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Voice of the Unconquered



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Kyle Doney enters Circle of Gold

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

TALLAHASSEE — Kyle Doney was inducted Nov. 1 into Florida State University's highly venerated Circle of Gold. Established by the FSU Alumni Association in 1993, the Circle of Gold recognizes individuals who epitomize the university's tradition of excellence through service and dedication.

"When you look around the room, it's the heart and soul of the university," said Scott Atwell, president of the Alumni Association, about the members who return each year for the induction ceremony.



Doney, who graduated in 2007, is the first Tribal member to receive the award and the first to serve on the Alumni Association's National Board of Directors. A board member for five years, Doney serves on the association's governmental advocacy committee and programs committee. The former brings university priorities to the local legislature to support its educational goals, while the latter implements social functions, sporting events and national Seminole clubs to boost alumni participation and to instill a constant identification with the school.

♦ See CIRCLE OF GOLD on page 6A

New recreation facility coming to Hollywood

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Hollywood Reservation will see big changes in the coming months with the construction of a new recreation facility, new homes and new townhouses.

The construction of the 39,000-square-foot, two-story recreation facility will likely begin in mid-December. It will house a gym, the Boys & Girls Club and the Fitness and Culture Departments and will encompass the area from the Boxing Gym west to 64th Avenue and from 30th Street north to the fence surrounding the Ball Field.

The project is expected to be complete by Christmas 2014, said Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.

"One of my goals was to get the Hollywood gym and the Fort Pierce community center done during my two-year term," he said. "We got input from the Boys & Girls Club, the Culture committee and Tribal members; we worked collectively on the concept and the design."

Designed by the architectural firm Leo A Daly, the gym incorporates Clan symbols and Seminole colors on its exterior. Seminole Stiles will build it.

♦ See RECREATION on page 11A

Tribal Council convenes Nov. 8

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal Council passed two ordinances Nov. 8 that will give the Seminole Tribe control over the business and residential leasing of its land through the Helping Expedite and Advance Tribal Home Ownership Act of 2012, or HEARTH Act.

Signed into law by President Barack Obama, the HEARTH Act allows Indian Tribes to enter into certain leases without approval from the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. It will help expedite the leasing process, according to the Tribe's General Counsel Office.

The Tribe will now be required to draft Tribal regulations for leases in compliance with federal law.

In other news, Council voted to increase the Seminole Tribal Gaming Commission members' monthly meeting stipend from \$2,000 to \$3,000 after tabling the resolution at the Oct. 11 Council meeting.

♦ See COUNCIL MEETING on page 2A

Rodeo champs take the show to Vegas

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

LAS VEGAS — Forget the desert sea of high rolling crowds and a billion neon lights. For nearly 25,000 visitors at the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) Nov. 5-9, Las Vegas was all about home sweet home.

"It's custom for Native people to ride. It's a natural ability we've developed over centuries right where we live and work," said Willie Johns, a community outreach specialist in Brighton and an INFR commissioner.

Native life in rural America — steeped in family tradition, culture and daily work on farms and ranches — led 288 contestants to the South Point Arena and Equestrian Center, one of the largest indoor rodeo arenas in the U.S.

"In South Florida, we started raising and training Spanish horses generations ago. The cattle industry, plus raising sheep and goats, is the way our Native kids grow up," said Johns, a former six-time INFR qualifier.

Dubbed the "Super Bowl for Indian cowboys," the recent 38th annual event pit Native American rodeo champions from 11 regional rodeo associations beast to beast and athlete to athlete for world titles in bareback riding, breakaway roping, calf roping, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding and bull riding.

Team roping and barrel racing were also included.

INFR spokeswoman Perse Hooper said participants in the all-Indian event spanned most of Indian Country from Hollywood, Fla. to Omak, Wash.

Spectators filled the 4,600-seat area. In all, 73 Tribes, the largest contingent from the Navajo Nation, were represented in livestock suppliers and contestants.

"When we say all-Indian, we mean it," Hooper said.

Contestants earned spots by racking up points in multiple regional rodeo events and national rodeo tours over the last year. More than a dozen cowboys and cowgirls from the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) packed up horses and saddles and headed west after earning leader board scores at rodeos in Immokalee, Big Cypress and Brighton.

Las Vegas mayor Carolyn Goodman proclaimed Nov. 7 as INFR Day in honor of Native American Heritage Month.

"This is our day, Las Vegas," called the arena announcer to a packed house of



Eileen Soler

Seminole senior Norman Johns, of Brighton, competes Nov. 7 in the senior breakaway event at the National Indian Rodeo Finals in Las Vegas.

Stetson hats, Lucchese boots and Wrangler jeans-wearing fans. "And we have a lot of angry hamburger in the house," he said referring to rough stock.

Daily go-rounds in every category whittled hometown rodeo heroes to

the INFR championship rounds. Most EIRA members stood strong through the first and second rounds. Three Tribal members, bareback rider Jacoby Johns, of Okeechobee; calf roper Ivan Bruised Head, of Okeechobee; and junior bull rider Dyami Nelson, 14, carried high scores to the world championship.

Nelson scored 150 in two rides for fourth place overall. It was a good showing after fracturing his leg in a September competition, then riding only three times before INFR.

"I'll be back next year. I'll practice more and be ready to take it all," he said.

The winner, Myles Dillon, of Batesland, S.D., won first place with 232 in three rides.

Johns earned no score after being tossed before the buzzer. Bruised Head landed in 13th place though he scored in the top three spots through the go-rounds and finished fastest in the final round.

Bruised Head jumped the barrier before the calf left the gate, penalizing him with an additional 10 seconds that stole a higher standing.

Adult barrel racers Boogie Jumper and Marilee Johns both tipped barrels in the third go-round for automatic losses. Junior barrel racers Kalgary Johns and Budah Jumper suffered the same fate on the third go-round.

Team ropers Josh Jumper and Preston Williams, of Big Cypress, and Justin Gopher and Hilliard Gopher, of Brighton, were put out in the third round, while Dayne Johns, of Brighton, was shut out of the steer wrestling category at his second round.

Spectators cheered every contestant with every elimination.

"We have top qualifiers here who prove they can do things. In rodeo, it doesn't work out every day, but every day is a new day," declared the announcer.

Norman Johns put on a good show with near perfect breakaway roping skills in the senior category but was shut out also in round three when his lasso missed the steer.

Among the male junior contestants, breakaway ropers Jacob Parks and Jaylen Baker were cut short with no scores in the second round. Baker also made it to round two for junior bull rider but did not advance.

"For all of the contestants, it's an accomplishment just to get (to INFR)," said Stacy Parks, who traveled from Dania Beach to watch her son Jacob compete. "We're proud of them all and next year we'll be back to kick butt."

♦ See more INFR photos on page 3C

Moving ceremony pays tribute to veterans

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Emotions brimmed Nov. 7 during the Seminole Veterans Day event in Brighton as Tribal members and

guests paid homage to those who served their country.

One by one, dignitaries thanked the veterans, expressing their gratitude to those, past and present, who protect the nation's freedom.

"Several of us served and experienced the heartache of being away from home," said Stephen Bowers, master of ceremonies. "We're all back and that's why we have this event every year — so people know Florida Seminoles served in all branches of the

military."

Since World War II, 72 Tribal members have served in the military. Twenty-four have passed on, but all were honored at the ceremony.

Tribal member and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Gabriel Coppedge, who served in Afghanistan and Iraq from 2006-2008 and continues to serve in the Army Reserve infantry, was the guest speaker. He joined the army in 2004.

"That's where I first learned about brotherhood," said Coppedge, who served in the Alpha Company 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry. "You learned things about people and shared your hopes, dreams and aspirations; everything that brought you to this point in your life. We relied on and trusted each other unquestionably."

After his tour in Afghanistan, Coppedge thought he would go home but instead was sent to Iraq as part of the stop-loss policy, or the involuntary extension of a service member's active duty service. He said it was one of the best things to happen to him.

"I could have come home earlier, but I stayed because I had soldiers who were going there," said Coppedge, who was responsible for nine soldiers at the time. "I wanted to go lead them. I felt it was selfish to go home and start my life; it would have been wrong of me to go home."

He and his soldiers served together in Afghanistan and Iraq for three and a half years. Although most of his group survived the perils of war, one was killed by a suicide bomber.

"I was happy to be able to contribute to those who made it home; we brought each other home," he said. "But PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) took some guys."

Currently a student at University of Phoenix, Coppedge plans to become a psychologist so he can help veterans cope with their struggles.

♦ See VETERANS on page 4A



Beverly Bidney

Non-Tribal veterans at the Veterans Day event in Brighton Nov. 7 greet Seminole veterans after the formal ceremony ended. Since World War II, 72 Tribal members have served in the military.



Editorial

Enjoy your Butterball *fay-tee*

• James E. Billie

To our Tribal members, our friends around the world, our employees, I'd like to say Happy Thanksgiving. Hope you enjoy that *fay-tee*. You know, few things irk me during the holiday season. One in particular is I have not had my turkey dinner yet, and when I drive by Walmart or other places in town, they are already putting up the Christmas decorations.

For some reason I would like the world to let Thanksgiving pass and then maybe the next couple days after I digest my turkey, go ahead and start putting up the Christmas decorations. I don't know if the merchants are eager to hurry up and start making money or whatever it is, but that is very irritating.

I do enjoy Christmas holidays, but I also want to enjoy my Thanksgiving dinner first. Anyway, I hope you folks really enjoy yourselves. We'll see you a couple days

after the Thanksgiving holidays. Then we'll start celebrating the Christmas holidays.

Little bit of humor took place on one Thanksgiving Day. Months before and days before Thanksgiving, I would see turkeys, wild turkeys running around the orange groves and pastures, so I thought I would wait and maybe on Thanksgiving morning I would go out and kill a turkey.

Lo and behold, Thanksgiving morning I went out there to find me a turkey to have fresh meat for my family's Thanksgiving dinner. I got up early in the morning as the crows started cawing and drove around.

I never saw one turkey. By now it's 10 o'clock. And not one turkey.

Where the heck did all these turkeys go on the very day I needed one? Well, there's an old Indian superstition that comes to mind. The mistake that I made was the day before Thanksgiving, I was telling my wife how I was going to go and get us a turkey in the morning. So I think what happened is the Trickster Rabbit, the Tattle Tale Rab-

bit heard what I was going to do and went out and told all the turkeys I was comin' out there to hunt: "So if you all see Jim Billie come lookin' around, hide in the woods."

And I think that's what happened.

So nowadays, even in my Tribal Council meetings or anywhere I'm going to do anything, I try not to discuss any of my plans to anyone ahead of time. Because that old lying *Chuk-fee* might tell the story wrong and get me in trouble.

Hope you enjoy your Butterball turkey. *Sho-naa-bish.*

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



Seminole Stiles: We pay ourselves

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

There has been much discussion lately about a joint venture (JV) that partners Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.'s Seminole Construction and Development, LLC with Stiles Construction of Fort Lauderdale, a well-known and proven, family-owned corporation that has been operated successfully in South Florida for more than 60 years. Our JV is named Seminole Stiles and is currently building the Tribal Public Safety complex on the Brighton Reservation.

There has been some confusion regarding this JV, first dreamed up more than five years ago and completed at the beginning of my administration. Some have questioned why Seminole Stiles is pursuing so many reservation projects and not seeking work off the reservation. How many times have we heard, especially in Council briefings and meetings, "I thought that you all were going to do all this work off the reservation."

This JV is in its infancy. That's why we are starting with the reservation projects. But to allege that this is all we ever going to do from here to eternity? No, that was never the vision. But this is the best way to establish a portfolio.

Reservation projects will help create the portfolio we need to bid for outside jobs. You go out tomorrow and approach some agency with your construction business and what is the first thing they are going to ask you?

Do you have experience? What are your qualifications?

Before you do anything, they are going to hand you what is called an RFQ, a Request for Qualifications. You have to walk in and show them why you are qualified, hand them your portfolio listing the types of projects you have done.

You want me to build you a tank, well, the only thing I have ever built is car models.

You are not going to qualify. If you can't produce a portfolio that addresses the project, you are dead.

And this speaks to the heart of why Seminole Stiles was formed. The Board's construction company has had success building smaller projects: Tribal member homes, a few small commercial projects. But to take the next step and go bigger, you really have to go down a different road. Seminole Stiles' portfolio is insufficient right now, but a few major projects from now, we'll be ready, especially, to go after government "set-asides."

Set-aside programs allow government agencies to limit competition for certain contracts to small businesses owned and operated by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. This includes various minorities, including Native Americans, Alaskan Natives and Native Hawaiians. They can apply for these set-asides by becoming a Certified 8(a) firm that is eligible to receive federal contracts under the Small Business Administration's (SBA) 8(a) Business Development Program.

Getting an 8(a) certification as a Native American construction company is no easy task. There is a lot of paperwork and it takes a lot of time, especially for the Seminole Tribe. One of the things we have been hearing is they are not giving out certifications to gaming Tribes. A gaming Tribe is not considered economically disadvantaged. Though we may still be socially disadvantaged, when they see us they think of gaming, Hard Rock, etc., and we have no chance. They don't make any distinction between Council and Board. They look at us as being one.

What they don't understand is that the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. is still economically disadvantaged. We don't have that pot of gold over at the Board. We don't own the Hard Rock. We don't have the casinos under our umbrella. So, at the end of this year, as an important step in separating us financially from the Council, for the first time, we are doing an internal audit – a stand-alone audit, separate from the Council, to prove the point that we don't make the kind of money they think that we satisfy their criteria and should be considered eligible to apply for the 8(a) so we can go out and start bidding on some of these set-asides.

Tribal members should understand that the long-term vision is to have a certified minority company (we own 51 percent of Seminole Stiles) that will achieve 8(a) status and be able to bid on government contracts outside the reservation. But while we are pursuing that process, we are going to be creating and building up our portfolio which will see Seminole Stiles building the Public Safety complex in Brighton, the Hollywood Gymnasium, the expansion at the Brighton Charter School, the townhouse projects in

Brighton and Hollywood, the Fort Pierce community center – all these reservation projects will allow us to bulk up our portfolio, establish our credibility and establish our qualifications.

Conducting business on the reservation is not our only focus. The focus on the reservation is only going to be short term. The long-term vision is to go out and do business coast-to-coast. Right now, we can't do that because we can't show them we are qualified.

Remember, there is no way that anyone would put us on a bidder's list.

Of course, though this JV will conduct a lot of business on the reservations, it is not designed to eliminate legitimate Tribal owned and operated companies. Our intent is to include as many Tribal businesses as possible, as subcontractors or even general contractors. The work that Seminole Stiles pursues is not the work the Tribal businesses do. We won't be building houses or small commercial stores; anything \$1.5 million or below, we won't touch. Also, for most of the work a Tribal member company does with us, we won't be requiring a bond.

Remember, we own 51 percent, which means we will make 51 percent of the profit. When we use an outside contractor, as we have done for most of our large projects, we pay and they take all the profits.

We want to help develop Tribal members into entrepreneurs. The days are over where companies have a token Indian fronting the organization. If a Seminole Indian is in there, he or she needs to be fully engaged, giving the orders and in full control. Besides, why be part of a "front company" and make a small piece of the pie when you could have the whole pie?

Let's say a Tribal member owns an interior design company. But the only reason he is in that business is that he has aligned himself with the company that is really doing all the interior design work. We want to change that. We want to give this Tribal member all the work we can, build his knowledge and skills so he can own the whole company. Where he made a nickel before, he is making a dollar now.

Tribal members who already own their companies, fantastic; they are where we want them to be. But for those who are partnered with somebody, hopefully by us engaging them, it will provide the motivation to fully learn the business. And become the business.

As this all develops, in the meantime, we don't ever want to leave the reservation wide open for someone else to come in and do the work that we are fully capable of doing. We have our heart and soul in building on our own reservation for our own people.

The Tribe has had delayed and uncompleted projects in the recent past, endeavors where hundreds of thousands of dollars were paid to architects and planners and here come delays and months and years go by, there's a new election and the next administration doesn't want it and it is all thrown out. Seminole Stiles has everything: a bank of architects, planners, designers, sales people, land assessors, builders, everything. We are set up to streamline the process and make it more efficient and come in on time. We will maintain control and the Tribe as a whole will be way better off. We will finally have our projects that we need, we will get them done in a timely manner and they will fit the budget.

The bottom line is Tribal members are going to get their projects in a timely manner: everything that is needed, community centers, gymnasiums, schools, all of that; Ahfachkee, Okalee Village, Big Cypress Medical Center. It's all in the works.

We aren't going to just stand still while we wait for the audit and the 8(a). In the interim we are also considering partnering with other Tribes who have 8(a) and further building up our portfolio.

This whole enterprise allows the Tribe to have more control over the projects, not only from a timely sense but from a financial sense, and you know what? At the end of the day, rather than allowing other contractors to come in here, you are going to end up paying yourself.

What's wrong with that? We'll pay ourselves. Now that's good business.

Sho-naa-bish.

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



Beware the crossroads of life

• Chief Arvol Looking Horse, Bobbie C. Billie, Faith Spotted Eagle

The Creator created the People of the Earth into the Land at the beginning of Creation and gave us a way of life. This way of life has been passed down generation-to-generation since the beginning. We have not honored this way of life through our own actions and we must live these original instructions in order to restore universal balance and harmony. We are a part of Creation; thus, if we break the Laws of Creation, we destroy ourselves.

We, the Original Caretakers of Mother Earth, have no choice but to follow and uphold the Original Instructions, which sustains the continuity of Life. We recognize our umbilical connection to Mother Earth and understand that she is the source of life, not a resource to be exploited. We speak on behalf of all Creation today, to communicate an urgent message that man has gone too far, placing us in the state of survival. We warned that one day you would not be able to control what you have created. That day is here.

Not heeding warnings from both Nature and the People of the Earth keeps us on the path of self destruction. This self-destructive path has led to the Fukushima nuclear crisis, Gulf oil spill, tar sands devastation, pipeline failures, impacts of carbon dioxide emissions and the destruction of ground water through hydraulic fracking, just to name a few. In addition, these activities and development continue to cause the deterioration and destruction of sacred places and sacred waters that are vital for Life.

Powerful technologies are out of control

The Fukushima nuclear crisis alone is a threat to the future of humanity. Yet, our concern goes far beyond this single threat. Our concern is with the cumulative and compounding devastation that is being wrought by the actions of human beings around the world. It is the combination of resource extraction, genetically modified organisms, moral failures, pollution, introduction of invasive species and much, much more that are threatening the future of life on Earth. The compounding of bad decisions and their corresponding actions

are extremely short-sighted.

They do not consider the future generations and they do not respect or honor the Creator's Natural Law. We strongly urge for the governmental authorities to respond with an open invitation to work and consult with us to solve the world's problems, without war. We must stop waging war against Mother Earth, and ourselves and our threatening the future of all life.

We acknowledge that all of these devastating actions originated in human beings who are living without regard for the Earth as the source of life. They have strayed from the Original Instructions by casting aside the Creator's Natural Law. It is now critical for humanity to acknowledge that we have created a path to self-destruction. We must restore the Original Instructions in our lives to halt this devastation.

The sanctity of the Original Instructions has been violated. As a result, the Spiritual People of the Earth were called ceremonially to come together at the home of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe Bundle. These Spiritual Leaders and those that carry great responsibility for their people from both North and South America came together with the sacred fire for four days at the end of September 2013 to fulfill their sacred responsibilities.

During this time it was revealed that the spirit of destruction gained its strength by our spiritually disconnected actions. We are all responsible in varying degrees for calling forth this spirit of destruction, thus we are all bound to begin restoring what we have damaged by helping one another recover our sacred responsibility to the Earth. We, the Original Caretakers of Mother Earth, offer our spiritual insight, wisdom and vision to the global community to help guide the actions needed to overcome the current threats to all life.

The People of the Earth understand that the Fukushima nuclear crisis continues to threaten the future of all life. We understand the full implications of this crisis even with the suppression of information and the filtering of truth by the corporate-owned media and Nation States. We strongly urge the media, corporations and Nation States to acknowledge and convey the true facts that threaten us, so

that the international community may work together to resolve this crisis, based on the foundation of Truth.

We urge the international community, government of Japan and TEPCO to unify efforts to stabilize and re-mediate the nuclear threat posed at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. To ensure that the Japanese government and TEPCO are supported with qualified personnel and information, we urge the inclusion of today's nuclear experts from around the world to collaborate, advise and provide technical assistance to prevent further radioactive contamination or worse, a nuclear explosion that may have apocalyptic consequences.

We urge all Nations and human beings around the world to work with us, the Original Caretakers of Mother Earth, to restore the Original Instructions and uphold the Creator's Natural Law as a foundation for all decision making, from this point forward.

Our collective future as human beings is in our hands, we must address the Fukushima nuclear crisis and all actions that may violate the Creator's Natural Law. We have reached the crossroads of life and the end of our existence. We will avert this potentially catastrophic nuclear disaster by coming together with good minds and prayer as a global community of all faiths.

We are the People of the Earth united under the Creator's Law with a sacred covenant to protect and a responsibility to extend Life for all future generations. We are expressing deep concern for our shared future and urge everyone to awaken spiritually. We must work in unity to help Mother Earth heal so that she can bring back balance and harmony for all her children.

Chief Arvol Looking Horse is the 19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe and Spiritual Leader of The Great Sioux Nation;

Bobbie C. Billie is Clan Leader and Spiritual Leader for the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples; and

Faith Spotted Eagle is Tunkan Inajin Win Brave Heart Society Grandmother/Headswoman & Thanktonwan Treaty Council Thanktonwan Dakota from the Oceeti Sakowin 7 Council Fires.

Board of Directors convenes Nov. 19

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Board of Directors met in Hollywood Nov. 19 and signed off on the following resolutions: the asset purchase and sale agreement of Salacoa Valley Farms in Georgia; a tax-exempt loan to develop a convenience store in Immokalee; letters of credit to purchase fuel inventory from Marathon and Valero fuel companies; the purchase of 100 percent of the outstanding and issued shares of common stock of Valley Bank; and conversion of Valley Bank from a Florida state charter to a nationally chartered bank.

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The Seminole Tribune
3560 N. State Road 7
Hollywood, Fla. 33021

Publisher: James E. Billie
Senior Editor: Brett Daly
BrettDaly@semtribe.com
Copy Editor: Amanda Murphy

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

Contributors:
David Diaz, Reinaldo Becerra,
Omar Rodriguez, Madeline Newcomb

If you would like to request a reporter or would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem, please contact Senior Editor Brett Daly at 954-985-5701 ext. 10725 Or by fax at 954-965-2937

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Community



Palette of Indian art colors annual gathering

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — For woodcarver Henry Wallace, resting in a Seminole chickee and chipping away at a block of fine cypress at the Big Cypress Reservation was exactly what he expected during the American Indian Arts Celebration at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

"I'm home away from home," said the resident of the Red Bays community in Andros Islands. "It's like I just popped by to say hello to relatives."

The 16th annual event held Nov. 1-2 united Seminole artists, including Wallace and two others, Gertrude Gibson and Norma Knowles, from Red Bays who are all Seminole descendants, and a lineup of other artists from throughout Indian Country. Chairman James E. Billie invited the Red Bays descendants after getting a taste of their traditions during a visit to Andros Island in June.

Hundreds streamed through the fairgrounds peppered with 48 vendor tents. Authentic jewelry, clothing and other handmade items by noted Tribal crafters, including Laura Mae Clay, Maggie Billie Porter and Ingram Billie Jr., lined tables.

"People have their own style of making things. Some are more decorative than others. But while all is Seminole art, we have our different way," Porter said.

The Red Bays basket makers, for example, do not incorporate thread into their traditional baskets as Florida Seminoles do,

Gibson said. But during her visit to Big Cypress she had the opportunity to learn the Seminole Tribe's way.

"I can't wait to get home to do it," she said.

Knowles, another basket maker and a local government representative for the community of Red Bays, said that every child in Red Bays, whether male or female, learns to make baskets as soon as they are old enough.

"It's a way of living for us," she said, adding that she has made baskets for "as long as I can remember."

Non-natives such as fine artist and Seminole book illustrator Guy LaBree and bronze sculptor Bradley Cooley, who crafts busts and statues of Seminole figures, held prominent spaces that hugged the fringe of the fair.

Music also permeated the event. The Seminole Tribe's own Osceola Brothers Band rocked the scene with blues and rock and roll original tunes. Native drumming accompanied the Cherokee Nation's Warriors of AniKituwah dance group from North Carolina. Inspirational singing came from members of the Ain Dah Yung Center, a Native American youth shelter in Minnesota.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Paul Backhouse said 95 percent of the 43 vendors were Seminole. Clan families provided unique variations of traditional foods like frybread, Indian tacos and spam with rice.

♦ See ARTS CELEBRATION on page 6A



Beverly Bidney

Maggie Osceola, seated, is surrounded by four of her six children, Mabel Doctor, Curtis Osceola, Mary Gay Osceola and Maydell Osceola, at her 93rd birthday party Nov. 1.

Maggie Osceola celebrates 93rd birthday among family, friends

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Maggie Osceola's foremost childhood memory is following her father on family journeys into the Everglades to hunt. It was a long time ago, but she remembers it well.

Recent memories include her 93rd birthday party Nov. 1 at the Seminole Estates Clubhouse, where multiple generations celebrated the quiet family matriarch. Loved ones lined up for photos, shared laughs and basked in the warmth of family.

Babies slept, children played and adults reminisced, while Maggie, of the Bird Clan, took it all in from her seat at the center of the attention.

Like many Seminoles of her generation, Maggie's actual birthday remains a mystery; the Bureau of Indian Affairs assigned her Nov. 1, 1920. The daughter of Mary Motlow Osceola and

Jimmy Hank Osceola, she was born and raised in the Everglades near the Tamiami Trail.

Even as other Seminole families relocated to tourist villages to earn a living, Maggie's family remained in the Everglades until the 1940s when they settled on the Dania Reservation — now Hollywood.

After her father passed away, Maggie's mother moved the family there to be near their uncle, who was a pastor. Maggie married Jack Osceola and together they had eight children. Six surviving siblings, Adam, Moses, Curtis, Maydell, Mary Gay and Mabel, all live in Hollywood near their mother.

Maggie said finding Jesus and becoming a Christian are the greatest accomplishments of her life.

"One morning she said we're going to church," said her daughter Mary Gay Osceola. "We've been going to the First Seminole Baptist Church all these years."

Making traditional crafts is important

in Maggie's life. In the 1960s, she worked at the village in Hollywood where she made baskets, dolls, beadwork, patchwork and dresses. Today, she still fashions dolls, although the fibers aren't always easy to find.

A traditional housewife, Maggie cared for the family while her husband worked. Sometimes the family would follow him while he worked construction jobs out of town. When he joined the military, Maggie took care of her children.

"She always took care of us and never left us," Mary Gay said. "She is kind of a quiet person, but she always made us go to school."

In a role reversal, Maggie's children now take care of her even though she still lives in her own home.

Her son takes her to church and all the siblings make sure Maggie has everything she needs every day. Mary Gay said she knows her mother is happy knowing her children are doing well.



Eileen Soler

Seminole descendants Norma Knowles and Henry Wallace, of Red Bays in Andros Islands, create indigenous art Nov. 1 at the 16th annual American Indian Arts Celebration on Big Cypress.

Legendary spirit welcomes Tribe at FSU Homecoming

Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie and Jr. Miss Brianna Blais-Billie crown FSU Homecoming court

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

TALLAHASSEE — As Osceola and Renegade pierced Bobby Bowden Field with the flaming spear at Florida State University's Homecoming game Nov. 16, the stadium ignited with a roar, exalting this year's Homecoming theme, "A Legendary Spirit."

"The school has so much spirit," said Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie. "You can feel it when you walk into a room."

Brianna and her sister Miss Seminole Tia Blais-Billie attended FSU Homecoming to represent the Seminole Tribe and to contribute to another decades-old tradition: crowning the FSU Homecoming chief and princess.

The tradition began in 1976 when Gloria Wilson crowned the Homecoming court, but this was the first year sisters had the honor. Brianna and Tia said sharing the experience together was inspiring.

"It's nice to be surrounded by people who understand our culture and who are enthusiastic about it," Brianna said.

President Tony Sanchez Jr. said FSU makes a great commitment to pay its respects to the Tribe. Last year, President Sanchez and Chairman James E. Billie served as Homecoming parade grand marshals, but this year, President Sanchez said, "It's about the girls."

The sisters were recognized during several Homecoming Week events, including the VIP luncheon, parade, alumni award's breakfast, FSU president Eric Barron's pre-game tailgate and, of course, the Homecoming game.

Whether waving from the backs of convertibles during the parade or walking through the president's backyard tailgate, Tia and Brianna were stopped for photos and thanked for joining the Homecoming festivities. One young girl even stopped the princesses to ask, "You're real Seminoles?"

Nearly 80,000 fans cheered from the stands during the halftime show as Tia and Brianna walked down the field to crown the court; it was a proud, yet emotional, moment for their mother, France Blais-Billie, who said she wished the girls' late father, July Billie, could have seen it.

"He would have been so proud," she said.

The school's appreciation and adoration was also shown through president Barron's wardrobe choice during the parade, a traditional Seminole shirt, and former football coach Bobby Bowden's gracious

acceptance of a handmade Seminole doll from the Seminole princesses.

"It's always a treat to have the Seminole Tribe here at FSU," said Scott Atwell, president of the Alumni Association at FSU.

The Tribe's relationship with FSU has held strong through decades of tradition,

even in times of controversy. In 2005, when the NCAA wanted to strip FSU of the Seminole name because of its "hostile and abusive" nature, the Tribe supported the school — and still does today in the wake of the Washington Redskins controversy.

"With the flare up with the mascots, I want to make sure we support our team," Chairman Billie said.

Jeff Ereckson, director of development at FSU and a former rider of the Osceola and Renegade pageantry, said that prior to his time as a rider, he knew very little about the Seminole Tribe. But as he took on the role, he began to appreciate the Tribe and its history.

"We do the best we can to embody Seminole Spirit," he said.

For the first time, the Seminole Police Department was invited to join the FSU Police Department as security for Homecoming events. They escorted the football team's buses to the game and also participated as part of the parade cavalcade.

"For us to come up and represent the Tribe is a great reflection of the Tribe's wonderful atmosphere," said Seminole Police Department Police Chief William Latchford.

He said establishing a relationship with the school's police department will not only offer a chance to compare notes and policies but also will help them extend protection to Tribal members attending FSU.

Two Tribal members, Jessica Motlow and Jessica M. Osceola, currently attend the university, and eight have graduated: Carla Gopher, Douglas Zepeda, Emily Osceola-Branch, Toni Sanchez, Kyle Doney, Bryan Arledge, D'Anna Osceola and Christine McCall.

"It's always a pleasure to be back," said Kyle Doney, a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.



Amanda Murphy

Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie, left, and Miss Seminole Tia Blais-Billie crown the FSU Homecoming Princess Sarah Saxner and Chief Gerald Law II during the halftime show of the FSU Homecoming football game Nov. 16.

♦ See more FSU photos on page 6A

Tribe paramedic returns to work after tour in Afghanistan

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — Michael Dolnick appreciates the simple things: a steady job, a nice meal, a warm, safe bed. As an active duty Navy reservist, he knows soldiers worldwide rarely get those freedoms because of the violence looming at their doors.

Dolnick, a lieutenant for the Tribe's Fire Rescue Department, recently returned after his latest tour of duty as a medic in Afghanistan and is happy to be home enjoying things most Americans take for granted.

"Cold beer," said Dolnick, referring to what he loves about being back. "A nice cooked steak and sharing time with friends and family."

Dolnick, 48, is proud to still be serving his country as a Navy corpsman. He was stationed at the NATO Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit trauma hospital for seven months in Kandahar, and as the first line of care, he saw mutilated soldiers lugged in fresh off the battlefield and onto his table.

The hospital, at the Kandahar Airfield, has a 98 percent survival rate, meaning that nearly everyone who comes in with a pulse moves on to the next line of care after the trauma team. As a NATO hospital, they not only treated American soldiers but also patients from different nations and backgrounds — even the Taliban.

"It was very hard to work on our guys that were shot and then work on the enemy right after," he said. Dolnick endured inhospitable working conditions

while in Afghanistan. He dealt with a constant threat of attack on his workplace, multiple traumas coming in at once and unpredictable work schedules. He was always on call.

Because of that, Dolnick doesn't sweat the small stuff.

"A lot of people take for granted the little things, little things you can't do in Afghanistan or Iraq," he said.



Amanda Murphy
Fire Rescue Department Lt. Michael Dolnick recently returned from service in Afghanistan.

Dolnick's first deployment was to Germany in 2008, where he worked in a trauma hospital for 13 months. He said he treated injuries similar to those of the Boston Marathon bombing. If a terrorist attack occurred, he said he would know exactly what to do.

"Most definitely, my skills are tenfold better," he said.

Dolnick was hired by the Tribe's Fire Department in Brighton in 2005. He said he's fortunate to work for a community that takes care of its veterans.

"The Tribe is definitely a big supporter of the military," he said. "They love their veterans."

He compared the differences between his homecoming to that of Vietnam veterans.

"They came back and couldn't wear their uniforms. People spit on them," he said of Vietnam veterans. "When we came back, there were 200 people clapping for us when we got off the plane."

After seven months in a combat zone, Dolnick, of Jensen Beach, looks forward to spending time with his loved ones, including his children, Kasey, 22, Sarah, 19, and Jake, 16.

American Indian Veteran Memorial Initiative secures Alaskan approval

• Stephen Bowers

It was Oct. 27, 2013, and 19 degrees in Fairbanks, Alaska where we were on the road again promoting the American Indian Veteran Memorial Initiative (AIVMI), a project to put a statue on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. that represents American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian veterans.

We traveled to Alaska to attend the annual Alaskan Federation of Natives (AFN) Convention held Oct. 24-26. Several Alaskan Natives we met while at other conferences encouraged us to attend the event.

Alaska was the one regional Indian area we had not received Resolutions of Support for the AIVMI Initiative. We submitted a Resolution of Support to the AFN delegates for approval on the last day of the convention. It passed by an overwhelming vote, meaning we had received support from every major Native region in Alaska.

We have had some opposition to place the veteran statue on the National Mall in the past few months through the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). A small group of American Indian non-veterans want the statue established at the National Museum of American Indians (NMAI). These people are American Indians closely tied to Washington, D.C.; however, the idea of

putting the veteran statue at NMAI bothers many American Indian veterans throughout the country.

Our friend, Dr. Robert "Bob" Primeaux, a Standing Rock Sioux and a Vietnam veteran who served in the 101st Airborne Division, expressed the feelings of many American Indian veterans about the placement of the statue at the museum when he said:

"I am not a relic, not an archaeological find. I want my military service to be recognized on the National Mall at the Vietnam Wall or Education Center at the Wall. I served with black, white and Latino soldiers and I want to be recognized with the guys with whom I fought when I was in Vietnam."

Several other Indian veterans feel the same way, saying: "We serve our country when called and we join the Army, the Marine Corps, the Navy and the Air Force without hesitation. We serve with dignity and pride because this was our country long before the Europeans invasion."

Many Tribes fought the United States before this land was taken from us through broken promises and broken treaties. If we had conducted better "homeland security" back when our country was invaded by foreigners, we may not have to fight for a statue on

the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to represent American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian veterans.



♦ VETERANS From page 1A

"Family members are the ones who are left out and don't understand, but they are an integral part of the recovery process," he said. "I want to bring assistance to those guys."

Coppedge, a member of the Seminole and Pima Indians of Gila River Tribes, grew up in Arizona and lives there now with his children, but he spent summers in Big Cypress with his father, Gene Coppedge.

The event included Brighton preschoolers reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School fifth-graders sang *God Bless America* in Creek and recited the preamble to the Constitution. Fifth-graders Rudy Juarez and Aiyana Tommie read essays they wrote for the occasion.

Aiyana quoted a popular credo from the Vietnam War era to describe what soldiers must do: "We, the unwilling, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful."

"Today we need to encourage the younger generation to join the military," said veteran Mitchell Cypress. "We all enjoy our freedom; they need to go out and see what the military is all about. Freedom is earned, not given to us. We need to protect that."

Tributes were made to Harley Jumper, who served in the National Guard, U.S. Army and U.S. Marines, and to Timmy Johns, who served in the U.S. Army. A roll call of Seminole veterans, alive and deceased, ensued, followed by a moving rendition of *Taps* that ended the ceremony.



Seminole veterans, non-Tribal veterans and Seminole princesses pose for a photo after the Veterans Day event in Brighton Nov. 7.



Veteran Charlie Billie's jacket says it all as he listens to Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School fifth-graders sing at the Veterans Day event in Brighton Nov. 7.



Veterans salute the flag during the opening ceremony at the Veterans Day event.

State officials remain silent on murder of Seminole in prison

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Does the Latin Kings Gang rule the Florida State Prison System?

That's one of many questions Ada Campos had about the recent death of her son, Seminole Tribal member Justin Campos. For seven weeks after his death, the silence of Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) officials fueled her speculation of a cover-up surrounding her son's murder Oct. 1 at North Florida's Madison Correctional Institution.

Campos, 28, had been transferred to Madison from Jackson Correctional Institution only a month before, after his face was cut across the cheek by a fellow inmate. The attacker was never charged, just transferred to another prison, without any explanation from the DOC, Ada Campos said.

She said, however, things may be changing. "I was told by Ken Sumpter (Chief of Investigations for the Florida Inspector General) that they had charged the man who cut his face with premeditated murder," Ada Campos said. "He also said they had two suspects who they were going to bring to a grand jury to be indicted for Justin's murder."

Sumpter was unavailable for comment, however, and, at press time, no record of charges filed against the attacker were found.

Campos had been in prison since March, following his conviction for murdering two men in a Fort Myers club parking lot fight Jan. 19, 2011. In court, the deceased were identified as members of the Latin Kings, the largest and one of the most organized Hispanic street gangs in the U.S.

Campos went for Stand Your Ground. A judge said no. Campos claimed self-defense. A jury decided otherwise. He was given life. An appeal was filed.

"Justin told us that the guys in prison were calling him 'The King Killer,'" Ada Campos said. "He was worried they might try to get at him for revenge."

She said DOC investigator Michael Harrison told her the inmate who cut her son's face was known as a Latin Kings member.

"He said they were marking him, putting a scar on his face," she said. "He told me he was marked for death, for a hit. Knowing this, when my son got off the bus at Madison, where did they put him? In the general population. He lasted a month."

Attempts by Ada Campos and her attorney Sannestine Fortin to find out details of Campos' attack and subsequent death have been met with silence.

"It is under investigation," is all DOC deputy communications director Misty Cash said.

Attorney General Pam Bondi expressed condolences and suggested Ada Campos bring her son's case to Gov. Rick Scott. She did, and Scott referred her complaint to correctional services consultant Connie Hill, MPA, with the Office of Citizens' Services, who emailed:

"We are sorry for the loss of your son. This issue is still under investigation. Therefore, by copy of this

email, I am forwarding your complaint to the Office of the Inspector General for further review and appropriate handling. Again, we are sorry for your loss and pray God's comfort to you and the rest of your family."

Bondi and Scott have been copied on dozens of emails regarding this case. Neither will directly comment on the public records holdup or perceived inactions of the DOC.

"These attacks on my son happened inside a prison. Those guilty are right there, already caught. There are supposed to be guards and cameras watching everything. What are they investigating? It's all right there," said Ada Campos, who has mounted a campaign of calls and letters to legislators and prison.

The day after her son's death, Ada Campos and her daughter traveled to Madison Correction Institution to confront the warden, J.R. King.

Ada Campos said King notified the family that the altercation occurred in the Common Core West Unit, although he originally said Campos was killed in his cell. He also told them there were no cameras in the common core area.

"Furthermore, when the medical examiner called me on Oct. 7, he stated that the incident had occurred in my son's cell and that his roommate ran out at the time of the altercation and that they had two suspects in custody," Ada Campos said. "So we can conclude Madison C.I. officials are blatantly outright lying about the entire scenario."

She said she does not know why she is getting conflicting information.

When Sumpter told her Nov. 21 that they had two suspects in protective custody, Ada Campos said she lost it.

"I told him, 'So you have the two people who killed my son in protective custody and you put my son in danger, in the open population, with his face scarred as a man to be killed.' The man apologized," she said. "He told me if he was me, he would do the same thing I am doing, fighting for justice for my son."

Ada Campos will move forward with the appeal. "I am confident we have a strong case," attorney Fortin said, referring to Campos' appeal of his second-degree murder and manslaughter convictions.

Despite Campos' death, the appeal is active in the court system. A previously set Nov. 11 hearing by the 2nd District Court of Appeals in Lakeland was postponed, Fortin said.

"I'm sure they know what's going on," she said. Civil rights attorneys have also been following the case, Ada Campos said.

"Racial discrimination of an American Indian may be a critical issue in his mistreatment behind bars," Ada Campos said. "Justin was proud to be an Unconquered Seminole. He called himself a 'warrior.' Did this possibly happen just because he was an Indian?"

She said she will keep seeking answers. "Are the Latin Kings that strong? Do they really control the Florida prison system?" she said. "Is the DOC really afraid to talk? They probably think I am going away. But I won't. Those guilty will have to pay."

Indian Country profile: Jeremiah Bitsui, a multifaceted star whose time has come

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Editor's note: This is the first in an occasional series of profiles of notable Native Americans making their mark on the world.

Jeremiah Bitsui played a convincing bad guy on TV but that's just a credit to a lifetime of perfecting his craft.

A member of the Navajo and Omaha Tribes, Bitsui played Victor, a drug kingpin's henchman, in the television series *Breaking Bad*. In real life, he acts, owns a business and reveres his Christian and Tribal culture and those of other Tribes, including the Seminoles.

"I was raised in a Christian household but with Native traditions," said Bitsui, who lives in Los Angeles and New Mexico. "You can know your culture, but your faith is a different thing. I see the value of culture and language, but faith is universal."

Bitsui said his faith helped him through the highs and lows of his professions.

Born in Arizona and raised on the Navajo Reservation and in Albuquerque, Bitsui was expected to follow in his father's footsteps and become a professional rodeo rider. He loved rodeo, but Bitsui is allergic to hay. Instead, to occupy himself, he watched movies. At 5 he landed his first role in a Japanese children's movie, *Mickey's House*, and by 13, he was cast in the cult classic film *Natural Born Killers*.

Bitsui wanted to attend film school at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) but didn't get accepted into the program. On the same day he received the rejection letter, he went to a movie screening at UCLA. The film's director, Christopher Nolan, spoke afterward.

"I was inspired by him," Bitsui said. "He told us if you want to work in film, you don't necessarily have to go to film school; he didn't. Knowing that motivated me to continue."

Shortly after, Bitsui started getting roles.

"I realize inspiration is great, but at the same time you have to work at it," he said. "When I speak to young people I tell them they have to want to do the work. It takes discipline."

He met success at the start of his acting career, but Bitsui struggled after graduating from Santa Monica College. He left Los Angeles to return to the Navajo Reservation where he spent the summer living at his grandparents' ranch herding sheep and learning the Navajo language. With no Internet access or cell phone reception, the reservation felt like a safe haven, Bitsui said.

"I was searching for a cultural identity and prayed to God to help me

know where to go," he said. "I felt broken. Since I didn't speak fluent Navajo, the rez was lonely. But I got to spend time with my grandparents and communicated on a different level with them; they didn't speak English so I learned Navajo through their Bible and my English one. It was a great experience."

Bitsui rebuilt a traditional sweat lodge for his family and found the tree where his parents buried his umbilical cord. A Navajo tradition, parents bury their newborn's placenta and umbilical cord at a special site that represents their dreams for the child. Bitsui would soon understand the symbolism.

When he returned to Albuquerque, he had messages waiting for him, including an offer for a role in *A Thousand Roads*. Ironically, the character in the film was a troubled young man who herded sheep on an Indian reservation. He got the role and the film now plays regularly at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. and New York.

His career took off with roles in *Lords of Dogtown* and *Flags of Our Fathers* and later in *Breaking Bad*.

But Bitsui does more than act; he is also an entrepreneur because he wants his life to have a purpose beyond acting. At 19, he started a consulting business through the Workforce Investment Act and provided services, training, communications and developmental skills to inner city and Native American youth. When funding for the program ended, he started a business promoting nightclubs in Los Angeles but the long hours didn't suit him, he said.

He returned to what he knows best.

"My dad's a general contractor (after retiring from the rodeo); my uncles are electricians and tradesmen. They're all union guys," Bitsui said. "I indirectly grew up in that industry; it's a business that has always been very familiar to me."

He started a project management

company, Bitco, and is a general contractor in New Mexico, Arizona and California. He wants to pursue business in New York and possibly with the Seminole Tribe.

Bitsui met members of the Seminole Tribe through mutual friends at economic development and gaming conferences. Last year, he spent Labor Day weekend on the Hollywood and Big Cypress Reservations, which made a lasting impression on him.

"I feel like family with the relationships we built," said Bitsui of Christine Nevaquaya and Ethel Huggins. "It's been really good getting to know the community."

At the Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas in September, he again spent time with Seminoles posing for photos and signing autographs for fans at the Tribe's electronic cigarette booth.

"I'm impressed with the Tribe; they are inspiring to all nations," he said. "To own a global brand and participate in international business while keeping the values you hold dear that your forefathers built; I'd love to do the same thing for my nation."

Bitsui wants to debunk common perceptions that Native Americans are victims and wants to contend with the best, he said.

"I don't compete as a Native American actor - I compete against every actor," he said. "My grandfather said it best before I went to college: 'Don't join the Indian club. I want you to socialize with everyone else and just get good at whatever you are doing. Don't be the best Indian guy, just be the best.'"

He believes everything is a learning process.

"If I would have changed one thing, it could have affected everything else," Bitsui said. "The mistakes you make are as much of an education as the success. Trust your instincts and values and take it from there."



Courtesy of Marty Haviik



Jeremiah Bitsui, seated, plays Victor in the television series *Breaking Bad* alongside Emmy award winning actor Bryan Cranston, left, and Giancarlo Esposito.

Photo courtesy of Ursula Coyote/AMC

Polly Parker voyage rescheduled for Dec. 1-3

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

EGMONT KEY — The Polly Parker voyage has been rescheduled for Dec. 1-3 after inclement weather postponed the trip. Several dozen Seminole Tribal members and staff will depart Egmont Key, located at the mouth of Tampa Bay, and float into St. Mark's, south of Tallahassee, the next day.

"Everyone is looking forward to this exciting historic event," said Rachel Porter, who is helping coordinate the event for Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner. "We were so disappointed when bad weather caused the original trip's postponement. But, it was better safe than sorry."

High north and northwesterly winds in early November led Capt. Mark Hubbard to recommend delaying the event.

"We could have made it safely, I have no doubt about that," said Hubbard, captain of the Florida Fisherman II, the 70-foot, double-decked catamaran slated to carry the Seminole contingent on the 20- to 24-hour journey. "It just would have been rough out there in the open Gulf. I didn't want to deliver a bunch of green people to St. Mark's, if you know what I mean."

Florida State Parks director Don Forgone welcomes the attention being paid to two of the lesser known state parks in Florida's chain.

"Chief Billie and the Seminoles have always been great friends and supporters of the Florida state parks and we are honored to be part of this fabulous event," he said.

Egmont Key State Park, a Gulf atoll reachable only by boat marked by a 150-year-old lighthouse, is where captured Seminoles were held during the Seminole Wars prior to deportation out West. St. Mark's River State Park was the traditional



Photo courtesy of The Stanley Hanson Collection

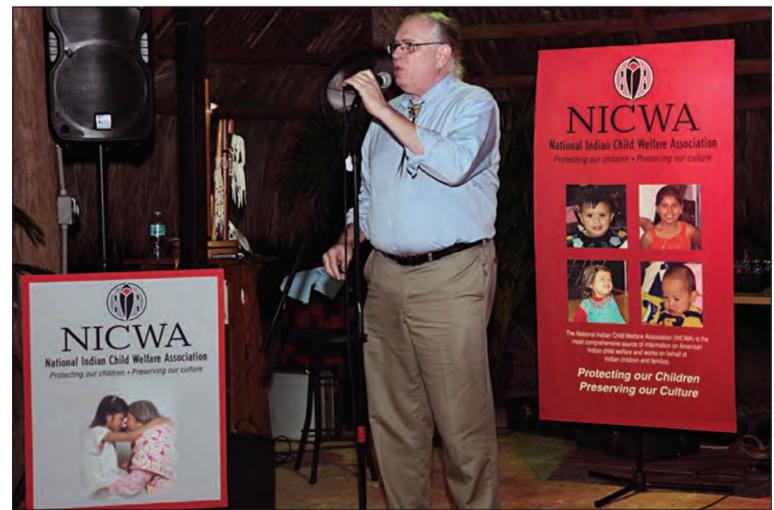
After escaping deportation out West, Polly Parker returned to the Lake Okeechobee area and lived beyond 100 years old.

halfway point on the Seminoles' Voyage of Tears, where the Grey Cloud steamboat had to stop for more fuel (wood) to continue the journey up the Mississippi River.

At St. Mark's, Polly Parker escaped during an 1858 deportation trip. Despite a full-scale search party who looked for weeks, she was never caught, somehow making her way back to the Lake Okeechobee area where she was originally captured by U.S. soldiers. She lived beyond 100 years, and many of her descendants became chiefs and leaders of the Seminole Tribe.

Chairman James E. Billie invited all Polly Parker descendants to participate in the event. A bus will take Tribal citizens who cannot make the long boat ride on an overland trip to St. Mark's, where a welcoming ceremony sponsored by the city is planned for Dec. 2.

Capt. Hubbard will guide the craft along a similar route in a recreation of Polly Parker's adventure. The Museum of Florida History and the Mission San Luis de Apalachee will sponsor a breakfast and lunch for the travelers on Dec. 3, before their return, by bus, to Seminole Country.



Beverly Bidney

National Indian Child Welfare Association executive director Terry Cross addresses the crowd Oct. 22 at the awareness-building event held at Native Village.

NICWA addresses issues facing Native families

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Terry Cross, executive director of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), came to Hollywood to build awareness for the nonprofit association, which strives to protect the well-being of American Indian children and families and helps enforce the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

Recent high-profile Indian adoption cases spurred the Oct. 22 event at Native Village.

"We gather to support the never-ending work NICWA does to keep families together," said Ted Nelson, vice president of NICWA and event host. "Our children are meant to be with their parents, relatives or with a Tribal foster family."

The Baby Veronica case illustrates that American Indian babies are still being adopted out of their Tribes with the help of dishonest adoption attorneys, Cross said. Although NICWA fought to keep Baby Veronica with her Cherokee father, Dusten Brown, in Oklahoma, she ultimately stayed with her adoptive, non-Native parents in South Carolina.

"One in four children was taken from a Tribal family before ICWA was passed in 1978," said Cross, a member of the Seneca Nation. "We are under assault now by unscrupulous attorneys. The supply of

adorable babies has dried up; Russia, Korea and Ireland are closed for adoptions. An Indian baby is worth about \$100,000 to an adoption attorney."

Cross hopes his public education campaign will inform people of their rights and demonstrate how ICWA keeps Native families together.

In addition, NICWA has asked the Department of Justice to investigate unethical attorneys working outside the guidelines of ICWA, a federal law that seeks to keep American Indian children with American Indian families.

NICWA also helps Tribes develop their own child welfare and mental health programs to ensure every American Indian child has access to community-based, culturally appropriate services to help them grow up safe, healthy and spiritually strong - free from abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation and substance abuse.

"The Seminole Tribe has been one of the stalwart supporters of our work," Cross said. "We can do it because of the generosity of the Tribe."

Cross acknowledged Nelson's work as a champion for children in the community and thanked him for his seven years of service on the NICWA Board of Directors.

NICWA's 32nd annual Protecting Our Children National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect will be held in Fort Lauderdale April 13-16.

Child psychologist strives to help youth

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Rebeca Ferrer joined the Family Services Department in October, and as the only child psychologist on staff, she will treat children tribalwide.

Ferrer has nine years of experience in the field. She earned a Doctor of Psychology and a master's in psychology from Nova Southeastern University, as well as a bachelor's in psychology from Loyola University in New Orleans. She worked as an evaluator of Social Security cases with the state and as a clinical supervisor for the children's out-patient program at Jackson North Medical Center in Miami.

Drawn to the field because of her love for children and her interest in language acquisition and cognitive development, she specializes in trauma for children and adolescents. Trauma includes neglect, physical, sexual and verbal abuse, loss and separation. Ferrer has found family separation as the most common issue affecting children in the Tribe, but she also treats depression, anxiety and behavior issues caused by attention

deficit disorder.

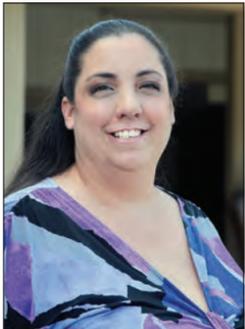
"Children are more of a challenge because they can't verbalize their feelings like adults," Ferrer said. "Kids are resilient and you usually get to see the fruit of your work."

Ferrer incorporates play therapy for children and art therapy for adolescents to help them communicate their feelings. By building rapport, she builds trust and provides a safe place free of judgment.

"They like the individual attention," she said. "They get one person's whole attention for 60 minutes. Most kids don't get that. They know they will have one hour that is their time."

The Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center conducts initial evaluations and then refers cases to Ferrer. Before she joined the department, children were referred to psychologists in the community.

"My goal is to put myself out of business," Ferrer said. "I want to get the kids in here, give them coping skills and get them functioning efficiently so they get too busy with extracurricular activities, friends and a life going great to come back."



Beverly Bidney

Rebeca Ferrer joins the Family Services Department staff as the only child psychologist.

Travel safely this Thanksgiving

SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD
Police Chief

The Thanksgiving holiday is one of the busiest travel times of the year, and with all the excitement, travelers can become more focused on celebrations than getting to their destinations as safely as possible.

Wearing a seat belt is the single most effective way to save your life and the lives of your loved ones while on the road. Research shows that proper seat belt use reduces the risk of fatal injury to front seat passengers by 45 percent and the risk of moderate to serious injury by 50 percent.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, seat belts saved almost 12,000 lives nationwide in 2011. In the same year, 52 percent of the 21,253 passenger vehicle occupants killed in motor vehicle crashes were not wearing seat belts at the time of the crash.

During the 2011 Thanksgiving holiday (from 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 23 to 5:59 a.m. Monday, Nov. 28), 249 passenger

vehicle occupants were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes nationwide. Fifty percent of those killed were not wearing seat belts.

Nighttime (6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.) is an especially dangerous time because people are less likely to wear seat belts. Nationally in 2011, 62 percent of the 10,135 passenger vehicle occupants killed in nighttime crashes were not wearing seat belts, compared to 43 percent during daytime hours.

Throughout the 2011 Thanksgiving holiday period, 57 percent of the passenger vehicle occupants killed in nighttime crashes were unbelted, while only 40 percent of those killed in daytime crashes were unbelted.

With the help of highway safety advocates and local law enforcement officers across the country, we can increase seat belt use and save lives on our roadways. Don't risk it on the road this Thanksgiving. Remember: Buckle Up America - Every Trip, Every Time.

My staff and family wish you a very healthy and safe Thanksgiving.

◆ More FSU photos from page 3A



Amanda Murphy

Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie, left, and Miss Seminole Tia Blais-Billie present former football coach Bobby Bowden a traditional Seminole doll.



Amanda Murphy

From left, Miss Seminole Tia Blais-Billie, Little Miss Seminole Sarafina Billie and Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie smile on Bobby Bowden Field.



Amanda Murphy

Miss Seminole Tia Blais-Billie waves to the crowd during the FSU Homecoming parade Nov. 15.



Amanda Murphy

The entire stadium unites at the single moment Osceola pierces the field from the back of his Appaloosa horse, Renegade, Nov. 16.



Amanda Murphy

Miss Seminole Tia Blais-Billie and Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie prepare to make their grand appearance on the football field during the halftime show to crown the Homecoming chief and princess Nov. 16.



Amanda Murphy

Little Miss Seminole Sarafina Billie, Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie, Miss Seminole Tia Blais-Billie and the FSU Homecoming court await the football players for a good luck high five before the second half of the game starts.



Amanda Murphy

The rain doesn't stop Jr. Miss Brianna Blais-Billie from smiling and waving to spectators during the Homecoming parade.



Amanda Murphy

FSU president Eric Barron and wife, Molly, ride in the parade. Barron donned a Seminole shirt spirited with garnet and gold colors.



Amanda Murphy

From left, France Blais-Billie, Miss Seminole Tia Blais-Billie, Homecoming Chief Gerald Law II, Homecoming Princess Sarah Saxner, Little Miss Seminole Sarafina Billie, Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie, Wanda Bowers and Christine McCall pose for a photo in front of Osceola and Renegade.



Photo courtesy of Kyle Doney

Friends and family of Kyle Doney celebrate his induction into Florida State University's Circle of Gold Nov. 1.

◆ CIRCLE OF GOLD

From page 1A

Atwell said Doney is a valuable liaison between the Seminole Tribe and FSU, even helping solidify FSU's use of Renegade and Osceola as the school's symbol. During Doney's time as a student, the NCAA had placed FSU on its "hostile and abusive" mascot and nickname list. Doney stepped in.

"Doney put an exclamation point on the university's successful defense of its heritage by donning his native battle dress and planting Osceola's spear prior to our Labor Day football matchup with Miami in 2005," said Gordon Sprague, chairman of the board who presented the award to Doney.

After much controversy, the NCAA granted the use of the name because of the unique relationship between the Tribe and the university. Doney planted the spear two more times and is the only Tribal

member to have had the privilege.

"I think he's a great representative of the Seminole Tribe and we're proud to have him on the board and in the Circle of Gold," Atwell said.

The association typically inducts eight people a year; this year's ceremony brought the number of members to 208. Past recipients include several university presidents and professors, former football coach Bobby Bowden and all-around athlete Charlie Ward.

"If you look at past recipients I'd have to say I'm truly honored to receive this award," Doney said.

A delayed flight kept Doney from arriving to the ceremony on time, so Chairman James E. Billie accepted the award on his behalf. He thanked FSU president Eric Barron and wife, Molly; Stan and Ramona Wilcox; Allen and Patty Durham; Bill Durham; Donna McHugh; and Scott Atwell. Doney arrived in time to receive an ovation just as Chairman Billie read the end of his speech.

◆ ARTS CELEBRATION

From page 3A

"The Museum is about culture and what is going on today. We want to always be relevant to the culture while serving the community," Backhouse said.

Artist Jessica Osceola, who is taking online classes through the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, was one of the youngest Seminoles to be featured. Her sharp style in various mediums, including cloth, wood and metal, is uniquely unexpected.

"I am more focused on the art than the pow-wow. It's an authentic perspective that blends tradition with contemporary – it makes up my identity," Osceola said.

Laura Bhatti, of the Otavalo indigenous people in South America and former art teacher at the Miccosukee Indian School, said she attended the event for 15 consecutive years and always looks forward to the next.

Bhatti's booth was loaded with musical instruments carved from cedar, fabric wall hangings, puppet dolls and other items reminiscent of her childhood in Ecuador where uncles, cousins, aunts and other relatives spent days creating works.

"I never went to college, I never went to sewing class," Bhatti said. "For native people, everything we do we learned from grandparents. To us, life is art. We are inspired by nature."

Senior Editor Brett Daly contributed to this article.

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Happy Halloween!



Eileen Soler

Juelz Billie has his eye on the costume contest prize at the Big Cypress Halloween Carnival Oct. 25.



Beverly Bidney

Hollywood kids get into the Halloween spirit at the reservation's Fall Festival Oct. 31.



Andrea Holata

Charlotte Burgess shows off the cake she bought in the auction at Brighton's Halloween event. All proceeds benefited the small animal 4-H Club.



Reinaldo Becerra

Tyione Scott, Amir McKenzie, Fletcher Sanders and Maayana Stockton surround the scary clown Avery Flowers for a Halloween photo Oct. 31 during the Fort Pierce event.



Eileen Soler

Trick or treating at the Big Cypress Halloween Carnival is spooktacular fun through a haunted house built by the Recreation Department.



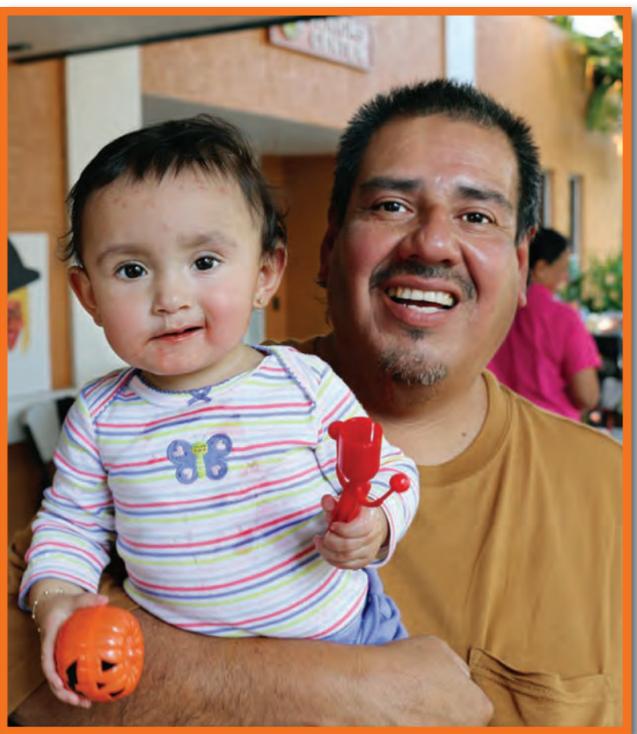
Omar Rodriguez

Ariel Concepcion is wise beyond her years dressed as a Tribal elder for Halloween in Immokalee.



Andrea Holata

Ghosts, goblins, Dracula, Napoleon Dynamite, Duck Dynasty characters and ninjas line up for the Brighton Halloween costume contest.



Omar Rodriguez

Manuel Garza shares a moment with granddaughter Milani Garza at Immokalee's Halloween event.



Beverly Bidney

Jose Puente is all business when it comes to the pumpkin pie eating competition during the Hollywood Fall Festival. After the win, he said he will never eat pumpkin pie again.



Reinaldo Becerra

Tyione Scott shows off his ninja stance during Fort Pierce's Halloween.



Omar Rodriguez

Jesus Arteaga Jr. flies high on a bungee attraction during Immokalee's Halloween celebration.

Fast and furious on three wheels

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal leaders jump started the ninth annual Senior Trike Fest Oct. 24 with fighting words for five of the fastest and most furious reservation teams — on three wheels.

“We did it before and we’ll do it again. We’re ready to rock and roll,” said Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard at the Big Cypress airport hangar turned NASCAR race course packed with nearly 100 seniors revved and raring to go.

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger snapped back: “Hey, are we upset from not winning last year? Yes, so now we’re back to win it.”

Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola pumped up Hollywood’s team with star power.

“You know when our seniors are in town because we come with a police escort — and that’s a good thing,” Rep. Osceola said.

Brighton, Immokalee, Hollywood, Big Cypress and Tampa went pedal to pedal on fun trike courses that tested agility, strength, speed, reflex, skill and even wit. Competitors slomed through a cone weave, raced through challenging mazes, balanced physical and brain speed with puzzle runs, and banded together in the grand finale team relay race.

All the while, race-themed music blasted full throttle — the Beach Boys’ *Fun, Fun, Fun* and *I Get Around*; Steppenwolf’s *Born to be Wild*; and Janis Joplin’s *Mercedes Benz*. NASCAR champion Todd Bodine was on hand to pose for pictures with seniors and a racecar from the first Native-owned race team Germain-Osceola, which is part owned by Tribal member O.B. Osceola Jr., of Naples.

Bodine laid out a few trike racing rules.

“No crashing, no speeding, have a lot



Members of all teams cheer for each other during Trike Fest 2013 held at the Big Cypress Reservation Oct. 24.

Eileen Soler

“It’s a combined serious and friendly competition, but the seniors have fun being physically active while they reap the benefit of being physically fit,” Masak said.

Super seniors (ages 55-61), Golden Seniors (62-68) and Diamond Seniors (69-up) earned points that were later tallied to determine winners for each challenge. But not all seniors took to trikes. Seniors unable to ride due to physical issues competed instead in walk up “hiker” events for chances to win in target toss, ladder ball and ring toss games.

Some contests required no physical challenge. Competitors also battled for prizes in Best Dressed Trike and Best Dressed Triker awards. Brighton swept both categories with Patty Waldron in first place, Connie Whidden and Mable Tichenor tying for second and Jenny Johns in third.

In his third consecutive year on the Hollywood team, Moses Osceola laughed after a successful end at the zany puzzle challenge station, but later he admitted that the 2013 games marked the first time he practiced.

“Before, I always came unprepared. This year I trained going through the cones and riding fast. I’m ready to win,” he said.

Though Big Cypress swept the grand finale five-member tricycle relay race and Tampa owned the most participants category for the fifth consecutive year (tallied by percentage of total residents), Brighton championed the Trike Fest overall for the fourth time in five years.

Cheering sections clearly hoped for the rival Big Cypress or Brighton teams to take home the coveted trophy, but it was a close call with Brighton at 115 points and Big Cypress at 108. Hollywood placed third overall, Tampa came in fourth and Immokalee was fifth.

“Mostly, it’s fun to be out here with good company. There is great camaraderie here,” Moses Osceola said.

of fun,” he said.

Strict guidelines were already dictated by the Health Department, which staged the event led by director Connie Whidden. Each station was manned by a course manager,

timekeeper, time clock operator, penalty judges and a safety assistant.

Serious physical training had been full-speed ahead at reservation senior centers for about two months.

Health Department fitness coordinator Denise Masak, of Hollywood, said some team members worked out two to four times a day to build cardiovascular endurance and muscle strength on trikes.



Eileen Soler

Moses Osceola, of Team Hollywood, revels in completion of the puzzle challenge.



Eileen Soler

Alice Sweat, of Brighton, laughs at her own helmet topper during the Best Dressed Triker contest at Trike Fest 2013.



Eileen Soler

Trike Fest 2013 competitors get plenty of assistance from pit crew members.



Eileen Soler

Rudy Osceola, of Team Big Cypress, takes on the cone weave challenge.



Eileen Soler

Peggy Cubis, of Team Tampa, is super proud to win the most participants award at Trike Fest 2013.



Eileen Soler

Team Hollywood blazes past Team Big Cypress at Trike Fest 2013.

Brighton wheels in another Trike Fest victory



Eileen Soler

Team Brighton poses with the Best Dressed Trike. The team took home the overall prize also for Trike Fest 2013.



Eileen Soler

Terry Tichenor, NASCAR champion Todd Bodine and Mable Tichenor, of Brighton, pose in front of the Germain-Osceola racecar.



Eileen Soler

A cheering section is relentless during Trike Fest 2013.



Eileen Soler

Trike Fest 2013 contestants rev up for the race.



Eileen Soler

Wanda Bowers, of Hollywood, laughs through the end of the team relay course during Trike Fest 2013.



Eileen Soler

Molly Jones, Alice Tucker, Wanda Bowers and Louise Osceola celebrate their wins.



Eileen Soler

NASCAR tires, flags and attitude turn the Big Cypress airplane hangar into a trike racing course Oct. 24 for Trike Fest 2013.



Eileen Soler

Linda Beletso, of Immokalee, pulls in a good time for the puzzle challenge.

Business

Nine Tribes to receive \$7 million from Department of Energy for wind, biomass, solar projects

White House Tribal Nations Conference highlights ways Indian Country can save money through alternative energy

BY INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY STAFF

Nine Tribes will receive a total of more than \$7 million from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for clean-energy projects, the agency announced Nov. 14.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe in Idaho; the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government in Fort Yukon, Alaska; the Forest County Potawatomi Community in Milwaukee; Menominee Tribal Enterprises in Wisconsin; the Seneca Nation of Indians in Irving, New York; the Southern Ute Indian Tribe Growth Fund in Ignacio, Colorado; the Tonto Apache Tribe of Payson, Arizona; the White Earth Reservation Tribal Council in Minnesota; and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska will use their respective funds to develop a variety of alternative energy sources involving wind, biomass and solar power.

The DOE highlighted the awards during the 2013 White House Tribal Nations Conference as a way to help American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes use clean energy to save money, increase energy security and promote economic development.

"Today, we are very pleased to announce that nine Tribes have been selected to receive over \$7 million to further deploy clean energy projects," Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said in his remarks before the conference. "A couple of examples in those awards, wind power for Tribal government buildings at Seneca Nation in New York, energy efficiency upgrades to reduce energy use by 40 percent in Alaska. There are nine Tribes that will have these efficiencies. And that addresses this question of mitigation, reducing carbon pollution."

"American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes host a wide range of untapped energy resources that can help build a sustainable energy future for their local communities," said Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz in a statement announcing the awards. "Responsible development of these clean energy resources will help cut energy waste and fight the harmful effects of carbon pollution – strengthening energy security of Tribal nations throughout the country."

In remarks at the Tribal Nations Conference, Moniz said the government

planned to work more closely with American Indians on developing energy sources.

"We are looking forward to establishing and advancing a subgroup of the White House Council on Native American Affairs, to really focus on energy development, energy deployment in Indian country," he said. "I think, working together, with us and agriculture, EPA and other cabinet colleagues, we really want to harness the energy potential in Indian Country – conventional energy, renewable energy – to expedite clean energy deployment and electrification. That is something that we will get together on and try to advance promptly."

While Indian Country officially takes up just 2 percent of the land known as the United States, that territory holds a good 5 percent of all U.S. renewable energy resources, the DOE noted.

The grants are part of an ongoing push to invest in Tribal clean energy projects that began in 2002. The DOE's Tribal Energy Program has put about \$42 million into 175 such projects, providing financial and technical assistance as well along with its Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. Other grants were announced earlier this year to other Tribes.

The initiative also includes technical assistance.

Moniz said the DOE intends to continue and expand on these efforts.

"From community solar projects in New Mexico and Colorado, to the commercial scale wind projects in Maine, small biomass projects in Wisconsin, DOE is working with 20 Tribes and Alaskan Native villages to empower leaders with tools and resources needed to lead energy development that can foster self-sufficiency, sustainability, and economic growth," he told the Tribal leaders at the conference. "At the Department of Energy I have certainly made it a priority to raise our game with state, local governments, Tribes. We believe, in the end, a national policy needs to build from Tribal, state, local, and regional policies and activity."

This article originally appeared in Indian Country Today and was reprinted with permission from the publication.

Native-owned Neechie Gear turns sweats into sweat

BY TANYA H. LEE
Indian Country Today

Neechie Gear CEO Kendal Netmaker, Sweetgrass First Nation, has a winner's approach to life. At 26, he holds two degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, heads a company that has grown 450 percent since its founding in 2011 and now boasts five employees, is the winner of several awards and competitions, most recently National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development's Twenty Grand Business Plan Competition at the regional Reservation Economic Summit (RES) Arizona, and with his wife is expecting their second child. Maybe it's his sports background.

Raised by a single mom on the Sweetgrass Reserve in Saskatchewan, Netmaker loved playground sports, but could not participate in organized sports because the fees were too high and transportation to practices and games impossible, as a fifth-grade classmate from South Africa found out when he asked why his friend was not on the classmate's soccer team.

"The next day he tells me that his parents want to pay my fees and from that day forward they helped me out by enabling me to play soccer for the first time," Netmaker said. "It was pretty amazing and it set [in motion] a whole [series of] life-changing events for me."

When he was in the 12th grade, Netmaker's commitment to sports earned him a volleyball scholarship.

"I got to play for two years and take some university classes [at Keyano College in Alberta]. After two years [in 2007] I transferred to the University of Saskatchewan where I completed two university degrees," a B.Ed. in Social Studies/English and a B.A. in Native Studies, graduating in 2011.

The generosity of his friend's parents, said Netmaker, provided an opportunity that "inspired my spirit and filled my heart with courage." He decided to try to find a way to offer that same opportunity to other kids. "In my last year of university I had this idea to create a clothing company

that helps kids the way that I was helped from that one kid from South Africa who really changed my life."

Despite carrying a full university course load and having absolutely no business experience, Netmaker set out to become an entrepreneur.

"I started to see business competitions being posted throughout campus and I started to realize maybe I should just enter one and see what happens. That would require me to write a business plan for the first time. It was really a lot of work and I had to pick people's brains in the business community. After a couple of months I had a business plan finished...which I still think to this day wasn't great at all... but I had something done," he said.

The contest was sponsored by the Brett Wilson Entrepreneurial Center for Excellence, established by entrepreneur and philanthropist W. Brett Wilson in 2007 at his alma mater, the University of Saskatchewan. The competition, CBC's Dragons' Den, was essentially Canada's version of America's TV show *Shark Tank*.

Netmaker came away a finalist with \$10,000 in prize money and in-kind services and Neechie Gear (the name comes from the Cree/Ojibway word "nichewakan," which means "friend") was suddenly a reality.

"We started from a one-bedroom apartment where my fiancée and I were raising our 1-year-old son. It was very crowded – boxes in my living room, a little office in the corner," Netmaker said.

Neechie Gear opened its first store at The Centre shopping mall in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The company now has a second store in Alberta, a website and a wholesale business that extends throughout western Canada.

"And then we had a big break in a local mall. We won an entrepreneur competition and we got a kiosk rent-free for three months to test market our product. Our first couple of weeks we almost sold out of our stuff and our numbers were overwhelming. So after those three months the mall loved what we were doing and offered us a small store," he said.

In addition to that first store at The Centre on Circle and Eighth in Saskatoon, Neechie Gear now has a store in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, about an hour and 20 minutes north of Saskatoon, an online component and the wholesale business that extends throughout Western Canada.

Netmaker described his career so far: "I saw a problem that I wanted to address in a creative way and I knew that apparel is something that I always liked growing up, especially sporty fashion. I love to wear a bunch of different brand names. I always thought that if ever there was an opportunity that maybe I could create my own label one day and just do it for fun. I never thought that I'd be at this point right now."

Pat Parker, one of the judges for NCAIED's business plan competition, is a board member of the organization and president and CEO of Native woman-owned Native American Management Services, a collaborative venture with her sister. Parker said that what made Netmaker's submission stand out was his realistic financials.

"He included a balance sheet, cash flow and even current 2013 financials, as well as passion. Business owners are their own marketers, so how he presented himself was also important. That, and a heartwarming story – it's a winner," she said.

She said she tells entrepreneurs, "The key is financials. Find your passion and a good accountant."

Neechie Gear is a business created to fulfill a mission and it has been a boon to the community right from the beginning. At first, the company distributed a portion of its proceeds directly to kids' organizations.

And for the future, Netmaker said, "Well, obviously, growth's always fun, very difficult though. I think our online strategy's going to be the next big thing for us. We're creating a new website. Hopefully before Christmas it will be launched, and we'll go from there."

This article originally appeared in Indian Country Today and was reprinted with permission from the publication.

It smells like success: How one sweetgrass business grows

BY JACK MCNEEL
Indian Country Today

There are perfumes, body sprays, soaps, sachets, candles, air fresheners and more – all carrying the wonderful fragrance of sweetgrass.

Since Toni McClue, a Chippewa-Cree from Turtle Mountain, put her sweetgrass products on the market three years ago, she has garnered a dedicated following. One Native man recently purchased 90 sweetgrass braids – her biggest seller, she told *Indian Country Today Media Network*.

McClue owns a small plot of land, roughly 60 by 100 feet, where she planted sweetgrass – enough for two harvests each year.

Her first cut of grass generally reaches 50 inches tall, and the second harvest

generally measures about 27 to 28 inches, she said. McClue's dream is to purchase a 5-acre irrigated plot and start out planting an acre of sweetgrass.

Her business began by taking her products to the farmer's market in Great Falls. Sales were strong from the first week, and she continues to sell at the market in addition to selling wholesale to many local Montana businesses.

"That first year I got about 35 stores, and from then on it's been more and more. Last month I picked up three new stores, and this month I picked up two more. I'm busy!" she said, adding that she also ships her products to buyers around the country. And perhaps international sales are on the horizon; recently she received a phone call from a buyer in France.

McClue loves the grass, loves the smell

and texture, and can produce beautiful braids in rapid time. She hates to waste any of it and uses the shorter strands for small items to take to market, such as air fresheners she creates with a little beadwork for customers to hang in their cars. She also makes little bundles of grass, which make good fire starters.

"It not only smells great but also starts fires easily as it smolders slowly," she said.

Sweetgrass is considered a sacred plant throughout much of Indian Country and is used in prayers and smudging ceremonies. Unfortunately sweetgrass is no longer as plentiful as it once was due to changes in farming practices, increases in construction and various other activities. But for those who do grow sweetgrass, the market is larger. Demand hasn't died down with production, McClue said.

Among her buyers are hospitals, the Department of Agriculture in Montana and the Montana state prison, where Natives use it for religious and healing purposes.

Buyers are both Indian and non-Indian alike.

"I think Natives are particular about who they buy from because it's a sacred grass," McClue said. "Now that they're finding out I'm Native, that kind of makes a difference. I have a lot of Native customers but not as many as I'd like."

The winter months, when grass is dormant, offer the opportunity to catch up on some of the other products. Candles are a big seller and time-consuming to produce. McClue makes all the candles personally by hand.

"I have a big kitchen and have two cupboards for my dishes and my food. The

rest are for [candle] supplies," she said. "These are triple poured candles and will burn about 60 hours."

The wax is poured at three different temperatures, making them solid and removing any air.

She also produces some that have a 90-hour burning period, plus little ones that burn about 15 hours.

She makes hundreds of candles and starts the spring with about 800 on hand, then has to restock within a couple of months. McClue only works with sweetgrass, so everything is the same scent.

"The only variation would be in colors," she said.

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Osceola Group works toward building Wisconsin Hard Rock Hotel & Casino

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter



Beverly Bidney

O.B. Osceola Jr. is in the conference room at the Osceola Group headquarters in Naples.

NAPLES — O.B. Osceola Jr. is on the verge of securing the second multimillion-dollar contract for his company, Osceola Group, based in Naples, in a few months.

The company landed a \$13-million advertising contract with Seminole Gaming in October and is close to locking an \$808-million deal to build a Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for the Menominee Tribe in Kenosha, Wis.

Osceola started Osceola Group in 2010 with a vision of conducting business in Indian Country on various levels. His group consists of a construction and development company, insurance company and marketing company.

"Most Tribes are always building something," said Osceola, of Naples. "I can help them develop and build it, insure it after it's done and market it. It's a nice array of companies that can help a Tribe; it's nice to be able to not just offer one thing."

With a "couple hundred million dollars" in bonding capacity, Osceola Group is one of few Tribally owned businesses large enough to handle large-scale projects, Osceola said. He relocated the company to a 12,000-square-foot headquarters building in Naples to conduct business.

Having served as Naples' Tribal Liaison from 2001-2011, Osceola traveled to events throughout Indian Country meeting other Tribal leaders and networking.

"The Seminoles have always been the LeBron James of Indians," he said. "I had a front row seat and gained a lot of knowledge."

Following his business model, Osceola creates partnerships with experienced companies to help ensure success. His construction group is affiliated with Cleveland Construction Inc. in Ohio; the insurance company is partnered with Wells Fargo insurance services; and the marketing company collaborates with Walz Tetrick Advertising in Kansas.

Osceola Group collaborates with Menominee Tribe for Wisconsin Casino

Bruce Pecore, a friend of Osceola and former Menominee Tribal legislator, told Osceola his Tribe had a chance to build a world-class casino and resort on 220 acres off interstate I-94, just 30 minutes from O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. Osceola saw an opportunity.

Osceola said he wanted to involve Hard Rock and spent a month building a proposal. Jim Allen, chairman of Hard Rock International and CEO of Seminole Gaming, agreed to partner with Osceola Group to pitch the creation of a Menominee Hard Rock Kenosha Casino. They won the bid.

If approved, the Menominee casino will include a 100,000-square-foot casino with 3,100 slot machines and 75 table games; 50,000 square feet of retail space and restaurants; a 400-room hotel with spa, pool and convention area; a 5,000-seat entertainment facility; and parking for 8,500 vehicles. The project will be built in two phases over about two years.

In August, the Menominee Tribe received approval from the Department of

the Interior for the off-reservation casino, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs agreed to put the land into trust. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker must now give his approval. Walker said he wants all 11 Wisconsin Tribes to agree to the project.

As of press time, nine have approved. The Ho-Chunk and Forest County Potawatomi Tribes, both of whom have large casinos in the state, have not given approval.

Osceola and representatives of Hard Rock International met with the governor to state their case. Traditionally, the state has approved off-reservation casinos because their Tribes are located in the northern, less populated regions of the state. The governor, who can veto the project, has not made a decision nor indicated when he will do so.

"Studies say another casino won't destroy the competition; it will grow the market," said Osceola, who plans to market the property in Chicago. "Gamers like to move around from casino to casino. I think we'll pull those Illinois people into Wisconsin."

If built, Hard Rock Kenosha is expected to create more than 5,000 direct and indirect jobs and an estimated \$600 million in payments to the state through a preapproved compact, according to the Hard Rock International website.

Osceola believes the endeavor could be the first time Hard Rock International has partnered with a Tribal entrepreneur on a project of this magnitude. Osceola said he has learned a lot from Allen and vice president for Seminole Gaming Jeff Hook.

"We're not a slots-in-the-box; we are a truly iconic entertainment destination," Osceola said. "I'm proud to say I'm a co-developer with Hard Rock and I'm excited about it."

Osceola Group secures Seminole Gaming advertising account

In October, Osceola Group was

awarded a portion of the Seminole Gaming advertising and marketing account. With the \$13-million, three-year contract, Osceola Group will purchase media for the advertising campaigns of the Florida casinos: Tampa, Immokalee, Brighton, Hard Rock Hollywood, Hollywood Classic and Coconut Creek.

Media planning and buying is the process in which ads are placed in various media, including television, radio and print. Key components include targeting a specific demographic and reaching it through strategic purchases. Osceola Group will focus on television and radio mediums for the Hard Rock account.

Osceola Group's partnership with Walz Tetrick Advertising offers clients media expertise and negotiating skills to get the best placement and prices.

In addition to the Hard Rock account, Osceola Group also handles media planning and buying for the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation in Kansas.

"We created the marketing group as a tool to get business from companies who want to do business with a Native American company," Osceola said. "We're going after Tribal and non-Tribal business nationwide."

Hard Rock put out a request for proposal for its advertising account, and the two finalists were Osceola Group and a non-Tribal agency. They gave Osceola Group a chance to beat the competition's proposal, which Osceola did.

"Gaming is a proponent of promoting Tribal entrepreneurs," he said. "Why not give them an extra edge and keep it in the family?"

Osceola considers himself a jack of all trades who leads a group of experts in a variety of endeavors. He chooses partners carefully and gets to know them well before going into business together.

"Life is too short to do business with people you don't like or trust," he said. "The whole group of companies is doing well. This has been a great couple of months."

Osceola family honored by Collier County Commission

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

NAPLES — The Collier County Board of County Commissioners honored the Osceola family Nov. 12 for their commitment to preserving the county's Native American heritage, culture and traditions.

Commissioner Georgia A. Hiller presented the family a plaque on behalf of the commissioners.

Three generations of the Osceola family were honored at the meeting, including O.B. Sr., Tina Marie, O.B. Jr., Dakota, Bryce, Brody, Tori and O.B. III, who all call Collier County home.

Through the years, the Osceola family has shared their heritage with the county by building a Seminole village on the grounds of the Collier County Museum, sponsoring events and festivals, and donating time to educational programs.

"I was extremely excited when I heard the County Commission wanted to recognize my father and family for our contributions to our community," O.B. Jr. said. "We all work hard to make a contribution, and so it feels good to know that whatever we are doing is working. I was proud to stand with my father, mother, daughter and son before the entire county — three generations of entrepreneurial and warrior spirit."

O.B. Sr. and Tina Marie make presentations to community groups and

schools regularly to educate people on Collier County's Native American heritage and individuals. O.B. Sr. and O.B. Jr. are successful entrepreneurs.

"I have lived in Collier County my whole life and am proud to continue to build chickees the way my own dad and grandpa taught me," O.B. Sr. said. "My mother raised me to be a good father and to provide for my family and community, and I think I've done that. I'm 79 now and hope to still be here when I'm 179."

During the ceremony, the Collier County Museum presented a slideshow of the family's participation in community activities over the years.

"We are grateful to the Osceola family for their contributions to the community in a most significant way, and we really wanted to honor you, as a board," Hiller said during the recognition.

The family was pleased to receive the honor.

"We are proud to call Collier County our home, and will continue to work towards leaving a legacy that our posterity will be proud of," Tina Marie said. "Our ancestors not only worked hard to physically survive but worked diligently to maintain our Seminole heritage within a community comprised mostly of non-natives. They truly gave us the best of all worlds."

Tina Marie Osceola contributed to this article.



Photo courtesy of Collier County Board of County Commissioners

The Osceola family poses with the Collier County Board of County Commissioners Nov. 12 after receiving recognition for their contributions to the fabric of the community.

Express lanes to put drivers on fast track, for a price

New I-595 lanes expected to open by March

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

DAVIE — At a public hearing Oct. 24 in Davie, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) said the reversible express toll lanes on I-595 will open March 2014. The expressway, under construction since February 2010, should be completely operational by June 2014.

"We expect about 23,000 to 28,000 vehicles per day in the express lanes," said Paul Lampley, project manager, FDOT. "The permanent signs are going up now, and the striping, final layer of asphalt and friction course on the shoulders will be completed by June."

FDOT anticipates it taking up to a year to reach the usage estimate in the express lanes. Access to those three center lanes will be limited to four points: I-75, the Sawgrass Expressway, the Florida Turnpike and I-95.

Commuters who exit elsewhere should use the toll-free, general purpose lanes. There is no exit to U.S. 441 from the express lanes.

Tolls will be collected in the express lanes with a SunPass transponder, available

at Publix, CVS, Navarro Discount Pharmacies and Sedano's Supermarkets, as well as Turnpike service plazas, Turnpike gas stations and SunPass Service Centers. They can also be purchased online.

All three express lanes will head eastbound Monday through Friday from 4 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on weekends. The lanes will go westbound Monday through Friday from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tolls range from 50 cents to approximately \$2 per two-axle vehicle, depending on traffic volumes operating speeds, level of service and trend data.

"We manage the traffic flow through the pricing," Lampley said. "The price goes up to discourage people when it is too crowded."

The only other expressway in the state with reversible express toll lanes is the Selmon Expressway in Tampa, which opened in 2006.

Based on studies done by FDOT, the revamped expressway has enough capacity to last until 2034. Lampley said expressway designs meet the needs of the community for 20 years.

"With all the improvement, the road will be more efficient," he said.



Beverly Bidney

Davie residents Tim Sweetman and Rachael Robbio, who is a Seminole employee in the Planning and Development Department, examine aerial maps at the Florida Department of Transportation public hearing for the I-595 improvement project.



Courtesy of Leo A Daly architectural firm

An artist's rendering shows the new gym on the Hollywood Reservation, designed by the Leo A Daly architecture firm.

RECREATION

From page 1A

The first floor will feature two full-size basketball courts. Other amenities include a catering kitchen, with a buffet service area, to accommodate community events.

The area designated for the Culture Department, also located on the ground floor, will have a teaching kitchen, classrooms and multipurpose room. Outside, a traditional camp will be set up with a cooking chickee at the center.

Because the culture chickees near the existing gym have been taken down, Imahaggi Tiger's camp — located at the corner of 64th Avenue and James E. Billie

Drive — will be used for community culture events until the new facility's completion.

The second-floor Boys & Girls Club will have two multipurpose rooms, classrooms, music room and studio, and computer room.

A fitness room plus a cardio and weight room with a large picture window overlooking the basketball court will make up the fitness area.

The outdoor basketball court by the current gym will get a permanent cover, called an airmasium, to provide shade and shelter and encourage more use in hot, rainy weather.

Also, eight new homes will be built behind the existing trailer homes on 30th Street, to be called Seminole Estates Circle;

six new homes will be built at the end of James E. Billie Drive behind the apartments; and eight to 16 townhomes will be built on the Florida Power and Light easement by the clinic. In the planning stage now, the homes could be completed by Thanksgiving or Christmas of 2014 and the townhouses by the following spring.

"This is one big project for that whole side of the reservation," Councilman Osceola said. "Tribal members will be safe in their homes instead of having to evacuate their trailers for a hurricane. It's long overdue."

For now, the Boys & Girls Club is relocated to a trailer next to the gym and the Seminole Estates Clubhouse is to be used for large events.

Postcard reveals vibrant history



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

Jack Tigertail sits among family members in this early 20th century Seminole postcard.

SUBMITTED BY TARA BACKHOUSE
 Collections Manager

Most months the Museum asks for help identifying people in a photograph or the creator of an object. This month the Museum proudly shifts gears to present the story of a recent, successful information request.

Paul Simmons, a Tribal employee and noted alligator wrestler, contacted the Museum asking for help identifying the people in a postcard owned by his friend. The postcard shows nine adults and three children posing in front of a building. Simmons and his friend knew the postcard was old and the people were important, but they did not have any more details.

Although the Museum has many historic postcards in its collection, this one was not one of them and staff could not identify the people. However, the Museum has connections to local experts. Renowned historian Patsy West, who studied historic photos and postcards for decades, helped Simmons with his request.

West co-curated the exhibit "Imag(in)g the Seminole: Photographs and Their Use Since 1880" in 1993. And most recently, in 2012, her book, *Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes of Southern Florida*, has become the go-to reference on the subject.

With her vast knowledge of Seminole history and

photos, West easily pegged the seated man in the photo as Jack Tigertail, joined by his wife on his right, and his mother-in-law on the left. Everyone in the photo lived and worked at Coppinger's Tropical Gardens (Pirates' Cove), a famous tourist camp in the early 20th century. The building in the background is unknown, but West's research uncovered that the original photograph was taken in West Palm Beach while the group attended a tourist event called The Seminole Sun Dance.

Tigertail became famous in 1921, when a larger-than-life billboard version of him was erected to point visitors to the new town of Hialeah, in a rather unexplored part of southern Florida. Since then, this iconic image has been reproduced in other places to lure visitors to other tourist-based ventures carried out by the Tribe, such as Big Cypress' own version that used to stand near the Museum and point the way to Billie Swamp Safari.

The Museum staff is happy to have helped Simmons and his friend learn about the history of the postcard. But there is still more to learn. If you can identify anyone else in the picture, contact the Museum at 863-902-1113. You can make an appointment, simply stop by or browse the collection of 740 postcards from the comfort of your own home at www.ahtahtiki.com on the Collections page.

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Betty
 Mae
 Jumper

Wisdom from the past

Thanksgiving Bird

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the November 12, 1999 issue of *The Seminole Tribune*.

My first Thanksgiving memory occurred sometime after I moved to what was then called the Dania Reservation in 1928. I was probably about 10 years old.

One day in the fall, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Superintendent, Mr. Spencer, came around to our house. He was passing out live turkeys. Live turkeys. Well, I certainly didn't have any idea about what was going on.

Later, I asked my grandmother, Mary Gopher Tiger, why we got the turkey and she told me she had learned stories from older people a long time ago. It was a story about Thanksgiving.

My grandmother told me lots of things. She said a long time ago, a big ship came to the shore and brought lots of white people. The men went out and made friends with the local Indians and started trading for food, such as corn and potatoes and meat and deer and birds – such as turkey.

She said the Indians also taught the white people how to fish and smoke the meat so it would last days for them to eat. After a while, people from the ship made homes away from the big water, and they learned how to plant potatoes, corn and vegetables from the Indians.

The ships went out to sea and left, but each year they returned and brought more people and things such as clothes and that's where the Indian learned how to make clothes and to wear them.

So, my grandmother said, maybe from all of this it became known as Thanksgiving, because lots of white people invited the Indians to eat with them.

I didn't understand it very well, but I liked the turkey. And, because some Indians – especially the non-Christian Indians – wouldn't eat turkey

because they thought it was a spirit bird, we got quite a few turkeys.

We kept them in a pen and ate them for a long time. We didn't have a special meal or anything. It was just a bird that we ate.

Later, when I went to the Indian Boarding School in Cherokee, N.C., I learned more about Thanksgiving. The teachers and our books told us more about the tradition, but it sounded quite a bit like what my grandmother had said. She didn't know the dates and such, but the basic information was right, so I thought, "Well, here I'm learning about it from two sources, so it must be right."

While I was at Cherokee, I had my first big Thanksgiving meal. My family didn't have enough money to send me home for the holidays, so I stayed at the school. We had a big meal. It was like a feast. I loved that meal.

Now that I'm older, I realize that the real meaning of Thanksgiving is a day that we should all give thanks to the Lord. In my life, I have a lot to be thankful for. I've had a number of major illnesses that could have killed me.

I had uremia and went into the hospital for weeks. I nearly died.

I had both my knee joints go, and had two artificial joints put in my legs. I had a strange virus on a trip to Oklahoma, and had to be hospitalized in Texas. I nearly died from that.

I've had breast cancer and survived that and colon cancer surgery and I'm still recovering from chemotherapy.

So, maybe because of everything I've gone through, I'm even more thankful this year. The Lord has been good to me and has brought me through a lot of trouble. No matter what you're going through, I hope you take the time to thank the Lord for everything you have. We all have a precious gift. It's called life.

I want to take this time to hope everyone has a joyful Thanksgiving and that you enjoy this day. And, take a moment to reflect what it really means. Take a moment to thank the Lord.

And, pass the turkey.



Hah-Pong-Ke: Okefenokee Joe

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
 Special Projects Reporter

Like the famous Seminole war leader profiled in his song, *Abiaka*, the man who wrote it was also known by two names. Born in Philadelphia, he was known as Dick Flood, a man who spent the first 40 years of his life flirting with country music fame and the next 40 years known as Okefenokee Joe, a Georgia wildlife professor who writes and sings songs about alligators, panthers, frogs and Seminole Indians.

Many Seminole and Miccosukee Tribal members are familiar with Okefenokee Joe, who has strummed his guitar at numerous Tribal events. In fact, he recently released a greatest hits album, a CD titled *The Best of the Legendary Okefenokee Joe – Legends, Secrets, Stories, Creek & Seminole Indian Tribes, Critters and More From Our Southern Swamplands*, which includes the song, *Abiaka*.

Known for his well-crafted history ballads, Joe tells a musical tale about the legendary Seminole war leader, *Abiaka*, also known as Sam Jones. In three minutes, Joe provides a dramatic overview of the Seminole Wars, which culminated with *Abiaka's* refusal to accept deportation, taking his band of Seminoles deep into the Everglades where

soldiers could not manage.

When he is not singing and playing, Joe can be seen on the Georgia Public TV's Emmy winning show, *Swamp Wisdom*, teaching audiences about plants, animals and wilderness survival, singing songs and telling stories. He has been featured on NBC, CNN, TBS, PBS, GPB, as well as in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Back when he was still Dick Flood, he became hooked on country music and taught himself to play the guitar. After a stint in Korea with the U. S. Army, he was stationed at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippine Islands where he organized the first of many bands: The Luzon Valley Boys.

In 1956, his band, the Country Lads, landed a regular spot on the popular *Jimmy Dean TV Show*, where Flood hung out with the likes of Homer and Jethro, Andy Williams, Johnny Cash and many more stars. Later he became a full-time songwriter, writing *Trouble's Back in Town* for the Wilburn Brothers – a country music hit in 1962. He had many songs on the flip side of big hits on the old 45s, such as *Only the Lonely* by Roy Orbison, so people began to call him "Flip Side Flood."

By 1972, fed up with the roller coaster fortunes and pressured atmosphere of the music business, Flood walked away. As he headed south, Flood slowly became Okefenokee Joe.

'Abiaka'

It was a time of desperation
 Hate was churning up the land
 Death and devastation
 For those who made a stand
 In swift decisive action
 Andrew Jackson had proclaimed
 East of the Mississippi
 Not one Indian shall remain

Many disillusioned broken hearts
 Walked that Trail of Tears
 While those who hid and stayed behind
 Would live in constant fear
 But to some the Trail of Freedom
 Was the only course at hand
 For them the swamps of Florida
 Would become the Promised Land

(Chorus)
 Seminole
 His spirit walks among you
 Seminole
 Free to follow ways of old
 Seminole
 The pride of the unconquered
 Lives deep within your soul
 Seminole

Call him stubborn, call him vengeful
 Call him tyrant, call him great
 Call him Shaman, call him devil
 This man the soldiers hate
 Sometimes feared by his own people

Yet no one can ignore
 He remained unconquered
 Through all the Seminole Wars
 His name is Abiaka
 The whites call him Sam Jones
 More determined and elusive
 Than any foe those troops had known
 He made fools of them for 40 years
 With his magic and his wits
 A federal force of thousands
 Couldn't crush him in its grip

(Chorus)

Through the bloody years of conflict
 The removals and the slain
 Of a Tribe once numbering thousands
 A handful now remained
 The year of 1858
 Found their leaders forced in line
 An agreement shoved in front of them
 Which all but one would sign

For Abiaka led his weary band
 Deep into the 'Glades
 Somehow he knew they'd leave him be
 If he just stayed away
 And so it was that soon was heard
 The silence of the guns
 No treaties, no surrender
 Old Sam Jones had won

(Chorus)

Health



Brighton sheds 288 pounds through Seminole Pathways program

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Seminole Pathways V 30-day challenge ended in success Oct. 30, when 37 participants and the Health Department gathered at the Elder Services building in Brighton to celebrate their collective loss of a whopping 288.4 pounds.

"This program was statistically the most successful of any weight loss program we have ever been involved with," said Suzanne Davis, Allied Health program manager.

Pathways has been implemented throughout the Tribal communities for five years, but this year, the program took a more structured direction.

Starting Oct. 1, participants met every day at the Elder Services building to weigh in and eat calorie-portioned, vegetable-based meals three times a day. A typical meal included spinach, asparagus, salmon and a small potato for dinner. They were also provided healthy snacks throughout the day.

"I always set goals with my weight, but I never could do it," said participant Stacy Jones. "This is the first time I set a goal and met it. I wanted to lose 10 pounds; that was my goal and I barely made it."

In the past, participants handled meals on their own. But meals organized by Health Department staff this time around helped participants stay in control of portion sizes and calories.

Chairman James E. Billie had the idea of

implementing structured diet plans using the resources of the Tribe, such as nutritionist Lance Vaz, cooking staff and facilities, for a more affordable weight loss program for Tribal members. He said he participated in a similar program years ago in North Carolina called Structure House, but it was expensive.

"It was a conglomeration of things that inspired the idea," Chairman Billie said. "Instead of sending people up there to that costly situation, we could do it here and save money. Hopefully we can continue the program with all the reservations, and instead of going far off, we can do it right here."

During the ceremony, each participant was recognized for completing the program. Some said the experience helped them make healthier choices, while others recognized the staff who made the program possible.

"For me, I put exercise and running off in 2012 when I got injured. From that point until about 30 days ago, I kept trying and trying, but by having this 30-day program, I got back into it," Norman Bowers said.

"This is one of the most positive things I've seen that has come through our community," added Willie Johns.

Vaz organized the program with the support of the Elder Services staff, professional chef Asif Rasheed and the Health Department.

Davis said she hopes participants gained "a better working knowledge about making healthier choices and the understanding that losing weight does not mean starving yourself."



Andrea Holata

A few participants who completed the 30-day Pathways program gather for a group picture Oct. 30. The program's 37 participants lost a collective 288.4 pounds.



Andrea Holata

Professional chef Asif Rasheed prepares steak for guests attending the 30-day Pathways final dinner Oct. 30. Rasheed, along with Health Department nutritionist Lance Vaz, created healthy meals for the program.



Andrea Holata

From left, Kai Setty, Chairman James E. Billie, Lance Vaz, Asif Rasheed, Barbara Boling and Suzanne Davis gather for a photo on the last day of the program Oct. 30.



Andrea Holata

Tribal member Laverne Thomas accepts a cookbook from Lance Vaz for completing the Pathways 30-day challenge.

The Seminole **DIRECTV** Bulk Program is happy to be starting its 9th year of providing all Seminole Tribal Members with satellite TV service at a great price, along with the best quality service. **SMP** has a staff dedicated to ensure great TV continues to be available in our Florida communities.

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Andrea Holata

Pathways participants and organizers enjoy a steak dinner for their final day of the program.



Peace of Mind for Indian Country

Everybody wants to make good decisions about their own health care. Reduce stress, eat right, exercise, and see your doctor regularly. Sure, it sounds easy, but when you can't afford health care, there's nothing easy about it. We all want health, harmony, and peace of mind, especially when it comes to our families. Don't let worries about health insurance get in the way! Thankfully, there are new insurance options that offer no- and low-cost coverage. Under the new health care law, more American Indian and Alaska Native people can get better coverage from a variety of providers, including tribal, urban, and Indian Health Service programs.

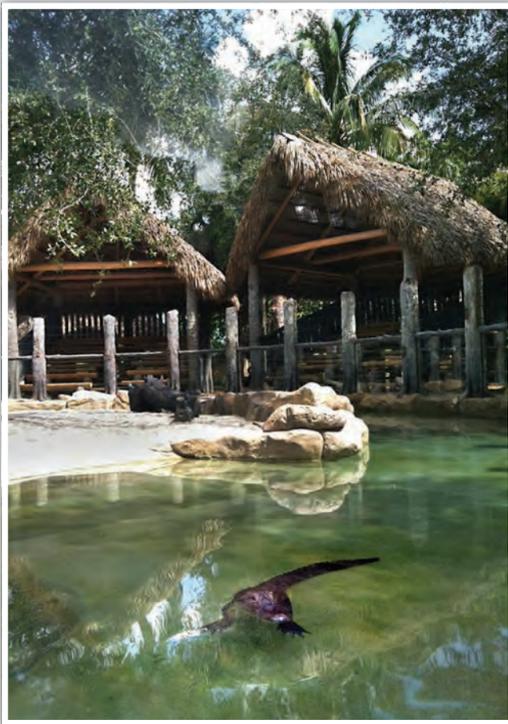
The time to sign up is now, before someone you love really needs it. You may be eligible for tax credits to help pay for health insurance; this makes it affordable and with no cost-sharing or deductibles when you receive services from Indian health programs. Sign-ups started October 1st. Contact your local Indian health program about how you may qualify or find out more at www.healthcare.gov/tribal.

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SEMINOLE SCENES



Eileen Soler

ALLIGATOR HAVEN: An alligator takes in the morning sun in a new moat at Billie Swamp Safari. Recent renovations at the tourist attraction on the Big Cypress Reservation also include three new amphitheater chickees, fossilized sidewalks, cypress-like railings and light poles, and new demonstration and village chickees.



Eileen Soler

THE WARRIOR'S NEW CLOTHES: Sculptor Bradley Cooley and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Paul Backhouse flank the freshly reconditioned statue of the great Seminole warrior Abiaka under a new chickee at the Museum's entrance on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Photo courtesy of Toma Hunter

COLOR ME DRUG-FREE: Participants of the Big Cypress Red Ribbon Week color run are wash in a rainbow of pastel paint during a race against drug and alcohol abuse.



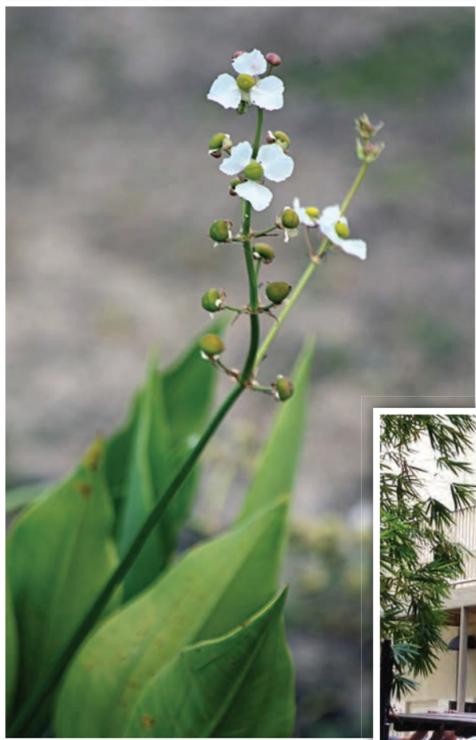
Beverly Bidney

MOVING OUT: The Hollywood culture chickee is disassembled to make room for construction of the new recreation facility, which will include the Culture Department and a traditional camp outside.



David Diaz

FISH FRY: Jake Keyser, right, helps prepare fish for the Trail Fish Fry, held Oct. 26 in Ochopee. The annual event promotes camaraderie among people who seek help with recovery.



Beverly Bidney

BRIGHTON BEAUTY: Wildflowers show off their fleeting splendor in a gully on the side of the road in Brighton.



Amanda Murphy

SEE YA LATER ALLIGATOR: Workers prepare to move an Okalee Village alligator statue to its future home on the Seminole Estates property on the Hollywood Reservation.



Eileen Soler

WINTER WONDERLAND: November leads to fallen leaves, but a flock of snowy egrets still finds home, sweet, home in the barren branches of this tree on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Andrea Holata

TURTLE POWER: Spreading the Halloween spirit, first-grade teachers at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School dress up as the Ninja Turtles Oct. 31. From left are Danielle Ayuso, Chris Duncan, Macy Randolph and Rachel Rucks.



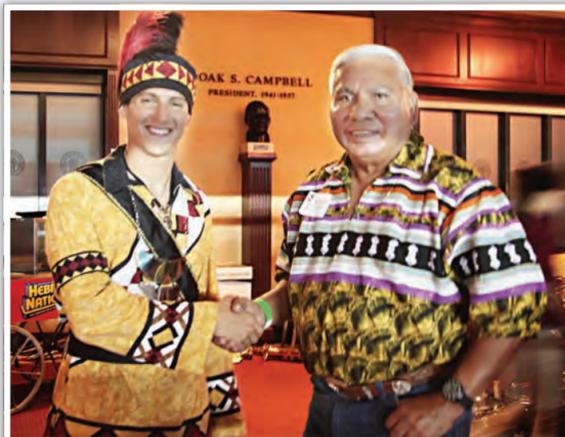
Photo courtesy of Megan Otero

MIGHTY, MITEY WARRIOR: Lazzlow Billie, 8, of Big Cypress, shows winning spirit as a Labelle Longhorns Mighty Mite player, at the Mitey Pigott Bowl in Cape Coral. The team was the first Mighty Mite team to win a spot in the bowl.



Beverly Bidney

ROCKIN' THE HOUSE: Boys & Girls Club instructors Bryan Granie on piano, Robert C. North, Jr. on bass guitar and James Payne on drums perform outside the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club Oct. 25. The concert promoted the music program in hopes of attracting more budding musicians.



Amanda Murphy

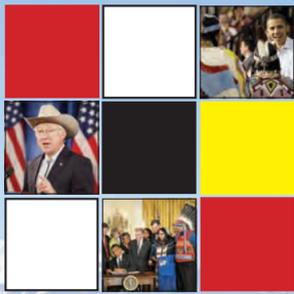
NO. 1 FAN: Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., a Florida Gators fan, shakes hands with the drum major of the FSU Marching Chiefs after a special performance in the President's Box Nov. 16 at the FSU Homecoming game.



Beverly Bidney

AMERICAN CROC: A Native Village crocodile rests atop a friend.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Seminole Joel Frank named to AIGC Board

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Joel Frank, Government Relations and Initiatives director for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, was recently elected to the Board of Directors for the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC).

AIGC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving cultural and economic well-being for individuals and Tribes through graduate education. Other newly elected board members include Grayson Noley, Choctaw Nation (president); Melanie Patten Fritzsche, Laguna Pueblo (vice president); Rose Graham, Navajo (secretary treasurer); and Walter Lamar, Blackfeet.

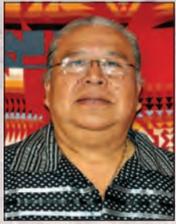
Other board members are Michael Bird, Kewa and Ohkay Owingeh Pueblos and Danna R. Jackson, Esq., Confederated Tribes of Salish and Kootenai.

Frank is a founding member and former president of the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) and a volunteer economic development adviser for the National Center for Tribal Economic Development. He also serves on the board of the AMERIND Risk Management Corporation.

"The American Indian Graduate Center is proud to have a distinguished, diverse and dynamic group of board leaders to guide our organization," said Sam Deloria, director of AIGC. "Grayson, Rose, Melanie, Walter and Joel offer a tremendous value to AIGC through their decades of collective experience."

In 44 years, AIGC has given more than 16,600 scholarships to American Indians and Alaska Natives who now hold high-ranking positions.

— Source: AIGC press release



American Indian Graduate Center

Peter King, of *Sports Illustrated*, said recently he would stop using it. Other publications banning the use of "Redskins" are *Slate*, *Mother Jones*, *Washington City Paper*, the *Buffalo News* and *The Kansas City Star*.

— Source: Poynter.com

Tribe plans casino where Obama golfs

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, Mass. — The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head said a U.S. agency has cleared all federal hurdles and planning is underway for casino-style gaming on Martha's Vineyard, a well-known vacation spot for presidents. The casino would be in Aquinnah, near the Gay Head bluffs, one of the most exclusive areas in one of the wealthiest enclaves in the state.

The announcement by Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Chairwoman Cheryl Andrews-Maltas sent shock waves through the Massachusetts State House, where the legislature has fought for decades against bringing gaming to the Vineyard, as it's known. Aquinnah is next to Chilmark, where President Barack Obama vacationed and golfed last summer. Former President Bill Clinton and his family also frequented the island. Former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis owned an estate near Gay Head, and her son, John F. Kennedy Jr., died in a 1999 plane crash flying to the island.

The median sale price of a single-family home in Aquinnah in the past six months was \$1.4 million.

Caroline Kennedy, Jackie Onassis's daughter, recently put 90 acres up for sale in the town, asking \$45 million for two parcels.

The Wampanoags possess a recent legal opinion from the National Indian Gaming Commission which said that the Tribe is eligible to build a Class 2 casino (which can include slot machines and card games such as poker) on the 485 acres of reservation land in Aquinnah (the Wampanoag term for Gay Head).

Andrews-Maltas said no additional local or state approval is needed to move forward with plans to immediately open up a temporary casino in a community center while a permanent casino building is built.

State and local officials, however, disagree.

They point to a settlement reached in the 1980s in which the Wampanoags agreed to follow Massachusetts laws on Martha's Vineyard territory. Lawyers for the town of Aquinnah said municipal approval would also be needed.

The Tribe also said it is pursuing a Class 3 gambling compact with the state to permit more casino-style table games.

"Are you serious? I'm speechless," state Senate Majority Leader Stanley Rosenberg told the *State House News Service*. "After everything and all we've been working on, this comes as a huge surprise."

— Source: BusinessWeek.com

USET rejects casino deals like Oneida's

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The 26 member United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Inc. has passed a resolution strongly opposing deals like the one struck between the Oneida Indian Nation and the state of New York last May that would give the Oneidas a 10-county monopoly on casinos.

Though the resolution does not specifically mention the Oneida-New York deal, the document clearly establishes USET's opposition to any agreement that would give one Tribe gaming rights in another Tribe's territory and "blatantly infringe upon the sovereign rights of neighboring Indian nations," as the resolution reads.

The deal gives the Oneidas exclusive rights to full-fledged casinos in Central New York in exchange for paying the state 25 percent of slot machine revenues, estimated to be \$50 million a year. The deal awards the Oneida exclusive casino rights in Onondaga Nation territory — the Onondaga have been opposed to casino gambling — and on Cayuga lands. The Cayugas have gone to court to oppose the deal, which they said infringes upon their sovereign rights.

The resolution was signed by USET president Brian Patterson, who is also a member of the Oneida Nation's governing body, the Men's Council.

— Source: Syracuse.com

Report: Shocking Tribal crime rates

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A 324-page analysis, called "Strengthening Justice for Native America: A Roadmap" released a day ahead of the White House Tribal Nations conference Nov. 13 indicates that violent crime rates on American Indian reservations can be 20 times the national average.

The report makes 40 recommendations, including an expansion of authority to prosecute non-Indians.

A nine-member commission, established through the Tribal Law and

Order Act, has set a 10-year goal to codify the recommendations.

Some of the recommendations will require acts of Congress, while others can be implemented through administrative policy changes.

The *Associated Press* reported on a national panel of law enforcement experts who traveled throughout the U.S. to take comment on public safety issues on Native American reservations. In Alaska, commissioners heard from one leader who told them each of the dozens of Native women they had met that day had been raped.

— Source: Associated Press

President pre-meets with Tribal leaders

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A day before his remarks at the White House Tribal Nation's Conference Nov. 13, President Barack Obama and other federal officials, including Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Senior Adviser to the President Valerie Jarrett, White House Domestic Policy Council Director Cecilia Muñoz, Director of the National Economic Council Gene Sperling and Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew, met with a dozen Tribal leaders to discuss Indian Country issues.

The meeting gave Tribal leaders a direct face-to-face with the president to discuss high-level government issues facing Indian Country.

Tribal leaders in attendance raised a wide range of important issues they are facing related to job creation, including expanding opportunities for renewable energy on Tribal lands, increasing access to capital and foreign direct investment opportunities in Indian Country, the successes of Tribal self-determination, improving educational outcomes and jurisdictional challenges.

The 12 Tribal leaders who participated in the meeting were: Bill Anoatubby, governor of Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma; Melanie Benjamin, chief executive of Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe of Minnesota; Leonard Forsman, chairman of Suquamish Tribe of Washington; Joe Garcia, governor of Ohkay Owingeh of New Mexico; Ray Halbritter, nation representative and CEO of Oneida Indian Nation of New York; Carole Lankford, vice chairwoman of Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana; Rex Lee Jim, vice president of Navajo Nation of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah; Chris McNeil, CEO of Sealaska of Alaska; Rosemary Morillo, chairwoman of Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians of California; Terri Parton, president of Wichita and Affiliated Tribes of Oklahoma; Terry Rambler, Chairman of San Carlos Apache Tribe of Arizona; and Robert Shepherd, chairman of Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of South Dakota.

The president then hosted Tribal leaders from all 566 federally recognized Tribes at the fifth consecutive White House Tribal Nations Conference.

At that time, President Obama promised Native American leaders that he will make his first trip as president to Indian Country in 2014, honoring a pledge he made before he was elected.

Obama directed that the United States should give Tribes more control over their communities, ensure that Native Americans have access to affordable health care and must assist Tribes in maintaining good stewardship of their native homelands. High rates of poverty on Indian Country, he said, constitute "a moral call to action."

"Standing up for justice and Tribal sovereignty, increasing economic opportunity, expanding quality health care, protecting native homelands — this is the foundation we can build on," he said.

— Source: Indian Country Today

New Navajo 911 system in works

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed legislation allowing the Navajo Nation Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NNTRC) to move forward in implementing and managing an exclusive 911 emergency response system on the Navajo Nation.

"I am pleased to sign this legislation. We have to give our Navajo Nation residents the opportunity to call for help in emergency situations. We have been working to create the infrastructure to enable a 911 emergency response system on the Navajo Nation. We look forward to making more progress in this area," Shelly said.

— Source: NavajoHopiObserver.com

Ute Tribe wants more for use of nickname

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — The Ute Indian Tribe wants University of Utah tuition waivers instead of scholarships for Ute students and the appointment of a Ute Tribal member as a special adviser to the university's president on American Indian Affairs in exchange for allowing the school's sports teams to use the Tribe's name and logo.

The Tribe's business committee

has requested a meeting to renegotiate the terms of an agreement last revised in 2005. University vice president Fred Esplin said school officials welcome the meeting, since much like the Florida State University Seminoles, the two sides have always enjoyed a good relationship.

— Source: Salt Lake Tribune

BIA steps into Blackfeet Tribe conflict

HELENA, Mont. — Suggesting that the Blackfeet Tribe's instability could affect federal contracts, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has entered a personnel conflict of the Blackfeet Tribal government.

The BIA told Radio KXLH that the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council lacked a quorum when it appointed a new Treasurer and Personnel Director to replace Cheryl Little Dog, Paul McEvers and Bill Old Chief removed earlier by the Council.

The positions are part of the core Tribal government functions that need "to be stable and in place to demonstrate that the Tribe has the capacity to carry out the Tribal self-governance functions for federal contracts awarded to the Tribe," wrote BIA Blackfeet Agency acting supervisor Thedis Crowe in a letter.

"If these Council members were suspended by a (Council) resolution supported by a quorum, then to remove them from suspension and bestow voting privileges would also require an action by the (Council) resolution that meets the quorum requirement," the letter read.

With the Council split into two factions, it has "limped along" without ever having all nine members in place at once in recent months.

Old Chief said the BIA is "compromised" by pressure and threats it's receiving.

"It's impossible for them to make a decision without being impacted by the other side," he said. "The BIA has lost controls of their Indians. Their Indians are on a warpath and they can't stop them. These Indians have gone off the reservation."

Old Chief said what's ahead could be a "dangerous situation" and he's willing to get arrested rather than abandon his post on the Council.

He said that beyond surface issues, mostly related to personnel actions by the Council, is the issue of Tribal membership. He said the "other faction" wants to expand Tribal enrollment, which he said could increase enrollment to 85,000 or 90,000 people from its current population of about 17,000.

Little Dog is already facing charges of trespassing and assaulting an officer in a previous confrontation: "If I have to go to jail for the people, I'll do so. I did it once and I'll do it again."

— Source: KXLH.com

Hopi football star dies of head injury

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Hopi High School football wide receiver Charles Youvella died three days after a recent state playoff game due to a traumatic brain injury, reported the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA).

He caught a pass and scored the team's only touchdown in the third quarter.

Later, near the end of a 60-6 loss to Arizona Lutheran Academy, the senior fell hard on his head and collapsed a couple plays later.

It was Hopi's only loss of the year. Youvella's death comes at a time when head injuries in football are attracting attention at all levels of the sport.

The Institute of Medicine and National Research Council recently called for a national system to track sports-related concussions and answer questions about youth concussions. The report said 250,000 people ages 19 and younger were treated in emergency rooms for concussions and other sports- or recreation-related brain injuries in the country in 2009.

That was an increase from 150,000 in 2001.

Youvella died with his family at his side. His father, Wallace Youvella Jr., is the school's athletic director.

"We had just a beautiful season, best record in school history," said head coach Steve Saben. "Down there in the state playoffs, it was just a great experience for the kids. And then the terrible tragedy. It was just like a bad dream."

Chuck Schmidt, the AIA's associate executive director and chief operating officer, said the association would be gathering details from the medical examiner and officials on site, and looking at its own response.

"I can't explain why it happened," he said. "We have too many people drawing conclusions as to a play. Our focus right now is the family, assisting them in the grieving process and making sure they have time to do that."

Arizona Cardinals NFL wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald reached out to fans on Twitter with a picture of Youvella, asking them to pray for the teen's family, friends and teammates.

— Source: Washington Post

Montana governor promotes Tribal language

HELENA, Mont. — Gov. Steve Bullock (D-Mont.) awarded \$2 million to Tribes in his state to support Tribal language preservation efforts.

In an interview with *Indian Country Today Media Network*, he said he sees the award as a starting point for funding in Montana.

He also discussed Tribal federal recognition for the Little Shell Tribe and the importance of the Native vote in upcoming elections.

— Source:

IndianCountryMediaNetwork.com

Joseph Medicine Crow turns 100

CROW AGENCY, Mont. — Joseph Medicine Crow, a historian, author and enrolled member of the Crow Nation whose writings on Native American history and reservation culture are considered seminal works, turned 100 Oct. 27.

He is best known for his writings and lectures concerning the Battle of Little Bighorn.

He is a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Bronze Star Medal and the Légion d'honneur. A hero of World War II, he is the last war chief of the Crow Tribe and is the last living Plains Indian war chief. He is a founding member of the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders & Youth.

His legend is wide and long. Medicine Crow is now the oldest living member of his Tribe.

After joining the Army during World War II, he served in the 103rd Infantry Division.

He wore his Tribe's traditional war paint beneath his uniform and pinned an eagle feather beneath his helmet.

In a 2007 PBS series titled *The War*, the colorful Medicine Crow told producer Ken Burns about a surprise meeting, face-to-face, with a German soldier: "The collision knocked the German's weapon to the ground. I lowered my own weapon and we fought hand-to-hand. In the end, I was able to get the best of the German, grabbing him by the neck and choking him," Medicine Crow said. "He screamed out 'Momma' so I let him go."

After his service in WWII, Medicine Crow was recognized for having completed all four tasks required to become a war chief, including having touched a living enemy soldier; disarming an enemy; leading a successful war party; and stealing an enemy horse.

Medicine Crow is the last living person with a direct oral history from a participant of the Battle of Little Bighorn.

He is the first member of his Tribe to attend college, receiving a bachelor's degree from Linfield College in 1938 and a master's degree in anthropology from the University of Southern California (USC) in 1939.

His master's thesis was titled "The Effects of European Culture Contact upon the Economic, Social and Religious Life of the Crow Indians."

Medicine Crow holds two honorary doctorate degrees, one from Rocky Mountain College in 1999, and the second from the University of Southern California (USC) in 2003.

Also an author, his books include *A Handbook of Crow Indian Laws and Treaties* and *From the Heart of the Crow Country*.

— Source: Indianz.com

White supremacist learns he's part black

LEITH, N.D. — DNA tests show that white supremacist Craig Cobb, 61, who made headlines worldwide for plotting to remove American Indians, blacks and other minorities while taking over a town in North Dakota as a "whites only enclave," is 14 percent black.

Cobb submitted a DNA sample to the *Trisha Goddard* talk show and got the results back during a recent taping in front of a studio audience.

"Eighty-six percent European and 14 percent sub-Saharan African," Goddard said.

The audience erupted in cheers and laughs as Cobb protested.

"Wait a minute, wait a minute, hold on, just wait a minute," Cobb said. "This is called 'statistical noise.'"

Cobb's plot to take over Leith might not have been taken so seriously by activists and officials in North Dakota if Leith weren't so small (population: 16).

Bobby Harper, a black resident of Leith, told the *Los Angeles Times* he thought Cobb's DNA results were hilarious.

"I knew there was one other black person in town," Harper told the newspaper. "Is he going to want to kick his own self out of town and discriminate against himself?"

— Source: Los Angeles Times

— Compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher.

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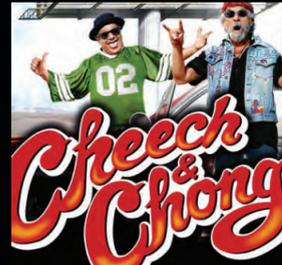
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Education

B



Santarvis Brown named director of Education Department

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Recently appointed Education Department director Santarvis Brown believes education makes anything possible. To ensure Tribal students benefit from that fundamental belief, he plans to implement programs to help students identify, define and achieve their goals.

"The goal is to increase graduation and program completion rate by ensuring our students receive the necessary tools to be successful, such as educational support services," said Brown, a former Miami-Dade County public schools administrator with 11 years of experience. "Effective advisement is the most important thing."

Education advisers will gauge students' values, interests, skills and personalities. With that information, students can better understand what direction works for them, and advisers can help students formulate plans and target schools that match their interests.

"If we put them in places where they won't be successful, they will become discouraged," Brown said.

Brown hopes to achieve a greater level of parental involvement as well. He wants to help parents realize the importance of their role in their child's educational journey. The department is currently developing programs for parents.

"We plan to improve the relationship between the department and the parents so we can work together," he said. "We want parents to understand we are all on the same team."

Brown has a Bachelor of Arts from Florida Memorial University, a Master of Arts in education from Regent University, a doctorate in religion from Liberty University and a doctorate in philosophy from Emerson Institute. He formerly managed the tutoring program for the Seminole Tribe. He was also an administrator in the office of Exceptional Student Education for Miami-Dade public schools, the principal at North Dade Middle School and a middle school technology teacher.

♦ See DIRECTOR on page 5B

Seminole schools in the 21st century

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

Ahfachkee School and Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School are full-speed ahead into the digital present.

This school year marks the return of both schools' ability through the Native American Student Information System (NASIS) to communicate student information with parents and guardians. The program, called a parent portal, is used by nearly 200 Bureau of Indian Education schools to share vital information that can bolster student achievement.

"The system allows us to save a great deal of information including high school transcripts, grades, print report cards, enter attendance data . . ." said Valerie Whiteside, Ahfachkee's teacher coordinator.

Operated by Infinite Campus in Minnesota – the largest American-owned student information system – provides teachers with multiple backup abilities to store and protect important student information in case of catastrophe such as fire, flood or hurricane.

"Even if the building itself were destroyed, essential student data would be preserved with NASIS," Whiteside said.

Under normal circumstances, parents and students can track daily grades, homework assignments and even bus schedules. Students can access their own records, but not those of siblings or other relations.

Students in grades six and up can sign up on their own. The most popular student features include updates on grades and attendance. Students in lower grades must have parent permission to access NASIS.

Parent and student access began in 2009 but only through the Internet. Now, via the Infinite Campus Mobile Portal app for the Android and iPhone, parents get immediate access to attendance, grades, teacher contact information, student reports and missing assignments.

"The option has slowly been developing popularity among our families," Whiteside said. "Students, of course, have been using it since the beginning."

♦ See 21ST CENTURY on page 5B



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School children march Oct. 17 in the anti-drug, alcohol and tobacco Big Cypress Red Ribbon parade.

Red Ribbon: fun and games with sober message

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

Across reservations, amid festivities that blared "A happy me is drug-free," was a sober reminder of what makes Red Ribbon Week a matter of life and death.

The life-size Red Ribbon Remembrance Cross, adorned in ribbons inscribed with the names of loved ones lost to substance abuse or illnesses caused by long-term drug and alcohol use, was displayed at events in Immokalee and Big Cypress.

Fred Mullins, a counselor with the Family Services Department and one of the Red Ribbon Week lead organizers, said the cross, which serves as a physical, touchable, real reminder that addiction is often fatal, was nearly filled.

"People come to the cross; they touch it and pray. It's a visible symbol that abuse is not just a community issue; it affects us personally and we have to be together against it," Mullins said. "That's the Seminole way – to fight against what is wrong."

The Red Ribbon campaign started in 1985 following the torture killing of Drug Enforcement Administration agent Enrique (Kiki) Camarena in Mexico. The agent was kidnapped and murdered by drug dealers angered by information provided via Camarena that led to the destruction of a 2,500-acre marijuana plantation by the Mexican Army.

To honor Camarena's heroic battle

against illegal drugs, friends and family began wearing badges made of red silk. Later, the silks became ribbons, and in 1988, the National Family Partnership held the first Red Ribbon celebration.

On Big Cypress Reservation, Red Ribbon Week opened with a prayer march from New Testament Baptist Church to the Frank Billie Field Office. Hosted by religious and civic leaders, several stops were made along the way at key locations, such as the Sober House to pray for those battling addiction and the Seminole Public Safety Complex for those who respond to health and safety emergencies.

The week unfolded with a family spirit night, a field day and color run, and the Red Ribbon parade featuring nearly 50 marching, riding and floating units.

"We are all affected by substance abuse – and we are all capable of falling to it," said Moses Jumper Jr. during a post-parade luncheon.

Immokalee's parade, on Oct. 21, was the largest since Red Ribbon commemorations began tribalwide during the past decade. More than 300 attended, including the 100-member Immokalee High School Marching Indians.

Seminoles in Recovery hosted the annual Red Ribbon Classic Cup Golf Tournament in Clewiston to raise funds for the 2014 Florida Native American Recovery Convention. Hollywood took home the trophy for most participation.

In Hollywood, one Red Ribbon Week



Andrea Holata

Students enjoy the Red Ribbon fair on the Brighton Reservation.

commemoration came in many colors – mainly green, pink, blue and yellow pastels for the Health Department-sponsored color run.

The Oct. 25 event featured a running, jumping, tossing and crawling obstacle

♦ See RED RIBBON on page 6B

Eli and Levi Harmon excel at military school

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

SALINA, Kan. — A childhood of homeschooling followed by military high school is not the norm for most kids, but Seminole Tribe twins Eli and Levi Harmon prove it can produce two top-notch students. The 18-year-old seniors attend St. John's Military School in Salina, Kan. and rank No. 1 and No. 2 in their class, respectively.

The young men have each been nominated as All American High School Scholars, won the Blue Beret award several times for placing in the top three of their class and received \$10,000 scholarships for academic excellence.

Levi received the Tim & Suzan Soule Scholarship for displaying a natural gift for leadership with potential to contribute to the success of the Corps through personality and personal example. Eli received the Soule Family Foundation Scholarship for the notable achievements produced by his innate skills.

"I really put academics at the top of my list of priorities. I do my homework and study before anything else," Eli said.

Eli and Levi share similar interests and often work together in leadership positions, motivating one another with a little brotherly competition. Eli is president of the National Honor Society and Levi is vice president; Levi is battalion commander of the JROTC battalion while Eli is second in command as the executive officer.

"We get along well but we're pretty competitive," Eli said. "I guess that just comes from being a twin."

A typical day for the Harmon brothers starts at 6:20 a.m. when they don their

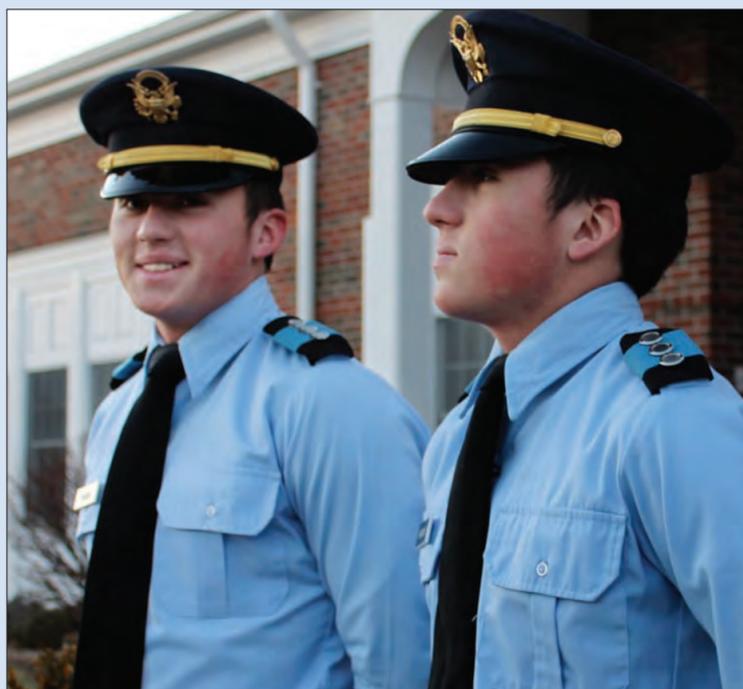


Photo courtesy of Donna Bratcher Harmon

Twins Eli, right, and Levi Harmon rank No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, in their senior class at St. John's Military School in Salina, Kan.

uniforms and gather for the morning formation and flag raising. After breakfast, they attend a full day of classes, followed by sports practice or a workout, then dinner and study hall. Eli plays soccer, tennis and wrestles, and Levi runs cross-country and

is captain of the varsity soccer team.

"The day to day is stressful but it's good," Levi said. "There's a lot to do and a lot of responsibility."

St. John's is a private boarding military school for boys in grades six to 12. Opened

in 1887 by the Right Rev. Elisha Smith Thomas and a group of businessmen, the school aims to provide each cadet the opportunity to grow spiritually, morally, intellectually and physically. With only 231 students and a student to teacher ratio averaging 9:1, teachers can address the individual needs of each student. The school was awarded an Honor School with Distinction from the United States Army Command.

Having been homeschooled since childhood, Eli and Levi were reluctant to attend St. John's at first. They said they struggled with the transition into military school, but they later adapted, discovering that the unique structure of the school helped keep them on track.

"One day we had no structure and did things when we wanted to and then the next, everything was being told to us – where we had to be, what we had to do," Levi said. "It was overwhelming for a little bit but easy to get used to."

Their mother, Tribal member Donna Bratcher Harmon, said it was difficult sending her sons away, but when she heard how well they were performing, she adjusted, too.

"They kind of found their own identity, instead of being thought of as the twins," she said. "[The school] always tells us that they wish they could lose our sons. We are so proud of them."

Eli aspires to be a biomedical engineer or a physicist, and Levi plans to be a mechanical engineer. Their differing interests may pull them in different directions for college, a big change for the twins who've spent most of their lives together.

♦ See ST. JOHN'S on page 3B

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Students of the Month



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Elementary school Students of the Month at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School are Keanu Bert, Chaka Smith, Ayana Fonseca, Kalissa Huff, Kobe Micco, Sydney Matthews, Chayton Billie, Zach Riley, Chyler Villarreal, Dwayne Billie, Ysla Meras, Karey Gopher, Allie Brady, Landon Goodwin, Kai Osceola, Aubee Billie, Myron Billie and Aleah Turtle.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Middle school Students of the Month are Lucy Cypress, Satie Rico and Chandler Pearce.

Explorers go to the dogs during Hollywood K-9 demonstration

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — All police officers train thoroughly for their jobs, but they don't all have two legs. Bara, a 5-year-old Belgian Malinois, uses four legs to do her job as a narcotics canine with the Seminole Police Department.

Officer Jody Certain brought Bara to a Hollywood Police Explorers meeting Oct. 29 to demonstrate the dog's skills while showing students what occurs during traffic stops when drugs are suspected inside the vehicle. The Explorers took turns riding in a car and getting "pulled over." Once the students were out of the car, Bara sniffed them and quickly detected the scent of drugs.

The kids didn't actually have drugs, but community service aide Terry Tartsah put a piece of tape rubbed in drugs on at least one Explorer in the vehicle. He also planted tape inside and outside the car.

Bara found the hidden "evidence" during each demonstration.

As reported in an article on PBS.org, a dog's sense of smell is 10,000 to 100,000 times more acute than humans. They can detect a teaspoon of sugar in a million gallons of water, or two Olympic-sized pools worth, said Alexandra Horowitz, a dog-cognition researcher at Barnard College, in the article.

Training Bara to do the job is full-time work, Officer Certain said. In fact, Bara's initial training took four months, and Officer Certain continuously trains the dog eight hours each week to keep her skills sharp.

Bara can detect six kinds of drugs: marijuana, crack, cocaine, MDMA, methamphetamine and heroin. Dogs alert their human partner in an aggressive or passive manner. Aggressive alerts include barking or scratching; passive alerts can be sitting or lying down at the site of the odor. Bara alerts passively.

"Everyone works for a paycheck," Officer Certain told Explorers. "Bara does, too. Who can guess what her paycheck is?"

Explorers guessed doggie treats, food and toys. The right answer? Toys. Bara gets her favorite tug-of-war toys after each search — even during the Explorers' meeting.

Certified by the United States Police Canine Association, Officer Certain has been a K-9 officer for four years. She won awards at the Southern Coast K-9 convention for two consecutive years when she competed against veteran K-9 officers with 10 to 15 years of experience.

During the class, Officer Certain commanded Bara in a language other than English, as most law enforcement officers



Beverly Bidney

K-9 Officer Jody Certain instructs Bara to enter the car through the window to find drugs.



Beverly Bidney

Bara, the police drug sniffing dog, finds the 'drugs' in a bag held by one Hollywood Police Explorer during their Oct. 29 meeting. The scent in the bag was actually a piece of tape rubbed in drugs, which the Belgian Malinois is trained to detect.

in the United States do, so only handlers can control them. As a single-purpose dog, Bara's sole responsibility is to sniff out drugs in airports, schools, post offices, cars, homes and on the streets.

As the demonstration neared the end,

Bara played with the reward toy a little longer and gave up the reward a little more reluctantly. Officer Certain said it was a sign that Bara was tired. Like people who work or study all day, police K-9s also need a break and Bara had earned time off.

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Newly launched Exceptional Student Education program benefits students

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Laurie Steinberg, a veteran educator with 35 years of experience in Exceptional Student Education (ESE), has joined the Education Department as ESE case manager. She will help students with learning disabilities get the services they need to successfully complete their educations.

According to the National Institutes of Health, 15 percent of Americans have learning disabilities. Difficulty with reading and language skills are the most common problems. Learning disabilities — the result of a neurological disorder, or the way a brain is wired — tend to run in families.

In Florida, students with learning disabilities can receive specially designed instructions to meet their unique needs.

Public schools provide ESE students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP), which identifies issues, goals and strategies to meet those goals. The IEP, which must be followed in the classroom, is reviewed annually by the school administrator, teachers and parents. Parents can have an advocate with them at the meeting to help them understand the process and get the most out of it for their child. Steinberg serves as that advocate for Tribal families.

“I want to make parents aware of what is available to their children,” she said.

Steinberg further acts as a liaison for the school, student and parents to ensure the student’s needs are accommodated.

Although not bound by an IEP, private schools will take recommendations from professionals. In extreme cases when a school does not meet a student’s needs, Steinberg may suggest transferring to another school.

“My goal is to make sure students’ needs are being met, whether they are in public or private school,” she said. “When



Beverly Bidney

Laurie Steinberg joins the Education Department as case manager for the new Exceptional Student Education program.

kids transition to middle and high schools, they need to understand they have a plan to assist them and learn to be an advocate for themselves.”

Teachers typically notice learning disabilities in their students first, so parents should listen if a teacher says their child performs below grade level, has difficulty interacting with peers, cannot complete assignments or cannot stay on task, she said.

Steinberg also refers students to the Children’s Center for Diagnostics and Therapy for psycho-educational evaluations that diagnose whether learning disabilities exist. Once determined, she works closely with the school and makes recommendations

for specific accommodations for the student. Examples include more time to complete assignments and more clarification from the teacher when necessary.

“If a parent is concerned about their child’s academic performance, it is important for them to contact the K-12 adviser,” Steinberg said. “Together the school, parent, adviser and ESE case manager can come up with strategies and interventions to try in the classroom to support the child’s learning or behavioral needs.”

Steinberg’s door is always open. She welcomes parents to stop by her office at the DSO building in Hollywood.



Andrea Holata

Students in Brighton seek and find help at the Education Department’s College Essay Writing Workshop Nov. 9. Tutors helped the college-bound youth compose and edit their application essays.

Education holds College Essay Writing Workshop

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

Instead of sleeping late during the weekend, seniors triballywide attended all-day College Essay Writing Workshops in Hollywood and Brighton Nov. 9 to help prepare for the college application process.

The Education Department sought to help conquer the anxiety seniors may feel when writing essays, filling out applications and taking entrance exams, all while maintaining good grades in high school.

“The objective of today is to make sure students leave here with an autobiography of themselves and also a nice resume — or at least having some ideas put down on paper,” said Frank Birts, higher education recruiter for the Tribe. “When students want to go to college, sometimes the difference of them getting in may be how well they articulate themselves on paper.”

At the Brighton workshop held at the Veteran’s Building, the Education Department utilized tutors from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School to help students narrow down essay topics and critique their writing.

Ten students registered for the Brighton workshop and five in Hollywood. Many

completed their essays.

“I came here today because with the help that we get it makes things so much easier and less stressful, so why not seize the opportunity and get help,” said participant Brianna Nunez. “I got a basic understanding of what should be in my essay, how to write it and certain things that should be put into it and things that shouldn’t be.”

Acealyn Youngblood used the workshop to help prepare for college as well.

Youngblood wants to attend the Savannah College of Art & Design in Georgia to major in animation. She hopes to intern at DreamWorks Animation in California. She wrote her essay on how her culture could benefit her career.

“[Animation] involves telling stories and bringing them to life,” Youngblood said. “Legends have always been told verbally and I think I could put it visually for people to see. I wrote about how my grandparents would tell us stories and how I would visualize them in my head and later I would want to draw them.”

The Education Department plans to hold a similar workshop in Tampa in January. Interested students should call 954-989-6840 for more details.

ST. JOHN’S From page 1B

“It’s going to be different, but I think it’ll be good for us to be out there on our own,” Eli said.

Eli is applying to the Air Force Academy and the Colorado School of Mines, an engineering university that specializes in geosciences. Levi applied as an early decision applicant to the Virginia Military Institute, which accepts less than 50 percent of applicants, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

“It’s a lot more structured. You have to abide by rules that other college students don’t have to,” Levi said.

Both have post-grad military plans as well — Eli wants to be commissioned as an officer in the Air Force, while Levi will opt for the Marines — and both share a common role model.

“My mom has always been a hard worker and I’ve never really seen her ever complain about hard work and I value that,” Eli said.

It was Donna, along with her husband, Edward Harmon, who alternated teaching the twins at home. Eli and Levi were born

and raised in Flagstaff, Ariz., but they visited the Brighton Reservation, where Donna’s family is from, throughout their childhood. Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. is their uncle and Chairman’s assistant Norman Bowers is Donna’s cousin.

Eli and Levi’s advice for success is simple.

“Set goals for yourself in everything you do because setting goals is how I focus my efforts,” Eli said.

“Don’t accept anything that isn’t your best,” Levi added. “If you do work and it’s not the best you can do, don’t be OK with it.”

Student profile: Drew Osceola

BY AMANDA MURPHY
Copy Editor

FORT LAUDERDALE — Drew Osceola, a freshman at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, is working toward a bachelor’s degree in what he loves most: photography.

“I’ve always been interested in cameras ever since I was 8 years old,” Osceola said.

The 27-year-old began his college education at Nova Southeastern University studying business administration. He quickly realized it wasn’t for him. A few years ago while photographing his cousin’s wedding, Osceola’s passion for camerawork reignited. He transferred to the Art Institute and enjoys school much more now pursuing something he loves.

He has an eye for art, but it’s all about the minute details for Osceola. His favorite subject to shoot is food because of the many factors required to make the dish look enticing.

“A lot of people pay a lot of money to make sure the restaurant’s food looks great,” he said.

Eventually Osceola wants to open his own portrait studio. Once established, he plans to expand the business to include fashion photography.

Osceola’s determination to achieve his dreams stems from the example set by his grandfather, Frank Billie, the first president of the Seminole Tribe. Billie always told his grandson, “If you have something you’re passionate about, go after it and do it.”

In the 1950s, Billie recognized that something needed to be done about the poverty of his people, and he became dedicated to solving the problem.

“He was passionate about his people,” Osceola said. “I’ve learned from him [not to] let anything stand in your way.”

Although Osceola lives off the reservation in Davie, he stays connected to his culture through his family. His mother, Wanda Billie, is an arts and crafts teacher for the Traditional Preservation Department in Big Cypress, and his father, Jimmy



Photo courtesy of Drew Osceola

Drew Osceola is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in photography at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale.

Hank Osceola III, is a management intern in the Tribal Career Development Program. Because he spends time with his family, he almost speaks Mikasuki fluently.

Osceola also likes to get back to his roots by hunting, another one of his favorite hobbies.

“My people started out as hunters and gathers and I still like to hunt as often as I can,” he said.

Osceola said he has never lacked motivation but admitted he struggles with time management, a common challenge for most college students. Art Institute provided a mandatory personal effectiveness class that helped him get organized.

“I’ve definitely improved,” he said. “Early is on time. On time is late.”

Osceola said the most important key to college success is showing up for classes and meeting deadlines.

“When you have a deadline, do anything and everything to meet it because the deadline is No. 1. It determines whether you are successful or not,” he said.



Andrea Holata

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School kindergartners receive effort awards Oct. 31 for the first nine weeks of the school year.

PECS completes first nine weeks

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — With some dressed in Halloween costumes, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students celebrated the end of the first nine weeks Oct. 31 with an awards ceremony. More than 200 awards were given throughout the day to

kindergarten through eighth-graders.

Students received awards for citizenship, effort, writing, Creek and participation in the 100’s book club. Some also received academic awards for earning at least a 3.0 to 3.4 GPA (bronze award), 3.5 to 3.9 GPA (silver award) and 16 students schoolwide received the prestigious gold award for achieving straight A’s.



Andrea Holata

Dressed in Halloween costumes, first-graders receive awards for most improved and effort in their Creek class.



Andrea Holata

Kindergartner Miley Jimmie proudly shows off her improvement award.



Students celebrate spooktacular Halloween



Beverly Bidney

Hollywood preschoolers begin Halloween with a trip around the gym for trick or treating, where 28 Tribal departments awaited them with an abundance of treats.



Beverly Bidney

Hollywood kids have their very own pumpkin patch where they choose their favorite pumpkins to take home for Halloween. Rainer Robbins sits on his pumpkin as his schoolmates make their choices.



Beverly Bidney

A spooky hallway is the only way out of the Hollywood Gym during the Hollywood Halloween party. Some preschoolers were startled by the creepy dolls hiding throughout the dimly lit route.



Beverly Bidney

Jaisley Stewart looks for the best pumpkin in the patch at the Hollywood Preschool's Halloween celebration Oct. 31.



Beverly Bidney

Zombie baby, Alihas Billie, 7 months, chows down on some innards in the comfort of his stroller.



Eileen Soler

Dressed as a Disney princess, pretty Tia Billie plays a candy corn counting game at the Big Cypress Halloween Carnival.



Eileen Soler

Students in funny, sweet and scary costumes parade for prizes at the Big Cypress Halloween Carnival.



Eileen Soler

Seminole Police Officer Michele Short shows children how to play a wacky Oreo cookie eating game during the Big Cypress Halloween Carnival.



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PECS honors veterans, swears in Safety Patrol

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — In a joint ceremony Nov. 11, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School honored veterans and inducted the school's new Safety Patrol officers.

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the national anthem, students Rudy Juarez and Jenna Brown read their "What it is to Thank a Veteran" essays.

Brown recalled stories her "Papa Brown" (veteran Ulyss Brown) told her about his service to the country, including how he barely escaped death by grenades on several occasions. She thanked all veterans for risking their lives for freedom.

"He and all the other awesome people that fought for our lives deserve so much respect," she said. "Veterans are the real heroes, and we should be giving thanks to them, not taking pictures with Superman at Sea World and thinking it's the best thing in the world."

A slideshow assembled by Quenten Pritchard's class ensued. It, too, thanked veterans for their service.

Middle school teacher Diana Greenbaum also gave a heartfelt thank you to veterans in honor of her late father, a disabled veteran from the Korean War.

"Veterans never discriminate against who they protect; skin color doesn't matter; race doesn't matter. They protect us all without a moment's notice, without regards to their lives. You all are truly heroes of our great nation. Thank you to all veterans," Greenbaum said.

A moment of silence followed to honor fallen servicemen.

Darryl Allen, of the Seminole Police Department, took to the podium to introduce the newest members of the Safety Patrol.

The Safety Patrol gives students an opportunity to serve their community and school as volunteers. The organization teaches citizenship, leadership, service, responsibility and good will. To participate, students must maintain C-averages and satisfactory performances on their report cards.

One by one, each student officer received a safety patrol pin. Lt. Lisa Bennis, of SPD, swore in the newly inducted officers — they raised their right hand and recited an oath.

The following students were inducted: Officers



Andrea Holata

Ramone Baker receives his Safety Patrol pin from Lt. Lisa Bennis, of Seminole Police Department.

Elle Thomas, Lashay King, Myron Billie, Ramone Baker, Karey Gopher, Leilani Burton, David Carrillo and Hyatt Pearce; Sgts. Jahbahn Arnold, Aubrey Pearce, John Gore, Julia Smith, Janessa Nunez, Caleb Doctor, Dalence Carrillo and Aube Billie; Lts. Jathan Tommie and Jenna Brown; and Capts. Kamani Smith and Echo Billie.

The ceremony ended with the veterans and newly inducted officers forming a receiving line so the community could thank them for serving their country, community and school.



Andrea Holata

Newly elected Safety Patrol officers pose for a picture with Darryl Allen and Lt. Lisa Bennis, of Seminole Police Department.



Andrea Holata

Newly inducted Safety Patrol officers and veterans form a receiving line for the community to thank them for their service.

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Photo courtesy of Lucy Dafoe

From left, Airforce veteran Curtis Canton; Vietnam War veteran and purple heart recipient Paul Bowers Sr.; Staff Sgt. Gabriel Coppedge, who served in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars; Vietnam-era Army veteran Mitchell Cypress; and Army veterans Erika Hope and Gary Chaffin stand at attention to be honored at the Ahfachkee School 2013 Veterans Day assembly.

Ahfachkee children honor warriors at Veterans event

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Gathered at the memorial wall on the Big Cypress Reservation, Ahfachkee School students, teachers and staff paid homage Nov. 6 to Tribal members and employees who served or currently serve in the U.S. military.

Ahfachkee senior Quenton Cypress emceed the grand assembly that was created, hosted and led by Ahfachkee students and also included a musical tribute.

Fittingly, Mary Jene Koenes, aunt of Army reservist

Staff Sgt. Gabriel Coppedge, offered an opening prayer to thank veterans for their service and asked the Creator to protect those currently in harm's way. Her nephew served in the Army infantry for a 2006-2007 tour in Afghanistan and a 2007-2008 stint in Iraq and was on hand for the festivities. He was later the guest speaker at the Veterans Day commemoration in Brighton.

Also honored at the Big Cypress event were Air Force veteran Curtis Canton, assistant manager of Buildings and Grounds; Vietnam War veteran and purple heart recipient Paul Bowers Sr.; Vietnam-era Army veteran Mitchell Cypress; and Ahfachkee instructional coach Erika Hope and media specialist Gary Chaffin, both Army vets.

Quenton said he was humbled to have Coppedge participate.

"It's pretty cool to have him here. He is a hero and he should be honored," Quenton said.

All the veterans received the hero treatment. "We want to make all of them feel special. And we shouldn't just do it on Veterans Day but every day," Quenton said.

Fourth-grade students Jordan Osceola and Ramona Jimmie led the Pledge of Allegiance. Musical tributes included *This Land is Your Land* sung by children in first through third grades and a rousing rendition of *Home of the Brave* by fourth through sixth grades.

The youngest students provided a sweet version of *Oh Veterans*.

Eighth-grader Dayra Koenes, a niece of Coppedge, read a loving essay about what the memorial wall means to her.

"We have the wall for all people in the Tribe who went to war for our native rights. To us, they are all family members because they went to war for the future of our Tribe," Dayra said.

After the tribute, principal Lucy Dafoe played *Taps* on the trumpet for troops who did not make it home.

A luncheon was later hosted by Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger.

For Dayra, seeing her uncle dressed in his military uniform for the first time in six years was jarring.

"When I see him now, I feel fear," Dayra said.

She worries about Coppedge's potential return to war.

Quenton said he felt overwhelming gratitude for Native Americans who serve in the military.

"They not only protect our land but our people," he said. "It shows that we are still here to fight and that we never lost our warrior pride."

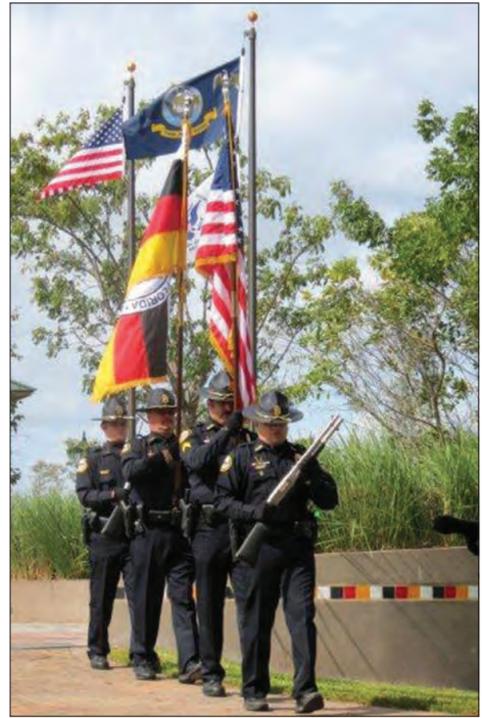


Photo courtesy of Lucy Dafoe

Members of the Seminole Police Color Guard open the Big Cypress and Ahfachkee School 2013 Veterans Day assembly.



Photo courtesy of Lucy Dafoe

Children from Ahfachkee School participate Nov. 6 in the Big Cypress and Ahfachkee School 2013 Veterans Day assembly.

◆ **DIRECTOR**
From page 1B

His mentor and inspiration, the late Robert Ingram, former mayor of Opa-Locka and Miami-Dade school board member, had a profound impact on Brown. Ingram worked to help children reach their potential and taught them nothing was impossible, a philosophy Brown follows.

"My advice is to dream the impossible dream and make it your reality," Brown said. "Set a goal and put the pieces together to get to the end result. They need to be committed enough to the end result and realize they may have some detours in the plan because life will do that to you."

◆ **21ST CENTURY**
From page 1B

Parents find the report option most convenient. Instead of waiting for a progress report or a report card to arrive in the mail, the reports are made available "live" when entered on NASIS. Parents can view the report seconds after activation and can download a PDF document to print.

Another bonus exists for parents who live in different households. Either can keep track of information at day or night from all locations.

"Of course, we still maintain and distribute paper records as we have for years," Whiteside said. "However, the NASIS Portal gives parents another option for accessing those records and in a much more timely manner than we've ever been able to provide in the past."



Andrea Holata

Pemayetv Emahkv Charter School's Student Council leads the Brighton community's Red Ribbon parade.



Beverly Bidney

Trey Wilson gets his first reward, a blast of pink flour signifying his completion of a lap, during the Hollywood color run Oct. 25.



Beverly Bidney

Kaden Cullins gleefully helps a firefighter hose down Marcela Osceola after the Health Department color run in Hollywood.



Eileen Soler

Little Miss Florida Seminole Sarafina Billie waves to spectators Oct. 17 along the Big Cypress Red Ribbon parade route.

♦ RED RIBBON

From page 1B

course that ended with contestants covered in vibrant-hued flour. Participants from ages 5 to 75 brimmed with laughter as they looked forward to getting peppered in color.

Still, the very serious message about prevention was as plain as black and white. Posted at each activity station was information about breast cancer awareness, drug and alcohol prevention, diabetes and kidney health, healthy eating, exercise and obesity prevention. Each station ended with a rainbow of awards – in the form of fresh blasts of color that punctuated white T-shirts.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Baylee Micco, 16. “It was very interactive.”

The Seminole Fire Department, armed with water hoses, soaked contestants who wished to wash off.

Hollywood preschoolers showed elders through the Plant the Promise program that they plan to grow up drug-free.

“We want them to start as early as possible to demonstrate a commitment to living a drug-free and healthy life,” said Ilene Miller, preschool program manager.

The army of nearly three dozen toddlers first delivered decorated flower pots, symbolic of the promise, to elders at the Senior Center, then warmed their hearts with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in Mikasuki.

A Red Ribbon Week march around the reservation further celebrated the preschooler's promise. They were joined by a force of parents and teachers.

“We came out to be with them and it's for a good cause,” said Joshua Josh, who filed through the street with his wife, Karla,

and children Isaiah, 2, and John, 7 months.

The theme “A healthy me is drug-free” was just as motivating on the Brighton Reservation when, on Oct. 20, T-shirt and poster contests launched Red Ribbon Week.

Deliah Carrillo, 16, won the T-shirt contest and Jason Sampson, 12, won the poster contest.

A parade the next day sent Pemayetv Emahkv Charter School staff, teachers and students – plus a cavalcade of Tribal department employees, police and firefighters – to the street for a march against substance abuse. The fun continued Oct. 23 with a color run much like the event in Hollywood.

“We tied it in with the Red Ribbon Week,” said Barbara Boling, of the Health Department. “We wanted to do something that would involve more fun and exercise without them really thinking they exercised.”

The week was filled with activities that included every age group with a purpose of creating awareness and prevention of drugs in the Brighton community.

A home run derby sponsored by the Council Office was a huge success thanks to all the departments who donated time and support, said Valerie Marone, community events coordinator for Family Services.

“We had a lot of participation from everyone and all the departments throughout the community and everyone enjoyed themselves,” Marone said. “It reinforced our theme this year, ‘A healthy me is drug-free.’ Making healthy choices is important and that the choices that you make do affect your life...in every way.”

Staff reporters Andrea Holata and Beverly Bidney contributed to this article.



Andrea Holata

Jayleigh Braswell goes for a ringer during the Brighton Reservation's Red Ribbon fair.



Eileen Soler

Afhachkee School children excite spectators during the Big Cypress Red Ribbon parade. The float took first place in the float contest.



Beverly Bidney

To the delight of the audience, Hollywood preschoolers recited the Pledge of Allegiance in Mikasuki at the Senior Center.



Beverly Bidney

Tommy Doud, Hollywood Preschool center manager, gives Gregory Jumper a lift during the Red Ribbon Week march around the reservation Oct. 28.



Beverly Bidney

Runners start the first challenge of the Hollywood color run, a lap around the track at the Ball Field.



Eileen Soler

Ricky Garza caps an anti-drug, alcohol and tobacco hip-hop dance with a flip during the Big Cypress Red Ribbon parade.



Photo courtesy of Barbara Boling

Brighton community members pose for a picture Oct. 23 after participating in a color run sponsored by the Health Department.

Sports



Tribe gears up for Indigenous Games

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

About 5,000 Native American kids will flock to Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada next summer for the 2014 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG), including more than 100 young Seminole athletes. The quadrennial event takes place July 20-27.

“Last time we went to Canada, we took 12, so this is a testament to staff and parents getting involved with what we are doing,” said Richard Blankenship, director of Recreation.

Kids ages 13 to 19 from across North America will compete in one of 15 sporting events. Seminole athletes will compete in basketball, volleyball, softball, archery, rifle shooting, wrestling, swimming, track and golf. Most competitors hail from Canadian Tribes.

“This gives our kids an opportunity to compete against Tribal kids they’ve never met and competed against before,” Blankenship said. “There will be kids from the North Pole and the Yukon. The

cultural experience and experience overall will probably be more valuable than the competition.”

Tryouts began in September and finished in early November. NAIG only allows athletes to compete in one sport, forcing those who play multiple sports to choose which to play during the games.

The Tribe will compete as Team Florida and will field the following: two boys’ basketball teams, two girls’ volleyball teams, two softball teams, one archery team, one rifle team and one golf team, as well as eight wrestlers, two swimmers and several track athletes. No intertribal teams will compete in NAIG.

Blankenship said teams will start practicing soon. In preparation for the Indigenous Games, teams will compete in tournaments, including the Native American Youth Organization tournament, the Jim Thorpe Games and activities sanctioned by the Amateur Athletic Union and United States Specialty Sports Association.



Eileen Soler

Max Osceola Jr. and Moses Jumper Jr., lifelong friends and athletic rivals during their younger days, put on a little competitive posturing in the bleachers during a recent high school football game that pit their grandsons on the gridiron: Trevor Osceola for Cardinal Gibbons High School and Andre Jumper for American Heritage School.

Good-natured rivalry lasts a lifetime

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

PLANTATION — More than six decades have passed since first cousins Max Osceola Jr. and Moses Jumper Jr. were best friends playing pickup football games in a Hollywood palmetto field to prove who was bigger, stronger and better.

Recently, while sitting in bleachers at a high school football game in Fort Lauderdale where Max’s grandson Trevor Osceola played on the special teams unit for Cardinal Gibbons and Moses’ grandson Andre Jumper played defense for American Heritage, the two admitted that while much has changed in the past half century, boys are still boys.

“Our own competition days may be over, but tonight is the first night our grandsons go head to head. We can still have fun with it,” Max said.

In the end, American Heritage won 71-24 but both grandfathers were happy just to watch their protégés from the cheering section.

Max and Moses used to joke that the day would come when they would need seat cushions to watch their grandchildren play. Max said he daydreamed about including leather bleacher covers just for the two when he helped build the ball field on the Hollywood Reservation.

Both went to Stirling Elementary then Driftwood Middle School and played on Hollywood Optimist club teams before winning spots as varsity football players in the mid-1960s for McArthur High School. Together with three other Seminole teammates, Joe Osceola, Mike Tiger and Moses Osceola, the bunch dubbed “The Fearsome Five” helped win the 1967 District Championship.

The same year, Max became Broward County’s first Native American football all-star. He and Moses were all-conference players and eventually landed in the



Eileen Soler

Trevor Osceola plays on the special teams unit for Cardinal Gibbons during a recent Friday night football game against American Heritage School.

Seminole Hall of Fame.

“My late mom (Laura Mae Osceola) used to say, ‘It doesn’t ever matter if you are a Seminole and people talk down to you – go take it out on the field,’” Max said.

Later, Max and Moses took their talent to college fields. Both played at University of Tampa and Oklahoma State University and a handful of colleges and other sports, along the way. Eventually, Moses chose baseball and a degree in physical education which he parlayed into the top spot as director of Recreation for the Tribe. Max quit playing sports to major in business at the University of Miami which helped forge his future as a Tribal Councilman.

When Max was inducted into the Broward County Sports Hall of Fame in 2013, he picked Moses to stand by his side.

“In our family, sports are part of who we are,” Moses said.

The next competition between the first cousins will likely come in January when Max gets knee replacement surgery. Moses already had one bum knee replaced but said he may have the other fixed just so he and Max can challenge each other for first place – that is, who will get back on his feet first.

Max accepted.

“Our football coaches used to say, ‘Talk is cheap. You gotta walk the walk,’” Max said.

Last volleyball game begins gym’s new life



Eileen Soler

The Ahfachkee middle school volleyball team stands for the Seminole pledge before playing their last game of the season Oct. 18 and the first game at the newly renovated Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

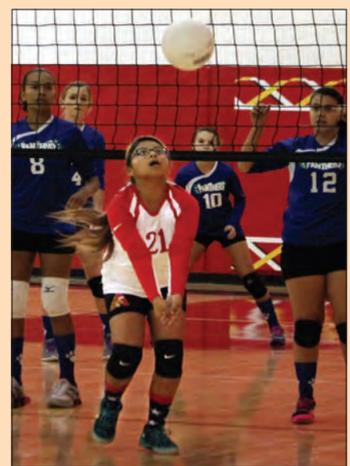
BIG CYPRESS — The scent of new paint and wood floors was still thick Oct. 18 when Ahfachkee School’s Lady Warriors middle school volleyball team christened Big Cypress Reservation’s newly renovated Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium with the last game of the season.

Gone from the 27-year-old facility was its old worn wall padding, dank paint and heavy foam floor mats.

For months during the “facelift,” the team and the girls’ varsity volleyball team had been forced to play “home” games in rival school courts.

The new stress-relieving floor, similar to those of professional NBA courts, is constructed with a moisture barrier, a thick layer of resilient pad, two layers of hardwood subfloor and a maple parquet top layer. The “give” of the floor absorbs shock, reduces stress on joints and decreases the potential for injury.

Boys’ and girls’ varsity and middle school basketball teams were to play the first home games with new home



Eileen Soler

Leilani Gopher returns the ball to the opposing team, West Glades, during opening night for the newly renovated Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

court advantage on Oct. 21 against Everglades High School.



Amanda Murphy

Andre Jumper, No. 15, uses all his force to stop the Chiefs from advancing during the American Heritage versus Cardinal Gibbons football game Nov. 1.



Eileen Soler

Dasani Cypress is recognized after the game for being the first female Ahfachkee student to win a spot in golf district finals. From left: Dasani Cypress, golf assistant Cookie Mazzant, golf coach Amos Mazzant and Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger.

EIRA hosts end-of-the-year awards banquet

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — In its 18th year, the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) honored more than 55 of its members Oct. 19 during a banquet held at the Brighton Veteran's Building.

Leanna Billie and Josh Jumper were awarded the all-around champions for men and women, respectively.

Members competed in rodeo events throughout the year to gain enough points to become all-around champions, reserve champions and qualifiers for the Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Following the blessing of the food by EIRA president Alfonso Tigertail, family, friends and members enjoyed a catered dinner while watching a video of past rodeo competitions. The auditorium was decorated in rodeo fashion with bandanas adorning the chairs and ropes as centerpieces. On stage, tables adorned awards designed for rodeo

competitors, including belt buckles, saddles and engraved bags.

"This is a culmination of our year-end rodeos that we had throughout the season," said Moses Jumper Jr., emcee of the night. "We have a very proud heritage of that."

Tigertail spoke about the importance of supporting EIRA.

"As EIRA, we look at it as a whole; it's us. We all have one thing in common and that is we enjoy the sport of rodeo," Tigertail said. "If it wasn't for us, we wouldn't have finished this year...it takes all of us as an effort to make it happen, so I would like to thank each one of ya'll for your support of the EIRA."

An audience favorite of the night was the rodeo bloopers, or "Bigg's Bloopers." Some watched intently and others laughed out loud.

Awards were presented by Tigertail, junior rodeo queen Aiyana Tommie, senior rodeo queen Breanna Billie and EIRA vice president Mackenzie Bowers.



Jaylen Baker is awarded the all-around reserve champion award.

Andrea Holata



Andrea Holata

Kalgary Johns, left, and Budah Jumper show off their awards during the EIRA end-of-the-year banquet Oct. 19.



Andrea Holata

Junior breakaway champion Blevins Jumper shows off his new saddle.



Andrea Holata

Takoda Howard accidentally drops his award for mutton busting.



Andrea Holata

Canaan Jumper receives her buckle for barrel racing.

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◆ More INFR photos from page 1A



Eileen Soler

Ivan Bruised Head lassoes a steer during the second round of the calf roping contest during the 38th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.



Eileen Soler

Boogie Jumper smiles during the women's barrel racing event.



Eileen Soler

Marilee Johns, of Brighton, dashes past a barrel at full speed.



Eileen Soler

Spectators pack the South Point Hotel and Casino rodeo area for the 38th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo held Nov. 5-9.



Eileen Soler

Dyami Nelson, of Hollywood, poses with his mother, Danielle Howard, after placing fourth overall in the 38th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo junior bull riding event.



Eileen Soler

Kalgary Johns bolts through the junior barrel racing course.



Eileen Soler

The newly crowned Miss Indian Rodeo 2014 Amanda Not Afraid, of the Crow Agency in Montana, poses for photos with Willie Johns, of Brighton, an Indian National Finals Rodeo commissioner.



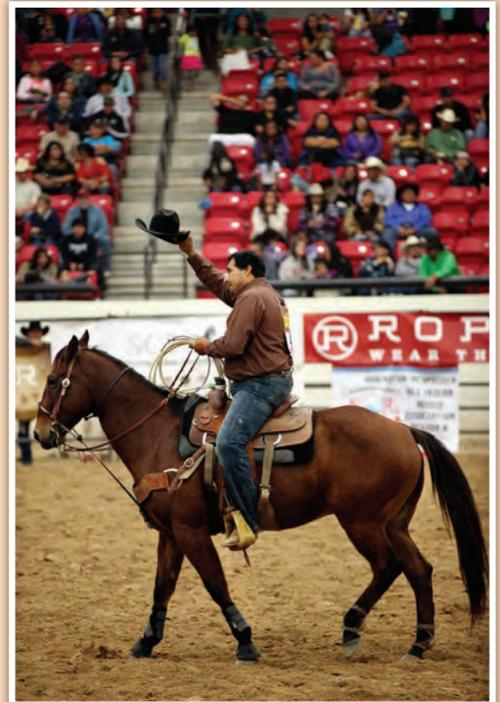
Eileen Soler

Dyami Nelson, of Hollywood, competes in the junior bull riding event at the 38th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo.



Eileen Soler

Jake Parks, of Hollywood, participates in the pre-event ceremonies at the Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.



Eileen Soler

Ivan Bruised Head waves to spectators after earning a 9.01 in the second round of the calf roping contest.



Eileen Soler

Jacoby Johns holds tight to a bucking bronc in the saddle bronc contest.



Eileen Soler

Jacoby Johns is jubilant after scoring an impressive 74 in the saddle bronc third round at the 38th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas.

Announcements

Wishes for happy birthday celebrations

Paula A. Harjo (Big sis),

As life goes on your memory does, too. I gave you my word and I will keep my word to you until I take my last breath. I know what it feels like to be forgotten – at the same time, my loyalty is second to none. Big sis, you're the greatest and you are a blessing. Thank you for showing me the true meaning of being real.

"I'll be missing you."

Big sis, one day I'll be there with you. Until then, I will stand tall handling whatever the world throws at me. Smile. Do not worry about your lil bro. Shed no more tears, big sis. I love you. This is in the wind. Happy Birthday.

Ike T. Harjo

Burton L. Harjo (Breeze),

It's your day, brother. Enjoy it the best you can with those who mean you good. You are where you are supposed to be. Life is what we make it to be. What we put into it is what we get out of it.

Brother, appreciate all that you are blessed with. Cherish it. Remember what I said, "I can only dream of that world." It's a possibility that when I return it will only be for you all to bury me. I write this with heart and soul, brother. Enjoy your birthday and life the right way. Let those fools be fools and rise above it. Much love and much respect, brother. This is in the wind. Happy Birthday.

Ike T. Harjo

Lyle V. Billie (Crate),

Brother, it was great to see you after all these years. That one whole week was great talking about the old days and you bringing me up to date on the new days that I have missed out on. Thank you for the photos you gave me. Big sis used to send me photos all the time. Brother, I miss you all. Anyway, I hope you enjoyed your birthday the best you could. There will be many more to come for you. Just keep your head up, stick your chest out and handle it. Remember all that we have talked about always, brother. My dog rope is staked to the ground next to you – always has, always will be. Much love and much respect. This is in the wind. Happy Birthday.

Ike T. Harjo

I want to wish my husband, Ike Harjo, Happy Birthday. I love you.

Mayra Harjo



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Girls' varsity b-ballers dominate from gate; boys' varsity stumbles

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

DAVIE — If the start of the 2014 varsity basketball season is any indication, the Ahfachkee Lady Warriors team is bound for glory.

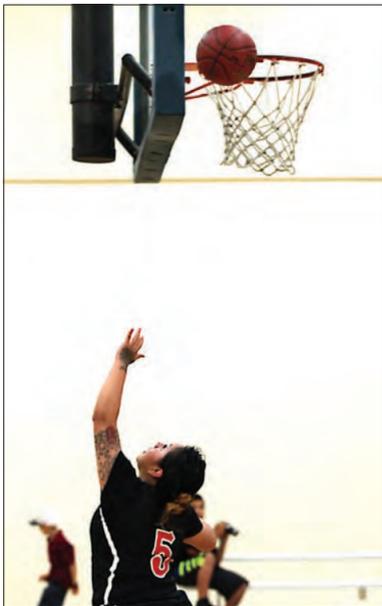
The team, bolstered by a small but powerful roster, dominated Glades Day 47-17 in the season opener Nov. 14 in Belle Glade. On Nov. 18, the girls' team steamrolled David Posnack Jewish Day School 47-12.

"This, with only seven players on the team," said Danielle Jumper-Frye, a team parent and Ahfachkee's assistant program director.

Leading players Gianna Wargolet and Dasani Cypress ran the court well for consistent fast-breaking layups and consecutive scores. Malari Baker commanded several scoring hook shots. Dayla Koenes and Sabre Billie controlled the ball on the offense, while defensive quick thinking by the team, including Sara Osceola and newcomer Charli Frye, led to turnovers throughout the series' second game.

The Ahfachkee boys' varsity team fought David Posnack opponents with non-stop hustle, but lost 54-10. Overpowered by the much larger team, both in physical stature and team size, the Warriors followed the lead of returning players Devon Bowers, Uriah Waggerby and Isaiah Alvarado.

Graysun Billie, Chaska Osceola, Ethan Balentine, Jonah Alvarado and Isaiah Anderson rounded out the team.



Eileen Soler
Ahfachkee's Malari Baker makes a hook shot Nov. 18 against David Posnack Jewish Day School.



Eileen Soler
Ahfachkee's Gianna Wargolet and Dasani Cypress recover the ball in a turnover against David Posnack Jewish Day School.



Eileen Soler
Ahfachkee's Devon Bowers presses down court Nov. 18 against David Posnack Jewish Day School.



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee's Isaiah Alvarado defends the ball despite impending interruption by David Posnack Jewish Day School.

Tampa Catholic senior night



Peter B. Gallagher

Tampa Catholic High School football star Justin Motlow poses with mother, Lisa, and father, Clarence, on the Crusaders football field for Senior Night Nov. 1. Tampa Catholic beat Bishop McLaughlin Catholic 56-10.

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