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tours Brighton**
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The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Swamp Water Café manager brings wordly experience to Big Cypress

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Like every other male growing up in Ethiopia, Haftu Kahsay was banned from the kitchen. Even if he just wanted some salt, he had to ask someone to get it.

It's hard to say if that forbidden fruit led him down the path to culinary school, but it certainly influenced his path in life.

Today, an ocean away from his African homeland, Kahsay is the operations manager of the Swamp Water Café at Billie Swamp Safari in Big Cypress. He loves his chosen profession in the restaurant industry. His degrees in culinary arts and hotel management from Kenya Utalii College in Nairobi more than qualify him for the task of improving the Café, which is what he has done in the six months he's been on board. His years in an array of kitchens add to his experience.

Kahsay's entrée into the U.S. came through a contest conducted by the Nestle corporation while he was a college student in Kenya. The company, which makes Cremora, challenged students to make something creative with the coffee creamer product. The steak sauce Kahsay made was the winning creation, which earned him a large cash prize and a one-year internship at a Chicago hotel.

When the internship ended, he moved to Las Vegas and worked in the kitchen at Craftsteak at the MGM Grand. His next job was at the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek, where over the course of five years he worked his way up as a line cook, head cook, chef and food and beverage supervisor. He enjoys the challenge of leading the Swamp Water Café.

"Cooking is all about passion," Kahsay said. "I want customers who come here to eat to empty their plates. When I see plates half full, that really bothers me."

Kahsay has implemented innovation at the restaurant. He started the \$4.95 employee lunch special to reach out to the 723 Big Cypress employees for business. The program has been successful in part because of the price and the fact employees can get in and out in plenty of time to clock in after lunch. Kahsay tested the menu based on

♦ See CAFE on page 2A



Courtesy photo

Ahfachkee School 10th-grader Janessa Jones shows fourth-grader Riley Hill a stuffed Hawksbill sea turtle shell used for exhibition during a trip to the Turtle Hospital on April 10 in the Florida Keys. After raising nearly \$500 through a bake sale, Ahfachkee students presented their donation to the rehabilitation hospital in person during spring break.

Ahfachkee students do their part to save sea turtles

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

A group of Ahfachkee students fulfilled their promise to the Turtle Hospital in the Florida Keys on April 10 when they presented the facility with a check for \$487.01. The students raised the money through a Valentine's Day bake sale.

Ten students, including members of the Student Council, along with a few staff and

family members visited the hospital during a spring break field trip. After a brief stop for breakfast at Florida International University in Miami, their bus headed south on the Overseas Highway to Marathon, about halfway down the chain of islands that make up the Keys.

The non-profit Turtle Hospital was established in 1986 with four goals: to rehabilitate injured sea turtles and return them to their natural habitat; educate

the public through outreach programs including visits to local schools; conduct and assist with research aiding sea turtles in conjunction with universities; and work toward environmental legislation to make water safe and clean for sea turtles.

"They made us aware of the situation," said Mya Cypress, 16. "Everyone knows not to pollute, but they went more in depth. This affects the turtles for life and the entire sea turtle population. Once they are injured

they can't reproduce so there will be fewer of them."

The hospital has 36 turtles they are caring for now and the students saw them all. "They only have the ones they could find," said Janessa Jones, 15. "But there are a lot more out there that get hurt and die."

"We saw a turtle that had 'bubble butt,' his shell cracked by a propeller," said

♦ See TURTLE HOSPITAL on page 3B

Best in taste: Public Works wins drinking water awards

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

They are separated by more than 100 miles and draw their water from different sources, but the Seminole Tribe's water treatment plants on the Brighton and Hollywood reservations shared one common attribute in March: champions.

Both plants captured regional awards for best tasting drinking water, adding to an ever-growing list of accolades for the Tribe's Public Works Department.

"All our operators are state certified," said John Holdman, environmental compliance and safety manager for the Tribe. "They do a good job with it. They take a lot of pride in it. Florida has some of

the most stringent testing in the nation as far as operators."

For the second year in a row, the Brighton plant impressed a panel of judges to win the American Water Works Association Florida section's Region VIII Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest on March 7 at Port St. Lucie Community Center. This year Brighton had to share the spotlight because later in the month Hollywood won the section's Region VI contest at the Doubletree by Hilton in Deerfield Beach.

Both plants beat a lengthy list of plants from municipalities and counties. Brighton won the top honor against 10 other competitors, including Martin County, which finished second. Hollywood claimed its title ahead of several plants in Broward and Palm Beach counties, including the City of Plantation and City of West Palm Beach, which tied for runner-up.

The Brighton and Hollywood plants advanced to the state finals in Orlando on April 26 (after deadline for this issue of The Tribune). Winners from the state competition will compete in nationals.

The pair of victories come on the heels of other recent honors earned by Public Works, including in the areas of distribution, education, safety and service.

In addition to recognitions from Florida's AWWA section, which includes 130 utility members that collectively supply potable water to more than 80 percent of the state's population, STOF's Public Works has also received honors from the Florida Water and Pollution Control Operators Association and the Florida Water Environmental Association in the past year.

"We're a small utility. We're a Class C because we don't have as many customers. It's rare for smaller utilities around the state to win as much as we win," Holdman said.



Photo courtesy American Water Works Association Florida Section

Joshua Niemann, from the Tribe's Brighton Water Treatment Plant, receives the plaque that the plant won for Region VIII's best tasting drinking water during a contest in March in Port St. Lucie.



Photo courtesy American Water Works Association Florida Section

Andrew Mason, from the Tribe's Hollywood Water Treatment Plant, holds the plant's first place trophy during a ceremony in March in Deerfield Beach. The Hollywood plant won for best tasting drinking water in Region VI.

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Editorial

The new deal for tribes: Resource extraction, toxic waste (minus the jobs)

• Mark Trahant

A couple of years ago a tribal leader showed me an abandoned lumber mill near the village of Tyonek, Alaska. The company promised jobs. And, for a time, for a couple of decades, there were those jobs. But after the resource was consumed, the mill closed, the company disappeared, and the shell of the enterprise remains today.

This same story could be told in tribal communities across North America. Sometimes the resource was timber. Other times gas and oil. Or coal.

The lucky communities were left with a small toxic dump site. More often there was major cleanup work required after (plus a few more jobs). And in the worst case scenario, a Superfund site was left behind requiring government supervision and an even greater restoration effort.

But all along, and in each case, the accompanying idea was that jobs would be a part of the deal.

There would be construction jobs to build the mine, pipeline, or processing plant. Then there would be truck driving jobs moving materials. A few executive jobs (especially in public and community relations) and, of course, the eventual supervision of the cleanup (especially if the tribal government had its own environmental protection agency.)

That was the deal. But it's one that is no longer true. Now the resource is extracted, pipelines are built, and toxic waste is left behind ... while the promised jobs are limited to the initial construction jobs.

The renewed effort to build the Keystone XL pipeline is a classic example of this shift. When President Donald J. Trump signed the executive order to approve the project he promised "thousands of jobs." That's true enough for the construction phase, but only 35 employees would be needed to operate the pipeline, according to the State Department report.

Keystone, at least, is prospective jobs. New ones. But the bigger challenge for the Navajo Nation, the Crow Nation and some thirty tribes with coal reserves or power plants is that new deal for resource-based plants and extraction does not create as many jobs.

The numbers are stark. The U.S. Energy and Employment Outlook 2017 shows that electricity from coal declined 53 percent between 2006 and 2016. Over that same period, electricity from natural gas increased by 33 percent and from solar by 5,000 percent.

Coal is still a major source of energy.

But it's in decline. Coal and natural gas add up to two-thirds of all electricity generation in the U.S. And that's expected to remain so until at least 2040 when the market share declines to a little more than half.

But because it's a market that's going down it means that tribes that develop coal will not share in the rewards of either major profits or in a spike in jobs.

The only hope for this shrinking industry is to export the coal to other countries (something that will be extremely difficult because so many other nations have already agreed to the Paris climate targets). As Clark Williams-Derry has reported for the Sightline Institute:

"Robust, sustainable Asian coal markets were never a realistic hope for US coal exporters: the transportation costs were too high, the competition too fierce, and the demand too unstable. So the coal industry's PR flacks may continue to spin tales about endless riches in the Asian coal market, the financials are telling a much more sobering story: that the coal export pipe dream continues to fade away, leaving a bad hangover on the coal industry's balance sheets and a lingering bad taste in the mouths of coal investors and executives alike."

On top of all that, Derry-Williams points out that China's coal consumption has fallen for three consecutive years.

And the international context is that coal is the most polluting of the three types of fossil fuels. More than 80 percent of the world's known coal reserves need to stay in the ground to meet global warming targets.

There are jobs in the energy field, but, as the Department of Energy report puts it: "Employment in electric power generation now totals 860,869 ... (and) the number of jobs is projected to grow by another 7 percent but the majority will be in construction to build and install new renewable energy capacity."

The green economy is taking over. (Trump or no Trump.)

The extractive economy (much like the farm economy a generation ago) reached its peak, probably back in 2014. Oil and gas employed 514,000 people. Today it's 388,000. Coal and extraction related jobs peaked at 90,000 and now that number is about 53,000.

Then Indian Country's development of coal (or not) has been the story so far in the Trump era.

Last month Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signed a memorandum lifting restrictions on federal coal leasing. He said the "war on coal is over." Then he quoted Crow Tribal Chairman Darrin Old Coyote saying, "there are no jobs like coal jobs."

A day later the Northern Cheyenne Tribe filed suit. The tribe said the Interior

Department did not consult it prior to lifting the restrictions. "It is alarming and unacceptable for the United States, which has a solemn obligation as the Northern Cheyenne's trustee, to sign up for many decades of harmful coal mining near and around our homeland without first consulting with our Nation or evaluating the impacts to our Reservation and our residents," Northern Cheyenne Tribe president L. Jace Killback said in a news release. There are 426 million tons of coal located near the Northern Cheyenne and on the Crow Nation.

Meanwhile in Alaska, another coal project was put to rest in a tribal community. The village of Tyonek has been opposed to the Chitna Coal Project. (Previously: Mother of the Earth returns to Tyonek) After a decade of planning, PacRim Coal suspended the project last month because an investor backed out. The project could be brought back to life. But that's not likely. Because coal is a losing bet for any investor.

According to Alaska Public Media that meant a joyful celebration in Tyonek. The president of the village Native Council, Arthur Stanifer said, "What it means for us is our fish will continue to be here for future generations, also our wildlife, like the bears and the moose and the other animals will be secure and they'll be here. They'll have a safe place to be."

And what of the jobs? That's the hard part. The prospects for extraction-related jobs are about to be hit by even more disruptive forces. For example in the oil fields of North Dakota one of the great paying jobs is truck driving. Moving material back and forth. But already in Europe companies are experimenting and will soon begin the shift to self-driving vehicles. It's only a matter of time before that trend takes over because it fits the model of efficient capitalism. Self-driving trucks don't need rest breaks, consume less fuel, and fewer accidents. That same disruption of automation is occurring across the employment spectrum. Jobs that can be done by machines, will be.

So if jobs are no longer part of the equation, does natural resource extraction benefit tribal communities?

The answer ought to include a plan where the United States government and tribes work together to replace these jobs: Retrain workers and invest in the energy sector that's growing, renewable fuels. But that's not likely to happen in Trump Era.

Mark Trahant is the Charles R. Johnson Endowed Professor of Journalism at the University of North Dakota. He is an independent journalist and a member of The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. On Twitter @TrahanReports.

Election Day - May 8, 2017

REGULAR ELECTION NOTICE



SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
&
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC.
MAY 8, 2017

In accordance with the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Amended Corporate Charter of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. a Regular Election is scheduled on Monday, May 8, 2017 for the following offices:

**SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
TRIBAL COUNCIL**

BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION

Alfonso G. Tigertail
Cicero Q. Osceola
Manuel Tiger
Virginia Garcia-Sanders

BRIGHTON RESERVATION

Andrew J. Bowers, Jr.
Reno A. Osceola
Diane S. Smith

HOLLYWOOD RESERVATION

Christopher S. Osceola
Douglas M. Smith

**SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION

Carradine Billie
Joe Frank
Paul Bowers, Sr.
Wesley G. Garcia

BRIGHTON RESERVATION

Amanda S. Julian
Jaryaca B. Baker
Larry L. Howard
Lewis T. Gopher
Milo L. Osceola
Rodney A. Osceola

HOLLYWOOD RESERVATION

Christine E. McCall
Gordon O. Wareham
James L. Holt, II

Enrolled Tribal Members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida who have reached their 18th birthday on or before April 8, 2017 and who have registered to vote by March 1, 2017 are eligible to vote for the positions above.

Representatives are voted in by the Registered Voters of their respective Reservations.

Absentee registered voters are urged to contact the Tribal Secretary's Office for an absentee ballot request form at 954-966-6300 ext. 11461.

Voting Locations are:

Big Cypress Reservation Senior Center
Brighton Reservation Veterans Building
Hollywood Reservation Headquarters Auditorium Lobby

**POLLS ARE OPEN 8 AM – 7:30 PM ON ELECTION DAY
ALL REGISTERED TRIBAL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO VOTE**

◆ **CAFE
From page 1A**

on flavor, speed and accuracy.

"The special is a little smaller, simpler and tasty," he said. "The impact on sales has been good."

Kahsay has big plans for the restaurant. He wants to create a full-service counter where food is cooked to order as customers watch the process. He noticed that Americans like to see their food being prepared and gave the example of the popular stir fry restaurants in shopping mall food courts. His plan for the counter includes a different theme every day such as stir fry, pasta and carving stations.

Other ideas include creating a sports bar in the old casino room complete with pool table, video games and lots of TVs. Kahsay wants to encourage the community to frequent the restaurant so they won't have

to travel to Naples or Miami.

"We will have great food," Kahsay said. "We want to bring the community here and give them good food with a reasonable price."

Another goal is to provide an affordable lunch to the busloads of kids who visit Billie Swamp Safari. Early on Kahsay discovered that the kids often brought their own food because the buffet price was too high at \$10.95, so he lowered it to \$8.95.

"We are starting to see groups come in and eat here," Kahsay said. "We will continue to grow."

Kahsay is thankful for the support he receives from upper management.

"I have great bosses. They inspire me and are very supportive," he said. "My children also inspire me."

Kahsay lives in Coral Springs with his wife Mearnet, son Abel, 8 and daughter Helina, 4.

USET SPF provides testimony supporting Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act

The following is USET SPF Testimony for the Record of the House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Hearing on, "H.R. 986, "Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2017" April 12, 2017:

United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is pleased to provide the House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions with testimony for the record of its March 29th hearing on, "H.R. 986, "Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2017." USET SPF strongly supports H.R. 986, legislation that respects and upholds Tribal sovereignty and self-determination by ensuring that Tribal governments, like state and local governments, are able to determine their own labor practices.

USET SPF is a non-profit, inter-tribal organization representing 26 federally recognized Tribal Nations from Texas across to Florida and up to Maine. USET SPF is dedicated to enhancing the development of federally recognized Tribal Nations, to improving the capabilities of Tribal governments, and assisting USET SPF Member Tribal Nations in dealing effectively with public policy issues and in serving the broad needs of Indian people. This includes advocating for the full exercise of inherent Tribal sovereignty.

In recognition of Tribal sovereignty, it is imperative that Tribal governments achieve parity with state and local governments in all areas, including employment. To that end, we urge this Committee and this Congress to approve the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act.

The National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) generally exempts state, local, and territorial governments from its application. For nearly 70 years, the National Labor Relations Board included Tribal governments in this exemption.

In 2004, however, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) reversed decades of its own precedent and established "a new standard for determining the circumstances under which the Board will assert jurisdiction over Indian owned and operated enterprises." San Manuel Indian Bingo, 341 NLRB No. 138 (May 28, 2004). Absent Tribal consultation or new regulations, the NLRB ruled that Tribal governments are subject to the NLRA when acting more "commercially" than "governmentally," a distinction and classification that the NLRB has never applied to state and local governments operating enterprises, liquor stores, lotteries, and providing other goods and services in the marketplace. Like other governments, Tribal governments are responsible for the provision of essential governmental services to their citizens, including health care, education, law

enforcement, housing, and social services.

And as with other governments, these services are delivered through the generation of governmental revenue, the operation of enterprises, and the provision of goods and services in the marketplace. As the federal trust responsibility continues to be severely and chronically underfunded, and Tribal Nations are left without a tax base due to inequities in the tax code, we depend upon our enterprises to uphold our obligations to our citizens.

The Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act simply restores parity to NLRB's approach to its application of the NLRA to sovereign governments across the United States by amending the law to expressly exempt Tribes. It promotes and acknowledges Tribal sovereignty, recognized by the Constitution, the courts, and numerous laws, by respecting a Tribe's ability to self-govern within its own jurisdiction.

In the spirit of governmental parity, USET SPF urges the House Committee on Education and the Workforce to expedite its consideration of H.R. 986, which passed the House with strong bi-partisan support in the 114th Congress, and to work towards its swift passage. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Ms. Liz Malerba, USET SPF Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, at: lmalerba@usetinc.org or 202-624-3550.



Beverly Bidney

Haftu Kahsay

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

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Deadline: May 17, 2017

Issue: June 30, 2017
Deadline: June 14, 2017

Issue: July 31, 2017
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If you would like to request a reporter or would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem, please contact Senior Editor Kevin Johnson at 954-985-5701 ext. 10715

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Community



Agriculture commissioner receives glimpse of Brighton life

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Florida Agricultural Commissioner Adam Putnam, a fifth generation Florida cattle rancher and citrus grower, visited the Brighton Reservation for the first time April 24 and was impressed by what he learned.

"Too many people define the Tribe by their relationship with gaming," Putnam said. "For me it's defined by their connection to the land. I enjoyed digging deeper and



Beverly Bidney

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam looks closely at a sweetgrass basket in the cultural arts room at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School during a visit to the Brighton Reservation.

understanding the social and cultural activities on the reservation."

Accompanied by Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Board Rep. Larry Howard, Natural Resource director Alex Johns, council special events coordinator Lewis Gopher and Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School administrative assistant Michele Thomas, Putnam learned about Seminole culture while taking in the

highlights of the reservation. The visit's goal was to show Putnam how the Tribe uses its gaming revenue.

"We have invited other government officials to Brighton and, as far as I know, he is the first to take the time to come out here and see what we're doing," Councilman Bowers said. "This is a good day for us."

The visit began at a conference table where the discussion centered on culture, home and business. Rep. Howard presented the commissioner with a pen made from a Brighton sugar cane stalk. Putnam is a strong supporter of Fresh from Florida, through which Seminole Beef is promoted.

"I love the agricultural side of what you do," Putnam said. "I'm proud of your agricultural success and what it has brought to the state."

A tour of exhibits and photos on display at the Brighton administrative building served as a primer on Seminole history, culture and cattle.

"One thing that has remained consistent is the cattle business," Bowers said. "The cattle program started in the 1920s and the reservation was founded in 1936. Cows helped drive this reservation."

The group boarded the seniors' bus, where Gopher served as a tour guide extraordinaire. He explained the services offered to Tribal members at each location at which they stopped, including the senior center, veterans building, community culture, preschool, medical center, Boys & Girls Club, library, tutoring trailer, public safety building, center for behavioral health, the gym and ball fields, rodeo arena, 4H and the Red Barn.

"This is an ideal place to live," Gopher said. "Everything you need is right here."

The next stop on the tour was the charter school.

"Since we are a public charter school, we're able to get teachers from the outside," Gopher said. "And it counts toward their retirement years."

Putnam learned that PECS began in 2007 as a kindergarten through grade 5 school with 124 students and is now pre-kindergarten through grade 8 with 311 students. Most students attend Okeechobee or Moore Haven high school after they leave PECS.

"This school is everything our ancestors



Beverly Bidney

PECS principal Brian Greseth and Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam observe a fourth-grade classroom April 24 during a visit to the Brighton Reservation.

worked for," Johns said.

Principal Brian Greseth led the tour through the school's culture and regular classrooms as well as the language immersion program for babies and toddlers. Putnam was so fascinated with the Creek language classroom that he took a photo of the week's spelling words and posted it on his Facebook page.

A visit to the culture camp and garden led to a discussion about clans and the matriarchal nature of the Tribe. As they finished the tour, Gopher mentioned the relationship between the school's programs and gaming revenue.

"It gives us more consistency," he said. "Big decisions made at the top filter back to the students."

Putnam asked about the Tribal students' graduation rate, which Greseth said is above other area schools.

"Native Americans in general have the lowest graduation rate of all students," Greseth said. "Our kids are at 73 percent, Okeechobee High is 70 percent. We're happy with that, but of course we want to be at 100 percent."

Putnam, whose name has been mentioned as a potential Republican candidate for governor in 2018, was impressed by all the services the Tribe provides to its citizens.

"I'm particularly impressed with the immersion program that allows students to grow up with a foot in each world," he said. "It will make certain that we don't lose a vitally important part of Florida history and tradition. The history of the Tribe is the history of Florida and we want it to remain a vibrant part of the culture."

Putnam sees the Tribe's relationship with the state continuing to advance in the

future.

"I'm extremely proud of the newest business venture, Seminole Pride Beef, and want to continue that 500-year history of affiliation with the cattle industry," he said.

After Putnam left the reservation, the group convened again around the conference table. The consensus was that Putnam is interested in a relationship with the Tribe, and not only through gaming.

"I think it is an eye-opener for anyone from the outside to see the school and all the facilities we have," said Johns, who has known Putnam for years through his work in the Florida Cattlemen's Association. "If everything goes well for him for governor, I think he will run for president; that's the caliber of guy that he is."

"He saw what our government does for our people," Rep. Howard said. "It speaks volumes that he wanted to come see it."



Beverly Bidney

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard look at the exhibits on display at the Brighton Administrative building April 24 during a visit to the reservation.

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REGULAR ELECTION NOTICE



SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA & SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC. MAY 8, 2017

In accordance with the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Amended Corporate Charter of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. a Regular Election is scheduled on Monday, May 8, 2017 for the following offices:

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA TRIBAL COUNCIL BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION REPRESENTATIVE (1) BRIGHTON RESERVATION REPRESENTATIVE (1) HOLLYWOOD RESERVATION REPRESENTATIVE (1)

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION REPRESENTATIVE (1) BRIGHTON RESERVATION REPRESENTATIVE (1) HOLLYWOOD RESERVATION REPRESENTATIVE (1)

Enrolled Tribal Members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida who have reached their 18th birthday on or before April 8, 2017 and who have registered to vote by March 1, 2017 are eligible to vote for the positions above.

Representatives are voted in by the Registered Voters of their respective Reservations.

Eligible Tribal Members who wish to become candidates may obtain a preliminary packet from the Tribal Secretary's Office located at the Hollywood Headquarters beginning March 23, 2017. The completed petitions must be in the Tribal Secretary's office by 5:00 pm, April 18, 2017.

The announcement of candidates will be published April 19, 2017.

Absentee registered voters are urged to contact the Tribal Secretary's Office for an absentee ballot request form at 954-966-6300 ext. 11461.

ALL REGISTERED TRIBAL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO VOTE

LaVonne Rose
Tribal Secretary
3/2017



Seminole Tribe firefighters based in Immokalee battle a blaze near the rodeo grounds March 15.

Beverly Bidney



Photo courtesy Wildlands Fire Department

Wildland firefighters Kyle Murphy (Seminole Tribe of Florida), Justin Wedo and Coleman Bussing (Pima Agency) use one of the Tribe's wildland fire department buggies to contain the Cowbell fire in April. They are on the north line of the fire using the reservation boundary line as containment to keep the fire off the Big Cypress Reservation.

Florida fire season in full blaze

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

It is fire season in Florida and 2017 is proving to be one of the driest. Since early March hot spots have been erupting all over Southwest Florida, including in Naples, Immokalee and Big Cypress.

The dry season typically goes from November through April, but the winter La Nina weather pattern, which cools the water in the equatorial Pacific Ocean and keeps wet winter storms far to the north, left Florida extremely warm and dry.

The Cowbell Fire in the Big Cypress Preserve adjacent to the Big Cypress Reservation is the largest so far with 21,815 acres burned as of April 21. More than

250 wildland firefighters from around the country, including crews from the Seminole Tribe, have been fighting the blaze since March 3. The fire is the highest priority in the country.

The Tribe's six forestry and wildland firefighters, who are part of the incident team, brought in three wildland firefighters from the Navajo Tribe and three from the Pima Tribe of Arizona and will continue to import Native American firefighters until fire season is over.

They cleared an 8.6 mile-by-eight-to-24-foot line at the southern boundary of the reservation which borders the Preserve. The team used fire to fight fire by burning the vegetation and creating a barrier between the main fire area and the reservation.

"We sent the fire back into the preserve to give us more defensible space," said Grant Steelman, forestry and wildland firefighter. "It's a fast moving fire; Cowbell made a seven-mile run in just one day. Usually a fire will grow by about 1,000 acres per day; Cowbell grew 8,000 acres one day."

Fire season in Florida has cycles of about 10 years. This year is drier than 2007 and 1998, both extremely active years. Water levels are lower this year than in 2007 and the National Weather Service predicts below normal rainfall into July.

"Right now local fire managers are bracing for the season to last into July," Steelman said. "Fast growing and hard to contain wildfires can start at any time. At this time of year everything is set up to burn; the

weather, water level and vegetation."

Fire is a natural event in Florida but houses and roads have been built in the way of the natural system.

"Fire is natural; that's the big thing," Steelman said. "This is just part of that natural cycle. We have support from all over the U.S. to help us protect life, property and structures. Our number one goal is safety; everyone goes home in the same way they came to work, not injured."

Immokalee firefighters took their turn in the heat March 15 when about five acres near the rodeo arena burst into flames.

The cause of the Immokalee fire has not been determined, but it occurred in an area with some homeless people and trash. About 100 tires burned, but no one was hurt

and no structures were damaged. About 250 feet of fence line and a few feet onto tribal property were damaged. The Immokalee fire department helped extinguish the flames.

"The Seminole Tribe and Immokalee fire departments have a mutual agreement to assist one another in cases of fire emergencies," said Lt. Douglas Van Orman.

The Tribe's Emergency Management Department warned residents to avoid parking on dry grass, avoid the use of open fire and be careful when discarding cigarettes, matches and barbecue coals.

"Watch where you drive off-road vehicles," Steelman said. "Fires can easily be started in the dry grass. If you see fire or smoke, call 911 as soon as possible."

Music, lunch, games honor memory of Mike Smith



Beverly Bidney (2)

Friends and family gathered at the 7th annual Mike Allen Smith to honor his memory with a lunch, music and friendly horseshoe and cornhole competitions April 22 at Oneva Smith's home in Big Cypress. At left, Alvin Buster confidently competes in the horseshoe contest. At right, Van Samuels and Linda Beletso sing gospel songs.



Beverly Bidney

Mike Smith's family gathers for a portrait at the 7th annual event in his honor. In front row from left are Tracey Smith, Jimmy Smith, Jack Smith. Standing are Mike Smith's daughter Julia Smith, Mahala Madrigal, Oneva Baxley and Oneva Smith.



Beverly Bidney

Maxine Tucker Perez peeks at one of the six chicks she bought during a senior trip to Rural King in Bonita Springs March 30.

Chicks prove to be popular purchase among seniors

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BONITA SPRINGS

— A group of Immokalee seniors enjoyed a day on the town complete with lunch and shopping in Bonita Springs. After a leisurely feast at Rodizio Grill, a Brazilian steakhouse, the group went to Rural King to shop.

The store features a variety of goods geared toward country living such as livestock feed, farm equipment, agricultural parts, lawn mowers, workwear, fashion clothing, housewares and toys. But the main event for some of these shoppers was the live chicks.

A meandering line of yellow painted bird tracks led to a group of steel tubs filled with an array of newborn chickens and turkeys. The cacophony of the chirping chicks could be

heard long before the babies, who were kept warm by lights above each tub, could be seen.

Maxine Tucker Perez and Mark Jock brought home four Light Brahma and Rhode Island Red chickens and two broad breasted white turkeys. In four to six months, the birds will be full sized. Dolores Jumper bought six Rhode Island Red chickens for her granddaughter Bebeyanna Quianes to raise.

"I had them when I was a girl, but these will be BB's first," Jumper said.

Beverly Bidney

Mark Jock and Maxine Tucker Perez choose the baby chickens and turkeys they will bring home from the numerous tubs at Rural King.



Hunting camp adds to Seminole culture at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A traditional hunting camp is usually temporary and easy to dismantle and move. Daniel Tommie built one last summer that he hopes will remain on permanent display at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress.

"I want to pay tribute, retell and relive our past for visitors to visibly see," Tommie said. "I take pride in talking to them about our history and philosophy of living."

The hunting camp, located on the former amphitheater site off the boardwalk behind the museum building, is a work in progress. It consists of a 10-by-15-foot lean-to and a 10-by-10-foot cooking chickee. Embellishments include deer, possum, raccoon, otter, fox and bobcat hides hanging from rope as they would at an actively used camp. The lean-to has a shelf for sleeping and is decorated with turtle shells, a gator skin and antlers.

A management trainee at the museum, Tommie announces his presence at the camp

three times each week with the welcoming aroma of fire burning in the chickee. He wants visitors to know that Seminoles are no different from other people.

"We struggled back then and have struggles today," he said. "Now our struggles are more mental; back then they were more physical. In today's world, distractions like phones, movies and media are everywhere."

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki hunting camp wasn't the only one Tommie built in 2016. In November he built a camp at Fort King in Ocala. In December the site was used in a reenactment of Osceola's attack on the fort during the Second Seminole War in 1835. While he was building the lean-to, Tommie engaged with Fort King visitors and later volunteered in the reenactment.

Built in 1827, Fort King was used by the U.S. Army as a buffer between the Seminoles and white settlers. By 1835 the Army used it for strategic meetings of generals and officers, like any other military base.

According to the Fort King chronology, Osceola arrived at the fort in June 1835 for peace talks but was put in chains and detained for one night. In December 1835,



Beverly Bidney

Daniel Tommie stands at the hunting camp he built at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Behind him is the lean-to. At far right is part of the cooking chickee.



Beverly Bidney

Daniel Tommie in front of the lean-to at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki hunting camp he built. Animal hides are displayed as they would be in a working camp.

Osceola and his warriors attacked the fort and killed some soldiers, including the general who chained him.

Osceola's story isn't the only one Tommie relates to museum visitors.

"Abiaki deserves all the credit," Tommie said. "He isn't mentioned as often as he should be. He moved people out of harm's way while his troops were fighting. They knew the environment, studied their opponent and used it to their advantage. It was the first time the U.S. government encountered guerilla warfare."

While speaking to tourists, Tommie gauges their interest and delves deeper into history if he sees they are engaged in the story.

"I get gratification from retelling our history," he said. "It reminds me that people before me sacrificed and struggled so I can be here."

Beverly Bidney

Daniel Tommie tends to the fire in the cooking chickee at the hunting camp he built at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



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Joel Frank Sr. receives Tim Wapato Sovereign Warrior Award

FROM PRESS RELEASE

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — The Tim Wapato Sovereign Warrior Award was presented to Joel Frank Sr., a distinguished tribal and community advocate from the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Frank played a significant role in bringing the National Indian Gaming Association team together to create a powerful tribal government gaming presence in Washington, D.C.

NIGA Chairman Emeritus Rick Hill, Tim Wapato's widow Gay Kingman Wapato and their family members, and Dr. Michael Marchand, chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, joined NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. on stage to present the award in mid-April to Frank at the Indian Gaming Tradeshow and

Convention in San Diego.

"The Sovereign Warrior Award was established because Tim used to say, 'When I'm gone dust to dust, know that someone will try to take away your sovereignty. If I have a legacy, let it be that I spent my life to preserve tribal sovereignty,'" Kingman Wapato said.

Kingman Wapato further remarked, "Joel Frank is such a person. He spent his whole career defending tribal sovereignty, and he has continued to work for all of us in what he has done nationally, regionally and for the Seminole Tribe."

"This honor is going to one of the most powerful warriors of all time," Chairman Stevens said. "He is America's Warrior, he is an Indian Country Warrior, but tonight Joel Frank is the Tim Wapato Sovereign Warrior Award recipient."

Frank accepted the award and said, "I'm very happy and pleased to accept this award on behalf of all Indian people. My elders have pushed me to represent my tribe since I was fourteen years old... always standing up for our tribal sovereignty."

As Vice Chairman of the NIGA, Frank was part of the leadership team that led the early discussions about organizing Indian Country for the protection of sovereign rights to conduct gaming. He also advocated to develop regulatory standards to protect the integrity of Indian gaming, which led to tribes organizing and providing financial contributions to fund the legal fees needed for an amicus brief in the Cabazon-Morongo case. This historic case was critical to setting the stage for Indian Country's economic future.



Cydney Reynolds

Former Los Angeles Lakers star A.C. Green, left, and NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens, right, join Joel Frank Sr. for a photo.



Photo courtesy National Indian Gaming Association

National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernie Stevens and Chairman Emeritus Rick Hill join the Seminole Tribe's Joel Frank Sr., center, Colville Tribal Chairman Dr. Michael Marchand, Gay Kingman Wapato and her family, after Frank accepted the Tim Wapato Sovereign Warrior Award.



Cydney Reynolds

Joel Frank Sr. holds the award and blanket he was presented as part of the National Indian Gaming Association's honor for him during the Indian Gaming Tradeshow and Convention in San Diego. Joining Frank is Seminole Gaming's Billie Hiers.

May serves as awareness month for speech, hearing issues

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — May is known for the Kentucky Derby and Mother's Day, but it's also a month that calls attention to speech and hearing issues.

To coincide with Better Hearing & Speech Month, as designated by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the Children's Center for Diagnostics and Therapy — which is under the umbrella of the Tribe's Center for Behavioral Health — is stressing the importance of early intervention and screening in the tribalwide pediatric population.

"We're doing speech screenings. We will be sending out announcements to increase awareness to have their child brought in. If they have concern, they can schedule a screening with us," said Allison Mason, coordinator of Therapeutic Services. She also noted that hearing tests can be scheduled at the Tribe's health clinics.

Throughout the year specialists from CCDT meet with kids at the Tribe's four preschools, the Ahfachkee School and Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School in addition to holding sessions in offices, homes and clinics.

"We focus on speech and language components," said Candice Feivelson, speech language pathologist. "The ideal goal is to start them as young as possible to work through early intervention whether it's language delay, receptive skills, expressive skills — which include play skills — understanding of language and the use of language. And then as they get a little bit older, also the way they produce their sounds to make them more intelligible if they're not understood by their peers, their families."

Better Hearing & Speech Month comes on the heels of Occupational Therapy Month, which occupied April. Regardless of the season, specialists and therapists in both the speech-language and OT areas can play vital roles in child development at any time of the year.

"They can really impact the lives of children or any of the people that they work with," said Jonathan Robbins, program administrator. "The services are way more than you would think for both of them."

Occupational therapists work on kids' physical skill development, including fine motor skills — such as writing — as well as play skills, coordination, balance and sensory information.

"Our goals would be that they would improve their strength, their coordination, their grasping skills," said Stacy Kramer, an occupational therapist. "We also hope they are also able to have better coping skills, self-regulation skills in the classroom so that they can sit still, they can be comfortable in their body and they can pay attention to the teacher."

Seniors compete through laughter at field day

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The day was more about camaraderie than competition as seniors gathered for the second annual tribalwide seniors' field day April 21 in Big Cypress. Recreation director Cathy Cypress designed the day to be one of socializing, fun and a little movement.

Laughter was the most common sound heard during the competitions and on the sidelines at the Junior Cypress rodeo grounds and in the show barn. Thirty seniors



Beverly Bidney

Mary Robbins tries her hand at bowling during the senior field day in Big Cypress.

crowded out there so please take the time to stand up for Mother Earth."

The competition began on the field with the outdoor games. Friends cheered each other on at each station, which added to the festive atmosphere of the day. Men and women competed in the skillet toss. As David Cypress demonstrated his ability, fitness specialist Neil Prager asked him how he learned to throw the skillet so well.

"I don't know, but I've been ducking them for some time," Cypress said with a grin.

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola had a good-natured basketball free throw competition before the indoor games began.

"This is about promoting health, getting together for fellowship. Breaking bread with each other is one of the most important things," Chairman Osceola said. "It's also about how to take care of the Earth. It isn't like the old days when we dumped oil by the oak tree roots after we made the fry bread."

Competition brought out the beast in some of the seniors; some of whom, despite their normal aches and pains, pushed on.

"My back is hurting, but I want to try the bowling," Virginia Tommie said.

During lunch after the games ended, a group of Hollywood ladies joked about the skillet toss.

"Now I know what to do with my frying pan at home," Loretta Micco said.

"We don't cook with them," added Nancy Willie.

"We don't do frying pans, we do drive through," quipped Wanda Bowers.

After lunch, raffle items, awards and medals were distributed.

Beverly Bidney

Not yet a senior, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. gives it his all in the basketball free throw contest at the senior field day.



Drew Osceola

Nancy Willie competes in the skillet toss at the second annual tribalwide seniors day April 21 in Big Cypress.



Drew Osceola

Aaron Billie tosses his horseshoe toward the target during the seniors field day activities.



Beverly Bidney

Onnie Osceola throws a frisbee into the disc golf basket during the seniors field day April 21 in Big Cypress.



Pedro Zepeda uses a long pole to navigate his Seminole dugout canoe March 12 on the Wekiva River in central Florida.

Photo courtesy Melissa Sherman

Successful Seminole dugout canoe launch for Pedro Zepeda

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

For perhaps the first time in more than 100 years, a Seminole dugout canoe was launched on the Wekiva River in central Florida.

Pedro Zepeda, who built the 16-foot craft from a Big Cypress log, was filmed March 12 in the Wekiwa Springs State Park in Apopka for a scene in the educational documentary "Suwannee Warrior."

"A crowd gathered around," Zepeda said. "Right behind us was the canoe launch. People on the boardwalk watched the filming and asked us questions before we put the boat in the water."

With help from Shamy Tommie, Zepeda began work on the canoe at Okalee Village in Hollywood a few years ago. Since Okalee is now closed, it took Zepeda about a year to track down the canoe. He found it at the outdoor adventure area of Big Cypress and took it to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, where he plans to complete the final details on the canoe and put a finish on the wood to protect it from the elements.

"I wasn't sure it would float," Zepeda said. "It's narrow, only about 21 inches wide. It had a little tippy feeling, but it didn't sink."

"Suwannee Warrior" will tell the story of Abraham, a black Seminole, who served



Courtesy photo

The contrast between the traditional Seminole canoe and modern canoes and kayaks is on display at the Wekiva River, where Pedro Zepeda launched a dugout canoe.

as an interpreter for and fought alongside the Tribe during the Seminole Wars. Writer, producer and Broward College history professor Michael McGuigan and director Chris Kilayko are working on a trailer they will use for fundraising so they can complete

the documentary. The scene on the Wekiva River will be used in the trailer and possibly in the documentary as well.

American Indian Cultural Center and Museum names new director

FROM PRESS RELEASE

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — James Pepper Henry will become the museum director of The American Indian Cultural Center and Museum on June 19, the museum announced in April. Pepper Henry is an enrolled citizen of the Kaw Nation and also Muscogee (Creek).

Pepper Henry has been involved in The American Indian Center's development since 2004 when he helped inform the conceptual design. In 2007, as associate director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, he signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the

two institutions which created the possibility of a long-term loan as well as collaborative programming opportunities.



Courtesy photo

James Pepper Henry

Most recently, Pepper Henry served as executive director of the Gilcrease Museum, where he helped lead the successful \$65 million Vision Tax extension campaign for the museum expansion and helped raise \$27 million in additional support through the museum's partnership with the University of Tulsa.

Prior to the Gilcrease Museum he served as director and CEO of the Heard Museum in Phoenix, where he helped increase museum attendance by 58 percent and memberships by 150 percent.

Pepper Henry is a graduate of the University of Oregon and the Getty Leadership Institute in Los Angeles.

Performance paints Seminole journey through modern art

BY GRACE DUCANIS
Freelance Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — Colorful Warrior Theatre's mixed-media "Indian Car: Old Photo" — a combination of Seminole culture and modern art through music, painting, poetry and prose — brought in the new without throwing out the old on March 30 at History Museum Fort Lauderdale.

The evening of diverse art, hosted by the Florida Historical Society, accompanied "The Big Show," an exhibition at History Fort Lauderdale running through June 4 that features the artwork of Elgin Jumper and Gordon Oliver Wareham, Tribe members and Colorful Warrior Theatre performers.

As part of the show, Jumper read his literary work and painted guitars and model cars. He was accompanied by Wareham on the flute and Stephanie-Gabrielle Sneed, soundscape artist, while painter Erika Tommie simultaneously created a piece inspired by the journey of the Seminole Tribe.

Jumper described the group's work as both contemporary and theatrical, saying that they try a lot of different things when putting together a show.

"It's something new, something that you hardly see around here — this type of performance," he said. "We create the art right in front of you."

The group's stage was a gallery filled with many of Jumper's own works, including miniature cars, visual art and a wall of guitars that Jumper had painted during rehearsals. For "Indian Car: Old Photo," Jumper said he wanted to emphasize the nonverbal aspects of the group's art and connect with the audience.

"[Our goal] is to maybe entertain you, maybe move you in some way," Jumper explained. "That's our job. So we put

everything we can into the rehearsal to bring our ideas."

Wareham said that he usually plays selections on his flute that are more upbeat and spiritual, but that Elgin wanted a more stoic tone for "Indian Car: Old Photo."

"We were trying to take the audience into a journey into the past to bring them into the future," Wareham said.

Wareham and Jumper have been working together for over 10 years, but Jumper is taking a break from performance after "Indian Car: Old Photo" to focus on his writing.

"Writing's always been there too," he said. "I don't want to separate [painting and writing] or lose them. I'm still going to be painting, I'm still going to be drawing — I'm just going to explore the writing side of it more now."

Wareham's next step is to focus on running for office, but he said he was sure it wouldn't be long before Jumper called him with an idea for another project.

"I do it because [Jumper] asks me to do it, and I know because he asks me to do something it's going to be challenging and it's going to be something creative," he said.

In addition to many of Jumper's pieces, 14 of Wareham's photographs, including his favorite piece, which features his cousin William Cypress, are also on display at History Fort Lauderdale. Wareham photographs most often during reenactments at Big Cypress.

Jumper called the group's art "spiritual," emphasizing that it's a way to bring people out of their ordinary lives.

"You want to do the best job you can, and it's just seeing how creative you can be, and trying to take the audience away from their everyday... just for a little while," he said. "Every artist wants that inspiration to lead them on to the next level."



Grace Ducanis

From left, Stephanie-Gabrielle Sneed, Elgin Jumper, Gordon Oliver Wareham and Erika Tommie perform a piece inspired by the Seminole Tribe's journey at History Museum Fort Lauderdale on March 30.



Grace Ducanis

Guests watch a display during the "Indian Car: Old Photo" program at History Museum Fort Lauderdale.

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AH-TAH-THI-KI

M U S E U M

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

The wisdom of Betty Mae Jumper: Columns from The Seminole Tribune

BY MARY BETH ROSEBROUGH
Research Coordinator, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

As the research coordinator at the Museum, one of my jobs is to catalog past issues of The Seminole Tribune, beginning with the year 1984. Boxes and boxes of newspapers later, it is fair to say that doing so has been a real trip through time. The newspaper has reported on elections, births, marriages, sporting events, rodeos, health issues, community events, Tribal fairs, rodeos, cattle drives, gaming, princesses, patchwork contests, veterans, 4-H clubs, college graduates, senior services, and the list goes on. Placed within the fast-paced blur of news reports, Betty Mae Jumper's column on life and how to live it stands as a refuge of peace and calm – and common sense.

To Betty Mae, family, faith, and her Tribe were everything. She believed change and tradition could live side by side strengthening and complementing each other. She wanted more for people than what she thought some wanted for themselves – personal responsibility and a return to the old-fashioned values of hard work, family togetherness, and clean living – and wasn't shy about expressing it. Her columns were often filled with pleasant memories of times past, but some were warnings of the consequences of poor decisions.

In the Nov. 18, 1985 issue of the Tribune she wrote about the dangers of Highway 27, in an editorial titled "Death Ride, '27". Even an editorial like this one, about the dangers of a roadway, rang out with her conviction that people should care about others, be responsible, and do what is right because it is the right thing to do. In another short editorial, found in the column "Straight From the Horse's Mouth (Seminole Tribune, May 19, 1985), Betty Mae paid tribute to her mother, Ada Tiger. She reminded readers that next to God's love for his children is the love of a mother for her child, so Mother's

Day should be every day. What mother would argue with that?

In "It's a Crying Shame" (Seminole Tribune, May 18, 1987) Betty Mae addressed one of her greatest concerns: the devastating consequences of drug and alcohol use. Throughout her tenure with the Tribune, she wrote about the pain of composing obituaries, missing loved ones, and the tragedy of death before its time. This particular column included her admonition and plea to responsible adults to be rid of drugs and alcohol, scare off the dealers, and save the children. The next issue of the Tribune, published June 1, 1987, contains another column by Betty Mae on the very same subject.

"The Love of God and His Power Inspired a Dream of Achievement" (Seminole Tribune, Dec. 28, 1987), a tribute to Betty Mae written by Ed Foley, said this about the girl who had known hardship but turned it into "a positive force": "I sensed a different kind of power [from that in the corporate world] as I talked to Betty Mae". He was speaking of the wisdom and confidence she radiated, making him want to be a better person.

That's the kind of person Betty Mae was – able to inspire people to do better because she believed in her heart that they could. If she left only one legacy behind it would be her faith and hope and confidence in the people she loved and served, without limitations or labels. She was the best kind of leader – the kind who uses personal adversity and struggle as a means to developing the wisdom, understanding, and strength it takes to reach greatness.

Clarification: Last month's Museum article "Shako: From military to marching bands" was written by Robin Croskery Howard, not Nora Pinell Hernandez.

Tribe became healthier in many ways under Betty Mae's leadership

BY REBECCA FELL
Curator of Exhibits, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

This year, 2017, is an important year of anniversaries for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. It marks the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the Seminole Wars, in 1817. It is the 60th anniversary of federal recognition of the Seminole Tribe of Florida as a government and a business enterprise. Over this year, this column will alternately explore key events of the so-called First Seminole War and highlight the great advances of the Tribe during the last 60 years. This month we continue to explore the roles of the Chairperson in the development of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

It was not entirely surprising that Betty Mae Tiger Jumper was the second chairperson for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. She was part of the original Constitution Committee that set the Tribe's governing system and allowed the Tribe to attain federal recognition. As a registered nurse, Betty Mae was active on all of the reservations and well known. With encouragement from her brother, Howard, she set out on the campaign trail.

Elected in 1967, Betty Mae took office on June 5. There was supposed to be \$35 dollars in the Treasury, but a trip to the bank found even that was not there. While Billy Osceola had done a great job in establishing the new government, money was hard to come by. As the saying goes, "it takes money to make money." So Betty Mae sought out grants and loans from the federal government, overseeing their application on the

reservations. She leased out Tribal lands to citrus growers. This approach meant when she left in 1971, the Treasury had \$500,000 in the bank.

Besides setting the Tribe on financially stable footing, Betty Mae boosted the Tribe's reputation as a reliable and capable Native American government. As a result, President

Throughout her time as chairwoman, Betty Mae remained committed to the health of the Seminoles and other Native Americans. One of her biggest achievements was the founding of USET, the United Southeastern Tribes, in 1968, along with Buffalo Tiger (Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida), Emmett York (Choctaw), and Walter S. Jackson (Eastern Band of Cherokees). The goal was to provide the Southeastern Tribes more lobbying power in Washington, D.C. With its united front, USET has been able to obtain better health and educational opportunities for all Native Americans throughout the southeast.

In 1971, Betty Mae ran for chairman again and lost to Howard Tommie. However, this was just the beginning of a new story for Betty Mae Tiger Jumper. Among other achievements, she became the Director of Communications – overseeing The Seminole Indian News in the 1960s and The Seminole Tribune from the 1970s to the early 2000s – and the author of three books. To learn more about Betty Mae's amazing life, pick up "A Seminole Legend: The Life of Betty Mae Tiger Jumper" by Betty Mae Tiger Jumper and Patsy West.



2017 Year of the
Seminole
Anniversaries



Photo courtesy Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
Joe Dan Osceola and Betty Mae Tiger Jumper are pictured here holding an early flag for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Richard Nixon appointed her to the National Council of Indian Opportunity in 1970, a role she would fulfill for 16 years. As one of two Native women to be appointed, she had direct conversations with President Nixon and Vice President Spiro Agnew about the needs of the Seminoles in particular, and Indian Country in general.

Tribal Historic Preservation Office investigates the Josie Billie Camp

BY SHAWN KEYTE
THPO Archaeologist

BIG CYPRESS — The Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) recently completed an investigation of the historic Josie Billie Camp and its eligibility for the Tribal Register of Historic Places (TRHP). As development on the reservations grows, the THPO completes surveys as part of the On-Reservation Review Process to ensure culturally significant places, such as historic camps and plant gathering areas, will be respected and preserved.



Josie Billie

During the investigation of the Josie Billie Camp, it was determined that the camp be listed for the TRHP. The Josie Billie Camp is located to the north of Josie Billie Highway, in the north-central portion of the Big Cypress Indian Reservation. It was believed to have been established around 1943 by Josie Billie and his wife Lucy Tiger. According to family members, the camp consisted of four chickees, a store, and a large garden that contained peas, sweet potatoes, corn, and sugar cane. Prior to this settlement in Big Cypress, he lived at his childhood camp near Fort Shackelford, also on the Big Cypress Reservation, and a camp near Ochopee.

Josie Billie played many vital roles within the Seminole Tribal community. One of the greatest roles that Josie Billie played was as a medicine man for the community. Besides practicing medicine and healing, medicine men also played an important role as community leaders. They typically represented the Tribe in a political and judicial capacity during the annual Green Corn Dance. Becoming a medicine man was a long, arduous task that could take up to four years to complete.

In an article written by William Straight M.D. in 1970, Straight discusses Josie Billie's baptism and how he came to be a Baptist Minister on the Big Cypress Reservation. According to Straight, Josie Billie was baptized in January 1945 by missionary Stanley Smith and attended the Florida Baptist Institute in 1946. After his return, he became the assistant pastor of the Big Cypress Baptist Church.

By working with Tribal members to document these important places and memories, the THPO is building an archive of knowledge that Tribal members can use to help tell future generations important stories about life and culture on the reservations. To contribute your knowledge of historic camps on the reservation or memories about life in the camp, call the Tribal Historic Preservation Office at 863-983-6549 or stop by any of our offices.

Water Warriors program showcases history, culture, concern

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum commemorated the 47th Earth Day with a Water Warriors program that focused on water issues. The Tribe's connection to water and the Everglades took center stage at the Big Cypress event April 22.

"The Tribe's relationship to water is amazing," said Paul Backhouse, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office. "They think about the environment differently than others. This event allows visitors to learn about that."

The event was filled with activities, demonstrations and information thanks to Tribal members and departments who shared knowledge freely. Jake Osceola, who went fishing for garfish the night before, showed visitors how to cut through the tough skin of the fish and clean and cook the Seminole favorite while being filmed by a news crew from Fort Myers. When the fish was cooked, visitors were welcome to a sample.

Environmentalist and artist Samuel Tommie discussed the characteristics of water in the Everglades since the early 1800s.

"Things in the Everglades have been disturbed so much over time," Tommie said. "It brings a lot of problems. Wildlife and birds aren't as plentiful anymore and there is a real threat to our aquifer system."

Tommie believes the biggest problem facing the Everglades is legislation and laws.

"The laws need to support the Everglades' original design," he said. "We need to go back 300 years. They have to change the laws to protect the Everglades and I challenge the government to do so."

A lack of concern for the environment was the catalyst for Earth Day, which began in 1970, a time of leaded gasoline and unregulated industry that created pollution without legal consequences. "Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. Environment was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news," according to the Earth Day website.

It was no coincidence that the March for Science took place on Earth Day this year as demonstrations in more than 600 cities supported science for the public good.

The environment and science are continually paired for the work done by the Environmental Resource Management Department. During Water Warriors day, ERMD shared information about a new program it hopes to begin. The Environmental DNA program will measure DNA in the water to determine the absence or presence of invasive species such as pythons. The grant-funded program will require numerous collecting stations on canals throughout Big Cypress since water moves so quickly.

Southwest Florida native and fishing net maker Dennis McDaniel captivated visitors as he demonstrated how to make the nets by hands, one knot at a time. He learned the art form from his father when he was a child.

"I came to support the Seminole culture," said visitor Ronnie Bower, of Naples. "Water is their life blood and the Everglades is drying up. People need to be aware; it's a problem out here and everywhere."



Beverly Bidney
Jake Osceola guts a gar fish he caught the night before the Water Warriors program commemorating Earth Day at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum April 22, as reporters from Hello SWFL and visitors film the demonstration.



Beverly Bidney
As visitors watch, Dennis McDaniel, center, demonstrates how he ties knots on his handmade fishing nets at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Water Warriors program on Earth Day.

Health

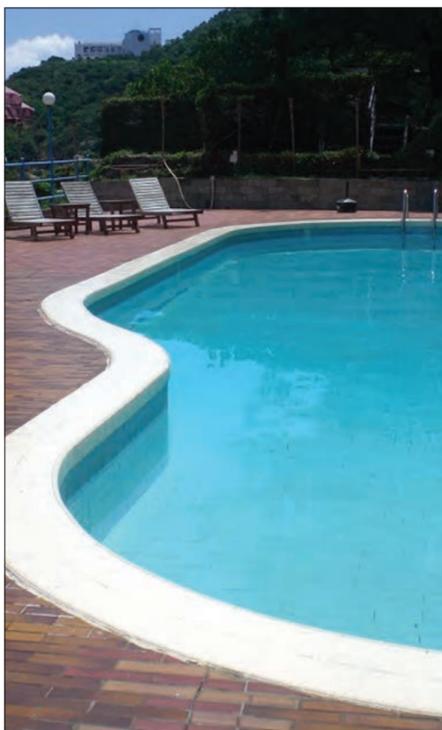
Swimming pool rules for health, safety

SUBMITTED BY PATRICK PECK
STOF Health Department

It is that time of the year when we trade in our long sleeves and pants for tank tops and swimsuits. Swimming is enjoyed by millions during pool season. Swimming pools are great source for relaxation, enjoyment and exercise. Even though swimming in pools is a routine activity, it still poses many hazards. Falls, slips, injuries, infections and drowning are unfortunately all too commonplace.

Whether you use a private, community or public swimming pool, rules exist to ensure the health and safety of every pool visitor. Even though such rules can sometimes seem restrictive, they are always there for a good reason. As we wish for you to enjoy pools year after year, please heed the following pool rules:

Public Swimming Pool Rules



always be done in the deep end of the pool, not in the shallow end or somewhere in between. It often happens that children endure head injuries or broken necks because they overestimate the depth of the water and crash head-first into the ground.

- Avoid going to the pool if you have the flu, open wounds or warts. You don't want to contaminate other swimming pool visitors.

Wear a swim cap if you (still) have hair. This avoids that the pool's filters become clogged.

- Only wear your swim suit at the pool. Don't go to the pool with a suit or shorts that you have worn all day.
- Don't enter the pool being dirty. Always shower off first. The pool is not your bathtub.
- If you go to the pool with a toddler, make sure that it wears waterproof swim diapers.
- Parents should make sure that their children (or themselves) don't sit on the swimming pool dividers, as this will disturb lap swimmers.

Avoid swimming underwater while holding your breath, especially after hyperventilating. This can lead to shallow water blackout and drowning.

Let us make 2017 another safe and good year of fun at the pool. For more information contact the STOF Health department at 954-985-2330, ext. 10612

A portion of this article was obtained from <http://www.enjoy-swimming.com/swimming-pool-rules.html>.

STOF Health Department needs current addresses

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The STOF Health Department will be mailing new Tribal Health Plan cards and books to Members early this summer. Please contact the Health Department now to update your address to ensure that you receive these important materials.

A new Health Plan card is needed to:

- Show to healthcare providers before receiving services
- Ensure timely payment of medical/

dental bills

- Fill prescription medications

Immokalee Health Clinic
1120 South 1st Street
Immokalee, FL 34142
239-867-3400

Brighton Health Clinic, Tampa and Fort Pierce Reservation
17201 Civic Street
Okeechobee, FL 34974
863-763-0271

Hollywood Health Clinic
3006 Josie Billie Avenue
Hollywood, FL 33024
954-962-2009

Big Cypress Health Clinic
31055 Josie Billie Hwy.
Clewiston, FL 33440
863-983-5151

Symposium addresses suicide prevention

BY ROBERT LAMENDOLA

Florida Department of Health in Broward County

A growing coalition of advocates from schools, health care and community organizations is mobilizing to take more action to address a small but continuing rise in teen suicides.

The latest effort was a first annual Suicide Prevention Symposium for those who work with teens, to educate about the extent of the problem, causes and resources available to help at-risk teens.

About 300 people attended the all-day session, exceeding expectations.

"The response from the community was very positive," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, Director of the Florida Department of Health in Broward County. "We're trying to take action on a real problem facing families."

The symposium was organized by DOH-Broward, Broward County Public Schools,

the Children's Services Council and others. Last year, 10 Broward teens ages 14-17 committed suicide, up from two to five per year over the past decade.

In addition, a survey of about 1,500 high and middle school students in 2015 found that 3.5 percent (4.3 percent of girls) were injured attempting suicide, up from 2.2 percent in 2007.

About 14 percent of them (16.5 percent of girls) made a plan to commit suicide, highest since the 1990s. More than 30 percent (38 percent of girls) reported feelings of sadness and hopelessness for at least two weeks.

Reasons for the increased anxiety among teens range from family problems caused by the economic downturn, pressure to succeed, concerns over appearance, bullying and more.

Lesbian, gay and bisexual students, as well as Hispanic teen girls are at elevated risk

for suicidal thoughts, says Charlene Grecsek, coordinator of the Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities at Broward public schools.

What to watch for? Warning signs include self-injury, withdrawal, loss of interest in friends and activities, change in eating, change in behavior, inability to enjoy life and decline in school grades, says Beth King, an assistant professor at Florida Atlantic University.

What to do? Encourage teens to talk about what bothers them. If they won't talk to you, take them to talk to a friend, relative, teacher, counselor, faith leader or anyone they trust.

"Don't ignore it," King said. A resource is the Teen Hotline at Broward 2-1-1.

For more information contact Maureen O'Keeffe at DOH-Broward, 954-467-4700, ext. 3014, or Maureen.OKeeffe@flhealth.gov.

Seminole Tribe well represented at March for Babies walk

OKEECHOBEE — Sixty-seven walkers representing the Seminole Tribe were among the hundreds of walkers who participated in the March of Dimes March for Babies on April 1 at Flagler Park in Okeechobee. The annual 3-mile walk is a fundraiser for the organization. According to the Okeechobee walk's web page, more than \$30,000 had been raised from this year's walk as of late April.



Photo courtesy Barb Boling/STOF Health Education Coordinator

Elbert Snow kneels beside a road sign featuring his granddaughter Patricia Dawn Entry.



Photo courtesy Barb Boling/STOF Health Education Coordinator

Walkers in Okeechobee's March for Babies on April 1 include Jessica Billie, Ruby Buster, Ashley Spencer and Victor Jackson.

Brighton pool closed until August

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — This summer will be a hot one with no respite in the pool for Brighton residents. The community pool is closed for improvements until August.

The roof is being razed on the indoor pool to make it an outdoor only facility. Originally built in 2000, the 75 by 45 foot junior Olympic heated pool was resurfaced about two years ago. Additions to the site

will include a larger patio area, new benches, new patio umbrellas and three new chickees. Rounding out the recreational area are a 20 by 20 foot kiddie pool and a 40 foot diameter hot tub. The locker rooms, office and parking lot will also get a facelift.

"This has been in the works for less than a year," said Judy Jones, pool manager. "The pool gets a lot of usage; we have water aerobics, swimming lessons, the charter school uses it and there are usually summertime parties every Saturday and Sunday."

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Photo courtesy Barb Boling/STOF Health Education Coordinator

Amanda Julian, Kulipa Julian, Brandon Gabbord, Tiyanni Anderson, Hinton Anderson and Charles Julian participate in the March for Babies on April 1 in Okeechobee.

SEMINOLE SCENES



Kevin Johnson

EGGCITING: Innocent Francis prepares to try to catch a giant plastic egg during a Hollywood Boys & Girls Club field day event March 30 at the Hollywood ball fields. The event was part of the National Boys & Girls Club Week.



Beverly Bidney

YOU CAN DO IT: Firefighters' fit and trim physiques don't just happen, it takes hard work. These Immokalee firefighters get a good workout using a set of rings in front of the fire station March 31.



Kevin Johnson

GOOD CATCH: Willie Smith makes a catch in a kickball game during the Big Cypress Reservation's Easter party April 10.



Photo courtesy Geraldine Osceola

CASINO TOUR: A group of Immokalee teens visited the Seminole Casino in Immokalee on March 17 for a behind-the-scenes tour given by assistant director of slot operations Edward Aguilar, who showed them different career paths available at the casino. Ervina Capricien, director of the Tribal Career Development program, also attended and answered questions about the program. After the tour, the group enjoyed lunch at Lucky Mi Noodle House in the casino. From left are Geraldine Osceola, Patsy Veliz, Allegra Billie, Rande Osceola and Aguilar.



Carlos Fuentes

SACK TIME: Youngsters in Hollywood prepare for a sack race during the reservation's Easter party April 11.



Beverly Bidney

SHOW STOPPERS: "Elgin Jumper Portraits & Landscapes" is on display until Oct. 6 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress. The colorful and striking portraits are a contrast to the more realistic landscapes, which showcase Jumper's wide-ranging artistic style.



Beverly Bidney

FIELD DAY FUN: Rosie Grant and Loretta Micco share a laugh at the senior field day in Big Cypress on April 21.



Photo courtesy Dinorah Ceron-Ramos

RACE TO REMEMBER: Youth at the Billie Osceola Memorial Library, including Hinton "JB" Anderson, left, and Cierra Lerma, give it their all during a program in Brighton that commemorated the fourth anniversary of the bombings of the Boston Marathon on April 10 with relay races and a discussion about the terrorist attack.



Grace Ducanis

BIRTHDAY BOY: Elgin Jumper is presented a birthday cake by Tara Chadwick, of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, during Elgin's performance at History Museum Fort Lauderdale on March 30.



Photo courtesy Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

NEW OPTION: Seminole Casino Coconut Creek will soon house a new Asian cuisine restaurant called The Bol. Construction is underway for the 50-seat dining venue which will be situated near the main valet entrance, in close proximity to the Player's Club Xperience. It will be similar to The Bol restaurant in Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

SENIOR SENDOFF: Moore Haven High School senior softball player Sydnee Cypress is joined by family and friends at her senior night game April 11.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Judge overturns ruling in Martha's Vineyard casino case

A federal appeals court on April 10 overturned a lower court ruling that had denied the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head the right to build a casino gaming facility on Martha's Vineyard, opening the door to another possible casino in Massachusetts.

A U.S. District Court judge in 2015 ruled that the tribe failed to exercise sufficient "governmental power" over its tribal land and therefore could not operate any gaming facility there. The ruling also enjoined the tribe from opening any gaming facility without prior approval from the state and town.

In a ruling issued April 10, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit reversed the district court's ruling, finding the tribe had in fact exercised its governmental power by entering into agreements with other governments, passing ordinances and even employing a judge.

"[T]he Tribe has established a housing program that receives HUD assistance, and has built approximately 30 units of housing under that program; has entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the EPA; operates a health care clinic with the aid of the Indian Health Service; administers a program for education with scholarships financed with Bureau of Indian Affairs funding; administers social services with a human services director responsible for child welfare work; administers conservation policy ... and administers a public safety program," Judge Juan Torruella wrote in the court's opinion.

The tribe had been seeking to convert its unfinished and vacant community center into an electronic bingo hall in Aquinnah and then use the casino revenue to promote the tribe's economic development and fund various tribal programs. An overview of the plan published in 2015 said the tribe planned a facility with about 300 "gaming machines" that would support 100 full-time jobs.

The tribe estimated that the casino would generate \$4.5 million before taxes in the first year of operation before growing above that number.

Two years after Massachusetts approved an expanded gambling law authorizing up to three resort casinos, the Commonwealth sued the tribe in December 2013 after the National Indian Gaming Commission approved the Aquinnah's gaming ordinance.

During the district court trial in 2015, lawyers argued about overlapping federal statutes passed within a year of each other. In 1987, Congress placed 485 acres of tribal land into trust with agreement that the state and town laws would continue to apply. In 1988, Congress passed the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), which sets up a framework for tribal gaming.

"The district court reasoned that IGRA did not apply, because the Tribe had failed to exercise sufficient governmental power; and that even if the Tribe had exercised sufficient governmental power, the [tribal land in trust agreement] ... which provides that the Settlement Lands are subject to state laws and regulations (including gaming laws and regulations), governed," Torruella wrote. "Because we find that the Tribe has exercised more than sufficient governmental power to satisfy the requirements of IGRA, and the Federal Act has been impliedly repealed by IGRA in relevant part, we reverse."

Massachusetts legalized casinos and a single slot parlor in 2011, reserving up to three casino licenses in the west, the southeast and the Metro Boston area, and establishing a licensure process for tribal gaming. A slots parlor opened in Plainville and casinos are being built in Springfield and Everett.

Former Gov. Deval Patrick negotiated a gaming compact with the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to build a casino in Taunton, but after receiving the land in trust from the Interior Department in 2015 and breaking ground on a planned \$1 billion First Light Resort and Casino in Taunton a federal court ruled that the tribe was not entitled to land in trust. Court proceedings to resolve that question are ongoing.

— State House News Service/Masslive.com

Voters pave way for development by Mohegan Sun

PRESTON, Conn. — For two decades, this town of 5,000 stood sandwiched between the state's gambling giants, Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods Resort Casino, but with little economic development spinoff to show for it.

Now, the end of the long drought is finally in sight.

In a referendum April 18, town voters overwhelmingly approved an agreement that would clear the way for Mohegan Sun to develop the long-vacant former Norwich Hospital property across the Thames River. By a 6-1 margin, town residents

backed what could become a \$600 million redevelopment, the largest the region has seen in years.

Unofficial results show 950 votes were cast, with 813 in favor and 137 against the proposed agreement for the nearly 400-acre hospital property.

If the property is developed into a smorgasbord of amenities, including an indoor water park, a large performing venue, senior housing, time-share units and a marina, it would nearly double the town's grand list of \$380 million.

"Historically, there has been little economic development generated from the two casinos," Preston First Selectman Bob Congdon said. "They did all they could to capture people and keep them inside. Other than gas stations, Dunkin' Donuts and one hotel, there has been no major development. This offers that opportunity."

After the April 18 votes were tallied, Congdon said residents have given a clear mandate and now "the exciting part begins, planning for the future."

Eight years ago, the town of Preston took a risk and purchased the hospital property — closed by the state in 1996 — for \$1, knowing that it would take tens of millions of dollars to clean up asbestos, lead and soil contamination on a property with 60 buildings.

Since then, \$20 million, including \$9 million from the state and \$5 million from the town, has been spent on the cleanup and all but five buildings have been demolished. Voter approval April 18 would bring another \$10 million from the state to finish the job.

— Hartford Courant

Leaders convene to strengthen Native American education

TULSA, Okla. — Tulsa played host April 5 to a first-ever conference about how to strengthen education for American Indian students throughout Oklahoma.

More than 300 public school educators and representatives of the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma gathered to hear from leaders at the Oklahoma State Department of Education, U.S. Department of Education, Bureau of Indian Education, and National Indian Education Association.

Oklahoma State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister noted that there are 130,000-plus American Indian students in Oklahoma public schools, more than any other state.

"Every child deserves an education that meets his or her holistic needs. It is about individuals — each child being recognized by name, by need, by strengths, hopes, by aspirations," Hofmeister said. "Educators have an opportunity and responsibility to understand the rich history and customs of our Native American students."

The federal Every Student Succeeds Act, or ESSA, which last year replaced the No Child Left Behind Act, includes a new requirement for public schools to consult with tribal leaders.

In Oklahoma, Hofmeister said there are 205 school districts with student populations that make them subject to that requirement.

"What we've seen in the past are pockets of good, strong collaboration about how to use dollars allocated for Native American children, but this formalizes that across the state," she said. "It has been amazing to see what this means to tribal leaders."

Gregory Anderson, secretary of education for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, told those in attendance, "It's going to take all of us united together to improve upon what we've had in the past and what we're going to become."

The summit in Tulsa was designed to help both educators and tribal governments to understand both the exact requirements and spirit of ESSA.

Monique Chism, acting assistant U.S. Secretary of Education, acknowledged new uncertainty about the future of ESSA under the Trump administration.

"A lot of things are going on and people are trying to read the tea leaves about whether ESSA will stand, but we feel pretty confident that the law is going to stand — it was passed with bipartisan support," Chism said.

— Tulsa World

Native American culture, history to be integrated into North Dakota schools

BISMARCK, N.D. — The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction plans to integrate Native American culture and history into classroom instruction as part of a project that compiled interviews of Native American elders in the state. In addition, culturally relevant lesson plans and other curriculum were developed for teachers to use.

DPI launched its Native American Essential Understanding Project in

2015, which is a mirror of Montana's Indian Education For All program and the WoLakota project in South Dakota, according to Lucy Fredericks, director of DPI's office of Indian and multicultural education.

The first half of the project included interviews of elders from four federally recognized tribes in North Dakota: the Fort Berthold, Turtle Mountain, Spirit Lake and Standing Rock reservations. These elders identified seven "essential understandings" that all students, Native and non-Native, across the state should know about the tribes.

"I think it's been something that we've needed to have," Fredericks said. "There have been pockets here and there, like teachers teaching about Native Americans in North Dakota, but it's usually only during Native American month or during a unit. But what we would like to see is for it to be included in all content areas, all grade levels."

On April 18, DPI held its second two-day training session for teachers and administrators at the Comfort Inn in Bismarck. Fifty-two people signed up, Fredericks said.

The next steps with the project will be to do professional development for teachers and implement lesson plans and curriculum into all schools in North Dakota, Fredericks said.

"We have almost a 10 percent Native American (student) population in North Dakota ... so, why not develop culturally relevant curriculum or awareness for all schools in North Dakota?" Fredericks said.

— Bismarck Tribune

Federal government to take over health care from Nooksack Tribe

DEMING, Wash. — Nearly 300 people who have been kicked out of the Nooksack Indian Tribe will once again get health care when the federal government steps in at the end of April to provide those services.

In a March 27 letter, the Department of Health & Human Services notified tribal council Chairman Bob Kelly that it intended to "reassume" medical services — taking them over from the tribe — as of April 29, unless the tribe asked for a formal hearing.

In separate action, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development admonished the tribe in an April 4 letter against its most recent efforts to evict from tribal housing some of the people it had removed from Nooksack rolls in a process known as "disenrollment."

The disenrollment controversy erupted in early 2013 after Kelly and a majority of other council members agreed that members of three families — Rabang, Rapada and Narte-Gladstone — didn't have strong enough blood ties to the Nooksacks and had been incorrectly enrolled in the 2,000-member tribe in the 1980s.

Tribal membership entitles the Nooksacks to a range of benefits, among them hunting and fishing rights, health care and access to tribal housing.

The tribe announced Nov. 22, 2016, that it had removed 289 people from the membership rolls.

The effort has made for a complex series of legal battles that have lasted for years and involved a number of lawsuits and counter claims.

"What is paramount now is that our clients again receive life-dependent health care and maintain their homes," said Gabe Galanda, a Seattle attorney representing the ousted Nooksacks who have been fighting their disenrollment.

The two agencies said their decision followed that of the U.S. Department of Interior and its Bureau of Indian Affairs, which said the federal government won't accept actions taken by the tribe after March 2016 because no election was held to replace four expiring Nooksack Tribal Council seats, meaning decisions were made without a quorum and, therefore, illegitimate.

The council's actions won't be recognized until the tribe holds a fair election under the rules of the tribe's constitution, the BIA said.

It isn't recognizing the election held on Jan. 21 because those who were disenrolled weren't allowed to vote.

As a result, federal agencies have been saying they no longer have a government to government relationship with the tribe. That includes continuing to provide federal funds to help support tribally run health care, housing and social services.

"The United States has validated everything our clients have been experiencing and saying since March of 2016, most notably that they have not been disenrolled," Galanda said.

Michelle Roberts, a spokeswoman for the affected group, said the most recent action by HUD and Health & Human Services gave them hope.

Roberts, Olive Oshiro, Alex Nicol-Mills, Norma Aldredge and Francisco

Rabang all recently received eviction notices from the Nooksack Indian Housing Authority, which told them they needed to be out of their homes by April 23.

But HUD said in its letter that the eviction notices were invalid. "Therefore, all actions related to these terminations should cease," the agency wrote in its letter.

"My thinking is that if they want to continue a relationship with HUD and continue to receive funding for future housing and maintenance," Roberts said, "that they would comply."

In February, the tribe sued the federal government, claiming its decision interfered with the tribe's right and ability to govern itself.

The tribe wants to get back nearly \$13.7 million in state and federal funds it argued has been wrongfully withheld.

— Bellingham Herald

Could Nevada's tribal lands be the next marijuana frontier?

Tribal lands could be the next frontier for the marijuana industry in Nevada.

From across the state, tribal leaders appeared at the Nevada Legislature in April to advocate for a bill that would enable tribes to enter into state compacts allowing the medical and recreational marijuana industry to take root on tribal land.

Under Senate Bill 375, introduced by Sen. Tick Segerblom, D-Las Vegas, the state would work with individual tribes whose tribal councils have voted to legalize marijuana for either medical and recreational uses.

"The tribes would oversee what is happening on their reservation, but when they participate in the system they would have to follow the state rules," Segerblom said of the bill.

While some tribes are only interested in opening dispensaries and others are interested additionally in production, all businesses would have to uphold the same health, security and taxation standards expected of state-licensed businesses even though the businesses would not carry state licenses, Segerblom said.

Almost all of the tribal leaders that testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 6 described high unemployment and poverty rates among their people and insisted that the marijuana industry could create jobs, revenue and other opportunities in their communities.

"We lack a tribal court system, we lack a police department, we lack health services — this may help create those services," said David Decker, Chairman of the Elko Band Council for the Te-Moak Tribe of the Western Shoshone. "Just to pay for dispatch, this is very expensive. This could help us pay for all those economic securities that we currently can't provide."

Tildon Smart, former chairman of the Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone tribe, told members of the Senate Judiciary Committee on April 6 that about 98 percent of the approximately 1,100 tribal members are unemployed.

"Education is a major issue. I left the reservation for a while and got an education and came back," Smart said.

He has hope that the marijuana industry could bring as many as 200 jobs to his community.

It is unclear which tribal or state agencies would regularly monitor the medical and recreational marijuana industry on tribal lands since state-licensed businesses are constantly monitored by state agencies. Between 24-hour real-time security footage and monthly walk-throughs, the regulation of the cannabis business is no easy feat.

"Nevada is the most regulated state in the country when it comes to marijuana," said Will Adler, director of the Sierra Cannabis Coalition. "There's nothing easy about marijuana."

If the bill passes, it would not be a national first — though it certainly would be uncommon.

In 2015, Washington state signed a 10-year pact with the Suquamish Tribe, allowing the tribe to open its own pot shop. While other tribes have tried their hands at marijuana, the start-up expense and the threat of federal intervention has smothered many of those efforts.

"They are sticking their necks out on this one, but at some point you have to say, 'We can't sit around and twiddle our thumbs,'" Segerblom said. "I think the tribes — because they're sovereign nations — they will have a better leg to stand on."

Banking on marijuana is a gamble in the least, especially since many tribes receive a hefty chunk of their funding from the federal government.

"Unless you're using your federal funding for your marijuana program, it's not going to be a problem," said Trent Griffith, secretary-treasurer for the Ely Shoshone tribe in Southern Nevada.

His tribe is already on the right track, he said. In November, the Ely Shoshone Tribe started Nevada's first state-recognized tribal cardholders program, one that allows tribe members to purchase medical marijuana in-

state. "It's really not that we can't dispense now, but we haven't," said Griffith, noting that cardholders still have to drive several hours to Las Vegas for product.

For several years, federal officials have operated under the guidelines of the Wilkinson Memo, which affords tribes the ability to operate under state marijuana laws. The new White House administration, however, has not been as friendly to the idea of marijuana, which is still illegal on a federal level.

— Reno Gazette-Journal

Tulalip Tribes members elect first woman-majority board

TULALIP, Wash. — For the second time in its history, the Tulalip Tribes will have a woman leading its board.

On March 18, the Tulalip Tribes membership voted in two new board members and elected Marie Zackuse chairwoman.

Zackuse replaces Chairman Melvin Sheldon Jr., who will remain on the board in a non-officer position.

The tribal membership also elected Teri Gobin, the longtime director of the Tribal Employment Rights Office, and Jared Parks, son of current board member Les Parks, to the board. Les Parks also won re-election. Gobin joins Zackuse, Theresa Sheldon and Bonnie Juneau on the first female-majority board in the Tulalip Tribes' history.

Zackuse has been on the board since 1990. She has been involved in the state Early Learning Advisory Council and has worked with the Washington State School Directors' Association to improve tribal student performance and incorporate tribal history, culture and government into curricula.

Zackuse said her first task as chairwoman would be to schedule a retreat with the other board members and work on smoothing over disputes that had developed among the tribal leadership.

"In that retreat we're going to be able to agree to come together," she said.

— Herald.net

Fort William First Nation accepts non-Indigenous man as full member

ONTARIO, Canada — Damien Lee is neither a status Indian nor is he Indigenous. But he belongs to the Fort William First Nation.

It's where he grew up. It's where his family lives. And now, in a groundbreaking demonstration of both kinship and independence, the First Nation adjacent to the Ontario city of Thunder Bay has accepted Lee as a full-fledged member.

"That's my home. Up until earlier this month I have been claimed by the community socially and in a de facto sense, but I never have been able to participate in voting, for example," Lee said in a telephone interview from Saskatoon where he is a professor of Indigenous studies.

"Now I get to participate in the things that my brothers and sisters get to participate in."

As other First Nations take legal action to limit their membership and to exclude even fully Indigenous people who marry outsiders, the Fort William First Nation this year accepted four people as members who do not possess Indian status, which is recognition by the federal government that a person is registered under the Indian Act and entitled to the accompanying funding and benefits.

A handful of experts contacted by The Globe and Mail could not point to another Indian Act community that, like Fort William, has opened its membership to non-status people.

Even as a true member of the First Nation, Lee will not be eligible for the tax breaks, education funding and other assistance that Ottawa provides to status Indians, nor will the community receive more money for having him on its rolls.

On the other hand, he can vote in band elections and run for office. He can hold land on the reserve. And, if there is a settlement that brings cash into the community, Lee will be able to claim a share. So broadening Fort William's membership makes no financial sense to those who are already on its rolls.

— Globe and Mail

NOTIFICATION OF

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To the Tribal community at large, the Draft Control Schedule and Priority List for Tribal and BIA Roads is available for review/comments at the office of Public Works in the Hollywood Reservation. Comments must be received no later than May 12, 2017. For additional information, contact Fabian Lefler, P.E. or Marilyn Markwei, P.E. at the Public Works Department at 954-894-1060.

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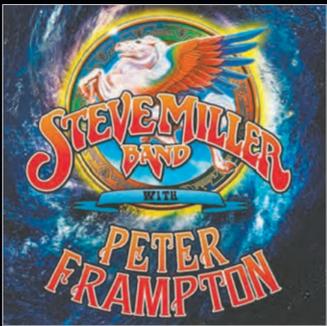
May 12
**KC & THE
SUNSHINE BAND**



May 26 & 27
FRANKIE VALLI
& THE FOUR SEASONS



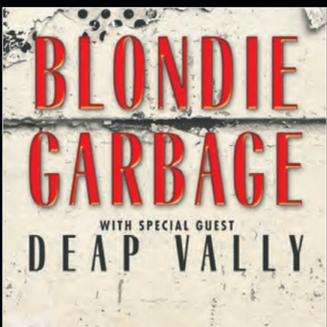
July 6
ROD STEWART
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
CYNDI LAUPER



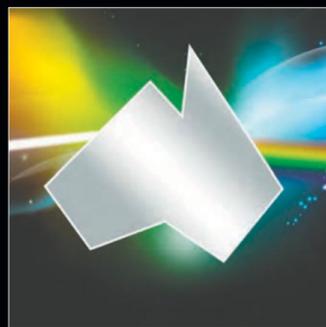
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Education

B

Seminoles advocate activism, actualization at FIU indigenous celebration

BY GRACE DUCANIS
Freelance Reporter

MIAMI — Florida International University's fourth annual indigenous celebration on April 15 attracted about 60 people who listened to Seminole, Miccosukee, Quechua, Carib and Ainu representatives share their opinions and art.

The celebration, which was co-sponsored by FIU's Global Indigenous Forum and Global Indigenous Group, opened with a blessing ceremony, facilitated by Carib Katherine Hummingbird Ramirez. The event continued with an afternoon of interactive and educational workshops and concluded with an evening of music, dance and storytelling. The majority of the sessions and performances were from members of indigenous groups, including many Seminoles.

Dennis Wiedman, director of the Global Indigenous Forum at FIU, said that the purpose of the event is to create spaces on FIU's campus for indigenous voices to be heard. He said that in his 32 years working for FIU, he realized that although the university is very international, there weren't enough indigenous voices on campus.

"Most of the events and the programs and the research and the scholarship [at FIU] deals with the colonizers of the world," he explained.

The theme of this year's indigenous celebration was Planting Seeds for Seven Generations: Working as One for the Future. "Planting seeds for seven generations" is an expression originating with Native Americans about the impact that one's actions can have on generations to come, according to the event's press release.

Seminole Tribe member Samuel Tommie emphasized democracy and peace during his

afternoon session, saying that democracy was the way of life for indigenous peoples before European colonization.

"[Democracy] is something that you carry within your heart, that you carry within your mind, that you walk each day knowing what democracy is," he said. "This is true democracy, and there's no such thing as democracy on this continent anymore."

Tommie said that he tried to keep his talk organic and that he wanted to address a topic he didn't feel like anyone else was addressing.

"Democracy is a big concern of mine, and it's also a Native American heritage," he explained. "I wanted to remind ourselves that a true democracy is... a human right."

According to Tommie, the FIU celebration connects like-minded people who fight for the environment and social issues.

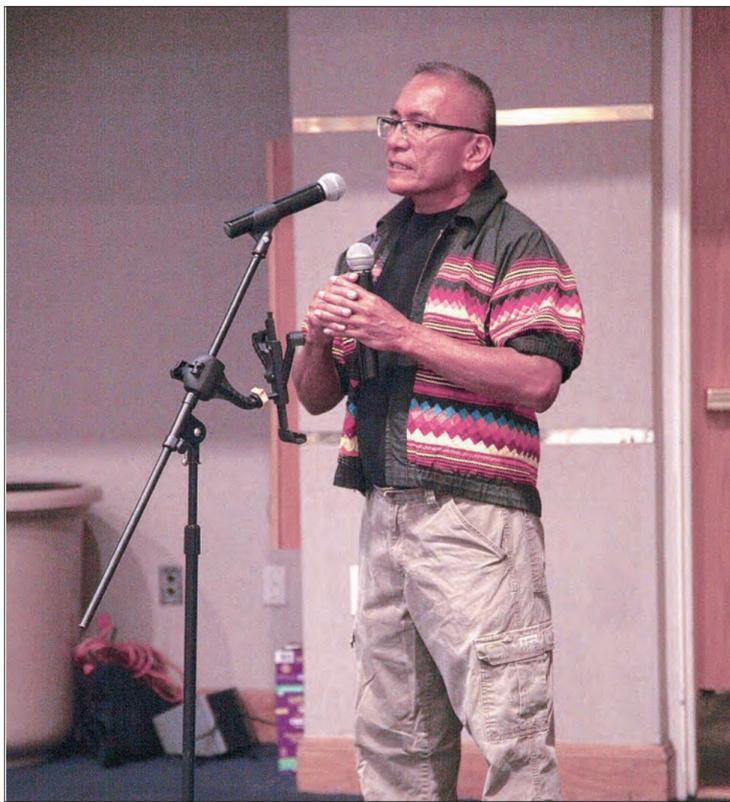
"This is an environment where hope stays alive," he said.

Tommie's brother, Daniel Tommie, also gave a workshop, speaking on the importance of self-discovery and self-actualization. According to Daniel Tommie, self-actualization means knowing who you are and being content.

"Everything starts with one's self," he said. "Before you can [connect] with your family, your community, to people, to the human race, it's got to start with you."

Miccosukee citizen Lee Tiger said the celebration helps indigenous peoples connect with and learn about each other. Tiger performed at the event along with Seminole Tribe member Ted Nelson, singing a number of original songs.

"When [Nelson] and I do things together, it's even more powerful: our spirit, our medicine, to share our gift of music and talent and words and expressions and feelings that



Grace Ducanis

Samuel Tommie speaks about true democracy and its relationship to indigenous peoples at FIU on April 15.

we have in our music and our creations," Tiger explained. "I want to inspire some of the younger Seminole and Miccosukee children."

Carolina Castoreno, a member of the Lipan Apache Tribe of Texas and master of ceremonies for the celebration, said that the purpose of the event is to celebrate the achievements of Native American culture and to discover how to become more politically active concerning indigenous issues.

Evelyn Mila, 23-year-old college student, called the event "divine."

"I'm getting a lot of information about cultures that I previously had no idea of, and especially cultures that are right here, down the street," she said.

"I have to look for similarities," Daniel Tommie said during his session. "What do I have in common with my fellow human beings? It's not about me. What can I do to help? All I am is one grain of sand that holds the human race together, and that takes self-actualization. It takes a lot of work."



Grace Ducanis

Lee Tiger, Ted Nelson and Roderick Kohn sing "Lay Your Burden Down," written by Tiger's brother.



Grace Ducanis

Katherine Hummingbird Ramirez opens FIU's fourth annual indigenous celebration with a traditional indigenous ceremony.

Living the ACD experience: Smooth transition to Business Marketing

BY AARON TOMMIE
Contributing Writer

As mentioned in my previous Advanced Career Development columns, I strongly considered working for the Hard Rock's management trainee program. Ultimately, I opted to work for the Tribal government because of a more favorable work schedule for myself. Working within this program has continued to teach me the importance of balancing work and professional life. Although it can be challenging at times, my wife Marceline makes it more manageable due to her support and sacrifices. She understands the high level of commitment I have toward working for the Tribe. Had it not been for her, my work experience would have been drastically different.

According to the required two-year plan, I anticipate completing the ACD program by the end of 2017. I initially had a vague idea of the career path I wanted to take prior to working for the Tribe. But I always knew that I wanted to have some sort of impact with whatever that would eventually be. I feel that I am truly accomplishing that in the ACD program. Working in Seminole Media Productions has given me opportunities to network with many people with diverse perspectives, continue to mold into a professional, and learn more about our triumphs and shortcomings as a Tribe.

I have attended about six concerts and never thought about what it takes to put them and similar events together until I recently began working in Production, a division within Business Marketing. In Production, the staff provides services for events at the casinos such as lighting, stage design and audio. A lot of behind-the-scenes work goes unnoticed.

In contrast to The Seminole Tribune and Broadcasting (SMP's other departments), Business Marketing generates a substantial amount of revenue while the others are mainly serviced-based by design. Concerts, celebrities, marketing, casinos and bright lights are what originally sparked my interest with the department. For five more months, I will continue to work within Business Marketing's four divisions.

My new boss, Business Marketing manager Tiffany Marquez, has been more than willing to mentor me and assign me to lead projects despite my being in the department for less than a month. It is rewarding to see how each unit within the departments in SMP has been a stepping stone for me. Each experience has prepared me for the next one.

Aaron Tommie is a participant in the Tribe's Advanced Career Development program. He is currently working for the Business Marketing Department in Seminole Media Productions.

Nigel Osceola earns Honor Society honor

BRANDON — Tampa sixth-grader Nigel Osceola was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at Brandon Academy during a school assembly March 28. NJHS membership is based on scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship.



Courtesy photo

Nigel Osceola with principal Brian Galzerano at the Brandon Academy NJHS award assembly March 28.

Big Cypress preschoolers welcome Easter Bunny



Photos courtesy Melissa Sherman

The Easter Bunny receives various reactions from students in the 2-year-old class at the Big Cypress Preschool on April 7. At right, Shonayeh Shawnie Tommie enjoys meeting the bunny.



Pep rally revs up Ahfachkee School for testing

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Perhaps not every Florida student in grades three through 10 third looks forward to the annual Florida Standards Assessment, but the test is how the state measures achievement in language arts and math.

The tests were developed to ensure all students graduate from high school ready for success in college, career and life, according to the FSA website.

The testing period stretches from March 27 through May 12 and is an intense period of the academic year. To alleviate students' stress about the FSA, the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress held a rousing pep rally March 31 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Prior to the

event, the student government hosted a fundraiser. A few teachers and SPD Officer

Momen Abdelhamid competed for a chance for a little stardom at the rally. The person who raised the most cash "won" the honor of getting beamed in the face with a pie. Momen raised \$194, to be used for student council activities, and paid the price with whipped cream.

As with any pep rally, energetic cheerleaders led the crowd in cheers and songs. This rally was interactive with relay races and a basketball game that pitted students against the school staff.

The staff had their own cheerleaders in the stands, "Let's go Warriors, let's go!" Alternating cheers emanated from the stands, "Let's go staff, let's go!"

Ultimately, the staff prevailed; the final score was 39-33.



Beverly Bidney

Tenth-grader Romeo Jumper-Garcia takes a layup during the basketball game between the Ahfachkee students and staff at the pre-FSA pep rally March 27.



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee cheerleaders Adryan Garcia, Danae' Gilkes and Thelma Tigertail bring energy to the pep rally before the Florida Standards Assessment testing began March 27. The pep rally pitted the school's staff against students in a friendly basketball game.



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee music teacher Ja'Nia Harden rouses the crowd and the cheerleaders at the school's pep rally prior to the FSA testing.

No grand prize, but plenty of highlights for Brighton B&G Club

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton Boys & Girls Club stands out among the 4,300 U.S. clubs; it placed in the top seven in the 2017 Blue Door Decorating Contest.

More than 15,000 votes were cast for 614 nationwide entries and Brighton was a finalist, which earned the club \$1,000. The Kip's Bay Club in Bronx, NY, won the \$20,000 grand prize supplied by Lowe's

Home Improvement stores.

The Brighton door's optimistic theme "Begin with Us..." The Possibilities are Endless" was illustrated with some of those possibilities including a doctor, basketball player, teacher and astronaut.

"We came up with the theme by thinking about what makes our club stand out," said club manager Taylor Seder. "It was that our possibilities are endless."

The contest's purpose was to kick off National Boys & Girls Club Week

from March 27-31 and show communities what the clubs do for the kids. Clubs in Hollywood, Immokalee and Big Cypress also participated in the contest.

"The kids are excited that we made it into the top seven," Seder said. "They all got involved in the voting. We put it out to the community and there was great parental participation as well."

Nearly 700 youth enjoy the Boys & Girls Clubs tribal wide, where they participate in activities as varied as computer scavenger

hunts to obstacle courses to cooking classes.

The Brighton club is a busy one with daily averages of about 15 kids age 5-6, more than 30 age 7-11 and a handful of teens. Seder isn't sure what they will use the money for but ideas are streaming fast; perhaps a volleyball net or a grill or renovations to the new Kids Club building for age 5-6.

A typical day in the BG Club starts with an hour of independent study or homework help if needed. Then the kids go outside for some physical activity such as dodgeball,

kickball, softball or obstacle courses. The third hour is spent inside for crafts or science experiments and the last hour of the day is for computer games and scavenger hunts that teach how to search for answers online. Game consoles are also available.

"We hope they are learning good character and leadership skills," Seder said. "We want them to share the knowledge they learn with their families."

Seminole kids participate in National Boys & Girls Club Week

STAFF REPORT

Boys & Girls Clubs throughout the Tribe took part in the National Boys & Girls Club Week in March. Themes related to "open the door" were emphasized. Hollywood's themes included good character and leadership, healthy lifestyle and academic success.



Kevin Johnson

With great joy, Kayle Billie-Alex carefully carries a giant plastic egg on a spoon during a field day event as part of the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club's participation in the National Boys & Girls Club Week.



Kevin Johnson

Darence Fuentes and his younger brother Kason Fuentes work on art projects while dad Pedro Fuentes watches during an open house at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club.



Kevin Johnson

Staff and youngsters from the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club stand in front of their display that showcases the ways the club has opened doors, for example volunteering, friendship, music and writing. The gathering took place during the club's open house.



Kevin Johnson

Quinton Wilson guides Kimora Alex in a team race on the Hollywood ball fields.



Kevin Johnson

Savannah Cypress competes in the football throw event during the field day.



Kevin Johnson

Kenneth Tommie Jr. and Daryn Tommie-James exchange the relay baton during a race on the Hollywood ball fields.

PECS Students of the Month

BRIGHTON — These students earned Student of the Month honors at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in March:
 Elementary: Teodoro Estrada, Aven Fonseca, Silas Snow, Zoie Foster-Snow, Josiah Gopher, Ciani Smith, Dyani Kayda, Heidi Thomas, Cordelia Snell, Hannah Platt, Harmony

Urbina, Jordyn Tomattis, Jayleigh Braswell, Bryce Trammell, Hilowah Garcia, Yauvani Beltran, Jaydence Urbina, Jordan Johnson, Valentine Martinez, Saniya Rodrigues, Zach Riley, Etanis Torres, Ringo Billie.
 Middle School: Jason Haydon, Diego Gopher, Heith Lawrence.



Photo courtesy PECS

PECS middle school Students of the Month for March.



Photo courtesy PECS

PECS elementary school Students of the Month for March.

NIGA honors AIGC with Leadership Award



Photo courtesy AIGC

The American Indian Graduate Center received the Chairman's Leadership Award in April at the National Indian Gaming Association's annual trade show in San Diego, California. NIGA Chairman Ernie Stevens presented Angeliqe Albert, AIGC executive director, with the honor. In a press release, AIGC noted that it was recognized by NIGA for encouraging collaborative partnerships to increase college graduates in Indian Country.

TURTLE HOSPITAL

From page 1A

Aaliyah Billie, 11. "He will stay there for the rest of his life; it's sad."
 The Turtle Hospital has a vibrant educational program and hosts student groups regularly, but the period between Easter and the end of the school year is the busiest, said education specialist Liz Miska. The hospital receives donations from schools throughout the U.S. about two or three times per month.
 "The Ahfachkee students were very well behaved and were into what we had to offer,"

Miska said. "Their donation was more than the average."
 The hospital's most common rehabilitation work on sea turtles is removing tumors likely caused by pollution, gasses, oil and fertilizers. Next common is ingestion of plastics that litter the ocean. The hospital boasts a 90 percent success rate healing the animals and an 85 to 90 percent rate of successful release back into the ocean.
 "Plastic bags are confused for food by sea turtles, which can hurt them pretty badly," Miska said. "We want to make the students aware that everything you do on a daily basis can make a difference."
 Miska said making small changes in

daily habits such as not using plastic bags, reducing waste by recycling and using natural cleaners like vinegar instead of chemicals can make a bit difference.
 "Little things here and there can really make a difference," she said. "They can have a ripple effect and make a big impact on the environment as a whole."
 The trip to the Turtle Hospital made an impact on the students.
 "It's nice that there is a place that tends to sea turtles," Janessa said. "Sea turtles are probably the last animal you think about, but it's cool that there are people willing to step up and help them."



Courtesy photo

Ahfachkee School students, staff and family members gather under the Turtle Hospital sign in Marathon during their trip April 10. Ja'Nia Harden (staff), Valerie Whiteside (staff), Rhonda Ayers (mother), Mya Cypress (10th), Janessa Jones (10th), Lucee Cypress (4th), Bernice Moore (aunt), Clayton Green (2nd), Riley Hill (4th), Aaliyah Billie (4th), Evelio Covarrubias (father), Alex Covarrubias (4th), Jackie (grandmother), Emma DiCarlo (4th), Eden Jumper (brother), Billie Cypress (7th), Paulina (family friend). Front row: Abbigale Green (4th), Betty Sue Johnson (staff). Also in attendance, but not pictured: Chris Green (father).



Courtesy photo

Ahfachkee School fourth-graders Lucee Cypress and Abbigale Green check out a green turtle that is being helped back to good health at the Turtle Hospital in Marathon.



Courtesy photo

Bernice Moore (aunt) and Ahfachkee fourth-grader Aaliyah Billie visit a surgical suite used to help turtles at Turtle Hospital.

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Hollywood preschoolers dash for Easter eggs



Hollywood Preschool students react to seeing the Easter Bunny on the Hollywood ball fields April 7. From left are Chaos Micco, Jakobe Jimmie-Rowe, Kendrick Osceola, Alizayah Alvarado and Aliviahna Aquino.

Kevin Johnson



Above, the Easter Bunny proves to be a popular guest at the Hollywood Preschool Easter egg hunt and lunch April 7. From left, Dominick Reid Jr., Emmett Williams, Jacey Stewart and Jeremy Sanchez. Below, the Bunny greets youngsters before the egg hunt.

Kevin Johnson (2)



Above, with one of the biggest Easter baskets on the field, Wahoo Jackson works hard to fill it up. At right, After participating in the egg hunt, Dalina Rodriguez, left, and Tenia Tommie-James compare their collections.

Kevin Johnson (2)



Big Cypress Reservation celebrates Easter with festivities



Above, Tahnia Billie finds one of three golden eggs during a youth Easter egg hunt that was part of the Big Cypress Easter party April 10. The golden eggs contained money. Below, youngsters dash after eggs that were buried in piles of hay.

Kevin Johnson (2)



Mohayla Billie sprints down a water slide that was among several areas of entertainment for youngsters and adults at the Big Cypress Easter party on April 10.

Kevin Johnson



Above, Delilah Hall gets into the thick of the hay as she searches for Easter eggs April 10 in Big Cypress. Below, Lana Payne hands out flavored ice cones.

Kevin Johnson (2)



Tribalwide senior Easter celebration



Beverly Bidney

Tampa senior Peggy Cubis hunts for the winning eggs during the tribalwide senior Easter party.



Beverly Bidney

William Osceola stretches during a fitness workout prior to the festivities at the tribalwide senior Easter celebration organized by the Department of Elder Services April 6 at Seminole Estates in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

Rhonda Bain and Mike Tiger pose for an Easter photo at the senior Easter celebration in Hollywood April 6.



Beverly Bidney (3)

At left, sisters Louise Osceola and Agnes Motlow chat during the tribalwide senior Easter party in Hollywood. Above center, Lawrence Osceola greets Billy Micco and Jack Smith. At right, Wanda Bowers, President Mitchell Cypress and Christine McCall are ready for the party.



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Sports



Seminole teams thrive at NAYO

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

IRVING, N.Y. — Seminole teams hit a trifecta of sorts with a first, second and third place at the annual Native American Youth Organization basketball tournament at the Cattaraugus Community Center in Irving, New York. Lady NS, short for Native Soldiers, won the girls 15-17 division. In the 12-14 boys division, the Tribesmen finished runner-up and Seminole Bandits took third place.

The two-day tournament, hosted by the Seneca Nation about 20 miles west of Buffalo, wrapped up April 15. About 40 teams represented Native American teams from Florida, New York, Mississippi, North Carolina and First Nations from nearby Ontario.

Lady NS, coached by Marl Osceola, won the girls 15-17 championship the hard way by coming out of the losers bracket, but for the coach's daughter it was all worth it.

"I wanted to win it in my last year. I had never won it. It really meant a lot," said Lady NS point guard Skyla Osceola, a senior at American Heritage in Plantation. Osceola excelled in just about every facet — including rebounding, passing and scoring — as she registered 17 points in a 61-55 overtime win against the Rainmakers from Mississippi in the championship finale.

The Rainmakers sank a 3-pointer from the corner at the buzzer to force overtime, but Lady NS dominated the extra session.

Osceola teamed up with her American Heritage teammates December Stubbs and Tianna Stubbs — the Patriots reached the state semifinals in March — along with Amarys Huggins and Dasani Cypress. Lady NS received a big boost with the addition of a trio of Choctaw players who recently helped



Kevin Johnson

Lady NS proudly celebrates its 15-17 girls championship at the NAYO tournament April 15 in Irving, New York. From left, assistant coach Hunter Osceola, Kaedre Denson, Dasani Cypress, Amarys Huggins, Tianna Stubbs, Skyla Osceola, December Stubbs, Kyannah Grant, Kyarah Grant and head coach Marl Osceola.

◆ See NAYO on page 2C



Kevin Johnson

Lady NS's Skyla Osceola takes a shot while hounded by Rainmaker defenders.



Kevin Johnson

Lady NS celebrates its championship victory against the Rainmakers in the 15-17 girls division 'if needed' game April 15 in Irving, New York.



Kevin Johnson

Tribesmen's Dathen Garcia, left, and Chanon Frye battle for a rebound against the Cherokee's Crazy Warriors in the 12-14 boys championship round at the NAYO tournament April 15 in Irving, New York.



Kevin Johnson

The Tribesmen hold onto the jackets they won for finishing as runner-up in the NAYO 12-14 boys division April 15 in Irving, New York.

◆ **NAYO**
From page 1C

Choctaw Central win a state championship in Mississippi. Sophomore Kaedre Denson and junior sisters Kyarah Grant and Kyannah Grant contributed early and often as Lady NS won its three games, then suffered a loss to the Rainmakers before bouncing back to win three straight, including beating the Rainmakers twice to claim the title. Denson, a force in the paint at both ends, scored a game-high 20 points in the final.

Despite not being able prepare with practices as an entire team like other opponents, Lady NS still generated a quick and effective transition game with crisp passing. Skyla Osceola said she knew the team was focused.

"They want to do what's best for the team. I knew they wanted to win," she said.

Seminole teams enjoyed an impressive run in the boys 12-14 division that featured eight teams.

The Tribesmen, coached by Preston Baker, looked unbeatable early as the opponents struggled to handle their quick guards such as Dathen Garcia, Dakoya Nunez and Ramone Baker. Donovan Harris dominated the boards as he scored 28 points and 25 points in a pair of early wins.

The Tribesmen won their first three games to reach the championship as winners of the winners' bracket. In the finale, the Tribesmen built an 11-point lead in the second half, but North Carolina's Crazy Warriors stormed back and finished on a 19-3 run to force the 'if needed' game.

Momentum for the Crazy Warriors carried over to the winner-take-all tilt as they emerged with a 53-39 win to claim the title.

The Seminole Bandits, which lost to the Tribesmen by four points earlier in the tournament, cherished an underdog role and finished in third place.

"Everybody said we were an underdog team, and we came out with third place," said Bandits coach Tim Clark. "The kids listen; they're humble. I couldn't ask for anything else. They played their hearts out."

The tournament marked Clark's debut as a NAYO coach.

"This is my first time in New York. I'm far from home. It's a good experience. I'm happy they picked me as a coach for a team," he said.

The boys 15-17 division was ruled by the hometown Seneca Chiefs, who dominated the 15-team field on their way to claiming the title.

The Seminole Heat squad featured some of the Tribe's top young high school players – such as Andrew Fish, Silas Madrigal, Lucas Osceola and Marquis Fudge – who impressed coach Marvin Newkirk.

"We really dominated on our fast breaks," said Newkirk, whose team notched a victory against Rez Hoops in a losers bracket game. "They put on a great performance. The kids gave it 110 percent. My whole team was a standout. They're ready for next year."

Darkside, which featured Seminole and Miccosukee players, lost its opener in the 15-17 division, but then reeled off three straight wins before being knocked out by a Cherokee team. With Charlie Osceola, Adrian LaBrada, Alonzo Wargolet and Dennis Gonzalez leading the way, Darkside thrived in 3-point land. The team made 24 shots from beyond the arc in one game and 17 in another.

Running Rebels, a Mississippi team which included Seminole Ivan Billie Jr., finished third in the boys 15-17 division.

Pooh King, a Seminole who recently won the Big Smoky Mountain Conference Player of the Year award with Cherokee High School, played for North Carolina's Dreamcatchers in the girls 15-17 division. Dreamcatchers finished fourth.



Tribesmen's Ramone Baker and Crazy Warriors' Xavier Rattler battle for a loose ball in a 12-14 boys game at the NAYO tournament April 15 in Irving, New York.

Kevin Johnson



Lady NS's Amarys Huggins and Kyannah Grant battle down low against the Rainmakers.

Kevin Johnson



Darkside's Trevon Marks attempts a block against the Seminole Warriors' Jon Jimmie.

Kevin Johnson



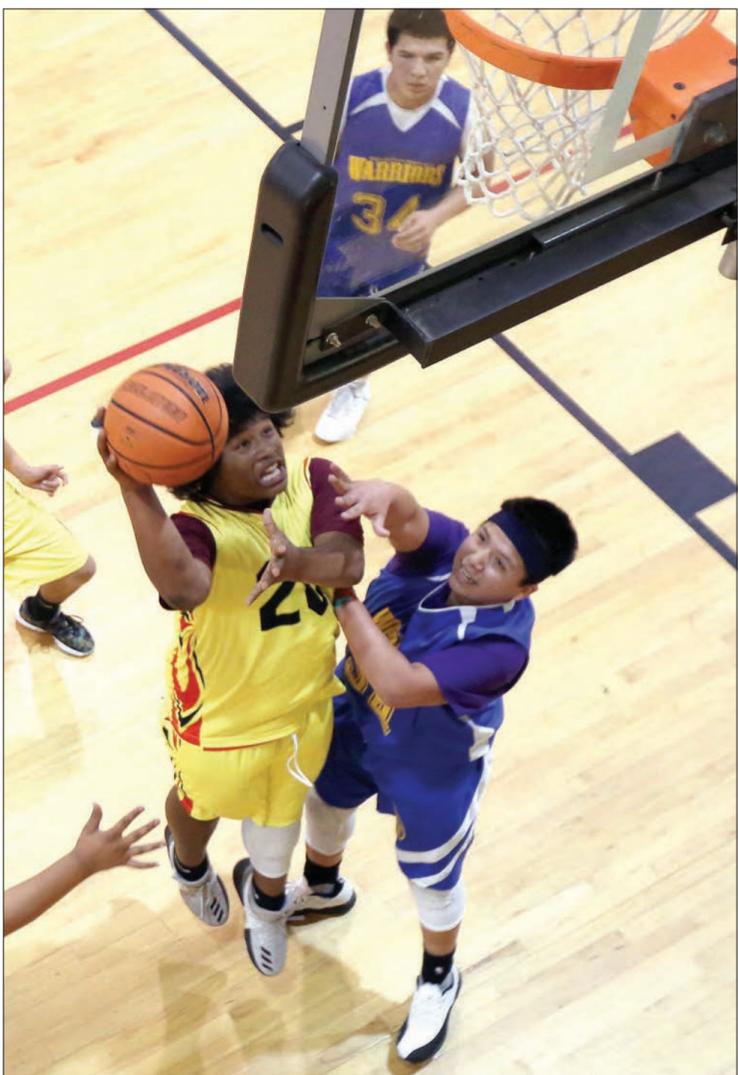
Seminole Heat guard Lucas Osceola lines up a 3-point attempt.

Kevin Johnson



Jaylen Baker blocks a shot during a 12-14 game at NAYO.

Kevin Johnson



Tribesmen's Donovan Harris gains position under the hoop for two points.

Kevin Johnson



A trio of Seminole Heat grab a rebound, from left Richard Harris, Andrew Fish and Marquis Fudge.

Kevin Johnson



Coach Marvin Newkirk and the Seminole Heat huddle during a timeout in a boys 15-17 game at NAYO.

Kevin Johnson



Kevin Johnson

Grant Osceola looks for an opening in NS's game against the Running Rebels in the 15-17 boys division.



Kevin Johnson

Dathen Garcia tries to get past Krishawn Henry during a 12-14 game that featured two Seminole teams.



Kevin Johnson

Julia Smith controls the ball for the PECS Seminoles during a 12-14 girls game at NAYO.



Lady Seminoles coach Eddie Redd along with his bench and Vince Billie watch the action.

Kevin Johnson



The PECS Seminoles, with coach Tim Thomas, break from a huddle during their 12-14 game on the first day of the NAYO tournament in Irving, New York.

Kevin Johnson

Senior night success for Heritage's Kiauna Martin, Ahnie Jumper



Courtesy photo

American Heritage softball players Kiauna Martin, left, and Ahnie Jumper enjoy a fun moment with Kiauna's cousin Aniya Thompson before their senior night game April 4 in Plantation.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The final result on senior night was similar to many other games that the Seminole duo of Ahnie Jumper and Kiauna Martin have played during their outstanding softball careers at American Heritage School in Plantation.

After Jumper, Martin and the team's seven other seniors from the Class of 2017 were honored in a pregame ceremony, the Patriots, one of Florida's most successful programs, routed Calvary Christian 15-0 on April 4. It was the eighth shutout of the season for the defending Class 6A state champions and the seventh time the offense has registered double digits.

Jumper went 1-for-3 with one RBI.

The following day she had two RBIs as Heritage suffered a rare loss – a 4-3 setback to Miami-Palmetto in a battle of state top 10 ranked teams.

Led by Jumper's two hits, two runs scored and one RBI, American Heritage ended its regular season with a 5-4 win against Wellington on April 20 at home.

Jumper, the team's starting catcher, and Martin, an outfielder, finished the regular season with batting averages above .400. Jumper was fifth on the squad in RBIs with 15.

The Patriots (18-3) entered the postseason in late April ranked No. 7 overall in the state and No. 1 in 6A. In March, they handed the state's top ranked team – Coral Springs Charter – its only loss of the regular season.



Courtesy photo

American Heritage senior catcher Ahnie Jumper is joined by her family, from left sister Canaan, father Josh, mother Andrea and brother Blevyns, during the team's senior night pregame ceremony April 4 in Plantation.



Courtesy photo

American Heritage's nine seniors, including Seminole Tribe members Kiauna Martin, bottom center, and Ahnie Jumper, top row center, gather for a photo on their senior night April 4.

Motlow snags pair of catches in FSU spring game

STAFF REPORT

TALLAHASSEE — Nearly 27,000 fans received an early glimpse of the 2017 Florida State University football team April 8 for the Seminoles spring game.

Seminole Tribe member Justin Motlow, a redshirt junior wide receiver, suited up for the Garnet side in what turned out to be a low-scoring duel.

Garnet fell to the Gold squad, 17-7, but Motlow had two receptions for 21 yards. Motlow was among six Garnet players who combined for 13 catches.

Garnet started J.J. Cosentino at quarterback. The 6-foot-5 redshirt junior from Pennsylvania finished 10-of-22 for 110 yards. Bailey Hockman, a freshman from Georgia, also saw action for the Garnet. He completed three of 11 attempts for 31 yards.

The teams combined for just one score in the first half. The rest of the points were generated in the final seven minutes of the game.

Next for FSU is an opening night showdown with Alabama on Sept. 2 in Atlanta.

2017 FSU Football Schedule

- Sept. 2 vs Alabama (Atlanta)
- Sept. 9 vs Louisiana-Monroe
- Sept. 16 vs Miami
- Sept. 23 vs N.C. State
- Sept. 30 at Wake Forest
- Oct. 14 at Duke
- Oct. 21 vs Louisville
- Oct. 27 at Boston College
- Nov. 4 vs Syracuse
- Nov. 11 at Clemson
- Nov. 18 vs Delaware State
- Nov. 25 at Florida



Justin Motlow

Silas Madrigal earns MVP honor

STAFF REPORT

OKEECHOBEE — Silas Madrigal has been named most valuable player for the Okeechobee High School junior varsity boys basketball team.

Madrigal, a freshman guard, played most of the 2016-17 season on JV before being promoted to varsity toward the end of the season.

Madrigal was a standout player at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in middle school.



Silas Madrigal



Kevin Johnson

On her senior night April 11, Moore Haven's Sydney Cypress is joined by her mother Eileen Cypress and her stepfather Junior Martinez they are greeted by assistant coach Paige Raulerson and head coach Clint Raulerson during a pregame ceremony.

Moore Haven honors Sydney Cypress on senior night

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — Moore Haven High School softball's Class of 2017, which includes shortstop Sydney Cypress, won't soon be forgotten.

Cypress and four other Terrier seniors were recognized during a senior night pregame ceremony April 11. They've been a big part of the most successful stretch in the program's history dating back to freshman season for some when the Terriers reached their first state championship game in 2014. They fell to Westminster in the title game, but successful seasons have continued to accumulate, including another Final Four appearance in 2015 and a regional final appearance last season.

This year the Terriers (15-7) finished the regular season with a perfect 8-0 district record and set their sights on returning to Vero Beach.

"It's state championship or bust," said Moore Haven coach Clint Raulerson. "Bottom line, we are here to win a state championship. These kids have been focused on it since the first day of conditioning. That's all they've looked at all year long."

Raulerson said Cypress has been a standout all year long at the plate, in the field and as a leader.

"Sydney right now is one of our top two power hitters," Raulerson said. "She's doing a great job for us. She's playing a great shortstop. Great kid. I've been able to coach both of the girls in the family — her and her older sister Darlah — and they are wonderful kids. They're great leaders and great people."

Cypress was joined by Darlah and their mom Eileen Cypress and stepdad Junior Martinez in the senior night ceremony that was filled with flowers, balloons, hugs and tears as Raulerson, his assistant coach and daughter Paige Raulerson and the team paid tribute to the seniors in their final regular season home game. Sebring spoiled the Terriers' night by handing the hosts a rare loss at home.

Clint Raulerson said Cypress's production has increased this season as a consistent producer out of the No. 3 spot.

"She hit a home run in a district game against Evangelical. She had back-to-back games against Southwest Florida Christian where she was outstanding. I think she was 3-for-4 one game and 2-for-3 the next game. She's driven in runs all year," Raulerson said.

In addition to Cypress, Moore Haven has also received strong seasons from two



Kevin Johnson

On her senior night, Moore Haven's Sydney Cypress receives flowers from her teammates, including Sunni Bearden, center.

other Seminoles. Starting centerfielder Sunni Bearden has blossomed into one of the team's top players, a spark plug who gets on and around the bases.

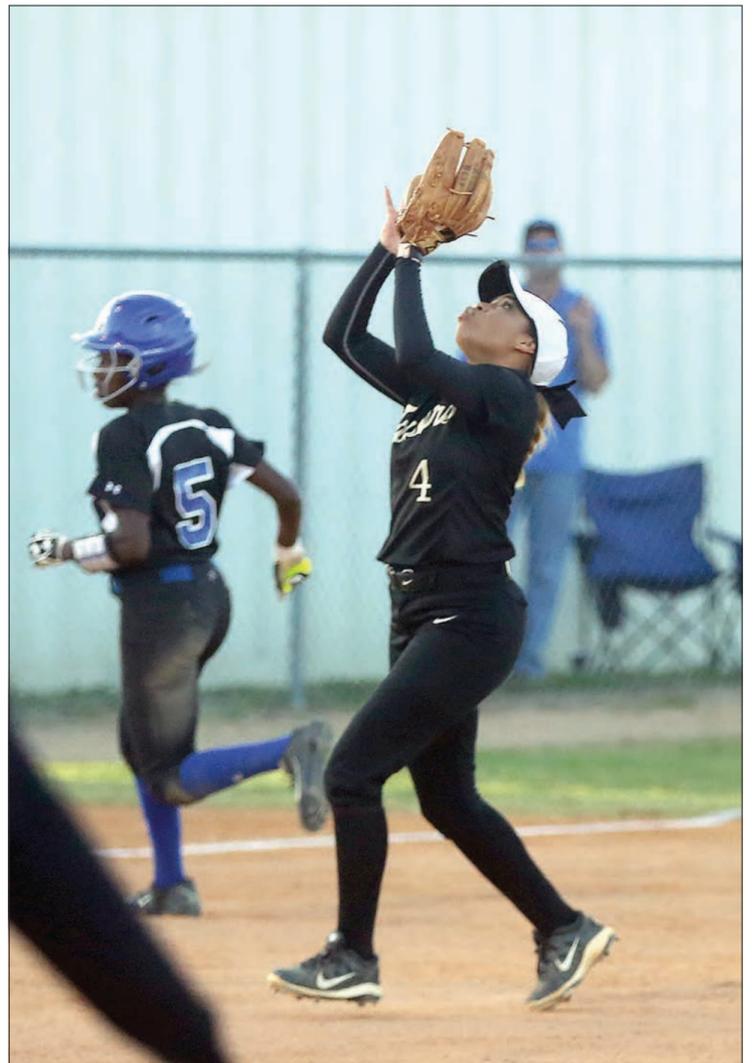
"Sunni has been lights out at the top of order," Raulerson said. "She's our leadoff hitter. She's hitting over .500. She's stealing a lot of bases. She's just doing everything we need her to do in the leadoff position, and playing a great centerfield, too. Sunni has matured a lot over the last year. She's doing a super job for us."

Morgan Yates has been used as a role player in her first season on varsity. She's often brought in as a courtesy runner.

"Morgan has a big upside. She has a bright future," Raulerson said.

As for Cypress's future, the four-year varsity standout in basketball and softball, who also played two years of volleyball, said she would like to play softball in college.

"Hopefully this year I get looked at and get an offer," she said. "That's what I'm looking for."



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven senior shortstop Sydney Cypress settles under a pop up against Sebring.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven softball playeres from the Class of 2017 gather for a photo on their senior night April 11. From left, Ariane Valdez, Sydney Cypress, Olivia Everett and Alexis Story. (Not pictured: Shannon Garrett).



Maury Neipris

Ahfachkee seventh-grader Nick Andrews, center, competes in the 1600-meter run during the FHSAA Class 1A-District 12 meet April 19 at the Benjamin School in Palm Beach Gardens.

Ahfachkee wraps up first track season at FHSAA district meet

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Ahfachkee School's inaugural track and field season culminated April 19 in Palm Beach Gardens as its runners competed in the Florida High School Athletic Association's Class 1A-District 12 meet at the Benjamin School.

Although none of Ahfachkee's three runners at the meet advanced to regionals, the season was still full of success stories for this year's only sports team at the small school.

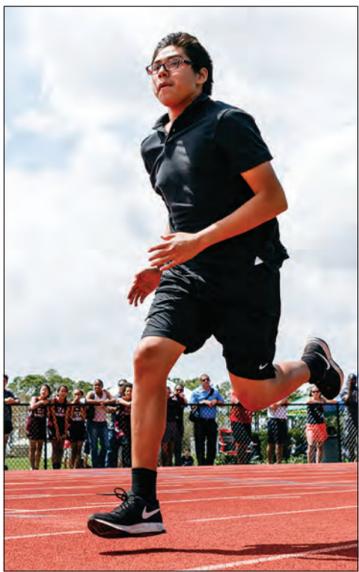
"This is Ahfachkee School's first track and field team ever, so in general for our school and athletic program, it is a great success," said coach Matthew Beckham, whose team had five runners for most of the season. "Their coordination, speed, power, and muscular endurance increased more than I expected. We have first-year runners, some of whom have never participated in any athletics. With them being so raw, we were able to see huge numbers in gained performance week to week assessments or from meet to meet. Top track athletes can train a whole year or two and not meet the gains some of these athletes meet in a season. I can only hope they continue to practice this effort in the off-season."

Sophomore Franklin Jumper and eighth-grader Gordon Jumper competed in two sprints at districts. Franklin finished 16th and Gordon 17th in the 100 meter dash with times of 12.94 and 14.49 seconds, respectively. In the 400, Franklin's time of 1:01.30 was good enough for 10th place. Gordon finished 17th in 1:10.35.

Seventh-grader Nick Andrews rounded out the Ahfachkee trio. Andrews finished 18th in the 1600 meter run. He completed the mile in 7:06.

The runners' times are only a fraction of how Beckham determines success. He looks beyond the stopwatch to gauge how a runner has fared during the season.

"You can look at their physical performance from before and after the season and say what a great success it was," Beckham said. "Although for me, personally, I also look to measure their growth in their mindset by how well they grow in what I call the 'red zone.' The red zone means respect, effort, and discipline. Coming to practice ready to be coached up, giving your best effort in each and every rep and practice, and staying disciplined throughout the season. For some they learn that their mindset was previously weak and how their previous performance was negatively affected by lacking on these traits. Then all of sudden



Maury Neipris

Ahfachkee eighth-grader Gordon Jumper leaves from the starting block in the boys 400-meter run at the Class 1A-District 12 meet on April 19.

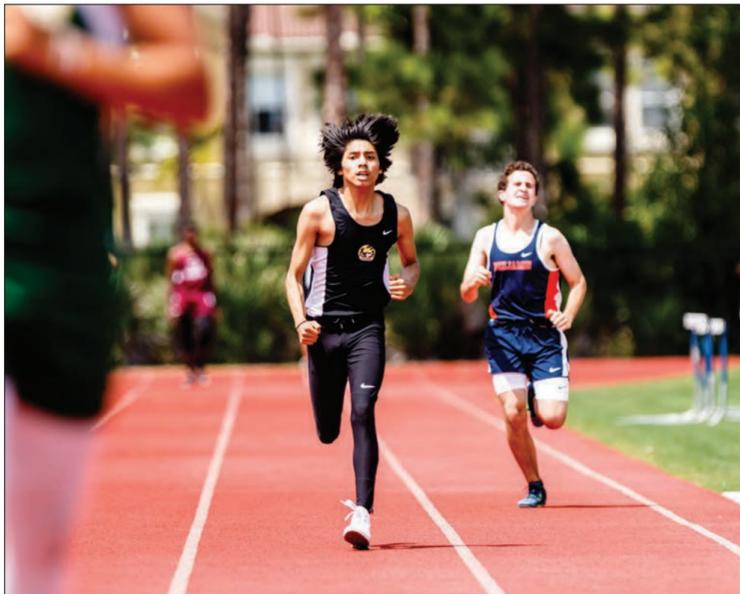
they hold themselves accountable and they see growth, they start believing in themselves because they connect the reality of being in the red zone and success. So did we make better athletes, yes. What is even better we are making more productive citizens through athletics."

Ahfachkee's team also included Alonie Gore, the squad's only female runner. She did not compete in the district meet. Another runner, Dar'Rick Nelson-Williams, ran during the season, but no longer attends Ahfachkee.

Beckham said the foundation is in place for the program to grow.

"I believe next year we will have more athletes and the athletes who participated this year will take it to the next level," he said. "Coordination and speed are the foundation to a great athletics program, and the kids know they can come to me and I will give them a program to either continue or start a program to get better."

"Hopefully then, we will be talking about Ahfachkee school having state qualifying track and field athletes, which is the ultimate goal."



Maury Neipris

Ahfachkee sophomore Franklin Jumper nears the finish line in 1A-District 12's 400-meter run.

Homecoming for OHS softball players in PECS home finale



Kevin Johnson

PECS softball players join four members of the Okeechobee High junior varsity team for a homecoming of sorts April 4 at Ollie Jones Memorial Park in Brighton. The four Seminoles who played at PECS in middle school and returned to face their former team are, from left, Janessa Nunez, Jacee Jumper, Julia Smith and Brienna Brockman.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BRIGHTON — The final home game of the softball season for Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School was a homecoming for the visiting team.

Four PECS alumni returned to Brighton with the Okeechobee High junior varsity team. Outfielder Brienna Brockman, catcher Jacee Jumper, pitcher Janessa Nunez and shortstop Julia Smith helped the Brahmins cruise past the younger Lady Seminoles, 17-0, in three innings.

The Seminoles from OHS, including Mallory Thomas, who did not attend the game, have all enjoyed strong seasons. JV coach Alex Estremera said they are a big reason why the team had lost only one game all season.

Here's the coach's views on each player: "Bre is our most improved player. She came in and didn't know about the game too much. She has come a long way. She started out in the back of the order and has moved her way up to the 4 or 5 spot. I think she might have the most doubles on the team."

"Jacee has been our catcher. She's done exceptionally well. She has a great arm back there and has thrown a couple people out. Hitting-wise, she has a lot of power and she shows it."

"Janessa has been our main pitcher. She's done phenomenal. We've only lost



Kevin Johnson

Former PECS softball players pitcher Janessa Nunez and shortstop Julia Smith face their former team April 11 as members of the Okeechobee High JV.

one game with her. She leads the game. She has pretty good command and is learning different pitches. On the offensive side, she has improved from where she started. These last few weeks she's been our No. 2 hitter and done phenomenally well."

"Julia Smith has been the leadoff hitter all year. We had her hitting righty, then we switched over and had her start slapping and she's more than excelled in that. She's done phenomenal. She's an outstanding hitter."

"Mallory is our second pitcher. She mainly plays outfielder. She's a great defender. Great athlete. She has great speed on the bases and is another one of our .400 hitters."

Okeechobee's Seminole contingent made an impact right away against PECS. Julia, Jacee and Brienna all had hits and scored runs in the first inning. Meanwhile, Janessa struck out five of the first six batters she faced, including the side in order in the second. She held her former teammates without a hit. PECS' lone baserunners were Carolina Urbina, who was hit by a pitch, and Mariah Billie, who walked.

Before the game, the only eighth-graders on PECS — sisters Caylie and Haylie Huff — were honored in a pregame ceremony. The Huffs walked between their teammates who lined up on the sides of the pitching circle and were greeted with flowers from their coaches at home plate. Haylie was the starting pitcher and Caylie played shortstop.



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee's Jacee Jumper takes a powerful swing. Catching for PECS is Karey Gopher.



Kevin Johnson

PECS softball honored sisters Haylie and Caylie Huff, the team's only eighth-graders, with a ceremony April 4 before facing Okeechobee High JV.



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Eastern Regional Office
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214

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), Eastern Regional Office has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed federal approvals and funding of road improvement projects for Billie Johns Street (BIA 1531) on the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation in Hendry County, Florida (Section 1&2, Township 48 South, Range 33 East). The scope of work includes reconstruction of a 2-lane asphalt roadway with grassed shoulders and storm water drainage ditches. The project length is 0.68 miles and encompasses 4.94 acres of roadway and offsite drainage area. The roadway improvement projects are needed to provide safe access for tribal members. To move forward with the project, the Tribe will need funding and various approvals from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Due to the need for federal approvals and funding, this project was reviewed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), titled Billie Johns Street, 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 EAs. You may obtain a copy of the EAs 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.

Bruce W. Maytubby, Sr.
Regional Director

Date 4/10/2017

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
BILLIE JOHNS STREET
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

AGENCY: BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ACTION: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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DETERMINATION: Based on review and analysis of the EA and supporting documentation, the BIA has selected the preferred alternative (roadway improvements). It has been determined that the implementation of the preferred alternative, along with the environmental mitigation measures specified in the EA, will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, according to Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and the BIA is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

This finding is based on the following factors:

- A. There will be less than significant impacts to land resources. See EA, Section 4.1.
- B. There will be less than significant impacts to water resources. See EA, Section 4.2.
- C. There will be less than significant impacts to air quality. See EA, Section 4.3.
- D. There will be less than significant impacts to biological resources. See EA, Section 4.4, and Appendix C.
- E. There will be no impacts to archaeological and cultural resources. See EA, Section 4.5 and correspondence from Tribal Historic Preservation Officer in Appendix E.

Should undiscovered archaeological resources be encountered during the project, work will stop in the area of discovery and the stipulations in 36 CFR 800.11 will be followed

- F. The proposed action would improve Public Health and Safety by providing safe travel for emergency vehicles and tribal members. See EA, Section 4.9

Bruce W. Maytubby, Sr.
Regional Director

Date 4/20/2017

Announcements

Olivia Harley Tiger

Olivia Harley Tiger was born on January 17, 2017 at St. John Medical Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces.

The parents are Robert and Lauren Tiger.

The grandparents are Felecia Tiger of Vian, Oklahoma; and Mondo and Cara Tiger of the Big Cypress Reservation.

The great-grandparent is Ollie Balentine of Hollywood, Florida. Great-grandparents are also Annie and William Bolin (both deceased).



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SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT



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