



The Seminole

Voice of the Unconquered



Tribune

www.seminoletribune.org • 50¢

Volume XXXVII • Number 10

October 25, 2013

Power plant threatens Seminole life



Eileen Soler

This massive sprawl of an FPL power plant in Palm Beach County could be duplicated right next door to the Big Cypress Reservation.

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Cruising north on State Road 880 along stretches of pastoral farmland, a mammoth lineup of gray metal and smokestacks loom at the horizon 20 miles away. From 15 miles, the air takes on an unfamiliar stink that lingers and contradicts the bucolic breadth of cattle pastures, vegetable fields and blue sky.

At the destination, the 220-acre Florida Power & Light Co. (FPL) West County Energy Center in Palm Beach County drew gasps from nearly 30 Tribal members who saw for themselves the monstrous example of what FPL wants to build next door to the Big Cypress Reservation.

The cavalcade organized by Big

Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger provided an up-close view of what could likely sit on 3,200 acres of non-Tribal land about a mile from the planned campus of Ahfachkee High School on County Road 833, otherwise known as Josie Billie Highway.

Some Tribal members stared with disbelief at the Palm Beach facility's spread. The project at Big Cypress — in the middle of proven habitat for the endangered Florida panther, wood stork, eastern indigo snake and crested caracara — is proposed to be a duplicate.

The plant will require the use of 22 million gallons of water per day pumped from the underground Tamiami Aquifer, a primary source of water for all of Hendry County.

"They want to put all of this right here

at our reservation?" Claudia Doctor asked. But she already knew the answer.

Doctor was among dozens of Tribal members who were informed about the project during a community meeting held days earlier at the Big Cypress Senior Center.

"We've been two years in litigation over the rezoning of the property," said Andrew Bauman, a lawyer with Lewis, Longman & Walker law firm, at the meeting. "If it goes in their favor, FPL will build (near Big Cypress) the largest natural gas plant in Florida and one of the largest in the United States."

The Hendry County Commission voted in 2011 to change the zoning of the property, then a cattle ranch, from agricultural to Planned Unit Development (PUD) at the

request of owner and developer Eddie Garcia, of Virginia Beach, Va.

PUD generally describes a mixed use of compatible development, such as residences, businesses, recreation and industry.

After the county changed the zoning, Garcia sold the land called McDaniel Reserve to FPL.

The Tribe subsequently sued the county to reverse the rezoning on grounds that the proposed FPL plant site is not compatible with the area's sensitive ecologic needs, the centuries-old cultural and historic lifestyle of the Tribe — which is the neighboring community — or the county's own land use guidelines.

♦ See POWER PLANT on page 5A

Seminole, Swinomish secure first intertribal commerce

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Intertribal business has come a long way since historic days when neighboring Native American groups traded crops and other goods to sustain communities.

In fact, the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Swinomish Tribe, near Skagit County in Washington, have cemented the "first true native-to-native" business endeavor in the United States — albeit with 3,350 miles between them, said Anne Jennings, economic development specialist at the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in Washington, D.C.

"That's what makes it so exciting," Jennings said. "If two Tribes from the farthest locations in the nation can make it work, then all other Tribes can fall in."

Joe Tillman, founding director of the Seminole Pride brand of products that includes water, citrus juice, beef, fresh fruit and fruit baskets, said the first transaction between the two Tribes happened about six months ago when Seminole Pride shipped pallets of orange juice to the Swinomish and in return received 1,600 cases of canned salmon from the Swinomish Fish Co. The juice is available at the 13moons steakhouse on the Swinomish Reservation, while the salmon is served at the Council Oak restaurant in the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Allan E. Olson, general manager of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, a fishing community about 70 miles north of Seattle on Puget Sound, said the 13moons menu highlights foods harvested, hunted and produced by Native Americans.

♦ See COMMERCE on page 7A

Council votes for more control over Tribal land

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) was approved by Tribal Council to create an ordinance that will streamline the process of protecting and utilizing Seminole land.

"It's a mechanism for the legalities to go back into the hands of the Seminole Tribe," said Paul Backhouse, a THPO officer and the executive director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, at the Oct. 11 Council meeting.

Currently, the Tribe is bound by the National Historic Preservation Act to submit surveys of Tribal land under consideration for development for any reason — including homesite assignments. The documents are sent for review and clearance to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

Backhouse said a team of Tribal members, especially those who are most culturally aware, will help establish rules and regulations that will not be subject to BIA discretion. For instance, if a proposed construction site survey indicates the presence of raccoon bones, the Tribe's committee will OK construction because Seminoles know that raccoon bones hold no historic or cultural significance.

"We will save money, time in staffing and clearance will come a lot faster. We won't be held up by an office in Tennessee every time we want to approve a homesite," Backhouse said.

Backhouse said the recent national government shutdown brought some department business to a grinding halt because offices that route decisions, the BIA included, were closed.

"Right now the entire process is slowed down because paperwork is sitting untouched on a desk in Nashville," Backhouse said. The new ordinance will clear that roadblock.

In other news, the Council, except for dissenting Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, voted yes to a \$337,000 construction contract for a new shooting range in Big Cypress; tabled a decision

♦ See COUNCIL MEETING on page 6A

Board means business at Global Gaming Expo

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

LAS VEGAS — The Board of Directors' ongoing effort to seek and establish new business prospects took them to the Global Gaming Expo (G2E) in Las Vegas from Sept. 23-26, where they displayed their latest venture: new vending machines for the Tribe's Seminole Unconquered electronic cigarettes.

"Our main reason for coming here was to create leads for the e-cigs," said President Tony Sanchez Jr., who attended the conference with Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard and Hollywood Board Rep. M. Steve Osceola. "We want to have a presence in the gaming industry and showcase our new units for the e-cigs. We're trying to create a buzz. We've been one of the busier spots on the floor; when you always have bodies around, that's a good sign."

To create "buzz," the Board set up its booth in a prominent location and manned it with knowledgeable people to promote the product. Visits from several celebrities also helped generate interest.

During the expo, the Seminole Unconquered sales force got commitments from five Washington Tribes, as well as from Top Wholesale, a non-Tribal distributor with 2,000 stores in Washington and Oregon. Additional companies in the U.S., Australia, Europe, the Bahamas and other Tribes also expressed interest.

"Things are moving fast," said Joseph Brant, vice president of sales. "There has been a plethora of Tribal casinos coming by. They say they're happy to see a fellow Tribe doing something."

This was the second year for Seminole Unconquered to have a booth at the expo and to exceed expectations.

"The e-cig business is taking off," Rep. Howard said. "We want to make as much happen as possible. We have a strong administration and have been making a whole lot of progress on this journey. As long as I'm here, I'm going to keep beating the bushes to find businesses for my Tribe. I

was born to do this."

The booth was busy with people visiting to learn about the product and network.

Native American actor Jeremiah Bitsui, who played Victor on the hit TV show *Breaking Bad*, spent time signing autographs and taking photographs with fans at the Tribe's booth. In addition to acting, he does construction development

in Indian Country. Bitsui said he welcomes a chance to partner with the Tribe on a construction project.

"My business is to see if there's a way to help people out either by making introductions or in a more active role," said Bitsui, who is Navajo and Mohawk.

Professional boxer James Toney, who has held titles in middleweight, super

middleweight and cruiserweight divisions, and retired World Boxing Organization heavyweight champion boxer Lamon Brewster also spent time at the booth.

G2E is widely known as the most comprehensive international gaming trade show and conference in the world.

♦ See G2E on page 4A



Beverly Bidney

Electronic cigarette director Thomasine Motlow shows the new electronic cigarette vending machine to a prospective customer at the Global Gaming Expo held in Las Vegas from Sept. 23-26.



Editorial

Like the old Florida flag: 'Let us alone!'

• James E. Billie

Mascots have started to surface again, with controversy. Different people of this land are objecting to the use of Native American mascots and it's in the news again. We Seminoles down in Florida have no qualms with other Indian people objecting to the use of mascots that may insult Native Americans.

But we, the people of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, support the Florida State University mascot. Though it is a mascot for a sports team, it also represents the courage of the people who were here and are still here, known as the Unconquered Seminoles.

As the Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, I know of no one in my Tribe objecting to the use of the mascot. I consider the students and graduates of FSU as my extended family. At one time our Seminole people here in Florida were reduced down to less than 200 individuals. Though our Tribal population has recovered, if you consider all the current students and past graduates of FSU, this extended family of Seminole supporters is several hundred thousand strong.

When my family and I go to the homecoming games in Tallahassee, I enjoy doing the tomahawk chop and listening to the war chant. I enjoy the Appaloosa horse galloping out onto the field, our symbolic Osceola astride the beautiful beast as he spears the football field. My wife and son and daughter enjoy the exciting atmosphere of college football game day.

Why do we Seminoles in Florida support FSU using the Seminole mascot? What is unique about the Florida Seminoles is that back in the 1700s and 1800s when the Spanish were hunting us and later when the Indian Removal Act passed, our Tribal population was decimated. Staring into the eyes of defeat, time and time again, we have prevailed, and today the Florida Seminoles are considered among the best business people on this Earth. Hard Rock has brought us to this level, which few could even imagine would ever happen. And all during that time, we considered ourselves the Unconquered Seminoles.

And, although we were reduced in numbers, we never signed a treaty. And, by the grace of God, we still live in the land we love.

I know the people who are objecting to Native American mascots and I have no qualms as to what they are asking. I'm sure they have their own legitimate objectives. But, whatever they are doing, the only thing we are saying is, "Let our mascot alone!"

Contrary to what many may think, we do not ask FSU for any particular favors in return for using Seminole as their mascot. We did not go to Tallahassee begging for anything. The university, itself, opened its doors to some sort of tuition offer, but we do not go to that level. We stand on our own two feet and we don't ask for any particular favors.

We had a meeting one time and we only asked that they portray the Seminole mascot as authentic as they can. I am not too sure of the Appaloosa, but it is a beautiful horse. We Seminoles did ride horses, and I do believe Appaloosas are commonly depicted as Indian-type animals.

The man who portrays Osceola may not be an Indian, but behind the war robes, he must carry Osceola's spirit with him. He must have high personal standards and, academically, maintain good grades. For he portrays one of the most well-known warriors throughout world history. The name Osceola is well-known throughout the world, from North America to Europe. Perhaps even in Russia and China.

So all I can say is, "Let our mascot alone." It's been a long time since that meeting, but I made a joke about it at the time. I told the

university president, "We Seminoles will embrace the mascot as long as the team is winning." But that was a joke. It doesn't matter if we are losing or not, we still love the team. However, the majority of the time we are winning anyway. FSU has always had an excellent football team.

As for the Redskin issue that has resurfaced recently: History tells us that years ago, the Iroquois and other Indian nations used to paint their bodies red to prepare for battle. The color red, when we put it on our bodies is in preparation for death; just in case we die, we will be ready. It's the same as when somebody dies – you take them to church and pray for them in hopes they go to heaven. In battle, you can't do that, so you have to prepare yourself for death.

Us, we put red below our eyes and elsewhere and it's the same – preparation for death if it comes. I guess in the northern Indian countries, they may use more red. But, as far as I know, that is where the term "red skin" came from. That's the way I know it. To me, it has nothing necessarily to do with their actual skin color. Because Indians aren't red; they are brown.

Some Native Americans may be offended by the word because of other reasons, and I have no qualms with them objecting to it. All I am saying is just let my mascot alone.

When I see that football team, I do not think of Washington Redskins as an insult. I think it is a heroic football team rated high in battle because Indians, by heredity, enjoy sports, vicious sports. You play the ball game as close as you can get to the old days of warfare. As a matter of fact, the ball game is what we call the "Little Brother to War."

I am sure there will be people out there who don't like what I am saying. But remember, in the old Indian days, you don't travel to another Indian's territory and start trying to tell him what to do. It's the same today. People have come into my territory, which is the state of Florida, and tried to tell us what to do. I told them to go back to their own territory. In my own territory of Florida, we support the FSU mascot. I am not going to cross the line and start telling other people how to do their business. We Seminoles don't go to their territory and start dictating to them.

Stay out of my territory. This is my place, my home, my university, my mascot, my Tribal members and my extended family.

The state of Florida has never been prejudiced toward our people. They have always embraced us and tried to help us get on our feet. And eventually we did. And now we take care of our people through the help of many, especially our extended family of hundreds of thousands from FSU. Because, many times, you never know exactly who it is that is helping you. So, we respect that effort. We never say the white people have mistreated us.

Sure, somewhere on the battlefield we were mistreated. And we did our mistreatment the other way to the white. I don't have any ill feelings and the majority of the Seminole people do not have ill feelings.

We Seminoles intend to be on this Earth until the end of time and as far as I'm concerned, the mascot at FSU will be there forever. If the Seminoles die off the face of the Earth, maybe we'll take him with us.

Until then, here in Florida, the Seminoles embrace our FSU mascot. As the first Florida flag said in 1845: Let us alone!

Sho-naa-bish.

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



Famous Salacoa herd now Seminole Pride

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

First you have to know what you want. Then you have to position yourself to take action if the opportunity arises. I have mentioned this approach many times in this column. In fact, it is a business strategy that this administration is fully committed to.

And it works! No project since I have been President demonstrates this successful strategy more dramatically than our recent purchase of Salacoa Valley Farms, at the foothills of the Blue Ridge in northwest Georgia, home to one of the highest-end breeding bull herds in the country.

It happened very quickly, but we were ready. It started with an excited email from cattleman Alex Johns to the Board of Directors at 7:05 a.m., Monday, Sept. 16. Always with his ear to the ground of both state and national cattle news, Alex had discovered that Salacoa, one of the nation's premier cattle operations, was suddenly, unexpectedly, for sale. Its owner had been diagnosed with cancer and had ordered the entire herd liquidated.

"This is one of the largest and most progressive registered purebred Brangus outfits in the country," Alex wrote, urging us to take action. "Once a herd is liquidated, all the genetics that take a lifetime to develop is lost to another breeder."

Purchasing the entire herd? One of the best in the country? The wheels began to turn! That would allow us to access the premier genetics that we couldn't afford in the past. Premier genetics produce higher grade beef. The excitement surrounding this project began to build quickly. Taking this step would definitely signify that we want to become a serious producer of beef and to have our Seminole Pride Beef purchased by the major buyers.

Alex saw this as a final segment of our total vertical integration in our beef chain supply. The sale, he quickly determined, could include the lease of the land the Salacoa seed stock operation sits on. Our Seminole Pride Beef, already being sold by 66 restaurants in Florida, would benefit from owning such a huge seed stock operation producing some of the top genetics in the breed.

We all agreed with Alex but we faced a daunting task. Salacoa's mid-October bull sale was now being planned as a dispersal sale. If we determined this purchase would benefit our individual cattle owners and that it would hold up as a lucrative investment for the Seminole Tribe, we had to act quickly before all the stock was gone, sold piecemeal all over the country.

And, we were positioned to do just that. Board members Joe Frank and Larry Howard left to accompany Alex on a visit to Salacoa, where they were warmly received. We all were aware that the phones were likely ringing off the hook at Salacoa, as word of the sale skyrocketed through the cattle industry. An opportunity like this, which included the equipment, hay, semen and embryo inventories, genetically superior livestock (921 head total stock) and a top-tier reputation, comes along once in a lifetime, said Alex, who, along with Joe and Larry spent the day negotiating with Salacoa management.

Salacoa spent a lot of time with us. They liked the ideas our directors produced: keeping the herd together, expanding the great herd – maybe even doubling

it, keeping the same operations staff, buying everything Salacoa had and leasing the seed stock land. It became abundantly clear to us: If we are going to be serious in the beef business, this is the step we have to take. Right now, the way we have been buying bulls the past couple years, we have to make do with inferior bulls because we don't have the money to buy the type of genetics Salacoa is known for.

I received a lengthy email from Alex at 7:20 a.m. on Sept. 24, detailing an outstanding deal. Everything we wanted. They had a signed intent to purchase (which stopped the herd dispersal plans) and our staff was drawing up both the asset purchase agreement and lease management agreement that would lock in the deal. The three directors had looked into the entire operation, put together their own appraisal of the herd, made sure that everything was as advertised and legitimate, made an offer. And Salacoa took it.

In fact, our decision to buy Salacoa and keep that legendary herd together was praised throughout the marketplace, both large and small cattle owners who now can continue to buy these bulls. I'm told that a lot of people wanted to buy that place. But we jumped in there and got it done. We got there first and, positioned the way we were, we had the support to make it happen. In fact, we made enough on the cattle sale to run the ranch for six months.

I asked Alex what this means to our Seminole independent cattle owners. His response: "Eventually we want this place to be a stand-alone business. As we increase the bull numbers, it will allow me to siphon off a part of those bulls to come back to the reservation. And, at a better price than anyone can go out and shop for them. Cheaper bulls with better genetics. It takes a grade of 4 to sell choice and they are all choice. Many have marbling scores in the high 4s and 5s. At the end of the day, what it means for the independent cattle owners is more money in their pocket."

We are all excited about it. As I have said many times, we could have just continued drifting along as we were. But for us to take our programs to the next level, these are the things we have to continue to consider and when the opportunities present themselves we have got to jump on them.

I have directed my staff to organize a bus trip, in the near future, to the Salacoa Valley Farm for all Seminole cattle owners, as well as any other interested Tribal members. We will also produce a DVD to show our shareholders their investment. This is an actual working ranch; Alex told us, "This ain't no white picket fence operation!"

Everything we are doing – our water, our beef, our juice – to reach the masses we have to understand what our requirements are going to be, the quality of our product and our ability to deliver. Our goal is to control the whole process. It's all about position. And taking it to the next stage.

Sho-naa-bish.

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



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: 954-985-5700 Fax: 954-965-2937 Or subscribe online at www.SeminoleTribune.org

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

Issue: Nov. 29, 2013
Deadline: Nov. 6, 2013

Issue: Dec. 20, 2013
Deadline: Dec. 4, 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

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Community

A

Native artist, one man show

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — For the second time in less than two years, works by Seminole artist Elgin Jumper are in the spotlight at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Vivid colors flow like poetry from the first portrait to the last of Jumper's 12 paintings featured on the Mosaic Gallery wall — a section of the Museum reserved for art created by community members.

"The new exhibit is my evolution as an artist . . . it's a conversation, a dialog — like a stone skipping across the water," Jumper said during the Sept. 25 public opening of the one man show.

All but one piece was created since his last show in June 2012.

Jumper said the exhibit is also a responsive statement to the art he has enjoyed during his past decade of serious painting and a "shout out" to the artists who inspire him.

Henri Matisse's famous *Green Stripe* gets a nod with Jumper's impressionistic portrait of King Philip, a Native American hero who led an uprising against the English after the collection and shipment of Natives to the West Indies to be used as slaves in the 1600s.

In a modernistic self-portrait, Jumper tips a hat to the late T. C. Cannon, a member of the Kiowa Tribe, who made his artistic mark in the early 1970s with a show featuring Cannon's Southern Plains style at the Smithsonian Institution.

Rebecca Fell, curator of exhibits at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, said Jumper's work conjures themes about the Seminole Tribe and reveals

what those themes mean to him personally. Jumper's hand is evident in his unique use of color and brushstrokes, she said.

"Elgin talked about coming into his own style and here we see it happening," Fell said. "There is fluctuation from one piece to the next but there is the thread of 'Elgin' that ties them together."

In *Billy Bowlegs Goes to Washington*, Jumper borrows from the 17th-century painter Johannes Vermeer, and a quad-portrait of Osceola is doubtlessly Andy Warhol-esque.

But not all of Jumper's newest works are inspired by world-renowned artists.

Safari Sunset was painted from a snapshot taken of Jumper's father canoeing on the Big Cypress Reservation; *The Pick Up Artist* came to him while painting near a chickee off Josie Billie Highway with Seminole painter Jimmy Osceola; and *Big Cypress Shootout* was plucked from a photograph in *The Seminole Tribune*.

Born in Fort Lauderdale and raised in Hollywood, Jumper said he has been drawing and writing most of his life. His teacher, Nilda Comas, founder of Legacy Art Studio in Fort Lauderdale, called Jumper "a Renaissance man."

"Elgin is always studying, reading, writing poetry. I've seen his progress in leaps and bounds. He is my best student," Comas said.

For Jumper, his art is in a constant state of personal evolution — and revolution.

"For me, perception is not just where lines converge. To perceive is also to conceive," Jumper said. "I'm about a different perception, about finding a new way of presenting Seminole art."



Eileen Soler

Employees and Tribal members gather Oct. 4 in a show of solidarity against breast cancer dressed in everything pink at Frank Billie Field Office in Big Cypress during Wear Pink Day.

Think pink for breast cancer awareness

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Perky pink hues from bubble gum to bright magenta brightened a somber reason for the Big Cypress Reservation's Wear Pink Day: breast cancer awareness.

Amid cheery balloons, more than 50 Tribal members and employees in pink-ribbed T-shirts, skirts, hair ties and tiaras, mustered at the entrance of the Frank Billie Field Office to pick up free health information about the disease and to pose for a unified photographic statement Oct. 4.

"Who do I wear pink for? My great grandmother's sister died of breast cancer, so I wear pink for all women," said Michael Thomas, who donned shocking pink sneakers and a hot pink baseball cap.

Nearly a dozen more men also wore the otherwise feminine color in socks, shirts, shorts and baseball caps to show support.

Lunch at the Senior Center followed with healthy portions of whole grain rolls, beef tenderloin, squash and the "super food" broccoli, said Toma Hunter, a nutritionist with the Big Cypress Health Education. Hunter and health educator Sarah Pinto emceed the three-hour event that also featured a video about cancer from the eyes of a Native American woman who suffered through the illnesses and deaths of loved ones from lung, brain, breast and cervical cancer.

The Big Cypress event commemorated Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The department's community health outreach coordinator Edna McDuffie said other reservations also held events to bring attention to the disease that in 2009, the most recent year that numbers are available

from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), killed 40,676 women and 400 men nationwide.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native people, the CDC reports. Heart disease is first.

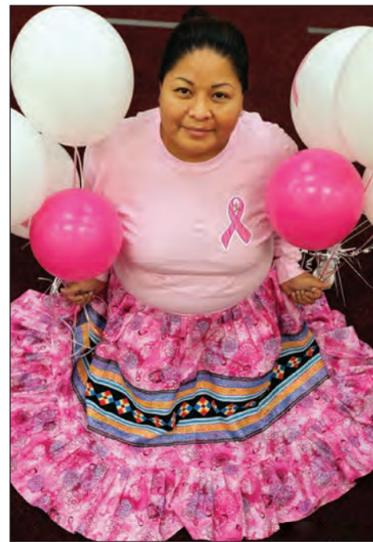
Though breast cancer occurs less in Native American populations (89 per 100,000), according to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure organization, than Caucasians (125.4 per 100,000) or African Americans (116.1 per 100,000), per the CDC, breast cancer diagnoses have steadily increased across Indian Country over the past two decades.

"The most important thing people will take from today is awareness. When our people hear cancer they don't always think breast cancer. No matter, we hope they get the message that they must check their breasts," McDuffie said.

Pinto said causes for breast cancer are unknown but the disease occurs when genes and DNA mutate. Preventative steps include: exercise three times for 30 minutes per week, consume only one alcoholic beverage a day — if at all, eat healthy foods to achieve and maintain a healthy weight and drink plenty of water.

For women with a family history of breast cancer or other high-risk factors, early detection through self-examination, mammograms and ultrasounds often hold the key to an easier, less painful battle. Many women can prevent breast cancer with yearly mammograms and other diagnosing tools that can detect pre-cancer conditions.

Kathryn Toahty, a family preservation counselor on Big Cypress whose great aunt had breast cancer, said her 16-year-old



Eileen Soler

Big Cypress Senior Center site manager Nadine Bowers poses dressed in pink with pink balloons during Wear Pink Day.

daughter and her 70-year-old mother were both diagnosed with early warning signs. Both underwent pre-emptive lumpectomies and are now fine.

"Events like this provide a sense of community for those who are sick," Toahty said. "It brings everyone together and provides a platform for us to talk so we can learn from each other's experiences — our joys and our struggles — and so we can pass what we learn on to generations."

Business profile: Seminole Smoothies

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — About 20 years ago, Judy Baker and her late husband, Pete Baker, worked at Holiday Park where they met tourists and sold alligator nuggets, Seminole souvenirs and juice. One day Pete made a tasty concoction of juices, added a secret ingredient and called it a Seminole Smoothie.

The rest, as they say, is history.

"We were just selling our Seminole things and Pete started mixing juices together," Baker said. "It tastes real good with gator nuggets and frybread. Our people just love it."

Seminole Smoothies has been a popular item at events on the reservations, Tribal Fair and pow-wows, and is also available at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood's pool on weekends.

The refreshing elixir is topped with a maraschino cherry. Other than fresh-

squeezed oranges, the rest of the recipe is a family secret. Baker said the best thing about the business is seeing customers' reactions when they taste the fruity drink.

Each Seminole Smoothie is made to order. Getting the recipe just right takes training.

Sometimes it's a challenge to teach employees the specific combination, Baker said.

The business is a family affair. After her husband passed away in 2004, Baker and her grandson Spencer Battiest carried on the Seminole Smoothies tradition.

Battiest has since moved on to a career as a singer and lives in Los Angeles, so Baker does her best to continue the business.

Recently, the booth was up and running at Indian Day in Hollywood, and Baker's grandchildren and others came by to help mix and serve the refreshment. On a day as hot as Indian Day was, with highs in the upper 80s and not a cloud in the sky, the booth was busy from the moment they started serving.

"My grandchildren know exactly how it's supposed to taste, so they give good feedback," Baker said.

Baker sees the big picture for her brand and one day would like to patent it, bottle it and distribute it.



Beverly Bidney

Judy Baker



Beverly Bidney

Leanne Diaz, 9, Judy Baker's granddaughter, makes Seminole Smoothies at Hollywood Indian Day.



Eileen Soler

Seminole artist Elgin Jumper shares personal thoughts about his artistic inspiration during the opening of his new one man show at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Tribe to send Florida warmth to South Dakota

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

While Floridians happily welcome the mild temperatures and low humidity of a Florida winter, residents of South Dakota must find ways to tolerate extremely bitter temperatures and massive blizzards winter brings their way.

To help people living on the wind-swept plains, Tribal members started a clothing drive to send warm items to the needy on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Gloria Wilson, of the Native Relief Foundation; Wanda Bowers, of the Seminole Princess Committee; Bobbi "BJ" Billie, of the ABC Foundation; and Rhonda Bain, of the Rez Dawgz Bike Club organized the effort, but many other Tribal members have opened their hearts to make the project a true team effort.

"Our goal is to be able to provide what they need for the winter," Wilson said. "Most of them live on the open plains and the winter can get really vicious up there. We want to help people prepare."

The collection runs through Nov. 15. Bins are located on every reservation at Tribal offices, senior centers and clinics. Items needed include food, furniture, coats, jackets, sweaters, knit hats, scarves, ear muffs, gloves, mittens, socks, stockings, shoes, boots, quilts, blankets and throws. Monetary donations will help cover fuel and transportation costs to South Dakota.

The charitable effort for Pine Ridge has been going on for a few years, and Tribal members have been generous in the past.

Other charitable contributions have

also been ongoing.

"We collect things throughout the year for the Flandreau Indian School in Pine Ridge," Bowers said. "We are part of this joint effort now. People always bring things to my house to donate since they know I collect it. Sometimes I come home and find a box in front of my house."

Rez Dawgz Bike Club is doing their part by having a motorcycle wash on Oct. 26 from noon to 3 p.m. next to Native Village on U.S. 441 in Hollywood. Anyone who brings a donation for the Pine Ridge clothing drive will get a free bike wash or car wash.

"It's such a wonderful thing to be part of," Bain said. "We always try to be helpful and are looking forward to getting donations at the bike wash."

After the clothing drive, Billie will drive a truck filled with donations to Pine Ridge, a journey of more than 2,000 miles, in December.

Billie lived in Pine Ridge for 12 years and knows the communities well.

"We plan to go to as many districts on the reservation as possible, including a women's shelter in Rapid City," said Billie, who will drive with friend and Pine Ridge resident Misha Winters. Some donations will also go to the Wounded Knee School.

For more information contact: Esther Gopher at 863-902-3200 ext. 13350, Alice M. Billie at 863-902-3200 ext. 13337 or Bobbie "BJ" Billie at 863-228-6865 in Big Cypress; Charlotte Burgess at 863-634-8924 in Brighton; and Gloria Wilson at 954-662-7148, Jennifer "Ebo" Osceola at 954-797-5582 or Wanda Bowers 954-966-6300 ext. 11468 in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

The donation bin for items heading to Pine Ridge for Christmas awaits more donations at Tribal Headquarters in Hollywood.

Justin Campos: precious life, untimely death

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Photographs flashed, one after the other, on a slideshow screen high above the open casket of a young Seminole man lying in repose, ball cap crooked on his forehead. As family and friends watched, it was difficult for them to believe that 28-year-old Justin Campos had been declared a murderer of two men and was, himself, a victim of murder.

A congregation of 700 family members, friends and curious gathered at the Immokalee First Seminole Baptist Church to attend a viewing for Campos, who was found stabbed to death Oct. 1 inside Madison Correctional Institution (CI).

As each slide came into focus, the pictures showed the wide smile and dark features of 6-foot-3-inch, 250-pound Campos, a popular resident of the Immokalee Reservation who graduated from Immokalee High School, lettered in football, basketball and baseball, and wrote music. He was also a best friend to many of his peers and “a very, very, very special person,” said his grieving mother, Ada Campos.

“He always told us he was going to die young,” she said.

Muffled crying, laughter and expressions of angst swirled about the church as the photos brought memories of the man who died young: Campos posing with his cousins, looking tough in a football uniform, baseball bat on his shoulder, jiving with his many nieces and nephews who jumped and tugged on him like he was their giant teddy bear. Always smiling.

“He just showed up at my door one night. I had only been to town two days,” said Pastor Josh LeadingFox during a eulogy about Campos. “It was like we had known each other all our lives. He watched out for me. He spread the word to have people come to church. I considered him my brother. I was devastated when I got the news. It was the last thing I ever expected to hear.”

For the family, bad news came five times.

First was Jan. 18, 2011 when Campos was arrested and charged with shooting and killing two Latin Kings gang members in

the parking lot of Lookers, a night club in Fort Myers.

Next was Jan. 12, 2012 when he was convicted of both second-degree murder and manslaughter; Lee County Circuit Judge Alane Laboda had thrown out his self-defense Stand Your Ground claim.

More bad news came March 19, 2012, in the same courtroom packed with his friends and family, when the same judge sentenced him to life in prison plus 25 years.

The next bad news came 18 months later when his face and throat were cut allegedly by a Latin Kings gang member at Jackson Correctional Institution in Malone, Fla. Campos was transferred to Madison Correctional Institution after the altercation as a safety precaution.

The final news came Oct. 1 that Campos had been found dead at the Madison prison. Those who know what happened are not talking, including the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC).

Despite the recurring bad news culminated in the tragic death of her son, Ada Campos still believes in her son’s innocence.

An appeal of his convictions, now under consideration by the 2nd District Court of Appeal in Lakeland, is very promising, she said.

“We fully expected the court to throw out his convictions,” Ada Campos said. “The videotape clearly shows he was acting in self-defense.”

The video is available online. According to Florida law, an appeal must still proceed through the court system even though the appellant has died. The state can choose to drop the charges. Or the District Court can proceed with a ruling on the appeal, posthumously. Either way, “we expect Justin’s record to be completely



cleared,” Ada Campos said.

A decision is expected Nov. 11.

Ada Campos still has many questions about her son’s fate. She questions why the Stand Your Ground claim was thrown out; why the DOC didn’t take more precautions after her son had his throat and face cut at Jackson Correctional Institution; why his attacker at Jackson was never prosecuted; and why she can’t get more information about her son’s death.

Right now the state is not talking. “We cannot comment on an ongoing investigation,” said DOC spokesperson Misty Cash.

“We will get to the bottom of all this,” Ada Campos said. “My son did not deserve to be put into prison and he did not deserve to die. Those guilty will have to pay.”

Justin’s last words

The following message was found on Justin Campos’ computer by his mother, Ada Campos. It is being published at her request.

Hey how you doing my dear friends n family, especially for you one of my favorite people on this earth in this lifetime. I’ve been exposed to some of the most dramatic stages n circumstances, not just for myself but for some of the strongest men and women to ever walk and live. Now even tho the weight of the world n the sands of time are against me, it still leads me to stay on course and on path with the faith wisdom and guidance that has brought me from the box to the walk – from the breathless to the breathing. Lifeless to life. Broken and desolate are the times that I am against. And as the hour glass dissipates n the sun sets on the waves of equity, there seems to be balance in the structure of things. Like what can a man take and what can he shell out, for this one there is no secret to life or success. The gift of life is life. Everything else is a blessing. Sometimes my knees buckle n my spine bends but it will never break. Have you ever faced death in the eye and stood toe to toe with the devil; he gives you all you think you can handle, presses your face in the ground, pulls your heart from your chest and tells the Lord now show me the power of your love. Now there’s never been a moment in my life where I ever felt like today would be the day. But that day n days ahead of me are with me to the presence. Only few know the pain of walking dead in the flesh but alive in spirit. Now I’ve contemplated suicide and thrust it to oblivion the moment I received insight. Now you say what keeps a man on earth; well I tell you this, the future. The loved ones who know that it would hurt them more than it would hurt myself. The only option is love live, expose myself to the tragedies

or succumb myself to the pressures of flames from below. He saves me, he comforts me, he bleeds for me, who else has made as much sacrifice not deliverance or gifts but actual sacrifice besides my mother. Few if any.

Now for the ones who know my pain and my shame and you know who you are my fellow brothers and sisters who are still in the battle for their lives. I pray for ya’ll and my heart shares your joy n hurt. Know this, I have seen the end of the tunnel and even tho I haven’t seen the end of the sphinx I shall stride with the light of my eyes. Now I write this to you on the outside but all is meant for the inside, not to merely scratch the surface but to obtain the magnitude. This critical moment in my life is merely a blink in the grand scheme of things. Now what can I tell you about the blessings of God’s love. Now how is there light with all this darkness 186287mph. That my beloved is the speed of light. So no matter where it beams from it shall arrive. Tho there may be nay sayers n debaters and people who are completely ignorant. There shall be only one truth.

I’ve been called a lot of things in my life but some of the things that I’ve experienced during these last days have taught me a lot about myself. This is to sustain you in all that you do and in all your affairs. So that if I can keep my head up thru the thickest of jungles and maintain composure. Know this loved ones, it is not my strength that gives me these abilities but the strength from above. If ever you come across any situation against you to never look down but to look up. Never outside but inside. This is the source of my strength. Now from this day forward I respond to and act different to other circumstances that are parallel or completely out of sync with other.

– Written by Man of Iron, Justin “Jay” Campos, my mother’s Warrior



Beverly Bidney

Immokalee Tribal members pose with President Tony Sanchez Jr., Hollywood Board Rep. M. Steve Osceola, Angel Young, Melissa Devito and Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard next to the new Seminole electronic cigarette vending machine at the Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas.

G2E From page 1A

About 25,000 people attended the annual event, which debuted in 2001. The newest slot machines, gaming tables and other ancillary items important to running a casino were on display.

Celebrity appearances included Adam West, television’s original Batman, zombies from the *Walking Dead* and characters from the movie *Avatar*. Willy Wonka’s colorfully dressed helpers walked around the exhibition hall handing out sweet treats and promoting slot machines. Entertaining characters usually found on Las Vegas’s famed Fremont Street wandered around engaging the crowd.

In addition to the 460 domestic and international exhibitors who shared the 286,000-square-foot exhibit space, informative conference sessions with expert panels were held on various topics that impact gaming. Subjects included law and regulation, finance, technology, Asia resort development, hospitality, Internet gaming, marketing, security and surveillance, and Indian gaming.

During the event’s keynote session, a panel of gaming leaders discussed issues and trends that drive the industry.

The future of online gaming

During sessions devoted entirely to the topic, panelists discussed strategies for dealing with online gaming, and attendees debated whether it offers opportunities or serves as a threat. Because Internet gaming is untaxed and unregulated, one member of

the keynote session, Timothy J. Wilmott, equated it to navigating through a minefield.

“It’s clear as mud,” said Wilmott, president and COO of Penn National Gaming Inc. “The reality is the Internet exists and we have to figure out how to tackle it. There’s no magic switch you can throw to make it happen. There are more questions than answers.”

During a session titled Pros and Cons: Indian Country Online, panelists discussed whether online gaming could impact visitation at brick and mortar casinos or affect state compacts.

Valerie Spicer, executive director of the Arizona Indian Gaming Association, believes that like any other business, online gaming has risks, rewards and tremendous opportunity.

“There is a social gaming aspect to it,” she said. “It’s a marketing opportunity for a new demographic, but you need iGaming specific expertise.”

Jason Giles, executive director of the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA), talked about the status of legislation to legalize Internet gaming in Congress. The question of who will ultimately regulate it – states or the federal government – has not been decided, and there is no indication how or when that will be determined.

“It’s been like a ping pong game between the feds and the states for the last eight years,” Giles said. “But no one in Congress is thinking about it now; it’s way down on the list.”

NIGA has stepped away from the federal versus state issue. The organization drafted its own legislation, which included principles and a direction for Internet gaming. However, everyone involved is

waiting for California to decide on the issue, which could spur states to move to a Powerball lottery model – states have compacts among themselves with no federal involvement – across the country, Giles said. The big question in California is sovereignty, taxes and whether Internet gaming is a breach of the state compact.

“We can’t bring too much clarity other than the fact that consumers will drive this issue more and more,” Giles said. “We have to keep an eye on what the states do.”

Internet gaming expert Eugene Johnson, senior vice president for market research and online studies at Spectrum Gaming Group, considers it an effective way to drive traffic to Tribal land-based casinos and an opportunity to interact with customers. He also believes the land-based market could be saturated and Internet gaming could be a source of new customers.

“I-gaming is coming; it isn’t going away,” Johnson said. “Ignore it at your own risk.”

The Board is investigating options for online gaming and met with content providers and support services for the industry during the conference.

“We want to be in the arena, especially when you consider the strength of the Hard Rock brand,” President Sanchez said. “We’ve had a lot of heavy meetings.”

Attending the event connected the Seminole Tribe with influential people in the gaming industry.

“We want to expose Tribal members to what we do here,” President Sanchez said. “We spent a lot of time promoting the business and talking to people. I hope they come away with a greater appreciation of the time and effort we put into this.”



Beverly Bidney

Crowds at the Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas peruse new gaming tables and slot machines.



Beverly Bidney

Vice president of sales Joseph Brant and director Thomasine Motlow man the booth and talk to customers about the Seminole brand of electronic cigarettes at the Global Gaming Expo.



Beverly Bidney

Boxer James Toney has a moment with President Tony Sanchez Jr. at the Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas. At far right is retired boxer Lamon Brewster.

A juicy deal; Board of Directors acquires Noble Food Service

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

In a quest for more business opportunities, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. recently acquired a majority interest in Noble Food Service, a Central Florida-based company that sells fresh fruit and citrus juices.

The Tribe has conducted business with the company since the 1980s when Noble bought the Tribe's crops after a freeze destroyed their own. The two entities have expressed interest in working together in greater capacities and have explored possibilities since 2009.

New opportunities arose in July. The Tribe wanted U.S. Foods, the distributor for Seminole Pride, to sell their orange juice to additional outlets; Noble Food Service produces a full line of citrus juices, except orange juice. Seminole Pride needed more customers and Noble needed orange juice, so Noble began packaging Seminole Pride juice.

It was a perfect blend. "We had only specialty juices; Seminole Pride is a strong orange juice brand," said Quentin Roe, president of William G. Roe and Sons, which has sold products under the Noble brand since 2009. "We knew if we had them all with U.S. Foods, we would have the largest brand of citrus juices in the market nationwide. No other brand has as

broad a line as we do." Noble products are sold in 5,000 grocery stores and 700 food service outlets in the eastern U.S., including Publix and Wal-Mart throughout the state.

The Tribe hopes to leverage that shelf space and add more Seminole Pride products to the stores.

Although how the Seminole Tribe brand will be incorporated into the packaging has yet to be determined, it is being discussed now.

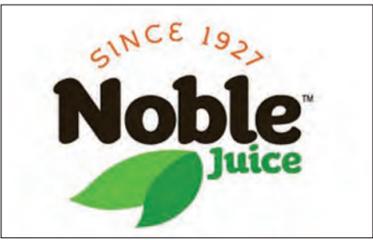
"Eventually it will be one brand, but we won't immediately change it from Noble to Seminole Pride," President Tony Sanchez Jr. said. "The Noble brand has been around for four generations and we want to maximize that potential."

Founded in 1927, the family-owned business grows, harvests and processes specialty citrus fruit and juices in Winter Haven, Fla.

"We want one common brand," Roe said. "We don't want to lose the Noble identity, but we want to overlay the Seminole Pride message and emblem on the label."

They plan to distribute to more restaurants, schools, hotels, hospitals and caterers throughout the country.

"Since our relationship has been established, the sales of orange juice have exceeded our expectations," President Sanchez said. "We want to reach the masses



with our distribution channels and we have the production capacity to fulfill those orders."

The sales force at Noble has expanded to meet the increased demand for products. "It's kind of like drinking out of a fire hose," Roe said. "We are responding to the challenge quickly."

The minority status of the Tribe will also benefit both parties when bidding for contracts.

Many large companies and government agencies have social responsibility managers who make sure a certain amount of vendors are minorities. In addition, the U.S. Department of Defense considers Native Americans to be a super-minority, which gives them preferential treatment when bidding on contracts, Roe said.

"We will bid on those contracts," he said. "We hope to be part of the military within six to 18 months."

All juices made by Seminole Pride and Noble are super premium, meaning they are not from concentrate or highly pasteurized. The ability to transport the flash pasteurized juices overseas could present a challenge because the cold chain, or refrigeration, must be protected. If they get military contracts, Roe said they will initially focus on domestic sales.

The Tribe and Noble are also exploring business opportunities with hotel chains, private labels and other Tribes.

"The goal is to compete with major brands on a national level," President Sanchez said.

The advantages of the new partnership are still being discovered.

"I don't think a week goes by that we don't learn more about the advantages," Roe said. "I think what we both envisioned has been exceeded. We can't be more excited about the opportunities in front of us."



Eileen Soler

Tribal leaders are gearing up to fight FPL against plans to build a similar power plant at the border of the Big Cypress Reservation.

POWER PLANT

From page 1A

"We're saying that the zoning must be consistent with the county's land use plan — it is not," Bauman said. "The laws are there to ensure that uses can exist next to each other without destroying each other."

Joe Billie Highway is the only route heading in and out of the reservation through the heart of the rural area. The sight, sound and smell of the power plant will be an unavoidable daily assault to the rural nature of the area steeped in Seminole history and culture.

"Already we know that the lack of water out here has already affected medicinal plants. If the plant is built, we will not even be able to see stars in the night sky," Bauman said.

The County Commission won the first legal battle on claims that plans were consistent with the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act. However, the application for a power plant had never been submitted.

In June, the Tribe won an appeal to hear the case for a second time. The trial is set for January 2014, but Bauman and the law firm's managing partner Stephen Walker are gearing up now to prepare for battle.

During the community meeting, Bauman and Walker advised that Tribal members will be needed as witnesses to testify in court that their culture, history and the delicate balance of surrounding nature would be negatively affected.

Archaeological sites that could hold artifacts and possible burial grounds have also been identified on or near the site.

"FPL is preparing applications now to go before the state from environmental permits on fish, wildlife, water and air issues. While we're fighting against it, they will be working on permits," Bauman said.

According to FPL's Ten Year Power Plant Site Plan, all of southeast Florida is habitat for the Florida panther but "no adverse impacts on federal- or state-listed terrestrial plants and animals" will occur

due to the sprawling plant. Further, FPL "anticipates minimizing or mitigating for unavoidable wildlife or wetland impacts" and maintains that the construction and operation of a solar or gas-fired facility is not expected to have any negative effect on parks, recreation areas or environmentally sensitive lands.

However, in a letter to McDaniel Reserve Realty Holdings in May 2011, the Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service warned that the site was "known to provide foraging habitat" for the threatened caracara and that all but 6 acres of the massive site are in the primary zone of the agency's Panther Focus Area. In addition, four colonies of wood stork were documented on the land.

Several environmental groups are expected to stand up with the Tribe against the power plant. Supporters include the Sierra Club, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, the South Florida Wildlands Association and, according to Councilman Tiger, Broward powerhouse Ron Bergeron, an engineering contractor and self-described "Gladesman" who has served on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission since 2007.

Bauman said the legal team is working on gathering expert witnesses, such as a hydrologist, wildlife expert, air quality scientists and economists. But Bauman and Councilman Tiger urged Tribal members to testify in their own words about what would be lost to the Tribe's cultural and traditional daily life if the plant were built — medicinal plants, wildlife, ceremonial grounds, archeological sites and tourism business would all be disrupted.

"We have to stop it. Just say, 'No we don't want it and here is why'... The fight is to get them out of here," said Frank Billie Jr., of Big Cypress Council Compliance.

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. attended the Big Cypress community meeting to lend support against the FPL power plant.

"No matter where we live, the FPL problem is a Tribal problem. It's all of our business," Councilman Bowers said.



Photo courtesy of Noble Food Service

The Roe family, pictured here in the Noble Food Service packing house, entered a partnership with the Seminole Tribe to provide a full line of citrus juices to stores in the eastern U.S.

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Board of Directors convenes

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Board of Directors met at Tribal Headquarters in Hollywood Oct. 16 to discuss seven resolutions.

The Board unanimously approved the fiscal year 2014 budget; the amended and restated employee health plan; the Tribe's health and welfare plan; an engagement letter for an audit of Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. basic financial statements for fiscal year 2013; and an asset lease and real estate agreement for Salacoa Valley Farms.

Salacoa Valley Farms, located in Fairmount, Ga., is a well-respected breeder of Brangus cattle and was recognized by the International Brangus Breeders Association as Breeder of the Year in 2006. With the approved agreement, the Tribe will assume the operation and management of Salacoa Valley Farms to enhance the Seminole Beef brand.

Two additional resolutions were tabled: the expansion of the convenience store in Immokalee and a tax-exempt loan from Florida Community Bank with a limited waiver of sovereign immunity. Both were tabled after the shutdown of the federal government delayed documents from the IRS.

Community development about to soar Tribalwide

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

For Adam Nelson, executive director of the Tribal Community Development Department, the next 12 months will be "an exciting year for community development" Tribalwide.

Nelson said every Seminole reservation and community will be bolstered with new and improved infrastructure, long-awaited facilities and neighborhood enhancements.

"Our priority list is housing, education, health and safety," Nelson said.

Here's what's on the list for fiscal year 2014:

- Brighton: Build eight to 10 rental townhomes in the Knots Landing area; continue widening Lake Harney Pond Road; complete design of Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School gymnasium and media center; finish 880-acre wetland mitigation project; master drainage and water treatment improvements.
- Immokalee: Continue designing eight to 10 rental townhomes; improve water mains; establish residential drainage plan; re-floor the community gymnasium.
- Naples: Continue expanding the community

office from warehouse to community center with fitness and culture rooms.

- Big Cypress: Continue designing a new health clinic; continue researching and designing the new Ahfachkee High School; construct a new emergency shelter for women and children in need by summer 2014.

- Hollywood: Establish a plan to expedite the building of a new health clinic that will likely break ground in summer 2014; complete clearing of the Seminole Estates trailer park by the end of 2013; complete construction of a new 4-H facility that will include animal housing to open in December; continue development of three open land spaces for more homes and rental properties; begin construction on the new Hollywood gym.

- Tampa: Alter and improve Harney Road; paint the office building; make electrical improvements.

Nelson said Tribal members should see most of the largest projects physically underway after New Year's Day 2014.

"We're going to pick up where we leave off in 2013, raise the bar a little higher and get started in January 2014," Nelson said.

Florida texting ban takes effect

SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD
Police Chief

Florida's ban on texting while driving took effect Oct. 1 and is now a crime. This new law allows an officer to stop a driver only if another violation, such as speeding, is observed.

It is illegal for a driver to operate a vehicle in motion while manually keying or entering letters or numbers into a non-voice, personal wireless device. This law also includes manual texting, emailing or instant messaging on smart phones and other wireless devices, as well as the retrieval, reading and storage of such messages while operating a vehicle.

However, a driver may text while stopped in traffic or at a traffic light and may send a message to report an

emergency or a crime.

Drivers of police, fire or medical service vehicles are exempt from the law.

A violation of the law is a secondary, non-criminal, non-moving violation. A driver must be cited for another traffic offense in order to be cited for texting. A first offense comes with a \$30 fine plus court costs. However, if a driver is cited for a second or subsequent violation of the law within five years, is cited texting in a school zone or is responsible for an accident while texting, the fine escalates to \$60 plus court costs, as well as points on the driver's license. Multiple violations could result in the suspension or revocation of a person's driver's license.

Let's all be safe while driving and save texting until we arrive at our destination.

Tribe gears up for Polly Parker voyage Nov. 3

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

EGMONT KEY — The Polly Parker voyage takes off Nov. 3 from the remote island of Egmont Key at the mouth of Tampa Bay up the Gulf of Mexico's mangrove coast to St. Mark's in Florida's woody panhandle. An 80-foot double-decker catamaran, known as the Florida Fisherman II, will carry a group of Seminole Indians on the 24-hour voyage to recreate the historic journey of their heroic ancestor.

On her way to deportation out West in 1858, Parker escaped from the Grey Cloud steamship when it stopped for supplies at St. Mark's. She eluded a posse of U.S. cavalry who hunted her for weeks as she walked and canoed, zig-zagging more than 400 miles through flatland and swamps back to her family's camp near Lake Okeechobee.

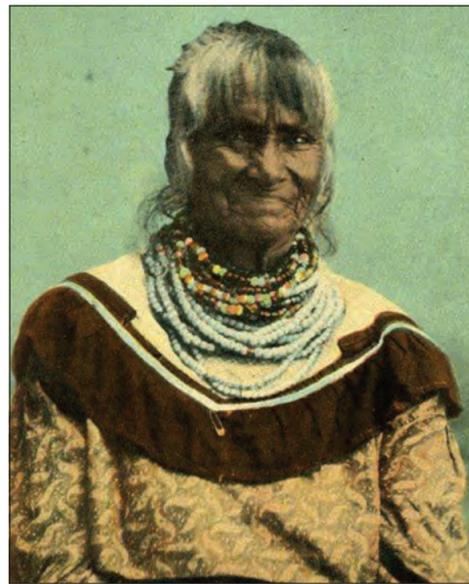


Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

In 1858, Polly Parker escaped deportation to the West and returned to her camp in Brighton.

Tribal Chairman James E. Billie will host Parker's descendants on the trip, which he hopes will both elevate the little-known event to its proper place in Florida history, as well as raise attention to the plight of Egmont Key, where severe erosion threatens Seminole gravesites on the historic island.

"I wonder what kind of Seminole Tribe we would have today had Polly Parker been captured and killed or sent to Oklahoma," Chairman Billie said, commenting on the large number of Tribal leaders, decision makers and prominent citizens who hailed from her progeny.

He recently wrote a letter to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell asking her to address the conservation of Egmont Key, which is a National Wildlife Refuge and a state park.

Coincidentally, the voyage takes place during Egmont Key's Discover the Island event, an annual public promotional event at Egmont Key, which is only a short 20-minute ferry boat ride from Fort Desoto Park. The Egmont Key Alliance has added the Seminole trip to their agenda for a bon voyage in the afternoon. The Florida Fisherman II will leave for the open Gulf under the guidance of Capt. Mark Hubbard, of Madeira Beach, whose pioneer family has traveled the Gulf waters for nearly a century.

"I don't know about anyone else, but I plan on doing some fishing," said Willie Johns, community outreach specialist for the Tribe and descendant of Polly Parker.

With the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) providing an escort craft for emergency support, the boat will travel up Florida's mangrove coast, with an estimated time of arrival of 4 p.m. at the Shields Marina in St. Mark's. A welcoming celebration is planned by the City of St. Mark's and the San Marcos de Apalache Historic State Park.

State Parks director Donald Forgiore, Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner and Viva 500 coordinator Rachel Porter plan to meet with the Seminoles during the trip, which includes a bus ride to Tallahassee and tours of both the Museum of Florida History and the Mission San Luis. Buses will return the travelers to South Florida Nov. 5.

A group of Seminoles who are descendants of Polly Parker, but unable to travel by boat, will be bused to St. Mark's to join the voyagers. Chairman's assistant Norman Bowers and Culture director Lorene Gopher, coordinators of the guest list, estimate 50 to 75 Tribal members will participate.

COUNCIL MEETING

From page 1A

that could increase the Seminole Tribal Gaming Commission member's monthly meeting stipend from \$2,000 to \$4,000; and approved about \$6 million in construction bonds for expansions at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School (PECS).

PECS, on the Brighton Reservation, will get a

new media center and a new gymnasium.

The Council also OK'd the relocation of the Okalee Indian Village from the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood south to a 25-acre plot on the west side of State Road 7.

Cultural arts and crafts, alligator wrestling, even the old mural in the gift shop, and the gift shop will move. The location will likely also include a new rodeo arena, passive park and museum.

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Photos courtesy of the Gallagher Collection



Eileen Soler

Eileen Soler

From left, Swinomish general manager Allan E. Olson, Swinomish Chairman Brian Cladoosby, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Swinomish Indian Sen. Brian Wilbur and Seminole Pride founding director Joe Tillman share a light moment after lunch at Swamp Water Café.

Swinomish Chairman Brian Cladoosby, of northern Washington, listens closely during a tour of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Big Cypress.

COMMERCE
From page 1A

During the past year, the restaurant has occasionally served up Seminole Beef.

"I just had a Seminole Beef rib eye (steak) a few days ago and it was delicious," Olson said.

The Swinomish, known as the People of the Salmon, specialize in five major salmon: king, sockeye, Coho, pink and chum. Olson said steelhead trout is also a top seller.

Jennings said for nearly two decades she had wanted to see Tribes build mutual economic strength but needed first to establish a coalition of Tribes who could make it happen. She met Tillman about five years ago when he was already finding success in citrus groves but wanted to expand.

"Then he called to tell me about Seminole Pride, a name that would sum up both the quality of the product and the spirit of the Tribe," Jennings said. "I asked then if the Tribe would be interested in Federal

efforts for a 'native-to-native' initiative."

She credited Tillman and Tribe President Tony Sanchez Jr. for suggesting the Swinomish. Tom Durkin, whose background includes Alaskan fishing, headed the Swinomish negotiations.

The project took a year to finalize.

Seven Tribes now make up the consortium with the Seminole and Swinomish Tribes leading the way to establish a completely Native food product line.

"What has evolved are nine companies, each in different regions (of the United States), putting together business-to-business food projects," Jennings said.

Jennings said the consortium has no formal name, which allows each company to remain independently branded and focused on individual products. So far, Wal-Mart and Costco are interested in filling store sections with Native-only products, but Olson said the group is concentrated now in supplying Tribe-owned casinos.

Popcorn is coming from the Lower Brule Tribe in South Dakota; coffee beans

are being roasted and packaged by the Shinnecock Tribe, of New York; chocolate is a product of a Chickasaw Nation's factory in Oklahoma; and breakfast burritos are from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North and South Dakota.

Other items include wild rice, jellies and jams from Red Lake Nation in Minnesota, and chicken sausage and other breakfast poultry from the Cherokee in North Carolina.

Jennings said the Swinomish have so far pooled 40 Tribes in the northwest and plains regions, Alaska and Canada to participate.

But the newest hurdle for the native-to-native economic initiative is shipping.

"The idea is to eventually get all Tribes that produce agriculture to get their products sent to a hub for distribution," Olson said.

Tillman said discussions are underway with U.S. Foods and Food Services of America to ship Native American products nationwide. The BIA has its sights on a distribution facility in the center of the nation that may offer perfect positioning.

Meanwhile, Jennings is working to place the foods into Native school lunches per the Buy Indian Act of 1910, which allows the U.S. Department of the Interior to set aside procurement money specifically for Native-owned and operated small businesses.

She is also pushing for the U.S. Department of Defense, also through the Buy Indian Act, to purchase foods for the United States military at home and abroad.

But commerce is not the only thing that binds Tribal businesses.

Olson, Swinomish Indian Sen. Brian Wilbur and Swinomish Chairman Brian Cladoosby made a recent trip to South Florida where Tillman hosted cultural tours of Hollywood, Big Cypress and Brighton Reservations. On Big Cypress, the group visited the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Billie Swamp Safari.

Lunch at the Swamp Water Café, hosted by Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, featured a feast of frog legs, alligator bites, Indian tacos and other Everglades favorites. Later, the group visited cattle ranches,

orange groves and sugar fields through Big Cypress and Brighton.

"It's good to put faces to business partners and to feel them out for chances to expand," Rep. Frank said.

Rep. Frank said most Tribes conduct business in isolation that does not inspire intertribal commerce. He said the development of potential partnerships has been slow and fragmented.

Jennings hopes next to increase product offerings by adding beef, fruit, vegetables and other goods from Midwest and other land-locked Tribes, such as the Navajo Nation. A two-way expansion will result: new Tribes will be added to the consortium with new products and the existing companies will likely launch into larger business opportunities.

"This is more than, 'Here's \$1 million for business development.' This is Tribal businesses helping each other's businesses grow," Jennings said. "It's buying and selling for themselves and other entities in region with the Seminole and Swinomish at the lead."



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Hah-Pong-Ke: Charlie Daniels

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

The name Charlie Daniels has had an unfriendly connection with the Seminole Indians since the Seminole Wars.

There was a Charles B. Daniels, a second lieutenant with the Second Regiment of Artillery for the U.S. Army who actively engaged in capturing and moving Seminoles from their Florida homelands in the late 1830s.

Then there was a scout named Charlie Daniels who fought with John Lapham Bullis' Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts in the 1870s, engaged in fighting and rounding up Comanches, Kiowas, Apaches, Kickapoos and Seminoles in skirmishes and full-scale battles from Florida to Kansas and Mexico. Both were often-quoted sources in historical accounts of those days.

Today's Charlie Daniels – the country music Southern rock star – has been a longtime friend to the Seminoles for many years, appearing several times at Tribal events and putting on annual concerts for his favorite charity, the Angelus, a group home and day center for the severely disabled in Hudson, Fla., that often partners with Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

In fact, the words to Daniels' most famous song, *The Devil Went Down to Georgia*, scrawled in the songwriter's own handwriting, is framed on the wall of Tampa Hard Rock president John Fontana's office wall.

In 1994, Daniels headlined the Tribe's Fire on the Swamp festival in Big Cypress.

During that show, as he does at most Indian Reservation venues, Daniels played *Indian Man*, a lead cut off his 1977 album *Midnight Wind*. The song puts a solemn countrified spin on the Native's loss of their homelands, mentioning several Tribes, including the Seminoles.

His last verse: "But there was a time when the land was free/ When the Seminole and the Cherokee stood tall/ Your head was up but your hopes were down/ Though your heart was on the ground/ You stood it all/ And you're a better man than I am/ Indian Man."

It did not achieve the hit song status as some of the other songs in the 77-year-old's catalogue, but it remains a favorite and an often requested live concert offering from the Charlie Daniels Band.

Recovered now from a 2010 stroke and a pacemaker operation earlier this year, Daniels has planned his next benefit concert for the Angelus for Dec. 7 in Tampa – venue and times to be announced.



Photo courtesy of Hard Rock Tampa
John Fontana, president of Hard Rock Tampa, introduces Charlie Daniels, right, before a performance.

'Indian Man'

Indian Man
They took your home
They took your land
Left you on the run for all of these years

Indian Man
You didn't fit the white man's plan
So he herded you off down the Trail of Tears

But there was a time when the land was free
When the Seminole and the Cherokee
Stood proud
From the Rio Grande to the Midnight Sun
The Navajo rode and the Blackfeet drums beat loud

From the East they came
With the Cavalry soldiers and the wagon train
With a treaty of peace and rifle in their hands
And then the West was won
With the broken promise and the Gatling gun
And nobody never even tried to understand

But the Bible got read and the church bells rung
And they talk about peace with a forked tongue
In vain
While Blackfeet starved and the Cheyennes froze
And the Sioux blood stained the coldest snows
In shame

And the tracks went down
On the huntin' land and the sacred ground
Pickin' up all the drifters along the way
And then the trains rolled in
With the buffalo skinnners and the greedy men
And the world got a little bit smaller every day

But there was a time when the land was free
When the Seminole and the Cherokee
Stood tall
Your head was up but your hopes were down
Though your heart was on the ground
You stood it all
And you're a better man than I am
Indian Man

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Identifying the Past

Doubleday negatives acquired

SUBMITTED BY TENNILE JACKSON
Museum Collections Assistant

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum recently acquired an important collection of photographic negatives that provide a notable visual account of Seminole life during the early to mid-20th century.

The collection of nearly 250 original black and white negatives, which dates back to the 1930s, was taken by famed Native American and rodeo photographer Ralph R. Doubleday. Included in the collection are images of Seminole and Miccosukee Tribal members who lived in the Everglades and along the Tamiami Trail.

Originally taken to produce postcards that were later sold at tourist attractions, the photographs include scenes from areas such as John Osceola's Seminole Indian Camp, Chestnut Bill's Indian Village and Jimmie Billy's Camp.

While many of the photos were staged, a select few offer candid views of Seminole individuals and families. Some of the men and women identified in the photographs include Anna Cypress, Cory Osceola, Johnson Billie and Annie Tiger. Other noteworthy images within the collection include photographs of wedding ceremonies and visits to the camps and

villages by celebrities.

In addition to offering a glimpse into the home life of Tribal members, the photographs also capture the development of the tourism industry. Within the background of many of the photographs are a number of curious onlookers who visited the various camps and tourist attractions. Some of the pictures that best exemplify this include those featuring alligator wrestling, which the Tribe capitalized on as a result of the rising interest in the spectator sport. Images like these were a specialty of Doubleday, whose successful photography career was credited to the action shots he captured at rodeos throughout the United States.

The Museum has digitized all the Doubleday photos so they are easier to look through. When digitizing photographs, staff always makes their best effort to identify key figures in them. Doubleday identified many of the people in his photos, but there are still several individuals who remain unidentified.

That is why the Museum staff always appreciates help identifying them. The collection is available for viewing and identification purposes on a computer in the Museum library. To make an appointment, contact the Museum at 863-902-1113 and ask for the library, or just stop by.



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

Pictured is a postcard titled 'The Three Seminole Medicine Men.'

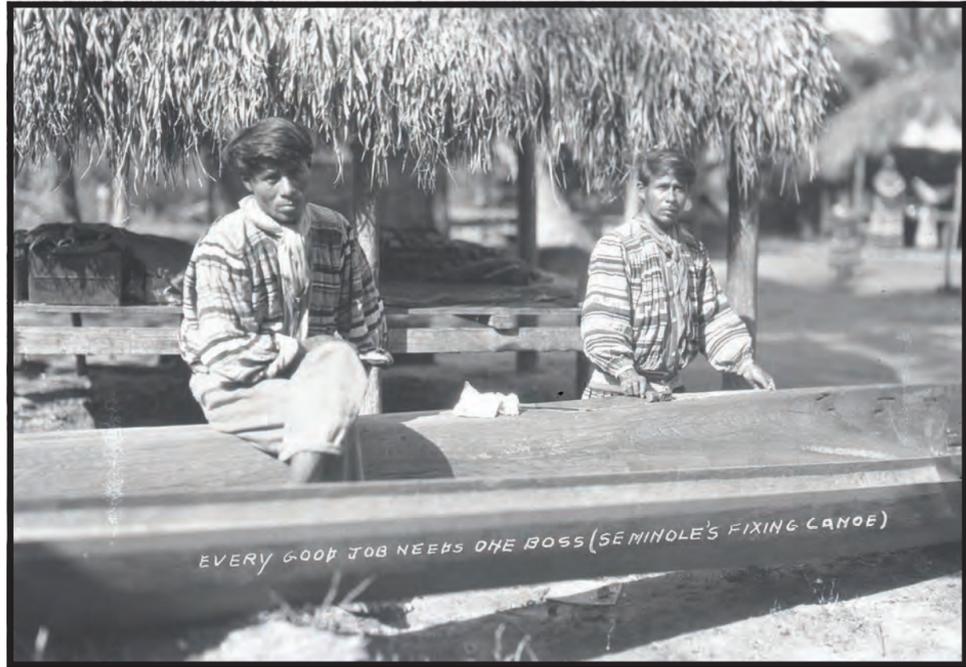


Photo courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Pictured is a postcard titled 'Every Good Job Needs One Boss (Seminole's Fixing Canoe).'

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Health



Early detection lowers breast cancer risks

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez



Eileen Soler

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Some of you may have already scheduled your mammogram, but for those of you who haven't, do so. Early detection can decrease the risk of death from cancer. It is highly recommended that you speak with your doctor about mammograms and/or clinical breast exams.

While the exact cause of breast cancer is unknown, some of the risk factors include personal or family history, increasing age and obesity. We cannot change the first two causes listed, but we can control our weight and lead healthier lifestyles. It certainly does not eliminate the risk, but it lowers the risk.

Breast Cancer is the most common type of cancer among women in the United States and is the second leading cause of cancer death among women. According to Cancer.org, 232,340 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and 64,640 women will be diagnosed with non-invasive breast cancer this year.

Nearly 40,000 will die from the disease this year.

Invasive breast cancer occurs when abnormal cells from inside the duct spread to the nearby breast tissue. It can spread to other parts of the body such as the liver, lungs, bones and brain.

Non-invasive breast cancer is diagnosed when the abnormal cells grow inside the duct but have not spread to

nearby tissue or throughout the body.

Breast cancer in men is rare, but it does happen. It is often diagnosed at a later stage because men are less likely to report symptoms. About 2,000 men will be diagnosed and about 400 will die from breast cancer.

The most common signs and symptoms of breast cancer are changes in the look or feel of the breast or nipple, and nipple discharge. These changes can be lumps, hard knots or thickening inside the breast and underarm area. Swelling, warmth, redness or darkening of the breast are also indicators, as well as dimpling or puckering. Experiencing an unusual rash on the nipple, inverting of the nipple or other parts of the breast, or a new, persisting pain in one spot all are causes for concern.

If you develop any of these signs or symptoms, contact your doctor. I urge you to get your tests done because it can save your life. Do it for yourself; do it for your family.

Questions and answers on 'Vibrio vulnificus'

SUBMITTED BY LAURENCE CHAUVET
Emergency Management Planner

TALLAHASSEE — The Florida Department of Health released a new video Oct. 3 that features Dr. Carina Blackmore, Deputy State Epidemiologist, answering questions about the dangers of *Vibrio vulnificus*, a bacterium that can cause serious infection and illness if ingested or exposed to an open wound.

Vibrio vulnificus infections are rare, with an average of 30 people diagnosed with the disease each year in Florida. In 2013, 32 cases and 10 deaths related to *Vibrio vulnificus* occurred in Florida.

The video can be viewed on YouTube. It is also available on Seminole Media Productions' YouTube Channel, Native Driven Network.

Frequently asked questions

What is *Vibrio vulnificus*? *Vibrio vulnificus* is a bacterium that normally lives in warm seawater and is part of a group of vibrios called halophilic because they require salt.

How do persons get infected with *Vibrio vulnificus*? People can contract *Vibrio vulnificus* when they eat raw shellfish, particularly oysters. The bacterium is frequently isolated from oysters and other shellfish in warm coastal waters during the summer months. Because it is naturally found in warm marine waters, people with open wounds may be exposed to *Vibrio vulnificus* through direct contact with seawater. There is no evidence of person-to-person transmission of *Vibrio vulnificus*.

How can *Vibrio vulnificus* infection be diagnosed? *Vibrio vulnificus* infection is diagnosed by stool, wound or blood cultures. Notifying the laboratory when this infection is suspected is beneficial because a special growth medium should be used to increase the diagnostic yield. Doctors should have a high suspicion for this organism when patients present with stomach illness, fever or shock following the ingestion of raw seafood, especially oysters, or with a wound infection after exposure to seawater.

What type of illness does *Vibrio vulnificus* cause? Ingestion of *Vibrio vulnificus* can cause vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal pain. Open wound exposure to *Vibrio vulnificus* can also cause an infection of the skin which may lead to skin breakdown and ulcers.

Healthy individuals typically develop a mild disease; however, *Vibrio vulnificus* infections can be a serious concern for people who have weakened immune systems, particularly those with chronic liver disease. The bacterium can invade the bloodstream, causing a severe and life-threatening illness with symptoms like fever, chills, decreased blood pressure (septic shock) and blistering skin lesions. *Vibrio vulnificus* bloodstream infections are fatal about 50 percent of the time.

A recent study showed that people with these pre-existing medical conditions were 80 times more likely to develop *Vibrio vulnificus* bloodstream infections than healthy people. Wound infections may also be serious in people

with weakened immune systems. The wound may heal poorly and require surgery. Sometimes, amputation may be needed for recovery.

How common is *Vibrio vulnificus* infection? *Vibrio vulnificus* is a rare cause of disease, but it is also underreported. Between 1988 and 2006, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) received reports of more than 900 *Vibrio vulnificus* infections from the Gulf Coast states, where most cases occur. Before 2007, there was no national surveillance system for *Vibrio vulnificus*, but CDC collaborated with Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi to monitor the number of cases in the Gulf Coast region. In 2007, infections caused by *Vibrio vulnificus* and other vibrio species became nationally recognized.

What are some tips for preventing *Vibrio vulnificus* infections?

- Do not eat raw oysters or other raw shellfish.
- Cook shellfish (oysters, clams, mussels) thoroughly.
- For shellfish in the shell, either boil until the shells open and continue boiling for 5 more minutes, or steam until the shells open and then continue cooking for 9 more minutes. Do not eat those shellfish that do not open during cooking. Boil shucked oysters at least 3 minutes, or fry them in oil at least 10 minutes at 375 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Avoid cross-contamination of cooked seafood and other foods with raw seafood and juices from raw seafood.
- Eat shellfish promptly after cooking and refrigerate leftovers.
- Avoid exposure of open wounds or broken skin to warm salt or brackish water, or to raw shellfish harvested from such waters.
- Wear protective clothing (e.g., gloves) when handling raw shellfish.

How is *Vibrio vulnificus* infection treated? If *Vibrio vulnificus* is suspected, treatment should be initiated immediately as antibiotics improve survival. Aggressive attention should be given to the wound site; for patients with wound infections, amputation of the infected limb is sometimes necessary.

If you think you may have been exposed to *Vibrio vulnificus* and are experiencing the above symptoms, seek medical attention immediately. Information about the potential dangers of raw oyster consumption is available 24 hours a day from the FDA's Seafood Hotline at 1-800-332-4010. For more information on *Vibrio vulnificus*, visit the CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/nczved/divisions/dfbmd/diseases/vibriov/index.html.

Contact your local Clinic and/or health care provider if you have any questions regarding *Vibrio vulnificus*. Our Medical and Environmental Health staff is ready to answer any of your questions or concerns.

Hollywood Clinic: 954-962-2009
Big Cypress Clinic: 863-983-5151
Brighton Clinic: 863-763-0271
Immokalee Clinic: 239-867-3400
Tampa Clinic: 813-620-2860
Environmental Health Department: 954-985-2300 ext. 10612.

A cool workout under water

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

A swimming pool isn't just for fun anymore. Ask anyone who has taken a water fitness class and he or she will tell you it's a challenging workout in a cool, calm pool.

"It seems easy, but it's not," said Tammy Osceola.

"We are sweating under water," added Amy Latchford.

Water fitness is a good option for people of all fitness levels, provided they can swim. The cardiovascular workout incorporates strength training with water weights.

"You get a lot of resistance from the water without impacting joints," said Debra Marsalisi, fitness specialist. "It's ideal for people with arthritis or joint pain."

The Hollywood fitness department offers water fitness classes at the community pool on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Brighton has classes at the community pool on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Natoshia Osceola, fitness specialist Debra Marsalisi, Tammy Osceola and Amy Latchford work their legs during the water fitness class in the Hollywood community pool.



Beverly Bidney

Instructor Debra Marsalisi, Natoshia Osceola, Tammy Osceola and Amy Latchford have a good time while working their muscles during the water fitness class in the Hollywood community pool.



Beverly Bidney

Natoshia Osceola, who enjoys taking water fitness classes during her pregnancy, checks in with instructor Debra Marsalisi.

Have a safe, healthy Halloween

SUBMITTED BY CHERYL MCDONNELL-CANAN
Environmental Health Inspector

Halloween is a fun time of year for all ages, but don't let foodborne illness ruin your Halloween party. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends following these food safety tips.

Safe treats

- Give children a good meal before trick-or-treating to prevent them from snacking on candy and treats. Urge them to wait until they get home before eating the candy so you can inspect the treats in their bags.
- Tell children not to accept – and especially not to eat – anything that isn't commercially wrapped unless they know the person offering the homemade treat.
- Inspect all treats for signs of tampering, such as an unusual appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes or tears in wrappers. Throw away anything that looks suspicious.

• Be extra careful with children who have allergies. Ingredients aren't always clearly listed on individually wrapped candies.

• Parents of very young children should remove any choking hazards, such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys.

• Consider providing non-food treats for children who visit your home, such as coloring and activity books.

Halloween parties

• If juice or cider is served at Halloween parties, make sure it is pasteurized or otherwise treated to destroy harmful bacteria. Unpasteurized juice or cider can contain harmful bacteria, such as *Salmonella*. Juice or cider that has not been treated will say so on the label.

• Cookie dough or cake batter made with raw eggs is not safe for children to eat. Raw eggs are potentially hazardous because they can serve as sources of harmful bacteria, including *Salmonella*, which can cause serious illness. However, cookie dough or cake batter made safely with pasteurized eggs or pasteurized liquid egg products can safely be consumed raw. Many commercially available cookie dough and cake batter products are made with these ingredients.

• Keep all perishable foods chilled until serving time. These include finger sandwiches, cheese platters, fruit or tossed salads, cold pasta dishes with meat, poultry, seafood, and cream pies or cakes with whipped cream and cream cheese frostings. Cold temperatures keep bacteria from multiplying.

• Don't leave perishable goodies out of the fridge for more than two hours (one hour in temperatures higher than 90 degrees Fahrenheit).

• Remind children (and adults, too) to

wash their hands before and after eating to help prevent foodborne illness.

• Bobbing for apples is a favorite Halloween game. Reduce the number of bacteria that might be present on apples and other raw fruits and vegetables by thoroughly rinsing them under cool running water. As an added precaution, use a produce brush to remove surface dirt.

• Try a different bobbing for apples game from FightBAC.org. Cut out apples from red construction paper and write activities for kids to do on each apple, such as "Say your ABCs." Place a paper clip on each apple and put them into a large basket. Tie a magnet to a string or make a fishing pole with a dowel rod, magnet and yarn. Let the children take turns "bobbing" with their magnet and performing the activity written on their apple. Give children a fresh apple for participating in your food-safe version of bobbing for apples.

Black licorice

Do you patiently wait for Halloween to satisfy your black licorice cravings? Beware black licorice enthusiasts; too much can cause serious harm. If you are older than 40 and consume multiple 2-ounce bags (roughly 40-50 grams each) of black

licorice a day for at least two weeks you could be at risk for heart arrhythmias.

Research by the FDA has found that black licorice contains a naturally present ingredient, glycyrrhizin, that may cause kidneys to release potassium, a mineral essential for the normal activity of the heart. Consuming multiple bags of black licorice a day for an extended period (14 days or longer) can result in dangerously low levels of potassium, and in some individuals, this can produce abnormal heart rhythms, as well as hypertension, edema, lethargy and congestive heart failure.

Usually, potassium levels are restored, with no permanent adverse health effects, once consumption stops. If you have been eating black licorice and experience an irregular heart rhythm or muscle weakness, you should stop eating the licorice immediately and contact your health care provider.

The FDA advises consumers, regardless of their age or health status, to avoid consuming large amounts of black licorice over concentrated periods.

Following these FDA food safety tips will make sure that both children and adults alike have a happy Halloween.

Down syndrome awareness

SUBMITTED BY ASHLEY C. BAYER
Pediatrician

In observance of Down Syndrome Awareness Month, individuals and families across the country will be raising awareness, educating and advocating for children and adults in the Down syndrome community.

Down syndrome is also known as trisomy 21, due to the extra copy of chromosome 21 that causes the associated characteristics. One in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome, making it the most common chromosomal condition. The likelihood of having a baby with Down syndrome increases with the mother's age. Findings associated with Down syndrome include characteristic facial features, cognitive delay, poor muscle tone and increased risk of other medical conditions, such as hearing and breathing problems, heart defects, thyroid problems and childhood leukemia.

Regardless, these individuals often lead long, fulfilling and healthy lives and contribute to society with a variety of strengths and talents. Their successes are often due in part to a supportive and stable home environment, good

health care, support from family and community and high-quality educational and therapeutic programs.

At the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Health Department's Children's Center for Diagnostics and Therapy (CCDT) serves children and young adults from birth to 21 years of age. This program consists of occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, behavior therapy, early childhood intervention, child psychology, exceptional childhood intervention, physical therapy and child psychiatry.

The child psychologist evaluates young patients who have been identified with a delay or disorder such as Down syndrome. These assessments play a key role in the child's educational process.

Other therapies play an important part in aiding the development of these children, serving as a resource for the family and advocating for their educational needs.

For additional information regarding this or any of our other services, contact Ashley C. Bayer at 954-962-2009 ext. 10317.

Lisa Izenwasser, program manager, contributed to this article.

SEMINOLE SCENES



Eileen Soler

REAL MEN WEAR PINK: In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, men on the Big Cypress Reservation wear pink socks, shirts, shorts and baseball caps to show support on Wear Pink Day Oct. 4.



Jonathan Feld

IN LOVING MEMORY: Seminole Police Department Police Chief William Latchford and Lt. David Carry present Loretta Micco a Seminole Tribe of Florida flag in memory of her husband, Vincent Micco, during a memorial service held in his honor Sept. 20 in Big Cypress.



Peter B. Gallagher

ALL AMERICAN ATHLETE: Tampa Catholic High School football star, and Seminole Tribal member, Justin Motlow receives his Blue-Gray All American Bowl jersey before a recent home game. The Bowl game, which matches the best high school players in the country, is Dec. 22 at AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys.



Andrea Holata

BUILDING TOWARD PROGRESS: Construction for the long-awaited, 111,000-square-foot Public Safety Administration Building begins to take shape in Brighton. The project is scheduled for completion in October 2014.



Beverly Bidney

BREAKING BAD: Electronic cigarette director Thomasine Motlow, employee Melissa Devito and e-cig vice president of sales Joseph Brant pose with *Breaking Bad* actor Jeremiah Bitsui during the Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas.



Eileen Soler

THE EYES HAVE IT: A praying mantis mugs for the camera during a Thursday morning drizzle on Big Cypress Reservation.



Photo courtesy of Wanda Bowers

ROYALTY RECOGNITION: Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie and Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie pose with Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Principal Chief Leonard M. Harjo, Assistant Chief Lewis Johnson and the Tribe's newly crowned royalty during Seminole Nation Days in Oklahoma. The Blais-Billie sisters were invited by the Oklahoma Tribe to join their annual festival.



Photo courtesy of Kyle Doney

TRADITION OF TRIBUTE: Kyle Doney, Thomasine Motlow, Norman 'Skeeter' Bowers and Kary Gopher pose with Florida State University's President Eric Barron and Renegade and Osceola, as well as previous students who portrayed the iconic symbol at FSU games. The Seminole Tribe of Florida was invited to Tallahassee for the football game against the University of Maryland on Oct. 5 to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the school's Renegade Team.



Photo courtesy of Ralph Notaro

GIVING BACK: Country singer Rodney Carrington, right, accepts a \$5,000 check from Seminole Casino Coconut Creek president Steve Bonner for the Rodney Carrington Foundation. Started by Carrington and his wife, Terri, the foundation strives to improve the lives of individuals, families and organizations by uniting the resources of donors, volunteers, agencies and communities.



Beverly Bidney

GATOR BITES: This 4-year-old gator, who has been raised since birth at Okalee Village, makes an appearance at the Hollywood Indian Day celebration. The small beast didn't bite anyone all day, even with a nearly continuous crowd of children eager to touch him.



Amanda Murphy

HOWLING HALLOWEEN: Brandon Cypress enjoys creating a paper-mâché project for Halloween, laughing with his friends as he glues on more tissue paper Oct. 11 at the DSO Library in Hollywood.



Eileen Soler

FRIED PERFECTION: Frybread boils in oil to perfection during the Big Cypress Indian Day celebration Sept. 26.



Andrea Holata

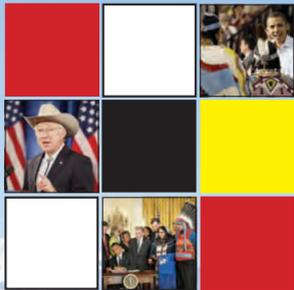
TEAR IT UP: Construction begins on Panther Lane in Brighton to improve drainage along the road.



Eileen Soler

HUMBLE HOME: The roof of a chickee is thatched frond by frond under the blazing sun at Billie Swamp Safari on a hot Saturday afternoon.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Obama sides with 'Redskin' nickname objectors

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Oct. 5, President Barack Obama said that if he owned the Washington Redskins, he would consider a change in the nickname, making some Americans believe it's only a matter of time before the name is changed.

Obama told the Associated Press, "If I were the owner of the team and I knew that there was a name of my team — even if it had a storied history — that was offending a sizeable group of people, I'd think about changing it . . . I think all these mascots and team names related to Native Americans, Native Americans feel pretty strongly about it. And I don't know whether our attachment to a particular name should override the real, legitimate concerns that people have about these things."

Pundits around the country, on both sides of the issue, consider the president's words to be the strongest for change since 1933, when Washington NFL franchise owner George Preston Marshall established the handle.

Now that the president has given his opinion, few expect current owner Daniel Snyder to hang out much longer, especially as pressure mounts for change, despite his declaration that he will never change the team's name: "It's that simple. NEVER — you can use caps."

The Washington football team's history is characterized by fighting racial progress: Marshall had to be forced to begin hiring black players a full 12 years after the rest of the league.

Team attorney Lanny Davis commented: "The president made these comments to the Associated Press, but he was apparently unaware that an April 2013 AP poll showed that 8 out of 10 of all Americans in a national sample don't think the Washington Redskins' name should be changed."

— Source: Associated Press

Micosukee man must pay \$35 million for crash

MIAMI — A Florida jury has ordered Micosukee Tribal member Thomas Cypress to pay \$35 million to the family of Robert and Paulette Kirkpatrick, both of whom he killed in a drunk-driving wreck on the Tamiami Trail.

Jurors in the wrongful death civil lawsuit against Cypress decided that he should pay \$5 million in punitive damages on top of the \$30 million in compensatory damages.

Cypress, brother of former Micosukee Tribal chairman Billy Cypress, is serving 12 years in prison after pleading guilty in 2010 to double DUI manslaughter — Cypress had a suspended license and his blood-alcohol level was three times the legal limit in February 2009 when his truck veered into the opposite lane on the Tamiami Trail in west Miami-Dade, smashing into the victims, both 63.

At a two-day trial, the jury heard from their children, Jennifer and Steven, and fire-rescue personnel who responded to the scene of the car crash. They deliberated about 15 minutes in deciding to award the relatives \$30 million.

The Kirkpatrick's lawyers suggested to jurors that Cypress was well off because he initially hired high-powered defense lawyer Roy Black. But Cypress' lawyers filed an affidavit from Cypress saying he was essentially broke.

Jurors deliberated nearly two hours in deciding on the additional \$5 million.

— Source: Indianz.com

Baby Veronica case closed, father stops battle for child

TULSA, Okla. — Dusten Brown, biological father of "Baby Veronica," and the Cherokee Nation officially gave up the fight for custody Oct. 10.

The battle began in 2009 when the non-Native American birth mother gave the baby up for adoption.

Brown fought and won custody of now 4-year-old Veronica in 2011 when the courts ruled in his favor under the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

However, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that since Brown renounced his parental rights when he learned of the pregnancy, he could not later object to the adoption. The high court rejected Brown's argument that ICWA trumped state law and sent the case back to South Carolina, which ordered Brown to return Veronica to the adoptive family, Matt and Melanie Capobianco.

Veronica, who had lived with Brown for nearly two years, has been living with the Capobiancos since Sept. 23.

Pointing out that Veronica has lived most of her life in the spotlight, Brown decided it was in her best interest for him to stop the fight because he knows the Capobiancos love her very much. He hopes they can find a way for him to remain a part of her life.

"One day you will read about this time in your life. Never, ever for one second doubt how much I love you,

how hard I fought for you or how much you mean to me," he said during a press conference held Oct. 10. "My home will always be your home and you are always welcome in it. I miss you more than words can express. You'll always be my little girl, my princess. And I will always love you until the day I die. I love you and hope to see you soon."

— Source: National Public Radio

Idle No More fights Native burial mound sale

RACINE, Wis. — Backed by the Idle No More movement, a large group of protesters are holding American Indian spiritual ceremonies hoping to dissuade the city of Racine and a local family from completing the sale of a possible sacred American Indian burial mound.

The mound is located within a circular, dome-shape piece of ground the city is planning to sell to the Meredith family, of Maresh-Meredith & Acklam Funeral Home, which wants the land for a family burial area.

The Meredith family said they would not buy the piece if it is indeed a burial mound and agreed to have it tested. But when scientists — who had a permit from the Wisconsin Historical Society — showed up to investigate, other protesters objected, causing the testing to be canceled. The controversy is keeping the Meredith family from burying a loved one there.

Now, protesters led by William Brown, who is part Creek Indian and part Rosebud Lakota, have proposed to supplant the \$19,000 the Merediths would pay for the parcel by raising money at annual Native American cultural fundraising events in Racine, earmarking all proceeds to the city, for a 10-year period, hoping to raise \$32,000. Brown said that is nearly twice what the city could sell the parcel for today.

City officials said, however, there is no evidence the site is truly an American Indian mound.

— Source: JournalTimes.com

Ancient Native woman buried at Tse-whit-zen

PORT ANGELES, Wash. — After 73 years in the collection of the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture in Seattle, the remains of a Native woman who likely lived on the North Olympic Peninsula centuries ago have been repatriated in concordance with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal members interred the remains at the Tribe's Tse-whit-zen site along Marine Drive, the historic location of one of the largest prehistoric Klallam villages on the Peninsula.

Megon Noble, assistant archaeology collections manager and Repatriation Act coordinator for the Burke Museum, said researchers consulted with the Olympic Peninsula's Native Tribes to decide which one should take possession because the woman's Tribal affiliation could not be determined.

After discussions among Tribal representatives, Noble said the Lower Elwha Klallam ultimately took the remains.

The woman was positively identified as Native American, 28 to 35 years old when she died, by her skull, which had telltale signs of artificial flattening at the back, according to Lower Elwha Klallam archaeologist Bill White, who indicated the woman's skull was bound when she was a baby so as to purposefully alter its shape — an attribute typically found in Native remains from the 1700s and 1800s.

— Peninsula Daily

Coeur d'Alene Tribe has cutthroat troubles

PLUMMER, Idaho — Years of restoration work have turned Benewah Creek into an ideal habitat for Idaho's state fish, the cutthroat trout.

Despite high counts in a short stretch of the meandering stream, which is packed with the deep pools and insects the trout like, the fish's outlook is grim. Most of the cutthroat will migrate to Lake Coeur d'Alene when they reach 2 years old. Out of a group of 120, only two or three fish will return to Benewah Creek as adults to spawn.

Since cutthroats need clean, cold water to thrive, the fish is an excellent barometer of watershed health. Over the past century, blocked access to spawning grounds, agricultural development of flood plains, industrial pollution and introduced species that compete with cutthroat for food have diminished their numbers.

In fact, ongoing research suspects that northern pike, a non-native predator in Lake Coeur d'Alene, is a main culprit wiping out the sleek and speckled cutthroat (named for two slash-like indentations under their jaw). Pike, which can reach 35 pounds, were illegally planted in Lake Coeur d'Alene during the 1970s. They spawn in the lake's weedy, shallow bays,

intercepting the young cutthroat moving down from the tributaries.

A favorite of anglers because of their readiness to bite, the cutthroat's beauty is a large part of their draw: "It's hard to find a critter prettier than a cutthroat when they're colored up for spawning," Chip Corsi, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's regional supervisor, told the *Missoulian*. "They're fun to look at."

Historically abundant, cutthroat provided an important food source for the early settlers and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. As late as the early 1980s, thousands of cutthroat returned to the lake's tributary streams. After the runs dwindled, the Tribe closed cutthroat-bearing creeks on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation to fishing. Statewide, fishing for cutthroat is primarily catch-and-release, with some limited harvest.

The Tribe is contracting the University of Idaho to evaluate how many cutthroat the northern pike consume. The pike are caught and forced to regurgitate so their stomach contents can be studied, said Jon Firehammer, the Tribe's research fisheries biologist. Then the pike are tagged and released back into the lake.

By December, results from the two-year study will be available.

— Source: Missoulian.com

Former Alutiiq President pleads guilty to theft

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A former Alutiiq Tribal President, Lori "Sue" Clum, also known as Sue Johnson, pleaded guilty to conversion and misapplication of more than \$100,000 in funds involving the Native Village of Tatitlek.

Prosecutors said the 45-year-old Anchorage woman fraudulently obtained the Tribal fund money from April 2008 to April 2009. Her brother, James Edward Kramer, of Valdez, pleaded guilty to failing to file an income tax return that should have included some of the Tribal money he received from his sister, according to prosecutors.

Clum, who is under house arrest and electronic monitoring, faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Kramer faces one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine. The pair is rescheduled for sentencing Jan. 6.

Tatitlek is an Alutiiq village of 100 people about 30 miles northwest of Cordova.

— Source: Anchorage Daily News

Off rez Indian casinos will set precedent

MADERA, Calif. — Setting a precedent that may greatly impact the U.S. casino industry, the state of California's recent approval to permit a North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians' casino 35 miles outside the Tribe's federal reservation in this agricultural town has spurred similar Native projects to jump on the drawing board.

A campaign has been initiated to put a referendum on the California ballot to block the casino, threatening the future of Tribal gaming in the state. The Madera project — a 50-table, 2,000-slot machine in partnership with Station Casinos of Las Vegas — has implications for the U.S. gaming industry because of the relationship Indian casinos sometimes have with established casino companies, such as Las Vegas Sands, MGM Resorts International and Wynn Resorts.

Since 1988, when Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, more than 460 casinos operated by 240 Tribes have sprung up nationwide, creating an industry with \$27.9 billion annual revenue in 2012, a 27 percent jump from the 2011 figure, according to the federal National Indian Gaming Commission.

A recent report by PricewaterhouseCoopers estimates that total U.S. casino gaming revenue will hit \$64.2 billion this year and reach \$68.3 billion in 2014.

— Source: Investors.com

S.C. Catawbas want casino in N.C.

ROCK HILL, S.C. — The Catawba Indians have applied for federal permission to build a \$340-million casino and resort in Kings Mountain, N.C. 45 miles northwest of their reservation, hoping to make the area a "sort of annex" to their own reservation.

The North Carolina governor and General Assembly are both for the project but they cannot build a casino on the Tribe's existing reservation.

The Catawba Indian Land Claims Settlement Act of 1993, which gave the impoverished Tribe federal recognition and the ability to apply for federal grants, includes an agreement not to conduct gaming under the federal law that regulates most of the American Indian casinos in the U.S.

"We don't want any gaming in South Carolina as far as casinos, etcetera — whether it's Indian or not," South Carolina State Sen. Wes Hayes said.

Reluctant to sign away their federal gaming rights, the Tribe was torn. But they

signed. The Catawbas were promised only two high-dollar bingo halls and any other gambling allowed under state law. The Tribe's bingo hall in Rock Hill only lasted 10 years, however, because it was unable to turn a profit due to a 10 percent state tax on gross income and a competition from a new statewide lottery.

Catawba leaders want to step on the path to prosperity forged by Tribes in other states: casino gaming. But, they signed away that prospect 20 years ago.

So the Catawba Nation is looking across the border to North Carolina.

— Source: CharlotteObserver.com

Grand Canyon Escalade project still on table

GRAND CANYON, Ariz. — The proposed \$120 million, 420-acre Grand Canyon Escalade resort, on the rim of the Little Colorado Canyon, is back on the table, three months after the memorandum of understanding between the Navajo Tribe and Confluence Partners expired.

A new master agreement has been worked out between the Tribe and developers, containing three supporting agreements: an operating agreement, a development agreement and a management agreement for the resort, which would include three motels, several restaurants, vending areas, a museum and a tram to the bottom of the canyon.

— Navajo Times

Federal lawsuit against Billy Cypress dismissed

MIAMI — U.S. District Judge Marcia Cooke ruled that a lawsuit by the Micosukee Tribe in South Florida should be heard in either state or Tribal court.

The Tribe had charged former Chairman Billy Cypress, attorneys Guy Lewis and Dexter Lehtinen and the Miami office of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney (the Tribe's former brokerage firm) with violation of federal racketeering laws.

"Despite every effort of the Micosukee Tribe to bring this battle to the doorstep of the federal courthouse, the door cannot open to allow an intratribal dispute of this nature," Cooke said, in a 19-page ruling that urged the Tribe to consider the cost of endless litigation, quoting Gandhi: "An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind."

The Micosukee Tribe accused Cypress of spending millions of dollars in Tribal funds financing a gambling habit and living expensively during his two decades as Chairman.

Earlier this year, the Internal Revenue Service ordered the Micosukees to pay \$170 million for failing to withhold taxes on gambling distributions. The Tribe has a separate state suit against Lehtinen alleging malpractice in relation to this and other tax problems.

— Source: Miami Herald

Standing Rock Sioux accuse state of child genocide

STANDING ROCK INDIAN RESERVATION — The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, citing the 1987 Proxmire Act, which enables the United States to prosecute acts of genocide, has asked the federal government to file suit against the state of South Dakota for crimes against Tribal children.

Demanding that South and North Dakota Congressional delegations hold hearings on Indian child welfare, the Tribe has also contacted the United Nations about submitting material for the United States' upcoming human-rights review.

Citing South Dakota's habit of undermining Tribal culture and sovereignty by taking Native children and placing them in white households and white-run group homes, the Oglala and Rosebud Sioux Tribes and the American Civil Liberties Union recently sued the state in a related matter.

The Standing Rock Tribe's homeland — sixth largest in the U.S. (3,571.9 square miles) — is in the prairies and badlands of North and South Dakota and is shared by the Lakota, Yanktonai and Dakota Indian Tribes (population: 8,250).

The Standing Rock's Tribal Council claims that South Dakota's Department of Social Services (DSS) has been taking its children into care and adopting them out of the Tribe illegally, in violation of the Indian Child Welfare Act — a resolution was passed after a young Tribal member was placed with a white adoptive couple found homeless on the streets of Aberdeen, S.D.

In 2010, the teen and her siblings accused adoptive father Richard Mette of sexually and physically abusing them for more than a decade. Police who visited Richard and Wendy Larson Mette's house found sex toys and stacks of pornographic magazines and videotapes in bedrooms and common areas. The children were moved to another home.

South Dakota cut a deal with the father — now serving a relatively light sentence of 15 years for child rape — all the while trying to discredit the children. Court documents show state investigators interrogated the teen and her younger

siblings in a basement to get them to recant the abuse claims, which they did not.

— Indian Country Today

Amherst College acquires rare Native books

AMHERST, Mass. — The most "complete collection" of Native American literature and history known to exist has been acquired by Amherst College and is on display at the college's Frost Library.

The Pablo Eisenberg collection covers a wide spectrum, from religious pamphlets prior to the United States' existence to first-edition crime novels by noted author Martin Cruz Smith. Eisenberg is a well-known French philanthropist and advocate for the poor and people of color in social justice issues.

"This collection is significant because it is a collection of works written by Native Americans," College librarian Bryn Geffert said in an Amherst press release. "It presents a unique opportunity for Native American Studies scholars here at Amherst and elsewhere to mine the most complete collection ever compiled by a single collector."

Michael Kelly, director of archives and special collections at Amherst, said the collection has got it all — even hundreds of items not available at Harvard or Yale.

"The comprehensive nature of the collection is what makes it special," he said. "We have the Native American authors you've heard of, and for every Native American author you've heard of, there are two dozen you haven't heard of whose books we also now have."

— Amherst College

Interior Deputy nominee has Native ties

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Michael Connor, current Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at the Department of the Interior (DOI) and former top aide to Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (2001 to 2009) has been nominated by President Barack Obama to fill the position of Deputy Secretary of the Interior, a job David Hayes resigned from in June.

If confirmed by the Senate, Connor would hold office as the second in command under Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

Connor is believed to be the first person with ties to Indian Country to serve that high in the DOI, which oversees the nation's federal Indian affairs. Although he is not an enrolled Tribal citizen, Connor has roots with the Taos Pueblo: his maternal grandmother was an original member of Taos Pueblo's water rights task force, and his mother was half Taos, but not an enrolled citizen, according to the *Albuquerque Journal*.

Tribal leaders around the country have praised the nomination: Mark Macarro, Chairman of the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, issued a statement: "Throughout his career, Commissioner Connor has been a strong advocate for Indian Country and issues affecting Indian Country, particularly Indian water rights."

The National Congress of American Indians wrote: "Mr. Connor's work with Tribes in his role at the Senate Energy Committee demonstrates he is well prepared for the important duties of the Deputy Secretary to uphold the federal trust responsibility."

Hayes received scrutiny from Tribal leaders for his work on Indian issues, including the stalled Carcieri fix, the flawed Cobell settlement and myriad internal organizational issues.

Beyond his work in the Senate, Connor served at the Secretary of the Interior's Indian Water Rights Office as director from 1999 to 2001 and as deputy director there from 1998 to 1999. He worked as a lawyer at multiple offices at the Interior from 1993 to 1997, including the Southwestern Regional Solicitor's Office, the Division of Indian Affairs and the Solicitor's Honors Program. Connor received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from New Mexico State University, and he is a Colorado Law School alumnus, where he studied Indian law.

— NativeNewsToday.com

Five plead not guilty to ripping off Chippewa Cree

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — Five persons have pled not guilty to charges they embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from Montana's Chippewa Cree Tribe, part of a \$33 million federal stimulus package for construction of a water pipeline to the Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation.

Former state Rep. Tony Belcourt, his wife, Hailey, and three others entered their pleas in U.S. District Court in Great Falls. Belcourt is CEO of the Chippewa Cree Construction Corp., which is leading the water pipeline project.

— Source: Havre Daily News

News articles compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher.

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Education



Students explore future at annual college fair

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Finding the right college can be a long and difficult journey for students, but the Education Department is making the road a little smoother through its many resources, including the Higher Education College Fair held Oct. 4.

The Education Department brought 70 post-secondary institutions to Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, so Tribal students could see the broad spectrum of education available to them. Schools included everything from medical schools to flight schools and large universities to small liberal arts colleges — and even the Ivy League.

Nearly 140 parents and students attended the fair, with students across all reservations accounting for 115.

Although admissions officers had much to say about the unique characteristics of their own schools, they all agreed on one thing: Choose the school that fits you best.

“The ability to know yourself is very critical in the process — your personality, your ability, your strengths, your limitations,” said Shruti Elliot, Higher Education recruiter for the Seminole Tribe.

Other recruiters talked about the numerous factors that go into the decision process.

“I encourage them to come in with a general idea of what they want to study and what environment suits you best,” said Paul Shultz, from University of South Florida.

For the first time in the fair’s eight-year history, Tribal students currently pursuing their education were invited to attend the fair as their school’s ambassador. This provided prospective students an opportunity to gather information from their peers.

Nicole Osceola, an ambassador from Cosmix School of Makeup Artistry in Fort Lauderdale, provided a visual display of her education by offering makeovers for fair attendees. She especially loves body painting and dreams of becoming a professional stage makeup artist on Broadway.

“There’s a million makeup artists in New York, so I thought why not try something different?” Osceola said.

Osceola speaks highly of Cosmix, noting that she has learned more in three months than most people do in years. She said Tribal members contemplating going back to school should just do it.

“The more you think about it, the more you procrastinate, the more you’re going to doubt yourself,” she said.

Another cosmetic school ambassador, Cooper Rivers, from Paul Mitchell the School Miami, agreed with Osceola.

“Just do it. (You) can’t live off dividends. You want something to be proud of, to tell your kids about,” she said.

Rivers lives in Big Cypress, more than an hour away from school, but she

shows up every day because of the exciting environment she works in. Her specialty is hair, evident from her shiny blue locks, and she aspires to be just like her role model, Joel Warren, a world famous master colorist. “She’s making a huge commitment,” said Ernie Don, admissions leader at Paul Mitchell. “It shows her passion.”

Also during the fair, the Tribe’s Human Resources Department brought a basketball hoop for attendees to “shoot for a degree.” Each attendee got four shots, representing different levels of education. Regardless of whether they made the shot, they were entered into a raffle to win the basketball hoop to show that all they have to do is try.

The fair offered something for everyone, and recruiters assured students of the great value and need for people in their respective fields.

“Health careers are the way to go,” said Clyde Ramsuair, of Sanford-Brown Allied Health. “There will always be sick people and we need great people to take care of them.”

“There is a critical shortage of airline pilots,” said Michael Punziano, of the ATA Flight School. “It’s a fabulous career for anyone.”

Of the 63 feedback evaluations submitted — the most submitted in the fair’s history — 27 students said they want to attend an in-state institution, while 24 students said they would rather go out of state; nine students were unsure. Although attending school far from home seems scary, colleges offer many extracurricular activities and organizations to help students find a niche.

Some schools offer Native American studies programs, organizations and clubs to help Tribal members stay rooted in

their culture and make new friends in a space of familiarity. This year, Dartmouth College celebrates 43 years of its Native American Program, which provides academic advising, personal counseling and opportunities for students to explore and express their culture. School president John Kemeny established the program in 1970 to change the lack of higher education opportunities for Native Americans.

Since the program’s inception, nearly 700 Native Americans from more than 200 Tribes have attended Dartmouth. Currently, 200 Native students attend Dartmouth, representing 60 different Tribes — one of those being Joseph John, of Hollywood.

John’s sister Carson Knaby attended the fair but has different prospects in her future; she wants to study culinary arts at Johnson and Wales University.

“There is a school out there for somebody and one school does not fit all,” Elliot said.

This year’s feedback proved the fair helped students, parents and recruiters.

Feedback evaluations rated the fair 4.5 out of 5, overall. The majority of the evaluations showed that the fair helped students in their decision to pursue higher education, had a great variety of schools and that the majority of students found schools that piqued their interest at the fair.

The Education Department will follow up with the students who attended the fair to discuss interests and options and move forward with planning a college tour.

“It can be very intimidating so we want to make it as simple as possible,” Elliot said.

And it is. All a student or parent has to do is call Education at 954-989-6840 to make an appointment.



From left, Joletta John-Carney and her daughter Carson Knaby speak to Dartmouth representative Steven Abbot. John-Carney’s son Joseph John currently attends the Ivy League school.

Amanda Murphy

Tribes unite for student stickball

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Native American stickball was played with heart and soul and plenty of fun Sept. 25 for the first time between Seminole and Miccosukee Tribal students.

Nearly 100 students from Miccosukee Indian School in Miami and Ahfachkee School on the Big Cypress Reservation converged at Ahfachkee’s campus field and outdoor culture classrooms. There, the

schools blended into boys’ versus girls’ teams for matches in the ancient athletic sport.

“It’s always great when we can come together to share our culture, and in this case, to share the same culture,” said Ahfachkee principal Lucy Dafoe during a pre-game pep talk.

Girls donned patchwork skirts per tradition.

Most boys dressed in patchwork shirts but many Miccosukee boys wore T-shirts that heralded Indian Day, which

was celebrated throughout the last week of September.

Frank Billie Jr., of Big Cypress Council Compliance, led the stickball games. Billie kept score and ensured youth learned the game according to centuries-old rules, including that men only use handmade sticks to manipulate the ball and women only use their hands to catch and throw.

The girls’ teams claimed victory in both the middle school and high school matches.

◆ See more STICKBALL photos on page 4B



Eileen Soler

Teens revel on the stickball field Sept. 25 in a match that pit boys and girls from Miccosukee Indian School and Ahfachkee School in the first combined Tribal school game.



Andrea Holata

Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School’s newly elected Student Council gathers for a group picture after the inauguration Oct. 1.

PECS holds Student Council inauguration, clothing contest

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — To inaugurate newly elected Student Council members while expressing appreciation for Seminole culture, a clothing contest was incorporated into the Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School Student Council inauguration Oct. 1.

From kindergarten through eighth grade, students took turns modeling their traditional outfits for the clothing contest. Boys dressed in modern traditional long shirts with moccasins and turbans, as well old traditional style long shirts with no patchwork.

Girls wore dresses with long capes, skirts and beaded necklaces and earrings. Each grade was awarded with first, second and third place ribbons.

“It makes me proud that our younger generations are displaying our culture, and they are doing it well,” said Louis Gopher, emcee of the event.

After the clothing contest, Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. swore in 10 new Student Council members. Every newly elected member placed their left hand on the Bible, raised their right

hand and promised to set a good example, work hard and actively learn the Creek language and Seminole culture.

After the inauguration, each elected representative gave a speech and received a sash by the outgoing representative.

“I would like to thank everybody who participated in the election, and I will represent our school to the best of my ability,” said Student Council Chairman Ives Baker to his peers.

Councilman Bowers and Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard shared advice with the newly elected members.

“When you say you’re going to be a good example, that means you’re going to do what is right, like helping other students without being asked,” Councilman Bowers said. “Indians used to say you don’t have to go around bragging about what you are or what you know; just go do it. People will notice, they will trust you and they will follow.”

In true inauguration fashion, all newly elected officers, outgoing officers and Tribal dignitaries formed a line for all students, teachers and parents to shake hands and to formally welcome them as PECS’ Student Council.

◆ See STUDENT COUNCIL on page 5B

Student profile: Jo Jo Osceola

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Juggling a full university-level course load and raising two children might sound challenging, but Jo Jo Osceola calls it a blessing.

“It’s not really a struggle because we are extremely blessed with the Seminole Tribe and the Education Department,” she said.

Osceola, of the Bird Clan, is in her junior year at the University of Miami, majoring in political science and double-minoring in English and psychology. The 26-year-old has plans to attend law school and to work for the Tribe as general counsel.

“I want to preserve a better future for our people,” Osceola said.

Her aspirations could stem from the positive role models surrounding her. Osceola’s father, Joe Dan Osceola, attended Georgetown University on a scholarship for basketball and cross country. He went on to hold esteemed positions in the Tribe, such as Tribal ambassador and president, worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and founded the United South and Eastern Tribes alongside Betty Mae Jumper.

Her mother, Virginia Osceola, is a seamstress who has helped organize cultural gatherings like the Tribal Fair. She instilled the value of tradition in her children and passed her sewing skills on to Osceola, who won every contest she entered for Indian Day this year on both Big Cypress and Hollywood Reservations. She said in the days before the holiday, she spent her time “sewing and studying, sewing and studying.”

A role model herself, she was a guest speaker at the Higher Education College Fair on Oct. 4. She said she made a point to show participants how blessed they are to have access to the resources the

Tribe provides through the Education Department.

“We can’t do it by ourselves but we don’t have to,” she said. “And if you don’t know what you want to do, that’s OK.”

Osceola might know exactly what she wants to do with her future, but she said she still relies on the support of the Tribe, the Education Department and her family for guidance.

Growing up in Hollywood, with a father from Brighton and a mother from Trail, Osceola’s parents strived to keep her grounded in her Seminole roots. She feels connected to all the reservations, including Big Cypress where her husband, Byron Billie, is from.

“Wherever we go is home,” she said.

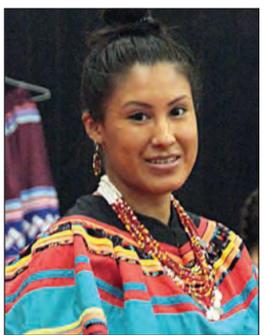
Osceola’s accolades also include winning the coveted Miss Seminole Princess Pageant in 2000. Her crown, which hangs in her house, caught the eye of her 7-year-old daughter, Sarafina Billie, in 2009.

“I don’t miss class and she doesn’t miss class and we make it work,” Osceola said.

Just like her parents taught her, Osceola raises her children in the spirit of the Seminole tradition and strives to teach them positivity, she said.

Even with a heavy schedule, she finds time to indulge in things she loves — like playing basketball on the reservation and running half marathons — and she has high hopes for herself and for the future of the Tribe.

“When our people rose from poverty, that was a struggle. Everything we do now is a blessing. Everything we have now came at a price,” she said. “That’s what I teach my children.”



Beverly Bidney

Jo Jo Osceola is pursuing a political science degree at the University of Miami.

'Fun Friday' brings culture to Hollywood Preschool

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Culture is best learned while young, so the Hollywood Preschool spent a "Fun Friday" Sept. 20 experiencing Seminole culture.

About 60 children participated in a rousing game of stickball, a clothing contest, and a skillet and hatchet throwing competition.

"We worked with the preschool director to give the kids an idea of what goes on during Indian Day," said Jo Motlow North, Community Culture Center manager.

The event was the first Fun Friday of the year; it culminated a week spent learning cultural activities in school, including beading and soap carving.

Bobby Frank, Community Culture Center assistant manager, started off the stickball game with his own sticks. Throughout the game, he demonstrated how to use the sticks and helped create the right stickball atmosphere. Kids did their best to play the game according to the rules, but

little boys with sticks in their hands found other ways to use them. When those sticks became swords, adults quickly took them away for safety reasons.

As Frank whoop-whooped and adults laughed heartily, some children cried when they lost the ball to another child.

"Whoever gets it, gets it," said Frank, to the crying children.

When stickball ended, girls learned to throw a skillet, while boys tried their hand at the hatchet throw.

Fun Friday events will be held each month, and parents are invited to attend.

Upcoming Fun Friday events:

- Nov. 22 - Crafts - Make and Take
- Dec. 13 - Christmas Fun
- Jan. 31 - Team Spirit Day
- Feb. 28 - Pow Wow
- March 14 - Treasure Hunt
- April 1 - Week of the Young Child Celebration
- May 30 - Movie Day
- June 27 - S'mores Party
- July 25 - Luau Party



Beverly Bidney

This girl proudly holds the ball high before throwing it during the preschool stickball game.



Beverly Bidney

Preschool girls show the judges their clothing, front and back, for the clothing contest.



Beverly Bidney

Logan Wilcox enthusiastically throws the hatchet during the Hollywood Preschool's culture Fun Friday.



Beverly Bidney

Bobby Frank, Community Culture Center assistant manager, demonstrates how to use the sticks to catch, hold and throw the ball during the Hollywood Preschool's culture Fun Friday event.



Beverly Bidney

Myra Frank, of the Culture Department, teaches Giselle Young how to throw a skillet.

Brighton preschoolers get a lesson in Tribal culture



Andrea Holata

The 4-year-old girls at the Brighton Preschool learn how to make traditional pumpkin frybread. As part of Indian Day, the Community Culture Center staff spent the day teaching preschoolers the Creek language and how to make frybread, as well as playing games with them.



Andrea Holata

It's Kulipa Julian's turn in the cow knee bone game, a game of numbers Seminoles used to play when there weren't any other games to play.



Andrea Holata

One-year-old Marley Cypress gets the feel of making pumpkin frybread with her tiny hands.



Andrea Holata

The 3-year-olds at Brighton Preschool take a break from learning the traditional cow knee bone game to smile for the camera.



Andrea Holata

Culture language instructor Laverne Thomas calls out colors in the Creek language to the 4-year-old class at the Brighton Preschool.

Students of the Month



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Elementary school Students of the Month at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School are: Lason Baker, Aaryn King, Alyssa Madrigal, Preslynn Baker, Maricella Garcia, Tiera Garner, Saniya Rodrigues, Cece Thomas, Leviticus Berry, Pearcetin Trammell, Terald Garner, Mariah Billie, Jayton Baker, Kayven Emely, Caylie Huff, Jaylen Baker, Laila Bennett and Guadalupe Mora-Lara.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Middle school Students of the Month are: Brooke Watford, Conner Thomas and Bakari Micco.

Prayers aplenty at the flagpole for Big Cypress community

Students, teachers, leaders, elders gather for worldwide 'See You at the Pole'

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The sun had barely risen Sept. 25 when Ahfachkee School students, Big Cypress Reservation religious leaders and community elders gathered for prayer at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium flagpole memorial.

"When the public schools took prayer and the salute to the flag out of the classroom, a group of Texas kids gathered outside to pray anyway," said the Rev. Salaw Hummingbird, pastor of Big Cypress First Baptist Church who led the early morning prayer meeting.

In 1990, 10 Texas teens went to local schools under the cover of night to ask for God's blessing on friends, teachers and local leaders.

The movement has since spawned thousands of See You at the Pole events now held on the third Wednesday in September worldwide.

On the Big Cypress Reservation, children from kindergarten through 12th grade were escorted from Ahfachkee to the flagpoles across the street that wave the colors of the American, Seminole and Florida flags.

With hands over hearts, students Nicholas Andrews and Jordan Osceola led the crowd of nearly 150 people in the Seminole and American pledges of



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School students Reginald Ling and Ricky Garza gaze at the Seminole and American flags during *The Star Spangled Banner* at the Sept. 25 See You at the Pole prayer event.

allegiance. Pastor Hummingbird assured children not to worry about recent tragic school

events, such as shootings that have occurred in other schools throughout the nation. "We all hear about things that happen . . . but we have a great police department and great emergency response workers," he said.

Lt. Victor Madrid, of the Seminole Police Department on Big Cypress, challenged children to say no to drugs, violence and temptations that could lead them to make bad choices.

"Take God into your life instead and let God guide you," Lt. Madrid said.

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank implored teachers and parents to go above academics when guiding children through school.

"We teach them math, English and science. Let's not forget to teach kindness also," Rep. Frank said.

Holding the Bible, Hummingbird quoted 2 Corinthians 7:14 — "If my people who are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

"We're fortunate here on Big Cypress Reservation to have leaders who believe in prayer, especially in our Native world," Pastor Hummingbird said.



Eileen Soler

A faithful crowd from Big Cypress Reservation gathers for morning prayer Sept. 25.

Little Mr. & Miss. Seminole 2014

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Enrollment #: _____ Date of Birth _____

Print Name of Parent or Legal Guardian (circle one)

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Cell #: _____

Contestants must be an enrolled tribal member, between the ages of 5 – 7 years old by February 6, 2014 and reside in the state of Florida. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Registration deadline is Monday, February 3, 2014 at 5:00pm. All contestants must be preregistered. There will be no applications taken on the day of contest.

Confirm that your applications have been received by fax, email, Committee member, or walk-in's to the Secretary's office. Call Wanda Bowers at (954) 444-9827, fax (954) 967-3488, or email wbowers@semtribe.com.

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- Trail Seminoles – Michael Cantu, (305) 553-8245 ext. 18702
- Immokalee – Crystal Salinas, (239) 867-5300
- Tampa – (813) 246-3100 Vicky Aspey ext. 19312 or Sunny Ploch ext. 19300

◆ More **STICKBALL** photos from page 1B



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School senior Quenton Cypress dashes for the ball during a stickball match Sept. 25.



Eileen Soler

Teens enjoy a friendly game of stickball.



Eileen Soler

Middle school students scramble for the ball.



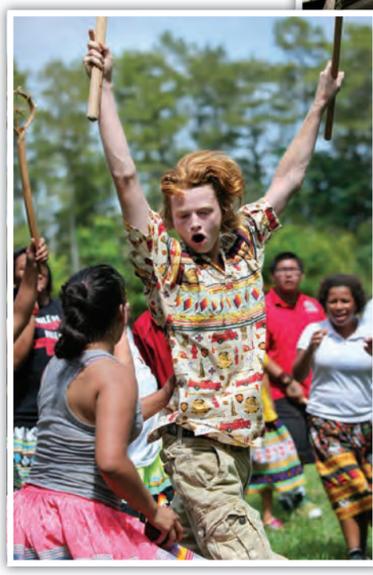
Eileen Soler

Students, teachers and staff from Ahfachkee School and Miccosukee Indian School watch a match.



Eileen Soler

Teens enjoy a game of stickball on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Eileen Soler

Dalton Koenes is elated to keep the ball from the girls' team Sept. 25 during the first Miccosukee Indian School and Ahfachkee School stickball game.



Eileen Soler

Students prepare for the stickball game.



Eileen Soler

Teen boys play against teen girls in stickball.



Eileen Soler

Teens revel and rally on the stickball field at Ahfachkee.

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MADD sends sobering message to Police Explorers

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Helen Witty knows the pain of losing a child to a drunk driver; in 2000 her 16-year-old daughter was killed while rollerblading by a teenage driver under the influence of alcohol and marijuana.

As a Miami-based program specialist and victim advocate for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Witty puts her pain to good use by speaking to groups of kids to spread awareness and educate them about the consequences of driving under the influence. She tells the story of her daughter, Helen Marie Witty, who used to rollerblade almost every day.

The day of the tragic accident was no different from any other, at first.

"She blew me a kiss and said, 'I love you,'" Witty said. "And I never saw her again."

A group of Police Explorers in Hollywood listened Oct. 8 as Witty told her story. The 17-year-old driver, Carla Wagner, had been celebrating the end of the school year with friends, a bottle of tequila and some marijuana.

Wagner was convicted and sent to prison. As part of her sentence, she was ordered to speak at high schools, starting with Witty's daughter's school. After she served her prison sentence, Wagner was deported to her native country, Panama.

"She never intended to hurt anyone," Witty said, "and yet, she's a killer."

The mission of MADD, founded in 1980 by a mother whose daughter suffered the same fate as Witty's, aims to stop drunk driving, support victims of the crime and prevent underage drinking. MADD

is also a victims' services organization that helps one person every eight minutes, at no charge.

Witty talks to groups of children often in an attempt to protect them, although she knows she cannot. What she can do is help them protect themselves by giving them information about alcohol.

"I think if they get the information maybe they won't get into a car when someone has been drinking. But they will be making the decisions," Witty said.

She urges children to stay sober because alcohol damages developing young brains.

"Alcohol kills more young people than all of the other drugs combined," she said. "It slows everything in your body down, including your judgment. Always demand a sober driver; don't get into a car with someone who has had even one drink. There's no do-over."

After clearing the room of the younger Explorers, Witty showed a graphically intense Australian video reenactment of car accidents and the events leading up to them. It showed groups of happy young people getting together in various situations, all drinking beer before getting into a car.

The results were tragic in every case. Stuart Flacks, a victim of a teenage drunk driving accident, told his story to the group next. In 1981 he was a passenger in a car driven by a friend. Both of them had been drinking.

Permanently disabled by the accident, Flacks spent three months in a coma and a year in the hospital after the accident.

He now has brain damage and other disabling injuries. His femur was broken, as well as his shin bone; today that leg is a few inches shorter than the other, causing him to walk with a limp.

"I'm here to get real with you and to share my truth," Flacks said. "I was 16 years old and I was stupid."

Although his speech is difficult to understand — the soft palette in his mouth and throat was severely damaged and had to be surgically rebuilt — Flacks was able to get his point across. The Explorers listened carefully and seemed to take his message to heart.

The ultimate goal is that the message of MADD conveyed during the meeting will be remembered when the young Explorers are old enough to drive.

"Maybe I survived to be here today to look you in the eye and show you what happens," he said. "I am you, you are me. We are no different; we are all from the human race."



Beverly Bidney

Helen Witty, of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, talks to Police Explorers in Hollywood about losing her child to a drunk driver in 2000.

STUDENT COUNCIL

From page 1B

2013-2014 Student Council

- Chairman: Ivess Baker
- Eighth Grade: Jalynn Jones
- Seventh Grade: Chynna Villareal
- Sixth Grade: Silas Madrigal
- Fifth Grade: Billy Bailey
- Fourth Grade: Dakoya Nunez
- Third Grade: Winnie Gopher
- Second Grade: Ashlynn Collins
- First Grade: Madison Ayuso
- Kindergarten: Hinton Anderson



Andrea Holata

Ivess Baker raises his right hand and takes the oath to become Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Student Council Chairman.



Andrea Holata

Siblings Juanita and Chayton Billie show off their traditional clothing for the clothing contest.



Andrea Holata

Pictured are the winners of the seventh-grade clothing contest.



Andrea Holata

First-graders show off their winning ribbons from the clothing contest.



Andrea Holata

Silas Madrigal takes an oath to become a Student Council representative.



Andrea Holata

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School girls model their traditional attire during the clothing contest Oct. 1 at the Brighton Veteran's Building.

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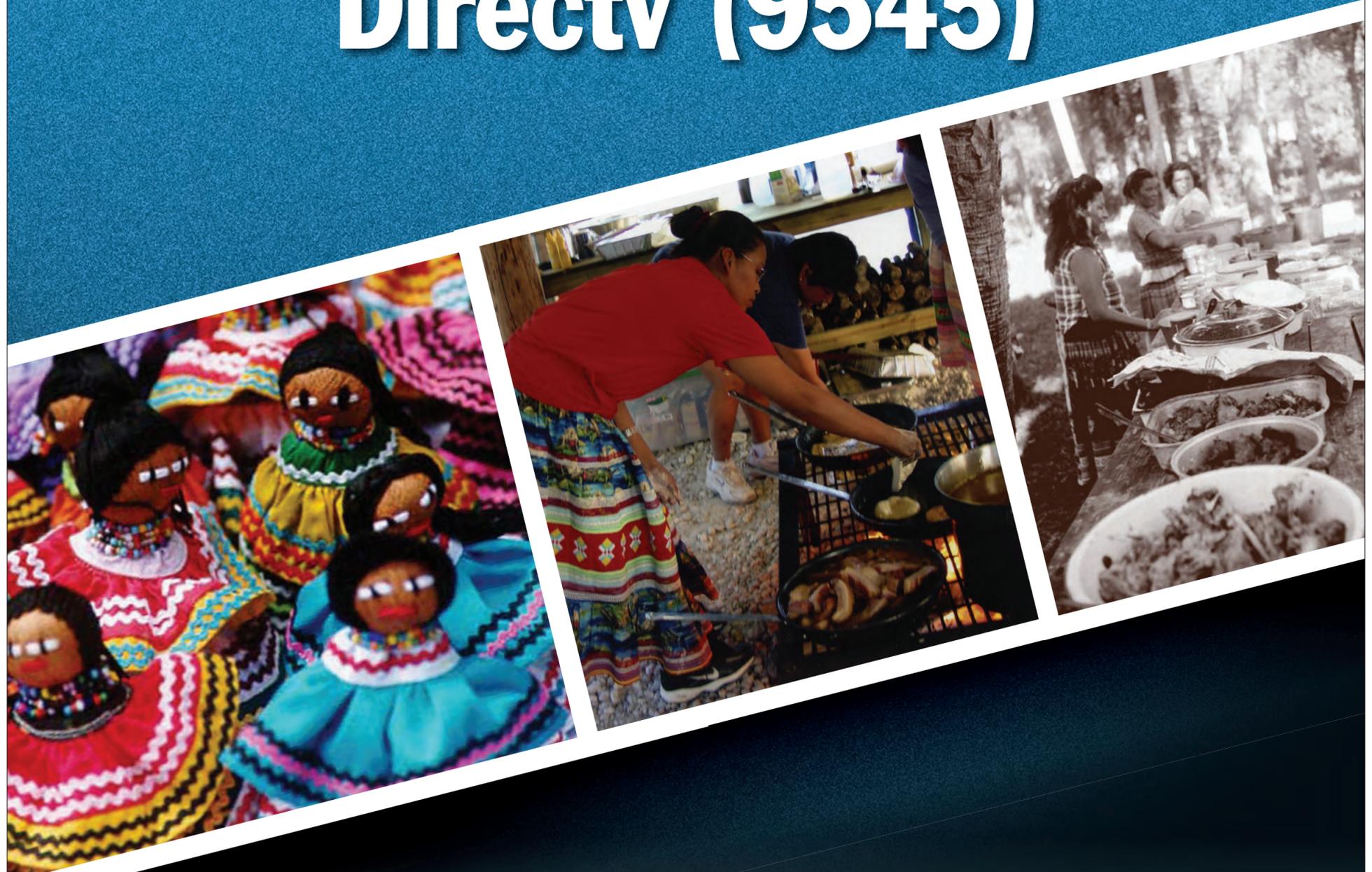
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Golf season wraps par for course

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Middle school athlete Dasani Cypress ended the golf season on a high note Oct. 14 at the district tournament in Naples.

"For only playing competitive golf for a short time, and playing on the school's volleyball team at the same time, Dasani is showing good strength," coach Amos Mazzant said.

The eighth-grader advanced to the regional tournament after completing 18 holes. She held her own with high school competitors throughout the season while improving her skills.

Every swing counts, she said. "I scored one less than the last time," she said at a game Oct. 8 against LaBelle High School at Glades Golf & Country Club's course. Dasani's score of 54 placed her as an individual player at districts. There, she earned the third best individual score among 17 players.

Senior and team captain Quenton Cypress, eighth-grader Troy Cantu and high school junior Darryl Billie made up the boys' team for the 2013 season. Quenton and Troy competed at districts as individuals with Quenton scoring 54-55 to move on to regionals.

"All of our golfers did very well on a very difficult course," Mazzant said.

Though the players play regular season games on nine holes, the districts were 18 holes.

Dasani scored 53 on the back nine and 73 on the front nine and won a place at the regional finals Oct. 21 at Golden Gate Country Club in Naples.

Troy will not go to regionals but shot



Eileen Soler

Team captain Quenton Cypress takes a swing at a match Oct. 8 against LaBelle High School.

his best game at districts – a 56-63.

Mazzant said Dasani and Troy show the most promise for a winning season in 2014.

"Their scores may not show it now but things are about to happen," he said.

◆ See more GOLF photos on page 5C



Beverly Bidney

Sheldon Osceola draws the arrow on his compound bow during an archery class held by Hollywood Recreation.

Tribe continues archery tradition

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Archery is one of the featured events at next summer's Indigenous Games in Saskatchewan, Canada, and the Tribe is looking for young archers to compete in the age-old tradition.

The use of bows and arrows in North America dates back to around 2500 B.C. when the first Native Americans crossed the land bridge from Russia to Alaska and ventured south looking for mammoths and buffalo. Years later Indians in Florida, including the Seminoles, used them as survival tools in the Everglades.

"Back in the day, we had to do what we had to do to survive and provide food," said Paul Buster, Cultural language instructor. "They weren't weapons; they were tools."

People used the tools to hunt four-legged animals and fish. Bows were made of local wood and buckskin. Other fibers were used to project the arrows.

Today, bows and arrows are made of modern materials, such as fiberglass and aluminum, and are used for hunting and the sport of archery.

For the Indigenous Games, Seminole team tryouts will be held in Brighton at 10 a.m., Nov. 2 for 19U, 16U and 14U teams. Archers can use either traditional or compound bows.

A compound bow uses about half the pressure of a traditional bow when pulled



Beverly Bidney

Recreation employee Joe Collins explains an archery technique to student Kyler Bell during a class in Hollywood.

back to shoot. The cam, or pulley, system takes the weight off the bow once the arrow is drawn back at full length. In addition, accessories such as a sight and stabilizer can

be added. A traditional, or recurve, bow has been around for thousands of years.

◆ See ARCHERY on page 2C

Youth hone volleyball skills at Haskell university clinic

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Nearly 35 youth, ages 3 to 17 Tribalwide, got a special visit Sept. 29 from Haskell Indian Nations University.

The school's women's volleyball team – in town from Lawrence, Kan. for games against Southeastern University and Webber International – held a clinic in Brighton to help improve kids' skills on the volleyball court.

"We want our girls to see that their level of play today is not that far off from the collegiate level of play. We want them to see for themselves how athletic they really are compared to girls that play collegiately," said Richard Blankenship, Recreation

director for the Seminole Tribe. "We want them to get some exposure to Haskell and we want them to get exposure to volleyball."

To start off the clinic, youth broke into groups and raced against each other in team exercises. Each group then participated in drills with a member of the Haskell team guiding them every step of the way. Drills included learning the correct way to hit a low ball and learning to recover by standing up quickly. All participants rotated through each drill.

"I learned how to spike the ball better," said Sunni Bearden, of the Brighton Reservation, who plays for the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's volleyball team.

Haskell's head coach for women's volleyball, Nana Allison-Brewer, enjoyed

seeing the amount of energy the Tribe had for volleyball. She hopes youth will continue developing skills.

"I want them to see the level of competition we are playing at and that we are collegiate athletes playing at a high level – and hopefully encourage them to see that their hard work right now can continue to grow and develop," she said.

Jo Leigh Johns, of the Brighton Reservation, organized the volleyball clinic and was satisfied with the turnout.

Some of the girls who attended the clinic can use their new skills while competing in the Indigenous Games to be held in Canada next summer.

◆ See more HASKELL photos on page 4C

Student athlete profile: Ahnie Jumper



Beverly Bidney

Ahnies Jumper sets the ball Oct. 9 during an American Heritage volleyball game against Somerset Academy.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

PLANTATION — Ahnies Jumper is the type of athlete who plays one sport just to keep in shape for the next one she'll play. True to form, the ninth-grader is excelling on the volleyball court while she waits for basketball and softball seasons to come around.

A setter on the American Heritage varsity team, Jumper also thrives in the classroom and has learned to balance academics and athletics.

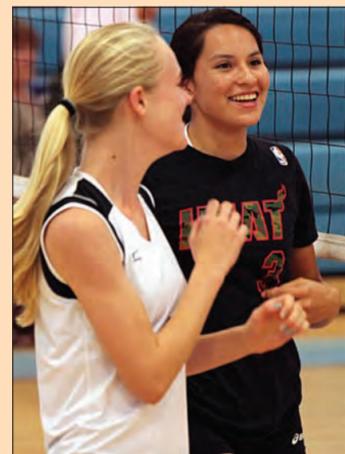
Reading in the car during the hour commute from Big Cypress to Plantation every day helps Jumper keep up with her schoolwork.

"You just have to make time to study and do work between practices and games," said Jumper, 14.

Jumper comes from an athletic family and draws inspiration from her brothers, Andre and Blevyns, who play football at American Heritage, and her father, Josh Jumper, who is surrounded by sports as the Recreation site manager in Big Cypress.

"They inspire me to push harder," she said. "There is always something to improve on."

At a recent game against Somerset Academy, Jumper was in her element. Surrounded by teammates while warming up before the game, they shared an easy camaraderie before they got down to the business on the court. As of press time, the team is .500 for the season with an 11-11 record. On Oct. 9 they defeated Somerset 25-20,



Beverly Bidney

American Heritage student Ahnies Jumper warms up before the varsity volleyball game against Somerset Academy.

25-22 and 25-14.

"I like being on the team," Jumper said. "It's like having another family."

Jumper's goal is to get straight A's in school, play softball in college and become an athletic trainer. Even though her long-term goal is years away, she knows how she will achieve it.

"You can do a lot of things through Christ, which strengthens you," she said. "If you need help, just ask and He'll provide. But you have to put in the work."



Andrea Holata

Tribal youth and the Haskell volleyball team gather Sept. 29 for a photo after an instructive clinic in Brighton.

PECS volleyball team shows promise on the court

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's girls' volleyball team continues to gain strength and learn the importance of teamwork.

"We are really coming together as a team — it's so nice to see," said head coach Kim Jackson. "The thing about our team is we have so much more potential. We could be so much better than we are right now; that's very exciting."

The Lady Seminolas are off to a good start winning games against Moore Haven (25-6, 25-7), Yearling Middle (25-16, 27-25), Everglades City (25-11, 25-10), Osceola (25-15, 25-10) and Glades Day (25-10, 25-8).

On Sept. 19 the Lady Seminolas defeated their rivals the Yearling Middle School Bulls (25-16, 27-25). Leading the team was Aleina Micco who had five aces, or serves the opponent can't return, and

Raeley Matthews with 10 kills, or points off a spike.

Team member Sunni Bearden said she enjoys playing teams on their home court, but she hopes to win against Yearling on their court as well.

"It's fantastic (to play Yearling); it's so wild," Bearden said. "We are always ready to play them but we are going to try our best to beat them on their home court, too."

Jackson said the team has some things they need to improve but that they work well together overall.

"We are really a close-knit team; we really don't have any conflicts," Jackson said. "They are learning how to rely on each other and know that someone else is going to be behind them. They are learning trust and reliability."

This year's roster includes Sunni Bearden, Camryn Thomas, Chynna Villarreal, Cady Osceola, Aleina Micco, Raeley Matthews, Caroline Sweat and Krysta Burton.



Andrea Holata

Cady Osceola positions herself for a serve against Yearling Middle School Sept. 19.



Andrea Holata

Caroline Sweat, left, and Sunni Bearden high-five after winning both sets against their rivals, the Yearling Middle School Bulls.

ARCHERY

From page 1C

"We have kids who prefer the compound bow with all the accessories," said Jason Tommie, Brighton archery instructor and field supervisor. "But we have some who like traditional, too."

The Indigenous Games competition will include different types of targets including 3-D, round bull's-eye and square target with four bull's-eyes. Because of Canada's hilly terrain, competitors can expect some uphill shots. To prepare Tribal kids for the challenges, Tommie will elevate the targets to give the kids practice shooting in an upward motion.

In addition, the distances to the targets will be significantly farther during the games than they are typically placed in Brighton. Tommie will prepare archers for those distances by placing targets up to 50 yards away instead of the usual 25 to 30.

The Recreation Department offers lessons on every reservation, and



Beverly Bidney

Kyler Bell draws back the arrow on his traditional bow during a class in Hollywood.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton incorporates the sport into physical education classes. And although traditionally a sport for boys and men only, with a parent's permission girls can also participate.

"Traditions aren't as strict as they used to be years ago," Buster said.

Brighton Recreation offers archery as a seasonal sport from November to January, which attracts student athletes between sports seasons, Tommie said. Kids ages 5 to 18 can participate if they are still in school.



Andrea Holata

Sunni Bearden gets some air as she prepares to spike the ball against the Yearling Middle School Bulls Sept. 19. Pemayetv Emahakv won both sets against Yearling.

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Neko Osceola, Andre Jumper shine on the gridiron

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

PLANTATION — American Heritage High School in Plantation is in the midst of a winning football season and two Seminole players have contributed to the Patriots' victories on the gridiron.

Neko Osceola and Andre Jumper, though never on the field together, have added to the strength of the team through their determination and perseverance.

Osceola is a fullback on the offense, and Jumper plays defensive end and linebacker for the defense. At press time, the Patriots were 6-1 and were ranked third in the state by the Associated Press.

Both teenagers have played for years but enjoy the sport for different reasons.

Osceola, 17, is an all-round athlete who plays basketball and runs track. He enjoys football because he likes the game and being part of the team. Jumper likes the physical aspects of the game.

Both boys enjoy the status of being student athletes and want to play college ball. The challenge for Osceola is doing well in school while staying dedicated to the sport. Both take many long hours during the week and on the weekends.

"I do what I do on the field and in the classroom, go home, get a good night sleep and do it all over again," said Osceola, of Hollywood. "But I like being an example to other kids at school."

After high school he wants to play college ball, study sports management and become a sports manager or athletic trainer — if he doesn't become a pro football player. Osceola's inspiration comes from his family, including his older brother Jerome Davis; his mother, Patricia Wilcox; and his 7-month-old nephew Jerome.

He strives to be humble and responsible like his mother and brother and appreciates that his mother is a very traditional Seminole.

Osceola has sports heroes as well, including his stepfather former NFL running back Lorenzo White, Michael Jordan and

University of Miami running back Duke Johnson. He shared simple advice for students who want to pursue athletics.

"Listen to the coaches when they tell you something," he said. "Don't take anything for granted and get your grades now instead of waiting for the last minute to try to pull them together. It means a lot to be a student athlete."

Football coach Mike Rumph said he couldn't imagine the team without these two players and has noticed improvements in both boys.

Rumph credits Jumper's rodeo experience for making him a stronger and tougher player. He is pleased with how well Osceola plays on special teams and blocks for one of the top running backs in the state, Sony Michel.

"They have both found their niche on the team this year and have a solid spot where they can contribute to the team," Rumph said. "They worked hard and sacrificed a lot over the summer to help the team get better. Because of that, they are helping contribute on Friday nights."

Being a student athlete means juggling sports without sacrificing academics — not always an easy task. But Jumper seems to have found the winning formula. With his 3.5 GPA, he has managed to thrive in both arenas. His favorite subject is history.

"I like to learn about what happened before we were even thought of," said Jumper, of Big Cypress. "Of people's struggles, what they had to go through and how they lived."

Because he lives in Big Cypress, Jumper spends a lot of time commuting to and from school. He gets home late and then does his homework.

"I think of Friday as payday," he said. "I work hard from Monday to Friday. In the end it will get me to where I want to be and I can tell people I played football, maintained good grades and graduated from high school."

But Jumper's goals go well beyond high school.

"I see myself going to college and



Beverly Bidney

Neko Osceola, left, and Andre Jumper, of American Heritage High School, gear up before playing Key West High School. They won 48-7.

pursuing my dream of playing football," he said. "If that doesn't work out I'd like to be an architect."

Jumper finds inspiration in his grandfather, Jonas Cypress, who encourages him to expand his horizons.

"He's gone through a lot," Jumper said. "He inspires me to do my best and drives me to go off the rez. He knows it's not the only place we have. He encourages me to see the rest of the world."

Although he is only 17, Jumper has

some sage words for other students.

"Keep working hard; don't stop," he said. "Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something. If they say that, it should make you want to drive harder. When you work hard, it will pay off."



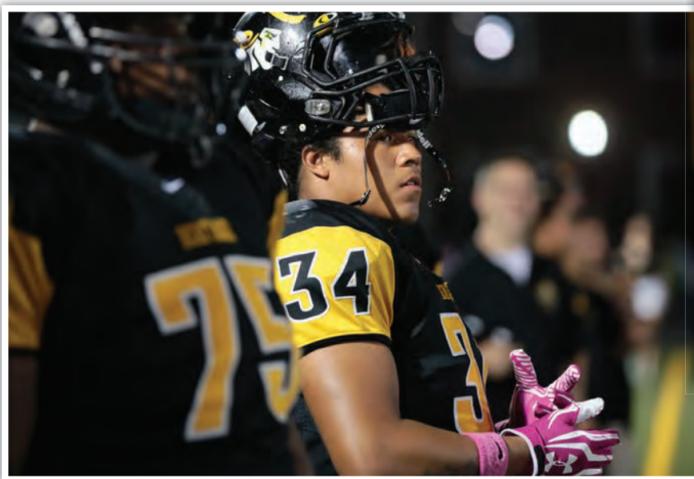
Beverly Bidney

Andre Jumper, No. 15, is about to tackle the Key West quarterback during the American Heritage game.



Beverly Bidney

Neko Osceola, No. 34, plays on the special teams during kickoff after an American Heritage touchdown.



Beverly Bidney

A member of the offense and special teams unit, Neko Osceola keenly watches the defense play and awaits his time on the field.



Beverly Bidney

Andre Jumper, No. 15, and the rest of the defense leave the field after stopping Key West High School.



Beverly Bidney

Andre Jumper, No. 15, tackles the Key West player with the ball.

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Christine & Dominick

Brighton's littlest football players hit the gridiron



Andrea Holata

Javaris Johnson rushes the ball 7 yards for the Okeechobee Youth Football League (OYFL) against Cypress Gardens Oct. 7. OYFL Brahmans Mighty Mights division won 35-0.



Andrea Holata

Tribal members Javaris Johnson, Jrayko Billie, Creek Gopher and Quayton Billie smile for the camera during halftime.



Andrea Holata

A timeout offers the perfect opportunity for brothers Quayton and Jrayko Billie to show off their uniforms and helmets.

◆ More HASKELL photos from page 1C



Andrea Holata

A Haskell volleyball player teaches Courtney Gore how to correctly block a ball.



Andrea Holata

Haskell volleyball assistant coach Alta Malchoff instructs young girls about how to hit the volleyball correctly.



Andrea Holata

Sunni Bearden and Aleina Micco practice how to retrieve a low ball and recover by standing up quickly.



Andrea Holata

Tribal youth participate in relay drills Sept. 29 during the Haskell volleyball clinic at the Brighton Gym.



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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs

ACTION: Notice of Availability

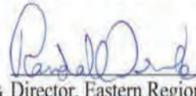
SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the lease and associated construction of a billboard on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Hollywood Reservation, Broward County, Florida (Township 50 S, Range 41 E, Section 36). The conceptual dimensions of the billboard are 55 x 48 feet with the sign face 14 feet long. The proposed project is located off of State Road 7 and across from Seminole Way.

The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Clear Channel 2-Sided Billboard Environmental Assessment (EA), dated August 2013, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department, to determine the environmental impacts associated with the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability, that the EA and FONSI for the project are available for public review. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information in the EA. You may obtain a copy of the EA and FONSI from the BIA Eastern Regional Office or the Environmental Resources Management Department of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 6365 Taft Street, Suite 3008, Hollywood, FL 33024, telephone (954) 965-4380.

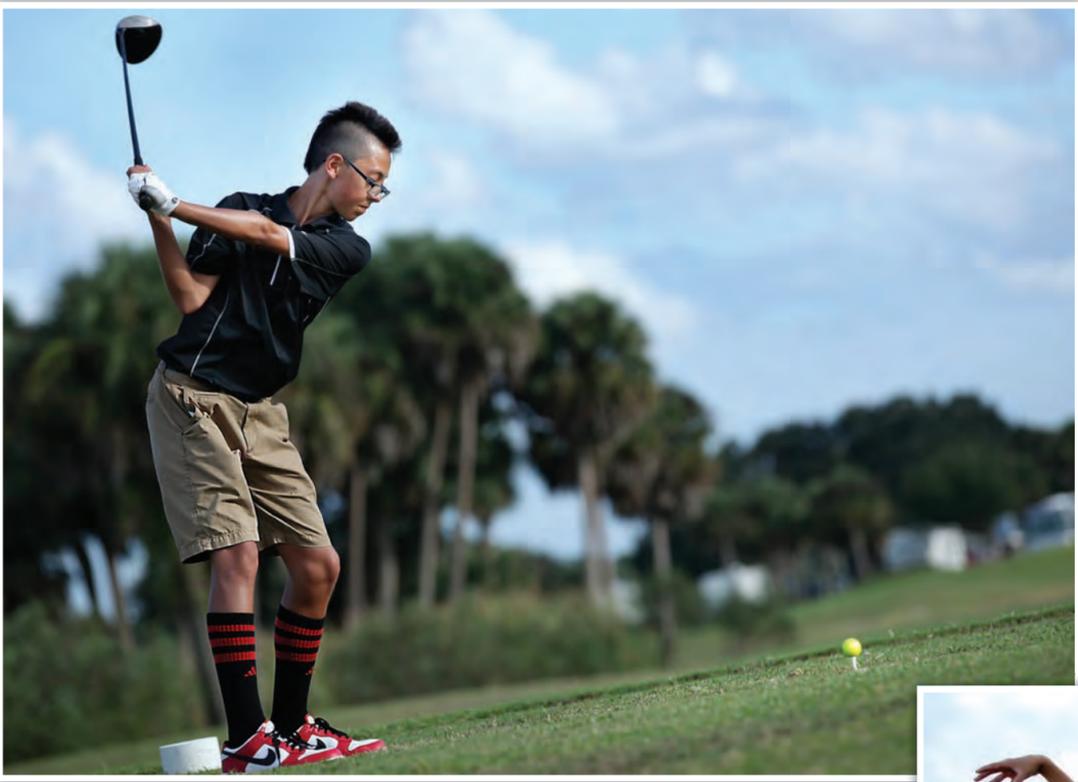
This FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore cannot be appealed.

For further information please contact Chet McGhee, Regional Environmental Scientist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6830.

ACTING  Director, Eastern Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: 9/19/2013

◆ More GOLF photos from page 1C



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee's Troy Cantu swings into a personal record score of 59.



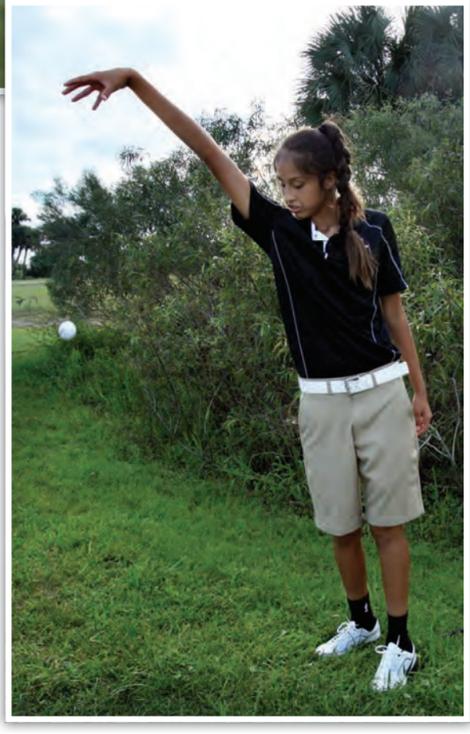
Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School boys' team member Darryl Billie and assistant coach Pastor Salaw Hummingbird relax after a grueling competition Oct. 8 at Glades Golf & Country Club.



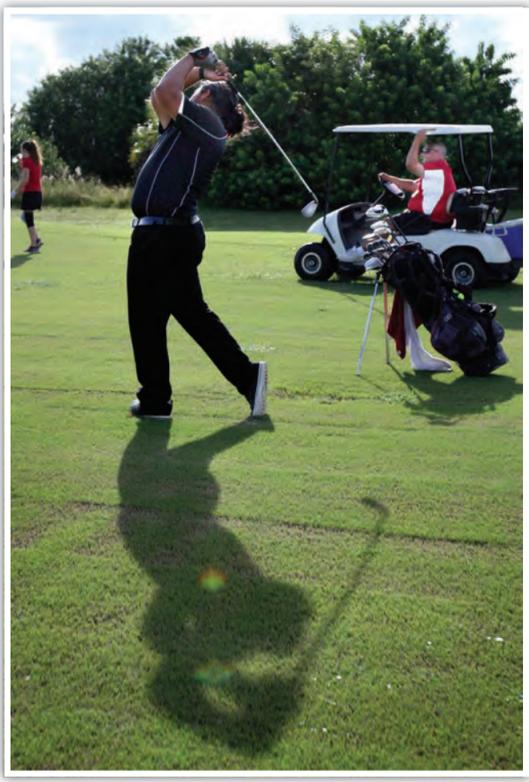
Eileen Soler

Eighth-grade student golfer Dasani Cypress, of Ahfachkee School, moves a ball from a marsh back into play.



Eileen Soler

Dasani Cypress drops the ball into play.



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School golf team captain Quenton Cypress tees off at the eighth hole.

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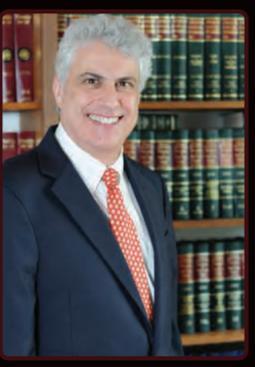
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- Remember to **evacuate your residence** when you have been advised to do so because brush fires can quickly engulf the area and block roadways.
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Indian Day



D

Revelry, merriment to celebrate National Indian Day

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

Trail

For Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Indian Day means gathering with family and friends to mark Native culture, history and pride.

"It's being who you are and celebrating it," he said.

Across six Seminole communities throughout Florida, festivities included canoe races, log peeling, clothing contests, archery, stickball games and skillet tossing. Sofkee, frybread and frychicken competitions were held before "come one come all" communal dinners.

The first American Indian Day was proposed in the early 1900s by Dr. Arthur Caswell Parker, an anthropologist of Seneca descent who founded the Society of American Indians and the National Congress of American Indians, which advocated for United States citizenship. The Boy Scouts of America had already begun setting aside a day to honor the "First Americans" when Parker suggested that they do so annually — which they did.

In 1914, another Native rights advocate, the Rev. Red Fox James traveled 4,000 miles on horseback across the U.S. to Washington D.C. to petition President Woodrow Wilson for Indian Day. In 1915, James went state to state on horseback again garnering support from 24 governors to extend citizenship to Native Americans.

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs website, the first American Indian Day likely occurred in New York in 1916 when the governor decreed that every second Saturday in May be designated as such, though several other states began commemorating the day on the last Friday in September. Indiana followed in 1919. Massachusetts made it law in 1935.

In 1968 California Gov. Ronald Reagan signed a resolution for American Indian Day but in 1998 the California State Assembly legislated that it be an official state holiday.

In South Dakota, lawmakers embraced the holiday so much that American Indian Day was ordered to replace Columbus Day. "You know, America has had Columbus Day forever but he was just a lost soul looking for salvation and for centuries he was honored — but for what? Today is for us," Rep. Frank said.

Big Cypress

On Sept. 26, in a clearing across the street from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress, more than 150 Tribal members celebrated despite sporadic downpours.

A cluster of chickees and several event tents provided shelter against the drenching rain, but each time the dark clouds parted, residents continued traditional competitions: canoe races, log peeling, clothing contests, archery and skillet tossing.

In a cooking chickee, women braved the teeming rain to compete in traditional sofkee, frybread and frychicken contests.

"It takes a lot of dedication to get out here and work over a fire in 95 degree weather," said Wovoka Tommie, who served as the master of ceremonies.

Safe from the rain, the Trail community gathered at the Huggins Camp Sept. 27 to celebrate the holiday, under day-long sun. From under a large white tent, Trail Liaison Norman Huggins welcomed all guests in the morning and announced each activity throughout the day, first in Mikasuki, then in English. Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served at the all-day event.

After breakfast, women started up a fire under the cooking chickee for the frybread cooking contest, while men began the deer skinning tradition. Young boys watched as they peeled away the layers of what would soon be dinner.

"Kids can get their hands dirty whenever they want," Michael Osceola said, while tossing deer guts aside.

Tribal members participated in contests of all Indian sorts, including frybread cooking, arts and crafts, clothing and language. Traditional games were played under the hot sun while Bingo, contests and a raffle were held under the shade of the tent.

With a bounce house, waterslide and playground provided, barefoot children bounced from one inflatable to another, only breaking to grab a snow cone or cotton candy, or to participate in a contest.

Hollywood

On the same day, Hollywood residents took part in many of the same activities and hatchet throwing, archery and hog chase.

"Indian Day is a day for the Tribe to relive past traditions, customs, beliefs, legends and, most especially, language," said Paul Buster, Cultural language instructor. "It's time for family, friends, fun and fellowship. But language is the most important part; it makes us who we are."

Some Tribal members braved handling exotic creatures from Okalee Village, including a bearded dragon and a 4-year-old alligator. Although there was no wrestling, Buster spoke about the major role alligators play in Seminole history.

For hundreds of years, hunting alligators helped the Tribe survive by eating the meat, he said. In the process of catching the gators, the early Indians learned how to control them by using the same moves that entertain tourists today.

"Seminole used to hide from soldiers in alligator dens," said Buster, who isn't sure whether this is legend or fact. "During the dry season, you can get in there and hide. We lived in harmony with them."

Early Seminoles would also sell the alligators' hides, but realized they would bring more money if they were alive. So they learned to wrestle the beasts, tie them up and then sell them. Eventually, people wanted to watch the wrestling portion of the transaction and a tourist attraction was born.

For Denise Billie, the event was a great way to remind Tribal youth of their heritage.

"Indian Day means we get to celebrate who we are and show our younger kids how we used to be," Billie said. "Nowadays kids are more modern, but today they get to see how I grew up and are reminded they are



Even in the rain, women keep the fire going under the cooking chickee during the cooking contest at the Big Cypress Indian Day festivities Sept. 26.

Eileen Soler

Seminole, too. And it's always good to get together with friends and family."

Tampa

Weeklong warnings of rain didn't stop Tampa Seminoles from making the most of Indian Day on Sept. 28 at the Lakeland property. Despite intermittent showers and a hide-and-seek sun, all planned activities were completed.

Much of the time was spent beneath the large tent where tables full of crafts and several demonstrators, including Bobby Henry and Vinson Miner, and storytellers Herbert Jim and Pedro Zepeda kept dozens of children and teens entertained throughout the afternoon.

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and his wife, Kay, visited and toured various vendor booths.

"I always enjoy coming up here to Tampa," Councilman Bowers said.

Barbecue foods mixed with traditional fare were served twice, to the crowd's delight.

Fort Pierce

The Fort Pierce community celebrated Indian Day a week earlier on Sept. 21 at the Chupco Ranch. Family, friends and Tribal members from other reservations came together for a day of fellowship and friendly competition.

Throughout the day, adults competed in traditional games, including, archery, hatchet

throwing, log peeling and horseshoes, while youth entertained themselves on the 40-foot waterslide and bounce houses.

"It's to celebrate what our ancestors fought for and to bring back our heritage, said Tribal member Josh Sneed. "Every time we have this event it's a learning experience for everyone and it's good to bring the family together and let everyone celebrate."

At the end of the day everyone enjoyed a traditional meal of beef stew, spam and tomato gravy, rice, chicken, Indian tacos, frybread and much more prepared by Savannah Huggins, of Trail. After dinner, adults played a few games of bingo.

Brighton

The Brighton Reservation celebrated Indian Day with several events throughout the week. Festivities began Sept. 21 with a fishing tournament for community members. Tribal members of all ages woke up at the crack of dawn to cast their lines in hopes of catching the biggest fish. There were several categories including the biggest catfish, garfish, bass and the total weight of speck and bream. All fishermen met at the Brighton 4-H barn at 1 p.m. to weigh out.

On Sept. 26, the Health Department organized a 5K race. Later that day, the Community Culture Center hosted a clothing contest. Children, adults and seniors, adorned in patchwork dresses with capes, jackets, vests and turbans, walked the stage modeling their finest traditional outfits.

Brighton's main event was held Sept. 27, with many of the same traditional games and activities as the other communities.

Tribal members piled into cars and headed to Tucker Ridge to participate in the popular canoe race. Several teams of one man and one woman participated with many spectators to cheer them on.

Only one canoe sunk this year; however, a few still veered off course.

"That's our identity. By doing these types of (traditional) activities during Indian Day, it keeps it real, it keeps it live," said Norman Bowers, Chairman's assistant. "Some of these girls growing up, they probably really didn't know how to cook frybread or pumpkin bread, but over the years since we have been implementing these types of contests, you could actually tell they have gotten more experience. That goes for the wood carving and stuff (too). It helps us keep our culture and at the same time, it brings everybody together."

To end the long day of friendly competitions, youth and seniors participated in turtle races. Each participant turned a turtle on its back in the middle of the circle. To start the races, the turtles were turned right side up and whichever turtle crossed outside the circle first won. Hoping not to scare the turtles, youth quietly watched as some turtles stayed still and some crawled outside the circle.

Beverly Bidney, Amanda Murphy, Andrea Holata and Peter B. Gallagher contributed to this article.



Resha Doctor, front, and Aize Henry laugh and row their way to second place in the women's rowing contest at the Big Cypress Reservation Indian Day festivities.

Eileen Soler



Bobby Henry concentrates on soap carving at the Tampa Indian Day celebration Sept. 28.

Peter B. Gallagher



Cassandra Jones finishes the log peel at the Hollywood Indian Day festivities Sept. 27.

Beverly Bidney



Robert Cypress keeps his eyes peeled as he releases his grip during an archery competition at the Big Cypress Reservation Indian Day festivities Sept. 26.

Eileen Soler



Shayna Roberts shows her bright colors on stage during the Trail Indian Day clothing contest Sept. 27.

Amanda Murphy



This boy seems to wonder how safe it is to hold this 4-year-old alligator, but he does it anyway during Hollywood's Indian Day Sept. 27.

Beverly Bidney

2013 FORT PIERCE INDIAN DAY



Andrea Holata

Celeste Stockton races to finish her log during the log peeling contest at the Fort Pierce Indian Day Sept. 21.



Andrea Holata

Tribal member Kevin Tommie aims for a ringer during the men's horseshoe tournament.



Andrea Holata

Marissa Stockton and Sheree Sneed compete in a friendly game of horseshoes.



Andrea Holata

Marty Tommie stretches his bow and aims for a mark during the archery competition at Chupco Ranch in Fort Pierce.



Andrea Holata

Fort Pierce women and girls show off their new shirts. Everyone who attended the Indian Day festivities in Fort Pierce were given T-shirts to mark the day.



Andrea Holata

Josh Sneed aims for a bull's-eye during the hatchet throwing competition at the Indian Day festivities.



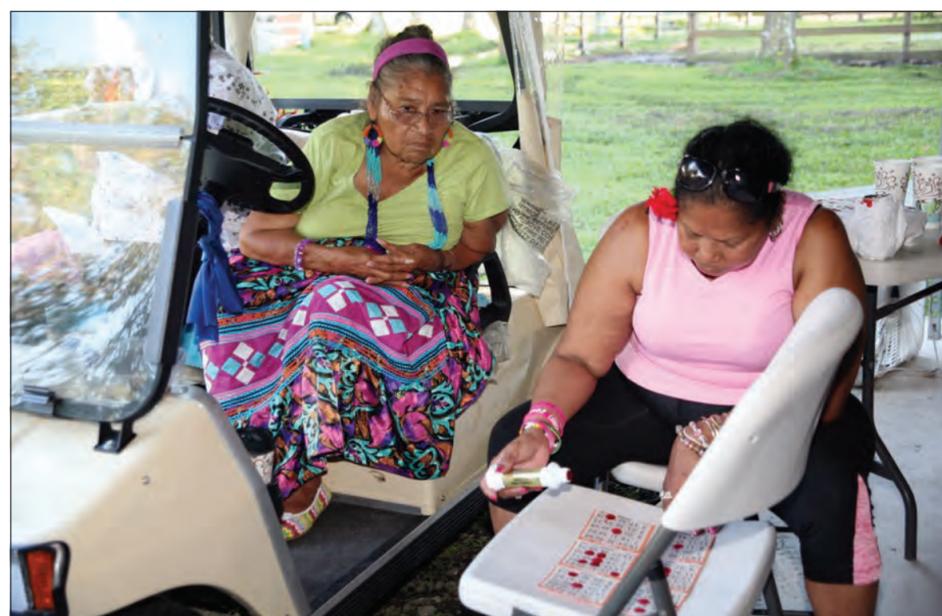
Andrea Holata

Johnnie Jones is on his way to winning first place in the log peeling contest in his age category.



Andrea Holata

Jane Stockton participates in the hatchet throwing contest at the Indian Day festivities in Fort Pierce.



Andrea Holata

Bessie Tommie looks on while she gets help marking her bingo cards.



Andrea Holata

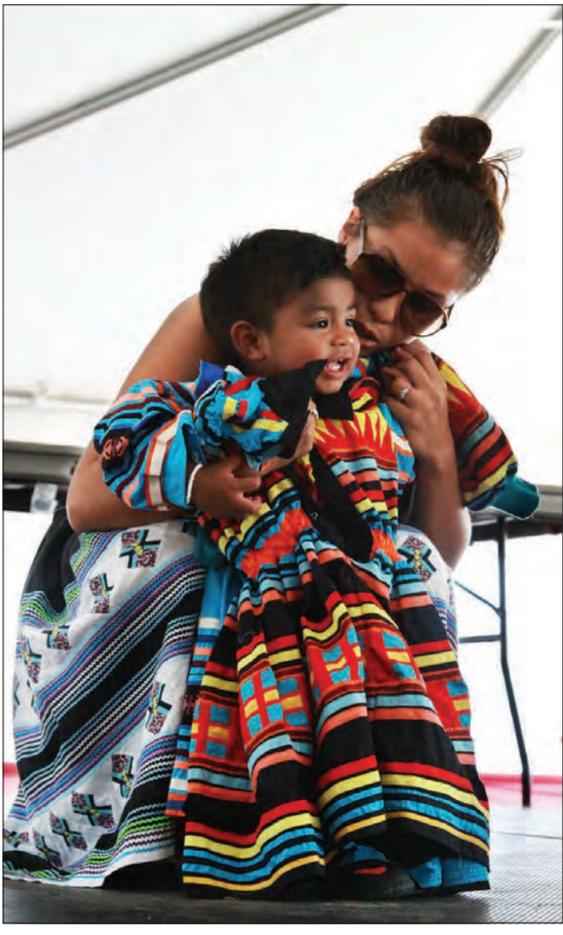
Brighton Recreation staff, Bill Cunningham, Dallas Nunez, Marc Macias and Jason Tommie, serve Fort Pierce residents an Indian Day feast.

2013 TRAIL INDIAN DAY



Amanda Murphy

Shayna Roberts chats with Autumn Osceola on stage as they await the judges' decision in the children's clothing contest during the Trail Indian Day celebration Sept. 27. In this particular style, Shayna took third place.



Amanda Murphy

Tasha Osceola holds her son Captain Osceola while the judges deliberate her handiwork during the clothing contest.



Amanda Murphy

Children throw themselves down the waterslide at the Trail Indian Day celebration. A festival favorite, the waterslide provided hours of wet entertainment for the children in the hot sun at the Huggins Camp.



Amanda Murphy

Amos Billie tries his hand at skillett tossing, putting his whole body into the throw at the Huggins Camp.



Amanda Murphy

With an ecstatic child strapped snugly into the backboard, Capt. Mike Hopkins and Keith Rohan, of the Fire Rescue Department, flip her over and show just how well their equipment works.



Amanda Murphy

Clothing contest judges Megan Chrisjohn, Virginia Poole, WynterDawn Billie, Adriana Huggins and Trail Liaison Norman Huggins deliberate on the significant details of each participant's entries.



Amanda Murphy

Sharlene Roberts, a toddler just starting to walk, does her best to stand on stage all by herself during the children's clothing contest.



Amanda Murphy

This child tries on a firefighter's heavy bunker gear at the Trail Indian Day celebration.



Amanda Murphy

This boy practices his archery skills.



Amanda Murphy

Stephanie Huggins prepares to toss a horseshoe.



Amanda Murphy

Watching the adults play horseshoes makes this little one curious about the game.



Amanda Murphy

Women spend all day under the cooking chickee brewing up huge pots and pans of traditional Native American cuisine during the Trail Indian Day celebration.



Amanda Murphy

Capt. Mike Hopkins, of the Fire Rescue Department, lets kids take turns strapping into a special wheelchair firefighters use to rescue people.



Amanda Murphy

Supplied with snow cones and cotton candy, youngsters chill out on the swing set at the Huggins Camp.



Amanda Murphy

A game of bingo ensues under the shade of the big, white tent – a nice break from the hot outdoor activities.

2013 TAMPA INDIAN DAY



Peter B. Gallagher

Bobby Henry adjusts the neck kerchief for his grandson Ricky Dillon before the clothing contest during the Tampa Indian Day celebration at the Lakeland property Sept. 28.



Peter B. Gallagher

Stacey Smith, Amanda Sisneroz, Linda Jane Henry, Shanda Cypress and Michael Jean Jimmie model their outfits in the clothing contest.



Peter B. Gallagher

On a comfy blanket in the shade, young Amelia DeLand-Zepeda has the honored spot at storyteller Pedro Zepeda's feet.



Peter B. Gallagher

Canoe races on the rain-swelled lake were a fun activity on a wet day in Tampa.



Peter B. Gallagher

Desmond Miller fashions a leather mask in the traditional crafts area.



Peter B. Gallagher

Pedro Zepeda captivates his audience during a storytelling session in Tampa.



Peter B. Gallagher

Pink is the color of choice for Maggie Garcia's Indian Day outfit.



Peter B. Gallagher

Flinting expert Vinson Miner comes down from Georgia to show Seminole youth how to make knives and arrowheads from stone.



Peter B. Gallagher

Little Chris Jimmie holds his mother, Michael Jean Jimmie's, hand while striking a pose for the judges.



Peter B. Gallagher

Linda Jane Henry stirs the steamy cauldron beneath the cooking chickee.



Peter B. Gallagher

Annie Henry adjusts the sleeves on her grandson's traditional long shirt.



BIG CYPRESS INDIAN DAY



Eileen Soler

Girls prepare to compete in the Big Cypress Reservation Indian Day clothing contest Sept. 26.



Eileen Soler

Daylyn Hall is the picture of Native American focus and determination during the archery contest.



Eileen Soler

John 'Otter' Jones, of Okalee Village, shows the wing span of a hawk during a live animal show.



Eileen Soler

Achilles, an exotic black and white Tegu lizard, is the star of a live animal show for children during Indian Day.



Eileen Soler

Janice Osceola tends to her second-place winning delicious frychicken under the cooking chickee.



Eileen Soler

Intermittent, daylong rain storms create a splashtastic diversion for children at the Indian Day event.



Eileen Soler

Derick Toho takes first place in the jacket category during the clothing contest.



Eileen Soler

Resha Doctor gives her all for the top spot in a skillet tossing competition.



Eileen Soler

Children make their own fun by climbing a tree at the Big Cypress Reservation Indian Day festivities.



Eileen Soler

Jeremiah Hall, left, and Josh Jumper row to a first place win in the men's canoe race.



Eileen Soler

Girls line up for the judges dressed in their favorite Seminole attire during the clothing contest.



Eileen Soler

Children exercise creativity during arts and crafts at Big Cypress Reservation's Indian Day festivities.

2013 BRIGHTON INDIAN DAY



Andrea Holata

Aiyana Tommie combines flour and water to create the right texture for the best frybread during the Brighton Reservation's Indian Day celebration on Sept. 27.



Andrea Holata

Mary Huff races to finish peeling her log faster than her competitors in the log peeling competition.



Andrea Holata

Justin Gopher Jr. shows off his first-prize turtle from the turtle races.



Andrea Holata

The Billie family enjoys the afternoon together at the Indian Day event.



Andrea Holata

Justin Gopher celebrates as he and his partner, Holly Johns, make it back to land first during the canoe race.



Andrea Holata

Sheila Fortner celebrates Indian Day with baby Miguel Estrada.



Andrea Holata

Justin Gopher competes in the log peeling competition at the Brighton Indian Day celebration.



Andrea Holata

Happy Jones concentrates as she aims for the target in the senior corn hole competition during the Indian Day festivities.



Andrea Holata

Lance Tommie aims for his target in the archery competition.



Andrea Holata

Women prepare frybread over an open fire for an Indian Day feast in Brighton.

2013 HOLLYWOOD INDIAN DAY



Beverly Bidney

Caidence Smith bravely takes hold of a bearded dragon brought by Okalee Village to the Hollywood Indian Day festivities Sept. 27.



Beverly Bidney

The targets seem easy enough to reach during the archery competition, but looks can be deceiving. This shooter takes aim and gives it his best shot.



Beverly Bidney

Clifford Sanchez competes in the log peel.



Beverly Bidney

Cornelia Osceola and Recreation employee Jose Herrera share a laugh before the Indian Day skillet toss competition.



Beverly Bidney

Kids participate in the hog chase during the Indian Day bash.



Beverly Bidney

A Tribal member throws the hatchet during the Indian Day competition.



Beverly Bidney

The decisive moment is captured when the arrow leaves Blake Osceola's bow during the archery event at Hollywood's Indian Day.



Beverly Bidney

Rosa Urbina tosses the skillet in the air during the competition at Hollywood's Indian Day.



Beverly Bidney

Zach Battiest is in a hurry to finish the log peel during the competition at Hollywood's Indian Day celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Shannon Gopher and Danielle Howard compete in the clothing contest.



Beverly Bidney

Kids take to the air in the sack race during Indian Day on the Hollywood Reservation.



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