



Ahfachkee Student Council feeds the hungry
EDUCATION ♦ 1B

Teens, youth compete at Jim Thorpe games
SPORTS ♦ 1C

4-H'ers saddle up for horsemanship camp
COMMUNITY ♦ 7A



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Gaming adds air incentive for super high rollers

BY EILEEN SOLER
 Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — With a unanimous Council vote June 13, super high rollers worldwide will get VIP travel treatment to and from Seminole Tribe of Florida casinos on a new luxury Gulfstream G550 aircraft.

Called “whales,” gamblers in the elite category play with extraordinary amounts of money. Some can spend several million dollars in one weekend.

According to Seminole Gaming estimates, Tribal investment in the \$51.5-million aircraft could bring about \$16 million per year into Tribe coffers.

John Eder, senior vice president of finance for Seminole Gaming, said if the program does not succeed, the Tribe can sell the aircraft and recoup the money.

Casinos that already offer jet travel as high roller perks include the MGM Grand Casino, the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa and the Venetian, the No. 1 ranked gaming company in the world, Eder said.

Purchase of the 12-seat Gulfstream

♦ See INCENTIVE on page 5A

Chocochatti marker dedicated on State Road 50

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
 Special Projects Reporter

BIG HAMMOCK, Fla. — Nine years before the Declaration of Independence was signed, a displaced group of Muscogee-speaking Upper Creek Indians established a colony in the rolling woodlands, lush lakes and fertile prairies just outside present-day Brooksville, located north of Tampa.

A British surveyor called the settlement New Yufala, borrowing the name of the area in Alabama from which he believed the Indians hailed. The Creeks preferred to call their new home Tcuko tcati or Chocochatti, which means red house or red town.

Historian J. K. Mahon wrote that Muscogee soon became “the second major tongue in Florida.”

On May 30, Seminole Chairman James E. Billie joined Jon Yeager, of the Historic Hernando Preservation Society; University of South Florida professor Brent Weisman; Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Paul Backhouse; and spectators, re-enactors and representatives from other historical groups to cut a ribbon and unveil a roadside marker commemorating Chocochatti.

♦ See CHOCOCHATTI on page 7A

Recovery takes another step toward success

BY EILEEN SOLER
 Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — With the Andy Buster Band playing country tunes and homegrown steaks smoking on the barbecue, Tribal members celebrated a new stop along the road to addiction recovery with an old-fashioned family picnic.

“Only an open heart can catch a dream” reads a plaque on the wall of the new We Do Recover headquarters — a double-wide trailer with a kitchen, meeting area and super-soft lounge chairs on a half-acre plot dotted with chickees, trees and a bandstand tucked behind a smoke shop on the Hollywood Reservation.

“This is our place to be,” said Charlie Tiger, co-founder of the program, its current site director and a self-described work in progress. “And I thank God because He’s driving my ride.”

Tiger said the program moved into the trailer-turned-headquarters in March, but it was established five years ago as a grassroots rehab-to-work program by

♦ See WE DO RECOVER on page 7A

Graduates march toward future



Eileen Soler

Graduate Oddyssie Sheets is so happy to graduate from Brighton Preschool that she tells the world as she walks across the stage May 14 at the Brighton Veteran’s Building.

♦ See all GRADUATION coverage on pages 2B-6B

Tribal members nationwide gather to share, learn and share again

BY EILEEN SOLER
 Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Georgette Palmer Smith, executive director of the Seminole Tribe’s Native Learning Center (NLC), said the department’s educational sixth annual Summer Conference could only be successful if attendees soaked up information then took the knowledge home.

“It makes our hearts feel good to bring you so much about so many topics, but we can teach all day long and it still comes down to what you take back to your communities,” Smith said to nearly 150 participants from 75 Tribes. “For the sake of our youth who will someday lead the way, it’s time to get your learn on.”

So began the NLC event subtitled Promoting Strong and Safe Tribal Communities held June 3-5 at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Thirty sessions provided facts and practical know-how on five topics: financial wellness, Tribal government, grant education, housing strategies and celebrating culture and language. Individual classes ran the gamut from “Strength in Numbers: Using Data to Elevate Program Management” to “So Why Don’t We Make Frybread?”

“There is no one-size-fits-all solution,” said Mike Andrews, a director of operations for the Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Andrews referred to the many ways ONAP distributes funding for housing on reservations and communities throughout Indian Country, but the same answer could apply to any Tribal issue nationwide.

Because no Tribe operates exactly alike — each has different economic engines, sovereign government structures

and unique relationships with neighboring governments — the best managers in the five categories were invited to share methods that help their Tribe succeed.

“We’ve worked hard during past years and now have a following of instructors and a database of subject experts from housing to culture and language,” said Marie Dufour, NLC’s technical and training program director.

The most popular sessions poured over grant application, grant management, brand marketing, business building and financial skills for individuals and families. Cultural classes included reviving ancient Native games, using Native rituals for healing, and promoting health and culture in the workplace.

The free conference was funded by HUD.

♦ See NLC on page 4A

A ray of hope: Slumping Tampa Bay turns to Seminole medicine man

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
 Special Projects Reporter

ST. PETERSBURG — As manager of the team with the worst record in Major League Baseball in early June, Tampa Bay’s Joe Maddon decided to “turn Bobby Henry

loose on Tropicana Field” in an attempt to end the Rays’ slump.

So, with a carte blanche pass to go anywhere he wanted in the team’s 1.1-million-square-foot domed stadium, including the clubhouse and the players’ parking lot, the Seminole medicine man

arrived early June 9 before the Rays’ afternoon tilt against the Seattle Mariners and went to work. He carried a cloth satchel, which included *tu-lee* (red bay leaves), and “special water” in a glass bottle through security (glass isn’t allowed on the premises).

“It’s OK,” said Rick Vaughn, the Rays vice president of communications. “These guys are special guests of Joe.” In fact, it would be that way for the next few hours as Henry followed his instincts through public and private areas of the complex.

Henry, a Tampa native and Otter Clan patriarch, has a reputation as the area’s resident medicine man. In 1985, his services were requested by the city of Tampa to bring rain to a severely parched area, and his ritualistic treatment with tortoise and frog brought immediate thunder and rain. He may have stopped the rain at the 1990 Miami Grand Prix and the 1994 Discover Native America Powwow in Jacksonville. He also worked with the Culverhouse family to bring winning ways — even a Super Bowl victory — to the once hapless Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

“I live here. Tampa is my home,” said Henry, who moved his family to Tampa to occupy the new Seminole Reservation in 1979. “I want to help out [the] Tampa area however I can. I like the Rays and ol’ Joe. I watch them on the TV all the time. They are my team. I’ll help them out if I can.”

The idea to use a medicine man to try to end the Rays’ woes came from

licensed massage therapist Sue Ontiveros, whose friend, Skip Milos, is a Rays team photographer. Ontiveros’ idea eventually made it to Maddon, who “became very excited,” Vaughn said. “Joe is probably the only manager in any sport who would even consider such a move, much less make it happen.”

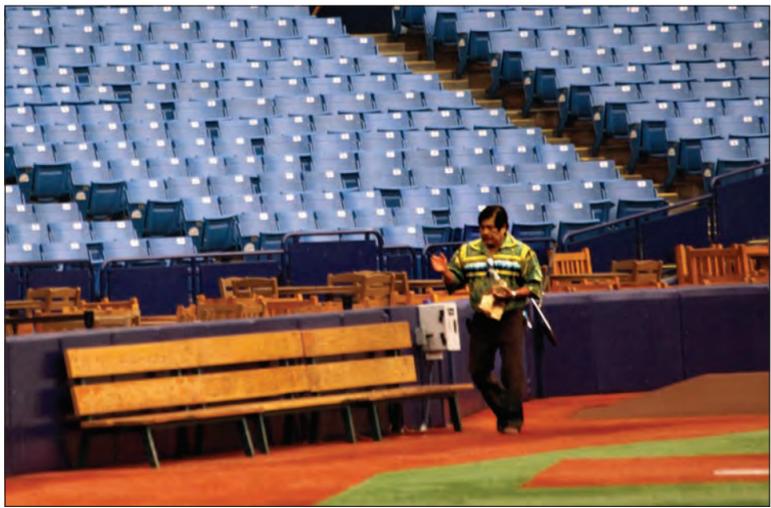
In a private talk in Maddon’s office, the Rays skipper explained his mindset: “A lot of the things that have been happening to us are happening to a good team. People may call us the worst team in baseball because we have the worst record. I tell the players we earned the right to be called that. But, truth is, we are definitely nowhere near the worst team. We’ve had some things happening that can’t be explained. Players who always make a certain play and then they don’t ... We hit the ball hard and it is right at someone. They hit it hard and it is two inches away from our gloves.”

Maddon was asked if it was a curse.

“Yeah, whatever you want to call it, I’m hoping Bobby can stop whatever’s going on, take it out of here,” Maddon said.

“Oh, we’ll do it,” said Henry, who was surprised by a personal gift from Maddon — his own Tampa Bay Rays official team jersey with BOBBY 1 on the back. “We’ll do it. But you got to give it some time. I may have to come back and do something else in a week.”

♦ See TAMPA BAY RAYS on page 3C



Peter B. Gallagher

Bobby Henry sprinkles liquids and tosses leaves June 9 to cleanse Tropicana Field in an attempt to end the Tampa Bay Rays’ slump.

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Father’s Day celebrations honor Tribe’s patriarchs. See photos on page 6A.

Editorial

Calling all youth leaders

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

The oil fields of Sunniland are where I first learned about hard work. I'd routinely work 60-90 hours a week of manual labor, and every so often when I could hardly move a muscle, I'd go in and beg for a day off. They knew that my plan was to get some rest and return refreshed the next day. That was one of my first jobs and I'll never forget the work ethic that it instilled in me.

Back then, in the 1970s and early '80s, there were few career options available to me, especially with the Seminole Tribe. You know what my career options were? I could become a policeman, or a fireman or a construction worker. Those were my options back then, based on what the Tribe was doing at that time. Think about it. That was it.

At that time, the options were limited and there was no influence to get me to think about working for the Tribe in any capacity, much less becoming a director of a department or running for political office. In fact, there was a severe deficiency of programs to help the youth understand the political landscape, both locally and nationally, including the sovereignty fights the Tribe was enduring. None of that was talked about when I was coming up. Nothing.

Then I got a call that would forever change my life. Cecil Johns was President of the Tribe and he wanted me to work for him in Hollywood. He saw something in me and told me I would have to learn on the job. I knew nothing about how the Seminole Tribe operated. I had never even considered the concept of sovereignty and what that meant to me and every single member of the Tribe – a concept that is a guiding light to me today in nearly every capacity and strategic move I make.

I think of those days often and remember keeping up with the learning

curve, understanding the different Tribal functions, making mistakes and learning from them, gaining self-confidence and believing in myself. Those events made me who I am today and have helped me rise through the ranks and eventually achieve the position as the President of Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. (STOFI). I remember sitting in those rooms watching and listening to the leaders of that time, trying to understand what they were talking about, trying to make sense of their decisions and the policies they were putting in motion for the Tribe.

It was exciting to be in that sort of atmosphere, so close to the action. I began to sense how important these leaders and their decisions were to all of us. And then one day, the light bulb turned on. It flickered at first, I'll admit. Then it turned on completely.

I often think, if only I had known back at the beginning what I spent years absorbing on the job ... how much better would I have been as a Tribal employee and how much more could I have contributed to my Tribe?

I have no doubts about the answer to that question. In fact, my own personal experience as a young man beginning a real career is really the vision behind the STOFI Leadership Internship youth program that is making its debut with the Board this summer.

With this program we are inviting two youth Tribal members who are currently enrolled in a four-year college or recently graduated to participate in a 10-week, competitively paid internship with the Tribal Board of Directors staff. Successful candidates will need to have a solid foundation. They need to know the basics about business, what a financial statement is, how to read a balance sheet, etc., and must have a desire to work hard.

Make no mistake about it; we are looking for the Tribal leaders of the future.

That's right: the future. Think about it. The future is going to hold a very challenging business environment for the Seminole Tribe. The dividend we have today may not be there 10 years from now, 15 years from now, 20 years from now. Do you want to have an impact on the future strategic direction of the Tribe? If so, would you want to be one of the leaders who sets that direction? Or just sit on the sideline?

The program, as designed by Luis Acevedo, the Board's senior analyst Corporate Development, after more than a year of internal discussions, will allow interns coming into the program to get their feet wet in the STOFI organization without overwhelming them. Hopefully, we won't scare them away.

These accomplished students will come to work here at the Board offices each day. They will start with a two-week study on the history of STOFI, what it means to be a Section 17 corporation, what the competitive advantages available to Native American Tribes are, and will explore our corporate charter. From there, we will continue to cover the fundamentals of operating a Tribally owned business and then dive into "company analysis," which will be followed by a review of STOFI's business portfolio. We'll go into detail about the various businesses we currently operate under STOFI and provide the knowledge they will need to understand STOFI, its businesses and assets.

From there, the interns will go even deeper into "business analysis." We will cover the different strategies we use, as well as explore strategies from other corporate environments with diversified backgrounds. Then we will go into "competitive analysis" and cover the tactics we use to figure out our company's position in the industry, brainstorm and think strategically on how we can open up new avenues of growth and how we position ourselves to capitalize on the opportunities presented by leveraging

our sovereignty and our tax-exempt status.

Finally, at the end of the 10 weeks, each intern will be required to choose one of STOFI's businesses and write a research report. In the report, the intern will be required to analyze the particular industry of the business he or she chose, analyze the company's financial performance, and conduct investment analysis on one or two new business proposals that are related to that company. The intern will then give a formal power point presentation to the STOFI Board with some real recommendations: "Hey Board, this is what I am proposing and recommending for this business."

This will provide real-world experience that is equivalent to what one would see in a corporate environment. It shows these future leaders how to really bring that Fortune 500 feel to the reservation. And that is where the Tribe should strive to be – among the elite of the Fortune 500.

Through the development of mentor relationships with the current Board members here at STOFI, the interns will be encouraged to develop effective communication skills, hard work ethics and a strong sense of confidence in their own leadership abilities and as team players. We will add to and improve the analytical abilities they need to succeed in today's business environment.

I see this like creating bench strength, creating a road map for the future. As elected officials, we always talk about the youth being our future. In that case, we need to address that concept with a program that is proactive for our youth beyond just lip service. And though the people who come into this program may not necessarily be thinking about entering politics, I think once they are exposed to what is happening, going deep inside the various projects that we are involved in and understanding how the corporate decisions we make nearly every day affects them and everybody else,

it will certainly pique an interest in politics.

I am hoping this program will turn that light bulb on, create that spark that, "Wow, I really need to get involved in this. I need to be a Board Rep., a Councilman. I want to be President. I want to be Chairman."

As I said earlier, growing up, I wish I would have had these opportunities. If we can tap into that special resource – educated Tribal members – and expose these interns to what the method is to the madness here, we can start the ball rolling to place more and more Tribal members in key positions. That is really what this is going to be all about at the end of the day. Of course, many may never get into politics; but since we are always preaching that we want Tribal members to be in key positions, soon we will have a pool of talent to choose from that we don't currently have.

Tribal youth, the Seminole Tribe needs you. If you are currently enrolled in a four-year college or are a graduate, give my office a call. Come in to talk to me and Luis about your aspirations. Alternatively, please feel free to send an email to LuisAcevedo@semtribe.com if you have any questions about the internship program. We've got an opportunity for you to get business experience. We are going to put you to work alongside us, right in our offices, working on real projects.

Who knows? You just might like it over here.

Sho-naa-bish.

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



Rest in peace Priscilla Doctor Sayen, 1941-2014

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Eulogized as a living legend, role model and one of the most important women in Seminole history, Priscilla Doctor Sayen, who served her Tribe for 35 years in government service, was fondly remembered during a memorial service June 5 as mourners recalled the lasting impact she had on them and the Tribe.

Priscilla spent 25 years as the Tribal Council's Secretary-Treasurer and 10 years as its Tribal Secretary. Her battle against cancer ended June 2 at home surrounded by her loving family. She was 72.

By all accounts, Priscilla was a key administrator who helped guide the growth of the Seminole Tribe of Florida into one of the nation's most powerful and wealthy Indian Tribes. Her signature accompanied almost every contract and financial instrument during those years.

Led by two flashing Seminole Police motorcycles, the motorcade for Priscilla's funeral slowly approached Tribal Headquarters where a crowd of teary-eyed fellow employees waved good-bye at the hearse carrying Priscilla to her final resting

place at the New Seminole Cemetery.

Earlier that morning, several hundred people gathered to watch and to participate in a memorial service conducted by the Rev. Paul Buster at First Seminole Indian Baptist Church on Stirling Road. The little church was packed to capacity and dozens more watched and listened on a big screen set up beneath a towering air-conditioned tent next door.

Moses Jumper Jr. began the eulogy after he acknowledged Priscilla's immediate family – husband, James Sayen; son Marl Osceola (wife, Francine); grandchildren Ariah Osceola, Hunter Osceola, Skyla Osceola, Grant Osceola, Chayse Billie, Mary Cypress and Bryce Osceola; and siblings Judybill Osceola, Marcellus Osceola, Yvonne Courtney and Cynthia Osceola.

"I'll try to get through this and try to share with you my words about someone who is very important in my life," Jumper said. "Priscilla Doctor Sayen, 72 years young ... was born Nov. 24, 1941 in Miami, Florida, daughter of the late Rev. Bill Osceola and Charlotte Tommie Osceola.

"We have a lot of memories of Priscilla that go back many years. She was Matriarch of the Snake Clan with Charlotte and

Mary Bowers. What a grand thing it must be for them all to be back together again, celebrating. There is no doubt where Priscilla is today. You know she was the real deal," he said.

Jumper was the family's personal choice to deliver the eulogy.

"We are going to miss her," he said. "I remember the times at the Tribal office when if I needed to know something about Tribal history, I would always go to her."

Jumper went on to describe Priscilla using biblical passages from Solomon: "What a gracious woman. A virtuous woman, more precious than rubies. She was energetic and strong and a hard worker. She worked for the Tribe for so many years. But that was her love for her people. She took her job seriously. She extended her hand to the poor and needy. That tells you a lot about her personality and character. She was full of strength and dignity and she lived without fear of the future. She knew where she would be today. We have the remains of the body here but one day we will see her again. She gives instructions with kindness. I used to go in her office and we would sit and talk: *She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness.*"

Chairman James E. Billie told a story about the "first time I ever laid eyes on Priscilla" while he perched in a giant mulberry tree near her family's house off 441 on the then-Dania Reservation: "At that particular time, when you are 4, 5, 6 years old, you are starving for candy, something sweet." He and friend Billy L. Cypress snuck into the yard and "shimmied up in that old mulberry tree, where we sat in the fork of the tree eating those berries.

"Somewhere down the line a dog started barking and the first thing I know is Holy Mackerel, it was Tудie, her grandmother, and she went on to scold us and gather us out of the tree," Chairman Billie said. "We took off. But when she was yelling at us, a good-looking woman came out. Her name happened to be *La-gay-shee*.

"As time went on, we became 10-15 years old and (Priscilla) was running around with Judy, Marie and Joanne. We are teenagers now – still barefooted but we put that slick in our hair. She never took notice

to us and I came to realize we were just too young. Time goes along, they all went and found their own boyfriends and me and Billy got left out.

"I went off to Vietnam and when I came back that is when I saw some serious changes ... I became Chairman, and the Secretary-Treasurer at that time was Dorothy Tommie. She passed away and a couple days later Priscilla came onto the scene and became Secretary-Treasurer. And here was that beautiful girl again, with that movie star smile when she looked at you. You didn't know if it was a rattlesnake lookin' at you but when she smiled you could see the beauty."

Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola rose to acknowledge the family.

"I just want to say it's been an honor to serve with Priscilla Sayen on that panel as a Board member and as a Councilman," he said. "She is a legend in this Tribe. When you talk about the women who had a say and input and helped mold this Tribe, the likes of Betty Mae Jumper and Laura Mae Osceola come to mind, women like that. I know there are others out there, but Priscilla is right there with them.

"Young ladies looking for a role model, look no further. She served her Tribe with dignity, humility, grace and honor. She had a certain presence about her. Every time I got around her or I was in her presence, she just made me feel at ease. And that was because she was such a humble lady," he said.

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger said Priscilla helped calm his anxiety during his early days on the Council.

"When you first get in this position, you are very scared and timid and I must have looked like a deer in the headlights," he said. "She was sitting there looking and I wondered, 'What is she going to say?' Finally she walked up to me, grabbed me by the arm and said, 'Mondo, why you so scared? You are a Councilman. Get up there and do your job.' After that my confidence skyrocketed and whenever I saw her I would

give her a big hug."

Thoughtful memories of Priscilla also came from Brighton Councilman Andrew

J. Bowers Jr., Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank and Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard.

"We come from the same fiber, or the same skin, if you will," Councilman Bowers said. "We belong to the Snake Clan ... At times when we would talk I could see expressions on her face that went back years and years. I could tell she was the type of person who wanted to do the right thing because I know the type of people who raised her – from my early childhood. They were our grandmothers, too. I always remember Priscilla as that person I believe she was: the one who wanted you to do the right things."

Rep. Frank said Priscilla was "an example that strength doesn't have to be loud or ugly," and Rep. Howard described her as "an inspiration."

Priscilla's closest friends, with whom she loved to sing gospel music, took the stage. Judybill Osceola, Marie Osceola and Judy Baker sang *Precious Memories* and the song Priscilla requested the group sing at her final service: *Gospel Train*. Yvonne sang Priscilla's part.

Singer Zachary Battiest joined his father, Henry Battiest Jr., and Master's Touch, an Oklahoma Seminole singing group, to sing *Welcome To Heaven*. Zachary reminisced about Priscilla's nickname for him (Runner). "She never had a sad spirit," he said.

Rev. Buster closed out the ceremony: "The Bible says there will be no more crying. Priscilla is not crying anymore. She is hoping that one day you and I will be there, too. And we can be there. Today we are in pain in our hearts, mentally, spiritually, but today there is no pain in heaven. It is just a beautiful place. No more separations, no more crying."



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Community

A

Seminole Media Productions Workshop takes new direction



STAFF REPORT

HOLLYWOOD — The 2014 Seminole Media Productions Workshop (SMPW) will see curriculum changes this year to offer participants a fresh approach to learning about the media industry.

The annual event will be held in conjunction with the Education Department's Sept. 5 Education Expo, which aims to inform Tribal members of career possibilities within the Seminole Tribe.

In addition to an informational booth to divulge general information to Expo attendees, SMP will offer specialized workshops to interested Tribal members in the areas of journalism, broadcasting and graphic design.

"The Seminole Media Productions Workshop is a great opportunity for Tribal members interested in the media industry to get a behind-the-scenes look into the field," said Sunshine Frank, Broadcasting Department manager. "We encourage Education Expo attendees to sign up for the workshops and determine whether a career in media is right for them."

Participants who attend SMP's workshops will be entered in a raffle to win a Samsung Galaxy Tab.

More information about the upcoming fair will be available soon at www.SeminoleMediaProductions.com/SMPW.

Tiny Tribal dancers tap, twist, tumble

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

DAVIE — From ballet bun to twirling toes, sisters Harmony and Jaylee Cypress radiated star power when each took the spotlight on the Bailey Hall stage May 31 as students of Performance Edge Dance Studio.

The girls, who live on Big Cypress Reservation and attend American Heritage School in Plantation, overcame a few backstage jitters before their performances.

"It's so full of excitement. It's the makeup, the changing costumes, the knowing that we can finally show all the work that we do," said Harmony, 10, daughter of Nancy Ortega.

Harmony performed in eight of the 62 acts in the year-end Revolution 2014 show by the Weston dance company and school. Nearly every variety of dance spotlighted by the cast of more than 250 students was accompanied by equally diverse music. Hip hop, classical, show tunes, pop and rock punctuated months and years of dance rehearsals and dedication.

Dance styles performed included ballet, tap, jazz, theatrical, folk, hip-hop, acrobatic and even belly dancing. Performers ranged from toe-tapping toddlers to recent high school graduates who wowed the audience with self-choreographed, emotional, modern dance interpretations.

Jaylee said waiting backstage for her one dance, the 54th of the afternoon production, was as much fun as performing her number. In her first year of formal training, she watched some of the production from the theater wings.

"I can see the dancers going out and coming back. And when I wasn't watching I could hear the dancing and the music," Jaylee said. "It's fine to wait my turn. I just have to stay focused."

Jaylee danced with more than a dozen other beginners in a golden, glittery jazz piece that incorporated many novice elements, including step claps.



Eileen Soler

Harmony Cypress, far right, performs ballet in Performance Edge Dance Studio's year-end Revolution show May 31 at Bailey Hall in Davie.

Harmony, a member of the school's company troupe, showed grace and agility in ballet, jazz, acrobatic, hip-hop and Middle Eastern numbers that required intense rehearsal. She attends classes three times a week.

Janie Valdez, Jaylee's mother, said Jaylee and Harmony are not only sisters but also close friends who support each other

through long days off the reservation. On a typical school day, they wake up at 5 a.m. and wind down around 8:30 p.m. Valdez and Ortega support their daughters and each other.

"They get a little nervous about performing, but I think moms are more nervous," Valdez said.

For Harmony, juggling school and

dance is a blast.

"It's like having two worlds. We have our school life and our dance life. But when you get to move with music with a whole lot of energy on stage, you get to have a whole lot of fun," she said.

◆ See more DANCE photos on page 7A



Peter B. Gallagher

Charlotte Burgess demonstrates Seminole frybread cooking at the new Seminole village during the Florida Folk Festival in White Springs Memorial Day weekend.

Seminole sculpture project on New River gets major boost

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

FORTLAUDERDALE — Excitement had been building among artists for months about a Seminole sculpture whose future home will be along the New River in Fort Lauderdale. But completion of the statue by sculptor Nilda Comas, with assistance from Elgin Jumper and endorsed with \$50,000 from the Seminole Tribe, hinged on selling 500 ceramic tiles for \$100 each to meet costs and to decorate the work's pedestal in patchwork designs.

Thanks to a \$40,000 gift from philanthropist AJ Acker, the tile goal has been met. Acker made the donation during a Venetian Arts Society art salon and fundraiser June 5 at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society's New River Inn.

"I like people and I don't have a family, so for me, supporting the campaign is like leaving a legacy," said Acker, a world traveling photographer, part owner of Sleepy's bedding company and a South Florida resident for 40 years.

Artists erupted with applause. Comas, owner of Legacy Art Studio in Fort Lauderdale whose works pepper cities worldwide, said Acker simply asked during a recent visit how many tiles were left to be sold.

"I told her 400. She said, 'OK, you're done,'" Comas said.

The piece titled "Florida – A Seminole Girl" will be a life-size bronze of a 5-year-old dressed in traditional attire circa 1910



Eileen Soler

Sculptor Nilda Comas discusses her piece 'Florida – A Seminole Girl' featuring traditional patchwork and tiles painted by students from Ahfachkee School.

who is happily prancing at play with palm fronds in her hand and creatures at her feet.

"The statue will bring the Seminole presence back to the downtown Fort Lauderdale area where we have been missing for decades. It's a good thing," said Jumper, a Seminole painter and poet who is also a student of Comas.

At the foot of the statue, 76 tiles already painted by Ahfachkee School students ages 5, 6 and 7 will hug the base. The tiles portray everyday scenes of the Everglades as seen by Seminole students, including native birds, fish, turtles, chickees, horses and peaceful vistas.

An auditory element will include the sounds of Seminole children singing in Mikasuki. In the background, viewers will also hear birds, water and rustling leaves – all sounds of the Everglades.

The city of Fort Lauderdale donated space at Stranahan Landing along the New River across from Stranahan House, the historic home of Frank and Ivy Stranahan, who were Fort Lauderdale settlers and friends of the Seminoles.

Ivy was the city's first public school teacher. After she married Frank and left public teaching, she turned her attention to educating local Seminole children. She established the Friends of the Seminoles foundation. Frank owned a trading post where Seminoles came to do business. Many times, Seminole families camped on the Stranahan homestead.

Willie Riddle, director of the Venetian Arts Society, said the art salon was held

to celebrate the group's Seminole Indian Month at the venue decorated with a dozen paintings by Jumper.

"We gathered to celebrate the art of the Seminole. That's what we do – we celebrate many cultures in intimate ways through art salon," Riddle said.

Jumper and Seminole traditional flutist Gordon "Ollie" Wareham presented a performance art show that infused a soliloquy by Jumper, music by Wareham and the live creation of a stark charcoal drawing by Jumper. Larry Mike Osceola, who has since become the first Seminole appointed to the Broward County Historical Commission, displayed pieces from his private collection of Seminole dolls, wood carvings and patchwork.

Jimmy Osceola, the first Seminole artist to befriend Comas and another of her students, also attended.

"It's unbelievable that it all started with a knock on Nilda's studio door about a year ago," Jimmy Osceola said.

Riddle credited the contemporary Seminole artists for bringing long overdue attention to the lack of Seminole presence in Fort Lauderdale.

"The Seminole people have not been given their full place in the area, yet they are one of the most critical aspects to the entire culture of the community," he said. "Here, we have contemporary artists doing what ancestors have done for centuries, but they are doing it with 20th-century flair."

Comas said "Florida – A Seminole Girl" will likely be unveiled in November.

New Seminole village opens during annual Florida Folk Festival

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

WHITE SPRINGS — Temperatures in the 90s and a couple driving thunderstorms did not dampen the fun and music at the 62nd Florida Folk Festival, held annually on Memorial Day weekend at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park on the Suwannee River.

The most comfortable folks at the three-day festival were likely the Seminole Indians who traveled from South Florida to the little park near the Georgia line. They demonstrated Tribal arts and crafts and traditional cooking in their new Seminole village.

The nine chickees, arranged in traditional village style, brought shade and protection to Tribal members.

"Well, it's always cooler under the chickee," said Lorene Gopher, director of cultural programs for the Brighton Culture Department. The overhanging thatch and roof seemed to bring the scorching heat down several degrees. "And they haven't been leaking, so far."

Chairman James E. Billie and his crew finished the village, dubbed *Ee-to-lit-kee*, during a year of periodical visits to the park, which is named after the great composer and America's first pop star, Stephen Foster.

"I can't tell you how much this new village means to me and the state of Florida," said Donald Forgiome, director of the Florida Park Service. "It's just another example of the excellent relationship we have had with the Seminoles since the very beginning of this park."

The new village is the second Chairman Billie and his crew built at the park. The first was constructed in the mid-1980s at the far south end, which curves along with the river.

"I felt like we were outside the gates of the festival," Chairman Billie said. "I felt we should be inside where we could feel more of a part of the festival, if you know what I mean."

Ee-to-lit-kee includes a cook chickee, where Charlotte Burgess, Willo James and Mollie Jolly kept a fire burning and provided samples of frybread and sofkee to visitors; a long "canoe chickee," where a great log will be fashioned into a canoe; and a large stage chickee, where dozens of acoustic musical acts performed nonstop during the festival.

Beneath one of four standard square chickees, Lorene Gopher and assistant Stacy Silvas created and sold elaborate beaded necklaces. Jennie Shore sat beneath another creating sweetgrass baskets, while



Eileen Soler

Seminole artist Elgin Jumper performs a soliloquy to the mystic flute music of Seminole traditional flutist Gordon 'Ollie' Wareham during the June 5 Venetian Arts Society art salon at the New River Inn in Fort Lauderdale.

◆ See FOLK FESTIVAL on page 8A



Beverly Bidney

Financial Literacy Seminar students participate in an exercise about choices, led by instructor Veronica Ramsundar, center. The three-day seminar was held June 12-14 in Hollywood.

Office of Trust Management offers seminars to impart wisdom for secure futures

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Students learned all about securing their financial futures at the Financial Literacy Seminar held June 12-14 in Hollywood. Topics during the three-day seminar covered the basics of banking services, money management tools and tips, and protection from fraud.

In an effort to give young Tribal members a well-rounded financial education, the Tribe has required everyone 17 and older to attend the seminar, as established in the Minor's Trust Agreement. The program began in 2007 and aims to ensure students learn proper money management skills for secure financial futures.

During the classes, students learned how to make sound decisions for longevity. Because gaming money is never guaranteed, protecting and preserving funds is critically important to a secure financial future, said instructor Veronica Ramsundar, Higher Education program manager.

"The rich stay rich because they are careful with their money," she said. "They are frugal with their spending, smart shoppers and very conscious of how they spend money."

Most students did not know their distribution checks and trust funds come from gaming revenue. Ramsundar broke it down for them, penny by penny on each dollar.

For every dollar earned from gaming, half goes toward paying out the winnings and gaming expenses, while the other half goes toward repayment of loans, hotel maintenance, government and services, operations, dividends and reserve funds.

"The Tribal government is smart," said Nazima Inshan, Office of Trust Management Trust Account coordinator. "They put money aside for a rainy day, just like a savings account."

Topics also included various ways to save money, how to pay bills and the importance of paying on time, comparison shopping, and online security.

"I didn't know there were so many different ways to save and what we should do when we get a big check," said Kaitlynn Osceola, 19, of Big Cypress. "It's really teaching me a lot and it's interesting. I really want to learn more about investing."

The Financial Literacy Seminars are open to all Tribal members 17 and older — adults are encouraged to attend as often as they want to refresh their knowledge.

The three-day seminar is offered annually in June and July; the next classes will be held July 10-12. One-day sessions are also available in January, February, March, October, November and December.

Topics covered during the three-day seminar are as follows:

Session I: Basics of Banking Services
Financial Institutions, Savings/Checking Accounts, ATM, Debts, Manage Account

Session II: Money Management Tools and Tips — Smart Shopper
Know Where the Money Goes, Importance of Saving Money, Paying Your Bills & Spending Wisely

Session III: How to Protect Yourself
Borrowing Basics, What is Fraud? Home Security, Mail Security, Mobile Banking, Online Security, Social Media Privacy — Facebook, etc.



Beverly Bidney

Students in the Financial Literacy Seminar listen to an answer given by another student during the three-day class held June 12-14 in Hollywood.

Handle with care: Employees learn how to capture problematic pythons

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), in partnership with the Seminole Tribe, hosted a Python Patrol training workshop June 4 on Big Cypress Reservation, where about 30 employees learned snake handling techniques.

Because the large, invasive pythons have taken over areas of South Florida — most notably south of Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41), FWC is training people to identify and capture the dangerous creatures.

"The Python Patrol training is an early detection and rapid response program," said Jenny Novak, FWC Python Patrol coordinator. "Eradication is impossible in extreme South Florida and they probably can't live north of Lake Okeechobee. We don't want them that far north and need to push them as far south as possible."

Burmese, Northern African, ball and reticulated pythons — along with boa constrictors, green anacondas and yellow anacondas — are all invasive, exotic snakes found in Florida.

According to an unpublished University of Florida study, the python population is moving west and north of Everglades National Park to the Naples and Fort Myers areas, as well as Broward and Palm Beach counties. FWC needs trained individuals to identify and catch the snakes and report the captures to the commission.

Burmese and Northern African pythons pose the biggest threats. Originally from Southeast Asia, where the climate is similar to South Florida, pythons lay between 40 and 100 eggs at a time. Their camouflage markings make them excellent hunters, and they can survive six months without eating.

"The snakes have been popular in the pet trade and pet owners may have been responsible for letting them go in remote areas," Novak said. "It is against the law to let a snake go."

The first wild python observations occurred in 1979 at the southernmost tip of the Everglades. Until 2001, there weren't many sightings; however since then, for reasons unknown to the FWC, the population exploded. Sightings along U.S. 41 and other nearby roads are common.

During the training session, students learned to stay 15 feet away from a snake



Beverly Bidney

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission employee Jeff Fobb prepares to take a 7-foot python out of a bag as participants in the Python Patrol training workshop watch on Big Cypress Reservation June 4. Each student had the chance to catch and bag a snake during the workshop.

until ready to catch it. Novak cautioned against catching a snake in water or thick vegetation, noting the importance of seeing the entire snake.

"They are hard to see. Detection rates are very low," Novak said. "Trained people know what to look for."

Burmese pythons sport brown patterned markings that resemble irregularly shaped puzzle pieces.

The largest Burmese caught in South Florida was 18 feet, 8 inches, but they can grow up to 20 feet long. The Northern African python can also grow to 20 feet, dons irregular C-shaped patterns on its skin and often curls its tail like a cinnamon bun.

Departments represented at the training included Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Recreation, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Public Works, Hunting Adventures and Environmental Resource Management.

"We have a mile-and-a-half long boardwalk, and we see a lot of wildlife," said Ken Bowers, Museum security guard. "I'm a reptile enthusiast and have seen a lot of snakes here, but no pythons. If I do see one, with this training, I'll know what

to do."

Before the snake handling portion of the training, students were instructed to corral fleeing snakes by grabbing it by the tail from behind. If the snake acts aggressive and comes toward them, they were told to have a partner ready to distract the snake, then to get behind the snake, pin its head with the hook and put it into the bag.

The tools to catch these predators are simple: a snake hook and a pillowcase.

Students knelt on the ground with the snake so it couldn't wrap around their necks or chests and suffocate them. They felt for the jaw and pinned the head right behind it to prevent it from turning and biting. By switching the snake's head from one hand to the one with the bag, they could ease the bag over the snake's head.

Python Patrol members and anyone else who finds a large, invasive snake are encouraged to collect data on the snakes, dead or alive. They should take photos, report the GPS coordinates or address for a live animal and call the FWC hotline, 888-IveGot1 (888-483-4681). For more information, visit www.ivegot1.org.

◆ NLC From page 1A

Dufour said similar professional development conferences typically cost attendees about \$500 each. Participants ranged from newly hired staff members to long-time department directors.

Erich Bourgault, CEO of Anishinaabeg of Naongashiing First Nation in Ontario, Canada, said he attended three consecutive NLC conferences. The first person he shares information with when he returns home is the Tribe's Chief Patricia Big George, his wife.

"We bring together a group of people who want to ensure a better future. They take every nugget they learn back to their communities to build better leaders."

— Marie Dufour, NLC technical and training program director

"I've pooled a lot of phenomenal information that helps me do business throughout Indian Country in the U.S. and Canada. The networking is also phenomenal," Bourgault said.

Especially helpful for him this year was

learning how to use USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grants to enhance economic development in his Tribal community. The class was led by Wanda Jean Lord, a Cherokee-Choctaw.

Bourgault also enjoyed "Walking the Four Directions," taught by Alan Rabideau, of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa in Michigan. Rabideau's daylong session bolstered minding the medicine wheel to strengthen selves and families.

Bourgault, who owns green energy companies, recently partnered with the

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers to institute Native American healing elements, including a sweat lodge, in a substance abuse facility in Palm Bay, Fla.

For Dufour, gleaning and sharing knowledge make the annual conferences great.

"We bring together a group of people who want to ensure a better future," she said. "They take every nugget they learn back to their communities to build better leaders."



Eileen Soler

Vandall Samuels, a community outreach coordinator at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, participates in a game June 4 during 'So Why Don't We Make Frybread?' at the Native Learning Center's sixth annual Summer Conference.



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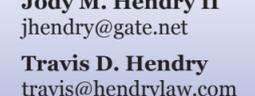
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Seminole Tribe in spotlight at cattlemen's convention

Alex Johns named treasurer of Florida Cattlemen's Association

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

MARCO ISLAND — Natural resource director Alex Johns was named treasurer of the Florida Cattlemen's Association (FCA) June 19 during the organization's annual convention and trade show at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort. He is the first Tribal member to hold a leadership position in the 4,300-member organization established in 1934.

"It's big for the Tribe," Johns said. "We are engaged and involved, and I hope to help the cattle industry, which will help the Tribe and keep us in the public eye. It's a pretty big deal; I never thought I'd be in this position."

Johns, who also sits on the board of directors of the Florida Beef Council, is pleased the Tribe has recognition at the state level. And because members of the cattlemen's association board rotate positions, Johns will become president in four years.

"How appropriate for a descendent of the first caretakers of cattle to be president," said Wes Williamson, FCA's president. "I'm looking forward to that. In the Florida cattle industry, Alex is the man. He's a real leader."

The five-year process of becoming president starts with serving as secretary for one year, which Johns just completed. After finishing his one-year service as treasurer, he will serve two years as vice president, one year as president-elect and finally, president.

"They groom you," Johns said. "It's a

long process so you know what to do when you get to be president. I couldn't do it without the support of the board; they give me time to devote to it."

President Tony Sanchez Jr., who attended the convention with the other members of the Tribal Board of Directors, looks forward to Johns' appointment to president.

"That will be a historic day for him and the Seminole Tribe," President Sanchez said. "If not for us, there would be no cattle business in Florida. It's important for the Tribe to play a prominent role. People respect what we've been able to accomplish in the cattle industry."

FCA members represent millions of acres throughout the state and hundreds of thousands of cattle. The organization's annual convention held June 17-19 addressed topics ranging from research and education, animal health and inspection to land management, marketing and membership.

A panel with top water management executives from districts throughout Florida opened the three-day convention to discuss water issues — a statewide concern. The Northwest district, for example, is dealing with large amounts of nitrates in the water

from fertilizer runoff, while the Southwest district is trying to prevent saltwater intrusion. South Florida is in the midst of a massive Everglades restoration program and is attempting to solve Lake Okeechobee's water quality, flood control and storage.

"It's important to listen to the concerns of other cattle owners," Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola said. "We know our problems, but it's good to hear what is going on in the rest of the state. The water flows from north to south, so their issues affect us."

The Florida cattle industry, a cow-calf operation that makes profit off the sale of calves, sells about 800,000 calves annually throughout the state. Often calves are sent to feedlots out of state to reach a certain weight before they are sent to market.

FCA aims to keep as many calves in Florida feedlots to develop Florida beef as a larger brand.

Once calves leave the state, they lose the ability to be labeled as being from Florida, Williamson said.

"It was always cheaper to send the calf to the feedlot than to bring the feed to the calf," Williamson said. "But that's changing; it's a good environment to feed cattle here now."

The annual FCA banquet featured all Fresh From Florida items, including Seminole Pride Beef. Johns said the Tribe provided 1,000 steaks.

"We were the only Florida producer who could handle it," he said.

As FCA treasurer, Johns will maintain the organization's finances, increase membership and attend about a dozen meetings of the FCA and Florida Beef Council boards of directors. He will still oversee the Tribe's operations, as well.

"There aren't enough words to describe the amount of work Alex puts in and what he's accomplished," President Sanchez said. "He's my source of information and my security blanket."

Johns is honored by his new role.

"I'm proud to represent our people," he said. "I'm glad to be the person to tell our story firsthand."

"There aren't enough words to describe the amount of work Alex puts in and what he's accomplished. He's my source of information and my security blanket."

— President Tony Sanchez Jr.



Beverly Bidney

Alex Johns, right, talks to members of the Florida Cattlemen's Association during a reception hosted by the Seminole Tribe at the organization's annual convention on Marco Island June 17. Johns was named treasurer of the 4,300-member organization established in 1934.

Tribe's wine business draws attention at tasting

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

MARCO ISLAND — The Board of Directors hosted a wine tasting reception June 17 to help promote its Intermezzo Wines during the Florida Cattlemen's Association annual convention at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort.

In 2012, the Tribe recognized a need for high quality wines in the Hard Rock casinos and cafes. They partnered with Gudrun and Robert Cuillo, who own wineries in Italy.

"We want to promote the wines with our other products," Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola said. "It goes great along with the steaks."

The goal for Intermezzo, like every other Seminole brand, is representation in a broad range of dining environments with an exemplary product. High-roller events at Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach and Coconut Creek casino have featured the wines.

"They are fine events paired with fine wines," said John Dembeck, chief operating officer of Seminole Brand Development. "The Board wants to do business off the reservation and let the world know about it."



Beverly Bidney

David Nunez, left, and Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard learn about Intermezzo Wines from Gudrun Cuillo at a tasting during the Florida Cattlemen's Association annual convention June 17 at the Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort.

The Cuillos started in the wine business after falling in love with the 1,500-year-old Livernano and Casalvento wine estate and winery in the Tuscan hills. Production began after a full restoration of the property in 2000, including 38 acres of newly planted vineyards with nine grape varieties.

The Seminole flag now flies over the winery in the village of Livernano, not far from Florence and Siena.

"Our goal is to make the best wines with pride," said Gudrun Cuillo, an Austrian who learned to speak Italian when she and her husband, Robert, decided to make wine in Italy. "We wanted to partner with someone who would be as proud as we are."

Vini Artico wines, which include cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay, merlot and pinot grigio, are the house wines at the Seminole casinos and Hard Rock cafes. They are available in the Tribe's convenience stores.

Higher-end wines include the award-winning Janus cabernet sauvignon and Casalvento Chianti Classico riserva. Wine Spectator magazine has highly rated the wines.

"We stand behind our wines," Cuillo said. "This isn't just a business relationship we have with the Tribe — it's like family. They have really taken us in and integrated us into the Tribe."



Photo courtesy of Intermezzo Wines

The Seminole flag flies over the Tuscan hills at the Livernano and Casalvento wine estate.



Beverly Bidney

Natural Resource director Alex Johns gives a presentation to reporters June 12 at the Tribe's first media day held in Brighton.

Board of Directors hosts media day to promote products

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — For the first time, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. gave the press an inside look at the various businesses of the Board and the Tribe. The media day event, held in Brighton June 12, was an opportunity for the Tribe to share its success from its point of view.

"I became aware of the Seminole Tribe with their purchase of Salacoa," said Belinda Ary, editor of Cattle Today, a regional trade publication based in Alabama. "The Tribe is a very interesting story; it's admirable what they've accomplished. Their efforts are good for the Florida and Southeastern cattle industry."

Historian Willie Johns took the roomful of reporters back 500 years to the time of the Spaniards, who brought cattle and horses to Florida. He walked them through the Seminole Wars, Seminoles raising cattle and the Florida fencing law, which cut off cattle trails and drove the Tribe to reservations when passed in 1949.

"The Tribal cattle industry started here," Johns said. "Cattle flourished in Brighton."

Alex Johns, Natural Resource director, described Brighton as a 36,000-acre working cattle range.

"They used cows to bring us to Brighton and we made a go of it," he said. "Cattle allowed us to go into the casino business. A slot machine will spit out money, but a cow will, too."

He told reporters that 67 families own half the cattle herd in the Tribe. The rest of the Tribe shares ownership of the remaining half.

"I was surprised at the depth and diversity of products," said Donna Gehrke-White, Sun Sentinel reporter. "I'll write about how the Tribe is diversifying beyond gambling."

John Dembeck, chief operating officer of Seminole Brand Development, gave an overview of the businesses of the Tribe, including Seminole Pride Beef, Salacoa Valley Farms, Intermezzo Wines and Hard Rock Energy drink.

◆ EVANS OIL From page 1A

tanks with a 250,000 gallon capacity, 44 tanker trucks, and customers and suppliers, including Chevron, Marathon, Valero, Citgo and TransMontaigne, a wholesaler of non-branded products. The Tribe kept the original employees, who provided excellent service but needed leadership, Ulizio said.

The fleet of 44 tanker trucks is currently put to work filling gas station tanks from Tampa to Orlando and south on both coasts, as well as the Tribe's Trading Posts, which sell about 500,000 gallons of gas each month. The tanks in Hollywood are filled almost daily, while Brighton's are filled about twice a week.

The Naples storage tanks are filled with product that comes into Port Tampa Bay.

"I hope Tribal members one day can pull into any gas station in the state and it be serviced by a branch of Evans Oil," Rep. Frank said.

Evans Oil is just the first step to becoming a vertically integrated oil company, said President Tony Sanchez Jr.

◆ INCENTIVE From page 1A

aircraft will allow the Tribe to compete with the casinos.

"Gaming is so proliferated that you can game anywhere you want in the world, so you have to have some marketing tool in order to bring people in," Eder said. "This

"This is our first media day ever," Dembeck said. "We wanted to celebrate what we've been able to do. We've told it to the industry, but never before to the media. It's running smoothly and growing quickly, and we want to tell the world."

Dembeck spoke about the Tribe's purchase of Hard Rock International in 2007 and other businesses since then, including majority interests in Noble Food Service, Blue Lake Citrus, Seminole Pride Seafood and OWV water. All are family-owned companies.

"We are a family company who has always been appreciative of the air, land and water," Dembeck said. "Sustainability is the heritage of the Tribe."

Cheney Brothers, the distributor of Seminole Beef, sells \$200 million worth of Florida beef annually and sees potential in the Tribe's product.

"The food service wants Florida farm to table, but it has to be good," said Colin McLean, of Bari Beef International, a Cheney Brothers partner. "Thanks to Alex Johns, it's performing amazingly."

After the presentations, reporters toured the reservation's pastures, citrus groves, sugar cane fields, quarry and Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School.

"I didn't know anything about the Tribe being in the cattle business," said Wyatt Bechtel, associate editor of Beef Today, a national trade publication. "What they are doing with the branded beef is in line with bigger operators. We've seen success of Certified Angus [Beef] and other branded beef programs. Seminole Beef will help keep the money within the Tribe's business; with the price of beef being high, they can capture more of the profit."

Matt Walsh, editor and CEO of the Business Observer, a weekly business newspaper serving Florida's west coast, said he was amazed at the extent of the Tribe's business operations.

"It's extraordinary and nobody knows about it," he said. "I like that they like to take on family businesses as partners; it says a lot about how they think about their family connection and their roots. I hope they can get their brand on the map."

"We can control more of the supply chain," he said. "We look at what we've done to leverage our sovereignty and tax-exempt status. We want to evaluate any tax savings and pass them along to the end consumer in terms of cheaper fuel."

The Board is exploring buying crude oil from the source and refining it, instead of purchasing refined oil at higher costs. They recently completed an agreement with Canal Companies, a Native American-owned refinery based in Louisiana, to help make it happen.

The Board aims to purchase crude oil, have Canal refine it and then ship it to Tampa.

"Evans is the first piece of the puzzle," President Sanchez said. "There is a method to the madness here. Anything we look at we try to see if there is synergy. If we can accomplish that, it will affect more than one enterprise. We ask how one acquisition can help other ones already in place."

For now, the Tribe will focus on gaining more suppliers and customers.

"We've been making a lot of headway," Ulizio said. "Getting the confidence back is the greatest challenge, but we're succeeding more every day."

is a marketing tool."

The Tribe will put 10 percent down and finance the remaining at a 1.9 percent interest rate over five years. The aircraft will be housed at the Big Cypress Reservation. Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino is expected to bring in at least 88 high rollers per year.

"The goal is for us to make money. Period," Eder said.

Tribe's patriarchs feted with Father's Day fun



Beverly Bidney

Brazilian dancers add some flair, feathers and fun June 6 to a luncheon celebrating Father's Day in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

From left, three generations, Antonio Timothy, Trent Timothy, 11 months, and Shaka Robinson, celebrate Father's Day together June 11 at Chupco Youth Ranch in Fort Pierce.



Beverly Bidney

Makari Tommie gives his niece Paige Robinson, 5 months, a smooch at the Father's Day dinner at Chupco Youth Ranch in Fort Pierce.



Brett Daly

Kevin Osceola and foster son Chance smile for the camera with a Brazilian samba dancer during the Hollywood Reservation's June 12 Father's Day celebration.



Fred Joseph

Decked out in camo, these Brighton residents fit right in with a NASCAR-themed Father's Day event.



Fred Joseph

The Brighton community is treated to a NASCAR-themed Father's Day luncheon featuring chicken wings, burgers and fries June 11 at the Veteran's Building.



Beverly Bidney

Antillis Stockton and his children Anlysse, 11, and Antillis II, 4, pose for a portrait at the Fort Pierce Father's Day event June 11.



Beverly Bidney

Lee Jumper shares a chicken lunch with his son Phoenix Jumper, 2, during the Big Cypress Father's Day luncheon June 6.



Fred Joseph

Brighton families enjoy a Father's Day luncheon June 11 with NASCAR-themed entertainment that included a looping video of NASCAR race highlights.



Brett Daly

Philmon Bowers takes a Father's Day photo with his daughters during the Hollywood Reservation's all-day celebration. Fathers were treated to a day of pool tournaments, bingo, poolside fun and samba dance performances.



Brett Daly

Hollywood dads compete in a pool tournament during the reservation's June 12 Father's Day celebration at the Seminole Estates clubhouse.



Beverly Bidney

Carradine Billie gets some one-on-one time with his son Brysen Billie, 4, at the Big Cypress Father's Day luncheon.

4-H youngsters saddle up for horsemanship camp in Brighton

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — A group of budding equestrians learned to ride and to care for horses during the 4-H horsemanship camp in Brighton June 9-20.

"The camp is geared toward kids without experience," said Polly Hayes, 4-H coordinator. "It teaches them the basics of taking care of horses. They learn about feeding, grooming, washing and cleaning the stalls before they get on the horse."

Camp started with important lessons about caring for horses. Kids learned hands-on about horses' digestive track and parasites, including worms, that pose threats to their health.

Kids hesitantly collected stool samples from stalls, which were sent to a lab to be analyzed for worms, and learned how to treat horses if they have them.

"I want the kids to be able to understand all aspects of owning a horse, including the science of the horse, safety and horsemanship," said instructor Paula Daniel, of Okeechobee. "There are so many things to know."

Other lessons included learning the anatomy of the horse, saddling the horse and putting on the bridle. Safety tips included never walking behind a horse to avoid being kicked.

After lessons finished, kids saddled up and rode horses in the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, where they learned to take control and steer horses around cones. After the ride, campers walked the horses back to the barn to lower their heart rates and then washed them. Campers used scrapers made from palm fronds to remove excess water from the horses.

Camper Vivianna Gore had ridden



Beverly Bidney

Lauren O'Donnell gets help saddling Little Bit from volunteer Yolanda Gore during the 4-H horsemanship camp in Brighton June 10.

horses before, having grown up around the rodeo.

"I thought it would be fun and maybe I'd learn more stuff," said Vivianna, 14. "Horses are my favorite animal; you can get away for a little bit when you are riding. Riding makes everything better."

Six-year-old Amariah Fannin learned she could control the huge animal without help.

"The most challenging part was going around the cones," she said. "I had to pull him and kick him to do it. But I did it by

myself. It was the first time I went all the way around the arena by myself."

The 4-H horsemanship camp will be held in Big Cypress from July 21 to Aug. 1. To register, contact the Big Cypress 4-H office, Dionne Smedley or Polly Hayes at 863-763-5020.



Beverly Bidney

Amariah Fannin proudly walks Guitar through the rodeo arena during the 4-H horsemanship camp in Brighton June 10.



Beverly Bidney

Campers at the Brighton 4-H horsemanship camp walk their horses in the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena June 10. From left, Lauren O'Donnell, 11, Vivianna Gore, 14, Kaison Romero, 5, and 4-H assistant Jason Beer, who is leading Kaison's horse Brownie.

◆ WE DO RECOVER

From page 1A

former President Richard Bowers and Tribe member Virginia Osceola with the blessing of former Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

The effort later moved from the Chairman's Office to the Education Department and now rests in the hands of the Family Services Department's After Care Program under director Helene Buster. The program allows Tribal members in recovery to work for two years in We Do Recover with possibilities to work the next two years through the Education Department's Work Experience program.

Four years of sobriety, proof of a healthy work ethic and professional on-the-job training could clear the way to lasting careers within the Tribe.

Meanwhile, group meetings for Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, combination groups, additional support programs and counseling are available at the trailer for Tribal members from all reservations.

"It's not a handout. It's a stepping-stone up," Buster said.

Bowers said he became concerned in 2009 when several Tribal members were consistently missing from community meetings. When he later found out that

some were in drug or alcohol treatment, or incarcerated for substance abuse law violations, he began meeting them one-on-one. Soon, he witnessed the revolving door of recovery — the back and forth of treatment and addiction.

"They were the lost people. We reached out and offered them support because when they came out, we did not want them to slip back in," Bowers said.

Buster said those who have arrest records are even less likely to find meaningful work due to background checks that deter companies from employing felons and recovering addicts.

Bowers and Osceola began putting them to work on manual labor jobs that included painting, landscaping and general maintenance. Tools and supplies were borrowed, and workers used their own vehicles and gas to get from job to job.

Bowers said Tiger and Amos Frank "carried the ball" on the grassroots project that was supported with love and care from the ground up.



Eileen Soler

Former Tribe President Richard Bowers welcomes guests to the grand opening celebration of the We Do Recover program's new home in Hollywood.

"We gave it fertilizer and water. Now it looks like we're blossoming," Bowers said.

For workers at the new We Do Recover trailer, Bowers' observation is literal.

The formerly woody 4-H Club property off Sheridan Street near State Road 7 was hand cleared and developed by Tiger and his crew. They removed huge rocks, planted trees and flowering shrubs, built chickees and laid paving stones and wood for parking spaces. They fashioned a table around a tree trunk, erected the sheltered band stage and put up a fence. A shiny hubcap, strategically placed on the fence, makes for rustic clubhouse art.

Tiger said the road to recovery is an endless journey but We Do Recover allows for successes along the way.

"What helps recovery work is work. I was one of the worst going in and out of prison that sometimes I can't believe I am still here to talk about it," Tiger said. "Anyone can do it, though, if you give them a place to be."

◆ CHOCOCHATTI

From page 1A

The group of about 75 stood under the blazing sun on the side of State Road 50 just east of Emerson Road, not far from the original colony site, to hear brief remarks from Chairman Billie, Backhouse, Yeager and local historian Doug Davis.

Weisman gave a keynote speech. Tribal medicine man Bobby Henry provided the invocation. All agreed that the significance of the place is remarkable.

In the early days of Chocochatti, and for about the next 70 years until pressure from the U.S. government forced the Creek Seminoles to Oklahoma, Chocochatti was a prosperous, self-sustaining Native community of deer hunters, traders, farmers and cattlemen.

In fact, during those seven decades, in the halls of Washington and Tallahassee especially, Chocochatti was considered the seat of the Seminole Nation.

A report by the Pasco County Historical Preservation Society detailed a visit to Chocochatti by Horatio Dexter, who had

been employed by Territorial Gov. William P. Duval to inform the Indians of an upcoming council at Moultrie Creek.

At the time of his visit Dexter reported that "Chocochattie Town" consisted of about 20 homes with 65 resident Indians under Sinaha, who was leading as the town chief. The chief owned three slaves, 160 head of cattle, 90 horses and a "gang of hogs."

When the Indians left, however, the historic community seemed to vanish into the past.

During the recent dedication, Chocochatti was restored to its well-documented and well-earned place in history.

The Florida Heritage Landmark roadside marker was sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Historic Hernando Preservation Society and the Florida Department of State. It joins two other recent Seminole markers — Red Barn on Brighton Reservation and Council Oak on Hollywood Reservation — and more than



Peter B. Gallagher

Bobby Henry, Chairman James E. Billie and Danny Tommie examine the Chocochatti historical marker recently revealed in Big Hammock, Fla.

750 historical markers statewide.

"Historical markers are not planted by the hand of God, nor do they result from federal mandate. They spring forth from grassroots community action to become a tangible part of public history and a community's legacy of how it sees itself," Weisman said.



Beverly Bidney

Small animal 4-H'ers show off their end-of-the-year awards June 2 at the 4-H banquet in Brighton.

Hard-working 4-H'ers honored at banquets

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The 114 kids who participated in the Tribe's 4-H program during the past 12 months were congratulated for jobs well done at banquets in Immokalee, Hollywood and Brighton May 30, 31 and June 2. The youngsters were rewarded for their efforts with awards, praise and support from family and friends.

"They all did an excellent job," said Polly Hayes, 4-H coordinator. "We used to have a lot of animals not make weight, but we had just a few this year."

Hayes emphasized the importance of all the volunteers who helped make the program a success on each reservation.

"Parents are teaching kids to do the right thing," Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard said. "4-H teaches discipline, keeps them off the streets and out of trouble."

The highlight of the year was the 28th annual Seminole Indian 4-H Swine, Heifer and Steer Show and Sale in Brighton March 28-29, where 98 children showed and sold 79 hogs and 16 steers. Thirty-four small animals and five heifer projects were also shown.

Beginning at age 4, kids may join the small animal club and progress through the hog, heifer and steer programs until they are 18.

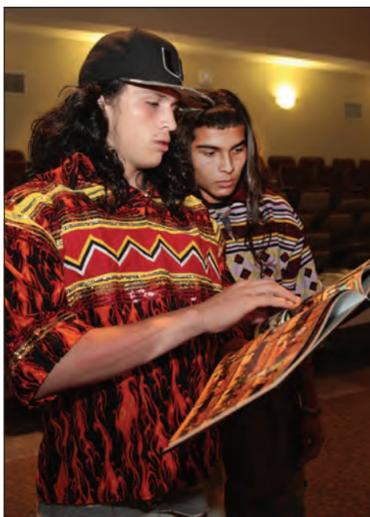
"I love showing in front of people and being able to raise my animal and watch it grow," said Deliah Carrillo, 16, who earned special recognition for raising the largest steer in the show.

Recordkeeping, which teaches discipline and math, is a main component of the program. First year 4-H'er Taden Santiago, 10, earned the Junior Record Book award for the quality of his records.

"It was hard to write all the stuff down," Taden said. "But I know I did this much to keep my hog alive, care for him and hoped to make him a grand champion. I'm proud of myself."

Kids learned life lessons and practical skills throughout the year.

"I learned responsibility and to take care of things I start," said Kalgary Johns,



Beverly Bidney

Cyrus Smedley, left, and Rayven Smith look through the yearbook at the Brighton 4-H banquet.

16, an eight-year veteran. "The hardest part is breaking steers and getting them to lead on a rope. I get to make new friendships. It's been fun. I'm happy with everything I've accomplished."

Many 4-H'ers plan to get involved in the cattle business when old enough. Four-year 4-H participant Cyrus Smedley wants to spend his life in the cattle industry.

"I do this to build up my own herd," said Smedley, 15, who has cows and calves in the heifer project. "You have to make sure you feed and water your animals or they will die. You have to spend time with them."

Youth will take a break from livestock until the steers arrive in July. Those who want to participate in the steer or heifer project should contact cattle owners now to get one. The shipping schedule is July 7-12 in Brighton and July 14-17 in Big Cypress.

The first enrollment meeting will be held in September, and kids raising hogs will receive them in December.

◆ More DANCE photos from page 3A



Eileen Soler

Jaylee Cypress, center, is in the middle of a blast in Performance Edge Dance Studio's Revolution show May 31.



Eileen Soler

Harmony Cypress, center, leaps during a Latin-inspired dance at the Revolution show.



Eileen Soler

Harmony Cypress dances in the year-end show May 31 at Bailey Hall in Davie.

Unidentified men at Blind Pass: The story of a historic postcard



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

This historic postcard, circa 1930, shows a group of men and boys at the Blind Pass Seminole Indian Village near St. Petersburg.

SUBMITTED BY TARA BACKHOUSE
 Collections Manager

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum would like to share a recent request for information from Tribal employee and well-known alligator wrestler Paul Simmons. An avid researcher, Simmons often shares his finds with the Museum, which is greatly appreciated. He recently brought a postcard to the Museum and asked if staff could identify two of the men pictured. With a little research, the postcard was found in the Museum's collection, but unfortunately, the people aren't identified on the original postcard – often true of historic postcards. It's a joy when a postcard yields that information, but commonly the postcard does not say enough about what it shows.

Several years ago, the Museum researched this postcard for an exhibit. In 1930, a Seminole village opened at Blind Pass, which was located on a barrier island near St. Petersburg and was only accessible by boat. Thirty to 40 Seminoles lived in the village at different times during the first year of its operation. But the attraction was short-lived and was only open for two seasons.

Blind Pass was also used as an example by Roy Nash, special agent of the Board of the United States Indian Commissioners. His 1931 report, *Survey of the Seminole Indians of Florida*, criticized tourist camps, including Blind Pass, as exploitative. But there have been different opinions about tourist camps, and not all of them are negative.

Specifically, Simmons wants to know

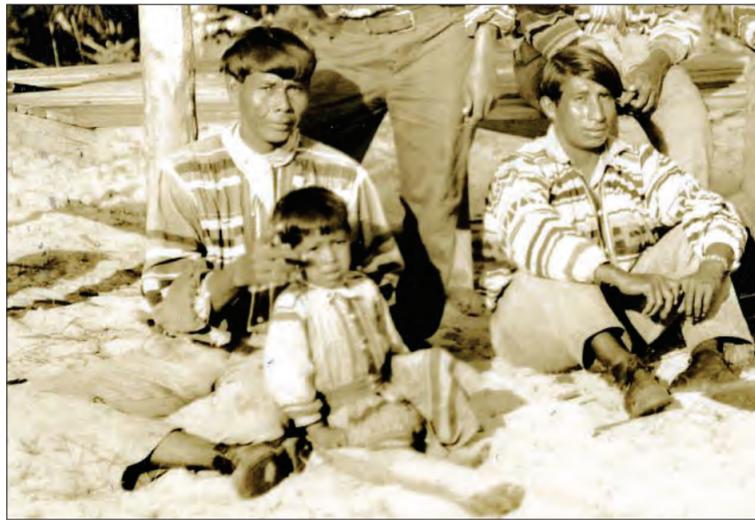


Photo courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Are these two men at the bottom left of the postcard Jimmy O'Toole and Billy Osceola? If not, do you know their real identities?

if two of the men in the postcard are Jimmy O'Toole and Billy Osceola. See the close-up image for the two men in question. Museum staff could not answer this question, so your help is needed. If you can identify these men, or any other people in the picture, please let the Museum know. The Museum also has hundreds of other historic postcards to look through. If you

want to view them and identify people, make an appointment with the Museum library. Call 863-903-1113 and ask for any library employee: Tara Backhouse, collections manager, ext. 12246; James Powell, registrar, ext. 12229; Mary Beth Rosebrough, research coordinator, ext. 12252; or Tennile Jackson, collections assistant, ext. 12210.

Martha Holt showcased Seminole doll making and Luis Venzor handled traditional woodcarving of knives, boats and other toys.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum sponsored an information table that was manned by Van Samuels, community

outreach specialist, and featured co-worker Reinaldo Becerra and his red-tailed hawk.

"Next year, I hope they will let us demonstrate alligator wrestling," said Becerra while balancing the menacing hawk on his hand. "If we have four or five shows a day, we will really pack this place."

◆ FOLK FESTIVAL

From page 3A

sister Nancy Shore and helper Robbie Billie demonstrated patchwork making and Seminole sewing techniques.



Peter B. Gallagher

Built by Seminole Chairman James E. Billie and crew on the grounds of Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park, the new Seminole village (named *Ee-to-lit-ke*) is nestled in a strand of tall North Florida pines.

Betty Mae Jumper

Wisdom from the past

First days in Dania

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the May 23, 1997 issue of *The Seminole Tribune*.

The Tommie family, led by old Annie Tommie and her son Tony Tommie were the first family to arrive. They were followed by the Fewell family, the Huff family, the Jumper family.

A few years later Jimmie Gopher and his sister, Mary Gopher Tiger, her daughter Ada Tiger and grandchildren Betty Mae and Howard Tiger arrived along with Missy Tiger, Mary Bowers and Agnes Indiantown and there were now nearly 100 residents at the Dania Reservation.

Several years after that, Jack Osceola's parents moved onto the reservation to make the sixth family on what was then called by the Indians the "Big City" reservation. They were followed by Minnie Doctor's parents which made the seventh family. More started coming, such as the Motlows and others into the 1940s.

Back in the late 1930 and early '40s when more Indians began to move onto the Big City or Dania Reservation, many medicine men were warning not to move there. They said all the government was

doing was gathering the Indians together to send them out West as they did to our people back in the olden days.

I remember them coming to our camp in Hollywood and talking to my great uncle Jimmie Gopher, telling him how they could send us away anytime once they had gathered us all in one place. They even jumped on Tony Tommie because they thought he was working with the white people to sell them Indians. You see, old lady Annie Tommie's family was the first group to move onto the Big City Reservation and for that reason, the medicine man did not trust them.

I didn't know then what it was all about, but in later years, my mother explained to me that Indian medicine men were upset about so many people moving onto the Big City Reservation. But Annie told them, "Who would buy us? We have nothing. This is the reason we are trying to settle here where we can be safe. The government promises to leave us alone if we pick the land and stay on it."

So with the help of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stranahan, this was the land they picked. It was high land and not muddy or wetlands. This is the reason the Hollywood Reservation came into being and why it still exists. Today there are about 500-600 still residing there.



Hah-Pong-Ke: Jimmy Buffett

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
 Special Projects Reporter

There are two Seminole images used to describe the beginnings of Miami in the immigration song *Everybody's Got a Cousin in Miami*, the lead cut on *Fruitcakes*, Jimmy Buffett's 18th career album (1994) and first-ever top 10 Billboard disc.

In the third verse of the seven-minute tune, Buffett describes Miami as a "trading post" and "home to the Seminole, pirate and pioneer." He uses the Seminole *pa-hay-okee* image to define Miami as located "between the river of grass and the old mosquito coast."

Author Marjory Stoneman Douglas borrowed the Seminoles' "grassy waters" term to both describe the area and to title her 1947 book about the Everglades; the "mosquito coast," however, normally refers to the eastern coast of Nicaragua and Honduras, along the Western Caribbean – nowhere near Miami.

The area was originally called The Miskito Coast, after the natives who occupied that area as far back as the 17th century. *The Mosquito Coast* was also a best-selling novel by Paul Theroux and was a motion picture starring Harrison Ford.

Buffett shared the songwriting credits on *Everybody's Got a Cousin*

in Miami with Michael Tschudin, a former touring folk artist and now director of music ministries at First Lutheran Church in West Palm Beach and artist in residence with Palm Beach Public Schools. Tschudin also played keyboards on the song as a member of Buffett's Coral Reefer Band.

In several verses of *Everybody's Got a Cousin in Miami*, Buffett portrays the drama, danger and disenfranchisement experienced by Cuban and other refugees seeking asylum in the United States by using the portal of visiting a relative to get past customs. The singer seems to identify himself as a native to this area who shares the culture of the immigrants: "In one way or the other we're all refugees/Living out this easy life below the banyan trees."

James William "Jimmy" Buffett (born Dec. 25, 1946) is a Mississippi-born, Alabama-raised, Florida-refined folk singer-songwriter who has written hit songs (*Margaritaville*), hit books (*A Pirate Looks at 50*) and hit movie songs (*Hello Texas for Urban Cowboy*), produced hit albums (*Fruitcakes* quickly went platinum by the end of 1994) and found success as an entrepreneur (Land Shark Lager, Cheeseburger in Paradise).

His persona, celebrated by a dedicated army of fans called Parrotheads, is one of "barefoot tequila island escapism," a laid-back life of being "wasted away in Margaritaville."

'Everybody's Got a Cousin in Miami'

It was ninety miles to freedom but they took the risk
 Though the ocean was all motion and the wind was brisk
 The deadly gunboats never saw them in the pale moonlight
 They were off to Cayo Hueso by the dawns early light
 The gringo in the garden called the customs man
 They answered all his questions, were allowed to land
 The ladies shared a hairbrush and their husbands had a coke
 Then they were taken up to Krome to meet with their kin folk

[Chorus:]
 Everybody's got a cousin in Miami
 Everybody understands the impromptu
 Dancing in the heat to the beat
 That turns your clothing clammy
 Everybody needs to have a dream come true

In a third world jungle not so far away
 Lives a natural drummer with a dream to play
 He's the brother of the lizard and the flying fish
 But he's been enchanted by the pictures
 From the satellite dish
 So his mama packs his bags, knots his red neck tie
 Sends him north to her relations with a kiss good-bye

He's bewildered by the plane ride and the immigration line
 Until he sees his Christian name upon a cardboard sign
 Everybody's got a cousin in Miami
 Everybody is an Aborigine
 Dancing in the heat to the beat
 That turns your clothing clammy
 Everybody wants to win that lottery

It's hard to believe the city started as a trading post
 Home to the Seminole, pirate and pioneer
 Between the river of grass and the old mosquito coast
 Before the railroad claimed the southernmost frontier

I am umbilically connected to the temperate zone
 It brought me life, it brought me love
 I never have outgrown
 It brought me one too many nights along that Biscayne shore
 And one too many mornings in the Grove Drug Store
 In one way or the other we're all refugees
 Living out this easy life below the banyan trees
 Smoothing off the rougher edges of the culture clash
 We got a style, we got a look
 We got that old panache

Health



Storage and disposal tips for home petroleum products

SUBMITTED BY MISHKA SHAW
Environmental Protection Specialist

Most people own at least one fuel-burning device, such as a lawn mower, boat or automobile, so proper storage of gasoline, heating oil, fuel and other petroleum products at home is important.

Many of these products contain toxic compounds and additives that are known human cancer causing agents (carcinogens). For example, 1 gallon of gasoline containing 1 percent benzene can contaminate about 2 million gallons of ground water.

These hazardous products can pollute the surrounding environment and drinking water if improperly stored, so it is important to prevent leaks and spills. Below are tips on how to properly store and maintain petroleum products in the home.

• Buy only what's needed for the job at hand. When hazardous products accumulate, it causes storage and disposal problems, and if unused for long periods, product containers become damaged and

leak. This will also save money, as there is less unused product to throw out.

• Find alternative uses. Funnel excess gasoline for boating into a car tank or use it in lawn mowers or vice versa. Old gasoline can also be used again (if treated correctly), saving money and eliminating hazardous waste disposal.

Strain old gasoline through a paint filter and dilute with one part old oil to five parts new oil.

• Share with a neighbor or friend. Check with a neighbor to see if they can use any leftover petroleum products.

• Protect product containers from flooding. Store petroleum products in the garage or shed on a medium to high shelf to ensure it is safe from flooding. Don't store too high up where it gets hot. Remember to always use original or petroleum-approved containers for storage.

• Always keep oil or gasoline absorbent pads on hand for any accidental spills. Soak up immediately.

• If there is no way to reuse or recycle petroleum products and they must be

disposed of, take them in the original or approved petroleum container to a Public Works transfer station. Many automobile repair shops will also accept used oil and antifreeze products.

The average person stores fuel in portable containers that hold between 1 to 5 gallons; however, others may have 55-gallon drums or even aboveground or underground fuel storage tanks. When purchasing property, make sure to determine whether any unknown or forgotten underground storage tanks exist on site. These can become unexpected sources of contamination. Contaminated soil and water resources can also decrease property values and may require environmental cleanups, which are costly for property owners.

If you have questions regarding underground or aboveground fuel tanks on your property or about storage and disposal of your petroleum products, call the Environmental Resource Management Department office at 954-965-4380 for more information.

Eating disorders – an emerging addiction

SUBMITTED BY DEBRA RAY
Family Services Assistant Director

Eating disorders cause serious disturbances to individuals' everyday diets, such as eating extremely small amounts of food or severely overeating. People with eating disorders may have started out just eating smaller or larger amounts of food, but at some point, the urge to eat less or more spiraled out of control. Severe distress or concern about body weight or shape may also characterize eating disorders.

Eating disorders are real, treatable medical illnesses. They frequently coexist with other illnesses, such as depression, substance abuse or anxiety disorders. Other symptoms can become life-threatening if a person does not receive treatment. People with anorexia nervosa are 18 times more likely to die early compared with people of similar age in the general population.

Anorexia nervosa
Many people with anorexia nervosa see themselves as overweight, even when they are clearly underweight. Eating, food and weight control become obsessions. These individuals typically weigh themselves repeatedly, portion food carefully and eat very small quantities of only certain foods. Some people with anorexia nervosa may also engage in binge eating followed by extreme dieting, excessive exercise, self-induced vomiting and/or misuse of laxatives, diuretics or enemas.

Bulimia nervosa

Bulimia nervosa is characterized by recurrent and frequent episodes of eating unusually large amounts of food and feeling a lack of control over these episodes. This binge eating is followed by behavior that compensates for the overeating, such as forced vomiting, excessive use of laxatives or diuretics, fasting, excessive exercise or a combination of these behaviors.

Binge eating disorder

With binge eating disorders, people lose control over their eating. Unlike bulimia nervosa, periods of binge eating are not followed by purging, excessive exercise or fasting. As a result, these individuals often are overweight or obese. Obese people with binge eating disorder are at higher risk for developing cardiovascular disease and high blood pressure. They also experience guilt, shame and distress about their binge eating, which can lead to more binge eating.

Treatment

Adequate nutrition, reducing excessive exercise and stopping purging behaviors are the foundations of treatment. Specific forms of psychotherapy, or talk therapy, and medication are effective for many eating disorders.

To learn more about eating disorders, schedule a confidential meeting with a Family Services counselor on your respective reservation.

Source: National Institute of Mental Health.

'Drain and Cover' to avoid mosquito-carried disease

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Department of Health in Broward

You don't have to go into the Everglades to encounter disease-carrying mosquitoes. The biters-to-watch for summer 2014 will come right in houses and make themselves at home.

The little black Aedes aegypti mosquito lives in close proximity to people – in the house or the yard. Aedes can carry the newly emerging tropical virus chikungunya, which is spreading in the Caribbean and may pose a risk to Tribal members and Florida residents.

"Several travelers from Florida contracted chikungunya while they were visiting the Caribbean this year," said Paula Thaqi, health officer at the Florida Department of Health in Broward County. "So far, the virus has not been detected in Florida mosquitoes which is good news. We encourage everyone to take steps to protect themselves. The best way to do that

is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. We recommend a practice called Drain and Cover."

To avoid mosquitoes, drain standing water in and around the house. Eliminate puddles as well – Aedes mosquitoes can breed in containers as small as a bottle cap.

Get rid of water collected in garbage cans, tires, buckets, roof gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots and plants with pockets, such as bromeliads. Discard items where rain or sprinkler water collects. Clean bird baths and pet water bowls twice a week. Inside the home, Aedes can breed where water collects, such as refrigerator ice makers, electric toothbrush holders and drips under sinks.

Cover yourself and openings in your home.

When outdoors, wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves, and spray bare skin and clothing with repellent (make sure it contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535). Keep windows

and doors closed, and repair damaged screens.

Certain disease-carrying mosquitoes bite from dusk to dawn, so avoid going outdoors during those times.

But be aware that Aedes is a daytime biter.

Chikungunya (pronounced chicken-GOON-ye) spreads when a mosquito bites an infected person and then passes the virus by biting someone else, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The disease is similar to dengue fever – also spread by Aedes mosquitoes – but tends to be milder and rarely fatal.

Symptoms typically appear three to seven days after being bitten and include fever accompanied by headache, muscle pain, swelling or rash. Chikungunya often causes severe joint pain that can last months or years. There is no vaccine or treatment, other than pain relievers to alleviate symptoms.

The disease first appeared in the Caribbean last year and has spread quickly, with more than 50,000 cases reported in Haiti, Dominican Republic and other islands as of this spring.

The handful of Floridians who contracted chikungunya were bitten in the Caribbean and recovered fully. Thaqi said the risk is very small that those individuals passed the virus to Florida mosquitoes, but health officials ask everyone to help prevent the disease from gaining a foothold in Florida.

For more information, visit www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/chikungunya.html or www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/.

To report mosquito infestation, call Seminole mosquito control at 561-319-3983.



Photo courtesy of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Aedes aegypti mosquito carries the newly emerging tropical virus chikungunya.

Tips for ensuring payment of medical and dental bills

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE WHIDDEN
Health Director

• Show your STOF Member Health Plan card to medical, dental and pharmacy providers prior to receiving services.

• If you are also covered under another primary health insurance plan, such as Medicare, show that card as well. The STOF Member Health Plan is always the payer of last resort.

• If you do not have a new Health Plan card that looks like this, contact a STOF Health clinic to request your new card.

• Check your Health Plan book or call the Health Plan office to ensure your health care is covered by the Health Plan. Some services are limited or excluded from coverage.

• If you receive an incident report from the STOF Health Plan, please complete the form and return it to the STOF Health Plan office to ensure timely processing of your bills. Make sure to indicate whether care received was due to an accident on the form.

• If you receive a bill or a statement for health care services in the mail, call the service provider and have them mail a copy of the itemized bill to STOF Health Plan Administration, P.O. Box 173129, Tampa, FL 33672 to process your bill. This address is also on the back of your Health Plan card. In addition, bring the bill to a STOF Health clinic.

• If you receive a notice from a collection agency for an unpaid health care bill, call the collection agency and ask that they submit an itemized bill to STOF Health Plan Administration to process your bill.

In addition, please bring the bill to a STOF Health clinic. We may ask you to sign a release form to allow the collection agency to speak with us about your bill and to obtain a copy of the itemized bill if necessary.

• Review the biannual explanation of benefits statement which provides detailed information about each medical and dental bill processed on your behalf. Please note that you are responsible to pay the service provider the amounts listed under the patient responsibility column.

• If you currently have unpaid health care bills on your credit report, the STOF Health Plan office will attempt to resolve these debts for you. Contact the STOF Health Plan office at 866-505-6789 for assistance. The office will need a copy of your credit report listing the unpaid health care bills and a signed release form allowing them to contact the collection agency on your behalf to discuss your account and obtain an itemized bill, if necessary, for processing.

• For all other question, call the Health Plan office.

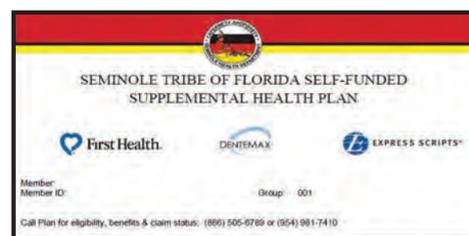


Photo courtesy of Connie Whidden

Pictured is the STOF Member Health Plan card.



Denise's Health Insurance Story

Last year Denise, an Alaska Native who lives in Washington DC, was uninsured. She could use IHS services, but the nearest clinic was hours away. She needed more options. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act and the special provisions for American Indians and Alaska Native shareholders, she qualified for free health care. Signing up took her only 20 minutes.

"Once I finally got insurance I felt relieved...Having [insurance] has helped me have options for preventative care and I'm not waiting until I'm really sick to be seen. I am actually going to the doctor before things get worse." - Denise

With insurance Denise can visit any doctor or hospital that accepts her plan, including IHS, tribal, and urban Indian health clinics. Get peace of mind like Denise.

To learn how insurance can help you and your family, contact your Indian health clinic, visit www.healthcare.gov/tribal, or call 1-800-318-2596 anytime (TTY: 1-855-889-4325).



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SEMINOLE SCENES



Beverly Bidney

SWIMMINGLY SWEET: Carter Wilcox, 3, enjoys a day in the kiddie pool with his cheerful tube June 6 during Hollywood Recreation Department's Summer Splash.



Eileen Soler

TATER TEEN: Elisah Billie darts through pouring rain carrying potatoes for a client of Compassion Avenue Food Bank at First United Methodist Church in Clewiston May 28.



Peter B. Gallagher

TEAM EFFORT: Tampa Bay Rays manager Joe Maddon surprises Bobby Henry with his own official Rays baseball jersey during the medicine man's visit to Tropicana Field. Maddon invited Henry to the field in an attempt to end the Rays' slump.



Beverly Bidney

GREAT GLADES A'FIRE: A massive wildfire destroys more than 27,000 acres just west of U.S. 27 between I-75 and South Bay, causing the road to be closed temporarily. Officials attributed the blaze to a June 7 lightning strike.



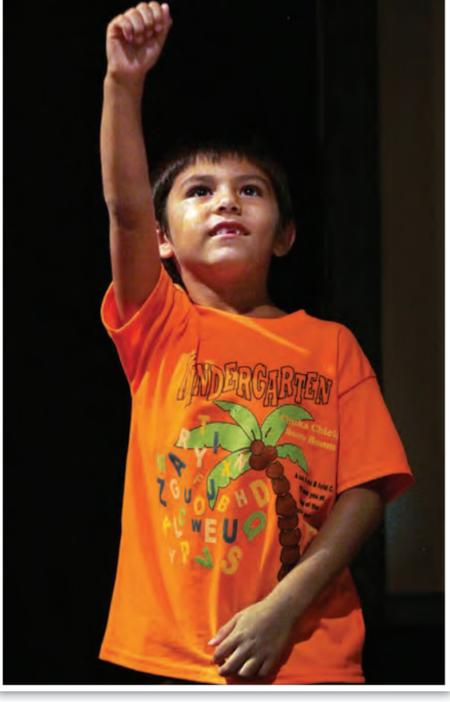
Beverly Bidney

TETHERBALL TACTICS: Caidence Smith, 10, and Aiyana Cartwright, 9, enjoy a game of tetherball June 6 at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club.



Eileen Soler

HARMONY ET DANSEUR: Harmony Cypress puts her classical dance training to work in Performance Edge Dance Studio's year-end Revolution show at Bailey Hall in Davie May 31.



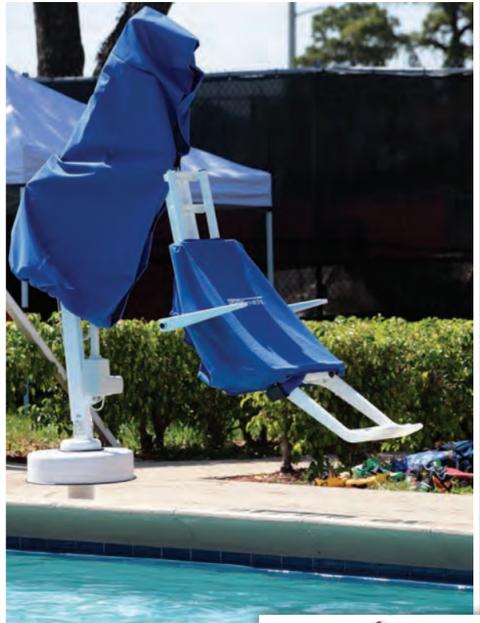
Eileen Soler

GOING COCONUTS: Choviahoya Weimann is super animated during a performance of *Five Little Monkeys* at the May 27 moving on celebration for first-grade bound kindergarten students in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

SLIP 'N' SLIDE: Charles 'Tutu' Osceola, 9, has a blast coming out of the slide at the Hollywood Recreation's Summer Splash.



Beverly Bidney

HANDY HELP: The Hollywood Recreation Department recently installed a handicap lift chair at the pool for those who need help into the water. The chair, which can accommodate up to 400 pounds, can be accessed with help from Recreation staff when the pool is open.



Beverly Bidney

SPRAY AND GROOM: Lauren O'Donnell washes Little Bit after riding in the arena during the 4-H horsemanship camp in Brighton June 10.



Beverly Bidney

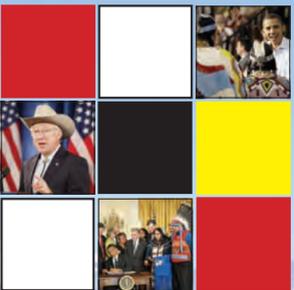
FEATHERED FRIENDS: Two juvenile ospreys remain in their nest, located off State Road 78 near Brighton Reservation, as their mother flies off.



David Diaz

GLAD DADS: Hollywood residents join a Brazilian samba dance performance during the reservation's June 12 Father's Day celebration.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Patent Office rejects Redskins trademarks

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) has canceled six federal trademark registrations for “Washington Redskins,” ruling that the NFL team’s name refers to and is “disparaging to Native Americans” and the PTO “should never have registered these trademarks in the first place” and thus the name cannot be trademarked under federal law that prohibits the protection of offensive or disparaging language.

The landmark decision by the PTO hinged on seven elements, according to Think Progress, a journalistic blog project of The Center for American Progress Action Fund, an independent nonpartisan education and advocacy organization.

Think Progress reviewed the PTO’s decision and concluded the elements that led to the decision were: a newspaper photo of the Redskins cheerleaders headlined “Dancing Indians;” a photo of the headdress-wearing Washington Redskins marching band; the team’s annual press guides, which, between 1967-1979 had cartoonish covers depicting American Indian imagery; the word “redskins” similarity to other racial slurs; the Random House dictionary definition of redskin; the strong opposition, stated in a 1992 resolution, of the National Congress of American Indians; and letters of protest from American Indians.

Amanda Blackhorse, a Navajo and psychiatric social worker, is the named plaintiff in the case known as Blackhorse et al v. Pro-Football Inc. Blackhorse said she considered what she might say to Redskins owner Daniel Snyder if she ever meets him.

“I’d ask him, ‘Would you dare call me a redskin, right here, to my face?’ And I suspect that, no, he would not do that,” she said at the time the suit was filed.

— Source: Associated Press, Washington Post, ThinkProgress

Obama visits Indian Country

CANNON BALL, N.D. — When Barack Obama stepped foot onto the prairie of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota June 13 he met with American Indian children, watched groups of Tribal dancers clad in vibrant colors perform a traditional dance, interacted with hundreds of Indian leaders and Tribal members and spoke to a crowd of about 1,800.

Previous presidential visits included Calvin Coolidge in South Dakota’s Pine Ridge Reservation in 1927, Franklin Delano Roosevelt in North Carolina’s Cherokee Nation in 1936 and Bill Clinton in Pine Ridge in 1999. Obama visited the Crow Nation in Montana during the 2008 campaign.

At Standing Rock, Obama touted strides his administration has made with American Indians, unveiled plans to reform the Bureau of Indian Education to better educate Native children and increase Tribal control of schools. He also promised to remove regulatory barriers to infrastructure and energy development, encourage the use of tax-exempt bonds for economic development and increase the number of veterans hired by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services.

He discussed the work that remains to pull many Native Americans out of poverty and unemployment.

“My administration is determined to partner with Tribes,” Obama told the crowd. “It takes place every day on just about every issue that touches your lives.”

Many Tribal leaders say Obama has done more in six years for Native Americans than all his predecessors combined. The administration has given land back to Tribes, worked one-on-one with Tribal governments and is cracking down on crime in Indian Country.

“The best thing that’s happened to Indian Country has been President Obama being elected,” Dave Archambault II, Chairman of Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, told the Washington Post.

Others maintain decades-old mistrusts of the federal government.

“There’s been a bad track record. Our fathers and grandfathers and great-grandfathers have gone to Washington, and there’s been no promises made and no promises kept. That’s why we’ve not trusted the federal government,” said Tex “Red Tipped Arrow” Hall, Tribal Chairman of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation in North Dakota.

In an effort to improve safety in Indian Country, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. created a task force that has been conducting hearings across the country since December.

Despite the recent efforts, deep scars on Indian Country remain, and many worry that initiatives, which will take years to come to fruition, may stall after Obama leaves office.

“I know what the president is making is not going to solve all of our problems overnight. I know that it’s not going to undo all the wrongs that have been done to Native Americans or to Indian Country, but it’s going to inspire a lot of people,” Chairman Archambault said. “If it brings

some hope to one individual, if it helps one single mother, if a veteran feels pride, it’s worth it.”

— Source: Washington Post

Nevada Indian reservations will grow under Reid bills

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Two bills introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Harry Reid would add more than 100,000 acres of land to Nevada Indian Country.

One of the bills would expand the 75,000-acre Paiute Reservation by about a quarter by putting into trust 26,565 acres currently controlled by the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation. The Moapa Tribe consists of 329 people, 200 of whom live on the reservation 30 miles north of Las Vegas.

The second bill would grant almost 93,000 acres to northern Nevada Tribes in Humboldt, Elko and Washoe counties, and to the Pyramid Lake Paiutes, whose reservation includes land in Washoe, Storey and Lyon counties. The bill also grants 275 acres to the city of Elko for a motocross park.

“Land is lifeblood to Native Americans, and this bill provides space for housing, economic development, traditional uses and cultural protection,” Reid said in a statement released by his office. “I take the many obligations that the United States has to Tribal nations seriously.”

In the 1870s, the Moapa Paiute Reservation consisted of more than 2.5 million acres, including much of what today is Moapa Valley, Bunkerville, Logandale, Glendale, Overton and Gold Butte. Over the years, Congress took most of it away. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter restored 75,000 acres, roughly 117 square miles.

In recent years, Reid has publicly sided with the Tribe in its fight against NV Energy over an aging coal-burning power plant next to the reservation. Tribe members blame smoke and blowing dust from the Reid Gardner Generating Station for making them sick and polluting their land. In 2012, Reid described the plant as a “dirty relic” and called on NV Energy to close it.

The utility responded last year by announcing plans to shut down three of the four units at the 50-year-old power plant by the end of 2014 and shutter it completely in 2017.

Barbara Boyle, of the Sierra Club, helped the Tribe fight the power plant. She said the reservation expansion will help both the Tribe and the environment.

“I believe that transferring more of their ancestral lands back to the Moapa Band is just and will ensure that the land benefits the environment as well as the health of the people and their economy,” Boyle said in a statement from the Sierra Club.

— Source: Las Vegas Review-Journal

Slow start for Obamacare in Indian Country

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The first comprehensive report from government data shows that the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) remains a hard sell in Indian Country.

Key measures, such as the purchase of insurance, reflect that only about 3 percent of eligible American Indians and Alaska Natives are buying from a marketplace exchange.

This results in more than a billion dollars in tax credits — as well as additional tens of millions of increased funding for the Indian Health System (IHS) — being left behind and unclaimed. Nearly one million American Indians and Alaska Natives remain uninsured.

According to Indian Country Today Media Network (ICTMN), the Affordable Care Act has the potential to radically shift the funding mechanisms for IHS. This is critically important because currently Congress appropriates \$4.4 billion for Indian health — not nearly enough to fund IHS. But the Affordable Care Act promotes new revenue, money from private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare and other payers that’s currently budgeted at \$810 million.

But even that total, \$5.2 billion, is not nearly enough. IHS estimates that its per person spending under this formula is \$2,849 compared to \$7,713 per person spending for the U.S. population.

Columnist Mark Trahan puts some blame on the government: “Much of the early marketing for the Affordable Care Act was to educate Native Americans about the exemption from the insurance mandate instead of explaining why insurance could improve funding for the entire Indian health system.”

The Affordable Care Act sets out to increase funding for Indian health programs by expanding Medicaid eligibility, helping people purchase insurance (called Qualified Health Plans) on their own and adding new insurance requirements for employers.

“IHS has estimated that the greatest impact for our patients is likely to be the Medicaid expansion and we estimate much greater potential for third party collections through Medicaid enrollment,” said Raho

Ortiz, IHS director of the business office enhancement. “In the [fiscal year] 2014 president’s budget request, IHS estimated collections from private insurance due to the Affordable Care Act to increase by \$5 million, and collections due to the Medicaid expansion to increase by \$95 million if all states adopted the expansion.”

Alaska, Oklahoma, Montana and South Dakota are among the states that rejected the Medicaid expansion. Of the nearly one million uninsured American Indians and Alaska Natives, more than 460,000 live in states without Medicaid expansion.

“We’re at a whole new place trying to teach people about insurance,” said Lesa Evers, Tribal relations manager for the Montana Department of Health and Human Services, in an interview with ICTMN.

— Source: IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com

Holocaust monument to be built on unceded Algonquin land

OTTAWA, Canada — One of the world’s biggest stars in architecture has been chosen to design the National Holocaust Monument in Ottawa, Canada. Daniel Libeskind submitted the winning design for the massive monument that will cost up to \$8.5 million of taxpayers money and will be completed by 2015 on Parliament Hill.

Parliament Hill sits on unceded Algonquin land. The House of Commons, the Senate and the Supreme Court of Canada make laws for all Canadians while situated on land that was never lawfully purchased from the aboriginal owners, contrary to formal legal rules established in 1763.

Libeskind also designed the Jewish Museum in Berlin in 1989 and was the master planner in the rebuilding of New York City’s financial center following the 9/11 attacks.

“We are deeply honored to be entrusted with designing the monument to Holocaust victims and survivors and we are committed to creating a place of meaning and value for all Canadians,” said Gail Lord, leader of the design team.

— Source: West Coast Native News

Passamaquoddy Tribe settles tax lawsuit

BANGOR, Maine — A federal lawsuit was dismissed June 16 after the Passamaquoddy Tribe paid in full nearly \$60,000 it owed to Washington County in Maine.

Cleaves and other Tribal leaders believed Washington County was improperly assessing taxes on the Tribe. So in 2006 the Tribe stopped making questionable “in lieu of taxes” payments required by the county.

“We’re pinching pennies all the way through my administration,” Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy Chief R. Clayton Cleaves told the Bangor Daily News. “We’re struggling to survive on the reservation.”

In November 2012, the county filed a lawsuit in federal court against the Tribe to collect back taxes and force the Tribe to resume property-related payments to the county (under a program called PILOT (Payment In Lieu Of Taxes)). The county claimed it is authorized by the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 to collect PILOTs from the Tribe based on all of the Passamaquoddy real estate and personal property in Washington County.

In addition to the nearly \$60,000 payment it made, the Tribe also promised to continue making the \$7,000 annual payments.

PILOTs typically are made by nonprofit organizations to municipalities or other governments in recognition of the impact those organizations have on governmental services. Nonprofit organizations are exempt from paying property taxes under federal law.

“PILOTs are not defined in dollar amount,” the suit states, “but rather are to be in an amount equal to that which would otherwise be imposed by a county, a district, a state or other taxing authority.”

A recent bill failed in the recent session of the Maine Legislature that would have allowed Washington County voters to decide whether the Tribe could have slot machines. The Tribe is also involved in a running dispute with the state’s Department of Marine Resources over fishing for baby eels, known as elvers.

— Source: Bangor Daily News

Tribes worry sacred Pinnacles at risk

WENATCHEE, Wash. — How can standard power poles be replaced without potentially damaging the much-loved ancient Peshastin Pinnacles rock formations that are sacred to the region’s Tribes and hugely popular to most people in north central Washington state?

That question is being debated by The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Chelan County

Public Utility District (PUD), which plans to replace poles on two 115-kilovolt transmission lines that run through Peshastin Pinnacles State Park.

The sandstone rock formations have spiritual meaning to the Tribes, landmark value to the Wenatchee Valley and recreational significance to rock climbers, who scale the spires.

New federal requirements that set minimum height allowances for transmission lines to improve the reliability of the power grid make pole replacement necessary, PUD officials said.

The Tribes worry that heavy equipment, possible blasting into the rocky soil and vibration could damage the pinnacles.

The Tribes already have expressed concern that the many rock climbers who visit the area are also speeding the site’s degradation. Erosion is suspected of toppling part of one of the spires last October.

Estimated to be 46 million years old, many of the pinnacles curve upward and eastward, resembling salmon leaping, mouths open, as if to snare insects in midair. Wenatchi Tribal elders say the formations are, in fact, salmon frozen in stone while on their way up the Wenatchee River.

Another legend describes the formations as four greedy sisters frozen in stone for trying to capture all the salmon before the fish could head upriver to other Tribal members who needed them for food.

The rocks also represent imagery of a critical time in Indian history and legend when humans gained dominance over the “animal people” who Tribal members believe were once Earth’s dominating force.

“As the animal people passed from dominance and humans took over, the rocks in time depict that transformation,” said Guy Moura, historic preservation officer for the Colville Tribes. “The animals gave their voice to the humans. Other animals gave their meat for sustenance, hides and sinew for tools.”

— Source: Spokesman-Review

Denied road through park, Alaska Natives sue DOI

KING COVE, Alaska — Alaska Natives filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) June 4 in hopes of building a much-needed road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge. The Aleut village is 30 miles from the nearest air strip in Cold Bay. The only way to get there is by boat, a trip that could take several hours in choppy waters, or by plane.

Residents have said a road will save lives by making the journey quicker and safer, but Department of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell rejected the project in 2013 due to environmental concerns. The rejection came despite a report by Kevin Washburn, the Interior’s assistant secretary of Indian Affairs who visited King Cove last summer to consult with Tribes and Native corporations. His report to Jewell said “almost all the information” that was gathered was “strongly in favor of building a road.”

“This is about protecting the lives of human beings,” Della Trumble, a spokesperson for the Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove and the King Cove Corporation, said in a press release. “Secretary Jewell’s decision has violated her trust responsibility to protect the health and well-being of Alaska Natives.”

The Agdaagux Tribe, the King Cove Corporation and the Native Village of Belkofski are plaintiffs in the lawsuit. Their complaint notes that 11 people have died since 1980 trying to make the trip from King Cove to Cold Bay.

Another plaintiff is Etta Kuzakin, the Agdaagux President. She had to be flown out of King Cove by the Coast Guard when she was pregnant.

“Had the Coast Guard not been there or able to fly her to Cold Bay she could not have given birth because the King Cove clinic lacks the ability to perform a cesarean section,” the complaint states.

Elder Leff Kenezuroff, a member of the Native Village of Belkofski, another plaintiff, has been medevaced out of King Cove four times due to heart attacks.

“On one of those occasions, planes could not fly and he was transported across Cold Bay and the Pacific Ocean in a 90-foot long crab boat,” the complaint states. “Upon arriving at the Cold Bay dock he was unable to climb the 25-foot ladder from the ship to the dock and had to be hoisted to the dock in a crab pot.”

— Source: Indianz.com

Google Earth protects isolated Tribes in the Amazon rainforest

BRAZIL — The images of an isolated Tribe in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil, shot during an aerial survey in 2008, created ripples in anthropological circles. Aiming their arrows at a Brazilian government plane flying overhead, members of the Tribe — with bodies painted in bright red war colors — showed their displeasure toward the plane

occupants who were attempting to prove their existence to the world.

Now, scientists from University of Missouri and University of New Mexico use Google Earth imagery from 2006 to estimate the population of one such isolated Tribe in Brazil near the Peruvian border. The image showed a small village with four longhouses and horticultural fields in a clearing of 3.8 hectares within the dense Amazon rainforest. By comparing the area of this village with that of 71 other indigenous Brazilian villages in forests with known populations, they estimated the population of the uncontacted village.

The final estimate was small — there were fewer than 40 people.

This could possibly be the same Tribe photographed in the 2008 flyover, said Robert S. Walker, assistant professor at University of Missouri in an interview with Mongabay.com. “Actually it is hard to be 100 percent certain because the exact location of the flyover pictures was not revealed to my knowledge. But it is the same region and the house alignment appears to be similar,” he said.

A subsequent attempt to track the village in 2011 in a plane revealed at least nine people, the researchers wrote in the study published in The American Journal of Human Biology. Soon after that there were reports that the Tribe had fled, perhaps due to threats of drug traffickers in the region.

When the scientists tried to track them in 2012 using satellite images again, they were not as lucky.

The satellite images can be used to delineate threats to these Tribes, such as deforestation, cattle ranching, roads, illegal mining and outside colonization.

“We could use this information to shape policies in ways that mitigate against these threats, such as setting aside and enforcing larger protected areas,” wrote the authors.

— Source: Mongabay.com

Hard Rock joins Rensselaer casino effort

RENSELAEER, N.Y. — If Rensselaer, N.Y. wins its casino bid, Flaum Management would own the land, Global Gaming would operate the casino while partnered with Capital OTB, and Hard Rock International would run the proposed high-end hotel and restaurant.

“Hard Rock International is thrilled to collaborate with NYS Funding LLC to potentially create a world-class facility in Rensselaer within the Capital Region, as it would become an important economic engine for the community,” said Jim Allen, chairman of Hard Rock International, in an interview with Fox News 23. “We look forward to lending our global recognition, strong legacy of philanthropy and entertainment, and proven experience to this project. We are confident that this Hard Rock Hotel & Casino will positively impact the community’s economy.”

Originally, the group behind the push to bring a casino to upstate New York — NYS Funding LLC — had its sights set on Albany, but after a failed pitch there, changed course in early June to pursue a gaming complex across the Hudson River at the DeLaet’s Landing site in Rensselaer.

Rensselaer mayor Dan Dwyer praised the decision, saying the casino would change the city for the better in years to come. “Hard Rock is an internationally recognized brand known for high quality offerings across the globe ... Introducing the Hard Rock brand to the region and to our city greatly elevates the excitement around this project and will make the resort casino even more attractive and successful as a destination for the local community and visitors alike,” he said.

Dwyer told Fox News the building could cost more than \$200 million to build, saying it will bring tax revenue the city needs, especially since 66 percent of the land in Rensselaer is tax exempt.

“Fantastic hotel chain; does extremely well; high-end,” he added. “The last I heard is that it’s going to be a minimum of 100 rooms, all high-end. So it’s a real plus for us. The name alone is fantastic. It’s going to put Rensselaer on the map. World class.”

Rensselaer resident Mary Lou Knox visualized the potential of a casino in the city.

“I love it. I couldn’t believe that it was Hard Rock,” she told Fox News. “I can just picture the riverfront with the boardwalk and shops and restaurants. It will be just what we need here.”

Hard Rock’s Jim Allen agrees: “Beautiful skyline, a nice beautiful site with great access,” he said. “I think we’d love to form a business relationship, whether it’s here in Rensselaer or across the river. We’re always receptive to work out those types of relationships.”

There are detractors: “I lived in the city of Rensselaer all my life,” resident Marshall Dolgin told Fox News. “We don’t need something like this.” Dolgin doesn’t think a casino will attract major tourism or lower taxes like promised.

“I’ll believe it when I see it,” he said.

— Source: FoxNews23

Compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher.

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PATTY SMYTH OF
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August 20
**MICHAEL
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July 12
**CHRIS
TUCKER**



August 29
**SLASH
FEATURING MYLES
KENNEDY AND THE
CONSPIRATORS**



July 13
**DANA CARVEY &
DENNIS MILLER**



August 31
DEEP PURPLE



July 22
**THE FRAY
WITH BARCELONA
& OH HONEY**



September 27
FOREIGNER



July 25
**SARA
BAREILLES
WITH EMILY KING &
HANNAH GEORGAS**



October 17-SOLD OUT
October 18
**MOTLEY CRUE
THE FINAL TOUR**



July 30
**GAVIN
DEGRAW
& MATT
NATHANSON
WITH ANDREW
MCMAHON**



October 25
**ENRIQUE IGLESIAS
& PITBULL
WITH JBALVIN**



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Education



Student Council feeds the hungry, feeds the soul

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

CLEWISTON — With year-end school requirements satisfied and summer vacation closing in, a handful of Ahfachkee School Student Council members gave up an otherwise lazy Wednesday to work for people in need.

The students, Elisah Billie, Kaitlin Osceola and Quenton Cypress, and Ahfachkee teacher Jarrid Smith, spent several hours May 28 at Compassion Avenue Food Bank at First United Methodist Church in Clewiston filling grocery bags with canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, bread and flour.

Later, the crew helped carry heavy bags and cartons through pouring rain for the clients — mostly elderly and sick.

“They are an amazing group of kids and they are doing an amazing job,” said

“Today, giving means a lot more to the Tribe. Before, the wealthy people gave to us. Now, we shouldn’t take anything for granted.”

— Quenton Cypress, Ahfachkee School Student Council

Charley Watts, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Moore Haven, as the helpers loaded his truck with goods to be distributed at his church 15 miles away.

“And for them to be here for no other reason than giving service to others is just great,” Watts said.

The service project was not eligible for community service point requirements, nor did it fulfill any school course requirements.

“We just wanted to help,” Elisah said.

The Rev. John Hicks, pastor of the Clewiston congregation, said the Ahfachkee team arrived not only ready to work for free but also with a van filled with donations from Ahfachkee families. About 50 pounds of collard greens grown by Ahfachkee students and Traditional Preservation Department aide Maxine Gilke in the school’s garden were also donated.

Hicks said the pantry feeds about 600 families each month. Clients register for help based on need but the need is always greater than the amount of food distributed.

For Kaitlin, the demand and supply realization took her by surprise last year on the first day she volunteered.

“At first I looked around and thought, ‘Wow, this is a lot of food.’ I thought it was enough, but then it almost ran out. It’s never really enough,” she said.

Still, Hicks calls all donations “blessings.”

A majority of goods come from the Harry Chapin Food Bank, which serves Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Lee and Hendry counties. In turn, Compassion Avenue shares with four or five other smaller pantries in



Eileen Soler

From left, Kaitlin Osceola, William Townsend, Jarrid Smith and Elisah Billie organize nonperishable goods for distribution May 28 at Compassion Avenue Food Bank at First United Methodist Church in Clewiston.



Eileen Soler

Kaitlin Osceola happily helps the hungry during a day of feeding May 28 at Compassion Avenue Food Bank at First United Methodist Church in Clewiston.

Hendry, which is the poorest of the five with 80 percent of public school children on free or reduced-cost lunch programs.

Additional canned goods and dry items, including macaroni and rice, come from various collection efforts throughout the region such as the annual postal workers food drive.

“People can give anything they would want to eat. Most of the time they are generous. It’s not just beans and soup anymore,” Hicks said.

On May 28, pallets of corn, cantaloupes, cabbage and other fruits and vegetables were considered extra. Much of the fresh food was pooled by “gleaners” who are allowed to pick after big chain grocers take the cream of crops, leaving behind items that are too big, too small, overripe or not ripe.

“For us, it’s all win, win, win,” Hicks said.

Smith said off-reservation community service allows students to see how some struggle and gives them an opportunity to

help.

“They get to understand why giving time, money and food is important,” he said.

Quenton said helping the food pantry is about giving back for Seminole generations past who, before the Tribe’s good business fortune, were recipients of food and clothing donations.

“Today, giving means a lot more to the Tribe. Before, the wealthy people gave to us. Now, we shouldn’t take anything for granted,” Quenton said.

Parents peruse students’ culture projects at Brighton open house

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — After a year of hard work, Pemahtv Emahakv Charter School students proudly showed off individual culture skills with handmade beaded jewelry and pens, sweetgrass baskets, dolls and patchwork designs at the annual Culture Education Open House May 23.

Arranged by grade levels, tables overflowed with dozens of creative and colorful crafts made by the students.

“It feels awesome to see them out here,” said Mariah Garner, 10, who displayed three beaded pens. “I’m proud because I finished them. It took forever.”

Parents viewed the children’s arts and crafts projects, visited the history classroom and traditional garden, and attended a Creek language class with their kids. Teachers answered questions and provided an overview of the Culture curriculum.

“This is wonderful because it shows the stages they go through every year,” said Laverne Thomas, who attended the event with her daughter, Elle, 10. “They are more intricate each year. They learn that patience and hard work pays off.”

Projects ranged from simple beaded bracelets by kindergartners to intricate



Beverly Bidney

From left, Elle Thomas, 10, her mother, Laverne Thomas, and fourth-grade teacher Megan Louthan look at students’ artwork during the annual PECS Culture Education Open House May 23 in Brighton.

patchwork pillows, potholders and backpacks by eighth-graders.

Culture teachers nurture student interests in traditional Seminole culture with hopes that they develop it further throughout their lives.

“My goal is that they take what we taught them here and build on it,” said culture teacher Janelle Robinson. “I’d love for them to carry it on from here and keep

their enthusiasm for the crafts.”

Trista Osceola, 16, learned Seminole crafts during the two years she spent at PECS and continues to create beadwork in high school.

“You see some kids working on projects after eighth grade,” Robinson said. “It’s comforting to know they still do it.”

The Community Culture Center welcomes artisans of all ages, including students, to make crafts at the center.

“A lot of kids enter the annual contest we have for Indian Day,” said Joanne Osceola, Community Culture assistant manager. “They come after school and work.”

Teachers also appreciate the benefits students get from Culture classes.

“I see how much they embrace their culture,” said fourth-grade teacher Megan Louthan. “The whole experience lets them know where they came from, and it gives them great pride to keep the traditions alive.”

Some student works are on display through Aug. 25 in an exhibit at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Beverly Bidney

Kindergarten students’ beadwork items are on display in the arts and crafts exhibit at the annual PECS Culture Education Open House.



Beverly Bidney

Snacks in hand, Karey Gopher, 10, left, and LaShae King, 11, look at arts and crafts projects of other students at the annual PECS Culture Education Open House May 23 in Brighton.

Kirsti Zickefoose graduates from Ohio State University

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

With her Ohio State University degree in hand, Kirsti Zickefoose left her alma mater behind and made her way to Los Angeles for the next chapter of her young life.

The recent Buckeyes communications graduate is pursuing a career with an event planning agency or casting agency to put her hard-earned college education to work in California. Zickefoose, who moved from Florida to Ohio at 7 years old, looks forward to new opportunities in a new home.

“If you’re a creative person, you can go multiple paths with a communications degree,” the 22-year-old said. “I’ve visited California before and loved it. The weather is perfect.”

Because she grew up in a small town and graduated high school with a class of 152 students, Zickefoose knew she wanted to attend a large college. Throw in the gung-ho zealotry shared by most Ohioans for Ohio State, and her college choice was easy.

She left home to join 43,000 undergraduates in Columbus. Zickefoose said college life was an adjustment.

“In high school, you have to go to school,” she said. “In college, there’s no one there telling you that you have to go. You have to be very disciplined to go to classes and to study adequately.”

To stay motivated, Zickefoose said she surrounded herself with driven people who strive to succeed. She landed two internships — one with Columbus Media Enterprises and the other with Clear Channel radio — and earned a job as a college tour guide through a competitive application process at Ohio State.

During her internships, she learned what she liked about the communications industry and what she wouldn’t want to pursue after graduation. With the promotions department at Clear Channel, she had the opportunity to promote the company at movie premieres and concerts, including Taylor Swift, Bon Jovi and Rascal Flatts. With the events department



Photo courtesy of Kirsti Zickefoose

Kirsti Zickefoose graduates with a degree in communications from Ohio State University. Zickefoose is pursuing a career with an event planning or casting agency in California.

at Columbus Media, she helped plan a bridal show.

Although internships were not required, Zickefoose wanted to give herself an edge over other college grads when competing for jobs.

“I knew that if I wanted to pursue something like that after school, it would be a good idea to have that experience,” she said.

Zickefoose is proud to be among only a handful of people in her family to graduate college, and she encourages her fellow Tribal members to chase their college dreams, even if they don’t know what major to study.

“It’s rewarding. If you are considering it, then go for it,” Zickefoose said. “You don’t need to know what you want to do. There are plenty of people there who can help you.”

High School Graduates: Class of 2014

Quenton Cypress, 19 Ahfachkee School

Postsecondary plans: Lynn University for sports management with a possible double major in education.

Aspirations: Quenton plans to become a physical education teacher at Ahfachkee School and a golf instructor for children and adults. He also hopes to serve in public office as a Big Cypress Councilman. "The community is already great, but there are always opportunities to make things

better," he said.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "I learned to be responsible for myself. I have to get my work done to achieve what I want and to get to where I want to be."

Inspiration: Quenton credits his father, Cicero Osceola, for setting the bar high and putting him on a path to leadership. Osceola is a former Board Representative and current high school basketball and golf coach and Housing Department manager. "Most important, my dad is a family man," Quenton said.

Savannah Tiger, 17 Ahfachkee School

Postsecondary plans: Immokalee Technical Center for a certificate in cosmetology.

Aspirations: Savannah wants to be a hair stylist. She enjoys the art and drama of a great color and cut and using both to show personality and fashion.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "Never give up even when everything seems impossible," she said. Savannah said she never really loved school and even thought about dropping out. "But here I am walking across the stage, getting my diploma and saying 'Look, I did it.'"

Inspiration: Savannah said she is inspired by her mother, Cara Tiger, who is a hair stylist, and her father Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, noting that both are hard-working and service-oriented.

Malari Baker, 18 Ahfachkee School

Postsecondary plans: Undecided but likely a technical school for cosmetology.

Aspirations: Malari loves makeup and hair and hopes to become a cosmetologist.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Time management. The high school student and teenage mother learned to juggle classes, homework, being a star basketball player and caring for her son, Juelz Cypress, 3.

Inspiration: Malari's son lights up her life and motivates her daily. "It's for him that I want to go out on my own, work and experience the world," Malari said. "I want him to know that the reservation will always be here, and it's good, but there is more to life."

Gianna Wargolet, 18 Ahfachkee School

Postsecondary plans: To be a business major but has not decided which college to attend.

Aspirations: Gianna hopes to work in marketing for a designer shoe company.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "Get your work done and do not procrastinate," she said. Gianna finished her junior year while in her senior year and played basketball. "People can tell you to do this and that but at the end of the day, you have to be the one to get the job done."

Inspiration: Her mother – with huge helpings of tough love. "She said over and over to do my work or no basketball – and she meant it. But in my head I always knew that even if I failed, she would still be there for me," Gianna said.

Sarah Osceola, 17 Ahfachkee School

Postsecondary plans: Immokalee Technical Center to major in culinary arts.

Aspirations: Sarah is comfortable in the kitchen, likes to cook and loves watching the Food Network. She would prefer to be a baker of "big, big" cakes. "I love the way bakers can mold anything, even Rice Krispie Treats into something. It's never a boring job," she said.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "The best is when the basketball team went to district championship and (regionals). I had too much fun with the other girls and we always supported each other," Sarah said. She also learned that life is not easy. "You have to work hard and try hard for what you want."

Inspiration: Her son Koda. "He makes me want to be a better person and do better things with my life. Before Koda, I was just a kid myself. Now I am more mature and I'm learning so much as I go along with him into the world," she said.

Marissa Osceola, 18 Palmetto Ridge High School, Naples

Postsecondary plans: University of New Mexico in Albuquerque for Native American studies.

Aspirations: Marissa plans to focus her studies on utilizing natural resources for Tribes to not only help protect the environment but to also make Tribes more economically self-sufficient.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Attending the 2012 UNITY Conference, where she

gave a speech on corruption in Tribal governments in front of hundreds of people, was a high school highlight for Marissa. "I had such bad public speaking skills at the time, but it taught me the importance of self-confidence. Now I have a lot more motivation to want to have better public speaking skills and communications skills," she said.

Inspiration: Marissa finds inspiration in leaders throughout Indian Country, including economist and Native rights activist Winona LaDuke who spoke at UNITY.

David Ethan Billie III, 19 Beacon High School, Naples

Postsecondary plans: After taking the summer off, David plans to attend Universal Technical Institute (UTI) for motorcycle mechanics.

Aspirations: David plans to pursue a degree in small business. He hopes to eventually open his own repair shop utilizing the knowledge he gains at school, as well as the knowledge he has from growing up around ATVs, motorcycles and off-road vehicles.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "I can't really say – there are so many," David said. Instead, he offers other high school students this advice: "Enjoy it. It goes by fast."

Inspiration: David said his family inspires him to do better and credits his tutor, April, for helping him graduate. When he fell behind his freshman year, she helped him catch up and graduate high school.

Marissa Sanchez, 18 Immokalee High School

Postsecondary plans: Marissa plans to attend Florida State University and work toward a master's degree in business management.

Aspirations: Put her business degree to work by opening a clothing store featuring her patchwork designs. Marissa learned the traditional Seminole craft from Geraldine Osceola at 14 years old and has created her own clothing ever since. She created the traditional Seminole dress she wore at the Miss Florida Seminole pageant.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "I learned to never give up," Marissa said. "There was a time when I didn't know if I was going to pass [high school]. I had two tests I needed to pass. But I did." Marissa studied hard so she would have more opportunities to attend school off the reservation.

Inspiration: Marissa is inspired by her grandfather, the late Antonio Sanchez Sr. "No matter what, he always supported me," she said.

Aaron Alvarado, 18 Immokalee High School

Postsecondary plans: The Los Angeles Film School for audio production or business entertainment. After visiting the California campus last summer during the Education Department's college tour, Aaron said he loved the location and the school. He looks forward to exploring life off the reservation and accomplishing his goals.

Aspirations: "I'm trying to have a successful career in the multimedia industry," Aaron said. He wants to return to the Tribe and put his skills to use to benefit his community – although he doesn't yet know in what capacity.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Aaron learned that life's not easy after high school but by learning from people in your family, the transition into the "real world" is much easier.

Inspiration: His parents, Roy Alvarado Sr. and Mary Lou Alvarado, inspire him. "They went through a lot but they're still pushing me to be better," he said.

Mshquazed Jewell-Davis, 17 H.B. Beal Secondary School, Canada

Postsecondary plans: Fanshawe College in Ontario, Canada, to study psychology.

Aspirations: Mshquazed wants to combine her passions for therapy and for art to study art therapy, which uses "different forms of art as a therapeutic process," she said. "It also helps you identify learning disabilities in young children."

High school lessons learned/best memory: Graduating is Mshquazed's best memory; she's proud to have reached the academic milestone, learning much in the process. "High school taught me how to deal with pressure from work and school and what's going on in life – it taught me to multitask. I'm looking forward to working toward my goals," she said.

Inspiration: Her eight younger sisters and brothers inspire her. She works hard because she wants to set a good example for them. "I want them to be proud of their big sister," she said.

Alanis Bowers, 18 Henry B. Plant High School, Tampa

Postsecondary plans: Savannah College of Art and Design to major in painting and minor in art business.

Aspirations: Alanis wants to be an art dealer and travel worldwide buying and selling eclectic artworks. If not, she would like to be an art teacher.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "There is a big difference between private and public high school," she said. Alanis spent her freshman and sophomore years in private boarding school before transferring to Plant High in Tampa.

Inspiration: Her family. Alanis is the first in her

immediate family to graduate from high school though several loved ones have earned GED certificates without taking a single remedial class. "They are all very, very smart but I always needed to be hands-on in the classroom," she said. "Just knowing that they wanted to graduate high school and didn't made me try even harder to go on."

Peter Billie Jr., 18 University School-NSU, Davie

Postsecondary plans: Florida Gulf Coast University for financial business.

Aspirations: Peter is undecided about what career he'll pursue after college.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "My teachers taught me to always keep my eyes on my own paper," he said.

Inspiration: Peter appreciated the guidance he received from his mother, Dana Scarpati. "My mom guided me through high school to make sure I did the right thing," he said.

Jamie Walkingstick, 18 Durant High School, Tampa

Postsecondary plans: "Right now I plan on going into the job program at the Hard Rock and will go to Hillsborough Community College in the fall," Jamie said. "I am going to major in psychology and then get into the law enforcement field."

Aspirations: "I want to work for the FBI where I can spend three years as an agent and then become a behavioral analyst, working on profiles," she said.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Jamie went to three different high schools: Brandon as a sophomore, Strawberry Crest as a junior and Durant as a senior. She said it was both a good and not-so-good experience. "Well, it helped me meet more people and gain a lot of friends all over the area, but, on the other hand, I didn't get to experience the whole four years in one place and join clubs and play sports." She said she would not change it, however. "My best memories were in my senior year, when I was able to play basketball and track. Most seniors don't just come out for the team, but I decided to and it was a great time."

Inspiration: "Definitely my mom (Tonya Jimmie) was my biggest inspiration," Jamie said. "She passed away in my junior year of high school of kidney failure. I was the oldest, and she really pushed me and supported me because she knew I would be the first in my family to graduate from high school and would be an example to the rest of us. I spent a lot of time taking care of her after school. She always motivated me to get out and do it. I wish she could see me now."

Justin Motlow, 18 Tampa Catholic High School

Postsecondary plans: One of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's most decorated prep athletes, Justin Motlow plans to pursue both a marketing degree and a spot on the football team at Florida State University, which has offered the receiver a preferred walk-on opportunity. If he earns a slot with the current national champs, he will become the first Seminole Indian to play for the FSU Seminole football team.

Aspirations: "I can definitely see myself playing football. I'd like to continue playing football and to see how far I can go," Justin said. "After that, I will be able to fall back on my degree in marketing and maybe go to work for Hard Rock."

High school lessons learned/best memory: "The best lesson I learned in high school was prepare yourself for college. It was stressed to us that studying and getting the grades is more important than you think it is. And, at the very end, you see who gets the letter and who doesn't and you realize how important it really is." The football field provided Justin with months of memories as he wrapped up a banner season. "I would say my best memory was when we beat Clearwater Central Catholic (13-10). That is a great memory," he said.

Inspiration: "My parents (Clarence and Lisa Motlow) were my main inspiration. They pushed me hard and watched me close, all the way through high school. They supplied the support I had to have both on and off the field to get me where I am today."

Wyatt Deitz, 18 Eagle High School, Eagle, Idaho

Postsecondary plans: Wyatt will attend Boise State University, where he will likely major in history and will attempt to make the football team as a walk-on.

Aspirations: Wyatt is undecided about what career he will pursue after college.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Wyatt has plenty of good memories from the gridiron where "just being able to play for Eagle High my senior year" ranks at the top. Wyatt, a nose guard on the defensive line, earned Southern Idaho All-Conference, played in a district all-star game and was named Most Improved by his teammates as a postseason award.

Inspiration: "My football coach (Paul Peterson) kept me going and made sure I was doing my job," Wyatt said.

Brenna Walton, 18 Academy At The Lakes, Land O' Lakes, Fla.

Postsecondary plans: "I'm going to attend the Hard Rock management program and take classes at PHSC (Pasco Hernando State College)," said Brenna, who lists a degree in business management as a primary goal.

Aspirations: "I'd like to be the general manager of the Hard Rock in Tampa someday," Brenna said.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Brenna said most of her most cherished memories of high school had to do with athletics. She was a Wildcats

star in soccer, volleyball and softball. As members of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), the academy's athletic program is ranked seventh among the 114 Class 2A schools in the FHSAA. Attending the private prep school Academy At The Lakes taught Brenna "how to get along with all sorts of people, all ages, people you like and people you don't like." The school, on the shore of Myrtle Lake in Land O' Lakes, maintains a K-12 student body, she said. "You might be a senior and walking down the hall with a group of fifth-graders. You have to learn to get along," Brenna said.

Inspiration: "My grandmother – Grace Holdiness – is my top inspiration," Brenna said. "She pushes me, gets me going and has pretty much always been there for me. She watches out for me. Yeah, she's my inspiration."

Tia Blais-Billie, 18 Pine Crest School, Fort Lauderdale

Postsecondary plans: The 2013-14 Miss Florida Seminole will attend the Rhode Island School of Design for illustration.

Aspirations: Tia hopes to work in sequential art, perhaps pursuing a career in comics, TV or movies.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "I liked Pine Crest's curriculum. Taking AP (advanced placement) courses paid off in the end," she said. "I feel very confident going to college thanks to my high school career." Tia added that she had fun playing lacrosse and being nominated for prom queen.

Inspiration: Tia said history teacher Mariusz Podkoscielny was one of her favorite instructors. "He grew up in Poland during turbulent times. I learned a lot from him," she said. Another favorite was English teacher Tina Jaramillo. "I really enjoy English as a subject. I like literature. We really connected. We shared a lot of views."

Brittany Cox, 18 Pine Crest School, Fort Lauderdale

Postsecondary plans: University of Oregon for health and education.

Aspirations: Brittany wants to use the knowledge she'll learn about health to help others. "I want to join the Peace Corps. I want to go out and help and teach others to take care of themselves," she said.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "My friends helped me get through a lot. It helped me appreciate them more," Brittany said.

Inspiration: Brittany didn't have to look far for inspiration. She said her father, Tim, is a role model. "He inspired me a lot because he's in the military and everything he does for other people and he just got his law degree."

Mailani Perez, 18 American Heritage School, Plantation

Postsecondary plans: Mailani will attend Broward College for business. She also plans to play basketball.

Aspirations: After college, Mailani would like to be involved with the shoe business. "I want to own my own shoe store. It would be like a Nike or Jordan store," she said.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "If you don't get what you need to get done, you won't succeed," she said.

Inspiration: Mailani has been inspired by her grandfather, retired Tribal recreation director Moses Jumper Jr. "He's always with the Tribe. I want to help the Tribe like he has," she said.

Hunter Osceola, 19 American Heritage School, Plantation

Postsecondary plans: Hunter plans to study sports management at Barry University and play for the men's basketball team.

Aspirations: Hunter hopes to play in the NBA and then open sports camps for children. He wants to use basketball to spread God's word.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Hunter's best memory was winning the FHSAA Class 5A basketball state championship. "It was a lot of pressure for all of the seniors," he said. "We tried for the last three years and the closest we got was regional semifinals. When we won the state, it was the best feeling."

Inspiration: God. "Whenever little kids come up to me and ask basketball advice I tell them to let God come first. Whatever His plans are for you, you should accept them and go with it. Everything else falls into place," he said.

Jack Osceola, 18 Youngker High School, Buckeye, Ariz.

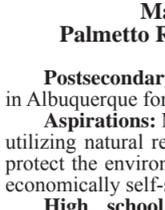
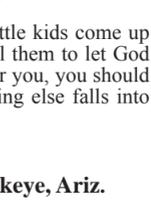
Postsecondary plans: Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale, Ariz. for criminal justice with a minor in world history.

Aspirations: Jack would like to join a police force after college. He is also interested in being a high school history teacher.

High school lessons learned/best memory: As a power forward on the school's basketball team, Jack said making it to the state playoffs as a sophomore was one of his fondest memories from high school.

"It was the first time our school had ever done that," he said.

Inspiration: Jack credits his mother. "She's always helped me do the best I can and always helped me do the right thing," he said.



High School Graduates: Class of 2014

Trevor Osceola, 18

Cardinal Gibbons High School, Fort Lauderdale

Postsecondary plans: Kentucky Christian University for sports management and football.

Aspirations: Trevor plans to take business, contracting and law classes and hopes to pursue a sports-related career. "If my dream to play in the NFL doesn't work out, I want to be a sports agent," he said.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Being part of the football programs at Pine Crest School and Cardinal Gibbons yielded plenty of benefits for Trevor. "A lot of lessons I learned on the field were more mental than anything," he said. "Hot practices make you mentally tough. In the real world you need to be mentally tough. I learned leadership skills and being a role model on and off the field."

Inspiration: Trevor turned a tragedy into a personal mission throughout his high school football career. "The inspiration and motivation I had to get to the next level of playing football was my best friend (Payton Barber). He passed away in the eighth grade," Trevor said. "He wanted to be a college football player. He loved the game. He got me to play through middle school. At the funeral, I made a promise to him and myself that no matter how tough things are, I'd push through for him." Trevor also credits his family and coaches at Pine Crest and Cardinal Gibbons with being very supportive.

Coleman Josh, 18

Anadarko High School, Anadarko, Okla.

Postsecondary plans: Coleman is considering joining the military or attending college. He said FSU and Georgia are among his considerations if he takes the collegiate route.

Aspirations: Coleman is undecided about what career he will pursue.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Coleman has fond memories of being part of his high school's cross country program that won a state title.

Inspiration: Coleman's inspiration comes from running. "It's always good to have a running buddy because when you want to stop, that person pushes you further. My teammates are amazing athletes," he said.

DaKoda Josh, 18

Anadarko High School, Anadarko, Okla.

Postsecondary plans: Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology for aeronautic maintenance.

Aspirations: DaKoda would like to work on the inside and outside of airplanes, first in Oklahoma City and then internationally.

High school lessons learned/best memory: DaKoda knows the math skills he learned in high school will be beneficial to his career. "I was good at math. That will help me a lot," he said.

Inspiration: DaKoda said being part of Future Farmers of America, Native American Club and National Honors Society helped him during high school.

Talon Frank Youngman, 18

Lake Placid High School

Postsecondary plans: Talon plans to attend South Florida State College in Avon Park for two years and then transfer to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga., where he will study agricultural business or agricultural mechanics.

Aspirations: He wants to run the family business, Florida Grove Hedgers, in Lake Placid, or run a winery in Alva, Fla.

High school lessons learned/best memory: The biggest lesson Talon learned in high school was "even though the people above you might not be competent, you still have to respect them." He learned it in football and it was a hard a hard lesson for him. His best memory was winning a football game 48-14.

Inspiration: His father, Frank Youngman, inspires him and teaches him how to be a man. "He knows what it's like to grow up hard and taught me how to appreciate things, even really simple things," Talon said.

Brianna Skye Nunez, 18

Okeechobee High School

Postsecondary plans: Brianna will attend Tallahassee Community College and study physical therapy.

Aspirations: She wants to be a physical therapist and possibly work with sports teams. She has played sports all her life and has been injured herself, which led to her interest in wanting to learn how to treat and rehabilitate injuries.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Brianna learned not to procrastinate and to get her work done on time. Her best memory? "When we

pulled our senior prank," she said. "We tp'd the trees on campus, put balloons everywhere in hallways and staircase and Saran wrapped the garbage cans. We didn't get in trouble; they knew what we were doing and we had to clean it up. It was a lot of fun."

Inspiration: Her family and all her coaches inspire Brianna to do above average in life, school and in everything else.

Kirsten Elise Doney, 18

Okeechobee High School

Postsecondary plans:

Kirsten will attend college in January after a recuperation period following surgery this summer. She is still deciding between Florida State University and Dartmouth College, where she is considering studying science.

Aspirations: She is thinking about becoming a pharmacist and returning to work with the Tribe.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "Don't wait until the last minute. Don't put everything off until your senior year; it becomes very stressful," she said. Her first senior pep rally for the school's football team is her best high school memory.

"It was the first time we were all together as a class," she said.

Inspiration: "My brother Kyle Doney; he motivates me. He is a hard worker, sets high goals and always reaches them. He pushes me to the best of my ability because he knows I can do it."

Acealyn Osceola Youngblood, 18

Okeechobee High School

Postsecondary plans: Savannah College of Art and Design where she will study computer animation.

Aspirations: Acealyn wants to work at DreamWorks studio in California because she feels connected to its stories and films.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Her art teacher taught her that she can create things people will love and it will affect them in a positive way.

In 10th grade, Acealyn went on a field trip to the Salvador Dali Museum in St. Petersburg. His work was very adventurous and political; she liked that it had meaning.

Inspiration: She is inspired by artist Freida Kahlo's work. "It has plenty of color and she painted about her life that people can connect to. I plan to connect to people through animation," Acealyn said.

Skyler Lain Burke, 17

Moore Haven High School

Postsecondary plans: Skyler will attend Troy University in Alabama to study athletic training and sports therapy.

Aspirations: She wants to work with a professional basketball team to help injured players recover. When she gets older, she would like to settle down and have an office to treat kids who get injured playing sports.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "Take everything seriously and don't wait until the last minute," Skyler said. "If you wait too long you may run out of options and won't get to do what you want to do. Sometimes you only get one chance to do something." Winning the softball state championship game is her best memory of high school.

Inspiration: Skyler is inspired by her mother, who always pushed her to do well in school. "Without her, I probably wouldn't have good grades," she said.

Frank William Huff, 18

Cottontdale High School, Cottontdale, Fla.

Postsecondary plans: Frank plans to attend Nashville's Lincoln College of Technology, an automotive diesel college.

Aspirations: He plans to become a diesel mechanic and learn to work on high-performance engines and semitrucks. He has always been around cars, through his father and grandfather. "I got an old truck and working on it got me more and more interested in it," he said.

High school lessons learned/best memory: The lesson came from Frank's history teacher, who always pushed him. "There was a time I wanted to give up, but she told me no matter how hard life gets to keep pushing," Frank said.

Inspiration: Frank wants to be the best he can be in anything he does. He is inspired by his family, particularly his older brother Ty, who has always been there for him.

Kiylier Maryah Baker, 18

Lake Placid High School

Postsecondary plans: Kiylier will attend Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Orlando, where she plans to specialize in baking and pastry. Ever

since she was a little girl, she liked to watch her mother cook and bake.

Aspirations: To open a bakery geared toward kids who will be able to let their imaginations run wild as they decorate cupcakes. "In my head it's going to be a big hit and bring happiness to people," she said. "You don't see a lot of places with edible art for kids."

High school lessons learned/best memory: The biggest lesson she learned in high school was not to procrastinate. "I learned to get things done when they are assigned to you because it's more stressful when you have to do it with a little amount of time," Kiylier said.

Her best high school memory is her entire senior year. She transferred to Lake Placid High and met a lot of new people, "which changed my life for the better."

Inspiration: "Anything," she said. "I can see a tree and be inspired. Seeing my mom cook, watching cooking shows like the *Cake Boss*. How does he come up with those things?"

Dylan Jacob Sampson, 18

Madison County High School, Madison, Fla.

Postsecondary plans: Dylan plans to further his education at North Florida Community College in Madison.

Aspirations: He is still trying to figure out what he wants to do, but he is leaning toward outdoor work.

High school lessons learned/best memory: He learned a lot in high school and likes English and writing poetry. Dylan's favorite memories are of just hanging out with friends after school. They liked to go in rivers, mud holes, drive trucks around and "just chill."

Inspiration: "My family and friends don't mislead me and keep me wanting to do things," Dylan said. "If I make bad choices they direct me back to the right way."

Jaide Whitney Micco, 18

Okeechobee High School

Postsecondary plans: Jaide will attend Indian River State College and then Florida State University.

Aspirations: She wants to be lawyer. "When I was a junior, I had a law class and we studied cases and experienced what it would be like," Jaide said.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Jaide learned not to give up. "I'm a mom now and people would tell me I probably wouldn't finish," she said. "I'm graduating; I did it."

Her best memory is spending time with her classmates, with whom she has had a strong bond for years. She knows leaving them will be hard.

Inspiration: "My mom," Jaide said. "She inspires me to do better, to do more in life and be a better person."

Raina Kay Robinson, 17

Okeechobee High School

Postsecondary plans: Raina plans to attend Indian River State College for two years and then transfer to University of Southern California.

Aspirations: She wants to be an athletic trainer for football teams. "I'm very interested in anatomy and I want to help people," she said. "I love sports, so it ties in together."

High school lessons learned/best memory: The biggest lesson she learned was that education will be there for her entire life. "As much as I said I hated school, I really want to go to college because I know it will help me out in the future," Raina said. She will always remember her friends; they've been important to her for years.

Inspiration: "My dad, Jeff Robinson, even though he gets on my nerves, he's always been there and helped me my whole life," she said. "He made sure I had everything in line and stayed organized. He pushed me."

Symphony Osceola, 17

Sagemont School, Weston

Postsecondary plans: Already attending the summer term at Florida Atlantic University as an English major.

Aspirations: Symphony wants to be a writer so she can share her ideas and stories with the world. "I hope to challenge and learn from other philosophies and ideas - to appreciate them from different perspectives," she said.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "My best memory of school is making friends with people who differ greatly from me. They have added a new perspective to my life."

Inspiration: "Writers inspire me," she said. Symphony offered two examples: Ralph Waldo Emerson who wrote about of self-reliance, avoiding



conformity, and following instincts and ideas; and Maya Angelou who shared lessons and stories about how to overcome trauma and hardships.

Eli Harmon, 18

St. John's Military School, Salina, Kan.

Postsecondary plans: Eli, of Flagstaff, Ariz., will attend the Air Force Academy in Colorado. He said he might major in chemistry and minor in Spanish.

Aspirations: Eli has sky-high aspirations. "I want to fly. I want to be a pilot in the Air Force," he said. After serving in the military, Eli said he may pursue being a pilot in private aviation.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Eli's senior year included serving as the school's cadet battalion executive officer, soccer team's co-captain with his twin brother, Levi, and class valedictorian. Overall, Eli said his entire experience in his four years at St. John's ranks as his best memory.

Inspiration: Eli's inspiration comes from his parents, Edward and Donna. "They've always instilled a desire for me to be the best I can be in everything," Eli said.

Levi Harmon, 18

St. John's Military School, Salina, Kan.

Postsecondary plans: Levi, from Flagstaff, Ariz., will attend Virginia Military Institute (VMI). He will major in chemistry and perhaps minor in writing and rhetoric.

Aspirations: After VMI, Levi wants to attend law school with aspirations to become a U.S. Air Force JAG officer (military lawyer).

High school lessons learned/best memory: The school's cadet battalion commander, co-captain of the soccer team and class

salutatorian said his best memories are spending time with friends and playing soccer.

Inspiration: Levi received inspiration from his mom; the president of his high school, Andy England, who inspired him to attend VMI; and academic dean Ginger Wooten, "who helped me realize that I could achieve more than I thought possible."

Dare'rick McInturff, 19

GED graduate

Postsecondary plans: Dare'rick is undecided about what to study next, but he is sure he will attend college.

Aspirations: Politics. Dare'rick has no definite plans but hopes to be involved in local and state government.

High school lessons learned/best memory: "School is hard and it's about to get harder now that I am on the road to college," he said. "I just have to realize that there is always another step in life - the next step."

Inspiration: His mother. "She pushes me to do things in a very motivational way. I think she is teaching me that it's time for me to take my jump."

Everett Harjo Youngblood, 18

GED graduate

Postsecondary plans: Everett would like to attend Full Sail University next year and study video production and culinary arts.

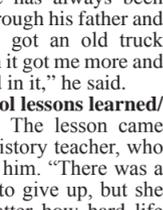
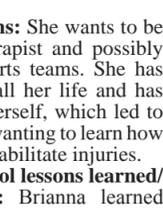
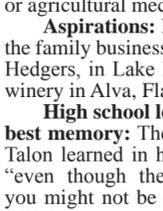
Aspirations: He wants to do something creative but isn't sure what direction he will go yet.

High school lessons learned/best memory: Getting his driver's license and a Dodge Challenger are his best memories from high school.

Inspiration: Listening to music inspires Everett, particularly electronic music.

Congratulations to the Seminole Tribe of Florida's additional graduates:

Jessi Raine Osceola, Moore Haven High School
 Quinnton Lee Tiger, Lake Region High School
 Joshua Luke Tiger, Lake Region High School
 Cody Lane Tiger, Lake Region High School
 Gabrielle Billie, South Broward High School
 KC McDonald, Stoneman Douglas High School
 Deila Harjo, Flandreau Indian School
 Joslyn Cypress, American Heritage School
 Anissa Osceola, American Heritage School
 Echo Wolf, American Heritage School
 Jonathan Bowers, American Heritage School
 Aaron Osceola, American Heritage School
 Colby Herrera, Riverside Indian School
 Joseph Darren Snow, City of Life Christian Academy
 Juliza Martinez, of Immokalee Reservation
 Kayla Billie, of Hollywood Reservation
 Aiden Bowers, GED graduate



Congratulations, graduates

Hollywood Preschool grads eager for elementary school

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Eighteen Hollywood Preschool graduates celebrated the completion of their first years of school during a May 21 graduation ceremony at Tribal Headquarters auditorium.

"The most important thing they learn is to love learning," said Ilene Miller, Hollywood Preschool program manager. "That's the foundation to be a successful student when they leave here."

The Culture Department plays a big part of the preschool curriculum. The graduates demonstrated their culture and language skills by reciting the pledge of allegiance in Mikasuki to the delight of family and friends in attendance.

"Graduation is a wonderful opportunity to bring the families together to share in the joy as we celebrate all of the ways the child has grown and showcase some of the things they have learned during their time in preschool," Miller said.

The graduation program also included Dr. Seuss skits, songs and slideshow presentations. Graduates walked onstage, received their diplomas and shook hands with Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank

and Immokalee Board Liaison Dorothy Scheffler.

"They are excited to move on," said Amber Hyatt, preschool curriculum coordinator. "And they're ready."

Graduation program mistress of ceremonies Sally Tommie recognized parents for the important part they play in their children's education.

"You deserve the applause because you send your kids to school to acclimate them to the world," Tommie said. "Our children are precious gifts from God, and it's incumbent upon us to do the right things for them."

As a father himself, Councilman Osceola knows the importance of spending quality time with children.

"The more time you spend with them today, the more it will serve them tomorrow," he said. "They are the future of the Tribe and are tomorrow's leaders. The time you spend with them goes a long way down the road."

The Class of 2014: Taina Aquino, Jayla Billie, Tatum Billie, Adrian Cypress-Ramirez, Taven Edwards, Free Gowen, Darrell Jackson, Meadow Johns, Talen Jumper, Charleze Osceola, Daveny Osceola-Hahn, Dehlila Pulido, Ja'Teija Stewart, Jordyn Tomattis, Sam Two Shoes, Logan Wilcox, DeLilah Young and Elijah Yzaguirre.



Beverly Bidney

Graduates wait to walk down the aisle at the Hollywood Preschool graduation ceremony May 21.



Beverly Bidney

Ja'Teija Stewart heads down the aisle to collect her diploma during the Hollywood Preschool graduation ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Immokalee Board Liaison Dorothy Scheffler, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard and Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola congratulate Talen Jumper at the Hollywood Preschool graduation ceremony May 21.



Beverly Bidney

The Hollywood Preschool graduating class performs at the May 21 graduation ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

Demetria Tigertail takes a selfie with her graduating son Logan Wilcox at the Hollywood Preschool graduation ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

Chanel Baez and Miken Cantu are onstage after receiving their preschool diplomas from the Miccosukee Indian School May 1.

Trail preschoolers don caps and gowns for graduation

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TRAIL — The graduating class of prekindergartners at the Miccosukee Indian School seemed ready to burst, their energy level impossible to contain.

Dressed in caps and gowns, the children could hardly wait for their cue to head down the aisle May 1.

Seminole children Chanel Baez, Nahdea Osceola and Violet Osceola joined

Miccosukee students on the stage as they proudly received their diplomas from Miccosukee Chairman Colley Billie.

Graduation from preschool is more of a send-off than an ending. With that in mind, Chairman Billie informed the young students that they are at the start of a never-ending journey.

"No matter how long you live, you can never complete your knowledge," he said. "There is so much to learn, and that is what makes life beautiful."



Beverly Bidney

Violet Osceola, right, waits backstage with her classmates before heading down the aisle to receive her preschool diploma from Miccosukee Indian School.

Trail students achieve academic milestones during graduation

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TRAIL — The Miccosukee Tribal Office auditorium was filled beyond capacity at the Miccosukee Indian School graduation May 2. Family and friends celebrated students as they made the transition from kindergarten, fifth grade, eighth grade and high school to the next steps in their education.

Dressed in caps and gowns, graduates walked down the aisle as *Pomp and Circumstance* echoed through the auditorium. Cheers and applause erupted as each proud grad took his or her turn in the spotlight.

The theme of the day was the endless quest for knowledge through education.

"If you have knowledge, you have what the group needs," said Miccosukee Chairman Colley Billie. "You need to get knowledge, come back and give it to the Tribe. You will become leaders and we will rely on you."

Principal Manuel Varela pointed out the end result of a lifetime of learning.

"A mind that is stretched by new experiences can never go back to its old dimensions," Varela said. "Congratulations for a job well done."

Seminole students Omar A. Keey-Billie, Jamere Osceola, Ava Osceola and Dionah Osceola-Bert joined their



Beverly Bidney

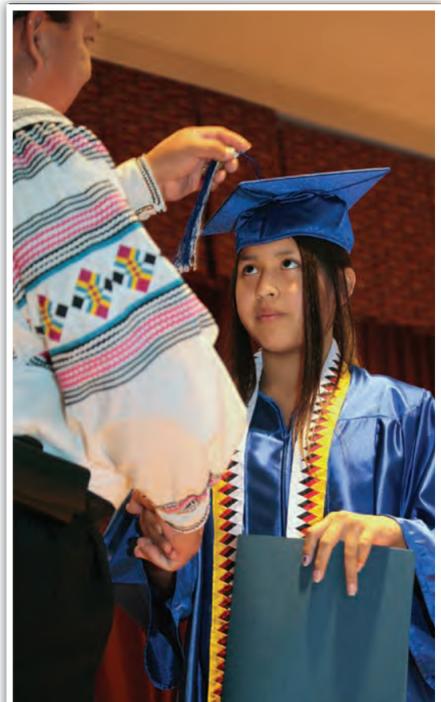
Kindergarten graduate Omar A. Keey-Billie receives his diploma during the May 2 Miccosukee Indian School commencement ceremony.

Miccosukee peers and received their diplomas from Chairman Billie. Seminole student Draycen Osceola also graduated.



Beverly Bidney

Fifth-grade grad Dionah Osceola-Bert proudly makes her way down the aisle to applause from friends and family May 2 at the Miccosukee Indian School graduation.



Beverly Bidney

Miccosukee Chairman Colley Billie moves fifth-grade graduate Ava Osceola's tassel from one side to the other, symbolizing her graduation.

Graduates shed joyful tears as they close one door, open others

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Ahfachkee School graduates may have received the best advice of their high school careers on the very last day.

“Don’t let this be the last time you graduate,” said Education Department director Santarvis Brown to five graduates during commencement ceremonies May 30.

Dressed in mortarboard caps, academic gowns and intricately designed patchwork sashes at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, the teenagers were as much celebrating an end as they were heralding new beginnings.

Graduates Malari Baker, Sarah Osceola, Gianna Wargolet, Quenton Cypress and Savannah Tiger will head to college or technical vocational schools after summer vacation. Like most teens, each experienced moments of doubt that could have led to academic disaster, but all faced the uncertainty and achieved success.

Salutatorian Sarah Osceola, who plans to attend Immokalee Technical Center, said she felt like quitting school several times, but as she matured, she shifted from feeling fearful to taking charge.

“One should always strive to be a leader, not a follower,” Osceola said. “I had to put in the effort to reach the end of the finish line.”

Ahfachkee teacher Jarrid Smith, a former college athlete who holds master’s degrees in political science and communications, delivered the commencement address. The two-syllable gist of his message that every

grad understood: YOLO.

“You only live once,” Smith said.

But Smith provided more than a four-letter acronym. He reminded teens of the recent sudden passing of beloved Big Cypress Recreation basketball coach Al McGriff. No longer would they see McGriff’s persistent and contagious toothy smile or listen to his grandfatherly guidance that made players give their best shot. McGriff was vigilant about keeping children safe and busily occupied in healthy activities. He was more than an hourly employee, Smith said. McGriff’s life was rich in value and purpose.

“Learning about Mr. Al’s passing was hard. Every time I saw him, he greeted me with a smile. It’s obvious to us that we only live once, but let’s not let someone special pass away before we realize that,” Smith said. “Always remember that your lives have purpose every day.”

He told the teens that the “discomfort of responsibility is God-given” – a vehicle used by the Creator to drive purpose. Smith urged the grads to allow love, faith and kindness to guide them, warned them against complacency and challenged them to maximize their potential.

And Smith warned them of the unemployment rate – another reason to go on to higher education through the Tribe’s post-graduation program led by Brown.

Valedictorian Savannah Tiger said she plans to continue school and become a hair stylist like her mother, Cara Tiger, who owns a hair salon in Clewiston. Savannah Tiger, who had been in a car wreck during the previous year, said facing her own



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee School graduates line the stage May 30 during commencement ceremonies at Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium at Big Cypress Reservation. From left, Malari Baker, Sarah Osceola, Gianna Wargolet, Quenton Cypress and Savannah Tiger.

immortality gave her the courage to turn her once careless attitude about school into a mission.

“I didn’t think I’d make it here. I thought no, I won’t graduate. Now, wow, I can’t believe I’m not only here, but I’m the valedictorian,” she said.

But the perseverance award went to Malari Baker, who despite becoming a mother in the 10th grade, managed to juggle

child care, a full course load and a spot on the school’s championship basketball team. She is already planning to move with her son into their own home in Broward where she will attend cosmetology school.

Quenton Cypress thanked his father and role model, Cicero Osceola, for keeping him on the right track and providing him with high standards for achievement that sometimes seemed daunting but are now

every inch possible.

He also credited all Ahfachkee school staff, and then named a few.

“Thanks to [former principal] Ms. [Lucy] Dafeo for making us see we could do more than imagined ... and to the guidance counselor [Clemencia Urbank] for telling us everything we needed to know to graduate – even when we did not want to hear it,” Cypress said.



Eileen Soler

Sarah Osceola and Malari Baker make their way down a receiving line of Ahfachkee School and Big Cypress Reservation officials May 30 during high school graduation.

Students pledge ‘no’ to dope, violence, tobacco

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Peer pressure was turned upside down May 29 when Ahfachkee School kindergarten, third- and fifth-grade students were honored for taking a stance against drugs, violence and tobacco.

With Seminole Police Officer Michele Short at the helm, children pledged allegiance to American and Seminole flags and then to the international Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program, a worldwide law enforcement-driven effort that teaches children how to resist negative and illegal behavior.

“D.A.R.E. helps youth learn to think their way through problems for better outcomes and so they all become better citizens,” Short said.

The program also encourages good manners toward all people, understanding for people with different ways of life and standing up against bullies.

Fifth-grade students were especially applauded for meeting D.A.R.E. graduation requirements: attending meetings regularly, completing a D.A.R.E. activity workbook and entering an essay contest about what they learned from the program.

“D.A.R.E.) keeps me positive and drug free and taught me how to make positive choices,” David Bald Eagle read to the assembly from his essay.

Gordon Jumper wrote: “D.A.R.E. helped me learn how to be safe and how drinking and smoking can hurt your body.”

Precious Jimmie, who did not attend the assembly, won first place for her essay



Eileen Soler

D.A.R.E. program graduate Willie Smith reads an essay about the program out loud during the May 29 D.A.R.E. graduation.

that highlighted the importance of learning how to help bullied students.

Other fifth-grade D.A.R.E. graduates were Damien Fish, Brandi Osceola, Leo Osceola-Onco, Liberty Robbins and Willie Smith.

Seminole Police Chief William Latchford praised all D.A.R.E. participants.

“Like all of our officers who took an oath to protect and serve the community so did you ... Drugs and violence are not in your future,” Latchford said.



Eileen Soler

Kindergarten teacher Renee Barry and Seminole Police Officer Michele Short award students with participation certificates during the May 29 D.A.R.E. graduation at Ahfachkee School.

Big Cypress preschoolers ready for Ahfachkee



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress Preschool graduates line up for their big walk down the aisle to receive their diplomas May 16.



Beverly Bidney

Kalaney Hannah takes the trip down the aisle to receive her diploma at the Big Cypress Preschool graduation.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS —The 15 members of the Big Cypress Preschool graduating class of 2014 are officially ready to attend Ahfachkee School’s prekindergarten program come fall.

The preschool held its graduation ceremony May 16 at the Boys & Girls Club in front of a camera-wielding crowd eager to document the occasion.

“The kids are going to be deeply missed,” said Shirley Clay, Preschool manager. “They are all special little kids and I enjoyed them all.”

The 3- and 4-year-olds practiced diligently for two months before the ceremony; they performed musical skits, sang songs in Mikasuki and English, and with the help of the Culture Department, introduced themselves individually to the audience in Mikasuki.

The group of children proudly and excitedly walked down the aisle to receive their diplomas, declaring them ready for the next step along their academic journeys.

“This is like a head start for them,”



Beverly Bidney

The Big Cypress Preschool graduating class sings in English and Mikasuki at the graduation ceremony May 16.

Clay said. “It gets them used to going to school every day.”

The class of 2014 graduates: Kysley’ana Anderson, J’La Amancia Billie, Brysen Billie, Joshua Billie,

Mahayla Billie, Zayden Cypress, Danae Gilkes, Drake Green, Kalaney Hannahs, John Hall, Casidi Motlow, Dustin Osceola, Bernard Robbins III, Terrance Robbins and Randy Rueda Jr.



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress Preschool graduate Randy Rueda Jr. prepares to walk through the balloon arch and down the aisle to receive his diploma.



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress preschoolers patiently wait in their makeshift dressing room for their cue to walk down the aisle during the May 16 graduation ceremony.

Kindergarten grads show can-do attitude

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Coconut palm trees and funny monkeys set the scene May 27 for the sweet and giddy graduation of the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School kindergarten class of 2014.

Children paraded onto the Brighton Veteran's Building stage to sing a lineup of melodies that spelled things (*Party in the Jungle*), counted things (*Five Little Monkeys*) and inspired the house to stand up and shout (*Boom Chica Boom*).

But moving upward into first grade of elementary school is a serious matter, said principal Brian Greseth.

"Thirty years ago kindergarten kids just learned to play and socialize. They learned letters and sounds of letter. Now, they are reading books, writing words and knowing all their numbers. Our kindergartners have come a long way," Greseth said.

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard awarded the nearly 30 students headed to first grade with plenty of praise.

"You make us all proud – your Tribe proud, your parents proud and the entire school proud," Rep. Howard said.

Each child received a certificate of completion. Many collected awards in improvement, language, citizenship and other categories.

Greseth spurred all, even parents, to continue learning all summer long.

"Children can slip back three or four months or grow even more. Whether you



Eileen Soler

Principal Brian Greseth awards kindergarten student Kimberlyn Toms with an achievement certificate for moving forward into first grade May 27.



Eileen Soler

Corraling 20 Brighton Preschool graduates for one group photo proves a challenging task for even the best of Tribal leadership during the May 14 ceremony at the Brighton Veteran's Building.

Tiny students launch to big futures in Brighton

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Some children were too excited to stay still. Others were so shy they could barely speak. But after plenty of cheerful songs and a heartfelt congratulatory speech from Chairman James E. Billie, all graduates of the Brighton Preschool class of 2014 proudly marched dressed in cap and gown regalia across the stage and confidently into the next stage of life.

Twenty future prekindergarten students made a memorable mark on a packed house of cheering parents, grandparents and siblings May 14 at the Brighton Veteran's Building. Each gave thanks in the Creek language of their ancestors. The students were awarded with certificates, applause and hugs after shaking hands – like big kids – with Tribal leaders Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard and Chairman Billie.



Eileen Soler

Stanislaus Rodrigues shakes hands big-boy style with Chairman James E. Billie during the commencement ceremony.



Eileen Soler

Kindergarten students from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School perform the song *Party in the Jungle* May 27 during an end-of-the-year music and awards program to celebrate moving on to first grade.



Eileen Soler

Kieona Baker prepares to lead a procession of Brighton Preschool graduates May 14 during a commencement ceremony at the Brighton Veteran's Building.



Eileen Soler

Airo Tommie is a picture of pride May 14 during the commencement ceremony.

Eighth-graders say farewell to PECS



Emma Johns

Eighth-grader Brian Bishop, center, celebrates his final day at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School with his mother, Wendy, and little brother. The school hosted a send-off celebration June 3 that included cake and a slideshow presentation for its graduating students.



Eileen Soler

Charisma Micco walks down the aisle of honor May 14 as one of 20 Brighton Preschool graduates.



Emma Johns

Laverne and Jason Thomas take a photo with son Lane on his final day of eighth grade.



Emma Johns

Ivess Baker hugs his mother, Mona, on his last day as an eighth-grader at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School June 3.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Students of the Month



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Elementary School Students of the Month: Jessie Martinez, Chaka Smith, Steel Gopher, Akeelah Mitchell, Carlee Osceola, Iann Jimmie, Quincy Sampson, Jayko Billie, Derrick Smith, Melina Steve, Lillian Garcia, Ryanna Osceola, Angelie Melton, Elle Thomas, Caylie Huff, Isaiah Bishop, Tanner Shore and Kiowa Garcia. Not pictured: Jessie Martinez, Chaka Smith, Steel Gopher and Jayko Billie.

Pemayetv Emahakv holds year-end honors ceremony



Emma Johns

PECS first- and second-graders proudly display the trophies they received for earning straight A's all year during the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School last nine week awards ceremony June 4.



Emma Johns

Middle school students Aubrey Pearce and Rudy Juarez receive trophies for earning straight A's all year.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Middle School Students of the Month: Kamani Smith, Kano Puente and Layne Thomas. Not pictured: Layne Thomas.



Emma Johns

CeCe Thomas shows off her new hoodie for achieving perfect attendance for the 2013-14 school year during the last nine week awards ceremony.



Emma Johns

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students receive The President's Academic Excellence Award for being great scholars all year.

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Sports



Teens, youth compete at Jim Thorpe games

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

SHAWNEE, Okla. — Young Seminole athletes showed spirited determination June 8-14 at the Jim Thorpe Native American Games in Shawnee, Okla.

Despite rain-soaked fields, slim turnout for individual sports and the cancellation of all softball events due to severe storms during the prior week, competitive attitudes prevailed.

"It's a fun and good experience. We get to travel, hang with friends and play a lot of basketball," said Nicholas Smith, who played for the 19U Rez Ballers out of Brighton Reservation.

Coach Theresa Frost drove the team halfway across the country in a cozy recreation vehicle.

"For me, it's not about the winning; it's the journey. Getting the boys away from the reservation to see the world is the blessing," she said.

Though Seminole members did not place first in events that included golf, wrestling, basketball and track, some took home silver and bronze medals.

JUS Nation, 19U basketball, won four games and earned a bronze for third place. Formed five years ago, the team is co-coached by Andrew Jordan Bowers and consists of Florida Seminole members and Winnebago Tribe members of Nebraska.

"It all started with the players' older brothers; when we'd show up with five players, they showed up with five players, and we combined so we'd have one team ... Now, we're keeping it in the family," Bowers said.

Players included Hollywood Reservation's Hunter Osceola, a point guard who recently played on the state championship American Heritage basketball team. American Heritage junior Trewston Pierce, of Hollywood, also played on JUS Nation.

Hollywood brothers Conchade and Byron Osceola placed second and third, respectively, in boys golf for ages 12-14. Mallorie Thomas, of Brighton, finished



Eileen Soler

Hunter Osceola, a member of the JUS Nation basketball team comprised of Seminole and Winnebago Tribe members, moves the ball down the court at the Jim Thorpe Native American Games in Shawnee, Okla. Seminole Tribe members competed in golf, wrestling, basketball and track during the June 8-14 event.

fourth in the 400-meter race, and Danyelle Boromei, also of Brighton, placed fourth in the long jump.

Gigi Tannehill, a consultant for the event, said 1,600 athletes registered to play 11 sports in the seven-day event held to honor the late Olympic gold winner James Francis "Jim" Thorpe, of the Sac and Fox Tribe of Oklahoma.

Thorpe won the pentathlon and

decalathlon in the 1912 Olympics. Considered the most versatile athlete in modern history, Thorpe also played college and professional football, baseball and basketball. He was voted the greatest athlete of the 20th century in an ABC Sports poll.

Tannehill said about 4,000 people attended the opening ceremony at Firelake Arena in Shawnee. Participating Tribes included the nearby Kickapoo, Sac and

Fox, Muscogee, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Pottawatomie, Shawnee, Cheyenne and Arapaho, and Seminole Nation Tribes. Two athletes were awarded \$2,500 each in college scholarships.

"We want children to know that they don't have to stay in one place. They can be a Schimmel sister or the next Jim Thorpe," Tannehill said.

♦ See JIM THORPE on page 5C

Seminoles to compete north of the border at NAIG

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

If it seems like it's been a long time since the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) were held, it has.

Last in action six years ago, the Olympics-style event for Native athletes from the U.S. and Canada returns July 20-26 in Regina, the capital city of Saskatchewan, Canada.

More than 4,500 participants — including a contingent from the Seminole Tribe of Florida — will vie for gold, silver and bronze medals in 13 sports. For Seminole to bring back medals, they will likely have to defeat Canadians at some point — more than two-thirds of the athletes hail from Canada.

According to the NAIG website, the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and Saskatchewan have registered the maximum 500 athletes each; Manitoba isn't far behind with 480. Wisconsin has the largest group from the U.S. with 318; Florida has 85. Other states registered to compete include California, Colorado, Connecticut, Nevada, New York and Washington.

Seminole athletes, including the U19 basketball team, will compete as members of Team Florida.

"We'll have a good team, a very talented team," said U19 coach Charles Fisher, whose squad includes Aaron Alvarado, Alphonso Alvarado, David Ethan Billie III, Trey Boone, Joshua Boromei, Damian Garza, Neko Osceola, Francisco Rodriguez and Marcelis Thomas.

Unlike previous Games when athletes ages 20 and older were among the participants, this year's competition is limited to ages 13-19. Hockey — beloved in Canada — is not part of the Games; however, 13 sports are on the menu: archery, athletics (track and field),

♦ See GAMES on page 2C



Kevin Johnson

Haskell Indians Nation University volleyball player Lisa Atcity works with Taina Billie, 6, during the Haskell volleyball camp June 16 on Big Cypress Reservation.

Kids learn from college players at volleyball camp

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS — No matter the ages of their players, coaches often mention that doing little things correctly leads to success. In volleyball, that sentiment even applies to youngsters barely taller than the bottom of the net.

So when Janah Cypress, 6, learned how to set her hands and arms to make a pass, and Ramon Vasquez, 8, started hitting the ball over the net instead of into it, smiles lit up the faces of their instructors during the Haskell Indians Nation University Volleyball Camp June 16 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on Big Cypress Reservation.

"It starts at these young ages," said Haskell volleyball coach Nana Allison-Brewer. Allison-Brewer brought two of her players to Big Cypress and Brighton for four days of camp at the start of summer programs offered by the Recreation Department.

"It's neat that we have such a big group of younger ages. Hopefully, we can sustain it and help build that passion and love within the Indian community," she said. After Javian Cypress drilled a left-handed cross-court kill during a mini-game, the American Heritage School fourth-grader received an emphatic high-five from Lisa Atcity, Haskell's senior setter. Atcity provided instruction and led passing, hitting and rotation drills with teammate Tiffany

Runs Through and Allison-Brewer for dozens of Seminole youngsters.

"I learned how to serve and how to spike," Javian Cypress said. "I like serving better because you start the game off."

Javian was impressed by the visitors from Haskell, a college in Lawrence, Kan. for federally recognized Tribes.

"They're good. They hit the ball hard," he said.

The favorite sport for Javian — similar to many youngsters on reservations — is basketball, not volleyball. Where does volleyball rank among sports in Indian Country?

"It's not very high," said Allison-Brewer, which is why the former University of New Mexico player is trying to increase the sport's popularity on reservations through her camps and the Native American Volleyball Academy that she founded seven years ago.

"It's to promote and help volleyball within the Indian communities. This is all tied in to be able to come here and hopefully help develop this population within the sport," she said.

When Haskell came to Florida last fall to play two matches in Lakeland, Allison-Brewer and her players held a camp for youth on Brighton, which has a successful travel club program that won multiple tournaments this past winter.

♦ See HASKELL on page 2C

Triple Crown series concludes with Howard Tiger fishing tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS — Seeing the day's biggest bass in young hands made Mike Tiger smile because he knew it would have made his dad happy.

"Getting kids involved, getting families involved, that's what my dad was about," Tiger said at the Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament May 31 on Big Cypress Reservation.

The heaviest bass was reeled from canal waters by the tournament's youngest fisherman, Trevon Marks, 14. Another teen, Blevyns Jumper, 17, teamed up with his father, Josh, to capture the overall championship in the three-tournament Triple Crown series.

"We've accomplished what we wanted to do with the tournament in getting youth involved. My dad was a big advocate of youth," Tiger said.

At home and overseas, the late Howard Tiger was a leader and pioneer on many fronts. He was the first Seminole to join the U.S. Marine Corps in World War II and was part of the first wave to land in the Battle of Iwo Jima. Afterward, he devoted much of his life to the Tribe and its youth while raising three sons and a daughter with his wife, Winifred.

"He was the first person in the Tribe to start a recreation program for the youth," Mike Tiger said. "He loved the Tribe; he loved the youth. He was a great coach. He was an outstanding baseball player and football player in his day, and he was an above-average boxer. He boxed in Golden Gloves."

Howard Tiger, whose legacy will continue to impact generations of Tribal youth when the new Howard Tiger Recreation Center opens in Hollywood, also loved outdoor activities in and out of the water.

"He was an outdoorsman, hunter, fisherman," Mike Tiger said. "I remember he'd swim the canals to go and shoot deer. He'd come back across the canal with a deer, swimming ahead of the deer."

Sporting a hunter's look with a bright orange University of Florida sweatshirt, Marks proudly returned with the tournament's biggest catch, which earned him the Sonny Di Carlo and Clyde Tiger Big Bass Memorial award. Weighed by Joe Collins from the Hollywood Recreation Department, the bass tipped the scale at 8 pounds, 2 ounces.

"That's a big bass. Over the years, we've had guys who brought in some nines, not a 10 yet," said retired tribalwide Recreation director Moses Jumper Jr., who helped start the tournament about 30 years ago.



Kevin Johnson

Josh Jumper, left, and his son, Blevyns, right, are presented a plaque for winning the Seminole Tribe Triple Crown fishing series at the conclusion of the Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament May 31 on Big Cypress Reservation. Howard Tiger's son Mike, center, presented the plaque to the winners.

For the past few years, the tournament was dormant. It returned this year to join two earlier tournaments as part of the Triple Crown. The tournament didn't reach double digits in the number of boats, but now that it's back, there was a boatload of optimism about the future.

"We usually have upwards of 10 to 20 boats. It was always a big thing for us," Jumper said. "Hopefully this year will generate interest again."

Marks partnered with Kassim Stockton to bring in four bass and a tournament-high 22.65 pounds, most of which came aboard after a lengthy drought.

"We had a dry spell for about two-and-a-half hours. We weren't catching anything," said Marks, a student at American Heritage School in Plantation. He cast his first line at age 3.

The dry spell lasted longer for Randy Jackson, who fished solo.

"They weren't cooperating with me today at all," said Jackson, who caught one bass.

Busier lines belonged to Blevyns and Josh Jumper, who caught five bass worth 20.01 pounds.

"We had some dry spells, but (overall) it was good. Twenty pounds isn't bad," Josh Jumper said.



Kevin Johnson

Trevon Marks, 14, holds two of the bass he caught during the Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament May 31.

fish," Marks quipped about the difference. An awards ceremony was held after all the bass were weighed and released

♦ See FISHING on page 2C

FISHING
From page 1C

back into the canal. Moses Jumper Jr. thanked Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola for sponsoring the tournament. "If it wasn't for Chris Osceola, we

wouldn't have this one," Jumper said. Mike Tiger presented plaques and trophies to the day's top fishermen. The Triple Crown kicked off March 15 with the Bass Buster's Fishing Tournament, which Stockton and Marks won. Blevyns and Josh Jumper won the second leg at the Take-A-Kid Fishing Tournament May 3.



Kevin Johnson

Participants and organizers in the Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament gather for a photo on Big Cypress Reservation May 31. From left, Fred Phillips, Moses Jumper Jr., Randy Jackson, Howard Tiger's son Mike Tiger, Blevyns Jumper, Kassim Stockton, Trevon Marks and Josh Jumper. The tournament was the third and final leg of the Seminole Tribe's Triple Crown fishing series.

GAMES
From page 1C

badminton, baseball, basketball, canoeing, lacrosse, golf, rifle shooting, soccer, softball, volleyball and wrestling. Boxing was canceled earlier this year. According to the Leader-Post newspaper in Regina, swimming was also canceled because of a problem with facilities. Kayaking will be a demonstration sport.

Team Saskatchewan dominated the 2008 Games in British Columbia with 243 medals. Team Florida won five medals.

Normally held every two to four years, NAIG missed a rotation in 2011 when the event, scheduled for Milwaukee, Wisc., was canceled.

Regina beat out cities in Nova Scotia and Ontario to win the bid to host the 2014 Games. Regina's bid committee included representatives from the Federation of

Saskatchewan Indian Nations, Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, City of Regina, Province of Saskatchewan and University of Regina.

The university will be a hub for activity as the residence for about 2,000 athletes and coaches and the venue for basketball, soccer, volleyball and wrestling.

The Games won't only be about athletic competition; culture and entertainment are also part of the program. Opening ceremonies in the 32,000-seat Mosaic Stadium - home of the Canadian Football League's Saskatchewan Roughriders - will be June 20. Headline entertainers slated to perform include George Leach, Inez Jasper and Crystal Shawanda. The cultural village at First Nations University will host daily performances.

Located in the southern part of the province, Regina is about 100 miles north of Saskatchewan's border with Montana and 2,500 miles from South Florida.



HASKELL
From page 1C

"I just want to help that energy that has started to build here," she said.

For Atcitty and Runs Through, both of whom did not start playing volleyball until about the fifth grade, working with youngsters is a rewarding way to spend the offseason.

"I enjoy the little kids," said Atcitty, a Navajo from New Mexico.

After the Big Cypress event, Runs Through, an Assiniboine Tribe member, said she was impressed that the Seminole kids took quickly to the sport.

"I wasn't able to do some of the skills they're able to do at that age. I think that's awesome," Runs Through said.



Kevin Johnson

Haskell Indians Nation University volleyball player Tiffany Runs Through teaches Aaliah Quintanilla, 7, how to serve during the Haskell volleyball camp June 16 on Big Cypress Reservation.



Kevin Johnson

Haskell Indians Nation University volleyball coach Nana Allison-Brewer talks about the sport's rules during the Haskell volleyball camp.



Kevin Johnson

Haskell Indians Nation University volleyball player Lisa Atcitty works with Taina Billie, 6, during volleyball camp.



Kevin Johnson

Haskell volleyball player Lisa Atcitty goes through a serving drill.

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Athletes score big at Pemayetv Emahakv year-end banquet

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — The hands of Camryn Thomas are often occupied with sports equipment, whether a glove, ball or bat, but when the eighth-grader departed from the Brighton Veteran's Building, awards filled her hands.

Thomas received five honors May 28 during Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's year-end sports banquet that gave tribute to middle school student-athletes from boys and girls basketball, softball and girls volleyball.

The memories outweighed the awards for Thomas, who will attend Lake Placid High School this fall.

"It's overwhelming because I'm leaving," said Thomas, who received Seminole awards in basketball and softball for demonstrating great character and leadership. She also won the Most Improved award in volleyball and was honored as a three-year letter winner.

On the school's academic side, she was recognized as the only three-year scholar athlete.

When softball coach Nancy Jimmie looked for a player to lead the team this past season, her eyes focused on Thomas.

"I wanted her to carry the team for me and show everybody how actual teammates should be," Jimmie told the audience. "She has a great attitude. She's the kind of person I wanted everybody on the team to be."

Boys basketball standout Richard Harris, who will attend Okeechobee High School, also went home with plenty of hardware after being named the team's Most Valuable Player and Defensive Player of the Year. The trophy for the latter was in the form of a bronzed regulation-size basketball.

"It's pretty big. It's going in the trophy case at home," said Harris, an eighth-grader whose final season at PECS proved memorable for leading the squad in blocks, rebounds, scoring and steals.

"He was our leader in the locker room as well," said boys basketball coach Kevin Jackson, who described his small forward as "a very special player athletically, very gifted."

Harris, Thomas and classmate Sunni



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School boys basketball award winners Lucas Osceola, left, and Richard Harris check out their trophies during the school's sports banquet May 28 at the Brighton Veteran's Building. Osceola was named Offensive Player of the Year; Harris received Defensive Player of the Year and Most Valuable Player awards.

Bearden were recognized for being three-year letter winners. The honors were handed out by athletic director Darryl Allen.

"I wanted to present it to them and let them know how much we appreciate what they've done in our program," Allen said.

Bearden's excellence on defense didn't go unnoticed, as she captured Defensive Player of the Year awards in volleyball and basketball.

Aleina Micco's jaw-dropping .714 batting average in softball and 51 service aces in volleyball helped her garner two softball awards (Offensive Player of the Year and Lady Seminole Hitstick) and one volleyball award (Seminole).

"Considering we only had like 12 games, that's quite a bit of aces," said volleyball coach Kim Jackson. "She works very hard and doesn't get the credit she deserves a lot of the time."

Raeley Matthews was a double award winner in volleyball. She was named MVP

and Offensive Player of the Year thanks in part to her team-high 62 kills. Jackson said Matthews "made a huge impact on our team."

"One match, her mom told her that if she didn't get 10 kills in the game, she wasn't going to take her to McDonald's. Guess who got 10 kills that game?" Jackson said.

In addition to an outstanding season on the court, Matthews was recognized for her success in the classroom throughout the academic year. She received the school's top academic excellence award for female student-athletes with a 3.8 GPA. Kaleb Doctor won the award on the boys side with an impressive 4.0.

Other award winners included: Luzana Venzor (girls basketball Rookie of the Year, softball Most Improved); Caroline Sweat (girls basketball Most Improved); Cady Osceola (girls basketball Offensive Player of the Year); Lucas Osceola (boys basketball Offensive Player of the Year); Conner Thomas (boys basketball Seminole); Silas Madrigal (boys basketball Rookie of the Year); Morgan King (boys basketball Most Improved); Jaycee Jumper (softball Defensive Player of the Year); Janessa Nunez (softball Rookie of the Year); and Julia Smith (softball MVP).

For maintaining at least a 3.5 GPA during their sports season, scholar athlete awards were given to softball's Nunez, Krysta Burton and Alaina Sweat; volleyball's Matthews, Micco, Smith and Camryn Thomas; girls basketball's Jaylynn Jones; and boys basketball's Madrigal, Chandler Pearce, Brady Rhodes and Layne Thomas.

Finding opponents their own age has been a challenge for PECS teams because middle schools with sports are somewhat rare. Therefore, PECS sometimes faces high school teams.

"I'm very proud of our athletic programs and the seasons they've had, especially doing so well against so many teams that are much older than us," principal Brian Greseth said. "Many of our sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders are playing against ninth-, 10th- and 11th-graders, and they do well."

◆ TAMPA BAY RAYS

From page 1A

"Let him have it, go anywhere he wants to go," Maddon instructed Vaughan.

Maddon later described Henry to reporters as a "uniquely engaging fellow. I really enjoyed my moment with him. We just turned him loose on the Trop."

Henry marked territory as he walked around the artificial grass field and along the entire outfield wall. He meditated in the Rays dugout on the first base side and then ate breakfast with the Rays, many of whom gratefully shook the medicine man's hand. Shortstop Yunel Escobar brought two of his bats to Henry, who rubbed them with his hands.

"I feel energy," Escobar said. "I feel energy with this man." (Later Escobar, using one of the bats, delivered a base hit on the first pitch he saw).

Outfielder Brandon Guyer, who was on the disabled list at the time of Henry's visit, had his injured thumb caressed by the medicine man. Still red and blue, Guyer said the cast had just come off that day. He wondered when the thumb would be back to full strength.

"Just take it easy. Feels good. It's coming. Just take it easy," Henry cautioned.

Bench coach Dave Martinez brought Henry into his office to fill out that afternoon's lineup card. Henry rubbed his hands all over the card.

During the game, Henry sat behind the backstop. Just as the Rays came to bat in the bottom of the first, loud thunder could be heard outside the high dome ceiling. An unexpected thunderstorm swelled up and sat directly atop the stadium.

All of the game's runs came from Seattle in the third inning as the Mariners scored three times off Rays starter David Price, who pitched a five-hitter with 10 strikeouts and one walk. The Rays squandered numerous scoring chances, leaving 10 men on base; however, curse-type plays that Maddon had alluded to never appeared. It was a loss —

the 13th in 14 games — but a normal loss.

"Something's working," said Henry, who was interviewed throughout the game by media. His image was beamed around the world as a lead item in ESPN, FOX and other sportscasts. "Just got to give it some time."

Although he was asked often, Henry would not specifically explain his medicine work in the ball park.

"I don't like to talk about it. Talking about it is no good. You just have to accept the way of the Seminole. It's like when you go to a doctor. He gives you something to take and if it don't work, you go back and he tries something else," he said.

During a postgame press conference, a frustrated Price said, "Yeah, we had a medicine man here today sprinkling water

on peoples' chairs. That didn't work."

Maddon, however, took a different view. He made it clear he was in it for the long run, fully expecting his last-place team would recover and be strong in the second half of the season.

"Yes. It rained heavily. We did ask Bobby for more hits. Maybe he thought I said more rain. Nevertheless, just be patient with all this. Just give it a little time ...," he said. "But it was an intense rain. From what I understand, it was right over the Trop which I'm pretty impressed with. That's pretty solid. Maybe it was a cleansing rain. Let's consider it a cleansing rain. Let's see what happens over the next couple of days."

Since Henry's visit to Tropicana Field, the Rays have won seven games and lost five.



Peter B. Gallagher

Bobby Henry spends more than 30 minutes treating the clubhouse, where players spend most of their time before and after the game.



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School student Julia Smith fires a softball in the 11-12 girls softball throw at Hershey's Track and Field State Finals at Ansin Sports Complex in Miramar June 21. Smith won the division with a throw of 138 feet.

PECS trio earns victories at Hershey's state finals

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

MIRAMAR — Two long softball throws and the chest of Justin Gopher helped Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School earn three victories June 21 at Hershey's Track and Field State Finals. The event drew about 300 student-athletes to a sun-drenched Ansin Sports Complex in Miramar.

Gopher's extra effort paid off in the dramatic final strides of the boys 400-meter race in the 11-12 age group. Starting from the outside in lane six, Gopher, who wore sky-blue Nike Force sneakers, led early. However, as he neared the finish line, he was in second place. With one final gasp he stuck out his chest in his last stride. It was a photo finish for first, although such technology wasn't used for the event. After a few minutes of conferring, officials deemed the race finished in a tie, as both Gopher and another runner crossed in 1 minute, 9 seconds.

Just a few minutes prior to the 400, Gopher ran the 100. He didn't place in the top three. He said afterward that he prefers to run longer distances compared to sprints.

"The 400 is my favorite," he said.

Gopher's victory capped an impressive day for PECS, which also received wins from Raeley Matthews and Julia Smith in the softball throw. Eight PECS students ages 9 to 14 were among the 300 athletes at states, which only featured winners and runners-up from district meets held in May.

PECS' state winners will have to wait and see if they are invited to compete in Hershey's North American finals Aug. 2 in Hershey, Pa. Their winning numbers will be matched against winners from

eight other states in the Southeast before officials decide who will compete in Chocolatetown. Selections are expected to be known in early July.

If Matthews is selected, it will be a return trip to nationals where she finished runner-up a few years ago in the softball throw.

"I want to go back," she said.

The farthest of Matthews' three throws in Miramar soared 164 feet, 10 inches — or nearly 55 yards — on Ansin's soccer/football field. Matthews' winning margin in the 13-14 girls division was a comfortable 17 feet in front of the runner-up. After she notched the victory, Matthews competed in the 200-meter run, where she finished seventh.

With four events on her menu, Smith was PECS' busiest athlete. The shortstop on the school's softball team showed that the strength of her arm can reach well beyond an infield. Her winning throw covered 138 feet in the 11-12 girls division. On the track, she finished third in the 400, fourth in the 100 and teamed up with Jenna Brown, Aubrey Pearce and Diana Rivera to finish third in the 4x100 relay. Rivera was a substitute for Janessa Nunez, who was unable to attend the meet.

In addition to the victories, PECS students churned out other solid results. Ysla Meras finished second in the 9-10 girls softball throw with a throw of 83 feet, 5 inches. Donovan Harris heaved the softball 161 feet, good enough for runner-up in the 11-12 boys division. Chandler Pearce was the only PECS student who qualified for states in the standing long jump. His leap of 8 feet placed him fourth in the 13-14 boys division.



Kevin Johnson

Chandler Pearce goes airborne in the 13-14 boys standing long jump at Hershey's Track and Field State Finals.



Kevin Johnson

Raeley Matthews launches a softball in the 13-14 girls softball throw during Hershey's Track and Field State Finals. Matthews finished first with a throw of 164 feet, 10 inches.



Kevin Johnson

Justin Gopher crosses the finish line in a tie for first place in the 11-12 boys 400-meter run at Hershey's Track and Field State Finals June 21 at Ansin Sports Complex in Miramar.

Announcements



Beverly Bidney

The Seminole Sports Hall of Fame is on display at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum until Nov. 9.

Seminole Sports Hall of Fame exhibited at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

STAFF REPORT

BIG CYPRESS — Eighty-five items from the Seminole Sports Hall of Fame are on display at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum until Nov. 9.

Normally housed in the Hollywood Gym, the Hall of Fame items are on loan to the Museum until the Howard Tiger Recreation Center is completed later this year. Moses Jumper Jr. offered the pieces for display

until its permanent home is ready.

“Moses wanted to make sure these items were housed somewhere securely,” said Rebecca Fell, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum curator. “Almost half of the nearly 200 piece collection is on display.”

Plaques, trophies, photos and memorabilia from about 100 inductees dating back to the 1940s boast the accomplishments of a Tribe steeped in a strong tradition of athletics.

You can chose the 2014 Seminole patchwork ornament



#1

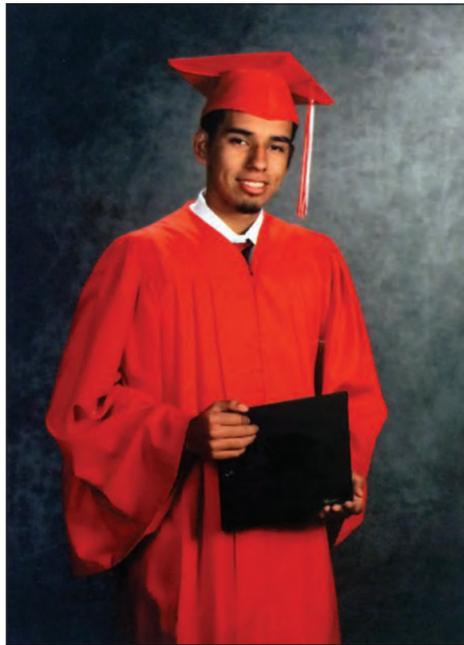


#2

Courtesy of Rebecca Petrie

Help the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Store chose the patchwork design for the 2014 patchwork ornament. All through July, the Museum will be taking votes to decide which one of two designs will be used this year. One person from the winning votes cast will win a free ornament. You can vote in person at the Museum, by email bcmureception@semtribe.com or by phone at 863-902-1113 ext. 12224.

Congratulations, Aaron Alvarado



Congratulations to my son, Aaron Alvarado, who graduated from Immokalee High School. You finally made it. We are so proud of you, and we love you.

From your Mom and Dad – Mary Lou & Roy Alvarado Sr. – and the Alvarado and Garza families



Photo courtesy of Bruce Britton

From left, Lt. Daniel Rivers, firefighter/paramedic Kevin Pinkerton, firefighter/paramedic Juan Salazar and Lt. David Coosaia pose with their bronze medals.

STOF Fire Rescue takes the bronze

SUBMITTED BY BRUCE BRITTON
Deputy Fire Marshal

LAKE WORTH — More than 400 firefighters from Florida converged at the Fountains Country Club in Lake Worth May 5 to compete in a four-man scramble golf tournament during the Florida Firefighter Games.

Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue’s team – comprised of Lt. Daniel Rivers, firefighter/paramedic Kevin Pinkerton, firefighter/paramedic Juan Salazar and Lt. Davie Coosaia – finished 11-under par to take third place.

“We didn’t expect to make it this far, as we were simply playing our game and having fun,” Pinkerton said.

The team will return next year for the gold.

Words of wisdom from a college grad

I have been employed with the Tribe in the Human Resources Department for the past five years. Once I started to work full time it gave me a push to go back to school not only for myself but also to serve as an example and mentor for my children and family. So in my desire to improve myself both personally and professionally I felt the need to pursue a bachelor’s degree.

I wanted to have a backup plan so that I would be self-sustainable and remain independent. In May 2014, I attained my bachelor’s degree and walked in the commencement ceremony with pride as I confirmed the old saying that hard work does pay off.

Now, equipped with the wealth of experience that I have gained over the past 5 years, together with my education and degree, I realize that I am now marketable to work for the Tribe and/or any other company I desire.

Having children does force one to look at life from another perspective, and my kids have done just so; now I not only think of my own future but theirs as well.

Finally, I encourage all young and old to continue



Photo courtesy of Mariann Billie

Mariann Billie, who recently graduated with a bachelor’s degree, encourages Tribal members to continue with their education aspirations.

with their education aspirations, pursue their dreams and get educated. Knowledge is a powerful thing and once you have it no one can ever take it from you.

–Submitted by Mariann Billie, of Big Cypress

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B16671	2002	FORD	E250 ECONOLINE	201,697	Poor	\$899.00
216495	2003	FORD	CROWN VICTORIA (POLICE)	65,536	Poor	\$789.00
216508	2003	FORD	CROWN VICTORIA (POLICE)	77,502	Poor	\$606.00
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◆ **JIM THORPE**

From page 1C

Thorpe's son, Bill Thorpe, 85, was on hand at the annual games that began in 2012 on the 100th anniversary of his father's Olympic wins.

"I think it's wonderful to have the youngsters train during the year to come out here and play. It builds the athlete in them and it's the Thorpe name living on," Bill Thorpe said.

He hopes the games will become popular enough to host satellite events in Washington, California, New York and South Florida.



Eileen Soler

Seminole wrestler Michael Garcia keeps his opponent on defense June 9 at the Jim Thorpe Native American Games in Shawnee, Okla.



Eileen Soler

Byron Osceola follows the ball after a swing during the Jim Thorpe Native American Games.



Eileen Soler

Trewston Pierce goes for the dunk at the Jim Thorpe Native American Games in Shawnee, Okla.



Eileen Soler

Members of the Seminole All-Stars basketball team, based in Big Cypress, show off new pink T-shirts from the Jim Thorpe Native American Games. From left, Chaska Osceola, Joseph Lee Sanders, Ricky Garza and Jason Sanders.



Eileen Soler

Hunter Osceola, a member of the JUS Nation basketball team comprised of Seminole and Winnebago Tribe members, attempts a 3-pointer.



Eileen Soler

Mallorie Thomas runs in the 400-meter at the Jim Thorpe Native American Games.



Eileen Soler

Leilani Gopher dribbles the ball down court at the Jim Thorpe Native American Games in Shawnee, Okla.



Eileen Soler

Seminole wrestlers Drayton Billie, left, and Michael Garcia, both of Brighton, practice competitive moves before matches June 9.

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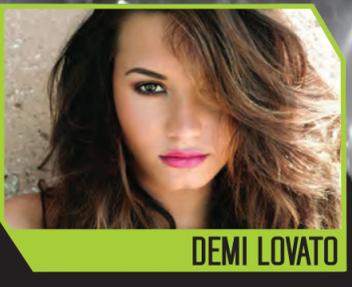


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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Castillo worked as a Public Defender in Broward County from 1990-1996 and has been in private practice since 1996. In 1995, he was voted the Trial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

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