



# The Seminole

Voice of the Unconquered



# Tribune

www.seminoletribune.org • 50¢

Volume XXXVII • Number 5

May 31, 2013

## Police Explorers enlightened by National Police Week

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Ask young kids what they want to be when they grow up and many say police officers. To help kids learn precisely what that entails, the Seminole Police Department sponsors the Police Explorers program to teach them about law enforcement. The culmination of the program each year is a trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in National Police Week.

From May 12-16 a group of more than 150 people including 88 Explorers plus elders, SPD chaperones and family members attended the event, which included the 25th annual Candlelight Vigil for fallen officers, the National Police Memorial March and the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol.

"It's an educational week, and we want to enlighten them about what police work is," SPD Chief William R. Latchford said. "The kids see that the police culture is a brotherhood, and we want to accept them into it. The goal is to take one of these Tribal kids and replace me with him or her."

This was the third year the Explorers traveled to Police Week and it was the largest trip by far. The number of Explorers participating has nearly tripled from the first year. New activities were added to the agenda, including journal writing and culture classes led by seniors in the evenings, to keep things fresh. Kids wrote their impressions of the trip every day so they could have a record of it and practice their writing skills.

"The program gives them structure and lets them know people around them keep them safe," Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said. "I'll keep my kids involved because it's a great program."

The Explorers joined about 15,000 police officers and their families from around the world at the 25th annual Candlelight Vigil at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Before darkness fell, the kids went to work trading challenge coins and patches with officers from other police departments. The Explorers had five of each to trade as they politely approached uniformed officers on the grounds of the memorial. Patches were easiest to find and



Beverly Bidney

Tampa residents Julian Dillon, Maggie Garcia, Peggy Cubis, Linda O. Henry, Connie Osceola, Dominic Osceola and Linda Henry Storm light candles at the 25th annual Candlelight Vigil for fallen officers.

were obtained from departments as close as Ocala, Fla. to as far as New South Wales, Australia.

The somber event commemorated those officers killed in the last year; their names were added to the 19,980 others etched on the memorial wall. One SPD officer's name appears on that wall. Lt. John K. Healy was killed in an automobile accident Feb. 15, 1986 while driving from Tampa to Hollywood. During a severe storm, he lost control of the car and landed in a canal where he drowned. Lt. Healy, 35, served with SPD for 14 years.

Names of fallen officers from years gone by were also added to the wall, including that of John Stout, a U.S. Customs Inspector killed while trying to arrest the notorious pirate Jean Lafitte in Louisiana in 1814.

After speeches by dignitaries that included Attorney General Eric Holder, the crowd lit candles to honor the fallen officers. The solemn glow of tens of thousands of candles lit up the night.

"It was very emotional," said Tyson Osceola, 14. "A lot of families were there who needed their fathers who died."

"It was heart touching," added Dennis Gonzales, 14. "I'm grateful to witness something that spectacular."

The following day, an SPD police car and Honor Guard were part of the National Police Memorial March for the first time. It was the only Native American police department represented. When the car passed the Seminole crowd, cheers erupted from children and adults alike.

"To see our flag flying amongst everyone else was a very proud moment," President Tony Sanchez Jr. said. The magnitude of the event wasn't lost

on the kids either.

"It makes us feel accomplished," said Taryn Storm, 14. "People actually noticed us."

"I love that they saw ours," added Brady Latchford, 13.

The 32nd annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service took place on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol with keynote speaker President Barack Obama. Security was tight, but with tens of thousands of uniformed police officers in attendance, it was possibly the safest place in the country. The best seats were reserved for the families of the 143 officers who died last year.

"They all took the oath to protect and serve," Obama said. "The brave officers we gather to remember today devoted themselves entirely to serve and protect others. The fight against crime is the fight to preserve the quality of our community, which is the root of our greatness. It exemplifies the very idea of citizenship."

The Explorers made the SPD chaperones proud with their respectful behavior during the trip. One of the goals of the department is to let kids see officers as ordinary people who want to help, support and educate them.

"We are celebrating all they have done through the Explorer program," said Lt. Lisa Bennis, who organized the week. "We want to give them an enriching and rewarding experience they will remember forever. Through this, they are developing relationships that will go beyond the trip."

The Explorers program shows the kids what it means to be a police officer. The core essence of SPD is printed on the side of every police car: Caring for your Community.

"Law enforcement is a brotherhood," Lt. Victor Madrid said. "Once you get into law enforcement, you are in a family for life."

Chairman James E. Billie, who attended the week with his wife, Maria, and children Echo and Aube, was impressed with the organization of the event and the good behavior of the children.

"This program will continue for a long time," he said. "It is the beginning of being a good citizen."

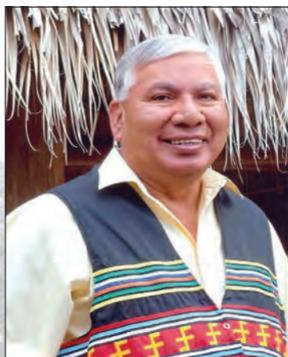
♦ See POLICE WEEK on page 8A

## 2013 Election Results

### Tribal Council



Chris Osceola  
Hollywood Councilman

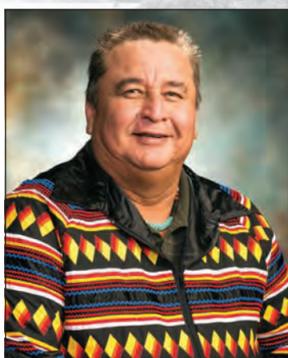


Andrew J. Bowers Jr.  
Brighton Councilman



Mondo Tiger  
Big Cypress Councilman

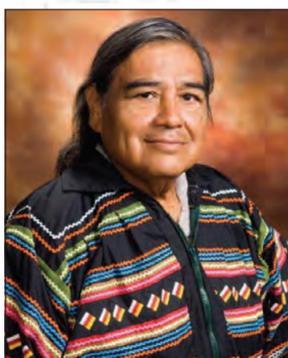
### Board of Directors



M. Steve Osceola  
Hollywood Representative



Larry Howard  
Brighton Representative



Joe Frank  
Big Cypress Representative

## Brighton public safety complex to rise

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Armed with gold-colored shovels, Seminole officials turned dirt during the groundbreaking of a planned \$27-million new home for 23 Tribal departments, including Police and Fire Rescue, on the Brighton Reservation.

The April 16 ceremony heralded the start of construction for the long-awaited 111,000-square-foot Public Safety Administration Building.

"Today is a really big day because we finally get what we deserve," Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard said. "We're now building for our own people in a joint venture that hit the ground running and hasn't stopped."

That joint venture formed last year with the Tribe and Stiles Construction, a 60-year commercial real estate, design and construction firm based in Fort Lauderdale. Informally called "Seminole Stiles," the partnership promises a busy future of building growth throughout the Tribe's reservation network.

Already completed in 2013 were a 140,000-square-foot renovation of the Seminole Classic Casino in Hollywood and the construction of the Noodle Bar at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

The Brighton public safety complex project is scheduled for completion in October 2014. The buildings should be

ready for operations beginning in 2015.

"This was finally dropped in our laps in April last year after being on the table for several years before that," said Gloria Wilson, the Tribe's Community Planning director. "We've pushed real hard during the last year to really make it happen."

Wilson thanked more than a dozen Tribal employees, especially her assistant Community Planning director Adam Nelson, who will also serve as project manager.

Nelson said the Tribe will apply to have the building LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. Officials said energy costs for the building will be 18 percent lower.

The complex will consist of three buildings for Administration, Public Safety and Maintenance. Several chickees and smaller buildings will dot the campus to create a camp-like atmosphere. Most of the live oak tree clusters that have existed for decades on the land

will remain untouched. "Many hours and nights have been spent (in planning), but it has been an investment to make the project come together," President Tony Sanchez Jr. said. "It's one thing to see the plan on paper...I can't wait to see the final product."

Jose Murguido, principal of Zyscovich Architects which designed the structure, said the building's features will reflect the Tribe. Materials will mimic Florida limestone, cypress wood and slate.

♦ See PUBLIC SAFETY on page 5A



Eileen Soler

Seminole Tribe firefighters from the Brighton Reservation view the architectural model of the new Public Safety Administration Building.

# Editorial

## Watch out for *fub leh che chobee*

• James E. Billie

The split tail or thunderbirds (snail kites) are flying around. The sawgrass flowers are starting to bloom. It's raining a little too much, flooding the fields and swamps, and the green tree frogs have been crying up a storm for the last several days. I don't mind all this, but the season of *fub leh che chobee* (Big Wind) is about to begin.

Hurricane season has always been interesting to me. Old-timers would refer to it as a female looking for her children. We were not allowed to whistle, blow whistles, bottles or flutes. For it may draw her attention and she will come, with full force of destruction, looking for her crying babies.

A couple of remedies to divert the hurricanes path is to ask a member of the Wind Clan to tell *fub leh che chobee* to go someplace else and leave our village alone.

The one I've seen used most often is taking an ax with a long handle, sticking the handle in the ground

and then burying it real good. Point the sharp edge of the ax in the direction of the coming hurricane and say, "Do not harm my chickee or my camp." Throughout my life, I've seen this done with success. I've even used tomahawks and hatchets for my own protection.

To some of you folks reading this, give it a try. It may surprise you.

God gave Seminoles a whole bag of tricks to survive.

Sho-naa-bish.

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



## Beyond reservation opportunities

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

"Tony, how is the current administration different?"

"Hey Tony, what are the goals of the Board?"

"President Sanchez, what impact will the Board have on the Tribe's future?"

These are just a sample of the questions that the Board and I are frequently asked. Whether it's at one of our community meetings or at dinner among our Tribal family, I'm asked these questions quite often. The last two years in office have allowed me to reflect on my time and focus on the changes that Tribal members wish to see from the Board.

One of the challenges this administration has faced is going where few Tribes have gone: fully exploring opportunities we can take advantage of by leveraging our sovereignty and tax-exempt status. This administration made a decision: The Seminole Tribe is not going to limit itself to reservation boundaries. We are not going to limit ourselves to state boundaries. And we are not going to limit ourselves to the boundaries of the United States.

The world is wide open. So, by asking ourselves, how can we best utilize our advantages as a sovereign nation and how do we best pass this advantage on to an investor, we have made a declaration: The world is our backyard. It is not just the reservation. In doing so, we have challenged ourselves to seek out and implement things that probably haven't been considered. New ideas and different ways of doing business. And, in my opinion, we best overcome that challenge by constant communication through community meetings, shareholders' meetings and personally helping people connect the dots.

Is this the best approach? I think it is. But I'm not sure. Feedback is important. I can assure you we are attempting to keep everyone informed. We don't want anyone to come back and say, "Their M.O. hasn't changed. They are still having secret meetings. The door is still closed." Nothing could be further from the truth.

In fact, to eliminate any negative perceptions, this administration actively held community meetings. We have been in office for two years, and we have had two shareholders' meetings, just as we are required to do.

We have to remember it's a different world. Part of the challenge of the Seminole Tribe thriving in this new world is not only keeping our constituents informed, but it is also letting the general public know and understand us as both good neighbors and solid business partners. A potential investor should know what we are exploring and know the advantages of dealing with the Seminole Tribe. There is a method to the madness. It's not just that I want to stand up there and pound my chest. That's not it at all.

We want the world to know that we are much more than a two-trick pony (i.e. casinos and cigarettes). We want the world to know that we are a good partner in every sense. And that, bottom line, we are looking to enhance the financial condition of the Tribe and the living standards for all Tribal members. Along the way, if we create jobs for Tribal and non-Tribal members, we are enhancing the whole community; we are a good neighbor who cares. It gives the non-Indian world a level of comfort necessary for us to work together. The better job we do telling the story, the more opportunities we have to be contacted, to be seriously considered by the major players in all industry segments.

Our challenge to properly communicate to Tribal members will always be there. We can't just say we had that meeting last week. Our position has and will continue to be a long-term education process.

The reason we are looking for and exploring financial opportunities should be obvious. Nobody has a crystal ball that can look into the future and predict what

is truly going to happen with gaming – which is the lifeline. We just want to be in a position that whenever the landscape changes, we don't have to play catch up. We want to be protected by other sources of revenue. That's why this administration is exploring and will continue to seek opportunities to best leverage our sovereignty and tax-exempt status. Those are the two things that set us apart from the average American company and should be used to our competitive advantage.

Except for other Indian Tribes, not many groups in the U.S. have this advantage. One option that we have actively pursued is partnering with other Tribes. We are proactively talking to them and asking key questions: "Here are the resources we bring to the table; what do you bring?" By engaging in these conversations, we are exploring the entire concept of Tribe-to-Tribe business and its dynamics. Most of them operate non-gaming businesses, just like us. They have the same sovereign nation advantages that we do. When you speak with a Tribe located in another part of the country, if they have the financial wherewithal and their own political, local, state and federal relationships, it makes exploring opportunities a lot easier and more interesting. That's why it can make good business sense to reach out to a federally recognized Tribe in other geographic areas. We are definitely open to that option.

Because of the financial success of the Seminole Tribe and of our favorable credit rating by the rating agencies, interests of non-Tribal and Tribal entities are definitely piqued. Our ratings show dramatic improvement over the past two years.

Regardless of the actual rating, just the fact that we CAN be rated is important. Some Tribes cannot even make it to the front door. As we continue to improve our ratings, major players are going to take a look and ask themselves, "How do we align ourselves with the Seminole Tribe and use their sovereignty and tax-exempt status as a benefit to both parties?"

I had a visitor the other day ask about what we are doing outside the reservation boundaries. So we talked about how we are establishing distributorships with various companies to get our products out into the general market, whether it's our water, juice or beef. We talked about a lot of things, including exploring alternative power. The question was raised because dividends are always on the forefront of Tribal thought processes. Everyone reads the newspaper and people are concerned with what is going to happen to the landscape environment.

Telling that individual the philosophy of this administration – that we are not limiting ourselves to the reservation, state and U.S. boundaries, that we are very actively looking to do business in international waters – made him surprised and thankful that we are not handcuffing ourselves by just looking at reservation opportunities.

Count your blessings every day. We've been blessed. This administration will continue to explore opportunities, no matter where in the world that takes us. And as we explore, bottom line, we will not sacrifice the Tribe's livelihood and sovereignty.

God bless the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Sho-naa-bish.

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



## Fitch Ratings upgrades Seminole Tribe credit

Report cites 'increased comfort with fiscal management'

**HOLLYWOOD** — A significant credit upgrade and improved Rating Outlook by a global rating agency marks the Seminole Tribe of Florida's rise back from financial uncertainty.

In an announcement to the media last month, Fitch Ratings assigned a favorable "BBB-" rating to a proposed \$750-million term Tribal loan (which will be used, along with cash on hand, to repay \$794 million outstanding on an existing term loan due to mature in 2014). Fitch also affirmed the Tribe's Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at "BB+", gaming enterprise revenue bonds at "BBB-" and special obligation bonds at "BB+."

Fitch Ratings, which aims to provide value beyond the rating through objective and balanced credit opinions, research and data, also revised the Tribe's overall Rating Outlook from "Stable" to "Positive."

"The leadership of the Seminole Tribe truly appreciates the confidence Fitch Ratings has bestowed on the long-term prospects of the Tribe and its management," President Tony Sanchez Jr. said. "The Tribal members recognized the issue and voted for change in 2011 and in two short years, we delivered."

These credit improvements are supported by Fitch's "increased comfort with the Tribe's governance and fiscal management" since Fitch

downgraded the Tribe in 2010 following a Notice of Violation (NOV) from the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC).

Since the NOV, the Tribe took measures to correct the violations, which included improper loans and credit card purchases that violated the National Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Fitch further based its new ratings on the Tribe's "solid competitive position, strong credit metrics and significant offsets to regulatory risk."

Also reflected in the Fitch Outlook revision is the extension of the gaming division management's employment contracts (CFO through 2015 and CEO through 2018) and the improved maturity profile with the refinancing of the term loan that was due to mature in 2014.

This was the second "positive" revision by Fitch, which boosted its ratings to "Investment Grade" on bonds backed by the Seminole Tribe's Gaming Division last June. At the time, Fitch cited "improved governance, as well as stronger gambling revenue" for upgrading the previous "Below Investment Grade" rating.

At the time, Fitch noted its ratings of the Seminole Tribe bonds were among the highest for Native American gaming groups.

— PR Newswire

## Tampa gets back to Seminole roots at campout



Peter B. Gallagher

Tampa Seminole Police Officer Thomas Apsey introduces counselor Brett Milem, who spoke about bullies, drugs and teenage pressures to youth taking a break during the hot, wet Police Explorers campout at the Lakeland property April 19-20.



Peter B. Gallagher

The two ponds on the Lakeland property provide fishing fun – speckled perch, bream and catfish – for Tribal members during the event. The Tribe has future plans to enhance and restock both ponds.



Peter B. Gallagher

The tire swing is a hit with youth during the Tampa community's campout held at the Lakeland property.

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

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

Issue: June 28, 2013  
Deadline: June 12, 2013

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

Issue: Aug. 30, 2013  
Deadline: Aug. 14, 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](mailto:CamelliaOsceola@semtribe.com)

Senior Editor: Brett Daly  
[BrettDaly@semtribe.com](mailto:BrettDaly@semtribe.com)

Copy Editor: Amanda Murphy

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

Contributors: Emma Johns, Christine McCall

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

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# Community

A



Eileen Soler

Seminole employees and Tribal members have a blast during a friendship dance with the Central Plains Dancers during the Big Cypress 117th Anniversary Celebration.

## Business profile: Big Cypress Landing

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Sadie Tommie Cypress, 82, could only imagine 40 years ago that someday her tiny chickee store packed with snacks, sodas and Seminole arts and crafts on the edge of a swamp would grow to be a landmark on the Big Cypress Reservation.

"My mother used to dream of having a big, beautiful place. Now she is living her dream," said Janice Billie, Sadie's daughter and the manager of Big Cypress Landing grocery store, art shop and restaurant that bustles right in the center of town.

When Sadie Tommie Cypress, of the Bird Clan, was just a girl, she often traveled from her home in Hollywood to Big Cypress on weekends to visit an ailing uncle, Brownie Tommie.

"There was nothing out here," she said from the crafts room in her home where sunlight dappled through the window onto reams of fabric, large spools of thread and seemingly endless yards of rick rack trim. "We had to bring everything we needed every time we came."

In her childhood days, her parents, Sam and Mildred Tommie, used to sell their handmade goods along the New River in Fort Lauderdale, near the historic Stranahan House or in West Palm Beach in a city park with a name she has long forgotten.

Cypress' father had the business sense in the family. Her mother and Aunt Annie Tommie handled the arts and crafts.

Cypress' entrepreneurial and artistic interest was piqued.

In the early '70s, she leased a tiny spot under a little souvenir chickee in Big Cypress and began selling drinks, snacks and a few cooked items. That lasted two years before the roof began to leak and Cypress moved to a new chickee — still tiny — but with a concrete floor.

"There was no way I could afford a real concrete building so I used a 40-foot-by-60-foot chickee and started selling groceries, hamburgers...until about 1980 when a hurricane blew the chickee away, [Hurricane] Dennis closed me down," Cypress said.

Undaunted, she rebuilt.

"When you have a business you have to keep it going or lose it. I thought about closing a few times but I stayed open for the community. People needed a place to pick up things they always needed," Cypress said.



Eileen Soler

Sadie Tommie Cypress and daughter Janice Billie are inside the gift shop at Big Cypress Landing.

She applied for a plot where the full size, brick and mortar store stands now and had another chickee erected. The place was divided into sections: groceries, hot food service and Seminole souvenirs gleaned from friends and family.

At first, Cypress said, she gave away more than she sold. Customers would need a loaf of bread or a dozen eggs every once in a while on credit — which Cypress often forgave.

"The more you give, the more you get in return. Whenever I ask something of God, I ask if it is wrong or right. He knows me better than I know myself. I know if it is good for me, he will let it happen," she said.

In 2008, she built her dream. She named the pretty green-roofed business Big Cypress Landing as a nod to the reservation's original Brown's Landing Trading Post that existed during the turn of the 20th century a little more than a mile southwest.

There, Cypress established a reputation for the best burgers around — literally. Homemade and cooked to order, the juicy burger is served on a toasted bun with a hearty side of french fries. She told of two girlfriends, one from Clewiston and one from West Palm Beach, who meet twice every month for Sadie's "famous" burgers.

♦ See **BIG CYPRESS LANDING** on page 4A

## Festival heralds Big Cypress' big 1-1-7

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Observing the past, honoring the present and welcoming the future made a trifecta of cultural fun for people of all ages who turned out May 3-4 for the Big Cypress Reservation's 117th Anniversary Celebration.

"To be able to wear a traditional Seminole dress and sing the national anthem in front of everyone gives me a chance to share my culture and show how proud I am of it," said 14-year-old Tori Osceola, who belted out *The Star Spangled Banner* during the opening ceremony.

Tribal members from all reservations, tourists and local residents reveled in the two-day event at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Grounds that highlighted Seminole food, art, jewelry, music and dance. One group, more than 60 members of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, took a detour from a Miami-based cruise to attend.

Alfie Mandoka, who serves on the Saginaw Chippewa trip committee, said it was a pleasure and a responsibility to spend time with the Seminoles.

"We have over 500 Tribes in Indian Country. If we can visit indigenous peoples where they live then we are there," Mandoka said. "It's about exchanging our diverse cultures and visiting our relatives."

The group came prepared with a handmade blanket stitched in their Tribe's distinctive floral design to offer Chairman

James E. Billie. Before leaving, Mandoka and fellow Saginaw Chippewa Carole Tally wrapped the blanket around the Chairman's administrator Danny Tommie in a symbol of friendship between the Tribes.

Performers from the Central Plains Dancers showcased more than a dozen Tribal dances passed down through generations. Seminoles performed stomp dances to welcome the crowd and offer friendship, and Tribal members modeled traditional handmade attire.

"We're sharing customs and traditions," Big Cypress Council Rep. assistant Wovoka Tommie said. "It's good to see our young people see it happen."

Hosted by Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger and emceed by Tommie, the celebration commemorated the 1896 purchase by the Bureau of Indian Affairs of swamp land that would, combined with land purchased in 1889, become the heart of the Big Cypress Reservation.

Councilman Tiger said the very landscape on which the anniversary event was held, was the scene of bloody skirmishes between Native Americans who stood their ground and U.S. Army troops sent to kill them or force them to reservations out west.

"This was the high ground where our people could easily slip into the Everglades — where soldiers and horses could not reach them," he said. "That's how my great-grandmother got here. She was just a girl when she hid with her 1½-year-old brother



Beverly Bidney

Country music star Sara Evans and Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger pose for a photo before Evans' headliner concert.

under a bridge and waited for the soldiers to pass."

Those were the ancestors "whose skill and craftiness allowed them to survive," Councilman Tiger said. In 1957 their descendants became the official Seminole Tribe of Florida.

♦ See **117 ANNIVERSARY** on page 4A

## Chairman joins Tamiami Trail 85th anniversary celebration event

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**EVERGLADES CITY** — With the completion of the Tamiami Trail in April 1928, a road connected Miami — through the swampy gator- and panther-infested Everglades of Florida — to Tampa.

To the Seminole and Miccosukee Indians, the road was "a gift they could have never imagined," said Chairman James E. Billie, who spoke at the 85th anniversary of the Trail's opening on April 27 in Everglades City.

"We were out living in the swamps and in the 10,000 Islands in different

hammocks," he said. "When they made the road through here, instead of poling a canoe all day to get to Chokoloskee or Everglades City, we could live along the road on the overburden they piled alongside the road... It made it a lot easier."

Previously isolated in the swamps of South Florida since the end of the Seminole Wars decades before, the Indians suddenly faced a new world order as lines of cars passed by their traditional villages and camps. But Chairman Billie said they found ways to maintain a balance between traditional ways and modern society. They earned money selling crafts, dolls and clothing to tourists, wrestling alligators,

and putting their villages on display for people to see.

"The Trail opened up a whole new world for [the Seminoles]," he said.

But it almost did not happen.

When a lack of funding stalled the completion of the Trail in 1923, a group of adventurers who called themselves "The Trail Blazers" set off to rekindle interest in the road and publicize the need for a cross-state highway in the Everglades. Russell Kay, who organized the expedition and helped prove that Tamiami Trail was feasible, documented the journey in his *Tamiami Trail Blazers: A Personal Memoir*.

"It was important for people to travel across the Everglades and look at it. But to the Indians, it was important because they could find a dry place to put their chickee huts next to the road," Chairman Billie said. "It improved our quality of life."

A morning parade featured the Everglades City School band and dozens of antique cars carrying dignitaries, including Everglades National Park superintendent Pedro Ramos, Everglades City Mayor Sammy Hamilton and Chairman Billie with daughter Aubee.

Hundreds gathered at the steps of City Hall for the anniversary celebration. At the old building, the Collier County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard raised the flag and Glenna Potter, a guidance counselor at Everglades City School, sang the national anthem.

The event sought to recreate the opening of the Trail 85 years ago. Just as there was a circus then, the Sailor Circus performed two shows. It also included a fish fry, storytelling and a guided walking tour of historic sites.

♦ See **TAMIAMI TRAIL** on page 5A

## Seminoles represent Tribe at Gathering of Nations



Christine McCall

Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar represents the Seminole Tribe during the grand entry.

BY CHRISTINE MCCALL  
Freelance Writer

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** — The 30th annual Gathering of Nations — North America's largest powwow — attracted more than 1,500 competitive native dancers and tens of thousands of spectators to Albuquerque, N.M. from April 25-27.

Dancers dressed in traditional garb adorned with colorful beads and flowing feathers kicked off the event with the grand entry at the University of New Mexico Arena, commonly referred to as The Pit. Along with competitive dancing, attendees experienced native food vendors, arts and crafts, live music and the Miss Indian World Pageant.

Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar traveled from the Immokalee Reservation to attend the three-day event and represented the Seminole Tribe at the pageant, in which 16 contestants from North America and Canada competed.

Unlike traditional beauty pageants, the Miss Indian World Pageant focuses on the knowledge each contestant has about her own culture. The winning contestant serves as a cultural goodwill ambassador

for all indigenous people, helping achieve the mission of the Gathering of Nations. Founded in 1983, the powwow promotes Native American culture and tradition and dispels stereotypes created about indigenous people.

With a smaller group of contestants this year, Aguilar met all the young women vying for the title. "Getting to meet the other girls and making friends with them" served as the highlight of the event, she said.

Showing her support for Aguilar was Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez, who stood out in her patchwork skirt, sheer cape and crown among the eagle feathers of the other dancers.

The Miss Indian World title went to Kansas Begaye, of the Diné (Navajo) Nation, who said she was able to secure the title for her Tribe through lots of practice. It was her second attempt at the crown. And even though Aguilar did not win, she came away with knowledge of the other indigenous Tribes.

Aguilar and Begaye will be reunited in July for the crowning of the new Miss Florida Seminole and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Pageant.



Peter B. Gallagher

Chairman James E. Billie shares Seminole history with the crowd gathered at the Tamiami Trail 85th anniversary event on April 27.



Beverly Bidney

**Tribal officials and department heads break ground on the new recreation center in Hollywood. Although plans are still being finalized, amenities include two basketball courts and fitness center, Boys & Girls Club, community center, pool and three ball fields.**

## Hollywood moves toward new recreation campus

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — With an eye toward the future, the Seminole Tribe held a ceremonial groundbreaking and open house for the proposed new home of the Hollywood Recreation Department on April 30 in Seminole Estates.

Part of the Hollywood Reservation and connected by a tunnel under the Florida Turnpike, the 21-acre site will boast a recreation center with two basketball courts and fitness center, Boys & Girls Club, community center, pool and three ball fields. The site plan is still being finalized, but the construction period is estimated to take two to three years.

"This is a big step forward for the Tribe. We've been talking about a new recreation facility for 15 years," Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said. "I think it's a great accomplishment and will have a positive impact on the Tribe."

The Tribe will take back Seminole Estates, a 93-acre site, on July 1. The recreation center is the first phase of the site, which will ultimately include houses, townhomes, a new water treatment plant and possibly commercial development. The existing Hollywood Gym, pool, Boys & Girls Club, fitness trailer and ball fields will become home sites and a neighborhood park. The senior center, Dorothy S. Osceola Building and parking lot will remain as is.

"We need housing," said Gloria Wilson, director of Community Planning. "Density is always an issue in Hollywood."

The event began with Paul Buster and members of the Seminole Baptist Church singing songs in Mikasuki, or Elapoonke, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by



Beverly Bidney

**Stephen Bowers checks out the site plans for the new home of the Hollywood Recreation Department on April 30 in Seminole Estates.**

Hollywood preschool students. Curious community members also came out to see the site plans.

The recreation center and the Boys & Girls Club buildings will be 42,000 and 20,000 square feet respectively designed by architecture firm Leo A. Daly in West Palm Beach, which also designed the Chupco Landing Community Center in Fort Pierce.

"Seeing the smiling children put this project in perspective; it is for those kids and future generations," said Ronald K. Wiendl, architect and director of design at Leo A. Daly. "It's a campus, but we wanted it to look like a park in a natural setting. We took cultural symbols and integrated them into the design; it's respectful of the past but looks toward the future."

## 117 ANNIVERSARY

From page 3A

Joseph Billie and Jimmy Cypress were representatives of Big Cypress when the Tribe's Constitution was signed and the first Tribal election was held on Aug. 21, 1957.

But Native Americans lived in Big Cypress for thousands of years even before the arrival of Ponce De León, of Spain, who took the land in 1513 that would be called Florida. Paul Backhouse, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Big Cypress, said pottery that dates back about 3,000 years ago has been found on the reservation, indicating that indigenous people lived and thrived there.

By the 1800s, according to limited government documentation and historian accounts, the people were named Seminoles by the Spanish and were growing citrus and raising horses and cattle on land just north of Big Cypress.

The community consisted of Native Americans and African American slaves and slave owners. In the early 1820s, however, conflicts began between the U.S. Army seeking runaway slaves and desiring the land for white settlement.

The Treaty of Moultrie Creek, signed in 1823, moved the community further south to where Big Cypress is now. The treaty was short lived when the U.S. government again decided to force people out for white settlement — this time to be relocated to reservations in Oklahoma.

The Seminoles stood firm and fought back in three major battles costing the U.S. \$20 million and thousands of troops. A plaque on Moses Jumper Jr.'s land in Big Cypress marks the site of one of the fiercest

conflicts.

"The government decided to build a fort. We decided to burn it down and send the soldiers running into the woods — if they survived," Councilman Tiger said.

A census of Florida natives in 1847 listed 120 Indian warriors: 70 Seminole, 30 Miccosukee, 12 Creek, 4 Yuchi and 4 Choctaw. In 1858, after the third major Seminole War, only 150 Indians were counted. Among them were descendants also of Calusa, Yamasee, Apalachee and Timucua, who had been intermarrying for generations.

In 1880, another census by the Bureau of American Ethnology listed 208 Seminoles living in five main camps in the swamps and Everglades between Clewiston and Miami.

Big Cypress Reservation became official in 1911 but was not dedicated until 1936.

"This is where the high ground was and this is where we built," Councilman Tiger said.

Festival foods were served all day, both days. Some menu items blended old traditions with new ways like hot dogs wrapped in frybread.

Fireworks capped the first night, which featured a concert by country music artists Morgan Frazier, Blackjack Billy and Sara Evans.

Councilman Tiger said he hopes to stage the Big Cypress 118th Anniversary Celebration in January 2014 to avoid inclement weather possibilities. Also, the headliner concert will be held on Saturday night and a rodeo component will be added.

"We're going to keep doing this until it becomes annual," he said. "We're bringing the Tribal Fair back to Big Cypress."



Eileen Soler

Shoppers buy clothing, jewelry and artworks sold under a lineup of chickees during the celebration.

# Tribal teens to try creative careers

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Who wants to be the next famous videographer, prize winning journalist or world-renowned contemporary artist? Tribal teens can try their hand at all of the above during the six day, exploratory mass media education explosion, Seminole Media Productions Workshop 2013.

Registration is limited to 15 students. First come, first served.

Called SMPW 2013, the free July 22-27 event — based at Seminole Media Productions headquarters on the Hollywood Reservation — promises exciting days that could kick-start creative minds to out-of-the-ordinary careers in graphic design, journalism, technical production or broadcasting.

Globally recognized Native American artist Bunky Echo-Hawk, a Yakama of Pawnee, Okla., will be the celebrity guest speaker. Best known for his design work for the Nike N7 sports line, Echo-Hawk is also a graphic designer, photographer, writer, traditional singer and dancer, painter and nonprofit professional.

"My message to the students is about empowerment. The main thing is that we all have a voice, it is powerful, and there are all kinds of ways to send messages out to the world to effect positive change," Echo-Hawk said.

Teens ages 14 through 18 will start the week by choosing one of four career

tracks: graphic design, journalism, technical production or broadcasting. Each track will begin with the basics, using easy-to-understand curriculum.

The first days will offer multiple opportunities to shadow then go hands-on with SMP professionals from business marketing and The Seminole Tribune.

Students will also be treated to spot visits from Echo-Hawk who will provide insight into the creative process and technical knowledge that supports each sub-career under the SMP Department umbrella.

"It will be a process of education. I'll talk about my own background and the importance of academic and cultural education," said the Institute of American Indian Arts graduate.

Education is the "foundation of the journey," Echo-Hawk said.

Art classes bolstered his academic knowledge and tangible ability to self-express but business classes gave him the ability to mesh his passion with earning a living. In 2006, he co-founded N'Vision, a nonprofit collective of Native American artists. He's performed live since 2006 in cities from New York to Portland and since 2003 has had his work shown in 35 exhibitions.

"Knowing the business side benefits the career of creativity. I use what I learned in business every day," he said.

Later in the week, students will use what they have learned to report, photograph,



Photo courtesy of Bunky Echo-Hawk

**Native American artist Bunky Echo-Hawk will be featured at the Seminole Media Productions Workshop from July 22-27.**

video and promote a live-art creation by Echo-Hawk, who said the voice of the work will come from ideas gleaned from the students.

"We'll use news media and social media like Facebook and Twitter to put out the messages and let their voices be heard," Echo-Hawk said. "It will be a lot of fun."

## ◆ BIG CYPRESS LANDING

From page 3A

"I asked them, 'Why, when you can go to Burger King or McDonald's?' They say there is no burger better. I never thought people would travel 40 miles for my burger," Cypress said.

Restaurant seating is packed daily with lunch and dinner crowds for daily specials that include tropical chicken chop salad with rice and beans, spaghetti and meat sauce, shredded pork sandwiches and Seminole traditional favorites such as Indian burgers and Indian tacos.

The grocery section shelves are packed with snacks and convenience items from canned vegetables to toothpaste and fresh bananas. Authentic Tribal arts, crafts, jewelry and clothing make up another section where tourists and Tribal members can spend a few bucks or several hundred.

All the clothing is made by Cypress' own hands and the hands of other Tribal women. She also fashions a lot of the beaded jewelry, sweetgrass baskets and Seminole dolls. Cypress' work consistently places in the annual Tribal Fair's sweetgrass basket and clothing competitions.

Though her daughters Janice and Carolyn Billie now run the daily operations



Eileen Soler

**Sadie Tommie Cypress fashions Seminole clothing, dolls and jewelry in a workroom at her home next door to Big Cypress Landing, a grocery, arts and crafts and restaurant she founded on the Big Cypress Reservation more than four decades ago.**

at the store, restaurant and arts corner most of the time, Cypress checks in several times a week and is just a holler away in her crafts room across the driveway.

The mother of four, grandmother of

eight and great-grandmother to "millions and millions of kids" has no plans to retire — ever.

"I have too much sewing to do," Cypress said.



Eileen Soler

**Hauli Souix Gray, of the Central Plains Dancers, performs the authentic Fancy Shawl dance at the Big Cypress 117th Anniversary Celebration event May 2-3.**



Eileen Soler

**Ronnie Billie relaxes amid the fun during the Big Cypress 117th Anniversary Celebration.**



Eileen Soler

**Tori Osceola belts out *The Star Spangled Banner* during the opening ceremony of the anniversary event.**



Eileen Soler

**Parker Osceola, 2, gets applause from clothing contest judges during the Big Cypress 117th Anniversary Celebration's clothing competition.**



Eileen Soler

**Carol Cypress wins the modern traditional clothing contest for seniors**

# New restaurant serves up authentic Asian fare at Hard Rock Hollywood

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter



Eileen Soler

Tribal seniors attend a special lunch on opening day of The BOL restaurant May 8 at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

A large crowd gathered at the grand opening event and was dazzled by the music, beauty and extravagance of the Dragon Dance. Revered by Chinese people, the dragon is a symbol of power and brings good luck.

The lion signifies courage, stability and superiority and is a powerful symbol in Chinese culture as well. The Lion Dance chases away evil spirits and finds fortune in the form of greens. Once the lion finds and "eats" the greens – in this case, a head of lettuce hanging by the front door of The

BOL – financial success is ensured.

"The Board is always looking for enterprises," President Tony Sanchez Jr. said. "[Rep. Osceola] had the idea to convert the store to a restaurant. He did his due diligence and worked with the casino staff to make sure there was a need for it. This is a big day."

The Tribe's operating partners in The BOL are Eric Douglas and Ross Mamunur. The festive opening was capped with an American tradition – a ribbon cutting ceremony.



Eileen Soler

Billy Walker gives his all in the log peeling contest during the Mike Allen Smith Memorial.

# Memorial celebrates a life cut short

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Mike Allen Smith was a hardworking, generous, constantly smiling guy.

"He was always like the big brother who cared enough to tell us to stop and take a rest – a take your shoes off, have a glass of water and relax guy," longtime friend Herbie Jim said. "When I think of him, I see his open arms."

Nearly 50 of Smith's family and friends gathered at his sister Oneva Smith's home on the Big Cypress Reservation to remember the outgoing father, brother and carpenter whose life was cut short at age 44 of accidental overdose in March 2010.

A poster filled with photos showed Smith surrounded by loved ones. "Forever in our Hearts" it read.

One by one, people shared their best memories of Smith. Nearly everyone credited him for his decades of building sturdy porches, barns, sheds or chickees – some have endured four hurricanes so far.

"Every time I go outside my house I see Mike because of my shed and

porch," Moses Jumper Jr. said.

"He looks over the whole reservation now," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, who listed his workshop and shed as "built by Mike."

Oneva Smith said her brother sometimes built things without being asked. One day, he built a bridge over a dip in the land at Mable Jim's home so his neighbor did not have to trudge down the hill, over water and rocks, and then up the hill to the other side.

"It is hard to see all of his work wherever I look, but it will get easier," Oneva Smith said. "Sometimes, now when I see his chickees, they make me smile. That helps."

Martha Tommie, of Brighton, remembered Smith for his deep religious beliefs. He led sunrise services at the addiction treatment facility they both attended years ago. Tommie also recalled a chickee at the refuge that Smith built, which still bears his name.

Smith continued serving when he came home to Big Cypress. He erected the sign at the reservation's Sober House recovery center and kept the grass mowed. His greatest success, all agreed, is his daughter Julia.

Julia, now 10, recited a poem at the memorial that ended: "It broke my heart to lose you, but you didn't go alone. For part of me went with you, the day God took you home."

One backslide ended Smith's life. "It was a tragic turn," Jim said. "We all struggle with our inner selves."

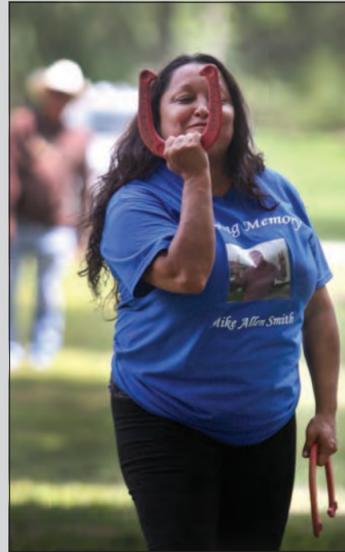
Smith will be remembered both for his sudden death and his zest for life. To honor the first, loved ones stand up against addiction to alcohol, drugs and gambling. To cherish the latter, they share happy memories.

"Mike was a man of many talents. We are all here for him and to never forget him," said former President Richard Bowers Jr.

A buffet barbecue lunch was followed by cake, a horseshoe tournament and log peeling contests. Soulful country and gospel music by the Cowbone Band led by Pastor Paul Buster filled the grounds that surround the Smith home.

In the end, the second annual Mike Allen Smith Memorial was a celebration of life.

"He will be remembered for all the good things," someone whispered.



Eileen Soler

Longtime friend Theresa Nunez enjoys a light moment during a horseshoe tournament.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

From page 1A

Structures will be situated in conversation-like relationships "with the river of oaks running through them," Murguido said. "That's how you take two large buildings and make them secondary to the environment."

And, while the work calls for nearly 200 construction workers to descend upon the reservation throughout the next 18 months, privacy will be upheld, said David Lowery, Stiles' director of public projects.

"Quality will not be sacrificed for profit, and we will maintain as much privacy as possible," he said. "We will try to be as invisible as we can."

Wilson, who spent most of her life in Brighton, said she was barely 11 years old

when she won an elementary school poster contest about how students envisioned the future of the reservation. She considers herself still winning.

"I always think about that contest when I look around the reservation and I see everything I imagined. Everyone thought I was crazy then, but look now – we have an airport, a clinic, a police station, and we are still building," Wilson said.

Seminole Police and Fire Rescue employees turned out to view an architectural model of the campus and to celebrate the coming of their future digs. All were thrilled.

"The Seminole Tribe recognizes the character and value of the people who represent them," SPD Chief William R. Latchford said. "We are blessed that they support us and that public safety is important to them."



Eileen Soler

Tribal officials pose for photos April 16 during the groundbreaking for the long-awaited 111,000-square-foot Public Safety Administration Building in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Partner Eric Douglas, Hollywood Board Rep. Chris Osceola, President Tony Sanchez Jr., Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank and partner Ross Mamunur celebrate in front of the newly opened restaurant.



Beverly Bidney

The Dragon Dance heralds the opening of The BOL restaurant at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

# Big Cypress churches get divine donations

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Former Tribal President Richard Bowers Jr. delivered two hefty checks to churches on the Big Cypress Reservation on May 5 – but all the thanks went to God.

"We know that when things are done Godly then it is God who gets the glory," said Pastor Salaw Hummingbird, of Big Cypress First Baptist Church.

Bowers, the vice president of non-Tribal Go Kids Foundation in Fort Lauderdale, capped the Sunday morning services by first donating \$5,000 from the foundation to Pastor Hummingbird's congregation. He then drove down the street to Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church to give another \$5,000 foundation check to Pastor Arlen Payne.

The foundation, also called Fundación Patria Inc., helps improve the lives of inner-city and rural children by funding youth programs and causes. Bowers said most donations support child-centered organizations in hard-scrabble sections of Miami and the Dominican Republic.

Pastor Hummingbird said the donation to Big Cypress First Baptist Church will go toward building costs for a new youth center currently under construction on the church grounds. The center will include rooms for homework, Bible study, meals, computer games and counseling.

Church member Moses Jumper Jr., who is helping organize the grassroots construction effort, said congregants, family, friends and other Tribal members are pooling trade skills and labor to build the center – for as long as it takes.

"It's God's work to reach out and help each other," Jumper said.

As of May 5, the center's concrete



Eileen Soler

Congregants from Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church pose with Richard Bowers Jr. and a \$5,000 Go Kids Foundation check.

slab had been poured and several feet of cinderblock walls had been erected. A massive work day featuring men and women from many reservations and construction trades will be scheduled for mid-summer.

Pastor Payne said the money provided to New Testament Baptist Church will advance three children's ministry projects: books, games and furniture for a special kid's corner in an old classroom turned The Prophet's Chamber; supplies and materials for the next Vacation Bible School; and an audio library of taped Christian children's stories for broadcast on the church radio station.

Bowers said he hopes next to garner a Go Kids Foundation for Immokalee Reservation little league baseball uniforms.

"It's always better to give than to receive, and it's nice to give what people need," Bowers said. "If anyone wants to help out the foundation, their tax-deductible donations are welcome."

Still, thanks went to God. "We thank God for the foundation," Pastor Hummingbird said.

Janice Osceola, a member of New Testament Baptist, said, "No one can out give God. The more we give humbly and faithfully, the more He keeps giving."

## TAMIAMI TRAIL

From page 3A

"On this day 85 years ago, there were thousands of people here in town at the first Collier County Fair and Tamiami Trail Exposition," said master of ceremonies Ron D. Jamro, the Collier County Museum director.

Entrepreneur and developer Barron G. Collier, whose own personal fortunes jump-started the construction of the Trail when the government balked, was there on April 26, 1928 when the road opened.

Collier's own words, delivered on the same steps, were read again 85 years later by Craig Woodward, president of the Marco Island Historical Society:

"Today the eyes of the world are

focused on Florida and the world sees the completion of the greatest highway that this splendid peninsula has ever possessed...The Tamiami Trail is finished. The impossible has been accomplished. It couldn't be done. But Florida did it."

The ceremony ended with Immokalee Rep. Fred N. Thomas, an active promoter of Collier County tourism, calling Chairman Billie and Mayor Hamilton to grip hands together behind the podium as a show of "cooperation and support."

"We have been talking about the past and we need to start focusing on the future," he said. "We will become the No. 1 tourist destination point in the world. Cause anything you can do on vacation, you can do within three hours of where I am standing right now. Anything. So welcome to the heart of the future."



Peter B. Gallagher

Chairman James E. Billie and daughter Aubee ride in the parade through Everglades City.

# Seminole Tribe showers mothers with Mother's Day love



Beverly Bidney

Cheyanna Bert enjoys the company of her cousin's baby, Ryder Frank-Bad Bear, during the Hollywood Mother's Day celebration on May 9.



Beverly Bidney

Ginger Tiger enjoys a manicure before dinner at the Hollywood Mother's Day spa, which was elegantly set up in the gym.



Beverly Bidney

Trail's Mark Kelley, Meressa Cantu, twins William and Samuel Kelley, and Elijah Cantu are about to eat dinner at the Samurai Steakhouse in Miami on May 6.



Beverly Bidney

Shantilly Williams and Jaely Rodriguez are at Hollywood's Mother's Day event.



Andrea Holata

The Fort Pierce community celebrates mothers with dinner at Chupco Ranch.



Andrea Holata

Tribal senior Mary Tommie embraces her grandchildren Dimaryon Timothy, left, and K'myla Timothy before enjoying her Mother's Day dinner in Fort Pierce on May 9.



Beverly Bidney

Billie Tiger and Justine Osceola share a laugh while preparing their chicken, brisket and ribs for the Hollywood barbecue competition.



Peter B. Gallagher

Tampa mothers pose for a picture during their celebration held at Boizao Steakhouse May 11.



Peter B. Gallagher

From left, Tiffany Foret, Carol Foret, Miranda Motlow, Susie Doctor, Tina Smith and Stacy Smith pose with their Mother's Day flowers.



Andrea Holata

New grandmother Shannon Purvis and new mother Amber Craig enjoy lunch with baby Kaison Bush during the Mother's Day luncheon in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Virginia Osceola fixes the hair of her granddaughter Mary-Sally Tiger Osceola during the Trail Mother's Day dinner.



Beverly Bidney

Trail Liaison Norman Huggins and his wife, Kathy, beam with 2-week old granddaughter Brooke Osceola.



Eileen Soler

Men and mothers dance to a Brazilian salsa-inspired limbo in Big Cypress.



Eileen Soler

Mothers and families are treated to a spectacular Brazilian dance show at the Big Cypress Mother's Day event.



Eileen Soler

Joe Frank, Rhonda Roff and the couple's children, Valholly and Justin, pose lovingly for a photo during the May 7 Mother's Day dinner at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.



Andrea Holata

Arica Buck and her mom, Louise Cypress, attend the Mother's Day lunch at the Brighton Veteran's Building on May 9. All the mothers were treated to a catered lunch in their honor sponsored by the Brighton Council's Office.



Andrea Holata

Josh Madrigal enjoys lunch with his mother, Mahala Madrigal, in Brighton.

# Brighton elder Happy Jones keeps Seminole legends alive

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter



Eileen Soler

Happy Jones keeps an audience captivated with a vibrant storytelling session at the Elder's Building on the Brighton Reservation.

day around the campfire. Today, the tradition continues to be passed down at Tribal schools, libraries and many cultural events.

**BRIGHTON** — All eyes and ears at the Elder's Building on the Brighton Reservation were pealed to watch and hear Brighton elder Happy Jones recant legends passed through generations.

About 50 seniors, young adults and children turned out on April 25 for the latest chapter of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's monthly Seminole Storytellers: Legends, Stories, Music, Poetry and More series.

At the most recent event, Jones, 86, retold historic stories about how the buzzard got the hole in his beak and how Lake Okeechobee formed. Jones also shared a spooky story typically told during Halloween about a spirit who lurks in the campfire reading the minds of children who refuse — against parent wishes — to go to bed and instead linger around the campfire after dark.

Jones, one of the first Seminoles to live in Brighton and raise cattle there during the mid-1930s, has maintained traditional ways from her childhood. Those were the days when families lived in chickee camps before electricity, plumbing and roads were built into community infrastructure.

Then, children learned Seminole values and morals through legends told by elders at the end of the



Photo courtesy of Staci Logan-Walcott

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Public Works Department gathers at the Brighton Elder's Building to honor John Wayne Huff Sr., who retired from his position as reservation supervisor after 27 years of service to his Tribe.

# John Wayne Huff Sr. retires after 27 years of service to his Tribe

SUBMITTED BY STACI LOGAN-WALCOTT  
Office Manager

**BRIGHTON** — On May 7, John Wayne Huff Sr. retired from his position as reservation supervisor with the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Public Works Department. He gave 27 years of service to the Tribe.

A celebration was held at the Brighton Elder's Building to both honor Huff for the years he worked and to celebrate his birthday. Family, co-workers and members of the Tribal government attended the occasion.

For his dedication to the community and to his job, Huff received an award of appreciation from Anthony Osceola, director of the Public Works Department.

Co-workers Shanara Cohens and Rudy Garcia also expressed their appreciation and thanks for having the opportunity to work with Huff over the past 10 years.

Chairman James E. Billie, Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard sang his praises as well during the event.

The celebration ended with lunch prepared by Huff himself. He has always enjoyed cooking and is known to prepare the best steaks.

With his free time, Huff plans to spend valuable time with his grandkids and his family.



Photo courtesy of Staci Logan-Walcott

John Wayne Huff Sr. receives an award from Anthony Osceola, director of the Public Works Department.

# Seminole exhibit opens at Museum of Florida History

SUBMITTED BY ANNETTE SNAPP  
Operations Manager

**TALLHASSEE** — The Museum of Florida History launched a new exhibit called *Seminole People of Florida: Survival and Success* on May 16



Photo courtesy of Annette Snapp

on display at the Museum of Florida History are paintings by famed Seminole artist Noah Billie.

in Tallahassee, with Willie Johns serving as keynote speaker.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum loaned the Museum of Florida History 15 items, ranging from a beaded bandolier bag that dates from between 1820 and 1840 to Seminole dolls.

But the Noah Billie paintings were the standout feature of the exhibit.

Occupying one long wall of the exhibit, the paintings hang as a bold statement of Seminole culture in the late 20th century.

A crowd of about 50 people attended the event to hear Johns speak and take the opportunity to learn more about the Seminole people. Florida State University scholar Andrew Frank, who attended, said he is anxious for his students at FSU to visit and view the exhibit because many cannot travel to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at the Big Cypress Reservation.

"I like it anytime the Seminoles (or a Native group) are in a prominent place in a museum," Frank said.

*Seminole People of Florida: Survival and Success* will be on display through Aug. 18.

Eight additional programs are planned in conjunction with the exhibit in Tallahassee.

For more information about the exhibit or the Museum of Florida History, visit [www.MuseumofFloridaHistory.com](http://www.MuseumofFloridaHistory.com).

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# Police Explorers see the sights in Washington, D.C.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Police Week wasn't only about law enforcement for the Explorers; a healthy dose of sightseeing was included in the program. The group took trips to Arlington National Cemetery, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Pentagon, FBI Headquarters and the National Air and Space Museum.

First stop was Arlington National Cemetery, where the group witnessed the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns. The elaborate ritual brought tears to many eyes.

The group also toured the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; the youth had a separate tour from the adults, where they learned the story of the Holocaust through one boy named Daniel. In his diary, he told how his life and surroundings changed as a result of persecution. He ultimately wound up in a concentration camp where his mother and sister were killed. He survived the war and reunited with his father. Tribal kids were affected deeply by the exhibit.

"It was historic and it was harsh," said Devon Osceola, 12.

Most of the kids couldn't imagine it. "The Jews were tortured and taken from their families," said Trinity Williams, 12. "It's sad."

"They didn't have anyone to go to," added Jalee Wilcox, 7. "They had no one to take care of them because everyone tortured them. At least we can always go to the police."

Cameron Osceola saw the bigger picture and parallels to the plight of Native Americans when the Europeans came.

"It showed things can change at any moment," said Cameron, 16. "One day Daniel was a normal kid and the next day he was hated. It's like when the settlers came; one day you could be living and the next day people came and stole your stuff and pushed you out."

The group explored the Pentagon,



Beverly Bidney

The group, which included more than 150 people, stops for a picture in front of the White House.

beginning with a tour of the Pentagon Memorial, which honors the 184 people who were victims of the terrorist attack on the building Sept. 11, 2001. Inside, they perused books of photographs and biographies of the victims.

The Pentagon itself is the largest low-rise office building in the world and has 17.5 miles of hallways inside. Between 25,000 and 30,000 people work there every day, so the building resembles a small town with stores, restaurants and services

available. People can get their teeth cleaned at the dentist, have their clothing cleaned at the dry cleaners, renew their driver's license at the DMV, shop at Best Buy, buy diamonds at the jewelry store and eat any kind of fast food imaginable. The 5-acre center courtyard is the largest non-salute zone in the world, which gives soldiers and officers a chance to keep their hands at their sides while enjoying the outdoors.

Inside FBI Headquarters, Explorers toured the education center and saw historic

artifacts, including the telephone that was bugged during the Watergate scandal, the flag that flew over the World Trade Center on Sept. 11 and a piece of the structure itself.

After the tour, the group had front-row seats to the shooting range where FBI agents must qualify to use their weapons four times a year. Former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover wanted the agents to be the best shots in the world and he wanted the public to know it, so he built an auditorium for the public to watch agents shoot.

Chaperones took their groups to a variety of museums, including the popular International Spy Museum, during the last afternoon of the trip. Before boarding the plane to Florida, the group toured the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center near Dulles International Airport, which houses the space shuttle Discovery and other large aircraft.

After an exhilarating but exhausting week, all aboard were glad to head home.



Beverly Bidney

Eecho Billie shakes hands with a police officer from Las Vegas after they traded patches.



Beverly Bidney

Jaron Johns, Cameron Osceola and Dennis Gonzales sing the national anthem at the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service.



Beverly Bidney

President Barack Obama speaks at the 32nd annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service at the U.S. Capitol.



Beverly Bidney

The crowd cheers as the SPD vehicle and Honor Guard pass through the parade route. In the crowd are Chairman James E. Billie, President Tony Sanchez Jr. and Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.



Beverly Bidney

The SPD Honor Guard follows behind the SPD vehicle as they make their way down the parade route in Washington, D.C.



Beverly Bidney

Dominic Osceola-Lugo shows off patches he acquired from other police agencies around the country and the world.



Beverly Bidney

Aubee Billie honors fallen officers at the Candlelight Vigil.



Beverly Bidney

A guide points out the artwork at the top of the Capitol Rotunda as the kids take a look.



Beverly Bidney

At the Pentagon, the group sees the direction from which the plane came right before it hit on Sept. 11.



Beverly Bidney

Angelina Osceola-Lugo, Madison Martinez and Eliska Slavik look through the memorial books at the Pentagon Memorial.

# 1950s Big Cypress teachers send photos to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

SUBMITTED BY **TARA BACKHOUSE**  
Collections Manager

Last month, Frank and Raquel Wood, former residents of the Big Cypress Reservation who currently reside in Minneapolis, contacted the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum to share stories and photos from the time they lived on the reservation from 1954-56.

Frank and Raquel worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) at the school they ran on the reservation. Frank was a principal and teacher, while Raquel worked as a dietician. They brought with them their parents, Abe and Ida Kauffman, and their 3-month-old son Matthew. The Woods recalled that the school was a one-

room schoolhouse and that electricity was supplied by a large generator on the property.

During the two years they lived in Big Cypress, Frank took pictures of the places he went and the people he met. The Woods sent the Museum digital copies of the pictures hoping to share them with the community they remember so fondly.

They took pictures of roads leading into the reservation; people working at various activities; roads, chickees, and the church and school being built; and cattle ranching.

The Woods have fond memories of Big Cypress and its people, who were kind to them while they adjusted to life on the reservation. They lived near Barfield Johns

and his wife, Bessie, who were originally from the Brighton and Immokalee Reservations. They loved teaching the children and getting to know everyone in Big Cypress. They left to be closer to their own families and community.

The Museum extends a heartfelt "thank you" to the Woods for preserving the pictures for so many years and for being kind enough to share them. If any reader of *The Seminole Tribune* knows the Woods and has pictures and stories of his own, please contact the Museum.

For copies of the pictures, email [TaraBackhouse@semtribe.com](mailto:TaraBackhouse@semtribe.com) or call 863-902-1113 ext. 12246.

To view the pictures, stop by the Museum.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

**Virginia Tommie and Nancy Osceola smile and laugh for the camera in their brightly colored patchwork skirts.**



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

**Charlie Cypress leans on Charlie Dixie's wheelchair for support.**



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

**Morgan Smith loads cattle.**

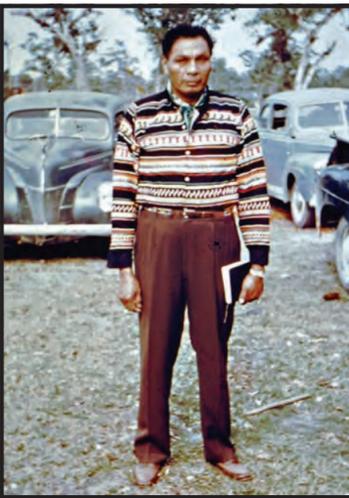


Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

**Reverend Henry Cypress poses holding a Bible.**

## Museum team protects culture, history

BY **EILEEN SOLER**  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — As daily life modernizes throughout Tribal communities, new leadership at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation strives harder to preserve and protect old traditions.

Longtime colleagues Paul Backhouse, who was appointed director in February, and Annette Snapp, hired as operations manager in April, have worldwide experience in archaeology and share an appreciation for cultural preservation.

"That's what took me to Asia, Indonesia, Australia and Fiji and eventually to the United States," said Backhouse, a native of the Isle of Wight in the English Channel. Backhouse has a doctorate in archaeology from Bournemouth University in England.

Snapp, born in Illinois and also an archeologist, earned a doctorate in museum ethnography (the study of people through observations, interviews and artifacts) at Oxford University in England.

Both landed positions with the Seminole Tribe after years researching other Native American Tribes.

Backhouse, a former field archeologist for the Museum of Texas Tech University's Anthropology Department, helped document the Comanche Indians by unearthing finds from places the Tribe lived long ago. He was hired as a chief data analyst for Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki in 2007.

"I saw an opportunity to interact more closely to an entire people," he said. "To be this close to the material in a museum and to the actual people living here is great."

But unlike museums that complete for the most revealing and provocative exhibits, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki must also protect and preserve Seminole culture — because it's very much alive.

Archeologists use ground penetrating radar (GPR) to survey land. Very limited digging takes place, if at all.

Backhouse, also an officer with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), spends much of his time surveying nearly

3,000 sites per year throughout Florida for potential Native American historical significance. It's the law.

The National Historic Preservation Act (1966), the Florida Historical Resources Act (1967) and the Cemetery Act (1990) ensure that before land is developed anywhere for any reason, an archaeological survey must be produced for review by the Division of Historical Resources. In most instances, THPO does the job.

Backhouse also sits in on Everglades restoration and construction meetings with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

"We have to be there to be sure that

behind the scenes to preserve everything," she said.

Both taught at Florida Gulf Coast University where they participated in two field studies on the Big Cypress Reservation in search of Fort Shackelford, which is believed to have stood on Moses Jumper Jr.'s pasture.

Backhouse said their mission is twofold at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki.

They will continue building on the integrity of the Museum, a passion established by Chairman James E. Billie when he opened Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki in 1997. In 2009, it became the first Native American museum to achieve accreditation.

"We blazed the trail for all the others," Backhouse said.

And they will advance with ideas for exhibits and community happenings to attract visitors and more participation from Tribal members.

Already, the Mosaic Gallery near the entrance of the Museum showcases work by Seminole artists. Outreach programs that travel reservation to reservation include Seminole Moments, Seminole Storytelling and day-long canoe journeys through the Everglades.

Future traveling exhibits will include *Ramp It Up*, a showcase of Native American culture and skateboarding, which was originally shown at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, and a show produced in-house featuring music though Seminole history from spiritual chanting to the hard rock sounds of the Osceola Brothers.

Another idea for the future: the construction of a cultural center for Tribal members. The facility will stand separate from the main buildings for private viewings of historic materials and Tribal-only cultural events.

"We have 100,000 photographs and artifacts from the past and a lot of (Tribal members) who want to come in and look through them," Backhouse said. "No one else can see them, but Tribal families should have a place to access them and contemplate them."



Eileen Soler

**Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum operations manager Annette Snapp and director Paul Backhouse, who is also a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, are at home on the boardwalk outside the Museum.**

the Tribe's voice is heard," Backhouse said. Hundreds of locations on Seminole reservations are already designated as historically sensitive for reasons such as burial sites, medicinal plant locations or ceremonial areas. A mammoth tooth from 10,000 years ago was found in a local canal. Unearthed pottery pieces date back 1,000 years.

Snapp said she "jumped at the chance" to work for the Tribe after years behind the scenes at several museums in England, then helping discover a Catawba village in Rock Hill, S.C. Her specialty is collecting, preserving and studying materials that tell the story of people.

"People love to see things at the museum, but they don't know what goes on

## Hah-Tung-Ke: Ellis Paul

BY **PETER B. GALLAGHER**  
Special Projects Reporter

When jets slammed into buildings in the shocking terrorist attack on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, many songwriters marked the tragedy in music. American folk music songwriter Ellis Paul, born in an isolated rural Maine potato farming community but living in Boston, was no different.

He produced a personal anthem *Citizen of the World*, creating a universal platform to create hope for the recovery.

"We were all aching, all people, because we are all connected," he said, describing the many cultural images — including the Seminole Indians — he used in the song.

Paul noted the rich history, filled with struggles and success, of the Seminoles, remarking, "I feel like I'm more a part of a community now than just a songwriter singing about my own struggles and the struggles of the friends I see around me. Maybe that's the difference between being a singer-songwriter and being a folk musician — that transition into more of a community sense of writing."

Paul has released 14 CDs; a documentary/concert DVD called *3,000 Miles*; and a book of poems and stories called *Notes from the Road*.

A track and field scholarship to Boston College got Paul out of rural Maine. Then came a career-ending knee injury and a guitar. By 1989, he was a regular on a prolific open mic scene that included Dar Williams, Vance Gilbert, Jonatha Brooke and Jennifer Kimball.

"It definitely gave me a whole new vision of what the world could be like," Paul said. Paul's songs are heard in various commercials, TV shows (such as *Ed* and



Peter B. Gallagher

**Ellis Paul performs live at the WMMF-FM Radio studios in Tampa.**

MTV's *Real World*) and in the soundtracks of blockbuster films, including three Farrelly Brothers films: *Hall Pass*, *Me, Myself & Irene* and *Shallow Hal*.

"A singer-songwriter is only as good as the times he reflects. In times like these, when so many nuts are running the show, it's comforting to know that Ellis Paul is actually holding our sanity on his own stage," said Nora Guthrie, folk musician Woody Guthrie's daughter. "Wise, tender, brilliant and biting, Ellis is one of our best human compasses, marking in melodies and poems where we've been and where we might go if we so choose to. Personally Ellis, I'm goin' where you're goin'!"

### 'Citizen of the World'

I'm an American  
Was born of Scottish blood  
I got a Frenchman's eyes and ears  
I got the walk of a British thug

There's an African in my skin  
Seminole are my kin  
I'm a man of a thousand faces  
Many nations, creeds and races

(Chorus)  
I am  
A citizen  
I am  
A citizen  
Of the world

Blue September day  
Sky came tumbling down  
Living in a world of hate  
Crying at heaven's gate

Our nation's a tougher one  
Muslims, Jews and Christians  
Father Michael says a prayer  
Whispered up into thin air

(Chorus)

Scarecrow in an oil field  
Soldier in the sand  
Seeds of violence  
Seeds of peace  
What will grow in the holy land

If I could talk to Gandhi, talk to Christ  
Talk to Mohammed, ask advice  
Oh Saint Theresa, MLK  
We need your advice  
Cause it's judgment day

(Chorus)

S. Doc. 379, 63-2.



BROWN'S STORE, FLORIDA.

Photo courtesy of THPO

## Tribal Historic Preservation Office investigates Brown's Trading Post

SUBMITTED BY **MAUREEN MAHONEY**  
Tribal Archaeologist

**BIG CYPRESS** — During the past year, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) has studied the site location marked as Brown's Trading Post.

Engineer David Graham Copeland labeled the area with a concrete marker in 1943 with the assistance of Frank Brown, who grew up at the trading post. With the help of Tribal member Janice Osceola and Brown's descendants, THPO completed an archival, archaeological, geophysical and laboratory examination of the site, an important economic component of the Big Cypress community.

Brown's Trading Post was named after William Henry Brown, who was born in England circa 1855 and came to America in the 1870s. Brown moved to the Arcadia area, married Jane Jernigan and began his life as a trader.

By the 1890s, Brown had moved his family to Immokalee and entered the Big Cypress area to trade with Seminoles living there. Shortly after, the Brown family moved to an area at the head of a canoe trail that would later become the Big Cypress Reservation. At this location, Brown cleared an acre of land and built a house, storeroom, outhouse and an open-sided structure for oxcarriage.

In order for Seminoles to steer their canoes directly up to the store's front door, Brown dug a shallow ditch that ran from his store to the deeper water about a few hundred meters away. Seminoles trading with Brown brought him alligator

skins, otter hides and egret plumes, and in return, they obtained sugar, flour, grits, ammunition, cloth or beads.

Brown continued to use the trading post until 1908 when he sold the land to an Episcopal mission, which used it as a trading post, hospital and chapel. The use of the area as a mission lasted until 1913 when it relocated (with most of the structures) closer to Immokalee.

During the archaeological survey, THPO completed various excavations and a metal detection survey in the area with Copeland's marker. The site is located directly south of Josie Billie Highway on an elevated rise that contains a remnant concrete pad from a later 1970s trading post. The area of excavation was located throughout the elevated rise. However, the vast majority of material found during the investigation was located in the northern most area of the rise and closer to Copeland's marker. While the site has a high level of disturbance, items found in one level of excavation appear to roughly date to the time of the post and the mission hospital. Many items, such as the Groves Tasteless Chill Tonic bottle fragment (used to treat chills caused by malaria), could have been used by Jane Jernigan to treat her children or by hospital staff to treat Seminoles visiting the hospital.

The results of the investigation indicate that Brown's Trading Post was established near where Copeland's marker stands today. While much of the post has presumably been lost over time, the remaining portions tell a great story about life on Big Cypress 100 years ago.

# Health

## Seminole Tribe public notice: Review of water quality standards

## Find a balance between work and home

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez

This month I will focus on women's health.

If you are like me, you are the CEO/CFO/Executive Chef, etc. of your household. If you are like me, you are so busy taking care of everyone else and being a strong, independent woman that you will sometimes forget about yourself.

Oh, I understand the demands of managing motherhood, the role of being a great wife and partner, handling work details outside the home and all the daily activities we have to juggle just to maintain a home.

I encourage every one of you to check for lumps and bumps monthly. Breast exams are a must. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women (aside from non-melanoma skin cancer). I just recently read that beautiful actress Angelina Jolie got a preventative double mastectomy after learning she carries a mutation of the BRCA1 gene, which sharply increases her risk of developing breast cancer and ovarian cancer.

Women 40 and older, please, please get mammograms on a yearly basis. Yes, they are uncomfortable. But early detection can save your life.

Once a year, we should all have a full physical exam or what I like to call the "Healthy Female Exam." Be sure to have your physician include all the labs necessary to pinpoint any issues that need to be addressed to improve your quality of life and keep you healthy.

And, according to the American Cancer Society, women should get their first colonoscopy at age 50. Yes, this all takes time, but again, early detection is key so you have more time on this Earth.

I was recently asked to include information on menopause. Menopause is a time of significant hormonal changes in the female reproductive system. These changes can cause not only emotional instability but also a host of changes in the body's equilibrium.

Many different signs and/or symptoms are associated with menopause. Some of the most common are hot

flashes and/or night sweats, which are caused by a decrease in the production of estrogen; the change in estrogen levels affects the part of the brain responsible for body temperature regulation. Another common symptom is mood swings. Mood swings are characterized by fluctuations or shifts in one's emotional state: One minute you're happy, the next you're crying.

Serotonin is known as the mood regulator and medical studies have shown that estrogen seems to play a significant role in the brain's production of this substance. Bottom line: when your estrogen levels are off balance, your serotonin will be off balance, causing mood swings.

If you are in your 40s and beyond, you may begin experiencing the signs and symptoms related to menopause. I encourage you to seek medical advice and get your hormone levels checked because there are treatments available to make menopause symptoms manageable.

I have read that it is not always necessary to seek treatment for menopause symptoms, but you will have to determine whether you need help. Hormone replacement therapies may be medically administered by your doctor.

Natural menopause treatments are also available to help you manage your symptoms. Diet plays a very important role in the management of menopause; avoid excessive caffeine, carbonated drinks, high amounts of sugar and commercially processed foods (it's a good time to go organic).

And of course, I cannot stress the importance of exercise. It will help you mentally, physically and emotionally. I know I sound like a broken record sometimes . . . but, if you exercise at least three times a week, you are going to feel amazing, strong and in control of your health and life.



Comparison of the Numerical Criteria from Table 12 of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Water Quality Standards with EPA National Recommended Water Quality Criteria dated 2012

Standard Name	Existing	Chromium (trivalent)	Copper	Chlorodibromomethane	Nickel	Aldrin	Lindane (alpha-benzene hexachloride)	Lindane (beta-benzene hexachloride)	Lindane (gamma-benzene hexachloride)	Toxaphene	Phenolic compound: pentachlorophenol	Aconaphthene	Tetrachloroethylene (1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethene)	Zinc
	Recommended	Acrolein					Benzene Hexachloride-alpha	Benzene Hexachloride-beta	Benzene Hexachloride-gamma (Lindane)					
	units		µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L
Class 1 Waters	Existing		Cr(III)exp(0.819)(nH)+0.6848	Cu exp(0.8545)(nH)-1.702	0.41	Niexp(0.846)(nH)+0.0584	0.000049	0.0026 annual avg	0.0091 annual avg	0.98 annual avg	30 max; 0.27 annual avg; e(1.005)(pH)-5.29	1200	0.69 annual avg; 3.0 max	Zn exp(0.8473)(nH)+0.884
	Recommended	3 (shall not exceed the one-hour average concentration (3.0) or the 4-day concentration (3.0) more than once every 3 years)	exp(0.819)(nH)+0.6848	exp(0.8545)(nH)-1.702	0.4	exp(0.846)(nH)+0.0584	0.000049 annual avg; 3.0 max	no standard change	no standard change	no standard change	0.0002	30 max; 0.27 annual avg; e(1.005)(pH)-5.134	670	0.69 annual avg; 3.3 max
Class 2-B Waters	Existing		Cr(III)exp(0.819)(nH)+0.6848	Cu exp(0.8545)(nH)-1.702	13	Niexp(0.846)(nH)+0.0584	0.00005	0.0049 annual avg	0.017 annual avg	1.8 annual avg	30 max; 3.0 annual avg; e(1.005)(pH)-5.29	27000	3.3	Zn exp(0.8473)(nH)+0.884
	Recommended	3 (shall not exceed the one-hour average concentration (3.0) or the 4-day concentration (3.0) more than once every 3 years)	exp(0.819)(nH)+0.6848	exp(0.8545)(nH)-1.702	no change	exp(0.846)(nH)+0.0584	0.000050 annual avg; 3.0 max	no standard change	no standard change	no standard change	0.0002	30 max; 3.0 annual avg; e(1.005)(pH)-5.134	990	no change
Class 2-C Waters	Existing		Cr(III)exp(0.819)(nH)+0.6848	Cu exp(0.8545)(nH)-1.702	13	Niexp(0.846)(nH)+0.0584	0.00005	0.0049 annual avg	0.017 annual avg	1.8 annual avg	30 max; 3.0 annual avg; e(1.005)(pH)-5.29	27000	3.3	Zn exp(0.8473)(nH)+0.884
	Recommended	3 (shall not exceed the one-hour average concentration (3.0) or the 4-day concentration (3.0) more than once every 3 years)	exp(0.819)(nH)+0.6848	exp(0.8545)(nH)-1.702	no change	exp(0.846)(nH)+0.0584	0.000050 annual avg; 3.0 max	no standard change	no standard change	no standard change	0.0002	30 max; 3.0 annual avg; e(1.005)(pH)-5.134	990	no change
Class 3 Waters	Existing		Cr(III)exp(0.819)(nH)+0.6848	Cu exp(0.8545)(nH)-1.702	no change	Niexp(0.846)(nH)+0.0584	no change	no change	no change	no change	30 max; 3.0 annual avg; e(1.005)(pH)-5.29	no change	no change	Zn exp(0.8473)(nH)+0.884
	Recommended		exp(0.819)(nH)+0.6848	exp(0.8545)(nH)-1.702	no change	exp(0.846)(nH)+0.0584	no change	no change	no change	no change	30 max; 3.0 annual avg; e(1.005)(pH)-5.134	no change	no change	exp(0.8473)(nH)+0.884

SUBMITTED BY LISA MEDAY  
Environmental Resource Protection Specialist

Section 303c(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires that a state or a Tribe hold public hearings at least every three years to review its water quality standards, and, as appropriate, modify and adopt standards. On Sept. 21, 2012 the Seminole Water Commission evaluated the appropriateness

of the designated uses of Tribal waters, the criteria that support these uses and other water quality policies and procedures. The Seminole Water Commission is recommending changes to the Seminole Water Code as follows, and as recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency. The changes reflect updated science and increased protection of human health. A public notice period shall commence

on May 30 for a 60-day period. During this time, any questions or concerns regarding this amendment to the Tribal Water Code should be directed to the Seminole Water Commission in writing, addressed to: Seminole Water Commission, 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Fla. 33024. Public comment will be addressed at the August meeting of the Seminole Water Commission.

## Plans for Lakeland property will keep Tampa active

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

LAKELAND — Tampa Recreation coordinator Marsha Roberts doesn't mince words. She is well-known for speaking her mind and laying it on the line.

"I just got tired of the way the Lakeland property was lookin,'" she said. "Not a whole lot to do — everyone hot and sweaty. It was time for a change."

Summer 2013 may see the biggest change in the Lakeland property in the decade since the Tribe purchased the first 786 acres of Polk County rural pasture, forest and wetlands with an eye to creating

a new reservation for the Tampa Seminoles.

With an active summer of recreational pursuits and special events planned, the property is getting spruced up with a new playground, a fleet of BMX dirt bikes (small, medium and large), a trail through the woods, a bass boat to traverse two ponds, an exercise course, and a 15-foot, above-ground swimming pool.

This will complement the canoes, archery targets, volleyball net, rope swings, horseshoes, and football and kickball fields already there.

"I really think this will actually increase our attendance now that we have a lot more to do out here," said Roberts, who added

that this phase of improvements should be complete by mid-June. "A little further down the road, we'll see about stocking some more fish in those lakes."

"It could be any day," was the word from Tampa Liaison Richard Henry, when asked when the U.S. government will grant the property federal trust status. "That's the word we've had from Washington."

Federal recognition will allow the Tribe to begin the construction of homes and office buildings to service an estimated 150 Seminole families who plan to live on the Lakeland property. The Tribe also plans to apply for full reservation status.

**SEMINOLE TRIBE FIRE RESCUE**

Presents

*Helmets Save Lives*

May is National Bike Safety Month

Parents: Did you know that 90% of patients who suffered traumatic brain injuries during wheeled sports accidents did not wear a helmet?

- Every day children are rushed to emergency rooms after suffering traumatic brain injuries while participating in wheeled sports without a helmet.
- Wheeled sports include non-motorized recreational equipment such as bikes, razors (scooters), skateboards, in-line skates and Heelys (skate shoes).
- A traumatic brain injury typically occurs when a child has suffered a fall or is involved in a collision during wheeled sports and many times the injuries are not visible.
- The most severe accidents may cause permanent brain damage, seizures, paralysis, coma and death; Remember, call 9-1-1 or your local emergency response number when a serious injury has taken place.
- According to State law, children 16 years and under are required to wear a bicycle helmet that fits properly and fastens securely into place when they engage in wheeled sports.
- Medical research indicates that most traumatic brain injuries can be prevented if children wear a helmet when they engage in wheeled sports.
- **Teach your child to wear a helmet** — It may help to save his/her life! A bicycle helmet can be purchased at a major retailer or any sporting goods store for an average price of \$15.

"Helmets Save Lives"

For more information, visit [www.Safekids.org](http://www.Safekids.org)

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

First Health

www.MyFirstHealth.com

800-226-5116

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



## Star Wars fever hits the Navajo Nation

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — The Navajos are remaking *Star Wars*. The famous *Star Wars* movie will get a verbal make over and it's all going to be in Navajo.

Tribal officials and Lucas Films could not disclose what the cost was to translate the *Star Wars* movie, but people behind this project hope this could be a new beginning in preserving and teaching the Navajo language to a global audience.

*Star Wars* was originally produced in 1977. With permission from the producers, this will be the first film to be translated into the Navajo language.

On May 4, auditions were held at the Navajo Nation Museum. T-shirts and *Star Wars* memorabilia were also on display for sale. The finished product is scheduled to debut at this year's Navajo Fair in Window Rock.

— *The Navajo Post*

## Linguists find 15,000-year-old 'ultraconserved words'

**READING, UK** — You, hear me! Give this fire to that old man. Pull the black worm off the bark and give it to the mother. And no spitting in the ashes.

Strange statement. Appears to make no sense. But if you went back 15,000 years and spoke these words to hunter-gatherers in Asia in any one of hundreds of modern languages, there is a chance they would understand at least some of what you were saying. While most ancient words have gone the way of the dinosaurs, a few live on.

Researchers have identified two dozen words whose sound and meaning have survived the past 15,000 years. That's because all the nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs in the four sentences are words that have descended largely unchanged from a language that died out as the glaciers retreated at the end of the last Ice Age. Those few words mean the same thing and sound almost the same as they did then.

This flies in the face of the traditional belief that words can't survive for more than 8,000 to 9,000 years. Evolution, linguistic "weathering" and the adoption of replacements from other languages eventually drive ancient words to extinction, just like the dinosaurs of the Jurassic era.

A new study by evolutionary theorists at the University of Reading in England, however, suggests that's not always true. The team of researchers has come up with a list of two dozen "ultraconserved words" that have survived 150 centuries. It includes some predictable entries: "mother," "not," "what," "to hear" and "man." It also contains surprises: "to flow," "ashes" and "worm."

The existence of the long-lived words suggests there was a "proto-Eurasian" language that was the common ancestor to about 700 contemporary languages that are the native tongues of more than half the world's people.

"We've never heard this language, and it's not written down anywhere," said Mark Pagel, the scientist who headed the study published recently in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. "But this ancestral language was spoken and heard. People sitting around campfires used it to talk to each other."

In all, "proto-Eurasian" gave birth to seven language families. Several of the world's important language families, however, fall outside that lineage, such as the one that includes Chinese and Tibetan, several African language families, and those of American Indians and Australian aborigines.

— *Washington Post*

## Native-themed, pro-gun billboards taken down



Photo courtesy of Indian Country TODAY Media Network

**GREELY, Colo.** — The two billboards that appeared along highways in Greely, Colo. in April depicting three American Indians with a pro-gun message of, "Turn in your arms, the government will take care of you," are gone.

The anonymous activists who purchased the billboards through Lamar Advertising did not renew their lease and the area is now blank space.

The two billboards created quite a stir in the community with those opposed using statements along the lines of, "It is insensitive," while supporters were wondering, "Where can we send a check to support more?"

— *Indian Country TODAY Media Network*

## Cordish bids for slots-only casino in Boxborough

**BOXBOROUGH, Mass.** — David Cordish, whose company built the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino complexes in Hollywood and Tampa, wants to transform a Holiday Inn in this small Massachusetts town into a gleaming \$200-million hotel and slots-only parlor; the Cordish Co. is one of four companies seeking the state's sole slot parlor license.

The Cordish Co. proposes to buy, renovate and expand the existing hotel and rebrand the property as a boutique hotel and casino, according to Joe Weinberg, Cordish's managing partner. The project would have several restaurants, including a buffet, entertainment area, meeting space, spa and fitness facilities, and — by state law — as many as 1,250 slot machines. It would employ 700 to 750 people, according to Cordish.

Cordish is a successful real estate developer with a wide portfolio of projects: In addition to the Hard Rock casinos in Florida, he opened the Maryland Live! Casino, just outside Baltimore. The Boxborough project would be similarly named, "Live! Hotel & Casino."

— *Boston Globe*

## U.S. non-Tribal casino revenue up 4.8 percent in 2012

**ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.** — Gambling revenue among the nation's commercial casinos increased by nearly 5 percent last year, according to the annual survey of casinos by the American Gaming Association (AGA).

America's non-Tribal casinos took in \$37.3 billion from gamblers last year, an increase of 4.8 percent over 2011 — second only to 2007 when casinos took in \$37.5 billion just before the Great Recession hit.

The AGA's figures do not include Indian casinos, which took in \$26.1 billion in 2011, the last year for which figures are available. The National Indian Gaming Commission said 2012 figures will be available this summer.

The survey listed 513 commercial casinos, up from 492 in 2011. Las Vegas remains the nation's top gambling market, with more than \$6.2 billion in revenue last year. Fifteen of the 23 states with commercial casinos last year saw gambling revenues increase, led by Kansas, Maryland, Maine and New York, each of which opened new casinos in 2012. Other states that had significant casino revenue increases included Florida, Illinois and South Dakota. Pennsylvania saw a 4.6 percent increase and surpassed New Jersey to become the second-largest casino market in the nation after Nevada.

New Jersey experienced the largest decline in casino revenue, with revenues falling 8 percent last year to just more than \$3 billion. (Increased competition in neighboring states and Superstorm Sandy were the chief reasons.)

Casinos paid \$8.6 billion in taxes to state and local governments last year, an increase of 8.5 percent. More than 76 million Americans visited a casino last year.

Fine dining is the most popular non-gambling attraction for casino patrons; 25 percent of all casino patrons never or rarely gamble when they visit a casino. Playing the lottery remains the most popular form of gambling in America, with just more than half of respondents saying they bought a ticket last year. Internet gambling represented only 3 percent of U.S. gambling activity.

Philadelphia remained the nation's top racetrack casino market at \$835.3 million. Resorts World at the Aqueduct Racetrack in New York City took in \$672.5 million, and Empire City in Yonkers N.Y. took in \$544.7 million.

— *Boston.com*

## NIGA hosts panel on presidential policy

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — What do American Indians think about President Barack Obama?

Here are a few comments from a recent dialogue on presidential policy statements, special messages to Congress and Executive Orders on Indian Affairs hosted by the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA). The panel spent a lot of time talking about former presidents in comparing and framing their comments about Obama:

NIGA Chairman Ernest L. Stevens Jr.: "President Nixon is known for returning Blue Lake to Taos Pueblo, Yakama Forest to the Yakama Nation and the Indian Self-Determination Policy. Nixon gave a Special Message to Congress on Indian Self-Determination without Termination, ushering in the modern era of Indian policy. President Obama did a great job in his first term, and we hope he will take the Native Nations policy to the next level in his second term."

Holly Cook Macarro, panel moderator and a White House special assistant under President Bill Clinton, moderated the panel, pointing out that "President Clinton's Executive Order on Collaboration and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments was a

milestone of Indian policy that promoted Indian sovereignty."

Michael Anderson, who served as principal deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs under Clinton, talked about historical presidential policies: "Kennedy and Johnson sowed the seeds of the Indian Self-Determination Policy, and Johnson opened the door to direct funding of Tribal governments under the War on Poverty. He established the National Council on Indian Policy, which was chaired by the vice president and provided a forum on Indian sovereignty and economic development."

Suzan Harjo, president of Morning Star Institute and former executive director of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI): "No presidential policy can be complete without recognition of Indian language and culture, whether it's a policy statement or special message to Congress. Presidential policies are important for the protection of Indian sovereignty."

Kim Teehee, Domestic Policy Council staff under Obama's first term: "President Obama has done a great job on Indian issues and he is personally engaged in Indian issues, including the Violence Against Women Act Indian provisions. The work of the Obama administration would be strongly supported by a Native Nations Policy and Executive Order. It would put a cap on the work they are already doing."

Mark Van Norman, former director of the Office of Tribal Justice under Clinton: "President George Washington started the tradition of nation-to-nation relations when he invited the Creek Nation to the Executive Mansion in New York in 1790 to sign the first Indian treaty under the new Constitution of the United States. The Constitution is based upon nation-to-nation relations and mutual recognition, mutual respect and mutual consent between the United States and Indian nations. That's the policy that we should have in the 21st century."

The Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association, Coalition of Large Tribes, Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, United Tribes of North Dakota, California Nations Indian Gaming Association and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community passed resolutions supporting the call for a new Presidential Native Sovereign Nations Policy Statement by Obama.

— *NIGA*

## Judge stops Gretna style barrel race gambling

**TALLAHASSEE** — In an 85-page report, Judge John Van Landingham, of the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings, ruled that the state Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) exceeded its authority two years ago when it gave gambling licenses to two North Florida barrel horse racing tracks.

The ruling was a victory for the Florida Quarter Horse Racing Association (FQHRA) and the Florida Quarter Horse Breeders and Owners Association (FQHBOA) — who brought the suit — and for anti-casino advocates.

The Florida Pari-mutuel Wagering Act allows gambling at facilities hosting dog racing, jai-alai and three types of horse racing, including quarter horse racing. In 2011, the DBPR granted quarter horse racing licenses to Gretna Racing and Hamilton Downs Horsetrack, despite the fact that neither track hosts traditional quarter horse racing.

The quarter horse associations brought the suit, fearing that giving their industry's licenses to Gretna style barrel races would dilute the quarter horse brand, and might even drive it completely out of Florida.

The DBPR has not said if it will appeal the ruling. A leading state anti-gambling activist urged it not to: "The Gretna permit was a sham from the beginning — nothing more than a gambling anchor to which the owners hoped to also moor poker rooms and slot machines," said No Casinos president John Sowinski in a statement. "The Division of Pari-Mutuel Wagering should accept the judge's decision and cancel 'pari-mutuel barrel-racing' permits and licenses immediately."

— *Sunshine State News*

## Penn asks IRGC to overturn Hard Rock Casino selection

**SIoux CITY, Iowa** — Penn National Gaming Co., owner of the Argosy Sioux City gambling boat, petitioned Iowa gaming regulators to overturn their decision to replace the floating casino with a Hard Rock-branded casino in downtown Sioux City.

Penn National claims the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission (IRGC) violated state law and Argosy's rights to due process by ignoring a series of deficiencies and improprieties in the Hard Rock group's application for a land-based casino license.

By a 3-2 vote, the commission on April 18 selected Hard Rock over two other potential Woodbury County operators, including Penn, which offered a choice of a downtown or rural site for a Hollywood-themed casino. A Ho-Chunk

Inc.-led group also proposed a downtown casino at the site of the former Warrior Hotel.

Last year, Penn went to court to try to overturn a pair of IRGC decisions, asking a state judge to review the commission's decision to put the Woodbury County license up for bid and its refusal to approve a temporary contract extension between Penn and its nonprofit partner, Missouri River Historical Development (MRHD) — cases consolidated and pending in Polk County District Court.

In September, MRHD aligned itself with the Hard Rock developer, Sioux City Entertainment.

The IRGC has said it will allow the Argosy to keep operating until construction of the Hard Rock is completed. Sioux City Entertainment expects to open the casino in July 2014.

In the letter Wednesday to the IRGC, Penn attorney Mark Weinhardt described the commission's action as unprecedented in the history of U.S. gaming and a "de facto revocation" of the Argosy's license, "in the absence of any suitability or financial issues..."

"There is no other rational conclusion to draw from these circumstances other than that the commission's action is arbitrary and capricious, not supported by the facts, and contrary to Iowa law and the U.S. and Iowa Constitutions."

The five-member commission is not required to act on the request.

— *Sioux City Journal*

## Mystery bidders may save Wounded Knee



Photo courtesy of Indian Country TODAY Media Network

**WOUNDED KNEE, S.D.** — Since May 1, when landowner James Czywczynski put the historic Wounded Knee site on the open market (price tag: \$4.9 million), he has received five standing offers — which he said may well benefit the Oglala Sioux Tribe.

"All five are looking for additional time to put their funding together," he said. "It appears that three of the five are acquiring this property for or on behalf of the Oglala Sioux Tribe."

Wounded Knee is located on the Oglala Sioux's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwestern South Dakota; it was the site of two conflicts between American Indians and the U.S. government: An 1890 massacre killed 150 Native Americans, in what was the final clash between federal troops and the Sioux. In 1973, members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) occupied Wounded Knee for 71 days to protest conditions on the reservation.

Denise Mesteth, director of the Oglala Sioux Tribe's Tribal Land Office, said the Tribe has not made an offer. She further commented that Czywczynski's statements that the Tribe should have money from the Cobell and Salazar settlements: "That is ridiculous for him to even say that. We do not have any money to purchase this land. Yes, we received the Salazar money, but those monies were sent to the districts and allocated already. The money is gone and the districts are taking care of their district business."

Mesteth also said the Tribe is being besieged with people wanting to sell them property ever since the Oglala purchased the sacred site of Pe' sla in the Black Hills.

"We are now dealing with another owner who wants to sell us 9,000 acres for \$8 million," she said.

— *Indian Country TODAY Media Network*

## Aboriginals losing native tongue, survey reveals

**ONTARIO** — While their population is growing four-times faster than the rest of the country, Canada's aboriginal peoples are rapidly losing touch with their native tongues, according to Statistics Canada's newly released National Household Survey.

Aboriginals are now more than 4 percent of Canada's population: First Nations, Metis and Inuit populations number more than 1.4 million combined. Their 20-percent increase between 2006 and 2011 far outstrips the five percent rate of the non-aboriginal population.

But only 17.2 percent of the aboriginal population reported being able to conduct a conversation in an aboriginal language, down from 21 percent in the 2006 census. Among first nations, 22.4 percent said they could converse in an aboriginal language, down 5.6 percentage points from 2006.

Statisticians caution there is no way of knowing how good or bad the information is from the National Household Survey. The voluntary nature of the survey leaves gaps in the data from groups who tend not

to respond to voluntary surveys, including aboriginals, new immigrants and low-income families.

The findings are particularly critical given the survey's additional finding that more than a quarter of all aboriginals were aged 14 and younger in 2011.

The grassroots Idle No More movement, which took center stage earlier this year, shifted its focus from public demonstrations to indigenous education, including aboriginal languages.

The preservation of aboriginal languages has also come up in consultations for the Harper government's proposed First Nations Education Act, which aims to be in place by September 2014.

— *The Montreal Gazette*

## Three Affiliated Tribes break ground on oil refinery

**MAKOTI, N.D.** — A new day for the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara.

That's what they said on the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota, recently, when the Three Affiliated Tribes blessed the ground where an oil refinery will be built.

"It's really an important time for our people. It's exciting," said Tribal Representative Ken Hall. "But we have to be mindful going forward to not lose our culture."

The Tribes held a ceremonial groundbreaking for the Thunder Butte Petroleum Services Refinery, which will be constructed in four phases over two years. It will have the capacity to process up to 20,000 barrels per day of Bakken crude oil that is produced on the reservation.

Construction is expected to begin in August on the first phase, a truck-to-rail crude oil loading facility that later ties into the refinery, said Rich Mayer, CEO of Thunder Butte Petroleum Services.

Initially the refinery will produce diesel and sell the byproducts. After the final phase, the refinery will have the ability to refine more diesel and also some gasoline, Mayer said.

The refinery will provide 300 local construction jobs and 75 to 100 full-time jobs after it's operational, officials said.

The Tribe has contributed \$40 million toward the loading-facility portion of the project.

The approximate \$450 million total cost will be financed with bonds.

Tribal members and others at the event praised Tribal Chairman Tex "Red Tipped Arrow" Hall for having the vision to pursue a refinery, a plan that began 10 years ago before the Bakken oil boom.

"We grew up poor. We were lucky if we had a pair of clean overalls," Hall said. "But our parents made sure we went to school and got educated. They did the best they could for us. They didn't know we'd have this oil and gas resource, but now we do. It's our responsibility to manage it, and we are."

Members of a group called Save Our Aboriginal Resources, who protested the Tribe's oil and gas expo this week and the groundbreaking, said the refinery should have been put to a vote of Tribal members. Theodora Bird Bear, of Mandaree, said she worries about the effects on the reservation's air and water: "They can't regulate it (oil development) now, so I can't see how they can handle a refinery."

— *Inforum.com*

## Radio marathon honors Comanche Code Talkers

**LAWTON, Okla.** — When most people hear about the legendary World War II Code Talkers, they usually think of the famous Navajo Code Talkers. But in reality, there were more than a dozen Native American Tribes involved in the U.S. Code Talker program, which developed coded communications based on Native languages.

So, when U.S. soldiers landed several miles off Utah Beach during World War II's Normandy invasion on D-Day, Comanche Code Talker Larry Saupitty was there. He sent the first message back to Allied Forces in a code based on the Comanche language, telling command they had made a good landing but in the wrong place. In fact, 17 Comanche soldiers were trained as Code Talkers and sent overseas during World War II. Thirteen Comanche Code Talkers stormed Utah Beach during the D-Day invasion, according to Candy Morgan, director of marketing and public programs for the Comanche Museum.

The Comanche Code Talkers, all from within a few miles of Lawton, were vital to the secrecy of the effort against the Axis powers. To honor them, on Victory in Europe Day (May 8), the Comanche Nation Museum, the Lawton-Fort Sill Amateur Radio Club and the Eisenhower Middle School Amateur Radio Club conducted a four-day amateur radio marathon during which they contacted people all over the world via short wave radio to tell the Code Talkers' story.

The radio enthusiasts broadcast from a mobile unit set up behind the museum.

"It's an excellent opportunity to tell the Comanche Code Talker story," said Morgan.

— *SWOK News*



# annual owners', meeting

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1  
10AM**

**HARD ROCK LIVE  
SEMINOLE HARD ROCK  
HOLLYWOOD**

Get important news and updates about the Hard Rock International Brand and see what's in store for our future.

Questions? Please call **954.327.7684**.

All Seminole Tribe Members and their immediate families are welcome to attend.

# Education

# B

## Students continue traditions during Brighton Culture Camp

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Preserving Seminole culture is at the heart of every Tribal event, especially the annual Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Culture Camp in Brighton. From May 1-3, 240 students got hands-on experience in everything from making frybread to throwing tomahawks to butchering hogs. During each activity, the Creek language was taught one word at a time.

"Our main concern is the language," said Lorene Gopher, director of the Brighton Culture program. "If we don't write it down and save it now, then when we're gone, it will be gone. There is no other way to preserve it than to write it. It used to be handed down through the generations, but I think we missed a generation along the way. The younger people don't know it, so we have to go back and teach it."

Teachers supervising every activity had each student speak the action they performed. As fourth-grade girls put Indian dogs into pots of hot oil, teacher Jade Braswell Osceola reminded them to say "akpiket," or "put in."

PECS Culture Camp began when the school opened five years ago and serves as a highlight of the school year. Gopher makes sure to add new events to the schedule every year. Activities vary with the age of the children; kindergartners through third-graders didn't get near sharp knives or hot oil, but they learned the basics of carving and cooking.

Fourth- through sixth-graders carved tomahawks with sharp knives, cooked over the open fire, scaled, gutted and cut fish for frying and threw skillet and hatchets.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students slaughtered, butchered and cooked two hogs, made swamp cabbage from the trunks of Sabal palm trees and roasted corn to make sofkee. All students played games and heard Seminole legends.

Jennie Billie told the Seminole legends to students in Creek, while her sister Juanita Osceola translated into English. One told the story of a hunter who learned a hard lesson. The legends were fascinating tales, but most importantly, they imparted morals.

"The most important thing is to listen and to keep your culture alive," Billie said to students. "If you listen, you'll make better grades in school."

She told students their parents should speak Creek at home so they can learn it, but sewing, cooking, carving and everything else they did during Culture Camp were important aspects of being Seminole.

"It takes us back in time to experience how our ancestors lived," Aiyana Tommie, 13, said. "It shows us all the hard work they went through."

"And it keeps our traditions going," added Courtney Gore, 15.

Students tackled each task with gusto. As they scaled and gutted fish, the kids sent scales flying and disposed of entrails quickly. A group of girls made quick work of enough cans of spam to feed a small army, with tomatoes and rice of course.

Another group of girls roasted corn for sofkee, under the guidance of Martha Jones who helped them through each step in the process. The corn is roasted over an open



Beverly Bidney

Raylon Eagle uses a pestle to crush roasted corn while her classmates look on.

fire in a pot with sand, which prevents the corn from burning or sticking to the bottom. Once roasted, the corn is sifted to remove the sand, placed in a large wooden mortar and crushed with an equally large pestle. It is then ground through a hand-cranked grinder where it is made into a fine powder. Add it to water with baking powder, cook for an hour and enjoy a fresh batch of sofkee.

The day wasn't only filled with work; traditional games were played, too. Seventh- and eighth-grade boys played a game of corn hole, but the scores didn't count unless they said them aloud in Creek. One point if the beanbag landed on the board; two points if it went through the hole.

The biggest responsibility of the last day fell on the shoulders of the eighth-grade boys, who slaughtered two young hogs and prepared them for butchering. Drayton Billie, 15, did the deed quickly with a long knife to the heart. Afterward, the boys got busy at two work stations. On one table, they scalded the hog with boiling water to remove the hair; this hog would be cooked

with the skin on. At the other table, the boys skinned the second hog.

"By doing this with them, it gives them hands-on experience," Norman "Skeeter" Bowers said. "By living out here, one day they are going to butcher one, so this gives them a head start on how to do it. It used to be our way of life to kill a hog in the backyard. Today we are spoiled; we can just go to McDonald's."

The adults made sure youth got the full experience and understood each step of the process.

"You never know, the world could go to shot one day," said Davey Snow, who taught the boys how to skin the hog. "Now, if you kill an animal, you'll know how to take care of your family."

The boys felt privileged to take part in the adult tasks during Culture Camp.

"I feel like I can be a man now," said Ruben Burgess, 15.

♦ See more CULTURE CAMP photos on page 7B



Eileen Soler

Seminole Police Officer Michele Short sings a song with Ahfachkee School kindergartners about the D.A.R.E. program.

## Kids accept D.A.R.E. for no drugs, no violence

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — For 39 Ahfachkee School participants of the 2013 D.A.R.E. program, standing up against drugs and violence is a no-brainer.

"It's the best way to never have a miserable life," said fifth-grader Ricky Garza. "It's about making the right choices."

Established in 1983, the international Drug Abuse Resistance Education program is conducted annually in thousands of elementary schools worldwide by local police officers for kindergarten, third- and fifth-grade students. It is geared to prevent drug use, gang membership and violent behavior such as bullying.

This year's Ahfachkee program, led by Seminole Police Officer Michele Short, concluded on May 2 with a graduation ceremony in the school cafeteria for 12 fifth-graders. Graduates were Shana Balentine, Carlee Billie, Richard Billie, Mikiyela Cypress, Charli Frye, Geneva Garcia, Ricky Garza, Leilani Gopher, Craig Huckabee, Reginald Ling Jr., Thoya Robbins and Nigel Wells.

"You've been given skills to go out into the world where you will be challenged as you get older . . . if you are ever faced with making those hard decisions you can always come back to the lessons you were taught in D.A.R.E.," Short told the graduates.

But first, kindergarten and third-graders performed choreographed D.A.R.E. cheers for an audience of nearly 50 family members, teachers and other students gathered for the celebration.

And special recognition awards were bestowed.

Kindergarten was applauded for elaborately decorating doors in the D.A.R.E. theme and third-grader Edie Robbins was named the winner of the third-grade D.A.R.E. essay contest. The fifth-grade essay contest award went to Carlee Billie.

"(D.A.R.E.) was the greatest lesson



Eileen Soler

Mikiyela Cypress keeps a tight hold on Daren, the D.A.R.E. program's lion mascot.

ever learned in school, besides math, reading and science," Carlee wrote. "I love D.A.R.E. and I promise with my heart to always be drug and violence free."

Short said the D.A.R.E. program follows strict guidelines to ensure the message is age appropriate.

Kindergartners learn about stranger danger. Third-graders focus on bullying. In fifth grade, students get information about tobacco, alcohol and drugs (consumed and inhaled) and how the chemicals affect human lives.

Jason Huckabee, whose son Craig graduated from D.A.R.E., said parents appreciate the in-school program but must bolster the anti-drug and violence message at home.

♦ See D.A.R.E. on page 4B

## Hollywood preschoolers enjoy new P.E. class

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Hollywood Recreation Department is providing physical education classes to preschool students in the gym and on the ball field. Each class includes age-appropriate activities designed to build self-confidence, teamwork and coordination.

"We want to start them young and

introduce them to the concept of being on a team," said Richard Blankenship, Recreation director. "They learn it takes a whole group to succeed. And it's good for nap time."

Activities include hula hooping, kicking soccer balls and running a course while retrieving and shooting balls into tubes.

The classes take place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.



Beverly Bidney

Ja'Teija Stewart is a natural with the hula hoop.

♦ See more P.E. photos on page 4B

## Columbia University holds Taking Back Manhattan Pow-Wow

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**NEW YORK CITY** — Archaeological evidence shows Native Americans have lived in New York City for 6,000 years; the Algonquin Tribe lived on the banks of the harbor when Europeans first landed in Manhattan in 1609. Columbia University held its Taking Back Manhattan Pow-Wow on April 14 to celebrate the history of Native Americans in New York.

Seminole Tribal member and Columbia freshman Braudie Blais-Billie is a member of the university's Native American Council, which organized the third annual pow-wow.

Hundreds of people, including students and members of the New York Native American community, attended the event that featured dancers in traditional clothing, musicians and singers. The drum group Mystic River, of Connecticut, and the Silvercloud Singers, of Manhattan, were among the entertainment.

"It was a good turnout," said Blais-Billie, of Hollywood. "People from off campus watched and danced. I have friends who have never seen a pow-wow and didn't know there were Native Americans at Columbia. That was really the point: to say we are here."

The pow-wow is called Taking Back Manhattan as a nod to the Lenape people, who were among the original residents of the metropolitan New York area. The word



Photo courtesy of Braudie Blais-Billie

Columbia University holds its Taking Back Manhattan Pow-Wow on April 14 to celebrate the history of Native Americans in New York.

Manhattan means "island of many hills" in the Lenape language.

Blais-Billie actively participates in the Native American Council, meeting weekly with members to discuss issues, projects and events. The Council will now turn its attention to Native American Heritage Month in October and discuss whether to organize a petition to display a plaque

on campus commemorating the Lenape people; other prominent New Yorkers — including John Jay and Alexander Hamilton — are acknowledged this way on campus.

"The pow-wow made me really happy," Blais-Billie said. "I was proud of our Native American Council and the community we reached out to in Manhattan. It was fun, like being back at home."

# Ahfachkee School hosts historic first prom for students



Eileen Soler

Glowing electric guitars and rock star placards create an elegant and hip atmosphere for the Ahfachkee School's first prom on May 10 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.



Eileen Soler

Teens inaugurate the first Ahfachkee School prom at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium turned high-end banquet hall.



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School seniors Tequesta Tiger and Bradley Osceola dance the night away to the music of the Osceola Brothers.



Eileen Soler

Prom Queen Danni Jae Tommie and King Tylor Tigertail make history as Ahfachkee School's first prom royalty.



Eileen Soler

Rock star placards like Steven Tyler welcome students to the gymnasium during Ahfachkee School's first prom.



Eileen Soler

Prom goers enjoy Ahfachkee School's first prom.

# Ahfachkee Values

Working hard to change a generation's future.

**HARD WORK**

Kaitlin Osceola, 10th Grade – I chose this picture because the younger generation is often referred to as the future leaders. I selected the value Hard Work because everybody in the Tribe, including the kids, worked hard to change the future.



Together we can do anything.

**UNITY**

Colby Herrera, 11th Grade – I selected this picture because it shows unity, coming together. These eight men came together to help our people grow as one, but also individually as well. I wish people would still come together as one and fight for each other instead of fighting one another. I selected Unity as my value. I selected unity to represent my picture because it is the charter committee. I think they are a good example of coming together and striving for success.



# Tribal members join Florida Air Academy for Earth Day

SUBMITTED BY FLORIDA AIR ACADEMY

MELBOURNE — Tribal historian Willie Johns joined students and faculty of Florida Air Academy (FAA) at the school's annual Earth Day celebration in Melbourne April 17.

The event gave students an opportunity to learn more about the Seminole Tribe, its traditions and its connection to the environment.

During the opening ceremony, Cameron Youngblood, a current student at FAA, was invited to present a Seminole Tribal flag to FAA president Jamie Dwight for display in the Hall of Flags, the main gathering point at the academy. The area is adorned with flags representing the many nations of students, past and present, who have studied at the school.

Students then participated in a host of activities, including food tastings (made from produce grown in the FAA organic garden), rock climbing, body painting and meetings with local environmental organizations.

Students were encouraged to put aside technology for the day and connect with the outdoors.

Now in its fourth year at the school, Earth Day is organized by students from the Florida Air Academy Environmental



Photo courtesy of Florida Air Academy  
Cameron Youngblood presents a Seminole flag to FAA president Jamie Dwight.

Club, led by Jamie Cartier. The club is active throughout the year, undertaking recycling projects and working on the FAA organic garden.



Photo courtesy of Florida Air Academy  
Willie Johns displays Tribal objects for Florida Air Academy students to get an up-close look into Seminole Tribe of Florida culture during the school's Earth Day celebrations.



Beverly Bidney

Cut-out dolls of the preschool children, made by their parents, are displayed in the Hollywood Gym.

# Week of the Young Child means day of fun at Hollywood Preschool

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Week of the Young Child has endured since 1971 to emphasize the importance early childhood programs have on children's lives.

To celebrate the education process, the Hollywood Preschool invited parents to a day of fun activities in the gym April 19.

The festivities began when the children rode on a kiddie train through the parking lot from the school to the gym. About 90 preschoolers enthusiastically played on bounce houses, enjoyed the antics of Oopsie the Clown and shared a special lunch with their families.

"We wanted to highlight the partnership between families and the school to educate

young children," said Ilene Miller, Hollywood Preschool program manager.

The goal of the Week of the Young Child, an annual event sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs that meet those needs.



Beverly Bidney

Oopsie the Clown gets the children on their feet for some clown-calisthenics before the show. To celebrate the education process, the Hollywood Preschool invited parents to a day of fun activities in the gym April 19.



Beverly Bidney

Jessell Young sits with her dad, Elliot Young.

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- Beyonce.....JUL 9 & 10
- Dave Matthews.....JUL 19 & 20
- 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
- Keith Urban.....OCT 5
- Miami Dolphins
- Miami Heat

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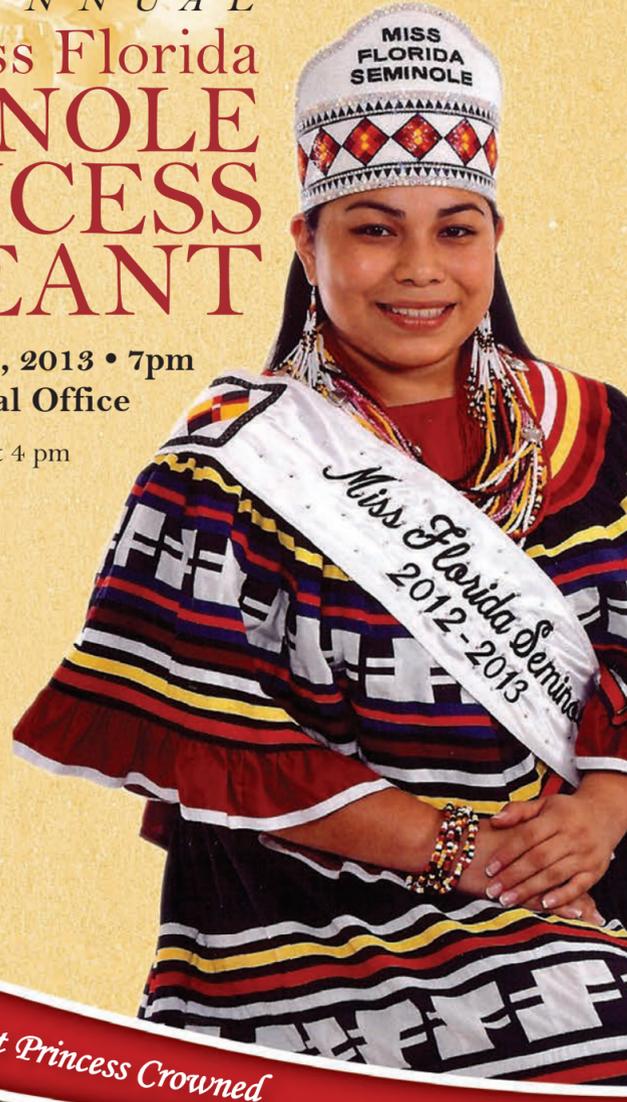


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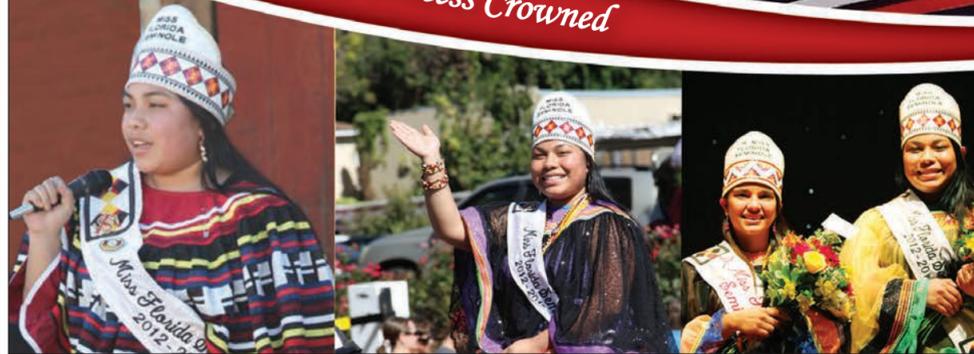


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Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School's fifth-grade D.A.R.E. program graduates pose with certificates with teachers and Seminole Police Officer Michele Short.

## ◆ D.A.R.E.

From page 1B

"I tell my son if your friends are doing something that you have been taught not to do, then it is wrong. You should speak up. You should leave," Jason Huckabee said.

Graduates capped the event by performing a D.A.R.E.-themed rap tune to the beat of Will Smith's *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. The kids also showed a music video of the rap which was taped with help from professional videographers on the school's playground.

Leilani Gopher and Ricky Garza agreed that making the video was a chance to have a little fun with a very serious topic. Ricky hopes to see the video on YouTube.

"Even though we had to do three or four takes, we needed to make the video and put it out there," Ricky said.

Leilani said it could be a message of life or death.

"Some people in our own community died from taking drugs, alcohol and tobacco. We know it can kill us," she said. "The song helps us teach other kids to just don't do it."



Eileen Soler

Third-graders perform a cheer to support the D.A.R.E. program at Ahfachkee School.

## ◆ More P.E. photos from page 1B



Beverly Bidney

Sylas Billie puts the ball inside the tube during one of the activities.



Beverly Bidney

The preschoolers class takes a water break.



Beverly Bidney

Daryn K. Tommie-James runs the course.



Beverly Bidney

Evan Ruidiaz runs toward Hector Casallas, of the Recreation Department, during one of the activities.



Beverly Bidney

Jessell Young gets help learning the hula hoop from teacher Stacey Wyckoff.

# PECS says 'Yes' to NOPE Task Force

BY EMMA JOHNS  
Freelance Writer

**BRIGHTON** — On May 15, middle school students at Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School attended a presentation by the Narcotics Overdose Prevention and Education (NOPE) Task Force, a nonprofit organization that creates awareness about drug overdoses through education, family support and purposeful advocacy to reduce their frequency and impact.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are approximately 28,000 fatal unintentional drug poisonings in the United States each year.

"There is nearly one death every day in Palm Beach County, and Okeechobee County has had 50 in the last two years alone," said Frank Whiting, director of the Okeechobee County Substance Abuse Coalition and NOPE coordinator.

The NOPE presentation consisted of three main topics: addiction, the danger of combining drugs, and the ability and need to save a life. Individual stories of juvenile and young adult overdoses were shared, bringing the presentation into a more realistic light.

"This is happening in every middle and high school in the nation," PECS principal Brian Greseth said. "People are

making poor choices and it is costing them their life."

Students heard an actual 911 call made by a mother who came home to find her son deceased on his bedroom floor due to an overdose of the prescription drug Xanax. The cafeteria was completely silent as students listened to the mother's heart-wrenching phone call.

"I've been that Road Patrol Officer that pulls into the driveway with the parents begging me to breathe life back into their child," said Capt. John Rhoden, of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Department. "All it takes is just one pill, or the first time drinking or using drugs, that may end a life."

Students learned that drugs and alcohol do not discriminate; the youngest child the presenters told students about was only 13 years old.

They also learned the importance of saving a life and not waiting until it is too late to get friends or family members the help they need.

"The presentation made me get teary eyed," said eighth-grader Crysten Smith. "I realize even more that I want to stay away from drugs and go to college and graduate."

"Everyone should stay away from drugs and accomplish what they believe in," added classmate Diamond Shore. "Doing drugs will only get in the way."

## Students of the Month



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Congratulations to the Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School Elementary Students of the Month: Tiyanni Anderson, Kobe Micco, Akeelah Mitchell, Luis Lerma, Summer Gopher, Wyatt Thornton, Creek Gopher, Chyler Villarreal, Caleb Burton, Alice Osceola, Joss Youngblood, Jaytron Baker, Dalencé Carrillo, Hyatt Pearce, Jacey White, Malcolm Jones, Janessa Nunez, Waylynn Bennett and Jarrett Bert. Not pictured in photo: Waylynn Bennett and Jarrett Bert.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Congratulations to the Middle School Students of the Month: Aidan Tommie, Sean Osceola, Trevor Thomas and Richard Smith. Not pictured in photo: Richard Smith.

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# Charter School's top employees are honored

BY ANDREA HOLATA  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School has some of the top teachers around the surrounding counties because of the commitment they make to the school. And to ensure they know how much their hard work is appreciated, the Parent Teacher School Organization (PTSO) committee organized a banquet May 8 to honor them.

All the teachers and staff received jackets with the school logo and were treated to a catered dinner. The volunteers who offer endless support were also recognized.



Andrea Holata

Pictured, from left, are Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Non-instructional Employee of the Year Linda Long, Elementary Teacher of the Year Victoria Paige, Cultural Teacher of the Year Jade Braswell Osceola, Middle School Teacher of the Year Qenten Pritchard and PECS principal Brian Greseth.



Andrea Holata

Jade Braswell Osceola, center, proudly accepts a plaque from PTSO president Myra Gopher and principal Brian Greseth for Cultural Teacher of the Year.



Andrea Holata

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Student Council recite poems thanking the teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication.



Andrea Holata

Diana Greenbaum, Chris Duncan and Heather Dobbs show off their five-year pins.



Andrea Holata

PTSO president Myra Gopher, right, and principal Brian Greseth recognize Linda Long as Non-instructional Employee of the Year.



Andrea Holata

The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's physical education classes diverge from their regular routine to fish. From May 8-9, Charter School students ventured to the Harney Pond Locks on the south side of the Brighton Reservation where they spent the class baiting hooks and casting lines in attempt to catch fish.

# Students venture off campus for physical education classes



Emma Johns

Diamond Shore rides a horse. Seminole 4-H brought students to the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena to teach horsemanship.



Andrea Holata

From left, Conner Thomas, Krista Burton, Chynna Villarreal, Aleina Micco and Gage Riddle bait their fishing lines.



Emma Johns

Raylon Eagle enjoys learning proper horsemanship.

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Beverly Bidney

Teachers and students prepare traditional food under the cooking chickee during Culture Camp in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Students work with Martha Jones to prepare corn for sofkee.



Beverly Bidney

Aubee Billie gently places an Indian dog into hot oil under the cooking chickee.



Beverly Bidney

Boys intently carve tomahawks from cypress knees.



Beverly Bidney

Jason Sampson carves a tomahawk from a cypress knee.



Beverly Bidney

To their delight, the boys learn to throw tomahawks.



Beverly Bidney

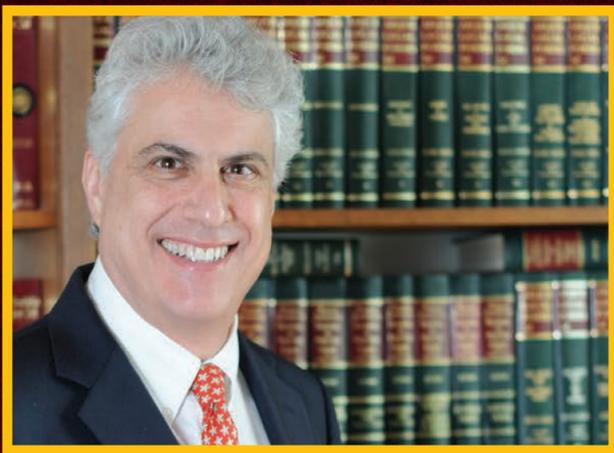
Teacher Jimi Lu Huff and Camryn Thomas peel a layer off the bark of the swamp cabbage to get to the tender center.



Beverly Bidney

Robert Fudge, left, scrapes hair off a hog's head as Drayton Billie, right, scrapes it off the body to prepare it for butchering.

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# Sports

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## Kids shoot hoops for college coaches at Recreation's College Exposure Camp

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — To get ahead, it's not always what you know but who you know. For youth who want to play basketball in college, finding a way to showcase their skills on the court to coaches can be a challenge. But Seminole youth got the advantage by participating in the Basketball College Exposure Camp at the Hollywood Gym April 20 and 27.

The student athletes played real games which were videotaped. The tapes will be distributed to National Collegiate Athletic Association coaches at junior colleges, Division II and Division III colleges and universities.

"This is the first time the Tribe has done this," said Richard Blankenship, director of Recreation. "People spend a lot of money getting this information to the colleges; this is how kids get seen. It's very uncommon for kids to be signed by a college without this process."

Tocara Williams, of the Sweet Rebound basketball program, ran the camps for boys and girls. A former college player for Texas A&M University, she will send the tapes to a large network of coaches around the country.

"The goal is to get them out to as many coaches as possible so they can see what the kids can add to their programs," Williams said. "The unique thing is these athletes' educations are paid for, which is a good selling point because schools have limited scholarship money to spend. It's like gold to the coaches who won't have to use those funds."

Shoni and Jude Schimmel, sisters and basketball stars who played for Louisville in the NCAA Championship series this year, brought a lot of attention to "rez ball" and Native American players.

"They are on the radar now," Williams said. "Rez ball is a different type of game and most people don't know about all the tournaments on the reservations. A lot of coaches are doing more research on Native American players, and I think this will be very good for them."

Coaches like to see how athletes play throughout a game, so Williams will send unedited video footage. Six girls and nine boys played in the two exposure camps, and Sweet Rebound brought pickup players to increase numbers and competition.

"It motivates me to keep doing it and pushing myself to practice more so I'll be prepared," said Darlah Cypress, 15, a 10th-grader at Ahfachkee. "I want to play in college."

"I'm looking for a college career and



Beverly Bidney

Darlah Cypress dribbles her way through defenders to the basket during the College Exposure Camp on April 20 in Hollywood.

hope to get one," added Shae Pierce, 14, a ninth-grader at Okeechobee High School.

The students realize the difficulties of getting in front of college-level coaches and appreciated the exposure.

Robyn Swaby, assistant coach at Johnson & Wales University in Miami, said she was impressed with the girls' game.

"I'm looking for a lot of hustle and

understanding of the fundamentals," she said. "We are guard heavy, so we are looking for post players and centers. These players are young, but I was impressed."

The students understood the importance of the event, but Williams made sure they understood the perspective of sports.

"You have to be a student athlete, not an athlete who is a student," Williams said.

"Homework is important; a champion is made when no one's looking. It looks easy on the court, but no one knows what goes on behind closed doors when you are working late into the night to do schoolwork."

Still, the kids were glad to have coaches see them play the game they love.

"It's the perfect opportunity to get recognized and looked at by coaches,"

said Aaron Alvarado, 17, an 11th-grader at Immokalee High School who wants to go to FSU. "I want to get my education, but I always wanted to play basketball in college."

♦ See more BASKETBALL photos on page 5C

## Junior rodeos turn out local competitors

### Youth qualify for Indian National Finals Rodeo

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Only one more Tribalwide kids' rodeo competition stands between Seminole youth and a chance at national rodeo recognition.

At 7 p.m. May 31, the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena will thunder with cheers for junior bull riders, cattle breakaway competitors and barrel racers from Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee who will vie for a spot at the 38th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR).

The boys, all teenagers, are already card-carrying members of the INFR. More than 20 girls will also compete for eligibility in the national championship finals set for Nov. 5-9 in Las Vegas.

"As far as the 'for sure' INFR kids making it, we just won't know until the last rodeo on May 31," said Jo "Boogie" Jumper, secretary for the regional Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) of Seminole Tribe members.

The two highest point winners in the 19-year-old EIRA's junior bull riding and junior breakaway competition may also get to tour rodeos nationwide with the

EIRA adult competitors. EIRA members, including Youth Events director Moses Jumper Jr. and president Alfonso Tigertail, are mentors for youth competitors. Some of the kids have been riding since age 4.

Jumper said the May 31 event on the Big Cypress Reservation will also feature more than 50 youth, from ages 4 to 17, who will show their steel in mutton busting, pony riding, calf roping, chute dogging and steer undecorating.

"These are the kids who competed all year and now it comes down to the end, like any sports playoff like in football, baseball or basketball," Jumper said. "This is the rodeo playoffs."

Thirteen saddle prizes will be awarded to the top point earners in each category. Runners-up will receive belt buckles.

So far, competitors bucking for a chance at the INFR championship are: Jaylen Baker, Cisco Rodriguez, Dyami Nelson and Danny Rodriguez for INFR junior bull riding and Dyami Nelson, Jaylen Baker and Jacob Parks for INFR junior breakaway competition. Barrel racers include top contenders Diamond Osceola, Madysyn Osceola, Budah Jumper, Jaycee Jumper, Aiyana Tommie and Kalgary Johns.

"This is a great opportunity for everyone to come out and watch our future rodeo stars," Jumper said. "Some kids will go for the year-end points and win saddles and other awards. Some kids are pretty close to being year-end winners. It's all the excitement of the rodeo."

An additional, non-sanctioned and not-for-points series of rodeo events hosted by the EIRA for kids will run every last Saturday of each month through the summer. Call the rodeo office for more information at 863-983-8923.

## 'Comanche Boy' inspires youth to follow dreams

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Kids poured into the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on May 15 to meet one of today's most exciting Native American professional boxers, George "Comanche Boy" Tahdoahnippah.

A middleweight with a 31-1-1 record, Tahdoahnippah has been a pro boxer for 10 years. Since he began boxing, he has been featured on ESPN2's *Friday Night Fights*, won the World Boxing Council Continental America's middleweight title and won fights with 23 knockouts. After each win, Tahdoahnippah celebrates with his own Comanche victory dance.

"Sports always kept me grounded," said Tahdoahnippah, a member of the Comanche Tribe. "I had so many challenges and obstacles in my way, but my dad stayed on me to get my education and be the best in the class."

Tahdoahnippah wasn't always sure what he wanted to do, so he began as a wrestler in school. It eventually led

him to a full scholarship at Delaware State University. He also competed in amateur kickboxing and dominated the light heavyweight division in the Oklahoma Original Toughman Contest. After that, he found his calling in the boxing ring, where he was a natural. He won his first professional fight with a technical knockout in the first round. He remained undefeated until recently, but he is still a highly ranked contender.

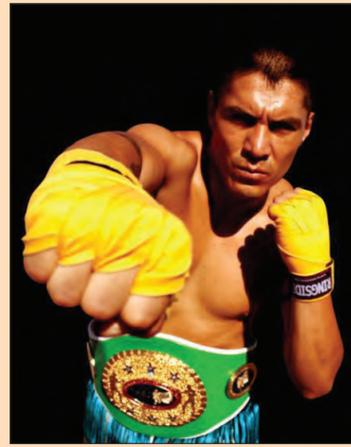


Photo courtesy of George Tahdoahnippah

Native American boxer George 'Comanche Boy' Tahdoahnippah recently spoke to Tribal youth about the importance of chasing their dreams.

Tahdoahnippah said the hardest part of being a boxer is the training.

"The support from Indian people is tremendous," he said. "Even though I'm Comanche, I represent Seminoles. All the Indian people are always behind me, and I represent them, too. I'm just a young, hungry Native American fighter trying to make a name and some noise for the Native American people."

Tahdoahnippah lives in Lawton, Okla. with his wife and four children. He strongly believes people should always strive to achieve their dreams.

"I have always chased my dream; I'm still doing that now," he said. "I'm trying to get a world title."



Eileen Soler

SirMarcus Osceola shows he has what it takes for wild pony riding on April 26 during the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association's non-sanctioned kids' rodeo at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.

♦ See more RODEO photos on page 3C

# Big Cypress puts spotlight on Ahfachkee athletes

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — With the end of the school year comes the end of the sports season. Ahfachkee School celebrated the Warrior and Lady Warrior student athletes with a sports banquet on May 16, complete with awards and accolades.

Awards and certificates were piled high on a table near the stage and flower arrangements decorated the dining tables at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, which looked more like a banquet hall than a gym. Each team member received a certificate of participation, top athletes received recognition for their efforts with letter jackets and nine scholar athletes received recognition for their achievements in the classroom as well as in the sports arena.

Devan Bowers and Dasani Cypress were awarded Warrior and Lady Warrior of the Year.

Keynote speaker J. Webb Horton, assistant director of Community Outreach at Florida Gulf Coast University, congratulated students for their hard work and parents for the sacrifices they made for their children. Although Ahfachkee didn't have the winning records in their sports, Horton acknowledged the importance of showing up.

"The record doesn't matter — competing does," he said. "Don't worry about wins and losses; the main thing is how you compete."

Awards were presented in volleyball, golf, basketball and softball. Coaches talked about the athletes and remarked on the progress of their teams over the course of the season.

"It was a beginning year and one of learning," said volleyball coach Bernadette Schyvinch. "The team grew stronger, and by the end of the season, they were working together. I congratulate them for their effort, persistence and never giving up."

Golf instructor Amos Mazzant was impressed by the success of the team and had good things to say about each player. Two of the players, Dasani Cypress and Quenton Cypress will compete in the Jim Thorpe games in Oklahoma next month.

"The team had only one returning player; the other five had never played before," he said. "Golf is a gentleman's game; it builds character. The team improved dramatically over the season. They took 30 points off their score. I've never seen so much talent."

Girls' basketball coach Kristin Stoots enthusiastically praised the team.

"I saw these girls come together as a family," she said. "I'm very proud of this team and look forward to more successful

years to come."

The boys' coach was equally effusive with his praise.

"This was a learning year for us and we had tough games," said coach Cicero Osceola. "But the team didn't give up and they played hard. It didn't matter what the score was, they battled hard. It was a great season because we were out there playing hard."

It was softball coach Danny Tommie's first time coaching girls and it surprised him a bit.

"When you coach a bunch of young ladies, you learn something every day," he said. "They are good at what they do. It was a tough season, but they pulled it together. In spite of the adversity, they did a good job, stuck with it and with each game they got better and better. The dedication and responsibility you have here will stay with you for life."

Warrior of the Year Devan Bowers, 15, has played sports his entire life. Basketball is his favorite, but he also enjoys football.

"I was surprised to get the Warrior of the Year," he said. "I'm kind of glad I got it; I made my parents proud."

Lady Warrior of the Year Dasani Cypress, 13, was also proud of her accomplishment.

"I feel all my hard work paid off," she



Beverly Bidney

Devan Bowers and Dasani Cypress win Warrior and Lady Warrior of the Year.

said. "I never thought that what my dad said — if you keep working on it, it will pay off — was true, but it was. I was surprised once I listened to my parents; it worked in the long run. I'm glad I listened."



Beverly Bidney

Members of the boys' basketball team with coach Cicero Osceola celebrate their season during the Ahfachkee sports banquet held at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on May 16.



Beverly Bidney

Members of the girls' softball team pose with coach Danny Tommie and show off their awards.

# T-ballers slide into season's end in Big Cypress



Eileen Soler

The Braves, led by coach AJ Buster, win the final game of the T-ball season. From left, Hayzen Balentine, Jacob Long, Lazzlow Billie and Ezekiel Billie pose with their trophies.



Eileen Soler

Eric Green Jr. swings for a hit during the last game of the T-ball season at the Big Cypress Reservation.



Eileen Soler

Members of the Marlins T-Ball team continue the fun after the last game of the season. From left, Eric Green Jr., Ina Robbins, coach Jarrid Smith, Halley Balentine and Blaze Cypress show off their trophies.



Eileen Soler

Jacob Long touches home plate while his teammate finds the clay around the plate interesting.



Eileen Soler

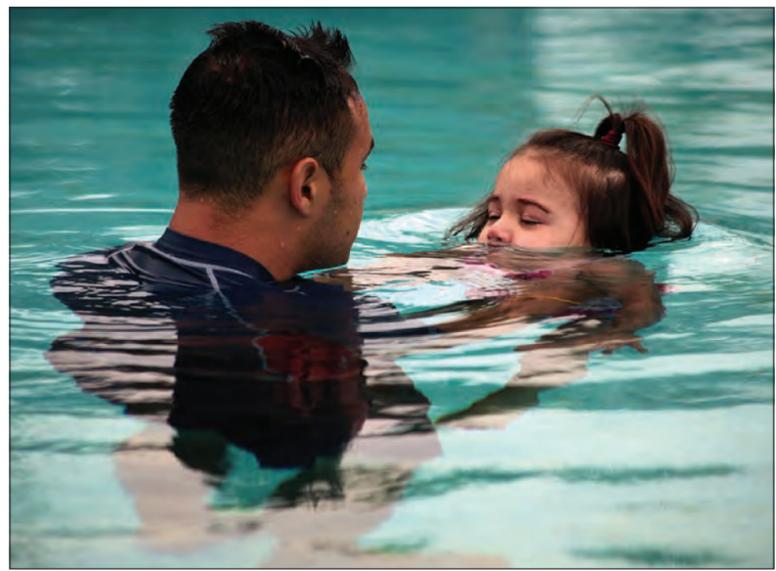
Marlins coach Jarrid Smith keeps an eye on the batter while first baseman Lazzlow Billie readies to play ball and Ina Robbins braces to run.



Eileen Soler

Jacob Long waits for his turn to bat while Recreation coordinator Kelvin Robinson prepares the tee.

# Kids get into the swim of things at Hollywood pool



Beverly Bidney

Mackenzie Holt puts her head underwater to blow bubbles as lifeguard and swim instructor Hector Casallas assists her during swimming lessons in the Hollywood pool.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — With the large number of pools, lakes and canals in Florida, learning to swim is critical. The Hollywood Recreation Department offers American Red Cross swimming lessons through the end of the summer to keep children safe while in and around the water.

Designed for kids ages 6 months to 5 years, the program teaches children swimming basics and acclimates them to the water through activities including blowing bubbles and playing with water toys. Parents join their little ones in the pool for Mommy and Me classes, where they help teach floating, kicking and swimming back to the side of the pool.

Not all children take to the water easily, so the patience and calm demeanor of a swim teacher is important to the success of the program. Lifeguard Hector Casallas has ample patience as he teaches children in the water.

Swim classes are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. Classes are limited to five participants, so call the Recreation Department at 954-989-9457 ext. 10809 to reserve a spot.



Beverly Bidney

Hector Casallas helps Mackenzie Holt get the feel of kicking her legs in the water.

◆ More **RODEO** photos from page 1C



Eileen Soler

Longtime EIRA competitor Naha Jumper, of Brighton, offers a supportive hand to junior rodeo cowhand Chubby Osceola on April 26.



Eileen Soler

Ahnie Jumper keeps her eyes fixed and her rope taut in the junior breakaway roping contest.



Eileen Soler

Half-pint cowboy Jace Johns competes in mutton busting at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.



Eileen Soler

Cisco Rodriguez hangs on for INFR time in the junior bull riding competition.



Eileen Soler

Dyami Nelson earns fast points just out of the pen in the steer undecorating challenge.



Eileen Soler

Kalgary Johns rides fast, tight and happy in the barrel races.



Eileen Soler

Competitors take a break during the rodeo.



Eileen Soler

Riding on top of a sheep during a junior rodeo mutton busting competition is a hard thing to do, but fun — especially without using hands.

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# Announcements

## WILLIE FRANK LIBRARY

### LIBRARY TEEN BOOK CLUB

The Willie Frank Library will be hosting a weekly Teen Book Club meeting every Tuesday & Thursday

beginning Tuesday, June 11

Time: 3:30 to 5 p.m.

All Tribal member teens are welcome to attend.

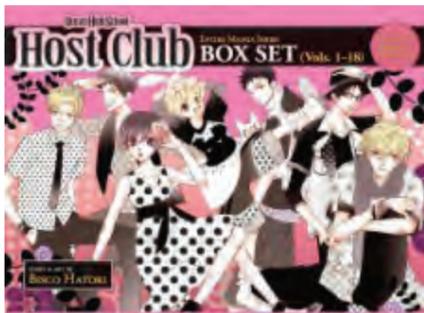
The first series will be "Ouran High School Host Club."

After reading and discussing the books, posters can be created in the book's theme.

All art supplies will be provided.

TEENS, please sign up for this new book club.

PIZZA WILL BE SERVED ON THURSDAYS



**SIGN UP AT THE LIBRARY !!**

## 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, email Yolanda Gore at YolandaGore@semtribe.com.



## Isabella Motlow excels in art



Isabella Motlow is 8 years old and is in the second grade at the University School in Davie. She enjoys designing robots, swimming, playing games on her iPad and painting. She painted the image above as part of a school project called Second Grade Still Life. She lives on the Hollywood Reservation and her proud parents are David and Rhonda Motlow, and her sisters are Ashley, Dominique and Kenzie. Her very proud grandparents are Bob and Agnes Motlow, and numerous cousins of the Bear Clan are proud of her, too.

- Submitted by Agnes Motlow

### Tribune Announcement Submission Form

Attention Seminole Tribal members: If you would like to submit an announcement (birthday, new baby, marriage, etc.) or story idea to *The Seminole Tribune*, please fill out the information provided below. Please print clearly.

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
MOTHER: \_\_\_\_\_  
FATHER: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHILDREN: \_\_\_\_\_  
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CLAN: (OPTIONAL) \_\_\_\_\_

*The Seminole Tribune* contact information:  
Phone: 954-985-5701 x 10725 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Address: 3560 N. State Road 7, Hollywood, FL 33021  
Fax: 954-965-2937  
E-mail: [BrettDaly@semtribe.com](mailto:BrettDaly@semtribe.com)  
Please include your mailing address if photos are to be returned.

## In loving memory of Devin Mindy Cypress-Kimble

Five years ago we buried you on April 21, 2008; I still can't believe the fact that you're gone and five years have passed. I'm still waiting for the day we cross paths. I cannot put into words just how much I miss you. I miss your smile and your comforting laughter and especially your humble ways, your motivating words. You have always helped me no matter what the circumstances were. They say time heals all wounds, but I sure haven't healed yet. You were truly an angel on Earth, one in a million. I know you could never be duplicated, but I will try to live in a more humble way in your honor. Thank you for showing me true loyalty and how a real family is supposed to be. I'm forever grateful to have had you in my life and will cherish the memories we shared. You're never forgotten - always in my heart and forever imprinted on my soul. I love you and always will.

Love always,  
Your cousin/sister  
Carolee Jeanette Watkins  
(FOOSHE 4 LIFE)

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Christine & Dominick

# Youth compete in Hershey Track Meet

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**OKEECHOBEE** — Pematyv Emahakv Charter School student athletes competed at the annual Hershey Track Meet at Okeechobee High School on May 10. The meet included numerous schools from the area and determined who would qualify to compete in the State competition June 22 in Miramar.

The following students will compete:  
 Ramone Baker: 100 M  
 Sunni Bearden: 100 M  
 Alicia Fudge: 100 M and Broad Jump  
 Justin Gopher: 50 M and 400 M  
 Caylie Huff: Broad Jump  
 Danyelle Boromei: 200 M  
 Jason Sampson: 100 M, 200 M, Broad Jump  
 Mallorie Thomas: 400 M  
 Caroline Sweat: Softball Throw  
 Alyke Baker: Softball Throw  
 Julia Smith: 400 M  
 Elle Thomas: Softball Throw  
 LaShae King: 400 M  
 Cyrus Smedley: Softball Throw



Beverly Bidney  
Lucas Osceola is as quick as the wind during the Hershey Track Meet at Okeechobee High School May 10.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

The Pematyv Emahakv Charter School baseball team visits Florida Gulf Coast University.

## PECS travels to FGCU

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**FORT MYERS** — Pematyv Emahakv Charter School's softball and baseball teams visited Florida Gulf Coast University to watch college-level games played.

The girls' softball team traveled to the school April 13 and the boys' baseball team went April 10, where they met coaches,

players and saw the intensity of college athletics. The sixth- through eighth-grade students asked a lot of questions while they were on the trip and most brought parents with them.

"We are all about showing the students life beyond the charter school," said Darryl Allen, athletic director. "The more they see colleges, the more real it becomes as an option."



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

The Pematyv Emahakv Charter School softball team visits Florida Gulf Coast University.

### More BASKETBALL photos from page 1C



Beverly Bidney

Joshua Madrigal, of Brighton, dribbles through defenders on his way to the basket.



Beverly Bidney

Brandtley Osceola, of Hollywood, goes for a layup at the boys' College Exposure Camp.



Beverly Bidney

Broden Osceola Hagen blocks David Ethan Billie, of Immokalee.



Beverly Bidney

Shae Pierce, of Brighton, shoots for two during the girls' College Exposure Camp.



Beverly Bidney

Justin Gopher, right, glances at his competition before leaving them in the dust in the final 50 meter race. Teammate Ramone Baker, left, pushes forward.



Beverly Bidney

Silas Madrigal leaps for distance in the standing long jump.



Beverly Bidney

Ramone Baker runs in the 100 meter race.



Beverly Bidney

PECS students and staff cheer for their athletes from the stands.

## Community gathers for annual Hope Tommie Wilcox Tournament



Andrea Holata

Family members of Hope Tommie Wilcox come together as part of the annual memorial bowling tournament in her honor held at Superplay USA bowling alley on May 11 in Port St. Lucie. The 13th annual event featured regular, 3-6-9 and no-tap play for cash prizes, celebrating the life the semiprofessional bowler.



Andrea Holata

From left, Jo Jo Osceola, Leon Wilcox Jr. and Josh Sneed pose for a friendly photo after the tournament.



Andrea Holata

Dwayne Billie bowls for a strike in regular tournament play.



JULY 22-27

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