



**Everett Osceola on board at Stranahan COMMUNITY ❖ 3A**

**PECS honors eighth-grade graduates EDUCATION ❖ 1B**

**Players prep for Jim Thorpe Games SPORTS ❖ 3C**



# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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## 'Sam Jones Trail' marker site approved

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**CLEWISTON** — In partnership with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Hendry County Board of County Commissioners has approved the installation of a commemorative Sam Jones Trail roadside historical sign.

The sign will be installed Aug. 14 within the county right-of-way at the old Forestry Tower site on CR 833. The site is 10.3 miles south of State Road 80 and 24 miles north of the Big Cypress Reservation, along a stretch of asphalt that Commissioners have already named the Sam Jones Trail.

"Great news," said Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) Paul Backhouse, from Rome, when notified by phone of the June 15 decision. Backhouse and his staff, along with The Seminole Tribune, have taken the lead in pursuing a project first dreamed up by Chairman James E. Billie: "I'm very happy. This is another step in our journey to honor the great Seminole leader Sam Jones."

Jones, also known by his Seminole Indian name Abiaki, was the principal war leader who evaded capture and defied U.S. government efforts to remove his band of Seminoles to reservation lands in Oklahoma. Instead, he led his followers south from Lake Okeechobee, blazing a trail deep into Big Cypress swamp where soldiers could never find them. Today's Seminole Tribe of Florida citizens are the direct descendants of those Indians who Sam Jones led to safety.

CR 833, which connects the Big Cypress Reservation to State Road 80 outside Clewiston, was built almost entirely on Jones old path through the South Florida jungles. Today, ranch and farmland dominate the landscape north and south of a large patch of wildland known as Devil's Garden — also named after Jones, more than 175 years ago, by soldiers frustrated at their inability to catch "the ole Devil."

The next step will be securing a permit from the county to ensure proper setback of the sign from the pavement's edge. Motorists will be able to safely drive off the east (northbound) side of the main road and stop to read the sign.

"We are already on that, as we speak," said Anne Mullins, assistant THPO director who attended the Board meeting.



Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, American Indian Movement co-founder Dennis Banks, and President Mitchell Cypress meet at Billie Swamp Safari in Big Cypress where the Tribe hosted the Longest Walk 5 participants June 4.

Beverly Bidney

## Longest Walk comes to Seminole reservations

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Led by American Indian Movement co-founder Dennis Banks, 36 determined Native Americans left San Diego in February and began the Longest Walk 5, a 3,600-mile march against drug abuse and domestic violence in Indian Country. The walk is scheduled to arrive in Washington, D.C. in mid-July.

In early June, after walking about 2,300 miles, the group spent a few days on the Big Cypress and Hollywood reservations, where

they met with President Mitchell Cypress, Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, members of We Do Recover, Seminoles in Recovery, and the community.

The mission of the walk is to cross the continent on foot seeking cultural and spiritual solutions to end the epidemic of drug abuse and domestic violence in Indian Country. Along the way, the group hosts forums on reservations to discuss issues and gather information from community leaders.

"The level of addiction is very deep, deeper than I thought," said Banks, 79. "We're in the eye of a monster drug storm

and it's killing our people. All of our cultures are at risk now; the more people we lose, the less there will be to practice our ways."

A 2006 Bureau of Indian Affairs study found that Native Americans have higher rates of methamphetamine abuse than any other ethnic group, nearly three times higher than whites. According to the Department of Justice, Native American women are 2.5 times more likely than other races to be victims of sexual assault and nearly one-third have been raped during their lifetimes.

Banks added the issue of domestic violence to the purpose of the walk after it

◆ See LONGEST WALK on page 7A

## Panther sightings abound in BC

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Surrounded by woods, Maria Marcano has manned the Big Cypress rock mining office for nearly five years. About the most exciting thing she's seen are trucks loaded with material on the scale. That all changed on June 9 when a panther strolled by her window in the scale house.

"I never saw one before," said Marcano, who captured a photo of the panther on her cell phone. "It was right in the open and walked on the road from the scale to the pit, about two miles. It probably came out of the woods because it was quiet that day."

This wasn't the only recent panther sighting in Big Cypress. Billie Swamp Safari posted a photo on Facebook of a panther handily climbing to the top of an animal enclosure June 17. A panther was seen in early June walking through the culture camp behind Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, where kittens were also seen a few months ago. Panther tracks were found in the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in mid-June.

"We never saw them in the arena before," said Earleen Rimes, arena office coordinator. "It was probably here during the night because we work in the arena all day. It looked like it was just passing through."

Florida panthers have been on the endangered species list since 1967 and were included in the Endangered Species Act of 1973. By the early 1980s there were only 20-30 left in the wild. Since then, the population has rebounded to an estimated 100-180 thanks to a genetic restoration project. In 1995, eight female Texas cougars were brought in to improve the genetic health of the Florida panthers.

"We knew the small population was closely related and the genetic health wasn't the best," said Darrell Land, of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. "It helped genetically to make them healthier animals. The females immediately bred with Florida males and since then they've bounced back."

◆ See PANTHERS on page 3A

# Time to celebrate for class of 2016

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

After years of studying and homework, dozens of Seminole graduates earned their high school diplomas or GEDs in May and June. At graduations in Florida and elsewhere, family and friends celebrated the graduates' achievements.

Dressed in bright yellow and caps and gowns embellished with patchwork, Chelsey Alvarado, Tyrus Billie, Eden Jumper, and Dalton Koenes, held their heads high as they received their diplomas May 31 at the Ahfachkee School graduation in Big Cypress. Tribal officials congratulated graduates as the crowd in the Herman Osceola Gymnasium beamed with pride.

"They took a long road, finished high school and will move ahead into a new world," said Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola. "Keep moving forward and come back to support your community."

"This is the first of many milestones you will hit in life," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank. "Life is about learning, so learn about your culture and the American culture. Move through life and have many happy years."

Louise Gopher, who has spent her life in education and was instrumental in the creation of Pemyatv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton, gave the commencement speech.

"Although your graduating class is small, your accomplishment is no less than at larger schools," Gopher said. "Mission accomplished. I'm proud of you. Education is your gold mine; your high school diploma will open a lot of doors for you. Walk through them, and reach for more levels of education."



Kevin Johnson

Everglades City School's high school seniors, including John Kyle Osceola Jr. (fourth from left) and Donavin Osceola (fifth from left) toss their hats into the air to celebrate their accomplishments during a graduation ceremony June 3 in the school's cafeteria.

◆ See GRADUATIONS on page 5B

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# Editorial

## I've got my flag up

• James E. Billie

The Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, by the Continental Congress, declared that the 13 American colonies now regarded themselves as a new nation, the United States of America, and no longer part of the British empire.

Two hundred and forty years will have gone by as we celebrate with fireworks, picnics, barbecues, fishing or just having ice tea at home. But, to my friends from other countries, it is just another work day.

When I was a kid, I enjoyed the heck out of popping firecrackers, sometimes nearly blowing my fingernails off. Years later I went to Vietnam and saw what real fireworks were. After surviving that, the Fourth of July had a different meaning to me. When I see fireworks going off and exploding now, I

think of the times when I had to dig a fox hole or tried to fit into my metal helmet. LOL.

A few of my fellow vets who have served in the military and have seen combat will share my feelings. With all the changes going on around the world, I'm hoping I'll see many more Fourth of Julys.

I live out in a swamp cabbage hammock. Not too many people come by my camp. But I've got my flag up.

*Sho-naa-bish.*

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



## Pass the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act

• Ben Nighthorse Campbell

On signing the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) into law, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt said: "This Act defines, as a part of our substantive law, the right of self-organization of employees in industry for the purpose of collective bargaining, and provides methods by which the Government can safeguard that legal right."

Recognizing that state, local and federal government employers could be paralyzed by labor strikes, Congress wisely and appropriately specifically excluded these governments from the definition of "employer" in the statute and thereby from the requirements the Act imposed on private sector employers.

It is also plain that in 1935, after decades of failed federal policies aimed at breaking up the tribal land base, assimilating Indian people, and hoping tribes would wither and die, Congress probably did not view tribal governments as employers as it did State, local and federal employers. Hence no specific mention – either a specific exclusion or a specific inclusion – for tribal government employers is found in the NLRA.

For seven decades after enactment, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) held the statute inapplicable to Indian tribes. Then in 2004, the NLRB did an abrupt about face and held the Act applicable to the San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino. Seizing on the fact that the Act did not expressly list tribal governments among excluded governmental employers, the NLRB reversed 70 years of settled interpretation and imposed the Act on tribal government employers.

Why the Board picked on tribes and not on, say, the Territories and Insular Areas or the District of Columbia government – which likewise are not expressly excluded from the definition of "employer" is anyone's guess. The Board's decision is inconsistent with congressional intent and the plain structure of the NLRA itself. In a stroke of the pen, tribal governments became the only governmental employers to be bound by the NLRA. What ever happened to fair play and honest dealings?

Indian tribal governments provide a huge array of services and programs to their members as well as to their surrounding communities. Tribal police and fire departments, emergency responders, schools and hospitals all play crucial roles in the safety, health and welfare of tribal communities. Subjecting them to the NLRA does not fit with the governmental nature of Indian tribes. Tribal governments are no more involved in enterprises than are state and local units of government who run convention centers, golf courses, port authorities, lottery games, hotel resorts, and liquor stores. No government can afford to have its enterprise revenue disrupted by

labor strife.

That is why the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act (TLISA) has gained such momentum in both chambers of the current Congress. The House bill, HR 511 (Todd Rokita, R-IN), is a bi-partisan bill with nearly five dozen supporters, including several Democrats like Betty McCollum, D-MN, HR511 passed the House in November 2015 by a 249-177 margin. The Senate version, S 248 (Jerry Moran, R-KS) is pending in the Senate.

These are modest bills in terms of language, less than two pages. But their importance is profound: they would expressly exclude tribal governments from the definition of "employer" in the NLRA. Parity: no more, no less.

I know about parity and bi-partisanship: as former Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I worked with my dear friend and Vice Chairman Dan Inouye (D-HI) on issues of importance to Indian Country. Never once did partisanship come between us and we worked with each other, and with our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to make right the litany of wrongs visited on Indian people by the federal government.

Because Indian self-determination is the most successful federal policy in history, we sought to ensure tribes – not the federal government – have maximum authority to design and manage their own law enforcement, health, forestry, timber, energy, economic development, and other programs.

Tribal sovereignty isn't just a slogan, and it isn't just limited to programs and services. More than anything else, it means respecting tribal authority and decision-making when it comes to administration of tribal governmental operations.

My views on this legislation don't come from any ill will to labor unions. In fact as most people know, I am a life-long member of the Teamsters and got through college driving a truck.

HR511 and S248 are supported by Indian tribes across the country, all of the major Indian tribal organizations, including the National Congress of American Indians – the oldest, largest and most representative Indian organization in the country – and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Native American Enterprise Initiative.

It is time for Congress to do what it should have done in 2004, and that is to provide corrective guidance to the NLRB and provide parity to tribal governments. Congress should pass, and the President should sign, the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act.

*Ben Nighthorse Campbell is the former U.S. Senator from Colorado and served as the Republican Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs from 1997-2004. This editorial was originally published by the Indian Country Today Media Network.*



## 'A man has to have two heads'

• Patricia Riles Wickman, Ph.D.

Mitchell Cypress told me that once, and I responded: "... and a woman too, Mitchell." What he was talking about was living in the Indians' world and in the white man's world at the same time.

You Seminoles have to think not only about who you are, but also about who non-Indians think you are. And this is a very important process because every single day, the white man's government is trying to pass laws to control you. And they certainly haven't asked your opinion about their actions.

I've often called it The Fourth Seminole War, but this time you're not fighting with guns; you're fighting with words, and words have a lot of power too.

From the Americans' point of view, they have believed there are reasons why they have done this for more than 230 years, so far. These beliefs that they call "reasons" have grown into great national myths over time, and these myths color the way non-Indians think, and act, and pass laws about the Seminoles and other Indian people.

The biggest and most basic national

myth about Indians, in general, and your Ancestors, in particular, is called the myth of the Tabula Rasa. This a Latin phrase that translates as the "clean slate." The belief behind this is that, through the twin agencies of disease and warfare, these lands were virtually empty when the Europeans arrived, and they still were when the United States was created, and that gave the Europeans and the Americans the right to take the lands they found and "develop" them as they saw fit.

Obviously, the lands were not empty, but the Americans craved more and more land anyway. Henry John Billie used to call them "ants" and, each time we rode across Alligator Alley, it seemed that they had crept farther and farther out from the city, just as ants will creep into your house when you're not looking.

In the case of the people who are known today as the "Seminoles" – you and the Ancestors – one outgrowth of this myth has been the belief that you are not "Florida" Indians. According to this story, the Ancestors never lived or hunted on this land until the mid-1700s and, so, you Seminoles have very limited equity (investment) in this state. This is, of course, not at all the same as the stories that you have shared with me

or as the information in the white man's own documents shows. The Ancestors lived and hunted across every inch of this land. They knew it as *ichi bomet*, or *ekon fuskéit*. And they knew, too, that this would be their last refuge.

One more major difference between the white man's world and the Seminole's is that, in their world, words are all too often more important than actions. For example, if you say that you respect someone enough times, you don't really have to respect them at all. Not so in your world. Neither Hitchiti nor Maskóki have words for "politics" or "religion" or even "love."

Yours is a world where actions really do speak louder than words. So, today you really do have to have two heads and, as the saying goes, you have to keep your head about you all the time, as you deal with the "other" – the non-Indian world. For, as the elders kindly told me once, "A good warrior never allows his enemy to see his anger."

*Patricia R. Wickman, Ph.D. is an Ethnohistorian and former Director of the Tribe's Department of Anthropology & Genealogy.*

## Sam Jones in context: A research journey

• Patsy West

Sam Jones, 'Abiaki, the Grand War Chief of the Mikasuki, Alachua Seminole, and Creek resistance to the United States' policy of "Seminole" Removal to Indian Territory was pivotal in all aspects of the resistance endeavor before the Second and through the Third Seminole Wars. While these wars commanded the military attention of the tribal peoples from 1817-1858, cumulatively they encompassed over 50 years of tribal endeavor, anxiety and strife.

The reputation of the Red Town Mikasuki, among the other tribes, had preceded them for a century, by the time the First Seminole War against the Americans came to a head in 1817. Not surprisingly, it was the Mikasuki who were elected by Council to lead. By the Second Seminole War, Sam Jones, a larger than life figure, was the head of the Mikasuki and had become the brains behind the resistance movement against removal. Jones, backed by other Mikasuki, was responsible for placing the firebrand Creek, Osceola, to a position of leadership, thus elevating him far above the traditional duties of his own (Bird) clan.

In an outstanding coup at a guarded detention camp near Tampa, the night of June 2, 1837, Jones and Osceola forced Micanopy and an estimated 700 emigrees (including Micanopy's African slaves) who were awaiting transportation to Indian Territory, back to the Florida field. As a result of this "undetected" supernatural feat to bolster Jones' resistance regime, he was elected to the seldom precedented position of Grand War Chief at the head of ALL the tribes in Florida. He was around 56 years old.

Though Sam Jones was the mastermind of one of the most successful resistance movements in history, living to tell the tale, and dying peacefully in Big Cypress in 1866 at around the age of 85, Jones preserved not only the core gene pool population, but moreover assured that their traditions remained intact... "on the Land."

Yet there has, until now, never been a comprehensive Sam Jones biography. Further, there has not been a general historical analysis of the Florida Indians' resistance movement, including wartime traditions and warfare practices, to support a firm understanding of the important warrior culture. Jones' own battle strategy, however, has indeed seen analysis, and he has been thoroughly applauded by military historians.

From my recent research findings, Jones' life reads like a novel, with his feared Creek Prophet "divining" in order to root out dissent in the ranks, with former allies and African slaves becoming dastardly turncoats, and plans spoiled by convoluted plots and sabotage. The distinct contrast of wartime and peacetime showed Jones' ruthlessness towards the enemy

(even shipwrecked Americans), with equal rancor against tribal people themselves, who wished to break with the Council edicts and offer their surrender to the Americans.

Yet in the brief period of the Macomb Agreement, beginning May 20, 1839, peace reigned. For the first time in four years, Sam Jones arrived unannounced at Fort Lauderdale on June 19 and frequented the camp until around September 8. There, at a meet on July 5 or 6, Jones took the opportunity to publicly laud the veteran Indian Fighter, Lt. Col. William S. Harney for his war-time act of humanity towards a Mikasuki woman hurt in a skirmish near today's Cutler. As a result, during that brief time of peace, Jones actually considered Harney an equal and worthy confidant for private conversation. The resumption of war, mistrust, and ruthlessness ended the relationship, as the Everglades came under siege.

In 1858, at the end of the Seminole Wars' fifty years of strife and warfare, Sam Jones was responsible for the continuum of tribal knowledge. He gave to the people the gift of sovereign freedom to remain "On the Land" in Florida, which assured that those tribal traditions could "be kept" intact. The alternative was death or the alteration of traditions on a federal reservation in Oklahoma.

The Miccosukee and Seminole in Florida today utilize those gifts of traditions that Jones refused to surrender. As a culture hero, Sam Jones, 'Abiaki, gave his all, and all have benefitted.

How do we know this information? Readers who have known me for years are aware that I have long been pursuing the elusive saga of Sam Jones. There are those, including Chairman James E. Billie, who have a dedicated interest in preserving 'Abiaki's life's story. In fact, we have been discussing Sam Jones since the 1980s.

I finally made the personal commitment to begin an all out effort to move ahead with this project. For years I have taken every opportunity to incorporate the marathon work load required for this truly monumental research project into my work schedule at the Seminole/Miccosukee Archive in Fort Lauderdale. Because there was so much mis-information that had been re-utilized for decades in publications, I chose to locate and compile a huge amount of original records.

I put out an "all points" bulletin on Jones long ago. And I thank all my colleagues, specifically Dr. Joe Knetsch, who contributed in so many ways to this endeavor. The documents include military records, newspaper accounts from "on site" correspondents, a wealth of newspaper-published personal letters written "home" by military personnel in the Florida War, compiled records and papers from Washington, D.C., New York, Oklahoma and locations in between. This material I researched for historical, traditional, and

cultural content.

Much of this material was located by myself and by Joe Knetsch in the days before Internet access to such records. In those days we had to physically read directly from reels of microfilm, viewed on machines that could be accessed only by personal visits to facilities around the country! This task represented fatiguing hours of reading, selecting, and printing in stark and cold, fluorescent-lit archives. More recently, research materials can fortunately be accessed via the Internet from "on line" membership-accessible archives. The search engines of these sources have been a truly great asset to this work, and have helped make this long overdue, project a reality.

For years I have taken research materials with me everywhere I went: JiffyLube, airports, planes, hair salons, waiting rooms and offices, hotels, in traffic jams and car washes, at beaches, emergency rooms, jury duty, and to conferences. I have worked long hours in Venice (NOT Florida); at 9,600 feet up in the clouds at Garapamba, EC; at sea level in Key West; on the Mekong; in downtown Honolulu, (where I met up with the Seminole seniors); during a typhoon in Kyoto; amongst the hedgerows and sheep in rural England; but mostly "at home" in Cuenca, EC, the "Hilo Seaside," HI, and on my beloved family home on Tidewater Creek, just 10 minutes from the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters.

Sam Jones has been a compelling and challenging historical personage to chronicle. Being a great, powerful, feared, and respected man, a supreme leader, he was surrounded by a fog of mystique, living as he did, cautiously, in virtual shadows to preserve his OWN freedom.

After all, his young "front men" Osceola and Coacoochee were captured, however dishonorably. In the end, what would the resistance movement have accomplished without Sam Jones... that one significant individual with his solid dedication and hard line resolve against surrender? Better that his life would rest in virtual historical obscurity to be rediscovered by a different generation.

What did he look like? What was his personality?

Only one publication, "The Florida War" by Captain John T. Sprague, ventured to include biographical material on Jones. However, Sprague's written impressions of an old, bent, and senile individual, had Jones' age varying as much as 30 years off the mark! This was oddly contrasted with Sprague's use of the African interpreter, Sampson Forrester's graphic, firsthand accounts that discussed Jones' prowess in orchestrating battle strategy, poling a laden across the Everglades, and engaging in salvaging ventures on the Atlantic beaches...

♦ See SAM JONES on page 7A

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# Community

A

## Everett Osceola appointed to Stranahan House's board of directors

BY AARON TOMMIE  
Contributing Writer

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — Seminole Tribe of Florida Cultural Ambassador Everett Osceola made history in April when he became the first Seminole officially appointed to the board of directors of Fort Lauderdale's Historic Stranahan House Museum.

"I never thought I would be on the board," Osceola said. "I'm passionate about my people. We [Seminoles] do know our history. With me being on the board committee, I can bring a more Seminole presence to the Stranahan House."

"He puts a good light on the Seminole Tribe. I fully supported him from the beginning," said Hollywood Councilman Christopher Osceola. "He's very aware of what Tribal culture is. He's got a lot of respect out there in the community."

For about eight years, Everett Osceola has been involved with the Stranahan House for speaking engagements and other events, including Seminole Cinema Night in November 2014 and more recently the Native Reel Cinema Fest at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood during February's Seminole Tribal Fair. April Kirk, executive director of the Stranahan House, introduced Osceola to the idea of being a board member.

"Everett's inclusion bridges the gap between the Stranahan House and the Seminole Tribe," Kirk said. "This is really the start of planning for what the future will be."

Frank Stranahan moved to New River settlement — now known as Fort Lauderdale — in 1893 to oversee his cousin's property. He became a successful businessman and developed a business relationship with Seminoles, many of whom would travel to his

trading post with canoes. Ivy Stranahan was hired as a teacher in New River settlement. Shortly after she married Frank, Ivy stopped working as a teacher in an official manner, but placed a priority on educating Seminole children.

"I feel a lot of us are indebted to Ivy Stranahan," Osceola said. "I feel like we should pay homage to that."

In 1901, the current Stranahan House was built. It is Broward County's oldest surviving structure. The Stranahans bore no children and were very charitable. They donated a lot of land and essentially helped build Fort Lauderdale, Kirk said. She mentioned that the Stranahans were instrumental in helping develop a relationship with white inhabitants of the New River settlement and the Seminoles. In 1984, the Stranahan House became a historic house museum.

The board's primary objectives are to oversee the visions and goals of the organization as well as to preserve history. It helps conduct tours for the public and provides educational and historical background. The board is legally and fiscally responsible for the Stranahan House. Each board member's term lasts two years. There are currently 16 board members.

Osceola has high hopes for his position with the Stranahan House, which attracts an average of 10,000 visitors annually.

"I would like to have a constant flow of Tribal members doing the work. Hopefully I can get more youth involved with the Stranahan House," said Osceola, who became the official cultural ambassador for the Tribe in September 2015. "I feel like if [people] want to hear about Seminole history, I think it should come from a Tribal member."



Photo courtesy of Historic Stranahan House Museum

Everett Osceola shows a presentation at a Historic Stranahan House Museum board meeting June 8.



Photo courtesy of Historic Stranahan House Museum

Everett Osceola, right, speaks to other board members June 8 during a board of directors meeting.

## New Miss Florida Seminole Princess to be crowned July 23

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — For young ladies who have always dreamed of being a princess, the 59th Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant will provide them a chance July 23 in the Tribal Headquarters auditorium in Hollywood.

New to the pageant this year are workshops with professional pageant coach Jules Meyer, who successfully coached 2016 Miss USA Deshauna Barber and first runner-up Chelsea Hardin. Contestants will learn tips from Meyer, who has more than 20 years of experience coaching pageant contestants. Workshops will be held July 7 and July 22.

Another new feature of the pageant includes a cultural workshop at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum led by Tina Osceola on July 6.

Outgoing Miss Florida Seminole Destiny Nunez knew the pageant would be out of her comfort zone, which is why she competed. During her reign, Nunez learned to speak comfortably in front of crowds and to individuals she didn't know.

"I gained confidence and strength," she said. "It made me a better person overall."

July 18 is the deadline for applications, which may be picked up in the office of Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers at Tribal headquarters. Applications can also be emailed to prospective contestants; send an email request to wandabowers@semtribe.com.

Jr. Miss Seminole hopefuls must be ages 13 to 17 and Miss Florida Seminole contestants ages 18 to 25. Other requirements include submitting a written essay stating why you want to be Miss Florida Seminole, a GPA of 2.5 or a transcript, and two letters of recommendation from a community organization, church, coach or school. Applications should include a photograph.



Beverly Bidney

Contestants compete in the 2015 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.

The highlight of Nunez's year as Miss Florida Seminole was being part of the Miss Indian World Pageant. She had some advice for girls who are considering competing in the Princess Pageant.

"Even just participating in the pageant will better you as a person," Nunez said. "They shouldn't be afraid to put themselves out there. Regardless if they win or lose, it will be good for them."

## ◆ PANTHER From page 1A

It isn't unusual to see the animals on the reservation as it is located in panther habitat. The Environmental Resource Management Department, which has cameras set up to document panthers, has been collecting data for five years.

"We've seen them lately and I believe they move a lot more because of the rain," said Pauline Campi, wildlife biologist. "As their prey moves, they move with it."

Land said panthers have learned how to move with the water for centuries and figure out what areas to avoid and will use features like boardwalks to keep their feet dry.

"Panthers tend to be more active at night, but it doesn't mean they can't be out and about in daytime," said Land, FWC Florida panther team leader. "Anytime is fair

game. They will climb fences and go through yards."

Panthers are curious, just like house cats. They will watch something, or someone, until they get bored and move on. Land said people think any wild animal will run away in fear right away, but that's not the way it works.

"If you come across a panther, keep your distance," he said. "Make sure it knows you're there, speak up. You don't want to surprise the cat. Don't crouch down, make yourself look big. Almost every time, the cat will move off in the opposite direction, but it wouldn't surprise me to have a staring contest with it for a minute or so."

He said if you are with children or dogs, bring them close to you. Back up until you have more distance from the animal. Never run away from a panther; that could trigger the hunting instinct and the chase response.



Photo courtesy of Maria Marcano

A panther strolls past the scale outside the Big Cypress rock mining office June 9. Tribal employee Maria Marcano took a photo of the big cat.



Photo courtesy of Sarah Hall

Billie Swamp Safari receives an unexpected visitor as a panther wanders into the front of the complex and climbs a pole in June.

## Oil spill funds earmarked for Seminole, Miccosukee Tribes

**WASHINGTON** — A set of projects from the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund will focus on coastal tribal community restoration priorities and is slated to provide employment opportunities for young people across five Gulf Coast tribal nations, including the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell made the announcement about the projects June 21 during a visit to the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana. The fund was established in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. As a result of the civil settlement announced in 2013 with Transocean Deepwater, \$8 million was set aside for the creation of conservation corps to assist in clean up and

recovery efforts along the Gulf Coast. Of that funding, an initial \$500,000 has been set aside for five Gulf Coast Tribes. In addition to the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes, the other Tribes include Chitimacha, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama.

"These projects are about investing in the next generation of tribal leaders who will ensure that not just the Gulf Coast, but tribal homelands around the coast are preserved for generations to come," Jewell said. "Providing job training skills can enhance these young people's ability to engage in the long-term Gulf restoration effort to help families, bolster local economies, and lead to a more resilient coast."

# Joy of Father's Day throughout the Tribe



Beverly Bidney

Proud papa Brian Billie holds his daughter Allie Patrice Billie, 6 months, at the Big Cypress Father's Day celebration June 17.



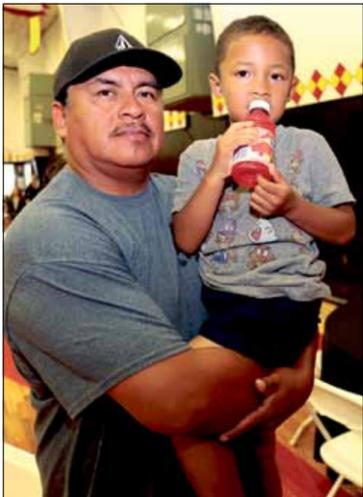
Beverly Bidney

Josh Leadingfox with his daughters Layla Leadingfox, 6, and Ava Leadingfox, 3, enjoy the Immokalee Father's Day dinner June 17.



Kevin Johnson

Travelis Timothy Jr., 1, takes a nap in the arms his father, Travelis Timothy, during the Fort Pierce Father's Day celebration June 16 at Chupco's Landing Community Center.



Kevin Johnson

Jayceon Billie, 3, gets a lift from his grandfather, John Billie, during the Hollywood Father's Day celebration June 14 at the Classic Gym.



Kevin Johnson

After finishing lunch, Adrian Baker and his children, from left, Aundre (wearing bandanna), Kieona, Dalyse, Adryauna and Alex gather for a photo during the Brighton Father's Day celebration June 16 at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building.



Kevin Johnson

Aaron Billie poses with Miami Heat dancers during the Hollywood Father's Day celebration June 14 at the Classic Gym.



Beverly Bidney

Beaming great-grandmothers Esther Buster, left, and Louise Osceola, right, flank baby Willow Cypress and her father Quenton Cypress at the Big Cypress Father's Day celebration June 17.



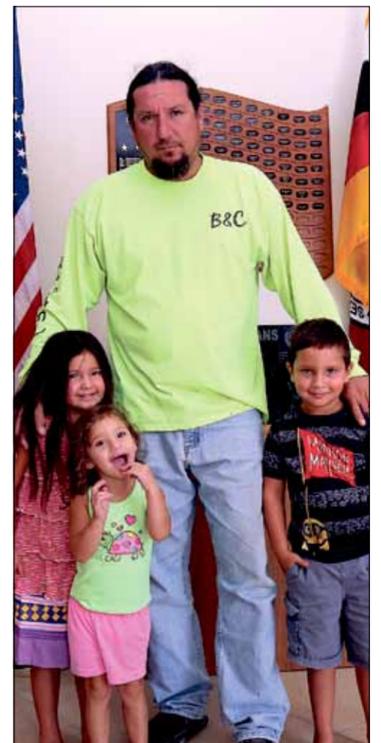
Kevin Johnson

Shamy Tommie Jr. and his daughter, Heaven Tommie, 4, get ready to enter Chupco's Landing Community Center in Fort Pierce for the Father's Day celebration.



Kevin Johnson

Dyani Kayda gets ready to enjoy lunch with her parents Anthony Kayda and Lois Billie at the Brighton Father's Day celebration June 16.



Kevin Johnson

Craig Gopher with his children, from left, Nevaeh, Graci and Josiah enjoy their time at the Brighton Father's Day celebration June 16.



Beverly Bidney

Johnny Boone with his granddaughter JaDayah Gustave, 3, at the Immokalee Father's Day dinner June 17.



Kevin Johnson

Jason Grasshopper, left, and his uncle Harley Jumper enjoy the Hollywood Father's Day celebration June 14 at the Classic Gym.



Peter B. Gallagher

Guests at the Tampa Father's Day celebration hold up the Bowie knives they received as gifts during their dinner.

# Florida Folk Festival features Chief Billie film, Seminole culture

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

WHITE SPRINGS — The 64th edition of the annual Florida Folk Festival, with its eclectic combination of music, dance, stories, crafts and food, included a movie about the life and times of Seminole Chairman James E. Billie in this year's agenda May 27-29 at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park in Winter Springs. The crowd cheered for the film "Wrestling Alligators" while sturgeon were jumping and gators relaxing along the moss-draped tall banks of the historic Suwannee River, which winds through the picturesque North Florida town.

"Wrestling Alligators," the documentary produced by David Kordish Films, was screened on a large screen before audiences of several hundred spectators. Chairman Billie has been a regular performer of original music and Seminole storytelling at the nation's oldest continuous folk festival.

Chairman Billie attended both screenings and spent nearly an hour answering questions from captivated audience members.

Crowd favorites also included Seminole demonstrators organized by Tribal citizen Charlotte Burgess of Brighton. The demonstrations came from Mollie Jolly, Martha Jones, Nancy Shore, Janelle Osceola Robinson, Stacy Silbas, Luis Venzor, Norman "Skeeter" Bowers, Deanna Osceola, Willo James, Josiah Robinson, Gregory James II and Paul Simmons.



Peter B. Gallagher(4)

Above right, Nancy Shore shows her sewing machine skills at the Florida Folk Festival Seminole area. Above left, Seminole garfish chef Norman "Skeeter" Bowers is slow and careful as he shows the proper way to prepare the freshwater alligator gar. Below left, Paul Simmons serves fry bread, alligator garfish bites and other Seminole hors d'oeuvres at the Ee-to-lit ke Seminole village. Below, longtime Seminole Tribe friend and White Springs native Jerry Lawrence Bullard sings with his band on the Old Marble Stage.



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# NIGA opens new Washington conference center

**BEVERLY BIDNEY**  
Staff Reporter

The National Indian Gaming Association opened the doors to the new Stanley R. Crooks Tribal Leaders Conference Center at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. June 14.

NIGA's headquarters, located across from the Library of Congress and a short walk to Capitol Hill, makes access to members of Congress easier for the organization to fulfill its mission of advancing the lives of Indian people economically, socially and politically.

"This is going to make our business more fluid and make Tribal leaders much more visible," said NIGA Chairman Ernest L. Stevens. "Mostly, we are going to talk about gaming and tribal sovereignty, but there are so many other issues. Now whenever teams come to Washington, they have a home here."

Stevens envisions the 10,000-square foot conference center, named for the former chairman of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Tribe of Minnesota, as a place for Tribal leaders to congregate and strategize before going to the Capitol to fight for issues important to Indian Country.

"This is our strategy and our home," Stevens said. "Mostly it's about Indian Country coming here to go to work. The most important thing is to stand together and be of one mind. We've never been defeated on any major magnitude when we put those tribal leaders around the table. This will be one of the most powerful rooms in the history of Indian Country. Every time something hits the fan, this is where we're going to be."

The conference center will be available primarily for Indian Country and its constituents, senators, representatives and federal employees working on behalf of Tribal governments.

"This facilitates the dialogue the founding fathers of NIGA sought when they established NIGA in 1984," said Jason Giles, NIGA executive director. "Travel and space limitations are no longer an excuse; it's a two minute walk for congressmen, a five-minute walk for senators and every federal agency is right around the corner. When Tribal governments and agencies need to meet, we have the space. There is no excuse for a lack of dialogue."

Fundraising for the expansion project began in 2012 and the conference center was completed thanks to donations from Tribes nationwide. The Seminole Tribe of Florida contributed \$50,000.

To help pay the bills, NIGA will rent the space to other organizations when Tribal leaders don't need it. Political fundraisers are already scheduled for members of Congress, but NIGA officials anticipate the



Jonathan Feld

NIGA Chairman Ernest L. Stevens officiates at the ribbon cutting for the Stanley R. Crooks Tribal Leaders Conference Center at NIGA headquarters in Washington, D.C. June 14.

conference center will be used regularly by Tribal organizations.

After the ribbon cutting and welcome reception, NIGA got right to business with the summer legislative summit, at which more than two dozen members of Congress were scheduled to speak with Tribal leaders. The conference center will change the way NIGA conducts the summits, which have been held in public places in the past.

"Now that it is at a private non-profit organization, we can set the attendee and invite list," Giles said. "If we want to have frank discussions with friends, we can do that. If we want to open it up to the media, we can do that. There is a lot more flexibility going forward."

For the rest of the year NIGA will concentrate on issues such as the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act to elevate Tribal governments onto the same playing field as state and federal governments as it pertains to labor laws.

"It's a decades old battle," Giles said. "We want to hold [President] Obama to his

promise to defend Tribal sovereignty. In 2017, there will be a brand new Congress and President so we'll have to feel our way forward."

Stevens, who has worked with NIGA for 15 years, believes his role as chairman of a non-profit trade association is to encourage and motivate NIGA members to make a difference by "pounding the Hill" on legislative issues.

"When the leaders come here, they have a task to do," he said. "It's not about one tribe or NIGA, it's about those community members they represent. What we have now is amazing, but we have to get it done. We have to protect Tribal sovereignty. The heart of Indian Country, that's who we are representing and who we are responsible to."

*Seminole Media Productions' Special Project Editor Jonathan Feld contributed to this story.*



Jonathan Feld

NIGA Chairman Ernest L. Stevens, third from left, Senator Jon Tester of Montana and members of the NIGA Board of Directors gather at the opening of the Stanley R. Crooks Tribal Leaders Conference Center in Washington, D.C.

## 59TH ANNUAL 2016 Miss Florida SEMINOLE PRINCESS PAGEANT

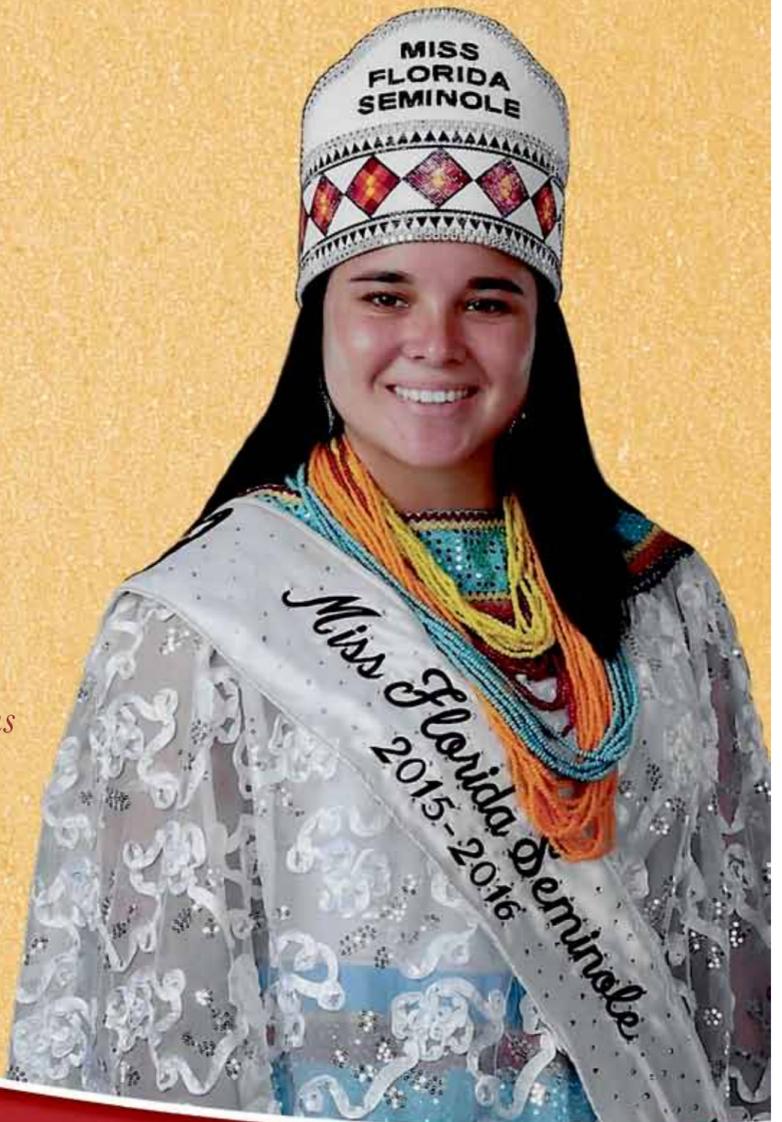
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Community Dinner - 4:00pm



# Muscogee Creek Mark Madrid needs new liver

BY STAFF REPORT

**HECTORVILLE, Okla.** — In 1967, Mark Madrid (Muscogee Creek) had a bad motorcycle crash. A portion of his leg was amputated, and he contracted hepatitis C after receiving a blood transfusion that was unknowingly tainted with the disease. Over the years, hepatitis took a toll on his liver until he was eventually diagnosed with cirrhosis in 2006.

Now doctors say a liver transplant is critical to Madrid's survival, and he has been placed on the liver transplant waiting list and undergoing treatments for the cancer he is battling to keep him healthy enough for a liver transplant.

Many Seminoles will remember Mark, who handled a myriad of jobs, including videography, while employed by the Tribe in the 1980s and '90s.

Although health insurance will cover most of Madrid's medical expenses, he will require follow-up care and treatment for the rest of his life. When visiting his transplant center for evaluations and doctors' appointments, Madrid, 67, incurs significant expenses for travel, food and lodging, as he lives approximately 120 miles away from the hospital.

For fundraising expertise and guidance, Madrid turned to the National Foundation for Transplants (NFT) for assistance. NFT is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Memphis, Tenn. that has been helping transplant patients overcome financial obstacles since 1983. NFT provides fundraising expertise to transplant patients by organizing fundraising campaigns in the patients' own communities. NFT's fundraising campaigns have generated nearly \$75 million to assist patients. NFT assists more than 2,500 transplant candidates and recipients nationwide, generating nearly \$75 million in assistance.

"My heart truly goes out to Mark and his family," said Kay Horne, NFT fundraising consultant. "I know he wants nothing more than to be well enough to spend many more years with his grandchildren. At NFT, we're dedicated to helping him raise the funds he needs to afford his lifesaving treatment and care."

With NFT's help, Madrid's loved ones are holding a raffle for a Native American ribbon shirt, designed and handmade by



Mark Madrid, 67, is in need of a liver transplant.

Madrid and his wife, Toni. Anyone who makes a tax-deductible donation to his NFT fundraising campaign before July 10 is automatically entered to win. To make a donation, visit [www.transplants.org](http://www.transplants.org) and click "Find an NFT Patient" to search for his fundraising page.

For more information, contact Toni Madrid at 918-899-3799 or [tjmadrid@gmail.com](mailto:tjmadrid@gmail.com).

his Journal. Those entries taken alone are sometimes puzzling or nondescript, but when paired with military correspondence from the same date, they nicely corroborate Jones' activities. Hughes also gave us short "one liners" from Jones' himself, or that Jones said to his War Leader Chitto Tustenuggee, or told to his trusted interpreter, the African Toney.

The research of Sam Jones' life has been a fantastic journey through time. Through this lengthy project, we now have the important biographical knowledge of the life of a man who was perhaps Florida's greatest hero of all time, Abiaki, Sam Jones.

Available in libraries. The full manuscript, her sixth book, is presently under completion for publication.

*Ethnohistorian Patsy West is Director of the Seminole/Micosukee Archive in Fort Lauderdale and author of "The Enduring Seminoles, A Seminole Legend" (with Betty Mae Jumper) and "Seminole and Micosukee Tribes of Southern Florida." From 1985-2000, Ms. West wrote the award-winning "Reflections" column for the Seminole Tribune. Her essay, "Abiaki, or Sam Jones, in Context: The Mikasuki Ethnogenesis through the Third Seminole War" by Patsy West was recently published in the Florida Historical Quarterly, Volume 94, Number 3, Winter 2016, 366-410.*

## ◆ SAM JONES From page 2A

which, after the Battle of Okeechobee, in December 1837 were, in fact, all activities Jones accomplished in sequence.

Sprague's descriptions obviously prevailed in print and in representations of Jones in works of art...as there were no others. It was actually a great relief to me when I was able to confirm that Sprague had never actually met OR even seen Jones!

Back at work, my longtime assistant Rob Maxwell and friend Susan Gillis, a fellow museum curator, and I were fortunate to locate four of the initial "first person" accounts that describe Jones. Interestingly, all descriptions were from encounters made here in the Miami/Fort Lauderdale area during the peace of the Macomb Agreement. These were personal eyewitness accounts and fortunately they were from extremely reliable, in fact "indisputable" sources, as they were described by physicians.

The pairing of other collected research allowed me for the first time to connect various dated accounts together in order to compile details of events. For instance, the Fort Lauderdale surgeon Ellis Hughes stationed at the Third Fort on Fort Lauderdale Beach (the site today is opposite Bahia Mar Yacht Basin), wrote semi-daily entries in



Photo courtesy of Maria Pasho

Tribal members join participants in the Longest Walk 5 as they walk through Big Cypress Reservation June 5. The purpose of the 3,600-mile coast-to-coast walk is to end drug abuse and domestic violence in Indian Country.

## ◆ LONGEST WALK From page 1A

claimed one of his granddaughters in October 2015. He believes violence came to Native American Tribes with the Europeans.

"They tried to destroy our matriarchal and clan system," Banks said. "The colonists brought the patriarchal system, where man is god of the house. I think that's where it began."

When the Longest Walk arrives in Washington, D.C., Banks will share the results of surveys conducted with doctors, drug program directors, law enforcement agencies, judges, addicts, and the incarcerated.

"I think this is fantastic because that's what we need to do to get the point across," said President Mitchell Cypress. "I'm glad the Seminole Tribe and our recovery group is part of this. I remember Dennis and AIM from back in the '70s. He told the truth today and I learned a lot; he is a courageous man."

Banks believes physical activities and programs for children starting at a young age are important in the approach to fighting drugs.

"Our own spiritual beliefs and culture will help us with recovery," he said.

The Longest Walk 5 is a three-year project. This one traversed the southern states, next year the walk will leave from California and in 2018 it will take the northern route from Seattle to Washington D.C.

"Every mile is covered by foot collectively," said Carly Presher, one of the walk organizers.

Walkers and runners account for all the miles along the way; the runners' extra distance is added to the walkers' daily totals.

Rest days are also taken, such as the ones in Florida. While the group was in Big Cypress, the Tribe hosted them at the RV resort, Billie Swamp Safari, and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. They also walked through the reservation on Josie Billie Highway. In Hollywood, Councilman Chris Osceola invited the group to stay at Seminole Estates before heading north.

During their stay with the Tribe, the walkers and members of We Do Recover shared their common experiences and discussed tactics for staying clean.

"We want to be a piece of the solution," said Charlie Tiger, Center for Behavioral



Beverly Bidney

Longest Walk 5 leader Dennis Banks talks about the mission of the walk to Seminole citizens at Billie Swamp Safari June 4.

Health program supervisor and member of We Do Recover. "Sometimes it's a battle. I thank the Creator for helping me stay sober for six years. Every day I say shonabish."

"I found sobriety and people who understand," added Billie Tiger, CBH sober house assistant and member of We Do Recover. "I wasn't any good to my community and now I can give back and help the elders."

The Longest Walk was created in 1978 by Banks and AIM to protest 11 bills before congress that would have eliminated all treaties between the U.S. government and tribal nations. By the time the group arrived in Washington, D.C. from California, they had the support of Hollywood celebrities, musicians, and politicians. Mohammed Ali and singer Tony Bennett walked the last few miles with the group, Banks recalled. By the time the walk arrived in Washington, they had collected more than one million signatures calling for an end to the bills, which then failed to pass.

Three additional Longest Walks have been held; in 2008 to call attention to the importance of protecting sacred sites on tribal

lands, in 2011 to reverse diabetes in Indian Country and in 2014 to educate Americans about the history of removing Native Americans from tribal homelands.

Nathan Tyndall Thunderheart has participated in every Longest Walk. He said he does it out of respect for what his ancestors went through, to make sure tribal youth have a bright future and to get out and meet with other Tribes.

"It's important to keep the ancestors' beliefs strong," he said. "But mainly I do it because Dennis Banks asked me to."

Banks has walked across the country seven times, on the Longest Walks, and for other causes close to his heart. He believes drug abuse and domestic violence threaten Native American culture.

"If we don't act on this now, there may not be anything for the Seventh Generation to practice," he said. "That's what could happen if we don't move to do anything about it."

## Warren named VP of marketing at Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee

IMMOKALEE — Seminole Casino Hotel Immokalee has named Michael Warren to the position of vice president of marketing. Warren has more than 13 years of casino and hotel experience.

Warren will work under the direction of the general manager and be responsible for all functions of the marketing division including casino marketing, executive casino hosts, special events, junket marketing and direct marketing.

Most recently, Warren served as regional marketing director for Wyndham

Vacation Rentals, N.A. in Charleston, South Carolina. He oversaw the marketing strategy for luxury vacation rental properties across the eastern United States. He previously held the position of vice president of marketing for Caesars/Horseshoe Casino in Cincinnati, Ohio and Caesars/Harrah's St. Louis Casino & Hotel in Maryland Heights, Missouri. Prior to that, Warren was director of VIP player services, casino marketing for Caesars/Harrah's New Orleans Casino & Hotel in New Orleans.

Warren graduated summa cum laude from the University of Mary Washington in Virginia with a bachelor's degree in economics.



Michael Warren

## Tribe, employees show support for Orlando



Kevin Johnson

Two charter buses bring supporters of the Orlando shooting victims to a benefit concert June 22. The buses departed the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood bound for Hard Rock Live in Orlando, which hosted the All Is One Orlando Unity Concert. Bus fare and tickets were complimentary as well as time off for employees. Concert goes from the Tribe's Hollywood casinos included, from left, Qi Wang, Michael Yu, Lindsay Gokey and Orlando Gonzalez.



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# Smiling faces in a classroom

BY TARA BACKHOUSE

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Collections Manager

Aren't parents and adults, in general, always happy to see the smiling faces of kids in a classroom? To many of us this means that the children were given a chance to get an education that could make their lives better, and who wouldn't want that?

And although many children at times aren't happy to be in school, the same children often change their minds when they become adults. So I was happy to come across a couple pictures in our photography collection. They show five boys and girls studying in a classroom, and most of them seem happy enough to do that. We will forgive the few exceptions, because we may well remember feeling the same way in school.

The pictures also show their teacher, looking dedicated and proud of them, as they all pose for the photographer. But I'm afraid that's all we know about these pictures. When and where were they taken,

and who are these teachers and students, memorialized in charming black and white Polaroid photographs?

The type of the film leads us to believe the photographs date between 1965 and 1970. The clothing of the photographs' subjects might support that conclusion. If photographs like this don't come to the Museum with any information, these are the kinds of clues we look for in order to identify a date. As for a location, the classroom setting is not giving us any helpful clues.

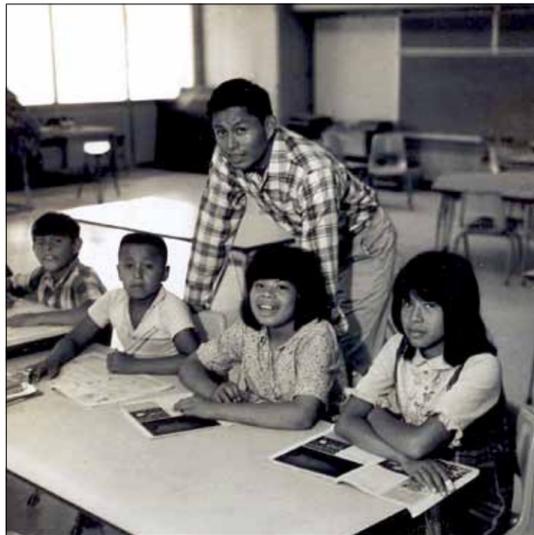
We're betting that someone out there will recognize the teacher, the classroom, and maybe even the kids. Has one of our readers grown up since being in this classroom on that day, and is now looking back on those days with fondness and pride? If so, you can help us preserve the story of this photograph for generations of students and adults to come. If you know anything about this photo, please contact the Museum. We would love to learn its story.

These are but two of the thousands of

unidentified photographs we have at the Museum. It takes a dedicated team of people to go through these photos and do the things we need to do in order to preserve them for the future. Identifying people, places, and dates are among the tasks.

Classrooms aren't the only places our photos were taken. From sporting events, farming, rodeo, grand openings, and other outside events; to churches, offices, homes, and other inside events, we have snapshots of Seminole life from the 1970s to the early 2000s. Many of them are in binders in the Museum library. All you have to do is let us know you're coming, and you can flip through the binders, help us identify photographs, and request copies all at the same time. Bring your friends and family and make it a really memorable event.

Just call the Museum at 863-902-1113 and ask to speak to someone in the library to make an appointment. Hope to see you soon.



Photos courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Do you recognize anyone in these photos? Or the location? The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum would like to know as much about the photos as possible.

# The Seminole Inn of Indiantown, Florida

BY MARY BETH ROSEBROUGH

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Research Coordinator

In 1926, the hotel now called the Seminole Inn was constructed in Indiantown, a city given that name because of the preponderance of Seminoles living nearby. Two of those names are very familiar – Tiger and Gopher. According to Iris Wall, whose family owns the inn, the Tiger and Gopher camps were within walking distance of the general store, opened around 1923, owned by her grandfather. And so they became familiar faces about town.

A visit with Iris Wall – 2006 Woman of the Year in Agriculture – is a lesson in Old Florida. Cow hunting, cattle ranching and tales told by the fire come alive as she weaves personal and public anecdotes into a rich history of Indiantown and its neighbors.

Jonnie Wall Flewelling, Iris' daughter, has pieced together a timeline history from books, documents and stories she heard growing up. She believes that Seminole families arrived in Indiantown about 1861. During that time they were careful to keep their camps at a distance from each other as protection from the "indian hunters."

Joe Bowers was one of the first white

settlers in the area of Indiantown. He had a trading post in a grove of what were then called "king" oranges. Tribal members came and traded skins with Joe Bowers. The Tiger camp was originally home to Tom Tiger who, the story goes, was struck by lightning and killed while making a canoe in 1899. Before his death, he and his wife Mary had five children, Ada and her four brothers. One of those brothers, Desota, met his demise in the hands of the legendary outlaws, the John Ashley Gang.

The Tiger and Gopher families stayed until approximately 1928 when they moved to Dania (Hollywood) after the Indian agent cut their rations to force them out. Other families (names now unknown) had already settled and left by that time. But the move didn't hinder the friendship between Iris and Ada's daughter, Betty Mae Tiger Jumper. Iris and Betty Mae were lifelong friends and – according to Jonnie Wall Flewelling – both were delivered by the town's one midwife, Aunt Sis (Savage) on the same dining room table. Everyone was.

Indiantown is that kind of town – where everyone knows and helps everyone else. After the Tiger camp had moved to the Dania Reservation, Iris' uncle, Frank Carpenter,

went to the campsite outside of Indiantown, and found an iron pot and a pair of scissors which he believed belonged to Ada. They stayed in his cabinet for years. After Ada died he took them to Betty Mae, explaining what had occurred and how he came to have the items. Betty Mae immediately identified them as having belonged to her mother. All those years later they were still precious.

The Seminole Inn has been bought and sold and bought three times by the Wall family, always on the courthouse steps, as Iris likes to say. It has been a good place to entertain friends, new and old. Iris recalled that Betty Mae liked to call and have a conversation like this: "Iris, I come to see you!" to which Iris would reply, "When?" and Betty Mae would succinctly answer, "Soon!" "Soon" could mean now, tomorrow, in a week, or sometimes never. But it didn't much matter, because nothing could break the bond between the self-proclaimed cracker cowgirl and a distinguished matriarch of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. They had both belonged to Indiantown – and that is a bond that remains forever.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The Seminole Inn in Indiantown.

Betty Mae Jumper

## Wisdom from the past

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the August 10, 1984 issue of The Seminole Tribune.

A community meeting was held on Tuesday night, July 31, on the Hollywood Reservation to discuss many things which took place at the last Council meeting.

Instead of saying good things about what the Tribe has been doing for us, and patting our leaders on the back for their accomplishments for the benefit of the members, such as bringing in money for revenue distributions as shareholders, the tongue slicing brought up by one particular woman (who claims to be a Christian) about people doing this and doing that was very disappointing to me. It seems that the so-called "Christians" are the ones who constantly criticize their Christian brothers and sisters. If a person has a problem with another person, the Christian thing to do would be to go to that person and talk out the problem instead of unjustifiably hurting them.

It seems that the improvements to our reservation are being criticized also. I wish people could see back to the 1940s and remember what this place was like – no jobs, no food and our children and older folks needed medical help. There was none. I remember when I was around 10 years old, and had to stand by helplessly and watch my baby sister die – for we had no hospital or doctors to care for her.

Today, things are handed to us on a silver platter. Many of our young people have never known "hard times." Money is being loaned out left and right – some of which is never paid back. Free food comes into homes.

Next, this same woman has the nerve to talk about who is allowed and who is not allowed to ride the school bus. We should be thankful that we have a bus to carry our children to school. And what does it matter if some non-Seminole rides the bus when there is a lot of empty seats on the bus. When my children went to school, they all had to walk. Somedays, they would come soaked to the skin from having to walk home in the rain. Some of the lucky ones had a bicycle.

Sometimes when I pass by some of the public ball fields, I see some of our Seminole youth playing or jogging on these fields. How would we feel if the white people came along

and told our people to get off their field – because we are not white. I cannot believe in this modern world; we still act like we are back in the 1800s.

I know some of our Seminole women who are married to white men and have half-breed children are the ones throwing dirt. Yes, many of us are half-breeds, but sometimes it is the half-breeds that are the ones who are bringing the money into the Tribe and into your pockets.

About the gym, I saw it when it was nothing but a palmetto field when my brother was crying for a ball field for our youth. They cleaned and worked on it until it was cleared somewhat. But we were still able to sit and watch our children play ball and other games. I can still remember some of the Seminole ladies helping out and the mothers and fathers of the children would sit on the ground just to cheer on their kids and yell when they would miss a ball.

I know my son worked hard. There were times when he would return at 4 or 5 in the morning to be able to transport the children to other reservations to compete against each other. I would get after him for traveling too much with too little sleep, but he loves sports and loves what he is doing for the youth. I have seen when he had to scrape every penny to pay for his sons to go to a Christian school, and his wife would say, that if it was not for the eggs and cereal handed to us for our kids, she didn't know what they would have done. Even his income tax was used for the children.

Instead of encouraging our Tribal leaders and commending for the fine job they are doing, or even ask if they could use some help to improve something in some way, some of the "Christian" people have to tear people down.

I am a mother, too, and I hurt when I hear things about my son, when I know he has only tried to please the people and has done the best he could.

In closing, I want to say to the Council-people, it isn't an easy thing to try to please everyone, but God Bless You for all you are doing for our people. I care!

Thank you.

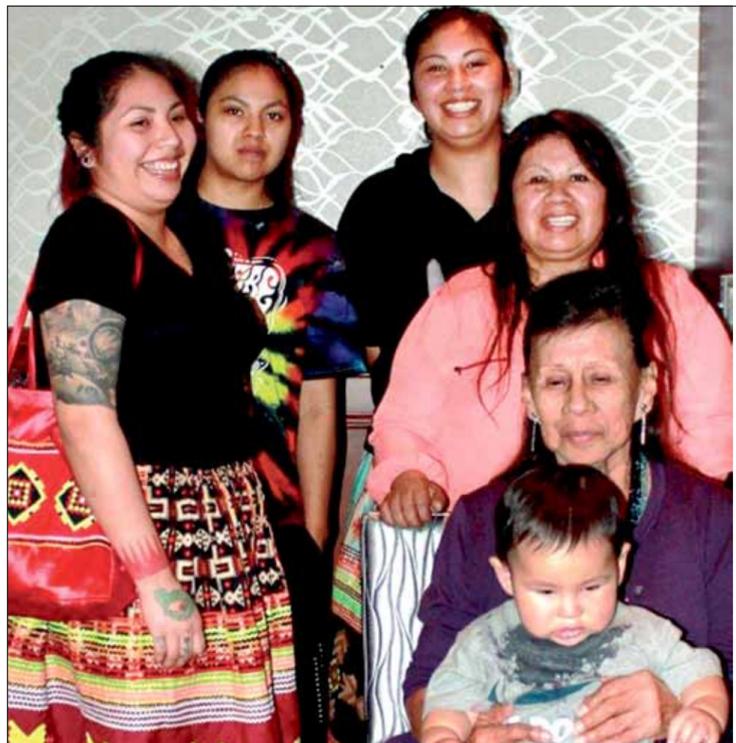


## Tampa celebrates Mother's Day



Photos courtesy of Sunny Ploch

The Tampa Community celebrated Mother's Day with a dinner May 7 at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse in Tampa. Above, Mother's Day attendees gather for a group photo. At right, Kaylin Henry and Kingston Holmes enjoy their time at the dinner. Below, a four generation photo with Kinu Jeanotte, Annie Henry, Joanie Henry, Dyanie Henry, Ryanna Thomas and Danelle Thomas.



# Health

## The Indian Child Welfare Act: 5 things families need to know

BY MALLORY BLACK  
Native News Health Alliance

It's been called an obscure law in some circles, far overreaching in its authority in others. There's no doubt that the Indian Child Welfare Act has garnered more attention — and controversy — in recent months, much to the detriment of the children and families it's designed to protect.

Passed by Congress in 1978, the Indian Child Welfare Act, or ICWA, is a federal law created to prevent the breakup of Native American families. It was established after a series of congressional hearings proved that large numbers of Indian children were systematically removed from their families by state, county and private child welfare agencies, then placed into non-Indian homes — often without cause.

While ICWA doesn't remove the states' obligation to act on child abuse or neglect, advocates say the law is necessary because it protects the child's right to their cultural identity and to be raised within their own community, given the history of federally-mandated removal and assimilation of Native children into mainstream American culture, and its effects on child well-being and cultural connectedness.

The goals of ICWA, as stated by Congress, are to achieve the best possible outcome: reuniting children safely with their family.

Kathryn Fort, an attorney with the Michigan State University Indigenous Law and Policy Center, said that all Native American parents and families should be aware of their rights under ICWA, especially considering how quickly a case can move through the courts.

"I think most people, if they went to see a state child welfare proceeding, particularly an Indian child welfare proceeding, they would be surprised at how routine and quick it is," Fort said. "There's very little explanation of what's going on, especially in our large urban settings. Parents don't usually know what's happening, and they have court-appointed attorneys who maybe meet them before the hearing or maybe not."

While ICWA applies to state child welfare (abuse or neglect) cases and adoption involving Indian children, it does not apply in divorce or custody disputes between parents.

While not exhaustive, here are some key things for parents to know when exercising their rights under ICWA:

### Low-income parents have a right to court-appointed representation

Under ICWA, indigent parents (those who are unable to afford legal representation) are entitled to state court-appointed counsel, be it an attorney or a legal aide volunteer. Each state uses a formula to determine who is eligible for legal assistance.

Chrissi Ross Nimmo, senior assistant attorney general for the Cherokee Nation, said the reality is that ICWA cases are legal cases, and the decisions made are made in court.

"The best defense a parent can have is an attorney who is knowledgeable about the Indian Child Welfare Act," Nimmo said. "Reunification can depend on whether the Indian Child Welfare Act was followed in a case."

However, some parents and families may choose to navigate the child welfare system alone, said David Simmons, director of government affairs and advocacy for the National Indian Child Welfare Association. He recommends finding someone who can explain what ICWA is and to help talk through what might be best for their family.

"Children in many Native communities need help when they're growing up, and it isn't just the mom and the dad doing the work," Simmons said. "Oftentimes it's extended family members and other community members, so think about who could be your advocate or friend that can help you with some of those really difficult decisions and situations."

### Parents and tribes can request a case be transferred to tribal court

Under ICWA, biological parents involved in a state child welfare case can request their case be transferred to their tribal court — say, if the family is situated on tribal lands, and tribal programs would be the primary provider of reunification services.

In certain situations, however, tribes can decline to hear an ICWA case in their court, said Elizabeth Eggert, an attorney with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Generally, most tribes won't accept a transfer if it will reduce the likelihood of parents reuniting with their children, due to the distance between the children and parents that would be required in most transfers. Occasionally, limited resources could also cause a tribal court to decline a case.

Though when a tribe decides to intervene, Eggert said it doesn't mean that the tribe will automatically side with the parents; rather, the tribe tries to do what it perceives is in the children's best interest based on the laws and the circumstances of each case.

"Even though we might agree with the children's removal by the state or agree that the parents' rights should be terminated, we also fight throughout the case that parents get

the services that the agency is providing," Eggert said. "It's important to us to make sure that parents rights under ICWA are followed."

### Parents have a right to 'active efforts'

Some Native American parents may not be aware that the agencies overseeing their case must provide 'active efforts' to help the parent create a safe environment where they can reunite with their child.

Under ICWA, active efforts are defined as a higher standard of effort to prevent the breakup of an American Indian family prior to removing a child, during and afterwards, to increase the chances of the child returning home safely.

These efforts can include remedial and rehabilitative programs and services, such as increased family visitations or substance abuse treatment programs, and other services like transportation assistance when geography is an issue.

"That's a huge right due to the parent, which is to ensure they receive appropriate services so they can be successful at reunifying with their child," Fort explained.

### States must provide culturally appropriate services for Indian families

As part of active efforts, states are required to provide culturally appropriate family preservation services, which not only includes in-home and traditional native practices, but also parenting classes or mental health services, among others. This could also include services through tribal agencies and providers.

"If parents want to have their supervised parenting time with their child at an urban Indian center, they have a right to ask for that," Fort said. "[Parents] have a right to say, 'Has my social worker figured out if there's a counselor I feel more comfortable with? Has my social worker contacted my Tribe?' because they have a right to that."

There is growing evidence that culturally appropriate services are more likely to result in effective resolution on behalf of the child and family. A 2014 report by the U.S. Attorney General's Advisory Committee on American Indian and Alaska Native Children Exposed to Violence found Indian families simply do better when exposed to traditional tribal cultural resources and practices.

This right also requires caseworkers must also cooperate with tribes to find appropriate services and work to remove any barriers that families might have in accessing them.

But for agencies less familiar with ICWA, the considerations for Indian children may slip through the cracks. Simmons said not all caseworkers receive cultural or ICWA-specific training in their state, in which case he encourages parents to feel empowered to share their culture and how their tribe might approach certain issues.

"Silence sometimes in the child welfare system means that you're acquiescing or agreeing, so speak up a little bit if they're not understanding how your community does things and why," Simmons said.

### Non-Native relatives can be considered for placement

Out-of-home placement preferences for a child are outlined under ICWA as first with an extended family member, a member of the tribe or another Indian family. But that doesn't necessarily exclude non-Indian relatives of Indian children, granting them certain protections under ICWA as a possible placement option.

"Let's say mom is Cherokee, dad is not, and the child is taken into custody," Nimmo explained. "The dad's mother — the child's grandmother — is just as protected under the Indian Child Welfare Act as mom's mom who might be Indian."

Though relatives are still subject to a home study to evaluate if they are a good placement option. Non-Native relatives can also become a certified foster home by their state, a process that often takes several months, though may make them eligible for state assistance and resources for children with transitional or special medical or emotional needs.

Nimmo said in her experience, placing Indian children with family members and relatives — Native or non-Native — tends to yield the best possible results.

"More often what you see is children, without question, that do better when they're placed with relatives, especially where these are grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins who have an ongoing relationship with the child where it's not such a traumatic event for them being taken from their home and placed with a complete stranger," Nimmo said. "Getting a child in a relative placement immediately is really important."

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This story was produced with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation as part of a series focusing on child and youth welfare in Native America.

## Quicker access to Florida KidCare

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA  
Florida Dept. of Health in Broward County

Good news for thousands of families who have been unable to obtain low-cost Florida KidCare health insurance without a five-year wait.

The wait is ending.

In March, Florida legislators eliminated a five-year waiting period that has long been required before the children of certain legal immigrant families could qualify for KidCare. Now, those families will be able to enroll their kids immediately, simply by showing they are Florida residents.

"We have 48,000 uninsured children in Broward County and thousands of them could benefit," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of the Florida Department of Health in Broward (DOH-Broward), which enrolls children in KidCare. "This will be a great help to families who really need the coverage."

The change starts on July 1. The new rules affect several categories of legal immigrants, including those holding green cards, said Rebecca Miele, manager of

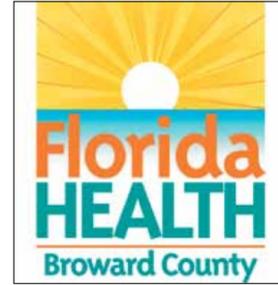
KidCare to find out.

The change likely will not affect many Seminole Tribe citizens, but may be beneficial to their family, friends and co-workers, Miele said.

Under the new system, more families will be eligible for Florida Medicaid, which is part of KidCare. If they earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, they can apply for subsidized coverage in Healthy Kids, which also is part of KidCare. Healthy Kids insurance costs as little as \$15 to \$20 per month for an entire household of children.

Families who earn too much to receive the subsidized rate can still enroll in "full-pay" Healthy Kids coverage, which remains less costly than most insurance on the private market, Miele said.

State officials estimate that over 15,000 more families will become eligible for Medicaid and 17,000 more for Healthy Kids. For more information call 954-467-8737.



KidCare Outreach at DOH-Broward. Even if a family is not sure whether the new rules apply to them, Miele urges them to call

## Precautions to guard against Zika

SUBMITTED BY SEMINOLE HEALTH DEPT.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued precautions for pregnant women and women trying to become pregnant during a Zika Virus Outbreak.

Pregnant women should not travel to the areas where Zika virus transmission is ongoing, such as Central America, South America, the Caribbean, and the Pacific areas. Pregnant women who do travel to one of these areas should talk to their healthcare provider first and strictly follow steps to avoid mosquito bites during the trip.

Women trying or thinking about becoming pregnant should consult with their healthcare provider before traveling to these areas and strictly follow steps to prevent mosquito bites during the trip.

**Transmission:** Zika virus is spread primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito; A mother can pass Zika virus to her fetus during pregnancy; Zika virus can be sexually transmitted by a man to his sex partner.

**Symptoms:** Fever, rash, joint pain, conjunctivitis, muscle pain and headache; The illness is usually mild with symptoms

lasting for several days to a week; The incubation period (the time from exposure to symptoms) for Zika virus disease is not known, but is likely to be a few days to a week.

**Treatment:** No vaccine or medications are available to prevent or treat Zika infections; Treat the symptoms:

- Get plenty of rest.
- Drink fluids to prevent dehydration.
- Take medicines such as acetaminophen or paracetamol to relieve fever and pain.
- Do not take aspirin or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.
- If you are taking medicine for another medical condition, talk to your healthcare provider before taking any additional medication.

**Prevention:** Use EPA registered insect repellent with any of the following active ingredients: DEET, oil of lemon eucalyptus, Picaridin, IR353.

It is safe for pregnant or nursing women to use EPA-approved repellents if applied according to package label instructions.

- Cover skin with long-sleeved shirts and long pants
- Apply a permethrin repellent directly

to clothing or purchase pre-treated clothing. Follow the manufacturer's directions and do not apply directly to skin.

- Keep mosquitoes out of hotel rooms
- Choose a hotel or lodging with air conditioning or screens on windows and doors.
- Other mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue fever, chikungunya fever, and malaria may also impact the fetus or newborn and pose a risk in many of the same areas Zika virus is present, emphasizing the need to strictly follow steps to prevent mosquito bites.

Travelers returning home should be advised to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes for three weeks following travel, especially while ill, to prevent infection of local mosquitoes.

While at home, draining standing water near residences and businesses at least weekly is recommended to keep local mosquito populations low and prevent local introductions.

For more information contact the Seminole Health Department: Hollywood Clinic: 954-962-2009; Brighton Clinic: 863-763-0271; Immokalee Clinic: 239-867-3400; Tampa Clinic: 813-620-2860; Big Cypress Clinic: 863-983-5151.

## Food safety review of youth cooking classes

SUBMITTED BY NICHOLAS PERSAUD  
Seminole Tribe Environmental Health

Youth cooking classes introduce kids to the pleasures of preparing and enjoying "real food" that is both nutritious and delicious, an essential step toward health and well-being. They learn basic cooking skills, the joy of eating and cooking with fresh fruits and vegetables, and how to become conscious consumers in a marketplace that spends millions of dollars to persuade children to eat high-calorie, low-nutrient products. After a successful spring youth cooking class where a number of food safety topics were discussed, these are the major points discussed during the classes.

- Cross-contamination — The classic example of cross-contamination is preparing raw chicken on a cutting board and then, without washing and sanitizing, using the same board and knife to prepare salads. Cross-contamination can also occur when foods, including condiments, are exposed to open air or left uncovered.
- Mixing raw foods with cooked foods — A good example of this practice

would be adding raw eggs to already prepared eggs on a steam table. Also, do not add freshly made potato salad to a container of potato salad that is in use. Separate utensils for cooked vs. raw food, keep them marked and train your employees.

• Inadequate cooking — Foods not be cooked to the proper temperature. Ensure your cooks are checking cooking temperatures with a thermometer as it's very important.

• Improper thawing — Food that is thawed, not using the following methods, should be in a refrigerator/cooler, under running water or as part of the cooking process. Foods should not left in the sun to thaw.

• Failing to cool foods properly — Hot foods must be cooled down as quickly as possible by placing hot food in shallow pans or the use an ice bath. Lack of ice, insufficient cold temperature or an over stocked refrigerator can increase the chances of food borne illness by keeping the foods in the danger zone too long.

- Food storage — No food should ever be stored on the floor.
- Improper Hot Holding and Re-heating

— Once cooked, hot foods must be kept at 135 degrees or above; cold foods must be kept at 41 degrees or below. Leftovers must be re-heated rapidly to at least 165 degrees. Note: Steam tables and burners are not designed for reheating leftovers.

• Personnel — Proper hand washing is the single most important means to prevent the spread of infection. Hand sanitizers are not a substitute for hand washing. Also, have enough people assigned to separate food-related tasks.

• Clothing — Always wear suitable clothing, including hair nets and aprons, prior to cooking.

• Improper Cleaning — Food equipment, including coolers and utensils, must be washed, rinsed and sanitized prior to the event. Remember, sanitizing is the removal of harmful micro-organisms with a sanitizing agent - like bleach.

• Food from unapproved sources — All foods must be obtained from permitted sources that comply with all applicable state, county or local food service laws.

For more information call the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Health office at 954-985-2330.



Youngsters pay close attention during a Seminole Tribe youth cooking class in May.

# SEMINOLE SCENES



Kevin Johnson

**RAFFLE WINNER:** Billie Micco and Rudy Osceola (not pictured) won the "Cowboy Grill" raffle that benefits the Florida Seminole Veterans Foundation. The winning ticket was selected June 17. The raffle was open to all Tribal citizens, employees and non-employees.



Beverly Bidney

**GATOR GREETING:** Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola holds Luke Lamb, 1, as he pets a sort-of-friendly young gator at Billie Swamp Safari June 4.



Peter B. Gallagher

**LAKELAND LANDSCAPE:** A new community chickee is under construction at the Tribe's property in Lakeland.



Kevin Johnson

**ICE CREAM BREAK:** Youngsters on the Hollywood Reservation get a tasty treat with free ice cream June 14 outside the Classic Gym. From left, Trinity Jumper, Lauren Jumper, Billie Cypress, Lena Cypress and Millie Jumper.



Beverly Bidney

**PATCHWORK NOVELTIES:** Patchwork inspired items are for sale at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum gift shop, including these colorful socks and mug. When hot liquid like coffee or tea is poured into the black mug, the patchwork magically appears.



Photo courtesy Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

**STAR ON DISPLAY:** Seminole Casino Coconut Creek is displaying artwork from Tagliatella Galleries which features the late actress and model Marilyn Monroe. This is the first of a group of art exhibits the casino will host throughout the year. The eight Marilyn Monroe pieces being displayed were created by artist Russell Young, who has shown in galleries and museums in London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Tokyo, Singapore, New York, Detroit, Miami and Los Angeles. Young's Marilyn Monroe artwork is available for sale through the gallery with the eight pieces ranging in price from \$6,500 to \$30,000. The most expensive piece is titled "Marilyn Crying, 2013."



Photo courtesy Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

**IN THE CARDS:** "Ballers" star Donovan Carter hosted a \$50,000 invitational blackjack tournament June 18 at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek. Carter plays the role of pro football player "Vernon Littelfield" on the HBO series, which also features Dwayne Johnson.



Peter B. Gallagher

**TENDER MOMENT:** Bobby Henry cradles the newest addition to the Henry family, his great-grandson Isiah Jerimiah Jordan on June 21.



Beverly Bidney

**COLORFUL CREATURES:** These blue and gold macaws at Billie Swamp Safari play with a wooden pole offered by a park worker June 1. The bright colors of the large South American natives actually camouflage them in the wild, blending them in with the blue sky and bright sun.



Beverly Bidney

**HAPPY HULA:** Girls learn the Polynesian art of hula dancing at the Immokalee Father's Day dinner June 17. The entertainment and dance lesson were provided by the Mai Kai restaurant in Fort Lauderdale.



Kevin Johnson

**SOLEMN SIGHT:** Flags are flown at half-staff at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton following the June 12 nightclub attack in Orlando that left 49 people dead and wounded more than 50.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



## Muhammad Ali eulogized by Native speakers

**LOUISVILLE, Ky.** — Oren Lyons, Chief Sidney Hill and Ernie Stevens were among world and religious leaders invited to honor and pay tribute to Muhammad Ali at the boxing legend's funeral ceremonies June 10 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Lyons is Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan for the Onondaga Nation. Hill is the Atodaho, or spiritual leader of the Haudenosaunee, Iroquois Confederacy. Stevens (Oneida) is chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association.

Haudenosaunee leaders served as representatives of Native American and indigenous peoples in a tribute to Ali and his family.

Hill spoke first in his Onondaga language and delivered the condolence ceremony ritual given at all funeral services to family members. It was translated by Lyons.

"Ali's passing has created a great darkness, but that family members should be at peace of mind, for his path back to the Creator's land is clear and straight," Hill said.

"(Ali) was a leader among men and a champion of the people. He fought for the people of color. He was a man of peace and principal and a man of compassion who used his great gifts for the common good," said Lyons. "He fought for our inherent land rights, self-determination, identity and collective rights that include the natural world. We know what he was up against because we've had 525 years of survival training ourselves."

Lyons, 86, who played lacrosse at Syracuse University with Ali's friend, Jim Brown, described Ali as a dependable supporter of indigenous people, recalling the Longest Walk in 1978 when Native Americans walked from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. to protest a bill presented by a congressman who wanted to terminate Native American treaties with the U.S. Government.

"Ali marched into Washington with us," Lyons said as the audience again applauded loudly. "He was a free, independent spirit, who stood his ground with great courage and conviction, and yet he paid a price, this country paid a price, and we all did. Values and principles will determine one's destiny, and the principles of a nation will do the same."

—ICTMN

## Native history, Bakken pipeline clash in Iowa

**ROCK RAPIDS, Iowa** — The planned route of the Bakken oil pipeline in northwest Iowa would lie near an area in Lyon County that archaeologists claim was the state capital for Native populations from 1500 to 1700.

The issue, however, draws sparse attention to a little-known area of rich historical and vital cultural significance, according to the Des Moines Register. An estimated 6,000 to 10,000 people lived 500 years ago in a vast complex of villages along Blood Run Creek and the Big Sioux River — the largest known in the Oneota cultural tradition and larger than any Lyon County town today.

"It's an amazing number for its time and is one of the biggest population aggregates in the Midwest," said John Doershuk, Iowa's state archaeologist.

A Dakota Access LLC pipeline construction permit for the area was issued in March by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. But a stop-work order followed because of possible disruption to a sacred site of the Sioux Tribe to the south of Blood Run. Officials with several government and tribal agencies are conducting an on-site investigation.

—Washington Times

## Tribes draft legislation to transfer Bison Range

**PABLO, Mont.** — The federal government is considering transferring the National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation (CSKT). Draft legislation for returning the range to federal trust ownership, which would continue bison conservation purposes and maintain public access to the wildlife refuge, has been prepared by the Tribes for Montana's congressional delegation.

The CSKT draft legislation comes after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service surprised many by informing CSKT Chairman Vernon Finley it would support a transfer — leading to a Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) lawsuit that maintains the federal agency failed to conduct necessary environmental reviews before doing so, filed in April.

PEER, along with 10 individual plaintiffs who include former Bison Range managers and employees, claimed the proposed CSKT legislation would contain no requirements for the Tribes to maintain the 18,500-acre Bison Range as a wildlife refuge or to admit the public, nor make any provision for the 350 to 400 bison who call it home.

The bill proposes the lands be

managed exclusively by CSKT, and "solely for the care and maintenance of the bison, wildlife, and other natural resources." It also gives the Tribes the right to re-name the refuge, "provided that the Tribes shall provide public visitation and education opportunities."

There are also provisions dealing with some financial matters, but no federal funding is provided for operating the Bison Range, although the proposed bill does call for the United States to provide sufficient funding for liability insurance covering tort actions filed by members of the public, "as long as public visitation is required by federal law for the lands transferred by this act."

Yet another clause appears to address PEER concerns that this could be the first step in the weakening or dismantling of the National Refuge System. It states that "the provisions of this act are uniquely suited to address the distinct circumstances, facts, history and relationships" involved with the Bison Range and local Indian Tribes.

"These provisions are not intended, and shall not be interpreted, as precedent for any other situation regarding federal properties or facilities."

The draft notes that the refuge was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, at a time bison were in grave threat of extinction, and the land for it on the Flathead Indian Reservation was removed from tribal control without tribal consent. The present herd, it says, descends from one started and maintained by tribal members in the late 19th century, and the animals are "no longer critically imperiled."

—missoulian.com

## Famed Catawba Chief Gilbert Blue dies at 82

**ROCK HILL, S.C.** — Legendary tribal leader Gilbert Blue was the driving force behind the Catawba Indian Nation's recognition by the respective governments of the South Carolina and the United States.

The popular Navy veteran known for his aggressive pressure for a better quality of life for his Tribe died of mesothelioma June 11. During his 30-year tenure as Chief (1973-2007), Blue brought the Tribe into the modern era with his leadership, grace, and knowledge, said those who knew him. He was the negotiator and tribal leader who fought to get the land grant settlement and other concessions for tribal members.

Blue and former U.S. Rep. John Spratt spent more than a decade working out the settlement after the Catawbas filed lawsuits claiming that hundreds of thousands of acres in York County and North Carolina were tribal lands. The Tribe settled for \$50 million in 1993 and has its 144,000-acre reservation in eastern York County that remains a cultural, social, and political jewel.

"The Tribe will forever owe a debt of gratitude to Chief Gilbert Blue for his leadership in paving the way to our 1993 Federal recognition and the changes that created for the Tribe," said current Catawba Chief Bill Harris in a written statement. "Gilbert will always be known for his friendly smile and love of music. You could still find him playing his guitar and singing at Tribal events, even after he left office. His loss will be felt throughout the Tribe, but his contributions will never be forgotten."

Blue was an accomplished bluesinger and musician whose folksy wit, humor, and charm never left his character, even in the heat of negotiation. He was an advocate for Catawba pottery and served for several years on the advisory committee for the South Carolina Folk Heritage Award.

The Catawbas have been the Native inhabitants of Carolina's Piedmont region for millennia. Yet, when Blue took over in 1973, the Tribe was in disarray, suffering a time of poverty and dissent after decades of struggle. Through Blue's forceful leadership, the Tribe gained recognition status in 1993 with its landmark land settlement. The Tribe is South Carolina's only federally-recognized American Indian Tribe.

—thestate.com

## World's smallest casino set up in Birmingham taxi cab

**BIRMINGHAM, United Kingdom** — It's the ultimate "deal on wheels" — a "poker people carrier" or "four wheels of fortune" that claims to be the world's smallest casino.

A unique, diesel gambling house vehicle was recently unveiled by Birmingham's Grosvenor Casino. The London cab boasts a gaming table, dealer, internet gambling facilities and a bar.

And, of course, several TVs screening sporting events.

The "cab casino" is touring major cities to promote the casino chain's 'playourway' campaign, a celebration of the extraordinary summer of sport. Passengers had the choice of being taken to the Hill Street, Birmingham casino free of charge, or be driven anywhere in the city for an optional donation to Careers Trust —

the company's chosen charity.

Jo Blundell, sales and marketing director at Grosvenor Casinos, told the Birmingham Mail: "We're thrilled to announce the launch of what we believe to be the world's smallest travelling casino and reward our loyal customers with some complimentary rides, as well as welcome some new faces."

—Birmingham Mail

## NM Tribes can ask for military flight restrictions

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** — New Mexico's 19 Native American Pueblo communities can now ask for temporary restrictions on military flights over their sacred land during special cultural events under an agreement signed on June 2 at Kirtland Air Force Base.

Reached between the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department and the state National Guard, the memorandum of understanding allows Pueblos to put in requests for temporary restrictions that a spokesperson for the state armed forces said will be honored if at all possible.

—www.Law360

## Seminole have say: Lake Townsen may receive a 'd'

**ISTACHATTA, Fla.** — Melba Peters Ward, the town of Istachatta's historian, has expressed a longtime desire to fix the spelling of the name Lake Townsen to reflect its historical name, Lake Townsend, originally named after Francis M. Townsend.

As a fitting tribute to Ward, a group of people have set out to correct the name of Lake Townsen, and apparently, it's not that easy.

With the assistance of Assistant County Administrator Ron Pianta, the United States Geographic Survey approved the Lake Townsen name change to Lake Townsend during a Hernando County Commission meeting.

The state of Florida further reported it does not have any issues with the renaming of Lake Townsen to Lake Townsend, but the Florida Department of Environmental Protection requested "proper recognition" of the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program on new signage created.

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names has informed the Seminole Tribe of Florida and The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, both of which have interests in Hernando County, that it is awaiting input from the Tribes on the potential name change.

If both Seminole Tribes accept this, then the name change will be reflected on search engines and online maps, such as Google. Lake Townsend will be displayed on new signs.

The process will most likely take several years, and some tough negotiation with the Seminole Tribes in Florida and Oklahoma, but eventually it is hoped Ward will get her wish and the "d" will be returned to Lake Townsend.

—hernandosun.com

## MGM seeks halt to Tribes gaming off reservations

In a June 1 letter obtained by The Hartford Courant, the National Indian Gaming Association wrote to key members of Congress on MGM Resorts International's efforts to seek legislation that would stop Indian Tribes from pursuing commercial gaming off reservations.

MGM is the developer of a \$950 million casino and entertainment complex being built in Springfield, Massachusetts.

"Our understanding is that MGM is pursuing this legislation in reaction to a joint venture between the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes that would present competition to MGM's proposed gaming facility in Springfield, Mass.," according to a letter, sent to leaders of the Senate's Committee on Indian Affairs.

The Connecticut Tribes, which operate Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun casinos, have formed a joint venture to operate a "satellite" casino in the Hartford area. The state legislature has approved the search for a location, but still must back the actual expansion of gaming off the tribes' southeastern Connecticut reservations.

—The Hartford Courant

## Tribe files suit over use of logo, slogan

The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina has filed a lawsuit against Anheuser-Busch after being "offended" at the company's usage of their Tribe's logo and slogan to promote its Budweiser and Bud Light products.

"As alcohol and drug abuse are often associated with Native American culture, the use of the Lumbee tribal brand and an image of a Native American dancer in an advertisement promoting an alcohol product is viewed as particularly offensive to Lumbee People," Tribal Chairman Harvey Godwin said in a statement.

The beer distributor R.A. Jeffreys

Distributing Company used the Tribe's logo — a circle divided into fourths and colored red, white, yellow, and black — and slogan — "Heritage, Pride & Strength" — as well as Native American imagery without receiving permission from the Tribe in advance as part of promotions in some North Carolina stores.

On June 9, the distributor received a telephone call from Lumbee Tribe officials where the Tribe objected to the advertisements, resulting in the distributor's removal of all Lumbee-inspired materials from displays.

—The Daily Caller

## First woman to chair Indiana Native American commission

**KOKOMO, Ind.** — A Kokomo, Indiana woman who has been a vocal advocate for Native American issues for more than three decades has been appointed the chair of the Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission.

Sally Tuttle was appointed by Gov. Mike Pence to chair the commission, which was started in 2003 to study and make recommendations on appropriating funding and solving issues related to the state's Native American population.

Tuttle, who has lived in Kokomo for more than 40 years, is a member of the Choctaw Nation, and she is the first woman to serve as the commission's chair — a position she will hold for at least two years.

Before 2003, she served on the Indiana Native American Council under Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

She will oversee the 14-member commission and lead its quarterly meetings in Indianapolis to discuss policies and funding to help the up to 60,000 Native Americans living in the state.

"You have to get everyone on the same page and try to find out what the Native American population wants," Tuttle said. "Not every Tribe has the same needs. It's about identifying the problems, and then finding solutions."

She said in her opinion, the biggest issue facing Native Americans right now are health related.

According to Indian Health Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Native Americans continue to die at higher rates than other Americans from chronic liver disease, diabetes, unintentional injuries, and intentional self-harm and suicide.

—Kokomo Tribune

## Team works on former Native American village

**CASS COUNTY, Ill.** — Work is wrapping up on the latest chapter of a project in Illinois to uncover an ancient civilization literally buried in a Cass County cornfield.

A large fortified village that existed from the mid-1100s for several centuries sits, waiting to be uncovered beneath the grounds of the former Lawrenz Gun Club site in the northwestern part of Cass County, just a stone's throw from the Sangamon River.

The village was inhabited by the Mississippians, a Native American culture. Perhaps the most famous example of a similar settlement in Illinois is the Cahokia Mounds in the Metro East. But, this is thought to be the largest Mississippian village in the Illinois River Valley.

Jeremy Wilson, of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, has been here since 2010 when the private landowners in the area gave him the green light to find out more about the mounds site that had been known about for decades.

"Most of our work over the past six years has been within the fortified village, and we've been doing, really, kind of two main things, of course, the archeology that you traditionally think about the square hole digging- we've also been doing remote sensing," he said. "This is a relatively new technology where we're able to visualize what's beneath the ground surface without actually having to move any earth. So, we run our devices over the ground surface, and we're actually able to see things that could not have been created through natural processes."

What's been discovered as a result has been various artifacts, and the archeologists are learning about Mississippian structure techniques.

Wilson noted there are "years" of potential research with the other structures that his team knows about but hasn't yet uncovered.

He said projects like this are only possible through the cooperation of private landowners like the ones whose property they have been on since mid-May.

"Building the trust and personal relationship with private landowners is essential to doing this kind of work," Wilson said.

"The other scenario in which a lot of archeological projects are done is modern development. The Illinois State Archeological Survey's work is oftentimes when roadways are expanded or rebuilt, or

a bridge is going across the river, a pipeline. All of those dictate impact assessments for both natural and cultural resources," he said.

As for what caused the decline of the village, Wilson said climate events and immigration could have been factors.

—WLDS-WEAI News

## House passes bill to improve Native American access to Healthcare

**WASHINGTON** — A bill to improve Native Americans' access to healthcare passed the U.S. House of Representatives.

The measure, sponsored by Michigan Congressman John Moolenaar, improves access to federal health savings accounts for Native Americans.

The Native Americans Health Savings Improvement Act eliminates a three-month waiting period for Native Americans to contribute to a health savings account after being treated at an Indian health clinic.

Moolenaar said if it's signed into law, it will promote health savings.

—9&10 News.com

## SCOTUS tie deemed victory for Tribes in Dollar General case

**WASHINGTON** — In a narrow victory for the nation's 567 federally-recognized tribal nations, the United States Supreme Court announced June 23 a 4-4 deadlock in Dollar General v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, which allows a 5th Circuit opinion in favor of the Tribe to stand.

Notwithstanding a petition for rehearing the case, the retail giant will be now subject to the tribal court's jurisdiction in a long-running case that had grave consequences for tribal civil jurisdiction for contracts and tort violations by non-Indians on Indian lands.

This case began in 2003 with an alleged sexual assault of a minor by the non-Indian manager of a Dollar General store on the Choctaw Indian Reservation in Mississippi. As a participant in the Tribe's Youth Opportunity Program, a 13-year-old boy was allegedly sexually assaulted several times on the job by the store's manager, Dale Townsend, according to court documents.

In Mississippi, although the federal government retains criminal jurisdiction over crimes committed on Indian reservations, the U.S. Attorney's office in Jackson declined to press charges against Townsend. The boy's parents sued Townsend and Dollar General for actual and punitive damages in the Tribe's civil court, whose court system and legal code are nearly identical to the state of Mississippi.

Townsend and Dollar General both immediately moved to dismiss based on their contention that the tribal court "lacked jurisdiction." While the Mississippi Choctaw Supreme Court, the District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals all held that the Tribe had no jurisdiction over Townsend since he is non-Indian. Dollar General, on the other hand, was a different matter.

In short, Dollar General had knowingly and willingly agreed to tribal jurisdiction when it became a lessee on Choctaw land a contract negotiated by both corporate and tribal legal teams. In asking the Supreme Court to overturn three lower court opinions that held that the discount retail chain had agreed to tribal jurisdiction, the case had far-reaching impacts for tribal courts across the country regarding the issue of civil torts and contract cases.

The deadlock, while rendering no precedent, effectively reaffirms and allows the Fifth Circuit's decision in favor of the Tribe to stand. After the decision was published, the mood at the Tribe's headquarters in Mississippi was described as "joyous."

"I am pleased to announce that today the U.S. Supreme Court issued its long-awaited decision, and the result does not deprive sovereign authority of our tribal courts to hear and issue a final ruling in a lawsuit brought by tribal members seeking to have their day in court," said Mississippi Choctaw Tribal Chief Phylliss J. Anderson. "Even though the Court was unable to reach a majority decision in our favor, I am grateful the result of the case nevertheless affirms the sovereign right of Indian tribes to assert civil jurisdiction against a non-Indian entity in certain circumstances. This is a positive outcome, not only for our tribe, but for all of Indian country."

—IndianCountryToday/MediaNetwork.com

Compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher and Copy Editor Stephanie Rodriguez.



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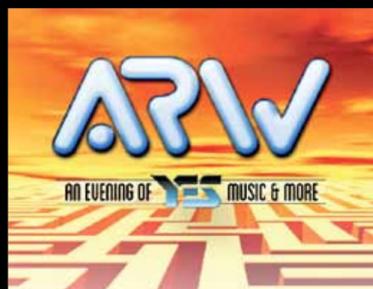
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# Education



## From start to finish, these students have seen it all at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter school's first kindergartners head to high school

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The first class to attend Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School from kindergarten through eighth grade buried a time capsule June 3 to commemorate its time at the Brighton school.

The capsule — which contains an eighth-grade class photo, students' journals and letters to themselves in 10 years, a class T-shirt, 2015-16 PECS sports photos and statistics and The Seminole Tribune — will be opened in 10 years.

"This is a happy and a sad day," Principal Brian Greseth told the students. "You're more than ready and well prepared. You've had an amazing nine years at this school and will realize it when you get to ninth grade."

As the students gathered in front of the school to bury the capsule, culture and language teacher Jade Osceola shared her thoughts with them.

"I look at you and see future Creek teachers, Tribal representatives, artists, writers and health care providers," Osceola said. "You were the first; our guinea pigs. You were the ones everyone was looking at to see how this school was going to turn out. We hold our heads high because we are truly proud to call you our first."

Next year will be their first in a large school. Many of the 34 graduates will attend Okeechobee or Moore Haven high school, which have ninth-grade classes of roughly 500 and 80 students, respectively, Greseth said.

"The people who planned this school made sure it was a public school, so you are prepared for that academically," Greseth said. "They also made sure you learned your language and culture. The reason we made this a small school with small classes is so you can be successful."

PECS has consistently scored in the top three, usually taking the top spot, of schools in the Heartland Educational Consortium which includes DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee counties.

When the time capsule was securely buried, the students and teachers walked to the gym, but it was no ordinary trek. The entire student body and faculty stood in the walkway applauding and congratulating the eighth graders as they passed.

After a slide show that documented the students' careers at PECS evoked a range of emotions — including laughter — culture awards and speeches were delivered.

"I congratulate you on your accomplishment and a mission well done," said Louise Gopher, one of the school's founders. "As we were planning, I wanted three things at this school; culture, language and breakfast. I knew you needed breakfast to get you ready to learn."

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. spoke from the heart as he addressed the students.

"You're living proof that this school does what it's supposed to do," he said. "From here on, things will get a little tougher, but you've got it. Don't forget who you are and where you come from. With that, you can hold your head high."

Taking all the reservations into account, the highest percentage of high school graduates come from Brighton, Greseth said.

"You can do it," he said. "You've had the classes, you are prepared. Just be sure to study and do the work. I hope to see you at your high school graduation."

After the program, students and their families celebrated with cake and camaraderie. Students posed for photos,



The first eighth grade class to spend their entire educational career at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton celebrates their graduation by burying a time capsule in front of the school June 3.

their last as a class at PECS.

"I'm happy and sad," said eighth grader Alaina Sweat. "We've been here a long time."

"I'm going to miss my friends and everything else," added eighth grader Julia Smith.

A group of boisterous boys rattled off a list of things they will miss about the school; the teachers, sports, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, friendships. But they were all looking forward to making new friends.

"I'm so proud of them," Osceola said. "It'll be hard for me to let them go. We are really going to miss this group."

### PECS 8TH GRADE CLASS

Alex Armstrong  
Blake Baker  
Waylynn Bennett  
Jarrett Bert  
Elijah Billie  
Jenna Brown  
Lucy Cypress  
Will Cypress  
Nyah Davidson  
Kaleb Doctor  
Keira French  
Sheldon Garcia  
Edward Gaucin  
Anthony Gentry  
Shyla Gopher  
Robert Harris  
Tucker Johns  
Jacee Jumper  
Tavis Jumper  
Drake Lawrence  
Silas Madrigal  
Justina Martinez  
Janessa Nunez  
Madisyn Osceola  
Aubrey Pearce  
Caillou Smith  
Julia Smith  
Kamani Smith  
Alaina Sweat  
Dante Thomas  
Jathan Tommie  
Alex Valdes  
Luzana Vencor  
Araya Youngblood



Above, PPECS graduating eighth-graders receive congratulations from the rest of the school's student body as they walk through the hallways to the gym for their graduation assembly June 3. Below, The graduating PECS eighth grade class pose patiently as family and friends snap photos of the monumental occasion June 3 in the school gym.



## Living the ACD experience: Focus shifts to Broadcasting Department

BY AARON TOMMIE  
Contributing Writer

June marks my ninth month working for the Tribune. I began working for Broadcasting earlier in the month. When I was in college, I only had minimal experience with videography, so I was extremely nervous when it came to operating the camera and some of the other equipment related to broadcasting. The only video program I had some experience with was Final Cut Pro 7. The Broadcasting Department

uses programs such as Prelude and Premiere Pro from the Adobe suite to work on videos. Also, Macs are used instead of PCs. Since I am accustomed to using a MacBook, the transition has not been as difficult as I would have expected.



Aaron Tommie

As was the case when I worked with the Tribune, the staff in Broadcasting has made me feel part of the team from the beginning. Within the first week I started, videographer David Diaz helped me operate one of the cameras and tested me on its functions. He answered my questions without hesitation, an example of the helpfulness I've experienced throughout the department. One aspect of the department that I appreciate is that most of us are around the same age, so we have similar interests.

My biggest assignment to date was when I videotaped a live streaming of a Tribal Council meeting in Big Cypress. My duty was to film speakers who would come up to the podium and address the Council as well as those in the audience. I was less than five feet away from the Council. The Broadcasting employees used headsets and microphones to help us communicate with each other during the meeting. This was crucial due to the fact that we were streaming live. I received instructions to help guide me toward a certain speaker or to simply make the camera's focus sharper.

This is indeed a process. Measurable progress is essential to my experience within the ACD program. I welcome any criticism with open arms. I am not the type of person that likes someone to always praise me, especially when my performance can improve. Since I can be my toughest critic, receiving positive feedback helps balance me out. Since I am a manager trainee, I do believe that I can sometimes put too much pressure on myself. I honestly just want to be the best that I can be.

Something I am extremely impressed with is the talent that exists throughout Seminole Media Productions. In the Tribune, that talent is evident through the awards its staff has won in the Native American Journalists Association. In Broadcasting, awards continue to rack up for Native Driven Network's documentary 7th Generation. I am very excited for the potential of Broadcasting's talent. I look forward to seeing what the future holds.

## Immokalee Boys & Girls Club shines thanks to Sherwin-Williams volunteers

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — To celebrate the fifth annual National Painting Week, 28 willing and able-bodied Sherwin-Williams volunteers painted the Immokalee Boys & Girls Club May 24.

With so many paint rollers and brushes working, the drab brown building was transformed quickly into a much lighter shade called sensational sand with jay blue trim. Club manager Patrick Shepard chose the colors and surprised the children with the change.

"They were excited; couldn't believe we changed the building," Shepard said. "They really like the blue. Then they just went on their way to doing what they were doing."

The volunteers were all Sherwin-Williams managers and sales representatives from stores in the area.

"We are trying to give back to the community and partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America," said John Anderson, the city manager of 20 stores in Naples and Fort Myers. "Our goal is to have all 4,000 stores in the U.S. and Canada participate in the project to give back to the community. We plan to donate about 10,000 gallons of paint."

It took about 25 gallons to finish the Immokalee building.

"A significant benefit of being associated with Boys & Girls Clubs of America is the access to "in-kind" goods and services," said Bryan Granie, Boys & Girls Club assistant director. "While these goods and services do not cost the Tribe anything, they carry significant value, which translates into real dollars."

Granie estimated the value of the new paint job at between eight and 10 thousand dollars. Before the volunteers showed up ready to work, Trafford Pressure Cleaning of Naples donated their services to prepare the building for a new coat of paint.

According to a company press release, throughout the week Sherwin-Williams employees would paint more than 275 non-profit locations in the U.S. and Canada, including Boys & Girls Clubs, churches, schools and other organizations.

Sherwin-Williams volunteers paint the Immokalee Boys & Girls Club May 24 as part of a nationwide effort to give back to the community.



## Jessica Motlow graduates from FSU

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Jessica Motlow went from a small, all-girls Catholic school in Tampa with fewer than 1,000 students to Florida State University, which has more than 40,000 students. Four years later, she is a graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Information, Communication and Technology.

"It was the best four years of my life," said Motlow, 22. "I was lucky to go to a high school that pushed college; we all had the mindset that we were going to college. If you are around people who think they can do it, you can too."

Motlow began her college career interested in the communications field, but took some computer coding and programming courses and learned she also likes information technology. Fortunately, FSU offers a major perfectly suited to her interests and strengths; information, communication and technology.

After graduate school, which she plans to attend next year, Motlow wants to use her skills for a career in marketing, information technology or a combination of both.

She wouldn't do anything differently and thoroughly enjoyed the college experience. Although Motlow knew students from her high school at FSU, she joined the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and made new friends. Through the sorority, she networked and learned about internship and job opportunities.

"I always had a place to go to eat and I met a lot of people," she said.

FSU is the fifth largest public university in the state, but Motlow was able to get to know all of her teachers, even in the largest classes. She also became part of the community of students in her major, who shared her attitude toward school.

Motlow was glad her younger brother Justin, a wide receiver on the football team, was at FSU with her and said it was nice to have family nearby. She will miss the college lifestyle and the school pride.



Jessica Motlow

"Everywhere you go its FSU Seminoles," Motlow said. "I enjoyed every aspect of the school."

But there were challenges along the way to her degree. The biggest was having a leg injury in the spring, which prompted her to take an online class instead of the same one in the classroom.

"It was harder and made it difficult to prioritize," Motlow said. "When you aren't going to class every day it's easy to forget things."

Time management, taking care of herself and getting the work done were the most important things Motlow learned early on.

"People think college is for partying, but you are there for the school," she said. "That is the biggest piece of advice I can give."

## Tampa Seminole Linda Lee Henry earns high school GED



Peter B. Gallagher

Recent graduate Linda Lee Henry holds her diploma while joined by Tampa Reservation administrator Richard Henry, left, Elder Services coordinator Lola Juarez and Bobby Henry on June 21.

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

TAMPA – The third try proved to be the charm for Seminole Tribal citizen Linda Lee Henry, who passed her General Education Development (GED) test and earned a high school equivalency diploma recently.

"I want to dedicate this honor to my parents (Bobby and Annie Henry) because they were always there for me with their love and support," she said at a gathering of family, friends and co-workers who filled the back of the Frontier Steak House on June 21 to celebrate the accomplishment of Linda, a popular Tampa senior crafts person and stomp dancer.

Born in the tiny cypress logging town of Copeland, in eastern Collier County, Linda Lee grew up in impoverished Indian camps and migrant-type housing as her family tried to eke out a living in the backwoods of Florida of the 1950s. She spoke only her native Mikasuki language as a child, "but I picked up English in school and just being around people who spoke it," she recalled. "By the time I was 9, I could speak it pretty good."

Linda Lee's time in public elementary schools was broken several times when her family would move to a new area, seeking work. She said she made it through a few

semesters at Naples High School, living with a Choctaw family while her family worked in the Bradenton farm fields.

"Then my dad came and got me when James Billie wanted us to move to Tampa," she said.

In the early 1980s, Chairman James E. Billie led an effort to commercially develop a few acres of vacant property east of Tampa, which had been designated federal trust property by the U.S. government as a reservation for the Seminoles City of Tampa. He brought medicine man Bobby Henry and his entire family to live on and manage the property.

"I had to come back and help my family. My father was the only one working and I was needed in the gift shop," Linda Lee said.

She remembers those early days proudly, especially her father operating a crane and driving in stock car races.

Over the years, as the tiny Tampa Reservation grew from village and zoo to bingo hall, hotel and, eventually the Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Linda Lee tried twice to get her GED.

"I love taking care of children and I knew I had to have a diploma to someday open up my own daycare center," she explained. "So I tried to go after my GED."

Distractions caused her to drop out of

the program the first time, then an illness caused her tutor to drop out the next time.

"Finally, my son came to me and said 'Let's both do it together'," she said with a smile, referring to her 18-year-old son Taryn. "He was having trouble in school, playing hooky, not doing his homework, so I said, 'Okay, let's do it!'"

It took several months, but both mom and son were successful, said Linda Lee, who credits the Tribal Department of Elder Services, headed by Lola Juarez, and her tutor, Dee Cawley, for their support and assistance in getting through the required math, English, science, social studies, reading and writing components required for the high school diploma certification. Linda Lee and Taryn now join daughter Jamey, who earned her high school equivalency diploma previously.

"One thing I learned that was absolutely true, and I wish all our children would remember this: It's never too late," said high school graduate Linda Lee Henry, Class of 2016. "It's never too late to go after your dreams. Look at me."

## Skyler Burke named to Troy University Chancellor's List

TROY, Ala. – Skyler Burke, from Brighton, was named to the Chancellor's List for the spring semester of the 2015-16 academic year at Troy University in Alabama. Full-time undergraduate students who are registered for at least 12 semester hours and who earn a grade point average of 4.0 qualify for the Chancellor's List.

Burke, a graduate of Moore Haven High School, is studying communications and public relations. She is a member of Alpha Delta Pi sorority.



Skyler Burke

## Council offices opens doors to Immokalee SWAMP youth

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — To give a group of Seminoles Without Addictions Make Progress (SWAMP) youth a glimpse at the business of running the Tribe, Immokalee Council Project Manager Pete Aguilar, Jr. invited the youngsters for a tour of his office May 27. He let each one sit at his desk and peer out the window overlooking the reservation.

"I can see everything from here," Aguilar said. "I'm passionate about this community and care about the people here. Everything we do benefits them."

The purpose of the tour was to let the kids know how much work goes into running the reservation, planning events and providing services for the community. But a more important message was a focal point of the tour.

"We want you to learn to be respectful here," said Johnny Boone, Immokalee liaison event coordinator.

"No matter what kind of office you are in, you have to be respectful and behave," added Aguilar. "The decisions we make here are with the entire community in mind."



Beverly Bidney

Youngsters from SWAMP check out the architectural plans for a community swimming pool, which is slated to be built in the next six months.

The kids listened intently as Aguilar and Boone outlined the process of making large and small decisions around the conference table in Aguilar's office. Everything from designing flyers for events to deciding what to build on the reservation are all made in the office.

SWAMP, a weekly prevention program designed as an outreach to youth, is led by the Center for Behavioral Health but is a collaborative effort of many tribal departments. Education, culture, health, fitness, recreation and Boys & Girls Club all participate to present activities, projects and incentive trips.

As an added treat during the visit, Aguilar pulled out a set of blueprints and

opened them on the table. The youth were thrilled when they saw the plans for a community pool. They asked when it will be finished and if they can swim in it any time they want.

The 50-by-30-foot pool should be completed in about six months. The hours will be posted and swimming will only take place with a lifeguard on duty.

Before the group left the field office, Aguilar and Boone presented them T-shirts with the Council seal on the back. Aguilar thanked them for listening and behaving so well.

"One day I hope to see one of you sitting in that chair," Aguilar said.

Beverly Bidney

Immokalee Council Project Manager Pete Aguilar, Jr. meets with members of the SWAMP youth group May 27 in his office, where he outlined what Council does for the reservation and its residents.



◆ **GRADUATION**  
From page 1A

Take advantage of what the Tribe offers.” She told the graduates not to be afraid of failure, to be proud of themselves and their heritage and to think of their ancestors. “We are still here thanks to our courageous grandparents of long ago,” Gopher said. “We make more of the future when we learn from lessons of the past.”

At Moore Haven High School, nine Seminole seniors received their diplomas May 27. Tyra Baker, Allison Gopher, Kalgary Johns, Donovan Osceola, Trista Osceola, Yopalakiyo Osceola, Dezmon Shore, Melody Urbina, and Robert Fudge accounted for about 17 percent of the 54-member graduating class. The graduation was held on the school’s football field and the graduates’ families and friends filled the stands at the May 27 commencement.

The Okeechobee High School graduating class filled the arena floor of the Agri-Civic Center June 4 as 335 students received their diplomas, including seven Tribal graduates. Lahna Baker, Michael Garcia, Rumor Juarez, Brydgett Koontz, Cheyenne Nunez, Royce Osceola, and Jayce Smith looked regal in purple caps and gowns as they accepted their diplomas.

In Everglades City, John Kyle Osceola Jr. and Donavin Osceola made the most of their one and only year at Everglades City School. Both seniors played for the school’s district championship basketball team. The team’s accomplishment was mentioned a few times during the graduation ceremony on June 3 in the school cafeteria.

John Kyle read a poem in front of a packed audience. Moments later, Donavin and a classmate led their fellow graduates in turning their tassels.



Beverly Bidney

Above, Moore Haven High School graduates celebrate four years of hard work before participating in the graduation ceremony May 27 on the school’s football field. From left are Robert Fudge, Donovan Osceola, Dezmon Shore, Yopalakiyo Osceola, Allison Gopher, Melody Urbina, Kalgary Johns, Trista Osceola and Tyra Baker.

Peter B. Gallagher

At right, Okeechobee High School graduates Cheyenne Nunez, Jayce Smith, Royce Osceola, Michael Garcia, Brydgett Koontz, Rumor Juarez, and Lahna Baker ham it up during their graduation ceremony June 4.



Kevin Johnson

John Kyle Osceola Jr. and Donavin Osceola get ready before graduation from Everglades City School.



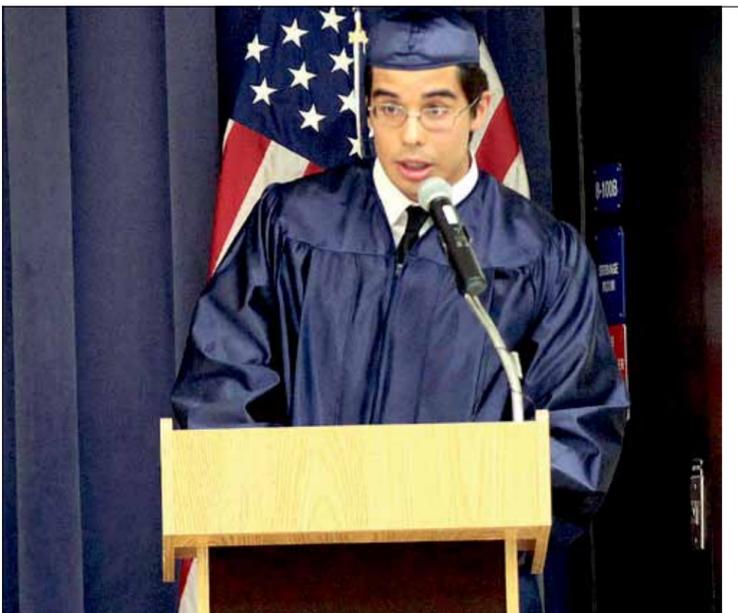
Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee School graduates Dalton Koenes, Eden Jumper, Tyrus Billie and Chelsey Alvarado gather the gifts they brought to give to important people in their lives as a token of their gratitude during the Ahfachkee School graduation in Big Cypress May 31.



Beverly Bidney

Graduates gather during the Moore Haven High School graduation May 27. At right, Allison Gopher, in the row behind her are Donovan Osceola, Dezmon Shore and Trista Osceola.



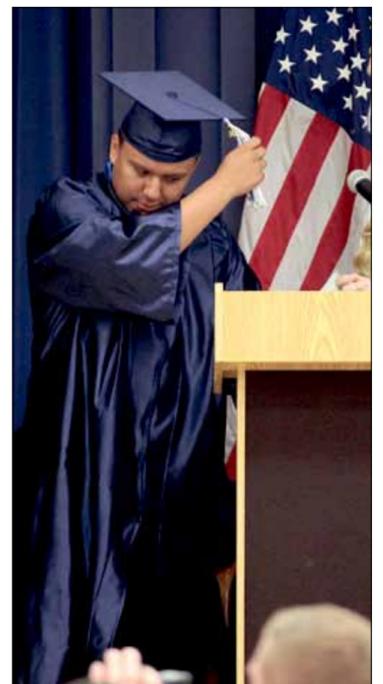
Kevin Johnson

John Kyle Osceola Jr. reads a poem during graduation ceremonies at Everglades City School.



Beverly Bidney

Each Ahfachkee School graduate went through the receiving line to receive congratulatory handshakes after collecting their high school diplomas. At left, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Skyla Osceola shakes Chelsey Alvarado’s hand.



Kevin Johnson

Donavin Osceola leads the class of 2016 at Everglades City School in turning their tassels.

# High School Graduates: Class of 2016

## Robert Fudge Moore Haven High School

**Post-secondary plans:** Robert plans to attend college, probably Indian River State College, and study welding.

**Aspirations:** Robert likes hands-on activities and wants to be a welder.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** "Do your homework, be honest and respectful."

**Inspiration:** Seeing other Tribal students graduate high school inspired Robert to do the same.

## Yopalakiyo Osceola Moore Haven High School

**Post-secondary plans:** Yopalakiyo plans to take a year off before he attends college for a degree in business.

**Aspirations:** Although he doesn't know what type yet, Yopalakiyo wants to own a business one day.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** "Don't leave everything until the last minute."

**Inspiration:** Yopalakiyo is inspired by his family.

## Donovan Osceola Moore Haven High School

**Post-secondary plans:** Donovan will attend Valencia College in Orlando to study business administration.

**Aspirations:** Donovan isn't sure, but thinks he may want to be a business owner in the future.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- not to procrastinate. Memory- Hanging out with his friends.

**Inspiration:** "Seeing all my family members graduate high school, I wanted to follow behind them."

## Trista Osceola Moore Haven High School

**Post-secondary plans:** Trista will attend Valencia College in Orlando and will study business administration.

**Aspirations:** Trista loves doing hair and make-up so cosmetology school may be on the horizon for her after college.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "Always turn your work in on time." Memory- "Getting out of class early because I had all my work done."

**Inspiration:** Trista was inspired by seeing her sisters earn their diplomas.

## Tyra Baker Moore Haven High School

**Post-secondary plans:** Tyra plans to move to Fort Lauderdale and attend Broward College and then transfer to Nova Southeastern University in Davie, where she plans to study psychology.

**Aspirations:** Tyra would like to help people in some way.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "Always keep your head held high."

**Inspiration:** Tyra is proud to be the first in her family to graduate high school.

**Inspiration:** She is inspired by being a role model for her siblings, "so they see they can do it too."

## Kalgary Johns Moore Haven High School

**Post-secondary plans:** Kalgary will attend Indian River State College and will study business administration.

**Aspirations:** She wants to be a successful businesswoman and open her own business on the Brighton reservation.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "To be yourself and never be afraid to do your own thing." Memory- Playing on the softball team.

**Inspiration:** Kalgary is inspired by her family.

## Melody Urbina Moore Haven High School

**Post-secondary plans:** Melody wants to do some traveling before enrolling in the Art Institute of Tampa to study culinary arts.

**Aspirations:** She would like to open a bakery.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "Not to let anyone tell you can't do something, because you always can."

**Inspiration:** Melody gets inspiration from her mother Michael Jean Jimmie.

## Allison Gopher Moore Haven High School

**Post-secondary plans:** Allison will attend Florida International University in Miami and study civil or mechanical engineering.

**Aspirations:** Allison wants to go into engineering

and help out her family in any way possible.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "You can't always get what you want, but be grateful for what you do get."

**Inspiration:** Allison is inspired by her Aunt Emma Urbina. "She's always pushing me to strive for better. She knows I can do better and she keeps me going."

## Dezmon Shore Moore Haven High School



**Post-secondary plans:** Dezmon would like to pursue something music-related and possibly learn to play guitar.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** "Being recognized for honors."

## Tyrus Billie Ahfachkee School



**Post-secondary plans:** After traveling to skate parks around the country, Tyrus may want to start his own skateboard company.

**Aspirations:** "I just want to skate."

**Inspiration:** Successful skateboarders, such as Chris Milic, Daewon Song and Geoff Rowley, inspire Tyrus.

## Dalton Koenes Ahfachkee School



**Post-secondary plans:** Following in his father's footsteps, Dalton will attend farrier school in Kentucky where he will learn to trim and shoe horses' hooves and become a blacksmith.

**Aspirations:** "I want to be a working man."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "Do what you have to do on time and don't waste time doing it." Memory- "This one, right now because I had doubts that I'd make it this far."

**Inspiration:** Dalton's mother Toi Koenes inspires him by showing "she can push through the dark days and I can too."

## Chelsey Alvarado Ahfachkee School



**Post-secondary plans:** Chelsey will attend Florida International University and study psychology.

**Aspirations:** She wants to help people by letting them know that people do care for each other.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "Always do your work, but have fun because high school goes by so fast."

**Inspiration:** Chelsey is inspired by her family. "I see how far they went and I want to go a step further."

## Eden Jumper Ahfachkee School



**Post-secondary plans:** After spending the summer at Florida International University, Eden will attend the Atlanta campus of the Savannah College of Art and Design.

**Aspirations:** Although he isn't sure what he wants to do with his education in art, Eden is considering production design, animation, being a tattoo artist or an art teacher. "You never know what direction you can go."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "Keep on going and don't settle for less. You want to look back and know you did well."

**Inspiration:** Eden's mother Carla Cypress has always pushed him to succeed. "She always said when you go to college, not if you go. She's not an 'if' kind of person."

## Wyatt Youngman Lake Placid High School



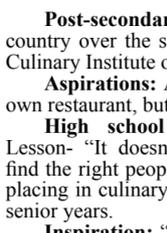
**Post-secondary plans:** Wyatt will attend South Florida State College in Avon Park and pursue a degree in citrus production technology.

**Aspirations:** Wyatt wants to be a citrus grower and is in the process of purchasing a 300-acre ridge orange grove in Lake Placid. "I want to just have a good life."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "If you work hard enough, you can get through anything." Memory- playing football, even though the team didn't have a winning record.

**Inspiration:** He is inspired by the people who are in the citrus industry.

## Ashlee Gopher New Smyrna Beach High School



**Post-secondary plans:** Ashlee will travel the country over the summer and then plans to go to the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York.

**Aspirations:** Ashlee wants to eventually own her own restaurant, but isn't sure what type.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "It doesn't matter who you are; once you find the right people, you will be accepted." Memory- placing in culinary competitions during her junior and senior years.

**Inspiration:** "My mom, Tonya Gopher. She set a good example for me growing up; I wouldn't be the person I am today without her."

## Cheyenne Nunez Okeechobee High School

**Post-secondary plans:** Cheyenne will attend Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers and play NCAA Division I softball for the Eagles.

**Aspirations:** "Right now I want to become a teacher because I love being around little kids. I can probably do middle school and elementary school; I don't know if I can do high school."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Memory- Playing varsity volleyball, basketball and softball for four years provided Cheyenne with her fondest memories. She hit a grand slam for her first high school home run and she made a game-winning layup at the buzzer to beat Moore Haven.

**Inspiration:** "I can thank my mom (Peggy) because she always pushed me every single night. My dad (Daniel Sr.) pushed me, too. If it wasn't for my parents telling me to keep up with my grades...they were always on me. I couldn't have done it without them."

## Rumor Juarez Okeechobee High School



**Post-secondary plans:** Rumor will attend Florida International University and study elementary education.

**Aspirations:** She would like to be a teacher at Pemaquid Charter School in Brighton.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- to never procrastinate. Memory- playing softball and being in the band's color guard.

**Inspiration:** Rumor's inspiration comes from her mother Wendi Snow. "She's always been my biggest fan and pushed me hard this year. She made me think I could do it."

## Amber Alvarado High Frontier High School, Ft. Davis, Texas

**Post-secondary plans:** Amber will attend Boca Beauty Academy in Boca Raton and learn about make-up.

**Aspirations:** Amber plans to be a make-up artist.

**Inspiration:** "Being motivated to have a good career inspires me."

## Alphonso Alvarado Jr. Vanguard School, Lake Wales

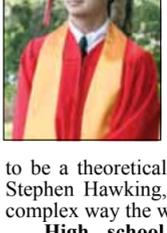
**Post-secondary plans:** Alphonso will attend Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers for his associate's degree and then transfer to Florida Gulf Coast University. He plans to study early childhood education.

**Aspirations:** Alphonso wants to work at the Boys & Girls Club or be a physical education teacher or work with children with disabilities. "At Vanguard I was told I'm a natural with kids and that I have patience."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- Alphonso learned he is an optimist and a happy person. Memory- his involvement in pep rallies. "One day I started doing cartwheels during a pep rally to get the school spirit up. I'm known as the pep rally hype man."

**Inspiration:** While working at the recreation department during the summer, Alphonso was inspired by how hard they worked for the kids. "I liked having the kids look up to me, too and look forward to working with children in the future."

## Trystan Yzaguirre LaBelle High School



**Post-secondary plans:** Trystan will attend Florida SouthWestern State College for his associate's degree and then transfer to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study physics.

**Aspirations:** Trystan wants to be a theoretical physicist, like Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking, and create theories to explain the complex way the world works.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "Manage your time well. If you let things get away from you and everything is due at once, it can bring down the quality of your work." Memory- attending football games as a drum major in the marching band.

**Inspiration:** Trystan, who has Cystic Fibrosis, is inspired by his mother Donna Yzaguirre. "My mom lost my dad when she was pregnant with me, but she took care of me and made sure I stay healthy."

## Corrine Zepeda Golden Gate High School, Naples



**Post-secondary plans:** Corrine will attend the University of Akron, in Akron Ohio, and will study sports medicine.

**Aspirations:** After Corrine earns her BS in sports medicine she wants to get a master's degree in physical therapy. "As an athlete, I always got physical therapy. I want to be able to give that back to others."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** To use my resources to the best of my ability. There are a lot of people who are willing to help you, you just have to ask." Memory- traveling to Akron with her parents; it was important to Corrine that they both see the university and approve it.

**Inspiration:** "My grandfather who passed away when I was 7. He was one of the best people I ever met; he was very kind, loving and willing to help anyone."

## Sierra Bowers The Vanguard School, Lake Wales

**Post-secondary plans:** Sierra will attend iTech Immokalee Technical Center and study cosmetology and veterinary services.

**Aspirations:** Sierra wants to work with animals because she doesn't want to see them hurting.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "To not think I can do it all on my own. Sometimes I thought I didn't need help, but I really did." Memory- Staying in the dorms with her friends.

**Inspiration:** Sierra has always been inspired by her mother Glennis Bowers. "She's always pushed me in the right direction."

## John Lamb Clewiston High School

**Post-secondary plans:** John wants to find a job as a heavy equipment operator.

**Aspirations:** He isn't sure what he ultimately wants to do, but he will start by working heavy equipment, which he has done before and enjoys.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- Getting motivated to push forward and finish high school. Memory- "Grad night at Universal Studios Orlando; it was cool."

**Inspiration:** John is inspired by his family and teachers who encouraged him to keep up the good work in school.

## Blevyns Jumper, 19 American Heritage School, Plantation

**Post-secondary plans:** Blevyns will attend Ranger College in Ranger Texas on a rodeo scholarship.

**Aspirations:** He may decide to study in Texas after he graduates to rodeo, maybe get a ranch, study to be an equine veterinarian or a welder. Blevyns would like to have cattle, but wants to have time for a family as well.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "My best memory of high school is probably going to grad bash and having fun with some of my friends and family."

**Inspiration:** Blevyns is inspired by his parents Joshua and Andrea Jumper. "My father is the father everybody wants to have."

## Jackie Willie American Heritage School, Plantation

**Post-secondary plans:** Jackie plans to take a gap year before embarking on college, preferably Florida International University in Miami to study hospitality management.

**Aspirations:** "I'd like to get my degree in hospitality management and then work my way up through management at Hard Rock."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "American Heritage is a really good school. To say you graduated from there, you say it with pride; I know I do."

**Inspiration:** Jackie credits his grandmother, Nancy Willie, as being his inspiration. "Ever since I was 4, I was raised by grandma. She really pushed me. I don't know what I'd do without her."

## Natomah Robbins American Heritage School, Plantation

**Post-secondary plans:** Natomah would like to attend the Tom Savini Special Make-up Effects Program in Pennsylvania in 2017.

**Aspirations:** Natomah wants to work in special effects, including make-up, animation and sculptures. One of her goals is to work in movies.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Memory- Prom and graduation were among Natomah's favorite memories. "Most of the stuff that happened senior year."

**Inspiration:** Ms. Dawson, a fine arts teacher, was an inspiration for Natomah, who worked as stage make-up crew chief for plays.

## Marsha Osceola American Heritage School, Plantation

**Post-secondary plans:** Marsha will attend the University of West Florida in Pensacola. She plans to get an undergraduate degree in psychology and also pursue a doctorate in psychology.

**Aspirations:** Marsha said she would like to work with the Tribe and Indian Health Services. "My goal would be to have my own practice and to be a vendor for the Tribe for mental health services."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "Don't be afraid to be yourself."

**Inspiration:** "My mom always made sure I had all the tools to get through high school."

## Elizabeth Osceola Youngker High School, Buckeye, Arizona

**Post-secondary plans:** Elizabeth will attend the University of Oregon and plans to study journalism.

**Aspirations:** Elizabeth decided she wanted to become a journalist after attending a Seminole Media Productions workshop a few years. Her goal is to work for a magazine.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Memory- Elizabeth said being a writer for her high school newspaper provided her with good memories.

**Inspiration:** "My mom (Shannon Osceola) was definitely there for me. She never let me doubt my abilities. She encouraged me and without her I wouldn't be pursuing what I am."

# High School Graduates: Class of 2016

**Carson Knaby**  
NSU University School

**Post-secondary plans:** Carson will attend Auburn University in Alabama and study agricultural business and communications.

**Aspirations:** "I want to help western Tribes with their agricultural needs and boost their agricultural economy. I'd like to teach them how to use their land better and I also want to work with and help the Tribe here."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Memory- "All the friends I made."

**Inspiration:** Carson credits her mom, Joletta John-Carney, with helping her through high school. "She was always supportive and supported everything I did and pushed me."

**Raevin Frank**  
NSU University School

**Post-secondary plans:** Raevin plans to attend Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville. She would like to major in physical therapy.

**Aspirations:** Having knee surgery helped steer Raevin toward considering physical therapy as a career. "My personal physical therapist inspired me to learn more about the human body and to help others."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson - Raevin said a big booklet about anatomy from her teacher will help in her college studies.

**Inspiration:** Raevin said her parents and her anatomy teacher helped her through her high school years.

**Timmy Cox II**  
Pine Crest School

**Post-secondary plans:** Timmy will attend Ole Miss in Oxford, Mississippi. He plans to be a business major and would like to play intramural sports.

**Aspirations:** "Hopefully I can come back and contribute to the Tribe in some fashion."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- Timmy's best memory was serving as a captain of the football team in his senior year. He also played on the basketball and weightlifting teams.

**Inspiration:** Timmy credits his parents, Tim and Amy, with helping him succeed in high school. "My parents helped me tremendously. They came to all my sports events. They made sure I did my work."

**Jonathan Boromei**  
Okeechobee Christian Academy

**Post-secondary plans:** Jonathan isn't sure what direction he will go in life, but he is trying to figure it out.

**Aspirations:** "I don't have an occupation in mind, but I've always wanted to be a father one day so I could raise (children) and steer them on the right path."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson- "Perseverance builds character and you can always overcome things if you have help from the right people." Memory- laughing with his friends and making light of serious situations to make them easier to get handle.

**Inspiration:** "My mom, Theresa Frost Nunez. She told me high school is necessary to accomplish. I was never that motivated, but she pushed me. So did my big brother Joshua Boromei."

**Tyson Osceola**  
NSU University School

**Post-secondary plans:** Tyson will attend Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. He plans to study audio engineering.

**Aspirations:** As one-third of the successful Osceola Brothers band, Tyson would like to have a career in music, preferably as a performer.

**Inspiration:** "My teachers and my parents pushed me to get good grades."

**Sharka Frank**  
Divine Academy School

**Post-secondary plans:** Sharka plans to attend Broward College of Nova Southeastern University.

**Aspirations:** Sharka, who was valedictorian of her class, would like to be a veterinarian, zoologist, or a speech therapist.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Memory- Sharka's favorite high school memory was when she and her friend Hannah won second place on field day.

**Inspiration:** My inspiration was my teacher Mrs. O'Connor because she taught me how to do math and grammar in a way that I understood it.

**John Kyle Osceola Jr.**  
Everglades City School

**Post-secondary plans:** John Kyle plans to attend Universal Technical Institute in Orlando.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Memory- John Kyle's favorite memory was being the "sixth man" on the basketball team in his senior year and winning a district championship, something the school had not accomplished in more than 20 years.

**Inspiration:** John Kyle's inspiration came from his teachers and family members.

**Donavin Osceola**  
Everglades City School

**Post-secondary plans:** Donavin would like to attend the University of West Florida for engineering.

**Aspirations:** Donavin isn't sure yet what path he will pursue for a career.

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Memory- Donavin's favorite memory was helping the boys basketball team capture a district championship. He played point guard and was among the team's leading scorers.

**Inspiration:** Donavin said his grandmother was a source of inspiration for him to do well in school.

**Kathlyn Jo Kippenberger**  
Paladin Academy

**Post-secondary plans:** Kathlyn will attend the University of Mississippi and focus on Pre-Dentistry.

**Aspirations:** "My career aspirations are to eventually become a certified dentist, open my own practice, be financially secure, provide a steady and more than generous income to my future family, and to overall love what I do, and love how I live."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Lesson - "A lesson I reckon I will always remember is that everything comes to pass eventually. In the moment, a certain conflict may feel like the end of the world, but with a little time it will blow over and you're none the wiser."

**Raymond Philpott Jr.**  
Sequoyah High School, Tahlequah, Okla.

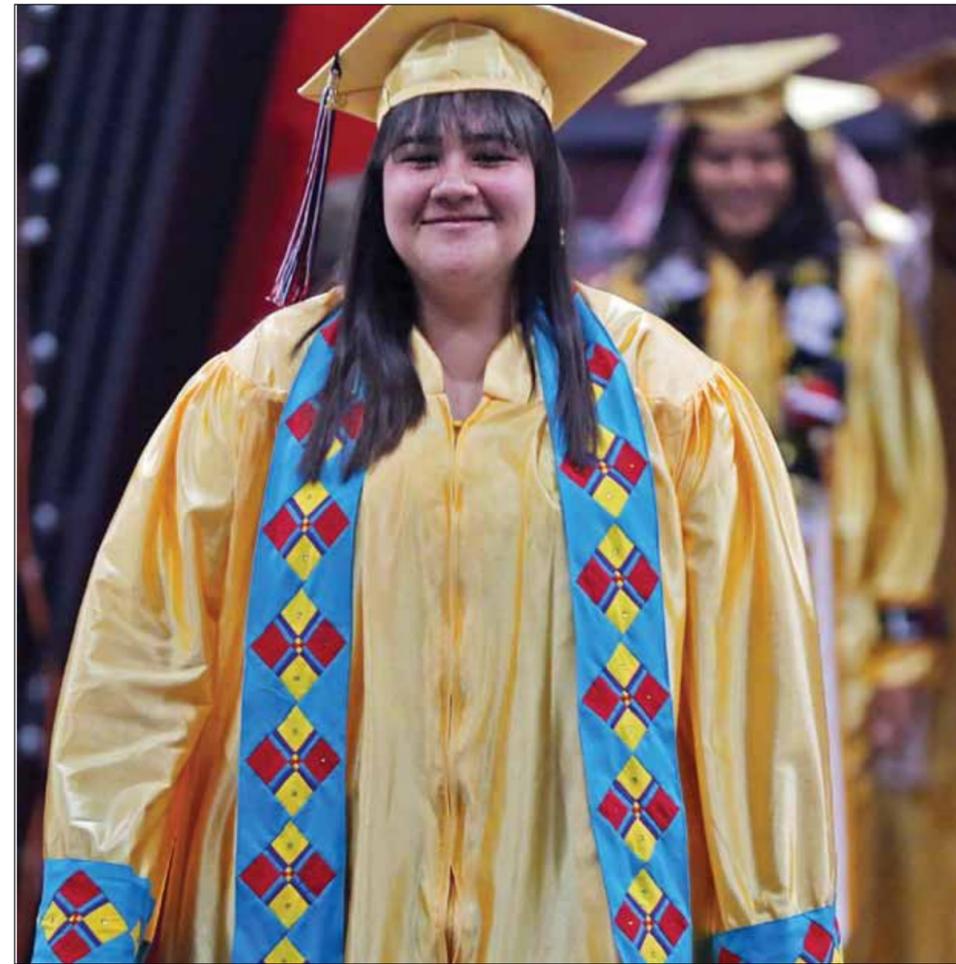
**Post-secondary plans:** Raymond will take one year off to figure out his college plans. He is interested in culinary, business management, IT repair and voice acting

**Aspirations:** "I just want to excel in one of the areas I am currently researching."

**High school lessons learned/best memory:** Memory- Raymond said he has good memories from working on the staff of the school yearbook.

**Seminole Tribe of Florida's additional graduates:**

- Kenny Davis Jr.
- Destinee Jimmie
- Lauren Posada
- Rheannon Robbins
- Cleofas Yzaguirre
- Victoria Osceola
- Leisset Baker
- Devan Bowers
- Ethan Cypress
- Kanavis Cypress
- Alexander Escobar
- Damion Frank
- Taylor Holata
- Shania Johns
- Nathaniel Jim
- Lauren Jim
- Gerret Osceola
- Royce Osceola
- Jade Young
- Kaylene Osceola
- Christopher Alexander
- Callie Joe
- Knananochet Osceola
- Dorian Jumper
- Christina Clark
- Kanika Walkingstick
- Lizzie Buck
- Jobe Johns
- Lahna Baker
- Michael Garcia
- Brydgett Koontz
- Jayce Smith
- Royce Osceola



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee graduate Chelsey Alvarado walks to the stage during the Ahfachkee graduation ceremony May 31 in Big Cypress.

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# PECS students welcomed into National Junior Honor Society

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — By accepting induction into the National Junior Honor Society, 51 Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students on May 25 pledged to give unsparingly of their time and energy toward the promotion of all school activities, strive to be model students, never bring reproach upon their school and uphold the high purpose of the NJHS by making its ideals their own.

Founded in 1929, the NJHS recognizes and honors students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, service, leadership,

character and citizenship and challenges them to further develop their involvement in school activities and community service.

The exemplary students recited the NJHS Pledge before family and teachers prior to receiving their pins, plaques and certificates from Principal Brian Greseth.

"These students are smart because they practice, work hard and study for tests," he said. "Parents, aunts and uncles; you have instilled a sense of pride in academics and it shows."

Greseth announced the PECS scores in the 2016 Florida Standards Assessment, which showed 65 percent of third grad-



Sisters Shaela, Keira and Janaya French show off their certificates and plaques inducting them in the National Junior Honor Society after a ceremony at PECS May 25.



Josiah Johns poses for a photo with his National Junior Honor Society certificate and plaque after receiving them in a ceremony at PECS May 25. With him are Helene Buster, Marty Johns and Willie Johns.

ers scored at level three or higher. In the other schools in the Heartland Educational Consortium- consisting of schools in DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee counties- only 54 percent scored as high.

"We are extremely proud of our academics and this goes to show hard work does pay off," Greseth said. "Please keep up the good work."

Emcee Kamani Smith, who has earned NJHS membership for five years, had help onstage from fellow NJHS students Jenna Brown, Luzana Venzor, Kaleb Doctor and Edward Gaucin who made sure each student received the correct awards. Guidance counselor Jennine Gran gave each inductee encouragement as they waited in the wings for their moment of honor.

After the ceremony, families converged for hugs and photos. Joanne Osceola attended the ceremony to support three of her grandchildren - Janaya, Shaela and Keira French - who recently moved to Brighton from Ohio and transitioned successfully to their new school.

"I'm so proud of them," she said.

## Education Expo to be held Aug. 5

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**DAVIE** — To help students succeed in school and beyond, the Education Department will showcase colleges, universities, trade and technical schools at the Education Expo August at Signature Grand in Davie.

Approximately 30 schools will have information and staff to give students an understanding of the institutions' programs. Tribal departments will also share information about their functions.

"We want to give students the opportunity to see what each department does," said Edward Amador, Higher Education program manager. "We are trying to match up educational opportunities with employment opportunities. That's how we can drive someone for success."

Workshops on interviewing skills, resume writing, how to choose the right college, and whether to attend college in person or online, will be featured at the Expo. Keynote speakers will be announced soon.

The expo's goal is to show students the latest educational and professional programs, industry trends, and technology that are available to them.

Amador believes Tribal students have the unique opportunity to do what they want to do because they want to do it, not because they have to. But it is important that they participate in the expo so they can understand where their interests lie.

"They can make the right decision based on their passion," said Amador. "We can outline an education based on their interests. Sometimes people pick the wrong school or program and drop out. If from the beginning you get the right fit, (success) will happen."

The Education Expo will be held Aug. 5 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Signature Grand is located at 6900 W. State Rd. 84, off I-595, in Davie.

## Tampa students earn honors

**BRANDON** — Three young students from the Tribe's Tampa community earned academic honors for the 2015-16 school year at Brandon Academy. Nigel Osceola earned recognition by the President's Education Awards Program. Avery Miller made the honor roll and the citizenship honor roll. Desmond Miller made the honor roll.



From top to bottom, Nigel Osceola, Avery Miller and Desmond Miller.

## Ahfachkee celebrates kindergarten class

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS**—Twenty three fidgety members of the high school class of 2028 jump started their future during a kindergarten celebration June 1 at the Ahfachkee School.

The proud now former kindergartners lit up the cafeteria with their energy and enthusiasm as they performed songs and accepted their certificates, which were presented by kindergarten teachers Renee Barry and Brenda Hummingbird.

"Congratulations for getting this far," said Josh Jumper, Big Cypress Council Rep Administrative Manager. "Continue to be good kids; the future is very bright for you guys."

Big Cypress Board Rep Joe Frank addressed the parents in attendance.

"These kids are young and open to learning," he said. "Push them to stay in school and finish."

The 2015-16 Ahfachkee kindergarten enrollment was so large it was divided into two classes. Barry and Hummingbird guided the students through their first year of academics, while reaping the benefits of teaching.

"They can make your day with just a hug," said Hummingbird said.

During the celebration, many of the young students struggled to remain focused. For some, the paper tassel on their caps proved to be a distraction, others contorted their bodies in the chairs yet still remained seated, some waved to family and friends,



Siya Osceola receives her certificate for completing kindergarten June 1 at the Ahfachkee School kindergarten celebration.

and others, the quiet ones, paid close attention.

After a rousing performance of "I am a Promise" at full volume, Pastor Salaw Hummingbird, of Big Cypress First Baptist

Church, gave the commencement speech.

"Our kids are very important to us," he said. "They are all different but the bible says we are all fearfully and wonderfully made. They speak from their hearts and you

never know what they will say. Every one of these kids is very special; like the song, they are a promise from God."

## Miccosukee Indian School honors graduates



The Miccosukee Indian School held a ceremony in May to honor its graduates from the senior (high school) class as well as kindergarten, 5th grade and 8th grade. Above left, the seniors, Nathaniel Jim, Kaylene Osceola, Jack Tahchawwickah and Margie Tortice receive recognition. Above right, Nathaniel Jim shows plenty of emotion during the ceremony. At right, the kindergarten class gets ready for their graduation.



# Sports



## Three-sport standout Cheyenne Nunez concludes Okeechobee High career with 12 varsity letters

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BRIGHTON** — As Cheyenne Nunez sat on a picnic bench wearing her purple Okeechobee High letter jacket near the ball fields on the Brighton Reservation, a voice from hundreds of yards away pierced the quiet late morning.

"Hi Cheyenne," yelled the student from far across the complex.

Cheyenne responded back with a "hi" even though not certain who the greeting came from.

The voice belonged to a Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School student, who knows who Cheyenne Nunez is, like so many of the students at the K-8th grade school.

It seems everyone knows Cheyenne, whether it's on the Brighton Reservation, where she grew up; at Okeechobee High School, where she starred for four years as a multi-sport athlete; and in the town of Okeechobee, thanks in part to having a feature layout about her in Okeechobee The Magazine this spring.

Such recognition didn't come easy, but as Cheyenne pointed out, the sacrifices she made to maintain a 3.5-plus grade point average while playing three varsity sports for four years — the only student in the entire Okeechobee High class of 2016 to earn 12 varsity letters — have been worth the price.

"You're so focused on academics and athletics that you lose time with your friends, you lose time with your family. It's hard," she said. "It is a struggle. You have to have the heart for it."

Cheyenne has been a standout on the varsity volleyball, basketball and softball teams, so it came as no surprise that she was named the "Most Athletic" girl in her class, a recognition she didn't take lightly.

"I was very honored to get that," she said.

In addition to the bevy of varsity letters, which fill the left sleeve on her jacket, the daughter of Peggy and Daniel Nunez Sr. also earned Scholar Athlete patches in every sport. There's just not enough room on the jacket for all the accolades.

Between digs, dribbles and doubles, not to mention a year spent as Junior Miss



Cheyenne Nunez, shown here on the Brighton Reservation, juggled three varsity sports and academics for four years at Okeechobee High School.

Kevin Johnson

took a deep breath and said I can do this."

Behind Cheyenne, Okeechobee rallied. "I went back in and hit about four 3-pointers and caught us back up," she said.

But Okeechobee trailed by a point with

about three seconds left and didn't have the ball. That's when Cheyenne's determination once again emerged at a critical moment. She stole an inbounds pass from a fellow Seminole on Moore Haven, drove to the basket and

made a buzzer-beating layup to win the game for Okeechobee in Moore Haven's 'old barn,' which on that night was packed because the girls game was sandwiched between the boys junior varsity and varsity games.

Cheyenne punched her ticket to Fort Myers when she signed this spring to play NCAA Division I softball for Florida Gulf Coast University. A new town, new team, new school means new goals, but some goals



Kevin Johnson

Cheyenne Nunez returns the ball during a volleyball match for Okeechobee High School.

Florida Seminole and all the duties for the Tribe that the title carries, how did Cheyenne not allow her grade point average or batting average to slip?

"Balancing was very difficult," she said. "The only way I got through it was probably motivation, the heart and passion for the game and knowing that I wanted to play college ball in either volleyball or softball."

Although volleyball and softball were her top sports in high school, basketball provided one of the fondest memories for Cheyenne. In a game against Moore Haven in her sophomore season, Cheyenne and the rest of her teammates found themselves staring at a large deficit.

"During the first half, I was horrible. I was so bad. My dad left because he was so mad at me. I was upset. During halftime I was crying," Cheyenne recalled. "I went outside,



Kevin Johnson

Cheyenne Nunez handles shortstop duties for Okeechobee High School during her senior season in 2016.



Kevin Johnson

Cheyenne Nunez takes a jump shot during her senior season on the Okeechobee High School girls basketball team in the 2015-16 season.

won't change for Cheyenne because she knows all those eyes back home that look up to her will be following her college career.

"It's been a really good four years and I'm going to miss [Okeechobee High]," she said. "Okeechobee is just one step. I've got to move on and move forward and set higher goals and bigger dreams and I've got to accomplish them because I know a lot of people and a lot of the younger kids are looking up to me. Even though they probably think I don't know who they are, I know a lot of them."

"That's my goal, to make this Tribe proud, to make Okeechobee proud, and to make these little kids have someone to look up to."

# Big Cypress hosts Memorial Day tournament

## STAFF REPORT

**BIG CYPRESS** — Thirteen basketball teams filled Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress on May 21 for the Memorial Day Basketball Tournament. Age groups included 9-11, 12-14 and 15-18. Led by Ethan Cypress, Ethan's Team won the 15-18 boys championship with players from Hollywood and Big Cypress. Cedrick's Team, from

Hollywood, captured the boys 12-14 title. On the girls side, Native Elite, from Hollywood, won the middle school division while the Lady Seminoles, from Big Cypress and Immokalee, finished runner-up. In the coed group, Brighton's Little Hustlers won the championship for ages 9-11. All teams in the tournament were Tribal.



Cedrick's Team (Hollywood): 1st place boys 12-14



Native Elite (Hollywood): 1st place girls middle school and high school



Little Hustlers (Brighton): 1st place coed 9-11



Native's (Big Cypress): 3rd place boys 12-14



Seminole Warriors (Big Cypress): 3rd place boys 15-18



Ethan's Team (Hollywood and Big Cypress): 1st place boys 15-18

Photo courtesy Big Cypress Recreation Dept.

# Clinic helps players prep for Jim Thorpe All Indian Games

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — DeForest Carter's abundance of energetic enthusiasm for basketball — as a player and an instructor — could stretch from coast-to-coast. Even though the former Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University star is too old to compete in the Jim Thorpe All Indian Games, he still hopes to make an impact for Seminole teams when they venture to Southern California July 17-22.

Carter, 23, led a four-hour clinic June 24 for about 25 youngsters who will represent the Tribe at the Jim Thorpe event. Who better to deliver advice about defense than Embry-Riddle's all-time leader in steals.

"Offense sells tickets," Carter said during a water break at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress, "but defense is going to win you the championships."

Defense was the emphasis for a big chunk of the clinic as Carter and 6-foot-8 Nathan Lang stressed the important aspects and responsibilities of guarding opponents.

"I want them to take a little something home with them; one tidbit here, a defensive principle," Carter said. "I feel like in today's game defense is way undervalued. Just to be that defensive stopper can get you a scholarship somewhere. Some guys on my team (at Embry-Riddle) were defensive stoppers."

"Defense will get you a spot on any team," said Lang, a member of the Muskogee Creek Nation who moved to Big Cypress about five months ago. "If you can play defense, you can play. If you can't play defense, nine times out of 10, you won't play, unless you're just a pure shooter."

Carter and Lang play in Native tournaments together. Both enjoyed successful college careers. Carter was an NAIA All-American at Embry-Riddle. Lang started his college career at the University of Arkansas and transferred to Pittsburg State in Kansas.

Lang has played in pro leagues in Germany and Switzerland. He said the peaceful environment in Big Cypress reminds him of where he grew up in Oklahoma.

"I like it. I'm from Oklahoma, so I like country, laid back. I don't really like big cities," he said.

Even though he was at least a foot taller than most of the kids at the clinic, Lang hopes his message doesn't go over their heads.

"I hope that they get that if you want to play basketball you just can't say I want to play basketball," he said. "You've got to come out and work at it and you've got to do the little things to make yourself better. You can't just work on special moves."

The Tribe is expected to bring five basketball teams to the Jim Thorpe games. Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood will each have a boys team; girls will be represented by a team from Hollywood and one from Big Cypress and Immokalee.

Ramone Baker, 12, will play for the Brighton boys team. He said learning from Carter, one of the most accomplished athletes in the history of the Tribe, will help.

"He's a role model," Ramon said.

When Carter was in high school, he played in Jim Thorpe and the Native American Basketball Invitational. He said playing against different Tribes helped improve his game.

"It was great to see different styles of play. I stole some styles from them. Navajos, they like to run and gun. Taking little things



Kevin Johnson

Former college standout DeForest Carter, background, provides instruction to kids June 24 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress as the Tribe prepares to send five youth teams to the Jim Thorpe All Indian Games July 17-22 in California.

from other Tribes is great," he said.

When East meets West at Jim Thorpe, Carter wants to make sure the kids compete as hard as they can, but also enjoy their trip.

"Have fun," Carter said. "You're going to California. We're on the East Coast and

you're going all the way to the West Coast. Go have some fun, but represent our Tribe and show that we play hard over here on the East side, too."

The Games are scheduled to be held at Rincon Reservation in Valley Center,

Pala Reservation in Pala, and Pechanga Reservation in Temecula. Other sports slated to be held include softball, volleyball, track and field, archery, cross country, golf, tennis and wrestling.



Kevin Johnson

Ramone Baker provides tough defense during a clinic June 24 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.



Kevin Johnson

Youngsters practice for the Jim Thorpe All Indian Games June 24 during a clinic at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.

# Campers have fun in the sun on BC

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — In an effort to get active children outside for some summertime fun, on June 23 the Big Cypress and Immokalee recreation departments teamed up for a day of competitive activities on the BC ball field.

The day's line-up included sack races, games of capture the flag, a shaving cream fight and a challenge where the kids had to find toys in the bottom of a pool of slime. A break for homemade healthy smoothies gave the youth some respite from the sun.

"We want them to learn how to interact with each other," said Dennis Gonzales, Immokalee Recreation supervisor. "They are pretty much all family and they don't travel from res to res that much."

Tribal recreation departments are busy with camp this summer, but most activities are held inside the gyms. The camps tribal wide meet weekly for competitive games pitting res against res.

"We want to get them out of the air conditioning and outside at least one day a week," said fitness specialist Neil Prager.

After the 90-degree heat and sunshine, the campers lined up for some cool refreshment. Prager made smoothies kids



Beverly Bidney

During a game of Capture the Flag, it was every person for him or herself as they tried to grab each other's flags during recreation camp for Big Cypress and Immokalee youth in Big Cypress June 23.



Beverly Bidney

Kids take advantage of summertime to have some fun on the Big Cypress ball field at camp sponsored by the Big Cypress and Immokalee recreation departments June 23. Activities included sack races, capture the flag, shaving cream fight and a slime challenge.

would enjoy, such as peanut butter and chocolate, peanut butter and jelly and a classic strawberry banana. The smoothies had about 25 grams of carbohydrates and 15-20 grams of protein. A small amount of protein powder was added to the smoothies to help regulate insulin release.

The youth enjoyed the snack in the shade and then headed back out into the sunshine for more fun and games.



Beverly Bidney

During a break from the heat and heated competition at recreation camp June 23 in Big Cypress, Dakota Heart Mariscal, 6, enjoys a healthy strawberry and banana smoothie in the shade.

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# Pemayetv Emahakv honors student-athletes at banquet

STAFF REPORT

**BRIGHTON** — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School recognized its student-athletes from the 2015-16 academic year

at a sports banquet May 24. The event was held in the school gymnasium where the volleyball and basketball teams produced winning seasons last fall and winter. Teams from the spring sports — baseball and softball teams — were also honored.



Aaron Tommie

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School eighth-grader Robert Harris receives an award and congratulations from boys basketball coach Kevin Jackson during the school's sports awards banquet May 24. Robert, the tallest player on the team, starred in the center position as he helped the team compile an 11-1 record.



Aaron Tommie

Two of the top multi-sport student-athletes from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School receive honors during the school's sports banquet May 24. At left, volleyball and softball standout Janessa Nunez receives her awards. At right, girls basketball coach Tim Thomas congratulates the team's leading scorer Julia Smith, who also excelled in volleyball and softball.

# Skateboarders lift off in Fort Pierce



Kevin Johnson

Kool Fanning goes airborne over a jump in the parking lot of Chupco's Landing Community Center on June 16 as kids spent a spring evening practicing their skateboarding skills.



Kevin Johnson

Jimmy Fanning puts on a show as he and his skateboard take to the air June 16 in the parking lot at Chupco's Landing Community Center in Fort Pierce.

# Father's Day billiards tournament a big hit at Chupco's Landing

STAFF REPORT

**FORT PIERCE** — A Father's Day billiards tournament drew about a dozen participants at the Chupco's Landing Community Center on June 16. Marty Tommie Sr. won the tournament, which was part of the Fort Pierce Father's Day

celebration in the gymnasium that included dinner, music and raffles. Staff from the Hollywood Recreation Department oversaw the tournament.

Top six finishers in Father's Day billiards tournament:

1. Marty Tommie Sr.
2. Kevin Tommie Sr.
3. Antillis Stockton
4. Josh Sneed
5. Shamy Tommie
6. Antonio Timothy



Kevin Johnson

At left, Shamy Tommie lines up a shot in the Fort Pierce Father's Day billiards tournament June 16 at Chupco's Landing Community Center. Above, Carlton Tommie hits a delicate shot.



Kevin Johnson

Antonio Timothy sizes up his shot during a warm-up match against Shamy Tommie in the Fort Pierce Father's Day billiards tournament June 16 at Chupco's Landing Community Center.



Kevin Johnson

Remus Griffin focuses on a shot in the Fort Pierce Father's Day billiards tournament June 16 at Chupco's Landing Community Center.

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# Announcements

**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 Buffalo Jim Loop (BIA 1536) on the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation in Hendry County, Florida (Section 12 & 13, Township 48 South, Range 33 East). The scope of work includes reconstruction of a 2-lane asphalt and lime rock roadway with minor widening and grassed shoulders. The project length is 0.75 miles and encompasses 16.3 acres of roadway and offsite drainage area. The roadway improvement projects are needed 'to provide safe access for tribal member.  
 The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), titled Buffalo Jim Loop, 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. This FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore cannot be appealed.  
 For further information please contact Chet McGhee, Regional Environmental Scientist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6830.  
 Acting Regional Director, Eastern Region      Date: JUN 16 2016

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**BUFFALO JIM LOOP**  
**SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA**  
**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs  
**ACTION:** Finding of No Significant Impact  
**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 Buffalo Jim Loop (BIA 1536) on the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation in Hendry County, Florida (Section 12 & 13, Township 48 South, Range 33 East). The scope of work includes reconstruction of a 2-lane asphalt and lime rock roadway with minor widening and grassed shoulders. The project length is 0.75 miles and encompasses 16.3 acres of roadway and offsite drainage area. The roadway improvement projects are needed to provide safe access for tribal member.  
 The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), titled Buffalo Jim Loop, 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.  
**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 cultural resources. See EA, Section 4.5 and correspondence from Tribal Historic Preservation Officer in Appendix F.  
 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  
 Acting Regional Director, Eastern Region      Date: JUN 16 2016

## Hard Rock Tampa distributes donations to charities

TAMPA – from Hard Rock Seminole Hard Tampa to the Bill Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa doled out another round of \$10,000 checks to four local charities in June. The donations mark the third installment in \$100,000 grants



Photos courtesy of Dave Galindo  
**Bill Edwards, from the Bill Edwards Foundation for the Arts, right, and Julie Weintraub from Julie Weintraub's Hands Across the Bay, below, receive \$10,000 checks for their organizations from Hard Rock Tampa in June.**



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2043	2006	HOGZILLA	MULCHER WC1354L (Diesel)	N/A	Poor	\$131,600.00

Note - Previously advertised items are not reflected on this advertisement, only new listings. For more information contact Fixed Assets Dept. 954-966-6300 ext. 20034.

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