



Preschoolers keep active during Get Fit Day
EDUCATION ♦ 3B

Jessica Osceola shows work at Art Basel
COMMUNITY ♦ 3A

Youth compete in golf championships
SPORTS ♦ 8C



The Seminole

Voice of the Unconquered



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D. Preston Steele, Ed.D., named Education director

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
 Staff Reporter

D. Preston Steele wants to help improve the Tribe through education – an appropriate goal for the newly appointed director of Education. He believes by motivating students to go further in their studies, the ultimate beneficiary will be the Seminole Tribe.

Other items on his radar include bringing culture into the learning environment, engaging students, and encouraging them to complete high school then continue to post-secondary education.

“Higher education is important,” Steele said. “It encompasses both college and vocational (school). If students can get the skills, a trade or an education and bring it back to the Tribe, it will make it that much stronger.”

Steele, originally from Oklahoma, earned a bachelor’s in business management from the University of Phoenix, a master’s in adult education from the University of South Florida and a doctorate in educational leadership from Argosy University in Tampa.

Prior to leading the Tribal Education Department, he was the director of Training and Technical Services at the Native Learning Center. Steele has also served as principal of charter schools in Tampa, specializing in students with autism. He was also the academic dean and director of Education for two technical schools.

“I want to learn about what is going on Tribalwide,” Steele said. “Communication is very important in education, and the

largest part of communication is listening.” Understanding the needs and concerns of the community is crucial to Steele’s plan for the department. He aims to put those needs into action to improve the level of education for everyone – children and adults.

Inspiration came from many places, including Steele’s parents who did not have college degrees. He was lucky enough to have one teacher who changed his life: eighth-grade teacher Carmella Matthews.

“She saw something in me and worked closely with me to make sure I pushed myself,” Steele said. “Looking back, I can see how inspirational she was for me. It’s probably where I got the start to my education career. I had higher dreams for myself and had to work hard and put in the effort to reach them.”

Steele said he knows how difficult it is for teenagers to look beyond today and plan for the future. He pursued higher education on his own.

“I know it’s hard for them to wrap their minds around,” he said. “I would tell them they don’t have to sacrifice fun, but there are sacrifices you have to make now to have the life you want in the future.”

Steele believes academia is a place where students should learn to open their minds and think for themselves. He would like every graduate to be a free thinker and free agent of the world who will contribute to the good of mankind. Step one in that direction begins under Steele’s leadership of the Education Department.



Immokalee community opens new Youth Center

BY JUDY WEEKS
 Freelance Writer

IMMOKALEE — The new Immokalee Youth Center received high scores from community parents and youngsters at the ribbon cutting ceremonies on Dec. 22.

“I see this Youth Center as an investment in our future,” Immokalee Board Liaison Dorothy Scheffler said. “Growing up as a member of this community and raising my children here, I know the importance of our youth having a place where they can safely spend their time in a healthy structured atmosphere. They can take pride in this center as they play and learn to work together while developing lifestyle values that will help shape the rest of their lives.”

Immokalee children gathered in front of the new center in anticipation of the ribbon cutting ceremony. Speaking on their behalf, Little Miss Seminole Jordan Osceola thanked Tribal leaders and elders for providing the new facility where they can meet, interact and grow in a wholesome environment. Then, Brandon Scheffler and Mauro Perez joined her in cutting the ribbon for the grand opening.

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank remembered when children had to use more of their imagination for play.

“I grew up here in Immokalee at the old Panther Camp where a two-by-four, piece of rope or tin can inspired us as we played around the fire, when we weren’t helping our parents in the fields,” Rep. Frank said. “I am proud to be a part of providing our current generation with a healthy atmosphere in which to grow and prosper. This Youth Center is a memorial to our parents and grandparents who worked so hard to make it possible for us to be here today.”

The new Youth Center occupies a building that has endured a slow evolution along with the growth of the Immokalee Reservation. Originally constructed as a small house, it became the initial Immokalee Field Office with space for the Broadcasting Department. Additions were added each time that it reached capacity,

but it was difficult to keep up in the flourishing community.

The Field Office was relocated when the Administration Building was completed, and the building then became the Housing Department headquarters. Later, the structure underwent an extensive makeover in anticipation of opening its doors to the young people of Immokalee.

Recreation director Richard Blankenship conducted a tour of the facilities. A computer lab with six stations, Xbox and PlayStation 3 consoles, games and instructional materials immediately caught the eye of a group of young admirers. Next door contains a theater room with a visual library.

Tables for pool, foosball, air hockey and numerous other activities complete a game room, and the generously stocked craft center will accommodate all age categories and a wide variety of projects. The state-of-the-art kitchen cannot only provide healthy snacks but also cooking classes.

“Our original small Youth Center across the road was torn down eight years ago,” Council Office project manager Ralph Sanchez said. “The old building was gone but not the need which has been constantly growing. The old Field Office is in close proximity to the gym and has played an integral part in our lives for many years. Incorporating it in the programs that will help build our children’s future was a wise decision.”

Immokalee Recreation site manager Cecilia Pequeno agreed.

“The opening of this Youth Center is a big achievement for the community,” Pequeno said. “The majority of my staff is comprised of Tribal members or parents of community members. We grew up on the streets of this reservation and know how important it is to have a safe place to go, meet with our friends and develop values that will help combat adverse peer pressure. Our culture depends upon our investment in our youth, and we are looking forward to the time that we will spend with them in the new Immokalee Youth Center.”

♦ See YOUTH CENTER photos on page 7A



Chris Osceola, of Still Got Game, tries to get around OI Skool opponents under the net, while teammates Alfonso Tigertail and Vince Motlow look on.

Seminole Tribe hosts annual NASA basketball tournament

BY JASON KATZ
 Freelance Writer

HOLLYWOOD — As they have for nearly three decades, Tribes from across the country came together to play in the annual Native American Sports Association (NASA) basketball tournament. This year, they brought their talents to South Florida for a weekend of competition and fun in the sun.

Twenty-nine teams from five Tribes competed in the Jan. 10-12 tournament at the Hollywood Gym and the David Posnack Jewish Community Center in Davie. Tribes included the Seminoles, Miccosukees, Choctaws from Mississippi, Senecas from New York and Cherokees from North Carolina.

Founded in 1985, NASA began as a way for southeastern Tribes to get together and compete in sports. Seneca coach, Eddie John, was there for his Tribe’s first tournament.

“I played in the tournament when I was a young boy and have played and coached in it most years since then,” he said. “It’s just a great tradition getting back together with Tribes from across the country. Most of the players’ dads played against each other before they did. They watched those games, and so, they get really into it.”

Seminole Recreation director Richard Blankenship, the tournament’s organizer, echoed the sentiments of visiting coaches.

“It comes once a year and everybody gets so excited about it,” he said. “We don’t even have to publicize it too much. Everybody knows it’s coming, and they look out for it. You can see how they’re joking around during the games, smiling, high-fiving...these guys are just happy to be here together.”

Has Beens win the men’s tournament, despite their team name

Before the finals, the Choctaw Express led off the afternoon of the tournament’s final day on Jan. 12 with an energized win over the Savages, a Cherokee team. Justin Bell, the Choctaw point guard, put up 30 of his team’s 47 points in the victory, using his speed and game knowledge to push through the defense.

Choctaw Express coach Robert Garcia Jr. had high hopes for his team after the win.

“Hopefully, we can use this momentum to make it back to the finals like we did last year,” he said. “We lost to the other Choctaw team (Has Beens) and we’d like to get them back.”

Unfortunately, they would miss out on the chance by running out of steam in the men’s quarterfinals.

The tournament’s real stars were the victorious Has Beens from the Choctaw Tribe. Sporting their old-school New Jersey Nets jerseys, they were nothing but nets.

The Has Beens tacked on an astonishing 101 points in the championship game,

winning by more than 40 points against Nothing Fancy. Players Shaun Daugherty and Demando Mingo combined for more than 50 points in the win.

Nothing Fancy, a team with members from all the visiting Tribes, hobbled into the finals with some injuries and overall exhaustion from the marathon of hoops. They couldn’t handle the onslaught of three-pointers from the Choctaws. The Has Beens took home the men’s championship title.

Seminole women use their size and strength to win the championship title

Early on in the women’s finals, it looked like the Ladyballers, a team of Choctaw and Seminole Tribal members, would run away with the game. Point guard Jana Plumley had wheels, controlling the pace of the first half of the basketball game.

The Seminole You Don’t Want it (YDWI) women’s team slowed the game

down though, and with two minutes left in the half, center Justina George took control. Offensive rebound after offensive rebound led to second-chance points, and YDWI went into halftime with a comfortable lead. Not even Teresa Dorsett, the Ladyballers’ inside presence, could handle George.

YDWI controlled the game’s pace in the second half, cutting Plumley off early before she could zip past them. They padded their lead, and with the vocal leadership of veteran point guard, Ryneldi, the Seminole women took home the pink NASA jackets.

“I like that the tournament brought Tribes together from different states,” said Jo Jo Osceola, captain of YDWI. “I’m glad we hosted it so we could play in front of family and friends. We had a lot of support, which we appreciated very much.”

♦ See more NASA coverage on page 7A



Southern Smoke player Vodney Chapoose moves the ball down the court, pursued by members of Rez Angels.

INSIDE:

COMMUNITY: A

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 10A

EDUCATION: B

SPORTS: C

LOOKING BACK: D

Editorial

Almost the oldest man in the village

• James E. Billie

Happy New Year. The year 2013 has finally arrived. Maybe the Mayan theory of the end of the world is still on Indian time. Anyway, we are all still here. I was having a conversation with some of the people who were organizing the 75th anniversary of the Brighton Reservation when someone asked, "Who is the oldest person on the Brighton Reservation? Let's interview them to get a firsthand idea what it was like out here in those early days."

So, we started looking around, trying to figure out who was the oldest lady on the reservation and got several names; then, we started searching for the oldest men.

A cold reality slapped my face. There are only two people older than myself, and these gentlemen are in their 70s. There are no gentlemen on the Brighton Reservation in their 80s. The oldest are in their 70s. After that, comes people in their 60s, which I am a part of. In fact, I will be 70, myself, in just two years.

I thought to myself, "Wow, I used to know people like Eli Morgan, Billy Bowlegs, Oscar Hall, Oscar Jones, old Sam Jones, Frank Shore; all these people have now passed on and these were, to me, the real senior citizens. I never thought there would ever come a day when I would be considered one of the oldest people on the reservation.

So, now that I have become part of the top 10 percent of the senior citizens on the

Brighton Reservation, I started wondering: What do I know about history? All I can remember is the late '40s, '50s, '60s, on up until present day. The ones who can remember further back are almost all gone.

So, I really don't remember what they call hard times. I never had any hard times. I've always enjoyed my life, hunting and fishing. I remember watching the Seminole Tribe become organized in the '50s, and I remember the Tribe struggling through the '60s and part of the '70s until prosperity finally arrived in the late '70s continuing on to this present day.

I believe that in the entire male population of the Seminole Tribe, the oldest male is in his late 80s and the oldest females are in their late 80s.

I knew the day would come when I would be a senior citizen, but when I actually did reach that age, it was hard to accept. Gone are the days of trying to jump on the biggest alligators. Now you must worry about having a heart attack or a stroke.

I would love to live until I am 150 years old just to see what the world would look like then.

As we enter 2013, I wish all of you the best of health and a prosperous year. Seminole Tribe of Florida is in the best economic position it has ever been. We are doing our very best to keep it that way for a long time.

Sho-naa-bish.

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



2013: time to get mandatory

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

Many projects and ideas that we have talked about in this column are still in the works, and we are still working them through the process. When I think in terms of goals for this calendar year, a few thoughts immediately come to mind: The Board definitely needs to continue improving our entire business process, especially our evaluations of current enterprises, our staff and the important legal issues that we have to address.

Hopefully, we will be able to put these legal issues to bed this year, and at the same time, finalize our new projects like the Seminole electronic cigarette brand, the Hard Rock energy drink, the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in St. Maarten – all projects on which we are making substantial progress. Those are among goals for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

Since I do wear the Vice Chairman's hat on the Tribal Council, I have 2013 goals for the Council as well. I think we need to continue our discussions on various "touchy" subjects, whether it is enrollment, budget cuts or our strategy in protecting our gaming enterprise. These are subjects that will have huge impacts on the Seminole Tribe, issues that not only affect current generations but will also set a foundation for future generations.

I hope that we will take a stronger stance in addressing individual financial affairs by making participation in financial literacy classes mandatory, not only for those coming of age but also for all Tribal members. As the Tribe continues to be successful, Tribal members will continue to reap the benefits. We all have to be prepared to handle that success.

A major goal is to find the best answers we can for an important question: How do we prepare our youth to be the leaders of tomorrow? Well, you know what? One answer is obvious: We have to make sure education is a priority. What are the things that we can do? Well, first we need to evaluate our current education programs and understand if they are really generating positive results. If something is lacking, then we must explore the changes required to fix it.

One solution everybody understands is money. One of the options I will propose is rewarding education accomplishment. If you complete high school, you are given a certain bonus. If you go on to complete either a two- or four-year degree, you are given another level of abundance, and for those who stay in and get a master's, the reward continues to increase through graduate school.

I don't think anyone has ever put that suggestion forth. What you hope for is that everyone will buy into it and what you will eventually get is a greater pool of educated Tribal members. And with that pool, you will definitely start to fulfill the dream of Tribal members running the Tribe and not having to rely on non-Tribal members to fill top management positions. Again, it can only happen by recruiting educated, experienced individuals. All the better if they are recruited from our own pool of Tribal candidates.

But we can't stop at just departmental roles. We need to start educating our youth on participating in politics and recognizing the core value issues that we just can't compromise on. But it is my feeling you have to establish a reward system and mandates for political and leadership education as well. I'm sure there are other ideas. Let's hear them.

You can't just sit back and hope that someone will take interest. You have to force some things. If we are really serious about youth being the future, well then this is what we must do. Again, this is just one option; this is not the only possibility. But the discussion has to start somewhere.

I am sure it will all go through several changes, multiple modifications. But, the bottom line is if we do not start instituting some of these ideas and thoughts and addressing these issues, we are just waiting, waiting for someone to somehow step up. Think about it. If we are not preparing anyone, we might be waiting a long, long time.

A major core issue is health. During my first 18-plus months in this office, I have gained a lot of insight as to exactly what it costs the Seminole Tribe to provide health services. And what stands out for me is a strong feeling that there needs to be a closer relationship between the Health and Recreation departments.

Take a look at how our diet has changed over the generations – in my case, it was, you know, eating fish, turtles, wild hog, grandpa would go out and kill a deer, and grandma would make the frybread. That is what my diet consisted of. But today, it's, hello Domino's, Papa John's or you know what, let's just go down to Benihana. With schools cutting physical education programs and recess, there is – not only in Indian Country but across America – an epidemic of people who are becoming obese. Let's not fall into that trap.

And for those of us who do fall, remember: It's never too late to start becoming healthier. Again, this is another area where mandatory measures can help. We can't build all these facilities and just hope that people will use them. These are the times when we have to say, "I think our facilities are good enough. We have qualified personnel – if we don't, then let's go out and find the personnel who can put together a real comprehensive exercise program for each and every one of us." Let's track it, and if someone does not participate, what is the consequence?

I don't want to always say, "Stop the dividend," because, really, is that the answer? Maybe, maybe not. But that can't be the only answer. The healthier we are individually, the healthier the Tribe is collectively. Even today, as I try to get into shape, hopefully I'll spend less time at the clinic. I mean, we are always going to get a cold, a flu – that's OK – I am saying I shouldn't have to go to the clinic because all of a sudden I am becoming diabetic and now my blood pressure is out of control.

If we have a situation where it is mandatory for people to participate in the Recreation program, I am betting that we will be able to reduce our annual health care cost. Really, it is a no brainer. We are only talking less than 4,000 people today. So, out of that group exclude the disabled and the infants, those who are younger than 3 years old. By 3, they are already walking, they are running. I mean, this is a program that has to start very, very early. And it can go into your 80s, 90s, the rest of your life.

I am so proud of my son who is 9 years old. We enrolled him in a gym. He is swimming, and hopefully, he'll be able to try out for the swim team. When he's not swimming, he is doing karate; when he is not doing karate he's doing tennis. He is playing volleyball, doing things that will keep him active.

We are also changing his diet. We only get one body, and I don't want him to start this process at my age. I want healthy living to be his lifestyle. If that becomes his lifestyle, you know what? He can have a "cheat day." Go have your pizza, go have your hamburger. Understand that you got to go out and play a little bit more tomorrow, or whatever that activity is, you will have to do it a little longer. Don't just eat that pizza and pass out on the couch.

I think these are the type of things that we can make mandatory because they pay huge benefits and dividends, payoffs not only for the individual but also for the Tribe. Rewards for being healthy. How about that. None of us just woke up one day and said, "You know, I want to be 500 pounds." We did not wake up and say that.

But, because of individual circumstances, we get into a trap of some kind and one day we wake up, look in the mirror, look at the scale and lo and behold. My personal goal is to lose 50 pounds this year. When I first left here I was at 200. I went to Immokalee, working at the casino, with access to the kitchen...in 12 years, I gained 50 pounds. I'll never be a skinny minny, but man, I don't need that 50 pounds.

We can truly control our destiny. We don't have to accept anything. These are just two subjects: Health and Education, vital areas that need to be reviewed and evaluated to make sure that we are being efficient. There is always room for improvements. Topics that maybe should have been looked at years ago but for one reason or another weren't. So, I think when we talk about doing things that can have huge impacts on the Tribe, why not make some of these solutions mandatory. It will reap huge benefits. We know initially it will be hard – nobody likes change. If we the people will give it a chance, and keep our eyes on the big picture, the change will be less painful to accept.

We, as the elected officials, need to participate as well. We must be willing to lead by example and not just ask everyone else to make these changes. We have to hold ourselves to the same request.

Subconsciously or not, our youth know

what is going on, that their future seems secure. But I hear about some of our young people saying, "I'm not going to just rest on that. I want more than that. I want to do more." Shouldn't we embrace these youths, not only for their athletic accomplishments but also for their academic and artistic accomplishments? Yes, we must embrace them. Remember when mom and dad were talking to us when we were young. Did that mean anything? No. But when our friend would speak and say the same thing, it suddenly made all the sense in the world.

Even though mom and dad had said the same thing, we had already tuned "em out. Our peers telling us the same thing, why that was gold. That's why we need to figure out how to capitalize on their success and outlook, feed off their energy, and enlist them to help us spread that message of healthy lifestyle and success through the ranks of our young people.

I often think of Jarrid Smith, who starred for a Division I college (Florida Atlantic University) and played in a bowl game in New Orleans. What Tribal member has ever done that before? There are many talented, accomplished youth in the Seminole Tribe; we need to embrace them and enlist their help to spread the word. Without a doubt, other Tribal youth look up to them.

There are a lot of great ongoing programs. Culture is another big issue. Again, let's make cultural education mandatory. Why not? It is who we are. If we are truly serious about making sure everyone understands their own culture and understand our history, if all we do is just sit back and hope, you know who is going to show up and participate in cultural education programs? The same ones who have been coming.

If we really want to make sure everyone understands, make it mandatory.

I think we definitely live in a different world today. The success we have enjoyed has definitely contributed to the problems we are talking about here. Now kids – everyone, in fact, not just kids – can afford to go out and buy everything they want. All they know is, "Hey look, as long as I can be enrolled, this is the benefit that I get." But yet, we as a Tribe, we as leaders, have a responsibility to make sure that our youth truly understand who they are and their role in determining where the Tribe ends up. I really don't think that we do a good enough job on that end of it.

Maybe the youth won't want to listen to someone like me. I can hear it now: He's one of the old guys. In this calendar year, it is my goal to reach out and find someone on each and every reservation who is responsible enough to join this mission, to help deliver these messages. It can't come from the old guy; it is got to come from those peers who the youth look up to.

It is an election year. You know, regarding the upcoming election, for selfish reasons, I would definitely like to keep the current Board and hopefully, there will be no real changes in the way we operate. To be successful, there has to be some level of continuity. But again, that is at the desire of the Tribal electorate. That is just my preference: for continuity, to continue the progress and bring some of the working projects to fruition. If there is a change, my responsibility would be to get everyone up to speed, educate them and move ahead.

At our last Council meeting, I was pleased at the number of people who were vocal. That just needs to continue. It shows us that Tribal members are paying attention to what is happening. This administration is not going to shut anyone down. We are going to listen to what everyone has to say, and take those thoughts into our final decisions. We recognize that we were elected by the Tribal members, and we work for them day in and day out.

We still have many challenges ahead. Please rest assured we will continue to work hard to protect the livelihood of all Tribal members.

God bless the Seminole Tribe. Sho-naa-bish.

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



Statement about Idle No More movement

The following statement, from 24 organizations throughout Canada, is in support for Attawapiskat First Nation Chief Theresa Spence who continues her hunger strike until Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets with her and the Idle No More movement.

Indigenous and human rights organizations stand in solidarity with Chief Theresa Spence in her appeal for full respect for aboriginal and treaty rights by the government of Canada. There is an urgent need for Canada to demonstrate genuine respect and long-term commitment, initiated by a meeting between First Nations' leadership, the Prime Minister and the Governor General.

Full honor and implementation of indigenous peoples' treaties are crucial to the evolution of Canada and the principle of federalism.

We firmly support grassroots actions of the Idle No More movement. It has put the spotlight on federal policy and legislative agendas that are trampling the inherent rights of indigenous peoples affirmed in domestic and international law.

In 2012, the Supreme Court of Canada highlighted "the history of colonialism, displacement and residential schools and how that history continues to translate into lower educational attainment, lower incomes, higher unemployment, higher rates of substance abuse and suicide, and... higher levels of incarceration."

Canada must abandon outdated, discriminatory approaches from the colonial era, especially in relation to indigenous peoples' lands, territories and resources. What is urgently required is a principled framework consistent with international human rights law.

Currently, countless amendments and laws are being adopted that undermine indigenous peoples' human rights, including treaty rights.

Indigenous peoples' rights and related government duties are an integral part of Canada's Constitution. They are affirmed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The government should address this grievous situation in good faith.

The omnibus budget bill C-45

introduced far-reaching changes. Amendments include changes to complex land provisions in the Indian Act that compound existing problems. It also re-writes environmental laws, including Navigable Waters Protection Act, Fisheries Act and Hazardous Materials Information Review Act, which were used to promote and protect a sustainable environment, clean water and healthy oceans.

Canada is estimated to contain nearly 32,000 major lakes and more than 2.25 million rivers. Yet a new Navigation Protection Act reduces federal environmental oversight and covers only three oceans, 97 lakes and portions of 62 rivers. Certain key rivers in British Columbia are not included.

Resource development projects on traditional lands of indigenous peoples will be much less likely to be subject to rigorous public environmental impact assessment. These changes are on top of cutbacks on environmental safeguards already passed in the previous omnibus budget bill C-38.

International human rights standards require that decisions affecting the rights of indigenous peoples be made with their full and effective participation. In the face of very serious issues concerning lands and resources of indigenous peoples, the appropriate standard is free, prior and informed consent.

Canada's Supreme Court has said that the "crown...cannot cavalierly run roughshod over aboriginal interests." There must be "reconciliation" between the power of the state and the pre-existing sovereignty of indigenous peoples. "In all its dealings with aboriginal peoples...the crown must act honorably. Nothing less is required."

It is tragic that a hunger strike and Canada-wide protests are necessary, in order for indigenous peoples to bring attention to violations of their dignity, treaties and human rights. Our organizations strongly support human rights education. We urge all Canadians to engage with indigenous peoples, to help educate others and to support the current movement of awareness raising and ensuring vital reforms.

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Deadline: March 13, 2013

Issue: April 26, 2013
Deadline: April 10, 2013

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Community

A



Beverly Bidney

Jessica Osceola shows her work to Jan Erickson and Ellen Boliek, with whom she attended Florida Gulf Coast University.

Artist Jessica Osceola displays sculptures at Art Basel Miami Beach

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

MIAMI BEACH — When Jessica Osceola was a little girl, she glued random objects together and proudly showed her parents the creations. Now as an adult artist, she showed her mixed-media sculptures to the world at Art Basel Miami Beach from Dec. 6-9.

Known as one of the largest art markets in the world, Art Basel featured works of more than 2,000 artists in the main venue and hundreds more at 23 satellite art fairs held in Miami and Miami Beach. Osceola displayed her work with two other Native American artists at the Select Fair, a satellite show at the Catalina Hotel & Beach Club.

"I also got into Art Basel last year," said Osceola, of Naples. "They invited me back and wanted me to invite other people. It's been amazing; I'm on top of the world. We're all Native Americans, and we're trying to break some perceptions. Our art isn't all crafts and beads; there are other interesting things going on."

The other artists who showed with Osceola were Cannupa Hanska Luger and Jamie Cross, and together they formed CJJ Collective. The three young artists met while in school at the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe, N.M. All pieces were mixed-media and ceramics.

"I just kept evolving," said Osceola, who graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) in 2008. "I majored in history at college and was taking art courses on the side. I like history through objects; art always keeps the world moving and progressing. It's really an important part of history."

After graduation, Osceola attended IAIA for one year and is now working on her master's in fine arts at the Academy of Art University. Her long-term goal is to work as a full-time artist.

Osceola, who first learned about Art Basel through a former professor at FGCU, was accepted to the show in 2011, sold some pieces and returned this year with more sculptures. One of Osceola's pieces, titled *Not Yours, Not Ours, Not for Sale*, is a response to the trend of the fashion industry's "Tribal inspiration" and features ceramic legs protruding from a Donna



Beverly Bidney

From left, Cannupa Hanska Luger, Jessica Osceola and Jamie Cross are in their gallery space during Art Basel Miami Beach from Dec. 6-9.

Karan shopping bag.

"This sculptural body of work is the reaction to this trend and one designer in particular," read Osceola's notes next to the piece. "Donna Karan launched in her spring 2012 clothing line a skirt that she claims to be inspired by her own creative process and her work in Haiti. The 'Ric-Rac' skirt she has designed is NOT her unique design, nor is it that of Haitian inspiration."

Osceola continued to say that the design goes back many generations within the Seminole, Miccosukee and Independent Tribes. Her Seminole ancestors created the design using hand-crank sewing machines and fabric, passing down their knowledge to her.

"As a traditional Tribal artist, traditional arts teacher, cultural preserver and a granddaughter who learned these techniques from family, I take great precaution in guarding the craft," she wrote.

In their work, all three Native artists infuse a modern take on their own Tribal traditions.

Cross, a member of the Inupiat Tribe from Alaska, wants to be a working artist

but plans to have another job for her primary source of income.

"That takes the pressure off me so I can create things I want to make instead of what I think people want to buy," said Cross, who lives in Santa Fe.

Luger, from the Mandan Hidatsa and Arikara Lakota Tribes in North Dakota, also lives in Santa Fe and supports himself and his family with his art.

"For Native arts, Santa Fe is the pinnacle," Luger said. "Art Basel is like a shopping mall for galleries. You can see which galleries your pieces can fit into. Having a show with a body of work makes it easier to get people interested in my work."

Art Basel was a success for the artists; each sold pieces while a continuous stream of art lovers viewed their work.

"The experience was fantastic," Osceola said. "It was crowded and crazy, and I made a lot of connections with galleries, collectors and photographers. It was exhausting and draining, but it was good exposure."

Storm's art makes impact at Museum

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — When Tribal member Thomas M. Storm Sr. makes art he does more than create — he recreates.

His tools vary: pencils, paint, ink, pastels. His theme is consistent: the historic bravery of Seminole ancestors.

"It's what runs through my blood," Storm said.

More than a dozen works by Storm, all depicting scenes from the Seminole Tribe's fight to survive under the wrath of the U.S. government, were featured in the Mosaic Gallery at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress.

In one piece, Storm brings three leaders into one canvas. Seminole warriors Alligator and Jumper — who led about 500 Seminoles on Dec. 25, 1837, against 1,000 federal troops in the Battle of Okeechobee — are painted side by side with Chief Osceola as a fierce and undefeated triad. Osceola was already held as a prisoner in South Carolina where he died in 1838.

"We are not a defeated people. By far we have never been rich either — with money, that is. We are people of the earth.

Our riches are the woods where we built homes and fished for food," Storm said.

In another piece, Storm uses disciplined pointillism to recreate a photograph of a sickly Osceola during his incarceration. In Storm's version, Osceola is a young, muscular warrior full of energy and spirit.

"I want people to see the Osceola who led us into the 2000s, the 21st century," Storm said.

Raised in Big Cypress, Storm is the son of Mary Jane Cypress and George Storm, a deep-water alligator wrestler. Now of Dania Beach, he grew up to be a deep-water alligator wrestler and trainer. His grand-

mother was Pocahontas Huff Jumper.

The next show at the Mosaic Gallery will spotlight artwork from Ahfachkee School students.



Eileen Soler

Tribal member and artist Thomas M. Storm Sr. poses amid his paintings that he exhibited at the Mosaic Gallery at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Senior profile: Paul Buster

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Paul Buster can be described in many ways: language teacher, musician, father, grandfather, pastor. But when asked to describe himself, he has a very simple answer.

"I am a Seminole Indian," said Paul, 63. "God put me here for a reason, and I'll try to fulfill that — be a simple man and be with the people."

Born in Big Cypress to Junior Buster and Mary Annie Osceola Buster, Paul grew up in a camp on the reservation. One of his earliest memories is of the natural state of things; he clearly remembers the abundance of native plants and animals. Most people at that time were full-blooded Seminoles, and everyone spoke only Elapoonke, or Miccosukee, as Paul refers to it.

"The elders told us the language was Elapoonke, but most people today call it Miccosukee," Paul said. "I was taught to respect my elders, which is natural for anyone, or it should be."

Technology was slow to arrive in Big Cypress, but Paul's father had a large, old, battery-powered AM radio on which they listened to the Grand Ole Opry from Nashville.

"There were hardly any other radios in the area, and we would listen to the Opry on Friday and Saturday nights," Paul said. "If you get in the right spot, you can still pick it up today."

His family's camp was far out in the swamp because his father maintained water pumps for road construction projects. Paul grew up in a Christian environment, although his parents also adhered to Tribal traditions, customs and language.

Playmates in his camp were rare, so he went to other camps to get together with children, play softball or swim in a nearby pond. His first experience at school was in



Beverly Bidney

Paul Buster is a pastor at the First Seminole Indian Baptist Church in Hollywood.

a one-room schoolhouse on Big Cypress, where the teacher taught all the classes from first to fourth grade.

Buster grew up speaking only Miccosukee, but he learned a little bit of English at the school, which had about 30 students. In fifth grade, he was sent to a public school in Clewiston, 40 miles away, where he finally learned English.

Paul married while still young then left high school and earned his high school equivalency diploma. A few years later, he attended the Baptist Bible Institute in Graceville, Fla. and earned an associate degree, as spirituality has always played a large part in Paul's life.

♦ See PAUL on page 6A

Business profile: Osceola Operations LLC

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Joe Osceola Jr. created Osceola Operations LLC in 2005 to do business with the Hard Rock in Tampa. Now his company, which specializes in the hospitality industry, is busier than ever selling items to all the Hard Rock Hotels, Tribal casinos and restaurants.

"Getting into the Hard Rock was very hard," Joe said. "They had their business relationships already; no one likes change. There was a lot of competition."

There is still competition, but as a Tribal vendor Osceola Operations gets first right of refusal for jobs, submits bids for projects along with non-Tribal vendors and has the opportunity to get a lot of work.

The company supplies items for guest rooms, public spaces, restaurants and casinos. They have seven brand standards in place — meaning that to refurbish the supply, the hotel must go through Osceola Operations — but the company strives to add more. Those items include flat-screen televisions, iHome clock radios, box springs and mattresses, bathroom amenities and TeleAdapt wireless technology for cable and Wi-Fi.

"Thanks to the Purchasing Department, a lot more jobs are being bid out," said Jody Osceola, who works with her father, Joe. "We work hard to get the jobs. You work within the guidelines you are given and hope to do your best."

Getting the job means getting the best price for the client, whether it's the hotel, casino, restaurant or other business. To do that, Osceola Operations attends trade shows nationwide in search of sources for items and for meeting with manufacturers' representatives.

"Sourcing the stuff is the hard part," Jody said. "We try to source our products as closely to the manufacturer as possible to keep the prices down. We're always looking for more sources."

Competition is fierce and grows every year. The company competes against non-Tribal vendors, mainstream retailers and Tribal vendors, and their challenges include getting the best price for the Tribe and meeting their deadlines.

"Whatever anybody wants, we can find it," Joe said. "We try to go straight to the factory and stay away from the middleman."

Other businesses not affiliated with the Tribe often find Osceola Operations. The company will do business with anyone but does not aggressively seek mainstream retail clients. They conduct most business via email and other online communication.

"We've constructed whole projects without picking up the phone," Jody said.

The Osceolas envision the company expanding over the next few years.

Joe is interested in light-emitting diode (LED) lights and is talking to Hard Rock about replacing their expensive, heat-producing halogen lights with more



Beverly Bidney

Jody and Joe Osceola Jr. sell items to all the Hard Rock hotels, casinos and restaurants through their business, Osceola Operations LLC.

energy efficient LEDs. Another business opportunity in that field has Joe in talks with a Chinese company about opening a factory on a reservation.

"We would like the Chinese company to come here to any reservation, any Tribe," Joe said. "It would be under the umbrella of Osceola Operations no matter where it is located. I also see a future in solar panel farms. A lot is going on; we can't just stop at one thing."

Jody wants to expand the rapidly growing company but knows that doing so will require more money.

She is investigating federal loan programs for Native Americans through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Small Business Administration and the Department of the Interior. She believes that Osceola Operations can expand to businesses throughout Indian Country and that utilizing their Native American status for funding will be key to future growth.

"The best thing is watching the business grow; having my daughter work with me is a big plus," Joe said. "I don't know what is going to come tomorrow, but we keep looking and keep going."

"I would have come on board a lot sooner had I know how great it is," added Jody, who started working at the company about a year ago. "Working and learning from my dad has been so rewarding personally. On the business side, getting to work with the Tribe and contribute to its growth and prosperity is important to me."

Osceola Operations can be reached at www.osceolaoperations.com.

If you are a Tribal member and business owner who would like to be featured in *The Tribune*, email BrettDaly@semtribe.com.

Tribal departments address dangerous intersection

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor



Photo courtesy of Brandon Vallozzi

Renovations to the intersection of Wind Clan Road and Farmer Road make it safer to travel.

BIG CYPRESS — To address safety concerns brought up by Tribal Council, several Seminole Tribe of Florida departments joined efforts to widen the intersection of Wind Clan Road and Farmer Road on the Big Cypress Reservation.

The result is a safer, more accessible road.

“The road was really narrow and cars couldn’t pass safely,” Transportation coordinator Marilyn Markwei said, adding that several Big Cypress residents must utilize the road. “It [was] a very simple construction.”

The Tribe contracted Weekley Asphalt Paving Inc. to extend the culvert and widen the road. Founded in 1947, the company specializes in asphalt production, as well as in the construction of highways, roads and bridges, according to its website, and has completed a bridge on Snake Road in the past.

Improvements to the Wind Clan and Farmer Roads intersection also included increased signage and the addition of a guardrail. Overhead power lines were also relocated.

“Big Cypress Councilman Manuel Tiger and Board Representative Joe Frank played a very important role in getting this project fast tracked,” Markwei said in an email. “A host of departments have also been part of the planning and design of this project including Planning, Housing, SPD, Public Works, ERMD, Infrastructure Services and Transportation. We appreciate their help and support.”

Construction took about 60 days to complete, said Brandon Vallozzi assistant director of the Infrastructure Services Department.

“Safety was our No. 1 issue with that section of the roadway,” Vallozzi said. “Now, it’s a lot safer. That was really the main idea.”

Markwei said the Transportation Department also has other upcoming projects in the works, including paving and improving the drainage to Buffalo Jim Loop, Mabel T. Frank Way, Osprey Road, Falcon Lane and Panther Lane.

General improvements will also be made to Josie Billie Highway for safety and drainage concerns.

The Transportation Department welcomes the comments and suggestions of Tribal members on all Transportation projects. To comment, call 954-985-2300 ext. 10645.

Snowbirds make Big Cypress RV Resort home

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — When Ted and Judy Beatty, of Ontario, get tired of Canadian cold, they pack their things into a compact house on wheels and drive thousands of miles to their home away from home – Big Cypress RV Resort.

“We’ve been coming here for nine years just to miss the snow,” Ted Beatty said. “First we came for a week but stayed for a month, then another month . . .”

Judy Beatty said the couple has returned to Big Cypress almost every February through April for nine years.

“It’s the most beautiful park we’ve ever driven into,” she said.

From Jan. 4-5, the Beattys and a handful of other long-time RV vacationers set up booths for the first Big Cypress RV Resort Camper’s Flea Market. There, under tents, six couples sold goods that ranged from battery chargers to barbecues to beautiful artwork.

Bill and Sandy Klein sold Bill’s carved driftwood sculptures and Sandy’s photography greeting cards.

The couple, who are self-described “all-the-time RVers” travel the East Coast. Some of their favorite camps are in North Carolina, Indiana and Ohio, but Big Cypress RV Resort has been their No. 1 place to be for the past three years.

“We feel like we’re with family here,” Sandy Klein said.

During the flea market, shoppers and sellers were treated to a wildlife show by Seminole Okalee Indian Village. Slithering venomous creatures and a massive alligator were stars of the show.

“We always love coming out and doing the shows,” Jennifer Osceola, general



Eileen Soler

Judy Beatty, who has spent nine winters at the RV resort with husband, Ted, helps interested campers purchase items for sale at the resort’s first flea market from Jan 4-5.

manager of Okalee Village, said. “We give a little history of the Tribe and village.”

Later, more than a dozen couples from the RV Resort attended the Cowboy Resolution Rodeo at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.

On any given day, vacationers hike and bike through the reservation, but mostly, they enjoy activities at the camp site.

Card games, bocce ball, bean bag tosses, dances, dinners and bingo are just a few activities on tap at the RV Resort where Ted and Judy Beatty serve as unofficial activity directors.

“The first time we were here I made six new Facebook friends,” said Sandra Mendez, of Illinois, who with her husband,

Bob Mendez, is spending her second winter at Big Cypress.

Mendez said anyone who wants to relax, make new friends, and join in fun activities where the price is right and the weather is always nice should consider the Big Cypress RV Resort.

“Bill loves it because we have to drive 40 miles to the nearest Walmart; I can’t spend money,” Sandra Mendez said.

The Beattys credit Tribal member Evelyn Mata, the resort’s supervisor, for the place’s cleanliness, tranquility and what the couple calls “peaceful perfection.”

“Everyone volunteers, everyone helps and Evelyn is simply the best,” Ted Beatty said.

Jason Don Billie graduates TCD

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter



Beverly Bidney

Ervina Capricien, Tribal Career Development Program director, congratulates Jason Don Billie.

HOLLYWOOD — Jason Don Billie graduated from the Tribal Career Development (TCD) Program last month. He joins an elite group of fewer than 10 graduates and plans to continue his career with Seminole Gaming. Billie currently works at Hard Rock Live where he books entertainment for the venue.

Operated by Seminole Gaming, the goal of the program is to cultivate the next generation of Tribal business leaders. During the program, trainees learn all aspects of the gaming, hospitality and entertainment business through on-the-job training.

“They take the time to sit with us and mentor us,” Billie said. “I enjoyed learning about the whole operation.”



Eileen Soler

Seminole Okalee Indian Village alligator wrestler Justin Iqualado and wildlife supervisor Giselle Hosein wrap up a show for attendees at the flea market.



Eileen Soler

Bill Klein shows off the Eternal Flame sculpture he carved from red cedar driftwood found in the Crystal River.



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Safari trip showcases nature's creatures

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Lions, tigers and bears – not exactly, but during winter break camp on the Big Cypress Reservation children did get eyes full of vultures, deer, wild pigs and buffaloes during Wildlife Adventures day in the 'Glades.

The two-hour event, hosted by the Big Cypress Wildlife Department and the Recreation Department on Dec. 27, gave more than a dozen children an up-close view of the reservation's open vista and thick hammocks.

Safely buckled into huge-wheeled swamp buggies, kids craned their necks to spot creatures of the swamp and pasture.

"It's a great way to give the kids a day in the woods," said Carlton Banks, an aide for the Recreation Department.

Deer jutted in and out of thick brush. Fresh wallows and snout tunnels along

trails in the hammocks showed signs of wild pig. A small herd of buffalo grazed with egret hitchhikers in tow. Several times, swamp buggy driver Jose Solano gave Ricky Garza, 11, a chance at shooting wild pig using a hunting rifle safely bolted to the vehicle's engine hood.

"We want to see the kids grow up to be smart and good hunters," Banks said.

Tribal member Celeste Billie, assistant to Wildlife Department director Randall Osceola, said the outing teaches Tribal children that there must be a healthy, respectful balance to wildlife and humanity.

"We're trying to get kids more involved in our culture and the outdoors," Billie said. "They come out here, learn to respect nature and that when they take from nature, they must also give back because we are nature's keepers."

Getting children away from watching television and playing video games is a good start, she said.

Tribal children are treated to swamp buggy adventure trips at the wildlife preserve at least three times a year: during spring, summer and winter breaks from school. There, they experience archery, outdoor survival skills and Tribal culture.

In the past, the area was used by the Tribe and outsiders for hunting deer, pig and other food, such as quail and wild turkey. In fall 2011, the area became a semi-refuge, in which hunting for anything other than wild pig is not allowed without special permission. The move aims to allow wildlife to repopulate.

"We have always been one with nature," Billie said. "We are connected so we have to pay attention to every little thing and balance out so when the next generation comes up, they will have what we always had."

Plans are in the works to create parent and child programs that will include cultural arts events and wildlife experiences.



Eileen Soler

Blevyns Jumper, 15, leads an all-boys team against all girls in a tug-of-war competition during the Big Cypress New Year's Field Day.

Food and fun make a happy Big Cypress New Year

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal members and staff welcomed 2013 like a huge, happy family – with lots of laughs, food and fun on Jan. 3 under the big chickee on the Junior Cypress Rodeo grounds.

"Today is about community appreciation," Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger said. "It's a fun way to thank everyone for the great work they do and to start off a good New Year."

Nearly 200 people gathered for a barbecue lunch of pork ribs, beef slices, macaroni and cheese, corned bread and more, courtesy of the Big Cypress Council Office.

Children from the Boys & Girls Club competed in outdoor competitions like tug of war and sack races.

Tribal seniors played bingo under

the shade of the chickee while other adults, including many employees, put an extended lunch break to good use by pitching horseshoes in the orange clay of the rodeo arena.

Joe Osceola won the horseshoe game against Lonnie Billie – but Billie did not mind.

"I was the loser, but we all had a good time," Billie said. "We appreciate the event. Good food, good people. It's Happy New Year for all of us."

Other field games included Frisbee, pass the orange, musical chairs and egg toss.

Before the meal, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank welcomed the community of workers and residents into 2013 with a prayer and best wishes for the year.

"As we enter a new year, let's be careful out there, let's do our jobs well, let's have a good year," Rep. Frank said.



Eileen Soler

Harmony Cypress tries her hand at archery on Dec. 27.



Eileen Soler

Children ride through the Everglades during Wildlife Adventure day with the Big Cypress Recreation Department.



Eileen Soler

Buffalo and yellow-billed egret live together on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Eileen Soler

Children from the Boys & Girls Club have a blast during a sack race at the Big Cypress Community New Year's Field Day.

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SAVE THE DATE!

Tribal Historic Preservation Office documents Little Charlie Micco Camp

SUBMITTED BY MAUREEN MAHONEY
Tribal Archaeologist

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) recently completed an investigation of the historic Little Charlie Micco Camp and its surrounding area on the Brighton Reservation.

THPO surveys portions of reservations as part of the On-Reservation Review Process to ensure culturally significant places – like camps and plant gathering areas – will be respected as the need to develop reservations arises. This area was further investigated in order to determine eligibility for the Tribal Register of Historic Places. Based on this investigation, THPO found evidence that the area within and surrounding the Little Charlie Micco Camp has been continuously used for at least 2,000 years.

In order to learn about the site, THPO completed an archaeological survey that showed how various people used the area surrounding the Little Charlie Micco Camp over time. Numerous animal bones and broken pieces of pottery that date back 2,000 years were recovered. These finds allowed THPO to understand the early occupants' diets, which included small reptiles, rodents and fish.

The next evidence of occupation dates to the Little Charlie Micco Camp, which was established sometime between the 1930s and 1940s. Inhabitants of the camp included Little Charlie Micco, Minnie (Osceola) Micco, Jenny Shore, Jerry Micco, Billie Micco, George Osceola and Ruby Osceola.

Although THPO also performed an archaeological investigation around the camp, only sparse physical evidence for its existence remains today. Some items found include a small amount of ceramic, such as a complete tea cup. While the archaeological survey shed some light on the camp, much more useful records were the memories and stories of Tribal members who lived in or visited the camp.

Billie Micco and Jenny Shore said the Little Charlie Micco Camp consisted of numerous structures, all of which surrounded a central fire place. Directly north of the fireplace was a structure



Photo courtesy of THPO

This 1957 aerial photograph shows the Little Charlie Micco Camp.

that Billie Micco called a "sugar shack" and to the east of the fireplace was the dining chickee. The camp also contained four chickees that were used as the sleeping quarters of the various people living in the camp.

This information not only permits a more in-depth understanding of the Little Charlie Micco Camp, but it also allows for comparisons in how people occupied the same space over 2,000 years.

One of THPO's goals in developing the Tribal Register is to document the makeup of these significant places because each component helps tell the story of Seminole history. In 1947, Little Charlie Micco, Josie Billie and John Cypress raised their voices in order for the Seminoles to take action with the 1946 Indian Claims Commission Act. Under this act's provisions, any Tribe, band or unidentifiable group of American Indians could file a petition with the commission setting forth any claim against the United States that had occurred before that date.

By working with Tribal members to document these important places and memories, THPO is building an archive of knowledge that Tribal members can use to help tell future generations important stories about life and culture on the reservations.

To contribute your knowledge of historic camps on the reservation or memories about life in the camp, please call the Tribal Historic Preservation Office at 863-983-6549 or stop by any of the offices.



Photo courtesy of THPO

The pottery pictured above, found at the Little Charlie Micco Camp, dates back 2,000 years.



Andrea Holata

Major Larry Massey, left, presents Jerry Meisenheimer a plaque for his years of service with the Seminole Police Department. On Jan. 3, family and friends gathered at the Elder's Building in Brighton to congratulate Meisenheimer on his retirement.

Jerry Meisenheimer retires from SPD

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — After 21 years of dedication to the Seminole Police Department (SPD) and a life devoted entirely to service, Brighton's Jerry Meisenheimer retired on Dec. 31.

Family, friends and fellow officers came together to honor and celebrate Meisenheimer during a retirement party at the Elder's Building in Brighton on Jan. 3.

"We are here today to pay tribute to one hell of a cop who has reached the sunset of his career," said SPD Major Larry Massey.

Meisenheimer grew up in Wisconsin and devoted himself to service early in life. He became a monk in a religious order and spent time traveling in Africa helping the less fortunate hunt for food. After five years, he moved home and met his wife.

In 1967, Meisenheimer transitioned into law enforcement, working as a homicide investigator in Wisconsin until he and his wife decided to move to warmer weather in 1978. They moved to South Florida where he worked for the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) for the next 10 years.

For a few years, he worked for the Sebring Police Department, then Meisenheimer began his career with the Seminole Police Department on Sept. 4, 1991.

"When I started here in Brighton, there were only three officers working at a time, and after two o'clock in the morning, there [were] no officers," Meisenheimer said. "We didn't even have radios. We used bag phones."

He was asked to work weekends at the newly

opened casino in Immokalee and ended up staying there for three years; he was promoted to Sergeant.

Eventually, Meisenheimer transferred back to Brighton. Still a Sergeant, Meisenheimer started the D.A.R.E. program in Big Cypress for youth, commuting back and forth for eight years. He worked with youth in Brighton as well.

"That was the highlight of my life because I really enjoy having the kids, and I looked forward to their lessons," he said.

In addition to working with youth, Meisenheimer was a traffic homicide detective.

Still climbing the ranks, he was promoted to Lieutenant over Brighton and Fort Pierce. He was the first officer to work in the Fort Pierce community.

After years of service, he was once again promoted to Administrative Captain in Hollywood, overseeing records, evidence, training and budgets.

He eventually moved back to Brighton where he finished out his career.

Meisenheimer said he is going to miss the Tribal members the most, but he looks forward to spending time with his wife of 45 years, his four children and six grandchildren. He also plans to continue traveling. He's already been to 55 countries and plans to go this summer to Pembroke, N.C. for a visit with the Lumbee Tribe.

Meisenheimer, who said he loved his career with SPD, hopes to possibly come back and work for the Tribe in a different capacity.

"My time here has been wonderful...I appreciated everything the Tribe has done for me and hope I made a difference," he said.

PAUL

From page 3A

"I got through the courses and could have stayed longer, but I came home," Paul said. "Two or three months later my mom passed away. It seems like God brought me back so I could be with my mom when she went back to be with the Lord."

In the 1980s, Paul was a water manager for the Big Cypress cattle program, where he was responsible for the water level in the pastures. He made sure the pastures were irrigated in the dry season and water was pumped out of the pastures during the rainy season. In the 1990s, he moved from Big Cypress to Hollywood and served as a layman at the First Seminole Indian Baptist Church. He became a pastor in the late 1990s.

A language teacher in the Hollywood Culture Department since 2000, Paul spends a lot of time teaching preschool children, as well as adults.

"A lot of adults need to brush up or just learn how to speak the language," he said. "It is really important for our people to keep our language; it is what makes us who we are. Our people don't really take advantage of it, but when they do, I spend time with them."

Many people know Paul as a gifted musician; he plays guitar, writes songs and has a band called Cowbone. His music is a blend of country, folk, gospel, church and Seminole stories but has a real country flavor because of the use of a steel guitar and dobro. Cowbone can be heard at many community events and the annual Tribal Fair. Paul has recorded two CDs, with plans to make another this year, and views his music as a significant accomplishment in his life.

"My dad couldn't afford a good guitar," Paul said. "I have a couple of good guitars, among many, including the legendary Martin D-28. My dad always talked about that kind of guitar, so I got one a few years ago."

But his greatest accomplishment by far has been serving the Lord.

"It's a life like no other job," Paul said. "Someone asked me how I get my sermons. Once I was sitting in my music room and there was a cap that belonged to my son. It says, 'Just Do It.' I was looking at that cap and it just came to me as a topic for a sermon. I applied it to a scripture and it came out a sermon. Mary, the mother of Jesus, said to the people about her son, whatever he tells you to do, just do it. Pastors are led by God's Holy Spirit, and they get their messages in different ways. Sometimes it's from hearing children talk or seeing things in the environment. God sends messages to me in different ways."

"It is really important for our people to keep our language; it is what makes us who we are."

As a pastor, Paul is often asked to lead a prayer before community events, say words after someone passes away or just offer support.



Seminole Tribune archive photo

Infant Paul Buster is with his parents, Junior Buster and Mary Annie Osceola Buster.

"It's a round-the-clock responsibility," he said. "You have to be available any time to be around people. Sometimes I don't say anything; I'm just there."

Paul has witnessed enormous changes in his life, including the good fortune of the Tribe.

"The change was like night and day," Paul said. "Some changes have been for the better, but some have brought sadness. However, the Tribe progressed to making revenues, and we have better programs now to take care of us. It was quite a change from the '60s to present day, which is wonderful because it benefits the Tribe."

Although he has experienced great change in his life, he does not live in the past. He appreciates modern communications and has his own Facebook page.

Buster's first marriage was to Daisy Jumper, with whom he had three sons. He was been married to Meg Buster for nearly 20 years, and they have two daughters.

Paul was predeceased by two sons, Merle Hank Buster in 1996 and Ira Billy Buster in 2007. His surviving children are Paul "Chunky" Buster, of Big Cypress; Melissa Metcalf, of Hollywood; and Jessica Buster, of Davie. He also has three granddaughters ages 12, 10 and 4.

In addition to blood relations, Buster has many other "children" around the world. He was a host for exchange students for eight years and still keeps in touch with them; they even call him dad.

As for the future, he looks forward to more of the same and even better for the Seminole Tribe.

"I want to just keep serving the Lord as long as I'm physically able," he said, "and write more songs, some poetry and be a friend to anyone who needs a friend."

Juanita Osceola Center garners 2012 Naples Heritage Award

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

NAPLES — The Naples community received special recognition for their outstanding contribution to the annual City of Naples Christmas Parade, which took place on Dec. 18.

After viewing 186 entries, judges from the Naples Merchants' Association unanimously selected the Juanita Osceola Center float to receive the 2012 Heritage Award. Traditional Arts specialist Christina Billie and Community Outreach specialist Sandra Osceola attended the City of Naples Council Meeting on Jan. 16 to accept the award.

The Naples holiday parade is a tradition that spans more than 60 years. Covering a broad spectrum of themes encompassing local history, the Heritage Award was established in 2009. The Seminole Tribe of Florida has taken home the trophy for four consecutive years.

"During the past 60 years, Collier County has become a destination for multiple cultures that bring an international flavor and blend of social experiences to the area," said Sun Trust Bank vice president Raul Medina. "However, more than 150 years earlier, the ancestors of the Seminole Tribe were among the first people to recognize the potential of South Florida. Their descendants still play an important role in not only its history but its present. Their unique entries in the annual Naples Christmas Parade mean a great deal to the community and are a highlight of the event for the thousands of spectators along the route."

The 2012 float featured a Seminole chickee adorned with brilliantly lighted snowflakes and holiday garlands. Displaying a hand-crank sewing machine, Seminole patchwork, baskets, wood carving and beadwork, the float emphasized the traditional crafts



Judy Weeks

Children look like Christmas toys piled beneath the chickee on the Juanita Osceola Center float during the City of Naples parade on Dec. 18.



Judy Weeks

Community Outreach specialist Sandra Osceola, left, and Traditional Arts specialist Christina Billie display the 2012 Heritage Award they accepted on behalf of the Juanita Osceola Center on Jan. 16.

that sustained the Tribal economy for many years.

Representing characters from the holiday favorite musical *Nutcracker Suite*, Seminole youth portrayed toy soldiers, sugar plum fairies, ballerinas and musicians in costumes sporting a Tribal flair of patchwork and bead adornment.

The colorful Seminole clothing of the adults sparkled like Christmas ornaments as they walked beside their children on the float broadcasting holiday greetings to the enthusiastic spectators.

"I want to commend the Seminole Tribe on their awesome parenting and educational awareness," said local merchant Julie Roberts. "I look forward to bringing my kids each year to the parade where they can enjoy the holiday season and learn about our local history from the Seminoles. It appears that all of their family members participate in their parade entry which has a historical, artistic and educational theme. Each year is different and shows originality while putting their cultural fingerprint and talent to work. Congratulations on a job well done."

NASA Legends prove age is just a state of mind

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — It is fast paced, exciting and physical, so many consider basketball a young person's game — unless the game is part of the Native American Sports Association (NASA) tournament, where basketball lovers of all ages compete on the court.

Seven teams from three Tribes competed in the NASA Legends tournament on Jan. 10, and the players were only as old as they felt. The teams were made up of players older than 40, with the average age at 45.

"I've been playing basketball for about 35 or 40 years and I love it," said Charlie Tiger, who at 50 was the oldest Seminole man to compete. "I've played against these Tribes, and they have some good players. But we want to win it all. We have some guys that can really run; they still have young legs on them."

Most of the Legends players grew up playing in the Native American Youth Organization (NAYO) and graduated to NASA when they finished high school. Many of the athletes have competed against each other for years.

"The Legends are the generation that grew up in NAYO and even though they are older, they still want to play basketball," said Moses Jumper Jr., a founder of both NASA and NAYO. "It's good to see people I've known over the years. It's also good to see some of these guys can still make their way up and down the court."

Founded in 1985, NASA began as a way for southeastern Tribes to get together and compete in sports. Annual basketball, baseball and fast-pitch softball tournaments rotate among the member Tribes: Seminoles, Choctaws, Cherokees, Senecas and the Poarch Band of Creeks. The organization strives to promote and ensure a standard of excellence in the performance among Native American players and coaches and strives to enhance good sportsmanship, honesty, integrity, sobriety and good relationships with Native America. Jumper said NASA and NAYO are the strongest Native sports organizations in the U.S.

During the tournament, play on the court was competitive, and the Seminole teams were the ones to beat. Teams in the men's competition included defending champions Ol Skool, a Cherokee team from North Carolina; Native American Printing (NAP), a Choctaw team from Mississippi; and Still Got Game, a Seminole team. Their initial games were played at the David Posnack Jewish Community Center in Davie. The final was played at the Hollywood Gym.

"We've got to bring our 'A' game," said Allen McInturff, a member of Still Got Game. "For me, it's just being able to



Beverly Bidney

Still Got Game player Norman "Skeeter" Bowers shoots for two as an Ol Skool player tries to stop him.

have time with my friends and cousins from different rezzes."

"Every rez is represented on this team," added Gary McInturff. "We've been playing these guys for 20 years."

The tournament was a double elimination. With only three teams in the men's Legends tournament, a blind draw was conducted to give one team a first-round bye. NAP got the bye. Still Got Game played Ol Skool in the first round and won 43-41. As winner, Still Got Game then played NAP but lost. They again had to play Ol Skool and lost, sending NAP and Ol Skool to the championship game. NAP won 59-51.

The women's games were equally competitive. Two Seminole teams played in

the competition: Southern Smoke and Jus Playin. The other teams were Rez Angels, a Choctaw team from Mississippi, and 4 Corners, a Cherokee team from North Carolina. The women played all their games at the Hollywood Gym.

To get the tournament started, Southern Smoke played Rez Angels and won 33-13. The other Seminole team, Jus Playin, then took to the court and beat 4 Corners 70-39. The final matchup for the championship game was all home-grown. Jus Playin defeated Southern Smoke 69-42.

The tournaments lasted well into the night, but the teams played their hardest. Although the tournament may have been exhausting for the Legends, the chance for victory was well worth the effort.

◆ More NASA photos from page 1A



Jason Katz

The women's champs, YDWI, pose with their trophy and their pink NASA fleece jackets.



Jason Katz

Justina George owns the court against the Ladyballers.



Jason Katz

A Seminole Dream Team player outjumps the entire Cherokee team for a layup.



Jason Katz

The men's champs, the Has Beens, pose with their trophy and their black NASA fleece jackets.



Beverly Bidney

Still Got Game and NAP players try to get control of the ball.



Beverly Bidney

Lenora Hardy, of Jus Playin, shoots for two points.

◆ YOUTH CENTER photos from page 1A



Judy Weeks

Games and computer stations, plus a craft center, kitchen and theater room, are among the new Youth Center facilities.



Judy Weeks

Brandon Scheffler, Mauro Perez and Little Miss Seminole Jordan Osceola represent Immokalee youth as they officiate at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Youth Center.

Health

Tribal community resolves to get fit for the New Year

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The start of a year is often a time for reassessment and a time for New Year's resolutions. About 45 percent of Americans make New Year's resolutions and some of the most popular are weight related.

For Tribal members who have resolved to get healthier in 2013, the Fitness

Department wants to help.

Fitness specialists Tribalwide recommend getting evaluated by the Health Department before beginning any workout regimen, and then working with a fitness specialist and nutritionist to set goals and get started.

Any weight-loss and fitness program is as simple as calories in and calories out. Because there are 3,500 calories in a pound,

reducing the amount of calories consumed by 500 per day will result in a loss of one pound per week. Exercise burns calories, so eliminating calories through exercise also sheds pounds.

Here are some useful tips and insight from the experts: Jay Garland, Hollywood Fitness site supervisor; Debra Marsalisi, Hollywood Fitness specialist; Cathy Cypress, Big Cypress Fitness specialist; and Kai Setty, Brighton Fitness site supervisor:

- The benefits of a healthy diet combined with a workout regimen are agility, flexibility, strength, stamina, better circulation and better lung capacity; it also fights diabetes.
- A goal should be simple, measurable, attainable, realistic and have a time frame: SMART.
- It's a good idea to take little steps to start; it will make a difference, and you will not get overwhelmed. Set small, attainable goals and go from there.
- Take one step at a time. If you need to lose 50 pounds, just look at the first five.
- Journal what you eat all day and your emotions when you eat. This will help you get a feel for why you are eating.
- Losing weight isn't as hard as people think.
- Work off the calories if you overindulge; take responsibility for what you ate.
- If you fall off the program, jump right back in. You don't have to wait for Monday to start again.
- Once you reap the benefits, you will want to continue. If you stop, you will lose

stamina and strength.

• Make an appointment with a personal trainer. Trainers will adjust the workout to your needs. Everyone doesn't train in the same way, so trainers will modify a program for you.

• Dive in, but it's important to ask for help. It's OK not to know what to do; trainers can help.

• If you haven't exercised in a long time, start by walking.

• Have breakfast in the morning and go to classes.

• Try to do your best and eat clean – vegetables, proteins, fiber and proper carbs. It will give you energy to keep going.

• It's OK to mess up now and then. Your body will get accustomed to eating right and won't feel well after indulging.

• If you really want something and you've been eating well, have it. In moderation, of course.

• You know what physical activities you like to do best, so find what appeals to you on the fitness schedule.

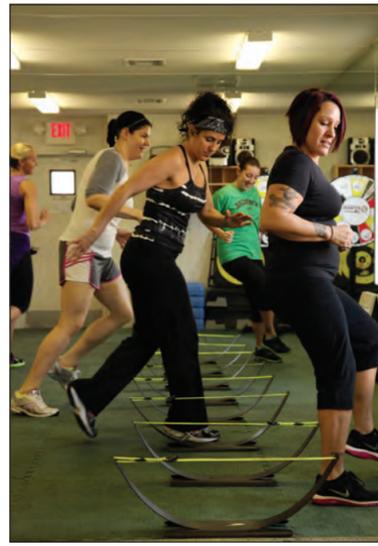
• Become accountable to the trainer and other people in your classes. You'll get encouragement from them.

• Invite friends to come to classes with you.

• If you stay focused and have support, you will reach your goal.

• Once you get a taste of success, it's a little addictive; you will want more of it.

"It's our job to be their biggest cheerleaders," Garland said. "We give moral support and coaching to help people succeed."



Beverly Bidney

Women work out during the fitness challenge class at the Hollywood Fitness Studio.

The trainers want more healthy Tribal members and work every day to achieve that goal.

"I encourage more people to come out," Cypress said. "It's a new year, so start something new. Your body will thank you."



Beverly Bidney

Anna Ruidiez takes a kickboxing class to help stay fit for the New Year.

Stay motivated through sluggish times

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez



Motivation. Are you finding it hard to set and stick to goals? I am having a tough time, feeling sluggish...

So, I did some research on how to get – and stay – motivated to make those critical decisions that will help me with weight management and my exercising goals.

I mean, we have to learn to recognize what it is that makes us feel "de-motivated."

We all have those days when we just feel like there's no gas left in the tank.

However, my research shows that successful people are people who have developed strategies or a definite plan of action to deal with those sluggish thoughts that threaten to disrupt their journey of good health.

I have found that if we make exercise a part of our daily routine, like brushing our teeth, instead of dreading it as if it were an undesirable chore, we will be successful.

I live by these few steps to help me stay motivated and get me through those lazy days:

1. Start slow. Make small rather than big changes (such as no cheese on your salad or start walking 30 minutes a day).

2. Write goals down that you want to accomplish each day (like a "to-do" list).

3. Find and keep a workout buddy.

4. Take your workout clothes with you. If you exercise before work, have them laid out and ready the night before.

5. Reward yourself when you achieve milestones.

6. Set realistic goals. Don't expect a quick fix.

Remember: Change takes time. We are creatures of habit, so it will not happen overnight, but if you stick with it and keep moving forward, you will succeed.

It's a New Year; time for new beginnings.

Pesticides and children: Facts and ways that protect kids' health and their environment

SUBMITTED BY ISIDRO DUQUE
Environmental Protection Specialist

The Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD), formerly the Water Resource Management Department, was created in 1987 by the Tribal Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida to protect and evaluate the Tribe's land and water resources. ERMD is overseen by the Seminole Water Commission, which was created in 1989 by the Tribal Council. The commission, with technical assistance from ERMD, has developed rules to protect the quality of surface water within the boundaries of the Tribe's reservations. ERMD assists other Tribal departments, such as Housing, Real Estate and Community Planning and Development, and works with Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. in the development and management of Tribal natural resources.

To continue its mission for education and dissemination of information to accomplish environmental compliance with Tribal law, ERMD publishes articles that inform and educate the Seminole community and citizens in general about common practices that can potentially harm Tribal natural and water resources and propose alternative practices that can minimize or prevent the adverse impacts to health and the environment.

ERMD welcomes suggestions, comments and questions. Please email them to isidroduque@semtribe.com or call 954-965-4380. Information for this article was obtained from the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC), a partnership between the Oregon State University and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Infants and children are more sensitive to the toxic effects of pesticides than adults

• An infant's brain, nervous system and organs are still developing after birth.

• When exposed, a baby's immature liver and kidneys cannot remove pesticides from the body as well as an adult's liver and kidneys.

• Infants may also be exposed to more pesticides than adults because they take more breaths per minute and have more skin surface relative to their body weight.

• Children often spend more time closer to the ground, touching baseboards and lawns where pesticides may have been applied.

• Children often eat and drink more relative to their body weight than adults, which can lead to a higher dose of pesticide residue per pound of body weight.

• Babies who crawl on treated carpeting may have a greater potential to dislodge pesticide residue onto their skin or breathe in pesticide-laden dust.

• Young children are also more likely to put their fingers, toys and other objects into their mouths.

If you use pesticides, keep these tips in mind to minimize risk to children

• Always be sure to read the product label first. The product must be approved for the intended use and applied according to label directions.

• Seek the least-toxic pesticide option available. Use the signal word to identify products that are low in toxicity.

• Keep children out of treated areas while pesticides are being applied and until areas are dry. The product label may have more specific instructions.

• Allow plenty of time for the pesticide

to dry and the home to ventilate before returning.

• If your lawn or carpeting has recently been treated with pesticides, consider using shoes, blankets or another barrier between the treated surface and children's skin.

• Be sure children wash their hands before eating, especially after playing outdoors.

• If you apply pesticides to your pets, keep children from touching the pet until the product has completely dried.

• Place ant, snail and rodent baits in locked bait stations or safely out of reach of children.

• Never use mothballs outside of sealed, airtight containers. Children often mistake mothballs for food when used improperly around the home.

• Never use illegal pesticides, such as Miraculous, Pretty Baby or Chinese Chalk. It looks and writes like normal chalk, and the pesticide dust can be breathed in, get on kids' hands or end up in their mouths.

• Be sure to store pesticides in their original containers. Never use food or beverage utensils or containers to mix or store pesticides.

• Store all pesticides out of the reach of children.

• If someone in the household works with pesticides, take steps to reduce the amount of pesticide residues he or she brings into the home. If possible, wash and dry the work clothes separate from family laundry.

• Call NPIC to learn more about the toxicity of pesticides and ways to minimize exposure.

If you have questions, please call ERMD at 954-965-4380.

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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Castillo worked as a Public Defender in Broward County from 1990-1996 and has been in private practice for nine years. In 1995 he was voted the Trial Attorney of the year. He graduated from Capital University in 1989 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1990, Federal Bar in 1992, and the Federal Trial Bar in 1994.

WWW.CASTILLOLAWOFFICES.COM

Identifying the Past

More Dania photographs need identifying from the Francis Frost White research notebook

SUBMITTED BY TARA BACKHOUSE
Collections Manager

This month, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum again wants your help identifying individuals in photographs from the research notebook compiled by Francis Frost White, an employee with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) who worked on the Dania Reservation during the first half of the 20th century. The photographs document a wide variety of people, camps and events.

This month, the Museum has three very different photographs from the notebook, and none of them are labeled with either the photographer's or the subjects' names.

The first picture is of three boys playing with something on the ground. It looks like one of the boys is holding a piece of paper or a notebook – perhaps they are working on a school assignment.

The second photograph is of a woman holding a baby in front of a chickee. Two other people are in the background, along with a dog.

The third picture is of a woman dressed in contemporary clothes standing in front of shrubbery.

These three pictures show that people on the Dania Reservation in the early 20th century were successfully living and working in several different worlds. They lived and worked in tourist villages, they went to school and they also followed the urban fashion trends of the area, maybe because it was appropriate to do so for the workplace.

Many people can relate to that, as they must adjust their wardrobes between home and work. When those in past generations did some of the same things people do today, it makes people feel connected to them. The Museum strives to help people make that connection to the past, and the more the Museum knows about a photograph, the easier it is for people to connect to it.

If you know who these people are, please call the Museum at 877-902-1113 and ask for a member of the Collections Division. If you identify a member of your family, the Museum can also give you a copy of that picture and will search for other pictures of your family members in the Museum's collection.

If you would like to view the research notebook in its entirety to look for pictures of your family, or if you'd like to see anything



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Photograph 1: Three unidentified boys play together.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Photograph 2: Unidentified woman holds a baby in front of a chickee.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Photograph 3: Unidentified young woman stands in front of shrubbery.

else in the collection, please contact the Museum to make an appointment or just

drop by and ask to speak to someone in the Collections Division.

Hah-Tung-Ke: Francis Densmore preserves Seminole music

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

Frances Densmore is a familiar and legendary figure in American ethnomusicology history. Born in 1867 on the banks of the Mississippi River at Red Wing, Minn., Densmore grew up in a musical household where she was punished for playing "frivolous" music instead of practicing. She remembered being mesmerized, as a child, by songs she heard the Indians sing.

"My childhood home was near the shore of the Mississippi River and the Sioux Indians were camped on an island opposite the town. We could hear the throb of the drum when they were dancing and sometimes we could see the flickering light of their campfire," she said in *Song Catcher*, an American Public Radio documentary about her life. "If my mother had told me that Indians were savages, I might have been afraid to go to sleep. Instead, I was told they were people with different customs from our own, and there was no fear in my mind. I fell asleep night after night to the throb of the Indian drum."

Her passion for indigenous music grew into a lifetime career of traveling, studying and recording American Indian music during an era when most women did not venture into wild areas like the Everglades and Big Cypress Swamp.

But that is what she did during three field trips to South Florida over a two-year sojourn (1931-33) – and another 20 years later among the Florida Seminoles. She recorded hours of traditional music from Seminoles, who lived in remote geographical locations about the rugged South Florida outback, helping preserve one of Indian Country's least assimilated and pure cultures.

Her work with Seminoles is considered by many to be a crowning achievement among thousands of recordings she made in her 50-plus years of studying and preserving American Indian music. Most of her work was done with ancient Edison wax cylinder phonographs now held at the Library of Congress, where they are accessible to researchers and Tribal delegations.

In addition to the Seminoles, the old phonographs include songs from the Chippewa, Mandan, Hidatsa, Sioux, Pawnee, Papago, Winnebago, Menominee, Pueblo and Kuna Indians, among others.

Densmore typically paid her performers 25 cents per song. She also made photographic portraits and collected Tribal clothing, musical instruments and other artifacts.

In 1972, the Smithsonian produced an album from Densmore's recordings on the



Photo courtesy of Smithsonian Folkways

Francis Densmore records Blackfoot Chief Mountain Chief during a 1916 Edison wax cylinder phonograph recording session for the Bureau of American Ethnology.

institution's Folkways record label. *Songs of the Seminole Indians of Florida* can still be purchased online.

In addition to a six-page booklet, the album contains 10 Seminole songs, each of which can be listened to on the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage website.

A frequent contributor to the *American Anthropologist* professional journal, Densmore wrote *The American Indians and Their Music* in 1926 and was profiled in Stetson Kennedy's 1989 Florida classic *Palmetto Country*.

After her lifelong travel companion and housemate, her sister Margaret, died in 1947, Densmore sold their family home and took a room in a boarding house up the street, where she continued writing about Indian music.

At 87, Densmore set out on her final recording trip. On a 1954 lecture tour to Florida, she made a side expedition into the Everglades to work for a month among the Seminoles.

She died on June 5, 1957, of pneumonia and heart failure and left a personal estate worth \$9,710.46 to her cousins Mabel and Charles Densmore. It was two weeks after her 90th birthday and only six weeks before the Seminoles took a huge step into the modern future by voting to approve a Constitution and become the organized, federally recognized Seminole Tribe of Florida.

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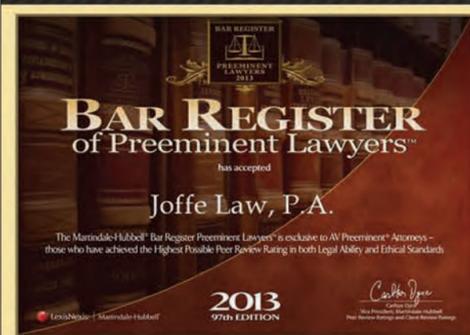
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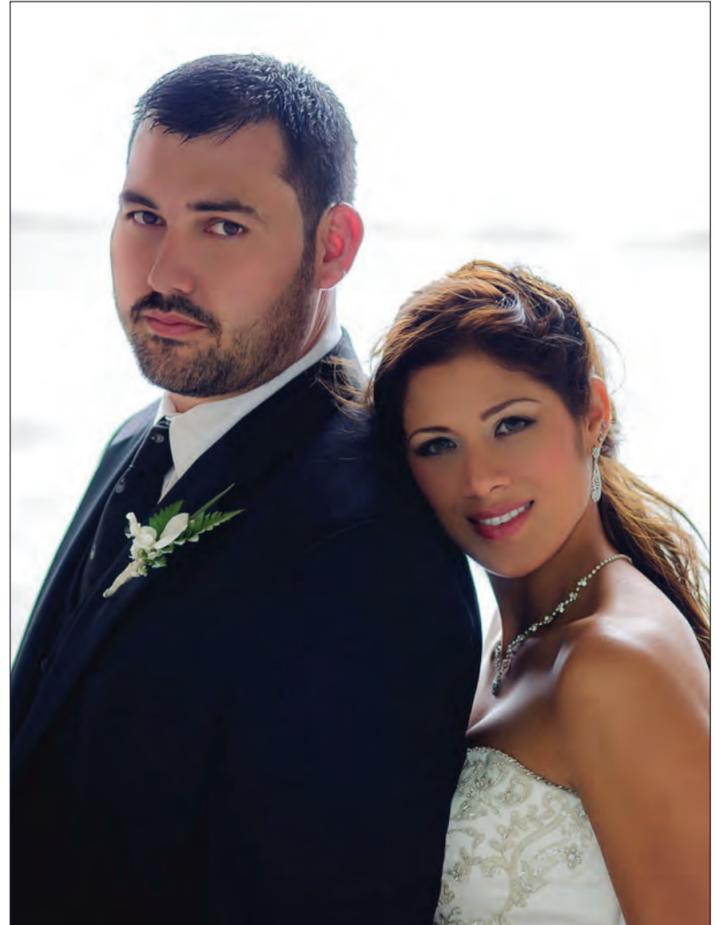
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Announcements



'Twenty-One Gun Salute'

Poem by Ike T. Harjo

Twenty-one gun salute for my home team
 that's gone,
 You are not forgotten as life goes on.
 Every day I think of you all because you are
 all I know,
 It's lonely in this world so I look forward to
 when it's my time to go.
 Momma don't cry when you bury me,
 Smile and wipe the tears from your eyes
 because I am free.
 I'm no longer trapped in this world of hate,
 Reunited with my home team whose dog ropes
 were always staked.
 I went to a green corn dance and it was all
 good,
 I seen those we descend from doing the stomp
 and far as the eyes could see chickees stood.
 Mikasuki was being spoken no English at all,
 True Seminole men and women standing tall.
 I know you miss me momma don't worry
 about your baby boy let me ride,
 I'm here with my home team here on the other
 side.
 Peace at last and I am having fun,
 In the midst of the true unconquered ones.
 Twenty-one gun salute they deserve for they
 are great,
 This strong warrior spirit you blessed us with
 will not break.

Ike T. Harjo
Sholooahthi Bolchunahga
Koowaathi

Congratulations, Ricky Dillon III



We want to say we all are very proud of your hard work that you've done, especially in receiving the award for National Honor Society from Logan High School. God Bless you.

Love, Mom & Dad and all the families from Tampa, Logan West Virginia and Rock Hill South Carolina

-Submitted by Barbara Cypress

Congratulations, Peter and Rossana Hahn

Priscilla and I were standing at the Seminole Vendors Sale at the Hollywood Gym during Christmas when Terry Hahn, the proud mother of Peter Hahn, introduced Priscilla and me to the new addition to her family. It was Peter's wife, Rossana. Peter had told me how they met, and I thought it was just sweet; he said they had been seeing each other for a couple years and that she was the one. I have watched Peter grow up into a very nice and responsible career-driven young man. I am glad to put this announcement into the paper.

-Submitted by Wanda Bowers

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

MESSAGE: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____
 DATE: _____
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 EMAIL: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
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 FATHER: _____
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The Seminole Tribune contact information:
 Phone: 954-985-5701 x 10725 from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Address: 3560 N. State Road 7, Hollywood, FL 33021
 Fax: 954-965-2937
 E-mail: BrettDalv@semtribe.com
 Please include your mailing address if photos are to be returned.

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Happy anniversary and happy birthday, Anna

Happy birthday baby girl on Jan. 26, and happy second wedding anniversary to my loving wife on Jan. 29. I will always love you, Anna. Thank you for the love and for making my world a better place.
 Love, Patrick Doctor Sr.

THRIFTARELLA'S

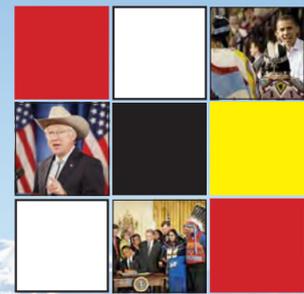
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NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



'Idle No More' movement engulfs Canada

OTTAWA, Ontario — Called Idle No More, a historic aboriginal protest movement comprising the First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples and their supporters in Canada and around the world, has exploded across Canada. Fueled by social media, a series of round-dance flash mobs and the highly publicized hunger strike of Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence, the movement has brought to light numerous abuses of indigenous treaty rights by the Canadian government, which, following the May 2, 2011 Canadian federal election, pursued sweeping legislative changes via omnibus bills in direct opposition to indigenous interests.

As of Jan. 4, 2013, the main goals of this grassroots movement were narrowed down to the establishment of a nation-to-nation relationship between First Nations and the government of Canada, rather than a relationship as defined in the Indian Act to address issues, and social and environmental sustainability. First Nations issued a statement that they would not recognize the legality of any laws passed by the government of Canada, "including but not limited to Bill C-45, which do not fulfill their constitutionally recognized and affirmed treaty and aboriginal rights; as well as the crown's legal obligations to meaningfully consult and accommodate First Nations."

The wide-ranging movement is characterized by rallies, teach-ins, strikes, a National Day of Action and other protest demonstrations. Recurring flash mobs blocked highways, bridges and railway lines, and disrupted holiday business in the nation's largest malls — all of it covered by the world media. Events were staged across all of North America, where there have been more than 30 protest events since December, such as a flash mob at the huge Mall of America in Minneapolis, and in foreign countries including Sweden, London, Germany, New Zealand and Egypt.

The movement has stirred up long-standing racial tensions and resulted in numerous incidents of violence, including the brutal rape of a Thunder Bay Native woman that alarmed both sides.

— *Associated Press, Canadian National Post, Canadian University Press, ICTMN.org*



Photo courtesy of Associated Press

Gyasi Ross: 'Pay attention to Idle No More'

Famed Blackfeet author Gyasi Ross, an incisive essayist about Native affairs, had this to say about Idle No More:

"Probably the biggest story in Indian Country in years — from a grassroots perspective — is the Idle No More movement. All the Skins who think they want to do big stuff in Indian Country should take notice and get on board; this isn't going away. The Idle No More movement reawakened the centuries old Native resistance to colonization and non-sustainable living; it's not a 'new' movement, by any stretch, but many of us forgot that we were actually fighting on a daily basis. Idle No More is the reminder — if you look at any of the comments from the Canadian newspapers about First Nations people — you'd understand the depth of the fight.

"The movement resembles the Occupy movement in many ways, which is both good and bad, but the coolest part about it is that it has transcended being about one topic: any Native can take the energy and run with it as an inspiration to do positive work for our people. Native people who want to work against Native suicide? Idle No More. Native people who seek to work for Native representation in mainstream government? Idle No More. Etc., etc.

"The movement speaks to so many of Indigenous peoples' aspirations and needs. Silence equals death for Native people — silence about the dysfunction within our communities, silence about our peoples' success stories, silence about the needs that we must address. Idle No More is the opposite of silence — Idle No More, Silence No More. It is powerful and will only expand."

— *Indian Country Today Media Network*

Fishing rights worthless without fish

FRANK'S LANDING, Wash. — Tribal member Billy Frank Jr. has been arrested more than 50 times since age 14 for fishing this river and defending his Tribe's treaty right to fish throughout the fish-ins of the 1960s and '70s. Then, Indians and their supporters at Frank's Landing and further north, at Puyallup, were tear gassed, shot at and beat up by state and federal police.

Eventually, the Tribes' treaty right to fish was affirmed by the 1974 federal Boldt Decision.

Now Frank, 81, stands on the banks at Frank's Landing, nets out of the water and skiffs on the grass. There are no fish in his Tribe's home river to catch.

Despite good intentions, hundreds of millions of dollars spent, lawsuits won and treaty rights affirmed in the highest courts, the battle to save the salmon and the habitat that supports them is being lost not only here, but all over Western Washington.

In a blistering State of Our Watersheds report issued recently, the 20 treaty Tribes across Western Washington, through the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, which Frank chairs, documented

habitat loss that is destroying salmon runs all over the region. This came on the heels of a white paper by the treaty Tribes of Western Washington in 2011, Treaty Rights at Risk, that found their treaties will be paper promises if habitat loss is not reversed.

The report found less tree cover and eel grass, more pavement and more shoreline hardened with bulkheads and other alterations than before Puget Sound chinook were listed for protection more than a decade ago. There have been spectacular advances: Dikes are being ripped out of the Nisqually and Skokomish river deltas, and dams taken out of the Elwha River — all habitat restorations costing hundreds of millions of dollars.

But it is not enough: The day-to-day losses of trees cut and land paved; road culverts blocking fish passage; logging roads leaching silt into streams; development converting open land, especially outside of urban growth boundaries overwhelm the gains made to date, maintains Tribal, state and federal research.

Tribes intend to keep up the pressure, Frank said. "We have to fight for all the animals," he said. The whales, the sea lions, all these things that swim. It's important. Not just to the treaty Tribes. But to everyone."

— *Seattle Times*

Pequot leaders face theft charges

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Former Chairman of the Mashantucket Pequot Michael Thomas and his brother Steven, the current Tribal Treasurer, have been arraigned on charges that they stole more than \$800,000 from the Tribe.

The Tribe owns and operates the Foxwoods Resort Casino on its reservation in Ledyard, Conn.

Former Chairman Thomas is accused of stealing more than \$100,000 in Tribal funds and federal grant money between 2007 and 2009 during his tenure as head of the Tribal Council. His brother allegedly stole more than \$700,000 between 2005 and 2008 while he was assistant director of the Tribe's Natural Resources Department. The Tribe defaulted on more than \$2 billion in debt in late 2009 and has yet to secure final approval of any plan to restructure the debt.

If convicted of stealing from an Indian Tribal organization, each Thomas brother faces a maximum prison term of five years and fines of up to \$250,000. If convicted of stealing from an Indian Tribal government receiving federal funds, each faces a maximum prison term of 10 years and a fine of up to \$250,000 on each count.

— *Rep-Am.com*

Celebrities gather for Leonard Peltier

NEW YORK CITY — The famed Beacon Theater hosted a benefit, recently, called "Bring Leonard Peltier Home in 2012." It was an appeal to President Barack Obama to grant Peltier a pardon, and celebrities including Harry Belafonte, Pete Seeger, Common, Michael Moore and Mos Def sought to use their influence to get the president's attention.

Peltier, 68, (Anishinabe-Lakota) is a Native American activist and member of the American Indian Movement (AIM) who was convicted in 1977 and sentenced to two consecutive terms of life imprisonment for first-degree murder in the killing of two FBI agents during a 1975 conflict on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

His indictment and conviction have been the subject of much controversy; Amnesty International rated his case under the "Unfair Trials" category of its *Annual Report: USA 2010*, citing concerns with the fairness of the proceedings.

Peltier is currently incarcerated at the Coleman Federal Correctional Complex, west of Leesburg in North Central Florida. His next scheduled parole hearing is July 2024. Barring appeals, parole or presidential pardon, his projected release date is Oct. 11, 2040.

— *Soundcloud.com, Indian Country Media Network*

Rare black-footed ferrets spotted on Sioux Reservation



Photo courtesy of Associated Press

MOBRIDGE, S.D. — Endangered black-footed ferrets have been spotted outside of special management areas in South Dakota, raising hopes among officials at the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe that a new wild colony of ferrets, which have been on the federal Endangered Species List since 1967, has been found.

The black-footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*) is a nocturnal animal with telltale black feet, facemask and tail-tip. It's the only ferret species native to North America and one of the rarest mammals on the continent. Federal wildlife officials estimate that fewer than 500 breeding adults live in the wild.

Females are called jills, males are hobs and their young are kits.

Biologists, working with the Tribe, photographed an adult ferret and two juveniles during a series of nighttime surveys of prairie dog towns on reservation land west of Mobridge. The ferrets were first spotted Halloween night. Barry Betts, biologist for the Tribe, believes this is the first sighting of a wild black-footed ferret since a colony was discovered in Meeteetse, Wyo. three decades ago: "It's pretty exciting. I've been in the business for 40 years, and this is only the

second time in my life that I've ever seen a black-footed ferret."

But Pete Gober, coordinator of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's national ferret recovery program, said it's unlikely, after searching all these years, to find the remnants of a wild colony: "We're always encouraged by the possibility, but none of those have ever panned out."

— *Argus Leader*

New York turns back on Native gaming

ALBANY, N.Y. — Ignoring Native American casino proposals for off-reservation sites and eased restrictions on lands in trust, statewide legalized gaming in New York appears to be around the corner. The state legislature is expected to vote approval in the New Year followed by the governor's signature and a vote by the public in November.

State Sen. John Bonacic believes there is little likelihood of any being developed in New York: "There are strong factions in the Congress, specifically in Vegas and California, that I do believe do not want to see a proliferation of Native American off-reservation casinos happen in the East, and they keep their thumb on that. You are not likely to see any of that unless there is a change in the philosophy in the Congress and the Senate or with our president."

The plans for legalized gaming in New York tentatively call for seven casinos, and area officials are hoping for at least two in the Catskills — one in the Monticello area and one in the Ellenville area.

— *MidHudsonNews.com*

Rep. Young back as Indian Affairs head

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Doc Hastings, R-Wash., has announced that Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska, will continue to chair the Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs in the 113th Congress.

Young fought valiantly for increased Tribal economic development and self-determination initiatives and butted heads with the Obama administration's Interior Department, which neglected to send an official to testify at his hearing on Tribal federal recognition. He has also been a critic of the Cobell settlement, particularly the administration's handling of separate Tribal trust settlements.

Young also notably introduced the American Indian Empowerment Act of 2011, calling it "a starting point for a discussion on where federal Indian policy should go in order to increase Tribal self-governance," he wrote in an *Indian Country Today Media Network* op-ed piece. "I have made no bones about what my intent is — I want to see federal Indian policy move in a completely new direction. That direction includes returning power back to the Tribes and allowing them — at their sole discretion — to remove the federal government from overseeing their lands.

"It is my belief this will lead to the improvement of the quality of life for America's Tribes. The idea of empowering Tribes and finally getting the federal government out of their way is a concept I will not compromise on. The lands that our Tribes occupy are rightfully theirs and if they want to develop those lands for the betterment of their people — then the federal government should not stand in their way as it has so often done."

— *Indian Country Today Media Network*

Supreme Court rejects Seminole casino case

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear the case *Contour Spa* at the Hard Rock v. Seminole Tribe, a casino business dispute.

Though the Seminole Tribe of Florida waived its sovereign immunity in a 10-year lease with ousted tenant Contour Spa at the Hard Rock Casino in Hollywood, the original agreement was never approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals said that lack of approval renders the agreement invalid and the Supreme Court's decision to reject the petition without comment affirms that judgment.

— *Indiansz.com*

Hundreds turn out to honor 38 Dakota men

MANKATO, Minn. — Hundreds of people gathered in Mankato the day after Christmas for the unveiling of a memorial to 38 Dakota men who were hanged 150 years ago in what is the largest mass execution in U.S. history.

Sixty horse riders, including Tribal members who rode for 16 days from South Dakota, were among the 500 people on hand for the dedication of the Dakota 38 memorial. The event marked a dark chapter in the history of the region and country.

"Today, being here to witness a great gathering, we have peace in our hearts — a new beginning of healing," said Arvol Looking Horse, the leader of the Dakota/Lakota Tribe.

The Dec. 26, 1862, mass hanging signified the end of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. Following the war, 1,600 Dakota were sent out of state, and virtually all other Dakota fled Minnesota. Originally, 303 men were sentenced to be hanged, but President Abraham Lincoln, who reviewed all the cases, wrote a letter to Minnesota Gov. Alexander Ramsey, listing 39 men who should be hanged, including one who was later given a reprieve.

Some Native Americans today feel Lincoln was wrong to order any of the hangings and that several of the men were innocent of any wrongdoing.

In August, Gov. Mark Dayton marked the 150th anniversary of the start of the war by asking Minnesotans to "remember the dark past" and by repudiating the actions of Ramsey, Minnesota's second governor, who said after the war that the

Dakota should be exterminated or driven from the state.

— *The Free Press of Mankato*

Did Karlie want to hurt Cherokee ex-boyfriend?



Photo courtesy of Indian Country Media Network

NEW YORK — From the Cherokee rumor mill: Was Victoria's Secret model Karlie Kloss trying to mock ex-flame Sam Bradford by wearing an Indian-themed outfit in a recent runway show?

Cherokees are chattering that the obvious slight was meant to be an arrow through the heart of Bradford, a citizen of the Tribe and current St. Louis Rams NFL quarterback.

If so, the actions of the love-scorned sexy model backfired big time, having generated major controversy in Indian Country, with some Indians saying she is racially insensitive and needs to apologize — not only to Bradford but to all of Native America.

— *Indian Country Today Media Network*

Lauderdale wall honors Euchee woman

LAUDERDALE COUNTY, Ala. — Her name was No. 59.

It used to be Te-lah-nay.

In North Alabama, a Euchee Indian teenager was given a metal tag to wear around her neck with the No. 59 to help identify her as she walked to Oklahoma along the Trail of Tears in 1839.

It took five long years, but Te-lah-nay managed to leave Muscovy, Okla. and return to her beloved land in Lauderdale County. She brought with her the tag placed around her neck by soldiers, or as she called them, the "Shiny Buttons."

"She said, 'We all thought the 'Shiny Buttons' had changed our names so I brought my name back with me,'" said Tom Hendrix, Te-lah-nay's great-great-grandson.

In 1988, Hendrix felt the urge to honor the great-great-grandmother whose stories inspired him as a child. He built an incredible wall of rock that required 8.5 million pounds of stone and "wore out three trucks, 22 wheelbarrows, 3,800 pairs of gloves, three dogs and one 80-year-old man," Hendrix said.

He kept track of the stone by weighing his trailer while empty and then weighing it filled with stones for each load.

The winding rock wall is known as "the largest non-mortared rock wall in the United States and the largest memorial to a Native American woman," Hendrix said. "She was one of the very few who came back. I decided to build her a memorial, and I decided to do it out of stones," he said.

The wall is 1.25 miles long. Some Tribes refer to the wall as "wichahpi," meaning "like the stars," while others call it "ishatae," or "holy or spiritual place," Hendrix said.

— *RoadsideAmerica.com*

Casino competition threatens Foxwoods

MASHANTUCKET, Conn. — On any morning, the parking lots at Foxwoods Resort Casino are packed with cars registered in Massachusetts. They are parked there by patrons who drive an hour or more to play the casino. In fact, a solid 32 percent of Foxwoods' patrons are from Massachusetts.

But will they still be there by 2016, when Las Vegas-style gambling is established closer to home?

Foxwoods, 100 miles from Boston, is fighting to keep those Bay State customers, or as many as possible. The Tribal casino, now 20 years old, is expanding with a new outlet mall, remodeling parts of its existing \$3-billion complex, and stepping up its marketing. It's no secret — Massachusetts is planning to license as many as three casino resorts and one slot parlor, with the intent to intercept Foxwoods' customers and keep them in-state.

It is a crisis Native gaming operations across the country must address as the exclusivity of Indian gaming is diluted by state legislatures opening more and more venues up to various forms of gaming, including full-blown Las Vegas games. The coming competition from Massachusetts is also reverberating in Rhode Island, which will permit table games at the Twin River slot parlor in Lincoln to protect \$300 million in tax money the state collects annually from casino gambling. In New Hampshire, the exit of Gov. John Lynch, a casino skeptic, has revived a push to legalize Las Vegas-style games and beat Massachusetts to market.

Foxwoods, and its nearby Tribal casino competitor Mohegan Sun, felt the bite of competition in recent years from New York, which began to open slot parlors in 2004, and Pennsylvania, which opened its first casino in 2007, according to the American Gaming Association.

Foxwoods need only look to Atlantic City for a lesson on the perils of new gambling businesses popping up in emerging markets. In 2006, Atlantic City casinos reported \$5.2 billion in gambling revenue, said Greg Roselli, a casino analyst for UBS Securities. Since that 2006 peak, new competition has cut into Atlantic City's business; the city's gambling revenue the last 12 months was about \$3.1 billion, he said. "The two main hits to A.C. have been Pennsylvania and New York, and obviously the macroeconomy," Roselli said.

— *BostonGlobe.com*

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Education

B

Grant writing workshop proves successful

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

ORLANDO — People say there is no such thing as a free lunch, but those people clearly don't know about grants — gifts of money or land for a particular purpose. Monetary grants are the lifeblood of many Tribes and organizations; the money does not have to be paid back.

Receiving a grant is not as simple as just asking for it. Detailed grant proposals must be written and specific instructions must be followed. The process can be daunting for those unfamiliar with it, but grant writing can be learned with proper training.

The Native Learning Center (NLC) taught 93 people how to write grants in the Grant Researching and Proposal Writing in Indian Country Workshop, held Dec. 3-5 in Lake Buena Vista in Orlando. The workshop was the first of what could become an annual course.

"We have seen an overwhelming interest in our grant education focus area," said Christina Gonzalez, NLC marketing coordinator. "We put together this workshop to give training and education to beginners, experts and everyone in between. Grant writing is a skill that can be acquired, which is why we put on the workshop."

Many Tribes and organizations have people solely dedicated to grant writing; others do it on their own. Participants came from all over the nation and included members of numerous Tribes, as well as non-Tribal members who work in Indian Country. The goal was to give them practical information they could take home and use to get grants. The workshop included courses that provided skills necessary to explore, seek out and successfully write a grant proposal.

Mike Hollingsworth, a descendent of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, works closely with the Leech Lake Tribal College in Cass Lake, Minn. about 100 miles from the Canadian border. The Tribe has three casinos, but the income derived from gaming is not enough to support the college, which is dependent on grants for 70 percent of its funding. Hollingsworth had a number of expectations when he signed up for the NLC workshop and left with a more realistic understanding of the grant writing process.

"It was very clear they did a lot of work to put on the workshop," he said. "It went smoothly on the front end, so I know there was a lot of work done on the back end. Grants are looked at as a mystical thing, but they are actually methodical like contracts. The course gave the foundation of how to approach writing grants. Anything we can do to make grant writing efforts more effective and the grant capture rate higher is time well spent."

Twelve instructors, seven of whom are members of Tribes across the country, offered courses such as *Using Grants for Tribal Economic Development*, *From the Eyes of a Reviewer*, *Philanthropic Language*, *Is Your Organization Ready for Grant Writing* and *Grants Writing 101*, to name a few. Feedback received by the NLC from attendees was very good.

"We are still getting feedback," said Jared Forman, curriculum development specialist. "Attendees went through process of learning best practices and applying them to specific grants. We are always available for follow up and to provide technical assistance; if someone has further questions about a grant, we will help."

Workshop participant Lew Hastings, executive director of the Boca Grande Chamber of Commerce near Fort Myers, isn't affiliated with a Tribe but has friends on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. One of them works with the Okiciyapi Tipi Habitat for Humanity in Eagle Butte.

"They are in desperate need for money to continue their efforts to build homes," he said. "It struck me that this was a way I could help. The workshop was pretty intimate, so it let us have a personal learning level you need when you deal with such technical forms. The instructors were absolutely fantastic."

The workshop gave participants a skill set they need to write grants and the confidence to do it.

"It took the fear out of trying to tackle something so large," Hastings said. "They broke it down into smaller pieces so you were able to grasp everything. It was really well done and if they keep going in this direction, they are going to help a lot of people in Indian Country."

♦ See NLC photos on page 2B



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School fourth-graders Liberty Robbins, Brandi Osceola and Randeon Osceola, and their teacher Catalina Bedoya, show items in a box filled with donated school supplies for schools in New York and New Jersey that suffered the wrath of Hurricane Sandy.

Ahfachkee School pays it forward

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Liberty Robbins, 9, said she couldn't imagine if a hurricane swept through her school and destroyed everything in sight, but she knows how she'd feel if someone came to help.

"I'd feel very grateful," said Robbins, a fourth-grader at Ahfachkee.

From November through mid-December, the entire fourth-grade class led by teacher Catalina Bedoya opened their hearts to help schools in New York and New Jersey that were devastated by Hurricane Sandy. They led a drive to gather and send much-needed classroom supplies for students who lost it all on Oct. 29 from the storm's brutal wind and rain.

According to published reports, nearly 200 of 1,400 schools in New York and neighboring districts were damaged beyond operation. In New Jersey, many schools were rendered unusable and shut down for the unforeseen future.

"We always have to put ourselves in the shoes of others, understand what they are going through and then pay it forward," Bedoya said. "We have been fortunate, so it was our time to help."

Bedoya said she heard on the radio that other schools outside Hurricane Sandy's reach were already collecting non-perishable food, blankets and clothing. When Bedoya learned that up to six New York and New Jersey schools at a time were sharing facilities just so children could return to class, she decided that school supplies would be the next priority.

Charlie Osceola, 8, said her mother helped her and her sisters Alyssa Osceola, 11, and Adasyn Osceola, 6, donate items that included glue sticks, rulers, markers and pencils.

"It didn't matter what we gave," Charlie said. "Whatever we gave they needed for learning."

The drive, called Project NYC, bought in 640 items that ranged from the least expensive pencil erasers to very costly

graphic calculators. Novels, pencil cases, boxes of crayons, packages of loose leaf paper and bottles of hand sanitizer rounded out the mix.

Four large boxes were shipped to the Staten Island Hurricane Relief Fund and two were sent to Project Backpack in New Jersey.

Bedoya said the drive kicked off with a challenge — a cupcake party or a pizza party would go to the two classes with the most donations.

The winners were teacher Sue Tiger's third-grade class and high school physical education teacher Bernadette Schyvinch's class respectively.

But no one knows who really gave the most. A box staged in the school's front office was started with a few pencils but almost overnight became heavy with goods dropped off by an anonymous donor — or maybe a group of several people.

"It was a beautiful thing and perfect to show the holiday spirit of charity," Bedoya said. "It was like having a secret Santa."

Student spotlight: Jessica Osceola

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — Television has been described as a vast wasteland, but Jessica Osceola would be quick to disagree. The Florida State University freshman found her future career path through a popular TV show about FBI behavior analysts.

Osceola is pursuing a double major in psychology and criminology with the intent of going to work for the FBI.

"I've always liked psychology; I find it very interesting," Osceola, 18, said. "I saw a TV show, *Criminal Minds*, and did more research to see what it would really be like. They profile criminals by looking at a crime to figure out why the criminal did it and then figure out who it was. It's working backwards."

Osceola has always enjoyed a good mystery — her favorite author is James Patterson, so working in a mysterious field suits her.

Her future plans are so clear that she is already planning to go to graduate school for an advanced degree in psychology, and perhaps even a doctorate.

Inspiration came from her high school psychology teacher, who raised her awareness of the subject.

"I find psychology really interesting," Osceola said. "It challenges me and makes me think."

Originally from the Naples community, Osceola and her family moved to Virginia a few years ago. She always wanted to go to FSU; it was her first-choice school. That fondness may be in her genes because her grandfather, Guy Osceola, graduated from FSU.

One of the challenges Osceola faced when she started freshman year was being from out of state. Although she was raised mostly in Naples, she went to high school in Virginia and didn't have any friends attending FSU. She joined numerous clubs to meet people with similar interests and actively participates in her favorite ones: rock climbing and billiards.

Osceola credits her mother, Wanda, as being one of her heroes.

"She always told me to do whatever it was I wanted to do," she said. "And she always went out of her way to help me if I needed it."

Her advice for high school students considering college is to go.

"I was nervous about going away to school, but I gave it a chance," Osceola said. "Too many kids just stay in the local area instead of leaving home. I think you lose out on an experience if you stay where you've always been. Don't stick around. Even though it can be nerve-racking to leave your family, you can still see them over the breaks. Everyone should try something they haven't done before."



Beverly Bidney

At right, firefighter Juan Salazar interacts with the students after putting on his gear. Captain Jason Allis looks on.

Trail gets visit from Fire Rescue

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

MICCOSUKEE — A firefighter in full gear signifies help has arrived to an emergency. But to small children, that same firefighter with unfamiliar clothing, an oversized hard hat, a tank and a face mask making loud breathing noises can be very frightening.

As a way to allay fears and prepare them for what they may see in an emergency, Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue showed Trail students at the Miccosukee Indian School how a firefighter dons the heavy gear and becomes unrecognizable. The demonstration, which also included a lesson about avoiding poisons, drugs and alcohol, was part of the school's Red Ribbon activities from Dec. 17-19.

"Kids are scared when they see a firefighter in full turnout or bunker gear," Fire Marshal Robert Brown said. "We put the gear on in front of them so they can

a familiar person become an unfamiliar one. They will know what a firefighter will look like if one ever needs to come into their house."

Assistant Fire Marshal Bruce Britton gave a comprehensive program on poison.

Using a PowerPoint presentation with numerous photos, he taught students that poisons include cleaning supplies, medications in the medicine cabinet, cigarettes and alcohol. The program is based on the National Fire Protection Association's Risk Watch program, an injury prevention program for students that gives them the skills and knowledge to stay safe.

"Who knows what these are?" Britton asked the students while showing a photo of bottles of pills in a medicine cabinet. "Who should you get medicine from?"

Hands went up immediately in the group of kindergarten through second-graders. They knew only to accept medication from a parent, grandparent,

doctor or nurse.

Other photos and lessons included photos of people suffering from years of cigarette smoking and drug abuse and what healthy lungs and livers look like compared with those after years of abuse. Britton advised them to stay away from those substances.

"Even if someone in your family smokes or drinks, I want you not to," he said.

Britton is a highly decorated veteran of Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue. This year he was awarded the Fire Chiefs' Association of Broward County Public Educator of the Year, the Florida Fire Marshal Association's Life Safety Educator of the Year and the Florida Emergency Medical Services Safety Educator of the Year.

When the presentation was complete, the students had a tour of a Fire Rescue vehicle.

♦ See more FIRE photos on page 2B



Photo courtesy of Paola Moneymaker

From left, Jessica Osceola, Jessica Motlow, Jason Melton, Drake Anderson (FSU symbol Chief Osceola), Tucamah Robbins and Karli Wargo enjoy the FSU kickoff luncheon. The five Tribal students who attend the school received a special invitation from FSU president Eric Barron and his wife, Molly, to attend the 61st annual luncheon on Aug. 24.

Brighton youth visit Lion Country Safari for winter break



Photo courtesy of Salina Dorgan

Brighton youth stop for a photo at the entrance of Lion Country Safari. On Jan. 4, the Brighton Recreation Department treated youth to a trip to the park to end their winter break.



Andrea Holata

From left, Marc Masias, Judy Jones, Burgundy Pierce and Courtney Gore enjoy the paddle boats.



Andrea Holata

From left, Jagger Gaucin, Courtney Gore, Shae Pierce and Sean Osceola show their golfer stances after a game of putt-putt.



Photo courtesy of Salina Dorgan

Jacee Jumper and Brienna Brockman explore the caves at Lion Country Safari.

◆ More FIRE photos from page 1B



Beverly Bidney

A firefighter in full bunker gear addresses students from third through sixth grade.

◆ NLC photos from page 1B



Photo courtesy of Christina Gonzalez

Native Learning Center instructors teach 93 people how to write grants during the Grant Researching and Proposal Writing in Indian Country Workshop in Lake Buena Vista in Orlando.



Firefighter Juan Salazar shows children the interior of the rescue vehicle.



Beverly Bidney

Students are eager to participate in the Red Ribbon program.



Photo courtesy of Christina Gonzalez

A participant gets information at the workshop, which was held from Dec. 3-5.

Tiny muscles get big workout at Big Cypress Get Fit Day

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

T-shirts, and some still in diapers, about 30 preschoolers toddled into the gym turned indoor playground then rushed to exercise stations on Dec. 21.

A triad of basketball hoops almost low enough for pint-size dunking, a massive beach ball perfect for pushing, coasters for scooting, a blue tunnel for crawling and a foam-soft obstacle course provided plenty of physical fun.

Cypress and Fitness specialists Alvin Buster, Mike Iglesias and Neil Prager assisted activities, but the children were free to stop, start and go again where they chose. Preschool teachers could not tell who had more of a blast – the children or the grown-ups.

"It's about moving, playing, being active and being a kid," Cypress said.

BIG CYPRESS — Flexibility, agility, endurance and strength are necessary for physical competition – and for healthy growing for the littlest warriors at the Big Cypress Preschool.

"We want to instill the love of fitness, and we want to give the children a different environment for learning it other than school," said Tribal member Cathy Cypress, specialist for the Big Cypress Fitness Department.

For the children, two hours of fun and games monthly during Get Fit Days at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium is just extra playtime.

Dressed in yellow and orange Get Fit



Randy Rueda, 2, goes for a basket during Get Fit Day.



Kysley'Ana Anderson, 2, crawls over and over in the tunnel.



Eileen Soler

Children from Big Cypress Preschool learn a bit about basketball with help from Cathy Cypress.



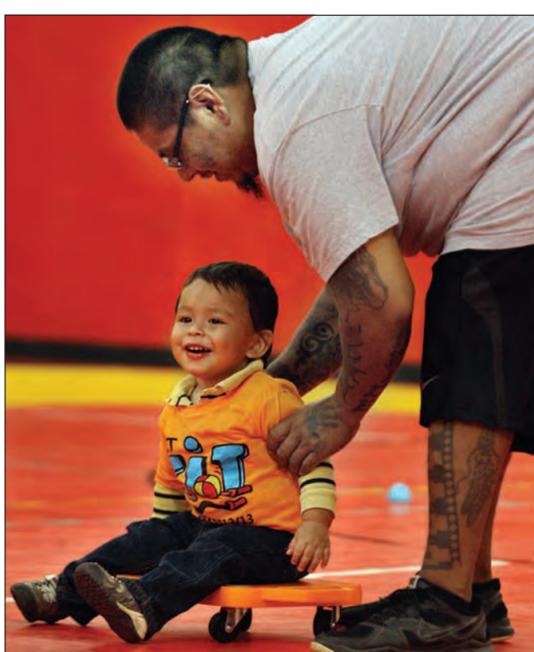
Eileen Soler

Ada Bruised Head, 2, takes a second to smile at the camera while scooting across the gym floor.



Eileen Soler

Fitness specialist Mike Iglesias coaches children in jumping skills on a foam obstacle course.



Eileen Soler

Little Tigertail Garcia, 1, gets an assist from Alvin Buster.



Eileen Soler

Mohayla Billie, 2, puts a little muscle into pushing a giant beach ball.

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C



Eileen Soler

Mixed martial arts Junior Black Belt Kiana Bell, 14, wrestles with lead instructor Luis Gutierrez, while her sister Adrienne Bell, 11, spars with instructor Aaron Smith during a Monday night workout with the Black Belt Club at the Big Cypress Mixed Martial Arts school.

First mixed martial arts Black Belts set pace for future

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — There's no crying in mixed martial arts class. Well, maybe a few beginner's tears.

"There is always that time, the initial moment when the child makes contact and feels it," said Luis Gutierrez, lead instructor at the Big Cypress Mixed Martial Arts school.

But usually it's bruised ego, not flesh, that draws one-time tears in the program, which launched four years ago with youth from Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee and Hollywood at Gutierrez's Pembroke Pines gym.

On Dec. 8, three of Gutierrez's original students, Kiana Bell, 14, Kyler Bell, 13, and Adrienne Bell, 11, became the first Tribal youth to graduate to Mixed Martial Arts Junior Black Belts.

Now, the Bell siblings, of the Hollywood Reservation, are passing on their discipline, knowledge and athleticism as mentors, role models and training partners to newer students at the school now based at the Fitness Dome in Big Cypress.

"Getting the (Junior) Black Belt is not the end — it's the beginning," said Dawna

Bell, the children's mother. "With hard work and dedication, all of our children will be Black Belts. It's good for the Tribe to have children grow up to be strong adults."

The school is open to all Tribal members ages 5 to 18. General classes for mixed martial art fundamentals and fitness are Tuesday and Thursday nights. Youth interested in becoming Black Belts can earn a spot in the program's Black Belt Club, which meets every Monday night for more rigorous training.

"Those are the candidates who are serious, whether they do it later for fitness or competition fighting," Gutierrez said.

The Bell children, having already endured years of training and six hours of grueling testing for Black Belt ranking, will continue in the club but will also help instructors train their younger peers.

Six instructors, including former Marine and retired police officer Pappy Caroddo, teach stand-up, clinch and ground techniques for striking, throwing and wrestling. Western boxing, western wrestling, Muay Thai kickboxing and Brazilian jiu-jitsu, all taught at the school, are the main components of mixed martial arts. Self-defense is also taught.

"Basically, we're just learning to

defend ourselves. If anyone tries to bully us, we know what to do," Adrienne said. "We want little kids to look up to us."

In early December, after two decades of owning his own martial arts gym, Gutierrez, who is a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Black Belt, sold the business to Tribal member Charlie Osceola. Osceola's daughter Charlie Osceola, 8, was among a battery of Green, Brown and Blue Belts who showed to mix it up on a recent Monday night in the Black Belt Club.

"Essentially, kids develop self-awareness. They train against other kids, but they learn to take care of themselves. They are not afraid to interact in society," father Charlie Osceola said. "It's like the old adage, 'They know how to fight so they don't need to.'"

Children wrestled, flipped and sparred with each other. Five of the youngest students were awarded with steps up in belt rank. They played wrestling tag games, laughing and shrieking with every tumble and twist. There was no crying.

"That's where the fun is. We play lots of games before we get to fighting," Gutierrez said. "It's aggressive but not violence. We coach through the tears."

♦ See more MMA photos on page 7C

Immokalee names new Recreation site manager

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Tribal member Cecilia Pequeno loves kids and has the energy to keep up with them all day every day. She has six children at home and spends her working hours interacting with Immokalee youth.

After seven years working with the Immokalee Recreation Department, Pequeno was recently promoted to site manager.

"I love working with the kids; they are awesome," Pequeno said. "They make the days go by so very fast."

As site manager, Pequeno handles programming and schedules events at the gym and the new Youth Center, and provides leadership and direction to a staff of 10 full- and part-time employees. She said her role is giving kids direction in life and keeping them physically active to prevent diabetes in adulthood. To that end, Recreation works very closely with the Fitness Department to encourage kids to stay active. Pequeno also works closely with other Tribal departments, including Education, Culture and the Ranch.

"We've come a long way in the years I've been here," Pequeno said. "We never had a big program. We used to just let the kids come in and have open gym. Now, we are programming every hour and give them more things to do. We encourage them to try everything."

Some of the programs offered include Sweet Rebound basketball, baseball, golf and skating. Immokalee does not have a Boys & Girls Club, but Pequeno wants to get one. Attendance during the school year ranges between six and 14 kids for each event, but during the summer, 30 to 40 children play onsite every day.

Pequeno came to the Recreation Department after spending a year with the 4-H Club. She transferred to Recreation



Beverly Bidney

Cecilia Pequeno is the new Recreation site manager.

and has loved every day on the job.

"Our doors are always open, and the kids can always come in and talk to us," she said. "I want this to feel like a safe place; some kids in the Tribe have tough lives at home."

In addition to interacting with youth, Pequeno appreciates the stability of the staff; most have worked in the department since she began.

Raised in Immokalee, Pequeno lived in LaBelle for a few years but came back about five years ago. She loves the convenience of the community and being surrounded by family and friends. She could see herself as a director one day or even a liaison for Immokalee.

Pequeno advises Tribal members who are wary of the rigors of working every day to just try it. She knows going to work is satisfying once you get into it and strongly encourages people to work for the Tribe.

"My mother always told me to find a department I like and go to work for our people," she said. "I jumped right in and I love it. Working with the youth is the best because the kids are the future of the Tribe."

Resolution Rodeo lassoes in a New Year

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Country music, a haze of red clay and the scents of horses and hot dogs welcomed spectators to the first Cowboy Resolution Rodeo at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena from Jan. 4-5.

Team sorting, team tying, calf branding and other ranch rodeo events kept everyone in their seats with eyes peeled on teams of men and women who competed for bragging rights and a share of nearly \$6,000 in cash prizes.

Tribal member Moses Jumper Jr., a lifelong horseman and director of the Big Cypress Cattle Committee, served as the rodeo's announcer and emcee.

"We have a history with horses and cattle that started long before the Tribe was even called Seminole," Jumper said.

Native Americans started organized cattle raising programs in the 1930s. Rodeos put on for cowboy competition and entertainment naturally followed. In the 1950s when the Tribe sought recognition from the federal government, rodeos were presented as the predominant source of community income.

"Rodeos were the first money-making proposition we had," Jumper said.

In 1996, the Region 13 Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA), made up of Tribal members, joined the Indian National Finals Rodeo.

Jumper said Tribal member Jacoby Johns, who ranks among the top three bareback riders in the world, is one of several EIRA members who complete annually in national events.

The recent rodeo at Big Cypress was produced for exhibition and entertainment said Alfonso Tigertail, who became the Rodeo program director in September 2012. It was open to all area cowboys, Tribal and non-Tribal.

"Hopefully, we can build on the Resolution Rodeo and make it an annual event or part of an ongoing series of events," Tigertail said.

Three teams competed Jan. 4. Five teams participated Jan. 5.

WJ Cattle, made up of Tribal member Josh Jumper, Justin Biscuit Hipp, Heath Crumb and Ashley Parks, won the rodeo with 24 points. Wait a Minute Ranch took second place, with Boney Cattle coming in third.

Tribal member Izzy Henry, of Hang N-Rattle team, won first place in the barrel racing challenge.

Tigertail said the next rodeo rough stock competition scheduled for the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena will be the Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo from Feb. 8-9. The Junior Cypress Cattle Drive and Rodeo will also be held at the arena on March 23.

♦ See more RODEO photos on page 6C

Recreation Department launches Seminole Way to Play policies

New policies affect youth sports participation criteria

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Recreation has always been important to Tribal culture; athleticism and competition are common aspects of daily life.

To encourage participation in athletics, the Recreation Department offers a variety of sports programs, and for the New Year, the department has enacted Tribalwide policy changes. Called Seminole Way to Play, the changes affect youth sports participation criteria, travel regulations, drug policies and more. Youth will also have more opportunities to hone skills in a variety of sports and participate in Tribal leagues on a weekly basis, so they benefit from the camaraderie athletics provide.

"One of the goals is to get Tribal kids to stay on the reservations for sports," said Richard Blankenship, director of Recreation. "We want the youth on the rez to get together to meet, compete and form lasting bonds."

Approved by Tribal Council in November, the new policies include significant changes to participation criteria. To be on a youth team, a player must have a 2.0 grade point average, have a good standing with the school — including not being on suspension or probation — and have no truancy issues. Further, all participants must comply with the Tribal drug-free policy, which includes a drug test every 90 days for everyone ages 10 to 54.

Other changes include what comprises

a Tribal team; the new policy requires the team to be 80 percent Tribal members. Attendance at 80 percent of planned practices is mandatory to remain on the team roster.

"Historically, kids say they will play on the team and may show up for practice once," Blankenship said. "Then, they expect to travel and play in the game. Or, they may never get drug tested. We are trying to correct that."

The travel policy addresses the financial contribution of the Tribe to players. Recreation will fund one non-sanctioned, in-state trip per year and three sanctioned, out-of-state trips per year. Sanctioned events are those sponsored by a Native American organizing body. The previous policy was unlimited, so this is a budget-control measure for the Tribe.

For individuals who want to participate on non-Tribal teams, the Tribe will cover team registration fees for two sports seasons per year. Players may compete in as many Tribal-produced tournaments as they want.

"If we do our job right, more kids will play on Tribal teams," Blankenship said. "We aren't trying to restrict involvement; if you play sports on a reservation, you can participate in as many as you want. The Tribe is growing, so we need to make sure the kids born today can have resources to be on a team in five years."

The policies also include new fees for descendants and non-Tribal community

members. A descendant will pay \$25 per quarter per child for all Recreation activities. Community members will pay a fee to cover expenses per program.

About 400 youth play on teams each year. Recreation wants to increase that by 20 percent over the year. The department will add activities, including Tribalwide basketball, softball and baseball leagues, and plans to offer these sports one day per week, year-round, on each reservation. Professional instructors will operate these programs, and they will also train parents to be volunteer coaches to help with the teams. Additionally, the professional coaches will work to get more exposure for high school athletes.

"The kids will see these coaches every week — consistency is important," Blankenship said. "We want the kids and the parents to get used to adhering to the sports schedules, rain or shine. Sports will be something the kids can depend on."

Blankenship realizes there could be some fallout from the new policies but is confident it won't last.

"The immediate result could be a drop in participation, but with the increased programming, that should be short-lived," he said. "It's going to take some time, and there will be some bumps in the road. We plan to have information sessions reservation-wide for parents to meet the instructors and get more information on these policies."



Eileen Soler

Tribal member Izzy Henry takes on steer in the team tying competition during the first Cowboy Resolution Rodeo at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena from Jan. 4-5.

First football season kicks into future

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — For some kids, football is a pigskin tossed, caught and run into the end zone during a game watched on television.

For 12 boys and one girl from the Big Cypress Reservation, who played their first season on the gridiron last fall as BC Seminoles, football was more about education and teamwork than tackles and touchdowns.

Coaches Kelvin Robinson and Carlton Banks, both Clewiston High School football alumni, started teaching the BC Seminoles 12 and under team from scratch. Many of the children had ideas about how the game is played, but few knew the very basics.

“We had to go on the field with them to show them how to line up,” Robinson said. Robinson and Banks, both former Pop Warner League coaches, taught the children one step at a time: physical conditioning, learning the game, and practice, practice, practice, practice.

“Team sports, especially football, take the greatest commitment from players. But the coaches thought out of the box,” said Recreation director Richard Blankenship during the team’s end-of-season banquet and awards ceremony on Dec. 13. “Having a new team with not a lot of kids didn’t stop them for going out there and being a team.”

Big Cypress Recreation site manager Josh Jumper offered a prayer of thanks over the barbecue pork and chicken dinner then credited team members for a good season played valiantly.

“It was a great experience,” Jumper told the team. “It helped you all become better men and, for one of you, a better woman.”

Charli Frye, the only girl to play, won the team’s Above and Beyond award. Jumper said Frye epitomized the phrase “girl power.”

“I saw Charli get hit hard, then get up and give it back. She’s one of the hardest hitters on the team,” Jumper said.

Frye said she was considered an equal



Coaches and first-time football players from the BC Seminoles 12 and under team pose Dec. 13 for a group photo during the team's end-of-season football banquet and awards ceremony.

on the field.

“Everyone who knows me knows that I can play sports with boys,” she said. “The hardest part to learn was blocking. The easiest was hitting and running the calls.”

Team member Cordell Baxter, who won a Most Improved Player award with teammate Leviticus Buster, said memorizing game plays and reading the coaches’ hand signals were the hardest parts of learning the game.

“But it was really cool. I was a football fan already. Now, I’m really looking forward to next year,” Baxter said.

Awards went to: Most Valuable Player, Ethan Balentine; Warrior, Ricky Garza; Most Improved Players, Cordell Baxter and Leviticus Buster; Best Defensive, Reginald Ling; Best Offensive, Les Gopher; and

Above and Beyond, Charli Frye.

Other players included Redheart Billie, Willie James Smith Jr., Abiaka Bowers, Ahmad Gary, Elisha Billie and Treyvon Holmes.

The novice team played four full-contact games on their home field at Moore Haven High School against teams that will likely become division rivals – the Belle Glade Browns, the Belle Glade Raiders and Fort Pierce.

Although they didn’t win a game, they came close to scoring touchdowns – twice, Robinson said.

Still, Jumper said, all the team members are winners.

“We never want this just to be about a football game,” he said. “We hope children learn the game of life.”



Beverly Bidney

FSU coach Jimbo Fisher signs a football for Luis Escobar as his brother Alex waits his turn.

Kids meet FSU head coach at Orange Bowl practice

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

DAVIE — Sports-minded Tribal youth, all Florida State University fans, were treated to an up-close look at the team as they practiced a few days before the Orange Bowl matchup against Northern Illinois University on Jan. 1.

“When FSU comes down here, they have our number,” said Max Osceola Jr., who brought a few members of his family to the practice held at Nova Southeastern University on Dec. 29. “When they are here, I’m glad they get to meet the real – the first – Seminoles.”

All players practiced on the field, and the coaches rigorously put them through their drills. Afterward, the kids met head coach John James “Jimbo” Fisher, who was pleased with the practice.

Trevor Osceola, a star running back at his high school, had never been that close

to a college practice.

“It’s cool,” said the Pine Crest School 11th-grader. “Hopefully one day I’ll be out here practicing with them.”

As the team was on the field, loudspeakers blasted crowd noise at top volume to simulate game conditions. Although the team played in crowded noisy stadiums throughout the season, the practice gave them one last time to acclimate to the noise and concentrate on listening to the quarterback’s spoken signals.

“The kids we brought here are all athletes,” Max Osceola said. “Any time they can see a top-notch athlete, it is inspiring. They see what they have to do to reach that level, which is what practice is all about.”

Kids were thrilled to meet Fisher, who graciously posed for photographs. The practice was a success; FSU won the Orange Bowl game 31-10.



Beverly Bidney

Tribal members pose with FSU head coach Jimbo Fisher. From left are Max Osceola, Alex Escobar, Luis Escobar, Trevor Osceola, Jimbo Fisher, Richard Osceola, Ethan Cypress, Sunshine Frank with son Phillip, Joseph Diaz and Glory Diaz.



Eileen Soler

From left, BC Seminoles 12 and under football team members Ricky Garza, Leviticus Buster, Reginald Ling, Willie James Smith, Redheart Billie and Elisha Billie toast each other during the team's first football banquet and awards ceremony.



Eileen Soler

Big Cypress Recreation site manager Josh Jumper gives Charli Frye the team's Above and Beyond Award.

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Justin Motlow and Andrew Henry: Tampa football stars

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TAMPA — It was the last quarter of the last game of a tough season for the Tampa Catholic Crusaders High School football team. Tied 7-7 in a Black Friday winner-take-all playoff battle with rival Clearwater Central Catholic Marauders, the Crusaders were in a do-or-die mode. The winning team would advance to the next round of the playoffs; the loser heads home, season over.

Crusader running back Kenny Bryant sat on the bench, taking a quick breather, as his offensive teammates tried to move forward against the talented Marauder offense.

“Get the ball to Motlow. Motlow. Motlow,” he said, over and over again, loudly to himself, almost like a chant. “Please, just get the ball to Motlow. Motlow. Motlow.”

Out on the field, 5-10, 185-pound wide receiver Justin Motlow lined up near the sideline on third and long. Everyone at the packed Marauder Field watched the junior standout, who established himself this year as one of the Tampa Bay area’s best wide receivers. His year’s statistics tell the tale: 679 total receiving yards, a phenomenal 17.87 yards average per catch and seven touchdowns — all in just a 12-game season.

The pass, however, was long and wide and the offense limped back to the bench... except for Motlow.

He’s also the punter, one of the area’s most accurate. And, when the chips are down, the coaches also use the young Seminole Tribal member as a defensive back. A sure tackler with the speed to keep up with any opponent, he is the son of Clarence and Lisa Motlow.

Down the road in Riverview, Tampa Spoto High School football star Andrew Henry waited for the late-night sports news. He was anxious to hear who won the Tampa Catholic versus Clearwater Central Catholic playoff game and how his fellow Tribal member, Justin Motlow, performed. Henry’s team had finished its season two weeks earlier, crushed in the finale of a three-win season by Paul Wharton High School, 42-13.

In that game, Henry, one of the area’s best running backs, scored both Spoto Spartan touchdowns, ran for 102 yards and was named Offensive Player of the Game. Son of James and Lila Henry (and grandson of medicine man Bobby and Annie Henry), Andrew gained 866 yards on 141 carries this season, averaging 6.14 yards per carry for Spoto, which won three and lost seven in 2012.

“I was really surprised,” he said, describing a recent ceremony in which the school gave him the year’s Most Valuable Player trophy. “I knew I had the stats, but

I just didn’t think I would get that award.”

The trophy means the world to Henry, a reaffirmation of a decision he made two years ago to change schools, from Tampa Catholic where he was Motlow’s teammate, to Spoto — a move that requires an athlete to sit out a year before participating in a football program. He was one of three starting players — all running backs — who quit Tampa Catholic before the 2011 season, claiming disputes with the Tampa Catholic head coach, all for the same reason.

“I wasn’t getting any playing time,” said Henry, who dominated Tampa Bay junior varsity play as a freshman. “The head coach kept making me promises he would not keep. Right after our last game in JV, he came over and said, ‘Get ready, you are going to be our star player next year. Then, he went and put me right back on (JV).’”

From his view as a starter on a team predicted to compete for the state title, Motlow said he was pretty disappointed. “Andrew’s a really good football player, and I knew that would be a big loss for our team. We had three good running backs and they all left at the same time. It was devastating for us. He had a pretty good season this year, and I feel like we could have had a better season if Andrew had stayed and played with us. He brought a lot to the table,” Motlow said.

Henry also made the Tampa Bay All Star team: “I was really nervous. First day of practice you’re playing with all these guys you read about in the newspaper. When I first got there, I couldn’t believe how big they all were. All the kids were nice and friendly, though and it was easy to get comfortable.

“I was surprised I made the team. I was thinking maybe I’m really not supposed to be here. Maybe I’m not good enough, but when I actually started playing, I realized I could do it,” he said. “It sure was fun to play at Raymond James Stadium (home of the NFL Tampa Bay Buccaneers).”

Most observers said the player defections led directly to Tampa Catholic’s failure to advance in the playoffs the past two seasons. The Crusaders were eliminated in the last 2012 game, 10-7, when Clearwater Central Catholic kicked a field goal with less than a minute left. A Hail Mary pass into the end zone that bounced off three Tampa Catholic players’ hands fell to the ground uncaught as the clock ran out.

Motlow’s parents waited by the gate and embraced their son, faces streaked with tears, as he left the field, his junior football season finished.

“(Justin) was pretty upset. It hurts to lose those close ones, especially a playoff game,” said father, Clarence Motlow. “Now it’s time to put it behind him and get ready for track season. He’s a great athlete. A great kid.”

Both boys want to take their football careers to the next level. Motlow, who has one more prep year to go, has already been contacted by college recruiters.

“Oh, they know who he is. He was only a junior and the recruiters were at all his games,” said Clarence Motlow. “News of a great athlete spreads like wildfire. I expect there will be a lot of attention on him next year.”

“I’m not entirely sure where I want to go,” said the 11th-grader: “I really like FSU and USC among a couple other schools. A few schools have really reached out to me. Cincinnati came and talked to me. I am going to remain open to all possibilities. Once you get the first offer, it starts to build.”

Next year, Motlow will be touted as one of the state’s best. Opposing teams read the paper. They willingly stick double-coverage on him. Will all that attention hurt him on the playing field?

“It makes me feel pretty good, actually,” he said. “When you know the defense is coming after you, you have an advantage. You know what’s coming, and you are ready to deal with it. That kind of attention makes you play all that harder. So when you do beat them, it’s a great feeling.”

Henry has had less attention from college scouts. He’s a few inches shorter than Motlow, which can greatly influence a scout “until he actually comes out and sees me and watches what I can do,” said Henry, who is confident he will be a college football player. “Even if I have to walk on and prove myself that way.

“I want something in Florida. I’ll go to any school in Florida that will offer me a scholarship. I would prefer not to go to a big school like Florida or FSU. I really want to play for a smaller school.”

As Seminole Tribal members, both boys’ educational and financial futures are secure. Neither boy, however, wants to settle for that: “I would tell all the Tribal youth to go out and make something of yourself. Learn how to make it on your own,” Henry said. “I don’t want to rely on (Tribal money). I don’t expect for that to be there forever. I want to make sure I make my own money and not rely on just the Tribe. I don’t want something to just be handed to me.”

Though they went to separate schools this year, Motlow said he and Henry have to deal with the same issues: “The kids never gave me a real hard time. It was always jokes. They think they know what it is to be Seminole, but a lot really don’t. We don’t pay taxes. That’s a common misconception, but I don’t know where these kids get some of these ideas. One of the weirdest things people say to me, all the time: ‘You get to gamble free at the casino!’”

Henry laughed and shook his head in



Peter B. Gallagher

Spoto’s Andrew Henry, behind his Most Valuable Player trophy, and Justin Motlow, behind his Tampa Catholic helmet, are two of the Tampa Bay area’s top high school football stars.

agreement, as Motlow continued: “I tell them: ‘Playing the casino for free? That’s not gambling!’”

Being Seminole is important to both boys, who come from strong, Florida pioneer families. “Just because you are getting money from the Tribe and will likely be financially stable, well, don’t rely on that. I don’t even think about it. You have to realize everything in life will not be handed

to you,” Motlow said. “You still have to go out and try your best at everything you do. Don’t be lazy and don’t expect everything will be handed to you.

“It makes me feel strong. We are very fortunate. It’s only right that we use what we get from the Tribe, and what we work for on our own, to better ourselves and the Tribe and the world we live in.”



Peter B. Gallagher

The successful end of a 41-yard pass, Tampa Catholic’s Justin Motlow is all alone as he scores his seventh touchdown of the season.



Peter B. Gallagher

Justin Motlow turns the corner, evades the tackle and runs 41 yards for a first-quarter touchdown against the Fort Meade Miners, a game Tampa Catholic won 24-23.



Peter B. Gallagher

Justin Motlow performs triple duties for the Tampa Catholic Crusaders: wide receiver, defensive back and, above, as a punter.



Ryan Watson

Tampa Bay All Star, Spoto High’s Most Valuable Player for 2012, Seminole Tribal member Andrew Henry has a banner year.



Peter B. Gallagher

Justin Motlow grabs a short pass and runs 66 yards for a second-quarter touchdown against Tampa Alonzo, one of six catches for 106 yards in a 17-14 loss.



Ryan Watson

Lined up behind the quarterback, Spoto running back Andrew Henry gets ready for the handoff. He averaged 6.14 yards every time he touched the ball in 2012.

Hollywood kids stay active during the winter break



Eric Jumper, 13, and Jaden Bankston, 12, appear to throw the balls in unison during a game of dodgeball. Beverly Bidney



Jaden Bankston, 12, and Adrienne Bell, 11, throw the balls during dodgeball. Beverly Bidney



Kids play kickball to keep active during winter break. Beverly Bidney



This boy happily runs the bases during a kickball game at winter camp. Beverly Bidney



Top photo: Arianna Osceola, 8, gives Armani Torres, 7, some advice on painting her ceramic plate. Bottom: Jake Osceola, 7, concentrates on painting his ceramic statue. Beverly Bidney

Hoop-happy youth play ball at Big Cypress gym



Leviticus Billie, 9, eyes the basket during a recent hoops night at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium. The gym is open for basketball nearly every day after school and every night. On Saturday nights, from 4 to 7 p.m., kids ages 17 and younger can play in organized games with the Big Cypress Recreation Department's basketball league. Eileen Soler



Corbin Billie, 14, slam dunks the ball during a recent Saturday night at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium. Eileen Soler



Ezekiel Billie, 6, gets basketball pointers from Frank Moody, of Big Cypress Recreation, at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium. Eileen Soler



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Ahfachkee School basketball program gains strength

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

the team. Malari Baker, a junior, made 15 points and eight steals.

Lady Warriors who are still in middle school also play other middle schools. As of Jan. 8, the middle school record was 2-1. Dasani Cypress, a seventh-grader who plays on both the varsity team and middle school team, made 15 points and five steals against Community Christian.

Boys' basketball is set to grow
Don't let the small size of most Ahfachkee School's fledgling boys' basketball players fool you. The varsity team, in its second-season return to the court, will not lie down.

Led by its only senior and strongest player Tylor Tigertail, the Warriors tenacity against taller, more seasoned teams serves to bolster each player's love of the game and commitment to win – even down to the final buzzer.

With Tigertail as its anchor, flanked by junior Quenton Cypress and freshman Devon Bowers, the team that consists primarily of middle school students, put on an honorable show of grit on Jan. 8 in a district game against looming, more experienced players from Community Christian.

Through the Community Christian competition, the team's second season had not yielded a win but team strength continues to grow.

"We expect at least three years before we can even qualify (for district finals)," Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger said.

Tiger, the team's biggest cheerleader, established the program last year to keep students off the streets, into sports and school, and away from the influence of



Eileen Soler

Quenton Cypress rushes the ball down court with Community Christian on his heels.

drugs or alcohol. Only four parents turned out for the first game.

"Now, the stands are packed, and the team is bringing in talented kids. I'm tickled and I'm pleased," Councilman Tiger said.

He's betting that the "snowball effect" continues.

"The parents bring the kids in. I just opened the door," Councilman Tiger said. "It's catchy and good. That's what makes

you proud. To me, the program is win, win, win."

The next issue of *The Seminole Tribune* will include a season wrap-up.



Eileen Soler

Tylor Tigertail dominates against Community Christian.



Eileen Soler

Dasani Cypress drives the ball to the basket during their Jan. 8 game.



Eileen Soler

Devon Bowers takes flight to score against Community Christian.



Eileen Soler

Kaylan Osceola protects the ball during the game against Community Christian.



Eileen Soler

The Ahfachkee Warriors battle to steal the ball from Community Christian.



Eileen Soler

Malari Baker makes a layup during the Jan. 8 game.

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Brighton youth practice for upcoming archery competition



Andrea Holata

Brighton youth line up and aim for their targets during archery practice on Jan. 7. In preparation for the upcoming Tribalwide Junior Archery 3D-Shoot Out to be held Feb. 23, the young men meet several times a week to practice.



Andrea Holata

Aidan Tommie firmly aims for his target.



Andrea Holata

Dalence Carrillo aims for a bull's-eye.



Andrea Holata

Drake Lawrence releases his arrow after aiming for his target during archery practice.

♦ More RODEO photos from page 1C



Eileen Soler

Tribal member Wilse Bruised Head rustles steer for the team sorting event.



Eileen Soler

Izzy Henry, of Hang-N-Rattle, wins in barrel racing at the Cowboy Resolution Rodeo.



Eileen Soler

Randy Rueda Jr. and Willie Smith take cowboy strides across the arena between rodeo events.



Eileen Soler

Ponch Castro, of the Hang-N-Rattle, stays aboard a bucking horse during the ranch riding contest.



Eileen Soler

Tribal member Josh Jumper eyes his mark for lassoing in the team tying event.



Eileen Soler

WJ Cattle team members tie a steer during the team tying competition.



Eileen Soler

Emcee Moses Jumper Jr. keeps his eye on the arena to describe the action.



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Recreation





TRIBAL WIDE EVENT
Jr. Archery 3D-Shoot Out
Brighton Reservation
February 23, 2013

Registration time will be from: 8:00 am to 9:45 am
at the swimming pool parking lot.
Tournament will start at 10:00 am sharp

← AGE DIVISIONS:

- 6-8 Yrs. Old
- 9-11 Yrs. Old
- 12-14 Yrs. Old
- 15-18 Yrs. Old

← TOURNAMENT CLASS FORMATS:

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Shooting distance will range from: 5 to 25 yards

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No Cross Bows will be allowed

All participants are encourage to bring your own equipment (bow & arrows)
No Fee for Florida Seminole Tribal Members
Fees: Descendants included in \$25.00 quarterly fee
Fees: Non-Tribal Community Members - \$20.00 per month

If you have any questions, please contact the
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◆ More MMA photos from page 1C



Eileen Soler

Kyler, Adrienne and Kiana Bell are the first Tribal youth to reach Junior Black Belt status at the Mixed Martial Arts school.



Eileen Soler

Mixed martial arts lead instructor Luis Gutierrez is flanked by students Colin Bowers and Charlie Osceola.



Eileen Soler

Mixed martial arts student Dayne Billie, 7, waits for his turn to spar at the Big Cypress Mixed Martial Arts school in the Fitness Dome.



Eileen Soler

Reginald Ling and Adrienne Bell face off.



Eileen Soler

Kiana Bell awards Redheart Billie a stripe on his Green Belt.



Eileen Soler

Dressed in blue, Tribal siblings Kiana, Adrienne and Kyler Bell help instructors Luis Gutierrez and Pappy Caroddo lead younger students in a recent practice.



Eileen Soler

Charlie Osceola, of the Big Cypress Reservation, takes a congratulatory sprint of honor after being awarded a Brown Belt at the Big Cypress Mixed Martial Arts school in the reservation's Fitness Dome.



Eileen Soler

Charlie Osceola is thrilled to receive a Brown Belt.



Eileen Soler

Instructor Aaron Smith gives Junior Black Belt Kyler Bell a workout during a class at the Fitness Dome.

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Mannerly sport provides a change of pace for Tribal youth

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

CLEWISTON — Without cheering crowds or umpire whistles, children battled under the hot sun on Jan. 12 in a sport that is won using intelligence and skill.

“Golf is about using your head,” Bryon Osceola, 8, of Hollywood, said. “You have to put a lot more thinking into playing golf.”

The Seminole Tribal Junior Golf Winter Championships, held at the Clewiston Golf Course, pit boys and girls from Immokalee, Brighton, Hollywood and Big Cypress in a nine-hole challenge that capped this year’s winter golf season.

The children played in four age categories spanning ages 6 to 18.

Tribal member Dallas Nunez, site supervisor for the Brighton Recreation Department, said the Tribe organized the multi-reservation golf program last year. He hopes the winter championship will become an annual event.

“We want our kids from different reservations to get to know each other, and we want to give our kids a taste of a different sport,” Nunez said. “Not everyone likes baseball, soccer or football.”

He credited longtime golfer and Brighton’s golf instructor Jason Tommie for organizing the championship event.

Winners of the Seminole Tribal Junior Golf Winter Championships were: 6-to-8-year-old boys: Bryon Osceola in first place; Leighton Jim in second place; and Max

Alava in third place. Nine-to-11-year-old boys: Conchade Mitchell Osceola in first place; Todd Pierce in second place; and Norman Osceola in third place. Nine-to-11-year-old girls: Burgundy Pierce in first place; and Karey Gopher in second place. Twelve-to-14-year-old boys: Troy Cantu in first place; and Drake Lawrence in second place. Twelve-to-14-year-old girls: Shae Pierce in first place. Fifteen-to-18-year-old boys: Quenton Cypress in first place; and Tyrus Billie in second place. Fifteen-to-18-year-old girls: Kirsten Doney in first place.

Nunez said half the participants are signed up in golf programs led by golf instructors on the reservations. About 20 percent are just learning the sport.

Jessica Torres, who attended the winter championships to support her son Max Alava, 7, said the game gives children who are less likely to enjoy contact sports a chance to compete and interact.

“Golf is a great tool to instill discipline, patience and structure,” Torres said.

Tribal member Mitch Osceola, who co-owns Plantation Palms Golf Club in Land O’ Lakes and is the father of novice golfers Bryon and Conchade, said the program widens athletic horizons for children without adding excess expense to parents.

“Golf is a sport that is also a for-profit business,” Osceola said. “It costs plenty of money for equipment, a place to play... For the Tribe to be involved and make golf available to the children is very, very important.”



Eileen Soler

Children from Immokalee, Brighton, Hollywood and Big Cypress pose for a picture. Youth competed in four age categories Jan. 12 during the Seminole Tribal Junior Golf Winter Championships at Clewiston Golf Course.



Eileen Soler

Max Alava, 7, of Hollywood, lines up his shot during the tournament.



Eileen Soler

Drake Lawrence, 11, of Brighton, takes a swing that leads to his second-place standing in the 12-to-14-year-old boys category.



Eileen Soler

Quenton Cypress, 17, chips to return a runaway ball to the fairway. Cypress won first place in the 15-to-18-year-old boys category.



Eileen Soler

Bryon Osceola, 8, of Hollywood, takes a serious stance toward winning first place in the 6-to-8-year-old boys category.

Claims Must Be Filed By March 1, 2013 In \$3.4 Billion Indian Trust Settlement

What is This About?

The *Cobell v. Salazar* Settlement is approved. The Settlement resolves a class action lawsuit that claims that the federal government violated its duties by mismanaging trust accounts and individual Indian trust lands. Payments to the Historical Accounting Class are underway. The process of considering claims for the Trust Administration Class is ongoing.

The final deadline if you need to file a claim form for the Trust Administration Class is March 1, 2013.

Am I Included?

The Trust Administration Class includes:

- Anyone alive on September 30, 2009, who:
 - Had an IIM account recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems anytime from approximately 1985 to September 30, 2009, or
 - Can demonstrate ownership in trust land or land in restricted status as of September 30, 2009.
- The estate (or heirs) of any deceased landowner or IIM account holder whose account was open or whose trust assets had been in probate according to the federal government’s records as of September 30, 2009.

Do I Need to File a Claim Form?

You must file a claim form if you believe you are a member of the Trust Administration Class and you have not:

- Received IIM account statements at your current address anytime between January 1, 1985 and September 30, 2009 and continue to receive statements; or
- Received a payment as a member of the Historical Accounting Class. If you did, you will receive a second payment automatically as a member of the Trust Administration Class; or
- Filed a claim form already using your current address. If you have, the Claims Administrator will contact you.

You must fill out a claim form and mail it to Indian Trust Settlement, P.O. Box 9577, Dublin, OH 43017-4877, postmarked by **March 1, 2013** in order to receive a payment.

How Much Money Can I Get?

Members of the Trust Administration Class will likely receive at least \$800 or more. The actual amount will depend on the number of claims and the costs of administration.

For a claim form or to update your contact information:

Call Toll-Free: 1-800-961-6109 or Visit: www.IndianTrust.com

Looking Back on 2012 D



Photo courtesy of Ryals Lee Jr.

Seminole royalty pose with FSU's iconic symbols, Renegade and Osceola, during the 74th annual Brighton Field Day, which took place from Feb. 17-19.



Staff photo

Participants of the annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive steer more than 200 cows across the Big Cypress Reservation on March 17.



Atilano Nunez

A Native American performs the Men's Fancy Dance at the Hard Rock Live in Hollywood during the Tribal Fair on Feb. 10.



Staff photo

Big Cypress Preschool's 3-year-old class smile as they get ready to celebrate Valentine's Day on Feb. 14.



Staff photo

Team Big Cypress is all smiles after being awarded the 2012 Rez Rally trophy for having the most participants. Big Cypress, the host of the event, had 273 participants from their reservation at the event, which was held on Jan. 21.



Staff photo

Ty Pennington, host of ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*, gets the crowd excited as he tells the bus driver to move the custom-decorated bus in a hail of pyrotechnics, unveiling the latest expansions at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek on Feb. 2.



Ryan Watson

Seminole students travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Close Up Washington program from Feb. 12-18.



Brett Daly

President Tony Sanchez Jr. and Hollywood Board Rep. Chris Osceola promote the Board of Directors' business venture with Stiles Construction at the RES 2012 Conference in Las Vegas from Feb. 28-March 1.



Staff photo

Brighton's Lahna Baker brings out her third-class steer for the 4-H Sale on March 31.



Staff photo

Tribal senior David Jumper shows off his plaque as one of the new inductees into the Florida Track and Field Hall of Fame on Jan. 6.



Staff photo

The Big Cypress Reservation hosts the 15th annual Big Cypress Shootout, a re-enactment of the Second Seminole War, from Feb. 24-26.



Naples youth gather around the Easter Bunny after their egg hunt on April 1.

Staff photo



Judy Weeks

Nancy Motlow juggles a hand full of eggs during the senior egg hunt competition in Immokalee on April 5.



Staff photo

Tiffany Frank says hello to her aunt Connie Gowen during Hollywood's Mother's Day luau celebration on May 10.



Rachel Buxton

During Pemaevt Emahavk Charter School's annual culture camp from May 2-3, Martha Jones shows Leilani Burton how to properly fold the frybread dough.



Rachel Buxton

Derreck Timothy, right, spends time with son Makai during Fort Pierce's Father's Day.



Rachel Buxton

Brighton's Luzana Venzor, center, pushes strong in the 100-meter dash during the HERSHEY'S Track & Field Games on April 27.



Staff photo

Former Miss Florida Seminole Jewel Buck competes in the Miss Indian World Pageant in Albuquerque, N.M. from April 26-28.



Andrea Holata

The Unconquered Lady Seminoles lead pitcher, Diamond Shore, winds up for a strike during the Jim Thorpe Games in Oklahoma.



Andrea Holata

Johnny "Trey" Boone III competes in the Jim Thorpe Native American Games Golf Championships in Oklahoma held from June 10-17.



Staff photo

During the Okalee Village Pow-Wow, drummers keep the beat during the grand entry, while the Color Guard leads President Tony Sanchez Jr. and Seminole royalty in.



Staff photo

The Big Cypress Reservation recognizes the Ahfachkee softball team during an awards ceremony on April 24 for their hard work and commitment throughout the season.



Brett Daly

The Ahfachkee graduating class of 2012 celebrate the end of their high school careers on May 29.



Brett Daly

Alexis Aguilar wins the Miss Florida Seminole crown during the 55th annual Princess Pageant on July 28, while Brianna Nunez takes the Jr. Miss title.



Staff photo

Hollywood youth compete in the watermelon race during the reservation's Fourth of July celebration.



Beverly Bidney

Ruby Osceola, right, attends the rededication of the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on July 5.



Rachel Buxton

Fort Pierce Liaison Jane Stockton shows kids she can dance, too, during the community's Fourth of July celebration.



Brett Daly

Trail's Aaliyah Phillips receives her education incentive award on July 25.



Photo courtesy of Salina Dorgan

The NASA 40 and over softball champions, the Lady Seminoles, gather after their tournament victory. The tournament took place in Kinder, La. from Aug. 10-11.



Beverly Bidney

The Education Department holds the first Tribalwide Masquerade Ball at Hard Rock Hollywood to recognize the achievements of older Tribal students on July 26.



Photo courtesy of John Harrington

Seminole Color Guard participates in the national Memorial Day observance in Arlington on May 28.



Beverly Bidney

Tribal youth at Camp Kulaquqa run laps during the Boxcar Derby. Kids traveled to High Springs to enjoy a week of activities from Aug. 5-10.



Judy Weeks

From left, Allegra Veliz, Nicole Slavik and Leatrice Cummings compete in the 50-meter hurdles during the Naples community's first Field Day on Aug. 14.



Peter B. Gallagher

Jenny Martinez makes a pair of moccasins during Tampa's Indian Day celebration on Sept. 29.



Staff photo

Adriana Huggins checks on her frybread during the cooking contest at Trail's Indian Day celebration on Sept. 28.



Beverly Bidney

President Tony Sanchez Jr. poses at the Seminole Unconquered booth during the launch of the Board of Directors' electronic cigarette brand on Sept. 18.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee's military crawl was wet, muddy, cold and loads of fun during the community's Red Ribbon celebration on Oct. 25.



Beverly Bidney

The Health Department's Hollywood Preschool Get Fit Day on Sept. 21 helps youth learn healthy habits at an early age.



Beverly Bidney

Kids practice controlling the ball while dribbling during the Jamal Mashburn Seminole Skills Clinic in Hollywood on Sept. 8.



Peter B. Gallagher

Tampa seniors gather at the community's Halloween celebration to show off their pumpkin artwork.



Beverly Bidney

Kids do a sideways run drill during football practice. Big Cypress re-launched their football program in September for the first time since 2006.



Beverly Bidney

Shovels in hand, dignitaries move dirt signifying the start of the Snake Road renovation project on Nov. 30 in Big Cypress.



Peter B. Gallagher

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students thank veterans during the Tribalwide Veterans Day celebration in Brighton on Nov. 2.



Andrea Holata

Greg James Jr. gets ready to gobble during Brighton Preschool's Thanksgiving party on Nov. 19.



Brett Daly

Chairman James E. Billie and President Tony Sanchez Jr. serve as the grand marshals for the FSU Homecoming Parade held on Oct. 26.



Beverly Bidney

The Education Department helps seniors apply to college with their first application workshop from Sept. 14-16.



Beverly Bidney

Santa, aka Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., greets children of all ages at the Hollywood Preschool Christmas play on Dec. 20.