



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Save the *tu-lee*: Redbay project begins on Tribal reservations

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

A federal-state program, "Mitigating the Natural and Cultural Impacts of Laurel Wilt on Redbay (*Persea borbonia*)," has begun on reservations of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

The project, funded under the national 2014 Farm Bill and administered by the United States Department of Agriculture through its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, seeks to defeat the destructive laurel wilt vascular disease now threatening redbay trees throughout the Southeastern Atlantic Coastal Plain. The contagious plague is caused by tiny Asian invasive ambrosia beetles that burrow into the trees and restrict water flow.

After noticing the sudden appearance of dead redbays on and around the Brighton Reservation in early summer, Chairman James E. Billie contacted redbay expert Jason Smith, associate professor of Forest Pathology at the University of Florida. Smith visited Brighton to investigate. He quickly diagnosed the same laurel wilt that brought substantial and widespread mortality to redbays in South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi and Florida.

Discussions with Chairman Billie led Smith to pursue adding a special component within the project to address Native cultural uses of the redbay and the importance of saving the tree for medicine and other traditional uses in the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes.

Lanette Sobel, a UF graduate student, will be heading up the project on Indian lands.

"We are particularly interested in finding strong, live redbays that are surviving among the dead ones," she said.

♦ See REDBAY on page 7A

Panther track spotted near Tribe's Lakeland property

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

POLK CITY — A Florida panther track was confirmed in late August north of Interstate 4 near tiny Polk City, which calls itself the "Gateway To The Green Swamp." Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) officials said the panther is the first in decades proven to roam that far north in Polk.

The track was discovered by retired state wildlife officer Earlie Sullivan. He called FWC biologists, who verified the track. Further proof was found in photos from a nearby motion-tripped camera that captured a panther image.

The area is only a short distance from property owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, also north of I-4. The land is going through the government process to gain federal recognition and reservation status.

Future residents — Tampa Seminoles displaced by the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa expansion — use the mostly wilderness property for youth campouts and special Tribal gatherings like last month's Family Fun Day.

"Yeah, I heard about it, but I'm not surprised," said Paul Simmons, Tampa maintenance manager.

Simmons said he nor his staff have seen evidence that the endangered Florida panthers are using the Tribe's lands.

"We're out here riding around this place all the time," he said. "If there was something like that, we'd see it. And, you know, we got a lot of water and woods out here, deer, turkey and other prey animals. And very little commotion, no cars going by. In fact, very few people ever come out here, except on our fun days. Almost perfect, actually, for panthers."

♦ See PANTHER on page 7A



Chris 'Birdman' Andersen, the new celebrity spokesman of Hard Rock Energy drink, is the new king of the block as he takes the throne surrounded by a bevy of beauties Aug. 29 during an advertising photo shoot at C&I Studios in Fort Lauderdale.

Miami Heat's Birdman rocks as face of Hard Rock Energy

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — With a mohawk doo, biker beard and ear tattoos, Chris "Birdman" Andersen's mug may not launch a thousand ships, but executives from the Seminole majority-owned Enterprise Beverage Group hope it hurls Hard Rock Energy drink to super success.

The 6-foot-10 Miami Heat power forward is the power drink's new celebrity face and spokesman.

"In basketball, Chris is known as an energy player," said David Drow, executive director of Enterprise Beverage Group, which produces, distributes and markets the product. "We're an image and lifestyle brand. Part of that is about being fun, a

little crazy and maybe a little off-center. We make things rock harder."

Andersen's celebrity endorsement was announced Aug. 29 with a press call and advertising photo shoot at C&I Studios in Fort Lauderdale. Drow said Andersen's power persona will appear in print advertising, television commercials and billboards.

Though Andersen, 36, is under contract with Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., his relationship with the Seminole community will remain "loose and informal," Drow said. Appearances at Tribal community events are not mandatory, but Andersen is welcome whenever he can attend.

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank said the endorsement deal gives Tribal business a boost by virtue of Andersen's national

celebrity status and his NBA rock star image.

"He is recognized right away and immediately brings interest," Rep. Frank said. "We see it leading to more business for the product but also for more and better business relationships throughout Florida. It's a new step for Tribal business."

Andersen said the relationship is a natural fit.

"I'm very energetic on the court and that rolls into my personal life ... You do know I'm wild, right?" he said. "With my image, Hard Rock's image and the fact that I love all kinds of music, to be part of (Hard Rock Energy) is best for me and the company."

♦ See BIRDMAN on page 6A

FGCU basketball clinic emphasizes hard work on court, in classroom

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS — The tallest man on the basketball court received the most attention.

Eric Moeller, a 6-foot-11 forward, was a fan favorite for about 60 youngsters

who participated in Florida Gulf Coast University's youth basketball clinic Sept. 6 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress. When the kids were asked who is their favorite basketball player — Moeller, LeBron James or Kobe Bryant — the player known as "Molls" received the loudest applause.



Florida Gulf Coast University guard Julian DeBose explains shooting techniques to youngsters during a basketball clinic Sept. 6 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.

Donning yellow FGCU T-shirts, kids from Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood Reservations spent two and a half hours learning and sweating while performing dribbling, passing, shooting and defensive drills with the Eagles men's team.

The clinic served as another example of the continuing relationship between the Seminole Tribe and the Fort Myers university, whose student enrollment of 14,000 includes 115 Native Americans.

Why was Moeller — a sophomore transfer who has yet to play his first game for FGCU — the most popular player?

"Because he's tall, he can shoot and he can dunk," said Ricky Garza, 12.

Dunks put FGCU on the nation's college basketball map in 2013 when the Eagles slammed their way into fans' hearts with stunning upsets against Georgetown and San Diego State in the NCAA tournament.

The "Dunk City" nomenclature earned during the journey to the Sweet Sixteen remains with the program, including on the back of the kids' T-shirts.

"They throw a lot of alleys and they dunk a lot. Pretty cool," Ricky said.

As a seventh-grader on the Ahfachkee School basketball team, Ricky has plenty of time left to hone his skills and attain his goal of playing college basketball. The young point guard made a step in the right direction at the clinic by being named camper of the day.

"Usually the camper of the day has

Body cameras provide another set of eyes for SPD officers

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Since June, most Seminole Police Department officers have used miniature video cameras that attach to uniforms. The latest tool in law enforcement — combined with dashboard and back-seat cameras already in cruisers — is another example of the department embracing new technology.

"This is an opportunity to be transparent and show the public how we react and handle things," said SPD Chief of Police William Latchford. "Internally, it gives us the opportunity to see how we are doing and see our training needs."

SPD has 97 body cameras and 77 in-car cameras. All but 15 uniformed officers use body cameras now, but the department hopes to eventually equip every uniformed officer. SPD purchased the cameras with grants from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

"This device has taken the guesswork out of what people say," SPD Officer Dennis Stemen said. "It's great for documenting evidence, and it cuts through a lot of the exaggeration and lying. It tells the truth."

Officers turn on the cameras whenever they exit their vehicles to interact with the public. About the size of an officer's badge, the cameras are worn on the front of the shirt.

"Everyone has cell phones and everyone is recording," Latchford said. "We need to embrace it. Cameras show all the things officers tolerate and how they handle situations. Everyone realizes they are on camera."

♦ See CAMERAS on page 4A



A body camera, on left, is worn by a Seminole Police Department officer.

♦ See BIRDMAN on page 6A

♦ See FGCU on page 2C

Editorial

Moving forward full throttle on Brighton Reservation

• Larry Howard

As another fiscal year comes to an end, I want to take the opportunity to update shareholders on Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. operations in Brighton. I believe it's important for our Tribal members to know what's happening in their communities and know what their elected officials do day-to-day. It took a lot of hard work to get where we are today, and I am happy to report that many of our Brighton business ventures are turning profits for the first time.

When I first took office three years ago, I knew a lot of work needed to be done in order to get the shell pit, sugarcane fields, orange groves, Trading Post and RV Park fully operational – and profitable.

But with that said, it was a challenge I, and the rest of your Board of Directors, willingly took on in order to benefit you, the shareholders. We evaluated each operation and determined the best plans of action to get things moving forward. We hired the right people to oversee the ventures to ensure success – smart business is hiring smart people. It took hard work, sacrifice, and yes, a little bit of risk, but it was well worth it because at the end of the day, everything we do is for the benefit of the Seminole Tribe and its members. We never lose sight of that.

And now, the hard work is paying off. The Brighton Shell Pit grossed \$2 million in profit in fiscal year 2014. We went from making no money to making seven figures because we took calculated measures to get there. The first step was to get Florida Department of Transportation certification for our shell pit – that would be the only way we could conduct business outside the Tribe. We had to follow strict rules and regulations, hire qualified employees and meet equipment standards, so we did just that. And with the certification, we now have contracts with the Army Corps of Engineers, the

South Florida Water Management District and area counties including Glades, Okeechobee and Highlands. We, of course, still use the shell for our own benefit for reservation projects. From this point on, we will maintain the high standards we have met in order to continue digging up profits.

Another venture that's turning a profit is our sugarcane fields. We invested \$270,000 to clean up the 900 acres of sugarcane in use when I took office and racked up \$1.4 million after the first harvest, which covered our startup debt many times over. We recently prepared another 100 acres of land for sugarcane and made \$1.6 million after harvest. We now have 1,000 profitable acres of sugarcane and another operation in the black. We are maxed out on land, so we will focus on maintaining the strides we have made over the past few years.

One of the biggest challenges we faced in Brighton was deciding what to do with the reservation's two orange groves: Tucker Ridge and Flowing Well. The groves were not in good condition, and I knew it would take a lot of TLC and funding to get them back in production. Ultimately, we decided to invest in the groves because of our Seminole Pride orange juice. If we are going to have an orange juice with our name on it, we should grow our own oranges. It wouldn't be a quick turnaround, so we focused on fixing up Tucker Ridge first. It was in better condition than Flowing Well, and we could gauge whether investing in the second grove would be worth it. We slowly began planting new trees on the 200 acres of Tucker Ridge and harvesting the fruit from trees already in production. We grossed \$165,000 from those trees but project we will make \$500,000 after all the trees bear fruit in a few years. Like I mentioned before, this is a long-term project, so we will crawl before we walk and only focus on one grove for the time being.

The last operations I want to touch on are the Trading Post and the RV Park.

We spent a lot of money investing in renovations for both ventures, but I think these will be revenue-generating operations soon. We remodeled the Trading Post so we can carry more inventory – more product equals more sales – and we beautified the RV Park to attract more visitors. The park now boasts a laundry mat, salon, renovated pool and three cabins. The project is finally complete, so now the marketing begins.

We want to catch every possible revenue stream when people visit Brighton Reservation, and this is one more way to accomplish that goal.

There always comes a time when people want to know what we do, so this is my way of reaching out to the communities and letting everyone know where we stand in Brighton. We are turning profits; we are making improvements; we are working hard. My staff here is incredible, and everyone is hungry to do better than they did the day before. By having that thought process, we will keep getting better and better.

However, despite all our progress, we can be an even stronger business if we have more input from the shareholders. We need – and want – your thoughts and ideas on how we can improve the businesses of the Tribe. So pick up the phone, knock on our doors. Tell us what you want to see for the future of your Seminole Tribe.

It takes a team to make things happen and you all are part of that team. *Mvto, sho-naa-bish*, thank you.

Larry Howard is the Brighton Representative of Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.



A bet Florida cannot afford

• Mark Wilson

Grim economic news this month from Atlantic City is a harsh reminder of what Florida could one day face if we succumb to pressure to expand gambling and rely on the casino industry for jobs and economic growth.

Three major Atlantic City casinos closed their doors permanently this month. A fourth closed earlier this year, and a fifth, the Trump Taj Majal, just announced that it will likely go out of business within two months. Together, these closures will leave more than 10,000 people without jobs and take more than \$2 billion off the property tax rolls – a financial tsunami for this once vibrant seaside tourist destination.

Left behind is a steadily decaying shell of the city's colorful past and a sad legacy of the unrealized prosperity promised 36 years ago when Atlantic City made history by opening the first legal casinos outside of Las Vegas.

Most notable is the failure of the \$2.4 billion Revel Casino Resort, which shut down Sept. 2, putting 3,100 employees out of work. Opened just over two years ago, it was heralded as a new concept "destination resort" that casino proponents promised would transform Atlantic City's struggling economy. That may have a familiar ring to Floridians.

For the past three years, foreign and out-of-state casino conglomerates in Malaysia and Las Vegas have run a multi-million dollar lobbying and public relations campaign in an effort to legalize "destination resort" casinos in Florida. As we have done throughout the years, the Florida Chamber of Commerce stood with families and small business leaders, law enforcement and community leaders to defeat these efforts.

The difference between Florida's bright economic outlook and Atlantic City's casino-fueled economic collapse could not be greater.

Florida's economy is moving in the right direction again. In fact, a recent Wall Street Journal article pointed to our state as a model for economic growth. Floridians are getting back to work. Since December 2010, more than 600,000 private-sector jobs have been created. Florida has also recently

ranked second in the U.S. for tech-sector job creation.

Our state's population continues to grow at record rates, and we believe Florida has likely already surpassed New York to become the third-most populous state in the nation. Additionally, the efforts of Florida's business community, the Legislature and Gov. Rick Scott have led our state to regain our AAA bond rating, pay down \$3.5 billion in debt and enjoy a record budget surplus for 2014. Florida's family-friendly tourism brand continues to draw vacationing families from across the U.S. and around the world.

After four consecutive years of record-breaking tourism numbers, Florida welcomed more than 50 million visitors in the first six months of 2014. Equally important, more than 1 million Floridians work in the tourism industry. And it's not all about tourism. Our beautiful weather, business friendly climate and zero personal income tax make starting or relocating a business, family or venture in Florida an easy choice.

The choice for visitors and investors would not be so easy if Florida's family-friendly reputation gave way to mega-casinos a la Atlantic City and Las Vegas. It is not by accident that 16 Fortune 500 companies have chosen Florida as their home, while Nevada has none outside the gambling industry.

Although our state does allow limited forms of gambling in parts of South Florida and on Native American Tribal lands, Florida voters have wisely rejected wholesale legalization of mega-casinos numerous times over the years. They know that further expansion of gambling is simply a bad bet for our economy, our communities and our family-friendly tourism image.

Florida's leaders should continue their focus on improving education, attracting new businesses and diversifying our economy with high-paying jobs to ensure a solid financial foundation for our state and its residents.

Mark Wilson is the president and CEO of the Florida Chamber of Commerce. This column originally appeared in the Tampa Bay Times.

Standing tall for Native American Day

• Tim Giago

An unprecedented event happened in South Dakota 24 years ago, an event that has not been duplicated by any other state: South Dakota adopted Oct. 12 as a state holiday to be called Native American Day. By selecting Oct. 12, South Dakota eliminated, for all intent and purpose, Columbus Day as a holiday. But the ensuing 24 years have proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that old habits are hard to break.

The Native American Day holiday did not occur by happenstance. It certainly was not anything advocated by the state's largest newspapers, television or radio stations, or by the state's 100 weekly newspapers. It was instead a holiday advocated by the only independent, Indian-owned weekly newspaper in the state, the original Lakota Times (No connection to the current Lakota Country Times).

Republican Gov. George Mickelson, now deceased, certainly did not sit in his office in Pierre and visualize such a monumental holiday. The Lakota Times had a rich history of standing up and fighting for the rights of the Native people. There were many things we advocated for in those early days of the 1980s. We fought for a Year of Reconciliation between Indians and whites in order to honor the memory of the nearly 300 innocent Lakota men, women and children murdered at Wounded Knee. We stood behind an African-American named Lynn Hart as he fought for the state to include the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. as a state holiday. And we shouted out in our headlines and editorials for the state to eliminate Columbus Day as a state holiday and replace it with Native American Day.

I honor all of those white, South Dakota legislators that stood tall for Native Americans in January of 1990. It certainly

was not a popular thing for them to do 24 years ago. The man that stepped forward to accept my challenge and made it happen was Gov. Mickelson. There has not been another governor of his stature or courage since.

Toiling away at the Lakota Times in those days were some courageous Lakota men and women. There was Doris Giago, Avis Little Eagle, Amanda Takes War Bonnet, Ivan Star Comes Out, Charlie Fish, Leon and Leo Takes War Bonnet, Karen Little Thunder, Kat Dubray, Rita White Butterfly, Bunty Anque, Paul Mousseau, Annie Clifford, Julie Yellow Hair, Christy Tibbitts, Dean LaVallie, Thom Little Moon, and non-Indians like Eric Haase, David Melmer, Connie LeMay, Joan Morrison and Sally Farrar. It took all of them to support the precedent setting efforts we were making to bring about drastic changes in South Dakota with the power of the press.

But as I alluded to earlier, change comes hard in this state. The state's white-owned media has done little to promote Native American Day. Out-of-state retail chains like Wal-Mart, Target, K-Mart, J.C. Penney and Lowe's, and others, with their corporate mentality, still advertise "Columbus Day" sales. And above all, the state government of South Dakota has been woefully negligent in stepping forward to celebrate a day that honors Native Americans.

It seems to me that the people of South Dakota are not fully aware that what they accomplished is unique in American history. Of the 50 States of the Union, only one has set aside a state sanctioned holiday to honor Native Americans and in so doing has diminished a holiday, Columbus Day, that most Native Americans find offensive. Witness the Native protests that take place across America (except in South Dakota)

every Oct. 12. In South Dakota we made this happen without firing a shot.

If South Dakota's white-owned media had come up with the idea of Native American Day, or of a Year of Reconciliation, perhaps they would be more apt to promote and honor these days, but it seems to me that because the Lakota people and a Lakota-owned newspaper did it for them, they are hesitant, fearful and even envious of promoting this special day. They even neglect to report truthfully about how this day began. They instead credit a white governor and white legislature totally ignoring the all-important instigating role played by me and the Native Americans at the Lakota Times.

I would say to the Lakota people that Oct. 12 is our day. I believe that every Indian nation, high school and college in South Dakota should look ahead to Oct. 12 and start to make special plans to commemorate a day that was set aside at the urging of a Lakota newspaper, to heal the wounds that divide the Indian and white people of this state, and honor the 300 innocent Lakota men, women and children who died at Wounded Knee by making it their special day, a day they stand tall for Native Americans all across America.

What we did in 1990 was unique and when we are contacted by people from other Tribes asking how we did it we tell them how and encourage them to go for it. But we remind them that they need a strong governor like Mickelson to make it happen. You can give birth to the controversial ideas of change, but it takes the support of strong white leaders to make it happen.

Tim Giago (Oglala Lakota) is the founder and publisher of Indian Country Today and the Lakota Times. This column originally appeared at HuffingtonPost.com.

In pursuit of the Native American dream

• Barack Obama

Six years ago, I made my first trip to Indian Country. I visited the Crow Nation in Montana – an experience I'll never forget. I left with a new Crow name, an adoptive Crow family, and an even stronger commitment to build a future that honors old traditions and welcomes every Native American into the American Dream.

As President, I've worked closely with Tribal leaders, and I've benefited greatly from their knowledge and guidance. That's why I created the White House Council on Native American Affairs – to make sure that kind of partnership is happening across the federal government. And every year, I host the White House Tribal Nations Conference, where leaders from every federally recognized Tribe are invited to meet with members of my Administration.

Together, we've strengthened justice and Tribal sovereignty. We reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act, giving Tribes the power to prosecute people who commit domestic violence in Indian Country, whether they're Native American or not. I signed the Tribal Law and Order Act, which strengthened the power of Tribal courts to hand down appropriate criminal sentences. And I signed changes to the Stafford Act to let Tribes directly request disaster assistance, because when disasters strike, you shouldn't have to wait for a middleman to get the help you need.

Together, we've resolved long-standing disputes. We settled a discrimination suit by Native American farmers and ranchers, and we've taken steps to make sure that all federal farm loan programs are fair to Native Americans from now on. And I signed into law the Claims Resolution Act, which included the historic Cobell settlement, making right years of neglect by the Department of the Interior and leading to the establishment of the Land Buy-Back Program to consolidate Indian lands and

restore them to Tribal trust lands.

Together, we've increased Native Americans' access to quality, affordable health care. One of the reasons I fought so hard to pass the Affordable Care Act is that it permanently reauthorized the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which provides care to many in Tribal communities. And under the Affordable Care Act, Native Americans across the country now have access to comprehensive, affordable coverage, some for the first time.

Together, we've worked to expand opportunity. My Administration has built roads and high-speed Internet to connect Tribal communities to the broader economy. We've made major investments in job training and Tribal colleges and universities. We've tripled oil and gas revenues on Tribal lands, creating jobs and helping the United States become more energy independent. And we're working with Tribes to get more renewable energy projects up and running, so Tribal lands can be a source of renewable energy and the good local jobs that come with it.

We can be proud of the progress we've made together. But we need to do more, especially on jobs and education. Native Americans face poverty rates far higher than the national average – nearly 60 percent in some places. And the dropout rate of Native American students is nearly twice the national rate. These numbers are a moral call to action. As long as I have the honor of serving as President, I'll do everything I can to answer that call.

We're writing a new chapter in our history – one in which agreements are upheld, Tribal sovereignty is respected, and every American Indian and Alaskan Native who works hard has the chance to get ahead. That's the promise of the American Dream.

Barack Obama is the 44th President of the United States of America. This column, released by the White Office of the Secretary, appeared in Indian Country Today.

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Photo courtesy of Jason Dennard

The Osceola Brothers Band performs at the Friday Night Block Party in Tallahassee Sept. 5 – the night before FSU football's home opener. From left are Cameron, Sheldon and Tyson Osceola.

Osceola Brothers Band rocks Tallahassee stage

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — The night before the Florida State University football team dominated on the field in its home opener, Seminole brothers commanded the stage at the Friday Night Block Party.

The Osceola Brothers Band rocked the streets for thousands of spectators Sept. 5 at Kleman Plaza in downtown Tallahassee, where they opened for country artist Drake White.

“What better way to kick off the defending champion's first home game than with a Seminole band,” said Norman “Skeeter” Bowers, who helped arrange for the band's appearance. “They brought it and by the end of the show, the crowd didn't want them to go.”

The street party, held the night before every home game, is a Tallahassee tradition. For the last five years, major national acts such as Florida Georgia Line, Jake Owen, Tyler Farr and Parmalee have appeared on the stage.

“We've become this niche of getting people right before they become huge stars,” said Jason Dennard, FSU assistant athletics director of marketing and promotions. “We were very pleased with the Osceola brothers. I think they are very talented, and we could definitely have them back again.”

The idea for the Tallahassee performance was hatched when FSU brought the championship trophy to the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood in May. Bowers invited the school's president, athletic director, football players and cheerleaders to Hollywood and made sure they saw the Osceola Brothers Band perform.

“They liked what they saw,” Bowers said.

Cameron, 17, Tyson, 16, and Sheldon, 13, are accustomed to playing gigs far from home. The band performed at the Comanche Nation Tourist Center Summer Fest in Oklahoma in July and were thrilled to play in Tallahassee for the first time.

“They made us feel welcome,” Sheldon said. “It was awesome and exciting.”

The band thrived playing in front of a few thousand people.

“People came to see us and gave us their undivided attention,” Cameron said. “It was a younger crowd and more hyped and energetic. A better crowd makes the performance better. The crowd is an important part of the show. You give and they give you something back.”

Bowers has been a fan of the band for several years and has watched them continue to improve.

“Cameron is a little wizard on the guitar,” said Bowers, the Chairman's special assistant. “It makes me proud, and as a Tribe, we should be proud of them. They are very good boys. They are the utmost of what you would want to represent your Tribe.”

Cameron channeled guitar great Jimi Hendrix during the band's last number, “Voodoo Child,” while the FSU marching band waited its turn.

“The drum major had to wait for Cameron to stop jamming,” Bowers said. “The crowd went crazy. When he stopped, the FSU band kicked right in. It was amazing.”

The following day, with Doak Campbell Stadium filled to capacity, the Osceola brothers went onto the field with Osceola and Renegade.

“I thought, ‘One day I'll sell out a



Photo courtesy of Jason Dennard

Cameron Osceola performs at the Friday Night Block Party in Tallahassee Sept. 5. The street party is an FSU tradition held the night before home football games.

stadium like this,” Cameron said. “I'd love to play for a whole lot of people.”

Until that day, the Osceola Brothers Band will continue to play local and out-of-town gigs.

“I promise they will be coming to Brighton real soon,” Bowers said.

Elders cross reservations, catch up on good times

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Elders from Seminole reservations met Aug. 28 at Big Cypress Senior Center for a midday gathering that morphed into a mass reunion.

“It's just so good to hear the laughter from people visiting each other. We always go back and forth to where we live and such, but seeing the friendship and love that is here today on purpose? We thank God for that,” said Pastor Salaw Hummingbird who led a lunchtime prayer.

Senior Gathering 2014, sponsored by the Tribe's senior centers, featured non-stop bingo games and raffles. A barbecue lunch was served with customary picnic trimmings, but Big Cypress Culture Department also offered chickee-cooked traditional fare that included frybread, Indian tacos and boiled cabbage.

Vickey Huff, Elder Services director, said the annual get-together was the first held during a summer month. She said 103 elders attended.

“It's a social event to get friends and family members together from other reservations for interaction and fun,” she said.

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, an “elder in training,” turned out for support.

“I'm so happy to see everyone so happy. God willing, we will see each other again and again,” Rep. Howard said.

Guests hugged each other, posed for cellphone photographs, rehashed stories from the past and buzzed about the present.

Mitchell Cypress told about a recent 14-day bus trip with 41 Big Cypress seniors and chaperones to the Midwest where the group visited the Crazy Horse Memorial and Mount Rushmore in South Dakota and attended the 96th annual Crow Fair in Montana. The group also popped into several other cities including Birmingham, Alabama and St. Louis, Missouri.

“Along our travels we stopped at every main landmark – and every Wal-Mart,” he



Eileen Soler

Linda O. Henry, of Tampa, shows off her winning bingo card Aug. 28 during Senior Gathering 2014 at the Big Cypress Senior Center.

said half-joking, because a Seminole senior trip is not complete without pit stops at Wal-Mart. “Every senior enjoyed it.”

The next big all-reservation annual senior events at Big Cypress will be the Trike Fest Oct. 30 and the Christmas bash in December.

At the recent Big Cypress gathering, Linda O. Henry, of Tampa, said chances to touch base with loved ones from other reservations are always a blessing.

“Being with people we haven't seen in a while is special. Today was one of those times. We'd all like to come back every year, if the good Lord allows it,” Henry said. “After all, we do have a lot of friends and relatives.”



Eileen Soler

Susie Doctor, of Tampa, and Sally Billie and LaWanna Osceola-Niles, of Hollywood, chat Aug. 28 during Senior Gathering 2014 at the Big Cypress Senior Center.

Gem Osceola brews success with coffee business

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

DAVIE — The key to Gem and Linda Osceola's success in business has been her passion for a good cup of coffee.

About 10 years ago, they wanted to start a business but didn't have a direction in mind. He was a salesman in his father's

chickee business, and she managed a local Wendy's restaurant. They decided on coffee and have tasted success ever since.

In 2005 when the Osceolas opened a small stand called Cup of Joe's on U.S. 441 in Hollywood, they had no idea coffee was the second most traded commodity in the world after oil. The popularity of the coffee stand seemed to confirm the statistic;

business was good and construction workers building the Seminole Hard Rock across the street were the biggest customers.

Tribal member Mike Tiger also enjoyed the Osceolas' coffee and helped get the fledgling business a new location inside Tribal Headquarters. From there, the Florida Seminole Coffee business accelerated when the Classic and Immokalee casinos took a chance on it. Gem credits President Tony Sanchez Jr., who was general manager of Immokalee Casino at the time, for giving them an opportunity to work with the casino.

“We learned as we went along,” Gem said. “We're still learning. We've made mistakes, but we've had more success than mistakes. I had the drive and did what I needed to make it happen. I didn't give up.”

Conducting business with the casinos was demanding. It forced Gem to find a bean supplier who had the necessary equipment and could handle the high volume. Farmer Brothers, a 102-year-old coffee manufacturer, wholesaler and distributor, has filled the bill for about the past five years.

After working with the Classic and Immokalee casinos for a couple years, Florida Seminole Coffee was hired by Seminole Gaming to provide coffee to all Hard Rock Cafes and hotels. The successful working relationship has continued since 2007.

“Everyone wants to work with the casinos, but you have to work fast and meet their expectations,” Gem said. “Every hurdle is big,

important and has to be done; you can't neglect anything.”

Working with the casinos gave the Osceolas' company a chance to provide promotional products for its player reward program. In 2011, the casinos needed hundreds of residential Keurig coffee machines in a hurry and gave Osceola 48 hours to secure them. He did. With that, he won the bid and another business, Paparazzi Photography and Entertainment, was born.

Paparazzi P&E provides promotional products for the Players Club reward program, serves as the vendor for the program's catalogue and produces events at the casinos. Players can redeem their reward points for gifts found in the catalogue.

“We are the backbone of the players' experience after they leave the tables,” said Rob Cetron, Paparazzi P&E project manager.

Paparazzi P&E works with other Native American casinos, attends trade shows and competes for business along with much larger companies.

“The biggest challenge is to battle the stigma that we aren't as capable as the national companies,” Cetron said about being a Native American-owned company. “We are proud that we have grown in this highly competitive industry.”

Like any successful business owner, Gem has a strong team behind him. Frank Pego, of Farmer Brothers, supplies and delivers the coffee and equipment to all Florida Seminole Coffee customers nationwide. Cetron started Paparazzi P&E with Gem and manages its day-to-day business.

“These are the guys that allow me to live life the way I want to,” Gem said.

“They are my spokesmen and are like partners. Without them, I'd be out there building chickees full time.”

Gem credits former Tribal business relations manager Joe Cortese for helping him understand the specific processes involved in working with Seminole Gaming. Gem's advice for Tribal members interested in working with Gaming is simple: Don't skip a step.

“Follow the rules and regulations,” he said. “There are steps you need to take. Talk to the business relations manager for advice and follow it.”

In addition to Florida Seminole Coffee and Paparazzi P&E, Gem is a part-owner of Florida Seminole Tiki, a tiki-building company started in the 1980s by his father, Joe Dan Osceola, and brothers Brian and Wade. Today, Wade and Gem operate the tiki business, while Gem also concentrates on off-reservation residential and commercial sales.

Gem said the reward for his hard work is spending time with his family. He lives in Davie with his wife, Linda, and their children, John, 15, and Faith, 13.

Given the option of freedom or profit, Osceola chooses the freedom of time.

“That's why I have Frank and Rob,” he said. “They each have a support team behind them. I'd rather take less profit and have the security of this team.”

For more information about Florida Seminole Coffee or Paparazzi P&E, email flsemcoff@yahoo.com. For more information about becoming a vendor for Seminole Gaming, contact Tribal business relations manager Darwin Reyes at Darwin.Reyes@stogaming.com.



Beverly Bidney

From left, business associates Rob Cetron, Gem Osceola and Frank Pego pose in front of a chickee at Osceola's Davie home.



Beverly Bidney

Capt. Mitch VanSant chats with Ashton Doctor during the Seminole Police Department Seminole Night Out Aug. 25 in Hollywood. The tribalwide event was held to bolster the partnership between SPD and the communities it serves.

Tribe takes to the streets for Seminole Night Out

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

For 30 years, Americans have come out of their homes and taken back their streets on National Night Out (NNO). About 350 Tribal members did the same Aug. 25 during the Seminole Police Department's tribalwide Seminole Night Out to Prevent Crime.

"We want people to know we are here for them," said SPD Lt. Richard Spotts, an organizer of the event. "We are targeting outside dealers who come here, sell drugs and get rich off the Tribe."

SPD strives to build strong partnerships with residents to combat crime and drugs on the reservations. The goal is to eliminate negative outside influences, but SPD needs the help of Tribal members to achieve it.

"We are there to protect them," SPD Chief of Police William Latchford said. "The better our relationship is with the community, the more effective we can be. When we are on the same team to fight the same challenges, we can't have anything but success."

In Hollywood, after a K-9 demonstration, residents of all ages walked through the reservation in a show of solidarity with SPD to help increase awareness of crime prevention.

"We hope kids will be more aware of their surroundings in exercise of being focused only on themselves," said Shadoe Billie, who attended the event with her children Elias Jumper, 2, daughter August Billie, 1, and mother, Twila Billie. "We want them to watch out for each other."

Founded by the nonprofit National Association of Town Watch in 1984, NNO - also known as America's Night Out Against Crime - began as an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, build police and community partnerships, strengthen neighborhood camaraderie, and send a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and ready to fight back. According to the association, more than 37.8 million people participate in 16,124 communities in the



Peter B. Gallagher

During Tampa's Seminole Night Out, all eyes are on Julian Dillon as he aims a fire extinguisher toward a 'fire' during a training exercise with Seminole Fire Rescue.

U.S. and Canada.

To strengthen their effectiveness, SPD works closely with the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office to try criminals in federal courts instead of local courts.

Spotts said cases tried at the federal level often bring stiffer sentences for the guilty. Most SPD officers are Bureau of Indian Affairs certified and are U.S. Marshals, which gives them federal jurisdiction.

SPD's message and determination are clear.

"We are here to stop this nonsense, and we aren't going to put up with it anymore," Spotts said.

speaks a thousand words," Latchford said. "It assures we are accountable to ourselves and to the public."

Officers also use the video to help with writing reports. They can replay it to add more detail.

Latchford said use of the cameras has discouraged some people from filing complaints against officers and others to withdraw them.

As with any new technology, legal challenges relating to the cameras will come before the courts. Latchford said the department will review case law to assure it remains in compliance.

"We're excited about it," he said. "We are one of the first departments in the state to have officers equipped with cameras. This is a tool that can help tell the story of an incident."

First responders remember 9/11

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Standing at attention, with badges swathed in black bands and eyes fixed on the Seminole, Florida and United States flags, Tribe employees who protect and serve remembered fellow firefighters, police officers and all others whose lives were taken by terrorists Sept. 11, 2001.

"It was the Vietnam of our era," Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue assistant fire marshal Bruce Britton said during the memorial held at the Seminole Public Safety Building in Hollywood on the 13th anniversary of the attacks.

About 40 representatives from Seminole Police and Fire Rescue Departments arrived in the searing morning heat dressed in formal uniforms to observe the day etched in memories as 9/11.

"If you are older than 7, you will never forget where you were and what you were doing on that day. It will always be a difficult day," Britton said.

Al-Qaida extremists flew hijacked airplanes into the twin towers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A fourth hijacked plane, likely headed to the Capitol to be crashed, was retaken by passengers before it crashed into a Pennsylvania field.

The violent morning left 2,977 victims dead, thousands of families shattered and a nation in shock and grief.

District chief Doug LeValley, who spoke at the memorial, said he was one of many South Florida first responders deployed to New York within hours to assist at ground zero. His friend, John Fanning, battalion chief of the New York City Fire Department's Hazardous Materials



Eileen Soler

Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue first responders salute the fallen of 9/11 during a memorial at the Public Safety Building in Hollywood.

Operations Unit, died in tower two.

"Twenty-one days later I was able to return home, but the whole time I was there working on the mound I was thinking of John Fanning, who we called Jack. Jack was somewhere under my feet," LeValley said.

LeValley recalled the search and recovery mission as his duty to bring closure to loved ones.

Aircraft pieces were placed aside for later inspection as the deceased were removed from the rubble with great respect and honor.

Rescue workers from nearly 140 task

forces worldwide responded to help.

LeValley said the recent memorial helped remind first responders that real heroes are "the ones who sacrifice themselves to save others."

In intervals, dispatch tapes were sounded to timeline the attacks. A recording of "Amazing Grace" by a lone bagpiper closed the hour-long memorial.

"We are just people sent out to do our jobs," LeValley said. "We protect and serve in different ways but always for the community, whether at ground zero or right here at home with the Seminole Tribe."

Seminole Hard Rock Tampa honors 5th Marine Division

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TAMPA — One of the most famous units in American military history, the 5th Marine Division, was feted Sept. 11 by the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa for the division's 65th reunion.

"We are so honored to welcome these American heroes, especially on the anniversary of 9/11," said Gina Morales, Tampa Hard Rock's public relations manager who helped organize the group of 100 for a lunch at the casino's Rise Kitchen and Bakery.

The 5th Marine Division was a United

States Marine Corps infantry division created during World War II. The division saw combat action in 1945 at the Battle of Iwo Jima where it sustained the highest number of casualties of the three Marine divisions in the Allied invasion force.

After receiving the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism, the division disbanded in 1946 but was reactivated 20 years later during the Vietnam War.

The division's 26th Regiment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism during the 1968 Battle of Khe Sanh. The 27th Regiment assisted Gen. William Westmoreland during

the Communist Tet Offensive.

The 5th Marine Division was formally deactivated again on Nov. 26, 1969.

Retired Marine and former Navajo code talker George James Sr. attended the lunch. The 5th Marines had a long and intense relationship with the code talkers, who first created the Navajo code used in WWII at Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, California, the home base for the 5th Marine Division.



Peter B. Gallagher

World War II Navajo code talker George James Sr., who was instrumental in the Allied victory in 1945 at the month-long Battle of Iwo Jima, is honored by Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa Sept. 11 during the division's 65th reunion.



Peter B. Gallagher

Veterans of the 5th Marine Division celebrate their 65th reunion Sept. 11 at Rise Kitchen and Bakery at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

♦ CAMERAS From page 1A

In response to media attention and to an online petition signed by about 150,000 people, the Obama administration gave its support for the use of body cameras by police. A Department of Justice report cites evidence that both police and civilians behave better when they know cameras are in use.

The results of a study about the cameras by the Rialto, California Police Department showed the department had an 88 percent decline in the number of complaints filed against officers during the first year of use. Also, officers used force nearly 60 percent less often compared to the previous year.

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Firefighters learn ins, outs of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — From a hurricane preparedness briefing emerged a brainstorm idea to prepare Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue for a “what if” scenario.

What if flames were to strike one of the Tribe’s most treasured buildings?

“We have a 169-page emergency plan, but it’s hard to know how to rescue things if you don’t know exactly where things are,” said Gene Davis, facility manager for Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) on Big Cypress Reservation.

Human life and then property are top priorities for Fire Rescue in an emergency, but when the property is treasured and its contents are irreplaceable, special response is necessary, said District Chief Brian Swartout, who heads the Big Cypress battalion.

“We never know when we get a call exactly what we will walk into. For us to be more familiar with a location means we can arrive and do our job without thinking,” Swartout said.

Davis said Seminole Police Department Chief of Police William Latchford sparked the idea to intimately acclimate emergency responders to the grounds when he requested updates on departmental all-hazard plans. Davis then used the Museum and THPO employee orientation video to fashion the in-depth tours.

Big Cypress firefighters were retrained in four shifts from Sept. 2-5 in case of a fire at the Museum or THPO.

The campus layout, including 22 chickees and a 1-mile boardwalk that runs through swamp land, was reviewed in detail from a bird’s-eye view and from the ground. Interior spaces were revisited. Storage areas, in multi-office buildings and stand-alone structures, were viewed to list where additional supplies could be found.

Teams were informed of locations along the perimeter that provide the fastest and most direct access to rooms that store irreplaceable Tribal items, including original photographs, maps, newspaper articles and traditional artwork.

Nearly every building on the premises is always locked down, including some restrooms.

Security personnel are always present. Several entryways include mantraps and multiple pass codes or cards to gain access. Tours were geared to give firefighters speedy entry with little or no destruction to structures or content.

“With the in-depth refresher classes, there would hopefully be little need for missteps or smashing – just in case,” Davis said.

The teams were allowed peeks inside work environments that are also under constant internal protection. Some doorways are even equipped with sticky floor mats to decrease dirt and dust inadvertently trekked into otherwise sterile environments. They visited the Museum’s library and observed an archaeologist log microscopic findings from an 18th century Native American cloak.

“They were able to see the ultimate significance, after human life, of what needs to be protected,” Davis said.

Rooms that contain the most precious materials are protected by a dry chemical fire extinguishing device – the FM-200 – that will discharge at the first hint of fire even before firefighters arrive. Water

sprinklers dot the ceilings of other rooms and 39 conventional fire extinguishers are strategically placed throughout the site.

Shift teams were also reacquainted with safety measures placed along the boardwalk to assist tourists who can experience dehydration or heat stress.

“Visitors come out here like Edmund Hillary climbing Mount Everest. Then they get hit with the South Florida heat and we have to go rescue them,” Davis said.

A map of the 1-mile ADA compliant boardwalk is marked with 53 stops, three solar-powered emergency phones and water spigots every 100 feet. A first aid kit is available in the traditional village site at the end of the boardwalk.

Lt. Jesus Lizarraga rated the tour as excellent from the perspective of firefighting.

In every location, fire personnel first noted entryways and the best extinguishing tactics. After checking the rooms’ purposes, they were impressed with the contents.

“I didn’t know about the ‘things’ that make up the art and history here. It helps to understand the Tribe’s past and why it is so important to protect it,” Lizarraga said.



Eileen Soler

Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue firefighters Kristoffer Durthaler, Eric Fazzi and Giovanni Alvarez listen to a brief lesson about archaeology from Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum conservator Robin Croskery Howard.



Beverly Bidney

During a simulated felony armed robbery traffic stop at a Seminole Police Department training class Aug. 29 in Big Cypress, Officer Jack Nash lies on the ground as Officer Martin Rawls Jr. looks up at training instructor John Huckestein for feedback. Officer Josh Williams practices in the background.

Officers hone skills at annual training

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — As sirens blared and lights flashed, two Seminole Police Department officers drew their guns and took down a couple of felony suspects at the old bingo hall Aug. 29 in Big Cypress. Afterward, everyone at the scene discussed the apprehension, although no one was arrested.

The “crime scene” was nothing more than an SPD training class for 15 officers, who honed their skills during the annual training exercise.

Every SPD officer, from the rank of lieutenant and down, must complete at least 40 hours of training each year. They are also required to complete Florida Department of Law Enforcement mandated handgun training twice a year and have the option of earning additional certification on rifles and shotguns.

“We have to make sure the officers are at the highest level of their profession,” SPD Chief of Police William Latchford said. “A football player has to bring his ‘A’ game every time he steps on the field and it takes practice. There is no difference in law enforcement. We need to ensure we all come to work with our ‘A’ game. We provide the top level of training in the state; we have a quality training unit.”

The training included a variety of felony traffic stop scenarios where officers used bright blue training guns loaded with non-lethal training ammunition, called Simunition.

The guns weigh the same as standard weapons to simulate real scenarios.

During the exercises, every officer knew his or her role.

“It’s not an everyday thing you do, so training refreshes your skills,” said Officer Gregory Forsyth, who has served with SPD for nearly two years after a 23-year career with Hollywood Police Department. “It’s helpful because every day there is something new to be learned. You can never have enough training.”

Forsyth said working as a cop in Hollywood was about reacting to crime, while at SPD he works with the community to prevent it.

“SPD is a close-knit department and the

community is too. There isn’t a lot of distance between anyone,” Officer Martin Rawls Jr. said. “SPD is community oriented and I want to give them peace of mind and a sense of security.”

Rawls joined SPD from the Broward Sheriff’s Office four months ago.

As a new recruit, the training exposed him to important situations with new colleagues.

“It was a refresher for some, but it was a useful tool in my work life every day,” Rawls said. “It gave me a better sense of urgency when approaching a situation and a better understanding of how to execute a plan with my colleagues.”

After each exercise, training officer John Huckestein gathered the group to critique the performance.

“The constructive criticism is helpful,” Forsyth said. “There are things you don’t see but other people see during the incident. Training helps you with making decisions and you will react in a safe way.”

“Training was useful, exciting and I’d like to do it again soon,” Rawls added. “Repetition is always the key to great success.”



Beverly Bidney

Seminole Police Department Officers Martin Rawls Jr., John Barber and Josh Williams participate in a mandatory training class. Here, Barber is apprehended by Rawls and Williams.

Feds: Report shows progress in prosecutions on Tribal land

BY DAVE KOLPACK
Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Federal attorneys say an updated report released Aug. 26 on investigations and prosecutions on Tribal lands shows continued improvement since a 5-year-old study that criticized the Department of Justice (DOJ) for turning its back on reservation crime.

The report from the DOJ states that 2,542 cases were filed in Indian Country in the 2013 fiscal year, a 34 percent increase from when the federal government began its Tribal justice initiative in 2009. That’s down from the 3,145 cases brought in 2012, which DOJ officials attribute primarily to reduced budgets and a hiring freeze.

Timothy Purdon, U.S. attorney for North Dakota and chair of an advisory committee on Native American issues, said the study proves that federal prosecutors are “keeping our promises” to improve Tribal public safety.

“If you deal with more cases, you’re moving more violent predators and drug dealers and people like that from the reservation,” Purdon said. “I feel like we’re making progress, but these problems are centuries in the making. We’re not going to solve this at DOJ in three years with a new program.”

A U.S. Government Accountability Office report released in 2010 revealed that federal prosecutors had declined 50 percent of American Indian cases in a five-year period ending in 2009. Federal officials responded with a report in April 2013 that provided the first look at government investigations and prosecutions on Tribal lands.

The updated figures show that 34 percent of the cases were declined in 2013, compared with 31 percent in 2012 and 37 percent in 2011.

Federal prosecutors say they take the rates of cases declined seriously, but they’re not always the best measure because some of the cases wind up elsewhere, such as Tribal court.

“I think this report tells an important story, but only part of the story,” Associate Attorney General Tony West told The Associated Press on Aug. 26. “It’s difficult to be able to just look at the numbers and come up with an easy or facile explanation for what they mean. They can indicate a lot of things, but I think you always have to look below the surface when trying to think through what declination rates mean.”

For instance, West said, more victims – particularly women – are stepping forward to report crimes in Indian Country because they have “some sense of certainty” that the

offenses will be prosecuted.

The rates of cases declined were the lowest in the southwestern and northern Great Plains states, which have the largest treaty-based reservations in the country. Arizona brought the highest number of cases at 733, and declined 28 percent of cases. South Dakota was next with 470 cases brought and 26 percent declined.

Among the cases that were declined by federal prosecutors in 2013, 56 percent were because of insufficient evidence. About a quarter of them are referred to another prosecuting authority.

Purdon said the commitment to fighting reservation crime was shown last year in a double homicide prosecution on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation in North Dakota that involved four assistant prosecutors from his office. Valentino “Tino” Bagola was sentenced to life in prison for the May 2011 slayings of 9-year-old Destiny Jane Shaw-Dubois and her 6-year-old brother Travis Lee DuBois Jr., known to the family as “Baby Travis.”

“There was nothing that happened in North Dakota during the year that was as important to me and the office and the people of Spirit Lake as that case and making sure we brought about some measure of justice for Destiny and ‘Baby Travis,’” Purdon said.

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Tampa women sport bikinis for Hard Rock calendar, charity

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Beasts took a back seat to beauties at Billie Swamp Safari when bikini-clad models posed in rugged wetland scenes for the 2015 Seminole Hard Rock Girls Tampa Calendar.

Panthers, bears and alligators were not invited.

The ninth annual bathing suit calendar featuring employees of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa was only the second to be photographed in nature and the first to be staged on a Seminole reservation, said Gina Morales, public relations manager of the Tampa Hard Rock venue.

“When we planned the shoot, we knew it would be unusual. But we took a gamble on the location and hoped the weather would cooperate,” Morales said.

It did. The four-day project, held Aug. 26-29, was rainless when it mattered most.

All 15 models are current Tampa casino employees who work “the front of the house” as cocktail servers, hostesses and card dealers. Candidates endured a critical selection process for the best in both beauty and personality.

John Fontana, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa president, and Jim Allen, CEO of

Seminole Gaming and chairman of Hard Rock International, published the first calendar in 2007.

“We call John ‘Papa Bear’ because he is so protective. Everything is done with professionalism, class and taste,” Morales said.

Redline Media Group, led by owner Sally Tommie and creative director Sergio Quinonez, provided guidance for locations on Big Cypress that did not conflict with Tribal culture and history. Noella O’Donnell, of Florida Seminole Tourism, said strict oversight occurred daily to ensure no deviation from the predetermined course.

“Someone was always on site for compliance with shooting and that the work did not interfere with normal operations,” O’Donnell said. “But with all the work, it was always fun.”

Photographer Joey Wright provided direction to the models, who included college graduates and current college students. Most were new to modeling.

Jennifer Rossman, who posed for a second year, has a bachelor’s degree in biology. She uses her job as blackjack dealer to pay off college debt.

“It’s hard to get a job in my field that pays well, so for now the Hard Rock pays for school,” Rossman said. “Besides, it’s an honor to be in the calendar. You feel like a local celebrity.”

The girls become Hard Rock ambassadors who make appearances throughout the year. Former Hard Rock calendar girl Vicki Vodar eventually became an NFL cheerleader and television actress. Kristina Larizadeh, who posed for four calendars, is now a pharmacist intern.

“We can take the girl next door and turn her into a supermodel, and on the other hand, we have nurses, teachers, therapists and a (pharmacist intern) who were models,” Morales said.

Sales profit will go to charity. Last year, \$30,000 helped provide wheelchairs for sick children through the 13 Ugly Men Foundation, a nonprofit group of Tampa doctors, lawyers and entrepreneurs who host fundraising parties for good causes.

Plans to unveil the 2015 calendar will be announced soon. The models will then learn who was picked to grace the coveted centerfold. The centerfold model will receive \$500 and a trip to Las Vegas.

The \$10 calendars will be available in early December at the Hard Rock Store in Tampa.

“Just in time for the holidays, they make a great stocking stuffer for a really good cause,” Morales said.



Eileen Soler

The Miami Heat’s Chris ‘Birdman’ Andersen takes a sip from a Hard Rock Energy drink while surrounded by models during a photo shoot featuring the 6-foot-10 forward as the new celebrity spokesman for the product produced by Enterprise Beverage Group.

◆ BIRDMAN From page 1A

A fan of the product, Andersen said his home refrigerator is stocked with Hard Rock Energy. The drink comes in three flavors: Original (citrus), Paradise Punch (tropical punch) and Sugar Free (light citrus), but Andersen said he looks forward to helping the company create a flavor of his own.

Though Andersen is an NBA star, his status on the Heat did not slam dunk the deal.

Drow said Andersen, also known as “Birdzilla,” advances Hard Rock Energy because he represents the “craziness and wild side” of the Hard Rock lifestyle.

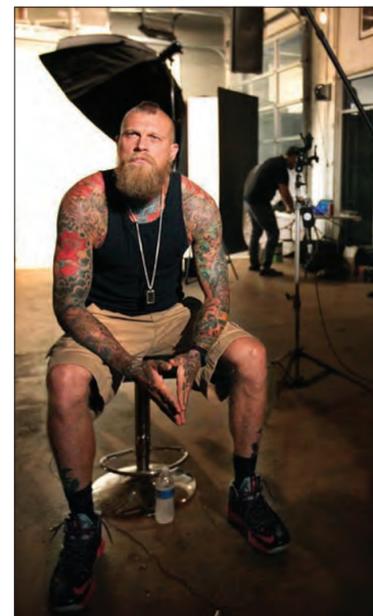
Andersen’s success is a school of hard knocks story about endurance and determination.

He spent three years of middle school in a group home, never earned the grades for a college basketball scholarship, dropped out of junior college and then played with five semi-pro teams in three years.

In 2001 he signed with the Denver Nuggets, becoming the first D-League player called up by an NBA team. He is tattooed over nearly 75 percent of his body and is developing a reality television show called “Urban Outdoorsman” for men who live and work in the city but rush to nature for weekend camping, fishing, hunting and mudding.

“We take life further. We make everything in life rock harder from music to entertainment to personality to lifestyle to Hard Rock Energy drinks,” Drow said.

Hard Rock Energy, manufactured and canned in Miami, is available in 500 stores throughout South Florida and in 1,200 stores nationwide.



Eileen Soler

The Miami Heat’s Chris ‘Birdman’ Andersen takes questions from the media Aug. 29 before an advertising photo shoot at C&I Studios in Fort Lauderdale. Andersen will appear in print advertising, television commercials and billboards.



Eileen Soler

A team of professional media artists gets direction from photographer Joey Wright during a shoot at Billie Swamp Safari for the 2015 Seminole Hard Rock Girls Tampa Calendar.



Eileen Soler

Photographers, videographers and support staff work a shoot in the great outdoors of Billie Swamp Safari for the 2015 Seminole Hard Rock Girls Tampa Calendar.

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#RockHarder

A day in the life of Mr. Backhouse

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — On any given day Paul Backhouse, director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, has his nose to the grindstone. His feet give hints to the task at hand.

Doc Martens shoes mean he's trucking through the daily business of managing his 40-member staff at the Museum's 70-acre campus.

Purple sneakers were perfect for the Sept. 20 opening of Ramp It Up, a Native skateboarding exhibit on loan from the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

Weathered field boots — camouflage, waterproof and snake resistant — are a sure giveaway that Backhouse will embark with researchers to a site that could yield historical details from the past and reasons to protect its future.

On the way Sept. 16 to Josie Billie Camp on the Big Cypress Reservation, Backhouse filled the minutes between the Museum and the scene north of Eight Clans Bridge with talk about a field project for students at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton.

"It will turn archaeology on its head," he said.

Maureen Mahoney, a Tribal Historical Preservation Office (THPO) archaeologist, will lead several classroom lessons about archaeology and local history and take the children to a non-Seminole settlement inside a dense hammock. There, the students will recover objects and offer probable conclusions for discoveries.

"There are plenty of non-culturally sensitive artifacts there," Mahoney said. "It will be interesting to see how students interpret what they see."

Interpretation is the backbone of what ends up in history books, Backhouse said.

"It's mostly usual that Colonial blokes interpret what Native history is. This will let the Seminole children say what they see," said the native of England who was raised on the Isle of Wight.

At the Josie Billie site, Backhouse, Maloney, field technician Matthew Fenno and research assistant David Brownell began the complicated process of documenting the scene so that later, if the Tribe requests, a historic marker could be erected.

They walked through an upland area and then suddenly into a dip where wetland was thick in cypress knees, native fauna and scores of mosquitoes. There, the team noted vintage glass bottles, chunks of cement and sheets of fabricated metal that could be the bulldozed remains of the Josie Billie camp.

Maloney recorded GPS snapshots. "We look for things 2,000 years old but we also look for things 20 or 50 years old. It's about what is important to the community," Backhouse said. "In this case, we have a main street that cuts through the reservation called Josie Billie Highway, but very few people know who he was and the very important role he played."

Some documentation says Josie Billie lived at that location from 1943 until he passed on Feb. 24, 1980. A medicine man, he infused Native teachings with Christian beliefs and became a Baptist preacher. Billie operated a small store at the camp with his wife, Lucy Tiger Billie, who also kept a large cooking chickee and several sleeping chickees — one large enough for frequent guests.

Fenno said the team used archival photographs and aerial maps to perceive the camp. A photo from 1964 shows a small structure with a sheet metal roof.

"For this project, we only have points of interest from the maps and pictures," he said.



Eileen Soler

From left, Matthew Fenno, Virginia Tommie, Paul Backhouse and David Brownell view photos and maps to confirm locations of structures once present at the Josie Billie campsite on Big Cypress.

◆ **REDBAY**
From page 1A

"If a single tree survives in a group of dozens, then that particular tree must have developed an immunity. We want to find out everything we can about that tree."

The process will include taking cuttings from "special" trees and propagating them in Gainesville under ideal growing conditions and the microscopes of UF researchers.

"If anyone knows of a special tree — whether it is regularly used for a cultural purpose or is important or a favorite for

any reason — I hope they will let me know," Sobel said.

Sobel will be searching Brighton, Big Cypress, Immokalee and Miccosukee Reservations.

At the Chairman's suggestion, she spent several hours on the issue with Tribal culture experts Bobby Henry and Herbert Jim in Tampa. She will assess the redbay situation at the Tribe's Lakeland property where reports of dead redbays have recently surfaced.

Anyone who finds healthy redbays or who has questions about the project should call Sobel at 786-253-2222.



Beverly Bidney

Tina Osceola explains the important role of women in Tribal culture at the Miccosukee Museum grand reopening event Sept. 22.

Tina Osceola instrumental in Miccosukee Museum renovation

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

MICCOSUKEE — Tina Osceola grew up loving museums. As an adult she has made her life in that world, first as director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, then as a board member of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), followed by president of the American Indian and Alaska Native Tourism Association. Now, she owns Tina Marie Osceola and Associates.

The firm, opened earlier this year, focuses on museum planning, development and marketing. Its most recent project was renovating the Miccosukee Museum, which held its grand reopening Sept. 22 on the Miccosukee Reservation.

"The company developed out of my lifelong passion for public awareness of Native cultures, not just my own," Osceola said. "You get to a point in life that you want to do things that keep you close to home and that you enjoy. Telling stories through museum exhibits really is a passion."

Her company aims to help museums create exhibits about Native people from Native perspectives.

"That's born of my experience in the museum industry," she said. "Exhibit

designers have a habit of telling stories only from the romantic past and forget to bring the story forward and tell people that Native culture is relevant today. To not tell it from the full perspective is damaging in the end. Some exhibits reinforce stereotypes."

The new Miccosukee Museum exhibits explain the history and traditions of the Tribe, and focus on modern life and art. One exhibit showcases social media photos shared by Tribe members.

Osceola said Tribal leaders specified what they wanted shared in the museum.

Visitors will see traditional ways of life but won't glimpse things like religion, Corn Dance or political history.

"People will get a good idea of traditional roles of life, how it was and is carried forward to today," Osceola said. "They will see the history of alligator

wrestling and tourism in a way that is not so reality-TV-cheesy. That's something the Miccosukees have purposefully avoided in the operation of their village and museum."

"Exhibit designers have a habit of telling stories only from the romantic past and forget to bring the story forward and tell people that Native culture is relevant today."

— Tina Osceola

brought his family to the event.

Miccosukee Chairman Colley Billie said the museum hadn't been refurbished for 30 years. He thanked Osceola and her team for doing the job well and allowing the Tribe to share its culture.

Osceola, who has a bachelor's degree from Rollins College and a master's degree from Nova Southeastern University, admires the NMAI and says it epitomizes the perfect Native American museum. If she could get another museum to tell the story of indigenous people, she would start at home with the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee.

"I'd have the entire state review its interpretation of its Native people so our relevance is realized today," Osceola said. "And that we aren't seen as a piece of Florida history only to be studied by anthropologists and archaeologists. That's the role of any Tribal museum as well."

The challenge of the renovation was working with a repurposed building and overcoming structural issues. Osceola cites the strong teamwork of her team, the museum staff and Miccosukee employees. Even her 80-year-old father, O.B. Osceola Sr., worked with her every day, which she said meant the most to her.

"I'm elated," Osceola said at the opening. "I feel like it's my baby. This was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life; it was a true team experience. I don't think I'm ever going to match this."



Beverly Bidney

A group of students from the Miccosukee Indian School watch a video, 'We Must Not Forget,' at the opening of the Miccosukee Museum Sept. 22. The film reinforces the role and importance of women in determining the Tribe's future and cultural relevance.

◆ **PANTHER**
From page 1A

The area in and around the Tribe's 900-plus acres is rich with plants and endangered animals.

The Green Swamp's 850 square miles is home to 40 percent of the state's native vertebrate species and 31 rare or endangered animals, including bald eagles, black bears, fox squirrels, alligators and snakes, according to information on Polk City's website.

"There's really no reason not to expect panthers to find us," said Simmons, a former gator wrestler and snake handler. "I don't think it is any cause to worry. From what I've always heard, it's extremely rare for panthers or cougars to attack humans."

With current population estimations at 160-180, panthers have been slowly migrating northward from their main breeding areas in South and Southwest Florida, including the Tribe's Big Cypress Reservation, where panther sightings are not uncommon and occasionally witnessed by employees and tourists.

To reach Polk City, a Big Cypress panther would have to swim across the Caloosahatchee River and cross busy I-4, among several other roadways. So far, surveillance by FWC officials has indicated that only males have made it past the river.

Looking for female companionship, the long-distance travelers keep moving, eating on the run.

In April, a Lake Wales hunter claimed a panther attacked him near Lake Kissimmee while he was calling turkeys. The hunter waited three weeks for his wounds to heal before reporting the attack.

State officials discounted the account, which if true would have been the first recorded panther attack on a human since the 1800s. The 77-year-old man's excuse for waiting so long: He figured no one would believe him.

It is clear that panther activity in Polk County has been increasing.

"Panther Crossing" signs were erected several years ago along State Road 60, east of Lake Wales, near a spot where a panther was killed by an automobile. Last February, a state biologist photographed panther tracks at the southern edge of the Green Swamp, below I-4 near Davenport.

A panther, crossing a side road east of Fort Meade, was hit by a car last April and is in recovery. In recent years, Florida panther activity has been confirmed in the Avon Park Air Force Range, east of Frostproof, and at Allen David Broussard Catfish Creek Preserve State Park, east of Haines City.

Since the 1980s when panther numbers were estimated at less than 30, sightings were recorded and confirmed in Polk and

as far north as Flagler County, north of Daytona Beach, and in Volusia, Orange, Brevard and Highlands counties, indicating a continuing dispersal from South Florida. According to FWC, 74 panthers have been killed in auto collisions over the past five years.

In the past two years FWC officials say they have received 1,537 reports of panther sightings, 275 of which have been verified.

"If we do see any panthers, the first thing I'll do is contact the (Tribal) Legal Department," Simmons said. "We want to make sure we handle everything correctly."

There is no requirement for "panther spotters" to report panther activity to FWC, though the agency does provide a website asking spotters to record their observations and post photos.

Similarly, the Seminole Tribe does not require Tribal members or staff to make panther reports to the FWC, according to the Tribe's General Counsel Jim Shore.

Shore said it is up to the individual to report panther activity, whether it is to the state, his office or Tribe department heads.

"Right now, it is not something we monitor. It's up to the individual. The Tribe cooperates with the state panther programs but does not require panther reports," he said.

To submit photographs of panthers, panther tracks or other evidence, visit www.MyFWC.com/PantherSightings.

Family day filled with fun

Tampa community gathers on Lakeland property for third annual event

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

LAKELAND — Hot weather hampered activities but didn't diminish a festive mood at the third annual Tampa Family Fun Day Aug. 24.

The waterslide was so hot it burned the skin, Joel Frank Jr. sat on a dunk tank praying to be dunked, and the canoes, bows and arrows, footballs, kickballs, stickballs

and horseshoes didn't move, waiting for next year.

But the heat didn't stop about 50 Tribal members, staff members and their families from having a good time.

In fact, food truck vendors, Tribal arts and crafts, and musical chairs were popular attractions.

Kids were the luckiest as they cavorted about in pools of warmish water spiked with huge soap bubbles and putted around

miniature golf holes. A few took rides on three-wheelers around the Tribe's property.

Under a fan-cooled tent, a disc jockey played music — no one danced — to at least bring relief to the ears as the temperature seemed to continue rising as the day went on.

"It's just Florida," said Reservation Administrator Richard Henry from the cool cab of his pickup truck. "Seminoles have been dealing with this for years."



Peter B. Gallagher

Julian Dillon swirls up a load of soap suds into the pool surprising Desmond Miller and Avery Miller during the Tampa Family Fun Day Aug. 24.



Peter B. Gallagher

Staff and their families were invited to Tampa's Fun Day. Here, Health Educator Korin Deitch and daughter Isabel play miniature golf.



Peter B. Gallagher

Peggy Cubris, left, and Linda Lee Henry eye the last chair during a game of musical chairs under the shade of a large tent.

Hah-Pong-Ke: Benjamin Dehart

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

Florida resident Benjamin Dehart has had several interesting — and widely different — careers in his lifetime.

Born in Ocala, he grew up in Oxford not far from the Marion and Sumter county lines where he worked his family's cattle operation, riding around on horseback, he said, "much more than I rode in a vehicle."

After 20 years of riding the Florida range, he moved to Orlando where he went to work for a publishing house near Disney.

The big city and a regular job, however, did not dim his love for the old inner-Florida cowhand world, as he began a hobby of writing songs "cultivating the culture of the Florida Cracker and expressing my love of the cowboy way of life," he says on his website, TheCrackerTenor.com.

As he began appearing at small events and singing his original music in his tenor voice, he saw his publishing career slowly melt into the background until 2008 when he "semi-retired" to pursue music and

historical re-enactments full time. His first album in 2003, a collection of Scotch-Irish Americana ballads, brought him to the attention of Florida folk music patriarch Frank Thomas, of Lake Wales, and singer-songwriter Jerry Mincey, of Winter Haven.

"Those guys persuaded me to start writing about Florida, about my personal experiences as a cowboy," Dehart said. "I've been at that ever since."

In 2004, he released "Taking Another Crack At It," and, three years later, "Another Side of Me," which was dominated by Native American-themed songs, including one about the great Seminole Indian warrior Osceola.

"I used his Indian name — *Asi-Yahola* — because that is what his name actually was. 'Black drink singer' or 'black drink crier' I'm told that meant," Dehart said. "I had read a lot about

Osceola over the years and I found there were a lot of contradictions and mistakes. So I wanted to write something that was accurate. I've always strived to be accurate in my songwriting about historical subjects."

In the song, Dehart tells the story of the great Seminole war leader, whose attempts at peace were refused and his freedom stolen under a flag of truce. Dehart balances the legend's sad death in a Fort Moultrie jail cell with his memory that lives on:

"But I hope by recalling his sorrow, not letting his memory die; Forever his name will be sung out, by the old ones in the sky."

In addition to singing, Dehart acts in the cable TV show "Dry Creek," a western set in Florida. Dehart will also perform this February at the Big Cypress Shootout at Billie Swamp Safari on the Big Cypress Reservation.



William Boehmer Collection

Benjamin Dehart

Asi-Yahola (aka Osceola)

Asi-Yahola ... Asi-Yahola ... Asi-Yahola

Hush! Do not move. Be still within your tracks.

What is that mournful crying sending chills crawling up my back?

Within my soul it is echoing, a lost spirit in misery.

From across the years, I taste the tears Someone is calling out to me.

Asi-Yahola ... Asi-Yahola ... Asi-Yahola

He called the white man brother, tried to walk the path of peace

When they forced his people from their land, he knew his limits had been reached

The last thing that he wanted, was to start a bloody war But preservation of your way of life, it is worth dying for.

Asi-Yahola ... Asi-Yahola ... Asi-Yahola

I feel the anguish of this warrior who was torn from his home.

Captured while under a flag of truce, "Where has honor gone?"

He fought for his people's freedom; I heard the spirit say,

To remain in the land of the ancients and to walk in the old way.

Asi-Yahola ... Asi-Yahola ... Asi-Yahola

The spirit gave to me a vision, an image channeled through his eyes

A scene so deeply troubling, in pain I began to cry

There were no cypress hammocks, nor spring fed crystal streams

Dank rock walls and cold iron bars are the only things I see.

Asi-Yahola ... Asi-Yahola ... Asi-Yahola

The body of the warrior died there, in a cell at Fort Moultrie

Prison stole his will for life, earths children must live free

But I hope by recalling his sorrow, not letting his memory die

Forever his name will be sung out, by the old ones in the sky.

Asi-Yahola ... Asi-Yahola ... Asi-Yahola

Native Americans getting final settlement payments

BY MATT VOLZ
Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Native Americans have started receiving the final cash payments the week of Sept. 15 from one of the largest government settlements in U.S. history, about three years after the deal was approved.

Checks ranging from \$869 to \$10 million were sent beginning Sept. 15 to more than 493,000 people by the administrators of the \$3.4 billion settlement from a class-action lawsuit filed by Elouise Cobell of Browning, Montana.

Some \$941 million is being distributed in this second round of payments, plaintiffs' attorney David Smith said Sept. 18.

Cobell sued after finding the government squandered billions of dollars in royalties for land it held in trust for

individual Indians that was leased for development, exploration or agriculture. The mismanagement stretched back to the 1880s, the lawsuit found.

She died of cancer in 2011, after more than 15 years of doggedly pursuing the lawsuit, rallying Native Americans around the cause and lobbying members of Congress for its approval.

Cobell's successor at the nonprofit she created, the Native American Community Development Corp., said she regrets that Cobell is not around to see the checks arrive.

"That's the sad part. You work all those years and do not to see it fruition is bittersweet," NACDC executive director Angie Main said Sept. 18.

Cobell was present when a federal judge approved the settlement just months before her death. But it took years to work through the appeals and then sort through

incomplete and erroneous information provided by the government to identify all the beneficiaries.

Some 22,000 people listed in the data provided had died, while 1,000 more listed as dead were still alive, Smith said.

The government data also listed the wrong or no address for three out of four people, he said.

The payments are the second of two distributions in the settlement. The first distributions of \$1,000 apiece went to more than 339,000 people. This second, final round of distributions is based on a formula looking at 10 years of the highest earnings on those individual landowners' accounts.

The settlement also includes a \$1.9 billion land buy-back program now underway in which willing landowners sell the government their land allotments to be consolidated and turned over to the Tribes.



Photo courtesy of Salli Josh

From left, Greg Delaney, Boy Scouts of America troop 4327 unit leader, Eagle Scout Coleman Josh, Eagle Scout DaKoda Josh and James Britt, BSA troop 4327 unit committee chair, celebrate July 28 at the Last Frontier Council Eagle Board Meeting in Lawton, Oklahoma, where the boys were confirmed as Eagle Scouts.

Coleman and DaKoda Josh earn Scouts' highest rank

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

ANADARKO, Okla. — Fraternal twins Coleman and DaKoda Josh have one more thing in common after both became Eagle Scouts, the highest rank achievable in the Boy Scouts of America, in July.

The 18-year-olds joined the Scouts at age 6 and stuck with it all the way, a feat only 5 percent of all Boy Scouts accomplish. Other notable Eagle Scouts include former President Gerald Ford, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Stephen Breyer, astronaut Neil Armstrong, Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton and Academy Award-winning director Steven Spielberg.

From 1912 to 2013, 2.3 million scouts earned the Eagle Scout rank. Requirements include earning 21 merit badges; holding a troop leadership position for six months; planning, developing, leading and finishing a community service project; and passing an Eagle Scout board of review.

"I'm very proud of them," said Salli Josh, the boys' mother. "I know they are ambitious because of this. They've grown to be responsible, respectful and helpful young men."

For his community project, Coleman built a wheelchair-accessible garden for residents of the Silvercrest Manor retirement home not far from his home in Anadarko, Oklahoma. The 2-by-4-foot garden is raised about 35 inches off the ground for easy access.

The idea for the project came after Coleman talked to his neighbor, who works at Silvercrest. Coleman received approval from the Eagle board and met with the home's representatives in March. The project was completed in May.

From the start, DaKoda knew he wanted his project to benefit Washita Valley Head Start, where he attended school as a 4 year old. DaKoda chose a beautification project. He cleared a 10-foot strip of land and planted flowers and bushes in the front of the school.

"The point of the project is to help us understand how to be leaders and see

projects through," Coleman said. "Even if it's a simple project, there is a lot of planning and work that goes into it."

Coleman and DaKoda Josh to learn organizational and managerial skills to complete their projects. They each had several Scouts work for them, and they helped on each other's projects.

"I'd never been the one to give orders before; it was a different feeling. It felt good," DaKoda said. "I helped them out and made sure it was done my way."

The rewards of the project surpassed the achievement.

"I'm proud to be able to look at how many years I've been in Scouts and say I reached the highest rank," Coleman said.

"It's done, complete," DaKoda added. "Not a lot of people get to become Eagle Scouts."

The boys will be recognized at an Eagle Scout award ceremony in November in Oklahoma. In a separate honor, Coleman and DaKoda were elected by their peers to the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's national honor society.

"Considering all the crime, drinking and drugs around, they didn't fall to peer pressure," Salli Josh said. "They don't run around, they have integrity and they appreciate what they've earned through hard work. They are such good boys. I don't have to worry about them."

The twins will now tackle college. In January, Coleman will attend the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico to study jewelry design and drawing; DaKoda is attending Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he is studying aviation maintenance.

The young adults have advice for kids interested in Boy Scouts.

"It teaches you to be an all-around good person, to help others when they need help and to handle situations better," DaKoda said.

"If you aren't in Scouts, join," Coleman added. "You do things you wouldn't normally do and you meet some pretty cool people."

Lake Tupke (Alice Snow) Naples dedication Nov. 15

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

NAPLES — *Tupke*, a Creek word pronounced *Th'doop-key*, was the nickname everyone called Seminole Indian Alice Micco Snow from her early childhood until she died in 2008.

Talking to elders on the Brighton Reservation recently, daughter Salina Dorgan found that *Tupke* was actually short for *Tefolothokv* (pronounced *v/dee-foe-loht-hoe-k/gah*), which was Snow's Indian name.

A loose translation, Dorgan said, is "she goes around everyone."

Snow, an herbalist and Florida plant expert, was well known as a medicine carrier. She assisted Tribal medicine persons and traveled extensively across all Seminole reservations, where she was "known to all," Dorgan said.

Snow's name will go on a plaque that will be erected Nov. 15 just offshore a small natural lake on the grounds of the Naples Botanical Garden. Lake Tupke will become Florida's newest named lake during a ceremony at 10 a.m., which is expected to include hundreds of her Seminole Tribe members, local dignitaries and the plant-loving public.

The ceremony will include remarks by Tribal and Collier County leaders, a dance demonstration by Tribal medicine man Bobby Henry and family, a Stanley Hanson Seminole photo exhibit, and a tour of the 160-acre Garden.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is working with Garden staff in the creation of the permanent plaque and interpretative display.

The honor for Snow was initiated by Collier County residents Sue and Duane Burnham, who have bequeathed a large monetary donation to the Garden asking that a lake be named in her memory.

Snow had maintained a long-standing relationship with the Garden, where she met



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Alice Micco Snow, pictured above in the 1950s, will have a lake named after her at the Naples Botanical Garden, where she taught classes about native plants.

the Burnhams while teaching classes on the local flora and the health benefits of native plants.

Bus trips are being set up on most reservations through Elder Services. Anyone interested in attending the event (free to Tribal members and families) should contact Salina Dorgan at 863-634-6380 or SalinaDorgan@semtribe.com.

Nearest lodging is LaQuinta Inn, 239-0793-4646; Red Roof Inn, 239-774-3117; Holiday Inn Express, 239-261-3500; and Cove Inn, 239-262-7161.

Work begins on \$1 billion solar plant in Nevada

Project will rival largest plant located on Moapa Paiute Tribe land

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Construction has begun on a \$1 billion solar power generating station in the Mojave Desert that officials say will produce enough electricity to power about 80,000 California homes when it is completed in 2016.

The 250-megawatt project, dubbed Silver State South, will capture solar energy with panels spread across almost 4 square miles of federal land south of Las Vegas, according to a fact sheet obtained Sept. 5 from a First Solar Inc. representative.

Executives with Arizona-based First Solar and Florida-based NextEra Energy Resources put the cost of the project at \$1 billion during a Sept. 3 ceremony with federal Bureau of Land Management chief Neil Kornze at the site off Interstate 15 near the Nevada-California state line.

Kornze said in a statement Sept. 5 that since 2009, the BLM has approved more than 50 renewable energy projects around the country.

"The Silver State South Solar Project is another step forward in using clean and abundant energy resources to make energy and create good-paying jobs," he said. When completed, it would be the same

size as the largest solar project in the state, a 250-megawatt plant that First Solar is building on Moapa Paiute Tribal land along I-15 north of Las Vegas. That project broke ground in March.

First Solar is building the Silver State South array adjacent to a 25-megawatt Silver State North project the company completed in 2012 on almost 1 square mile of federal land near Primm. A subsidiary of NextEra will own both plants.

Silver State North was the nation's first large-scale solar power plant built on public land. It sells power to NV Energy for use in the Las Vegas area.

Silver State South will provide power to Southern California Edison under a long-term contract.

"Renewable energy sources such as solar power play an important role in the future energy mix in this country," Armando Pimentel, NextEra president and CEO, said in a statement. "We look forward to working with First Solar and Southern California Edison to make this project a reality."

Several more solar power projects have been proposed in southern Nevada, where arrays are also under construction in the Eldorado Valley south of Boulder City and outside the Nye County seat of Tonopah.



Eileen Soler

Zechariah Stockton, of Hollywood, employs his own style of creating paint in motion for his skateboard art piece.

Traveling exhibit paves road for skateboard art

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Using decks as canvas, a dozen Tribal youth marked the opening of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's newest exhibit, "Ramp It Up: Skateboard Culture in Native America," by painting their own versions of colorful skateboard art Sept. 20.

Some drew detailed graphics in pencil before putting paintbrushes to wood — such as the Teenage Ninja Mutant Turtle motif created by Alena Stockton.

"I'm inspired because I like to draw, like to skate and I like turtles," Alena said.

Jalycia Billie said she was inspired by multicolored Southwest Indian art designs to bring bold and bright geometric shapes to her deck.

Jaylee Cypress used Seminole colors to lay simple red, yellow and black sections to her deck before employing her palm and fingers, dipped in white paint, to mark the

board with her handprint.

The exhibit, on loan through Nov. 9 from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), was last featured at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Mashantucket, Connecticut.

According to the SITES Web page, the exhibit highlights the history of skateboarding as a popular reservation sport since its roots in West Coast Native American and Native Hawaiian surfing communities of the 1960s.

The exhibit includes a 1973 video featuring Zephyr Competition Team members of the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe in California. About 20 skate decks depict traditional Native artwork and other skate-related works from Native American artists Dustinn Craig, Bunky Echo-Hawk, Traci Rabbit and Joe Yazzie.

A graffiti art wall by Seminole Tribe member Wilson Bowers backdrops the entrance. Nearby, in the Mosaic Gallery, five skate decks painted by Bowers boast

Native skater themes.

Rebecca Fell, the Museum's curator of exhibits, said the newly created skateboards will be entered into a skateboard art competition to be judged Nov. 7-8 during the American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC).

Dozens of artists, including Jessica Osceola, Guy LaBree, Brad Cooley Sr. and Brad Cooley Jr., are scheduled to attend.

AIAC activities will also include a skate jam and contest on a mobile half-pipe ramp that will be staged in front of the Museum.

Alena, who skateboards "wherever and whenever" and can do a front side 180 and a kickflip to fakie, said she stands a chance at winning. Two years ago she won stickers and a T-shirt during a skate competition in Denver, Colorado.

"It can be scary on the ramp, but it's fun, it's exciting and it's really relaxing — especially after a stressful day at school," Alena said.

Inmates face arraignment for Justin Campos murder

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

MADISON, Fla. — On Oct. 16, two Florida prison inmates will be arraigned in Madison for the murder of Seminole Tribal member Justin Campos.

It will be more than a year since Campos, 28, was found stabbed to death in a Madison Correctional Institution prison cell.

A pair of convicted second-degree murderers, Geronimo Castillo, serving 40 years, and Adam Tijerina, serving life, were charged Sept. 2 with killing Campos as he slept in his cell.

Campos was serving a life sentence for the murder of Latin King gang members Carlos Deleon-Ortiz, 29, and Juan Miguel Sanchez-Perdomo, 20, during an argument outside a Fort Myers club Jan. 18, 2011. A Lee County judge rejected Campos' Stand

Your Ground defense.

Campos' transfer to Madison came after an Aug. 13, 2013 attack by unknown assailants who cut his face while he slept in a Jackson C.I. cell in Malone where he was sent after conviction.

A Latin Kings revenge hit was suspected, but no one was charged.

The Immokalee resident was killed less than two months after he arrived at Madison C.I. At the time, his sentence was under appeal.

Believing state officials were trying to "cover up" Campos death, his mother, Ada Campos, worked day and night, by phone, computer and letter, pressuring state officials and spreading the news of her son's death to media outlets across the country.

"We will get to the bottom of all this," Ada Campos said. "My son did not deserve to be put into prison and he did not deserve to die. Those guilty will have to pay."

NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF TENNESSEE, INC. PRESENTS

THE 33rd ANNUAL TENNESSEE INDIAN EDUCATION POW-WOW

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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.

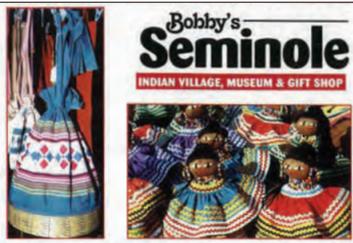
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FLORIDA CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY
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Remembering Tampa Reservation

Coo Taun Cho Bee, the Seminole name for Tampa, meaning Big Shore Line, is the name of the Tribal Museum. The remains of 150 Seminoles, once captives in Tampa's historic Fort Brooke during the Third Seminole War, are buried here. Rare and important historic artifacts from the Fort Brooke site are on display.



The history of the Seminole and their great leaders is portrayed through displays of historic photographs, legends, artifacts, and a documentary film viewed in a mini-theatre.



Our large gift shop houses arts and crafts, such as clothing and jewelry of the Seminole and other Indian tribes

ADMISSION
 Adults \$5.00 • Children \$4.00
 Senior Citizens (Over 65) \$4.00
 Groups (15 or More) \$4.00
 *Prices subject to change

TOURS
 Tours are conducted throughout the day. Group tours are welcome at the center. Alligator wrestling shows can be scheduled in advance for groups of 50 or more.

HOURS
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Seminole Indian Reservation Tampa, Florida

Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Pictured is a brochure for Bobby's Seminole Indian Village, which featured chickee huts, live animals and a gift shop on the Tampa Reservation from 1982 to 2002.

SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN BRIDENSTINE
 Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

In June, the Museum interviewed Tribal elder Bobby Henry to launch a project that will document the history of the Tampa Reservation. The interview series will feature Tribal members and employees who lived or worked on the Tampa Reservation. The few acres of land that today comprise the Tampa Reservation began as a swampy patch of real estate just east of Tampa. Chairman James E. Billie established the reservation to serve as the final resting place for the Seminole remains and funerary objects discovered at a downtown Tampa construction project in 1980. The Tribe built the Coo-Taun Cho-Bee Museum to memorialize these Seminoles who died in captivity at Fort

Brooke during the Seminole Wars. The Tribe also built Bobby's Seminole Indian Village, which featured chickee huts, live animals and gift shop. From 1982 to 2002, village visitors from across the world witnessed alligator wrestling, purchased Seminole crafts and learned the history of the Seminole Tribe at the Tampa Reservation. During an hour-long interview, Henry shared some of his memories of the Tampa Reservation. He first described growing up in the Everglades and learning from his elders about an earlier generation of Seminoles who lived on Tampa Bay. Then he discussed how Chairman Billie asked him to move to Tampa to run a new tourist village, saying he hesitated at first but eventually saw it as a great way to teach people about the Seminoles.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Bobby Henry shares his memories of living and working on the Tampa Reservation during an interview with Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff in June.

"We wanted visitors to see that Seminole people are still here," Henry said. "Yankees come down here and they don't know which one is Seminole and which one is Spanish."

Throughout the interview, Henry shared memorable moments of his life, including traveling to Singapore, rainmaking during the 1985 Tampa drought and visiting Egmont Key at the mouth of Tampa Bay to see the final resting place of Seminole captives who died during the Seminole Wars.

The interview moved on to a discussion about the future of the Seminole Tribe, medicine ways and language. Henry shared his concern about the survival of the Creek language and the medicine ways. He has fought for years to build what he simply calls, "my dream," an open-air culture center to teach the next generation of medicine men. Without it, he fears that young Seminoles today will never learn the old ways, and within two generations, the medicine ways and the Creek language may be lost forever.

Henry also acknowledged other major challenges affecting the Tribe, including drugs and alcohol. He said those negative influences are breaking the bond between Seminoles and the earth, preventing the survival of the old ways for which he fights.

Henry finished the interview by looking toward the future: "I never went to school all my life, but I try like heck. I feel I'm still young so I'd like to go on." Henry reaffirmed his personal fight to teach the next generation about the history and culture of the Seminole Tribe.

If you lived or worked on the Tampa Reservation and would like to share your own story, contact oral history coordinator Stephen Bridenstine at 863-902-1113 ext. 12213 or StephenBridenstine@semitrbe.com. All interview recordings will be housed in the Oral History Collection at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and will be available to all Tribal members to view upon request.

Betty Mae Jumper Wisdom from the past Little history of 'Big City'

The following column was written by Betty Mae Jumper and printed in the October 17, 1990 issue of *The Seminole Tribune*.

Sometimes looking around and seeing what you see today you couldn't believe this is the same place you once knew and played as you were growing up.

When I first came to realize where I was, this place was called "Big City" by Indians from the other reservations. When you went to visit Big Cypress or Brighton they would say, "Here come the Big City Indians."

This place was also known as the Dania Indian Reservation. About five families lived here when we were kids. The Tommies, Fewells, Jumpers, Billies and Tigers. Less than 100 Indian people.

In those days, the other Indians were afraid to come on the reservation and had nothing to do with it. Some thought this was the place you were put to be sent off West again and others thought you might be sold. But as time went by more Indians moved to this reservation when they saw it was safe and no one was being sent off or sold.

This place "Big City" was surrounded by forests with lots of trees and lots of water where Barnett Bank now stands. It was about 2 feet deep. Many birds and animals roamed around when the water got high during rainy season; lots of birds came to nest where some of us played. We would gather their eggs, boil and eat them. Mostly wild duck eggs were gathered. I don't remember what kind of birds we gathered eggs from but the white eggs had a lot of brown spots on it. Fish were also everywhere, going across

Stirling road when the water was high, also, we would spend hours gathering them up, too.

We spent many hours playing hopscotch on Stirling road in front where the churches are located. Cars never passed by — only once a day and it was Mr. Sterling going to Dania from Davie to get the mail. Another car passing by was a man from Miami called Mr. Bright. He had land in Davie with cattle and fruit trees he looked after. He passed early in the morning going to Davie and in the late afternoon around 4 or 5 o'clock when he went home. Whenever we think he is about to come by — all of us kids would hang



around near the road because he would throw lots of candy to us as he passed by. He got a big kick at seeing us chasing after the candy.

A canal from the river between Dania and Davie was a route for the Indian men to come and go from hunting out west in canoes. The canal came to where the Indian Village is on 441 and Stirling road. There was a big camp of the Tommies. Many canoes were tied up where the store is now located. The canal was deep before it was covered up to make the new road 441. West of 441 from here to west of Daytona Beach was the hunting ground for many Indian men.

They hunted gator, coon and otter hides to sell; also the men hunted meat for their families, such as deer, water turtles and garfish. Sometimes the men spent two or three weeks out. When they are out for those two or three weeks they smoke and dry the meat — at times, some of us are hankering for the quietness we knew once.

Seminole camp life: The John Jimmie Camp

SUBMITTED BY KAREN BRUNSO
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) recorded the John Jimmie Camp during an archaeological survey for a home site. Upon learning the location of the camp, the THPO conducted further research into its occupants to understand the camp and its role within the Brighton Reservation. Tribal members Jack Chalfant and Onnie Osceola helped add details about the John Jimmie Camp.

John Jimmie, a Miccosukee from the Trail, was born Aug. 10, 1924; he later moved to Brighton and then to Immokalee, where he died on Oct. 10, 1988. John spoke Mikasuki, Creek and English. The rodeo arena and a street on the Immokalee Reservation are named after him, which highlights the important role he had there; however, little is known about the time John spent on Brighton Reservation.

Shortly after John left his camp on Brighton, Onnie's mother, Lena Gopher, asked him if she could move her family to his camp. Lena had chosen this location because both she and John were members of the Bird Clan.

After John gave his permission, Lena, Onnie, Edward Osceola (Onnie's husband), Martin Gopher (Onnie's brother), Annie Gopher (Onnie's aunt), and Ricki and Marvin Osceola (Onnie's sons) moved into the camp.

Onnie said that when her family moved into the camp, there was one chickee. Her family constructed the rest of the buildings in the camp. These included a cooking chickee located in the center, two sleeping chickees, dining chickee, metal-roof enclosed structure for storage, and metal trailer used for storage. They kept hogs to the north, and chickens roamed around the camp — Lena tended to the chickens and gathered the eggs. There was also a garden located in the eastern portion, banana trees in the northeastern portion and citrus in the western portion of the camp.



Photo courtesy of THPO

John Jimmie farms on Brighton Reservation in 1939.

Onnie also remembers another garden where she, Charlie Micco and Alice Micco Snow planted corn near Charlie Micco's camp. The corn dried on the stalk and then was roasted and ground down for sofkee and corn bread. Pumpkin, squash and sugar cane were also grown. The sugar cane was taken to Billy Bowleg's camp to be made into sugar.

Onnie moved out of the camp in 1959 or 1960 and into a HUD house. Lena stayed at the camp and in 1972 built a house where the dining chickee had been located. When Lena passed away in 2002, Onnie moved into the house and still lives there today.

If you have any additional information about the John Jimmie Camp or John Jimmie's life, contact the Tribal Historic Preservation Office at 863-983-6549.



Photo courtesy of THPO

Ricki Osceola, Helen Osceola, Martin Gopher and Lena Gopher are in front of the dining chickee at the camp.

School of Mines helping Native artists 3-D imaging used to test authenticity, prevent counterfeiting

BY CARSON WALKER
 Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Researchers at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology are using 3-D imaging and other modern tools to reveal the history of Lakota artifacts and test how to ensure the pieces' authenticity through the use of invisible marks.

Metallurgical engineering professors Grant Crawford and Jon Kellar said the idea to study American Indian works was borne out of a program that helps undergraduate students do higher-level research. While engaging Native American students, they learned about the Indian Arts and Craft Act of 1990 that's intended to protect historic pieces from counterfeiters, Crawford said.

That led to collaboration with the Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, which has an extensive collection of Native American art and relationships with Lakota

elders who provided knowledge about historic pieces, he said.

By using 3-D imaging, researchers can look at items without disturbing them, which was a concern of elders because of the spiritual connection some pieces have to Native people. For example, researchers learned more about a fragile child's moccasins from the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre and peered inside a century-old pouch without opening it, Crawford said.

"We learned this from talking with elders, opening the pouch, even if you don't damage it and put it back the way it was, that has some cultural sensitivities," Crawford said.

The researchers have also started testing how to put invisible marks on artwork and other valuable pieces to prove they're authentic.

Kellar said they embedded invisible QR codes on mock eagle feathers that are visible only with a specific wavelength of light. The idea is to help Native Americans

protect their creative works, he said.

"They want us to do this," Kellar said. "They see value in this."

The effort includes staff at the Center for Security Printing and Anti-Counterfeiting Technology on the Rapid City campus, which is developing new ways to guard against forged money, pharmaceuticals, electronics and other items.

Counterfeiting of Native art is a huge business, even with the 1990 law, and fake items cut into the livelihood of legitimate Native American artists, many of whom live below the poverty line, said Mary Bordeaux, formerly of the Heritage Center and now curator of the Indian Museum of North America at Crazy Horse Memorial.

"So when a buyer goes to purchase something, they can say, 'Yes, this definitely was made by a Native person and it's real and it's not just someone trying to make money and capitalize on native culture,'" said Bordeaux, a Lakota from the Rosebud Indian Reservation.

Health



Pinktober takes off early on the Seminole scene

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

Breast cancer doesn't stand a chance against a Seminole-backed army of men and women determined to knock out the disease that kills almost 40,000 women in the United States every year.



Eileen Soler

Larry Buck, general manager of Seminole Classic Casino in Hollywood, addresses a crowd of breast cancer survivors, friends and supporters during a special dinner Sept. 17 at the gaming venue.

October, dubbed Pinktober, is Breast Cancer Awareness Month nationwide, but employees of the Tribe, Seminole Classic Casino and Hard Rock Hotel & Casinos in Hollywood and Tampa have been putting on events since September.

"We're a business, but we care about people, too ... we're doing various things to raise loads of money because at the end of the money is what will kick the (butt) of this wretched disease," said Larry Buck, general manager of Seminole Classic Casino in Hollywood.

Nearly 140 breast cancer survivors were treated by Seminole Gaming to an extravagant dinner Sept. 17 at Seminole Classic Casino. A pink carpet, crystal chandeliers, champagne and even Marilyn Monroe and Frank Sinatra look-alikes set the stage for raffles and donation opportunities that further fuel the fight.

Hard Rock International, also under the banner of Seminole Gaming, is additionally on board via Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood and Tampa. The corporation donated \$100,000 to the cause as part of the company's 15th annual Pinktober campaign that supports employee and executive efforts on the ground.

Pink ribbon merchandise sales, raffles and fundraising events at casino locations will lead up to American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on Oct. 11 in Fort Lauderdale and Oct. 18 in Tampa. Last year nearly 500 walkers from casino teams — all of which set team donation goals — marched in the walk.

All money raised will go to research for a cure, services for breast cancer patients and prevention education throughout local communities.

Last year, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa raised nearly \$90,000 during the Pinktober program to help fund research for prevention and a cure for breast cancer. A major component of the program was its \$50,000 title sponsorship of the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk, which included a property team of 258 people.

Seminole Classic Casino, a smaller entity, raised nearly \$10,000 last year. Team leader Donna Randazzo hopes to surpass that donation this year.

Viviana Martir, a spokeswoman for the American Cancer Society, said the campaign kicked off Aug. 21 at Bongos Cuban Café at the Hard Rock Hollywood. Nearly 300 turned out to rally for teams.

"The Seminole Tribe made the corporate decision to focus on our events and we are happy for it," Martir said at the survivor dinner.

The event was held to honor those who won the battle against breast cancer and to show those still in treatment that hope is real.

"We come together to show camaraderie and remind them that the walk is for them. They are the VIPs and we always want to treat them like that," Martir said.

Items for sale at casinos include pink hats, T-shirts, socks, lapel pins, sunglasses and neckties. Anyone can join the walk individually on existing teams or help create a new team.

Nikki Yourison, public relations coordinator for Tampa, said about 40 Tampa Tribal members and some Seminole Health Department employees walk on the Tampa Rockin' Walkstars team.

A dunk tank party Oct. 7 at Tampa will feature property president John Fontana and general manager Pete Wu on the hot (wet) seat. The Tampa team ranks first among Pinktober Hard Rock corporate teams. The schedule of Tampa events can be viewed at www.facebook.com/RockinWalkstars. Tampa.

In Hollywood, the Hard Rock will go pink from exterior lighting to blackjack tables and drink specials. The list is available at www.SeminoleHardRockHollywood.com/pinktober.

At Seminole Casino Classic's Players Club, breast cancer shirts are on sale for \$10 or guests can pay \$10 for a card placement on the venue's Wall of Hope. Event updates can be found at www.facebook.com/SeminoleClassicCasino.

Breast cancer awareness events are also being hosted for Tribal members by the Seminole Health Department.

On Sept. 19, women on Big Cypress Reservation received free mammograms from Mobile Mammo through Radiology Regional Center of Collier and Lee counties. Mobile Mammo will be on the Brighton Reservation Oct. 17. Additional events will be announced soon.



Beverly Bidney

The front runners at the Seminole in Recovery 5K Run/Walk set the pace Sept. 13 at Topeekeegee Yugnee Park in Hollywood.

Seminole in Recovery rallies for health, sobriety

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — About 60 people gathered in the morning darkness at Hollywood's Topeekeegee Yugnee (T.Y.) Park Sept. 13 for the fifth annual Seminole in Recovery 5K Run/Walk.

"Staying sober is staying healthy," said Helene Buster, director of Family Services who helps coordinate Seminole in Recovery events. "This is something we do one day at a time."

Seminole in Recovery provides support for individuals involved in the recovery process to succeed in their goals and live happy, prosperous lives.

Kenneth Tommie, who is 13 months clean, was determined to finish the 5K, even though he has a torn rotator cuff and has to wear a sling.

"I came out to support the program," Tommie said. "It makes me feel good. I can't work out now, but I can walk for my health. It's all connected: health, sobriety and attitude. This was a good accomplishment."

The 3.1-mile race featured adults and seniors in running and walking categories.

"I feel good," said Leon Tommie, who is in a recovery program. "I ran more than I thought I could. I plan to run non-stop next year."

After all participants crossed the finish line, trophies were presented to the winners in each category.

First place winners were John Cataldi, men's adult runner; Chad Huckabee, men's adult walker; Tony King, men's senior runner; Lenora Roberts, women's adult runner; Kristi Hill, women's adult walker; and Helene Buster, women's senior runner.

"I came out to fight diabetes, get my weight down and get ready for the Indian Day run," Brian Billie said.

The event raised funds for the seventh annual Florida Native American Recovery Convention, to be held in Clewiston in March.

"We are self-sufficient from the Tribe," Buster said. "About 250 people attended last year. Tribes come from out of state to be there; it grows every year."



Beverly Bidney

Helene Buster presents Kenneth Tommie his award for taking third place in the men's adult walker category at the Seminole in Recovery 5K Run/Walk Sept. 13.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Department of Health in Broward

October raises awareness about the need for breast cancer screening, so it is important for women to know the various types of screening tests available.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a good time for women to spend a moment with health care providers deciding which test is best for them, and then scheduling an appointment. Annual breast cancer screenings are recommended for all women ages 40 to 74.

The choices? First: standard mammograms, which are now captured on computer to make them a better tool than the old version recorded on film. Second: 3-D mammograms, which produce better images and can catch a few more tumors than standard ones. These are more costly and use a bit more radiation. Third: MRI screenings, which produce fine images without the pain of breast compression but cost five to 10 times more.

Women should pay nothing for screening mammograms (not including breast MRIs) because insurers are required to cover annual preventive tests free of charge.

Eligible uninsured women can get free screenings from the Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, which is run locally by the Florida Department of Health (DOH) in Broward County.

"We encourage women to get mammograms starting at 40 because they are so good at detecting cancer early when it can be treated effectively," said Dr. Paula Thaqi, the director of DOH-Broward.

The DOH-Broward program provides free standard screenings for uninsured

women ages 50 to 64 who have family incomes of up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level (no more than \$31,460 per year for a family of two).

The Department of Health reports that Native Americans are 10 percent less likely than average to have health coverage, which can affect the testing and care they receive. The good news is that Seminole women survive breast cancer more than half as often as average in Florida.

The best screening test depends on individual situations. Factors to consider:

Standard mammogram: Shown to reduce mortality from breast cancer by up to 30 percent in women ages 40 to 74. Each breast is compressed between glass while X-rays are taken.

"In South Florida, hospitals have switched away from the old film mammograms to newer digital ones stored on computer," said Trivel McKire, manager of the Early Detection Program at DOH-Broward. "Doctors can use the computer to analyze the images for better detection."

Studies show that digital mammograms miss fewer tumors than those on film.

Standard mammograms cost around \$100 to \$200 and should be completely covered by insurers when done for screening. Women may have to pay a co-payment if the test is "diagnostic," meaning it's done to examine the breast if an abnormality is found.

3-D mammogram: Each breast is compressed while the machine takes 15 X-ray images at different angles. A computer combines the images into a 3-D view that can be rotated to better detect abnormalities.

Studies show 3-D mammograms catch cancers 4 to 5 percent more often than standard tests. Women who get 3-D tests

are 15 percent less likely to need additional testing for an abnormal result that proves to be a false alarm. However, it's not yet clear if 3-D tests are better at finding tumors or saving lives, according to the National Cancer Institute.

3-D mammograms expose women to slightly more radiation than standard ones. Also, they cost about \$50 more, which often is not covered by insurance.

Magnetic resonance imaging: MRIs of the breasts have been marketed as pain-free because no compression is needed. Also, they use no radiation, and studies show they can detect tumors somewhat earlier than mammograms.

However, MRIs of the breasts can produce false positives, and they cost \$1,000 or more, not covered by insurers when done for screening.

The American Cancer Society recommends that women with a greater than 20 to 25 percent lifetime risk for breast cancer should consider receiving both a mammogram and breast MRI.

These high-risk women include known carriers of the BRCA1 and 2 gene mutations, women with multiple first-degree relatives with breast and/or ovarian cancer, or Hodgkin's lymphoma survivors who received chest radiation before age 30. MRI screening is not recommended for other women.

Thaqi recommends discussing the options with your health care provider to make the best choice about your screening test.

For information, contact the Tribal Health Department at 954-962-2009 or www.semtribe.com/Services/Health.aspx, or the Florida Department of Health in Broward at 954-762-3649 or www.browardchd.org/healthS_breast.aspx.

Tips for ensuring payment of medical and dental bills

SUBMITTED BY CONNIE WHIDDEN
Health Department

• 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.

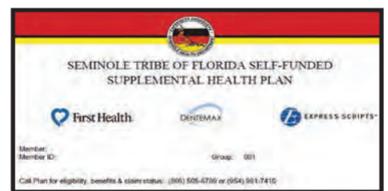


Photo courtesy of Connie Whidden

Pictured is the STOF Member Health Plan card.

SEMINOLE SCENES



Eileen Soler

COOKIN' UP CULTURE: Big Cypress Culture Department hosts a cooking demonstration Aug. 28 at the culture chickee camp behind the Frank Billie Field Office. Later, residents and employees lined up for hefty portions of frybread, corn on the cob, Indian tacos and cabbage.



Eileen Soler

ROCKIN' THE NEWS: Nancy Motlow, of the Immokalee Reservation, reads the latest issue of The Seminole Tribune.



Peter B. Gallagher

THREADING TRADITION: Tampa Culture and Language Coordinator Herbert Jim watches as students Alyssa Bowers, foreground, and Alanis Bowers begin traditional Seminole sweetgrass baskets.



Eileen Soler

HI HO! Rozin Fish, Greyson Johns, Gregory James and Hayden Thomas play the children's board game, Hi Ho! Cherry-O, at Billy Osceola Memorial Library.



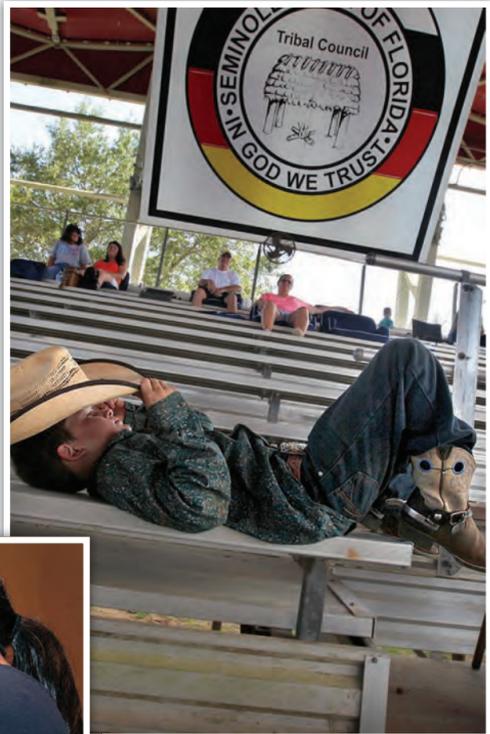
Photo courtesy of Angelita Arreguin

CAMERA READY: Former Chairman Mitchell Cypress is interviewed by WTVQ television during the 96th annual Crow Fair in Billings, Montana. Cypress and other Big Cypress seniors were on a Midwest Indian Country tour.



Eileen Soler

MANO Y GATOR: Billie Swamp Safari employee Francisco Lambert shares morning pleasantries with Eyegone, a half-blind alligator who calls the Big Cypress tourist attraction home.



Eileen Soler

COUNTING SHEEP: Carson Watford, 9, takes a break Aug. 30 during the last competition of the second annual Youth Summer Series Rodeo at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena. Carson won first place in the pony riding for kids ages 7-9.



Eileen Soler

FAMILY AFFAIR: A buffalo mother and her calf enjoy a mid-morning stroll through Billie Swamp Safari on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Beverly Bidney

OH SO CUTE: Darlah Cypress, Sydnee Cypress and Eileen Cypress swoon over adorable 3-month-old Indigo Jumper, resting comfortably in the arms of Carla Cypress. The heart melting occurred during the Education Expo at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood Sept. 5.



Beverly Bidney

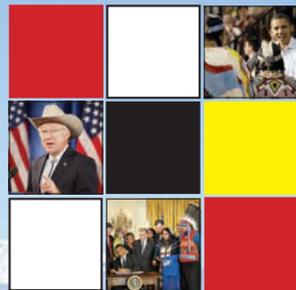
MILLENNIALS: Caidence Smith, Tehya Howard and Nettie Smith enjoy an electronic game during the SPD Seminole Night Out in Hollywood Aug. 25.



Photo courtesy of Ryals Lee Jr.

SHOW NOLE MERCY: On the field at Doak Campbell Stadium for the FSU home opener are, from left, Norman 'Skeeter' Bowers, Cameron Osceola, Terry Tartsah, Sheldon Osceola, Theron Osceola, Tammy Osceola, Karey Gopher, Tyson Osceola and Jemma Tartsah with FSU's Osceola on Renegade. The Osceola Brothers Band performed in downtown Tallahassee's Friday Night Block Party the previous night.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Job fair, expansion at Seminole Hard Rock

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino will hold three job fairs to hire more than 100 team members to work at a Japanese restaurant that will be opened near the hotel pool. The job fairs are from 2-6 p.m. Oct. 27 at the hotel lobby and 2-6 p.m. Oct. 6 at Paradise Live.

Seminole Gaming CEO James Allen announced a \$100 million expansion earlier this year for the Tribe's seven casinos in Florida, including a new restaurant and upgraded rooms at the 500-room Seminole Hard Rock in Hollywood, which runs at 98 percent capacity. The entire complex employs 3,700 people.

In September, Seminole Gaming COO Larry Mullin said the casino floor was being remodeled to expand the high limit gambling room (so there's a temporary pit of tables on the main floor right now), and a reworking of the lobby bar.

New positions for the restaurant include chefs, cooks, restaurant servers, bartenders, hostesses, cocktail servers and other restaurant team members. All full-time team members of Seminole Gaming and the Seminole Tribe of Florida receive health care benefits, staff meals, tuition reimbursement and more.

The Tribe overall employs 33,000. Job fair participants must be 18 or older and should bring a resume.

—Source: SouthFlorida.com

Judge backs Seminole Tribe of Florida in tax dispute

TALLAHASSEE — U.S. District Judge Robert Scola Jr. sided with the Seminole Tribe of Florida in a recent tax dispute with the state.

Scola's 15-page ruling says federal law prevents the Florida Department of Revenue from collecting a utility tax on electricity that helps power Tribal lands. The ruling also prohibits a state rental tax on food-court operations at the Seminole Hard Rock casinos.

Scola rejected state arguments that the electricity tax is actually levied on utility companies, rather than on their customers. Rather, the judge deemed the tax as merely a pass-through to customers and that the "legal incidence of the utility tax falls on the Seminole Tribe," he wrote. "The scheme requires utility companies to collect the tax from consumers and then to deliver the tax to the Department of Revenue."

The rental tax issue stemmed from leases the Tribe entered into with vendors to operate food courts at the casinos. The state contended "the rental tax is not a tax on Tribal land; rather it is a privilege tax imposed on non-Indian tenants for the use of commercial property, and is not prohibited."

Scola, however, cited federal laws which "expressly prohibit the rental tax, as applied to Tribal leases."

—Source: Miami Herald

Fond du Lac Reservation to be home to large solar development

CLOQUET, Minn. — The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa will soon premiere a ground-breaking solar farm project that will contribute a significant source of energy among other environmental benefits to their reservation in northern Minnesota.

Minnesota Power will partner with the Tribe and contribute \$2 million toward building a large-scale photovoltaic array on Fond du Lac land, with a capacity of 1.0 MW to benefit the Fond du Lac Band, generating enough electricity to fulfill 10 percent of the needs of the Black Bear Casino Resort. The photovoltaic cells convert solar light photons into electricity, operating silently and without any moving parts or environmental emissions.

The reservation got its first taste of the benefits of photovoltaic energy when it installed a series of solar panels on the roof of its LEED-certified Resource Management Building a few years ago.

A document issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in July states the Fond du Lac project and others are part of a mitigation settlement with Minnesota Power to resolve claims that the company violated the provisions of the Clean Air Act by "unlawfully constructing major modifications at its plants without obtaining required permits and installing and operating the best available air pollution control technology as the Act requires."

Minnesota Power disagrees.

—Source: PineJournal.com

Tribes pushing minimum wage higher

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Even as state lawmakers were working on legislation to prevent minimum wage increases by local cities and towns, Oklahoma Indian Tribes have been raising the state's minimum wage over the past few years. Though the minimum wage remains at \$7.25 per hour for most Oklahomans, several Tribal nations pay more than or have boosted their entry-

level wage above the federal level, a move that could cause the Oklahoma legislature to take another look at the issue.

At least five of Oklahoma's 39 federally recognized Tribes — including the state's largest Tribe, the Cherokee Nation — have minimum wage levels that go far above the federal standard. In February, the Cherokee Nation increased its minimum wage from \$9 to \$9.50 per hour. Principal Chief Bill John Baker said the increase would apply to all 8,000 of the nation's employees.

In a press release, Baker said the increase would "help more Oklahomans put food on the table. It will also allow our employees more discretionary spending, which boosts the local economy."

Located in northeastern Oklahoma, the Cherokee Nation has more than 250,000 members. To the southeast, the Chickasaw Nation — which generated more than \$1 billion in revenue for the first eight months of its 2014 fiscal year — pays its employees about \$1.75 above the federal minimum wage level.

The Osage Nation increased its minimum pay to \$11.50 per hour in 2013, among the highest minimum wages paid in Oklahoma. Headquartered in Concho, the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribe established its minimum wage at \$9 per hour this year, and in the Tulsa area, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation increased its minimum wage to \$10.15 per hour in 2010.

Oklahoma's Tribal nations, one study indicates, have become a major part of the state's economic engine. According to a 2012 economic impact analysis by the Steven C. Agee Economic Research and Policy Institute at Oklahoma City University, the state's 39 Tribes support about 87,174 jobs in Oklahoma, as well as \$2.5 billion in state income, \$6.7 billion in direct contributions from Tribal businesses and government spending, and \$4.1 billion in spillover production of non-Tribal firms that support their operations.

"In fact, the total direct and indirect economic impact represents 7 percent of the state's \$148 billion total economic output in 2010," the study said.

—Source: PublicRadioTulsa.org

November: National Native American Heritage Month

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Senate unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution recognizing November as National Native American Heritage Month — and Nov. 25 as Native American Heritage Day.

"Forty percent of all the federally recognized Tribes in the United States call Alaska home," said co-sponsor Senator Lisa Murkowski (D-Alaska). "So I am proud to call attention to our Alaska's First People — and American Indians and Native Hawaiians, as well — and celebrate their rich contribution to our society."

The resolution recognizes and celebrates the vibrant cultures of the Native Americans in the United States. There are 566 federally recognized Tribes in the United States, 229 of which reside in Alaska, and census data indicates nearly 5 million people in the United States claim Native American heritage. Other sponsors were Chairman Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) and Ranking member John Barrasso (R-Wyoming) of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

—Source: TheTundraDrums.com

Indigenous peoples seek end to marginalization

NEW YORK — Complaining about being marginalized in the original Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the world's 370 million indigenous people say they want to play a key role in the United Nation's (UN) post-2015 development agenda, the finalization of which will be in 2015.

"The world can still benefit from [our] knowledge by including us in the journey for the next 15 years. And we want this to be an equal partnership; we do not want to be beneficiaries," stated Galina Angarova, the New York representative of Tebtebba Foundation (the Indigenous Peoples' International Center for Policy Research and Education) to Truth-out.org.

In her speech at the closing session of the three-day conference of Non-Governmental Organizations sponsored by the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), she highlighted the need to include marginalized groups in development targets as well as in the ongoing negotiations for the Sustainable Development Goals, which will replace the MDGs in 2015.

Indigenous peoples continue to fight for their right to self-determination, which is not a reality yet, despite being granted by the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The discussion highlighted the first World Conference on Indigenous People, Sept. 22-23, as well as the UN Secretary General's synthesis report to be issued later this autumn.

According to Angarova, indigenous peoples' territories cover 24 percent of the land worldwide and host 80 percent of the world's biodiversity.

"A lot of the corporations are eyeing those territories for future profit. This is why free prior and informed consent is

key. Because without it they [corporations] are just free to go and grab and develop on those territories," she told Truth-out.org.

Indigenous people have lived in a sustainable way for centuries and passed their knowledge from generation to generation, feeding their people without damaging the natural environment. And this is one of the reasons why protecting their culture is crucial, she added.

Not only must these communities be able to access the natural resources, but they also have to ensure the learning curriculum for their children includes traditional education and allows kids to spend time with elders to learn about the cycle of life, nature, harvesting and farming.

Their challenge is to preserve their knowledge and pass it on.

"Myrna Cunningham, president of the Centre for Autonomy and Development of Indigenous People in Nicaragua, pointed out that indigenous people have been impoverished as a result of the development paradigm that has been imposed on them. For instance, some 600 indigenous languages have been lost in the past 100 years. Losing language means losing biodiversity — linked to the change in their relationship with the world."

Carmen pointed out there is no translation in indigenous language for words like "intellectual property" or "human rights" — concepts that must be imported from a different culture. Paradigms from other languages and cultures have been imposed over a reality that was perceived in a different way for centuries. Now it is time to revisit this paradigm, as the world prepares for a decade of inclusive and sustainable development.

—Source: Truth-out.org

Mohawk ironworkers, code talkers on new \$1 coin

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Mohawk ironworkers and Native code talkers from World War I and World War II will be honored by the United States Mint (USM) with the minting of their images as the reverse (tails side) designs on the 2015 and 2016 Native American Copy Coins.

The theme for the 2015 design is "Mohawk high ironworkers, builders of New York City and other skylines (from 1886)." The design depicts a Mohawk ironworker reaching for an I-beam that is swinging into position, rivets on the left and right side of the border, and a high elevation view of the city skyline in the background. The inscription reads: Mohawk Ironworkers.

The theme for the 2016 design is "Code talkers from both World War I and World War II (1917-1945)." The design features two helmets with the inscriptions WWI and WWII, and two feathers that form a "V," symbolizing victory, unity and the important role that these code talkers played.

The obverses (heads sides) of the 2015 and 2016 Native American Copy Coins will continue to feature sculptor Glenna Goodacre's "Sacagawea" design, introduced in 2000.

The choice of subjects — Mohawk ironworkers and code talkers — represents a focus on late 19th- and 20th-century Native history. Since 2009, beginning with a depiction of the "three sisters" agricultural technique which Natives practiced for thousands of years before European contact, reverse-side coin designs have spotlighted elements of Native culture or episodes from history in a sort of timeline. The 2014 coin commemorated the Native role played in Lewis and Clark's 1804-06 journey into the Pacific Northwest.

The coin program, launched in 2009, calls for the USM to mint and issue copy coins featuring designs that celebrate the important contributions made by Indian Tribes and individual Native Americans to the history and development of the United States.

—Source: IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com

Lawsuit over ancient bones dismissed

BAJA, Calif. — A panel of judges from 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has affirmed a lower court's ruling to dismiss a lawsuit that sought to keep two ancient human skeletons from being returned to local Kumeyaay Tribes.

Discovered in 1976 during an excavation on the grounds of the University of California San Diego, the remains of a young adult male and a slightly older female — referred to as the "La Jolla remains" in court documents — are believed to be two of the oldest human skeletons ever found in North or South America, with an estimated age of 8,970 to 9,600 years old.

In 2012, the Kumeyaay Cultural Repatriation Committee, which had been formally seeking return of the remains for years, filed a federal lawsuit seeking to have the university turn over the remains to a member Tribe for traditional burial. UC San Diego was preparing to turn them over when a trio of professors filed a lawsuit seeking to block the transfer because they wanted to study the skeletons. They argued

there is no evidence the remains are Native American under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

A district judge dismissed the professors' lawsuit and the 8th Circuit upheld the decision.

—Source: UTSanDiego.com

OSU recruiting Natives to science, medicine fields

TULSA, Okla. — An initiative hoping to draw more Native American high school and college students into the medicine and science fields has been started at Oklahoma State University's (OSU) Center for Health Sciences' Office for the Advancement of American Indians in Medicine and Science (OAAIMS).

Though it is deemed important for more American Indians to go into the science and medicine fields because Native culture revolves around nature, animals and plants, studies show that few Native Americans choose to go into the so-called STEM fields: science, engineering, technology or mathematics. Of the 51 percent of American Indian students graduating from high school, only about 2.5 percent choose to enter a STEM field, according to a report from Education Week.

A principal reason fewer Native students go into STEM fields is due to a lack of mentors. That's why OSU is reaching out to the state's 39 Tribes. OAAIMS demonstrates to students that they can attend school in Oklahoma and not have to leave their families and support networks.

Linsae Howard, 23, Cherokee, a second-year medical student who presented mini STEM camps to middle and high school students this summer, said she was interested in trying to get younger students interested in the science and medicine fields.

"I didn't have a lot of that growing up. I know a lot of kids from really highly populated Native areas don't always get exposure to that," she said.

Howard added that having that sort of exposure at a younger age could have helped her decide earlier on that she wanted to go into the medical field.

—Source: SFGate.com

Award-winning Native actors cast for 'Te Ata'

ADA, Okla. — Filming is underway in several Oklahoma locations for "Te Ata," a dramatic story based on the life of Chickasaw actress Mary Frances "Te Ata" Thompson Fisher.

A nationwide search produced a cast of award-winning Native American actors for the production, including Q'orianka Kilcher as Te Ata. At age 14, Kilcher portrayed Pocahontas opposite Colin Farrell and Christian Bale in the Oscar-nominated film "The New World." Gil Birmingham, cast as Te Ata's father, is best known for his work on "Twilight," "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1," and "Rango."

Oscar-nominee Graham Greene will play Chickasaw Nation Gov. Douglass H. Johnston. Greene's credits include "Die Hard With a Vengeance," "Green Mile," and the television series "Northern Exposure" and as an Oscar nominee for "Dances With Wolves."

Te Ata's mother, Bertie, will be portrayed by Brigid Brannagh, known for her work in the TV series "Army Wives" for six seasons.

"Film is a great way to preserve the legacy of Te Ata and other Chickasaws who have made a difference in the world," Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby told Chickasaw.net. "Te Ata once wrote that art brings all people together. Her career bears testimony to the truth of that idea as her life's work did a great deal to help bring diverse cultures closer together."

Te Ata, which means "bearer of the morning," was named Oklahoma's first State Treasure in 1987 and is also a member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and the Chickasaw Hall of Fame.

The film's progress can be followed at www.TeAtaMovie.com, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TeAtaMovie and Instagram at <http://instagram.com/TeAtaMovie>.

—Source: Chickasaw.net

Gambling bill may halt Singapore online gaming

SINGAPORE — The Remote Gambling Bill will, if passed, outlaw all forms of gambling activity via the Internet, telephone or any other platform that facilitates communication in Singapore. The bill was tabled in Parliament Sept. 8.

Passage of the bill would pull the plug on remote gambling in Singapore and clamp down on all online gambling stakeholders from punters, to middlemen such as betting agents, as well as online gaming operators and syndicates.

There is not expected to be much opposition to the passing of the bill, but some eyebrows have been raised over the exemptions written into the proposed anti-online gambling laws, which leave the

door open for just one entity: Singapore Pools, a state-owned lottery and gambling operator.

Singapore Pools is owned by Singapore Totalisator Board, a statutory board under the Ministry of Finance. It currently operates three lottery games — TOTO, 4D and Singapore Sweep — and is the sole legal bookmaker and totalisator for football and motor racing betting.

A not-for-profit organization, Singapore Pools' purpose is to provide Singaporeans with a legal avenue to gamble, while countering the illegal betting syndicates.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said websites that "provide, facilitate or advertise remote gambling" may be blocked, and financial institutions will be instructed to block transfers to accounts linked to persons involved in unlawful remote gambling activities.

Regardless of where the bet is placed or where the remote gambling operator is located, individuals who gamble online or via the phone face a fine of up to \$4,000 (U.S. dollars) and six months in jail. Those who facilitate remote gambling face fines of between \$16,000 and \$160,000, and up to five years in jail.

Parties outside Singapore that provide remote gambling services to Singapore-based gamblers can be fined between \$16,000 and \$400,000 and jailed up to seven years.

In addition, parties who invite or facilitate people younger than age 21 in remote gambling, and parties who employ or engage youth in the provision of remote gambling services, such as the distribution of prize money, will face a separate penalty of between \$16,000 and \$240,000 and up to six years in jail.

—Source: The Establishment Post

River Rock woes mount as casino revenue is cut in half

GEYSERVILLE, Calif. — Blaming competition from the nearby bigger, glitzier Graton Resort and Casino, the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians announced a 50 percent drop in revenue at River Rock, Sonoma County's first Indian casino, since Graton's opening. Tribal leaders say the Graton casino has caused them to default on payments to investors and miss a \$3.5 million payment to Sonoma County.

Graton, owned by the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and operated by Station Casinos, opened in November 2013, after securing \$825 million to fund the project, the greatest amount ever financed for an Indian casino. River Rock Casino opened in 2002.

—Source: The Press Democrat

Quapaws expand Ag program at casino restaurant

QUAPAW, Okla. — The Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma is expanding their agricultural program by producing honey, bison, produce and cattle and supplying food to their signature Red Oak Steakhouse at the Tribe's Downstream Casino Resort.

The 3,240-member Tribe recently increased the size of their cattle herd by 140 Angus cattle and plans to serve Angus beef by the beginning of next year, according to FourStatesHomePage.com.

—Source: Indianz.com

Group protests Washington mascot game

HOUSTON — A small group of Native Americans protested the name of the Washington Redskins outside the Houston Texans' stadium before the teams met in the season opener Sept. 7. The group held signs voicing their distaste for Washington's nickname. One read, "R-word = N-Word" while another read, "Indians are Human Beings Not Mascots."

Juan Mancias, a member of the Carrizo Tribe of Texas, was quoted by the Associated Press as saying: "This is a racist name and it should not be used."

There has been a push for Washington owner Dan Snyder to change the mascot and some publications no longer use it.

—Source: Associated Press

Native Pomo basket brings \$23,000 at auction

SANTA FE, N.M. — Among 900 lots of Western and Native art, American Indian artifacts and related collectibles, this year's Best of Santa Fe Auction featured the \$23,000 sale of a large, museum-quality, twined, conical-shaped traditional Pomo burden basket adorned with fine red fern geometric designs.

Made circa 1890, it was easily the top lot of the auction, which grossed \$464,000 in sales of baskets, prehistoric pottery pieces, dazzling hand-crafted jewelry and wonderful artworks.

A hand-wrought Charles Loloma Hopi belt buckle (circa 1980s), with raised and carved stones and a silver back, was the auction's second top lot, bringing in \$6,325.

—Source: ArtFixDaily.com

—Compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher.

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HOLLYWOOD, FL

Education



Expo focuses on fruitful futures

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Sept. 5 Education Expo at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood showed attendees a world of opportunities awaiting them post-graduation.

More than 50 Tribal departments, K-12 schools, tutoring companies and colleges distributed information about their programs to students and their parents, who came from every reservation.

Education advisers offered advice, while workshops taught students how to dress for success, write a resume and master public speaking. Seminole Media Productions also held a workshop that detailed video production and cutting-edge technology for those interested in pursuing careers in media.

“We want all Tribal members to have a good understanding of all the services education provides,” said Veronica Ramsundar, Higher Education program manager. “Students can learn about various opportunities available after graduation.”

The Expo also featured guest speakers to inspire students to continue their education.

Actor Saginaw Grant, of the Sac and Fox Nation, spoke about the importance of culture and tradition, and Miami Heat head coach Erik Spoelstra spoke about his passion for heritage, family, education and basketball.

“My parents knew they could educate me through basketball,” said Spoelstra, a Filipino-American. “They forced me to do my homework and keep up my GPA or I couldn’t play this beautiful game I love.”

Basketball teaches discipline, commitment, accountability and teamwork, said Spoelstra, who has led the Miami Heat to two championships since taking the reins in 2008.

“But you can’t play unless you go to school,” he said. “They go hand in hand. My dream was basketball – yours may be something else. Find something that inspires you and chase that dream. Education is the pathway to all of your dreams.”

Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola addressed the future leaders of the Tribe by emphasizing the importance of supporting



Students review brochures for Montverde Academy during the Sept. 5 Education Expo at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

Beverly Bidney

themselves by getting an education.

“School teaches you how to learn,” he said. “Then you can go into any field you want. Keep your mind open to what you are comfortable doing and make a career of that.”

Students, who received an excused absence from school to attend the Expo, came to the event for various reasons, but all were thinking ahead. Anthony Gentry, 13, a home-schooled seventh-grader, is interested in media and video production. He attended to learn about different schools. Dorian Jumper, 17, an 11th-grader

at the Miccosukee School, was looking for technical colleges and information about ROTC.

“I came to see colleges and prepare for my future,” said Elisah Billie, 14, a ninth-grader at Ahfachkee School. “I’m looking for a web design school.”

Schools showcased included Dartmouth College, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Atlantic University, Johnson & Wales University, Broward College, Nova Southeastern University and St. Thomas University. Tribal departments on hand included Native Learning Center,

Information Technology, Seminole Police Department and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank knows the importance of investing in Tribal youth.

“We were the generation who had to learn English,” Rep. Frank said. “These young people will help ensure our future role in Indian Country.”

For more information about the Education Department, visit its new website at <http://education.semtribe.com/>.

◆ See more EXPO coverage on page 3B

Novice artists travel world on a paintbrush

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A blank sheet of paper became a magic carpet to Mexico during a recent Tour de Art Club project at the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club.

Eight members of the new afterschool club on Sept. 11 water colored, magic marked and penciled El Sol y La Luna, a symbol of the indigenous Huichol people, in their own way while learning about artistic similarities that link the world.

“For all people, whether they are Seminole, African-American or Hispanic or other, arts and crafts are somewhat similar because every piece has purpose and a story,” said Boys & Girls Club counselor Dayana Calvo Driggs, who leads the art club.

In the traditional Aztec piece, the circle that envelopes the center represents the cycle of life. The sun symbolizes female warmth and sustenance; the moon indicates men and gravity, Calvo Driggs said.

Though club members were encouraged to recreate the artwork using colors that best represented their own interpretations of what the sun and moon represent, few strayed from the original piece.

“I think the colors should be the way they already are,” Miki Cypress said.

“For all people, whether they are Seminole, African-American or Hispanic or other, arts and crafts are somewhat similar because every piece has purpose and a story.”

– Dayana Calvo Driggs, Boys & Girls Club counselor

Throughout the hour-long activity, children learned that color interpretations cross many cultures because certain colors reveal or evoke particular innate human emotions and values. Most noted the El Sol y La Luna color meanings on a separate sheet of paper: black for protection, blue for peace, brown for mother Earth and friendship, red for deep emotions like love and orange for abundance.

Calvo Driggs said future Tour de Art Club meetings will explore a different continent or country every week. Children can expect to visit Africa through Tribal masks and Australia via art that reveals the Aborigines’ spiritual value of the earth.

“We’ll go to Russia, Asia and all around the world to learn a little more about art from every part of the globe,” Calvo Driggs said.



Eileen Soler

Edie Robbins captures her creativity on paper at the Sept. 11 Tour de Art Club meeting.

Student garden feeds bellies, brains

Outdoor class becomes part of Ahfachkee School curriculum for all students

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Garden time looks a little like recess at Ahfachkee School.

Children sing, laugh, get dirty and sweaty. They even gobble snacks.

But for garden instructor Maxine Gilke and the school’s 148 students, the 0.25-acre backyard patch that blooms year-round with veggies, fruits and herbs is an outdoor learning laboratory.

Established by several Big Cypress elders including Agnes Cypress and Thomas Billie, the garden had been an elective class tended by Gilke and students for about nine years. This school year, it is mandatory for high school students and an official part of the cultural curriculum across all

grades, said Jeannette Cypress, director of Traditional Preservation.

“First we say the words,” Gilke said bolstering the students’ native Mikasuki language.

Esh-pah-sha-ke for rake. *Cha-pa-le* for hoe. And *honogut* for green to describe the vibrant color that saturates the living scene. Work in the garden begins after children recite the Seminole Pledge and sing a welcome song, both in Mikasuki.

According to definition via the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences’ extension program, the sprawling space is deemed a community garden because the work and yield is shared by community members. But by its very roots, the Ahfachkee garden is Tribal tradition, culture, history and necessary for

self-sustenance.

Cultural curriculum specialist Mary Jene Koenes said early Florida Seminoles typically planted gardens 1 or more miles away from encampments that came under frequent Army attacks throughout the Seminole Wars.

Families could abandon camps suddenly without losing their source of nourishment.

“The gardens were always there to sustain them,” Koenes said. “Nowadays, too, a child who learns to grow food will survive.”

Gilke said farming is in her blood. Her grandmother and father were crop laborers who endured back-breaking labor but taught her growing techniques and plant uses similar to those used for Tribal medicine.

Gilke worked nearly two decades for U.S. Sugar before taking a job at the Last Chance Ranch where she trained incarcerated juveniles how to grow and cook their own food.

“We taught them how to live off the land,” Gilke said.

The work is hard, said Ahfachkee 10th-grader Uriah Waggerby as he gathered wood to be burned for ash to enrich the garden soil. Gilke said Uriah is one of the more devoted student gardeners who provides much of the labor, including tilling and harvesting.

Uriah said gardening is his favorite time of day.

“It’s something to do every day and somewhere to be that is beautiful to see. The only bad day is a rainy day – but that’s good for the plants,” Uriah said.

A Sept. 12 tour boasted newly planted rows of carrots, collard greens, hot peppers and tomatoes. Already rooting were squash, sunflowers and onions, while snap peas and avocados were short weeks from ripe and ready to eat.

The garden is like gumbo: “A little bit of everything,” Gilke said.

And it’s personal from Charlie Frye’s 3-year-old guava tree to an aloe patch planted by Graysun Billie in memory of a beloved relative. Every row is tagged with the names of the plant and the children who toiled to get the job done.

A salsa section cultivates ingredients that eventually get chopped and diced for an unofficial peer review that lauds the best salsa maker at the school. Last year, Damien Fish took the distinction.

“Some like it hot, some like it not hot,” Damien said.

Some fruits and vegetable never make it out of the garden, Gilke said. On a recent garden tour, black-eyed peas were plucked and devoured on the spot.

Lemon grass and aloe flourish year-round. Basil, thyme, mint and other herbs are bountiful and picked for daily use to flavor meats, vegetables and tea. Cotton grows from pretty pink petals into fuzzy bolls. Carrots are wildly anticipated.

“We love carrots,” said a group of sixth-graders all at once. And they love carrot juice as much as sugar cane – of which they will have their fill by the end of the school year.

Every year brings unexpected blessings, Gilke said. Last year, students boasted a 3-pound apricot, a reoccurrence of a pumpkin vine that blooms fruit atop a



Eileen Soler

Damien Fish uses a hoe to drag out to zucchini seeds at the Ahfachkee School garden, while fellow student Precious Jimmie and garden instructor Maxine Gilke lend moral support.

◆ See GARDEN on page 5B

Seminole sumos take over Boys & Girls Club



Beverly Bidney

Lance Howard has a good laugh after Charles 'Tutu' Osceola goes down during a hilarious sumo match at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club Sept. 4.



Beverly Bidney

Jaden Bankston and C.J. Osceola jostle for dominance during a sumo wrestling match at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club Japanese-themed celebration that marked the end of monthly activities.



Beverly Bidney

Tanier Gore outfits Lance Howard in a sumo helmet before the sumo wrestling tournament.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The ancient sport of sumo wrestling was embraced by the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club Sept. 4 with bouts to determine which young competitor would emerge victorious.

The 2,000-year-old sport was the highlight of a Japan-themed, end-of-the-month celebration for community members. Revered throughout Japan, sumo originated in the Shinto religion; strict rules and traditions compel the sport and the lifestyle of the wrestlers.

Seminole kids mimicked professional sumo wrestlers, or rikishi, by wearing large padded suits while trying to push each other out of the ring. Master of ceremonies Anthony Gentry, 13, made sure the event had the appropriate level of levity as he called bouts and helped competitors prepare.

“Now put on the weave of truth,” he said as he secured a plastic helmet, which resembled the traditional sumo top-knot hairdo, on a competitor. Clad in padded armor, opponents faced off and the fun began — spectators and wrestlers broke out laughing when someone hit the mat. The fiercest competitor, C.J. Osceola, 13, went undefeated.

“You bring great honor to your name,” emcee Anthony said.



Beverly Bidney

Jaden Bankston and C.J. Osceola compete as Anthony Gentry watches during the sumo wrestling tournament.

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Native actor Saginaw Grant offers advice to Tribal youth

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Saginaw Grant's distinguished face — aged, patient and wise — is instantly recognizable from movies and television. At 78, he is blessed with the wisdom that comes only with time.

But Grant doesn't live in the past. His mission is to ensure the future is filled with Native Americans who proudly promote their heritage and keep their culture alive.

Grant spoke at the Education Expo Sept. 5 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. His message was aimed at youth but meant for adults to hear as well.

"The responsibility of an elder is to pass on the traditions and culture of our people," said Grant, a member of the Sac and Fox Nation. "Your responsibility is to listen to what your grandfather told you. Learn your language and do the things our people have done for centuries."

He believes Native American adults have neglected that responsibility and need to speak with youth more often. Grant talks about traditions and culture every chance he gets so they can be passed on to younger generations.

He is also passionate about education and believes young adults should have careers, not jobs.

"Find what you enjoy doing," Grant said. "That's your career, that's what you need to do in life. Have a career, be somebody and be proud of who you are."

Grant's acting career started accidentally more than 30 years ago. While attending a writing seminar near San Francisco, a director noticed him and asked if he would appear in a car commercial. He agreed and his Hollywood career began. His first movie was "War Party" in 1988. Since then, he has acted in television shows and movies, including "Breaking Bad" and "The Lone Ranger."

The recipient of the American Legacy Award from the San Diego Film Festival and the Lifetime Achievement Award from Oceanside International Film Festival, Grant has found success at his craft. He said the highlight of his career is meeting and connecting with people.

"I didn't want to be an actor, but it was given to me by the Creator," he said. "I was raised to believe things happen in life to make you do what you do. Acting gives me the opportunity to continue what I do today."

Grant was impressed with the Seminole Tribe's dedication to their children.

"From what I've seen today, they are really making an effort to teach their children to have careers and give them every opportunity to go to school," he said. "That's what I like about the Seminole people; they are making an effort to teach their children to want to improve themselves."

Tribal students absorbed Grant's advice.

"He told us to listen to our elders," said Raevin Frank, 17, a junior at University School in Davie. "It made me feel like I need to know more about my culture and ask my grandfather to teach me things."

"He's a great role model for young kids," added Janay Cypress, 16, a sophomore at University School in Davie. "You forget we are part of a large group of proud people. Even as an actor, he stays true to who he is."

Grant met with Tribal leaders, including Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Tribal Secretary LaVonne

Kippenberger and Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers, and talked about the effect Europeans coming to North America had on Native Americans.

"They took our religion and our language from us. They never apologized for the damage they did to our people," Grant said. "We prayed to one God all our lives. That's why we didn't kill Columbus when he came here; instead we tried to help him. That's our philosophy, to help each other, and that's the message our young people need to have today."

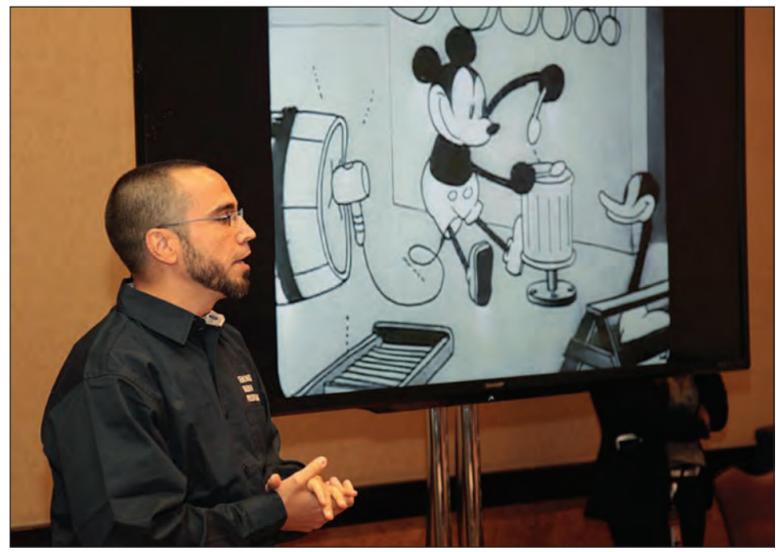
Grant plans to pursue an apology from the U.S. government, similar to the one the Canadian government made to its First Nations in 2008.

But Grant doesn't dwell on the negative.

"Say to yourself when you wake up, 'Today's going to be a good day,'" he said. "Don't focus on the negative. We all know right from wrong; we just need to do the right thing."

Grant looks forward to the future, but with no specific plans.

"Something will come up; it always does," he said. "Something meaningful; it's what the Creator has for me."



Beverly Bidney

SMP senior editor John Voth describes the evolution of animation from the earliest zoetrope to Disney's Mickey Mouse to the most current motion capture technology during the Seminole Media Productions Workshop Sept. 5 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

SMP workshop reveals how it's done behind the scenes

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Dozens of kids gained an inside view of the media industry and cutting-edge technology during the Seminole Media Productions Workshop Sept. 5.

The eighth annual event was held in conjunction with the Education Department's Education Expo to give youth interested in pursuing careers in media a taste of the industry.

"We thought it was a success," said Sasha Cancel, SMP production specialist. "Students were intrigued by what we presented and a few came up to us afterward to ask how they can learn more."

During the workshop, senior editor John Voth and videographer Fred Mullins took the students through the history of animation from the mid-1800s zoetrope to today's motion capture technology.

Using Adobe software that included Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects and Premiere, SMP created an animated cartoon depicting the Seminole legend of the Little Frog.

The cartoon demonstrates how modern-day technology can help pass down the traditions of the Tribe, and attendees learned how the cartoon was created.

Attendees were also introduced to the iClone software, which uses state-of-the-art motion capture technology to create animations. They stood in front of a motion sensor and watched as their motions were mimicked by a digital avatar on a projection screen.

"The SMP workshop was the most

interesting," said Darren Cypress, 15, an Ahfachkee School ninth-grader who wants to be a director. "I'm trying to get into photography. It amazes me how you can capture things on a little memory card."

Another goal of the workshop was to share information on video production and what it takes to produce a professional-quality video. The SMP crew introduced its newly launched website Native Driven Network (NDN), which produces documentaries and covers local, national and international stories. The process was described in detail, starting from story ideas to interviews, editing, music, graphics and voice-overs.

"You have to be organized and stay focused," said David Diaz, SMP videographer. "Production needs time management skills."

The SMP crew recently traveled to California to interview Saginaw Grant for a documentary titled "The Legacy of Saginaw Grant," which is on YouTube.

"It's getting a lot of buzz," Diaz said. "We are entering it in the American Indian Film Festival in California."

Students learned that jobs in video production include positions on both sides of the camera as videographers, on-air hosts and anchors. SMP's Communications and Business Marketing Departments shared information with attendees interested in reporting, photography and graphic design.

"You get in-depth information and tell stories," said Ishma Fray, SMP audio specialist. "You learn a lot. These stories matter, and it's a great thing knowing something is out there that you helped create."



Beverly Bidney

Students listen to presentations about cutting-edge technology during the Seminole Media Productions Workshop at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

Native American actor Saginaw Grant addresses the crowd at the Education Expo Sept. 5 at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

Native American actor Saginaw Grant poses with students and Education Department employees Sept. 5 at the Education Expo in Hollywood.



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Announcements



Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs
ACTION: Notice of Availability

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act.

This FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore cannot be appealed. You may obtain a copy of the EA and FONSI from the BIA Eastern Regional Office or the Environmental Resources Management Department of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 6365 Taft Street, Suite 3008, Hollywood, FL 33024, telephone (954) 965-4380.

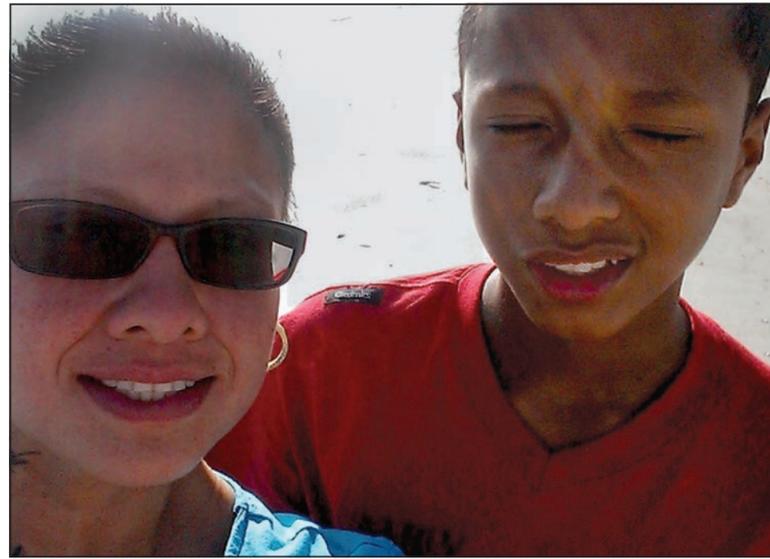
The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated August 2014, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department, to determine the environmental impacts that may result from the project. The EA is well written and considers all potential impacts to the human environment that may be associated with the project.

For further information please contact Chet McGhee, Regional Environmental Scientist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6830.

Based on review of the EA and supporting documentation, the BIA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed project.

Joanna Blackhair
Acting Director, Eastern Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Date: September 5, 2014

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability that the EA and FONSI for the project are available for public review.



Happy Birthday, DarRick C. Nelson-Williams

Hey Ricky,
I'm extremely blessed to have you as my son and in my life. You have brought me so much joy and happiness. I'm very proud of you ... I'm proud to be your mommy. Life has been good to us despite all the obstacles. We are still here together - only growing stronger. I hope I make you proud

as well. So let's continue to be strong and move forward. Enjoy this life we are given to make all our dreams come true. Mom has your back.

I love you, son, and always will.

Love your mom,
Carolee J. Nelson-Watkins

... And the WINNER is ...



Photo courtesy of Ahfachkee School
Congratulations to ninth-grader Troy Cantu for winning the Ahfachkee Sweater Shirt Give Away held Sept. 5 at Education Expo 2014. Troy lives on the Big Cypress Reservation and attends Ahfachkee School.

Job opening

Johns Family Enterprises (JFE) is currently recruiting for an Office Administrator for our new composting facility in Brighton, Florida. This position will lead all administrative functions of the facility, as well as coordinate deliveries of incoming and outgoing products.

Key responsibilities for this role will be:

- Coordinating and monitoring office operations to ensure company requirements are sufficiently met on a daily basis.
- Coordinating compost deliveries and intake material deliveries based on production and sales schedules, while adhering to DOT regulations.
- Resolving operational problems related to customer service, accounting procedures and computer systems
- Troubleshooting and resolving any computer problems by communicating

with computer vendors and handling onsite solutions.

The successful candidate will possess:

- Associate's degree in business administration or related field

- A minimum of 5 years office administration experience

- Proficiency in MS Word products
- Proficiency in Quickbooks
- Dispatching and DOT regulation experience, knowledge is preferred

Interested applicants should send resumes to:

Robin Jones
Human Resources Manager
McGill Environmental Systems
634 Christian Chapel Church Road
New Hill, NC 27562
rjones@mcgillcompost.com
Fax: 919-362-1141

Upcoming Seminole Tribe events

CPR training available

Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue will hold CPR training classes Nov. 19 at the Public Safety Building/Fire Station No. 2 in Big Cypress and Nov. 20 at the Tribal Headquarters auditorium in Hollywood. Tribal employee classes are from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Classes for Tribal members and spouses are from 1 to 4 p.m.

For more information call 863-983-2150, ext. 12049 (Big Cypress) or 954-966-6300 (Hollywood) or email Reagan Bauman, fire inspector/public educator, at ReaganBauman@semtribe.com.

Benefit golf tournament

The fifth annual Seminoles in Recovery Red Ribbon Benefit Golf Classic will be

held Oct. 25 at Clewiston Country Club. A shotgun start will be at 8 a.m. Cost is \$400 for foursomes or \$100 for singles. Proceeds will benefit the sixth annual Florida Native American Recovery Convention.

For more information and to pre-register call Helene Buster, 863-228-0829; Tommy McGee, 954-553-1946; Fred Mullins, 239-867-3480; or Debra Ray, 863-228-0900.

"Happy Birthday, Justin (our Man of Iron). With love, your family who misses you and loves you always!"



"A warrior is not just a matter of the physical, but also of the spiritual, and the mental. He must persistently attain knowledge to achieve success in victory. For being successful is not enough for God, but only man desires significance. For faith without works falls short, is not enough. Victory loves preparation and preparation leads to 'victory.'"

By Justin "Jay" Campos (I am Melchizedek)

Seminole Tribune Deadlines

Month	Issue Date	Deadline
October	Friday, Oct. 31	Wednesday, Oct. 15
November	Friday, Nov. 28	Wednesday, Nov. 12
December	Wednesday, Dec. 31	Wednesday, Dec. 10

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Making education a mission: Stephanie Hiatt

Editor's note: The following was published in the Education Department's Higher Education August newsletter and reprinted at the request of Stephen Bowers.

Stephanie Hiatt, daughter of Stephen Bowers, recently went through the rigorous admissions process in applying to the doctoral program at Hamline University and was accepted into the program. This is a remarkable achievement as only 2 to 3 percent of the U.S. population has a doctorate degree. At the Seminole Tribe of Florida, records show three members have graduated with a doctorate degree since 1965.

The Education Department had the opportunity to interview Stephanie to learn more about her and her desire to continue her education. Here is what she had to say:

Can you share with us a little bit about your education background and work experience?

After high school, I decided to attend the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota where I graduated with a B.A. Following college graduation, I got married and moved to Scottsdale, Arizona where I taught third grade and coached high school volleyball. After three years, my husband and I moved back to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and I taught fifth grade and was the assistant volleyball coach at the University of Sioux Falls. During the summers, I took classes and graduated with my master's in Educational Leadership in 2003. When my husband and I started a family, I decided to take a break from teaching and be a stay-at-home mom. Until a year ago, I have been a full-time mom to three boys. Last year, I went back to teach in our Sioux Falls School District as the fifth grade English Language Arts teacher in the Spanish



Stephanie Hiatt poses with her sons, Lucas, Tyler and Caleb, and husband, Jon. Photo courtesy of Stephanie Hiatt

Immersion Program.

What prompted you to consider pursuing a doctorate degree?

As Tribal members, we have been blessed with an incredible opportunity for free higher education and we should take advantage of it. Ever since I became a teacher, I have always loved learning more about methods and strategies for teaching children. I have a desire to be a leader in my field, and I would like to influence and educate future teachers.

How do you plan to utilize the degree?

My short-term plan is to teach prospective teachers at the University of

Sioux Falls. My long-term goal is to return back to the Hollywood Reservation and work in the Higher Education Department.

Why do you feel education is an important part of our Tribal member development?

Everything begins with education. In order to do anything well in life, you must have an education. Our Tribe is in a very exciting season and as Tribal members we have an enormous responsibility to continue to make good decisions for our Tribe. Education is the secret ingredient to helping and assisting Tribal members protect the future of our Tribe.

FUN FACTS ABOUT STEPHANIE:

If I could bottle my personality what would the label read: Laid-back.

My theme song is: "Difference Maker" by NeedtoBreathe.

If I were a superhero, I would be: Wonder Woman.

The movie version of my life should be titled: "As Good As it Gets" or "A Few Good Men" (I live with my husband and three boys).

Something I said I'd never do but did anyway was: Run a marathon.

Two things I can't live without are: Diet Coke and exercise.

My favorite physical activity is: I love competing in triathlons and playing beach volleyball.

One thing I love that everyone else dislikes is: When I get back to Florida, I honestly love and miss the smell of the orange peels burning.

If I could have a dinner party and invite any four people, dead or alive, the guest list would be: Bono from U2, Julia Roberts, Jesus and Oprah Winfrey.

The first thing I do when I wake up is: Press the snooze button.

One thing people are surprised to find out about me is: I'm really scared of heights.

The last concert I went to was: NeedtoBreathe.

My favorite TV show to watch is: "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon."

Two students inducted into national honor societies

STAFF REPORT

John Osceola, a 15-year-old student at Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School, was recently selected to become a member of the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). The society recognizes top scholars who have demonstrated outstanding leadership scholarship and community commitment.

"On behalf of NSHSS, I am honored to recognize the hard work, sacrifice and commitment that John has demonstrated to achieve this exceptional level of academic excellence," said Claes Nobel, NSHSS founder and chairman. "John is now a member of a unique community of scholars – a community that represents our very best hope for the future."

Formed in 2002, NSHSS has more than 1 million members in more than 160 countries. Membership entitles students to scholarship opportunities, academic competitions and free events, among others.

Faith Osceola, a 13-year-old student at AEF Schools in Fort Lauderdale, was accepted into the school's National Junior Honor Society Chapter. For students to qualify, they must have a GPA above a 3.5 and must have good behavior.

John and Faith Osceola are the children of Gem and Linda Osceola.

Brighton students celebrate grandparents with luncheon



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Alice Sweat poses for a picture with granddaughter Joleyne Nunez during Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Grandparents Day luncheon Sept. 5.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Quincy Sampson and grandmother Sarah Sampson share a happy moment during Grandparents Day.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School student Jayleigh Braswell enjoys lunch with her grandmother Kay Braswell Sept. 5 for Grandparents Day. Every year the school invites grandparents to lunch to recognize and honor them.



Eileen Soler

Keithana Osceola-Onco admires the hearty yield of an avocado tree at the Ahfachkee garden.

◆ GARDEN

From page 1B

chickee roof, and a new scattered batch of volunteer edibles that include a papaya tree and asparagus.

Sometimes class wraps up in the cafeteria kitchen.

Last year kids helped make pumpkin bread and potato fries.

Recently, kids picked avocado for homemade guacamole that was served at the school salad bar.

First-grader Layne Andrews said the best part of planting the garden is watching it grow.

"You get flowers or food and sometimes you get both," Layne said. Like the native cranberry hibiscus with petals that color tea and leaves that taste like sweet lettuce.

Classmate Savannah Cypress has a bittersweet opinion about the Ahfachkee garden.

"It's good to grow food so we can grow up and be strong, but it's too bad we can't grow macaroni," she said.



Eileen Soler

Chelsey Alvarado and Uriah Waggerby help garden instructor Maxine Gilke pick weeds from seedling plants in the school's garden.

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21581	NA	DITCH WITCH	TRAILER S1A	N/A	Poor	\$200.00
371892	NA	LARGE KOHLER	DIESEL GENERATOR W/ FUEL TANK 150A0ZJ01	N/A	Poor	\$4,800.00
73851	NA	HOOD LOADER/SLASHER	WOOD TUB GRINDER HD 12 / 7000	N/A	Poor	\$10,400.00
4EX335	NA	SCAT TURNER	MULCHER AERATOR 481	50	Fair	\$11,000.00

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Sports



Legends light up the court at Tigertail basketball tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS — Appropriately, the kind of story that legends are made of emerged from the Legends Division at the seventh annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament.

A team that used only four players including one who played barefoot — managed to win a championship.

Three women's teams and five men's teams in the 40-and-over category vied for Legends' titles on opening night of the Sept. 18-20 tournament held in memory of brothers Malcolm and Duane Tigertail in Big Cypress.

The tournament, which included younger adult teams for its final two days, resumed following a one-year hiatus due to last year's renovations at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

The Hollywood Heat found their scoring touch in the second half to win the men's Legends championship in the waning seconds, but the women's final featured even more drama as a short-handed Myra's Team edged Just Playin, 24-21.

Myra Jumper, of Big Cypress, assembled her team just before the tournament. Jumper played as did Beverly "Barefoot" Alumbaugh, of Big Cypress; Michelle Osceola, of Hollywood; and Diana Neal, of Orlando.

A four-team roster meant there was extra real estate to cover. Plus, no substitutes meant no rest during all three games, but Myra's Team was determined to overcome the obstacles.

"I thought it would be a long shot, but we were going to go for it," Jumper said.

After opening with a loss in pool play to Just Playin, Myra's Team rallied to top Real Legends, 25-22. Myra's Team overcame an 11-6 deficit to advance to the championship in a rematch against Just Playin.

Just Playin held a 14-10 lead at halftime and led 17-14 following a 3-pointer from Stacy Jones, but Myra's Team forged ahead behind a 3-pointer and layup from Neal and a late layup from Jumper that sealed the victory.

The low-scoring men's championship game also was decided in the final seconds. The Hollywood Heat, coached by Kenneth Tommie who was unable to play because of



Str8 Chillin's Preston Baker, left, and Hollywood Heat's Eric Osceola battle for the ball during a men's Legends Division game during the Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament Sept. 18 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress. The Heat won the men's division.

Kevin Johnson

an injury, led Str8 Chillin, 6-2, at halftime.

With Preston Baker leading the charge, Str8 Chillin took the lead thanks to a 6-0 spurt to start the second half.

The game remained tight heading into the final minute.

Arthur Thomas became the star of the night when he calmly sank a 3-pointer that gave Hollywood Heat a 16-14 lead with 16 seconds left. Thomas' clutch basket turned out to be the final points of the game as the Heat defense stymied Str8 Chillin at the buzzer.

Big Cypress finished in third place. During a break, players competed in a 3-point contest that was won by Just Playin's Faye Cypress on the women's side and Hollywood's Eric Osceola on the men's side.

More champions were crowned Sept. 20. The Lady Ballers won the Adult women's division. Kelcie's Team was runner-up followed by Minnie's Team. The Lord of the Plainz won the men's championship game against Immokalee. Big Town finished third.

All championship winners were presented umbrellas with the tournament logo.

"They were getting bags year after year. I changed it this time," said Minnie Tigertail, who started the tournament in 2000 after the death of her son Malcolm in an automobile accident. Seven years later the name became the Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament after the death of Minnie's son, Duane.

Remembering Malcolm and Duane with a basketball tournament was a natural fit because they spent so much time on the courts.

"They played basketball a lot," Minnie said. "Every time someone put on a tournament, they were there."

The white tournament T-shirts, the umbrellas and several members of the Tigertail family in attendance as spectators and players served as reminders that the memories of Malcolm and Duane remain strong.

Before she doled out prizes to the winners near midcourt, Minnie played in two games in the Legends Division for the Real Legends team, which finished third.

♦ See TIGERTAIL on page 2C

Life as a Seminole on the No. 1 team

SUBMITTED BY JUSTIN MOTLOW
Florida State University

The transition from Tampa to Tallahassee was actually easier than I thought. It helps having my sister Jessica up here. And also, one of my best friends, Corey Martinez who played with me at Tampa Catholic, moved up here the same time. So I'm all settled in and having a great time at school. My parents have been up to visit me. Homesickness hasn't been a problem at all.

Now the football transition, that's a whole different story. Going from high school to college football is absolutely enormous. Imagine the very best players on all the teams you ever played in high school out there, that level of talent. Everyone on the field is fast and big. It's a real humbling experience.

It's even tougher at FSU because we are the best football team in the country. The best of the best. My usual assignment during practice is playing on the scout team, where I run the receiving routes of the other team we are preparing for. The routes are printed on cards and we follow that in a game-like situation. So, if you can imagine, here I am, running routes and trying to catch the ball against the FSU first string, the best defense in the country. That's humbling, but it is also great experience, the best experience anyone could ever hope for.

♦ See FSU on page 2C

Rodeo riders to compete in Indian National Finals Rodeo

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The Tribe will be well represented at the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) at the South Point Equestrian Center in Las Vegas, where 20 rodeo riders — young and old, male and female — will compete Nov. 4-8.

Tribal members, who compete in the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA), finished their season in August and found out if they made the cut for the INFR. Competitors will continue to participate in rodeos throughout the state until they leave for Vegas.

"They go to pro rodeos all over Florida," said Jo "Boogie" Jumper, EIRA secretary. "There's one at least every other weekend. It keeps them practicing and keeps their skills up so they will be ready for Vegas."

The EIRA was founded in Brighton in 1994 and started with local ranch rodeos, team roping and team penning. Today it promotes rodeos in the Seminole communities and qualifies its members to compete in the INFR.

The junior division is a source of pride for Jumper, who has seen more and more kids get involved over the years. This year Dyami Nelson, 14, will compete in junior and adult events.

"For several years we didn't have a lot of kids, but now the program is huge," Jumper said. "We have the biggest membership we've ever had, including a lot of kids from Hollywood."

The biggest challenge of running the EIRA is funding; the Council and the Board help fund most of the program, but the group holds fundraisers to collect the rest. The nonprofit organization holds nine rodeos during the season, which runs from January to August, at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton and the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress.

EIRA aims to put rodeo participants in to competition at the INFR. Most competitors will drive their horses to Nevada, which takes about three or four days depending on how often they let the horses out to rest along the way.

INFR competitors: Adult events: Jacoby Johns, bareback; Sydney Gore, steer wrestling; Ivan Bruised Head, calf roper and steer wrestler; Naha Jumper, calf roper; Leanna Billie, Ladies breakaway roping; Trina Hipp, Ladies breakaway roping; Justin Gopher/Naha Jumper, team roping; Josh Jumper/Blaine Courson, team roping; Marilee Johns, barrel racing; Brenda Youngblood, barrel racing; Dyami Nelson, bull riding; and Kelton Smedley, bull riding. **Junior and senior events:** Dyami Nelson, steer riding; Todd Pierce, steer riding; Dayra Koenes, Jr. barrels; Budda Jumper, Jr. barrels; Daniel Rodriguez, Jr. breakaway; Cisco Rodriguez, Jr. breakaway; Paul Bowers Sr., 50 and over breakaway; and Norman Johns, 50 and over breakaway.

Rodeo corrals kids for season finale

BY EILEEN SOLER
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena was the place to be during summer 2014 for junior rodeo kids, both Tribal and non-Tribal. In fact, it was the only place for children to compete in all of Collier, Hendry or Glades counties.

"Programs for kids end when the school year ends. That's why we are so thankful to the Tribe," said Leslie Fulford, of Moore Haven, whose sons Hayne, 5, and Cross, 7, were part of the second annual Youth Summer Series Rodeo.

Rodeo director Ayze Henry said nearly 250 kids saddled up for three monthly all-day Saturday events. Events included chute dogging, breakaway roping, barrel racing,

team roping and dummy roping. Kids also tried their hand at goat tying and steer undecorating. Mutton, pony, calf and steer riding rounded out the competition.

Several Tribal members finished in first place in their divisions. Lason Baker won for mutton busting; Lance Howard won pony riding in the 10-12 age group; Ahnie Jumper ran away on the breakaway; and Bryce Baker took it all for dummy roping in the 7-8 age group.

In junior bull riding, several competitors managed to hold on for the required eight seconds but the top prize went to Travis Cornelius. For steer riding, Dayne Norsworthy took first place with Tribal members Jaytron Baker in second place and Hunter Howard in fourth.

All first-place winners were awarded

champion belt buckles. Second- through fifth-place winners received various hand-tooled leather prizes and other items for rodeo stock, including saddle pads and trophy ropes.

Organized by Henry and rodeo office manager Earleen Rimes and sponsored by the Tribe, the June 28, July 26 and Aug. 30 rodeos gave kids who do it for fun or lifestyle something to practice toward all summer long. Al Curry, a 20-year veteran rodeo announcer who play-by-played the final event, said the Seminole program also keeps kids in the rodeo game.

"We have to support kids who want to get a start in rodeo competition. It's like sandlot baseball. Everyone has to start somewhere," he said.

♦ See more RODEO photos on page 4C

First-place winners

Mutton busting: Lason Baker

Pony riding (7-9): Carson Watford

Pony riding (10-12): Lance Howard

Calf riding (7-10): Bryson Crawford

Steer riding (11-12): Dayne Norsworthy

Jr. bulls: Travis Cornelius

Chute dogging: Windall Tindall

Steer undecorating: Rachel Caprio

Breakaway: Ahnie Jumper

Barrel racing (4-8): Hayden Davis

Barrel racing (9-12): Faith John

Team roping headers: Windall Tindall

Team roping heelers: Hannah Englehart

Dummy roping (5-6): Hayne Fulford

Dummy roping (7-8): Bryce Baker

Dummy roping (9-10): Lacey Nail

Goat untying (7 and under): Harley Pryor

Jr. goat tying (8-13): Faith John

Sr. goat tying (14-18): Sara Sistrunk



Eileen Soler

Ahnie Jumper rides toward first place in the breakaway contest Aug. 30 during the second annual Youth Summer Series Rodeo at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena. Ahnie won a belt buckle for breakaway overall in the three-part series.

◆ **FGCU**
From page 1A

Jones is on track to earn a bachelor's degree in spring 2015.

"I can take a deep breath once I get my degree in my hand because I've been at school pretty much all my life," Jones said. "Once I get my college degree – the last step of school – it will be exciting, emotional. It will be one of the best days of my life."

Brett Comer, a senior guard from Winter Park, echoed his classmate's sentiments. FGCU's all-time assist leader is also slated to earn his degree in the spring.

"It will be one of the proudest moments in my life. Graduating college is a huge deal," Comer said.

Comer became a Dunk City star thanks to his game-high assist totals in the two NCAA tournament victories. Off the court, he tested various majors, including business and criminal justice, before determining public relations would suit him best.

After college, Comer and Jones said they plan to pursue professional basketball. "I'd love to play in the NBA, but if that doesn't happen, I'd play in Europe or Australia," Comer said.

Regardless of where and how far they advance, Comer and Jones will always have their education.

"When I'm done playing basketball – whenever that might be – I can have something to fall back on," said Comer,



Florida Gulf Coast University's Marc-Eddy Norelia, of Orlando, leads a group of youngsters through a drill during a basketball clinic Sept. 6 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.

Kevin Johnson

who noted a career coaching basketball is another possibility after his playing days end.

"I might try to be an entrepreneur after – whatever my degree will let me do that will make some money," Jones added.

The clinic, organized by the Seminole Tribe Recreation Department, marked the first time a basketball team from FGCU visited Big Cypress. About a quarter of the

youngsters were girls.

J. Webb Horton, assistant director of FGCU's Office of Community Outreach, said there's a chance that the Eagles women's basketball team will offer a clinic on the reservation at a later date.

Horton said the relationship between the Tribe and FGCU Athletics is about 4 years old. Tribal kids have attended FGCU basketball and softball games in Fort Myers and met student-athletes. FGCU personnel, including Horton, were speakers at educational events in Big Cypress and Brighton. The Tribe sponsored a FGCU annual Night at the Nest dinner and auction.

Horton said the relationship is about more than sports.

"[Big Cypress Councilman] Mondo Tiger's big thing is education," Horton said. "The basketball camp shows our commitment to the kids here, not only at this reservation, but any reservation we work with. They get to meet young men ... Education is the basis for everything you want to do."

Because the oldest kids at the clinic were middle school students – such as Pemaayev Emahaky Charter School sixth-grader Dalence Carrillo, who won the clinic's knockout game – it will be at least five years before any of the participants enter college at FGCU or elsewhere.

"FGCU is close. We've got a great working relationship," Horton said. "Obviously, we'd like them to come to FGCU, but as long as they go get an education somewhere in college; that's the foundation of our relationship," Horton said.

◆ **TIGERTAIL**
From page 1C

"I don't play anymore, but my sister wanted me to play when she put in a team," Minnie said. "When we were younger, we used to make it to the finals."

Just as they did decades earlier, Minnie and her sister, Mary, were teammates on a court.

"We played growing up," Minnie said. "From about age 14 or 15, we played on Big Cypress. The gym wasn't around; we played on an outside court."

With eight Legends team all competing on the same night, the final game ended at 11:30 p.m. Even though most of them had to go to work in the morning, players from both sides remained until after the final umbrella was handed out.

"It is a good turnout," Minnie said.

◆ **FSU**
From page 1C

Going up against the best, even in a practice situation, gets you prepared for the best. We've had three games and, truth is, so far, Florida State is just noticeably better than the other teams we've played. The Seminoles stand out. We're No. 1 and we deserve it.

It's hard – the practice and the training – but I'm learning and gaining the experience I'll need when I get to actually play. See, I am considered a "redshirt," which means I will not get into any game this season. That way, after this year is over, I will still have four years of eligibility left. I also only dress up for the home games. I don't travel to the away games. I just watch the game on TV like anyone else.

I was disappointed in The Citadel player who said they were going to hurt our players on purpose. I first heard about it when someone posted that on Twitter the day after the game (won by FSU, 37-12). That really made me mad. I'm glad he was suspended immediately – there is really no place for that kind of behavior in college football. He helped hurt two or three of our players with cheap shots.

Everybody wants to know about Jameis Winston. I guess the eyes of the world are all on him. He's a subject for the sportswriters and the talk shows, but they don't get to see the real Jameis like we do. I think he is a really cool guy and one of the smartest football players I have ever seen. He knows our playbook better than anyone on the team. In fact, when he heard about his suspension, the very first thing he did was to help prepare his backup quarterback (Sean Maguire), going over and over the playbook with his replacement.

Everyone makes him out to be this bad problem that FSU has, but no one gets to

see what we see. He didn't whine, didn't hang his head. He kept positive and was right there with us on the sideline. I know it hurt him bad not to be able to play. He was hurting but he didn't show it. He was out there for the team, doing everything he possibly could, short of actually playing, to help us win. No matter what the writers say I think everyone on our team was impressed with Jameis Winston's support and will to win, even though he was not allowed to play.

I can't even describe how it felt at the end of that last game (FSU defeated Clemson, 23-17). It was one of the most exciting games I have experienced on a football field in so long. As soon as we scored that last TD, everyone in the stadium, all 80,000 people, went wild and stayed that way until the end of the game.

Honestly, though, it sucks not being able to play. I miss being one of the top guys, like I was in high school. But, you know, it humbles you to be the lowest of the low. It's like it was when I first stepped on the field as a freshman at Tampa Catholic. But starting at the bottom gives me the drive to make it to the top. The top, in our case, is the top of the whole college football world. That's the challenge, the motivation I need to make it happen.

So I want to thank all my friends and fellow Tribal members who have given me so much support. I'll let you all know what is going on with me. If there is anything you want to know, just contact me through The Seminole Tribune. And, please, come on up to Tallahassee and say hello. See the games in person and feel the excitement I feel on those sidelines. Seminoles! Number One!



Beverly Bidney

Justin Motlow practices at FSU.

Justin Motlow, son of Clarence and Lisa Motlow of Tampa, is the first Seminole Tribe member to play for the Florida State University football team. He is in his freshman year at FSU.



Kevin Johnson

Kids watch Florida Gulf Coast University 6-foot-11 forward Eric Moeller, of St. Louis, Missouri, during a shooting drill contest Sept. 6 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.

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Season kicks off for Jumper brothers under bright lights of Sun Life Stadium

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

MIAMI GARDENS — Andre Jumper walked onto the tightly manicured green grass at Sun Life Stadium and saw the orange sea of 75,000 seats staring back at him. It was a moment he won't soon forget.

Never before had Jumper been inside the home of the Miami Dolphins, University of Miami Hurricanes and the occasional Super Bowl, but that's where the starting senior linebacker/defensive end for American Heritage School (Plantation) began his final high school season Aug. 29.

"I thought it was amazing. It gave me chills," said Jumper, of Big Cypress, as he and his teammates — including his younger brother Blevyns — left the stadium following a 38-7 loss against national powerhouse St. Thomas Aquinas from Fort Lauderdale in the regular season opener.

A week earlier, Heritage cruised past Dwyer in a preseason game televised on ESPN, but the Patriots didn't fare as well in the Miami Dolphins High School Series' showdown at Sun Life. Heritage's defense saw plenty of playing time as the team's offense struggled to mount drives against the Class 7A juggernaut.

One highlight for Heritage came midway through the second quarter when its defense recovered a fumble. The loose ball was nearly gobbled up by Andre, but it squirted away from him amid traffic.

"I had my hands on it," he said.

In the first half, the 6-foot-1, 225-pound



American Heritage School's Andre Jumper (No. 15) goes airborne in an attempt to block an extra point against St. Thomas Aquinas at Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens Aug. 29.

Andre notched three tackles, including a tackle for a loss. He finished the game with five tackles. For most of the game, Andre went head-to-head against Aquinas' massive offensive lineman Colin Byrne, a 6-foot-5, 305-pound Syracuse University commit.

Among the 8,143 spectators who filled

both sides in the stadium's lower portion were dozens of Heritage students dressed in black and yellow T-shirts with the No. 15 — Andre's jersey number — prominently displayed on the front. They weren't part of a Jumper fan club, but rather energetic seniors from the class of 2015 who tried to match their Aquinas counterparts on the opposite side of the field in the vocal enthusiasm department.

Similar to his brother, Blevyns also had a busy night. Blevyns, a junior, was the long snapper on eight punts and an extra point. He had no mishaps with the snaps.

A year ago, Heritage began its season with a loss and then went on a 14-game winning streak that culminated with a victory in the Class 5A state final. Despite another season-opening setback, Heritage understands one loss won't derail its season, especially considering it came in an NFL stadium.

"It was a good experience. I wish we would have won," Andre said as he carried the team's giant flag with him after leaving the locker room. "We'll watch the film. We'll fix the mistakes and do better. We'll learn from our mistakes."

The Patriots responded the following week with a 30-26 win against Miramar. They upped their record to 2-1 with a 35-8 win against Chaminade-Maddona Sept. 19.

Heritage's remaining regular season home games are: Miami-Jackson Oct. 3, Fort Lauderdale-Cardinal Gibbons Oct. 31 and Lakeland-Kathleen Nov. 7.



Cameron Osceola (No. 77) practices with the junior varsity football team at American Heritage School in Plantation, where he also plays clarinet in the marching band.

Cameron Osceola hits more than musical notes

American Heritage sophomore juggles football, band

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

PLANTATION — High school football teams and marching bands play on the same fields, but seldom at the same time.

Cameron Osceola is an exception. Cameron is an offensive guard on American Heritage School's junior varsity football team in Plantation, and he is a clarinetist in the band.

"I like them both," the 10th-grader said. "I want to continue to do both."

Cameron's music education started with the recorder in fourth grade and led to the clarinet, which he said suits him. He's been a band member since sixth grade and is in his second year in the marching band. He began playing football in sixth grade and enjoys being part of the JV team, which went undefeated last year.

"I like to win," he said. "Everybody has a certain assignment to do and when we win, it feels good."

Coach Juan Laureano, who has worked with Cameron for two years, said he likes the passion he brings to the field.

"He works harder than anyone else on the team and he does it with a smile," Laureano said. "He has had to miss some practice because of band camp, but he's doing what he loves. I'm proud of what he's been able to accomplish."

Cameron spent a good portion of the summer at football workouts and band camp. He said learning the choreography of the marching band while simultaneously playing music is the most difficult part about band.

"But seeing the final product is rewarding," he said.

Heritage band director Kimberly Imerbsin respects Cameron's ability to balance his activities.

"He's a hard worker and a solid player," said Imerbsin, who directs 86 band members. "He's an active member of our program even though he is splitting his time."

Cameron's mother, Melissa Billie, knows how much time and effort her son puts into playing football and clarinet. She made sure he

has a tutor to help him keep up with his schoolwork.

"I think it's good, but it's rough," she said. "He's there until 8 some nights. He has a game on Thursdays and marching band on Fridays. I love that he's doing both, but it's a lot."

If Cameron plays for the varsity football team next year, he may need to give up his double-duty roles. He doesn't know which way he's leaning at this point.

"I want to do both, but I know by the end of the school year I'll have to make a decision," he said.

Imerbsin thinks he will be able to do both.

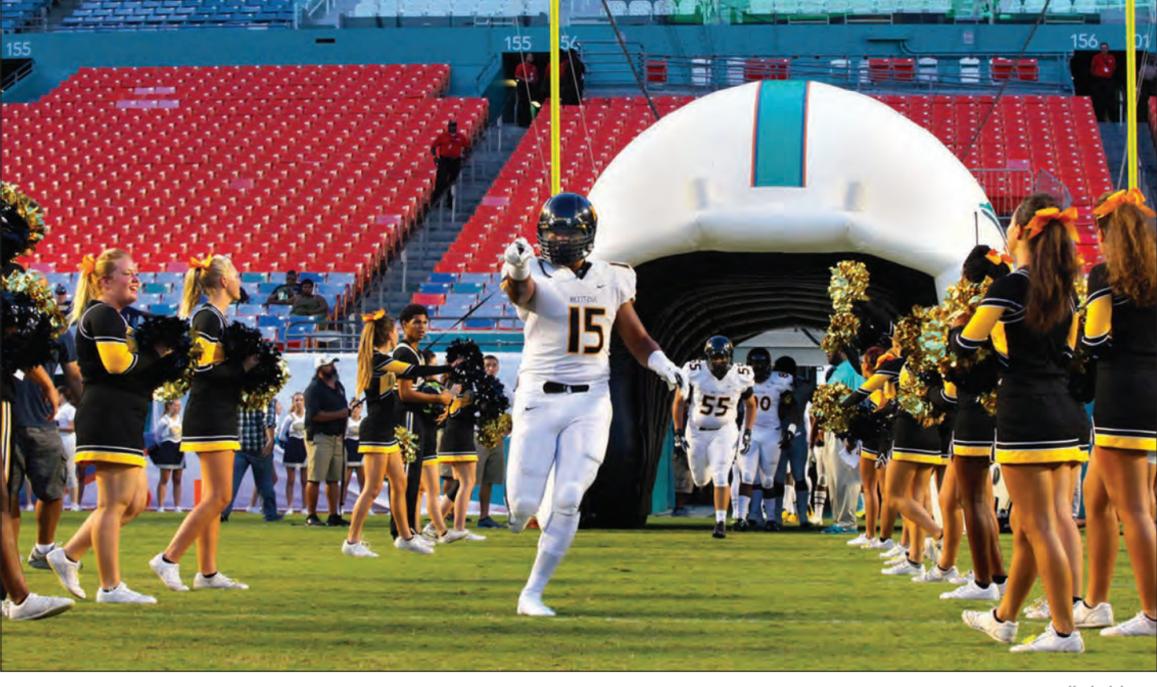
"He can play football and perform during halftime," she said. "It's possible to do both. He can march with us in his football uniform, as long as he's happy."

Laureano wants Cameron to follow his heart.

"It will come down to what he truly loves," Laureano said. "He has to go with his gut feeling, his passion."



Blevyns Jumper (No. 32) gets ready to snap the ball for American Heritage School during a punt against St. Thomas Aquinas at Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens.



American Heritage School's senior linebacker/defensive end Andre Jumper enters the field during pregame player introductions at Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens Aug. 29.



American Heritage School junior varsity football player and marching band member Cameron Osceola plays his clarinet in Plantation.

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◆ More **RODEO** photos from page 1C



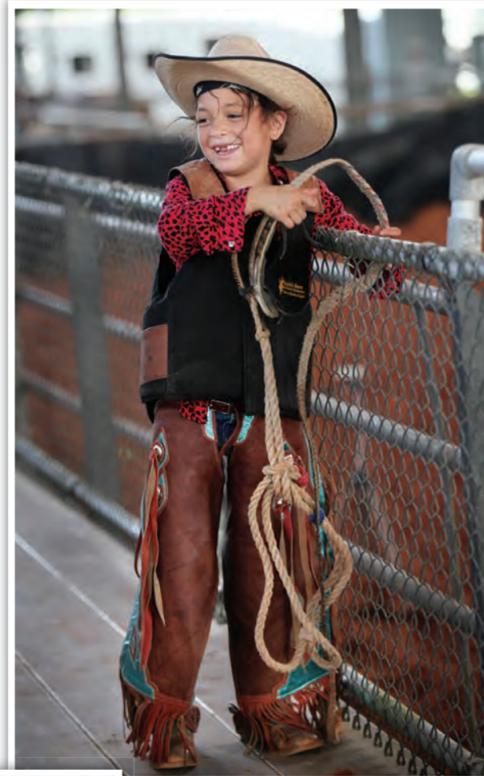
Eileen Soler

Cross Fulford, 7, is determined to win the dummy roping competition during the second annual Youth Summer Series Rodeo at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena. Cross placed second.



Eileen Soler

Dayra Koenes dashes to her target in the senior goat tying competition Aug. 30 during the second annual Youth Summer Series Rodeo at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.



Eileen Soler

Lason Baker, first-place mutton busting winner, is in cowgirl fashion glory dressed in chaps during the Aug. 30 competition.



Eileen Soler

Mark Holmes holds on tight before hitting the dust with no time.



Eileen Soler

Jacob Parks, who placed third in team roping heeler and fourth in breakaway, poses with his rodeo competition horse, Jack.



Eileen Soler

Wyatt Woodruff is bucked two seconds out of the gate but is all smiles anyway.



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Occupy Ball Street

Brighton girls fill the volleyball court for Moore Haven

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — Sports teams at Moore Haven High School are known as the Terriers, but this season the varsity girls volleyball squad might as well be called the Seminoles.

Seven of the team's 10 players are Seminole, as is coach Holly Johns. Sometimes during matches it's a Seminole full house with all six positions on the court — libero, setter, hitters, blockers — occupied by girls from the Brighton Reservation.

Regardless of how the team fares this season with wins and losses, it will certainly be a memorable year for the Seminole Seven: senior Delaney Osceola; juniors Tyra Baker, Kalgary Johns and

Trista Osceola; sophomores Sydnee Cypress and Courtney Gore; and freshman Sunni Bearden.

"It's pretty cool. We all get to play together. It's fun," Tyra said.

"Since we've all grown up around each other and know each other really well, it helps us on the court," Kalgary said.

The team has had its share of players from the reservation in the past, including four last year, but the number received a boost this season with a pair of transfers and the addition of Sunni.

"Being with the girls I've grown up with has been really interesting," said Delaney, one of the team's top hitters who transferred from Okeechobee High for her senior year. As the only Seminole senior and the oldest of the seven, Delaney said she takes some good-natured ribbing from her younger teammates.

"She's a big part of the family, so we can't pick on her too much," Courtney said.

Being one of only two seniors from the class of 2015 on the team does have its benefits, such as more attention that will come her way on senior night.

"I think it's pretty cool, but I'm not ready for it," Delaney said.

Four players — Tyra, Courtney, Trista and Kalgary — have been teammates since about age 8 when they first started playing volleyball on travel teams coached by Holly Johns.

An additional caveat for the Seminole contingent is the team's home court this season. Because a new gymnasium is under construction at Moore Haven High, the Terriers play all home matches at the Brighton Gym.

"We're happy to be playing on the rez in our home gym," Courtney said. "I've been on the rez my whole life. This gym is home. Sunni lives right across the street. The rest of us live down the main highway. If we want to play volleyball, we just call each other."

Apparently no tears were shed when Moore Haven's gym was torn down. Players said they'll remember the venue for its age — close to 50 — and lack of comfort.

"It was one of the only gyms in Florida that didn't have air conditioning. It was really hot," Sydnee said.

"It had a big roof and the floor was awesome, but it was just hot," Courtney added. "We're just happy we're going to have air conditioning next year. I have asthma. It was killing me."

Players said the new gym might be open in time for the school's basketball season. A few of the Seminoles also play on the girls basketball team, but softball is the main sport for most of them. Last season, Moore Haven softball — whose Seminole varsity representation included Sydnee and Kalgary — made it all the way to the Class 3A state final. As an Okeechobee student and spectator at the time, Delaney attended the final.

This year she hopes to play in it. "I went to watch them. Hopefully I can play in the state championship my senior year," she said.

For now, the focus is on volleyball. Moore Haven lost its first three matches but enjoyed a successful home debut in Brighton Sept. 8 with a 3-0 win against Ahfachkee. Another win came Sept. 17 against Clewiston.

Besides losses against tough competition early in the season, another obstacle the team has encountered comes every day after school. Because of construction, practices are held outside on a sand court, where footing is vastly different than indoors.

"It's been a lot harder. It's hard to run the rotations on the sand," said Holly Johns, who is in her second season as a head coach at her alma mater. She played on Moore Haven's volleyball team in the old gymnasium.

"Just going to school in Moore Haven was really fun, a very small group, almost like the Charter School out here. It's the same concept. Small group and very close," she said.

That concept applies to her players as well, even after losses on the road.

"On the way back, win or lose, we're still a family," Courtney said.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven High senior Delaney Osceola lines up a serve during a match Sept. 8 at the Brighton Gym.



Kevin Johnson

The Seven Seminoles on the Moore Haven High School varsity girls volleyball team gather for a photo Sept. 8 following a match at the Brighton Gym. From left are Sunni Bearden, Kalgary Johns, Tyra Baker, Sydnee Cypress, Delaney Osceola, Courtney Gore and Trista Osceola.

A season of learning for young Ahfachkee team

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS — Plenty of new faces are in the lineup for Ahfachkee's high school girls volleyball team this season.

With just two players back from last year's squad, the team is loaded with potential but not much volleyball experience. Getting a grip on basics — such as serving, receiving and setting — has been the focus of early season practices.

"We're doing the best we can," said Ahfachkee coach Dessie Thomas. "I'd like for them to learn the techniques and fundamentals. Once they get that, everything else will be smooth sailing."

Victories might be tough to attain this season considering most of the players are middle school students and their opponents are more experienced high school players. Ahfachkee lost its first two matches against Everglades City and Moore Haven. The team was scheduled to host Moore Haven Sept. 29 before finishing its regular season at home against Seacrest Country Day Oct. 8 and at Marco Island Academy Oct. 9.

Everglades City will host the Class 2A-District 10 match Oct. 21 and Oct. 23.

Ahfachkee roster: Chelsey Alvarado, Carlee Billie, Thomlynn Billie, Nashoba Gonzalez, Leilani Gopher, Janessa Jones, Liberty Robbins, Mazzy Robbins and Thoya Robbins. There is no middle school team this season.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee's Janessa Jones delivers a serve Sept. 8 during a match against Moore Haven in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

Ahfachkee's Liberty Robbins delivers a serve Sept. 8 during a match against Moore Haven in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Jacee Jumper sends the ball over the net during the team's 2-0 win against Everglades City in Brighton Sept. 11.

Aces, kills, backflip mark fast start for PECS girls volleyball

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — The coach's backflip was nearly perfect in the eyes of her players.

"A nine," co-captain Aleina Micco said when asked to score Kim Jackson's flip that highlighted a pep rally for the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School girls volleyball team Sept. 11 in the school cafeteria.

Jackson's acrobatic maneuver debuted a few years ago and has become a pep rally tradition thanks to the players.

"Now they're like every year, 'Do the backflip,'" said Jackson, who was a gymnast and volleyball player in her youth.

The annual flip isn't the only thing earning high marks this season for the PECS volleyball team.

Despite losing key players from last year's squad — which won all its games except one — the Lady Seminoles haven't missed a beat. They entered the final full week of September with a 3-0 record, which included a three-set thriller against Yearling Middle School, the only team that beat PECS a year ago.

"There's quite a bit of talent that we lost, but the girls that we brought up (from last year's 'B' team) have been picking up their game a lot from last year," Jackson said.

This season there is a little less leg room on the bench because all 12 players who tried out for the team made it. In the past, the team usually had nine players and a 'B' team. Jackson said the 'B' team wasn't formed this season because of a lack of opponents. With a dozen players, finding ample playing time poses a challenge. In some matches, one group of players plays one set and then another group plays the next set.

"I try to give everyone a chance to play," Jackson said.

The roster includes four eighth-graders, seven seventh-graders and one sixth-grader — Aubee Billie.

Experience comes from the foursome of eighth-graders: Aleina, Krysta Burton, Raeley Matthews and Cady Osceola. Aleina, a setter, often sets the stage for kills by co-captain Raeley. Through three games, Raeley had a team-high 15 kills.

"(Raeley) has very good timing, so she's able to adjust to sets that other students might not be able to hit," Jackson said. "She can adjust to them and hit them very hard. She's very consistent about getting the ball in. She doesn't hit it out very often."

The eighth-graders made sure their team started the season on a triumphant note Sept. 3. In a 2-0 win against Moore Haven, Aleina delivered seven aces and two kills; Krysta had three aces and one kill; Cady notched two kills; and Raeley registered three kills. PECS also received solid serving from seventh-grader Alaina Sweat, who had 10 aces.

Eight days later, a balanced attack

propelled the Lady Seminoles past Everglades City, 2-0 (25-13, 25-9). PECS was led by Raeley with three kills and Julia Smith, who delivered five of the team's 12 aces.

The teams were knotted 7-7 in the first set before pinpoint serving from Krysta and pivotal kills from Raeley helped PECS pull away.

Two aces from Cady put PECS ahead 18-9 and forced Everglades City to call a timeout. When play resumed, Raeley kept momentum on the Lady Seminoles' side with a kill. After Everglades City briefly cut into the deficit, Raeley delivered the match's most powerful kill to give PECS a commanding 21-12 lead.

An ace from Jacee Jumper and another kill from Raeley closed out the opener.

PECS concluded the evening in style. Three consecutive aces from Julia provided a 16-6 lead. Three of the team's final four points came via an ace from Aleina, a kill from Janessa Nunez and an ace from Aubrey Pearce. That final point delivered by Aubrey evoked a jubilant reaction from the Lady Seminoles, who swarmed the seventh-grader in a display of team camaraderie.

"She's been really struggling in practice getting her serves over. When she got it over, it was pretty exciting for all of them," Jackson said.

PECS passed its toughest test Sept. 17 with a 2-1 win against Yearling in Okeechobee.

The teams split the first two sets. PECS won the opener 25-11 and Yearling captured the second set, 26-24, to force a winner-take-all third set. The Lady Seminoles responded with a 15-8 win as they upped their record to 3-0.

Aleina drilled 12 aces and six kills, and Raeley belted nine kills and one ace. Julia had four aces and two kills, Krysta added three aces and Aubrey had one ace. Cady contributed three kills.

After the season opener, Jackson said there was room for improvement. The players listened and responded with better performances. Aleina said the team has become stronger by "getting our serves in and knowing our defense."

The first two weeks of October will be busy for the Lady Seminoles, who play their final six games in a span of 14 days. Eighth-graders will be honored at the team's final home match Oct. 13.

PECS October volleyball schedule: Oct. 2 at Everglades City, 5 p.m.; Oct. 7 home vs. West Glades, 4:30 p.m.; Oct. 8 home vs. Yearling, 4:30 p.m.; Oct. 13 home vs. Osceola, 4:30 p.m.; Oct. 14 at West Glades, 4:30 p.m.; Oct. 15 at Clewiston, 5 p.m.

PECS volleyball roster: Aubee Billie, Jenna Brown, Krysta Burton, Jacee Jumper, Raeley Matthews, Aleina Micco, Janessa Nunez, Cady Osceola, Madisyn Osceola, Aubrey Pearce, Julia Smith and Alaina Sweat.



Kevin Johnson

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Julia Smith (No. 6) sets the ball as teammates Jacee Jumper (No. 12) and Aleina Micco (No. 13) get in position during a match Sept. 11 at the Brighton Gym. The Lady Seminoles propelled past Everglades City, 2-0 (25-13, 25-9).



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