy and eager preschoolers and first-graders.

Sarafina Billie, 6, of Big Cypress, and Choviahoya Weimann, 5, of Brighton, won.

Sarafina wowed the judges with her demure princess personality. Choviahoya was outgoing. He waved at the audience, gave thumbs-up to judges and announced that he wants to be a firefighter when he grows up.

Little Miss Seminole 2012 Jordan Osceola, 8, of Immokalee, and Little Mr. Seminole 2012 Vincenzo Cordell Osceola, 8, of Hollywood, gave parting speeches and wished good luck to all the contestants.

Jordan, who participated in 14 parades during her reign, gave advice to the winners. "You have to take care of the crown and sash and take the role very seriously," Jordan said. "Be yourself and never give up."

Nunez, who with Aguilar, was crowned during the Tribe's Miss and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant in July 2012, said representing the Seminole Tribe is the most important responsibility, especially at events outside reservation communities.

"A lot of people do not know about our culture. They are always curious and start shooting questions at us — like if we make our own clothes or if we watch television. They are always surprised to find out that we don't live in the woods and that we have normal lives," she said. "It can be funny sometimes. We have to stand tall, hold our heads high and be proud."

The event, part of the 42nd annual Seminole Tribal Fair, follows a tradition begun in 1957 when the first Tribal Council elected the first Seminole Princess. The first official pageant was held in 1960.



Eileen Soler

Sarafina Billie, of Big Cypress, celebrates after being crowned Little Miss.



Eileen Soler

The young contestants wait off stage while judges decide who will be the next Little Miss and Little Mr. Seminole.



Eileen Soler

The Little Mr. contestants stand before the judges during the contest held at Tribal Headquarters.



Beverly Bidney

The Savage Twins perform during the Seminole Tribal Fair on Feb. 9. Brandtley Osceola, left, and Huston Osceola pumped up the crowd.

Arts and crafts take center stage during 42nd annual Tribal Fair

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — For weeks before Tribal Fair, the workroom at the Hollywood Community Culture Department buzzed with activity. People came to work on a variety of traditional crafts for competition or sale. The workroom stayed open after hours to allow extra time for devoted crafters to complete their patchwork, beaded pieces and dolls. Culture staff members helped out when needed.

In the workroom, there was an easy camaraderie around the sewing machines and at the crafts table. The whirl of machines served as background music while women worked on intricate patchwork strips and made conversation.

Preschoolers came by one morning to learn about making frybread, and young teens came to make beaded jewelry and dolls. Beginners learned the traditional crafts from the more experienced.

"Back in the day, families did these crafts for income. They sold them to tourists," said Bobby Frank, Hollywood Cultural director. "Now people mostly do it for themselves or to sell to other Tribal members. We don't want this to be a dying art; we want to get younger people interested in crafts. In some families, it is still the responsibility of the young ladies to learn patchwork. They'll be getting



Beverly Bidney

Women enjoy each other's company in the culture room while working on the patchwork projects they will enter into the Tribal Fair contest.

married, have families of their own and will need to clothe their children."

Patchwork is common in most Tribal members' wardrobes. Starting at age 5 or 6, children are usually taught to sew, Frank said.

Passing the arts and crafts skills from generation to generation is an important way to keep Seminole culture alive.

And by the looks of the entries in the Tribal Fair, the arts are alive and well within the Tribe.

Savage Twins rap group debut at Tribal Fair

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Brandtley Osceola and Huston Osceola aren't twins and they certainly aren't dangerous savages, but they named their rap group the Savage Twins anyway.

The young cousins grew up together in Hollywood, have always called each other brother and have repeatedly been told they look alike.

Savage Twins gave their debut performance on the main stage at the Seminole Tribal Fair on Feb. 9 and released their first CD a couple weeks before. Although the music is hard-core rap, the message is positive.

"We just want to make sure people understand we aren't trying to be a bad influence on younger kids," Huston, 19, said. "We really want to bring the right message."

Rap is often associated with violence, disrespect and negativity. But the Savage Twins have turned those negative messages around and instead focus their lyrics on staying away from drugs and alcohol, going to school and taking the right path in life.

"Our message is to do something productive with your life, stay away from the negative and be positive," Brandtley, 17, said. "Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something; you can do anything you want if you believe in yourself."

Huston, who was never a fan of rock 'n' roll, became interested in rap when two of his friends started recording rap songs. Writing lyrics came easily to him — he's been doing it for most of his life.

"I remember when I was a little kid I used to write words that rhymed and put them together and showed it to my mom," Huston said. "I always had the rhythm for rap. I grew up around rock; my mom is a big fan and I went to concerts with her."

The cousins each write lyrics from personal experiences and things they have witnessed growing up on the reservation. Both were inspired by another Tribal rapper, the late Markell Eli Billie.

"I got my style from him," Huston said. "He passed away about a year ago from drugs and alcohol. We take that on and switch it around and not rap about getting high but say how it can affect the youth and the elders. We grew up watching people pass away from drugs and alcohol, so it's easy for us not to do it."

The performance at Tribal Fair, which included their songs *The Truth*, *Rez Life* and *Ambition Remix*, was received with enthusiastic applause.

"The best feeling is when you have a finished product that you put your heart and soul into," Brandtley said. "If people like it, that's a good feeling, too."

The Savage Twins take their art seriously and expect to continue to write about real life in the future.



Beverly Bidney

Bobby Frank, Hollywood Cultural director, carves an ibis for Tribal Fair.



Beverly Bidney

LaToya Stewart helps preschoolers with their dough. Brian Billie, bottom photo, can't wait.



Beverly Bidney

Brent Frank shows the progress he's made on his male doll.

TRIBAL FAIR

From page 1A

know if there is something remaining of the Indian culture. I didn't know if the culture was alive."

She learned it was and purchased a few items to take back to Florence. Even local residents' eyes were opened by Tribal Fair.

"This is my first time here and it is more than I expected," said Karen Black, of Davie. "I saw the alligator wrestling and the dancers. It's all very exciting; I'm overwhelmed."

Other locals look forward to the annual event.

"We come every year," said Shannon McGale, of Hollywood. "We love the culture."

Another Tribal Fair event, the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo held Feb. 8-9 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress, also attracted plenty of visitors.

Carloads of high school and college student cyclists from Team Quebec, an international group of cyclists based in Canada, made their way to the rodeo after an afternoon at Billie Swamp Safari.

"It's pretty awesome to watch a rodeo in the United States. To see Native Americans riding is even better," said Marc-Antoine Noel, 17, of Montreal. "We've all seen cowboys and rodeos on television but never in real life."

Sanctioned by the Indian National Finals Rodeo, the competition included steer wrestling, calf roping, bronco busting,

team roping, barrel racing and bull riding. Josh Jumper, of Big Cypress, won first place in calf roping.

For cowboy Greg Louis, of the Northern Cree Tribe in Browning, Mont., competing in the rodeo that honors Bill Osceola, the first Chairman of the Seminole Tribe, has become an annual family event. Louis, who is a two-time world champion bull rider, competed in the rodeo with his sons Dakota, 20, and Preston, 16.

"It's part of the circuit and we get to see lots of family and friends here," Louis said. "But in the end, we come to do what we have to do - win. Our goal is always Las Vegas for the championship."

The Louis' planned to stay in Florida for Brighton Field Day and the annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive and Rodeo in March.

Sheila Carrillo, an anthropologist and educator who spent time in Mexico studying the Aztec Indians, attended the fair for the first time.

"All the dances were absolutely authentic," said Carrillo, of New York. "Americans don't have enough familiarity with Indian culture, so I appreciate that they are trying to perpetuate their culture."

Most people came to Tribal Fair ready to be immersed in culture.

"I always love coming here," said Robin Morini, of Coconut Creek. "There is a beautiful energy and a lot of knowledge to be had. Of course the frybread is great, too."

Staff reporter Eileen Soler contributed to this article.



School children join the dancers to participate in a final friendship dance during the grand entry.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

From left, Tribal princesses and Board Reps. Larry Howard, Chris Osceola and Joe Frank enjoy the Tribal Fair grand entry.



Beverly Bidney

Mario and Lorraine Posada, of Immokalee, look at the winners at the fine arts and crafts competition.



Beverly Bidney

Leslie Osceola, left, and Michelle Osceola share a laugh during the canoe race in the lake at Hard Rock Paradise.



Eileen Soler

Taylor Johns, of Brighton, waves the American flag during the opening ceremony for the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo.



Eileen Soler

Naha Jumper, of Brighton, charges after a steer during the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo.



Eileen Soler

Seminole girls compete in the youth clothing contest.



Eileen Soler

Happy Jumper, of Big Cypress, is determined in the calf roping contest of the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo.



Beverly Bidney

Robin Morini, of Coconut Creek, examines items for sale at Tribal Fair.



Beverly Bidney

Resha Doctor and Happy Jumper shop for items at Tribal Fair.



Beverly Bidney

James Holt confronts an alligator as students watch in amazement.



Eileen Soler

Ivan Bruised Head ropes a calf during the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo.

Council Oak Tree site listed in the National Register of Historic Places

SUBMITTED BY CARRIE DILLEY
Architectural Historian

HOLLYWOOD — Near the southwest corner of the intersection of State Road 7 and Stirling Road, roosts a precious historical icon of the Seminole Indians. In a tiny landscaped park, surrounded by a vast casino parking lot and facing a gigantic Hard Rock guitar, a gnarled ancient live oak tree extends spreading branches like a great hawk stretching the sinews of its feathery wings. The Council Oak Tree stands strong and royal, a symbol of the strength and stability of the organized Seminole Tribe of Florida.

It was here in the 1950s, beneath these same shady branches, concerned and determined Seminoles would gather, regularly, to argue, discuss and ruminate on the creation of a unified Tribe. These were the sons and daughters of the last generation of Seminole Indians to live in the Florida outback, chased into hiding in the mid-1800s. Historians say the Council Oak, as the tree became known, was probably standing here in 1828, when Seminoles first settled the area, then known as Big City Island. Similar community discussions were held at Brighton and Big Cypress gathering spots — barns built in the early '40s by the federal Civilian Conservation Corps.

In 1957, Florida Seminole Indians including Bill Osceola, Billy Osceola, Betty Mae Jumper and Laura Mae Osceola, approached Glenn Emmons, Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the U.S. Department of the Interior. They wanted control of their own affairs. Emmons sent Sioux Indian Reginald "Rex" Quinn, from the Tribal government branch of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to assess the request and assist the Seminoles in drafting the constitution and bylaws necessary for self-government. Quinn, who worked with Seminole leaders on all three reservations (Dania, Big Cypress and Brighton), came to the consensus that Seminoles were in favor of self-government.

A meeting was set up with the Seminoles under the Council Oak Tree in 1957, which he recounted 20 years later through the University of Florida Oral History Program: "I got to the agency at 2 in the afternoon, and the Indians were there from all the reservations, and we met under the old oak tree. This was a very colorful meeting. The Seminoles were there in native dress. It was a natural meeting. There were no chairs or anything. There was a small table and a couple of chairs for me and the superintendent to sit on. The rest of them were either standing or sitting on the

ground. Bill and Laura Mae and Billy got up, and they explained to the group what had transpired and that they were now in a position to go ahead with the process of setting up a Tribal government.

"They asked me what they had to do. I told them that they were going to have to appoint a constitutional committee and that I would work with this constitutional committee to draft a constitution and a charter. When we got through with that, we would explain it to the people so they understood it. Then they would have a chance to vote on it. It was important to get good representation on this constitutional committee because these were the people who would be drawing up a document that was going to be a permanent part of their history.

"After much discussion the general council selected a constitutional committee. Bill Osceola was made Chairman of that committee, Mike Osceola was made secretary of that committee [and] Laura Mae was designated as interpreter. Billy Osceola and John Henry Gopher from Brighton were on that committee. Frank Billie from Big Cypress and Jackie Willy from Dania made up [the rest of] that committee."

Quinn's guidance was critical in helping the Seminoles arrange their Constitution and bylaws; he also helped the fledgling government establish a corporate charter. According to Harry Kersey in his book *An Assumption of Sovereignty*, some say Quinn recommended a two-tiered Tribal Council and a Board of Directors arrangement, while others say the Seminoles came up with the idea on their own. Either way, the new Seminole Tribe of Florida had both a governing body called the Tribal Council, pursuant to the Constitution and bylaws, and a Board of Directors pursuant to a corporate charter.

Florida Seminoles ratified their Constitution and bylaws by a ballot system of voting on Aug. 21, 1957. The Constitution received 241 votes in favor and only five against. Billy Osceola was elected Chairman, Bill Osceola was chosen President and Laura Mae Osceola became Secretary-Treasurer. The Tribal Council then replaced the Council of Elders as the governing body. On the same day, the Seminole Tribe of Florida was issued a corporate charter, which was ratified by a vote of 223-5. The historic documents were all signed, on long tables, beneath the spreading branches of the stately Council Oak.

The meetings at the Council Oak paved the way for the success of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The first smoke shop on a



Seminole Tribune archive photo

The Council Oak Tree has endured for hundreds of years, long before the Dania (later renamed Hollywood) Reservation was established. The Council Oak Tree was part of what was originally known as Big City Island, a Florida Seminole Indian settlement with occupation as early as 1828, or seven years before the Second Seminole War.

Seminole Tribe Reservation opened in 1977. The first gaming establishment in Indian Country — high-stakes bingo hall — opened two years later right behind the Council Oak. These pioneering ventures grew into the Tribe's lucrative casino business, an astounding economic destiny that sprang from the rowdy community meetings that took place beneath the Council Oak in the 1950s.

The Council Oak is still a functioning site today. In 2004, to honor the 25th anniversary of Indian gaming, a celebration was held at the tree and a plaque was added to the site.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Constitution and bylaws at the Council Oak in August 2007. In May 2010, Florida's then-Gov. Charlie Crist, state Rep. Bill

Galvano and other dignitaries met with Seminole Tribal members at the Council Oak to sign the Seminole Gaming Compact with the state of Florida. The Council Oak restaurants in the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino facilities take their names from the famous tree as well. The spirit of the ancient tree resonates throughout the Tribe.

For the past two years the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) has worked with Earth Advisors Inc. arborists to ensure the health and preservation of the tree. Earth Advisors conducts monthly evaluations of the site to monitor the health and condition of the Council Oak tree and the surrounding landscape area and to further recommend specific maintenance tasks that this historic tree requires for long-term survival. By making critical changes

over the last two years — including removing a damaged leader, reducing the amount of mulch at the base of the tree, getting rid of the underground light system that damaged the root system and implementing a new maintenance plan — the health of the tree has increased dramatically.

THPO worked throughout 2012 to prepare a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for the Council Oak Tree site. The tree was eligible as a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history.

The Council Oak Tree site was awarded a listing in the National Register of Historic Places on Dec. 4, 2012. The Seminole Tribe strives to preserve this critical piece of Seminole history to ensure the mighty oak remains an icon for generations to come.

Big Cypress Employee Fun Day nets team spirit

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Morale was stoked Jan. 25 on the Big Cypress Reservation thanks to a friendly interdepartmental

volleyball tournament and a two-hour picnic lunch. Employee Fun Day, sponsored by the Council's Office and hosted by Councilman Mondo Tiger, was won by the Boys & Girls Club during a final faceoff with the Recreation Department.



Eileen Soler

Big Cypress employees representing the Recreation Department and the Boys & Girls Club battle it out on the volleyball court for bragging rights. The Boys & Girls Club team was victorious after the lunchtime series of interdepartmental games and picnic meal.



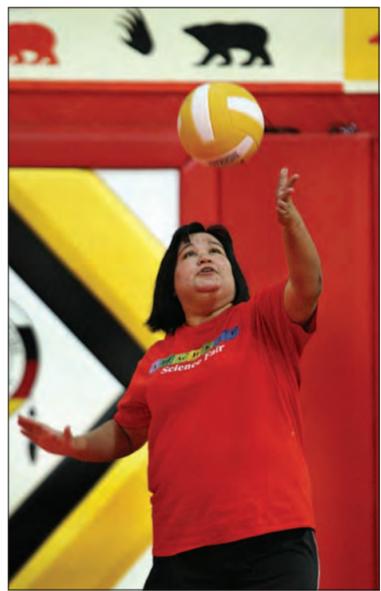
Eileen Soler

Jeremy Taylor, playing for the Boys & Girls Club, takes the ball to the net for the win.



Eileen Soler

Staff members representing the Boys & Girls Club pose with pride after winning the game.



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School principal Lucy Dafoe serves the ball during Employee Fun Day.

Idle No More movement enters new phase, seeks next steps

BY DAVID P. BALL
Indian Country Today Media Network

CANADA — Idle No More's founders and leaders are determined to keep the movement's momentum going and to maintain pressure on aboriginal leaders and the federal government to enact concrete change.

As Parliament resumed on Jan. 28, activists in at least 30 cities held a second Idle No More day of action, continuing to set themselves apart from official leadership and the six-week-long, liquids-only fast of Attawapiskat First Nation Chief Theresa Spence, which ended on Jan. 24.

"Our nationhood can't just be words in a constitution," said lawyer Pamela Palmater, Mi'kmaq, chair of the Centre for Indigenous Governance at Ryerson University in Toronto and runner-up in last year's Assembly of First Nations (AFN) national chief race. She told *Indian Country Today Media Network*, "It has to be recognized and implemented and respected — and that's what this movement is about: shifting everything."

Idle No More wants to keep aboriginal issues on the radar of mainstream Canadians and in the national dialogue while going beyond the flash mobs and rallies with which the movement has become virtually synonymous.

"We have seen the demands emanating from the grassroots sharpening and becoming even more precise," Glen Coulthard, assistant professor of First Nations Studies and Political Science at the University of British Columbia (UBC), told ICTMN. "Before, it used to be housing conditions, the material conditions on reserves, and the attack on some of the environmental and land concerns with omnibus Bill C-45. Now we're focusing on the core issue: setting right the relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in Canada."

Sylvia McAdam, Cree, one of the four female founders of Idle No More, wants to continue broadening its support. "I keep telling as many people [as I can] that it's not an indigenous movement because Bill C-45 affects all of us," the Big River First Nation member said. "I believe that the voice of Idle No More — the voice of grassroots people — will become clearer and more focused."

Some fear the movement could lose energy following the Jan. 11 meeting that Atleo and other AFN chiefs had with Prime Minister Stephen Harper. Others see the 13-point Declaration of Commitment signed by the chiefs,



David P. Ball

A flash mob in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada gives voice to the Idle No More Movement.

including Spence, on Jan. 24 as an attempt by aboriginal leadership to co-opt the grassroots movement. There are even whispers about a possible coup inside the AFN by those who felt the Harper meeting was a capitulation of sorts.

"There's going to be political fallout," Palmater said. "Where progress will be made is in the reunification of leadership with the grassroots people. The kind of core, fundamental breakthrough that we've been looking for is that the chiefs would listen to the people and stand by their people."

But some are wary. McAdam insisted that Idle No More is independent from leadership, even if some chiefs have shown support.

"Once leadership takes over, the movement shifts," she said. Some recommended taking a more aggressive and independent stand.

"We need to alter our strategies and tactics to present more of a serious challenge on the ground to force the federal government...to respond to us in a serious way," wrote Mohawk author Taiaiake Alfred, professor of indigenous governance at the University of Victoria, in a blog post. "We need to focus our activism on the root of the problem facing our people collectively: our collective dispossession and misrepresentation as

indigenous peoples."

UBC's Coulthard, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, believes that actions such as flash mobs and blockades are an effective tool in Native struggles — at least until there is a substantive change in the indigenous-Canadian relationship. At the same time, he wants the movement to discuss economic and political alternatives as concrete solutions to today's crises.

But Chief Steve Courtoreille, of Mikisew First Nation in Alberta, urges moderation. Courtoreille is one of the leaders taking the Bill C-45 fight into the courts through a treaty rights lawsuit filed with Frog Lake First Nation in January. And while he favors confrontation, he is wary of alienating potential allies.

"It's time now the country pulls together on this very issue — to make the government of Canada rethink their plan," he told ICTMN. "I don't support blockades — I support the Idle No More movement's peaceful rallies. The more the Canadian people understand what's going on, I know they'll come on board."

This article originally appeared in Indian Country Today Media Network and was reprinted with permission from the author.

RED BARN

From page 1A

Chairman Billie addressed the crowd: "I guess it was in the early '50s when I started coming here. I'd see people congregating here. People like Andrew Bowers, Dick Bowers, Tom Bowers, Joe Bowers, Frank Huff...Lonnie Buck, John Josh, Joe Henry - all those guys were young bucks then. I was just 6 years old.

"As time went along, I would ride by here on Sunday afternoons with my son Echo. We would go down to the turtle farm and shoot ducks or something. And never really gave it much thought. People would come by and say, 'Can we take the boards off that building so we can put it into our house?' I said, 'I don't know; I wouldn't touch it.' Thank God they left it alone. It's still here.

"I guess I took it kind of lightly. It's just an old barn. You know how it goes through your head. Who the heck wants to go see an old barn? Next thing I know, it took momentum, and even this morning I thought, 'Who the heck is gonna be out here?' I drove around the corner and I saw all of these cowboys, all you people. Thank goodness we got something going. It's monumental, something we can look at for a long time. I'm glad you folks came out to give this old barn a little revitalization here."

Johns continued to delve further into the history of the cattle program.

"Cattle started in Florida. Ol' Ponce (de Leon) left his cattle here when he was run out of this country," he said. "They came from Spain, those old fighting bulls; they drifted on up north, west and now Texas claims 'em, and they got 'em in every state in the union. But if you trace the bloodline back, they come from here."

President Tony Sanchez Jr. spoke of the barn's importance as a gathering place.

"It was the meeting place for Tribal members and non-Tribal members," he said. "It's well-known throughout the area."

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard remembered playing in the building: "We'd go down and scare folks late at night. I look at this building today and I know where we started. Today we are one of the top six cattle operations in the nation. I think

that right there tells us a whole lot about where we are today. This cattle industry was started by our ancestors. They built this thing, they walked this land. Now we are here today and we're gonna keep doing it the way they did."

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank remembered a similar CCC-built barn on the Big Cypress Reservation.

"When I was growing up in Big Cypress, I played a couple times in the Red Barn they had down there. I think it was torn up in the early '60s, late '50s, but it was the same layout as this. Back then, all the people who were in the cattle program built their camps right around the Red Barn.

"The late Morgan Smith, Henry Jumper used to have their camps situated right around the Red Barn and when they moved the shop over to where the new Tribal offices are, they moved their camps there, too. Brings back a lot of memories. Congratulations to the Brighton community for getting this accomplished."

Royalty abounded as administrative assistant to the Secretary Wanda Bowers introduced Little Mr. Brighton Seminole Corey Jumper; Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) Jr. Rodeo Princess Aiyana Tommie; EIRA Miss Rodeo Princess Brianna Billie; Little Miss Florida Seminole Jordan Osceola; Jr. Miss Brighton Seminole Aubee Billie; Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez (who said she was warned by elders to stay away from the area because "there were monkeys in the barn") and Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar.

Councilman Bowers thanked the committee: "I think we got a good start. It is a significant thing that this structure behind me was recognized as a national historic place or building...I remember we would play football around here, and Charlie Micco used to run his horses in and out of this structure. It's been around awhile."

A highlight of the festivities was the introduction of Happy Jones, 86, Brighton's eldest woman and one of the founders of the Florida Seminole Cattle Women's Association. She was joined onstage by her sister Shula Jones and other Tribal cattlemen.

"Hello, young people. I'm the oldest one here. I'm gonna tell you all things that I got to know," Jones said in Creek, as Johns interpreted. "I used to come and play here

as a young girl. Most of my family came from the Fort Pierce, St. Lucie County area and Indiantown.

"My daddy's brother is Charlie Micco. Charlie had a big family. My daddy was Sam Jones. Years ago, we had a family reunion at the barn. People would trade horses for cattle, traded for whatever you need. I was one of the first women cattle owners."

Backhouse praised the work of the Red Barn Committee and the attendance.

"It's great to see so many people who care about a historic structure like the Red Barn," he said.

When it became apparent that the 72-year-old structure's deterioration had reached the point that a strong storm could level it, Gloria Wilson and the Tribal Community Planning Department stepped forward to fund the initial emergency repairs. Planks removed from both the east and west ends of the Red Barn revealed the extensive termite and water damage, as well as the first structural repairs by Armstrong Contractors Inc. and TRC Worldwide Engineering Inc. Small removed pieces of wood were given to the crowd as souvenirs.

Seminole songwriter Andy Buster and his band played throughout the day, combining their own Seminole music with favorites from Hank Williams and other country singers.

With a strong tug from Seminole royalty, the NRHP bronze plaque was unveiled for all to see. A similar marker was installed at the intersection of Highway 721 and 721A (Red Barn Road), but it will be replaced with a larger sign.

"Don't read it too close," warned Johns with a smile. "That's our culture: We never correct anything after writing it down. Especially on stone."

Red Barn Committee organizer Louis Gopher, whose family on both sides were in the cattle business, summed it up: "We need to do this. We need to preserve things like this. That's what my mom tells me. She says you got to know where you came from before you can know where you're going."

"This is a very important building to us. This is the grandfather of our businesses for the Seminole Tribe. You see the casinos and the commercials, but that's like the granddaughter, the grandson. This is...where it all started, right here, for the Seminole Tribe. We kept horses here to take care of



Peter B. Gallagher

The National Register of Historic Places commemorative plaque is now permanently placed at the Red Barn site in Brighton.

our cattle...You can't put a dollar amount on what this means to us."

Hard Rock International designer Rob Schaeffer, whose services were provided by Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen, sent a sketch of what the Red Barn and surrounding lands could look like in the future. Schaeffer incorporated ideas from community members, who were solicited for input by the Red Barn Committee. With a park, a museum, a working 4-H barn and a recreated 1940s ranch scene, he deftly merged all the best ideas into his drawing, which will be on display at the Brighton Field Office.

"We've got to keep on it," said Johns, who told a story about a historic Tribal bowling alley that was torn down. "Steel ball, concrete slab, we'd set up the pins. We were going to designate that a historical area, but somebody moved in there before we had a chance. Built their house right on the place. You got to keep after it."

"There are two or three more we need to get on. We need this. For years to come at least we'll have something to look back on and say, 'You know of Willie lived here at one time, Wanda lived here at one time and

she left. Here's something that reminds us of where she lived."

"It's history...We need to have this show every year, make it an annual event."

After the prayer, lunch was served beneath a large tent. Raffle and auction items were donated by Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood; Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa; Corey Billie's Airboat Rides; Earth Advisors Inc.; Rep. Howard; Ted Smallwood Store; and President Sanchez. A cash donation by Lewis, Longman and Walker, P.A. was used for popcorn machines and a truckload of hay bales.

Gardiner, a nationally known artist, spent many days over several weeks standing before the Red Barn and painting. She produced 25 prints of the original, which she presented to Councilman Bowers, and sold most of them before the end of the day, donating all proceeds to the Red Barn recovery effort.

"I felt this was an excellent subject for me to paint," said Gardiner, who preserves threatened places on canvas. "I am very proud to be a part of a project that will preserve this precious historical structure."



Peter B. Gallagher

A cattle drive from the Marsh Pens to the Red Barn kicks off the celebration.



Peter B. Gallagher

Brighton cowboys Morgan and Waylon Yates double up on horseback during the cattle drive.



Peter B. Gallagher

Youth enjoy the Red Barn celebration.



Peter B. Gallagher

Brighton's eldest woman, Happy Jones, addresses the crowd in Creek. She was surrounded by Seminole cattlemen.



Peter B. Gallagher

Among his other duties during the Red Barn event, Brighton's Lewis Gopher drives children on the popular hay rides.



Peter B. Gallagher

As cattle is herded in from the Marsh Pens, a bright blue morning sky welcomes cowboys, horses, cows, Tribal members and tourists to the Red Barn site.



Peter B. Gallagher

Tribal architectural historian Carrie Dilley poses with Seminole cattleman Norman Johns, of Brighton.



Peter B. Gallagher

Seminole songwriter Andy Buster and his band provide the Red Barn event's country musical entertainment.



Peter B. Gallagher

As master of ceremonies, cattleman Stanlo Johns calls for the Red Barn celebration to continue "as an annual event."



Rez Rally 2013

Beverly Bidney

Runners lead the pack on 64th Avenue during the 13th annual Rez Rally in Hollywood. Exactly 672 runners, walkers, strollers and wheelchairs participated in the Jan. 19 event.



Eileen Soler

Hollywood Reservation, teamed with Trail and Fort Pierce, reign victorious in the 13th annual Rez Rally.

REZ RALLY

From page 1A

The road to Tribal headquarters and the streets of the reservation were crowded with runners, speed walkers, people casually strolling with family and friends and parents pushing strollers. Although people packed the streets, everything went smoothly on the Rez Rally course.

"The highlight was the courteousness of the participants this year," said Connie Whidden, Health Department director. "It was really evident along the course on 64th Avenue because we had people moving in two directions. It was great to see the people staying to one side when they needed to and also moving over when the faster runners were coming through. It takes cooperation from everyone at every level to make this event run smoothly."

People of all fitness levels participated in the rally. The first person to cross the finish line was Jesse Spearo with a time of 17:53. Despite his ongoing recovery from a stroke, Chairman James E. Billie proved he could overcome his physical obstacle and finished the race with wife, Maria, by his side.

One Big Cypress family was represented in the rally by four generations. Susie Jumper, her daughter Sherri J. Hunter, grandson Keith Jumper, granddaughter Katinna Kodi Jumper and great-grandson Kyler Henry Jumper, 1, traversed the course together. Susie rode with Kyler on her scooter as the rest of the family walked

along side.

"We like entering," Susie said. "We always do this together."

Many participants had learned lessons from previous years, including Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger.

"Last year I ran and blew my lungs out," he said. "I'll be walking today."

Which he did along with some of his Big Cypress teammates.

"I usually jog it," Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. said. "This is a great turnout despite the weather. The captains did a great job."

Team captains on each reservation promoted the rally, ensured everyone had registered and worked with the Health Department to make it a safe event. About 100 Tribal employees worked to make sure everything went off without a hitch, regardless of the early morning gloom.

"The highlight for me was the enthusiasm of everyone who was ready to rally despite the rainy weather," said Edna McDuffie, Community Outreach coordinator for the Big Cypress Wellness Center. "Paul Buster gave his invocation at the opening of the event, thanking God for the rain and also for the sunshine. Just as we were lining up for the race, the rain cleared and the sun came through. That was really special."

At the end of the day, the Tribe congratulated the winners in each category and forgot about rivalries. Kids played on rides, everyone shared a healthy meal, and anticipation for next year's Rez Rally in Brighton began.



Beverly Bidney

Linda Micco tries to keep her children Cherish, Charisma and Serenity dry on their way to the Rez Rally in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

The Fitness Department leads the crowd in some pre-rally stretches.



Beverly Bidney

Cecilia Pequeno, of Immokalee, pushes a stroller past Tribal Headquarters.



Eileen Soler

Participants are on the mark to get set and go at the start line for the 13th annual Rez Rally.

Rez Rally Tribal Winners

Runners

Male 6-12

1. Lance Howard, Hollywood
2. Leslie Gopher, Big Cypress
3. Chase Billie, Hollywood

Female 6-12

1. Tammy Martinez, Brighton
2. Aleina Micco, Brighton
3. Lindsey Posada, Immokalee

Male 13-17

1. Hunter Osceola, Hollywood
2. Rhett Tiger, Hollywood
3. Kyle Alvarado, Immokalee

Female 13-17

1. Brooke Osceola, Hollywood
2. Tequesta Tiger, Big Cypress
3. Jaide Micco, Brighton

Male 18-35

1. Elliott Alvarado, Immokalee
2. Blake Osceola, Hollywood
3. Stevie Billie, Big Cypress

Female 18-35

1. Jojo Osceola, Hollywood
2. Heather Peterson, Brighton
3. Jessica Osceola, Naples

Male 36-54

1. Jose Osceola, Brighton
2. Marl Osceola, Hollywood
3. Christopher Osceola, Hollywood

Female 36-54

1. Lenora Roberts, Immokalee

2. Loretta Peterson, Brighton
3. Marlin Miller, Big Cypress

Senior Male 55-68

1. Joe Osceola Jr., Hollywood
2. Andrew J. Bowers, Brighton
3. Stephen Bowers, Hollywood

Senior Female 55-68

1. Patty Waldron, Brighton
2. Shirley Clay, Hollywood
3. Janice Osceola, Big Cypress

Super Senior Female 69-99

1. Dorothy Tommie, Hollywood

Walkers

Male 13-17

1. Samuel Sanchez, Hollywood
2. Arek Jumper, Hollywood
3. Kyler Bell, Hollywood

Female 13-17

1. Kaylan Osceola, Big Cypress
2. Kaitlin Osceola, Big Cypress
3. Kiana Bell, Hollywood

Male 18-35

1. Alex Buck, Brighton
2. Duane Jones, Brighton
3. Carradine Billie, Big Cypress

Female 18-35

1. Christine McCall, Hollywood
2. Racheal Phillips, Hollywood
3. Angel Billie, Hollywood

Male 36-54

1. Todd Johns, Brighton
2. Manuel Tiger, Big Cypress

3. Adrian Condon, Hollywood

Female 36-54

1. Francine Osceola, Hollywood
2. Janice (Kay) Braswell, Brighton
3. Leslie Osceola, Hollywood

Male 55-68

1. Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress
2. Lonnie Billie, Big Cypress
3. Richard Doctor, Big Cypress

Female 55-68

1. Mary Tigertail, Big Cypress
2. Connie Whidden, Brighton
3. Terry Hahn, Brighton

Male 69-99

1. Bobby Henry, Tampa

Female 69-99

1. Louise Billie, Big Cypress

Rez Rally General Winners

Runners

Male 6-17

1. Cordell Frank, Hollywood
2. Dyami Nelson, Hollywood
3. Carmello Shenandoah, Hollywood

Female 6-17

1. Ashley Faz, Immokalee
2. Jara Courson, Brighton
3. Keyana Nelson, Hollywood

Male 18-54

1. Jesse Spearo, Big Cypress
2. Giovanni Alvarez, Big Cypress
3. Miguel Ponce, Hollywood

Female 18-54

1. Maryanne Tong, Hollywood
2. April Eldemire, Hollywood
3. Kristi Hinote, Hollywood

Male Seniors 55-99

1. Christopher Mavroides, Brighton

Female Seniors 55-99

1. Diane Rutledge, Hollywood

Walkers

Male 6-17

1. Randall Billie, Hollywood
2. Jaiden Washington Jim, Big Cypress
3. Jaiven Washington Jim, Big Cypress

Female 6-17

1. Amaya Shenandoah, Hollywood
2. Jolene Metcalf, Hollywood
3. Amber Kawaykla, Brighton

Male 18-54

1. Michael Vasquez, Hollywood
2. Beau Emley, Brighton
3. Joshua Harrison, Hollywood

Female 18-54

1. Gena Osceola, Hollywood
2. Jennifer Heaton, Big Cypress
3. Janae Braswell, Brighton

Male 55-99

1. Joseph Morgan, Big Cypress
2. Gregory Thomas, Hollywood
3. Robert North, Hollywood

Female 55-99

1. Sharon Wild, Hollywood
2. Frieda Utt, Hollywood

3. Martina Dawson, Big Cypress

Wheelchair and Stroller Winners

Strollers

Male

1. Jaden Puente, Brighton
2. Clinton Billie, Big Cypress
3. Jason Billie, Big Cypress

Female

1. Cecilia Pequeno, Immokalee
2. Merness Cantu, Hollywood
3. Stephanie Philpott, Hollywood

Wheelchairs

- Alicia Cabal, Hollywood
- Cleofas Yzaguirre Jr., Immokalee
- Joan Osceola, Hollywood
- Kayven Emley, Brighton
- Mary Robbins, Big Cypress
- Maxine Perez, Immokalee
- Susie Jumper, Big Cypress
- Rita Micco, Hollywood

Wheelchair Pushers

- Rolando Pequeno, Immokalee
- Nicki Osceola, Brighton
- Tara Robbins, Big Cypress
- Mark Jock, Immokalee
- Sherri Jumper, Big Cypress
- David Carry, Hollywood

Rez Rally continues on

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

The spirit of Rez Rally is pushing forward into 2013.

"It's about being fit for life with healthy eating and exercise," said Amy Kimberlain, a Youth Health specialist for the Seminole Health Department.

On Jan. 28 at the Learning Resources Center on the Big Cypress Reservation, Kimberlain put her words to work during Keep the Rally Going for children from the Boys & Girls Club.

The hour-long event featured a mix of yoga stretches for flexibility, jumping jacks and running for cardio, and push-ups plus other weight-resistance exercises for strength. An educational and tasty lineup of good foods for the body and mind were offered on tables that lined the room.

"We got to eat grains, vegetables and fruits and have fun at the same time," said Dillon Robbins, 8. "I think I'll go home and tell the grown-ups to eat more oranges."

Adults are also keeping the Rez Rally spirit alive by joining pedometer and walking contests on the Brighton, Big Cypress, Hollywood, Tampa, Naples and Immokalee reservations. The six-week program tracks the number of steps each contestant takes and the amount of pounds each loses.

"With every New Year we get a lot of people really excited about living healthier lives – and it starts with Rez Rally," said Barbara Boling, a Health educator on the Brighton Reservation. "All we want to do now is keep it going."

The Seminole Pathways program of the Seminole Health Department sponsors



Eileen Soler

Youth Health specialist Amy Kimberlain and children from the Boys & Girls Club at the Big Cypress Reservation do stretching exercises during the Rally Going event.

all contests.

In Big Cypress, the pedometer contest is called Stomp the Swamp. The other contests are called Pedometer On – Pounds Off. All require contestants to check in during weekly walks to record the number of steps walked and the amount of pounds shed. Some of the weekly walks will have raffle drawings, lunch and other prizes.

The contests end the second week of March, and seniors and adults with the highest scores on each reservation will win bigger prizes. If contestants maintain their weight loss through the Tribe's annual spring health fair, they will win a chance at grand prizes.

Boling said goals may differ on each reservation, but Brighton contestants are challenged to reach 40,000 steps walked (about 2 miles per day) and to lose 5 percent of their starting weight.

Kimberlain said kids are encouraged to keep Rez Rally going by learning more about nutrition and exercise and then turning what they learn into habit.

"Diabetes prevention is always the theme of Rez Rally," Kimberlain said. "Our role in the Health Department is prevention, and the key components are diet and exercise."

Kimberlain, who teaches health and nutrition to youth Tribalwide, asked children to guess why the Health Department constantly stresses healthy eating and exercise.

"Because you love us," said Akira Cabral, 8.



Eileen Soler

Kids and adults share 3.1 miles of road to take a stand against diabetes during the 13th annual Rez Rally.



Eileen Soler

Chairman James E. Billie and his wife, Maria, cross the finish line of the 13th annual Rez Rally.



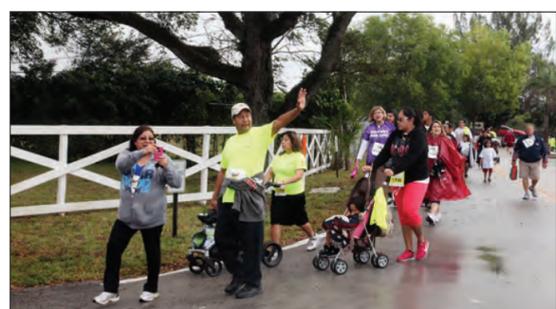
Eileen Soler

Jesse Spearo, a paramedic from the Big Cypress Reservation, crosses the finish line first.



Eileen Soler

Joe Osceola Jr., of Hollywood, is proud to wear his team's 13th annual Rez Rally T-shirt.



Beverly Bidney

Rez Rally walkers greet friends on the course.



Beverly Bidney

Ashton Scheffler, of Immokalee, proudly shows off his medal.



Eileen Soler

Runners are jubilant as they cross the finish line.



Beverly Bidney

Walkers go in three directions at one point on the course.



Eileen Soler

Youth Health specialist Amy Kimberlain shows kids how to make homemade orange juice.



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Beverly Bidney

Cutting the ribbon are administrative assistant to the Secretary Wanda Bowers, Hollywood Board Rep. Chris Osceola, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, Chairman James E. Billie, Classic Casino general manager Larry Buck and Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar. The latest \$10-million renovation includes efficient new heating, ventilation and air-conditioning units, a new color scheme with paint and carpeting to match, and wider aisles between slot machines.

CLASSIC
From page 1A

At the time, Chairman Billie's camp was at the Native Village, across U.S. 441 from the bingo hall.

"Butterworth gave us two days' notice that they would shut us down," Chairman Billie said. "Thousands of people lined up to get in while it was still open."

After years of court battles, the existing state laws regulating bingo were ruled irrelevant because of Tribal sovereignty. After the U.S. Court of Appeals sided with the Seminoles, the case - *Seminole Tribe of Florida v. Butterworth* - was heard by

the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1981, the high court sided with the Tribe, ruling it had the right to operate the high-stakes bingo hall, which ultimately opened the door to Indian gaming throughout the United States. In 1987, the Supreme Court ruled in another case - *California v. Cabazon Band of Mission Indians* - that federally recognized Tribes could operate casinos outside state jurisdiction because of their sovereign status and that states could not prohibit them from doing so.

After federal approval, Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) in 1988 to establish rules for Indian gaming. The intent of IGRA was to promote Tribal self-sufficiency, to ensure Indians were the primary benefactors of gambling, to establish fair and honest gaming, to prevent organized crime and other corruption by providing regulation, and to establish standards for the National Indian Gaming Commission.

Since then, Indian gaming nationwide has grown dramatically. Currently, 240 federally recognized Tribes operate 460 casinos on reservations throughout the United States.

"I don't give advice to other Tribes about gaming," Chairman Billie said. "It's an individual

Tribal thing, and I can only elaborate on the Seminole Tribe. But I would just say to check into it and don't leave a stone unturned."

Gaming brought the Tribe from poverty to prosperity in a few short years. The newfound comfort has allowed the Tribe to be self-sufficient and spend a significant portion of casino revenue on social services and cultural programs. Health care, education, recreation and programs for elders and children are a few of the Tribal benefits.

In addition to being responsible for the start of Indian gaming nationwide, the Tribe was the first to pursue and embrace the casino economy, despite its cultural conservatism. According to anthropologist Jessica R. Cattelino, of the University of California, Los Angeles, author of *High Stakes: Seminole Gaming and Sovereignty*, the Tribe is able to separate the source of money from its use and views casinos as an economic project that enables it to pursue cultural ones.

Seminole cultural values and economic development have been intertwined throughout the 20th century. Before gaming, cattle, crafts and alligator wrestling were among the Tribe's essential cultural traits and income sources. Even with the monetary benefits of gaming, those endeavors are still key components of Tribal character. But, gaming income has allowed the cultural distinction of the Tribe to continue through the Culture Department, classes and Tribal events that define, preserve and strengthen Seminole identity.

"After we opened the bingo hall, other Tribes built more elaborate buildings," Chairman Billie said. "We still had this metal building and didn't change it because if it ain't broke, don't fix it. We got the max out of it and it's still here."

Although still intact, the building has expanded over the years. The latest \$10-million renovation includes efficient new heating, ventilation and air-conditioning units, a new color scheme with paint and carpeting to match, wider aisles between slot machines, a refurbished bar, renovated and updated bathrooms, and enlarged photos of the casino's history displayed on the walls.

In addition, a new gaming area boasts the loosest slots in America: Each of the 29 machines has a chip that pays out 98 percent of the time or more.

"I saw this building in 1979, and who would have thought it would be an empire?" Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger said. "Hollywood Classic has been a winner since it opened."

Although the 72,751-square-foot building is a classic, it is too young to be designated a historic site. To qualify as a Florida Heritage Landmark, buildings must be at least 50 years old.

"The Classic Casino is definitely one of the sites of significance for our office," said Carrie Dilley, architectural historian for the Tribal Historic Preservation Office. "We see that the building, and more importantly what the building physically is and what it represents, is highly significant to the Tribe. We have not yet nominated it to the

National Register or Tribal Register due to the age restraints, but it is something that will be completed in upcoming years."

The festive Jan. 17 ribbon cutting was complete with celebrities and entertainment. The theme was the 1970s, and music of the era filled the casino. Actor Jimmie "J.J." Walker, of 1970s television sitcom *Good Times* fame, welcomed the crowd to "one of the finest casinos in America." Dwight Stephenson, the former Miami Dolphins football team center and member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, presented a lucky patron with two tickets to the Super Bowl, courtesy of the casino. The Sugarhill Gang, whose 1979 hit *Rapper's Delight* was the first hip hop single in the Top 40, performed a lively set.

Tribal dignitaries capped the event with the honorary ribbon cutting at the new Loosest Slots in America gaming area.

"This is one of the many things we are expanding and updating," Councilman Tiger said. "Any time we do these ribbon cuttings, I feel privileged to be part of it."

Hollywood Board Rep. Chris Osceola, who has worked at the casino for 20 years and is now director of security, has had a front-row seat to all the changes throughout the years.

"The smoke was so bad in here, the paper in my office turned yellow," he said, referring to the not-so-distant past before the casino's latest renovations. "This place should be a monument; it all started right here. Indian gaming has had an impact on all Tribes. I'm proud it started with my Tribe."



Beverly Bidney

The Jan. 17 Classic Casino event draws a large crowd of Tribal members and local residents.

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Visiting expert helps install exhibit at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

SUBMITTED BY JAMES H. POWELL
Registrar

As part of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's mission to preserve and interpret Seminole history and culture, the Exhibits Division strives to create and mount vibrant and educational exhibits. These exhibits include permanent and temporary displays showcased at the Museum, as well as packaged traveling exhibits available for loan.

Last month, the Museum hosted an opening reception for the newest temporary exhibit, *Camera-man: The Seminole through the Lens of Julian Dimock*, and hopes everyone had a chance to attend and enjoy this reception.

The *Camera-man* exhibit consists of modern prints produced from photographer Julian Dimock's glass-plate negatives and Seminole artifacts. The images were taken and the artifacts were collected during a 1910 expedition through the Everglades. In addition to being collected during the same expedition, many of these artifacts are the exact items shown in the pictures on display. The pictures create a link from the artifacts to the history of the Seminole Tribe.

These negatives and artifacts belong to the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York City.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Programs and Collections divisions worked with the AMNH to make this exhibit possible. Loan arrangements between museums can be involved and complicated, but they are done that way to best protect the artifacts.

These arrangements usually include stipulations on packing, shipping, handling, display and monitoring. And for this exhibit in particular, the arrangements included an additional stipulation by the AMNH that one of their conservators assist with the exhibit installation.

AMNH conservator Gabrielle Tieu traveled to the Big Cypress Reservation and the Museum for two days to assist with the installation of the loaned artifacts. Tieu ensured the proper handling, display and installation of the artifacts. It was a pleasure to work with her and the Museum wishes to thank her for her assistance during the installation.

The Museum asked Tieu about her experience. She said in part, "After having worked months ahead of time to prepare the objects ready for the exhibition – reading about the Seminole Tribe, investigating the technology of the objects, documenting their condition and undertaking their treatments – it was a very meaningful experience to discover the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation and to work with the wonderful team at the Museum."

She also said she enjoyed visiting and spending the night at Billie Swamp Safari.

The Museum worked with the AMNH, the author of *Hidden Seminoles*, Milanich, and many others to mount this exhibit and to better identify these photographs, artifacts and all the Julian Dimock images held by



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Gabrielle Tieu, American Museum of Natural History associate conservator, prepares a leather ball and sticks for installation.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Pictured is a view of the exhibit *Camera-man: The Seminole through the Lens of Julian Dimock*.

the Museum. But much of the history of these items is still unknown. The Museum seeks the assistance of any *Tribune* readers who would like to help research and further identify the individuals in these photos. If you would like to participate in this research, please call the Museum at 863-902-1113 or visit the Museum's website at www.ahtahthiki.com.

For more information and more images of the reception, visit the Museum's Facebook page.

For those who did not have a chance to attend the *Camera-man* reception or for

those who would like to revisit the exhibit, it will be on view through December 2013.

For more information on Julian Dimock and the expedition during which these negatives were taken and artifacts were collected, see the book *Hidden Seminoles* by Jerald T. Milanich and Nina J. Root. Copies of this book can be found in the Museum's library and are for sale in the Museum Store.

To view more pictures of the exhibit installation, visit the Museum's blog. A link to the blog can be found on the main page of the Museum's website.

Tribal Historic Preservation Office investigates John Josh Camp

SUBMITTED BY MAUREEN MAHONEY
Tribal Archaeologist

As part of the investigation of significant sites on the Seminole Reservations, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) recently nominated the John Josh Camp to the

Tribal Register of Historic Places. The nomination would not have been possible without help from Coleman Josh.

The John Josh Camp is located in the central western portion of the Brighton Reservation and was established by John Josh, his wife, Henley, and their son, Coleman, in 1947 or 1948 and remained occupied until about 1964. Prior to the establishment of the camp, the Josh family lived in the Micco Camp located next to the Red Barn.

Relatively small, the John Josh Camp contained eight structures positioned parallel to a road that ran north of the camp site. The road would have connected the various camps in the same area. The camp itself consisted of a kitchen chickee, a kitchen table, John and Henley Josh's house, Coleman Josh's house (built in 1948 or 1949), Ben Wells' (brother of Henley Josh) chickee, and Annia's (mother of John Josh) chickee. Other components of the camp consisted of a hog pen and a large garden where the family grew tomatoes, corn and squash.

The John Josh Camp is a highly significant site because



Photo courtesy of THPO

John Josh played an important role in the formation of the Brighton cattle industry and of the Tribal government.

of the great role John Josh played in the formation of the Brighton cattle industry and of the Tribal government. Within the cattle program, he was elected as one of the original cattle trustees and one of his main duties was to keep a record of all the men who worked each day. In 1957, John Josh was also elected to the first Tribal Council, presumably because of his pivotal work in the cattle program and the trust he instilled among Tribal members.

Like all Tribal Register nominations, THPO is working with the community to best determine how the John Josh Camp should be remembered. If you have any suggestions or if you would like to nominate a site to the Tribal Register, contact THPO at 863-983-6549.

Hah-Tung-Ke: Frank J. Thomas

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

Born in 1943, in the Northeast Florida town of Middleberg, Frank J. Thomas learned to sing at church. He left Clay County to join the U.S. Army in 1960 and returned seven years later to sing and play guitar on tour with several well-known gospel, bluegrass and country groups, including The Taylor Brothers, The Webb Family and the Arkansas Traveler.

In Florida, he performed with many well-known Florida artists, such as Bobby Drawdy, Paul Champion, Gamble Rogers, Bobby Hicks and Will McLean, who influenced Thomas to write songs about his beloved Florida. Thomas has recorded a number of albums, including *Cracker Nights*, *Florida Stories*, *Bingo!*, *Spanish Gold*, *There Goes the Neighborhood* and *Just Another Day in the Life of a Florida Cracker*.

He is probably best known among Florida songwriters for the hundreds of "assignments" he has given to them, over the years, challenges to write about some of the lesser-known events and characters in the state's history.

Thomas resides in rural Polk County at his home, known as The Cracker Palace, outside Lake Wales.

Native Sons and Daughters, which



Photo courtesy of State Archives of Florida

Frank J. Thomas sings during a folk festival.

appears on *Just Another Day in the Life of a Florida Cracker*, is a classic Thomas Florida ballad: rich in melody and rhyme and strong in its message.

'Native Sons and Daughters'

Lyrics by Frank J. Thomas

They were here long before Andrew Jackson
They were the native heirs to this land
When Jackson said he'll make them move
West of the Mississippi
I guess he didn't think they'd make a stand
And spill his soldiers' blood all through this Florida sand
They are Florida's native sons and daughters
They are a nation that stands up proud and free
They're the native Floridians, the Seminole Indians
And they're still here as you can see
I'll bet they're always gonna be
They fought side by side with the Seminoles
When the soldiers tried to drive them from this land
They were fierce, they were brave
They'd rather die than be enslaved
And their roots run deep in this Florida sand
They are Florida's native sons and daughters
They are black and they are proud of their history
They had to drink some bitter wine

But they stood the test of time
The Seminole called them yot-lo-ji
And they still walk this land proud and free

They started their migration before the 1800s

They were an independent breed
Tough and resourceful living off the land
And this Florida sand would fill their needs

To its hardships they paid little heed
They are Florida's native sons and daughters
We are Florida Crackers and we are proud

Though our numbers may be few
There are still one or two
Who can still crack a cow-whip real loud
Working the land their great-grandfathers plowed

We are Florida's native sons and daughters
We are red, we are black and we are white

But it's more than just a name, Florida flows through our veins
If you think we're a little proud I guess you're right
Cause we're the Florida natives
We're red, we're black and white

Frank J. Thomas named to Artists Hall of Fame

Event to take place on March 20 in Tallahassee

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

Frank J. Thomas is a seventh-generation Floridian and Clay County native from a family of farmers and cowboys. A big, drawl-talkin' man, he is considered a patriarch of Florida songwriters, with more than 400 songs – all of them set in the rural history of the land and people of Florida. He said he has never written down a song; he composes and stores them all in his head.

He received the Florida Folk Heritage Award (along with his late wife and performing partner, Ann Thomas), the Jillian Prescott History Award, the Florida Historical Society Golden Quill Award, the Stetson Kennedy Foundation Fellow Man & Mother Earth Award, and a state resolution honoring him from former Gov. Lawton Chiles, who personally gave a pair of his "walkin' boots" to Thomas following the governor's 1970 campaign stroll across Florida.

Thomas' original Florida songs have been performed, by him and many others who cover his tunes, for decades in every part of the state and on radio stations, such as WMNF FM in Tampa and WLRN in Miami. Each Memorial Day weekend, Thomas hosts the Suwannee River Gazebo Stage, a showcase for the state's songwriters. Author and Artists Hall of Fame inductee Patrick D. Smith refers to Thomas as "the unequivocal heir to the soul of Florida folksong."

On March 20, Thomas will receive the state's highest cultural award – induction into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame – at the Florida Heritage Awards Ceremony. Seminole Tribe Chairman James E. Billie has been invited to assist Gov. Rick Scott and Secretary of State Ken Detzner in presenting the award to Thomas, Cuban-born American singer and actress Gloria Estefan and the late Laura Woodward, nationally known for her delicate oil and



Peter B. Gallagher

Frank J. Thomas performs at the Swamp Water Cafe in Big Cypress. On March 20, he will be inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame at the Florida Heritage Awards Ceremony.

watercolor renderings of unspoiled Florida.

The event will be held at the Mission San Luis, an Apalachee Indian and Colonial Spanish historic site in Tallahassee. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for a reception with live entertainment. The Awards Ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. Seminole royalty have been invited to participate in the ceremony, and Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar is scheduled to provide the audience with a brief introduction of Seminole history and customs.

The event will be attended by Florida legislators, elected officials, state administrators, representatives of cultural organizations, awardees and other honored guests, including Seminole Tribal members who know Thomas. The event, open to the public, will be free and guests will have access to free parking on the Mission San Luis grounds.

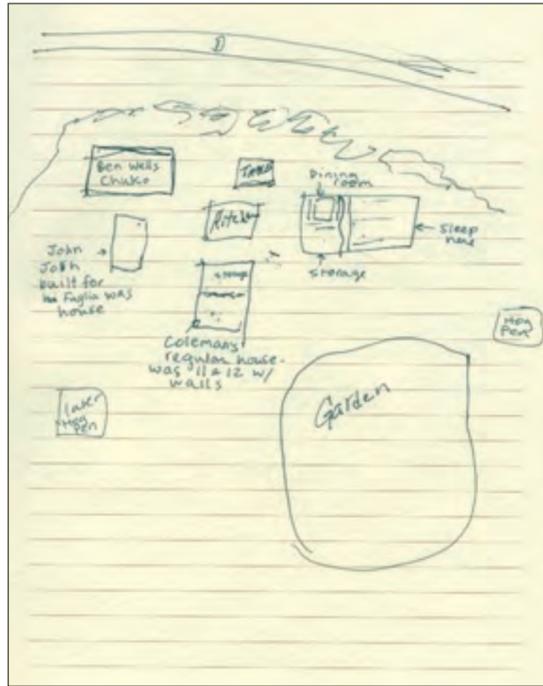


Photo courtesy of THPO

Pictured is the layout of the John Josh Camp completed by Coleman Josh.

Health

Control mosquitoes

SUBMITTED BY AVA JOHN
Safety and Infection Control specialist

Mosquito Control, Aviation and Environmental Health continue to work diligently to control bothersome and disease-transmitting mosquitoes. Because it's impossible to completely eradicate mosquitoes, the departments focus on controlling the population to reduce the nuisance factor and protect public health.

To prevent mosquito bites, the Environment Health Program advises the use of insect repellents and clothing that covers the body, especially between sunset and sunrise.

There are also numerous places around your property where standing water can attract mosquitoes:

Birdbaths: Replace or flush once a week.

Watering cans, buckets, barrels and trash containers: Store indoors, drill holes in the bottom or empty after rain.

Gutters and drainage ditches: Remove debris regularly to ensure water flow.

Potted plants and saucers: Empty once a week or remove.

Outdoor grills: Cover or close vents.

Old tires: Store indoors or in a way that water doesn't collect.

Ponds: Add fish or recirculation pumps.

Children's toys and playground equipment: Cover or store away.

Kayaks, canoes and boats: Store upside down or covered.

Hollow fence posts: Install post caps.

Outdoor faucets and air conditioning units: Ensure proper water runoff.

Tarps: Remove water from folds and creases.

Tree holes: Fill with sand or flush once a week.

If you are bothered by mosquitoes, need assistance with eliminating breeding sources on or around your property, or would like general environment health information, contact the Seminole Environment Health Program at 954-985-2330.

Source: UF/IFAS Extension and South Carolina Mosquito Control.



Photo courtesy of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Florida black bear can smell garbage up to a mile away. Taking precautions is vital for safety.

Eliminate food sources for the Florida black bear

SUBMITTED BY PAULINE HAAS
Wildlife Biologist

Florida black bears are the largest native mammals in Florida. They are black with a tan muzzle and a white spot on their chest that varies from bear to bear. Males weigh about 350 pounds and live to be 15 to 25 years old, while females weigh about 200 pounds and live to be 30 years old. Black bears are omnivores, meaning they eat meat as well as fruits, nuts and seeds.

Instead of hibernating, or sleeping through winter, Florida black bears winter den, or sleep for short periods throughout winter. Winter denning usually starts in late December and ends early May. Males and non-pregnant females will leave their den several times during this period to eat, while pregnant females will give birth to their cubs and go without food for four to five months.

Florida black bears are a threatened species in Florida. Black bears used to range throughout Florida, but now they occupy fragmented areas such as Hendry, Glades and Polk counties.

People unintentionally make many food sources – garbage, bird and wildlife feeders, barbecues, smokers and pet food – available to bears. At the moment, it is the biggest issue with black bears. Because they can smell garbage up to a mile away, black bears will track down the smell and possibly cross roads and bridges to get to the food source, creating a great risk to themselves and motorists.

When bears gain access to a human food source, they quickly learn to associate humans with food, losing their shyness and becoming habituated. Once bears get used

to a reliable food source, they will likely return to the site frequently. Black bears are strong and persistent and can tear up garbage cans, coolers, grills, bird feeders, sheds and dog houses. Once they find a steady food source, bears may become aggressive in order to defend it.

The food source from people is a difficult cycle to break and often results in the death of bears. Bears will forage a food source until it has been removed. It may take up to several weeks for bears to stop visiting the food source and move on. The best way to prevent bears from entering property is to make it food-free. Here are some different ways to assist in eliminating or removing food sources that attract bears:

- Secure garbage indoors or in bear-resistant containers.
- Take garbage out in the morning for pick up and not the night before.
- Feed pets indoors. Do not leave food bowls outside.
- Clean grills and smokers. Store them in a secure place.
- Remove bird and wildlife feeders. Food plots can be used as wildlife feeders if necessary. Plans to secure wildlife feeders can be found at http://myfwc.com/docs/WildlifeHabitats/bear_proof_feeder.pdf.
- Protect gardens, prairies, composts and livestock with electric fences.
- Pick ripe fruit from trees and bushes and remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- Black bears pose very little threat to human safety, but it is best to be safe. Use the following guidelines to stay safe:
 - Stay calm and walk backward to the closest building or vehicle.
 - Bring children and pets inside.
 - Bang pots or make loud noises, which



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Black bears are strong and persistent and can tear up garbage cans and bird feeders.

will encourage the bear to leave.

- If the bear is able to get food (like garbage or bird food), remove it and secure it once the bear has left the premises.
- If the bear is in a tree, leave it alone; it will most likely leave once it feels safe.

For additional information, visit <http://www.myfwc.com>.

To get a digital copy of this article, visit the Tribe's Environmental Resource Management Department wildlife website at <http://www.semtribe.com/Services/ERMD/>.

Black bears are listed as threatened, and it is illegal to intentionally feed them. If you suspect anyone of feeding bears or have a nuisance bear in the area, contact Tribal Animal Control at the following numbers: For Immokalee and Big Cypress, contact officer Shawn Heron at 863-228-6265. For Brighton and Fort Pierce, contact officer Evelyn Tiencken at 954-658-0904. And for Trail, contact officer Gus Batista 954-347-9253.

If you need immediate assistance, contact SPD at 863-983-2285.

Triaminic and Theraflu products recalled

SUBMITTED BY ROBERT BROWN
Fire Marshal

Triaminic Syrups and Theraflu Warming Relief Syrups were recalled on Jan. 31 (recall number 13-114). Consumers should stop using these products unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

The child-resistant caps on these products can fail to function properly, enabling children to remove the cap with the tamper-evident seal in place, posing a risk of unintentional ingestion and poisoning. These products contain acetaminophen and diphenhydramine which are required by the Poison Prevention Packaging Act to be sealed with child-resistant packaging.

For more information, call Novartis Consumer Healthcare toll-free at 866-553-6742 or visit www.novartisOTC.com.



Photo courtesy of Robert Brown

Triaminic Syrups and Theraflu Warming Relief Syrups were recalled on Jan. 31.



March is Poison Prevention Month

SEMINOLE TRIBE FIRE RESCUE

Presents

POISON PREVENTION

Did you know that 90 percent of poisonings occur at home?

- The American Association of Poison Control Centers supports the nation's 57 poison centers in their efforts to prevent and treat poison exposures. These facilities offer free, confidential medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the Poison Help Line at 1-800-222-1222.
- Teach children why they should stay away from cleaning chemicals, medicines, cosmetics, laundry detergents and other household products. Do NOT store these items in cups or food containers and keep them out of their reach.
- Read the warning labels for cleaning chemicals before use and never mix them because they may produce deadly fumes. Should this occur, move outside to clean air and contact 911 or your local emergency response number immediately.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist what food, fruits or drinks to avoid when taking your medication. Also, inform them of any prescriptions, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and herbal remedies you are taking.
- What's inside of your home? Prescription medicines, cough syrup, herbal incenses, bath salts, plant food, spray products and cleaning chemicals are abused by many adolescents and young adults. Often times, these items are easily accessible and overlooked by their parents or other family members.
- Seven people die every day from prescription drug abuse in the Sunshine State, placing Florida at No. 2 throughout the entire country. This death rate is five times more than all illegal narcotics. Monitor your prescription pills, and if necessary, keep them locked up in a secret location.



"Prevent Poisonings"

Journey to a healthy heart

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez

February is American Heart Month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death among both men and women; however, heart disease is preventable and controllable.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), every year approximately 715,000 Americans have a heart attack and roughly 600,000 people die from heart disease.

The term "heart disease" actually refers to several types of heart conditions – the most prevalent being coronary heart disease. This condition occurs when there is plaque buildup in the arteries that supply blood to the heart. Coronary heart disease can cause a heart attack, heart failure and arrhythmia's (abnormal heart rate). These conditions are leading causes of disability, preventing individuals from working.

I know it sounds really bad, but do not fret. You can control and help prevent heart disease.

Start with small steps, every day, on your way to a healthy heart. You, and only you, have to decide that enough is enough and take control of your heart's destiny. Now, as you set out on your journey to a healthier heart, it is important to remember a few things:

- 1) Don't try to do too much at one time. Remember: One day at a time.
- 2) Have family and/or friends join you; it's more fun and you can motivate each other.
- 3) If you experience a setback, take a step back and a deep breath, then try again tomorrow.
- 4) Don't forget to reward yourself for working so hard; too much stress is never good.

You can help prevent heart disease by making healthy choices, such as:

- Eat healthy by choosing meals low in saturated fats, cholesterol and sodium. Try to incorporate fruits and veggies into your meals. Great supplements like Juice Plus can help you get the recommended five daily servings. My son loves the veggie and fruit chews; I love them because it gives him vital heart-health nutrients.
- Maintain a healthy weight because being overweight, or obese, can increase your risk for heart disease. You can determine whether your weight is in a healthy range by having your body mass

index (BMI) calculated. If you know your height and weight, you can calculate your BMI on the CDC's website.

Regular physical activity can help you maintain a healthy weight and help lower cholesterol and blood pressure. You should get at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise most days of the week. I've said this before and I'll keep saying it forever: Look at physical activity or exercise as a part of your everyday routine – like brushing your teeth. Find something you enjoy doing, so you will like doing it rather than dreading it.

Get regular checkups, have your cholesterol screened and monitor your blood pressure. Because high blood pressure often has no symptoms, you need to check it regularly. You can have it checked at one of the clinics or at a drug store/pharmacy.

Don't smoke! Cigarette smoking greatly increases your risk for heart disease – not to mention the damage it causes to other vital organs.

Limit your alcohol consumption; drinking too much alcohol can increase your blood pressure and cause damage to your liver and kidneys.

If you are diabetic, monitor your blood sugar levels.

Take your medication. If you are on medication for high cholesterol, high blood pressure or diabetes, follow your doctor's instructions.

I also wanted to share some warning signs of a heart attack:

Chest discomfort – most heart attacks involve some feeling of discomfort in the center of the chest, which can last a few minutes or can go away and come back. Sometimes it can feel like pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

Upper body discomfort – this can be pain or discomfort in one or both arms, your back, neck, shoulders or jaw.

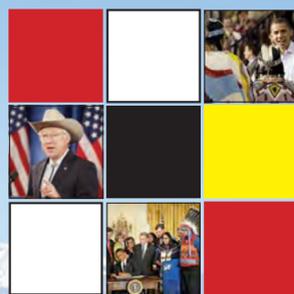
Shortness of breath – this can be with or without pain in your chest.

Feeling weak or lightheaded – this can include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea and feeling faint.

Make the decision today that enough is enough and start your journey now to a healthy heart.



NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Hard Rock submits Massachusetts proposal

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Hard Rock International has submitted its vision for a proposed hotel and casino to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.

The proposal follows similar applications by Ameristar Casinos Inc., MGM Resorts International and Penn National Gaming. Hard Rock's version calls for a 38-acre, single-phased resort on property that's home to The Big E, the eighth-largest fair in North America, as well as 120 consumer and trade shows every year.

If built, the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino New England will include a hotel with 400 to 500 guest rooms; a Rock Spa and a tropical indoor pool deck; an approximately 200,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art casino with 100 to 125 table games and 2,500 to 3,000 slot machines; and a Hard Rock Cafe. The resort also would include a live music venue, a permanent music memorabilia exhibition, a facility with meeting space and a destination retail/dining Galleria of approximately 150,000 square feet.

— *successfulmeetings.com*

Hard Rock promotes global hotel initiative

ORLANDO — Hard Rock International, pushing forward with its global growth initiative, could increase its portfolio as much as 70 percent over the next three to five years, CEO Jim Allen told HotelNewsNow.com.

In the United States, there are between 25 and 50 markets that are right for a Hard Rock hotel, estimates Allen, who figures there are between eight and 15 markets appropriate to support a Hard Rock hotel/casino project. Hard Rock has 180 properties in its portfolio, including restaurant locations, and the company has intentions of bumping that number up to between 250 and 300 over three to five years.

Allen singled out markets including New York, Miami, northern New Jersey, Texas and Kentucky.

"We believe there is tremendous opportunity in Asia," he said, noting the company is also considering growth in the Caribbean and South America.

Globally, Hard Rock has secured relationships with development partners in 58 countries, Allen said.

— *HotelNewsNow.com*

For sale: \$3.9 million Wounded Knee site

WOUNDED KNEE, S.D. — Old wounds have opened on the Pine Ridge Reservation in reaction to a local man's decision to sell 40 acres of land near the site of two of South Dakota's most historically notorious events.

James Czywczynski of Rapid City wants \$3.9 million for land that sits next to the Wounded Knee memorial site where an estimated 150 Native Americans are buried after being killed by members of the 7th Cavalry Regiment on Dec. 29, 1890.

Elected Tribal officials said the Oglala Sioux Tribe is interested in purchasing what is considered sacred ground to the Tribe but not at a price that far exceeds its actual value.

Tribal Councilman Kevin Yellow Bird Steele said the property is inflated to the point of insult and is an attempted exploitation of a dark chapter in U.S. history.

"As a representative of Wounded Knee District, I'm totally appalled," he said.

According to Shannon County records, the property has an appraised value of \$7,000.

Czywczynski, however, said his asking price includes compensation for the damage done to his property in 1973 when the American Indian Movement and others occupied the community of Wounded Knee for 71 days in a violent standoff that drew national attention and cost Native Americans and two FBI agents their lives.

"They burned my home," Czywczynski, 74, said. "They burned my trading post. They burned my museum. They burned three cabins I had. They wrecked and stole three of my vehicles."

Czywczynski said he has offered to sell the land to the Tribe because it was destroyed in 1973. But the Tribe has consistently rejected his \$3.9 million asking price. Now he has given the Tribe an ultimatum: Buy it by May 1 or watch it fall into the hands of a private investor.

— *Rapid City Journal*

President Barack Obama honors Billy Mills

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Billy Mills, who rocketed to the world stage when he won a gold medal in the 10,000-meter Olympic race at the National Stadium in Tokyo on Oct. 14, 1964, is a medal winner again. The Pine Ridge native has received the coveted Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation's second highest civilian award.

"I am humbled and honored to be recognized by the president in this extraordinary way," the 74-year-old Mills said. "The most powerful thing you can give to a child is a dream. I hope every child in Indian Country knows what is possible if you follow your dream."

Mills had big dreams of his own when he qualified for the Olympics in the 10,000-meter race even though he was given virtually



Photo courtesy of Indian Country Today Media Network

no chance of winning a medal. He made history, however, when he came from behind in the final 200 meters to beat the world record holder at the time, Ron Clarke of Australia. The only American to ever win a gold medal in that event, Mills went on to set seven U.S. track and field records and was co-holder of the 6-mile world record.

Mills is well-known as the co-founder and national spokesman for the Running Strong for American Indian Youth organization, a nonprofit agency that works to strengthen Native American communities.

"In Lakota culture, someone who achieves great success has a 'give away' to thank the support system of family and friends who helped him achieve his goal," said Lauren Haas Finkelstein, Running Strong's executive director. "For decades, as Running Strong's national spokesperson, he has traveled tirelessly to impart his message of inspiration and opportunity based on dignity, character and pride to American Indian children and their families."

— *Rapid City Journal*

'The Cherokee Phoenix' newspaper turns 185

ECHOTA, N.C. — Around 1809, Sequoyah (also known as George Gist or Guess) had developed a written form of the Cherokee language. By 1826, the Cherokee Council adopted the 86-character syllabary for use in a newspaper to be called *The Cherokee Phoenix*. On Feb. 21, 1828, the first edition of *The Cherokee Phoenix* newspaper was printed.

The bilingual newspaper was circulated throughout the Cherokee Nation and parts of the United States and Europe. In addition to the newspaper, The Print Shop at the Cherokee Capital State Historic Site also turned out thousands of pages of other publications, including the Bible, hymnals and a novel.

In 1971, the New Echota Cherokee Capital State Historic Site was named a Historic Site in Journalism by Sigma Delta Chi, the Professional Journalistic Society, and a plaque was erected at the site. The plaque reads, "The Cherokee Nation of Indians established the first Indian language newspaper, *The Cherokee Phoenix*, on this site in 1828. Edited by Cherokee Elias Boudinot and later by Elijah Hicks, *The Cherokee Phoenix* was printed bilingually in the Sequoyan Syllabary adopted by the Cherokees, and in English, during the period 1828-1834."

In 1994 the Native American Journalists Association also erected a plaque "to honor the first Native American newspaper and to celebrate the founding of Native American journalism at this place in 1828."

The newspaper has not published continually. The Phoenix was closed in 1834 due to a lack of funds and the Cherokee press was seized by the Georgia Militia during the turmoil leading up to the signing of the Treaty of New Echota in May of 1836. President Andrew Jackson gave the Cherokee two years to vacate and move west of the Mississippi. Beginning in May 1838, federal troops and state militia began a forced removal that became known as the Cherokee Trail of Tears.

— *The Dalton (GA) Daily Citizen*

Smithsonian presents Redskins forum



Photo courtesy of Washington Redskins

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Washington Redskins team name was lambasted as "racist" and "demeaning" during a daylong symposium recently at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

"It's an awkward fact of life in Washington, D.C. that we are home to both the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and the Washington Redskins," wrote columnist Dave Zirwin in *The Nation*. "One attempts to preserve the Native American cultures that weren't eradicated by conquest; the other is both a symbol and result of the same eradication."

The symposium featured a panel which included several American Indians, who shared their personal experiences with racism and criticized Washington Redskins owner Dan Snyder and National Football League (NFL) commissioner Roger Goodell for their reluctance to change the team name and logo.

The NFL Redskins declined invitations to attend the symposium. Tony Wylie, the Washington Redskins' senior vice president of communications, declined to comment on the team's name.

Panelist former Colorado Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, the first American Indian to serve in the U.S. Senate in more than 60 years when he was elected in 1992, said from the stage, "If you want [your mascot] to be a savage, use your own picture." Campbell, who introduced a bill in Congress in early 1990s banning the use of the term "Redskins" on federally owned land, asked, "How would you feel if the team was called the Washington Darkies?"

Panelist Suzan Shown Harjo, president of the Washington-based Morning Star Institute, entered a lengthy court battle with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to void the Redskins trademark but lost in 2009 when the Supreme Court ruled that the plaintiffs waited too long to file their original case. There is another hearing filed by younger plaintiffs

scheduled for March 7.

Columnist Zirwin called for Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III to step forward and demand the mascot be retired: "Griffin is recovering from knee surgery after the finest statistical season of any rookie quarterback in the history of the game. The team won their division and with the mercury-quick Griffin under center, also became must-see TV. Beyond just the swooning local sports writers, D.C. figures like Maureen Dowd, Marco Rubio and President Barack Obama all giggled with glee in Griffin's glow. If the 23-year-old wonder said tomorrow that the team should be called the Washington Cuddly Snuggles, it would happen."

American Indian activists found an ally in Washington, D.C. mayor Vincent Gray, who said if the team wants to return to the district there should be discussions about changing the name. Gray also avoided saying "Redskins" in his state of the district speech last week, instead referring to "our Washington football team."

— *The Nation, WashingtonPost.com*

Navajo leaders discuss gay marriage

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Once a highly debated taboo among Navajo people, the concept of same sex marriage is apparently becoming more mainstream as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual organization (LGBT) held a forum with Navajo leaders at the Navajo Nation Museum to discuss their issues.

Navajo presidential adviser Deswood Tome, Arizona State Sen. Jack Jackson Jr. and Navajo Council delegate Johnathan Hale attended the event and took questions from the LGBT community and the audience.

Tome said Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly respects the gay community, referring to them as the "five fingered people in Navajo just like everyone else," he said.

Tome, when asked directly if the Navajo Nation would allow same sex marriage on the reservation, redirected the question to Council delegate Hale, who said the Council will have to explore the issue further.

Sen. Jackson spoke of equality and his experience as the first openly gay Native American politician, praising both sides for creating the forum.

The Navajo leaders were careful not to say exactly what will happen with same sex marriage on the Navajo Nation and if the Tribe would actually support a gay marriage bill, warning LGBT community to be careful in pushing the issue on Navajo elders. In 2005, former Navajo President Joe Shirley supported same sex marriage on the Navajo Nation, but the support was shot down by a bill Navajo lawmakers passed, the Dine Marriage Act of 2005 — it defines marriage as being only between a man and a woman, prohibits plural marriage and prohibits marriage between family members.

— *Navajo Post*

Petition drive aims at Michigan wolf law

LANSING, Mich. — Local and state animal welfare advocates, environmentalists, hunters and American Indian Tribal leaders, led by Wayne Pabelle, president and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States, launched a campaign to overturn Michigan's controversial wolf hunting law. Sponsored by the group Keep Michigan Wolves Protected, the plan is to gather 225,000 signatures by March 27.

"The idea of seeing these animals caught in steel-jawed traps, languishing and suffering for hours — and sometimes days — killed just for a trophy or a pelt, not for consumption, not for any compelling management reason, really appalls me," Pabelle said at a news conference at the state Capitol.

The coalition wants to put a referendum on the November 2014 ballot that would overturn Public Act 520. The Legislature passed the measure last year, which classifies the gray wolf as a game species. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has begun discussions on establishing a wolf hunting season, but members of Keep Michigan Wolves Protected hope to head off any decisions by securing enough signatures.

The petition drive has the backing of several American Indian Tribes, local Humane Society officials and others, who called wolf hunting "unnecessary."

Experts said Michigan has about 700 wolves, which are confined to the Upper Peninsula.

"We can't see any scientific reason, any rational reason or any Tribal or cultural reason to hunt the wolf," said Aaron Payment, Chairman of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, one of the key sponsors behind the petition drive.

The federal government in 2011 said gray wolves in the Great Lakes had recovered enough to be removed from the endangered species list. Since then, hunting has begun in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

In 2011, the most recent year with available data, the national Humane Society spent more than \$55 million on animal protection advocacy programs and public policy initiatives nationwide.

— *Livingstondaily.com*

Little-known Trail of Tears segment found

OLD JEFFERSON, Tenn. — The Native History Association (NHA), a nonprofit group based in Nashville, Tenn., has used Google Earth to identify a little-known segment of the infamous Trail of Tears route.

Between 1838 and 1839 the Cherokee Indians were forcibly removed from their homelands in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee to Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. They traveled by foot, horse, wagon or steamboat; many died along the way, which is why the horrific journey was dubbed the Trail of Tears.

According to the NHA, all the trail's routes passed through Tennessee. One crossed through Rutherford County, passing north of Murfreesboro to avoid tolls on the main roads. Instead, it cut through

the town of Old Jefferson, located at a fork in the Stones River near Smyrna, Tenn.

Many historical references say Old Jefferson was under water when J. Percy Priest Dam was built in the 1960s. But when NHA vice president Toye Heape was investigating the route on Google Earth in late summer, he realized this wasn't the case.

"When I got to the area of Old Jefferson, I was puzzled," Heape said in an NHA release. "Looking at the satellite images, the river doesn't appear wide enough at that point to cover a whole town."

When Heape found an 1878 map of Old Jefferson, "I almost fell out of my chair," he said. "The main road through the town matched up almost exactly with the Trail of Tears route and it was clear that it was not only on dry land, [but that] a visible path could be seen on Google Earth."

The site — owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — is part of the Twin Forks Horse Trail near the East Fork Recreation Area in Rutherford County. NHA president Pat Cummins, who is of Cherokee descent, went to investigate in person on Labor Day.

He was connected with Heape by cell phone: "[Heape] used Google Earth as a kind of eye-in-the-sky to direct me over the phone, turn by turn," Cummins said. "It was a very emotional moment for me. The old roadbed appears very much intact, and I realized I was standing where approximately 4,218 Cherokee men, women and children had traveled 174 years ago, with every inch taking them farther away from all they had ever known."

"I couldn't help but feel a little overwhelmed by all that this place represents to us as Cherokee people, but I also felt an enormous sense of satisfaction knowing that we had found this trail segment, which has survived despite its turbulent past and near destruction."

NPS will now work with the Corps to mark the Trail of Tears segment with historic trail signs.

— *Indian Country Today Media Network*

Will new Interior boss stop wild horse roundups?



Photo courtesy of U.S. Bureau of Land Management

RENO, Nev. — Wild horse advocates, always sharply critical of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, are hoping Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) chief Sally Jewell — President Barack Obama's choice as Salazar's replacement in March — will represent a shift in direction for the government's management of wild mustangs.

During Salazar's four-year tenure, nearly 40,000 horses have been removed from the range across the West. Suzanne Roy, director of the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign, said her group "responded optimistically" to Jewell's nomination and looks forward to opening a dialogue with her about reforming the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) wild horse program.

"Sally Jewell is a surprising choice, but we're hopeful that as a conservationist and outdoor enthusiast, she'll appreciate the important role wild horses play in our national heritage and work with us to find ways to preserve them for future generations," Roy said.

But Anne Novak, executive director of California-based Protect Mustangs, said she has doubts about Jewell because of her earlier background as a commercial banker and Mobil Oil engineer.

"I'm very concerned that an appointment coming from big oil and banking will not protect native wild horses," Novak said. "They don't know how to make money out of mustangs but see environmental restrictions slowing down quick profits. Her focus appears to be on making profits off public land."

Horse defenders strongly oppose the BLM's ongoing program to remove mustangs from public lands, saying there are now more of the animals "stockpiled" in government holding facilities than remain free on the range.

About half of the estimated 37,000 horses and burros on federal lands are in Nevada. BLM maintains that the range can sustain only about 26,000 and conducts roundups regularly to try to get closer to that number.

— *The Associated Press*

Tlingit, Haida Tribes oppose cruise bill

JUNEAU, Alaska — The Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska is opposing a bill that would change how Alaska regulates cruise ship wastewater aligning rules for cruise ships with those for others that get discharge permits from the agency.

The bill also would allow authorization of mixing zones if ships meet certain standards for treatment of discharge. The Council, which represents 28,000 Tribal citizens, distributed a letter to lawmakers that said the proposal wasn't based on the best available science and would lower water quality protections.

Gov. Sean Parnell's Environmental Conservation commissioner, Larry Hartig, said in 2009 that cruise companies weren't meeting the more rigorous standard set out by the initiative, at least for certain pollutants. The Alaska Cruise Association, in written testimony to the House Resources Committee, said 45 organizations and local governments had passed resolutions at the time, urging action.

— *The Associated Press*

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Education

B

PECS names Teachers of the Year

BY EMMA JOHNS
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — It is no secret that individuals do not choose the field of teaching for the salary. There is an inherent passion that drives a person to say, "I want to be a teacher."

Effective teaching practices that promote the well-being of students are not written somewhere in a manual as a step-by-step guide on how to become a great teacher. This effectiveness comes from within and creates a spark between a student and a teacher.

Each year, a few individuals at Pemaevtv Emahakv Charter School (PECS) who have superseded daily expectations are chosen by their colleagues to represent the school as Teachers and Non-Instructional Employees of the Year.



Emma Johns

Victoria Paige.

This year's Pemaevtv Emahakv Elementary Teacher of the Year is Victoria "Vicki" Paige.

Paige, a second-grade teacher at PECS, is in her 34th year of teaching. She is a two-time school Teacher of the Year, earning her first award at Seminole Elementary in 1991. She comes from a family of educators, as both her parents were teachers at various points in their professional careers.

"They always emphasized what an admirable profession teaching was," she said.

Paige has always had a passion for working with children and spent her earlier years working various jobs at camps, day cares and children's hospitals. Before PECS was built, Paige spent many years tutoring Seminole students after school at Seminole Elementary. She was invited by former principal Russ Brown to visit the Charter School, and she realized the school provided a unique learning environment. She wanted to be a part of it.

Paige enjoys teaching her second-grade, all-boys class because she is very experienced with higher grades and the preparation process for the FCAT. She uses her experience with the standardized test to prepare students and their parents for meeting the demands of third grade and beyond, which places a great deal of emphasis on the FCAT.

"My goal is to prepare the students and enlighten the parents of the rigors of the third-grade curriculum and daunting FCAT assessments," she said. "Though I am cognizant of standardized testing and its importance, I never lose sight of the needs of the whole child."

She looks for new and exciting ways to "flip on the learning switch" for each of her students and feels privileged to earn Teacher of the Year.

"Being named Teacher of the Year for Pemaevtv Emahakv has been a great honor," she said. "Knowing that the equally dedicated and highly professional individuals I work with supported my nomination was indeed a humbling experience."

The school also recognized Quentin Pritchard as Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Pritchard teaches sixth- through eighth-grade social studies; he is also an adjunct history professor at Indian River State College.

It was the small classroom size and high-tech environment that enticed Pritchard to leave the high school setting and return to teaching middle school at PECS.

"As a social studies teacher, I had a keen interest in working with my Native American students because I believe that it is important for them to appreciate their culture and history," he said. "My main focus, however, will be to help them appreciate what the Tribe does for them and what they can do to make themselves better members and give back to the Tribe."

Although history is not tested on the FCAT, Pritchard has started preparing students for the 2014-2015 school year, which will require every seventh-grader to pass an end-of-course exam, or EOC, before leaving middle school.

"My big focus in the years to come will be to integrate more technology into my lessons. It is always good to stay a step ahead," Pritchard said. "It means (so) much to be recognized by my peers and colleagues, but I feel that I am only a part of a very special team of middle school teachers."

♦ See TEACHERS on page 3B



Eileen Soler

Deer bones and turtle shells anchor a dig area for students from Pemaevtv Emahakv Charter School to search for artifacts during Archaeology Day at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Students 'dig' history at Museum Archaeology Day

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — With garden trowels and a little muscle, students from Pemaevtv Emahakv Charter School (PECS) filled buckets with discoveries during Archaeology Day at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

"We get to learn a little of what our ancestors did and how they did it," said Sage Motlow, 12. "We're archeologists for a day."

About 60 fourth- through sixth-graders from PECS and a handful from Ahfachkee School spent Jan. 18 with their hands in the dirt and their minds on the study of human society.

Using mesh screen sifters, and with assistance from staff members of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) on the Big Cypress Reservation, the children found pre-planted beads, pottery, shells, sharpened stones and other items from a cordoned site topped with turtle shells and deer bones.

But first, the students prepared for the archaeological adventure at a show-and-tell lecture about mental mapping.

"You have to perceive your area by drawing it out before you work. It tells, basically, where you are in space," said Juan Cancel, chief data analyst for THPO.

Cancel showed a map of South Florida drawn by a Native American in the early 1800s — likely around the time of the Second Seminole War. Then, the United States government and European interests depended on mapping by those who could envision and draw the terrain best, in this case, an early Seminole.

The mental mapping method predates aerial photography, global positioning systems and other modern technology.

Children revolved through stations on the Museum site.

Under the shade of a chickee, they learned from Community Outreach specialist Willie Johns, who lived 19 years in a Brighton chickee village, that the structures were created by Seminoles who took refuge in the Everglades during

the Seminole Wars. Then, and with some families still, adult sisters lived communally with their husbands and children using several chickees within the camp for sleeping, cooking and socializing.

"Our beds were on platforms to keep our bedding and clothes dry," Johns said. "There was a pond nearby full of fresh water that we dove into first thing every day to wash. And when we'd get back to camp, a fire would be ready. Those were the rough days. Now we have it made."

Archaeology Day also included a class in compass reading taught by archaeology field technicians Matthew Fenno and Geoffrey Wasson. Children used compasses to walk the Museum's mile-long boardwalk and to chart a map of the grounds.

In the Clan Pavilion, the Museum's Traditional Arts and Outreach coordinator Pedro Zepeda and Community Outreach specialist Van Samuels described the differences and similarities of Tribal, cultural and archeological sites.

"Even archeologists are not allowed to excavate certain areas because of the

historical value and significance," Zepeda said.

Back at the dig site, dubbed Osceola's Sand Castle, the students described the environment, soil conditions and excavated artifacts. They measured their findings, noted colors and shapes, then concluded what purpose the items served in daily life.

PECS teacher Michelle Pritchard, who called Archaeology Day "an unbelievable experience," said she learned a few things.

"I never thought that beads could reveal so much about a culture or that a shard of pottery could be used to determine its original size and shape," she said.

For Echo Billie, 11, the most fun part of the event was digging for artifacts but the "coolest" part of the day was learning about the Seminole map maker.

"To think that an Indian drew Florida perfect just by using his mind tells me that we were always great thinkers," Billie said. "I'd like to teach my own children that someday."

♦ See more DIG photos on page 2B

Ahfachkee School students turn values into artwork

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A teacher's desire to use visual aids in the classroom has evolved into an awe-inspiring student art project.

"There was no intention of becoming big," said Jarrid Smith, Ahfachkee School's Seminole Government and Leadership teacher. "When it all began, I told the students that I had no way of knowing where it would go."

Weeks later, the project derived from Pass it on Billboards at Values.com is now the art exhibit *Values Billboards* showing through March 29 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Eight 10-by-36-inch boards, designed

one each by eight 10th- and 11th-graders, fill the Mosaic Gallery wall. The left of every "billboard" contains a historic Seminole photograph chosen by the student, while the other side has a life value held dear by the student. Above, a caption hammers the value home with a bold, in-your-face statement.

"It's direct. It's fact. It's bam. And it's a very cool, modern way of expression," said artist Elgin Jumper, who attended a reception for the show's opening on Jan. 25.

Kaylan Osceola, 16, illustrated *Loyalty* in words and used a loving image of her mother and uncle when they were young children. "Eeyaatalle, you protect them through good and bad because they would do the same for you," read the caption.

Unity, by Colby Herrera, 17, is depicted with a mid-1950s photograph of the Tribe's charter committee, which was responsible for the Tribe's eventual recognition in 1957. Herrera's caption: "Together we can do anything."

For some of the teens, the classroom exercise became a way to discover more about themselves.

"In the 1950s it took eight men to come together and change the future," Herrera said. "I never really liked working on projects with other people, but I found out that when we work together, we can get more done."

Malari Baker, 17, gained a greater respect for her value *Perseverance* by seeing herself in a photo of her great-grandmother Mary Cypress cradling her

great-uncle Mitchell Cypress during the Seminole transition.

"My family did not have much during that time but no matter what, my great-grandmother always took care of the family," Baker said. "Perseverance means to keep going in spite of the obstacles or hard times that come your way."

Quenton Cypress, 17, described *True Beauty* with an aerial photograph of the Big Cypress Reservation long before paved streets and modern buildings. Some might view the photo and see remote isolation. Cypress sees beauty.

"People who have not lived the life (on the reservation) can see it as empty and boring, but I see it as our home," he said. "It is where we come from and what I want to keep alive."

Kaitlin Osceola, 15, focused on *Hard Work*, a quality she learned from her father, Raleigh Osceola, who instilled in her the importance of education, while Savannah Tiger, 16, highlighted *Devotion* by giving credit to her mother, Cara Tiger: "My rock — from the swamp to the big city."

The photographs were gleaned from the Museum's archive library, said Elizabeth Lowman, the Museum's oral history educator. Students learned to use technology to cull the archives for photos that spoke to them about the morals and values that shape their lives.

"We were so impressed when we saw the finished product that we had to have it for the Museum," Lowman said.

Kaitlin Osceola said the teens daydreamed about seeing their billboard art reproduced in full billboard size and placed along highways like I-95 and I-75. Jumper, who had his own show at the Museum during the summer of 2012, said the idea is not far-fetched.

"In the Renaissance we had paintings that influenced society; now we use words, images and technology to educate and enlighten," he said. "We should have one or two of these billboards on every reservation."



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School high school students pose with their work during the opening reception of the group art *Values Billboards* exhibit at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. From left are Kaylan Osceola, Savannah Tiger, Colby Herrera, Kaitlin Osceola, Malari Baker and Quenton Cypress.



Eileen Soler

Katie Beck gets an inside view of a glass bottle "found" during Archaeology Day.



Eileen Soler

A working stone, one chipped and shaped into a tool for cutting, is found by students.



Eileen Soler

Kids learn to use compasses before their trek on the Museum boardwalk.



Eileen Soler

Kai Osceola, of PECS, shakes a soil strainer to reveal interesting finds during Archaeology Day at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Eileen Soler

Brianna Brockman and Jagger Gaucin give Traditional Arts and Outreach coordinator Pedro Zepeda an assist.



Eileen Soler

Matthew Fenno, of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, shows children how a compass can be used to map a course.



Eileen Soler

Beads, shards of pottery, a corn cob and even a door knob are "found" in an excavation site.



Eileen Soler

Drake Lawrence and Donovan Harris use compasses to maneuver on the boardwalk at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum during Archaeology Day.



Eileen Soler

Brianna Brockman and Sage Motlow uncover artifacts.

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Ahfachkee senior accepted to prestigious Citadel college

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

"I'm good at arguing and fighting but for a noble cause," he said. "I'm also smart and athletic so why not be a Marine?"

Tigertail is no stranger to service. He was a unit commander in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps at Tahlequah High School in Tahlequah, Okla., served as a volunteer with the Boys & Girls Club in Big Cypress and is a member of the Ahfachkee School Student Council. He played the drums in Grandview Elementary School and Tahlequah High School's marching bands and is teaching himself to play the trumpet.

"I think I should at least learn reveille and taps," he said.

Tigertail said he was mostly influenced by the woman who raised him — his adoptive grandmother Betty Tigertail, who said her grandson's independence and curiosity to learn new things has always amazed her.

"He was in preschool when I saw it first," Betty Tigertail said. "He walked right up to the computer and started writing on it. I said right there, 'This boy has what it takes.'"

She said her grandson always seemed to have smaller and younger children following at his heels.

"I'd tell him to act right and grown up because the little kids looked up to him,"

she said. Tylor Tigertail did the right thing in the end, though the temptation to quit school and party is still at every turn. Several times he almost gave in to peer pressure.

"No matter what, I always wanted to do more with my life. That's what being 'Unconquered' means to me," he said.

Betty Tigertail was fearful when her grandson told her that he wanted to be a Marine, but she put worries aside. He will be the first in the family to serve in the military.

"I want him to keep pushing forward with whatever dreams he has," she said. "I know he will come back a man and do something very, very good in the world."

For Tylor Tigertail, the future is filled with possibility.

After graduating from The Citadel, he will likely volunteer as an infantry officer, "in the trenches," leading troops by example.

Later, he hopes to start a career with the FBI or CIA.

Even becoming Police Chief of the Seminole Tribe's Police Department or Chairman of the Tribe is doable.

"Basically, I want to protect and serve," he said. "I want to help those who can't help themselves."



Eileen Soler

Tylor Tigertail shows off his acceptance letter to The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina.

PECS recognizes Students of the Month



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Elementary School Students of the Month: Carlee Osceola, Candice Melton, Merelaysia Billie, Kendra Thomas, CeCe Thomas, Sydney Matthews, Jaime Smith, Jarrett Beecham, Corey Jumper, Jayton Baker, Kyra Toneges, Amber Kawaykla, Isaiah Bishop, Myron Billie, Norman Osceola, Luzana Venzor, Silas Madrigal, Jathan Tommie and Josiah Garcia.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Middle School Students of the Month: Danielle Boromei, Rudy Juarez, Odessa King and Lanie Sedatol.

Higher Education Department offers PSAT course to students

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — For the first time, the Seminole Tribe's Higher Education Department offered the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) for Brighton students on Jan. 11.

Twenty-nine students in grades eighth through 11th from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School and surrounding schools gathered at the Brighton Veteran's Building to take the test. The PSAT gives students firsthand practice for the SAT and helps them gauge their performance on an admissions test compared to others applying to college. It measures critical reading, math problem-solving and writing skills.

Although the test is geared toward students in 10th through 12th grades, eighth-graders took the two-and-a-half hour test as well in hopes of preparing them at an earlier age.

"We are really trying to put emphasis on recruiting them and encouraging them to attend college," said Tribalwide Higher Education recruiter Malissa Morgan. "So the more exposure we can have at the beginning getting them accustomed to taking these tests and the strategies they entail, the better prepared they are when they actually start

taking the real tests."

After students completed the PSAT, they enjoyed lunch and listened to their peers speak about the importance of taking their education seriously by attending school, demonstrating discipline and competing in athletics.

The students were also given their test scores and strategies on how to improve.

"We are committed to working cooperatively with public schools, Tribal schools, BIA schools, boarding schools, private schools, technical schools, colleges and universities to ensure that each Tribal citizen has access to the highest quality of academics to achieve excellence," said Paola Moneymaker, Higher Education program manager, in an email.

The Tribe's Higher Education Department has helped 123 Tribal students graduate from college since 1965 and has hopes to help many more by 2014.

"Our goal is for all high school graduates to attend and graduate from college so that they have the knowledge and adequate levels of preparedness to help lead (their) Tribe to further excellence," Moneymaker said.

By offering preparation tests, tutoring, college essay and application workshops, college career fairs, and individualized and



Photos courtesy of Malissa Morgan

Students in Brighton take the PSAT exam to help prepare for the SAT.

group college visits, the Higher Education Department hopes to help each Tribal member transition from high school into the college of his or her choice.

"I hope to encourage them and motivate them to take the next step, to realize that college and their education is something that no one can take from them," Morgan said. "Once they have it, it's theirs, and they will always have it. We hope to encourage the Tribal member students to graduate college and come back and work for the Tribe."

TEACHERS

From page 1B



Emma Johns

Jade Braswell Osceola.

The foundation of Pemayetv Emahakv was built on preserving the Tribe's culture and language, and Jade Braswell Osceola, this year's Cultural Teacher of the Year, is part of the driving force behind this preservation.

Osceola teaches Seminole history to first through eighth grades at the Charter School. In addition, she teaches an after-school Creek language class for high school students seeking to earn their foreign language credits. She was instrumental in the development of the curriculum used at the school.

"We are teaching historical and present-day identity which is cyclical," said Osceola, who teaches subjects such as the Three Seminole Wars, government policies and Seminole Tribal government. "So many children are starving for knowledge of their past. I really don't have to make it fun; I can

classify it as hard work and preservation in a fun way. The history is interesting enough itself and it tells its own story."

She enjoys sharing hands-on experiences with the students by cultivating and harvesting cultural gardens and embarking on field trips around the reservation and beyond that allow students to step back in time and experience life through the eyes of their ancestors.

"Yes, we read out of textbooks, as any other class would; however, history is not within the walls of my classroom. It is everywhere," she said.

Osceola enjoys witnessing the preservation of Seminole history. She commends her grandparents Stanlo and Johnny Johns, her uncle Willie Johns and her cultural mentor, Lorene Gopher, for helping her and encouraging her to fall in love with her lineage.

"It is said that it takes a village to raise a child," Osceola said. "I whole heartily believe that it takes a team to instruct our children. So, it means a lot to me to be given the award of Teacher of the Year. The Culture staff is an excellent, supporting team, and I am honored to be given this award and to be educating our future leaders."

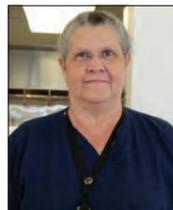
Teachers play a vital role in the daily mechanics of a school, but sometimes the

support staff is overlooked. The staff at PECS didn't forget the significance of these individuals as they voted for this year's Non-Instructional Employee of the Year: Linda Tanner.

Tanner has worked in the food service industry for more than 10 years and has worked with the Charter School since it opened. She enjoys encouraging students to try new and healthy foods and understands the importance of a well-balanced diet to support healthy brain function.

"Lunch time is the best part of my day because I love to fill little bellies and interact with the students," Tanner said. "When I heard I was awarded this great honor, I was excited. It was very unexpected. It was a heart-dropper."

All Teachers of the Year are in the running for District Teacher of the Year, chosen by a district selection committee. The winner is chosen through a process that includes classroom observation and a Q-and-A session.



Emma Johns

Linda Tanner.

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Photo courtesy of Gretchen DeBree

The *Discovering Southwest Florida with Thomas Edison and Henry Ford* exhibit is on display until March 1 at the Willie Frank Memorial Library in Big Cypress.

Traveling exhibit on display in Big Cypress

SUBMITTED BY GRETCHEN DEBREE
Branch Librarian

BIG CYPRESS — February is Science Month at the Willie Frank Memorial Library in Big Cypress.

In conjunction with this, an exhibit titled *Discovering Southwest Florida with Thomas Edison and Henry Ford* is on display until March 1.

This exhibit presents a comparative look at 'old Florida' in the time of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford (1885-1940s) and the contemporary Florida landscape, including current Lee County attractions, according to information from Edison and Ford Winter Estates.

The text that accompanies every panel describes the historic experience of the entrepreneurs as they explored Florida. It presents the opportunity to incorporate artifacts, as well as local material, to include lecture series and other activities.

The exhibit is accompanied by documentaries on 'old Florida,' as well as Edison and Ford's botanical research. This exhibit also has information on rubber research and green science.

Every Wednesday is Lab Day at the library. The weekly lab sessions consist of The Magic School Bus Chemistry Lab, Electricity Lab, Secret Formula Lab, and the last lab session of the month is Glow-



"Discovering Southwest Florida with Thomas Edison and Henry Ford"

Thomas Edison, Henry Ford and their families came to Southwest Florida more than a hundred years ago when Ford spent his childhood in a small town. They established multiple engineering, electrical, botanical, laboratory, and research gardens from 1885 through the 1930s. Their combined base and continued working have on important projects. Their own scientific, artistic, and engineering work, including, building, testing and using their own inventions. In the process they contributed greatly to the history and development of the region. In fact, Edison's quote, "There is only one first there and twenty million people are going to find out" became a reality eventually in the area.



Photo courtesy of Gretchen DeBree

The exhibit presents a comparative look at 'old Florida' in the time of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford.

In-The-Dark Lab.

Stop in anytime to view the exhibit before it returns to its home at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers.

Lorelei goes to Washington, D.C.

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Very few people received an invitation to the Jan. 21 inauguration ceremony of President Barack Obama. But one former Jr. Miss Florida Seminole from the Big Cypress Reservation was invited through a coveted spot among high school scholars worldwide at the High School Presidential Inaugural Conference.

And when Lorelei Tommie, 18, was asked about her five-day experience from Jan. 19-23, she uttered a teenage superlative: "It was the coolest thing ever."

Tommie, a senior at American Heritage School, was part of the throng of people who packed the National Mall for a chance to witness the historic event.

"From the first minute we arrived I could feel the energy," Tommie said. "When the choir sang *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, we all were so excited and pumped. And then to hear the president speak? Yes, it was the coolest thing ever."

It was freezing cold, she was too far from the stage to see with her eyes when Obama took the oath of office for a second term, but Tommie could see the Capitol steps where the first family stood, and thanks to a huge video screen that projected the unfolding moment in history, she felt immense excitement.

"On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I was there for the second inauguration of the first black president of the United States," Tommie said.

Conference students were allowed access to a special viewing area to watch the president and first family make their way down Pennsylvania Avenue.

Tommie earned the invite. An academic overachiever, she attended the National Young Leaders Conference in D.C. two years ago. The program gives

"On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I was there for the second inauguration of the first black president of the United States."

outstanding sophomores, juniors and seniors a close look at democracy at work through men and women who rank high among the movers and shakers in business and government.

During the recent inauguration conference, students met with former



Photo courtesy of Lorelei Tommie

Top row, second from left, Lorelei Tommie, of Big Cypress, smiles in a group photo with new friends at the High School Presidential Inaugural Conference in Washington, D.C.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice; investigative journalist Bob Woodward; retired U.S. Army General Wesley Clark; and television host Nick Clooney, father of actor George Clooney.

Days were filled with workshops and activities that taught students about the presidency. Topics included presidential campaign strategies, the role of the president, exploring the Cabinet and taking action in home communities.

"We know what presidents go through to get elected, what the president can do and can't do in office, and how he can try to influence those who vote on the issues," Tommie said. "I also learned why presidents go gray so quickly. They have so much responsibility that it's ridiculous."

Nights were spent getting educationally entertained.

Students were treated to the comedic satire of the Capitol Steps, a group of Washington-based congressional staffers turned songwriters; a screening of the movie *All the President's Men*, which was followed by a panel discussion; and a formal black tie gala at the National Air and Space Museum.

"There was not a minute of boredom," Tommie said. "We learned constantly and it was always fun."

The inauguration marked her eighth visit to the nation's capital, but Tommie has no political aspirations. She plans to study natural horsemanship at the University of Montana Western.

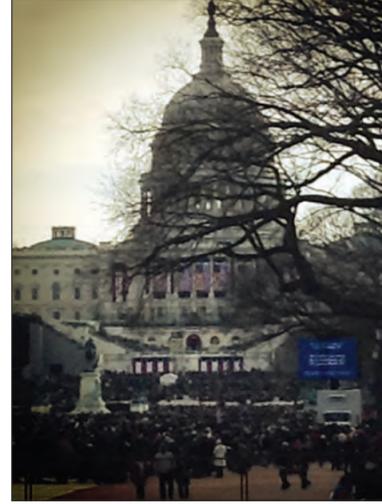


Photo courtesy of Lorelei Tommie

Pictured is Lorelei Tommie's view of the Capitol during President Barack Obama's second inauguration.

"There is no way I'd ever want to be the president, but when it comes time to vote, I will be prepared because I understand what the president does," Tommie said. "I will be able to pick a candidate I know will do the best job."

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Winning students treated to winterfest fun in Big Cypress

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Ahfachkee School students packed bleachers at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium to cheer, pound their feet and wave signs heralding peers as the best.

But there was no athletic game on the morning of Jan. 31. It was the school's Second Quarter Awards celebration for children who are winners in the classroom.

"Sports get so much attention. Today, we're switching it up and letting everyone know that academics is something to cheer about," principal Lucy Dafoe said. "It's time to celebrate."

Children dressed in jackets, boots, hats and scarves for the winter-wonderland-themed event.

White lights that glowed like icicles hung from the gymnasium ceiling to create a wintry canopy.

Interspersed through announcements for high GPAs, attendance, citizenship and other achievements, the children played funny winter games like "build the snowman" and "sled race."

Dafoe said the students' accomplishments were worth the hoopla.

"We've done so much in the last quarter to celebrate," she said.

Senior Tylor Tigertail was accepted to The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina and senior RickyJoe Alumbaugh was accepted to Johnson & Wales University in North Miami.

The top winners of the Ahfachkee School science fair were also announced: sixth-graders Janessa Jones and Les Gopher; seventh-grader Dasani Cypress and 10th-grader Sabre Billie will advance to the National American Indian Science & Engineering Fair and Expo (NAISEF) from March 21 to 23 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Fifty students achieved GPAs of 3.0 or higher, 12 students had perfect attendance and 136 of the school's 170 students received Citizenship awards for not being called — not once — to the principal's office.

For Dafoe, the biggest achievement so



Eileen Soler

Tony Sanchez checks out trophies on display Jan. 31 during the Ahfachkee School's Second Quarter Awards celebration.

far this school year continues to be senior class attendance.

At this time last year, seniors were attending only about 74 percent of the time. Attendance this year is skyrocketed to more than 91 percent.

"That's what happens with energized student involvement," Dafoe said.

After the award announcements, the celebration continued at an outdoor winter carnival that included hot chocolate, flavored snowballs, cotton candy and popcorn (of course following lunch) at the Mitchell Cypress Fitness Trail.



Eileen Soler

Kadin Tommie, Micah Stockton and Phoenix Kimble show off achievement certificates.



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School high school and middle school students applaud winners.



Eileen Soler

Aaliyah Billie lets soap bubbles explode in her face while she eats a cherry-flavored snow cone.



Eileen Soler

Brandi Osceola enjoys a hot chocolate with marshmallows.

Announcements

Congratulations, Miranda Motlow



Photo courtesy of Tina Ogden

Miranda Motlow has completed the program at the Connecticut School of Broadcasting in Tampa. She was recently hired as an associate producer for Rokosz Media after working as their intern. Miranda was one of the Tribe's great WEP participants in Broadcasting.

— Submitted by Tina Ogden, Tampa Education adviser

Tribune Announcement Submission Form

Attention Seminole Tribal members: If you would like to submit an announcement (birthday, new baby, marriage, etc.) or story idea to *The Seminole Tribune*, please fill out the information provided below. Please print clearly.

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Sports

C



Beverly Bidney

Justin Rodriguez connects with the ball on the tee as his T-ball teammates watch in the background. The Recreation Department launched new youth clinics to help keep kids active.

Basketball, softball, soccer and T-ball keep youth busy on every reservation

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Tribal youth don't have any excuse to laze around and complain there's nothing to do after school any more. With a new focus on the Seminole Way to Play, the Recreation Department has added an assortment of sports clinics to every reservation, every week.

Children between the ages of 3 and 18 can try out basketball, softball, T-ball, baseball and soccer. The clinics will be held weekly at the same time and taught by the same coaches.

The goal is to create Tribal sports leagues so kids can play against their peers living on other reservations, gain confidence and build camaraderie through healthy competition, said Recreation director Richard Blankenship. Professional instructors teach the sports and will also train parents to be volunteer coaches once leagues are established.

"Sports keep kids out of trouble and help develop conflict resolution and life skills," Blankenship said. "The Tribe is competitive by nature, and this program plays into that competitive spirit. We want to prepare kids for whatever the next level in their lives will be, whether it's business, leadership or athletics. Being on a team is like being part of any organization; it's like life."

Sweet Rebound basketball has been busy teaching youth the finer aspects of the game while drilling them on technique.

"We've seen a lot of improvement already," said Toccara Williams of Sweet



Beverly Bidney

Adrienne Bell prepares to catch the ball during a Rhino Softball clinic in Hollywood.

Rebound. "Our goal is to get them playing at the highest level they can and also work on sportsmanship, confidence and attitude."

Rhino Softball focuses on teaching women's fast pitch softball. Coach JoAnn Ferrieri has more than 30 years of experience and has coached college and Olympic teams.

"We would like to bring some of the players who have played outside of the rez back onto the rez to play softball," said Ferrieri, owner of Rhino Softball. "We want

to develop athletes, create a competitive league and travel teams. I want to inspire players so they can see what really good softball is and be one of those players."

Recreation Department staff is teaching T-ball and Lil Ballers Basketball to the youngest athletes and soccer to all youth. Baseball is scheduled to begin in March.

♦ See more SPORTS photos on page 2C

Ahfachkee basketball season ends with hope for next year

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The regular season for Ahfachkee School varsity basketball



Eileen Soler

Tyler Tigertail commands the ball during the last regular season game on Jan. 25.

teams wrapped up without a championship title but with pride in knowing that every battle fought on the court was honorable.

"Sometimes you can't measure a win by the score on the board," said Ahfachkee's athletic program director Danielle Jumper-Frye. "You have to measure by the goals you accomplished."

The girls averaged 34.5 points per game and 39 rebounds per game to end the season with a record of 5-10 for the season and 2-4 for the conference. Though the team lost 64-42 in round one of the district tournament to Southwest Florida Christian Academy, the score was improved over the first two games against Southwest.

Next year, the team will return with all but one player, senior Danni Jae Tommie, who will graduate.

"With her most impressive statistic of 14.1 rebounds per game, we will be sad to see her go," Jumper-Frye said.

All eyes will be on Dasani Cypress, Malari Baker, Kaylan Osceola and Caitlin Cypress. Dasani was the most improved this year with 8.5 points, four rebounds and three steals per game. The girls will continue to develop skills and mature.

"(Dasani) was phenomenal for a middle schooler playing at the varsity level," Jumper-Frye said.

The boys' coach, Cicero Osceola, said his team's first winless season can be chalked up to the learning curve. With two

eighth-graders and three sixth-graders, some who had never played the game, the focus for players had to be learning the game and becoming confident in their strengths.

Osceola said the boys never lacked determination. Proof came during the most memorable game against Donahue Academy when Ahfachkee Warrior Romeo Garcia tied the game with only 26 seconds left on the clock. At the very last second, Donahue slammed the ball into the basket, some say after the buzzer went off.

"No one ever complained," Osceola said. "We played every game hard and we never backed off. Next year, we will be more mature, stronger players from the start of the season."

Only one player, the team's only senior, Tyler Tigertail, will not be returning next year. Eleventh-grader Quenton Cypress, strong in defense, hustling and diving for loose balls, will take over Tigertail's leadership role.

Osceola said spectators should keep eyes on budding players Romeo Garcia, Les Gopher and Issiah Alvarado.

"Romeo, when he decides what he wants to do, will be a real good player...Les will be something not to be messed with...Issiah is going to hurt a lot of teams," Osceola said.

He's already trash talking.

"The other teams better expect the unexpected," Osceola said.

Hollywood names new Recreation site manager

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Brian Dodd comes to his new job as Hollywood Recreation site manager with the goal of building a solid program where kids and adults want to spend their leisure time. He brings enthusiasm fueled by his love of athletics and a desire to offer the community the best program possible.

"We get to make young and middle-age people laugh and play," Dodd said. "Who wouldn't want to do that?"

Dodd, originally from Lakeland, earned a bachelor's degree in sports management from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., where he also played football. Prior to joining the Recreation Department, he worked at the Aventura Parks and Recreation Department and Lakeland Parks and Recreation where he ran the youth and adult athletic programs.

Responsible for programs and facility maintenance, Dodd's plan for Hollywood includes rebuilding the program for 3-year-old children to high school students, who he will include in T-ball, baseball, softball, basketball and football programs. Dodd sees the benefit of a soccer program as well.

"It's great for hand-eye coordination, running and laughing," he said.

He admitted getting the older kids back into the programs could be a challenge, but he looks forward to pursuing it. With so many other options for teens, Dodd wants to create a first-class program they would want to attend. Tournaments, sports clinics, camps and organized weekly basketball and baseball/softball leagues are the starting point.

"It's hard to compete with electronics," Dodd said. "I want to reintroduce games to the kids by tapping into their competitive nature and get them to feel a sense of accomplishment through sports."

Some kids have never been introduced properly to team sports and never learned the games. Dodd envisions building confidence through athletics. He recognizes not everyone will be a professional athlete, but they can still get out and have a good time.

Dodd gets inspiration and support from his family. Married to Claudia for 12 years, together they have two children: Kasandra, 11, and Zach, 7.

He credits his parents for putting him in athletics at a young age so he could learn discipline and the importance of hard work. Dodd was moved by the Rocky movies as a child, which taught him to work hard and not give up. His strong faith also plays an important part in his life. With all this depth, Dodd will likely meet the challenge of the job with confidence and good humor.

"This job to grow the program is great," Dodd said. "We have a great staff, facilities and an opportunity in front of us. With all three together, it's going to be pretty cool."



Beverly Bidney
Brian Dodd is the new Recreation site manager in Hollywood.

Krav Maga self-defense taught in Hollywood

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Sonya Cypress comes from a military family — her late father, Billy Larry Cypress, was a Native American combat platoon leader and some of her uncles served in the armed forces. Combat and weapons training is not unusual to her. Her background also led to a strong interest and aptitude in various types of martial arts.

Cypress' latest achievement in the field is a recent certification as a level 2 instructor of Krav Maga.

Krav Maga, the official self-defense system and fighting system of the Israel Defense Forces, has been taught to law enforcement agencies, militaries and civilians around the world. Although it's not a traditional martial arts form, it focuses on close-quarter, hand-to-hand combat in real-life conditions with the intent of stopping an attacker. Meaning "contact combat" in Hebrew, Krav Maga emphasizes simultaneous defensive and offensive maneuvers, as well as aggression.

"Krav Maga is a combat system," Cypress said. "I want to bring it to the rez and have classes."

She also wants to hold seminars on bullying and rape prevention.

Cypress came with Krav Maga Universal lead instructor Ernie Kirk to the Hollywood Boxing Gym on Jan. 22 to generate interest in the program and to train Seminole Police Department (SPD) officers. The previous day she held a Bully Buster Workshop for youth, which was designed with events such as Columbine in mind.

"Today's lesson is the same one we did with Homeland Security," said Kirk, a

3rd-degree Black Belt in Krav Maga. "We do takedowns to the handcuff position, weapon defenses and retention."

SPD officer Christina Swindler was fighting a cold as she fought to take down the Krav Maga instructors. Dressed in uniform with her heavy utility belt, Swindler fought off her opponent while taking instruction from Kirk to improve her technique.

"Krav Maga teaches people not to be a victim," Cypress said. "They gain confidence knowing what an attacker will usually do. There is a certain process an attacker will go through; Krav Maga teaches people how to avoid them. It's a simple system and can be taught to anyone of any age and any size."

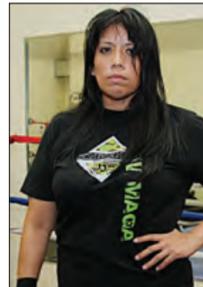
Cypress trained for nine years to become an instructor. She originally learned about the method when her children were in a Tae Kwon Do program. They had a Krav Maga program for adults, which she took and realized she was good at it. She also does other forms of martial arts and has competed in tournaments. Now, she wants to teach others.

"Becoming an instructor takes a lot of hard work, and Sonya has been training for a while," Kirk said. "We teach the instructors how to teach and make sure they have the skills and knowledge to do it."

Cypress has lived off the reservation since she was 9 years old, when her family moved to Washington, D.C. She has also worked at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, which was founded by her father. She has two children, Aaron, 20, and Rebecca, 15, who are both involved in Krav Maga.

Cypress' goal is to have her own space for classes and seminars.

"I like teaching Krav," Cypress said. "Hand-to-hand combat and weapons training is a family thing; we all do it."



Beverly Bidney

Sonya Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

SPD officer Christina Swindler uses her knee on the faux opponent during the Krav Maga class.

Brighton youth get inspiration from Native American athletes



Ryan Watson

The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School girls' basketball team poses during an outing to Tampa to watch the University of South Florida take on the University of Louisville.



Ryan Watson

Native American sisters Shoni and Jude Schimmel, both members of the Louisville women's basketball team, play during the Jan. 30 game against the University of South Florida. Charter School students trekked to Tampa to watch them play.



Ryan Watson

Charter School basketball players get inspiration from Native American sisters and basketball stars Shoni and Jude Schimmel.

◆ More **SPORTS** photos from page 1C



Beverly Bidney

Lucan Frank tries to kick the ball as coach Hector Casallas watches.



Beverly Bidney

Drayson Osceola flies from first to second base.



Beverly Bidney

Zaiden Frank is about to spring up for a shot at the basket.



Beverly Bidney

Coach Miguel Rozas helps Taven Edwards learn to shoot.



Beverly Bidney

Andre Jumper participates in the Sweet Rebound basketball clinic.



Beverly Bidney

Alex Rodriguez takes off running after hitting the ball.



Beverly Bidney

Logan Wilcox plays on the soccer field.



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Youth tear up the court at basketball tourney in Hollywood

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Basketball-loving youth came from all reservations to compete in the Youth Basketball Tournament from Feb. 1-2 at the Hollywood Gym. Boys and girls on 17 teams competed in the 10 and under, middle school and high school categories.

"It's basketball season and we just wanted to do something for the kids," said Ashley Wilcox, Hollywood Recreation aide. The double-elimination tournament gave the losing teams a chance to get back into the competition.

Younger teams played late into the night on Friday, while high school girls' and boys' teams played all day Saturday; the boys' final ended at nearly 1 a.m.

Participating teams were: Ten and under: Little Hollywood Stars, Big Cypress, Hollywood Ballers and Brighton. Brighton defeated Hollywood Ballers 29-15 in the final.

Middle school: Rez Ballers, Brighton Boys and All Mixed Up. Brighton Boys defeated Rez Ballers 46-39 in the final.

High school girls: Around the Way, Trail's Finest and Big Cypress. Around the Way defeated Trail's Finest 53-47 in the final.

High school boys: Hollywood Boys, Team Chobee, Trail's Finest, J.U.S. (Just Us Seminoles), Team O, Immokalee and Bloodline. Team O defeated J.U.S. 51-45 in the final.



Phillip Jones, from J.U.S., and Devon Osceola, of Trail's Finest, jump for the ball.



Annie Osceola, of Trail's Finest high school girls' team, dribbles down the court with an Around the Way defender close behind.



A Team Chobee high school boys' team player tries to make his way to the net.



Players from J.U.S. and Trail's Finest scramble for the ball.



Beverly Bidney

Shae Pierce sets up a shot during the Youth Basketball Tournament.



Beverly Bidney

Malari Baker, of Big Cypress, dribbles down the court pursued by members of Trail's Finest.



Beverly Bidney

Joshua Madrigal, of Team Chobee, goes up for a shot surrounded by Hollywood Boys players.

Senior basketball players honored with gifts, applause, appreciation



Eileen Soler

Danni Jae Tommie, the only senior on the Ahfachkee Lady Warriors varsity basketball team, is flanked during a senior ceremony by athletic director Danielle Jumper-Frye and coach Kristin Stoots. Cheers and tears filled a 30-minute break between the girls' and boys' high school varsity basketball games on Jan. 25 when Ahfachkee School's senior basketball players were honored.



Eileen Soler

Tyler Tigertail is awarded a team basketball by coach Cicero Osceola and athletic program director Danielle Jumper-Frye during the ceremony.



Eileen Soler

Betty Tigertail gets a loving hug from her grandson Tyler Tigertail, the only senior on the Ahfachkee Warriors varsity basketball team.

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Charter School basketball teams finish successful seasons

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Pemaeytv Emahakv Charter School (PECS) basketball season came to an end on Jan. 17 at the Brighton Gymnasium.

Both the boys' and girls' basketball teams played against Yearling Middle School at home to complete the season.

The PECS girls' basketball team closed the season with an astounding 15-0 record, while the boys' basketball team finished their season with a strong 12-3 record.

Lady Seminoles finish season undefeated
With losing only a couple games last year by a few points, including losses to Sebastian and Yearling middle schools by two points each, the Lady Seminoles head coach Tim Thomas said he knew the girls could go undefeated if they worked on a few things.

"I know we had a couple of games slip away at the free-throw line," Thomas said. "(This year) we basically just worked on free throws a lot at practice, and we worked on pressing to get turnovers to get easier baskets."

Thomas said their team motto was simple: "Go Hard."

"If we go hard, make turnovers and easy baskets, we can be successful," he said.

The only obstacle in the Lady Seminoles' schedule that could have kept them from going undefeated was the game

on Nov. 29 against Ahfachkee.

"Ahfachkee was one of the games that I was worried about (because) we were going to be playing 8-minute quarters and playing high school girls when we were used to playing 6 minutes," Thomas said.

However, with the help of leading player Shae Pierce and the team's determination, the length of the game and the age of their opponents proved irrelevant. The Lady Seminoles won 55-45.

The rest of the 2012-2013 season showed the skills and athleticism of the Lady Seminoles by defeating teams by as much as 30 points or more, including West Glades (44-7), Clewiston (46-9), Glades Day (44-12), Osceola Middle (48-9) and Yearling Middle (55-18).

Seminole boys' team hold the winning record for PECS

For PECS boys' basketball head coach Ryan Tedders, this year has been the most rewarding.

With a final record of 12-3, the 2012-2013 PECS boys' basketball team holds the best school record to date. Tedders contributes the successful season to the team's athleticism and ability to work together.

"We had a good group of athletes. We were able to work hard and work together," Tedders said. "In the past, I wasn't able to sub as much."

Despite losing their first game of the season against Yearling Middle School, the

boys quickly regrouped, winning their next six games starting with the win against Lake Placid (35-28) on Nov. 26.

The boys' second loss of the season came on Dec. 12 against Osceola Middle with a score of 29-36.

"It was just an off night for the team as a whole, and Osceola came ready to play, Tedders said. "It was a game we shouldn't have lost."

The Seminoles finished the second half of the season at home with a 4-1 record, including wins against Clewiston, Ahfachkee, Glades Day and Osceola Middle.

"The second time when Osceola came to our gym, we stepped it up winning 49-19," Tedders said.

He attributes the win to the tremendous amount of teamwork and effort put forth by the team.

"They were more focused and determined," he said.

For Tedders, the most memorable games were played against Ahfachkee.

"They are really physical and an impressive team," he said. "They fought us all the way to the end and you could see the effort on the court going back and forth."

Although the team lost their last home game to Yearling Middle School, they showed improvement from the first game played against them.

"It means a lot to me to work with them throughout the season and to see their



Andrea Holata

Lucas Osceola aims for a 2-pointer against Yearling Middle School in November.

improvement and success," Tedders said. "It will be fun to watch them play again next year."

Even though this will be the last year for Demetrius Clark, Trevor Thomas,

Drayton Billie, Robert Fudge and Kelton Smedley, PECS' basketball team still holds a strong five, including Lucas Osceola, Sean Osceola, Logan Ortiz, Cyrus Smedley and Richard Harris.



Andrea Holata

Raylon Eagle makes a free throw after being fouled by the Terriers during a November game.



Andrea Holata

Charter School players go for the rebound.



Andrea Holata

The PECS boys' basketball team finish their season with a 12-3 record.



Andrea Holata

Shae Pierce attempts a block against Yearling Middle School during the first game of the season.



Andrea Holata

The PECS girls' basketball team close their season with a 15-0 record.

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