



Education Department celebrates students
EDUCATION ♦ 1B

Alex Johns attends cattlemen's conference
COMMUNITY ♦ 3A

Recreation holds youth football camp
SPORTS ♦ 1C



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Seminole Estates back in Tribal control

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — For the first time since 1969, the Tribe has taken charge of the property formerly known as the Seminole Estates Mobile Home Park. The 110-acre property, located on U.S. 441 on the Hollywood Reservation, became the responsibility of the Tribe on July 1.

The Tribe has considered many ideas for the site, and during the July 14 Tribal Council meeting, Council approved a facility for the 4-H Department on the property to house hogs, steers and horses. Other future plans are undefined at this time. The land is currently being cleared of all remaining trailer homes and readied for any development to come.

The cleanup is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

"There is no game plan for the property now," said Adam Nelson, Tribal Community Development executive director. "It will take until the end of September to clear the remaining trailers from the site."

Council voted to close Seminole Estates on Sept. 15, 2012, deciding not to renew rental permits, giving the 718 residents until Dec. 31, 2012 to vacate the property. When the swimming pool, community room, bowling alley, meeting rooms, spa and exercise room were closed with the announcement, monthly rent was lowered by \$100 to \$433. For those who remained past the Dec. 31 deadline, rent increased to \$590 and up to \$650.

♦ See SEMINOLE ESTATES on page 7A

Tribe reacts to Indian custody case

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

At the tender age of only 4 years old, Baby Veronica has impacted all of Indian Country with the recently decided U.S. Supreme Court case, *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl*.

The case is a custody battle between the white adoptive family, Melanie and Matt Capobianco, of South Carolina, and the biological father, Dusten Brown, of Oklahoma, a member of the Cherokee Tribe. The non-Tribal birth mother put the baby up for adoption at birth, without notifying Brown. The Capobiancos raised Veronica for 27 months until the South Carolina courts cited the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and awarded custody to Brown, who has raised her for about a year and a half. The Supreme Court's 5-4 decision stated South Carolina incorrectly invoked ICWA: Brown's parental rights were not affected, nor was the legitimacy of ICWA. The case will go back to the South Carolina Supreme Court, which will determine who takes custody of Baby Veronica. To further complicate matters, Brown has filed for adoption of the girl in the Cherokee Nation District Court.

ICWA, a federal law since 1978, seeks to keep Native American children with Native American families. The intent of ICWA is to protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian Tribes and families. The law is an integral policy framework on which many Tribal child welfare programs rely, including the Seminole Tribe's foster parent program.

"Our goal is to protect children and preserve families," said Helene Buster, director of Family Services. "The ultimate goal is to reunify families."

The fact that Indian adoption cases still go to court is a cause for concern, said family preservation administrator Kristi Hill. A Native American father in Orlando, who had his parental rights terminated by the courts on the recommendation of the Department of Children and Families,

♦ See FOSTER CARE on page 2A

Tribal teens tour Cali higher education

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA — Southern California may be best known for the Hollywood rich and famous, but Tribal students on a recent college tour of the region discovered that Tinseltown is also a bastion of academia.

"It's not what I expected at all. I had no idea I'd see so much," said Jackie Willie, 14, of Hollywood.

Forty-four students and adults traveled on the seven-day excursion with the Tribe's Education Department to major West Coast universities, colleges and technical schools. In a 45-foot tour bus, the Seminole entourage journeyed to San Diego State University, Naval Base San Diego, Art Institute of California - Orange County, University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara City College, University of Southern California, Los Angeles Recording School and Los Angeles Film School.

Every campus guide touted the prospective school's academic, artistic and extracurricular opportunities. At UCSB, SBCC and USC especially, students were encouraged to major in their career field, minor in a personal interest and participate in social activities.

"Where else can you take a credited surfing class in the morning, earn a degree though the day and hike with friends in the mountains by afternoon," said Xavier DeRobles, a guide from SBCC.

UCSB, which rests atop a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, was voted No. 1 for best weather in the nation by *Newsweek* and boasts five Nobel Prize winners. SBCC received the 2013 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, which places it first in the United States among all community colleges. At USC, students can attend the nation's No. 1 video game school, compete on athletic fields that gleaned 122 Olympic gold medalists or participate in the latest research - which recently included validating quantum effects in the first commercial quantum optimization processor.

In most cases, the lure of mountains to the east, beaches to the west and top-notch academics indoors and out, convinced students that secondary education in



Tribal teens, counselors and parents stroll through a historic courtyard during a tour of San Diego State University in California.

California offers everything they can imagine.

"I had my mind set on not liking any of the California schools," said Marsha Osceola, of Big Cypress, who previously wanted to study sociology at Berry College in Georgia. "But I fell in love with the first school we visited and now my mind is opened to all of them. California is one of the most beautiful and upbeat places."

McKayla Snow, 15, of Brighton, is determined to become a pediatric nurse but her favorite hobby is photography. Before the tour, Snow believed that her only option was Florida State University and that college meant putting hobbies on hold.

"Now I know that I don't have to stay in Florida or be torn between the sciences and the arts," she said. "My career goals and creative side can be satisfied at the same time."

Exposure to different educational choices is the point of the Tribe-sponsored, all-expenses-paid, annual college tour, said Paola Moneymaker, Higher Education coordinator. This year's event was the first to feature the West Coast. Last year, students traveled through north Florida. In 2011, the tour explored South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia. In 2010, the trip focused on schools in Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico.

But first, the students must show they are self-motivated and college bound with grade point averages no lower than 2.5, and no attendance, truancy or substance abuse issues. GED graduates are welcome.

"The most valuable part of the tour is the information meetings at each college. There, they learn what they need to do to get in. Teens with two or more years left to make a difference in high school often find out they have to work harder," said Moneymaker, who has a master's degree in elementary education and is working on a doctorate in educational leadership.

♦ See COLLEGE TOUR on page 3B

Howard Tommie honored by Indian health board, inducted into Chilocco Indian School Hall of Fame

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — June was a busy month for former Tribal Chairman Howard Tommie; he was honored with a lifetime of achievement award by the National Indian Health Board (NIHB) and was inducted into the Chilocco Indian School Hall of Fame.

The NIHB aims to strengthen health care for all Native Americans by increasing awareness of Indian health care issues to the federal government and private agencies. The nonprofit organization advocates on behalf of all 566 federally recognized Tribes and plays a major role in focusing attention

on Indian health care needs.

The organization honored Tommie during its NIHB Public Health Summit at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood June 17-19. The fourth annual event was a forum to identify the most important public health agendas in Indian Country and bring those ideas to Tribal leaders and the federal government.

About 370 people from Tribes across the U.S. attended.

The organization honored Tommie for a lifetime of achievement in the NIHB, as well as in the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

"They needed people on the board and my interest was in health policy, so it

worked out real good for me," said Tommie, who served as the NIHB chairman in the 1970s. "It was an honor to serve as chairman of NIHB. I guess I opened my mouth too much and asked questions, so they elected me chairman."

During his tenure, Tommie worked to pass the Indian Child Welfare Act. He is most proud of setting board policies that allowed Tribes to have self-determination to succeed or fail as a Tribe instead of letting the Bureau of Indian Affairs dictate what they can and cannot do.

"In the '70s we were getting away from bloated federal agencies who weren't getting service into our communities," Tommie said. "I feel like we got it down to a local level on the reservations; we had a real good board. We wanted to do our own thing and I'm proud we did that."

At the time, Tribes were increasing in size but because Congress was unresponsive to funding, the NIHB had to find other resources. Tommie led the organization as they decided to look to the future and find funding outside of the BIA or Indian Health Service allocations. The Seminoles, for example, use gaming revenue to help fund health care costs and clinics for the Tribe.

Today the NIHB continues its mission to elevate public health issues for Native Americans.

"We are reclaiming the journey of health that was interrupted in 1492," said Stacy Bohlen, NIHB executive director. "The summit is a scorecard on the top agendas in public health. The health disparities in Indian Country are worse than in the Third World and it's vital that funding continues. We have to speak up and act to make sure the programs continue, specifically the diabetes program for Indians."

Within the ranks of the NIHB, Tommie has a well-known reputation.

"It was so nice to meet Howard; he was so instrumental in getting this organization

started," said Cathy Abramson, NIHB chairwoman. "He feels we are going in the right direction and we value his feedback."

In addition to serving as NIHB chairman, Tommie was Chairman of the Seminole Tribe from 1971-1978, a board member of the National Tribal Chairman's Association, committee member of the National Congress of American Indians, past president of the United Southeastern Tribes, co-chair of the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs, a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and National Indian Education Association.

Before earning those positions, Tommie was a boy growing up on the Brighton Reservation whose parents wanted him to have the best education possible.

In his sophomore year at Okeechobee High School, Tommie went to work for a rancher. That's when the BIA talked to his parents about sending him away to finish high school to ensure him an education.

"My parents wanted me to finish school," Tommie said. "In the 1940s, my older brothers and sisters went to boarding school in North Carolina. They sent me to Oklahoma."

Chilocco Indian School, located on the border of Oklahoma and Kansas, was built in 1884 and closed in 1980. More than 18,000 Native American students attended the school; 5,542 earned a high school diploma. Located on about 8,600 acres of land provided by the Cherokee Tribe, Chilocco began as an agricultural school but evolved into a vocational and high school. In its heyday, the school boasted more than 100 buildings, including a printing press, golf course, gas station, fire station, lumber shed, granary, garages, tennis courts, swimming pool, water tower, dormitories, hospital and National Guard Armory.

♦ See HOWARD TOMMIE on page 7A



Howard Tommie holds the award presented to him during the National Indian Health Board Public Health Summit at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood while son-in-law Nupa Two Shoes and daughter Karen Tommie Two Shoes look on.

Editorial

Emateloys's escape gave birth to today's Tribe

• James E. Billie

Polly Parker (*Emateloys*) was captured on Fisheating Creek in 1856, marched over to Egmont Key, forced onto a ship called Grey Cloud, shipped on up the Gulf of Mexico to New Orleans where she would walk the Trail of Tears out west. But the ship stopped to refuel at Fort St. Marks, directly south of Tallahassee and, somehow, Polly escaped.

She walked through the woods and swamps all the way back to the Okeechobee area and began to create the Seminole Tribe as we know it today.

Eventually her children and their descendants would play monumental roles in our modern Tribe. In fact, Polly's great-great-grandkids are very prominent members of the Seminole Tribe. I wonder: What would have happened if Polly had never escaped and returned home?

Would the Seminole Tribe exist the way it is today? Would we be less successful? For these are very intelligent people.

A joke I used to say around them is, "The dumbest person in the Polly Parker family is a genius." Sometimes the smart brains don't fall too far from the apple tree, as they say. In this case it is very true: Some very intelligent people came from *Emateloys*. Polly's daughter Lucy Tiger begat Lena Morgan who had eight children: Hattie Bowers, Tom Bowers, Lottie Shore, Mildred Tommie, Dick Bowers, Andrew Bowers Sr., Joe Bowers and Casey Bowers.

The offspring of Lena Morgan include former Tribal Chairman Howard Tommie, former Tribal President Richard Bowers, former Tribal Board Representative Paul Bowers, Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., former Tribal Secretary-Treasurer Dorothy Scott Osceola, former Health Director Elsie Bowers, Cultural Director Lorene Gopher, Gaming Commissioner Truman Bowers, former Tribal Clerk Mary Jane Willie, Governor's Council Liaison Stephen Bowers, Secretary's Administrative Assistant Wanda Bowers, Tribal Genealogist Geneva Shore, Seminole

Craft Artist Nancy Shore, Cultural Events Specialist Lewis Gopher, Chairman's Special Assistant Norman "Skeeter" Bowers and Tribal General Counsel Jim Shore. Hattie Bowers died as a child and both Tom Bowers' children died young: Leon was a high school graduate studying veterinary medicine and Carol was a Community Health Worker for the Seminole Tribe.

One of Polly's great-great-grandkids, Gloria Wilson, has had many Tribal positions and is now our Director of Community Planning. Another, Paula Bowers-Sanchez, is a professional singer, health educator and is married to our Tribal President. A great-great-great-grandchild, D'Anna Osceola, is a recent Miss Seminole. Four generations from Polly Parker, they continue to honor the family tree with quite a few more graduating from high school and, even better, from college. Yes, a very significant family in our Tribe.

You hear about Osceola. You hear about Micanopy. You hear about Wildcat and all their great deeds, but you don't really hear

about the women too much. And here is a Seminole woman in our modern times who performed this heroic feat in escaping and coming back home, where she continued her Clan of the Bird. The family spread and went on to marry other clans, but they are all related to *Emateloys*.

This is all very important to me. Back in earlier days when I was flying my airplane and going to Tallahassee, there was a VOR (VHF Omnidirectional Radio) range transmitter at Egmont Key, just off the Gulf Coast in St. Petersburg. It gave out a radio signal so you can track where you are when you are flying through the air. I always thought of the many Seminoles, including Billy Bowlegs, who were put in the stockade there on Egmont and then shipped north on the Grey Cloud. Egmont Key is a very important part of our Seminole history. I'd like to have Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Jim Shore and all Polly's living descendants visit the Egmont Key deportation center, then take the 100-mile boat trip all the way up to St. Marks. And stand there where she

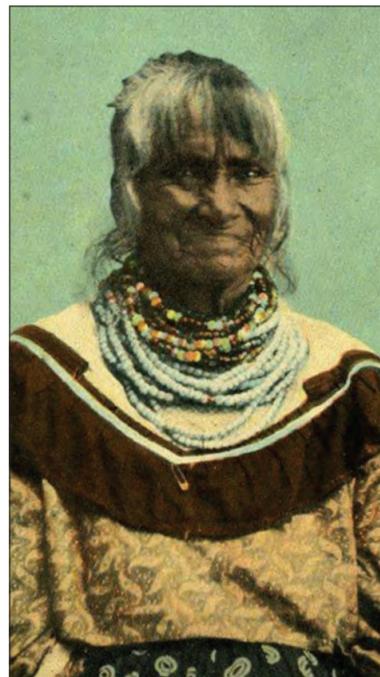
escaped to make it all the way back down to her home – more than 340 miles away – to start a family.

I would love to have a picture of the family standing right at the spot where the Grey Cloud left with this heroic woman not knowing what the future held, her destiny totally in doubt.

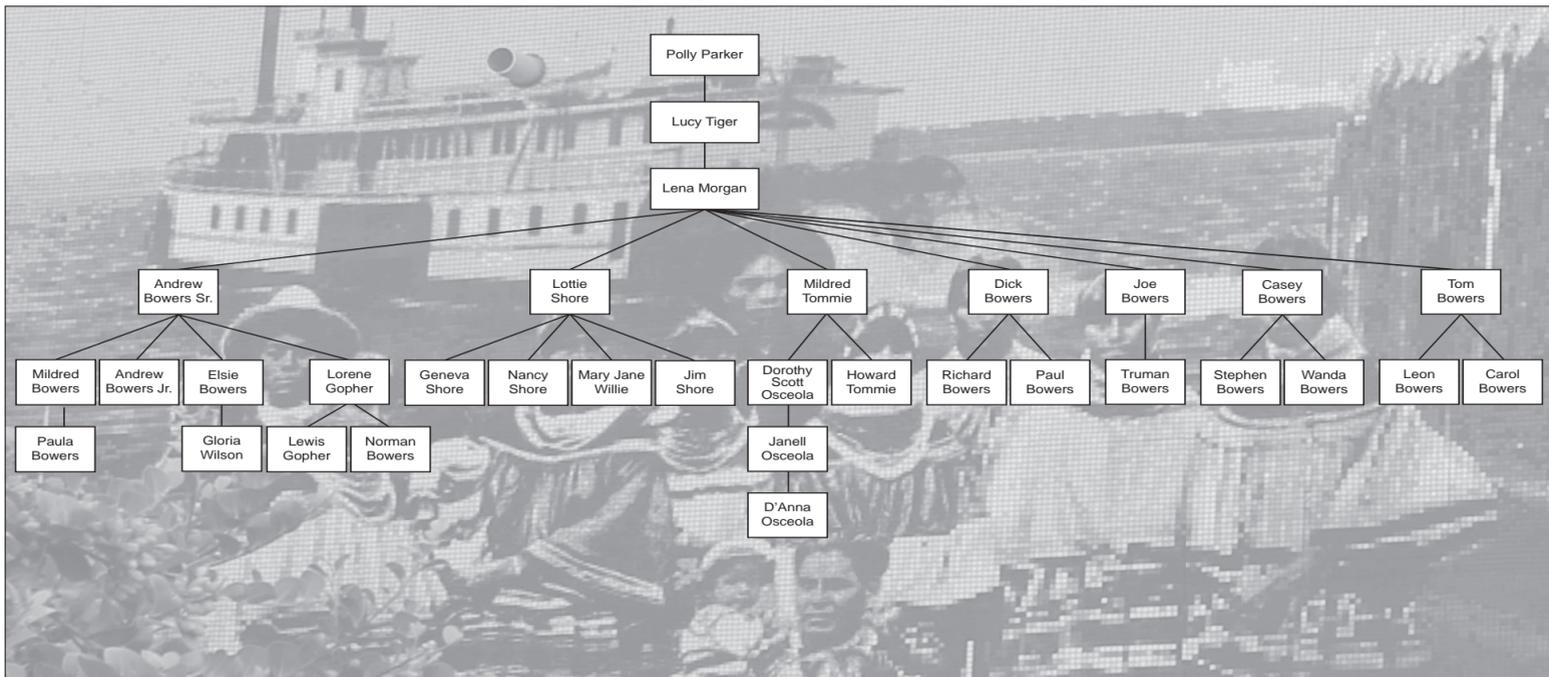
As it turned out, *Emateloys's* destiny was to start the Seminole Tribe as it is today. Sho-naa-bish.

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

Note: President Tony Sanchez Jr. will resume his column in the next issue of *The Tribune*.



Polly Parker



Note: This is not a complete family map. Not all relatives are listed. It merely shows the lineage from matriarch Polly Parker to the prominent Seminoles mentioned in the column.

◆ FOSTER CARE

From page 1A

won his case on appeal when the court realized it fell under the requirements of ICWA.

"There are courts that disregard ICWA and judges who aren't aware of it," Hill said. "It's important to have attorneys and caseworkers who understand the law and can advocate for it. We also need a system in place where you have your own caseworkers who can access foster placement within the Tribe."

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) – which advocates on behalf of Tribal governments and communities, promoting strong Tribal-federal government-to-government policies – stated the decision to keep Baby Veronica from her biological father was not in her best interest.

"We are witnessing the final steps in a forced removal of a Native child from her father, her family and her Native community," the organization said in a statement. "NCAI is astounded and alarmed that the South Carolina Supreme Court has issued an order to transfer Veronica, the daughter of Dusten Brown, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, to the adoptive couple and doing so without holding a hearing to determine the best interests of the child."

When children are caught in a dangerous or unstable family situation, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) opens a case to resolve the issue. The Tribe's Family Services Department works with DCF to place children in the care of Tribal foster parents until the case is resolved. Sometimes it's a quick process, but sometimes it takes a significant amount of time. To lessen the disruption of the children's lives, the foster parents offer a warm and safe environment while taking care of the children's needs.

"In the beginning it's hard for some of them to adjust to the new home, new rules, structure and environment," said Allison Osceola, a foster parent for about eight years. "I haven't had too many problems; it just takes a lot of time."

Foster parents must catch children up on their school and tutoring, as well as their medical and dental care, which is sometimes neglected. Osceola has fostered about 10 children over the years. Some were emergency placements for just a couple weeks; others have stayed with her for seven months to four years, ranging in age from infancy to teenagers. She has been granted permanent guardianship for some children. The Tribe does not terminate parental rights or put a child up for adoption.

"Permanent guardianship is the last stop," Buster said. "There is no adoption. A family always has the option to reopen a case."

However, the department may not always support giving the child back to the parent if too many years have elapsed.

"We want to support parents doing the right thing but it doesn't mean it will work out that way," Hill said. "The bottom line is we always look out for the interest of the child."

Most cases are the result of substance abuse, alcohol and/or drugs, or domestic violence. Once a child abuse call is made to DCF, a case is opened and a child abuse investigation begins. The state investigators work with Family Services and the Seminole Police Department, who accompany them on investigations. Parents are given a plan of action they must follow. The average length of a case is 12 to 18 months.

About 100 Tribal children are in foster care; about 15 per month are added to the program, an increase over the last five years.

"Having a Tribal member in charge of Family Services has made it easier for people to make the call," said Debra Ray, assistant director of Family Services. "They

know we advocate for the families."

To help families comply with the case plan, which is devised by DCF and Family Services, the department offers substance abuse programs, parenting classes, counseling, prevention programs and home visits. Additionally, the Children's Center for Diagnostics and Therapy (CCDT) works with the children throughout the process. Each case is different, but Family Services continually reaches out to the parents to help them comply and warn them of consequences if they don't.

"The Family Services Department doesn't remove children; the state of Florida and the DCF does it to help families," Buster said. "It's not us."

Based on evidence, a judge makes the final decision on where a child will live. Even if the case results in permanent guardianship, children can still retain a relationship with their families.

"The younger kids don't always understand the logistics of why they are moved," Osceola said. "The older kids know; I'm very honest with them. They were raised in an environment where they were more mature and had to grow up fast."

Kevin Osceola, Non-resident Liaison, has been a foster parent for almost two years, since he brought a baby home from the hospital at 5 weeks old. Today, that little boy thrives in Osceola's home, which he shares with his girlfriend, Jessica. His parents and grandparents always took kids in need into their homes, a lesson Osceola integrated into his own life.

"I love him to death," he said. "That's what we were taught to do, just take care of each other. I feel I'm helping out the Tribe in a small way."

A father of two grown daughters, a 1-year old daughter and a couple step-sons, Osceola has been adjusting to the lifestyle change of taking care of a young child.

"I'm not a spring chicken anymore," he said. "It was a challenge to get on that



Beverly Bidney

Kevin Osceola has been a foster parent for almost two years.

routine again. I was taught by my parents to put others first and to love others first, so it isn't a big issue. I'd like to see other people take a look at the foster care program. Let's take care of our own people."

The Tribe always needs more foster parents, who must be background checked. When it is imminent children will be taken from the home, Family Services reaches out to family members.

"Most foster parents are relatives or caregivers," Buster said. "We're always

putting it out there that we're in need of foster parents. We promote the program through word of mouth and we have brochures available. People know about the program. We never have enough foster parents."

For more information on how to become a foster parent, contact the Family Services Department: Brighton and Fort Pierce: 863-763-7700; Big Cypress: 863-902-3206; Hollywood: 954-964-6338; Immokalee: 239-867-3480; and Tampa: 813-246-3100.

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Community

A



Beverly Bidney

Marty Johns, bottom left, supplies livestock at the EIRA regional finals May 18 in Brighton.

Business profile: Five Star Rodeo, Marki Rodeo, Native American Construction

Marty Johns juggles three businesses and makes it look easy

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Marty Johns takes full advantage of the path laid out by his ancestors. In addition to being the general manager of the Seminole Casino Brighton, he owns three businesses: Marki Rodeo Company Inc., Five Star Rodeo Holdings LLC and Native American Construction LLC.

One reason Johns can juggle these enterprises is his management style and work ethic. He prides himself on being a good, if not traditional, manager who gives employees respect and opportunities to succeed at their jobs.

"I like challenges and being successful," said Johns, of Brighton. "I strive to be the best I can be, but I'm nowhere near perfect."

Johns grew up around the rodeo; his father, Josiah Johns, competed in all rodeo events, and his mother, Sandy Woods, was a barrel racer. Johns started competing at around the age of 6. With his extensive knowledge and experience in the rodeo arena, owning rodeo companies made sense for Johns. In 2003, he and his wife, Kim, started Marki Rodeo; in 2006, he purchased Five Star Rodeo with his son-in-law Paul Bowers Jr.

Putting together a successful rodeo company means having the knowledge, the

livestock and even a portable arena. Marki can stage a rodeo in a baseball field, if necessary. The company is one of only three Native American stock contractors for the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA). Marki produces rodeos mostly for the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association, while Five Star primarily produces PRCA rodeos.

"I take pride in providing the best livestock we can," Johns said. "We have some superstar horses and bulls."

He keeps the animals on the Brighton Reservation and transports them to rodeo events around the country. Just as he did, all of Johns' daughters — Mackenzie Johns Bowers, Marilee Johns, Dewell Johns and Taylor Johns — grew up surrounded by rodeos and compete in barrel racing. Johns and his wife passed along a strong work ethic to their children.

"Marty always pushed that hard work will pay off for you," Kim Johns said. "If you want something you have to work for it. He has always lovingly pushed them to work. Mackenzie is working toward her master's degree; she has her father's business sense."

Owning a rodeo requires hard work to keep the livestock healthy. To perform at top level, the animals need plenty of food, rest and chiropractic treatment when necessary. Animals, like humans, favor a



Beverly Bidney

Marty Johns keeps busy with three businesses.

specific side of the body. Humans are right- or left-handed; animals are right- or left-footed. Knowing which side a bull favors helps improve his performance coming out of the chute for an event. A right-footed bull will perform better if he comes out of the chute right foot first.

◆ See MARTY JOHNS on page 9A

Museum goes BAMB for tourism

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — During June, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum participated in Broward Attractions & Museums Month (BAMB) for the fifth consecutive year.

The program offered the deal of the year for history and cultural museum buffs: Be a member of one of 17 participating attractions and have the opportunity to visit them all, absolutely free for one month.

"We always wanted to see the Seminole Museum. This was our perfect opportunity," said Toby Srebnick, who showed up from Coral Springs with his family for the first of two Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum BAMB events.

On June 15 the Museum's community outreach specialist Vandall Samuels hosted

Storytelling Family Day featuring tales from *Legends of the Seminoles* by Betty Mae Jumper, original paintings by Guy LaBree, and a special guest appearance, presentation and book signing by Jan Godown Annino, author of the children's book *She Sang Promise* about the life of Betty Mae Jumper.

Visitors were fascinated by Samuels' retelling of ageless stories handed down through generations and how deeply rooted storytelling is in Seminole culture.

"Storytelling revolved around the campfire when there was no electricity and our people were surrounded by water — we were out there in the Everglades," Samuels said. "At night, the only light was the Seminole campfires that burned 24/7."

Before children were sent to bed in sleeping chickees, family elders told the

ancient stories to teach values and beliefs. Even today, the legends are told in the same manner to ensure the lessons stay the same.

Annino's book, published with the Tribe's blessing, celebrates the life of one of the Tribe's most beloved storytellers, Betty Mae Jumper. Though written for children, the book immortalizes the true battles, heartbreaks and ultimate success of the often ostracized "half-breed" girl who became the Tribe's first high school graduate, a nurse, a pioneer of the Health, Education and Communications departments and the only woman in Seminole history to be elected Chairwoman.

"The first time I visited the Museum, it gave me goosebumps," said Annino, a former journalist who through several decades became friends with Jumper. "Now, to be standing here to tell the story about one of the most revered women in Seminole and American history is a huge honor."

The second Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki BAMB event was staged June 19 at the Fort Lauderdale History Center in cooperation with the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. It featured Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum curator John Moga in a multi-faceted presentation of the current exhibit, *Camera-man: The Seminole through the Lens of Julian Dimock*.

The exhibit, which highlights a collection of photographs of Seminoles commissioned by the American Museum of Natural History in New York in 1910, runs through Dec. 9.

Srebnick, a full-fledged member of the Boca Raton Children's Museum, said he, his wife, Sarah, and children Bailey, 9, and Riley, 5, love to visit history museums.

"Next we're going to Bonnet House (Museum & Gardens) and the (Historic) Stranahan House (Museum) in Fort Lauderdale but we'll definitely come back to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki," he said.

Eileen Soler

On June 15 the Museum's community outreach specialist Vandall Samuels tells Seminole stories to visitors during a Broward Attractions & Museums Month (BAMB) event.

Seminole firefighter battles Arizona wildfires

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

GRAND CANYON — Tragedy struck Yarnell, Ariz. on June 30 when 19 firefighters lost their lives battling a wildfire. Don Mitchell, a Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue wild land firefighter, deployed to Arizona with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to assist the Hualapai Tribe and the Havasupai Tribe of Arizona with a cluster of wildfires that continue to break out because of the state's drought.

Mitchell, a member of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, has worked for the Seminole Tribe for seven months and has 24 years of experience with wildfire rescue.

"I'm very honored and proud to be working for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and I'm thankful that they are still able to let me continue to participate and help other Indian Tribes and reservations with wild land fires and all-risk incidents," Mitchell said.

The Yarnell wildfire was the deadliest in Arizona history, and according to the National Fire Protection Association website, the last wildfire to kill more firefighters was the 1933 Griffith Park fire in Los Angeles, which killed 29. Sept. 11 claimed the biggest loss of firefighters in U.S. history with 343 lives.

The 19 killed in Arizona were members of a group of firefighters known as the Hotshots called to face the nation's fiercest wildfires. A change in the direction of the wind, which brought 40-50 mph gusts, trapped the firefighters in the wilderness.

And the threat is not over. Many other wildfires are still being contained along the rim of the Grand Canyon.

"Since the 30th of June, we have had 17 fires ranging from a quarter-acre to 57 acres," Mitchell said.

Mitchell and his team are making progress with two major fires that broke out on July 2 — one 4,800 acres and the other 1,800 acres.

Tourists were shuttled out of the canyon's skywalk area as the fire burned within a quarter mile before firefighters could contain it, Mitchell said. It damaged the employees' living quarters and severely threatened the Hualapai's tourism industry, which could have been catastrophic for the Tribe as tourism is their main source of income. But, the team of wild land firefighters contained it.

Ninety percent of wildfires are caused by humans, resulting from campfires left unattended, burning debris or discarded cigarettes. The remaining 10 percent are started by lava or lightning. Lightning ignited the blaze in Yarnell.

Even with containment, a wild land firefighter's work is not finished. Mitchell and his team are now monitoring the area and recording current weather conditions, fuel loading, flame length and rate of spread to ensure the fire remains contained and is eventually extinguished. They also are working with risk assessment, searching out safety zones and escape routes. Fires can take days or even weeks to completely put out.

The conditions are not easy for wild land firefighters. Every day is dangerous as they deal with rugged terrain, steep canyons, extreme temperatures and heavy juniper and ponderosa pines — which are highly flammable — with only the comfort of a tent and some wipes for a shower.

"We are very fortunate to have [Don Mitchell] as part of our team," said Fire Rescue Chief Donald DiPetrillo. "He has excellent fire credentials and his expertise and experience is much in demand at this time of year when they have wildfires in other parts of the country."



Photo courtesy of Don Mitchell
Don Mitchell

Alex Johns attends Young Cattlemen's Conference



Photo courtesy of Alex Johns

Alex Johns, director of Natural Resources, left, represents Florida and the Seminole Tribe at the 2013 Young Cattlemen's Conference.

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

Since 1980, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) has hosted the Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC) to train and enhance leadership skills in beef industry professionals. Alex Johns, director of Natural Resources, represented Florida and the Seminole Tribe at the 2013 conference, joining the list of more than 1,000 graduates of the program.

During the eight-day conference from May 30 to June 6, Johns experienced different aspects of the cattle industry, "from pasture to plate." Traveling by buses and airplanes, the participants toured the country visiting facilities in Colorado, Illinois and Virginia.

The tour began in Denver, with personality profiling, training and leadership classes. The group listened to presentations by representatives from Cattle Fax — a global leader in beef industry research, analysis and information — and the U.S. Meat Export Federation — a nonprofit trade association working to create new opportunities and to develop existing international markets for U.S. beef, pork, lamb and veal.

The 50-person group also spent a day at the JBS Five Rivers feed yards and processing facilities in Greeley, Colo.

"It is really important for participants to see each sector of the beef industry — from farm to fork," Johns said. "Traveling from a cow/calf ranch to a feedlot and processing plant really drives home the point that our industry is composed of many sectors which

are all committed to produce a healthy end product."

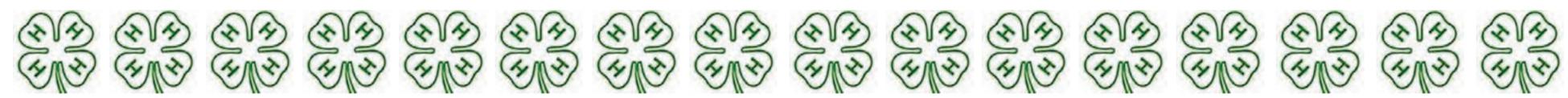
In Chicago, Johns learned about trade opportunities in the industry. He and the group met with the senior management of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange at the Chicago Board of Trade. Johns said they also met the Canadian trade ambassador, which was a great connection to make because Canada is an important trading partner of the U.S.

While in Washington, D.C., participants learned about policy issues within the cattle industry and had the opportunity to meet their state's congressional delegation to discuss any opinions and concerns about their cattle operations. They focused on issues like the 2013 Farm Bill, federal lands ranching and overreaching regulations proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

As the director of Natural Resources, Johns is particularly interested in passing the 2013 Farm Bill. The bill supports America's farmers, ranchers and consumers through initiatives including commodity programs, agriculture research, trade and rural development. Johns said the best way to get the bill passed is by expressing support for it.

"Cattle owners need to be in support of the Farm Bill to get it passed," he said. "A lot of them don't believe they have a voice, but it's a matter of picking up the phone and calling the congressmen and letting them know they are in support of it or not."

◆ See CATTLEMEN on page 7A



Seminole Indian 4-H celebrates Show and Sale winners

SUBMITTED BY POLLY HAYES
4-H Coordinator

On May 17, the Brighton Reservation celebrated the winners of the 4-H Show and Sale, held in February during Brighton Field Day. Youth from Big Cypress, Immokalee, Hollywood, Fort Pierce and Brighton gathered to receive their awards.

The 2013-2014 enrollment for 4-H will begin in August for steers and heifers and in December for swine. Enrollments will be held on each reservation during August and September, and the deadline for all projects is Oct. 31.

Youth must be 8 years old at the beginning of the current 4-H program year (Sept. 1) to be eligible for a large animal project and 5 years old for a small animal project. First-year projects must be swine.

For more information about the program, contact 4-H coordinator Polly Hayes, 4-H assistant Dionne Smedley, secretary Yolanda Gore or 4-H leader Melonie Hamlett at 863-763-5020 or contact the program assistant in Immokalee at 239-229-1325.

2013 Seminole Indian 4-H Awards

Cattle Owner Awards:

Grand Champion Steer: Wildcat Naha Jumper

Reserve Grand Champion Steer: Buck Estates

Swine Producers Award:

Grand & Reserve Champion: Buckeye Connection Show Pigs
Small Animal Members:

Leader: Emma Urbina
Lason Baker, Jetta Osceola, Miley Jimmie, CeCe Thomas, Preslynn Baker, Willo James, Lavin Billie, Marcos Reyna, Jacee Jumper, Kendra Thomas, Quayde Urbina, Kallie Yzaguirre, Samara Yzaguirre, Hayzen Balentine, Halley Balentine, Liviticus Berry, Denise Gonzales, Steele Gopher Jr., Amariyah Fannin, Brienna Brockman, Cariss Johns, Emerson Billie, Jarrett Beecham, Bryce Baker, Jayleigh Braswell, Waylon Yates, Summer Gopher and Madisyn Osceola

Brighton Heifer Club: Leader: Melissa Gopher

Grand Champion 2-year-old Bred Heifer: Rosa Urbina

Reserve Grand Champion 2-year-old Bred Heifer: Hunter Strickland

Grand Champion 3-year-old with Calf: Kelton Smedley

Members: Alyssa Gonzalez, Morgan Yates, Kelton Smedley, Hunter Strickland and Rosa Urbina

Steer Record Book Winners:

Intermediate: Jaylen Baker

Senior: Breanna Billie and Lanie Sedatol

Steer Winners:

Grand Champion: Calgary Johns

Reserve Grand Champion: Rosa Urbina

Intermediate Showmanship: Oscar Yates

Senior Showmanship: Garrett Thomas

Most Weight Gain: Jaryaca Baker and

Rosa Urbina

Senior Herdsman: Garrett Thomas

Intermediate Herdsman: Oscar Yates

Swine Record Book Winners:

Junior: Brienna Brockman

Intermediate: Drake Lawrence and Jillian Rodriguez

Senior: Jennifer Tommie

Swine Winners:

Grand Champion: Jennifer Tommie

Reserve Grand Champion: Aiyana Tommie

Junior Showmanship: Budha Jumper

Intermediate Showmanship: Aiyana Tommie

Senior Showmanship: Deliyah Carrillo

Most Weight Gain: Abraham Tigertail

Senior Herdsman: Deliyah Carrillo

Intermediate Herdsman: Trevor Thomas

Junior Herdsman: Kaleb Doctor

Immokalee 4-H Officers:

President: Rosalinda Lopez

Vice President: Aaron Alvarado

Secretary: Jillian Rodriguez

Sergeant of Arms: Jon Jimmie

Brighton Steer Officers:

President: Jaryaca Baker

Vice President: Morgan Yates

Secretary/Treasure: Courtney Gore

Reporter: Hunter Strickland

Sergeant of Arms: Kiylier Baker and Garrett Thomas

Brighton Swine Officers:

President: Aiyana Tommie

Vice President: Aidan Tommie

Secretary/Treasure: Camryn Thomas



Photo courtesy of Polly Hayes

The Small Animal Club members show off their blanket.

Reporter: Alexis James

Sergeant of Arms: Alyke Baker and Kaleb Doctor

Seminole Indian 4-H Volunteers:

Preston and Mona Baker, Melissa Gopher, Kevin Lawrence, Bobby and Louvella Yates, Donnie Gore, Jessie and Emma Urbina, Matt and Joyce Piz, Frank and Cecelia Thomas, Jason and Shawna Tommie, Janice Peters, Naha and Boogie Jumper, Scooter Johns, Casey Platt, Jessie Carter, William Bearden, Norman and Debbie Johns, Samuel Smedley, Jeanne Billie, Cotton Baxley, Clarissa Randolph, Alex Johns, Gene Thomas, Susan Davis, Kenny Davis, Sheila Aguliar, Rhonda Nunez, Mondo Tiger, Elsa Zamora, Clarissa Bowers, Steve Yzaguirre, Marylou Alvarado, Marie Garcia, Immokalee Youth Ranch and Brighton Community Culture Center



Photo courtesy of Polly Hayes

Grand Champion Steer winner Calgary Johns, of Brighton, celebrates with buyer Charlie Cypress.



Photo courtesy of Polly Hayes

First year participant Roger Walters, of Fort Pierce, takes a picture with buyer Charlene Baker and rodeo princesses Breanna Billie and Aiyana Tommie.



Photo courtesy of Polly Hayes

Grand Champion 2-year-old Bred Heifer owner Rosa Urbina poses with her award-winning animal.

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Blazing a trail through swamps and Everglades

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TAMIAMI TRAIL — The Tamiami Trail snakes 264 miles across Florida from State Road 60 in Tampa, down the southwest coast of Florida through Naples, across the Big Cypress Swamp and Everglades to U.S. 1 in Miami, where it becomes Calle Ocho in Little Havana — and finally Brickell Avenue in downtown Miami.

This famous roadway owes its birth to a band of activists called the Tamiami Trail Blazers who gathered a motorcade in 1923 to cross miles of unimproved Everglades in Model T Fords, to gain federal attention and funding and to prove that such a feat was even possible.

The first known reference to conquering Florida's wet wilderness occurred in 1892 when A. Church James Ingraham (later the president of Florida East Coast Railroad) led an expedition of hardy pioneers by boat and by foot. Bill Harney, a Seminole, guided the last 25 miles after the group had become turned around in the wrong direction.

By the 1920s, automobiles became more prevalent and northerners wanted to visit Florida, but the roads were few, far between and in bad shape. A drive from Naples to Miami would take weeks.

Visioning for road improvements had already begun.

In 1895, Capt. J.F. Jaudon — one of Dade County's first tax assessors — envisioned a highway that would straight-link the two coasts and open his land up for development. A decade later, Jaudon implemented his complex plan, which had various counties build and pay for sections with \$8 million to spend and 13 years to complete.

Many criticized the plan, disheartened by the idea of their tax money paying for obvious special interests.

By 1919, financial reasons prevented Lee County from carrying out its part of the deal. Jaudon had already purchased 207,360 acres of outback land, mostly in Monroe County. He claimed his Chevalier Corporation would pay the bill if Dade and Lee counties agreed to re-route the Tamiami Trail through Monroe. The proposal was accepted and Chevalier began laying a new segment of road, looping out from the main road survey, through his properties in the middle of nowhere (known today as the Loop Road).

Around the same time, the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes were undergoing a new diversity of cultural and economic activity. Miami had become the largest trading and tourist center for South Florida Indians and in 1922, Seminole craft shops and living villages were opened at Miami attractions Musa Isle and Coppinger's Tropical Gardens.

The state, noting the burgeoning business growth in Miami, realized the slow-building road was critical to expanding South Florida's economy. In an unprecedented move, the state Road Department offered to pay for half the east-west (Naples to Miami) portion of the trail if Dade County would pick up the rest. Again, taxpayers were unsatisfied with the decision, claiming it was not only impossible to build a road through thick Everglades swamps, but also a waste of money.

For years the long-awaited highway had been stalled at the western edge of Dade County and the southern boundary of Lee County, bogged down by difficult terrain and a chronic shortage of road construction money. The longest link, some 76 miles of the proposed highway, sat unfinished in (then) Lee County.

At this time, the state was running out of construction funds for the east-west portion and dropped the original deal. The following year, land entrepreneur Barron Collier, who had invested in millions of acres of cheap Southwest Florida wilderness, offered to bankroll the completion of the Tamiami Trail; like Jaudon, he needed that road to develop his holdings.

A shrewd businessman, Collier's deal came only if Lee County would relinquish the land that he owned for the formation of a new county to be named after him. In addition, the road had to go through Collier's new county, where, in 1923, there was not a mile of finished highway.

The publicity generated more controversy, and the unlikelihood of completing the road seemed to grow behind the lines of dissent.

In April 1923, the Tamiami Trail



Photo courtesy of Florida Memory Project, Florida State Archives

Miami mayor E.G. Sewell stands with Seminole Indian Abraham Lincoln Clay (Assumhatchee) at the 1923 ceremony for the Trail Blazers in Miami.

Blazers, convened at the western end of the Trail for a publicity stunt to call national attention to the project. Promising to use knowledgeable Seminole Indian guides, they announced their plan to forge across the swampy Everglades and prove the road could be built.

On April 4, 1923, the Trail Blazers left Fort Myers driving toward Miami across the vastness of South Florida. The motorcade consisted of nine vehicles, one tractor, 25 men and four women. Russell Kay, business manager of Florida Grower, was chief director of the stunt later called the Tamiami Trail Blazers Expedition.

Two Seminole Indians played major roles as guides, hunters and food gatherers: *Conopatchee* (Little Billie), who was the father of medicine man Josie Billie; and *Assumhatchee* (Abraham Lincoln Clay). Both were popular among the pioneers living in Lee and Collier counties.

Allen H. Andrews, a Koreshan Unity church member and expedition member, wrote about his experience during the "blazing" stage, which began immediately in the first hour after leaving. Andrews described the terrain as a land where "law and order are practically unknown, home only to the Seminoles and assorted moonshiners, bootleggers and other outlaws."

As the expedition of mostly city slickers progressed through wet prairie, marsh, sawgrass and hammock islands, the group lost three vehicles, rendered "out of commission" by the muck. Andrews and the others relied on the knowledge of their Seminole guides to find water, food and the best route across the Glades.

Andrews commented on the constant need for fresh water: "To the writer the lack of good drinking water proved the greatest privation and there were frequent periods when one's thoughts dwelt in anticipation upon the ice cream and cooling drinks one would get in Miami when the Trail's end was reached — but when?"

As they reached the halfway mark from Fort Myers, Andrews also started to worry about food, which was "practically gone" at that point. His outlook brightened when Seminole guide Clay returned with a fresh-killed deer. Soon the men had boiled venison for dinner, sufficient to satisfy the "almost famished crowd."

When the group hadn't arrived in Miami on the expected date, rumors circulated that the Trail Blazers were lost in the Everglades and likely dead, giving the expedition daily national news coverage. Each day, airplanes scanned the rough terrain and rescue parties were dispatched from both sides to find them.

On April 10, *The Miami Herald* ran a story with the headline, "Rain Dashes Only Hope of Trapped Party — Believe All Have Perished."

But at this point, a week out from Fort Myers, the Trail Blazers had actually reached dense stands of cypress, which they had to first chop away with axes and hatchets and then send a delegation back for the cars.

Realizing they were late, the group sent Seminoles Clay and Billie to run ahead on foot to let people in Miami know they were still trekking through the swamp. Kay recounted how the motorcade rejoiced when they heard the "whir of a motor" from an airplane passing overhead. The plane returned to drop off much needed

supplies, courtesy of the Miami Chamber of Commerce.

With the news of the Trail Blazers' demise proven false, the group continued to pick its way across southern Florida.

After 19 days of trekking, the first 11 Trail Blazers arrived in Miami and were welcomed as heroes. The rest, including the two Indians and the remaining cars and tractor still in the Glades, were several days behind. The hikers told enthusiastic reporters they had encountered no mosquitoes, and only one alligator and three deer, though numerous panthers had stalked them throughout the trip.

They had built 10 bridges and lost one car, repaired the others using cypress wood and palm fronds, and drank muddy water. The Seminoles taught them how to make corn cob pipes and prepare and eat swamp cabbage and cattail roots.

"Sometimes it would take us three or four hours to pick out a suitable route. When we would go into the cypress land we would almost touch a moccasin at every step. Our Indians were barefoot but they paid the moccasins scant attention," Kay wrote.

Twenty-three days after departing, the rest of the bedraggled crew emerged from the swamp. The Trail was going to be even more difficult to build than had been imagined, but the adrenalin furnished by the expedition infused the project with positive energy.

A parade and reception was held on Flagler Street to commemorate the historic trip. Andrews credited himself and his fellow Trail Blazers with focusing the attention of millions of Americans on the ambitious highway project. He gave a nod to the legacy of the Trail Blazers who "proved the healthfulness and fertile character of the country" and stimulated the investment of "many thousand dollars" to complete the project.

Soon after the Trail Blazers Expedition, the Florida legislature endorsed the construction project for the Tamiami Trail. They accepted Collier's "deal." In October 1923, work on the Trail began along the route blazed by the motorcade. Collier put together an army of engineers and road builders in Everglades City — the new county seat. He backed a \$350,000 loan to get the project started.

The Tamiami Trail took 13 years and cost \$8 million — \$25,000 per mile — and opened on April 25, 1928. For the first time, motor vehicles could travel by road across the southern tip of Florida which opened Collier County to future economic development and thousands of new homebuyers. For the grand opening, a motorcade of 500 cars made its way down from Tampa, followed by the heroic Trail Blazers.

Seminole and Miccosukee Indians, hundreds of whom had lived in self-exiled wilderness squalor since the Seminole Wars, moved onto high ground to build villages on the road spoil and take advantage of the tourists and their dollars. The Seminole economy of those days exploded with sales of clothing, dolls and other arts and crafts. Alligator and other wildlife shows further helped the Seminoles cash in on their reputation as "Unconquered."

Soon, it was hard to find any tourist attraction, anywhere in Florida that did not have a living village or other Seminole-themed attraction.



Photo courtesy of Florida Memory Project, Florida State Archives

Hundreds fill the streets of Everglades City to welcome the first group of Trail Blazers on April 23, 1923.



Photo courtesy of Linda Peoples Martin

Kaleb 'Fred' Langdale, third from left, visits the Big Cypress Reservation after receiving a special invitation from Councilman Mondo Tiger, who was inspired by Langdale's story of survival.

'Gator Fred' finds adventure during Big Cypress trip

SUBMITTED BY LINDA PEEPLES MARTIN
Tourism Media Specialist

BIG CYPRESS — Almost a year ago, Kaleb "Fred" Langdale took a swim in the Caloosahatchee River, where he nearly lost his life to an 11-foot alligator. He survived because of his quick instincts but lost his right arm in the attack. Better known as "Gator Fred," Langdale has become a local celebrity known for his optimism and year of milestones.

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger was moved by Langdale's unconquered spirit and invited him to a Seminole adventure on the Big Cypress Reservation to celebrate everything from getting acquainted with his prosthetic arm to graduating high school.

Langdale and his mother, Felinda Langdale, accepted the invitation and enjoyed VIP treatment from the Tribe. They toured the Big Cypress Hunting Adventures — an area rarely visited by the general public — where they spotted buffalo and hogs, and took an aerial tour of the reservation on the Tribal helicopter with the Aviation Department.

Lunch at Swamp Water Café, a guided airboat tour and swamp buggy ride with Tribal member Billy Walker completed his adventure.

"This has been one of the best days I have had since my accident," Langdale said.

During the accident last July near Fort Myers, Fla., a gator snagged his arm and went into a death roll. Langdale said he held on tightly.

"When the alligator was a few inches from my face I grabbed the gator under the jaw and pushed up," he said. Unfortunately, the then 17-year-old broke free without the lower portion of his right arm.

When he reached the bank, Langdale



Photo courtesy of Linda Peoples Martin

Kaleb 'Fred' Langdale takes an airboat ride.

used spider webs to stop the bleeding before paramedics arrived and airlifted him to the hospital. He spent six days there in recovery.

But despite the accident, Langdale has not let his loss of limb deter him from being an outdoorsman. He still does everything he loves, including fishing, hunting and wakeboarding, and has become skilled with firearms. He has modified his equipment by adding foot steering to his airboat and changing his four-wheeler's controls so he can drive left-handed.

Langdale plans to attend Edison State College to get his associate degree and then St. Petersburg College to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor of prosthetics and orthotics so he can help others who have lost limbs.

"It makes me feel great to help others who are in similar situations," he said. "I am not bitter; if anything it has made me a stronger person."

Melissa Sherman contributed to this article.

Emergency Management tests notification system

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

On July 1, Emergency Management launched a call to all employees to test the CodeRed alert notification system, a system designed to inform employees about emergencies such as severe weather, crime, health threats or other safety threats within the community. During hurricane season, Emergency Management is performing monthly tests to ensure that all employees receive the notifications.

CodeRed is a nationwide system the Tribe has used for four years to notify Public Safety staff about emergency situations. In the wake of Hurricane Isaac last year, it was expanded to all

Tribal members and Tribal employees, and according to Jason Dobronz, Emergency Management operations manager, the feedback was great.

"Employees really appreciate it," he said.

Dobronz said the system has value because it easily gets a message out.

"It takes less than 2 minutes to launch a call to all employees," he said.

The system is linked to all phone numbers and email addresses employees disclose to Human Resources.

If employees do not receive a notification, they should call the Disaster Hotline at 800-617-7514 and press Option 3 to speak with an Emergency Management staff member to update their personal contact information.

Hard Rock guarantees largest payout during poker event

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The world's richest poker tournament is coming to the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood from Aug. 8-29, so get your poker face ready. The Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open features a \$10-million guaranteed payout, the largest ever for a poker tournament anywhere in the world.

"We want to be as big as anyone in the world for poker," said Larry Mullin, Seminole Gaming Chief Operating Officer. "Our biggest competitor is all of Nevada. We'll have some of the biggest players in the world and the Hard Rock brand gives the tournament global legitimacy. I think we'll be right at the top of the heap."

Featuring 33 event series over the course of the tournament, about 10,000 players are expected to ante up \$70 to \$100,000 to compete a variety of games. A \$5,300 buy-in offers players the chance to cash in one of the guaranteed top 300 places in the Main Event, which will share the \$10-million prize pool.

The winner of the Main Event, to be held Aug. 22-28, will receive \$1.5 million; second place will get \$1 million. Another event boasts the largest buy-in in state history at \$100,000.



Photo courtesy of Hard Rock Hollywood

The richest poker tournament will come to Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood Aug. 8-29.

Satellite tournaments will be hosted in the poker rooms at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, Seminole Casino Coconut Creek and Seminole Casino Immokalee. One winner for every 10 entries in the satellite tournament will win entry into the \$560 buy-in event with a \$1 million prize pool.

"The Seminole Hard Rock is a formidable operation," Mullin said. "We have high expectations. Anyone who is involved in poker knows this tournament is happening."

For more information, visit www.SeminoleHardRockHollywood.com/gaming/poker.

Fourth of July festivities go off with a bang



Kids chase young hogs in the pen as a crowd watches at the Hollywood Fourth of July celebration.

Beverly Bidney



Denise Gonzales flies high at the Immokalee Fourth of July celebration July 3.

Judy Weeks



Alex Rodriguez takes the hog he caught into the winners circle at the Hollywood event July 4.

Beverly Bidney



Lazzlow Billie and Evan Cypress team up for a canoe race July 5 during the Big Cypress Fourth of July celebration.

Eileen Soler



Wovoka Tommie and Carlton Banks battle it out for the arm wrestling championship July 5 during the Big Cypress Fourth of July celebration at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena. Banks won the round but Tommie won first place among Tribal entries; Banks won first place for non-Tribals.

Eileen Soler



Dana Osceola and her children, Delaney and Kowi-Chito Osceola, pose for a picture with Uncle Sam on July 4 in Brighton.

Andrea Holata



Beverly Tommie, bottom right, and family enjoy some quality time together at the Fort Pierce Fourth of July celebration.

Andrea Holata



Beating the heat, Immokalee youth make a big splash on the waterslide July 3.

Judy Weeks



The slippery pole proved quite a challenge for all who tried to get to the top. This Hollywood boy is channeling King Kong's rage as he takes his turn.

Beverly Bidney



People enjoy the fireworks display on the Hollywood ball field July 4.

Beverly Bidney



Brighton Fire Rescue joins in the fun during the Fourth of July celebration, barely beating the three-time tug-of-war champs in a four-against-three battle.

Andrea Holata



Marty Bowers is all smiles, plus one with seeds and rinds, after winning the Big Cypress Fourth of July watermelon eating contest at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.

Eileen Soler



Children stop for a picture before climbing the waterslide June 29 at the Fort Pierce Fourth of July celebration.

Andrea Holata

SMP staffer shows super video at SuperCon

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — When 10,000 comic book, sci-fi, anime and video game fans converged July 4-7 at the Miami Airport Convention Center for the 2013 Florida SuperCon, a Tribe employee attended to collect an impressive honor.

Jeremy Taylor, a video editor and the Big Cypress station broadcaster for Seminole Media Productions, placed 10th among 60 entrants in the event's Anime Music Video Contest.

"I was really excited. I got an email saying I was in the contest but when I got there and saw I was a finalist, I freaked out. I was really pumped," Taylor said.

Anime, a pop style of Japanese animation, has in recent history spawned a burgeoning industry of graphic novels, television series, movies and merchandise supported by a fan base of millions who cannot get enough. Followers attend conventions or "cons" dressed in costumes of their favorite characters.

Fans of science fiction, horror and super hero television shows, movies, comic books and cartoons also frequent conventions. Events range from meet and greets with genre celebrities to serious workshops.

Actor George Takei, best known for playing Lt. Sulu in the *Star Trek* franchise, attended SuperCon this year and Taylor has an autographed photo of the star to prove it. Sessions included Makeup for Cosplay (costume play), a Pokémon Pokelympics and Geek Comedy Panel with Pineapple Shaped Lamps, a North Carolina-based sketch comedy troupe.

But don't jump to conclusions. Cons are not for nerds only.

"You run into a lot of great people — writers, editors, photographers, costume designers and many other professionals. It's full of networking opportunities. All day it's, 'Hey, I'm an editor,' or 'Hey, I'm a writer.' You meet dozens of people who do things that you do not," Taylor said. "In a nutshell, it's a media networking utopia."

Prolific anime artist and writer Andrea Stinson, who is a counselor at the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club — and Taylor's fiancé — agreed.



Eileen Soler

Jeremy Taylor, a Seminole Media Productions video editor based in Big Cypress, won 10th place out of 60 entries in a video and music competition at SuperCon 2013 in Miami.

"What most people think they'll see is a bunch of 17-year-olds running around in costumes but we're actually adults," said Stinson, who holds a bachelor's degree in English from Florida Atlantic University.

Stinson said it is also where people go to be discovered. Writers Gerry Duggan and Brian Posehn began writing for Marvel Comics after meeting Marvel Editor-in-Chief Axel Alonso during a San Diego Comic-Con.

"Movie scouts go; movie stars go like Seth Rogen and Megan Fox. You never know who you will see," Stinson said.

Last year, Stinson met the Green Hornet. He knelt down on one knee and proposed marriage. After all, the superhero was Taylor in a very serious cosplay moment. Stinson said yes.

"This year, after the contest, many people came up to Jeremy to talk about his video and give him compliments. I just stood there watching in the doorway loving

the moment," she said. Taylor, who graduated from FAU in 2010 with a degree in multimedia study, film and video, meshed the song *Chemicals React* by Aly & AJ with clips from 26 episodes of the anime series *Tiger & Bunny*. The 2 minute and 58 second music video took 30 days to create.

"I wanted to tell a story, find the best clips that fit the music and provide the most emotional impact. It's like a puzzle. You take bits and pieces to make the story but it's not linear — it's a musical narrative," he said. "The hardest part is synching lips to lyrics. You have to be perfect."

Taylor credits landing in the contest's top 10 to his boss, SMP Broadcasting senior editor Deana Johnson.

"When I came to SMP I had a degree but no experience. I was all over the place," Taylor said. "Deana taught me how to fix problems, improve my editing and fine tune my work."

Summer brims with fun, games, laughs



Eileen Soler

A peaceful, but bouncy swamp buggy ride through pastures on the Big Cypress Reservation provide a nice break from staying indoors on a showery day.



Eileen Soler

Carlee Billie and Evol Buck jostle and giggle during a swamp buggy ride.



Eileen Soler

Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club summer campers listen intently during a storytelling session by Gordon 'Ollie' Wareham at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Eileen Soler

Gordon 'Ollie' Wareham plays mellow sounds on a Native American flute.



Eileen Soler

Campers from Big Cypress Recreation and Boys & Girls Club smile for the camera after a leisurely swamp buggy ride along the dirt roads of the reservation.

HOWARD TOMMIE

From page 1A

Tommie went to Chilocco in 1957 and graduated in 1959. Three other Seminole boys went with him: Henry Gopher, Archie Johns Sr. and Cecil Johns.

"I went on a trial basis, but the atmosphere was good; I liked it," said Tommie, who played football, basketball, ran track and learned a trade — engine mechanic — at the school. "It was a treat to intermingle with kids from other Tribes. We knew there were other Indians in other places but never met any."

To this day, Tommie remains in touch with some of his high school buddies and he even has a home in Shawnee, Okla. He and six other former students were inducted into the Chilocco Hall of Fame on June 1. Mitchell Cypress is the only other Seminole in the Hall of Fame; he was inducted in 2006.

"I had a good time at the ceremony — it was an honor," Tommie said. "They recognized my leadership in the Tribe."

His leadership and legacy with the Seminole Tribe is easy to identify. Chairman James E. Billie introduced him at the NIHB event.

"For a bunch of people living in the swamp, we've had some good leaders," he said. "We used to hang onto him and traveled with him around the country. He grasped the idea of how we fit into this United States."

With perspective on a life spent serving his Tribe, Tommie sees the past and future clearly.

"I'm old fashioned; my grandpa told us things will change and you have to change with them," he said. "I'm proud that we looked ahead. Our forefathers did that by not going to Oklahoma. Our leaders made all these decisions years ago and the ones who come after us will make decisions, too. We adapted to what was coming toward us; we succeeded in thinking ahead and made decisions for the betterment of the Tribe."



Beverly Bidney

The Tribe has taken charge of the property formerly known as the Seminole Estates Mobile Home Park. The 110-acre property, located on U.S. 441 on the Hollywood Reservation, became the responsibility of the Tribe on July 1 for the first time since 1969.

SEMINOLE ESTATES

From page 1A

The Tribe compensated low-income, year-round residents to help them move. Those who had an adjusted household income of less than \$40,000 per year qualified for grants of \$3,000 for relocation of their mobile homes; 195 residents received the grants.

Six others in desperate financial straits received larger grants.

Ultimately, the Tribe paid about \$650,000 in relocation funds.

"The Tribe did a great job in providing the tools for these people to find and move to new places," said Joe Martin, assistant director of Planning and Development. "Everyone was moved out by June 30. The Florida Mobile Home Relocation Trust [Fund] said this was the fastest a park

of that size was ever cleared out. It was because the Council was wise enough to put these measures into place, which saved the Tribe about \$1 million."

Residents had nine months to prepare to move; when the Palma Nova Mobile Home Park in Davie closed in 2008, its residents had only six months to leave. To further assist Seminole Estates residents with relocation, the Tribe reached out to mobile home parks around the state looking for available space.

The Tribe also allowed Lakeshore Communities, a mobile home property company with about 800 available sites around the state, to open an office on-site. The company offered to move residents' homes to their sites free of charge; they moved about 160 homes with their residents and approximately 200 empty homes.

Lakeshore Communities is also performing demolition work on the site.

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THPO investigates Tom Smith Camp



Photo courtesy of THPO

Pictured are brothers Richard, Morgan and Tom Smith.

SUBMITTED BY MATTHEW FENNO
Field Technician

BRIGHTON — The Tribal Historic Preservation Office is investigating the Tom Smith Camp on the Brighton Reservation as a potential site for the Tribal Register of Historic Places. Along with artifacts found on the site, Tom Smith left a legacy behind as a Councilman and a well-known medicine man.

Prior to the formation of the Seminole Tribe, medicine men represented a political and judicial council for the Tribe. As a medicine man, Smith had the opportunity to lead the Green Corn Dance, a spiritual tradition that expresses gratitude to the Creator for providing food. The leader chants as a line of stomp dancers follow behind him in the traditional style of dance. The council of medicine men selected for each Green Corn Dance was in charge of judicial functions.

Smith's father, Billie Smith, also led a Green Corn Dance and passed the role on to his son. His mother, Sally Parker, was the daughter of Polly Parker.

Smith had two brothers, Morgan and Richard (Dick), and two sisters, Mercy Smith Jones and Cully. In the early 20th century, Smith married Stella Jumper — the sister of John Josh — and had five children with her: Ada Smith Bowers, Juanita Smith Tommie, Lois Smith, Wanda Smith and Jodi Smith.

The Tom Smith Camp is located in the northeastern portion of the Brighton Reservation in a hammock environment surrounded by wet prairie. According to Smith's granddaughter Mollie Jolly, the camp consisted of six permanent chickees used for sleeping, cooking and storage.

Hunting was the main source of food and income for Smith. Every morning, he would gather wood for Stella, who would start a fire and make sofkee for him to take on his hunt. Smith usually did not return until sundown.

The children were responsible for giving the horses water before and after he left, and Smith shined and trimmed the horses' hoofs himself. Billy Bowlegs III would borrow one of the horses to help farm his sugarcane and eventually purchased it.

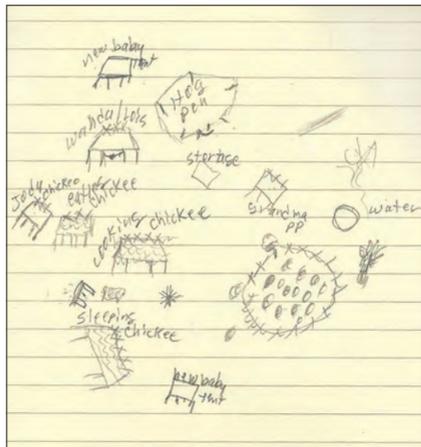


Photo courtesy of THPO

Pictured is a drawing of the Tom Smith Camp by Mollie Jolly.

Artifacts found during the archaeological survey included a silver bracelet with a turquoise stone, a lead bar (with the name McCullough N-Y), copper fragments, glass bottles, jars and silver slag. These items are consistent with Jolly's description of her grandfather, who was also a metal worker, skilled in repairing and reloading his own shell casings. Many of the items found date from 1930-1978. Those found from before modern occupation include fragments of pottery vessels and pieces of faunal bone, which show how people lived during the prehistoric era.

One of the most significant parts of the Tribal Register nomination process is determining the future use of the site. Based on community input, the Tom Smith Camp will be listed as an area that can be used to remember his legacy for future generations of Tribal members.

If you have any information about the Tom Smith Camp or would like to nominate a site to the Tribal Register, contact the Tribal Historic Preservation Office at 863-983-6549.

MARTY JOHNS

From page 3A

"The animals are the supreme athletes," Kim Johns said. "You take care of them; they are an extension of your family. You're proud of them, kind of like you would be of your children."

The family spends a lot of time on the road traveling to rodeos in Florida and beyond, about 19 a year between the EIRA and PRCA rodeos and finals. They compare the lifestyle with that of gypsies because they travel with horse trailers and stay in recreational vehicles together.

Johns claims that rodeo saved his life about a year ago. While at a rodeo in Davie, he leaned on a gate and a bull slipped his horns through the gate and into Johns' side. Although it didn't break the skin, he had severe pain and wound up in emergency surgery. The bull had torn a previously undetected carcinoid tumor away from the lining of his intestines.

"We didn't know it was there; nothing would have detected it," Johns said. "It would have progressed within a short time, so that bull hitting it saved my life. They call that bull Marty now."

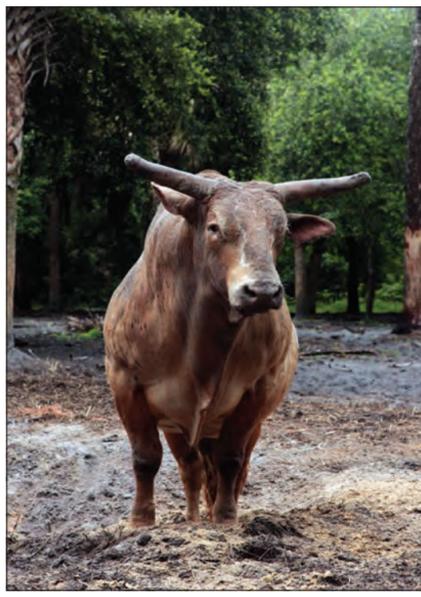
After the surgery, Johns changed his lifestyle and his diet. He lost more than 70 pounds. "I believe the Lord puts you where you need to be," Kim Johns added. "He came back with a renewed spirit and full of energy."

Johns also owns Okeechobee-based Native American Construction, which offers earthwork, site work, underground utilities, canals and drainage, street and bridge construction, as well as residential work. He started the company in 2009 when a general contractor looking for a partner approached him; Johns owns 51 percent of the company.

"I surround myself with quality people," Johns said. "I manage the company and make decisions based on what's best for the company and our people."

The company plans to use its minority status as a Native American-owned business to get more jobs. He works on Tribal projects, including the Brighton Recreation Center concession stand and observation booth. Johns appreciates the confidence the Tribe shows in his company by hiring it to do the work.

He may be a busy entrepreneur, but Johns' day job and top priority is his position as general manager of the Brighton Casino. It started as a legacy position; Johns worked with his father, who started the original Brighton Bingo Hall, the second in the nation to have high-stakes games. When Josiah passed away in 1983, Johns stepped in to manage it at the age of 21. He's been there ever since to ensure his father's legacy remains



Beverly Bidney

This bull, named Gangster, won first place at the PRCA finals last year.

successful.

In his spare time Johns enjoys hunting, mud racing and thinking of ways to improve his enterprises. He worked hard to develop excellent teams at all his businesses, which helps him move from venture to venture knowing his companies and the casino run well.

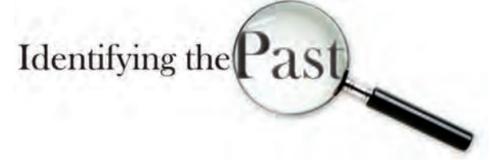
"I do what Marty loves to do," he said. "I love life."

Johns' drive to succeed comes from the Tribe's determination to be free people. "Back in the old days, it wasn't easy," Johns said. "They were a lot of thinking people who figured out how to run from an army, find shelter for their families and fight the armies. They were very smart, so using what they went through is how I evaluate my life. It challenges me to challenge myself to figure things out."

Johns believes more Tribal members should step up to be the next generation of business owners, politicians and department heads.

"Now, the only thing that defeats people is themselves," he said. "The Tribe is big; we need the manpower of our own people running our own mega business. We are Unconquered Seminoles and we need to rise up and keep it that way."

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI
MUSEUM
A PLACE TO LEARN. A PLACE TO REMEMBER.



Tampa artist reunited with decades-old wood carvings

SUBMITTED BY TARA BACKHOUSE
Collections Manager

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum illuminated the past in early July when Tampa woodworker Bobby Henry visited the Museum to see some of the cultural items he made more than 20 years ago.

Henry created many Seminole crafts in the 1980s and 1990s in Tampa for the Coo-Taun Cho-Bee Museum at the Seminole Village, the Tribe's main museum before opening Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki. Both the village and the museum closed in the early 2000s to make way for the construction of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. At the time, the collection of the Coo-Taun Cho-Bee Museum was transferred to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki on Big Cypress, where it has resided ever since.

Henry saw two items during his visit. First was a set of wooden dolls he made nearly 30 years ago. The dolls are unique because unlike most Seminole dolls made out of palmetto fiber with patchwork clothing that mirror the style of the decade in which they were created, Henry's have painted clothes. The other wooden dolls at the Museum date to the turn of the century, and they do not have painted clothes. So Henry's large, brightly painted dolls stand out.

The Museum is proud to have such fine examples of Henry's work in its collection. Seeing his enjoyment when he viewed the items was rewarding to the employees. The Museum takes good care of the pieces of Seminole culture and history so people can view the objects for years to come.

While at the Museum, Henry also viewed a totem pole. Henry is known for his woodcarving skill, especially for the totem poles he has carved. And even though Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki knew that he made this totem pole, Henry was not sure how it ended up in the hands of the man who sold it to the Museum in 1993. By coincidence, the seller, Henry



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Bobby Henry carved this totem pole.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Bobby Henry made these wooden dolls.

Battiest Jr., now works for the Museum. He and Henry pieced together their memories to remember that Battiest won the totem pole in a raffle at the Tampa village's festival in 1993. He offered to sell it to the Museum because he knew it would be hard to take care of such a large piece of art. Henry said, "It definitely wouldn't fit in the Ford Taurus I had driven to the festival."

Both men were happy to see the old totem pole remained in good shape. The men reminded the Museum of its job: to share pieces of the past with people in the present in special ways.

If you are an artist and think the Museum might have something you made, call Tara Backhouse at 863-902-1113 ext. 12246 or email TaraBackhouse@semtribe.com.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Bobby Henry visits the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum to view Seminole crafts he made about 20 years ago.

Hah-Tung-Ke: Billy Leach

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

Few songwriters can match the diverse career of Chicago radio and TV broadcaster Billy Leach. He is best known for a quirky song titled *Song of the Barefoot Mailman* that made it to No. 16 on the 1954 pop music charts.

The tune makes several references to Seminole Indians while telling a tale of the legendary Barefoot Mailmen of Southeast Florida — the first U.S. mail carriers who traveled the route between Palm Beach and Miami between 1885 and 1892. Since no road existed, and there was nowhere to get fresh water for a horse, the mailmen had to row a boat for 28 miles and walk 40 more along the firmer sand of the beach. A round-trip of 136 miles took six days.

The first barefoot mailman was retired Chicago newsman Edmund Bradley. His son, game warden Guy Bradley, became famous in 1905 when he was murdered in the Everglades by poachers seeking plumes and feathers for New York Fashion houses. Only 35, Bradley's death galvanized support for unprecedented protection of Florida's bird populations.

Leach's song describes the dangers of being a Barefoot Mailman

with lines such as, "He trudged the dunes and mangrove swamps/Where pirates hid and the gators romped/Sharks and barracudas swam/ Lying in wait for the barefoot man."

He also tells of a fantastical run-in with "a band of savage Indian Scouts." The chorus, packed tight with Seminole words, includes the unknown phrase, "Alachy boom."

Leach sang with some of the best big bands of the era, including Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians, Art Kassel and his Orchestra and Raymond Scott and his Orchestra on CBS in New York. He is also known as the familiar commercial voice of Pepsodent, Kellogg's, Wrigley's Gum, Budweiser and Mr. Clean on radio and TV. He was the songwriter, singer and narrator on the popular *Musical Multiplication Tables*, a six-record teaching tool that taught hundreds of thousands of youth to multiply in the 1950s, '60s and early '70s. He employed the same style of songwriting in that project as he used in *The Song of the Barefoot Mailman*.

"In days of old, the pirates bold/Buried Pieces of Eight with pleasure/ But when you learn the Table of Eight/ You'll have a richer treasure."

Leach had his own radio shows



Photo courtesy of Peter B. Gallagher

Billy Leach was the songwriter, singer and narrator on the *Musical Multiplication Tables*, a six-record teaching tool that taught youth to multiply.

and starred in one of the first television variety shows on CBS, where he worked for 21 years. He was also a DJ, broadcasting all over country, and served in the U.S. Navy for four years during World War II.

Until the onset of a serious heart problem, Leach was an active tennis player, golfer and hiker. He was also a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, helping others for 46 sober years.

'Song of the Barefoot Mailman'

Okie, Okie	Seminole, Seminole Sam, Sam	Okeechobee, Okeechobee
Okeechobee, Okeechobee	Okeechobee, Seminole, Seminole	Alachy boom
Alachy boom	Song of the Barefoot Mailman	Okeechobee, Okeechobee
Okeechobee, Okeechobee	(Song of the Barefoot Mailman)	Alachy boom
Alachy boom	Okeechobee, Okeechobee	
Okeechobee, Okeechobee	Alachy boom	A band of savage Indian Scouts
Alachy boom	Okeechobee, Okeechobee	Ambushed the mailman along his route
Alachy boom		He stood outnumbered six to one
		Only three bullets in his gun
	He trudged the dunes and mangrove swamps	
	Where pirates hid and the gators romped	He dodged them arrows and fired fast
	Sharks and barracudas swam	Got two at a time with every blast
	Lying in wait for the barefoot man	All six face down on the coral sand
		Trying to stop that government man
		(Trying to stop that government man)
	One gator wise and fierce and bold	
	Tried to swallow the Mailman whole	Singing Okie, Okeechobee
	He fought the gator, mad as could be	Seminole, Seminole Sam, Sam
	And rode on his back to Miami	Okeechobee, Seminole, Seminole
	(Rode on his back to Miami)	Song of the Barefoot Mailman
		(Song of the Barefoot Mailman)
	Singing Okie, Okeechobee	Okeechobee, Okeechobee
	Seminole, Seminole Sam, Sam	Alachy boom
	Okeechobee, Seminole, Seminole	Okeechobee, Okeechobee
	Song of the Barefoot Mailman	Alachy boom
	(Song of the Barefoot Mailman)	Okeechobee, Okeechobee
		Alachy boom
	Singing Okie, Okeechobee	

Health

Seminole move it, move it at Firecracker Walks

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Between June 27 and July 3, Tribal members celebrated the Fourth of July with fun and fitness at the eighth annual Firecracker Walk.

About 100 people participated in several different walks, held in Hollywood, Big Cypress, Naples, Immokalee and Brighton. In Hollywood, about 30 people walked around the horseshoe on the Stirling Road property north of Tribal Headquarters on July 3.

"This is just a fun walk to get people to do some walking and make healthier choices," said Brenda Bordogna, Health education coordinator. "We have some really committed walkers."

Walkers of all ages showed their Fourth of July spirit with hats, beads and flags. Enthusiastic preschoolers and their teachers joined seniors, teenagers and adults for the non-competitive event. The route was less than half a mile, but when some people reached the finish line, they turned around

and walked it again.

"I'm out here for the exercise," said Trevor Osceola, 17, who walked with his sister Clarice Demayo, 9, and their dog, Sparkle, who was pushed along in a stroller. "It's a good way to stay in shape."

The Health Department supplied plenty of water to keep everyone hydrated in the 85 degree heat. Healthy snacks including apples, peanut butter, pretzels and cheese were a welcome treat after the walk.

Senior Mary Gay Osceola usually walks on the treadmill and works out on the stationary bike at the Senior Center but she was excited for a change outdoors. The group was led by two mother/daughter teams; Wanda Bowers and Christine McCall, and Gwen Spiva and Maleah Isaac.

Gym bags were raffled off after the walk and all winners were glad to have them. Every participant was given a sweet and juicy watermelon to take home.

"The goal of this and every walk is to make health a focal point of all our holidays and celebrations, as well as our everyday lives," Bordogna said.



Hollywood walkers begin the Firecracker Walk on July 3 on the Stirling Road property north of Tribal Headquarters.

Beverly Bidney



Beverly Bidney

Mary Gay Osceola and community service aide Margaret Ortiz celebrate as they cross the finish line in Hollywood.



Photo courtesy of Brenda Bordogna

Leighton Jim and Cherelee Hall turn the Firecracker Walk into a swift run on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Beverly Bidney

Mothers and daughters each win raffles after the walk. Christine McCall and Wanda Bowers, and Maleah Isaac and Gwen Spiva show off their swag.



Beverly Bidney

Jenesys Stewart drinks water and has a snack after the walk. The Health Department provided the treats after crossing the finish line.

Summer fish kills occur naturally

SUBMITTED BY WHITNEY SAPIENZA
Environmental Resources Technician

The Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) was created in 1987 by the Tribal Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida to protect and evaluate the Tribe's land and water resources. ERMD is overseen by the Seminole Water Commission, which was created in 1989 by Tribal Council. The Commission, with technical assistance from ERMD, has developed rules to protect the quality of surface water within the boundaries of the Tribe's reservations. ERMD assists other Tribal departments such as Housing, Real Estate and Community Planning and Development and works with Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. in the development and management of Tribal natural resources.

To continue its mission for education and dissemination of information that aims for environmental beneficial enhancement, ERMD will publish a series of articles that inform and educate the Seminole community and citizens in general about common practices that can potentially harm the environment and alternative practices that can minimize or prevent the adverse impacts to health and the environment.

ERMD welcomes your suggestions, comments and questions. Please send them to IsidroDuque@semtribe.com or call 954-965-4380.

ERMD will continue the series of articles with the following article about summer fish kills.

Stumbling upon a fish kill can be an alarming sight, but most summer fish kills in Florida occur naturally. Fish kills are identified by a number of dead fish found within the same location. As the water temperature rises within the summer months, dissolved oxygen within

the water column decreases. Fish kills attributed to low dissolved oxygen levels are easy to identify because they normally affect many different size fish and species; spawning-related fish kills tend to affect only one to two species.

Oxygen enters the water column through two main processes: diffusion and photosynthesis. Diffusion is the process where oxygen from the atmosphere slowly and continuously dissolves into water ways; this process can be increased by wind or wave action. Photosynthesis is the process by which aquatic plants and algae utilize carbon dioxide, water and sunlight to make their own food; oxygen is the byproduct of this process. The amount of oxygen entering the water column changes constantly day and night. As dissolved oxygen enters the water column it is also removed by biological activity within the water column, decomposing aquatic vegetation or algae, and water temperature.

The temperature of the water affects the amount of dissolved oxygen water can hold at any given time. As a general rule in physical water quality properties, warmer water can hold less dissolved oxygen than cool water. The warmer summer temperatures paired with an increase in aquatic vegetation production and subsequent decomposition leads to a depletion of available dissolved oxygen within the water column. When dissolved oxygen levels drop below 2 milligrams per liter, fish begin to die, potentially resulting in a fish kill.

Fish populations are known to rebound from fish kills because of their strong reproduction potential by laying many eggs. If you believe you have witnessed a fish kill, please note the number, size and species of dead fish, as well as any unusual behavior in live fish, and notify the ERMD office at 954-965-4380.



Eileen Soler

Serenity and exercise go together along the 1.5-mile boardwalk at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Monday.

Take a walk in nature's bounty

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — If strolling through nature clears cobwebs in your head and crinks in your bones, then join the Let's Move Monday program along the 1.5-mile boardwalk at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

The Museum is among hundreds of gardens and museums nationwide to support first lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move health initiative by inviting kids and adults to walk the grounds for exercise. At Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, Tribal members and employees can walk the boardwalk practically in private 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Monday while the Museum is closed to the public.

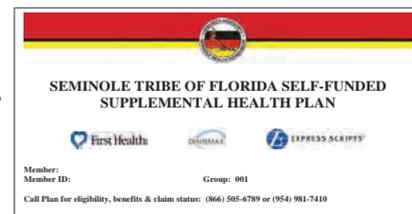
Walk, powerwalk or just sit and enjoy the serenity of the boardwalk amid thick native foliage and marshland teeming with the sights and sounds of the Everglades. Eating lunch is not allowed on the boardwalk. Participants can park in the employee lot off West Boundary Road. Enter the boardwalk in front of the Curatorial Building.

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA MEMBERS HAVE A NEW HEALTH PLAN CARD

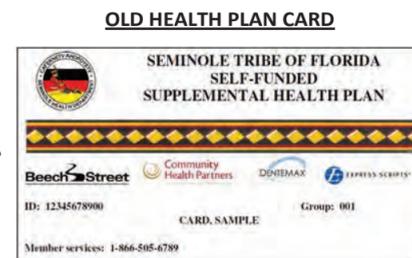
NEW HEALTH PLAN CARD

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

NEW CARD



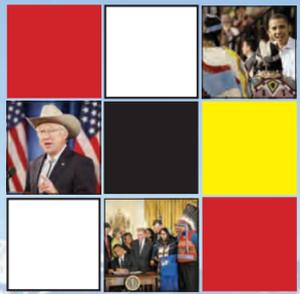
OLD CARD



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

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

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Corps publishes EIS for SFWMD project

JACKSONVILLE — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has published a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the A-1 Shallow Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) project proposed by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

The SFWMD has requested a Department of the Army permit to construct a shallow 15,000-acre FEB on the A-1 project site (formerly used as farm land) in the Everglades Agricultural Area, approximately 16,150 acres between U.S. Highway 27 and the Holey Land Wildlife Management Area.

The project is being developed with input and consensus from federal, state and local agencies and the public, as well as ongoing coordination with the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. Issues under discussion include wetlands, water quality, flood protection, wildlife and habitat, and threatened and endangered species.

A permit decision is required to comply with federal laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act and others. A number of state and local requirements would also apply.

The document is available for public review and comment through Aug. 5.

— *DredgingToday.com*

Georgia high schools have most Indian mascots

ATHENS, Ga. — Controversies involving American Indian mascots seldom arise in Georgia, which has no federally recognized Tribes within its borders. In fact, Georgia has more high school teams that are nicknamed Indians (16) than any other southern state. (Florida has nine, North Carolina has only one, for example).

Two Georgia schools are nicknamed the Redskins. There also are 14 Georgia schools nicknamed the Warriors, and most have Native American mascots or logos. Six others are named Chiefs, Cherokees or Seminoles.

That means that roughly 1 in 12 Georgia high schools have Native American nicknames. The only nicknames more common in Georgia are Bulldogs (28), Tigers (23), Eagles (22) and Panthers (19).

Each of the 16 Georgia schools named Indians date back more than 40 years. The last Georgia school to adopt a Native American nickname was Westside of Macon (the Seminoles) in 1997.

The last time that a nickname controversy came up in Georgia was 2010, and it had nothing to do with Native Americans. A pastor in Houston County objected to Warner Robins' nickname, the Demons. He was arrested for picketing at the school.

In 2006, West Georgia University changed its nickname to Wolves from Braves. There isn't an example of a Georgia high school making a similar name change.

— *AJC.com*

Oregon governor won't sign mascot bill

SALEM, Ore. — The Oregon Legislature has voted to relax a ban on Native American-themed mascots in high schools.

Margins of 41-19 in the House and 25-5 in the Senate for SB 215, however, aren't enough to convince Gov. John Kitzhaber, who maintains he will veto the measure.

If it became law, SB 215 would partially reverse a 2012 state Department of Education order to remove all Native American-themed mascots from the state's schools. Instead, schools could retain the mascots if they won the approval of a nearby Tribe. (In nearby Roseburg, the school and the Cow Creek Bank of Umpqua Tribes agreed upon changes).

— *Bend Bulletin Herald and News*

Activist charges South Dakota with 'genocide'

LAKOTA, S.D. — Journalist and American Indian activist Albert Bender didn't mince words when he said, on a recent PeoplesWorld.org blast: "Genocide is not too strong a term for what is now happening in South Dakota. The huge, shocking violation of legal and human rights being carried out by the state is tantamount to genocide against the Native American nations, the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota Sioux, residing within its borders. It is the abduction and kidnapping by state officials, under the cover of law, of American Indian children. This is genocide as defined by the United Nations General Assembly's Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide."

Bender is railing on about what he considers "gross violations of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978," that are upheld by the South Dakota courts. He provides a startling checklist:

1. More than 700 American Indian children are removed by South Dakota state officials from their homes every year.

2. These hundreds are sent to white foster homes or group homes.

3. Many are adopted by white families.

4. Indian children account for 13.8 percent of the state's child population, yet they represent 56.3 percent of the foster care population.

5. Of the hundreds of Native children in foster care in 2011, 87 percent were placed in non-Indian homes while Native foster homes went empty.

6. Because of its targeting Native children, South Dakota is currently removing children from their families at a higher rate than the vast majority of other states in the U.S.

7. Once removed, the state's courts routinely keep Indian children from even seeing their families for at least 60 days.

8. The state's Department of Social Services (DSS) workers warn Native children that if they become emotional during a visit with their parents, the visits will be discontinued.

A vigorous campaign is currently being waged by the Lakota People's Law Project (LPLP) to secure the return of more than 2,200 Lakota, Dakota and Nakota children illegally taken from their homes by South Dakota DDS.

South Dakota DDS has asserted that it has authority to remove children by Tribal court order or Tribal council agreement. Investigations by LPLP, however, dispute those assertions.

"Aside from the genocidal racism involved there is a financial motive on the part of the state," Bender said. "South Dakota receives \$79,000 from the federal government per year per child for every Native youngster it removes, but provides only \$9,000 to a white foster home. The remaining \$70,000 is deposited in state coffers."

Concerned persons can sign petitions on the LPLP website (LakotaLaw.org) and sign up to receive updates on developments as they happen.

— *PeoplesWorld.org*

Native cartographer creates map of Turtle Island

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — What did Turtle Island really look like in 1490?

Aaron Carapella, Cherokee, wanted to know.

Fourteen years and thousands of hours later, he got his answer. He created a map that represents what Turtle Island looked like just before Columbus. It shows where roughly 590 Native nations were located and gives their indigenous names.

Carapella said he has always been fascinated by maps of traditional Indian territories, "but thought they looked incomplete, and the names mostly inaccurate. I filed away the idea of one day creating a more authentic-looking one myself."

Carapella was 19 when he began his project.

It started with four poster boards and a rough pencil drawing of the United States.

He studied books and called Tribes individually. That's why Carapella's map contains Diné as well as Navajo, and Numinu as well as Comanche.

"There were Tribes I had never even heard of," he told the *Navajo Times*. "It blew me away, the diversity. Florida alone had 35 to 40 different Tribes."

Carapella thinks this is the first map of its kind.

"You can get maps of what our reservations look like now," he said. "And you can get maps that have, like, the 50 main Tribes. But I was interested in what our land really looked like circa 1490."

"To be honest, in general in the United States, Americans are very ignorant about Native American history and the only time they deal with Native history or reality is when Tribes have enough money to fight back against injustice happening to them. In my small way, making this map is to reinforce the true history of the injustice and the genocide that occurred," he told *Tulalip News*.

— *ICTMN.com*

Native solar company debuts at Home Depots

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Native American business venture Sacred Power Corp. has begun selling its patented solar systems in nine Home Depot stores in New Mexico and will soon begin deploying at stores in Arizona, California and Nevada.

"It's always been our goal to eventually bring our solar system to the general population," said President and CEO David Melton, a member of Laguna Pueblo and partner with Chief Operating Officer Odes Armijo-Caster.

Sacred Power is allowed to bid as a minority-majority company for contracts under the Small Business Administration's 8(a) program for small, disadvantaged firms.

The company, which manufactures fully integrated solar systems with battery backup for remote locations, has carved out a \$7.5 million niche market since forming in 2001 by selling its solar

products to military installations and other government agencies.

The agreement with Home Depot marks its first foray into retail markets. A multi-year contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, for example, has financed installation of about 750 units at homes throughout the Navajo Nation.

The deal with Home Depot represents a huge departure from the company's traditional business model, but one that its founders envisioned from the start.

The partners have created a proprietary, patented hybrid solar system for use in rugged or isolated areas where electricity is generally unavailable. They also designed a solar carport installation that generates power for electric vehicles and for buildings, while providing shade for parked cars and trucks. Sacred Power also has deployed the system on mountaintops to power communications networks for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and has installed units at many locations in the Caribbean and South Pacific for the U.S. Geological Survey.

Sacred Power's integrated power systems now operate on military bases around the U.S., including nearly two dozen solar carports at Fort Bliss in El Paso. Last fall, the company won a \$4-million contract with the Navy to install solar carports at nine facilities. That's part of a Navy goal to derive at least 50 percent of energy it uses onshore from renewable sources, said Bill Couch, spokesman for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Midwest. The first carport fueling station began operating in March at a naval facility in Millington, Tenn.

The systems will not be available for purchase in stores. They will be sold as special-order products that people learn about through the floor demos and through the retailer's website, Paulson said.

— *Albuquerque Journal*

New law to aid Native Hawaiian roll effort

HONOLULU — A new state law allowing proof of ancestry to be gleaned from several sources will streamline efforts of Native Hawaiians to increase their roll and take a step closer to forming their own government.

The new law aims to increase the number of people on the roll by reducing paperwork and redundancy on various lists of Native Hawaiians. The new law will allow the commission to use information from entities such as Kamehameha Schools, the Department of Hawaiian Home Land and the Department of Health to compile the roll.

For example, a verification letter from Kamehameha Schools will be sufficient proof that someone is Native Hawaiian, said Naalehu Antony, a member of the Native Hawaiian Roll Commission, also known as KanaioIowalu: "Just the other week I was talking to one of my good friends and she had mentioned to me, 'I have list fatigue already.'"

There are currently less than 15,000 people on the Hawaiian roll. The deadline to sign it has been extended to January. With a comprehensive list, Native Hawaiians could follow American Indian Tribes in forming their own governments.

— *Associated Press*

Slot machine sounds manipulate players

WATERLOO, Ontario — Slot machines sound more or less the same: jangly music, whirring spinning reels accompanied by loud beeps and chimes.

A recent study reveals that some of those noises can easily fool people into thinking that they have won — even when they have unequivocally lost money.

"The way slot machines are designed, sound is a really crucial component of player feedback," said the study's lead author and behavioral neuroscientist Michael J. Dixon, of the University of Waterloo in Ontario.

Because the jubilant sound effects are always tied to wins or even partial losses — "losses disguised as wins," Dixon calls them — they act as positive reinforcement and can skew a person's perception of lost money.

Dixon's team of scientists had 96 gamblers play a slot machine simulator with and without sound and had it programmed to win exactly 28 times out of a total of 200 spins. Afterward, they asked players how many times they had won out of 200.

For both conditions, players overestimated their number of wins, but by significantly more with sounds on.

The findings were published earlier this month in the *Journal of Gambling Studies*.

— *Washington Post*

Study: Florida already a top gambling state

TALLAHASSEE — Florida doesn't need international casino operators building \$2-billion waterfront entertainment meccas in Southeast Florida or the Poarch Creek Indians opening

gaming venues along the Interstate 10 corridor to be considered a "major gambling state."

So said Part One of a state-commissioned study — the first part of a "present and future of gaming in the Sunshine State" study by the New Jersey-based Spectrum Gaming Group. With "a wide array of options," including Indian casinos, pari-mutuel facilities, day-cruise and cruise vessels and one of the largest state lotteries, the study concludes, Florida already is one of the nation's top spots for gamblers.

The study points out that while the opportunities to play games of chance have grown, money spent at casinos and card rooms hasn't resulted in vast job creation outside the industry.

The study comes as the state legislature is expected to tackle the future of gambling during the 2014 session.

More important, the gaming industry is going to grow, with state regulation or haphazardly without it, said the Spectrum study: "Intentionally or not, the policies established by lawmakers — or the lack thereof — play a critical role in the evolution and expansion of gaming. Indeed, in the views of many, the 'evolution' and 'expansion' of gaming are largely synonymous. The industry rarely shrinks, and quite often, expands as a result of expansion."

John Sowinski, of No Casinos in Florida, an Orlando-based group opposed to the expansion of gambling, said the study shows the only way to control gambling is to rein in regulators, while lawmakers close existing loopholes as they did in prohibiting the majority of electronic games at adult arcades in April.

"We have too much gambling and every time legislators or regulators give an inch, the gambling industry takes a mile," Sowinski told the *Naples News*, also criticizing Spectrum for its ties to the casino industry.

The rest of the \$388,845 study is expected to look into the potential economic effects of changing gaming across Florida, such as the effect of ending or altering the exclusive Seminole Indian Compact and allowing international casino operators into the state. It is due by Oct. 1.

Meanwhile the Alabama-based Poarch Band of Creek Indians want to make Interstate 10 a pari-mutuel corridor — with or without its controversial rodeo-style barrel racing at Gretna Racing — as it owns, or has options to own, or agreements to control 10 pari-mutuel permits between Jacksonville and Pensacola in hopes of operating bingo-based slots and non-house-banked games.

Add into the mix the future of the Seminole Compact, counties outside Miami-Dade and Broward wanting to add slot machines, and international casino operators salivating at the prospects of building mega-casinos in the Southeast.

And finally, the Florida Lottery continues to grow, generating \$4.45 billion last year, of which \$1.9 billion was revenue for the state. The state lottery is now the third largest in the nation, with revenue totals behind only New York and Massachusetts.

The first chance the House and Senate gaming committees would have to discuss the full study would be the second scheduled committee week of the fall, starting Oct. 7.

The study outlines the growth in games of chance, with card rooms and table options outstripping the rapid decline in play on greyhounds, horses and jai alai, which have struggled against a decline in attendance and purses to attract better competition.

The state has seen its revenue from those pari-mutuel activities dropping from \$119.4 million in 1985 to \$11.8 million last year, a 91 percent decline.

Revenue from greyhound racing has dropped from \$77.2 million to \$3.7 million from 1985 to 2012, while jai alai is down from \$29.7 million to \$378,000 in the same time in its taxes to the state.

— *NaplesNews.com*

Complex Foxwoods restructuring done

LEDYARD, Conn. — After four years of negotiations, the restructuring of Foxwoods Resort Casino's \$2.3 billion debt has concluded with an out-of-court agreement that eliminates \$550 million in debt obligations and pushes back debt maturity dates.

The deal, announced by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, was touted by sources familiar with the restructuring as the most complex restructuring involving a Native American Tribe in history.

"This was the most complicated deal we have ever worked on," said Soren Reynertson, a managing general partner at New York-based GLC Advisors & Co. LLC, which advised about half the casino's creditors. "The sovereignty of the issuer meant we lacked many of the traditional tools available in a corporate restructuring, including certain points of leverage, a framework for negotiations and typical sources of value."

Although the parties eventually reached a consensual solution that more

than 99 percent of bondholders voted to approve, the restructuring raised the specter of an even more complex outcome: the first-ever bankruptcy filing by a Native American Tribe.

The Pequots initially considered attempting an unprecedented Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing for the Ledyard-based casino, sources familiar with the restructuring process told *The Deal Pipeline*.

From a legal perspective, it's doubtful that a Native American Tribe would be eligible to file for Chapter 11, since the U.S. bankruptcy code allows filings by people and corporations but not governmental entities. A federally recognized Native American Tribe such as the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation is classified as a sovereign nation.

Foxwoods CEO Scott Butera was also happy with the resolution.

"This was a one-of-a-kind deal, the first and biggest deal of its type done with Native American sovereignties," Butera said.

Now Foxwoods is looking to expand, Butera said. The company is competing for a license to build a \$1-billion casino in Milford, Mass., and is evaluating opportunities for a \$300-million to \$600-million casino in the Catskill Mountain region of New York.

The new plan does not reinstate individual dividends to Tribal members. Now, the payments will go directly to the Tribal Council to fund services such as the police force.

Foxwoods is not the only Tribe-owned casino to restructure its debt in recent memory. Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority, which runs the Mohegan Sun Resort in Uncasville, Conn., restructured debt through an exchange offer in January 2012. The Chukchansi Gold Resort & Casino in Coarsegold, Calif., restructured debt in 2011. The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians restructured debt related to their Lake of the Torches casino in 2011. The Mescalero Apache Tribe restructured \$200 million in 12 percent bonds related to its Inn of the Mountain Gods resort in Mescalero, N.M., in 2010. Also in 2010, the Pueblo of Pojague's Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino in Santa Fe restructured \$245 million in senior notes.

Even more restructuring may be on the horizon for Tribe-owned casinos. New York and Massachusetts have both authorized new casinos in order to bring in more tax revenues, for example, but such new facilities will take business away from the casinos that already operate in the Northeast.

— *The Deal Pipeline*

North Dakota Tribes unveil riverboat

NEW TOWN, N.D. — A 149-passenger yacht owned by the Three Affiliated Tribes has made its maiden voyage on Lake Sakakawea.

The boat will be used for entertaining guests at the Tribes' casino near New Town, and eventually for riverboat gambling on the Fort Berthold Reservation.

Tribal officials from the individual Mandan, Hidatsa and Sahnish Tribes took the vessel out for its initial cruise on the Missouri River reservoir. The Tribes joined economic forces following a devastating smallpox epidemic that ended in 1837.

The boat is named Sacagawea, an alternate spelling of Sakakawea, after the Lemhi Shoshone woman who accompanied the Lewis and Clark Expedition, acting as an interpreter and guide, in their exploration of the Western United States.

— *Associated Press*

Shoni Schimmel wins gold as USA defeats Russia

KAZAN, Russia — The United States women's university basketball team defeated the host country and home favorite Russia in the gold medal game at the 2013 World University Games by a final score of 90-71.

With the win, the USA women became the first country to win the gold medal a record nine times in this event. This was also their third straight gold medal; they won in 2011 and 2009.

Indian Country's own Shoni Schimmel, Louisville, from the Umatilla Indian Reservation, saw limited action in the final few rounds of the tournament but finally got on the court at about the 4-minute mark in the fourth quarter. Although she didn't finish with any points in that game, Schimmel made huge contributions for the USA team in the early rounds of the tournament.

The final stats for Schimmel and her participation in five of the six games for Team USA, include 23 overall points, 15 assists, five rebounds and one steal. Schimmel ended up with a 52 percent on her field goal attempts and was 16 percent from behind the arc. Schimmel was also two for two on the charity stripe.

"It's pretty amazing," Schimmel said. "It's a great accomplishment just to be able to be a part of this team to go out there and win a gold, it's pretty exciting."

— *Native News Network*

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Students trip the light fantastic at Education's incentive award gala



Beverly Bidney

High school graduate Phillip Jones, of Brighton, receives his award from Education Department staff.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — During the height of summer, the previous school year may be nothing more than a memory to students, but to the Education Department it is still something to commemorate. A gala was held at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on July 11 to honor the students who successfully completed the year with good grades, a GED or a graduation.

Honorees included 40 high school graduates, 33 post-secondary students who completed two- or four-year degrees and 26 people who earned GEDs.

The ballroom was decked out befitting a red-carpet event — roses, crystal and sequins adorned the tables and attendees dressed for the occasion. The program included remarks from Tribal officials and a keynote speech by motivational storyteller, leadership expert, author and warrior D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas.

After awards were presented, music blared and the dance floor opened for business.

"It's always good to celebrate the accomplishments of students," said President Tony Sanchez Jr.

One by one, officials congratulated the students and offered words of wisdom.

"Choose your path and your friends wisely," said Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. "Whatever your accomplishments, hold your head high and your feet on the ground and you won't go wrong."

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger believes an education is the most important asset a person can have.

"I've always believed in education; it's the biggest gun you can put on your hip," he told the students and their families. "I don't think I'd be where I am today without an education. At the end of the day, education is everything."

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola



Beverly Bidney

High school graduate Starz Sanchez proudly shows off her award.

told students he wished he had listened to his parents and gone further in school.

"You guys are the future of the Seminole Tribe of Florida — you have everything at your fingertips," he said. "We're behind you."

The message of the evening was that effort will be rewarded.

"Keep working hard and you'll get to the goals you want," said Immokalee Liaison Raymond Garza. "Stick with your education and you will go further in life."

Vanas, a member of the Odawa Nation and a former U.S. Air Force Officer, wanted to inspire students about the power education has on a life and a community.

"The traditional warrior path is rooted in service to our communities, and education

is the best way to get there," he said. "I want them to walk out of here with their heads held high and excited about the future."

During his keynote address, Vanas praised the students for their achievements.

"I'm a die-hard advocate of education," he said. "The most valuable resource in Indian Country is our youth. We need to invest in youth to make them the strong leaders of tomorrow. Education allows us to go out into the world and succeed. The difference between the haves and the have-nots in this country often comes down to education. Education is not a luxury; it is an absolute necessity in the world today."

♦ See more GALA photos on page 4B

Student spotlight: Joshua Josh

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

DAVIE — Education is a lifetime pursuit. Some people earn degrees and certificates on a traditional timetable; others take a more circuitous route. For Joshua Josh, his path to earning a certificate in drafting was not smoothly paved. It wasn't until after he dropped out of high school, abused drugs and alcohol, and had a family that he realized he needed to get his life on the right track. "I messed up a lot and lived the wrong kind of life," said Josh, 30. "It finally got to the point where I needed to make changes in my life. I got clean, kicked all the drugs and alcohol and jumped into school."

Josh, who has been sober for five years, got his GED at 26 and recently completed the coursework for civil, mechanical, structural and architectural drafting at McFatter Technical Center. Civil drafting is a type of technical drawing that shows information for land, roadways, large scale areas and towns; mechanical drafting is for machines; structural drafting is for steel beams, bridges and towers; and architectural drafting is for buildings.

Now that he has his certificate, Josh plans to build a career in drafting and would like to work for the Tribe. Before

he went to McFatter, he had an internship in the Community Planning Department which motivated him to study drafting.

"The Tribe does so much for us and gives us so many opportunities," he said. "There is no reason not to go out and do something. We'd be dumb not to take advantage of it. I'd like to give back to the Tribe; after all, they paid for my school."

His biggest challenge was changing his lifestyle so he could do something positive with his life. That led to the most satisfying part of his journey to date: completing the program. Josh credits his family, including his wife, children, mother, father and siblings, for supporting him and for inspiring him to continue his education. Since cleaning up his life, Josh has new-found confidence.

"I'm a Christian man and God's been working in my life," he said. "He's been my strength through all of this."

Josh, who lives in Davie with his wife, Karla, and their children Isabella, 7, Samuel, 6, Isaiah, 2, and John, 4 months, understands that education can change a life. He has sage words for others who find themselves in his situation.

"You are never too old to go back to school," he said. "You won't ever know everything — there's always something else to learn. The more knowledge of things you have, the more power you have."



Beverly Bidney

Joshua Josh

Willie Frank Library holds first book fair

BIG CYPRESS — The Willie Frank Memorial Library in Big Cypress held its first Scholastic Book Fair July 8-12. About 20 students perused a variety of books at the event, which was geared toward the grade school level (ages 5-12).

The purpose of the event, said library assistant Mercedes Vazquez, was to encourage children to put down their electronics and steer them toward reading.

"We want to promote reading and get them to love reading," added librarian

Gretchen DeBree.

The library plans to hold more book fairs in the future.

Throughout the summer, the library will offer a variety of activities for youth, including board games, story time, arts and crafts, and movies. The library is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information or for a schedule of events, call the library at 863-902-3200 ext. 13125.



Photo courtesy of Gretchen DeBree

Book fair coordinator Mercedes Vazquez poses with Tribal youth.

New degree has Christine McCall fired up for future

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Christine McCall, of Hollywood, does not settle for anything less than her best.

From her teen years starring on the Seminole girls' softball diamond to being crowned Miss Florida Seminole 2005, competing in the Miss Indian World Pageant twice and earning a bachelor's degree in social work from Florida State University, McCall has worked hard for what she wants.

In June, the 26-year-old notched another accomplishment on her belt when she graduated from the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale with an associate of science degree in photography.

Featured prominently at an entrance table for the school's annual Graduation Portfolio show, McCall entertained a stream of captivated onlookers who viewed her unique collection of photographs and questioned her about her style and technique.

"This is what was needed to conclude

this chapter of my life," McCall said, taking a short break from distributing her resume and business cards and narrating the picture stories packed in a thick album of work samples.

But McCall knows graduation is another beginning. With classroom demands behind her, McCall plans to use her camera and her knowledge in social work — the interaction with groups or individuals to make positive improvements — to compel change in Indian Country. As a photojournalist, she intends to document the truth — all glory and scars.

"You can read all the words in the *Wall Street Journal* but that is not what connects you. I want to tell you what is happening so you can see it," McCall said.

Already, McCall's work can be seen at the Circle of Dance exhibit hosted by

the Smithsonian Institute at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

She was published numerous times in 2012 as a photojournalist intern for *The Seminole Tribune*.

In 2010, McCall was a staff photographer for the Ultra Violet Extreme Performance Artists in Las Vegas.

Recently, in April, she produced portraits, action shots and other still photos for the Gathering of Nations Powwow website in Albuquerque, N.M.

"I love going to other reservations and learning about those cultures, issues and what people should know about them — even if it is touchy," McCall said. "I want to get the word out through photojournalism."



Eileen Soler

Christine McCall, who graduated from the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale with an associate of science degree in photography, displays some of her work.

After the wrap: California fun during College Tour



Eileen Soler

The Hollywood sign perched above Hollywood Hills in Los Angeles is visible during several tour bus rides to California colleges.



Eileen Soler

Garrett Thomas and Kirsten Doney are thrilled to take in the sights and sounds of Santa Monica Pier.



Eileen Soler

Students and chaperones take a roller coaster ride on the Santa Monica Pier.



Eileen Soler

Garrett Thomas seals a careful pose with a new friend on La Jolla Beach in San Diego.



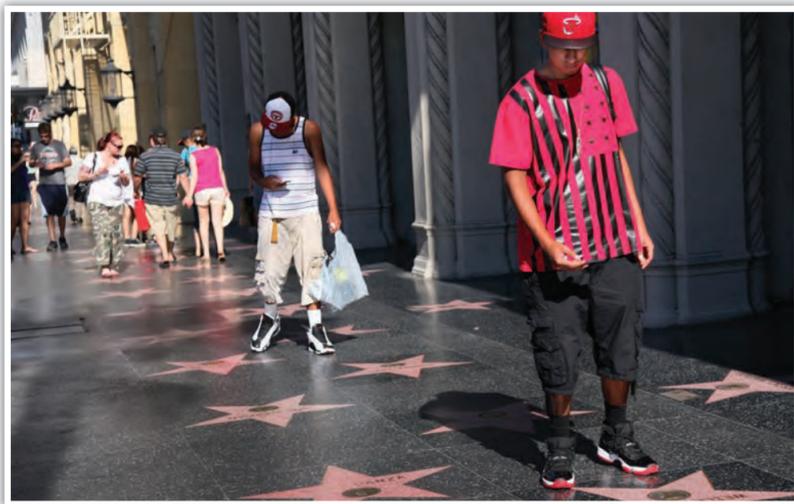
Eileen Soler

Students on the southern California college tour take a night off for a Los Angeles Dodgers and Philadelphia Phillies game at the historic Dodgers Stadium.



Eileen Soler

Marsha Osceola and Baylee Micco pose with 'Leonardo DiCaprio' at Madame Tussauds wax museum on Hollywood Boulevard.



Eileen Soler

Cousins Alphonso and Aaron Alvarado snap photos of celebrity stars along the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

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Eileen Soler

Lt. Katherine Jones directs a tour of the destroyer USS Wayne E. Meyer at Naval Base San Diego, in California, home to the largest naval fleet in the United States.



Eileen Soler

Seminole teenagers begin a tour of the University of California, Santa Barbara. Forty-four students and adults traveled on the seven-day excursion with the Education Department to major West Coast universities, colleges and technical schools.



Eileen Soler

Tribal teens, parents and counselors take a break in an impressive lobby before touring University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

COLLEGE TOUR

From page 1A

Moneymaker said the California group was the largest since the out-of-state tours began.

In fact, a report provided by the Education Department indicates that high school student graduation is at an all-time high. This year, the graduation rate surged to 94 percent of Tribal students graduating from as near as Ahfachkee School on the Big Cypress Reservation to Tollgate Technical Skills Center in Ontario, Canada. Four percent earned GED certificates.

"We've become, in a good way, demanding of the students and they answered the bell. But it's not just us - it's the parents' and guardians' dedication to the students and the students' dedication to their studies," Caruso said.

During the past five years, the Tribe's graduation rates have been significantly higher than Native Americans nationwide, according to the most recent report by Education Week. In 2010, the overall national graduation rate for Native American students was 51.1 percent while the Seminole Tribe boasted a rate of 85 percent.

A dip in the Tribe's Class of 2011 to 58 percent was countered by 33 percent of students earning a GED. In 2012, the rate rose to 66 percent graduates and 30 percent GEDs - still higher than the national rate in 2010.

Florida Seminoles also have Florida beat. The state's overall public school graduation rate for 2010 was 72.9 percent with 68.7 percent of Native Americans earning high school diplomas. This year, the Florida Department of Education placed the state overall rate at 74.5 percent with Native Americans at 69.7 percent - while the Seminole Tribe rate is 94 percent.

The Education Department's multi-leveled Tribalwide network of education specialists, led by director Preston Steele, is responsible for mentoring and monitoring education for all Tribal children, teens and

college students on and off reservations to help them progress.

"We'll be always tweaking the program for years to come but with Dr. Steele in the lead, excellence doesn't mean 'very good.' He holds us to a higher standard," Caruso said.

High school students are given absolute and achievable academic requirements - plus a concise transition timeline to usher them from ninth grade through college graduation. The department provides personal assistance with college searches, annual college tours and a special college fair for Tribal students only featuring more than 80 secondary schools.

Previously, starting in 2004, college visits were sponsored only to Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas and Florida State University in Tallahassee.

More recent tours cover diverse educational paths: private and public universities, community colleges, trade schools and a branch of the military.

"All of the students are serious about going to college. They asked great questions. They looked forward to every stop. They are walking the talk," Moneymaker said.

Three students, including Willie, showed interest in joining the U.S. Navy or Marines while aboard the USS Wayne E. Meyer at the Navy base. But, Willie said, he was swayed again at the Art Institute's culinary school.

"I could be tempted into another field just by seeing all the opportunities in front of me - but I still want to be a firefighter," he said.

The college tours showcased educational institutions but also helped students map out academic paths to achieve career goals.

Currently, about 230 Seminole students are enrolled in higher education. The class of 2013 has graduated 26 from GED programs, 11 from tech or trade schools and 13 from universities. Twenty-five of 30 recent high school graduates will enter college this summer or fall.

"That's pretty amazing. It shows we are headed in the right direction," Moneymaker said.



Eileen Soler

Tribal teens, parents and Education counselors listen closely during a pre-tour information presentation at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.



Eileen Soler

Tribal students are spellbound at a sound board inside an elaborate sound studio at the Los Angeles Recording School.



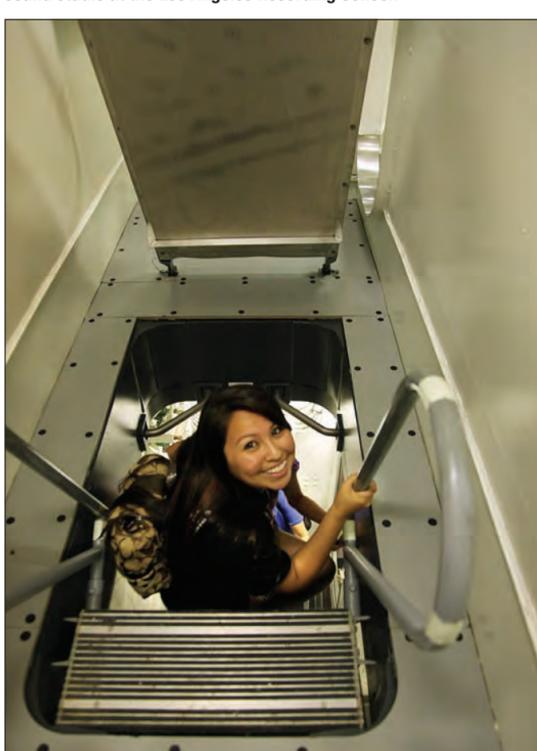
Eileen Soler

Tribal teens gather in the welcoming lobby of the Art Institute of California-Orange County in Santa Ana, Calif.



Eileen Soler

Impressive architecture and landscape design make the University of Southern California in Los Angeles stand out in the downtown district.



Eileen Soler

Natamah Robbins climbs a steep, metal ladder aboard the destroyer USS Wayne E. Meyer at Naval Base San Diego, in California.



Eileen Soler

A courtyard that overlooks the Pacific Ocean is dotted with original artworks at Santa Barbara City College.

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Beverly Bidney

Jennifer Holdiness and Jonathon Frank pose in front of the step-and-repeat wall for a professional 'red carpet' photo.



Beverly Bidney

The Billie family poses for a portrait. Pictured are Sandy Billie, Dwayne Billie Sr., Dwayne Billie Jr., Myron Billie and Betty Billie.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Tia Blais-Billie, Brittany Cox and Brianna Blais-Billie celebrate at the awards ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

D.J. Eagle Bear Vanas inspires students during his keynote address. Vanas is a storyteller, motivational speaker and former U.S. Air Force Officer.



Beverly Bidney

High school graduate Janet Smith, of Brighton, hugs Education adviser Vicki Stuart as she gets her award.



Beverly Bidney

High school graduate Alexis Aguilar, of Immokalee, receives her award from the Education staff.



Beverly Bidney

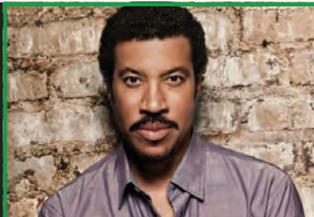
From left, Darrica Johnson, Skyler Burke and Jessi Osceola enjoy the evening at the incentive awards.

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Seminole Tribe of Florida Education Department



Education Department celebrates successful students

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Education Department staff recognized each student with a certificate of achievement, which were handed out to hearty applause.

"The students have had a great success and it's time to celebrate them," said Preston Steele, director of Education. "We want them to relax and have fun over the summer; it's really a time the kids need. That's the assignment I'd like to give them."

Steele had a few important points to make to the students and their families.

"Education isn't a journey in life; it is life itself," he said. "An educated mind is a free mind."

Naples youth were recognized for their educational effort and achievements during an incentive awards presentation at the Bowland Woodside activity center on July 8. The children and their parents participated in an afternoon of bowling, pool competition and arcade games following the awards ceremony.

"Incentive awards show our kids that through hard work, determination and initiative they can obtain their goals," said Naples Liaison Brian Zepeda. "This is a life lesson that they will carry with them as they strive for new heights."

Naples is a small community but its academic achievements are large. School attendance records were outstanding and the students received an abundance of awards and certificates.

Both Kaitlin Billy and Bryce Osceola graduated high school this year with high grade point averages and honors. Their plans for the future include higher education goals.

Distributing certificates, medals, ribbons, backpacks and incentives, Education adviser Victoria Soto said, "Education is its own reward. It opens doors of opportunity and helps turn life into an extraordinary adventure with unlimited possibilities."

The incentive awards were just one of the many benefits for the children of the Naples community.

Parents showed overwhelming support throughout the year and were complimentary of their children's achievements. Their joint efforts build strong families and create bright futures.

"My kids transferred from public school to the First Baptist Academy this past year and the results have been awesome," Tammy Billie said. "Their enthusiasm, study habits and grades have grown to new

heights. It appeared in the past that they were always flying below the radar and the system didn't seem to care. Now they are excelling academically and their confidence levels are soaring."

In Tampa, Council Liaison Richard Henry honored seven adults, 44 youngsters and 13 Police Explorers on July 9 with gifts and an Italian buffet at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Ybor City.

"Nothing's more important than education," he said. "They may not know it now, but they will surely realize it someday in the future."

Among the adults, Annie Henry won the Most Improved Attendance Award; Peggy Cubis was declared Most Determined to Improve; Nancy Frank was chosen Most Dedicated Reader; Maggie Garcia won Most Improved Reader; and Linda Henry was handed a certificate for Most Improved in Vocabulary. Miranda Motlow was honored for her graduation from the Connecticut School of Broadcasting.

Trystyn Storm was credited for achieving her GED and Andrew Henry was singled out for his 3.06 GPA as the only Tampa high school graduate of 2013.

Among the children Lauren Smith led first graders with a 3.4 GPA; Jesseca Jimmie led second graders with the only Three Days or Less Absent Award; Azaria Simmons topped third-graders with a 3.69 GPA and a Three Days or Less Absent certificate; Desmond Miller's 3.98 GPA led all fourth-graders; William Cypress (3.08) was the top fifth-grade student; Victoria Smith's 3.91 GPA topped all sixth-graders; likewise, Carissa Colon (3.07) topped the seventh grade; honors student Mason Foret finished above all eighth-graders with a 3.79 GPA; Christina Clark led the ninth grade with a 3.84 GPA; Ricky Dillon was the standard bearer among 10th-graders with a 3.45 GPA; and top athlete Justin Motlow (football and track) also outdistanced his 11th grade classmates in the classroom with a 3.68 GPA.

SPD Officer Tom Apsey gave out certificates and posed for photos with Tampa Police Explorers Azaria Simmons, Cavan Guzman, Christina Clark, Taryn Storm, Nigel Osceola, Dominic Osceola-Lugo, Dorian Osceola, Tyrek Lasane, Carissa Colon, Desmond Miller, Devon Osceola, Angel Dillon and Julian Dillon.

Peter B. Gallagher and Judy Weeks contributed to this article.



Boys enjoy the pool at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on June 24. The Education Department held several incentive award ceremonies to honor students of all academic levels for their achievements during the year.

Beverly Bidney



Graduating senior Elena Jim shows off her certificate at the Trail incentive awards.

Beverly Bidney



Mari Veliz, of Naples, makes a winning strike on both the bowling alley and in school.

Judy Weeks



Naples community youth are recognized for their education achievements.

Judy Weeks



Kelvin Huggins Jr. runs back to his family after receiving his certificate from Nicole Wilson, Education adviser, at the Trail event.

Beverly Bidney



Caria Haynes is determined to make it to the top of the inflatable climbing mountain at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood pool.

Beverly Bidney



Katherine Jim and Lauren Jim display their awards at the Trail incentive event. The girls finished 10th and ninth grades.

Beverly Bidney



Tampa elders take a group shot at the Spaghetti Warehouse in Ybor City.

Peter B. Gallagher



The Tampa Police Explorers gather for a group photo – proudly showing off their awards – with Officer Tom Apsey during the incentive event July 9.

Peter B. Gallagher



Kids enjoy poolside carnival games during the Hollywood and Fort Pierce incentive awards at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood pool.

Beverly Bidney

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Andrea Holata

Jaryaca Baker, center, signs a letter of intent to play softball for Western Oklahoma State College with the support of her parents, Preston and Mona Baker, and coaches Heather Gillis, top left, and Kim Hargraves, top right.

Jaryaca Baker signs to play college softball

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Family and friends joined Jaryaca Baker on June 19 to celebrate her acceptance of a scholarship letter of intent to be a student at and play softball for Western Oklahoma State College in Altus, Okla. The signing was held at Beef O' Brady's in Okeechobee.

"It's a great honor to be signed," Baker said. "I went and visited the school and I really liked it. I'm excited. I'm setting a goal for my brothers and sisters."

Baker, a 2013 Okeechobee High School graduate, played softball for the Brahms when the team won the district championship during her freshman and senior years.

She started playing softball at the early age of 5 with her father, participated in University of South Florida softball camps and later joined the Okeechobee Recreational Association. She also competed in numerous tournaments and played travel ball. Making her mark at the age of 11, Baker hit her first home run playing for the Lady Seminoles in the Native American Youth Organization

where the team took the championship.

Supported by her parents, Preston and Mona Baker, and her eight younger siblings, Baker polished her skills from field to field.

"We stayed on the field with her; we lived on the field with her," Preston Baker said. "Wherever she wanted to go we went. We dragged all eight of them with us."

Present for the momentous celebration, Baker's high school coaches Kim Hargraves and Heather Gillis confirmed that her support system and her determination led to her success.

"Jaryaca is a phenomenal athlete very good at just about anything she lays her hands on," Hargraves said. "If she sets her mind to something, she is going to make it work. She comes from a very supportive family."

Baker dreams of playing catcher for Western Oklahoma State College for two years and then returning to Florida where she hopes to play for the University of South Florida softball team.

"It's a passion and a dream," Baker said. "If I could play the rest of my life I would."

Youth swing for first place in golf tournament

Winners qualify for AAU Golf National Championships

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

CLEWISTON — The heat and humidity of a typical Florida summer didn't keep Tribal youth from competing in a junior golf championship tournament held June 29 at the Clewiston Golf Course.

With plenty of bug spray tucked in their golf bags, the kids gave their all at the Amateur Athletics Union First Nations Alliance State Championship.

Before teeing off, the athletes and their parents enjoyed a golf trick shot show by Kevin Compare, PGA Master Professional and golf instructor at The Breakers in Palm Beach.

A world-renowned trick shot artist since 1987, Compare has performed more than 1,600 trick shot exhibitions in 46 states and seven countries.

Compare impressed the group by driving balls 150 yards down the range with clubs of all sizes, from 24 inches to more than 6 feet; some were straight, others bent like a wet noodle.

He also demonstrated the importance of a wide stance while hitting the ball; he did it by successfully driving the ball while in a split position.

Winners of the tournament qualified to play in the AAU Golf National Championship in Greeneville, Tenn. to be held July 18-21.

Junior Golf Tournament Results:

Trey Boone won first place in the 18U boys' division and Quenton Cypress earned second place; Kirsten Doney won the 18U girls' division; Conchade Osceola won first place in the 10U boys' division, Byron Osceola won second place and Leighton Jim won third place. Telena Holata won the 10U girls' division.



Beverly Bidney

◆ See more GOLF photos on page 5C Trey Boone hits his ball out of the sand on the 18th hole.

Former NFL players spur Tribal football program

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Despite threatening rain clouds, more than a dozen kids trekked to the Hollywood ball field July 8-10 for football camp. Leading the group to the gridiron was former NFL player Lorenzo White, an eight-year veteran running back for the Houston Oilers — now known as the Tennessee Titans — and the Cleveland Browns.

"I'm trying to help the Seminoles bring football back," said White, who runs the Lorenzo White Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps conduct football camps all over the country.

The Hollywood Reservation has not had a football league in decades; White hopes to help the Recreation Department start a flag football league in the fall and possibly a tackle football league within the next two years.

Butch Rolle, former tight end for the Buffalo Bills and the Arizona Cardinals, joined White for the football camp. Together, the coaches focused on teaching the fundamentals and proper techniques of the game. The children performed running drills by weaving in and out of cones, practiced throwing and catching, and learned how to punt.

Rolle thinks it's important to keep children active during summer rather than let them be sedentary indoors.

"I try to preach to the kids that there's more to life than video games," he said.

Rolle strives to show them that being outside and experiencing the game is more beneficial than playing it on a screen. It helps them understand the game better and promotes healthy minds and bodies.

Whether out on the field or inside the gym because of rain, the children had a blast — evident by the wide smiles on their faces. White and Rolle peppered fun physical activities with inspirational pep talks.

"When it's for the kids, I'm all for it," Rolle said.

For more information about activities available for youth, call the Recreation Department at 954-989-9457.



Amanda Murphy

◆ See more FOOTBALL photos on page 2C Lorenzo White, former running back for the Houston Oilers and the Cleveland Browns, nervously positions the ball for Takota Howard to punt, making sure to watch out for the cowboy's sharp spurs.

◆ More FOOTBALL photos from page 1C



Amanda Murphy

It's Jack Tiger's turn to toss the football during camp.



Amanda Murphy

Receiving a pass from a former NFL player is no easy task, but Sebastian Motlow does it with style.



Amanda Murphy

Lorenzo White, a former running back for the Houston Oilers and the Cleveland Browns, sits the kids down for a pep talk about what they want to be when they grow up.

Summer softball splashtastic

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress girls' softball team used waterslide fun to turn a summer workout into wet and wild laughs at Billie Johns Sr. Ball Field June 21. JoAnn Ferrieri, of Rhino Softball coaching program, coached the girls to slide sideways, legs extended or head first on a plastic sheet covered in water and slathered in slippery dish soap.



Eileen Soler

Big Cypress softball players triple tag a wet and refreshing sliding exercise.



Eileen Soler

Ava Nunez slides sideways under the watchful eye of Rhino Softball coach JoAnn Ferrieri.



Eileen Soler

Jalee Wilcox rushes past water and suds only to be tagged with a handful of suds by team member Edie Robbins.



Eileen Soler

Jillian Rodriguez displays a perfect slide during a slip 'n slide softball workout in Big Cypress.



Eileen Soler

Ahnie Jumper runs in for a head-first slide.

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Golfers raise green on green for recovery

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

CLEWISTON — When 45 golfers yelled “Fore!” on a recent Saturday morning at Clewiston Golf Course, they did it against drug, alcohol and gambling abuse.

Twelve teams, more than a dozen Tribe employee volunteers and a smattering of spectators turned out for the Firecracker Classic fundraiser to benefit the sixth annual Florida Native American Recovery Convention led by Helene and Andy Buster, founders of the Seminoles in Recovery program.

The last convention, in March 2013, attracted 300 people throughout Indian Country.

“News of the convention spreads by word of mouth. Every year attendance grows larger and larger,” said Andy Buster, a retired judge for the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida.

Those recovering along with supporting

family members and friends come from as far as Canada and Oklahoma. More than a dozen speakers, all in recovery, will also attend.

Helene Buster, who is the director of the Family Services Department and a registered nurse, said she and her husband started the Seminoles in Recovery program about 22 years ago — years after the two battled their own demons.

“Recovery is constant,” Andy Buster said. “At the root of the program are care, passion and support from people who have been there.”

Helene Buster has been in recovery for 25 years; Andy Buster is at 31 years and counting.

According to Helene Buster, about 50 percent of all Tribal members are affected by substance abuse not because they are all addicts, but because the addiction of one family member shakes the entire unit. She said pharmaceuticals (pills) are the current most popular mode of getting high.

“The problem just doesn’t seem to get better; in fact, it’s increasing,” Helene Buster said.

She blames the Tribe’s financial success.

“Before we used to work all week then go out (to party) all weekend. Now, we don’t have to work so they drug and drink all week long,” Helene Buster said.

But the financial consequence of abuse can eventually devastate a family. Addiction can lead to expensive health issues. Legal nightmares follow arrests on drug- or alcohol-related charges.

“Then you have to pay to be bailed out. You have to pay attorney fees,” she said.

Some Tribal members pay with their lives.

For Helene Buster, the convention, the golf tournament, and other fundraisers and activities provided by the recovery program prove that “people can have a good time without drugging and drinking.”

Family Services offers a variety of programs to assist people who want to stop. Staff is in place to help with residential rehabilitation, transition back into the community, job searching, support meetings and relocation — if necessary.

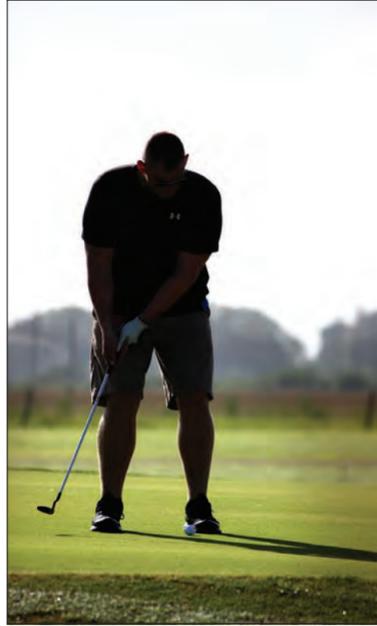
Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous and Al-Anon (for family or friends of addicts) are part of the support system.

“Sometimes people don’t want other



Eileen Soler

Helene and Andy Buster take a moment before 12 teams of golfers hit the greens to benefit the sixth annual Florida Native American Recovery Convention to be held in March 2014.



Eileen Soler

A golfer chips the ball during a peaceful, sunny morning at Clewiston Golf Course.

people to know they are struggling. Early in the recovery, they want to keep it to themselves because they are afraid of the stigma — not everyone in their lives may be accepting,” said aftercare administrator Tommy McGee.

After care programs are in place on all reservations, starting at 30 days before the release from treatment, McGee said.

Groups to help manage relapse triggers are available in Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton and Tampa.

Sober House facilities in Brighton, Hollywood and Big Cypress are also open to the recovering to provide social fun that

does not include drinking or drugs.

Family Services also reaches out to prevent drug abuse. Families, including children, are welcome to attend a calendar of events that includes barbecues, bowling, fish fry dinners, afternoon lunches and other happenings to share laughs, love and hope.

“The whole thing is about fellowship,” Helene Buster said. “We do everything we can.”

Another golf tournament fundraiser for the convention will be held in October. Proceeds pay for guest speakers to attend and for amenities.

Andy Buster said the Florida Native

American Recovery Convention is open to all ages. The schedule will include talking circles, tradition sharing and sweat lodge sessions.

For Andy Buster, recovery is a constant learning experience about life.

“You have to go in depth with your own spirituality in the universe. When you come to that, you can tie our creator into nature and all the Mother Earth contains. It’s all about healing,” he said.

For more information about Seminoles in Recovery, visit www.SeminolesInRecovery.com.

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Christmas in July at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — It's never too early to start decking the halls in festive Christmas decor.

This year's annual Seminole Tribe of Florida commemorative Christmas tree ball has been released and is for sale at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

"Previously, the Christmas ball patterns were what I came up with. This year, it's much more personal for the Tribe," said Rebecca Petrie, retail manager of the Museum.

In keeping with the 3-year-old series, the 2013 Christmas ornament (\$13.95) features a Seminole pattern that captures the patchwork artistry of beloved Tribal member Ida Cypress. She was the daughter of cattle pioneer Frank Willie and the mother of Tribal elders Esther Buster and Jonah Cypress.

Petrie, who started the series in 2010, said the purple, blue and silver pattern is taken directly from an intricate skirt fashioned by Ida Cypress' hands. The skirt is now preserved in the Museum's conserved artifact collection.

The 2011 and 2012 painted glass balls were yellow, red and green or white and gold respectively. Petrie said the ornaments are offered before the holiday season just in case reorders are needed to keep up with demand. Balls leftover from previous years are on shelves as well (\$12.95 each).

Other tree ornaments are also for sale including several



Eileen Soler

The 2013 Seminole Christmas ball ornament has been released and is selling for \$13.95. The purple, silver and blue ornament represents the patterns in a patchwork skirt made by Ida Cypress.

sized glistening stars fashioned with Swarovski crystals in the Seminole colors of red, yellow, black and white (clear) — many are ceramic painted Seminole scenes and a handful of various miniature size birds.

Poems

'Will I Ever Win' By Lyle V. Billie

You don't know me, but you find me guilty because of my pigmentation,
Not given a chance or a second glance, you cry not fair when I speak of discrimination
I know it irks you because my color's my pride,
and I know it amazes you that I still believe after all your lies
No, I'm nothing simple, and I know your hate,
I love me and trust me but still I wonder am I too late?
You walked with me in my darkest time stealing both my hope and faith,
You left me to die with your last bite you low down dirty snake.
You laugh when I cry, and it excites you when I feel your pain,
You dragged me to my misery, and it was you who gave my life its shame
No one understand you but all has played your game,
Hurt, hate and sorrow is the burn from your flame
Your addiction is my weakness as I crawl through these crakes of sin,
I'm in search of something new but still you leave me guessing, will I ever win?

'Lies in disguise' By Lyle V. Billie

Walking and dodging death the lies laugh as you fail one more lesson of life's test
Lost in realty chasing dreams no smile no love as your soul silently screams
The tears no one knows and only you can see trapped within the shadows in search of something to believe
Negativity is always whispering hate is always calling your name fear of becoming someone evil has awoke your shame
You sit back to observe your situation as addiction looks up and smiles you close your eyes to relieve the pain that's been there for a while
Happiness is just a stranger that's slowly driving you insane the game will always create a demon who will never be the same
Playing for unknown reasons a sacrifice you become your darkness is never ending as your body is always numb
Your search for understanding in a world based on deceit no matter how hard you fight you're always confronted by defeat.

Seminole Tribe of Florida Fort Pierce - Chupco Youth Ranch (Horses For Sale Log)

Name of Horse	Gender	DOB or Age	Color	Breed	Coggin Test	Comments	For Sale
Ginger	Mare	1/1/2007	White	Paint	1/20/2012	Rideable / In Training	\$ 700.00
Athena	Mare	1/1/2005	Sorrel/White	Paint	1/20/2012	Good Breed / Good to mate / Not Ridable	\$ 700.00
Chiquita	Mare	6/1/2009	Bay	Quarter Horse	1/20/2012	Rideable / In Training (needs training)	\$ 600.00
Lacy	Mare	1/1/2001	Dark Bay	Quarter Horse	1/20/2012	Giving Away, Old Rideable Horse	\$ -
Brownie	Mare	1/1/1998	Sorrel	Quarter Horse	1/20/2012	Rideable / In Training / Good for breeding	\$ 800.00
Donna	Mare	1/1/2007	Sorrel/White	Paint	1/20/2012	Rideable / In Training	\$ 800.00
Popeye	Gelding	May-11	Bay & White	Paint	1/20/2012	Not Rideable / In Training	\$ 500.00

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Tribal athletes honored in Hollywood Gym Hall of Fame

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Recreation program was founded in 1974 by Howard Tommie, Mike Tiger and Bert Jones but was inspired by someone who could be considered the Tribe's version of Jim Thorpe.

Howard Tiger played semi-professional football, basketball, boxing and baseball, leaving behind a legacy of athleticism and competition for the Tribe. His nephew Moses Jumper Jr., who served as Recreation director for 38 years, knew preserving the history of athletics was important when he designed the Hall of Fame room in the Hollywood Gym in 1998.

"Sports teach character, teamwork, discipline and how to be a part of society," Jumper said. "We've always been very competitive. People need to know the historical significance of sport."

The Hall of Fame room may be small in stature, but it brims with the accomplishments

of about 100 Tribal athletes. The display room filled with photos, plaques, trophies, sports memorabilia and vintage equipment honors athletes from the 1940s through the present day. A photo of the first inductees — Eugene Bowers, Harry Billie, Coleman Josh and Joe Dan Osceola — has a special place in one of the display cases.

"We started this to give all our people a place to see our athletes," Jumper said. "Young people come through here and see their parents, uncles and grandparents who played sports, too."

New members of the Hall of Fame used to be added every year during a ceremony which included local coaches as guest speakers.

One year Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden attended the induction ceremony. Inductees were chosen by a committee made up of Recreation site managers from each reservation, but no new honorees have been added in the last few years.

Inclusion in the Hall of Fame requires



The first members of the Hall of Fame show off their plaques during a 1999 sports banquet held in their honor.

Seminole Tribune archive photo



Beverly Bidney

Moses Jumper Jr. poses in the Hall of Fame room he designed at the Hollywood Gym in 1998.

accomplishing something of significance in athletics, Jumper said. That could involve winning a spot on an all-county or state team, earning a letter, being a valuable team member in high school or college and promoting or playing sports within the Tribe.

One vintage photo of the 1967 all-county football team features Jumper with Max Osceola, Moses Osceola and Mike Tiger.

"We all grew up together through sports," Jumper said. "We're still together and are leaders in the Tribe today. Sports teach leadership, the proof is right there."

Members of the Hall come from a

variety of sports: Howard Tiger played semi-pro football, boxing, baseball and basketball; Max Osceola, who played football, is also in the Broward County Sports Hall of Fame along with professional athletes; David Jumper was all-state in track and field; Josiah Johns was the Florida all-round rodeo champion and the first Seminole to compete in the Indian National Finals Rodeo; David Cypress was a wrestler; Leon Wilcox played baseball in the minor leagues and was a deep sea fisherman; Betty Mae Jumper played tennis and archery; Cicero Osceola played basketball.

"It's important to remember the history and be able to look forward to the future

of sports in the Tribe," said Brian Dodd, Hollywood Gym site manager. "Some kids come through the Hall of Fame now, but we'd like to be able to do some more tours."

Jumper would like to see the Hall progress but realizes it takes a lot of work.

He is willing to help out in any way he can.

"There are plenty of older people who can be added and we'd like to acknowledge the kids who are gaining prominence in the Tribe, state and nationally today," Jumper said. "The goal is to keep this going. If we don't, we've lost something as important as the things that are in our museums."

◆ More **GOLF** photos from page 1C



Beverly Bidney

Byron Osceola aims to putt as Leighton Jim keeps a keen eye.



Beverly Bidney

Trick golfer and golf pro Kevin Compare demonstrates the widest stance possible while driving the ball down the range.



Beverly Bidney

Leighton Jim, Talena Holata, Byron Osceola and Conchade Osceola watch Kevin Compare's golf trick shot exhibition.



Beverly Bidney

Quenton Cypress hits a chip shot onto the green as Trey Boone studies the ball.



Beverly Bidney

Conchade Osceola does a few practice drives before the tournament.

VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND ITEMS FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
16442	2007	PAINT HORSE - WHITE	MARE - "GINGER" - 6 YEARS OLLD	N/A	Fair	\$700.00
16446	2005	PAINT HORSE - SORREL/WHITE	MARE - "ATHENA" - 8 YEARS OLD	N/A	Fair	\$700.00
16444	2009	QUARTER HORSE - BAY	MARE - "CHIQUITA" - 3 YEARS OLD	N/A	Fair	\$600.00
16440	2001	QUARTER HORSE - DARK BAY	MARE - "LACY" - 12 YEARS OLD	N/A	Fair	\$600.00
16445	1998	QUARTER HORSE - SORREL	MARE - "BROWNIE" - 15 YEARS OLD	N/A	Fair	\$800.00
16570	2007	PAINT HORSE - SORREL/WHITE	MARE - "DONNA" - 6 YEARS OLD	N/A	Fair	\$800.00
16439	1995	QUARTER HORSE-SORREL	GELDING - "LEO" - 18 YEARS OLD	N/A	Fair	\$900.00
16437	2011	PAINT HORSE - BAY & WHITE	GELDING - "POPEYE" - 2 YEARS OLD	N/A	Fair	\$500.00
C46435	2007	FORD	F150 XLT (4WD)	161,640	Poor	\$4,429.00
C45412	1998	FORD	EXPEDITION (XLT; Eddie Bauer Edition) (RWD)	180,634	Poor	\$1,186.00
100001	N/A	"COST ART" LEATHER HAT	HANDMADE WEAVE - BLACK, 100% LEATHER	N/A	(Pre-Owned)	\$15.00
100002	N/A	"AFFLICTION" LEATHER JACKET	BLACK, 100% LEATHER, LTD EDITION #593/1200, MED	N/A	(Pre-Owned)	\$190.00
100003	N/A	"COST ART" LEATHER VEST	HAND MADE, RED, 100% LEATHER, APPROX SIZE MED	N/A	(Pre-Owned)	\$35.00
100004	N/A	"COST ART" LEATHER PANTS	HAND MADE, RED, 100% LEATHER, APPROX SIZE MED	N/A	(Pre-Owned)	\$30.00
100005	N/A	"POSE FROM LONDON" SPORT JACKET	RED, SIZE 38, MODEL 527, 100% COTTON	N/A	(Pre-Owned)	\$180.00

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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement Castillo worked as a Public Defender in Broward County from 1990-1996 and has been in private practice for nine years. In 1995 he was voted the Trial Attorney of the year. He graduated from Capital University in 1989 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1990, Federal Bar in 1992, and the Federal Trial Bar in 1994.

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