



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

www.seminoletribune.org • 50¢

Volume XXXVII • Number 6 June 28, 2013

Tribe swears in Council and Board Representatives

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Democracy was on display June 3 as representatives of the Council and Board of Directors were inaugurated in Hollywood, assuring a smooth transition of leadership within the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Hundreds of Tribal members and guests witnessed the event as newly elected and re-elected officials swore their oaths of office.

“This election is a significant historical moment for us,” Chairman James E. Billie said. “I haven’t seen a more professional group of men running the business of the Board in my life. On the Council we have men who have proven themselves to make this behemoth of a business stay alive every day. The entire organization of the Tribe is made up of probably the best business people in our history.”

Chairman Billie looks forward to continued prosperity during the next two years.

The 2013 election marked another significant milestone; the Tribe used electronic voting machines to cast and count ballots on every reservation for the first time. The machines, provided by Automated Election Systems in New Mexico, made the process of voting more efficient and allowed election officials to make the results public 30 minutes after polls closed. In past elections, ballots were counted by hand, which usually took all night.

“It’s been a long time coming,” said Priscilla Sayen, Secretary of Tribal Council and Corporate Board of Directors. “Council amended the election ordinance to include the machines.”

To ensure Tribal members felt comfortable with the new technology, a mock election was held May 8 at Headquarters.

With a successful test of the machines, they were prepared for the general election July 13.

“Everything went very smoothly; there were no glitches,” Sayen said. “It sped up



Elected officials pose under the Council Oak: From left, Trail Council Liaison Norman Huggins, Immokalee Council Liaison Raymond Garza, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Chairman James E. Billie, President Tony Sanchez Jr., Hollywood Board Rep. M. Steve Osceola, Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, Immokalee Board Liaison Dorothy Scheffler and Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank.

the process like night and day. We’re very happy with the results and will continue using them in the future.”

The newest face on the Board is entrepreneur M. Steve Osceola, the Hollywood Board Representative.

“I’m ready to go and have hit the ground running,” said Rep. Osceola, owner of Redman Builders. “There is a lot of

potential to expand our business and start new ones.”

Newly elected Councilman Chris Osceola, of Hollywood, previously served on the Board.

“I’m looking forward to making new working relationships with these guys,” Councilman Osceola said. “I’m just excited and ready to get started.”

Council and Board Representatives spoke to the assembled crowd.

“For the past two years, this Council has gone in the right direction,” Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. said. “We don’t want to go backwards. I hope we remain on track and stay there. As our Tribe goes, we all go.”

The day was filled with looking forward

while glancing back.

“This is an opportunity to get a lot of projects done,” Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank said. “We initiated a lot in the last two years and now we hope to get them to the finish line.”

♦ See more INAUGURATION photos on page 5A

Athletes aspire to greatness at Jim Thorpe Games

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

OKLAHOMA CITY — Jim Thorpe was many things: a gold-medal Olympic athlete; professional basketball, baseball and football player; a boxer and a golfer; “Athlete of the Century,” according to ABC’s *Wide World of Sports*; and “the greatest athlete in the world,” according to Sweden’s King Gustav V, who made the declaration at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm. To the 1,400 athletes who competed in the second consecutive Jim Thorpe Games, he was an inspiration.

Members of nearly 70 Tribes nationwide competed in the games, held in Oklahoma City from June 9-15. The Seminole Tribe sent 100 athletes to compete in basketball, softball, golf, track and field and wrestling.

“Jim Thorpe raised the bar so high we

have something to aspire to,” said Gary “Litefoot” Davis, emcee of the opening ceremony. “Make sure what you do is to aspire to be better than you were yesterday. Jim Thorpe embodies the possibilities out there for Native American athletes; it’s possible to achieve that same kind of success.”

Annetta Abbott and Kim Snell came up with the idea for the games to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Sweden Olympic Games, where Thorpe won the decathlon and pentathlon in 1912. To this day, he is the only man to win both events.

“Thorpe did it all in shoes that didn’t fit,” said Abbott, executive director of the Jim Thorpe Games. “His shoes were stolen at the Olympics, so he got one from the garbage can and one was given to him by another athlete. During pre-workouts before the Olympics, he ran with a group he would compete against. They saw what

they were up against.”

The mission of the games is to provide a sports competition so athletes can meet and compete with peers from other Tribes. Athletes participating in the games ranged in age from 4 years old in martial arts to 78 years old in golf. Most ranged between the ages of 12 and 18; the games were designed primarily for youth.

“We want to foster a healthy lifestyle and build kids’ self-esteem,” Abbott said.

Thorpe’s son, Bill Thorpe, grew up participating in sports and loves athletics still. The active 85-year-old spent the week watching the competition and reveling in his father’s legacy.

“It’s wonderful to come watch these young Native American kids; they are enjoying themselves and that’s what the games are about,” said Thorpe, of the Sac and Fox Tribe.

♦ See JIM THORPE on page 5C



Youth take off at the start of the 800-meter race during the Jim Thorpe Games in Oklahoma City. Seminoles Arek Jumper, third from left, and Rhett Tiger, fifth from left, competed in the track event.

‘Black Seminole’ descendants survive in Andros Island

Chairman tours town established in 1821

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

ANDROS ISLAND, Bahamas — They came to Andros the first time in 1821, secretly seeking sanctuary and independence on this fabled island, a strategically located asylum for pirates, bootleggers and assorted outlaws. Andros Island, largest in the Bahamas chain, is still a rugged archipelago covered with limestone hardscrabble, skinny pines, palmetto bushes, blue-hole caves and giant land crabs, a three-day dugout canoe ride from South Florida across the Gulf Stream and the third largest barrier reef in the world.

History calls them Black Seminoles, mostly runaway Africans fleeing the various slavery scenarios, politics, broken promises and wars of the Spanish, British, United States and southeastern American Indians. Though they were considered slaves by the Seminole Indians, history records they were treated with a higher respect and independence far beyond the traditional concept of slavery. While some went to Texas, Mexico or Oklahoma — willingly or forced — others chose to brave the sea in canoes either south to Cuba or to Andros, where they established an isolated community named Red Bays on the island’s northwest shore. The Cuban Seminoles eventually joined them.

Almost immediately, local Bahamian folklorists, fascinated by the lengthy isolation, unusual cultural practices and

general atmosphere of mystery presented by the Black Seminoles, exaggerated them as “wild Indians.” Though several professional anthropologists and adventurers came into contact with the Black Seminoles of Red Bays — and established their connection to the U.S. Seminoles — they remained relatively unknown to the world until the mid-1930s when ethnomusicologist Alan Lomax wrote about the “Seminole Negroes” and recorded a song sung by a Mr. Bowlegs, a resident of Andros Island.

Today, nearly 200 years after the first Seminoles landed on these shores, anthropologists agree that the majority of residents in the present-day settlement of Red Bays on Andros Island are descended

from those original exiles from Florida. Descendants of Seminole Indians living in other parts of the country and world have always been of interest to Chairman James E. Billie. Most Seminoles who fled Florida during the wars of the 1800s crossed the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico in dugout canoes to establish communities that still exist in Texas, Mexico and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

It is about the same distance from Homestead to Andros as it is from Key West to Cuba.

The Chairman was invited to attend the annual All Andros Crab Fest by Peter Douglas, a former Chief Councilor and Mayor of the Central Andros District and the current sustainable tourism manager.

♦ See ANDROS ISLAND on page 12A



During a trip to Andros Island June 15 to visit Seminole descendants, Chairman James E. Billie shakes hands with the Rev. Bertram A. Newton.

Editorial

Life in Red Bays: land crabs and baskets

• James E. Billie

I would like to say, "Thank you," to Peter Douglas, the tourism manager for Andros Island, for inviting me and my family and staff members Danny Tommie, Paul Backhouse and Pete Gallagher to the Crab Festival in Andros Town, recently.

Now, I've seen land crabs here in Florida. At certain times of the year they come out in abundance, thousands of them, crossing the roads, yards and parking lots in the Dania, Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood areas. They were just land crabs so for some odd reason I thought they were inedible. In fact, they are a nuisance; so many crossing the roads, they might even pop your tire. And if you were walking around Dania, you would find 'em near trash cans and around houses.

But I never thought they were edible until I visited the Andros Island Crab Festival.

When we arrived, the first thing I ordered at the Crab Festival was crab soup. It was delicious. So beware of land crabs in Florida. If I see one, it will be in my pot.

Besides the crabs, there was music, people dancing, a lot of festive activities. The temperature was hot, hot, hot and the humidity seemed like it was 100 percent. Which made it even hotter.

From there we traveled north, about an hour drive to the old town of Red Bays on the northwest coast. There, we visited with the Rev. Bertram Newton and his wife. When we walked in, his wife was sitting in the living room making authentic baskets out of palm leaves. She was not using any store-bought threads of color. Her basket was all made from palm leaves, the bud of the palm. I found out no man-made materials went into the baskets made by the artists of Red Bays. If this isn't authentic, I don't know what is. When I saw Mrs. Newton making the basket, I was totally impressed.

Rev. Newton, himself, is getting up in his years. Eighty-eight years old but very spry. Back in 2001, I had an occasion to visit him in Red Bays, went to his church. The Battiest family and Judy Baker and her family had been there to Red Bays earlier than me and had sung at the church there.

Rev. Newton and his family and the extended families of today's Red Bays are descended from the group of people who came on over in the 1820s to settle there. They were Indians who were followers of Billy Bowlegs who was around the Hendry, Collier and Lee County areas and gave the U.S. Military, as we say, hell back in those days.

Billy Bowlegs eventually surrendered and went to Oklahoma. But many of his followers, realizing that the British had abolished slavery, escaped to Andros Island by canoe and makeshift rafts and made their homes in the swamps of Red Bays. Some of the people who live there still carry on the Bowlegs name.

It would be nice for our Seminole members to go visit them and perhaps visit Rev. Newton and go to his church and observe how these people make such authentic baskets.

The first group who came over lived in the time of the 1800s and early 1900s, living off the land and fishing. They eventually had electricity but hardly running water. They got their

water from wells, using buckets and ropes to pull up the water. Even today it seems very primitive. A few of them still live in the old-fashioned chickee style and they cook on open fires just like we used to. And this was interesting to see because this is 2013, not the 1800s or even the 1900s.

True to form, Andros people are very friendly and cordial and they treated us Seminoles very kindly, sharing their stories. It was so nice for my children to witness this culture, as well as myself. Probably the next time I will go there will be in May when they have an annual festival called the Red Snapper Festival. I hope to return there at that time next year. Andros Island appears to have a few nice fishing resorts and nearby motels where you can rest when you are not fishing.

So some of you Tribal members, I dare you to go visit them. If you want more information give me or Pete Gallagher a call and we can give you the details of how you can get there. We can also help you contact tourism manager Peter Douglas who was awfully nice to us. In gratitude, I presented Mr. Douglas with our Tribal flag, as well as – and this is the funny part – a sweetgrass basket made by one of our women.

At some point in time we may invite some of Rev. Newton's family to come over and teach us their old ways, especially traditional cooking and basket making. Now this would be an experience. Instead of finding sweetgrass and using store-bought threads, we will learn how to make baskets the original way.

I am also seriously thinking about bringing our Red Bays friends here to the reservation for a couple weeks to show us their different arts and crafts made solely from fiber, wood and other materials without the use of anything man-made, such as colored threads or store-bought cloth.

It is truly interesting to see these items created from start to finish. When our Culture Department shows our children how to do bead work or baskets, the beads are bought from Czechoslovakia and cloth materials are bought from stores. When the people in Red Bays set out to make a basket, they will go out into the woods, find the palm tree, cut the bud, dry it and start processing the materials to be turned into a basket solely from material found in the woods.

Our children and some of our folks really need to see this so that this tradition can be carried on. It was interesting to find such culture still alive in Red Bays. These people have not been with us for almost 200 years and their authentic art is still alive.

It needs to be reintroduced and maintained. So, at some point, I will bring the traditional artists of Red Bays, Andros Island here to Florida so we can learn from our own culture how we used to make baskets.

Sho-naa-bish.

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



Focus, commitment and education

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

Ever since this administration started, we have been focused on opportunities that exist beyond reservation boundaries. We are definitely trying to position ourselves to reach the masses with our water, juice, beef and electronic cigarettes.

It's not easy to reach the masses, though. You may have a very good product at a very good price, but it is tough when you are competing with established companies. Yet we are making tremendous headway because we are leveraging our minority status, our tax-exempt status. Even though we may not be a nationally known brand, we are definitely opening and creating opportunities, such as with our water.

We've met with US Foods. We are talking to them about national distribution. And that has taken time. That company needs to clearly understand that if they give us opportunities to be our national supplier, we have the capacity to pull off our end of the bargain. They want to know everything they can about us, they want to understand our bottling process, they want to know that we have the water source and they want to know that we have the financial wherewithal to meet their demands.

So it is much more than, "I have a good product. I bottled it. Now let me sell it to you." No. It's a very involved process: it is all about the marketing, about building on that which separates ours from any other product out there. What is the story on that product? That's what they want to know. And that can take time. First, you have to sit there and educate them about who and what the Seminole Tribe is and how we started in the water industry, the orange juice industry, the e-cigarette industry.

I think that with our water and juice, we are definitely making headway though US Foods, H.T. Hackney and other national distributors such as McLane and Cormark. We have definitely been trying to position ourselves with other distributors that can put us out in front of potential customers.

These guys don't normally get approached by Indian Tribes. We have all traveled across Indian Country. Think about it. When you visit another Native casino you'll notice they are always going to have their own water, but do you know who they are supplying? Just themselves. They are not exploring other opportunities. They are not reaching beyond reservation boundaries. We are blazing that path right now.

The channels that we are establishing have taken time, but we've been focused, we've stayed the course. Just because things don't happen as timely as we want, we can't get frustrated, say this will never happen and walk away from it. Instead, we have to believe we have a good product and we can be competitive on the pricing. That takes commitment. And we have been committed.

Got to be committed.

American Indian business has come a long way in the last 10 years, but I think Tribes still have to go out and educate. The Tribes, themselves, need to tell their stories. The decision makers really need to hear from the Tribal leaders, who are the business leaders: they want to know how the Tribe got into the business, how committed the Tribe is and they want to evaluate that the Tribe will support the partnership with long-term viability. They need to be reassured that the Tribe and its enterprise is dedicated to support the future generations.

One of the products or industries we decided to enter was the electronic cigarette business. We have been successful in placing this product in several chain stores. Our website business is good. The big trick is to get ourselves out in front of the big, major outlets – Costco, Walgreens, Walmart – locating big businesses with major companies that have diversity programs.

I just came back from Seattle, where I had a very fruitful meeting with Costco. My role at that meeting was to say, "Let me tell you the story of the Seminole Tribe. Let me tell you who we are, what our core values are and reassure you that when we embark on a business venture, it's because we want to be self-sufficient and self-reliant. We want you to know we will utilize and leverage our sovereignty, leverage our tax-exempt status and most importantly, we want you to know that we are committed. We aren't looking to develop something and sell it in five years, 10 years."

No. We want to be involved in these industries for the long haul and we want to be partners with companies that give us the opportunity to meet the masses. That's why it was so important to sit down and talk directly to Costco decision makers. The experience reminded me of the movie *The Guilt Trip*, starring Barbara Streisand and Seth Rogen. It's all about Seth pedaling his cleaning products, meeting with decision makers . . . meeting with Walmart, Ace Hardware, etc. . . . and he is basically packing a bag and going on a road trip.

Costco did their research on the Seminole Tribe and when I got there, it was clear they recognized that we are a player in the industry. They were comfortable that we would be very successful in this industry, whether we were one of their partners or not. That is what we were hoping for.

To pack an overnight bag, fly red-eye both ways and be bright eyed and bushy tailed and answer all their questions – they want to know if we are well versed in the industry. They want to be assured that our long-term vision is to get into the manufacturing; it is not to control their retail side of it.

We recognize who our customer base is and we are positioning ourselves and trying to determine who our national spokesperson should be. We have reached out to several, but because of commitments they have made to other products, it did not work out. But just because our first choices didn't work out doesn't mean we should quit! It is just the matter of finding that right spokesperson. It is a full and complicated process.

It's been exciting to see our products grow into what they are today. There have been some setbacks but we have maintained a sense of urgency and commitment. We may not be recognized by the major players but because we are so excited about our products, we believe they will stand up to any product out there on the market.

It has been very interesting to witness the process we have to go through to be successful. And this administration will do whatever it takes. If it means taking red-eye flights and returning at 6 a.m. and still having to be wide awake for a Board or Council meeting and take care of business, well you know what? That's what we are going to do. So we lose a little sleep. But we understand before we go where we are trying to get and that we will lose a little sleep trying to get there.

Meeting with US Foods, Costco, H.T. Hackney, Walgreens and 7-Eleven has convinced me that educating them pays. Their question is, "Who are these guys sitting here in front of me asking me to buy their product and I don't know anything about them?" So, educate them. Answer their questions. And suddenly it clicks: "Oh, so you are those guys. You are those guys with the casinos. You are the guys who bought the Hard Rock." We all know that there is more to the Seminole Tribe than just casinos and they want to know that. So we start talking to them about being not only pioneers of gaming but also pioneers of the cattle industry here in Florida . . . and they are just amazed.

I think that we are the only ones who can tell our story. The Tribe needs to be telling that story to those buyers and make them aware that we, first and foremost, are committed. We are in this for the long run. And that is the message this administration has been carrying in all these meetings with potential customers.

Yes, it can get repetitive, but we understand that we are talking to people who say, "Seminoles? Florida State Seminoles? Are we talking to a college?"

Well at least they know where we are based – Florida. More times than not they are just amazed about who we really are and what we are trying to accomplish. We're not out there to sell a sob story. We are astute business people who are going to do things the right way.

No matter what business we get into, we are committed to provide for our future generations.

Sho-naa-bish.

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



The following deadlines apply to all submissions to The Seminole Tribune:

Issue: July 26, 2013
Deadline: July 10, 2013

Issue: Aug. 30, 2013
Deadline: Aug. 14, 2013

Issue: Sept. 27, 2013
Deadline: Sept. 11, 2013

Please note: Submissions that come past deadline will be published in the following issue.

Advertising:
Advertising rates along with sizes and other information may be downloaded from the Internet at:
<http://SeminoleTribune.org/Advertise>

Postmaster:
Please send address changes to
The Seminole Tribune
3560 N. State Road 7
Hollywood, Fla. 33021

Publisher: James E. Billie
Editor-in-Chief: Camellia Smith-Osceola
CamelliaOsceola@semtribe.com
Senior Editor: Brett Daly
BrettDaly@semtribe.com
Copy Editor: Amanda Murphy

Staff Reporters:
Peter B. Gallagher, Andrea Holata,
Beverly Bidney, Eileen Soler

Contributors:
Judy Weeks, Ryan Watson

If you would like to request a reporter or would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem, please contact Senior Editor Brett Daly at 954-985-5701, ext. 10725 Or by fax at 954-965-2937

© 2013 Seminole Tribe of Florida



The Seminole Tribune
is a member of the
Native American Journalists Association.

Letters/emails to the editor must be signed and may be edited for publication.

Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to The Seminole Tribune, 3560 N. State Road 7 Hollywood, Fla. 33021 Phone: 954-985-5701 Fax: 954-965-2937 Or subscribe online at www.SeminoleTribune.org

Community

A



Eileen Soler

Talia Billie, Sara Leace, Rylin Osceola-Billie, Seminole Police Officer Scott Akin and Rebecca Vazquez help pack boxes with clothing, blankets and toys at the Learning Resources Center on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Seminole Tribe of Florida embraces Oklahoma tornado victims

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

Within days of Oklahoma's devastating tornadoes in May, dozens of disaster relief collection boxes peppered Seminole reservations at schools, offices and casinos.

By June 7, pallets loaded with water, hygiene items, diapers, clothing, linens and more blanketed the floor at a Hollywood Reservation warehouse. The items were shipped via truck to Oklahoma City University for distribution to survivors of the storms that killed more than 40 people and left thousands homeless.

Robert Caruso, the Tribe's Education program manager, said the Tribalwide effort began with a phone call.

"On every reservation, when help is needed, the people respond," Caruso said.

Immokalee Education adviser Victoria Soto told Caruso that a student's parent raised the idea to begin collecting goods. Almost at the same time, Big Cypress Education adviser Sara Leace spoke up for students who wanted to gather and send relief supplies.

With permission granted and fliers printed, the Tribe's Education advisers, recruiters and students pitched in from Hollywood, Brighton and other Seminole communities. Soon, managers and staff

from all Seminole gaming locations were on board.

Dawn Neils, director of Brand Marketing at Seminole Gaming, said all casinos staged collection locations. At the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, goods included 180 pounds of non-perishables, 14 cases of diapers, 16 cases of water and a hefty mix of baby bottles, toilet paper and medical gloves.

Two pallets of goods came from the Seminole Casino Immokalee and Seminole Casino Coconut Creek.

Joseph Santiago, a Seminole Gaming truck driver based at Coconut Creek, hustled through the day on June 6 to pick up goods from several reservations for delivery to Hollywood.

"It's hard work but it's good work," Santiago said.

Caruso said the Education advisers "led the charge" but everyone worked together as a team.

Chairman James E. Billie's office donated an entire pallet of water. In Big Cypress, Councilman Mondo Tiger's office gave 30 boxes of laundry detergent, tooth brushes, body soap and other toiletries. At Seminole Casino Immokalee, Human Resources recruiter Teo Alviar wheeled cart loads of infant care items to the truck.

"Why did we do this? Because everyone goes through something in life



Photo courtesy of Seminole Casino Immokalee

Teo Alviar helps cart away loads of infant care items collected for the tornado relief drive at Seminole Casino Immokalee.

when they need someone else to lean on — whether we're dealing with a terrible storm or Sept. 11," Caruso said. "It's a little effort on our part, but it goes a long way."

Youth church rising in good time

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — More than a decade has passed since congregants of Big Cypress First Baptist Church first prayed to replace an aging fellowship hall.

"It took a lot of prayer," said church member Alfonso Tigertail.

Finally, folks driving through the Big Cypress Reservation along Josie Billie Highway and across from the Billie Johns Sr. Ball Field can see the fruit of faith. In early June, jutting nearly 40 feet toward the clouds, the iron skeleton of what will be a youth church and multipurpose building was erected.

Tigertail, who is leading the church's construction plan, said the estimated \$400,000 project is a grassroots, church-driven effort that will cost the Seminole Tribe nothing. Monetary donations by

church members, discounts provided by area contractors, plus free labor and supplies kicked in by friends and family from Indian Country near and far, will ensure the building opens debt free.

"The main thing is to keep the cost at what the people can give — and with what the Lord can give," Tigertail said.

And all in God's time.

Pastor Salaw Hummingbird said the building was always a hope but individual financial support began in earnest about 2005. In May, former Tribal President Richard Bowers Jr. delivered a \$5,000 boost from the non-Tribal Go Kids Foundation in Fort Lauderdale, which provides support for children's causes.

"We've been going at it one phase at a time," Hummingbird said. "But we are doing now what we always called 'the future.'"

About three years ago, the old

structure was torn down. About a year later, the cement slab for the new place was poured. Soon, cinderblocks were laid for the exterior walls.

Richard Durling, president of the Marvin Development Corp. which is heading the project, said the building's "skin," doors and windows would be constructed during the coming weeks. The building will include classrooms, a kitchen, a mezzanine and a large multipurpose room that could transform from basketball and volleyball courts to a dining and reception hall.

"It's a work in progress and will take time, but the stage is being set," Durling said.

Hummingbird said two Native American non-Seminole construction outfits are ready to help.

Pastor Charles Locklear, of the Lumbee Indian Tribe in North Carolina, will visit with a team of workers to erect the inside framework and sheetrock. Next, Chuck Glass, a Cherokee from Oklahoma, will come with a crew to install the electricity.

"That's how the Lord works. These guys were looking for ministry work in the area; we have the work," Hummingbird said.

Workdays for volunteer professional painters, carpenters, plumbers and other trades will be staged for the summer. Then, community members, friends and families will be allowed to lend a hand.

Tigertail said he and the church's youth minister Josh Jumper look forward to holding youth activities in the new facility. Basketball, volleyball, movie nights and live music ministries are on the horizon for children and teens who call Big Cypress home.

"We have over 300 kids on the reservation. If we can raise them to be God-fearing, good adults then our prayers are answered," he said. "Hopefully that's what we can do with a building like this."



Eileen Soler

Construction is moving forward with the red iron skeleton of a new youth church and multipurpose building at Big Cypress First Baptist Church.

Naomi Wilson: One of 26 to earn American Express World Service Excellence Award

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Naomi Wilson's meticulous organization has suited her well during her 23-year professional life in finance at American Express. So well, that she was recently presented with the American Express World Service Excellence Award. The award, only given to 26 American Express employees of nearly 60,000 worldwide, is a testament to her analytical and problem solving skills.

"To me, everything is a process," said Wilson, who lives in Hollywood. "Once you understand something you can improve it."

Wilson was surprised with the award when called in for an early morning meeting at the office. Instead of the conference call she was expecting, colleagues informed her of the award.

"The World Service Excellence Award is for the highest performing Customer Fulfillment Network colleagues," said Ron Oestreicher, vice president and general manager of the Customer Fulfillment Network Department of American Express. "Selecting 26 people was a difficult task. This is for their stellar performance and extraordinary cardmember service."

The recommendation for the performance-based award came from Wilson's supervisor, who recognized her outstanding abilities. Criteria included going above and beyond expectations to help the company and its customers. Wilson did so by taking on the additional responsibility of ensuring all active military personnel receive special benefits offered to them on their American Express accounts.

"This was a priority and goal from

upper management," Wilson said. "I had to make sure the accounts were qualified and adjusted to fall under the guidelines set by the Department of Defense through the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act (SCRA). It was my help on the project that put me over the top for the award."

SCRA postpones or suspends certain civil obligations to enable deployed service members to devote full attention to duty and to relieve stress on family members, including outstanding credit card debt, mortgage payments, pending trials, taxes and terminations of lease. Wilson worked on the project, which encompassed tens of thousands military personnel, in addition to doing her full-time job as an accounting clerk in the Finance Department.

"There were a lot of long days and weekends," she said. "It feels good to be recognized, but this is just what I do. I'm glad that I did it to help service members."

Wilson takes pride in doing the best job possible. She also received a Certificate of Excellence for her performance in 2012.

"People see the value you added and contribution you made to the company," she said. "I don't think it is hard work until I look back at it when it's done. While I'm doing it, I just know it

has to get done. I get a lot of satisfaction from the job."

A believer in self-improvement, Wilson has worked in finance throughout her career, which included working for United South and Eastern Tribes Inc. (USET) in Tennessee and for the Seminole Tribe's Housing Department.

"I enjoy the job because it lets me touch the world every day," she said. "I thank God every day because I know I'm very fortunate in so many ways."



Beverly Bidney

Naomi Wilson.

Business profile: Seven Winds Photography

Photography is a familial breeze for Naples mom



Eileen Soler

Tammy Billie, owner of Seven Winds Photography, adjusts her camera for just the right exposure May 10 during the Ahfachkee School prom.

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

NAPLES — Becoming a new mother 16 years ago turned Tammy Billie into an instant shutterbug and put her on the path to professional photography.

"I wanted to capture every moment," said Billie, of Naples. "Pretty soon I realized I was spending hundreds of dollars on disposable cameras and getting the pictures developed."

That's when the 1995 graduate of Clewiston High School began purchasing real cameras. Her first was an off-brand automatic point and shoot.

Six daughters later and a full-fledged Nikon camera user, Billie blended motherhood, family and tradition to establish her photography service, Seven Winds Photography — "seven" for her seven daughters and "winds" because they are of the Wind Clan.

The business took off about seven years ago when Billie received a phone call from then Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar to photograph a community event.

"Before you knew it, Tribal residents started calling me and we've been rolling with it since," Billie said. "I don't push myself for more work. With the children, sports, rodeo and church, I just go with the flow."

"The flow" means juggling family with the business of weddings, family reunions, quinceaneras and sweet 16 parties, portraits for any reason and countless Seminole events. This year's Tribal assignments included Mother's Day, the first Ahfachkee School prom, Father's Day on the Big Cypress Reservation and Easter and Christmas parties for the Tampa community.

Documenting Tribal happenings is important to Billie. She calls the job "a responsibility" and tries to deliver more than asked. Almost every job ends with a CD of all photos and a complete photo album.

She arrives on the scene of a shoot prepared with extra lights, batteries, lenses and a few daughters to help. The six girls, ages 7 to 16, are learning how to use photography equipment and how to print photos for same-day distribution to event participants. Billie's seventh daughter passed away when she was a baby.

"Eventually, when my daughters get really good at the job, Seven Winds could be a family business. It teaches them responsibility, that they have to earn their dollar and that they have to have some kind of skill to fall back on in the future whether it's photography, beading or sewing," Billie said.



Beverly Bidney

The class takes the service oath during the graduation ceremony and induction on May 23 at the Hollywood Headquarters Auditorium.

Tribe is StormReady in time for stormiest season

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — With the start of the hurricane season June 1, Floridians are experiencing the wettest time of year and thunderstorms are an almost daily occurrence. The National Weather Service (NWS) wants the Tribe to be ready for storms as the soggy season proceeds and recently held a class to train people to be SKYWARN storm spotters.

“We started working with the NWS about six months ago,” said Jason Dobronz, Emergency Management Operations Manager. “We installed weather alert radios and trained people to listen to them. In July we will receive a plaque saying we are a StormReady community. We are trying to build a better disaster resilient community.”

The Tribe is the 14th in the country to earn the StormReady designation and the first east of the Mississippi. The NWS StormReady program teaches communities communication and safety skills in the face of pending storms. The advanced planning, education and awareness helps save lives throughout the country. The NWS created SKYWARN to train people to spot and report severe weather in the community. About 290,000 people have been trained nationwide.

Robert Molleda, of NWS in Miami, ran the SKYWARN training program May 22 in Hollywood. Department heads who typically have people working outdoors attended the class, where they learned the importance of relaying information about storms they see. Once the NWS has the information, they can warn people in the path of the storm to take shelter. Molleda showed slides of cloud formations and explained exactly what to look for and

where to find the most threatening weather in a storm.

“The SKYWARN spotters are part of the NWS’ mission to protect life and property,” Molleda said. “We need spotters because Doppler radar doesn’t tell us everything; small tornados aren’t always picked up by radar.”

The biggest hazards in Florida are lightning, severe thunderstorms, tornados, flooding and tropical cyclones. The state is third in the nation for the number of tornados annually, behind Texas and Oklahoma. Florida tornados are usually small and short lived. However, the state

gets the most tropical systems in the nation and tornados are most commonly found in the outer bands. In addition, Florida is the lightning capital of the country and has the most deaths due to these sudden bursts of energy.

Because of the SKYWARN program, residents in Oklahoma City had a 16-minute window before the recent tornados decimated their neighborhoods, giving people time to take shelter.

NWS will conduct more classes for Tribal members. If you are interested, contact Jason Dobronz at JasonDobronz@semtribe.com or call 954-966-6300.



Beverly Bidney

Storm clouds roll in over U.S. 27 near Interstate 75.

Fire Rescue welcomes new members into ranks

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — To become a member of the Seminole Fire Rescue Department, a candidate must complete a strenuous fire academy program and pass both the paramedic and firefighter state certification exams – not easy tasks.

Fire Rescue welcomed six new firefighters to its ranks at a graduation ceremony in Hollywood on May 23.

About 400 certified firefighters applied for the job, only 180 pre-qualified for testing with the Tribe’s stringent criteria, and the department hired only six. The new hires spent eight weeks training with the department to learn Tribal culture, the routines of working on different reservations and additional skills.

“We welcome you as new members of our family,” Fire Rescue Chief Donald DiPetrillo said during the ceremony. “These six are among the elite; they are 2 percent of the people who applied. It is our obligation to train you the best we can and give you the best equipment to make sure you go home safe to your family every day.”

The department began in 2002 with two full-time firefighters and no emergency medical services. Still, they responded to 686 calls that year. By 2012, the department had 138 members – 125 of whom were firefighters and medics – and they responded to 40,000 calls.

Hollywood, Big Cypress and Brighton

have fire stations; Big Cypress and Brighton also have wild land fire stations. (In 2009, the department assumed all wild land fire responsibilities from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.) The population on the reservations can swell to 22 million per year as people visit casinos, attractions and hotels, but the department has agreements with nearby municipal fire departments to provide mutual aide, as needed.

“You have to have knowledge of a broad spectrum of services and love what you do to be a good firefighter,” DiPetrillo said. “We’re really an emergency services agency. It’s a solid profession, the work never stops and there is always a need. At the end of the day, you’ve made an impact.”

The newest members of the department were eager to join the department.

“It’s a dream come true,” said Jeff Jones, of Plantation. “Learning about the culture of the Tribe was an eye-opening experience, and I’m proud to be part of it.”

“I’m looking forward to a good career for many years to come,” added Sal Zocco, of Pembroke Pines.

Dan Ferris grew up near the Hollywood Reservation and remembers coming to play basketball and baseball on the reservation as a boy.

“I’m familiar with the culture and know certain rules of the Tribe which will have an effect on how I’ll do my job,” Ferris said. “I’ve worked really hard for something I’ve wanted my whole life and finally got to it. It’s amazing.”

Brighton roads improved

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Three roads on the Brighton Reservation will see improvement construction this summer – Ballfield Road, Billy Hank Way and Panther Lane.

The Ballfield Road and Billy Hank Way projects began in mid-June. Work to improve a third of a mile on Panther

Lane will start in July.

Construction to widen Ballfield Road from a one-lane road to a two-lane, 20-foot-wide road with sidewalks from East Harney Pond Road to the Brighton Gym requires some closings and detours. Traffic is rerouted through side roads to get to the Brighton Gym, ball fields and other buildings.

The Billy Hank Way rock road construction will provide access to

five current home sites and additional sites that may be added in the future. House construction has not yet begun. Commuters can expect slows in traffic on Harney Canal Road near Billy Hank Way for a drainage culvert installation.

All projects are funded through the Tribe and headed by the Transportation Department. Each will take about two months to complete, weather permitting.



STAND OUT.

[DESIGN SERVICES]



Seminole culture highlights 61st Florida Folk Festival

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

WHITE SPRINGS — Driving rains from weeks of unpredictable lightning and thunderstorms in North Florida caused the Seminole chickee builders to fall behind by the time Memorial Day weekend rolled around. So the planned new *Ee-to-lit-ke* Seminole Village, situated in the center of the Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Center State Park, was not quite ready for the 61st annual Florida Folk Festival.

But that didn't dampen the festivities or spirits of this event. The old village was built by Seminole craftsmen during the 1950s on a site where Seminoles used to camp in the 1940s just outside the entrance gate to the park. After a few repairs directed by Chairman James E. Billie and chickee builder Bobby Henry, the old village was used one last time.

Beneath old chickees of varying sizes, Tribal members demonstrated crafts and culture, while musicians strummed guitars onstage beneath a chickee — one of 13 stages of continuous music over the three-day event.

Resplendent behind tables filled with colorful authentic Seminole crafts, Bobby Henry and wife, Annie, daughters Linda and Barbara, and granddaughter Jamie demonstrated and sold their items. Bobby Henry, a recipient of the Florida Folk Heritage award, entertained old friends and festival patrons he had not seen in many years.

Lorene Gopher, of the Brighton Culture Department, put together an all-star team of Tribal culturists, including sweetgrass basket maker Jennie Shore, patchwork sewing expert Nancy Shore, Seminole cooking specialist Charlotte Burgess, Wayne Gopher, Mollie Jolly and Martha Jones. Non-tribal member Luis Venzor demonstrated wood carving, and Lorene Gopher presented jewelry and other crafts.



Nancy Shore demonstrates patchwork sewing during the Florida Folk Festival in White Springs.

"It was great to see so many Seminoles at the Florida Folk Festival," said Florida Park Service director Donald Forgiene. "They have been an integral part of this festival since the very beginning. We can't thank Chairman Billie and his Tribal members enough for all their support over the years."

The 2013 Florida Folk Festival, sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Division of Recreation and Parks, included many different aspects.

The festival served up a variety of foods, from the Beulah Baptist Church selling chicken pilau, grits, collard greens, cornbread and sweet potato pies to the jerk chicken and curried goat at the Island

Café food truck. Cowboys snapped whips, blacksmiths pounded red-hot iron and visitors learned to play the harmonica and square dance, among many other cultural traditions.

"There's so much," said Florida folk musician Frank Thomas, a native of Clay County who lives on Rattlesnake Road near Lake Wales, "there's not 'nuff hours in the day to see it all."

Thomas was one of several headliners at the amphitheater stage, where thousands gathered each night to watch Florida folk stars such as Jim Stafford, Jubal's Kin, Billy Dean, the Bellamy Brothers, Mindy Simmons and Bing Futch, a flamboyant singer and songwriter who claims a heritage with the Seminole Tribe.

◆ More INAUGURATION photos from page 1A



From left, Board Representatives Joe Frank, Larry Howard and M. Steve Osceola take their oaths of office.



Newly elected Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, left, and Board Rep. M. Steve Osceola pose for a photo under the Council Oak.



Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. addresses the audience during the Inauguration.



Peter B. Gallagher

Lorene Gopher helps fasten a bracelet for a patron during the 61st annual Florida Folk Festival Memorial Day weekend.



Peter B. Gallagher

Bobby and Annie Henry stand behind their Rainmaker Seminole and other Tribal arts and crafts booth.



The crowd applauds newly elected leaders during the event.

Beverly Bidney



Peter B. Gallagher

Folk Festival attendees listen to headliners at the amphitheater stage, where thousands gathered each night during the festival.

◆ SEVEN WINDS

From page 3A

All the girls, mom included, wear traditional Seminole clothing to events to represent the family, culture and business.

Billie's biggest challenge comes from subjects who want pictures for memorable life events, like weddings or family reunions, but who do not enjoy being photographed.

With patience and understanding, she takes time to put them at ease to enjoy the experience.

"I'm really grateful to God for giving me the talent, skill and a good eye to capture the perfect moments," Billie said.



Eileen Soler

Tammy Billie makes sure the lighting is perfect during the Ahfachkee School prom.

THE POLICE KNOW YOUR RIGHTS DO YOU?

Call Me For A FREE Consultation

RICHARD CASTILLO
954.522.3500

Since 1990 I have protected rights like yours. My office defends DUI's, drug offenses, suspended license, domestic violence, and all felonies and misdemeanors.

24 HOURS A DAY

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.

WWW.CASTILLOLAWOFFICES.COM

STETSON • LUCCHESI • TONY LAMA • JUSTIN • WRANGLER • ROPER

GRITS
western

It's More Than Western Wear...

South Florida's Largest & Most Complete Western Store & Showroom

Davie: 954-587-9000 • Coconut Creek: 954-427-9400

TONY LAMA • JUSTIN • RESTIOL • WRANGLER • ROPER

Fathers know best about family time on Father's Day



Andrea Holata

From left, Remus Griffin, Josh Sneed, Shamy Tommie and Marty Tommie take a break from playing pool during the Father's Day celebration at Chupco Ranch.



Eileen Soler

Caitlin Cypress cuddles close to her father, Charlie Cypress, on June 14 during the Big Cypress Father's Day dinner.



Amanda Murphy

Non-Resident Liaison Kevin Osceola and his foster son Chance Bishop pose with the Miami Heat Dancers during the Hollywood dinner.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee grandfather Manuel Garza Sr. shows off his granddaughter.



Eileen Soler

Eric Osceola shows a slab of ribs he used in the Hollywood barbecue contest.



Andrea Holata

Father John Gore Jr. gathers for a picture with his children at the Brighton Father's Day luncheon.



Andrea Holata

The Fort Pierce community enjoys the belly dancing performance during the Father's Day celebration at Chupco Ranch on June 13.



Eileen Soler

Miguel Cantu and his family enjoy time together June 11 during a Father's Day dinner hosted by Trail Liaison Norman Huggins at Samurai hibachi restaurant.



Ryan Watson

Fathers gather for a celebration in Tampa at the Boizao Steakhouse June 15.



Amanda Murphy

Phil Bowers enjoys the Hollywood Father's Day dinner with his children Alyssa and Liam at the Hollywood Gym on June 13.



Eileen Soler

Paul 'Chunky' Buster heads the table during the Big Cypress Father's Day dinner featuring Polynesian food, drinks and entertainment from the Mai-Kai Restaurant.



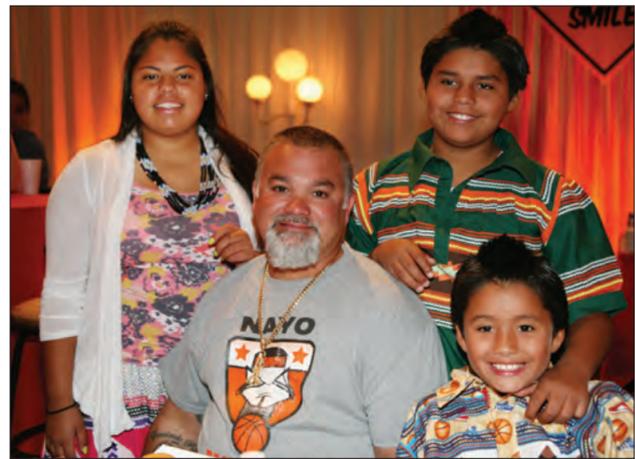
Eileen Soler

Trail dad Andrew Bert Jr. is surrounded by loved ones June 11 at Samurai hibachi restaurant in Miami for a Father's Day dinner.



Judy Weeks

Hooters girls wish Timesia Jimmie a Happy Father's Day at the Immokalee Father's Day celebration on June 14.



Andrea Holata

Matt Piz and his children pose for a picture before enjoying the Father's Day lunch at the Brighton Veteran's Building.



Eileen Soler

Clinton Billie lets his hips swivel to Polynesian drumming and dancing at the Big Cypress Father's Day dinner on June 14.



Andrea Holata

Remus Griffin poses with his son for a Father's Day picture on June 13 at the Fort Pierce celebration.

Trails through time

SUBMITTED BY DAVID BROWNELL
Research Assistant



Photo courtesy of THPO

Pictured is a metal artifact from a military trail discovered during field work on the Brighton Reservation.

For the past year the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) has been working on mapping out the military and hunting trails on the Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee Reservations, and adjacent areas.

Unlike the Seminoles who were adept at using the environment to their advantage, the U.S. Army found much of South Florida impassable for its troops and was forced to construct its own system of military routes during the Second and Third Seminole Wars. These military trails represent some of the earliest transportation routes present on early Floridian maps, making them an important source of historic information.

After locating a full series of aerial photographs from a 1940 Department of Agriculture flight over South Florida, THPO was able to overlay these with current aerial imagery to determine the trails exact location. In addition, through research and the use of a U.S. military map from 1856 by Lt. Ives and an 1871 map of the Brighton trails, THPO was able to draw distinct correlations between the trails on the 1940 aerial and those marked out on the 1856 and 1871 maps.

In addition to military trails, Ives' map also makes note of numerous Seminole villages and hunting trails. Speaking to Tribal members, such as Martha Jones, who remembers the location of these early trails, provided further help.

During THPO's investigations, distinct patterns emerged in the location of the trails and showed how the Seminoles and the U.S. military used them. By comparing the possible location of the trail to the areas

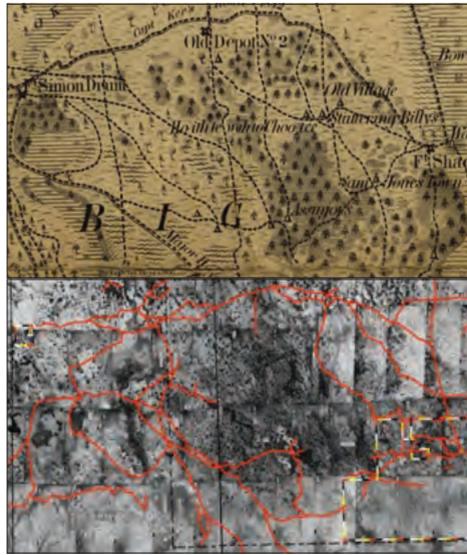


Photo courtesy of THPO

Pictured is a comparison of the 1856 Ives military map, top, with the highlighted trails on the 1940 aerial, bottom, with the Big Cypress and Immokalee Reservation borders highlighted.

of thick vegetation, it appears the troops would have gone around the thick vegetation in an attempt to stay within the wet and dry prairies. This is particularly understandable because some portions, such as patches of saw palmetto or areas heavy with vines, are particularly difficult to traverse with a large amount of equipment.

This is in direct contrast to how the Seminoles used the environment during this period.

Based on a recent analysis of the Seminole battle tactics during the wars by Nate Lawres, it appears the Seminoles would typically hide in and attack from hammocks that lay next to the trail. The troops' choice to travel through the wet prairies put them at a disadvantage during battle, losing any protection provided by the tall trees and vegetation of a hammock. This style of fighting suggests that the trails utilized by the U.S. military were also used by the Seminoles.

Based on the research of these trails, it has been determined that there are correlations between the location of the Seminole camps and the location of the military trails. In almost every instance, a site with a possible Seminole component is located on or along the military trail. For the trails on the Brighton Reservation, many of the camps were established in the mid-20th century, well after the use of these trails by the U.S. soldiers. However, in many instances, these trails continued to be used by the people living along them, even 100 years later primarily because they were easier to traverse than areas not initially used as a trail.

At this time only very limited portions of the military trails on the reservations have been found. To try to find a trail, THPO uses a metal detector since the majority of the debris from that time would have been metal; this generally includes buttons, pins, buckles, bullets, tin cans, nails or horseshoes. THPO also has completed some excavations on the military trail to look for other types of materials from its use such as historic glass bottles, stoneware vessels and charcoal fragments.

An interesting discovery is that many of the trails on the 1940 aerials are still in use as hunting trails on the southern portion of the Big Cypress Reservation, showing a 75-year continuation of movement patterns in the area. In fact, these trails are probably far older than the 1940s and perhaps a few of them are even those marked on the maps from the 1850s. Only time, research and hard work will tell.

Maureen Mahoney and Valerie Layton contributed to this article.

Okalee Village hosts third annual Pow-Wow



Brett Daly

Traditional dancing is passed down to the next generation during the third annual Okalee Village Pow-Wow held at the Hard Rock Hollywood May 16-18.



Brett Daly

Native Americans of all ages compete in the Pow-Wow.



Brett Daly

A dancer showcases Native American dress and dancing during the opening ceremonies on May 16.



Brett Daly

A dancer competes in the Women's Fancy Dance competition.



Brett Daly

The Color Guard presents the flags during the opening ceremony.



Brett Daly

Okalee Village wildlife manager John Jones faces off with an alligator.



Brett Daly

John Jones gives a thumbs-up during his alligator wrestling performance on May 16.

HAVE YOU SEEN US ONLINE?

The **Seminole Tribune**
Voice of the Unconquered

THE SEMINOLE TRIBUNE IS NOW BRINGING YOU DAILY UPDATES ON ALL THE LATEST TRIBAL NEWS.

f Follow us on Facebook: **The Seminole Tribune**

www.seminoletribune.org Visit our website at:

@SeminoleTribune Follow us on Twitter:

Health

Tribe springs into healthy summer

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

Checking out rows of health, wellness and safety displays was just what the doctor ordered – or at least what the Seminole Health Department ordered – for community members and employees at the Spring into Health Fair held on reservations Tribalwide.

“We’re here to promote healthy living, answer general health questions and make people aware of what services are out there for them,” said Lauren Goas, special events coordinator for the department’s Allied Health Program.

Scores streamed through 28 vendor booths manned by representatives from more than a dozen Tribal departments and about a dozen more non-Tribal businesses and agencies May 23 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

The Environmental Health Program provided helpful tips about healthy living by including topics from cooking safety and mold awareness to keeping pets from getting heatstroke. Environment specialist Nicholas Persaud gave away outdoor and home safety items, including collapsible water canteens and wooden oven cooking sticks.

The Family Services Department offered a rainbow of brochures about testing and evaluation for youth, recruiting and training foster care families, drug abuse rehabilitation programs followed by sobriety support, and parent education training. Parents and teens were invited to register as volunteers for this year’s Seminole Youth Camp.

“Our contribution covers the gamut of mental health, which we all know is too often overlooked as a health issue,” said Kelli Adams, a counselor on Big Cypress.

Hearing, blood pressure and diabetes screenings were given free by Palm Beach Gardens-based HearUSA, the Seminole Fire Rescue’s paramedics and Seminole Health Department technicians respectively. Dr. Joshua Parrish, a chiropractor, offered free back massages, while Dr. Randall T. Parrish Jr., an optometrist, furnished the latest news about eye care.

Some event tables, such as one manned by Judy Jim, Cultural site coordinator at Big Cypress, granted peripheral health care.



Eileen Soler

Children and adults are more than welcome at the Big Cypress Spring into Health Fair to make their own trail mix snacks – but only using prescribed spoonfuls for healthy combinations of nuts, seeds, granola and chocolate provided by the Boys & Girls Club.

She sat with a giveaway box brimming in small plastic bags filled with Seminole-colored beads and string – just enough for a keychain.

“Some people could say making a keychain is stress relieving. Stress can be a health issue,” Jim said.

Seminole Fire Rescue and Seminole Police also came prepared with health-related giveaways: Band-Aids, electrical socket plugs, pill boxes, medicine spoons and no-strain jar openers.

And the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum supplied health fair goers with bug repellent, waterproof necklance medication bottles and a chance to join a lunchtime walking program that invites residents and employees to stroll the Museum’s 1.5-mile boardwalk for free every Monday.

Healthy eating and diabetes prevention was a recurring topic.

The Boys & Girls Club allowed kids and grown-ups to bag their own trail mix – but only using prescribed portions of nuts, seeds, granola, cereal and chocolate chips. The American Diabetes Association gave away free recipes for low-calorie, high-

nutrition chicken gumbo and chicken salad. Brenda Bordogna, an education coordinator with the Health Department, tossed around bean bags weighted to illustrate how many extra pounds would be gained annually by eating quarter-pound cheese burgers, french fries, potato chips, candy and other high-calorie, high-fat foods daily.

“People always ask about what foods they should avoid eating,” Bordogna said. “It’s usually the foods we like the most but foods that should be only occasional; they are what we call ‘sometimes foods’ – not for every day.”

Everyone received parting gifts. Children ages 16 and younger took home tiny marigold flower planters. Adults left with potted penta bushes, a native butterfly plant.

Goas said the annual health fair reminds people that good health is achieved – not given.

“We can link anything we do well and how it can improve your life,” she said. “It’s diet and exercise and more. It’s being emotionally, spiritually and mentally well. It’s a way of life.”

Take a healthy 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.



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.

Mold exposure can lead to negative health effects

SUBMITTED BY KIRK TRENCHFIELD
Indoor Air Quality Specialist

Exposure to moldy environments may cause a variety of health effects in certain individuals. People who are sensitive to mold may experience nasal stuffiness, throat irritation, coughing or wheezing, eye irritation, headaches, nausea or even skin irritation in some cases.

There have even been claims of memory loss from certain individuals, although such claims are difficult to validate.

People who are allergic to mold may have more severe reactions than others. Immune-compromised people, such as those with chronic lung illnesses, may get serious lung infections when exposed to mold. These people should limit their

exposure to certain areas where more mold spores likely exist, such as damp, moist indoor environments and outdoor areas like compost piles, cut grass and wooded areas.

Studies by the Institute of Medicine have found sufficient evidence linking exposure to damp indoor environments and mold with upper respiratory health effects in otherwise healthy people. Other studies have suggested a potential link of early mold exposure to the development of asthma in some children, particularly among children who may have a genetic predisposition to asthma development.

These studies also suggest that taking action to improve housing conditions can reduce the health effects from asthma and respiratory allergies, although more research is needed in this matter.

Parents, keep kids safe

SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD
Police Chief

Summer has arrived, and I have had the opportunity to drive throughout our communities. It is such a blessing to see the kids playing and having fun. Parents, as a reminder, we need to be responsible and make sure our children do not fall victim to being involved in any criminal activities. As our kids begin to partake in activities such as attending summer camps, going to the beach, swimming with friends and shopping at the mall, remind them to be alert to their surroundings. Reiterate to them, if something does not feel right, it probably isn’t. Make sure they know to call you or dial 911 immediately if they fear any danger.

We want our children to strive to be

leaders in the community, not followers. Revisit what peer pressure entails and how to avoid falling prey to it. Summertime, although full of great things to do and extra time with family, can also be a scary time for parents. They may worry about their kids becoming involved in criminal activities, and sometimes, even becoming involved in gang-related activities.

Keeping them involved in structured activities such as playing sports, spending time at the library, fishing or learning something new in the Culture Department, will not only help them grow and prosper, but will also reduce the parents’ worry. We must all remain involved with our children’s lives, assisting them in any way we can so they become successful.

Enjoy a safe, happy and fulfilling summer.



Eileen Soler

In Big Cypress, Brenda Bordogna uses a bean bag to show children that they could gain 5 pounds a year just by eating french fries every day.



Amanda Murphy

A massage therapist from Chiropractic Professionals gives Margaret Ortiz, SPD community service aide, a relaxing massage at the Hollywood Spring into Health Fair.

Men, get your screenings now

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez

Dr. Mehmet Oz is a cardiothoracic surgeon, author and television personality who became well known during five seasons on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. I attended a special Dr. Oz event earlier this month where he covered topics including diabetes, heart disease and obesity and performed screenings.

After seeing a participant’s reaction when he discovered he had diabetes – the man never considered going to the doctor because he felt fine – I was motivated to write about screenings for men.

Studies show that men are less likely to visit doctors for health screenings. Some say they don’t have time, others are not as tuned in to their bodies as much as women and some men say they are afraid of what they might find out.

I say: Find the time and get to your doctor because if something is wrong, early detection can make all the difference.

Routine tests for men’s health are essential. Here are some simple tests that can be administered in a regular doctor’s office. Add these to your preventive health care plan along with regular exercise and sensible eating.

Cholesterol Test – Cholesterol is measured with a blood test. Your overall optimal level should read less than 200. It is important to know your LDL (bad cholesterol), HDL (good cholesterol) and your triglyceride levels because they contribute to heart health.

The ideal level of LDL is less

than 100. Readings more than 130 are considered borderline cases. If they read 160 or more, they are classified as high risk and can result in a heart attack or stroke. The optimal level of HDL should be at least 60 to prevent heart disease. If your levels read at 40 or less, your risk for heart complications increases. Triglyceride level should be 150 or less. The higher the number, the higher the risk of developing heart-related problems.

Blood Pressure Screening – A blood pressure screening is the easiest, painless test you can get and is important to your overall heart health. There are screening machines at most pharmacies, so you can check it in a matter of minutes.

The optimal blood pressure range is less than 120/80. If your readings are higher than optimal, your doctor can suggest simple lifestyle changes such as a low-salt diet. Regular exercise and weight loss contribute to lower levels as well.

Prostate Cancer Screening – The primary method of checking for this type of cancer is a blood test that detects the amount of Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) in your blood. The optimal level is considered to be less than 4.

Colon Cancer Screening – According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States. An estimated 103,170 new cases will be diagnosed this year. And more than half will be men. Current guidelines suggest men start getting checked at age 50.

A colonoscopy is the most comprehensive test where a small camera

on a flexible tube is used to check the entire colon.

Skin Cancer Check – According to Robert T. Grant, MD, a surgeon at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center, men are two to three times more likely to develop skin cancer than women. It is important that men perform self-examinations every three months to look for any changes in their skin. Check for unusual spots or changes in size or color of moles. You should also have your skin checked from head to toe by your doctor once a year.

Diabetes Test – Uncontrolled diabetes can lead to many health problems such as heart disease, stroke, nerve damage, kidney disease, vision problems (caused by damage to the blood vessels of the retina) and impotence. If you have a family history of diabetes, you should get your blood checked. Now.

A normal or safe blood glucose level for men is 70-100. The popular test used in determining your blood glucose levels or sugar is a fasting blood glucose test, where blood is drawn after a patient has fasted for eight hours or more. Readings of 125 (and higher) are medically referred to as hyperglycemia, which is a primary indicator of diabetes. Talk to your doctor about how often you should get your blood glucose levels checked.

Don’t put off these tests. Being proactive is the key to early detection. So call your doctor and get your screenings done soon.

These simple health screenings can mean life or death for some men.



The countdown is on....

Effective July 1, 2013, the medical network the Tribal member Health Plan uses is changing to First Health.

The First Health Network is one of the nation’s largest PPO networks with access to more than 5,000 hospitals, 90,000 ancillary facilities and 1 million health care professional service locations.

- **It is very important that you receive and begin using your new card on July 1, 2013.** A new Health Plan card along with a new Health Plan book will be mailed to you at the end of May. Therefore, please contact the STOF Clinic to provide us with your current mailing address. Also, if you have non-resident family members, please let them know about this change and ask them to contact the Clinic to update their address.
- **We will discontinue using the Beech Street Network on June 30, 2013.** However, most of the Beech Street providers you currently use are also in the First Health Network so you should not experience a disruption in care. It is recommended that you contact First Health 800-226-5116 or the STOF Health Plan Office at 954-981-7410 or 866-505-6789 to determine if your physician is in network.
- We will continue to use dental providers participating in the Dentemax network.
- We will continue to use Express Scripts as our Pharmacy Benefits Manager.

Please be on the lookout for your new card and book in the mail. If you do not receive this package by mid-June, please contact one of the STOF Clinics.

- ❖ 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



www.MyFirstHealth.com

800-226-5116



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki loans beaded sash to National Constitution Center

SUBMITTED BY JAMES H. POWELL
 Registrar

Museums often loan historic objects to each other so the item can reach a wider audience of people.

In 2012, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum launched an exciting multi-year loaning project with the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pa. For five years, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki will loan one item per year to the center. Last year, the Museum loaned the center a pair of early 19th century moccasins, and this year sent a beaded sash of a similar age. Two additional pairs of moccasins and a bandolier bag will be loaned over the next three years.

According to Lauren Saul, the center's director of Public Relations, the facility "illuminates constitutional ideals and inspires active citizenship through a state-of-the-art museum experience, including hundreds of interactive exhibits, films and rare artifacts." The loaned Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki artifacts are being used in the center's core exhibit, *The Story of We the People*. A section of the exhibit is dedicated to the history of the 1830 Indian Removal Act and to its constitutional debate.

As part of the loan agreement, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki insisted that these important and fragile artifacts be accompanied by a staff member when transported to and from the center. This common practice ensures the safety of the object. It is also common for the borrowing museum to shoulder the responsibility for travel arrangements and expenses. This year, I accompanied the beaded sash to the center and returned the previous year's moccasins safely to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki. It has been a pleasure to work with the Center and in particular with fellow registrar Stephanie Wiener on this project.



National Constitution Center registrar Stephanie Wiener installs the beaded sash at her location. James H. Powell traveled to Philadelphia, Pa. to oversee the process.

Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Wiener said that the center displays artifacts to create tangible links to the past and to the U.S. Constitution. Not much is known about the beaded sash, but it is an important example of an early Southeastern beaded sash, and its design origin may be found with the Choctaw or Chickasaw.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki hopes the sash helps create a tangible link to the history of the Indian Removal Act and illuminates the injustices of this dark period.

If any *Seminole Tribune* readers have any further information on the sash, or would like to help research it, please contact Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki at 863-902-1113. If you want to see other things in the Museum's collection, stop by and ask for someone in the Collections Division.

If you can, visit the National Constitution Center, which is located near Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell on Independence Mall. For more information, visit ConstitutionCenter.org.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is in a multi-year loaning project with the National Constitution Center and loaned this beaded sash for 2013.

Hah-Tung-Ke: Bill Miller

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
 Special Projects Reporter

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Native songsmith Bill Miller was raised on the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation near Bowler, Wis., with nine siblings in a turbulent home that stewed the cultures of his Mohican father and German mother in a unique melting pot. His Mohican name foretold what he would become: Fush-Ya Heay ("Bird Song").

Miller is a three-time Grammy Award winner and the most honored performer in the short history of the Native American Music Awards. Also an acclaimed speaker and gifted painter, Miller possesses a natural born talent to produce his thoughts in a unique style that is folk, blues, rock and traditional Native American music combined.

The 58-year-old performs more than 200 shows annually at native and non-native venues, presenting himself as a voice for the voiceless and a link between two great and clashing civilizations, with perspective from both sides.

For many years, Miller has lived in Nashville, where the city's rich musical spirit gave him his first breaks in the business. He has appeared many times at Tribal events, including the Discover



Peter B. Gallagher

Bill Miller performs.

Native America Powwow series, Fire on the Swamp Festivals and the Seminole Tribal Fair.

Though Miller has written dozens of popular songs, the haunting ballad *Trail of Freedom* may be his most significant song, especially among the Southeastern Indians. It is well crafted, with themes of spirituality and raw suffering. Images in the song range from the Trail of Tears to Crazy Horse to Wounded Knee.

'Trail Of Freedom'

I dreamed I saw Crazy Horse, riding through the badlands he was wild and brave and free

I swear I heard the cries of the innocent victims in the wind at Wounded Knee There's a trail of tears we could follow, can you hear the footsteps of the Cherokee

It's a trail of broken promises, will you walk this trail with me

We can find America down the trail of freedom

Walk the way of my fathers from sea to sea

Oh can you find America, hear the drums of freedom

Gonna find it together, walk this trail Walk the trail with me

I felt the Chippewa wind off Lake Michigan on a cold Chicago day I heard the thunder of the Seminoles, way down in the Everglades

And I've seen it in the beauty of a Navajo girl, like a flower in the desert heat And I've felt it in the pride of a Cheyenne dancer, as he moved to an ancient beat

Oh can you find America down the trail of freedom

Walk the way of my fathers from sea to sea

Yeah we can find America, hear drums of freedom

Gonna find it together, walk this trail Walk the trail with me

I walk the streets of Gallup, New Mexico on a Saturday night

I watched my brothers fall to the alcohol, we were going down without a fight

Hey brothers, we must walk with the pride of Chief Joseph, have the courage of Geronimo

For this trail it's long, so you have to be strong, just to find your way back home

We can find America down the trail of freedom

Walk the way of my fathers from sea to sea

Oh can you find America, hear the drums of freedom

Gonna find it together, walk this trail Walk the trail with me

GUY SELIGMAN, P.A.

Criminal Defense Attorney

Even A Fish Wouldn't Get Caught If It Kept Its Mouth Shut

- ◆ Representing Children in Trouble
- ◆ Appeals
- ◆ 2nd Chances
- ◆ Driver License Repair



320 SE 9th St Ft Lauderdale FL 33316
 Tel 954-760-7600

VIP TICKET PLACE TICKET BROKERS

WHERE THE SEMINOLE AND MICCOSUKEE GET VIP TICKETS & SERVICE SINCE 1985

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!

FEATURED EVENTS



ALABAMA



STEELY DAN



MONSTER JAM

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

- BEYONCÉ
- LIL WAYNE
- CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER
- DAVE MATTHEWS BAND
- 311
- MARILYN MANSON
- BLACK SABBATH WITH OZZY
- JONAS BROTHERS
- ALABAMA
- ONE REPUBLIC
- JAY-Z/ JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE
- JASON ALDEAN
- JOHN MAYER
- STEELY DAN
- PET SHOP BOYS
- MAROON 5/HONDA CIVIC TOUR
- KEITH URBAN
- NINE INCH NAILS
- MONSTER JAM
- MIAMI DOLPHINS



EVENTS: 305.443.3000
 24 HOUR TEXT LINE: 305.450.3323
 TRAVEL: 305.445.6566

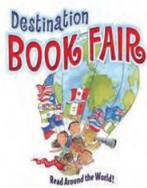
0% SERVICE FEE ON ALL ONLINE ORDERS!

WWW.VIPTICKETPLACE.COM OR SILVIA@VIPTICKETPLACE.COM

Announcements

WILLIE FRANK LIBRARY

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



WHEN: JULY 8, 2013– JULY 12, 2013

WHERE: WILLIE FRANK LIBRARY

TIME: ALL DAY

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND!



Congratulations, Bryce Osceola



Photo courtesy of Wende Malik

From left, Joanne Osceola, O.B. Osceola Jr., O.B. Osceola Sr., Bryce Osceola (center), Brody Osceola, Marissa Osceola, Wende Malik and O.B. Osceola III.

Bryce Osceola is the daughter of O.B. Osceola Jr. and Wende Malik, granddaughter of O.B. Osceola Sr. and Joanne Osceola and great-granddaughter of Cory Osceola and Juanita Osceola.

She is from the Naples community and went to high school at St. John Neumann for four years. She was on the junior varsity basketball team for her freshman and sophomore year and moved up to varsity for her junior and senior year.

Starting her junior year, Bryce became a Celtic Ambassador, an appointed position for St. John Neumann students who show academic excellence and a strong sense of community.

Bryce was also the Business Manager of the St. John Neumann Yearbook Staff for her junior and senior year.

She was on the Academic Honor Roll for four

years at her high school and was on the Principal's List with a GPA of 3.9.

Bryce was also accepted into the National Society of High School Scholars and was a presenter at the annual Multi-Cultural Festival for two years at St. John Neumann. Bryce has volunteered at the Jump Rope for Heart event, the Celtic Snowball Event, the Relay for Life event and was an instructor at the St. John Neumann basketball camp for three years. Bryce has also been an employee in the Seminole Tribe of Florida Youth Work Program for two years at the Juanita Community Center in Naples.

Bryce has been accepted to Florida Gulf Coast University and plans on pursuing a degree in Business Management.

– Submitted by Wende Malik

Pick up your steers for Seminole 4-H

The Seminole Indian 4-H requests that all 4-H members pick up their steers for the 2014 Seminole Indian 4-H Livestock Show and Sale.

Brighton shipping dates will be July 8-14, and Big Cypress shipping dates will be July 15-19.

Please see the leader on your respective reservation if you are looking to show a steer next year.

For more information, please contact the Seminole Indian 4-H staff at 863-763-5020.



With much love...



Justine Morgan Osceola,

Wishing you a lifetime of well being, happiness in your new career. We are so very proud of you.

Love, Mom and Dad (Debbie and Mason), sons Ian and Daniel, gramma Maggie Osceola, and your brothers sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Loving birthday wishes

Happy Birthday to you,

Happy Birthday to you Pammie,

Happy Birthday to you Tiffany,

As we blow out your birthday candles this year,

Your love fills our hearts.

We love and miss you every day...

Diamonds in the sky.

You are our diamonds in the sky.

Love, Aunt Pam and family

Help wanted: Drivers and Electrical Machines

Position Description:

- Accounts Bookkeeper
- Sales Representative
- Payable/Receivable

If you are looking to work in a fast-pace sales environment for a company that cares about its employees and offers strong growth opportunities. If you are interested in this job or other Accounting jobs, we are now accepting applications for all positions. Experience required, but will train the right person. Send resume to: ThomasMarx09@gmail.com.

Get Out of Jail Fast!

Call Myrna Loy (954) 583-9119. Tribal dividends, MasterCard and Visa accepted.

- 24 hours • Speedy Release
- Professional Service.

1128 NW 31st Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33311



THRIFTARELLA'S

Used Furniture-Home Goods-Gifts and More!

4300 Davie Road-across from Rodeo

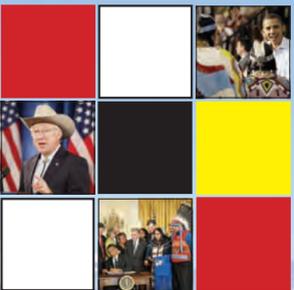
Tuesday-Saturday 10-6 p.m.

www.thriftarellas.com

954.587.0818

Christine & Dominick

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Liquor, electronics stolen from Seminoles

FORT LAUDERDALE — With speed and teamwork, four bold thieves stole hundreds of cases of high-end liquor and a truck load of televisions, gaming systems and camcorders in an audacious daytime robbery of a Seminole Tribe of Florida warehouse.

The 9 a.m. heist, caught on videotape, occurred at a rented warehouse in Fort Lauderdale. According to Seminole police, the thieves used a forklift to dismantle a back door and disconnected an outside surveillance system, but failed to turn off cameras inside the building. The goods were loaded onto a trailer bearing the name Pallet Consultants, which was found empty two days later, abandoned on the side of Interstate 75, south of Griffin Road.

Stolen liquor included cases of Grey Goose vodka, Johnny Walker Black Label scotch and Patron tequila; missing electronic equipment included Apple TV 3 network players, JVC and Vivitar camcorders, 32-inch Samsung TVs and Wii gaming systems.

The Seminole Tribe, along with Crime Stoppers, the FBI and the police, are offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest. Anyone with information should call 954-493-8477.

— Sun Sentinel

Reservation house towed to Washington, D.C. event

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Legislators and administrators from the nation's capital got a firsthand look at Indian Country poverty, recently, when a group of Oglala Sioux Tribal citizens hauled a real home (that has been lived in by four generations on the Pine Ridge Reservation) to the front of the Capitol Building.

Part of the "Trail of Hope" Project, which seeks solutions to housing issues throughout Indian Country, the goal of the Oglala Sioux Housing Council, which organized the event, was to lobby for increased HUD funding to rebuild or improve more than 6,000 new Pine Ridge homes.

"Our housing conditions across much of Indian Country are really bad," said Lakota Sioux tribal member Henry Red Cloud in an interview with *Indian Country Today Media Network*. "Our people are starving and cold — sometimes in stick houses that haven't had updates in four generations."

The event organizers hoped for massive publicity and Congressmen stopping by for a tour. However, the timing could not have been worse. The event took place a few days after the Boston Marathon bombings and the same week the White House and Capitol were receiving letters laced with ricin. The Capitol Building was locked down on the day of the demonstration; few legislators were in sight.

Red Cloud estimated that only 100 people attended or visited throughout the course of the event. He expressed disappointment that no workers showed up from nearby HUD, the agency that built many of the substandard homes on Pine Ridge.

"Only 10 housing units have been built on Pine Ridge in recent times," Red Cloud said. "They are totally overcrowded — it's disheartening. Our children can't get a good night's rest. They go to school hungry and cold. How can their minds be nourished?"

— Indian Country Today Media Network

Mayan pyramid bulldozed for road

NOHMUL COMPLEX, Belize — A 2,300-year-old Mayan pyramid — one of the largest in Central America — was destroyed, recently, to extract crushed rock for a nearby road building project.

The destruction at the Nohmul complex in northern Belize shocked anthropologists around the world familiar with the "ceremonial centre" that dates back at least 2,300 years.

"It's a feeling of incredible disbelief because of the ignorance and the insensitivity . . . they were using this for road fill," said Jaime Awe, head of the Belize Institute of Archaeology, who said the site was the most important in northern Belize, near the Mexican border. "It's like being punched in the stomach; it's just so horrendous."

Located on flat landscape in the middle of a privately owned sugar cane field, the pyramid was about 100 feet tall with ruins well known throughout the area.

"These guys knew that this was an ancient structure. It's just bloody laziness," Awe told *The Guardian*. "To think that today we have modern equipment, that you can go and excavate in a quarry anywhere, but that this company would completely disregard that and completely destroyed this building. Why can't these people just go and quarry somewhere that has no cultural significance? It's mind-boggling."

Belizean police are conducting an investigation, with criminal charges expected.

— The Guardian

Navajos, Hopi Tribe oppose canyon project



GRAND CANYON — A plan being pushed by a former Chairman of the Navajo nation to build a museum, restaurant, walking path and a rim-to-floor gondola at the Grand Canyon is being opposed by many Navajos, the entire Hopi Nation, the National Park Service and a host of environmental groups.

Named the Escalade, the 420-acre project at the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers, would begin on Navajo land on the western rim of the Canyon.

"Escalade will produce employment and business opportunities for local residents, generate substantial Navajo Nation revenue (an estimated \$50 to \$95 million annually) and provide an opportunity for the Navajo people to share their culture with dignity to a world in search of harmony and beauty," wrote former Chairman Albert Hale, a member of the Arizona state legislature and the legal adviser to Confluence Partners LLC of Tucson, the project developer.

Hale said the museum would educate visitors about Navajo history and culture and provide for artist booths and an Artist in Residence program, he added. The Escalade would take up about 420 acres of land on the canyon floor at the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers, an area considered sacred by some Tribes.

Speaking to the *Native Sun News*, Jan Balsom, of Grand Canyon National Park, said, flatly: "We oppose development on the Canyon floor . . . Our job is to preserve the integrity of the Canyon. Development would compromise that."

The Hopi Tribal Council passed a resolution opposing the Escalade and recently issued a press release: "The Canyon was and still is home to several Native American Tribes including the Hopi, Havasupai, Hualapai, Kaibab-Paiute, Navajo and Zuni. Sacred sites dot the river and canyons, one of the most important areas being the confluence where the Colorado River meets the Little Colorado River. The sacred area serves as a connection to the Hopi Tribes' ancestral past and is home to ceremonial trails, shrines and ruins.

"Driven by the lure of tourist dollars, the Confluence Partners is threatening the beauty of this natural wonder. While they expect a large economic impact to come from the development, it is clear that the developers value the potential dollars to be made from this sacred area rather than respecting the beauty and sanctity of a pristine location that is so dear to many tribal communities."

"Escalade will be minimally intrusive on the Canyon," said Hale. "The Riverwalk on the Canyon floor will be elevated to minimize its impact on the environment. The Lower Tram station and the Riverwalk will use around 3.5 acres which is 75 percent less than the National Park's 17-acre Phantom Ranch Hotel development on the Canyon floor. The length of the Riverwalk will be approximately 1,400 feet of the 2,977,920 feet of river shoreline on the Grand Canyon."

Deon Ben of Grand Canyon Trust, told *Native Sun News*, "many Navajo families affected by the proposed Escalade oppose it. I'm a Navajo. To have a proposal be this intrusive is devastating. We Navajos are tied to the land. We are supposed to protect our land. Many are opposed to it. Its approach to the confluence has divided the community . . . It will impact sacred sites.

"They say jobs would be created. It's the same as the casinos. They hire a management team from Phoenix . . . Navajos would be working at low-end jobs. The high-end jobs would go to non-Navajos."

— Native Sun News

Cherokee nominated for ambassador-level job

TALEQUAH, Okla. — President Barack Obama has nominated Keith Harper, a member of the Cherokee Nation, as his pick for United States Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Council. If confirmed by the Senate, Harper would be the first Native American in an ambassador post.

Harper is known for working on the Cobell trust fund lawsuit since its inception in 1996. He started off at the Native American Rights Fund and joined the Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton firm before a settlement was announced in

December 2009. He was also instrumental in raising more than \$500,000 in Indian Country donations to the President's re-election campaign.

The United Nations Human Rights Council addresses human rights issues around the world. Prior U.S. representatives have included Eleanor Roosevelt and Geraldine Ferraro.

— Indianz.com

Alaska city makes Smithsonian Magazine top 10

SITKA, Alaska — The fourth-largest city by population in Alaska, Sitka (population: 8,881 in 2010) has been named No. 9 in the *Smithsonian Magazine's* Best Small Towns to Visit list for 2013. Home to the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, it is the only American Indian Tribal town on the list.

"No other town in the 49th state has Sitka's charisma. To wander through its historic downtown is to appreciate how three cultures — Tlingit, Russian and American — were woven together," wrote *Smithsonian* author Susan Spano.

Smithsonian sought a statistical answer to the question: What makes a small town big on culture? They asked geographic information company Esri to search its databases for small towns and cities, with "populations of less than 15,000 that have exceptional concentrations of museums, art galleries, orchestras, theaters, historic sites and other cultural blessings," the article stated.

American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA) Board Secretary (and Sitka Tribe of Alaska Tribal member) Rachel Moreno commented: "We take great pride in our heritage and preserving Indian Country here. Thank you to *Smithsonian* for creating such a list that showcases America's hidden treasures."

Gettysburg, Pa. was No. 1.

— Smithsonian

Sioux to vote on lifting alcohol ban

PINE RIDGE, S.D. — A 9-7 Tribal Council decision to allow Oglala Sioux citizens to decide, by vote this fall, whether to legalize alcohol on their reservation, has spurred strong opinions on both sides about how the Tribe might regulate alcohol sales.

Alcohol was legalized on the dry Pine Ridge Reservation in 1970 but the ban was restored two months later, and an attempt to allow it in 2004 died after a public outcry.

Sioux Tribal leaders and activists have raised fears that legalization of alcohol could lead to a sharp spike in alcohol abuse and crime, though others argue legalization could help the cash-strapped Tribe fund much needed treatment and youth programs to combat the devastating effects of alcoholism.

The Tribe's reservation, about the size of Connecticut, has struggled with high alcoholism rates for generations, though alcohol has been banned there since 1832. The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation makes up all of Shannon County, S.D. — the third-poorest county in America, according to the U.S. census. Nearly 40,000 people live on the reservation.

The statistics are devastating: One in four Oglala Sioux children is born with fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Average reservation life expectancy is between 45 and 52 years.

The Tribe expects to gain nearly \$10 million per year in revenue from alcohol sales, which it would use to support detox, treatment, youth and education programs.

— Journalstar.com

Comanches seek to rescue lost Tribal tongue

LAWTON, Okla. — Two-year Comanche Nation College is teaming with Texas Tech University on a quest to employ new technology to reinvestigate the dying Comanche language.

Two faculty members from each school worked with Tribal elders to create a digital archive of what is left of the language, spoken by only 25 people nationwide (down from about 15,000 in the late 1800s).

The recording project was supported by \$198,000 in grants from the Administration for Native Americans, a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Each of three Comanche speakers — all women in their 60s and 70s — was handed a script in English, which she translated into spoken Comanche as the project director recorded her. The resulting 42 modules require students to match the audio of a sentence spoken in Comanche with a corresponding picture or photograph.

For more advanced students, the sentences became more elaborate. A sentence might describe a boy ducking under a fence and running across the prairie to find his older brother fishing and tell him his mother said that supper was ready.

Generations of Comanche children were deprived of the chance to learn their

language. Starting in the late 19th century, they were sent to boarding schools, where they were taught to assimilate into white culture and punished for speaking Comanche.

Juanita Pahdopony, dean of academic affairs at Comanche Nation, said her parents were products of the boarding schools, which existed through the 1970s.

"My father was whipped for speaking the language, but he did it secretly and was a fluent speaker. My parents didn't want me learning the language because they wanted me to be successful in the white man's world."

— The Chronicle of Higher Education

Journalist Trahant to serve as Atwood Chair

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Legendary native journalist Mark Trahant has been selected to serve as the prestigious 20th Atwood Chair of Journalism at the University of Alaska Anchorage, a position that brings nationally known journalists to teach courses and speak to students, journalists and the public in Alaska.

Trahant, who has been reporting about Indian Country since the 1970s, has experience as an editor, reporter, columnist, TV correspondent and is the author of several books, including *The Last Great Battle of the Indian Wars* about Sen. Henry M. Jackson.

Trahant, a member of Idaho's Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and former president of the Native American Journalists Association, was recently awarded a fellowship to the Rockefeller Bellagio Center in Italy. For the past three years, he has been an editor in residence at the University of Idaho School of Journalism and Mass Media. He was a 2009 Kaiser Media Fellow, a reporter for PBS' *Frontline*, former editorial page editor for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, former chairman and chief executive officer at the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education and a former columnist at *The Seattle Times*. He has been publisher of the *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*, executive news editor of *The Salt Lake Tribune*; a reporter at the *Arizona Republic* in Phoenix; and has worked at several Tribal newspapers.

— Pechanga.net

Man sues to remove Native image from license tag

DENVER, Colo. — The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 3-0 that a judge in Oklahoma City erred by throwing out the lawsuit of Keith Cressman, pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Bethany.

Cressman objects to the image of an American Indian shooting an arrow toward the sky to bring down rain. His lawsuit claims the image unconstitutionally contradicts his Christian beliefs by depicting Indian religious beliefs, and that he should be allowed to either cover up the image on his plates or to get a personalized plate for the same cost as a standard license plate.

"(Mr. Cressman) has alleged sufficient facts to suggest that the 'Sacred Rain Arrow' image on the standard Oklahoma license plate conveys a particularized message that others are likely to understand and to which he objects," the appellate judges wrote in a 39-page decision, reversing Judge Joe Heaton's dismissal of the lawsuit.

— NewsOK.com

'Prophet' Jacobs warns Native Americans to repent

SANTA ROSA BEACH, Fla. — Describing herself as "a respected prophet who travels the world ministering not only to crowds of people, but to heads of nations," Cindy Jacobs appears regularly on Christian TV, including on the *700 Club*.

On one of her recent segments during her "unique prophetic" *God Knows God* TV show, she took on American Indians and Mexicans, warning people of Indigenous heritage that they should "repent for their ancestors' animism" because they are particularly vulnerable to evil spirits.

"If you have in your bloodline any animus [sic], any Native American blood, for instance — not all Native Americans worshipped the serpent or crocodile, many did — but you might want to renounce that and repent for the generational iniquity," she lectured. "If you are — perhaps you're Mexican and you might have indigenous blood in you or Mayan blood, those who have Aztec blood in any way, you need to repent for the sin of animism before you begin to deal with this spirit."

This is the same self-proclaimed prophet who, earlier this year, affirmed that durable, long-lasting shoes are proof of "supernatural" miracles from God.

Jacobs previously outraged Indian Country by claiming that the "Response," an August 2011 prayer rally in Houston led by Texas Gov. Rick Perry, broke the curse of Native American cannibalism over the North American lands.

— Indian Country Today Media Network

Tribal leaders meet on Energy Development

SANDIA PUEBLO, N.M. — American Indian Tribal lands make up about 5 percent of the land mass in the U.S. but contain as much as 20 percent of the nation's energy resources.

That is one good reason American Indian leaders met recently to discuss Indian Country energy issues, pointing a healthy finger at both federal and Tribal politics and bureaucracy for exacerbating problems with Tribal energy growth issues, including the development of natural resources from oil and natural gas to renewable source.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly indicated his Tribe is working on modernizing its energy and environmental codes to better position the Navajos for new development prospects. Shelly called for cooperation, urging Tribal leaders to band together and take advantage of opportunities they have to both become energy independent and bring in revenues for their Tribes.

— Associated Press

Recipe: Smothered muskrat, tail off, teeth showing



PLEASANT POINT, Maine — Make preparations now for the Pleasant Point Indian Days, held in eastern Maine the second weekend of August. Passamaquoddy Tribal citizen Hilda Lewis will be cooking a traditional native meal: "Smothered muskrat, tail off, teeth showing."

The recipe is simple, she said. First, chop off the tail, then drop the entire muskrat into the pot of water with potatoes, onion and shredded carrot. When the meat is tender, the muskrat, sans tail, is served "with the teeth showing," she added. The potatoes and onions are heaped on top, hence, the term smothered.

Muskrat has fallen out of favor as a dish because there isn't as much trapping being done, Lewis explained, which means the toughest trick when cooking a muskrat is getting a muskrat. She said the best way to do that may be to ask around to see if someone has a few in their freezer.

Muskrat, about the size of a mink, can weigh up to 4 pounds and has a rich golden-brown felt and teeth a bit like a beaver. There isn't much meat on a muskrat, Lewis said, but the flavor is good, like rabbit with an herbal taste.

Lewis grew up on the reservation where "most of my family's sustenance came from the woods and sea. We didn't have a lot of commercial product," she said, although she wished then that her family could eat Wonder Bread instead of bread her mother made at home.

— Indian Country Today Media Network

Student promotes stereotypes in Wall Street Journal

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Upset about her numerous college rejection letters, teenager Suzy Lee Weiss decided to vent in an essay she sent to the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) stereotyping minority students, including American Indians, and overachieving teenagers.

"What could I have done differently over the past years?" Weiss wrote in a letter which WSJ published as an Op Ed piece. "For starters, had I known two years ago what I know now, I would have gladly worn a headdress to school. Show me to any closet, and I would've happily come out of it."

Weiss also blamed her parents for failing to force her to take up hobbies. And she laments not attending summer camps in Africa, where she could "scoop up some suffering child, take a few pictures and write my essays about how spending that afternoon with Kinto changed my life."

The reaction was viral and worldwide: Some applauded Weiss for shunning political correctness, describing her as a truth teller. But others have dismissed her as a whiny, self-indulgent child throwing a tantrum. The lifestyle website TheFrisky.com criticized the essay, saying it "reads like an April Fools' Day joke," and chiding Weiss for throwing "the world's biggest pity party" while her classmates hustled to secure internships and get themselves to volunteering and afterschool activities.

In the end, even Weiss poked fun at criticism she apparently anticipated.

"To those claiming that I am bitter — you bet I am! An underachieving selfish teenager making excuses for her own failures? That too!" she wrote. "To those of you disgusted by this, shocked that I take for granted the wonderful gifts I have been afforded, I say shhhh — *The Real Housewives* is on."

— Today.com

ANDROS ISLAND

From page 1A

“We are known throughout the Bahamas as ‘Andros Crab Catchers’ because the island is known for the vast numbers of large land crabs that are harvested every summer (May through August) for eating and exporting to the other islands of the Bahamas,” said Douglas, who keeps an unusual display for a tourist office: a giant crab in a glass case with a sign that reads “Beware of the Attack Crab.”

“The local Androsians have developed a culture surrounding the cooking and harvesting of this unique food resource. The festival is centered around the island’s many crab culinary dishes, crabbing competitions, cultural music and dance and every night the event is wrapped up with a large Bahamian/Caribbean music concert. The attendance to the festival peaks at 12,000-15,000 persons from all over the Bahamas, the Americas and the world,” Douglas said.

Along for the trip were the Chairman’s family (wife, Maria, and children Aubee and Echo), Chairman’s administrator Danny Tommie and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Paul Backhouse.

Echo Billie even braved an “ecological artificial crab habitat” in the center of the festival grounds, to capture and hold up several blue land crabs, drawing a crowd around the fenced-in enclosure. A large sound system with heart-thumping bass woofers generated for hundreds of yards beyond the festive scene.

After Chairman Billie was interviewed by Bahamas TV and shook hands with well-wishers, some of whom remembered him from his last visit in 2001, the group made the hour-long trip north along severely potholed Queen’s Highway to Red Bays on the island’s northwestern shore.

The countryside was filled with tall straight pines and rough limestone rock ground. The lack of fertile ground was obvious; most made their living as sponge divers, fishermen and crafting baskets, wood and fabrics. Small wooden sea cottages and houses of varying design stood, each one in varying stages of completion, some with families of six living in two rooms.

“Over here, we start working on our houses when we get money and then we stop when we run out of money and start back up again when the money comes,” said the taxi driver. “It might take 10, 20 years to finish your house.”

The few businesses are locally owned, including a Seminole bar. For the second time, the Chairman visited the house of the Rev. Bertram A. Newton, the only teacher for 40 years at the Red Bays all-age school and the historian who, more than anyone else, helped keep the Seminole connection alive. In the living room, sprawled on an easy chair, 84-year-old Rose Newton slowly made palmetto baskets. Outside, on a clothesline, individual palmetto leaves hung. Clothes



Peter B. Gallagher

Woodcarver Henry Wallace carves his name into wood.

drying in the hot air, hung everywhere; one tree was covered with only panties next to what appeared to be a chickee roof; the Androsians call such structures a “camp.”

“I feel very comfortable here,” said the Chairman, sitting outside the Newton’s complex, where the rich tropical vegetation, including palms and mango trees, rose from the flat rocky land. “This reminds me of my old camp in Big Cypress.”

The Chairman also visited a few basket makers, including the family of the late Omelia Marshall, a legendary Red Bays medicine woman, midwife and basket maker, whose daughter has continued making the beautiful, sturdy baskets – some adorned with patchwork – known to collectors around the world. They were hanging and stacked all over the house, which like most homes in the area, had no air conditioning or fan; just an open front door, catching the occasional sea breeze.

“Hot is just the way it is over here,” said the driver, with a big wide toothy smile. “We know it. We live it. We go on.”

Another highlight was a visit to the woodcarver Henry Wallace, who specializes in wildlife and marine life. Mahogany wood carvings in various states of completion were everywhere, with finished pieces for sale on a table manned by his wife, Endetta. The man of international fame – his work is displayed at museums around the world, including the Smithsonian – humbly carved his name into the bottom of a fish for his guests.

A breathtaking sunset over azure waters waved goodbye to the Chairman and his group as they headed back to Florida.

“We’ll be back,” the Chairman had promised everyone. “I want to stay longer next time to really learn more about this culture . . . and go fishin’.”



Peter B. Gallagher

Basket maker Rose Newton and Aubee Billie take a moment to pose for a picture.



Peter B. Gallagher

The Rev. Bertram A. Newton taught the island’s Seminole history for 40 years as the teacher of the only Red Bays school, keeping the connection alive.



Peter B. Gallagher

This location reminds Chairman James E. Billie of his old camp where the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is now in Big Cypress.



Peter B. Gallagher

Jariel Rahning, 3, and sister Claretta, 5, show off their mother’s baskets.



Peter B. Gallagher

Echo Billie shows a large version of the Andros national animal, the blue land crab, from an ecological landscape display at the Crab Fest.



Peter B. Gallagher

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Paul Backhouse gets a basket from basket maker Eva Barrbaptiste.



Peter B. Gallagher

Basket maker Eva Barrbaptiste poses with Aubee and Echo Billie.



Peter B. Gallagher

Bahamas National TV interviews Chairman James E. Billie at the Andros Crab Fest.



Peter B. Gallagher

Woodcarver Henry Wallace greets Chairman James E. Billie when he arrives.



Peter B. Gallagher

Crabs are everywhere, even on the walls, but they don’t scare the young children at all.



Peter B. Gallagher

A popular watering hole along the Queen’s Highway in Red Bays is the Seminole Take Away And Bar.



Peter B. Gallagher

This is how the Androsian basket makers dry the palmetto leaves, pinned to the clothesline.



Peter B. Gallagher

In Andros, the natives call thatched structures like this a ‘camp.’ A ‘panty tree’ stands next to the camp, which is used for storage.



Peter B. Gallagher

These baskets show the similarities between Seminole baskets.



Peter B. Gallagher

In Red Bays, a man with a big knife is a cook. It’s the only utensil Marvin Bain needs to cook – and eat – red snapper.

Education

B

Museum highlights art of PECS student crafts

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Rudy Juarez, 13, never imagined that a Seminole doll fashioned by his own hands would be considered museum quality.

But there it stood encased in glass at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and surrounded by 75 other Seminole-inspired crafts created by 35 fellow Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students.

"I hope anyone who comes to the Museum sees the amount of hard work every piece took, and I hope they realize how lucky we (Seminoles) are to have our culture so alive today," Juarez said.

Beaded bracelets, necklaces, pens and medallions, intricately carved and painted miniature canoes, delicate yet sturdy sweetgrass baskets, a patchwork satchel and the Creek alphabet emblazoned on a fabric wall hanging make up the Museum's newest exhibit in the Mosaic Community Art Gallery.

Through summer, thousands of visitors and Tribal members who peruse the Museum located at the Big Cypress Reservation will get to view the students' handiwork.

Janelle Robinson, the school's cultural arts teacher, said the students toiled for seven months to create hundreds of pieces during daily art classes. The works chosen for exhibit are the cream of the crop.

"But traditional crafts are not just projects. They are symbols of how things were and how they have changed over the years," Robinson said.

The kindergarten through eighth-grade children learned first how tradition requires the works to be constructed. The designs of the beadwork jewelry follow certain patterns; ric rac on patchwork is stitched in specific fashion; cypress wood is always used for authentic carving.

"But once they learn how to do it, they pick it up. Then we let them choose their colors and let them go at it," Robinson said.

Friends Aubee Billie, who is in fourth grade, and third-grader Angelie Melton both have beaded works in the exhibit. Melton created a necklace and bracelet that was finely crafted in the tradition of her ancestors with red, yellow, white and black Seminole colors. Billie used beads to decorate a writing pen, though traditionally and correctly strung, in Miami Hurricanes football team colors.

"I felt like being creative," Billie said. Robinson said the show was the first



Eileen Soler

Angelie Melton, left, and Aubee Billie show their traditional art works on exhibit at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

for the 6-year-old school at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. It also showcased the best works from some of the children who have been taking traditional arts classes all their school lives.

"Sometimes, like in any other classroom environment, it's hard to get them going but they always appreciate it later," Robinson said. "What makes it worthwhile is when they look up at me and say, 'I get it.'"

In first grade, the children learn how to use a loom for beadwork. In second and third grade, they learn how to string basic chains and daisy chains. Fourth-graders learn peyote stitches, and fifth-graders graduate to creating intricate medallions.

By grade six, students take on sweetgrass basket weaving. Doll making

happens in seventh grade. For eighth grade, youth experience and perfect patchwork in the forms of potholders, carrying bags, pillows and sometimes clothing.

Jade Braswell Osceola, the school's history teacher, said the children are always doing two things at once: recreating the past with a modern twist.

"This art was created in the past to put food on the table . . . now, they are learning the techniques and moving it forward," she said.

Museum curator John Moga praised the children's designs during a reception held in their honor on May 20. He especially noted Juarez's manifestation of an otherwise typical traditional doll.

"It's visually dynamic. The expression on the face is joyful. The clothing flows

outward. It's a fluid piece — a static three-dimensional piece that moves. It is sculpture," Moga said.

Museum director Paul Backhouse called the show "massively significant."

"When people from Germany, Europe and of all the world come here, they will see that the Tribe is alive and this is what the children are doing," he said. "They are keeping the traditional art and the language strong."

The show also serves a larger, more focused purpose.

"We strive to have the community engaged in the Museum, and we always want the Tribal youth to know this place belongs to them," Backhouse said. "With this exhibit, there is no doubt."

◆ See more MUSEUM photos on page 7B

PECS inducts top students into National Honor Societies

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School inducted 51 top students into the National Elementary Honor Society and Junior National Honor Society during a banquet held at the Brighton Veteran's Building May 28.

To be eligible, students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average and must demonstrate four traits: leadership, service, character and citizenship.

PECS principal Brian Greseth welcomed everyone and congratulated students on their work. He then introduced the keynote speaker of the night, J. Webb Horton, assistant director of Community Outreach at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Horton spoke on the importance of respecting parents and making good grades.

"Be proud of what you do; be proud of your grades; don't let anyone ever take that away from you," he said. "If people ever pick on you and ask, 'Why are you doing so well in school?' Your answer is this: 'The reason I am studying so hard is because when you don't study as well as I do and you need a job you can come work for my company.'"

Student Trevor Thomas, emcee of the night, introduced four eighth grade

Honor Society members: Crysten Smith, Raylon Eagle, Odessa King and Jaden Puente. Each student recited one of the Honor Society pillars and lit a candle for the traditional lighting of the candles ceremony.

Twenty-one elementary students were also inducted, receiving plaques and pins. They are Ramone Baker, John Beck, Aubee Billie, Daven Buck, Destiny Elliott, Jagger Gaucin, Donovan Harris, Caylie Huff, Haylie Huff, Heith Lawrence, Hyatt Pearce, Julia Smith, Malcolm Jones, Kaleb Doctor, Kamani Smith, Jenna Brown, Aubrey Pearce, Shyla Gopher, Katie Beck, Silas Madrigal and Edward Gaucin.

Thirty students in sixth through eighth grade were also inducted: Pernell Bert, Alexis James, Gage Riddle, Caroline Sweat, Chynna Villarreal, Krysta Burton, Kyle Palmisano, Mason Sweat, Danyelle Boromei, Alicia Fudge, Raeley Matthews, Aleina Micco, Kano Puente, Conner Thomas, Aidan Tommie, Jalynn Jones, Rudy Juarez, Chandler Pearce, Camryn Thomas, Layne Thomas, Aiyana Tommie, Raylon Eagle, Odessa King, Dylan Sheffield, Sean Osceola, Jaden Puente, Diamond Shore, Crysten Smith, Bailey Tedders and Trevor Thomas.

◆ See more NHS photos on page 7B



Andrea Holata

From left, Kano Puente, Crysten Smith and Trevor Thomas proudly show off their plaques.



Andrea Holata

First-graders show off the vegetables they helped plant during the culture open house.

Families view cultural showcase at open house

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Students at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School got the chance to show off their knowledge of Seminole culture during an open house held at the school May 31.

The yearly open house was staged by the school's Culture Department to show parents and family members the activities and projects students have been working on, including beaded medallions and pens, daisy chains, necklaces, traditional dolls, drawstring bags and wood carvings.

"It's to showcase all of our mini activities and projects that the students have been working on throughout the year," history teacher Jade Braswell Osceola said. "The students do the action. They are shown once, explained twice and the student takes over from there."

Parents joined their children during culture class and spent 10 minutes in different classrooms seeing the children's work firsthand.

In the history classroom, parents received a notebook filled with their child's classwork. They then walked outside to view the garden planted by all grades. Also on display outside were the boys' wood and



Andrea Holata

Ashlynn Collins displays her shadow box filled with beaded jewelry she made during the year.

soap carvings of tomahawks and canoes.

After touring the history classroom, family members visited the arts and crafts

◆ See CULTURE on page 2B

Sixty-five Tribes grace NLC Summer Conference

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The theme of the Native Learning Center's (NLC) fifth annual summer conference — "Strengthening Tribal Communities into the Future" — was compelling enough to attract 162 people from 65 Tribes around the country to the conference, held at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood from June 4-6.

"Education has helped us survive as a people," Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank said. "Our Tribe pushes for it and believes in it. The NLC extends education to all Tribes; education is a cornerstone."

Participants attended courses as varied as the Tribes they represented. Subjects included Financing Renewable Energy in Indian Country; The Influence of Tribal Language on Culture and Identity; Sustainable Gardens: Remembering and Honoring our Traditions; Strengthening Native Families through the Use of Traditional Concepts of the Medicine Wheel and Moccasin; Understanding the Federal Tribal Relationship; and Emergency Preparedness 2.0, Beyond Weather Disasters. And that was just the first day.

"We have hit a new high level of everything," said Georgette Smith, NLC director. "We have well over 150 people here now; our first year we had about 25 to 50. The level of the subject matter taught by these experts amazes me because they are so well known in Indian Country, and the knowledge they bring here is phenomenal. The attendees are truly engaged in the courses."

Founded in 2008 as a department of the Tribe, NLC is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The center's mission is to provide knowledge, training and skills to all Native Americans which will improve their quality of life at no cost to them. Areas of focus include housing strategies, celebrating culture and language, financial wellness, grants education and Tribal government.

To put together the curriculum for the conference, the NLC sent out requests for proposals to their sizable database of qualified instructors, who could submit up to six course options that follow the conference's theme.

"We had a tough selection process," said Nicole Harker, NLC administrative services program director. "Every component is well thought out by the NLC team. The classes are very interactive. I think this has been a success; people are networking and we have heard nothing but great things from them."

Renewable energy is a hot topic in Indian Country, and Eugene Wilkie, director of project development at TAWA Power and a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, is an expert in the field with more than 20 years of experience. He talked about solar, wind, hydroelectric and other renewable options and how to fund them.

The Department of Energy has money available for infrastructure and banks are eager to loan money because it is guaranteed by the federal government through the FDIC. The challenge is knowing how to properly apply for funding and what obstacles may arise.

"Tribes can form their own utility companies," Wilkie said. "This is your nation; you can sell power to yourself first."

The amount of jobs that can be created in the renewable sector depends on the type of energy. Solar energy has become very affordable, down from more than \$5 to only 67 cents per watt, but once the system is in place, no jobs are created.

Manufacturing is the biggest opportunity for renewable energy jobs in Indian Country today, Wilkie said. China used to make the components for solar energy but ceased when high tariffs were enacted.

"This could give Tribes and youth an opportunity to rise up and work in the industry while learning it on the job," he said. "Corporations are looking for Indian land but it isn't easy to find a Tribe who is going to be the workforce. This is a serious issue because this industry could give youth a sense of purpose and intellectual pride. They can make a nice living; the corporations will bring the education in so college isn't a necessity."

Cultural awareness is an important consideration for any reservation-based business. A course given by Ron Sheffield, of Organizational Sciences and Culture Inc. and a member of the Quechan of Fort Yuma Tribe, delved into the meaning of culture. He asked the participants to define what culture meant to them.

"It's the sum total of who we have been, who we are now and who we will become," said a member of the group.

"It's the way of real people," added another.

Describing culture depends on the people.

◆ See NLC on page 2B

School's out with a cherry on top

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Dozens of students from Ahfachkee School and schools off the reservation came together June 3 to celebrate the last week of school at an ice cream social.

The Learning Resources Center

on the Big Cypress Reservation served up big bowls of ice cream, crumbled cookies, chocolate candies, colorful sprinkles and whipped cream with cherries on top for the kids to relish in the start of summer.

The tasty treats delighted everyone — almost as much as the first day of summer vacation.



Eileen Soler

Charli Frye gets not one, but two cherries on top of a tasty mound of ice cream, cookies and candy from tutor Jessica Hernandez at the Education Department's ice cream social.



Eileen Soler

Elijah Cook can barely wait for Education adviser assistant Samantha Sherrell to spray a mound of chilly whipped cream atop a bowl of ice cream.



Eileen Soler

Katrina Huggins picks her toppings.



Eileen Soler

Kids add loads of additional sugary goodies.

Pemayetv Emahakv hosts end-of-the-year honors



Andrea Holata

From left, Aubrey Pearce, Ramone Baker, Aube Billie, Caylie Huff, Jenna Brown, Kamani Smith, and Landon Goodwin receive Gold awards for achieving straight A's.



Andrea Holata



Andrea Holata

From left, Edward Gaucin, Caleb Doctor and Echo Billie get medals for reading.



Andrea Holata

Landon Goodwin and Aubrey Pearce receive a trophy for earning a 4.0 GPA all year.

CULTURE

From page 1B

room where all students' crafts were on display. Patchwork drawstring bags made by the eighth-graders adorned one wall and colorful daisy chains, necklaces and earrings filled another. Shadow boxes with the more intricate beadwork lined the tables, as well as traditional palmetto fiber dolls and sweetgrass baskets.

The students and parents also visited the Creek classroom where students demonstrated their knowledge of the language. They recited the Creek alphabet, numbers and pictures of common objects when called upon.

"It's important to have this because you get to see everything. You get to see everything that's happening in Creek class and parents get to see all the grades' work," Braswell Osceola said. "It's good to see how much they have grown. You can see a timeframe of how the students have grown over the years in one day."

NLC

From page 1B

"Culture can be defined as how people see you," Sheffield said. "If I wear my Indian clothes, I'm perceived a different way than when I wear my white guy suit." Attendees were pleased with the conference.

"It's a real learning experience," said Alta Branham, of the Mescalero Apache Tribe in New Mexico. "It's always good to learn traditional things from other Tribes that you can take home to your own reservation. We have strong traditional values, too. We're all the same but a lot of people are losing their traditions. I hope to learn ways to strengthen our community."

Sharon Taazah, of the Mescalero in New Mexico, wanted to get information on successful ways to bring culture back to Tribal youth. Seminole members also attended the conference.

"It's been very informative and it reinforced things you kind of knew about



Beverly Bidney

Eugene Wilkie presents a workshop on Financing Renewable Energy in Indian Country.

tolerance," said Mary Jene Koenes, of Big Cypress and a language teacher at Ahfachkee School. "You know you can't change anyone else, only yourself. I also learned about sustainable gardens and got some ideas to improve our garden at the school. A lot of other Tribes are just getting started in language and culture; to see we are way ahead of them and be able to exchange information with them was really great."

★ Proudly Serving the Seminole & Miccosukee Tribe for over 15 years! ★



FrontRowUSA.com
Ticket Brokers

Concerts | Theatre | Sports
Local, National, and Worldwide Events

Need travel arrangements? Call us!
We take care of all your travel needs including:
Hotels, Airlines, and Cruises
FrontRowUSA is up front and honest, putting you up front!

TOP CONCERTS	TOP SPORTS
ONE REPUBLIC	FIGHT TIME PRO MMA
KISS	MIAMI MARLINS
NINE INCH NAILS	MIAMI DOLPHINS
SELENA GOMEZ	INTERNATIONAL SOCCER
LIONEL RICHIE	MONSTER JAM
KEITH URBAN	
MAROON 5 & KELLY CLARKSON	TOP THEATRE
DEPECHE MODE	KATHY GRIFFIN
BEYONCÉ	CIRQUE DU SOLEIL- QUIDAM
DAVE MATTHEWS BAND	DISNEY ON ICE
JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE & JAY-Z	CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER
BRUNO MARS	
FUN.	
JOURNEY	
THE KILLERS	
KEITH URBAN	
MARILYN MANSON	

ALL CONCERTS, SPORTS AND THEATRE TICKETS AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE AND WORLDWIDE ORDER YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT WWW.FRONTROWUSA.COM OR BY PHONE

(954) 455-1929 OR (800) 446 8499

WE DELIVER TO YOU - ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

★ Proudly Serving the Seminole & Miccosukee Tribe for over 15 years! ★

COMMUNITY EVENT!

LIVE ART SHOW & MOTIVATIONAL SPEECH

FEATURING BUNKY ECHO-HAWK

Pawnee/Yakama Native Artist & Graphic Designer
Featured Designer for Nike's N7 Line

A Production of



SEMINOLE MEDIA PRODUCTIONS WORKSHOP



JULY 25
5:30PM
HOLLYWOOD RECREATION GYM

CATERED BY PANTHER CAMP - BIG CYPRESS
www.SeminoleMediaProductions.com/SMPW

High School Graduates: Class of 2013

Bradley Osceola, 18 Ahfachkee School

Post-secondary plans: Broward College for business management and auto mechanics, then Universal Technical Institute in Orlando for higher-level auto mechanics.

Aspirations: Bradley plans to open a commercial automobile repair and maintenance business on the Big Cypress Reservation. He wants to provide the community with top-notch, certified service so residents and reservation employees can save money and time by having car care done locally by a Tribal business owner.

High school lesson learned/best memory: Bradley will always remember how much his family supported him, and still does.

Inspiration: The Big Cypress resident was inspired to enter the automobile service industry while working for a summer at the Tribe's ARI garage on Big Cypress and from watching his uncle Ronnie Osceola Sr. work on cars and motorcycles at his home. The helping part comes from seeing television shows that tell stories about how ordinary people can reach out to others in need.

Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, 17 Ahfachkee School

Post-secondary plans: Johnson & Wales University in Miami to double major in culinary arts and business management.

Aspirations: Ricky Joe wants to own his own restaurant. His experience in culinary school will reveal what food style focus his restaurant will take, but so far he likes casual Italian.

High school lesson learned/best memory: Two of his best high school times occurred during

12th grade. Early in the school year, while at a family dinner, Ricky Joe received an email from Johnson & Wales stating he was accepted. The family was jubilant. Also during his senior year, Ricky Joe took his first instructional music class and learned to play the saxophone.

Inspiration: When he was 8 years old, a chef from the Council Oak Restaurant at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood visited Ahfachkee and gave a cooking demonstration. "That was it. I don't remember the chef's name but I was introduced to culinary arts," Ricky Joe said.

Tequesta Tiger, 18 Ahfachkee School

Post-secondary plans: Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale for animation and special effects, game design and programming.

Aspirations: She aims to become an illustrator and animator. Art has been her prominent talent since before preschool.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "My best day was when I found out I was the first student from Ahfachkee to ever get a 4.0 GPA," Tequesta said.

A close second came during the 2013 Rez Rally event when she won second place among women overall.

Inspiration: Tequesta's motivation comes from her father, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, who graduated from Oklahoma State University. She is following his footsteps to "keep the family line of college graduates going."

Tylor Tigertail, 18 Ahfachkee School

Post-secondary plans: Nova Southeastern University for criminal justice with a minor in business management.

Aspirations: Tylor plans to attend Officer Candidates School in the United States Marine Corps after graduating college.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "I have no best memories from senior year - they are all great," Tylor said. His

junior year, however, at a youth home for troubled teens was a different story. "That's where I learned to act like a man and be a man." Tylor advises underclassmen to stay in school, stay out of trouble and study, study, study.

Inspiration: Tylor credits "eight months, two weeks and five days" at the youth home for putting him on track to the future. "They pushed me and they believed in me."

Danni Jae Tommie, 18 Ahfachkee School

Post-secondary plans: Edison State College for a two-year degree in radiologic technology, then Florida Gulf Coast University for a bachelor's degree.

Aspirations: Danni Jae plans to become an ultrasound technician and eventually open a reservation-based radiology business that will focus on the medical imaging needs of Tribal women.

High school lessons learned/best memory: She learned to study hard and always do her best.

Inspiration: Danni Jae is inspired most by her mother, Jeannette Cypress, who always supports her and never lets her down.

Lorelei Tommie, 18 American Heritage

Post-secondary plans: Art Institute of Fort

Lauderdale for fashion design.

Aspirations: Lorelei plans to become a custom clothing designer.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "Real friends will tease you and drive you crazy but will never judge you," Lorelei said.

Inspiration: "My grandma Mittie Tommie is my inspiration because she doesn't let anyone or anything get in the way of her goals."

Jean Capricien, 18 The Sagemont School

Post-secondary plans: Nova Southeastern University to study literature and business.

Aspiration: Jean wants to become a world traveler and teach others that they are capable of being successful.

High school lessons learned/best memory: High school taught Jean that "in order to progress you must leave the past behind. Just do what you can and move forward."

Inspiration: "Inspiration comes from my mentors but also from within myself," Jean said.

Rayel Billie, 18 Clewiston High School

Post-secondary plans: Florida State University to study film.

Aspirations: Rayel wants to produce documentary films. She is especially interested in documenting the history of the Seminole Tribe. "I want to make an impact on the world by bringing to light the issues and stories that affect us."

High school lessons learned/best memory: "Never procrastinate - especially senior year," she said. "Take care of projects, paperwork and everything you have to do to move forward as soon as possible."

Inspiration: Rayel's interest in documentary film was piqued in high school when watching a film about suicides off the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. She became further compelled when she saw another documentary about the slaughtering of dolphins in Japan. "Documentaries open your eyes to things."

Ronnie Billie, 22 Ahfachkee School

Post-secondary plans: Ronnie Billie is currently compiling information about several culinary arts schools.

Aspirations: He hopes to become a chef.

High school lessons learned/best memory: He will never forget all his teachers who helped him because they believed in him.

Inspiration: "I was my own inspiration." Ronnie Billie is the first in his family to graduate from high school.

Maleah Isaac, 18 Choctaw Central Senior

Post-secondary plans: Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson, Miss. to play basketball and study early childhood development and business management.

Aspirations: Maleah wants to own and manage her own Tribal preschool where she lives in Choctaw, Miss.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Maleah traveled to Australia in the summer of 2012 where she helped aboriginal Tribes

with the faith-based People to People Ambassador Programs. While there, she also went scuba diving in the Great Barrier Reef.

Inspiration: "All of my family especially my cousins," she said. "My parents and cousins always said I was the best at caring for younger kids."

Christopher L. Joe Jr., 17 The Sagemont School

Post-secondary plans: University of North Florida to major in business finance.

Aspiration: Christopher wants to find a fulfilling career in business finance.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "I learned in high school to just do your work when it is assigned; if you procrastinate, the work will pile up and you will feel overwhelmed."

Inspiration: He is a member of the Panther Clan and has lived in Big Cypress all of his life.

Bryce Monroe Osceola, 18 St. John Neumann Catholic High School

Post-secondary plans: Florida Gulf Coast University for business management.

Aspirations: Bryce plans to work in the video game development industry and eventually join their management team. "I grew up a tomboy and spent many long, memorable hours playing video games with my dad and became intrigued with the concept of the gaming industry, the development of new themes and the marketable opportunities of the industry."

High school lesson learned/best memory: During her junior year, Bryce participated in a multicultural festival at her school and set up a booth to represent her Seminole heritage. She dressed in traditional attire,

displayed cultural artifacts and gave her audience the opportunity to try frybread. The immense popularity of her booth gave her a new outlook on the importance of her Native American heritage and pride in her ancestry.

Inspiration: Hoping to follow in the footsteps of her great-grandfather, Corey Osceola, Bryce attempts to live by his example. "He always told his family that it was their responsibility to make something of themselves, follow their dreams and do their part to help the Tribe move forward as a minority in the white man's world. He encouraged education and an open-minded attitude while remaining true to your traditional values and culture."

Alexis Jumper, 18 Hollywood Hills High School

Post-secondary plans: The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale to study photography.

Aspirations: She hopes one day to be a good role model and someone she is proud to be. Alexis would also like to do something that won't be boring.

High school lesson learned/best memory: Meeting new people and learning new things.

Inspirations: Globally, everything inspires her and has an effect on what she thinks about. Alexis' mother is her role model because she is a strong woman and always puts her best foot forward.

Dominique Motlow, 17 Paladin Academy

Post-secondary plans: The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale to study animation design.

Aspirations: She wants to make action movies and animated action movies.

High school lesson learned/best memory: Dominique loves reading; it helps her focus. Her favorite class was art and she is looking forward to the senior trip to Orlando.

Inspirations: Dominique's father, David Motlow, inspired her to be an artist. She also admires the work of filmmaker Tim Burton and his use of clay models for claymation.

Sara Ramos-Huggins, 18 American Heritage School

Post-secondary plans: Sara plans to attend college to study sports medicine but hasn't decided on a college yet.

Aspirations: She wants to be an athletic trainer or a doctor and plans to get her PhD.

High school lesson learned/best memory: Staying focused was the most important lesson Sara learned in high school because there are many things that can make people lose track of their goals. Her best memory of school was the fun senior experience and all the privileges like leaving campus for lunch and getting out earlier than the rest of the school.

Inspirations: Sara is inspired by family members. Her sister Savannah Huggins wasn't able to finish high school on time, but she went back and got her diploma later. Her mother, Ethel Huggins, also went back to school. Even though neither went to college, they are both successful. It showed Sara she can do anything and her education can push her ever further. She gives special thanks to the Seminole Tribe and the Education Department for helping her through her high school years; they pushed her to become who she is today.

Brandtley Osceola, 18 Hollywood Christian School

Post-secondary plans: Brandtley plans to take a year off to work and then attend community college.

Aspirations: He wants to be a person someone can look up to. Brandtley is a musician and wants to inspire people through his music.

High school lesson learned/best memory: He enjoyed learning something new every day at school, as well as playing sports.

His fondest memories are from playing basketball and football.

Inspirations: Brandtley is moved by world events. His role model has always been his mother, Brande Clay, because she is a strong woman. A religious person, he is also inspired by Jesus Christ.

Kaitlin Michelle Billy, 18 Golden Gate High School

Post-secondary plans: Edison Community College at the Naples campus for two years before transferring to a larger university for a bachelor's degree in psychology and a secondary major in zoology.

Aspirations: Kaitlin would like to become an addictions counselor to help people learn to take control of their personal lives and deal with the temptations that often lead them astray. Through her career she sees an opportunity to serve her fellow Tribal members. She has a strong secondary interest in zoology and recognizes the necessity to care for animals and protect the environment.

High school lesson learned/best memory: "I had the privilege of attending the Darlington Boarding School in Rome, Ga., during my junior year where I met a lot of people who became new friends, and I learned how much we all depend upon each other. Going away to school helped me realize how important family can be and how lucky I am to have their support."

Inspiration: "My dad, David Billy, has always

been there for me and no matter what direction I have gone he has given me unconditional love and support. He has dedicated his career to helping other people through law enforcement but taken the time to follow his own dreams. I learned from him that you have to set goals and remain focused and that is a message that I would like to pass on to other Tribal youth. If you have become distracted, it is never too late to get back on course, complete your education and above all, remain focused."

Jonathon Frank, 17 Hollywood Hills High School

Post-secondary plans: Jonathon wants to go to college and study business administration and hospitality, possibly at Lynn University or Florida State University.

Aspirations: He plans to be an entrepreneur.

High school lesson learned/best memory: In high school, Jonathon learned to take the initiative, act responsibly, turn things in on time and not slack

off. Jonathon enjoyed high school; he has always been likable and gets along with everyone.

Inspirations: His most important role model is his father, Robert Frank, who taught him to be a leader in the community. Even though his father works every day, Jonathon appreciates that he's involved with the family and has always been there for him. His grandmother Edna Frank, an entrepreneur, inspires him to be one himself. Tutor Dalia Marvin helped him excel in difficult subjects.

Darian Cypress-Osceola, 18 American Heritage

Post-secondary plans: Darian will attend Miami Dade College. She also applied to East Carolina University, Florida State University, Long Island University and University of Alabama.

Aspirations: She would like to run a library when she gets older.

High school lesson learned/best memory: Darian was active in school clubs and enjoyed the First Priority Club, where they volunteered in churches.

Inspirations: Her family and God inspired her to do well in school. Her hero is NFL quarterback Tim Tebow because he puts his faith in God.

Meagan Eads, 18 The Capitol School

Post-secondary plans: Meagan wants to pursue a career as a country and pop singer. She played clarinet in band and began taking vocal classes during her junior year. After performing in a Christmas concert, she knew she wanted to be a singer.

Aspirations: To be a good person and a singer. Meagan plans to live life her way and looks forward to whatever life brings.

High school lesson learned/best memory: The biggest lesson Meagan learned in high school was to watch who you trust because a lot of drama happens. She was the school mascot and had a lot of fun wearing the tiger costume and attending the games and pep rallies.

Inspirations: Meagan is inspired by her mother, who she says is awesome. "I just want her to be proud of me," she said.

Alexis Elisianna Aguilar, 18 Immokalee High School

Post-secondary plans: Alexis will attend Florida Gulf Coast University in the fall and has been accepted to Florida State University beginning January 2014. She has not decided on a major but plans to investigate the possibilities.

Aspirations: "I plan to go wherever God takes me and trust that He will show me where I can be of most service to myself and my fellow man," Alexis said. "I am

striving to get the necessary education that will provide me with the tools to focus on a productive future."

High school lesson learned/best memory: "I had the privilege of serving as Miss Florida Seminole during my senior year and it gave me a wonderful opportunity to learn about other Native American cultures and a better understanding of my own heritage. I made a lot of new friends along the way but enjoyed the Grad Bash because it made me closer to my old friends. We are all moving on but should cherish our personal relationships."

Inspiration: "God and Jesus are my inspiration," she said. "They have given me the strength to move forward and realize that I have to focus and be responsible for myself and build a future that will help and inspire my brothers and sisters and all young people. The decisions I make are not only for my future but must set an example for others around me. We are all dependent upon each other."

Janet Thomas, 18 Tollgate Technological Skills Centre

Post-secondary plans: Mohawk College, in Ontario, Canada. Janet will study hairstyling and esthetics, which deals with skin care.

Aspirations: She wants to be a hairstylist.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Janet said she will never forget meeting her boyfriend, Jordan.

Inspiration: "I am my own inspiration."

Jaryaca Baker, 18
Okeechobee High School

Post-secondary plans: Jaryaca will attend Western Oklahoma State College on a full softball scholarship.



Aspirations: Jaryaca plans to pursue her passion for softball and play at the college level. She has always dreamed of playing for Team USA in the Olympics. She eventually would love to coach young girls interested in the sport, as well as start her own business – an indoor sports facility that offers

pitching lessons.

High school lesson learned/best memory: She will always remember hitting a grand slam during her first at bat of the season. "It was a pretty good season," she said.

Inspiration: Jaryaca receives inspiration from a few different people. Her coach tells her that when people doubt her, she needs to prove them wrong, while her teammates also offer support and motivation in their own way. "My biggest supporters are my mom and dad and my brothers and sisters," she said. "They tell me I can do anything I put my mind to."

Joseph John, 18
University School

Post-secondary plans: Joseph will attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. He was also accepted to Pepperdine University, Florida State University and the University of Miami. He chose Dartmouth because his father, a huge FSU fan, told him he wanted him to go to Dartmouth. Joseph believes going to an Ivy League school will give him more opportunities in life.



Aspirations: He will be on a pre-med track studying biology to become a doctor.

High school lesson learned/best memory:

Winning the state championship with the football team this year is Joseph's best high school memory. He has always had a great work ethic, but in high school, he learned to keep working when things get tough; it will pay off in the end.

Inspirations: Joseph's parents and grandparents (Joletta John-Carney and Doug Carney, Julia John and Joe John) are hardworking people and always encouraged him to go to college and get a good education. His hero is Dr. Ben Carson, neurosurgeon and the director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, because he came from a poor neighborhood in Detroit and now is a world-renowned brain surgeon. Joseph's grandfather gave him his book to read, which made him want to be a doctor.

Janet Smith, 18
Okeechobee High School

Post-secondary plans: Indian River State College for the school's medical assisting program.



Aspirations: Janet aspires to work in the medical field as a nurse helping others in need.

High school lesson learned/best memory: One of Janet's best memories of high school is being crowned Okeechobee High School football queen for 2013.

Inspiration: Janet credits her mother, Joni Johnson, for the success she has achieved so far and for giving her the inspiration to want to work in the medical field. "She has a loving heart and (positive) characteristics like always caring."

Austin Sampson, 19
Madison County High School

Post-secondary plans: Taylor Technical Institute in Perry, Fla. for millwright.

Aspirations: Austin plans to work as a millwright after he receives his certification.

High school lesson learned/best memory: Austin will always remember the times he spent with friends

going mudding on the weekends.

Inspiration: He gets his inspiration from his mother, Jodi Powell, and step-father, Shawn Powell.

His step-dad works at the mill, and he would like to follow in his footsteps.

Tamara Bowers, 18
Okeechobee High School

Post-secondary plans: Indian River State College to complete prerequisites, then Nova Southeastern University to study accounting and business management.



Aspirations: She plans on using the knowledge she gains to work for the Seminole Tribe.

High school lesson learned/best memory: The one thing Tamara learned the most is to never give up. "I gave up a lot, but I kept trying and trying. I had my mom there to keep pushing me." Tamara's best memory of high school is being a part of the winning powder puff team.

Inspiration: Tamara would like to work for the Seminole Tribe so she can give back to the Seminole community.

Garrett Thomas, 17
Okeechobee High School

Post-secondary plans: Attend Indian River State College for two years to complete the prerequisite courses needed to transfer to Texas A&M. At Texas A&M, Garrett plans to study wildlife fishery and ecology.



Aspirations: He plans to manage a farm of white-tailed deer and to help out the Tribe with his knowledge of wildlife.

High school lesson learned: Garrett's lesson from

high school is to always have fun and complete the goals you have set for yourself in order to be successful.

Inspiration: The Brighton resident gets his inspiration from growing up hunting on the reservation with his family.

Wade Micco, 19
Okeechobee Achievement Academy

Post-secondary plans: He plans to attend Florida State University in the near future but is still undecided about his major.



Aspirations: Wade plans to work for the Seminole Tribe.

High school lesson learned/best memory: His best memory would be the friendships he made and the times they spent together during high school.

Inspirations: His grandparents, Mary Jo and Billy Micco, and family are where he gets his inspiration "I wanted to be one of the first to graduate in my family."

Cypress Billie, 17
Admiral Farragut Academy

Post-secondary plans: Full Sail University in Winter Park. He plans to major in entertainment media and focus on the recording arts.



Aspirations: Although he is interested in entertainment arts, Cypress also loves nature. He hopes to someday have a career that will infuse his passions for recording arts, horticulture and agriculture.

High school lesson learned/best memory: "My favorite times were with the Nature Club. It was a great group of friends who could always count on each other," he said.

Inspiration: "Tony Cervantes. He's a good friend with good ideas."

GED Graduates

- Connie Slavik: Immokalee
- Krystal Rodriguez: Immokalee
- Katherine Billie: Big Cypress
- Jessica Turtle: Hollywood
- Adahma Sirota: Hollywood
- Dakota Tiger: Hollywood
- Katelyn Young: Hollywood
- Chassidy Harjochee: Hollywood
- Dwayne Billie: Brighton
- Rosa Urbina: Brighton
- Anthony Johns: Brighton
- Farah Branthoover: Brighton-Off
- Damian Garz: Immokalee
- O'shaa'ne Cypress: Big Cypress
- Le'andra Mora: Immokalee

Higher Education Graduates

- Morning Osceola: Completion of Cosmetology Program, Big Cypress
- Amy Dimas: Associate of Science in Therapeutic Massage, Immokalee
- Mary Agnes Tiger: Completion in Cosmetology Program, Sunstate Academy, Non-Resident
- Joshua Josh: Certificate in the Drafting Program, McFatter Technical Center, Hollywood
- Emma Johns: Completion of the 63 hour Sales Pre-License, Larson Educational Services, Brighton
- Amber Craig: Cosmetology, Indian River State College, Brighton
- Samuel Caldwell: Completion of Diesel Auto Vehicle Technology, WyoTech, Non-Resident
- Miranda Motlow: Completion of Broadcasting/Radio Course Certification, Connecticut School of Broadcasting, Tampa-Off
- Jenna McDuffie: Completion of the 63 hour Sales Pre-License, Royal Institute of Real Estate LLC, Brighton
- Heather Peterson: Specialist in Sports Nutrition/Certified Fitness Instructor, Institute of Sports and Science Association, Brighton
- Arlene Tommie: Completion in Skin Care and Electrology Program, Hollywood Institute of Beauty Careers, Big Cypress
- Deidra Hall: Associate of Science, X-Ray Medical Tech/Medical Assistant Program, Heritage Institute, Immokalee
- Melissa Demayo: Associate Degree in Arts, Broward College, Hollywood
- Christina Billie: Associate Degree in Arts, Broward College, Naples
- Amy Dimas: Bachelor of Science, Health Sciences, Hodges University, Immokalee
- Mary Huff: Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Central Florida, Brighton
- Jack Chalfant: Associate Degree in Arts, Criminology, South Florida State College, Brighton
- Elrod Bowers: Masters in Business Administration, University of Miami, Hollywood

Ahfachkee Values

What may look like nothing to you, is everything to someone else.

TRUE BEAUTY

Quenton Cypress, 11th Grade – I selected this picture because it is my home and it is my everything. I choose the value True Beauty because to me my reservation is true beauty.

From the swamp to the big city, where would you be without your mother?

DEVOTION

Savannah Tiger, 11th Grade – I chose this picture because of the things these wonderful women had to endure to be where we are today. I selected Devotion because I felt it explained everything that I felt my picture described.



Preschool graduates set stage for future of Tribe

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

ceremony required much concentration from the class of 2013.

Armed with confidence May 30 at the Boys & Girls Club, the group of 10 declared the Mantele in Mikasuki, sung the school's unofficial anthem *I am a Seminole*, performed nursery rhyme skits and recited their biographies in their native language.

The ceremonial sendoff to elementary school peaked when the students, dressed in bright yellow gowns and mortarboards, were pronounced preschool alumni by Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger and the Tribe's executive administrative officer O'Hara Tommie.

Big Cypress Preschool graduates included William Venue Jr., Gage Daniel Billie, Rylan John Billie, Logan Chon Covarrubias, Clayton Ray Green, David Quincy Joe, Nahdea Vivian Osceola, Thelma Cathy Tigertail, McKinley Rena Turtle and Shylah Kimberly Walker.

At the Brighton Preschool graduation ceremony on May 21, the 18 preschoolers recited the Pledge of Allegiance in their native and English languages, performed the alligator song and *I am a Seminole* and presented their parents with a rose in the Brighton Gym.

The Brighton Preschool graduates were Hinton Anderson Jr., Lason Baker, Ukiah Billie, Serenity Billie, Aniya Fonseca, Malakai Garland, Nathan-Robert Gore, Steel Gopher, Josiah Hardy, Miley Jimmie, Greyson Johns, Aaryn King, Jetta Osceola, Truly Osceola, Benjamin Purvis, Jr., Chaka Smith, Raylen Smith and Choviohoya Weimann.

In Miccosukee, preschoolers marched down the aisle at the Miccosukee Auditorium May 6, decked out in full graduation garb.

Students received their diplomas from Miccosukee Chairman Colley Billie.

"In our tradition, we are told learning is a lifelong journey on a never-ending road," he said. "These children completed their first year on that journey. The parents should be congratulated for setting them on the right path. Nothing is more important than the younger generation to make sure the Tribe has a future."

Seminole graduates were Lena Cypress, Omar Keeyes-Billie Jr., Jamere Osceola and Nula Tiger-Guerrero.

Staff reporters Eileen Soler and Andrea Holata contributed to this article.



Eileen Soler

Big Cypress Preschool's class of 2013 huddle for a group photo after graduation May 30.



Andrea Holata

Miley Jimmie receives her diploma from Brighton Preschool manager Mahala Madrigal.



Beverly Bidney

Nula Tiger-Guerrero nervously walks the aisle to get her diploma at the Miccosukee ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

Jamere Osceola gets the feel of the cap as the graduates wait backstage for their turn to walk down the aisle at the Miccosukee graduation ceremony May 6.



Andrea Holata

Hinton Anderson Jr. poses for a picture with his mom, Amanda Smith, in Brighton.



Eileen Soler

Logan Chon Covarrubias waves the Seminole flag to start the Big Cypress ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

Embracing the past and looking to the future are Hollywood buddies Darrell Tiger and Syllas Billie.



Andrea Holata

The Brighton graduating preschoolers sing a song for parents, family and friends at the commencement ceremony on May 21.



Andrea Holata

Benjamin Purvis Jr. smiles big after receiving his diploma from Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard and Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr.



Beverly Bidney

Trail students Tommie Osceola and Jaileigh Perez try to sit still during the program.



Beverly Bidney

The graduating class of 2013 sings a song at the Hollywood Preschool graduation ceremony on May 24.



Eileen Soler

Shylah Kimberly Walker shakes hands with the Tribe's Executive Administrative Officer O'Hara Tommie in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Aubrey Cypress learns to sew patchwork during the culture portion of the Hollywood ceremony.



Andrea Holata

The graduates sing *Off to Kindergarten* after receiving their diplomas May 21 in the Brighton Gym.

PECS kindergartners celebrate completion of their first year

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pema'yev Emahakv Charter School held a special kindergarten program to congratulate youth on making it through their first year of elementary school on June 4 at the Veteran's Building.

The soon-to-be first-graders performed for family, friends and teachers before receiving well-earned academic awards for the year.

Principal Brian Greseth started the program by welcoming everyone

and congratulating youth for their accomplishments.

"This marks the end of what's considered one of the most – if not the most important – years in a child's life," principal Greseth said. "All these students have progressed extremely well. It has definitely been an amazing year."

The students recited the Pledge of Allegiance in Creek and English. The youth also entertained the audience by performing the story of *Pete the Cat*.

Pam Hudson, the reading coach at PECS, recognized students for

their academic accomplishments including reading, effort, citizenship and improvement awards, as well as graduation certificates.

Finishing the program, Hudson read heart-felt letters from the three kindergarten teachers. They each thanked their students for a successful and memorable year.

"Go out into the world and make it a better place. Your successes will make your family and Tribe very proud," Hudson read from a letter written by teacher Kimberly Toms.



Andrea Holata

Betty Tillis embraces her student Carlee Osceola after she receives her certificate of completion for kindergarten.



Andrea Holata

Kindergartners perform the story of *Pete the Cat*. On June 4, PECS held a special program celebrating the youths' completion of their first year at the school.

Newest Ahfachkee School alumni toss hats to future

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter



Eileen Soler

Valedictorian Tequesta Tiger pauses for applause during her graduation address at the Ahfachkee School 2013 graduation on May 28 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

BIG CYPRESS — Graduation night for Ahfachkee School seniors was filled with laughter, sentimental moments and thunderous applause May 28 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Led by school principal Lucy Dafoe, the commencement exercises featured traditional prayers, the pledge to the Seminole flag, photographs of the six graduates as kindergartners and a keynote address from former Seminole Police dispatcher Diane Buster, who now works for the FBI.

Valedictorian Tequesta Tiger, the first Ahfachkee student to earn a 4.0 grade point average, thanked her parents and teachers for their support and guidance. The oldest graduate, Ronnie Billie, was honored with the school's first Perseverance Award. Billie, after several high school starts and stops, graduated at age 22.

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, who is Tequesta's father, Director of Education Preston Steele and Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank provided graduates with words of encouragement.

"You've worked hard to get to this point, but it's only the beginning," Rep. Frank said. "Now, work harder, be happy and pursue your dreams."



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School principal Lucy Dafoe congratulates graduate Danni Jae Tommie in the receiving line May 28 during commencement exercises.



Eileen Soler

From left, Ahfachkee School graduates Bradley Osceola, Tylor Tigertail, Ronnie Billie, Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, Danni Jae Tommie and Tequesta Tiger celebrate by tossing their mortarboards seconds after commencement exercises May 28.

BC kinder grads advance to first grade

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

pledges, songs and guest speakers.

A fun-filled reception luncheon included plenty of play time in bounce houses.

The 2013 Ahfachkee School kindergarten graduates were Justin Billie, Lavin Billie, Felicia Buck, Alex Covarrubias, Lucee Cypress, Micah Cypress, Emma DiCarlo, Eric Green Jr., Gilbert Guerrero, Riley Hill, Benny Motlow, Taycee Sanchez and Zechariah Stockton.



Eileen Soler

Eric Green Jr. receives his kindergarten diploma and a gift bag of books from principal Lucy Dafoe during the June 4 Ahfachkee School graduation at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.



Eileen Soler

Lydia Cypress poses for a snapshot with her niece and kindergarten graduate Felicia Buck.



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School kindergarten graduates smile after receiving their diplomas and gifts.

Tribal graduates at forefront of Okeechobee High School graduation

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

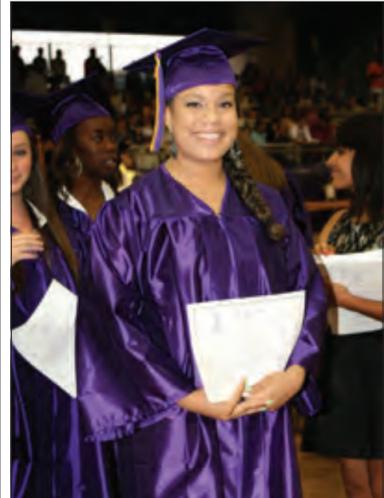
OKEECHOBEE — Seven Tribal youth from Brighton completed a chapter of their young lives at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center on June 7.

Scattered among more than 300 Okeechobee High School graduates, Destiny Nunez, Wade Micco, Garrett Thomas, Janet Smith, Tamara Bowers, Phillip Jones and Jaryaca Baker made their parents, family and community proud as they walked across the stage to accept their diplomas.



Andrea Holata

Garrett Thomas waits for the ceremony to begin with the Okeechobee High School graduating class of 2013.



Andrea Holata

Tamara Bowers anxiously waits to walk across the stage and receive her high school diploma.



Andrea Holata

From left, Tribal students Garrett Thomas, Tamara Bowers, Destiny Nunez, Phillip Jones, Jaryaca Baker, Janet Smith and Wade Micco gather for a photo. The students graduated from Okeechobee High School on June 7.



Andrea Holata

Destiny Nunez proudly accepts her high school diploma.

Janet Smith stops in front of the American flag for a picture moment with her diploma.



Andrea Holata

Tribal graduate Phillip Jones and his family gather for a picture after the commencement ceremony. From left, Royce Osceola, Phillip Jones, Stacy Jones and Ryan Osceola.

Seminoles march with pride during Miccosukee graduation ceremony

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

MICCOSUKEE — Nine Trail Seminoles put on their graduation caps and gowns May 10 to celebrate the completion of another academic milestone.

The students, who attend Miccosukee Indian School, proudly accepted their diplomas from Miccosukee Chairman Colley Billie during their kindergarten through 12th grade graduation ceremony. They listened to a speech from the Chairman, who praised the students and hammered the importance of education.

"Our most important resource is not our revenue generating centers," Miccosukee

Chairman Billie said. "The important resource is our young generation. They are the future of our Tribe. It is, therefore, important to educate our young."

The students also enjoyed a keynote address from Native American actor and comedian Tatanka Means, who, between jokes and anecdotes, left students with an inspirational message: "We can't wait for things to happen. We have to make things happen; we have to be proactive."

The nine Seminole graduates were: Devlin Osceola, Rickkel Osceola, Shane Roberts, Cassidy Bert, Davena Osceola, Kailani Osceola, Lucas Huggins, Franklin Jumper and Angelina Osceola.



Brett Daly

Students enjoy the keynote address from Native American actor and comedian Tatanka Means, who, between jokes and anecdotes, left students with an inspirational message.



Brett Daly

Devlin Osceola shows off his kindergarten diploma at the Miccosukee Indian School's kindergarten through 12th grade graduation ceremony on May 10.



Brett Daly

Complete with a toothless grin, kindergartner Rickkel Osceola makes her entrance during the graduation ceremony.



Brett Daly

Miccosukee Chairman Colley Billie moves Josie Cantu's tassel to the other side of his cap, signifying his graduation from kindergarten.



Brett Daly

Kailani Osceola wins the Intermediate Student of the Year Award for her dedication to her studies throughout the school year. She received special recognition, and a trophy, during the ceremony.

Brighton's tiny students visit Charter School

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The first day of school may seem scary for most but not for the Brighton preschoolers. On May 23, 14 preschoolers got a chance to ease their fears of the first day of big school. They spent the entire day acting like kindergartners to help prepare them for school in the fall.

Arriving at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School by the big yellow bus, the youngsters hopped off in excitement and formed a line where guidance counselor

Jeanine Gran welcomed them to the school. Gran introduced the little ones to the kindergarten teachers: Melody Webber, Betty Tillis and Kimberly Toms.

The pre-k kids were then divided into three groups to join current kindergarten students for a day of elementary school experiences.

The youngsters participated in classroom activities, ate lunch and went to recess just like any other kindergartner. They also toured the school's facilities including the main office, lunchroom, culture room and library.



Andrea Holata

Melody Webber gives future student Raylen Smith an assessment test.



Andrea Holata

Kimberly Toms welcomes the soon-to-be kindergartners to her classroom.

◆ More **MUSEUM** photos from page 1B



Eileen Soler

Rudy Juarez checks out his Seminole doll creation at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum during a Traditional Arts & Crafts exhibit featuring works from PECS students.



Eileen Soler

PECS students are excited to see their own works on exhibit at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Eileen Soler

Echo Billie, Caroline Sweat, Jenna Brown and Brienna Brockman sit among the displays at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Eileen Soler

PECS students and teachers peruse the Traditional Arts & Crafts exhibit featuring works from PECS students.

◆ More **NHS** photos from page 1B

Students of the Month



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Elementary School Students of the Month: Neela Jones, Maylon Foster, Kayden Warrior, Iann Jimmie, Cakiyah Koger, Jana Johnson, Makya King, Cierra Lerma, Gabe Williams, Kiowa Garcia, Ryanna Osceola, Jason Webber, Caylie Huff, Todd Pierce, Billy Baitay, Burgundy Pierce, Madisyn Osceola, Brienna Brockman and Lucy Cypress.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Middle School Students of the Month: Kano Puate, Camryn Thomas, Jaden Puate and Richard Harris.



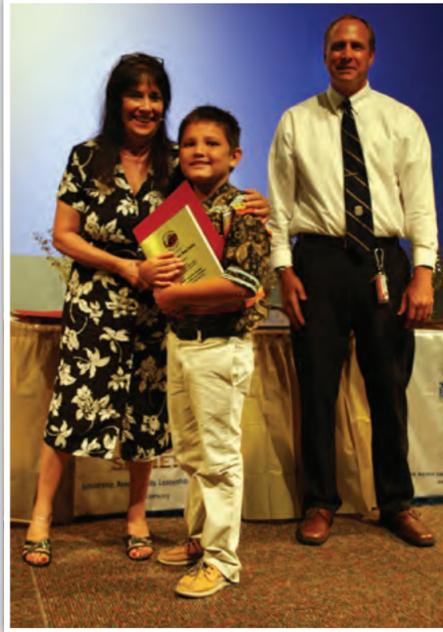
Andrea Holata

Layne Thomas and proud family pose for a picture after the National Honor Society induction ceremony on May 28.



Andrea Holata

Conner Thomas, left, and Trevor Thomas pose for a picture after the ceremony.



Andrea Holata

Hyatt Pearce accepts his plaque and pin from guidance counselor Jeanine Gran.



Andrea Holata

From left, Chynna Villarreal, Caroline Sweat and Alexis James show off their Honor Society plaques. On May 28, PECS held a banquet at the Brighton Veteran's Building inducting their top students into the National Honor Society.



JUDITH A. HOMKO
Marital & Family Law

- Divorce
- Alimony
- Modifications
- Prenuptial Agreements
- Appeals
- Paternity Issues
- Child Support
- Domestic Violence

(954) 525-0651 | (954) 525-1898 Fax
320 S.E. 9th Street, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316



Dr. Brian C. Rush
Chiropractic Physician
Successfully Treating...

- Neck Pain
- Lower Back Pain
- Headaches
- Leg & Arm Pain
- Joint Pain
- Muscle Pain
- Auto Accident Pain

We accept your insurance plan, PPO's, POS, Medicare, Auto Insurance.



FREE SPINAL EXAM
& CONSULTATION
TO ALL TRIBAL CITIZENS
AND EMPLOYEES
(\$150 Value)

Dr. Rush Can Help You!
Dr. Brian C. Rush
Chiropractic Physician
10830 Pines Blvd. • Pembroke Pines
(954) 432-5006
(Located next to Bally Gym in the Bahama Breeze plaza.)

CATCH IT ON SCTV



An Interview with the Schimmel Sisters, Native American Basketball Stars.

TUESDAY 8:00 - 9:00PM
THURSDAY 5:00 - 6:00PM
SEMINOLE CHANNEL 9545

Call **SMP**™ for the Seminole *DIRECTV* Department at:
SEMINOLE MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

(954) 985-5703

Exclusively on



Sports

C

Kids test skills at Seminole NFL Challenge

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Members of the Tribe tend to be big football supporters; many root for the Miami Dolphins, Florida State Seminoles and the University of Miami Hurricanes. But fewer play the game than cheer for it. Tribal kids recently had some hands-on football experience as they ran professional-style drills at the Seminole NFL Challenge on June 1 in Hollywood.

The day was led by former NFL player Lorenzo White, who was a running back for the Houston Oilers and Cleveland Browns during his eight-year career.

"We are showing them the same drills you do in high school, college and in the pros," said Lorenzo, who has traveled around the country conducting football camps. "It's a real fun day. We do the drills playfully, which gives the kids rewards and some insight into what it takes to be a football player."

White was joined by a cadre of former NFL players including William Roberts, a former offensive lineman with the New York Giants, New England Patriots and New York Jets. Other coaches were David Bowens, former defensive end with the Miami Dolphins, New York Jets and Denver Broncos; Eric Robinson, former running back with the Minnesota Vikings; and Butch Rolle, former tight end with the Buffalo Bills. These experienced athletes all coached the kids through the drills.

"We want them to appreciate the game and learn something," Bowens said. "If I can teach one kid one move, he'll have it for the rest of his life. He can put it in his football tool box."

The kids enjoyed throwing and kicking the ball, as well as completing the obstacle course to build their skills. Some kids were familiar with the game; for others, it was the first time they touched a football.

"I like football," said Junior Puente, 8, who has played the sport before. "You have fun and get to know the kids on your team."

Hollywood Recreation site manager Brian Dodd was pleased with the turnout and would like to offer flag football to the kids as an activity.

"It teaches the hard work," Dodd said. "When you get knocked down, you have to get up. We're glad to have these guys here; the kids look up to them."

After a day of challenging drills, the



Beverly Bidney

Former NFL running back Lorenzo White watches as one of his players throws the football.

kids were as enthusiastic as when they started.

"There's nothing like competitive sports," Bowens said. "The lessons you learn, the camaraderie, the blood sweat and

tears, and personal relationships are things you keep for a lifetime."

♦ See more NFL photos on page 4C

Renegade and Osceola: A tradition ignited by Seminole history

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

TALLAHASSEE — Nothing screams "Unconquered" in college sports louder than 80,000 fans bursting with excitement as a Seminole warrior drives a flaming spear into the football field. The decades-old Osceola and Renegade tradition at Florida State University is not only a symbol of pride and spirit for the school but also a true display of respect and adoration for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

In 1947, the student body voted the Seminole as their mascot.

According to *The Florida Democrat*, students first voted for the top six candidates from a list of more than 100 possible mascots in preliminary elections. In the final election, in which only about 30 percent of the student body voted, Seminoles came out on top with 381 votes. Statesmen was runner-up with 271 votes, followed by Rebels, 107 votes; Tarpons, 107 votes; Fighting Warriors, 68 votes; and Crackers, 54 votes.

Although FSU began to use the Seminole name as soon as the votes were cast, the Osceola and Renegade tradition did not start until the late '70s.

In 1962, when the Homecoming Committee was trying to generate more school spirit, a sophomore named Bill Durham thought of the idea to have a Seminole Warrior charge the field on an Appaloosa horse at the beginning of every football game. At the time, the idea was turned down by the school because of hesitations about having a horse in the stadium.

Those hesitations were put to rest when coach Bobby Bowden came to FSU in 1976.

The legendary coach and his wife, Ann, were looking for a symbol the fans could rally behind, when Durham pitched his spirited idea. Coach Bowden was in full support and gave Durham the green light to make it happen.

Before Durham did a single thing, he met with then Chairman Howard Tommie to discuss the idea.

"He said he wouldn't feel right without the support of the Tribe," said Allen Durham, Bill's son and head of the

Osceola and Renegade program.

He wanted this tradition to commemorate the Tribe just as much as he wanted to ignite the school with spirit, he said.

In the meeting, Durham made promises to former Chairman Tommie that hold true today.

Osceola and Renegade are never used for commercial purposes or endorsements; they are only used in support of the Tribe and the school. They are never seen at any events other than FSU home games and bowl games, fan days and the Homecoming parade.

Allen said the program only makes exceptions for the Tribe.

"Last year we received the invitation to the Brighton Field Day and we absolutely made the trip," he said. "To have Osceola and Renegade spear the ground of the rodeo arena on a Seminole reservation was a great honor."

Allen said he thinks the Seminole name was chosen over others because of the great unconquered people the name represents. FSU proudly identifies itself with the Tribe, instilling heroic Seminole traits like bravery, strength and determination in every athlete.

After gaining the Tribe's support, Osceola and Renegade have been charging the field since the opening game in 1978 against the Oklahoma State Cowboys. This esteemed role must be held by not only a great equestrian but also a great student.

There is an interview process and an apprenticeship, Allen said. The process involves reading books and writing essays on the life of Osceola.

"We want the rider to understand the individual he is portraying and the great history of the Seminole Tribe," he said. "Once that regalia goes on, you are no longer allowed to respond as your individual ... you are in character."

FSU celebrates 35 years of Osceola and Renegade this year, which Allen said also marks 35 years of great honor and respect for the Tribe.

"As a student, alumni and former rider, to me one of the things that makes Florida State truly special is our relationship with the Seminole Tribe," Allen said.

Rodeo season gallops to an end at EIRA regional finals

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The rodeo season ended with a rousing show in Brighton May 18-19 at the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) regional finals. Cowboys and cowgirls worked hard for a spot in the Indian National Finals Rodeo to be held Nov. 5-9 in Las Vegas.

"This is the end of the season, so it should be pretty exciting," said Jo "Boogie" Jumper, EIRA secretary. "There's a lot of pressure on them and they know what they have to do to qualify."

All categories were competitive, but contenders in barrel racing and team roping were just points apart. Year-end and sudden death winners will compete in the INFR in the following categories: Bareback, steer wrestling, calf roping, team roping, barrels, breakaway, saddle bronc and bulls. About 32 people compete in each INFR event. Competitors will have two performances per day, said Jumper, who competed in barrels and breakaway in 2010 and 2011.

Justin Gopher, who will compete in team roping, has been to INFR 10 times in the last 12 years. He plans to drive to Las Vegas with his brother Hilliard Gopher and their horses.

"It can get a little stressful, but if you just go and plan to catch all four of your cows, you should be alright," said Gopher, of Okeechobee. "You can't let the pressure get to you. I have to work on taking that advice; it's easy to get carried away in the moment."

Maci McKerchie, 16, has only been competing in the rodeo for two years and has never been to the finals. Even her horse Rio is new to the rodeo; he has only been racing barrels for about seven months and she is still working with him.

"I'm excited and was shocked to win," said McKerchie, of Davie. "I'm looking forward to going to Las Vegas, but I'm not sure what to expect. I've talked to people who have been there and they told me the crowd made it so much fun."

The rodeo circuit requires a lot of travel and work, but it also creates an atmosphere of camaraderie among competitors. Most of the people Jumper knows have competed since 1994.

"The best part is being there with family and friends," said Jumper, who travels through Florida and Oklahoma for rodeos. "It's always nice to win money, but the biggest thing is you get to see people



Beverly Bidney

Jacoby Johns successfully rides bareback in Brighton May 18-19 at the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) regional finals.

you haven't seen all year. Everybody is like a big family; it's like a big reunion."

During the arduous travel across the country, as competitors make sure their horses arrive safely, they will have plenty of time to think about what will happen in the competition.

"I'm just looking forward to hopefully winning a world title," Gopher said.

Cowboys and Cowgirls who will compete in INFR Nov. 5-9 in Las Vegas:

Year-end winners: Bareback: Jacoby Johns; Steer wrestling: Dayne Johns; Saddle Bronc: Sisto Hernandez; Calf Roping:

Preston Williams; Team Roping: Josh Jumper/Preston Williams; Barrels: Maci McKerchie; Breakaway: Leanna Billie - but Leah Platero will represent EIRA because Leanna was also sudden death winner; and Bulls: Kelton Smedley.

Sudden death winners: Bareback:

Jacoby Johns; Steer wrestling: Warren Rubio; Calf Roping: Preston Williams; Team Roping: Justin Gopher/Hilliard Gopher; Barrels: Jo "Boogie" Jumper; and Breakaway: Leanna Billie.

♦ See more RODEO photos on page 4C



Survivor hunt winners Pernel Bert and Morgan King pose for a victory photo with Recreation staff members Darrell Simmons and Jason Tommie on May 22.

PECS boys aim for the bull's-eye

SUBMITTED BY DALLAS NUNEZ
Brighton Recreation Site Manager

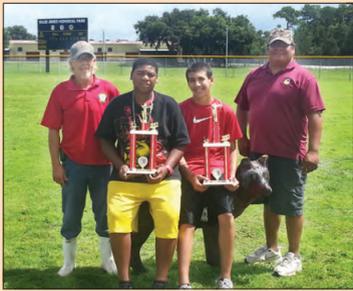
BRIGHTON — Pemaquid Emahakv Charter School boys tested their skills at the archery range on May 22. P.E. teacher Chris Goodwin spent two weeks teaching archery to the boys in sixth, seventh and eighth grades and held friendly competitions inside the gym.

The Recreation Department posed the idea to have the boys shoot outside in the woods using 3-D targets to test their skills at different distances. The 36 boys were separated into groups of four with a Recreation staff member to keep score and assure safety.

Fifteen various life-size animal targets were set up from 10-25 yards away and each archer had two chances to shoot them.

If they hit within the kill zone, they were awarded 20 points; a hit anywhere outside the kill zone was worth 10 points, and no hit was zero points.

Sixth-grade winners were Ridge Bailey (first place) and Conner Thomas (second place). Seventh-grade winners were Cyrus Smedley (first) and Ives Baker (second). Eighth-grade winners were Trevor Thomas (first) and Robert



Eighth-grade first- and second-place winner Trevor Thomas and second-place winner Robert Fudge proudly hold their archery trophies with Recreation staff members Darrell Simmons and Jason Tommie.

Fudge (second). At the end of the competition, the boys competed in a survivor hunt with only one arrow and one target placed 50 yards away. One by one, each boy had a chance to hit the target. If they missed, they were out until only one boy was left standing. After two rounds, Pernel Bert and Morgan King were the only survivors.

Lightening makes diamond sparkle

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

WESTON — The Seminole Lightening girls' 10U softball team withstood months of competition against seven teams to make it to the Weston Area Little League Softball playoffs. The team's season ended in game four of the playoffs May 16 at Regional Park at Weston against The Bandits. Overall, Seminole Lightening placed third in the league.



Budha Jimenez winds up for a pitch.



Charli Frye releases a pitch during practice.



Edie Robbins swings with all her might while teammates cheer from the dugout.



Jalee Wilcox gets last-minute instructions from the coach.



Budha Jimenez gets the other team out on second.



Canaan Jumper runs safe into second base.

TRADE UP TO A YAMAHA SALES EVENT

AS LOW AS **3.99% APR** UP TO **\$1000** UP TO **\$500**
FOR 36 MONTHS* CUSTOMER CASH** EXTRA TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE ON SELECT MODELS***



954-436-9905

4101 Davie Road Ext.

Davie, FL 33024

www.BrowardMotorsports.com



Yamaha. The 1st Name in Motorsports.™

f JOIN US ON FACEBOOK! NO SERVICE FEES ON TICKETS!

GreatSeatsMiami Ltd
Any ticket, Anytime, Anywhere

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Lil Wayne JUL 14
- Dave Matthews JUL 19 & 20
- Marilyn Manson JUL 21
- Black Sabbath JUL 31
- Cirque Du Soleil: Quidam . JUL 31 - AUG 4
- Justin Timberlake & Jay-Z AUG 16
- Bruno Mars AUG 30
- Blake Shelton AUG 31
- John Mayer SEP 8
- Depeche Mode SEP 15
- Lionel Richie SEP 18
- Keith Urban OCT 5
- Nine Inch Nails OCT 30
- Miami Dolphins
- Miami Marlins



LOCAL, NATIONWIDE AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

LAS VEGAS SHOWS

NEW YORK BROADWAY SHOWS



24/7 LIVE OPERATOR: 305.395.4488

www.Greatseatsmiami.com or Info@greatseatsmiami.com
We have offices conveniently located in Miami and New York with over 35 years of combined experience.

*Finance offer subject to credit approval, applies to purchases of new Yamaha Motorcycles, ATVs & Scooters made on a Yamaha Installment Financing loan account from 2/15/13-6/30/13. Min. contract length 24 mos, max. 36 mos. Min. amount financed \$5,000. Fixed APR of 3.99%, 5.99%, 6.99% or 12.99% assigned based on credit approval criteria. Monthly payments per \$1,000 financed based on 36-mo. term are \$29.52 at 3.99% and \$33.69 at 12.99%. **Customer Cash offer good on select 2012 (and prior year) models between 2/15/13-6/30/13. ***Trade in your Motorcycle, ATV or SxS and get up to an additional \$500 towards the purchase of an eligible new, unregistered 2009-2013 Motorcycle, ATV or SxS between 2/15/13-6/30/13. This offer may be combined with other current finance and customer cash offers. Offers good only in the U.S., excluding the state of Hawaii. Dress properly for your ride with a helmet, eye protection, long-sleeved shirt, long pants, gloves and boots. Do not drink and ride. It is illegal and dangerous. Yamaha and the Motorcycle Safety Foundation encourage you to ride safely and respect the environment. For further information regarding the MSF course, please call 1-800-446-9227. ATV models shown are recommended for use only by riders 16 years and older. YFZ450R recommended for experienced riders only. Yamaha recommends that all ATV riders take an approved training course. For safety and training information, see your dealer or call the ATV Safety Institute at 1-800-987-2887. ATVs can be hazardous to operate. For your safety: Always avoid paved surfaces. Never ride on public roads. Always wear a helmet, eye protection and protective clothing; never carry passengers; never engage in stunt riding; riding and alcohol/drugs don't mix; avoid excessive speed; and be particularly careful on difficult terrain. Professional riders depicted on closed courses. ©2013 Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. All rights reserved. • yamaha-motor.com 2/13

Kid rodeo ropes national contenders

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Five rodeo youth athletes from the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association's (EIRA) kids' program earned top points to ride, rope and race Nov. 5-9 at the 38th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) in Las Vegas.

"This is what they worked for all year. They see the adults do it and they want to do it, too," said Mackenzie Bowers, vice president of the EIRA made up mostly of Seminole Tribe members. "Our main goal is to continue tradition."

Based on total points earned at regional unsanctioned kids events held all season at Tribal rodeo arenas in Big Cypress, Immokalee and Brighton, the winners headed to the INFR championships are: Dyami Nelson and Jaylen Baker for INFR junior bull riding; Jacob Parks and Jaylen Baker for INFR junior breakaway; and Budah Jumper and Kalgary Johns for INFR junior barrel racing.

The kids' final was held May 31 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress.

Dyami, who also competes Wednesdays at Jackpot Rodeo in Davie, said he is going

to Las Vegas to win. Last year, the 13-year-old saddled up to the INFR in breakaway but was blown out in the first round.

"This year I'll be practicing a lot more before nationals — and I'll be paying attention more to my elders," he said.

EIRA Youth Events director Moses Jumper Jr. said kids will get plenty of rodeo action — and adult coaching — through summer. Adult EIRA members will be hosting the Kids Summer Rodeo Series for children ages 4 through 17 on July 27 and Aug. 31 at the arena in Big Cypress.

"The season might be over but we don't quit rodeo," Jumper said. "We're looking at the next generation of rough stock riders."

Events will include every category from the usual season: mutton busting, pony riding, calf riding, steer riding, chute dogging, steer undecorating, breakaway and barrel racing. Young cowboys and cowgirls will also get a chance to try out other categories including team roping, dummy roping and goat tying.

Bryce Baker, 7, who competed during the past season in pony riding and calf riding, said he can't wait to get back to the arena. He is one of nearly 50 youth in the program who also learn rodeo responsibilities such as how to corral and rope the animals before

and after competition.

"Sometimes we have to bulldog them (grab by the horns) and tell other kids to get out of the way. I'm already a cowboy," Baker said.

EIRA member Justin Gopher, a nine-time competitor in the INFR championships who started rodeo at age 8, said kids going to Las Vegas are in for plenty of excitement. He said their first adrenalin rush will come when they meet the leading cowboys in the nation. The second rush will happen when they go into the arena to compete for themselves.

"It's a huge step to be around the top Indian cowboys. It'll certainly be a good learning experience and it will build confidence for them to keep trying again and again," Gopher said.

Dyami's mother, Danielle Howard, admits to feeling a little anxiety when her son gets on top of a wild bucking bull, but she is proud of his success. Howard said her son's last two years of competition have given him mental focus, physical strength and maturity beyond his years.

"Rodeo helped him grow from a little boy to a young man," Howard said.

For more information about the Kids Summer Rodeo Series, call 863-983-8923.



Beverly Bidney

Kyle Doney successfully hits his ball from behind a hill onto the green May 31.

Golf tournament offers fellowship, camaraderie

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

DAVIE — When beautiful weather rolls in, golf devotees hear the sirens' call beckoning them to the course. About 20 Tribal members answered that call on May 31 and played in a friendly tournament sponsored by the Hollywood Council. The group took to the links at the Grande Oakes Golf Club in Davie and showed off their competitive spirits and best shots.

"We're all out here to have fun," Jason Tommie said. "But there is nothing better than first place."

Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. organized the event, which included a few prizes throughout the course for longest drive, closest to the pins, and two and three man blind draws.

"It's an opportunity to get people out to enjoy the day before the weekend," Osceola said. "It's always competitive whether you are playing for a Coke or if money is put up. We all have a competitive spirit and want to beat the guy next to us."

Win or lose, competitors agreed that the day was a success. Everyone in the tournament went home pleased to have spent the day with friends.



Beverly Bidney

Kyle Doney and William Osceola watch as Terry Tartsah Sr. sinks a putt.



Eileen Soler

Dyami Nelson rides a bucking junior bull to top points during the kids' rodeo May 31 which earned him a spot at the 38th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.



Eileen Soler

Jaylen Baker keeps his grip and seat long enough to win a spot at the 38th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.



Eileen Soler

Jacob Parks releases his rope on the target May 31 and wins a spot to compete in the 38th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.



Eileen Soler

Jaylen Baker keeps his eyes and rope on the target during the junior breakaway competition that earned the teen a spot at the Indian National Finals Rodeo.



Eileen Soler

Kalgary Johns rides fast and tight to ensure a spot at the Indian National Finals Rodeo.



Beverly Bidney

Mitch Osceola hits one down the fairway during the Hollywood Council golf tournament at the Grand Oakes Golf Club.



Beverly Bidney

Marcellus W. Osceola, Jr. putts during the friendly competition held in Davie May 31.

VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
A13269	2005	FORD	FREESTAR SE	110,213	Fair	\$2,980.25
LIMITED QTY ON HAND	2006	B & S INTEK PORTABLE GENERATOR	SNAPPER G56000 - 5600W	N/A	Good	\$250.00
LIMITED QTY ON HAND	2006	B & S INTEK PORTABLE GENERATOR	SNAPPER G56000 - 5600W	N/A	Poor- does not start	\$150.00

Note - Previously advertised vehicles/equipment are not reflected on this advertisement, only recently received items. For more information please contact Fixed Assets Dept. 954-966-6300 ext# 20034



STAND OUT.



PRODUCTION SERVICES

More **RODEO** photos from page 1C



Beverly Bidney

Warren Rubio wrestles a steer at the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association regional finals in Brighton May 18-19.



Beverly Bidney

Naha Jumper ropes a calf.

More **NFL** photos from page 1C



Beverly Bidney

Junior Puente, 8, maneuvers through the obstacle course.



Beverly Bidney

Paul Bowers Jr. shares a laugh with Jeff Aldridge before the bull riding event.



Beverly Bidney

Jo 'Boogie' Jumper rounds a barrel.



Beverly Bidney

Andre Jumper ties down a calf after roping it.



Beverly Bidney

Cowboys prepare the bull in the chute before another one tries to ride him.



Beverly Bidney

Riders compete in the team roping competition.



Beverly Bidney

It's clear the day is about having fun and gaining new skills.



Beverly Bidney

Lorenzo White shows the correct way to hold the football.



Beverly Bidney

Lorenzo White, left, and Eric Robinson, right, demonstrate how to punt the ball.

SMPW
SEMINOLE MEDIA PRODUCTIONS WORKSHOP

JULY 23-26

BUNKY ECHO-HAWK
Pawnee/Yakama Native Artist & Graphic Designer
Featured Designer at Nike

MEET AND BE INSPIRED BY A NATIVE CELEBRITY

Interested in a media field as a future career? At SMPW 2013, develop your talents and learn new skills in a fun, creative, and hands-on learning environment. Discover the creative process from start to finish in Graphic Design, Journalism, Technical Production, or Broadcasting.

@SMPWorkshop
www.facebook.com/SMPWorkshop

www.SeminoleMediaProductions.com/SMPW **YOUTH 14-18**

56TH ANNUAL
2013 Miss Florida SEMINOLE PRINCESS PAGEANT

Saturday, July 27, 2013 • 7pm
Hollywood Tribal Office

Community Dinner at 4 pm
Application Deadline is
July 1, 2013

MISS FLORIDA SEMINOLE
Miss Florida Seminoles 2012-2013

Come Watch The Next Princess Crowned

Softball team takes break from competition to help tornado victims

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

MOORE, Okla. — The Jim Thorpe games went off without a hitch for most competitors; except for a few living close to the games, the hardest part was getting there. On May 20 an EF5 tornado, with winds of 210 mph, devastated the city of Moore just south of Oklahoma City and with it, the dreams of a few athletes who were scheduled to compete.

“Three of our players lost everything,” said Annetta Abbott, director of the Jim Thorpe Games. “We allowed teams to replace kids who couldn’t get here. The Sac and Fox team let those kids play on their teams so they could still compete. The Seminoles have helped out, others too. There has been a great show of support.”

Before the tornado, the population of Moore was about 55,000. It destroyed entire neighborhoods, leaving many people with no home or possessions. Seminole Police Department Officer Jarret Romanello, an Iraq war veteran, wanted to help the victims and give Seminole kids a chance to volunteer after they completed in their games. Romanello contacted the Church of the Nazarene in Moore to offer the services of Tribal members and employees. Officer Venesia Elliott and Brighton Fire Rescue Capt. Juaquin Silvas helped organize the effort with Brian Dodd, Hollywood Recreation site manager.

“We wanted our kids to see firsthand and up close how lucky we are and how devastated these people are,” Dodd said. “It was a real eye opener.”

Josh Jumper’s 14U softball team finished their competition in second place and used their free time to help out.

“I thought it would be great for the kids to give a helping hand,” said Jumper, who coaches the team. “Anything we can do to help, we’ll do it.”

The team, along with siblings and parents, descended on the church eager to get busy. Some kids packed up boxes of food and supplies; others helped serve free meals to hungry people.

For the few hours spent at the church, the kids worked hard.

People from all over the country were drawn to Moore to give assistance; one group from a Nazarene church in Maine



Ava Nunez, Jillian Rodriguez and Canaan Jumper work on the food line at the church.

spent a week working at the church. The Mainers took the Seminole kids under their wings and gave them plenty to do, as there was a huge amount of donations to organize and prepare for distribution. The church turned every room except the sanctuary into storage space for food, toiletries, clothing, baby items and more. In these rooms, boxes were filled with enough food and supplies to last people about a week.

“It feels good to know we can help someone out with the things they need,” said Chastity Harmon, 14, of Brighton. “Me and my mom talked about it; it looks not real, like in a movie. But knowing it’s real makes you think of who was there and how it happened. I can’t imagine it happening in Brighton.”

A few girls manned the food line with other volunteers.

“It makes me feel good to help out,” said Canaan Jumper, 9, of Big Cypress. “A lot of people lost their homes.”

“It makes me feel sad,” added Ava Nunez, 9, of Immokalee.

After a day of volunteering, the team and their entourage toured the devastation



Youth witness the devastation in Oklahoma.

in a neighborhood adjacent to the severely damaged Moore Medical Center. Before the tornado, these were typical suburban streets with tidy homes, all in a row. Now, those homes were gone, replaced by piles of debris and an occasional intact fireplace and chimney jutting up out of the rubble.

“This wasn’t our primary mission, but after the kids were done competing we wanted to find something positive for them to do,” Romanello said. “These kids didn’t have to be here; it shows their true character.”

◆ JIM THORPE

From page 1A

“Dad wanted a junior Olympics for Native Americans; he would love this. He loved sports, period. You name it, he enjoyed it. He excelled like no other man; it all came easy to him,” Thorpe said.

Thorpe remembers his father as happy-go-lucky, someone who enjoyed life. They hunted and fished together, but memories of sitting under a big tree listening to the coon dogs run are some of his favorites.

During the softball competition, Thorpe was bombarded by kids and parents who recognized him and wanted to pose for photos with him. A jovial man, he happily complied and relished meeting each athlete.

Athletes from Pine Ridge in South Dakota — whose team name is Jim Thorpe — are inspired by his legend every day. They raised money to attend the games and drove 14 hours to Oklahoma City.

“Jim Thorpe is a legend to us,” said Yvonne DeCory, youth development specialist with the school. “The school was renamed 60 years ago because his values — honor, fortitude, bravery, never give up — are ours. The kids all hold him in high esteem.”

The Seminole Tribe was well represented in the basketball competitions with teams in the boys’ 14U, 16U, 19U and the girls’ 16U and 19U. Some kids played on intertribal teams, others on all Seminole teams. The boys’ 19U intertribal team J.U.S. Nation (Just Us Seminoles) has been playing together for five years. They met while competing in tournaments in Indian Country; neither Just Us nor the Seminoles had enough members to have a deep bench so the teams merged.

“They’ve developed friendships over the years,” said Andrew Jordan Bowers, J.U.S. Nation coach. “We have younger kids who are getting ready to join the team.”

Although the team won the NAYO tournament in Seneca, N.Y. in March, they came in third place in these games. Bowers said two starters couldn’t make it to Oklahoma.

The boys’ 14U basketball team N3 placed second in the games.

The girls’ 19U Basketball Divas, another intertribal team comprised of Seminoles and Lakota members from South Dakota, took first place. Seminole girls on the team included Maleah Isaac, Shae Pierce and Annie Osceola (Miccosukee).

The team played a hard-fought game against the Ball Hawks, a Seminole team.

“I can relate to Jim Thorpe,” said Darla Cypress, 16, of Big Cypress, who played on Ball Hawks. “I’m chasing the dream and trying to get off the rez. If I didn’t have sports, I’d probably be into other things I shouldn’t do. It gives me motivation to be better. It’s nice to see what other Tribes can do; everyone’s chasing something. We have more in common than most races.”

Twenty-six boys in elementary through high school, weighing 60 to 285 pounds, competed in wrestling. Although Drayton Billie has been wrestling for a few years, he was never in a competition before the games. He didn’t win his match.

“It was my first taste of competition,” said Billie, who will be a ninth-grader at Okeechobee High School in the fall. “It makes me want to try harder.”

Girls’ 18U and 14U softball teams took to the fields in 100-degree heat but played enthusiastically. The 14U team won second place.

“It’s exciting,” said Erena Billie, 18, of Brighton. “I like to play softball and travel to play other Indians from all over.”

Rhett Tiger and Arek Jumper competed in track and field events. Tiger ran in the 800- and 1,600-meter race; Jumper competed in the 800. Tiger, who is on the University School’s team, has been training in Hollywood with Recreation coordinator Lavel Walker since February. The coach hollered encouragement to Tiger as he ran around the track. He won the 800 meter and placed second in the 1,600 meter.

“It’s different here; you are facing different people and you don’t know how they run,” said Tiger, 14. “It’s not Florida weather and I could have gone harder if I ate breakfast. But it feels good to represent my Tribe in running.”

Seven Tribal kids and one adult competed in golf. Although the course was beautiful, it had a feature Florida golf courses don’t usually have — hills. Golfers had to drive the balls not only down the fairway but also up and down hills. That, plus the dry heat, made for challenging days on the links.

Dasani Cypress took second place in the girls’ 14U category even though she didn’t play the second day. The softball team had an ill player, so being the trooper she is, Cypress stepped in and helped the team take second place. In the boys’ 14U category, brothers Conchade and Byron Osceola took second and third place respectively.



Beverly Bidney

Rhett Tiger proudly looks at his medals. He won silver for the 1,600-meter race and gold for the 800-meter race.



Beverly Bidney

Ahnje Jumper makes the play at third base during the 14U game. The team ultimately took second place in the games.



Beverly Bidney

The 14U Seminole team N3 plays against the Cheyenne Arapaho. The team took second place in the games.



Beverly Bidney

Kristen Doney gets her ball out of the rough during the golf tournament.



Beverly Bidney

The 19U intertribal teams Basketball Divas and Ball Hawks face off. The Divas won first place in the tournament.



Beverly Bidney

A member of the 18U softball team, Independentz, Darla Cypress makes the out at third base.



Beverly Bidney

Seminole 19U team, Warriors, played hard against the Choctaw team.



Beverly Bidney

Drayton Billie begins wrestling opponent Dalton Lee.



Beverly Bidney

Pitcher Brianna Billie is about to let loose a fast pitch; shortstop Darla Cypress waits for the action.

South Florida's ONLY PLACE TO ROCK!



AUGUST 18



July 11
KATHY GRIFFIN



September 4
DIANA ROSS



July 18
CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER



September 15
LORETTA LYNN



August 10
ALABAMA



September 18
LIONEL RICHIE



August 13
ONEREPUBLIC
WITH MAYER HAWTHORNE
& CHURCHILL

GET TICKETS:

Ticketmaster.com

or charge by phone:

1-800-745-3000



MYHRL.COM • SEMINOLEHARDROCKHOLLYWOOD.COM



HOLLYWOOD, FL

PLAY HARD