



**ACD participant
thrives in kitchen**
COMMUNITY ♦ 7A

**Students get Close-Up in
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The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Chairman Osceola settles into new role

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Serving as chairman was never on Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.'s bucket list, but the new chairman of the Seminole Tribe is confident that he is more than capable of doing the job well.

Chairman Osceola got his start in politics after a conversation with an elected official that didn't sit well with him. The conversation prompted him to take the initiative, so he ran for the Hollywood seat on the Board in 2003 and lost. He tried unsuccessfully again in 2005. The third time proved to be the charm as he won the Board seat in 2009 and followed that triumph by earning a seat on the Tribal Council in 2011. He returned to the Council in January when he was sworn in as chairman.



Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola, Jr.

"I really didn't know where I was going to end up," Chairman Osceola said. "But I am humbled and honored by this opportunity."

Public service in government has been part of the Osceola family for decades. The chairman's grandfather Bill Osceola was the Tribe's first elected president of the Board. Marcellus Osceola Sr., the chairman's father, served as councilman from Hollywood in the 1970s and 80s.

An entrepreneur since the late 1990s, Chairman Osceola learned that the most important thing in life is to provide for his family, which he accomplished as a

♦ See **CHAIRMAN** on page 3A



With his dad Josh Jumper watching, steer wrestler Blevyns Jumper tackles his subject during the second annual Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo on Feb. 4 on the Hollywood Reservation. At right, Josh's daughter Ahnie Jumper gets ready to lasso a calf in lady's breakaway roping. Blevyns and Ahnie, who are the great-grandchildren of Betty Mae, won their events as rodeo returned to the reservation for the first time in several years.



Kevin Johnson (2)

Rodeo returns to Hollywood

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — After about a decade absence, the cowboys were back in town for two rodeos in February.

The Hollywood Reservation welcomed rodeos on consecutive Saturday nights that honored the memories of two icons from the Tribe: Betty Mae Jumper and Bill Osceola.

"Of course, they are no longer with us, but I think this is a great thing as a memorial to them because they were both cattle people and they raised cattle," said Betty Mae's son Moses "Bigg Shot" Jumper Jr. as he addressed about 200 spectators who filled bleachers at the outdoor, uncovered rodeo

whose stationary lights were accompanied by a handful of mobile lights brought in for the shows.

A normally tranquil corner of Seminole Estates was turned into a festive Saturday night Feb. 4 for the Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo that featured the booming voice of public address announcer Norman Edwards, whose wealth of Seminole and rodeo knowledge complemented insightful historical perspectives from Moses.

Accompanied by John Anderson's "Seminole Wind" on speakers, the rodeo participants bolted through the gate for the grand entry and the start of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association season. The entourage of riders and horses was led by EIRA Queen

Allegra Billie, Jr. Queen Madisyn Osceola with the U.S. flag and Betty Mae's great-grandson Andre Jumper, who carried the EIRA flag.

Rodeo's triumphant return to Hollywood was a topic of conversation throughout the evening.

"It means a lot," said Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola as he watched the rodeo. "We haven't had a rodeo here in 10, 12 years. We used to have a rodeo every year and everybody looked forward to it. To get a rodeo back in Hollywood, I think it's huge for the Seminole Tribe. I know the cowboys are pretty excited about it. I think it's great."

For Allegra Billie, a sophomore at

LaBelle High School, leading the pack onto the dirt surface for the first time as EIRA queen brought some butterflies. She rode the horse of her cousin — last year's queen Randee Osceola — but had no issues.

"I was comfortable, but I was nervous because I hadn't ridden him in a grand entry like that," Billie said.

Billie didn't outwardly show any nervousness as she proudly waved to the crowd with a big smile.

"It's different for me because I'm more of an introvert, so being able to come out and support and to be able to do things like this is new to me, but it makes me so happy,"

♦ See **RODEO** on page 5C

'Energy, harmony' fill Tribal Fair and Pow Wow

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Color Guard led the way for the Grand Entry that opened the 46th annual Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow on Feb. 10. The procession of Tribal officials, royalty and VIP guests was followed by nearly 200 dancers who showed off their moves as they made their way around the floor of the Hard Rock Live arena in Hollywood.

The arena reverberated with sound as host drums War Paint and Southern Styles kept the rhythm going. The floor steadily filled with dancers in their finest regalia, all abundant with colorful feathers, beadwork, ribbons, jingles, bells, headdresses and sashes.

"There was an energy and harmony all weekend," said Pow Wow director Wanda Bowers. "It was better this year, there were more people in the audience and the dancers had fun whether they won or not."

The celebration of culture held from Feb. 10-12 was also a showcase for Native American art, crafts, music and cuisine, but the main events were the dance and drum competitions.

A vast pow wow circuit exists in the U.S. and Canada where dancers, drummers and their families see each other regularly at various venues. In Hollywood, participants vied for a piece of the \$250,000 prize money, but the attitude inside the arena was one of friendship, respect and camaraderie.

"I've been dancing since I could walk," said Dylan Prescott, of the Ho-Chung Tribe in Wisconsin. "It's good to see different tribes together. The drums are good and we're going to have a good time."

Men's dance categories were Fancy, Northern Traditional, Grass, Southern Straight and Chicken; women's included



Beverly Bidney

A drum group competes for thousands of dollars in prize money as judges watch every move and listen closely to the song while they take notes on the performance at the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow on Feb. 10 at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood.

Northern and Southern Buckskin, Fancy, Jingle, Northern and Southern Cloth. The swirling, bobbing and ever-moving dancers kept to the beat of the drum and stopped precisely as the final note was played. In all, 187 dancers from age 10 to 55 and over competed in 35 age appropriate contests.

"Dancing gives me freedom and takes me back to the creation," said Melvin Nicotine, of the Red Pheasant First Nations in Saskatchewan, Canada. "We open the dance floor with prayers. It's good medicine. We come to meet people from everywhere, share our culture and, most of all, to be in good spirits."

Every dancer has his or her own reason for dancing.

"It's a way to express myself," said Keith Reed, of the Ho-Chung Tribe in Wisconsin. "I enjoy the dance and how the songs make me feel. It takes me away from everything and it keeps me in good shape, too."

The Northern and Southern drum competition included eight groups of eight to 10 drummers. The drummers surrounded a large drum and, drumsticks in hand, sang and drummed together with passion. Three man hand drums also competed.

Vendors from all over the country, including Seminole artists, set up 84 booths at Hard Rock Live and a parking lot. Visitors shopped for Native American jewelry, ceramics, art work, patchwork clothing and wood carvings.

Miami school teachers Epigmenia Ramos and Yanaivi Rogue enjoyed shopping Friday for Native goods and went home with a bag loaded with treasures.

"I knew there was a reservation, but I never came to an event here," Ramos said. "I love the customs, dancers and the singing. Each costume has its own identity, they are

♦ See **POW WOW** on page 4B

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Editorial

Could there be a day, one day, without oil?

• Mark Trahant

The Trump administration has been in office for less than a month — and already the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline is again proceeding. Company officials say oil will be flowing by June.

Yes, there is a flurry of activity around the Dakota Access Pipeline, a project that has cost more than \$3.8 billion to transfer oil from North Dakota to markets in Illinois and beyond.

But every action to build the pipeline is met with many more reactions to stop it. The fight about this pipeline — and the broader issues it represents — is far from over.

Of course some days it does not seem that way. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved the final easement for the pipeline to cross under the Missouri River and complete the project. The Corps also withdrew its ongoing environmental review, citing President Donald J. Trump’s executive memorandum. But that begs a huge question for the courts: Can a president do that? Is an order from the president (along with previous environmental findings from the Corps) enough to satisfy the law? That question will be sorted out by the courts.

But there are many other challenges to the pipeline.

A press release from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe said if the construction is successful “the tribe will seek to shut the pipeline operations down.” The tribe has also called for a march next month in the nation’s capital.

“Our fight is no longer at the North Dakota site itself,” said tribal chairman Dave Archambault II. “Our fight is with Congress and the Trump administration. Meet us in Washington on March 10.”

In addition there remain water protectors

near the construction site itself (as well as a massive cleanup of where people were camping in flood-prone areas).

What’s clear about the “what’s next?” is that the battle against the Dakota Access Pipeline is taking a very different form. And it’s also a new start because there will be many more actions as the administration and oil-related companies move to restart the Keystone XL pipeline, or in Canada, the Kinder Morgan pipeline.

Then President Trump lives in a world where none of this is a big deal. “I don’t even think it was controversial,” he said. “I haven’t had one call.”

Then the White House wasn’t taking calls. So the Center for Investigative Reporting and its Reveal News has created a new phone number to solicit voice mails from the public about what they would tell the president. It’s 510-545-2640. This is your opportunity to sound off.

Another challenge is financial. Many individuals, tribes, cities, and companies are pulling their money from the banks who finance the Dakota Access Pipeline. But that’s really just the beginning of the actions ahead. Rebecca Adamson, founder of First Peoples Worldwide, points out to investors how much capital is lost by companies that operate without consent from the community involved. A cost she has pegged at somewhere between \$20 million to \$30 million a week when there are operational disruptions. “The time it takes to bring oil and gas projects on-line has doubled over the course of the past decade due to community opposition, creating significant financial loss,” Adamson writes. More investors are learning about that financial risk and even more need to understand what’s at stake.

“The movement to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) is wreaking financial havoc on the companies and banks involved,” Adamson writes. “In August 2016, Energy Transfer Partners reported ‘it

could lose \$1.4 billion in a year if delays continue ... Even a temporary delay would mean losses of over \$430 million.’ ETP is attempting to raise new debt. This could mean that the banks are ramping up pressure on the company to repay their loans out of concern DAPL will never be finished. In November 2016, Energy Transfer Partners announced a merger with sister company Sunoco Logistics in order to raise much needed cash to finish construction. Energy Transfer Partners’ own shareholders are filing a lawsuit to block the merger, alleging conflicts of interest.”

Like I said: The financial challenges are just beginning.

I also have a big idea I want to toss out. One that could have significant financial implications. So we know the project will take some 30 days to complete. And about three weeks to actually transfer oil from North Dakota to the end of the pipeline. (Updated: Company officials told the U.S. District Court that oil could begin flowing in less than four weeks.)

What if on that day, the day the oil reaches markets, there is a Day Without Oil. One day. It take a massive organizational effort. But why not? What if every ally of Standing Rock, every community that has its own Standing Rock, every one who is concerned about water, takes a day off from oil? Either walk every where that day — or just stay home. Do what it takes to remind the companies, and the government itself, who’s really in charge of the economy.

Mark Trahant is the Charles R. Johnson Endowed Professor of Journalism at the University of North Dakota. He is an independent journalist and a member of The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. On Twitter @TrahantReports. His web site is https://trahantreports.com.

‘The New Trail of Tears’

• Naomi Schaefer Riley

If you want to know why American Indians have the highest rates of poverty of any racial group, why suicide is the leading cause of death among Indian men, why native women are two and a half times more likely to be raped than the national average and why gang violence affects American Indian youth more than any other group, do not look to history.

There is no doubt that white settlers devastated Indian communities in the 19th, and early 20th centuries. But it is our policies today — denying Indians ownership of their land, refusing them access to the free market and failing to provide the police and legal protections due to them as American citizens — that have turned reservations into small third-world countries in the middle of the richest and freest nation on earth.

The tragedy of our Indian policies demands reexamination immediately—not only because they make the lives of millions of American citizens harder and more dangerous—but also because they represent a microcosm of everything that has gone wrong with modern liberalism. They are the result of decades of politicians and bureaucrats showering a victimized people with money and cultural sensitivity instead of what they truly need—the education, the legal protections, and the autonomy to improve their own situation.

If we are really ready to have a conversation about American Indians, it is time to stop bickering about the names of football teams and institute real reforms that will bring to an end this ongoing national shame.

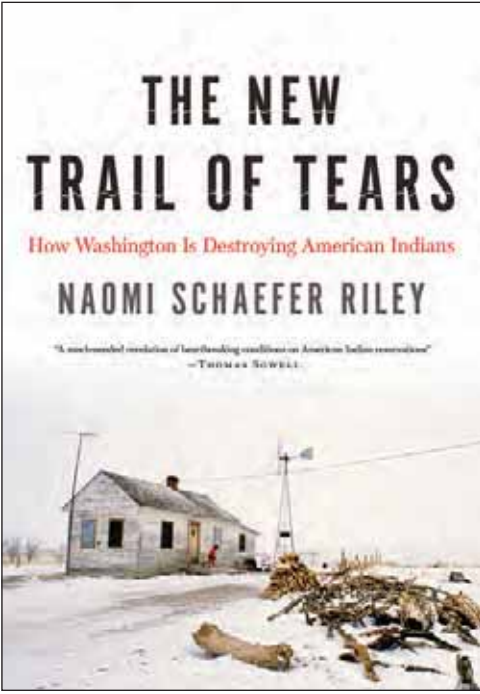
An excerpt from The New Trail of Tears: How Washington Is Destroying American Indians:

You can drive for miles on the Pine Ridge reservation without seeing another human being. GPS doesn’t recognize many of the addresses here in rural South Dakota. Of course, it’s possible to drive long distances in the American West without coming upon a major town, but gas stations and convenience stores and fast-food restaurants usually pop up fairly often on the major roads. On Pine Ridge, though, if you don’t fill up your gas tank at the right time, you might find yourself out of luck.

To say that this area is rural doesn’t really begin to describe it. “Desolate” comes closer. On the first morning of my visit to Pine Ridge, I left my motel and drove toward a school I planned to visit. I traveled almost 40 miles before I saw a place to buy a cup of coffee. I’m told that there used to be a coffee stand at a shack in the motel parking lot, but the owners didn’t get enough customers. A couple of locals told me that they couldn’t get permission from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to put up a sign on the road.

About 3,000 people live in the Wounded Knee School District in Manderson, South Dakota. Manderson is in the middle of the Pine Ridge reservation, which makes up most of Oglala Lakota County (formerly Shannon County), the second poorest county in the United States. In 2013, the five police officers assigned to patrol the area received a staggering 16,500 calls for emergency assistance. Sitting at breakfast with me in Rapid City, 100 miles away, Stacy Phelps pauses to let me do the math. Phelps, CEO of the American Indian Institute for Innovation — which has been brought in to “turn around” the Wounded Knee school, among others — wants me to understand the statistics that he’s up against.

More than one of the men I interview ask me whether my husband wasn’t concerned about me traveling through the reservation alone, particularly at night. A sign in my motel room requests that I use the rag provided rather than bath towels to clean my gun. Statistics are hard to come by, but as of 2009, there were 39 gangs on the reservation, involving more than 5,000 young men. The average life expectancy for men on the reservation is 48, and for women it’s 52. Suicide and poor health are partly to blame for those numbers, but so is violence.



With unemployment at more than 80 percent and alcoholism rampant, Pine Ridge is a hard place to grow up. The schools’ first job, it has to be said, is to keep children safe. Since Phelps’s team took over two years ago, there’s general agreement that the school is a calmer place. When I walk through the halls of Wounded Knee — which goes from kindergarten through eighth grade — they’re quiet. Although the area outside of the school is run-down, with trailer homes falling apart and trash strewn about, the inside of the school is clean, freshly painted, and bright. It also seems fairly empty — the school operates at less than half of capacity.

Alice Phelps, the newly installed principal and Stacy’s sister-in-law, takes me to visit some of the classrooms, where teachers seem to be doing everything in their power to keep things under control. In a second-grade class, the teacher speaks to students in a soothing voice, telling them to “let go of the negative.” She asks them to “think about what we can do today to be successful — to make it into third grade.” Most of the dozen students seem to be listening while she offers instructions on how to write a friendly (as opposed to formal) letter. After going through the different choices for salutations, she tells them “We don’t write mean things in a friendly letter.”

While Phelps and I watch the youngest children play in a kindergarten classroom, we talk about their home life. “One weekend a month, we have lock-in,” she explains.

“Lock-in?” I ask, wondering what these innocent-looking kids have done to deserve this punishment.

Lock-in is not punishment, she assures me. It’s when children stay at school all weekend for safety. Although the weekend is billed as a cultural enrichment event for the children — they sing songs and play traditional games in the school’s gym — Phelps tells me that it’s timed to coincide with when government checks go out. These are the times when parents are most likely to drink and become abusive, she offers matter-of-factly. Indeed, Wounded Knee’s families have earned such a bad reputation that other schools are afraid to send their kids here for basketball games and other community events, Phelps says, because “our parents are so violent and our kids are so disrespectful.”

The rhythm of life at Wounded Knee is actually surprisingly dependent on the timing of government subsidies. In the days leading up to food stamp distributions, Phelps finds that kids are particularly hungry and distracted, because there’s not enough food at home. The school generally gives kids breakfast, lunch, and snacks, but when they come in on Mondays after a weekend at home, more than one teacher reports that the boys and girls are famished. Right after the food stamps come, many children are absent from school because they’re traveling with their families to the other side of the reservation to do grocery shopping.

There are occasional violent incidents at the school. But Wounded Knee has had to learn to deal with them independently. Phelps will occasionally call the police, but she explains that there’s usually something more urgent that the police officers have to attend to elsewhere. Nor does the school get much support from tribal child services. Children who are a danger to themselves or others might be removed briefly, but there aren’t many alternative places to keep them. And so the school has to create its own support system as much as possible.

Naomi Schaefer Riley, author of “The New Trail of Tears: How Washington Is Destroying American Indians [2016 Encounter Books], is a weekly columnist for the New York Post and a former Wall Street Journal editor and writer whose work focuses on higher education, religion, philanthropy, and culture. Riley’s writings have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the Boston Globe, the Los Angeles Times, and the Washington Post, among other publications. She appears regularly on Fox News and Fox Business. She has also appeared on Q&A with Brian Lamb as well as the Today Show. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University in English and Government.

Correction

Jada Holdiness, of Immokalee, is a Tribal member. Jada was misidentified as a descendent in an article about Immokalee

High School girls soccer on page 4C in the Dec. 30, 2016 issue of The Seminole Tribune.



Kevin Johnson

Dora Tiger, left, and Judy Bill Osceola sing traditional songs at the start of the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board’s monthly meeting which was held at Tribal headquarters Feb. 9 in Hollywood. The duo sang two songs.

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Community



Seminole welcome Miss Indian World

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Miss Indian World Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn, a citizen of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, made a whirlwind tour of the Brighton, Big Cypress and Hollywood reservations prior to participating in the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow from Feb. 10-12.

In Brighton, Finn visited Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Feb. 8 where she experienced culture day with second-graders, went to the school's Creek Language Enrichment House immersion program and spoke to the seventh- and eighth-graders.

At the PECS culture camp, students practiced the language while they learned to make fry bread and carve. During a game of bingo, students identified pictures on their cards in Creek in order to win.

"The students are enthusiastic and curious about what's going on," said culture instructor Alice Sweat as she taught the girls to make fry bread. "They are so used to McDonalds; nowadays no one takes the time to teach them how to cook over an open fire."

In a nearby chickee, Joe Osceola taught the boys to carve canoes from a bar of soap.

"I want them to be exposed to carving," he said. "Not many people still carve

and some kids may not realize their uncles and grandfathers used to carve. Back then, Seminoles used to make a living carving; it was part of our culture. We want them to get a sense of what we used to do."

Finn, 26, clearly enjoyed the visit with the students. After making and eating a piece of fry bread and examining the boys' canoes, she headed to the immersion program to meet the Creek-speaking toddlers and teachers.

During a talk with the older students later, she emphasized the importance of language. Her platform as 2016-17 Miss Indian World includes issues of higher education, clean

water and language revitalization.

"Language is what makes us special," Finn said. "An indigenous language dies every 16 days; that's the saddest thing. Language teaches us about our culture. You guys should practice it every day. Use it to text each other good morning. It's up to you to save your language; you need to keep it alive."

She told the students to use their Indian names. Finn's is Seven Star Woman. There are seven stars in the Big Dipper constellation; the seventh is on the handle which holds the water.

Water is an important issue to her Tribe. Finn is from Porcupine, North Dakota, which is near the site of the protests against the Dakota Access Pipeline. The pipeline is slated to cross underneath the Missouri River, just a mile from where she grew up. The protest has been very difficult for her tribe.

"My tribe is very split," Finn said. "Some people want the water protectors there and others don't. The river is our only water source. The pipeline will leak, because they always do."

In an executive order Jan. 24, President Donald Trump ordered the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue the final easement and continue construction of the pipeline. On Feb. 8, the Army Corps said it no longer needed to complete an environmental impact statement. A federal judge on Feb. 13 denied the tribe's request to temporarily block construction.

"It's very hurtful to see the blatant disregard the new president has for our people," Finn said. "That they are allowed to drill is devastating for our nation."

Finn graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Minot State University in North Dakota and earned her law degree from Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law in December 2016. She lives in Phoenix and will take the multistate bar exam in July, which will allow her to practice law in 26 states, including Arizona and North Dakota. She intends to go into public policy and have a hand at writing legislation that will help Native Americans.

The Standing Rock Sioux reservation, the fifth largest in the country, is about the size of Connecticut and straddles North and South Dakota. The reservation is defined by eight districts, of which Porcupine is the smallest with only about 100 people.

Tribal citizens annually.

"In 10 years we will have another 600 members and we have to be prepared with the addition of new revenue outside of gaming," Chairman Osceola said. "We are more than capable of setting up multiple businesses that bring in \$1 to \$40 million annually. The home run that we hit with our casinos, those are going to be few and far between."

Chairman Osceola wants to look into anything that is able to bring in new profits for the Tribe. Endeavors could include bottling the 40,000 gallons of treated, potable water that is routinely dumped when the water plants in Brighton and Big Cypress flush their lines daily. Brighton has already bottled some of the water and decorated them with colorful labels designed by Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students.

"You can drink it right out of the bottle," Chairman Osceola said. "Who knows



Beverly Bidney

Miss Indian World Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn talks to PECS seventh and eighth grade students about what life is like as Miss Indian World.



Beverly Bidney

Miss Indian World Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn examines a canoe carved from soap as Braydon Huff watches during a visit to PECS on Feb. 8.

The reservation is located in Sioux County, where nearly 36 percent of residents live below the poverty level.

Students were interested in Finn's role as Miss Indian World. More than 1,000 young women have competed for the title at Gathering of Nations over the years, but only 33 have earned the prestigious title. The pageant included an essay contest, public speaking, and personal interviews with judges, traditional talent and traditional dance competitions.

"The best part of the job is to represent all of Indian Country and show the beauty and diversity of Native Americans," Finn said. "By representing everyone respectfully and positively, I show the world we are all great. I'm honored and humbled by it. I'm just a girl from Porcupine and it's amazing to be here."

Finn's tour included a stop at the Ah-Tah-Thi Ki Museum and a visit with kids from the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club.

◆ CHAIRMAN From page 1A

successful businessman. He ran a limousine company for 18 years, a lawn company for 12 years and, two years ago, he started a seafood company. He gave up those businesses to comply with the Council's conflict of interest ordinance, a sacrifice he said his family made so he could serve.

"If the Tribe benefits, then my family does as well," he said. "We are all in this together."

Some goals for the new administration include looking at election ordinances to possibly include a primary election before the general election to assure the winner will have at least 50 percent of the votes. The chairman also wants to explore term limits.

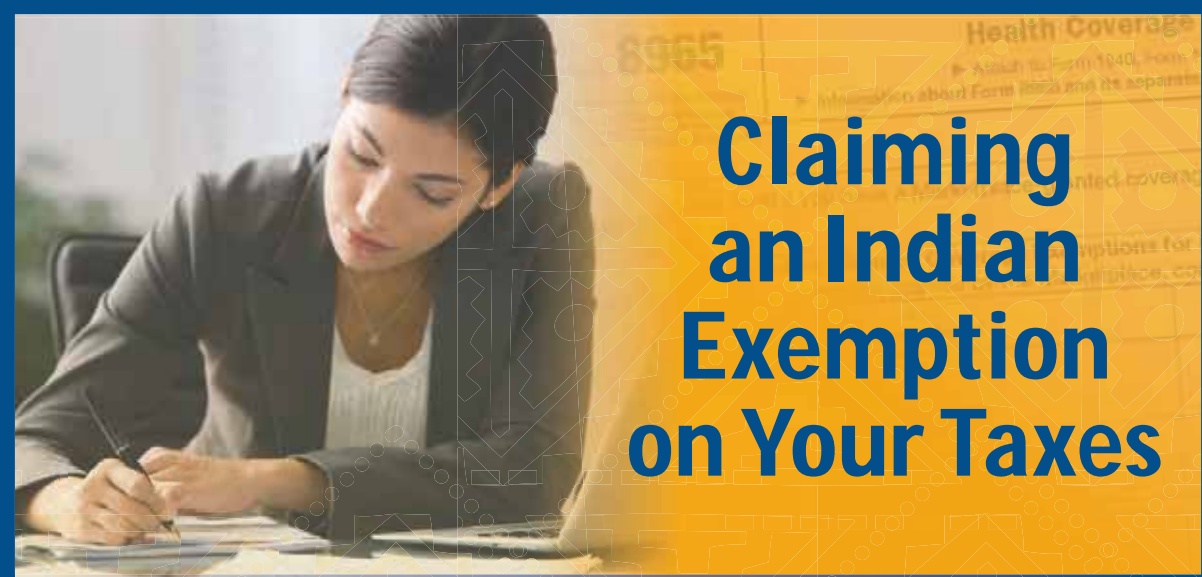
"I don't want to see anyone serve the

Tribe forever and I don't want to be here forever," Chairman Osceola said. "We were under one generation of leadership for nearly 40 years, so of course things will be different. One of our biggest goals is to bring the Tribe together and communication is key."

Chairman Osceola plans to have his administration look at constitutional revision and reform to introduce new opportunities. He would like to ensure that all elected officials serve the entire Tribe, not just their specific reservations.

"What's done in Brighton, Big Cypress or Hollywood can affect someone living in California or even Hawaii. These are things I think about. We are here to serve everybody, not just one community," he said.

Chairman Osceola also plans to look at existing programs to see where improvements can be made. The Tribe is about 4,117 strong now and growing at a rate of about 60



American Indians and Alaska Natives who did not have health insurance in 2016 need to claim an Indian exemption for the 2016 tax year. To claim the exemption, use form 8965 when you file your income taxes.

Questions?

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Two-day Smith Family Cattle Drive traverses Brighton Reservation

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — About 100 people on horseback, in all-terrain vehicles, swamp buggies, SUVs and one vintage military jeep drove 30 cattle over a 20-mile trek from the St. Thomas pasture north of Brighton to the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena from Jan. 27- 28 in the fifth annual Smith Family Cattle Drive and Ranch Rodeo.

In 2013, the Roger Smith Memorial Cattle Drive began the tradition of honoring the Smith family’s contributions to the Tribe with an annual cattle drive and ranch rodeo that, until this year, was always held on one day. Roger’s widow Diane Smith always intended to make the fifth one an overnighter.

“We’ve been talking about doing it in the fifth year from the start,” she said.

The Smith family legacy is a part of the fabric of Brighton. Patriarch Jack Smith Sr. was instrumental in the formation of Brighton’s cattle industry. His sons Fred, Richard, Jack Jr. and Roger all followed him into the cattle industry and served on Tribal Council and the Board of Directors. Daughters Mahala Madrigal, Nellie Smith, Oneva Baxley and Linda Tommie are still involved in the cattle business, as are other generations of the family.

“This is a family event and a chance to remember what they’ve done for the Tribe, the cattle business and the sport of rodeo,” said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., the late Roger Smith’s son-in-law. “It’s the first year I’m not cooking and I’m happy to give someone else a turn.”

The family chose Brighton cattle foreman Bobby Yates to be trail boss. Yates, who has worked with the family since 2005, was honored to get on his horse and lead the way.

“The family has always been a good friend to me,” Yates said. “This is an honor and I have a lot of respect for them. When Roger passed, I helped them keep living his legacy.”

The St. Thomas pasture filled up with participants prior to the start of the drive. Riders saddled up and practiced their riding and roping skills before Yates and the crew brought the animals from a nearby pen. With that, horseback riders and a few hard-working dogs took their place behind and beside the herd and moved them out of the pasture onto the dirt road. A caravan of vehicles followed close behind.

“Roger was one of our independent

cattle owners,” said Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard. “The family is doing such a good job with cattle; it’s a blessing for the community.”

A few hours later, after a lunch break in a pasture along the way, the herd of cattle and people arrived at Camellia Osceola’s pasture which served as the stopping point for the night.

The cattle were moved into a pen and the crowd pitched tents in the pasture a few miles past the midway point of the drive. Two travel trailer campers rounded out the scene in the wide open pasture.

The campground bustled with activity as the sun set. A few folks competed in games of corn hole, rambunctious kids ran off their excess energy, adults sat in camp chairs and took in the scene, others inflated air mattresses and stowed them in nearby tents.

“The fellowship of sitting around the campfire, telling stories and reminiscing will be something we won’t forget,” Chairman Osceola said. “But we won’t eat from old tin cans like in the old days.”

A steak dinner and music around the campfire were among the highlights on a chilly night. As temperatures dropped into the 40s, folks inched closer and closer to the warmth of the fire.

Singers Warren Silvers, Cody Williams and Sandy Olsen Buck strummed some country tunes on their guitars. The first was an appropriate choice for the crowd, “Mammas, Don’t Let Your Babies Grow Up to be Cowboys.” Songs by Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Hank Williams and others followed.

The camaraderie around the campfire was apparent as people huddled together to enjoy the music. Songs about Texas, shotgun rifles and a 4-wheel drive were followed by a soulful rendition of Seminole Wind.

The next day, the group broke camp and headed out to move the cattle to the rodeo arena, where they enjoyed a hearty lunch.

Eleven teams from around the area competed in the ranch rodeo at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena Saturday evening and Sunday. The rodeo featured events and skills that are useful in cattle ranching, including ranch bronc riding, team sorting, team roping and branding, team tying and a relay race.

The team from J-Cross Roping in Big Cypress, which included Naha, Josh, Blevyns and Ahnie Jumper and Keith Crumb, won the rodeo.

“The Indian guys and girl beat all the other teams,” Diane Smith said proudly.



Beverly Bidney

Trail boss Bobby Yates leads the two-day Smith Family Cattle Drive on Jan. 27 from the St. Thomas pasture north of Brighton to the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.



Beverly Bidney

Hard-working dogs keep the cattle together in a herd, even when they want to go rogue. Cowboys watched this dog do its job successfully during the first day of the Smith Family Cattle Drive in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Above, Brooke Julian, Jayda Jenkins and Morgan Yates share a bag of sunflower seeds during the cattle drive.



Beverly Bidney

Three brave barking dogs get this cow back into the herd during the Smith Family Cattle Drive.



Contributed photo

The winning team of the Smith Family Ranch Rodeo on Jan. 29, from left, Josh Jumper, Ahnie Jumper, Keith Crumb, Naha Jumper and Blevyns Jumper, pose in the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Kids enjoy a campfire and music at the end of the first day of the Smith Family Cattle Drive.



Beverly Bidney

Camelia Osceola’s pasture became a family friendly campground after day one of the Smith Family Cattle Drive. Families pitched tents and parked campers as they relaxed with a game of corn hole and prepared for a chilly night around the campfire.

Fort Lauderdale honors ‘Seminole Girl’ sculptor

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Nilda Comas’s creation of a Seminole scene was unveiled two years ago on Fort Lauderdale’s Stranahan Landing, but the 8-foot-tall sculpture continues to receive accolades.

In front of family and friends who helped the project on its journey, Comas was recognized for her work Feb. 7 during a ceremony at the start of a Fort Lauderdale City Commission regular meeting. Thanks to her “Florida: A Seminole Girl” sculpture, the longtime Fort Lauderdale resident received the city’s first non-residential WOW award for community beautification.

“I feel very lucky and I’m very grateful to all of you for giving me this award,” Comas told the commission. “Not too many times an artist gets to be recognized by their own town, and Fort Lauderdale is my hometown. I’ve been here 42 years.”

District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers presented Comas with a certificate of appreciation and gift certificate from the city.

“You don’t always get to do a first in a 105-year-old city, but this is the first



Nilda Comas’s “Florida: A Seminole Girl”

community beautification award for the WOW award,” Rogers told the audience. “It’s usually done for residential properties, but the WOW award for community beautification was created last year and it was created to honor and recognize elements that add to the aesthetic beauty of our community that are not confined to residential properties.”

“Florida: A Seminole Girl” sits on the edge of the New River across from the historic Stranahan House. It features a playful depiction of innocence with a young Seminole girl celebrating life while clutching palmetto leaves. She is accompanied by Everglades’ wildlife in the form of a dancing crane and a baby alligator. Its colorful patchwork-design base features names of people who have made Florida known.

“The monument will leave a permanent legacy for our neighbors, visitors and children and will inspire future generations to preserve and protect the storied history of the Seminole Tribe of Florida,” Rogers told the audience.

Comas, a native of Puerto Rico, said her idea for the project started when she received the go-ahead from the city to do a sculpture in honor of Florida’s 500th anniversary.

“If you give me a little piece of land in a historical spot that would be very important,



Courtesy photo

The Fort Lauderdale City Commission honors sculptor Nilda Comas for “Florida: A Seminole Girl” during a commission meeting Feb. 7. From left, District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers, artist Ana Tarquino, Director of Parks & Recreation Phil Thornburg, Seminole artist Elgin Jumper, painter Stephanie-Gabrielle Sneed, Community Appearance Board Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Van Voast, sculptor Nilda Comas, Fort Lauderdale Mayor John P. “Jack” Seiler, artist Mei Ling Jaeger, Historic Advisor Brian Hill and Cultural Liaison Larry Mike Osceola II.

I will together a group and will fund the sculpture ourselves and we will have a sculpture to celebrate the 500 years,” she recalled.

Comas and her entourage turned a sliver of land into a piece that now attracts community and cultural awareness. Rogers said the sculpture serves as a reminder of the Seminole Tribe’s “rich heritage, cultural contributions and extraordinary contributions to our city and our residents” as well as the Tribe’s friendship with Fort Lauderdale pioneers Frank and Ivy Stranahan.

Comas thanked several people in attendance who helped make the project possible, including her daughter and painter Stephanie-Gabrielle Sneed, Cultural Liaison Larry Mike Osceola II, Seminole artist Elgin Jumper, artists Ana Tarquino and Mei Ling Jaeger, Parks and Recreation Director Phil Thornburg and Historic Advisor Brian Hill.

Comas also expressed gratitude to philanthropist AJ Acker and the Seminole Tribe for their generous contributions.

“I wanted to give thanks and commemorate forever the [enduring] presence of the Seminoles,” Comas said about her sculpture, adding that “‘Seminole Girl, Florida,’ will be there forever and ever.”

Cipollini named president of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Auggie Cipollini has been named President of Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. In his new role, Cipollini will be responsible for all operations and management of the Seminole Hard Rock, South Florida’s largest gaming and entertainment complex.

Cipollini previously served as the senior vice president of Operations at Borgata

Hotel Casino & Spa in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He was responsible for all non-gaming operations, including hospitality, food and beverage, retail, reservations, hotel sales, revenue management, project design and development, facilities and property maintenance, security and surveillance.

Cipollini joined Borgata in April 2000 as director of Development. He was promoted to vice president of Finance in 2002, prior to the opening of Borgata in 2003, and was

again promoted to senior vice president and chief administrative officer in 2006. In 2009, he became senior vice president of Operations.

“With his impressive 17-year track record at Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa, and his strong background in financial management, Auggie Cipollini is sure to be a remarkable leader at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood,” said Seminole Gaming Chief Operating Officer Larry Mullin. “I am

confident he will be an exceptional addition to our executive team.”

A certified public accountant, Cipollini earned a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from Widener University. He has served on boards of directors in New Jersey, including Shore Medical Center, the Greater Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce and Borgata’s Heart & Soul Charitable Foundation.



Auggie Cipollini



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BIA updates ICWA guidelines

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The Indian Child Welfare Act, passed by Congress in 1978, was designed to keep Native American children with Native American families. The intent of the law is to protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families.

But nearly 40 years after the law was enacted, Indian children are still being removed from their homes and communities at a higher rate than other children. Implementation of the act has been inconsistent and interpretation of the rules varies from state to state.

To stem the tide and assure all states comply with the Act the same way, the Bureau of Indian Affairs updated the ICWA regulations and guidelines in December. The update provides a uniform federal standard, consistency and clarity that will reduce litigation and produce better outcomes for Native American children.

The guidelines, which provide information on how to uniformly interpret and implement the ICWA, are a supplement to the comprehensive 2011 ICWA regulations that became effective Dec. 12, 2011.

“This is a big change,” said Ted Elson, National Indian Child Welfare Association board member. “The definitions are more clear. States have taken liberties with the interpretation in the past and there were a lot of loopholes. We hope they have been closed by these guidelines.”

Since its inception in 1983, the ICWA’s mission has been to support compliance with the ICWA, which it does through relationships with key policy makers in Congress and the states. Lobbying and testifying before Congress are also part of its watchdog role. The privately funded non-profit membership organization has been trying to get the definitions changed since the beginning.

“It’s been a constant war,” Elson said. “We made enough noise that the BIA stepped in and made these guidelines.”

Elson said there have always been problems with states’ interpretations of the law and expects there will still be issues going forward. But he hopes these guidelines and regulations will reduce them.

The updated guidelines replace the 1979 and 2015 versions, according to the BIA website. The agency acknowledged the inconsistency in enforcement of the ICWA based on geography.

This variation means that an Indian child and her parents in one State can receive different rights and protections under Federal law than an Indian child and her parents in another State. This disparate application of the ICWA based on where the Indian child resides creates significant gaps in ICWA protections and is contrary to the uniform minimum Federal standards intended by Congress, the website states.

Although the guidelines are not legally binding, they explain how to uniformly implement the ICWA and will be helpful for agencies and courts working on complicated cases.

“We presume the standards will be very effective at making sure states don’t deviate from the rules,” Elson said. “It will be up to Tribes’ ICWA representatives to make sure courts comply and the rules are followed.”

Elson said most Tribes have ICWA experts. He is confident the Center for Behavioral Health is representing Seminole children properly and is monitoring ICWA cases. He said one of the significant changes in the guidelines gives parents the opportunity to present evidence to the court before a child is removed from the home.

“One of the biggest issues is placement preference,” Elson said. “We want the child to remain with the family, or someone else in the family, or community, or Tribe, or some other Tribe before they look at a non-Native home.”

Poster artwork sought from Native Americans in Florida

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, part of the United States Department of Agriculture, is sponsoring a contest for Native American artists in Florida to create artwork for its 2017 American Indian Heritage Month poster. The winning artist will be awarded \$2,000.

The artwork will be used on the poster which will be distributed to all US Air Force offices in the U.S., Pacific Island areas and to tribes throughout the country prior to American Indian Heritage Month in November.

The theme of the contest is water, water quality, water conservation, watersheds or any other significant way water impacts tribal life.

There is no registration fee. The piece must be size 18 by 24 inches, acrylic or oil on canvas, ready for reproduction and have a brief written narrative about the artwork. The contest will be judged on creativity and originality, portrayal of heritage and culture, incorporation of the theme and artistry and skill.

For more information, email Katy Greene at Katherine.greene@fl.usda.gov or call 352-538-4555.

Brighton Field Day offers something for everyone

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Crowds flocked to the 79th annual Brighton Field Day Festival and Rodeo Feb. 17-19 for three days of music, entertainment, shopping and rodeo.

About 1,300 school children filled the amphitheater bleachers and ground on Feb. 17 and watched students from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School welcome them with the pledge of allegiance and their school song. The students, from schools in about a 10-mile radius, watched activities such as a traditional Seminole weapons demonstration, venomous snake show, alligator wrestling, Creek singer songwriter Ben Yahola and pow wow dancers.

After the show, the students descended on vendors selling arts, crafts, jewelry, toys, weapons and other items from throughout Indian country. Seminole vendors did a brisk business selling patchwork, beaded jewelry, dolls, baskets and more.

“It’s good for the young folks to learn about our culture,” said Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard. “It’s a big thing to have so many schools involved.”

“This gets bigger every year,” said Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. “I hope the students take home the message that there are other people around and they can learn their ways and get along in this world. They can go home and tell their families about it.”

The Field Day Parade kicked things off on Feb. 18 with a color guard, royalty, Tribal officials, WISDOM Dancers and colorfully decorated vehicles in the amphitheater. Special guests for the weekend included Florida State University’s Marching Chiefs, actors Adam Beach and Martin Sensmeier, the Rita Youngman Band, Shannon Reed Band, country music artist James Wesley and Tim Tebow.

It was a special Field Day celebration



Beverly Bidney

During the 79th Annual Brighton Field Day Festival and Rodeo Grand Entry Feb. 17 Brighton Councilman Andrew Bowers Jr., Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie, Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney, EIRA Jr. Rodeo Queen Madysyn Osceola and EIRA Rodeo Queen greet the crowd.

for Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney, who was raised in Brighton.

“This is what I grew up coming to,” she said. “I’m excited and honored to be here as Miss Florida Seminole on my reservation. These are my people; they’ve seen me grow up.”

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie has been to Field Day before, but being

a participant was very different experience for her.

“I’m used to being in the stands,” she said. “It’s nice because you know who is here and feel connected to them.”

The Indian Relay Race Feb. 18-19 brought bareback excitement to the crowds as the riders jumped off one horse just to mount another without missing a step and continue

around the race track. The PRCA offered more traditional rodeo thrills, complete with a rodeo clown and bull fighters.

“This is much bigger than we thought it would be,” said RV Resort guest Mona Ludwick, of Juno Beach. “The pow wow dancing was beautiful and it surprised me that the dancers came from all over the country.”



Beverly Bidney

PECS students open the Brighton Field Day Festival festivities with the Pledge of Allegiance as members of the color guard hold the U.S. and Seminole flags.



Beverly Bidney

At the PRCA Rodeo Feb. 17, cousins Jace Johns, 8, Thad Johns, 8 and Eden Johns, 7, enjoy the show from a nearly front row seat on the railing.



Photo courtesy Barbara Boling, STOF Health Education Coordinator

The mother and daughter duo of Delaney and Dana Osceola have a good time Feb. 16 competing in the Brighton Field Festival Day 5K, which kicked off the four days of activities.



Beverly Bidney

Students fill up the grandstand to watch the Brighton Field Day Festival & Rodeo on Feb. 17.



Beverly Bidney

A fancy shawl dancer demonstrates her skill at the amphitheater Feb. 17 during Field Day.



Beverly Bidney

Seminole warrior Jason Melton, right, gains the upperhand during the performance of a traditional Seminole weapons fight at Field Day in front of 1,300 students. Beverly Bidney



A saddle bronc rider does a good job staying on the horse for the required eight seconds during the PRCA Rodeo.

Michael Shaffer learns recipe for success as ACD participant

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The routine of the kitchen at the Immokalee Senior Center suits Advanced Career Development participant Michael Shaffer well.

After earning an Associate of Arts degree in hospitality from Keiser University last year, Shaffer worked in the kitchen of Sweet Tomatoes in Naples and Fort Myers. The restaurants each served between 700 and 1,200 diners daily, a far cry from the average of 1 served in the Senior Center.

“It’s slow and relaxed,” said Shaffer, 24. “I like the laid back scene here more. I’m not running all over the place like a chicken with its head cut off.

Shaffer began in the A program in early December and has thrived on the job. He helps wherever he’s needed, has improved his skills and learned a host of trade secrets and tips. During a recent lunch that included chili and baked potatoes, he learned to brush the tops of the potatoes with olive oil and add a sprinkle of kosher salt.

“It crisps the skin, just like in a restaurant,” he said. “There’s also a lot of science in the kitchen; the yeast in bread is a living organism. You have to let it rest before you shape it.

Shaffer has also learned to be open-minded when cooking since there are dozens of ways to do the same task. Shaffer has become a valued member of the team as someone his co-workers appreciate and rely on.

“Michael is a very good worker and it’s a great help having him,” said Immokalee Elder Services site manager Emily Arza. “He does what he’s told with no questions asked. He’s learning and he’s on his feet all day. He really is a part of the team.

Health and fitness wellness program chef Lorraine Posada teaches Schaffer as they cook together.

“I took him under my wing,” said Posada, who has an Associate of Science degree in baking and pastry from the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. “We like Michael; he’s one of us now. And he rocks that hairnet.

It was a long road for Shaffer to get where he is today. Some youthful indiscretions left him with a criminal record, but he doesn’t let that hold him back or become discouraged.

“I was a follower at the time,” he said. “That led me to places I’d rather not go again.

These days, with a wife and three children, Shaffer is acutely aware of his responsibilities as a husband and father. He lives with his wife Michaela and their children Nancy, 4, Natalie, 2, and Jackson, 8 months, in Ave Maria, where he enjoys the community’s family-friendly lifestyle.

When he was a college student, Shaffer worked in the Work Experience Program under the supervision of education assistant director Alphonza Green.

“Mr. Green pushed me to go into ACD after college,” Shaffer said. “He said it would be more beneficial than just going right into a job.

The A program, which has been part of the Human Resources Department for about a year, is designed to give Tribal citizens an opportunity to earn a living in line with their education. Participants work in



Beverly Bidney

Advanced Career Development participant Michael Shaffer takes a pan full of freshly baked, hot rolls to the buffet counter at the Immokalee Senior Center Feb. 2.

Tribal departments suited to their education and interests.

“The participants make meaningful contributions to the departments,” said Katonya BienAime, HR assistant director. “That is key and the departments are welcoming the help.

The two-year program is for individuals who plan to have a full-time career. Like anyone working outside of the Tribe, A participants will learn to balance work and home life.

A college degree associate or higher is required for the program. A currently has four participants and can accommodate one more. The number is kept low to ensure individualized attention is given to each person. By the end of the program, the goal is for the participants to become a permanent member of the department.

“Michael is on the right track and we want to make sure we are there to help him,” BienAime said.

In the kitchen on a recent morning, Shaffer is the one helping out. After preparing his mise en place a French culinary term for a work station with everything in its place

Shaffer was ready to help prepare a lunch featuring baked chicken, yellow rice, soup and broccoli. The camaraderie was apparent as the staff talked about home recipes, garlic, family life and other topics as they worked.

“He’s a fast learner and he likes to jump in and help us do whatever we need,” said assistant cook Angel Ardenas as she made a pot of sweet potato soup.

Shaffer has overcome the challenges he faced earlier in his life and is happy to be working in a field he enjoys and an environment he values.

“There are no arguments. We help each other out and look after each other to make sure everything runs smoothly,” he said. “It doesn’t feel like work.

The path provided by A has been a smooth one.

“A helps us get on our feet, learn more and get a lot of experience,” Shaffer said. “Our clients here are awesome and there is never a dull moment.

Anyone interested in joining the ACD program should contact the Human Resources Department.



Beverly Bidney

Michael Shaffer stirs a pot of chili as mentor and colleague Lorraine Posada looks on in the kitchen of the Immokalee senior center.



Courtesy photo

The 10 Bradley Cooley Miss Florida Seminole sculptures are on display in the Chairman’s office at headquarters in Hollywood. Cooley passed away Jan. 24 at age 78.

Seminoles fondly recall sculptor, longtime friend Bradley Cooley

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Bradley Cooley, an acclaimed sculptor and longtime friend of the Seminole Tribe, passed away Jan. 24 in Tallahassee while undergoing open heart surgery. He was 78.

Cooley created 40 life-sized bronze sculptures for the Tribe, many of which can be seen at headquarters in Hollywood, the Brighton Veterans Building, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Billie Swamp Safari and at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood.

His sculpture of Seminole veteran Herman L. Osceola is prominently displayed outside the Big Cypress gym that bears the name of the late U.S. Marine. In addition, from 2005 to 2015 he sculpted each reigning Miss Florida Seminole working from life and from photographs. Every year, Princess Committee chairwoman Wanda Bowers took the princesses for a sitting at Cooley’s studio 30 miles outside of Tallahassee.

“He always said the best thing to do was to sit with them in person,” Bowers said. “He made sketches of their hands and faces. Details were very important to him. Cooley took direction from the Princesses and made any changes they suggested. While Cooley and his son Bradley Owen Cooley were sculpting and sketching, Bowers and Cooley’s wife Linda often shared a pot of coffee and spent the afternoon talking.

“They became part of our family,” Linda Cooley said. “We are fortunate to have a lot of good friends in the Tribe. We travel down to South Florida at least three or four times a year. His relationship with the Tribe was very

important to him.

Bowers looked forward to the annual visits at the Cooley home, where they also raised longhorn steer and grew vegetables and flowers.

“They were a country couple and liked living off the land,” Bowers said. “Bradley was really a people person and loved to tell stories. He was humble; as big as his artwork

was, we could just sit and visit all day.

Cooley’s son said his father met James E. Billie in the mid-1980s and the two became fast friends.

“James taught my father how to gut a gar and we started going to pow wows,” he said. “I adored active American culture and built strong relationships. As the Tribe was able, they gave us the opportunity to do sculptures.

The seven sculptures of soldiers outside of the Veterans Building represent every branch of the military and legendary Seminole warrior Osceola.

“He was so detailed that he bought the uniform of every branch of the service to get it right,” said Stephen Bowers, president of Florida Seminole Veterans Foundation, who attended the funeral in Tallahassee. “He was a mellow guy and he listened to you to see what you wanted.

In addition to the work Cooley did for the Tribe, many of his pieces are prominently displayed throughout Tallahassee and on the Florida State University campus.

“He and his son were very proud of their relationship with the Tribe and with Tribal members,” Stephen Bowers said. “You can’t go down a street in Tallahassee without seeing his work.

Bradley Owen Cooley learned sculpting from his father and worked with him on many pieces over the years.

“We worked together for years and people say they can’t tell our work apart,” he said. “We use real people and catch the character of them. That’s what makes our pieces stand out.

Cooley’s son plans to continue the work and preserve active American history and culture in bronze.



Photo courtesy Wanda Bowers

Bradley Cooley, shown here while at work on his sculpture of Seminole veteran Herman L. Osceola, created many of the sculptures on the Seminole reservations.



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AH-TAH-THI-KI

M U S E U M

A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

Hearing the unheard voice

BY NORA PINELL-HERNANDEZ
Exhibits Fabricator, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Two-hundred years ago the Seminole War was sparked by a U.S. government raid on a reek village called Fowltown. The U.S. government had ordered the arrest of eamathla and other chiefs of Fowltown for not handing over the murderers of the arrett family and for not appearing before eneral aines when summoned to discuss the matter in person.

Winston hurchill once said “History is written by the victors but I would add, “only if you have a written language.

This was evident while researching this topic with Ahfachkee School intern raysun Billie. All of the documents we found in the Museum archives were written by non-Seminoles. The Seminolees didn’t have a written language so all conversations between Seminolees are lost to the wind. The U.S. government would send interpreters to Seminole towns to relay messages and Seminole leaders would send back a written reply, usually penned by a non-Seminole. In the archives we found letters from Andrew Jackson and newspaper clippings of military activities in the frontier. The most valuable source thus far has been the American State Papers: Indian Affairs book which includes eamathla’s response to eneral Edmund aines in regards to the murders of Mr. arrett’s family.

The letter explains that although they attempt to remain secluded from the whites, Seminolees are being killed and their cattle are stolen. Although they have complained to the “white head man no justice is made. Several young Seminole hunters were killed and one of their kettles was found in the house of Mr. arrett. In the absence of Mr. arrett, his wife was shot twice and scalped, and their two children were killed an act that eamathla admits the Seminole group committed. But an eye witness account from a neighbor said that upon arriving at



Photo courtesy Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
Neamathla

the arrett house the family had already been murdered, the house was plundered for valuables and set on fire. The account doesn’t detail how long it took for the neighbor to reach the house after he heard the gunshots but it was described as “immediately .

Interestingly, eamathla denied that the Seminolees set the house on fire – and after admitting to the killings there wouldn’t be a reason for him to lie about damaging property. The mystery is who did set the arrett house on fire if it wasn’t the Seminolees and why? Did the neighbor start the fire to incite a greater confrontation between the Seminolees

and the U.S. or to personally gain from any valuables stolen In regards to the killing of the young Seminole hunters does the kettle provide sufficient evidence that Mr. arrett had killed the Seminolees despite not being identified by a witness id he act alone

one of the correspondence of U.S. officials addresses the death of the young hunters by an American nor do they question if Mr. arrett had in fact committed a crime against the Seminolees. Their main focus was trying to put their weight on the Seminolees so they would conform to the U.S. desires. Animosity was so high that any event could have set off a war. But as we know the Seminolees remain unconquered.

In trying to understand the complex and threatening situation of the Seminole people during this time the Museum will create a Seminole War Hub a digital space containing activities, timelines, and resources about the Seminole Wars. One activity will include looking over all the documents and information in our collection about the Seminole Wars and then answering the question what is missing. Spoiler alert it is the Seminole voice. That is why the Seminole War Hub is being created to look deeper into the experiences and motives of the Seminolees during the War time. eep an eye out for the Seminole War Hub in Spring 2017. Meanwhile if you have something to share, contact the Museum.

Cattle drive and rodeo to honor Paul Bowers Sr., Morgan Smith

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BIG RE — The Big ypress Reservation will host a weekend full of rodeo and cattle March 17-18.

As part of the 21st annual Junior ypress attle rive & Rodeo, the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association will get things started with a Friday night rodeo on the 17th in the arena that is named for Junior ypress. The following day will start with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast at Billie Swamp Safari. The cattle drive is set for 10 a.m. The day’s activities will continue at 1 p.m. with the EIRA kids

Indian owboy reams

*As a young boy I stood in awe, as I watched these rugged men of old
They were dark with their jet black hair, topped with “ole Stetson hats,” and faces that were bold!
Their jeans were worn as were the faded long sleeve shirts they wore with pride...
The boots, the spurs, they had it all, even to the horses they would ride...
I knew these men before I’d heard of Gene, Roy, and Wayne,
I didn’t know these movie cowboys stood for a way of life that would cause our people so much pain!
The Indian Cowboys I knew were for real! And something told me, that’s what I needed to be,
Big Morgan Smith cracking the whip, and riding along with old Samson Dixie...
Those were the days of the big roundups, the family feast and the long cattle run,
There were no one day shows or being late, and you stayed til the work was done!
I would spend the nights at the Morgan’s Camp lying under the ole tin roof while having my Indian Cowboy Dreams,
Awakening to the sounds of the squeaky old army saddles and feeling the coolness of the morning fog as the men would have that important coffee and cream...
I loved it all and for a boy of nine, it was all I wanted to be,
The wet season, the hanging moss, the Big Cypress Swamp it was a place where a young boy could really be free!
The names are etched in my mind of these Indian Cowboys of yesteryear:
Charlie Micco, Naha Tiger, Josiah Johns, true cattlemen who knew no fear!
Braided bull whips, Mexican spurs, and high in the deep seated saddle they sat,
These were “real men” from the tip of their boot to the top of their “Tom Mix Hat” ...
I would play in the “Ole Red Barn”, and wait as the bullets in my toy gun I would load,
I would listen and from far off I could hear the horse’s hooves, as they walked on the shell rock road...
These men stood for a way of life that I’m sure once again, we would all like to see,
Good Cow Dogs, Cracker Cattle, a good horse and the glades where a man could really be free...
These men were my Heroes, and their names you won’t hear on TV,
But to those of us who remember their names will always be a part of our history...
And as long as there is a horse to ride, a steer to rope, and a bunch of good dogs that work as a team,
I’ll remember back to those days when as a boy, I slept under the “Ole Tin Roof,” as these men rode tall in my Indian Cowboy Dreams.*

Seminole Wars’ roots tied to Adams-Onis Treaty

BY REBECCA FELL
Curator of Exhibits, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

This year, 2017, is an important year of anniversaries for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. It marks the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the Seminole Wars in 1817. It is the 0th anniversary of federal recognition of the Seminole Tribe of Florida as a government and a business enterprise. uring the year, this column will alternately explore key events of the so-called First Seminole War and highlight the great advances of the Tribe in the last 0 years. This month marks the signing of the Adams-On s Treaty in 1819.

Prior to the treaty the Seminolees and Spanish government, for the most part, had settled into a peaceful and modest co-existence. The Spanish government valued the Seminolees for their trading capacity and ability to maintain cattle. An unspoken truce existed among the two cultures. The United States government, however, saw Florida as vast source of untapped land and resources for profit. The Seminolees were not part of that plan.

On Feb. 22, 1819, John uincy Adams Secretary of State to President James Monroe and Louis de On s of Spain signed



the Seminolees and Spain in Florida without the permission of the U.S. President or ongress. Unfortunately, Spain was having a lot of trouble back home and had limited resources to defend themselves against the United States’ attacks.

While most of President Monroe’s cabinet called for eneral Jackson’s arrest for treason for the illegal start of war, Secretary of State Adams saw this as proof that Spanish Florida was ripe for a land grab. He defended eneral Jackson and leveraged the eneral’s inhumane behavior into concessions in the Treaty. Because of his support, eneral Jackson was able to

later become president of the United States, forcing through the 1830 Indian Removal Act.

For the Seminolees, this treaty took away an ally and buffer from their troubled relationship with the United States. While many historians consider the treaty the end of the First Seminole War, it marked the beginning of an uptick in violence, theft, and crime against the Seminolees by U.S. pioneers. This is part of why Seminole culture views the three ‘official’ Seminole Wars as one long war. It was inevitable the U.S. government would step back in to try and quell the Seminolees. However, this first series of battles proved educational for the Seminolees. Seminole warriors would not back down when the U.S. troops came again. Instead, they would refine the hit-and-run guerilla war tactics that first appeared during these early years of conflict – and made them the Unconquered Seminole Tribe of Florida.

For more in-depth information on this topic read Joe netsch’s book “Florida’s Seminole Wars, 1817-1858. A transcript of the original Adams-On s Treaty is available at: http://www.emersonkent.com/historic_documents/adams_onis_treaty_1819_transcript_english.htm.

Florida Music Awards Hall of Fame to honor Burt Reynolds, musicians at Davie celebration

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

A IE — Familiar faces from television, film and music – all with Florida ties are scheduled to rock Bergeron Rodeo Arena in avie on March 5.

The Florida Music Awards Hall of Fame Show’s lineup includes host Jerry Mathers, a former Florida resident from “Leave It to Beaver fame, and movie legend Burt Reynolds, a longtime Sunshine State resident who played football at Florida State. Reynolds, 81, will receive the FMA’s Humanitarian Award for his support of the entertainment industry in Florida throughout his career.

“From creating his famed Institute for film and theater that bears his name, Burt has always given back to his home state. This time we are giving back to him for his gracious benevolence and for his help of inspiring now and future actors entertainers monetarily and directly with his special talents and efforts, Florida Music Awards chairman Wayne oss wrote in an online article.

oss brought Miccosukee musician Lee Tiger and Seminole musician Ted elson to Seminole Media Productions in late February as a lead up to the show, which is slated to run from 2-9 p.m.

Tiger, who is scheduled to do a solo and a jam, perhaps with elson, recalled meeting Reynolds at his theatre in Jupiter in the 1980s when ative American actor Will Sampson, a friend of Tiger’s, performed in the theatrical version of “One Flew Over the uckoo’s est. Sampson also starred in the movie version as hief Bromden.

“Martin Sheen did the [Jack] icholson part, but all the [other actors] were mostly the original cast. They did a live show and they invited the Seminole and Miccosukee kids, Tiger said.

At lunchtime, Tiger said Reynolds asked him why the kids weren’t eating the meals he provided them, which included pizza topped with mushrooms and turkey sandwiches. Tiger informed Reynolds that Miccosukees and Seminolees don’t eat mushrooms and turkey.

“He said get those mushrooms and turkey out, and put ham on it. I said that’s fine,” Tiger recalled with a laugh. “They went back in the kitchen and pulled off all the mushrooms from the pizzas and they had ham sandwiches.

Tiger also remembered watching Reynolds’ friend, the late actor om eLuise, prepare food for the lunch.

“He was there cooking away, just like a chef. He was a funny guy, Tiger said. “It was a good time for the kids, a nice experience.

Other notable acts slated to perform in avie include 2017 Hall inductees Rick erringer, Mike Pinera, ana Paul, Bill Wharton and others.

erringer was a guitarist with The Mc oys when they released their hit “Hang on Sloopy” in the 19 Os.

Pinera wrote, sang, and recorded the



Courtesy photo

Burt Reynolds



Tribune file photo

Ted Nelson, left, and Lee Tiger perform during a gig in 2015 in Hollywood. They may perform together again at the Florida Music Awards Hall of Fame Show on March 5 at Bergeron Rodeo Arena in Davie.

classic 1970s hit “Ride aptain Ride while with his band Blues Image. He was the lead guitarist for Alice ooper in the early 1980s.

Paul performed as Peter raves Orchestra’s lead vocalist and was also part of several other bands, including the ana Paul band, the Sunrise Pops and the Jaco Pastorius band.

Wharton, aka the Sauce Boss who is referenced in Jimmy Buffet’s “I Will Play for umbo, has brought his slide guitar and culinary talents to dozens of shows throughout the state for decades.

“Raffles and silent auctions will go to Planet umbo, which is Sauce Boss’s charity and he actually goes to the shelters and plays, oss said.

Pinera and Tiger are expected to join others for a performance of The Beatles

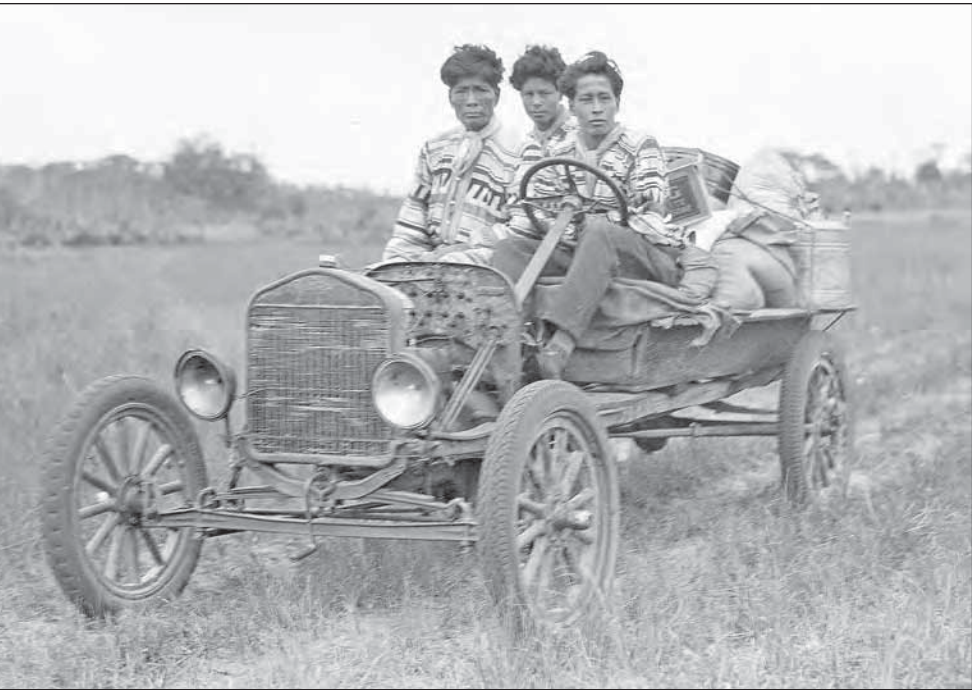
Fort Lauderdale Historical Society hosts ‘Indian Car: Old Photo’

ORT LA ER ALE — olorful Warrior Theatre will present a theatrical mixed media performance celebrating the history and legacy of Seminole art, music and literature in shaping the future of South Florida on March 30 at p.m. at History Fort Lauderdale formerly The ew River Inn Museum of History , 231 SW 2nd Ave. in Fort Lauderdale.

Experience a unique theatrical mixed media performance by olorful Warrior Theatre titled “Indian ar: Old Photo. Using a backdrop of historical images from a collection, along with literary, visual and sound art, the artists create an ambiance that engages the audience in a journey that explores both historical and contemporary art in Fort Lauderdale.

“Indian ar: Old Photo is part of “The Big Show, a group art exhibition featuring the visual art of Seminole Tribal members including Elgin Jumper, ordon Oliver Wareham and others, which will be on view at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society from March 10 through June 4.

For more information visit fortlauderdalehistoricalsociety.org.



Courtesy photo courtesy

“Indian Car: Old Photo” is the title of a mixed media performance that will be held March 30 in Fort Lauderdale.

Active shooter training emphasizes run, hide, fight

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Run. Hide. Fight. The department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation are promoting those three words as an effective way to deal with the possibility of being caught in an active shooter situation.

Run. Hide. Fight.

The Seminole Police department has been spreading the words at active shooter training preparedness workshops for the past year, starting with casino workers and now at government buildings on every reservation.

A few days after the deadly shooting incident at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport Jan. 7, SP presented the workshop to a group of employees at the Immokalee Reservation.

“This is awareness and safety for employees,” said Sergeant Angela Margotta. “Bring it home; take it to your kids, family and neighbors.

Run. Hide. Fight.

The FBI defines a terrorist as someone who wants to kill four or more people in one incident to make a statement.

According to the HS, an active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined area. In most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their

selection of victims. Active shooter situations are unpredictable and evolve quickly.

“Every time there is an incident, people learn from it,” Margotta said. “It’s amazing how many people freeze; you have to be constantly thinking.

Awareness begins with the surroundings including knowing the location of exits other than the front door.

“Look for back doors, delivery doors, fire escapes,” she said. “It takes just a few seconds to play it in your mind.

Run. Hide. Fight.

A video shown at the workshop illustrated the safety precautions in action. As a shooter made his way through a typical office with cubicles, offices and a break room, employees ran, hid and fought.

“The best option is to run,” Margotta said. “The police use the plus one rule: there could be another shooter somewhere, so police have to search everywhere and clear all the rooms. It takes time.

The video explained how to decide whether to run, hide or fight. A group of workers who heard shots immediately ran out of the building and hustled others out with them. Another one who was trapped in the copier room pushed the heavy machine in front of the door, shut off the light, turned off her phone and hid behind a desk.

A group of workers in the break room had nowhere to go and no place to hide, so

they blocked the door, turned off the light and prepared to use anything they could as a weapon. One man used a chair, another armed himself with a laptop and a woman was ready to throw a hot pot of coffee at the shooter.

Run. Hide. Fight.

“If You See Something, Say Something,” is another HS campaign that aims to raise public awareness of the indicators of terrorism and the importance of reporting suspicious activity to police.

“The San Bernardino shooting may not have happened if someone had said something,” Margotta said about the 2015 attack that killed 14 employees at a California social services office. “Neighbors didn’t say anything because they didn’t want to be labeled as racist. Some said they saw strange activity, people coming and going at odd hours and heard foreign language spoken. One or two phone calls could have stopped it.

When SP completed training more than 10,000 casino employees, the workshop became part of the new employee orientation at casinos. SP hopes to complete training all government employees by March, but plans to continue offering the classes. Margotta hopes the training will be part of all new employee orientation.

Run. Hide. Fight.

Health

Who needs an HIV test? Everyone

SUBMITTED BY BOB LAMENDOLA
Florida Dept. of Health in Broward

Don’t be surprised at your next annual checkup if your doctor says she’s giving you an HIV test. She is doing what the Florida department of Health in Broward county hopes every doctor will do.

OH-Broward and the enters for disease control and Prevention are asking all medical providers, including the Seminole Health department, to include HIV testing as a routine part of all patients’ blood tests, just like blood sugar, cholesterol and triglycerides.

Routine HIV testing means more people living with HIV will be diagnosed early, can begin treatment quickly, will be healthier and will be less likely to spread the virus. Also, routine testing will help eliminate any stigma on HIV tests.

“Routine testing means that everyone would be offered HIV testing as part of our regular checkups. No one should feel stigmatized,” said Dr. Paula Thaqi, director of OH-Broward. “We encourage everyone to ask their doctor for an HIV test.

The department recommends routine testing for all people ages 13 to 65, and others if they engaged in unprotected sex. The department began recommending routine testing for some people in 1987 and for everyone starting in 2010.

The department and OH-Broward would like to see routine testing performed by physicians, hospitals including emergency

rooms, clinics and other medical providers.

The way it works is the doctor mentions the HIV test when telling patients what will be covered in their blood work. The test will be done unless the patient specifically declines it at a practice known as opt-out testing.

Not every medical provider participates in routine testing. Some are not aware of the recommendations. Some may feel it is not their job. Some may be too busy to focus on it.

In recent years, OH-Broward has been educating and encouraging providers and institutions to implement routine testing. As a result, routine testing is on the rise.

A big argument in favor of routine testing is that HIV is spread mainly by people who do not know they contracted it. If they are diagnosed and take medication as directed, the amount of virus in their blood falls to nearly zero and their chance of transmitting HIV drops by 95 percent.

Preventing the spread of the virus is crucial in South Florida, which has the nation’s highest rate of new HIV cases per capita.

“Knowing your HIV status and getting treatment is one of the best ways we know to prevent HIV and keep our community healthy,” Dr. Thaqi said. “Everyone can do their part by including an HIV test in their routine health care.

For more information call 954-477-4700, ext. 4991.

Scholarship boost for Native STEM students

FROM PRESS RELEASE

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society AISES announced in January a \$1.32 million contribution from Intel to support undergraduate and graduate scholarships for Native Americans. The support is part of a partnership between Intel and AISES to increase the number and success of Native American students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

In addition to extending scholarships to Native American students, Intel and AISES are planning to develop a culturally-appropriate computer science curriculum for

Native American high school students. The initial announcement was made as part of the White House S4All initiative in December.

Intel has made a four-year commitment to support the growing Legacy scholarship program at AISES. Each year Intel will provide 40 Native American university students with financial support, Intel mentors, and opportunities for paid internships or jobs at Intel upon graduation.

A report produced by Intel that outlines six key recommendations for increasing Native American student participation and retention in STEM education can be accessed at www.aises.org or www.intel.com.

Controversial River of Grass Greenway will not be built

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

To the delight of environmentalists and members of the Miccosukee Tribe, the River of Grass Greenway took its place in Florida history as another project that will not be developed.

The proposed paved 7-mile bicycle path through the Everglades from Naples to Miami was unanimously voted down at a Feb. 10 meeting of the Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Dozens of opponents to ROG, slated to be built adjacent to U.S. 41, filled the chamber as people on both sides of the issue spoke.

Miccosukee Tribal citizens and their attorney spoke against it and stated government-to-government consultation with the Tribe never occurred.

“No one reached out on a governmental level to hear the concerns of the Tribe,” said tribal attorney Jeanine Bennett. “They will be impeded from doing things if this project moves forward. Their cultural activities will be curtailed.

Four tribal citizens took the microphone and urged the MPO to rescind support for the project. They spoke about their historical connection to the land going back generations.

“This is a refuge for our people,” said Rev. Houston Cypress. “We feel a sense of stewardship and responsibility to protect this area that brought us life and healing.

Betty Osceola lives in a traditional camp outside of the Miccosukee Reservation and believes 800 miles of existing trails are enough to allow visitors to experience the natural beauty of the Everglades.

“This goes right though the area that

is sacred to us,” Osceola said. “It’s not for another culture to decide what is sacred to the Miccosukee people, it is up to us. We are connected to nature, that’s where we live, breathe and die. We understand you don’t need to destroy nature to enjoy nature.

RO supporter and founder Maureen Bonness spoke in support of eco-friendly transportation throughout the county.

“No matter what you decide to do today, you have a serious safety problem on U.S. 41,” she said. “We need to improve safety for bicyclists without increasing the footprint of the road. I encourage money to be spent so the Miccosukee Police don’t have to scrape up the bodies of the cyclists.

After three hours of speakers, the MPO voted 10-0 to rescind county support for ROG amid cheers from some members of the audience.





SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

JUNIOR CYPRESS RODEO ARENA
35600 RODEO CIRCLE | CLEWISTON, FL 33440
March 22nd weigh in: 3 to 5 pm on all reservations
BC 4H Exhibitor and Parent Dinner from 6 pm to 8 pm.
During Sifting. Location 4H Barn
Sifting 6 pm to 8 pm for Heifers and Steers
All 4H Market Animals need to be in pens in the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena by 8 pm
Thursday March 23, 2017
Big Bass Tournament for 4H youth from 8 am – 12 pm (prize awarded)
Small Animal Pictures @ 3 pm
4:30 pm line up to go in ring @ 5 pm

Heifers show @ 6 pm
Swine /Steer Show @ 7 pm
March 24, 2107 Sale Night:
Kickball Tournament from 1 pm to 3 pm.
(Recreation will set up field)
Buyers Dinner @ 5 pm
Small Animal and Heifer Show @ 6 pm
Pig Calling Contest Announcer Kim Clements
Heifer Sale Prior to Swine and Steer Sale
Sale begins @ 7 pm
Saturday March 25th
Mandatory Clean up begins at 8 am



SEMINOLE SCENES



Maury Neipris

MUSIC MOMENT: Virginia Osceola joins musician Aaron Lewis for a photo before Lewis performed a concert Feb. 12 during Tribal Fair at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

OPEN WIDE: Seminole alligator wrestler Billy Walker places his hand in dangerous territory during a performance in front of about 200 spectators at the Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo on Feb. 4 on the Hollywood Reservation.



Beverly Bidney

HOWDY HORSE: Jennie Osceola, 11, holds her cousin Mayan Macias, 2, during a lunch break at the Smith Family Cattle Drive in Brighton Jan. 27.



Kevin Johnson

GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE: Accompanied by Moses Jumper Jr., rodeo announcer Norman Edwards auctions off a buckle during the Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo on Feb. 4 in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

HONOR GUARD: The Seminole Tribe's Public Safety Honor Guard carries flags into Tribal headquarters' auditorium at the start of the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board's monthly meeting Feb. 9. The presentation was performed by Sgt. Jonathan Macklin, Lt. Anthony Berger and firefighter Nick Garcia.



Kevin Johnson

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS: The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School girls basketball team is the center of attention after the Lady Warriors won the Around the Lakes Tournament on Feb. 3 in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

FAST RUNNERS: Lason Baker, left, and Tawnee Baker, 3, enjoy a sprint on the basketball court during a break in action of a middle school basketball game Jan. 19 at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney (2)

CRAZY FOR KARAOKE: Above, the Immokalee Boys & Girls Club hosts a sweet Valentine's Day dance party Feb. 14, complete with karaoke, a cake walk, games and dinner. Geneva Garcia, 16, and Marina Garcia, 14, watch as Dacia Osceola, 14, in center, hits a high note. Below, kids scream for joy at the party as aftercare prevention counselor Fred Mullins announces the schedule for the day.



Beverly Bidney

EARLY MORNING RIDE: Brooke Osceola puts her horse through its paces as they warm up for the Smith Family Cattle Drive on Jan. 27 in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

COWBOY LIFE: Cowboys are silhouetted near the bronc corrals during the PRCA Rodeo at Brighton Field Day on Feb. 17.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



The Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association released the 2011 annual economic impact report for the tribal and gaming industry. The OIA 2011 annual impact report summarized data from 2015. The total economic impact of 2015 was 7.2 billion from annual operations and construction, up from 6.9 billion in 2014. “One of the main things that was really impressive was that 80 percent of over a billion dollars in payroll was in rural areas. So, smaller communities are seeing job benefits,” said Brian Foster, chairman of the OIA. Out of the 27,944 jobs the industry provided, over 81 percent were in rural areas.

“I think that Oklahomans and Oklahoma should be proud of the magnitude of the industry. I don’t know of any state in the country that has come so far and accomplished so much,” said James Las, co-founder of LasRobinson, E. Las, who worked on the report, said this is an industry that continues to grow. A recent proposal to build a Shawnee Tribe casino in Seymour has been sparking some controversy because the land is over 400 miles from the tribe’s headquarters. That land, which has no tribal or historic ties, would first have to be placed into a trust for gaming by the government. “I would just comment that, in Oklahoma, it’s a little complicated to talk about tribal trust land because most of the lands in Oklahoma aren’t traditional to our tribes. So, as a matter of perspective, we need to hold that in mind,” said Kyle Egan, the director for the Center of Native American and Urban Studies at Oklahoma City University, who also worked on the report. “When you talk about most of the land not being traditional to the tribes, it’s because the tribes themselves were moved here from other parts of the country,” Klas said.

No matter the outcome, though, Egan said the economic impact could be great for the area. “I think, if you were to put a casino in that part of the state, there is an underserved population in terms of entertainment options as well as potential exports to Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico and Texas,” Dean said.

Once the Department of Interior officially announces plans to place the land in Seymour into trust for gaming, Governor Fallin has a year to voice any objections or concerns.

L N

The Missoula County Montana Sheriff’s Office will use a \$50,000 grant to better understand why Native Americans are arrested at a much higher rate and develop programs designed to reduce recidivism of tribal members.

The money comes from the 100 million Safety and Justice Challenge, an initiative of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation that hopes to reduce over-incarceration in communities across the country.

Missoula was chosen as one of 20 communities to receive funding to design and test reforms to the justice system to reduce racial or ethnic disparities in local jails.

While Native Americans make up just under 3 percent of the county population, they are almost 14 percent of all the bookings at the jail, said Undersheriff Jason Johnson.

Kevin Kicking Woman and Cathy Little Leaf, representing the community, and the Missoula Urban Indian Health Center will help the sheriff’s office research the issues facing Native American inmates and develop programs to help them.

Kicking Woman and a detention officer from the jail will attend a conference in Denver put on by the foundation, Johnson said. When they return, Kicking Woman and Little Leaf will visit Native American inmates and conduct a survey to help the sheriff’s office discover what inmates think some of the root causes are that have led them to repeatedly get in trouble with the law.

“It’s not going to be officers asking them to tell us. It’s going to be Native American community representatives going in and doing the research, finding out if it’s poverty, lack of support when they are released, substance abuse. What are the primary driving factors?” Johnson said. The grant is another step in the Jail Diversion Master Plan that Sheriff T.J. McErmott worked to develop after taking office. It has since been given the blessing of the Missoula City Council and Missoula County Commissioners.

Johnson said finding the root causes of Native American incarceration and

developing programs to address that could lead to a reduction in the severe overcrowding at the jail.

“So, take an example of a man who throws a chair through a window. Well, that’s a crime, but we should also look at the why. And if we do, maybe we find out it’s because he has substance abuse issues, and maybe mental health issues. If he can get those addressed, he’s not going to do that again and he’s not going to end up in jail again,” Johnson said.

Kicking Woman, who spent four years working as a detention officer in Missoula before receiving his master’s degree in cultural anthropology and a bachelor’s in Native American Studies from the University of Montana, is now a tribal academic adviser at UM.

“Hopefully we can be a model for the rest of Montana,” he said. “But first we need to go in and learn, then not only develop culturally relevant programs but make sure they are set up in a way that can keep going years into the future.”

Kicking Woman said he hopes to develop programs for helping Native Americans find jobs or proper treatment in the community after they come out of the jail.

“But there’s other things that can be done as well. Culturally appropriate AA meetings in the jail, or culturally significant exit ceremonies,” he said.

Among the already-existing community programs he wants to bring into the jail are Mending Broken Hearts classes that deal with grief or trauma from a historical and cultural standpoint. Kicking Woman will also bring his Regaining the Warrior program to the jail.

“For native people, let’s get them to regain their cultural identities, remind them of who they are as warriors and lady warriors. They are people who take care of the family, work for the family and protect their family,” Kicking Woman said.

As part of the grant, all of the detention officers will also go through cultural diversity training to teach them ways of better interacting with Native American inmates.

The funding from the MacArthur Foundation will last for a year, but Johnson said there is the potential for future grants if the programs Missoula implements are showing signs of success.

“We want to help them to change their lives,” Johnson said.

The Missoula, Mont. Missoulian

H I

TRNER ALL M — About 120 students from Turners Falls High School walked out of classes Feb. 15 as a protest to the School Committee’s vote to change the school’s mascot.

Students left classes shortly after noon, and walked from the high school to the superintendent’s office in the school district’s administration building. They spoke with the superintendent for about 20 minutes and discussed the issue.

“I met with the students for about 20 minutes this afternoon and they were very respectful with their statements and questions,” District Superintendent Michael Sullivan said in an email. “They are a great student body and I understand they do not feel listened to. I do not yet know what consequences there will be, if any, for students who walked out.”

The ill-Montague School Committee voted, 6-3, on Feb. 14 to remove the Indian mascot.

Students said the reason they decided to walk out and talk to Sullivan was because they felt their voices hadn’t been heard in the process. The School Committee meeting, which are scheduled in advance and happen every other Tuesday, overlapped with the varsity basketball team’s senior night. The student council had planned a survey on the issue for this week, and students were disappointed they didn’t have the chance to express their views before the vote.

“Throughout this whole process, we haven’t been listened to,” Jorydan Fiske, a senior who participated in the walkout, said.

Students walked in the street with a Montague Police escort requested by the district to keep the students safe, according to Sullivan. Many students were wearing school clothing with the Indian logo on their T-shirts and sweatshirts, and the group was led by several students carrying the “Turners Falls Marching Indians” marching band banner. The banner also has a picture of the Indian mascot.

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Sabrina Blanchard said that about 120 students came to the office. The district did not allow media or parents inside.

“Your views are important, your opinions are important, but it’s a civil Rights decision and it’s not the way our country makes progress,” Sullivan said to students in a Facebook Live video posted by a student.

Despite being unable to enter the

building, parents supportive of the students cause gathered outside the building, cheering at times, taking photos and following the student-marchers in their cars and honking horns.

era Reid, a parent and a graduate of the high school came out on Feb. 15 when she heard what was happening. She encouraged her son to participate if he wanted to, but was worried about possible consequences because he’s on the basketball team.

She said her son is quiet and isn’t usually one to take a stand, so she was pleasantly surprised when she learned he had joined the walkout. She said the walkout was a way for students to express themselves.

“I couldn’t be more proud of him,” She said.

Jennifer Corridan also came out to support the students. She said her son asked her if it was OK if he participated in the walk-out and she wholeheartedly agreed.

“These kids were promised an opportunity to be heard, but because the School Committee allowed themselves to be bullied into an early vote, that was stripped from them,” she said. “I support the kids’ decision.”

Earlier on Feb. 15, Turners Falls High School principal Annie Leonard started the morning announcements with a statement about the vote. Leonard said she and the school supported the right for students to have free expression and opinions about the vote.

“I support your right to free expression,” she said. “In a school setting, those expressions of opinion or protest need to be safe, they need to be nonviolent,” she said. “They need to not do harm to people or to property and those taking action need to be prepared to accept any consequences of their actions. This does not mean that there are consequences for the expression of an opinion, but that school rules and consequences still apply where actions like leaving class are concerned.”

Leonard said she doesn’t have any additional information about the vote but that she would keep the students updated as the process moves forward.

— The (Greenfield, Mass.) Recorder

L

AN RAN I O — The handful of runners gathered under a large cypress tree Feb. 12 at Crissy Field and were blessed with smoke from burning sage and anointed with a prayer before beginning a 3.94-mile journey traversing the country to draw attention to substance abuse and domestic violence within American Indian communities.

Along the path of this Longest Walk, these runners and groups of walkers will travel through various Indian reservations before arriving in Washington, D.C., in mid-July, organizers said.

The journey is part of a series of such Longest Walks to raise awareness of the health, environmental and other issues facing American Indians across the country, including diabetes and suicide.

“Every time somebody is in danger, we need to walk in that direction,” said Dennis Banks of the Red Lake Band of Anishinaabe people. “We can’t stop walking, because there’s pain in every direction.”

Banks organized the first Longest Walk in 1978. It was called the Trail of Broken Treaties, protesting threats to American Indian schools as well as fishing and hunting rights. It began on Alcatraz and gained widespread attention as celebrities, including actor Marlon Brando and boxer Muhammad Ali, voiced support.

— SF Chronicle

M N A

Premature death is on the rise for Native and white Americans in the United States, with drug overdose and suicide contributing heavily to the increase, according to a new study.

“What surprised me the most was the size of the increase,” said Meredith Shiels, an investigator with the National Cancer Institute’s Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics. Shiels was lead author of the study, published Jan. 25 in the journal *The Lancet*.

From 1999 to 2014, mortality surged as high as 2 to 5 percent per year among white, Native American and Alaskan Native people ages 25 to 30.

“The last time we saw increases like this was during the AIDS epidemic in the ‘80s and ‘90s,” Shiels said.

In contrast, other minority groups -- people of black, Asian and Hispanic origin -- have seen fewer deaths among 25- to 4-year-olds than in years past, partly due to gains in the treatment and detection of cancer, HIV and heart disease, according to the study.

African-Americans saw some of the

steepest declines in premature deaths, up to 3.9 percent per year for certain ages.

Accidental deaths, including drug overdoses, increased in all 50 states for women and in 48 states for men. West Virginia had the highest rate of early death from all causes, while the District of Columbia had the lowest.

For whites, “the numbers are being dragged down ... by prescription and opioid overdoses,” said Dave Thomas, a program official in the National Institute on Drug Abuse’s Division of Epidemiology Services and Prevention Research. Thomas was a coauthor on the study.

Thomas described opioid abuse as “an usual epidemic” in that it affects predominantly white people and started in rural areas.

“I don’t think we have a complete understanding of why it’s happening that way,” he said.

Thomas said a number of initiatives have aimed to tackle drug overdoses, such as addressing opioid prescription guidelines and distributing naloxone, which reverses overdoses.

“It’s a crisis,” he said. “There’s not just one simple answer.”

Previous research has linked substance use to suicide, another key driver of the mortality increase among young white and Native Americans. However, the study does not make clear whether and how these trends might be linked. Suicide was the only major cause of death to climb consistently among Asian-Americans, according to the study.

Despite the uptick in premature death rates among white Americans, they still live longer on average than black Americans. But this life expectancy gap has been closing, from 5.9 years in 1999 to 3.5 years in 2013, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In 2015, the life expectancy for the average American dropped for the first time since 1993, though only by 0.1 year, according to a report last month by the CDC.

According to the report, the average woman lives to be 81.2 and the average man 76.3.

“It’s important to have the full context,” Shiels said, adding that the rise in white and Native American deaths is only one part of a picture that includes “great progress in other racial groups.”

Despite the increase in diabetes-related deaths for younger Native Americans in the *Lancet* study, a 2014 study in the *American Journal of Public Health* showed falling trends in diabetes-related deaths in the 2000s. A recent Vital Signs report showed that kidney failure from diabetes plummeted 54 percent in Native Americans between 1999 and 2013.

“Diabetes itself has plateaued in our population,” said Dr. Ann Bullock, one of the authors of the 2014 study and director of the Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention for the Indian Health Service.

Bullock, a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, cautioned that the *Lancet* study, an analysis of death certificates, may provide imperfect data.

“Most people don’t die of diabetes,” she said. “Whether someone gets that put on their death certificate” can depend on other factors, such as physician bias.

Because many doctors associate Native Americans with diabetes, Bullock said, some may be more prone to add it to their death certificates.

The data can also depend on how patients’ races and ethnicities are recorded. Because Native Americans are commonly mixed-race, Bullock said, many do not self-identify, and others who may not “look” Native American may be misclassified by hospital intake staff.

CNN

M T

LANSING M — A Native American tribe eager to build a 245 million casino in downtown Lansing says it has earned a victory that could help end its over five-year legal dispute with opposing tribes.

The Sault St. Marie Tribe of the Chippewa Indians cites a Jan. 19 letter from the U.S. Department of Interior that states the tribe’s application for the Lansing casino is “mandatory” under the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act. The letter, obtained Jan. 25 by the Lansing State Journal, also states the Interior Department will keep the application open so the tribe “may present evidence of an enhancement.”

Aaron Payment, the Sault St. Marie Tribe’s chairperson, and Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero said they believe this letter sent to Payment shows the Interior Department accepts the tribe’s legal position and is willing to work with them.

“We are very encouraged by the Interior Department’s statement on the tribe’s trust application,” Bernero wrote in a text message to the LSJ. “It is another step forward in what we knew would be a long, complicated process. We remain completely committed to the project and confident that the Lansing Kewadin Casino,

and the Lansing Promise Scholarship it will fund, will come to fruition.” Bernero said last year he expects the casino to create 1,500 permanent jobs and 700 construction jobs.

Two tribes that oppose the Sault St. Marie tribe’s casino project in Lansing interpret the letter much differently.

Chairpersons for the Ottawa, Saginaw, Huron Band of Potawatomi and Saginaw Chippewa Indian tribes cite an excerpt from the letter that states there is “insufficient evidence to allow us to proceed.” They also said the Sault St. Marie tribe’s failure to get its application for the Lansing casino approved under former President Barack Obama’s administration also hurts its chances. The Interior Department’s letter to Payment is dated a day before President Donald Trump’s inauguration.

A joint statement from the Potawatomi’s Jamie Stuck and Saginaw Chippewa’s Frank Cloutier emailed to the LSJ said the Interior Department’s letter adds the Sault St. Marie tribe’s legal position has no merit.

“It’s been five years since the (Sault) Tribe and Mayor Bernero promised the people of Lansing that a casino was only one to two years away,” the statement said. “At the time we said that was a blatant attempt to mislead the public. The fact is, they are no closer to a casino today than five years ago.”

“Furthermore, the incoming Secretary of Interior nominated U.S. Rep. Ryan Zinke, a Montana Republican has a record that is not nearly as favorable to off-reservation gaming as the previous administration.”

John Wernet, the Sault St. Marie tribe’s lawyer, argues that if the tribe’s pursuit of a Lansing casino was doomed to fail, then its application would have been rejected years ago. Wernet also said his client’s pursuit of a Lansing casino has taken so long because the opposing tribes tied the Sault St. Marie tribe up in over two years of litigation.

“If the answer was ‘no’, don’t you think Obama Administration would’ve said ‘no’?” Wernet said. “We’re not yet across the finish line.”

The Sault St. Marie tribe filed its casino application to the Interior Department over two years ago. Payment said Jan. 25 he had a conference call with federal officials last week and was told exactly what the tribe needs to make sure the application process proceeds. He described the tribe’s goal as “100% achievable” and said the evidence federal officials seek could be submitted to them in “a matter of weeks.”

It’s unclear how quickly the Interior Department could take another look at the Kewadin Lansing Casino once the Sault St. Marie circles back with it.

If a license is approved, the Sault St. Marie tribe should expect a bruising legal dispute to continue with the opposing tribes.

The opposing tribes claim the Lansing casino project violates the 1997 Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act. They argue laws support their stance that the Sault St. Marie tribe doesn’t have the right to build on the land needed for the project.

The Saginaw Chippewa tribe owns Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort in Mt. Pleasant; the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi owns FireKeepers Casino Hotel in Battle Creek.

Last fall, the Sault St. Marie tribe said it earned another victory after what it deemed was as a favorable ruling in federal court, where a judge blocked an attempt by Attorney General Bill Schuette to prevent the Sault St. Marie tribe from building the Lansing casino. The judge ruled the tribe did not violate any law when they submitted their application to federal officials.

The Sault St. Marie tribe already owns a portion of land it needs in downtown Lansing to move the casino forward.

In 2012, the city sold the tribe a parcel of land at Michigan Avenue and Cedar Street for about 287,000, Wernet said.

Under the agreement, Wernet said the city is leasing the land for a 10-year period and would buy the property back “at fair market value” if the project falls through. Wernet also said the land purchase includes an option to purchase a “showcase parcel” located north of the Lansing Center for 9,000. A copy of the tribe’s development agreement with the city states the casino shall require a minimum capital investment of 135 million.

Under the casino proposal, the facility’s annual revenue payments to Lansing would help fund four-year college scholarships for Lansing School District graduates. Plans for the casino would include up to 3,000 slot machines, 48 table games and several bars and restaurants. The project would also have two parking decks with about 2,900 spaces.

The Sault St. Marie tribe also has plans to build a casino in Huron Township, near Detroit Metro Airport.

— Lansing (Mich.) State Journal

Compiled by Senior Editor Kevin Johnson

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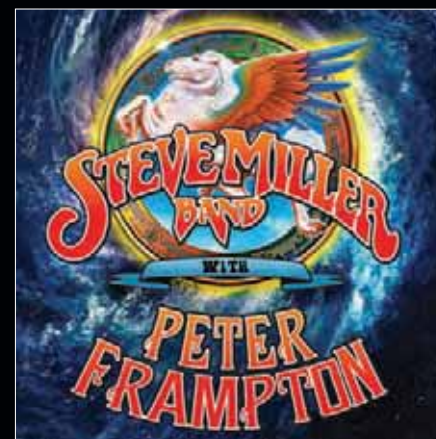
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Education

B

PECS service project wins accolades, helps African village

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The efforts of Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School elementary school students paid off in a big way, with a \$500 check from the state for taking second place in the “Literacy Changes Our World” service project.

Principal Brian Greseth, instructional coach Vicki Paige, Student Council chairman Heith Lawrence, and students JoJo Nunez and Yani Smith traveled to Tallahassee to accept the check from First Lady Ann Scott Jan. 26 during the awards ceremony at the Museum of Florida History.

“We were the only charter school and the only school in the state to place two years in a row,” Paige said.

For the project, which was part of celebrate Literacy Week, Florida, students collected gently used books, magazines, calendars and other useful educational tools and sent them to three charitable organizations in Okeechobee County: the Real Life Children’s Ranch, Martha’s House and Raulerson Hospital.

The students also sent more than 300 books and other items, including a few PECS T-shirts, across the Atlantic Ocean to a newly built library in a small African village in Zambia. PECS teacher Lydia Pell has a daughter and son-in-law, Bonnie and Brent Moser, who are Peace Corps volunteers in Africa. Bonnie received a grant to build a library that the villagers wanted; this donation will help stock the shelves.

The service project contest encourages students to actively promote literacy and good citizenship in their schools and communities.



Contributed photo

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School celebrates winning second place in the state’s “Literacy Changes Our World” service project on Jan. 26 in Tallahassee. From left, front row, PECS teacher and parent Suraiya Smith, instructional coach Vicki Paige, Student Council Chairman Heith Lawrence, second-grader JoJo Nunez, third-grader Yani Smith and Principal Brian Greseth. From left, back row, Lottery Secretary Tom Delasencerie, K-12 Public Schools Chancellor Hershel Lyons, First Lady Ann Scott and Just Read Florida director Richard Myhre.

The elementary school has done this project for two years and Paige said she is proud of their dedication to the meaningful service project.



Contributed photo

The exterior of the library in a small village in Zambia, Africa that is the beneficiary of hundreds of books and other items donated by PECS students.



Contributed photo

The interior of the library in Zambia where PECS students donated hundreds of books and other items.

Friendship carnival a big hit with Hollywood preschoolers



Above left, Torin Frank and Alexandria Beasley wear the crowns of king and queen for their group as Hollywood Preschool youngsters were treated to a friendship carnival Feb. 8 in the Classic Gym. Face painting, mask decorating, friendship bracelets, temporary tattoos, a photo booth and magic show kept the kids entertained. After kings and queens from each class were crowned, the students, teachers and family members enjoyed lunch. Above right, Audrean Cypress puts on a smile to go along with his face painting.



Kevin Johnson (2)



Kevin Johnson(2)

Above, Macy Tubby along with Leona and Nellie Baxley in the background enjoy the carnival. At left, youngsters work on projects at a crafts table.

Living the ACD experience: Witnessing unity and pride

BY AARON TOMMIE
Contributing Writer

As participants and spectators, natives from throughout the United States convened in early February for the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Hollywood. It was my second time attending the event, but I witnessed my first grand entry. Throngs of native dignitaries, performers, and entertainers centralized on the floor in Hard Rock Live to celebrate native American culture and history.

The majority of people in America have a known heritage in which they can identify. There is something special about living in a country and being able to fully embrace your own heritage. The Mexicans I grew up with in North Carolina always had a strong sense of pride with being from Mexico. The few Hmong classmates of mine would don their traditional regalia at my high school’s cultural festivals and would share samples of Hmong dishes. In general, having pride in who we are and where we originate plays a great deal in who we become.

Solidarity is one of the core characteristics our people are known for possessing, during menacing times throughout native American history, unity was necessary for survival. In modern times, this is evident with issues such as the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline. The protests have led to national outcries and helped fuel public support of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The land has traditionally been a huge part of our culture as natives and is one of the many reasons we come from such a rich ancestry.

Through brief conversations I have had with my Seminole relatives, I have slowly pieced together that rich ancestry in which I come from. My great-grandparents Jack Tommie and Sallie Wupco Tommie had 13 children. As mentioned in previous ACD columns, my mother definitely did her best to teach my twin and me about our Seminole heritage. To this day, she has Seminole jackets my twin and I wore as toddlers from the years we lived on the Brighton Reservation. When I was about six years old, I attended a pow wow in upstate New York with my elementary school. On another field trip, we went to a historic native American village that had wigwams and sold arrowheads and moccasins. For the most part, that was the extent of my exposure to native American culture.

Being employed by the Seminole Tribe of Florida and covering events such as Tribal Fair has expanded my perspective toward being native. It has given me opportunities to connect with natives from other places and learn more about our culture.

I spoke with some natives at the Tribal Fair from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians in California. It was interesting to learn that their Tribe also has a casino and reservations with similar experiences to those taking place on our Seminole reservations.

I also assisted in filming an interview of Miss Indian World 201-17 Anielle Ta’Sheena Finn at Tribal Fair. She was easy to talk to and very humble. Despite traveling the world and finishing law school, she still has strong ties to her Tribe, the Standing Rock Sioux, and seeks to continuously help her people. As natives, we support the progression of our people and if one of us succeeds, we all do.

There is a strong kinship that binds us despite our geographical and physical differences. Our culture is what defines us. Our language and practices are what keep us going strong. We are a diverse group of people and often have vastly differing customs and beliefs with similar principles. In contrast to the limited views shown of us in entertainment, we come in all shades of color. Events such as Tribal Fair dispel those stereotypes of us and allow attendees to be taught who we truly are. Our traditional garments allow us to showcase our heritage with honor. I saw children in the audience in awe of the participants’ garments. Attendees lined up for Seminole food. They bought beads, hand-carved wooden figurines, and other native items. Those were just some of the rewarding scenes I witnessed. Being a native was cool. Our culture was admired and praised which is much different from how things were decades ago.

Aaron Tommie is a participant in the Tribe’s Advanced Career Development program. He is currently working for the Broadcasting Department in Seminole Media Productions.



Mikiyela Cypress, Tyrek Lasane, Janessa Jones and Chandler DeMayo join Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. at the USET Impact Week in Washington, D.C.



Sitting at a table at USET are Tyrek Lasane and Janessa Jones with Mikiyela Cypress and Chandler DeMayo behind them.



Tyrek Lasane and Chandler DeMayo at USET

Washington trip brings Tribal students close up to government

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Leadership skills don't always come naturally but they can be learned, which is what four Tribal high school students did at Lose Up Washington and United South and Eastern Tribes Impact Week from Feb. 4-10 in Washington.

Tyrek Lasane, Chandler DeMayo, Janessa Jones and Mikiyela Cypress received an education in government and leadership during the intensive program that gives give

students a first-hand look at Federal and Tribal government structures.

"Meeting kids from other tribes in the workshop was the highlight of the week, said Tyrek, 18. "We learned about what goes on in the tribes and that it's difficult to get resolutions passed because of all the steps of approval. Most of us haven't taken the time to speak up and give our opinion to the council and I learned that communication needs to continue and not to give up until there is change.

Eighty-seven students from 17

tribes learned about issues facing active Americans from specialists working inside the federal government. Those experts included a former director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the deputy director of the Office of Tribal Justice in the Department of Justice, the director of the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute, the director of the White House Initiative on American Indian and Alaska Native Education and the deputy assistant secretary for Native American programs in the Housing and Urban Development Office

of Public and Indian Housing.

Students also learned how to become active participants in the democratic process by crafting resolutions to be heard by the USET Council. The Tribal Action Initiative had students identify issues on their reservations and suggest a solution. The Seminole students were concerned with finding a way to offer language classes on each reservation.

"The program afforded them the opportunity to learn how to be a leader, work in a group and learn from real world

experiences, said education outreach advisor Elizabeth Shelby. "They experienced camaraderie among themselves and other Native students and gained confidence to be independent thinkers.

In addition to the USET Indian policy workshops, the students toured the White House, the Capitol, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, various memorials and took in a show at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Author of Seminole fiction book visits Pemayetv Emahakv students

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School third- through eighth-grade students were treated to a visit by local author Edwina Raffa, co-author of "Escape to the Everglades" on Feb. 17. The students are reading the book in class this year.

A retired educator and graduate of

Florida State University and Florida Atlantic University, Raffa spoke to the students about the book, her writing techniques and what it takes to be an author of historical fiction. She and co-author Annelle Rigsby used the drama of Osceola's capture to highlight the moral dilemmas of the Second Seminole War. The book addresses the coexistence of the Native and white cultures in Florida during the 1830s.

The story is told from the perspective of Will Cypress, a young Seminole boy whose late father was white. The conflict is how he can honor both his heritage and his dream. He joins Osceola and his followers as they battle white soldiers. A chance meeting with his white father's relatives causes Will to question his loyalties, according to the publisher's summary of the story.



PECS third- through fifth-grade students meet with Edwina Raffa, author of "Escape to the Everglades" at school Feb. 17.

PECS culture teacher Jade Osceola with author Edwina Raffa in the classroom Feb. 17.

NAJA names scholarship winners

NOR N O The Native American Journalists Association, whose membership includes The Seminole Tribune, has awarded three 1,000 scholarships to college student members studying journalism for the 2017-18 academic year.

The recipients are Pauly Denetclaw, Sarah Sunshine Manning and Shondiin Silversmith.

Pauly Denetclaw is a young Native American woman who was born and raised in Manuelito, N.M. She is Halts'ooi Meadow People born for Inyaa' Anii Tawering House People. She is a senior majoring in mass communication and journalism with an emphasis on multimedia journalism and a minor in Native American studies at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M. Denetclaw served as an Intern-Reporter for the Navajo Times in 2012 where she covered community events in Window Rock, Arizona.

After she graduates in May, she plans to pursue a master's degree at the City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism where she received a full scholarship.

Sarah Sunshine Manning is an enrolled citizen of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Uck Valley Indian Reservation in Idaho and Nevada. She is a descendant of the Hippewa-ree Tribes of Rocky Boy, Montana and currently a graduate student at South Dakota State University, pursuing a master's degree in Journalism and Mass communication.

Shondiin Silversmith is a member of the Navajo Nation, from Steamboat, Arizona. She is currently enrolled in the Media Innovation master studies program at Northeastern University in Boston.

She has worked as an intern for PRI's



Pauly Denetclaw



Sarah Sunshine Manning

The World, a radio news show produced by the BB World Service and W BH where she has produced stories about Indigenous communities, including one about a First Nations community in Canada successfully changing four street names in Toronto back to their Indigenous names.

PECS names January students of the month

BRIGHTON The following Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students earned Student of the Month honors for January 2017:

Trayvon Mitchell, Rosalie

Jones, Jessie Pearce, Josephine Snow Sevenino, Amalia Estrada, Avynn Holata, esha Jenkins, Bobbi Osceola, aliyah unez, leona Baker, Oreste Perez, Jaliyah roeplin, ashya Urbina, Sariya Alvarez, Tahnia Billie, eenan James, Akeelah

Mitchell, Madison Taylor, Lexi Thomas, Marcos Reyna, akiyah oger, ayden Warrior.

Ysla opher, obe Jimmie, Jahbahn Arnold



Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students of the month for January.

Turtle Hospital benefits from Ahfachkee bake sale

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG R There are many ways to show love on Valentine's day; chocolates, jewelry or a special date night are popular choices.

But the fourth-grade students at Ahfachkee School took a different route. They showed their love for sea turtles by holding a bake sale Feb. 14 to raise money for Turtle Hospital in Marathon.

The non-profit Turtle Hospital, in the Florida Keys, was established in 198 with four goals: to rehabilitate injured sea turtles and return them to their natural habitat, educate the public through outreach programs including visits to local schools, conduct and assist with research aiding sea turtles in conjunction with universities, and work toward environmental legislation to make water safe and clean for sea turtles.

Families from all grade levels donated goods to the sale, which raised \$487 for the hospital that depends on donations.

Turtle Hospital contains up-to-date equipment needed to perform a variety of surgeries on different species and sizes of sea turtles. The hospital has successfully treated and released over 1,500 sea turtles, which are released in a variety of ways and at different locations depending on the species.



Abbiegale Green, Aaliyah Billie and Alex Covarrubias man the table of sweets Feb. 14 during the Ahfachkee fourth-grade Valentine's Day bake sale to benefit Turtle Hospital in the Florida Keys.



Angelique Albert

AIGC welcomes new executive director

B R N Angelique Albert of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes was named executive director of the American Indian Graduate Center on Feb. 2.

"Ms. Albert is a perfect fit for the organization bringing over 20 years' experience in executive management of non-profits, philanthropy, and tribal education," Rose Graham, AIGC board of directors president, said in a press release.

Most recently, Albert served as executive director of Salish Kootenai College Foundation.

"All alumni are doctors, attorneys, scientists and tribal leaders making positive impacts across the country. I'm honored to continue the organization's work of building capacity in Indian country through education," Albert said.

AIGC provides financial support for American Indians and Alaska Natives seeking higher education and supports them in attaining undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees.

Culture Day at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School



Beverly Bidney

Above, PECS second-graders enjoy a game of toss the beach ball while using only Creek words during a day of language, food and carving at the school's culture camp Feb. 8.



Beverly Bidney

Learning to make fry bread was an important part of spending time at the PECS culture camp Feb. 8. From left, Alice Sweat shows Serenity Billie her technique and Ginger Jones helps Dalia Turtle mix the dough.



Beverly Bidney

PECS language immersion preschoolers Kise Robbins, 4, and Hoponv Smith, 3, compare their progress as they form dough into the right shape to make fry bread at the PECS culture camp Feb. 8.

Freedom Ranch to host Vietnam War Commemoration March 18

On Feb. 18, Alpha Ministries at Freedom Ranch, in partnership with the Department of Defense, will hold a 50-year commemoration of the Vietnam War on March 18 at Freedom Ranch, 1155 Hwy. 441 SE, in Okeechobee.

A ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. followed by a BBQ lunch.

All Vietnam veterans, families and friends are welcome to attend. For more information call 813-733-9800.

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May 26, 2017

Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow

POW WOW

From page 1A

all beautiful. I will definitely come back with my family tomorrow.”

There was plenty to do during the three day-fair, including celebrity meet and greets with Martin Sensmeier, Roseanne Supernault, Irene Bedard, Aaron Lewis and Rudy Youngblood, live art demonstrations by Bunky Echo-hawk and concerts by the Cowbone Band, Ted Nelson Band, Osceola Brothers, Spencer Battiest, Derek Miller and Lewis.

Artist Bunky Echo-hawk creates his art live in front of an audience, who interacts and shares ideas with him. On opening day he created a large acrylic on canvas piece “Never Surrender the Breath of Life,” which depicts a Native American in a gas mask.

“We live in an unprecedented time where Native people are making our own movies, designing our own shoes, making our own paintings, writing our own books and litigating our own issues,” Echo-hawk said as he painted.

Tribal Fair is an annual tradition for the Hinds family, of Pembroke Pines.

“We like to support the Seminoles and watch the dancing,” said Cindy Hinds, who attended with her four daughters. “But meeting ‘Pocahontas’, Irene Bedard, was the highlight of the day.”

About 2,400 students from area schools enjoyed the dancing and a Seminole warfare tactics demonstration on opening day but became much more vocal when the animal show began. “Otter” John Jones paraded around the floor holding a menagerie of creatures one at a time. Judging by the oohs and aahs, a Nile monitor lizard, red shouldered hawk and an owl were the crowd’s favorites.

Next up were Billy Walker and James Holt, who brought out the large alligators to be wrestled. The kids erupted in cheers and watched the show intently as Walker risked life and limb for their entertainment.

“We are such a diverse group of people,” said Tucomah Robbins, who performed in the Seminole warfare demonstration. “We get to tell our story and that’s never a bad thing. There are people that don’t believe Native Americans are still alive. This shows that people are willing to learn about us.”

The Native Reel Cinema Fest, held Feb. 10 and 11, featured “Mekko,” a feature film by Sterlin Harjo, short films by Kyle Bell and Daniel Hyde and music by Spencer Battiest.

The Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo rounded out the activities with a kids rodeo and an Eastern Indian Rodeo Association-sanctioned adult rodeo Feb. 11.

T

Northern Drum Group – Midnite Express
Southern Drum Group – Southern Boyz
Three Man Hand Drum – Southern Boyz

G

Fancy– Tommy Draper
Grass – Wayne Pushetonequa
Straight – Duane Whitehore
Traditional – Jim Red Eagle

G

Fancy – Irene Oakes
Jingle – Annamae Pushetonequa
Northern Traditional – Carmen Clairmont
Southern Traditional – Mary Olsen

Chicken – Jamon Paskemin
Fancy – Canku One Star
Grass – Therien Paskemin
Northern Traditional – Triston Lasley
Southern Straight – Kiowa Cozad

Chicken – Marty Thurman
Fancy – Michael Wilson Roberts
Grass – Clifton Lee Goodwill
Northern Traditional – Chasue F. LaBlanc
Southern Straight – Juaquin Hamilton

T B

Fancy/Grass – David Cleveland
Northern/Southern – Bobby Morris

T G

Fancy/Jingle – Morning Star Roberts
Northern/Southern – Nichole Nordwall

Fancy – Laryn Yazzie
Jingle – Mallary Oakes Yazzie
Northern Buckskin – Randi Bird Fox
Northern Cloth – Rochelle Mann
Southern Buckskin – Amanda Harris
Southern Cloth – Blake Cunningham

Fancy – Tanski Clairmont
Jingle – KC Hindsley
Northern Buckskin – Nadine Deegan
Northern Cloth – Mary Lou Ducharme
Southern Buckskin – Danita Goodwill
Southern Cloth – Dyanni Hamilton

Sweetheart – Clifton Lee Goodwill/partner
Grass – Jon Taken Alive
Jingle – Tanksi Clarimont
Traditional – Chasue F. LaBlanc



Beverly Bidney

The Grand Entry of the 46th annual Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow Feb. 10 in Hollywood included Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie, Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney and the color guard members Curtis Motlow, U.S. Navy, and Sallie Josh, U.S. Navy.



Beverly Bidney

Camaraderie among competitors is commonplace. This group of dancers share a laugh as they wait for their turn on the dance floor.



Beverly Bidney

A baby enjoys a nap oblivious to all the sounds and sights of the competitions.



Beverly Bidney

Jingle dancers show grace and discipline as they pay close attention to the complicated moves on the floor at Tribal Fair and Pow Wow Feb. 10 in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

Artist Bunky Echo-Hawk creates a painting with the help of the audience at the Hooter's parking lot Feb. 10. Mni Wiconi means water is life in Lakota.

Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow



Maury Neipris
Country singer Aaron Lewis tips his hat to the crowd during his concert at the Tribal Fair and Pow on Feb. 12.



Beverly Bidney
From left, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie, Miss Indian World Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn and Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney participate in the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow's Grand Entry on Feb. 10 at Hard Rock Live.



Beverly Bidney
This traditional dancer shows his skill during the Seminole Tribal Fair and Pow Wow Grand Entry on Feb. 10 in Hollywood.



Maury Neipris
Sheldon Osceola, left, and Cameron Osceola entertain the audience at the Tribal Fair and Pow.



Maury Neipris
Fans cheer during the Aaron Lewis and Osceola Brothers concerts.



Beverly Bidney
Every pow wow dance has specific moves and this dancer concentrates on his during the first day of Tribal Fair and Pow Wow.

Sports



Maury Neipris

Ahfachkee's Gordon Jumper lifts off in the long jump during a track and field meet Feb. 17 at Westminster Academy in Fort Lauderdale.



Maury Neipris

Members of the Ahfachkee School track and field team, from left, Alonie Gore, Dar'rick Nelson-Williams, Nick Andrews and Gordon Jumper. warm up prior to their first-ever track and field meet Feb. 17 in Fort Lauderdale.



Maury Neipris

Dar'Rick Nelson-Williams sticks the landing in the long jump.

Ahfachkee's track and field team is up and running

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BIG R — ood starts for runners are critical in races, and it's no different for first-year track and field programs that are trying to get out of the starter's block and form a firm foundation. In just a matter of a few months, Ahfachkee School's new athletics director Matthew Beckham managed to put together the school's first track and field team, which made its debut Feb. 17 at a meet hosted by Westminster Academy in Lauderdale Lakes. The pioneers in the inaugural season are: 10th-grader Franklin Jumper, eighth-graders Alonie Gore and Gordon Jumper, and seventh-graders Nick Andrews and Dar'Rick Williams-Nelson. Alonie is the only girl on

the team. In addition to Westminster, the team's schedule includes meets at Pahokee (Feb. 24), Hallandale (March 4), Calvary Christian (March 10), Glades Central (March 16) and The Benjamin School (April 19). Beckham arrived at Ahfachkee with an athletics' background, which includes physical education positions in Broward County schools, a two-year stint as a football strength coach at the University of Toledo, his alma mater, and a certification as a U.S. Track and Field coach. One of his first orders of business at Ahfachkee was to organize girls and boys basketball teams. The school has fielded teams in the past, but not every year. Beckham said this year there were enough students who wanted to play basketball, but

not enough had the required grades to play, so there was no basketball season. Beckham shifted his attention to track and field, a sport that doesn't require the types of facilities or numbers as other team sports. Beckham knew plenty of space on the spacious reservation is ideal for kids to run, whether it's sprints or distances. As for participants, all he needed one was to get started. "You only need one kid to have a track and field team," he said. Nick and Dar'Rick were the first to sign up. And once they started to wear the team's sleek Nike track outfits at school, others noticed. "They're walking around school, looking cool, and the other kids loved it. So, I got three more athletes [to join the team]," Beckham said.

With a squad that has zero track and field experience, Beckham decided to purchase hurdles to use in practices. Beckham maintains performance charts on all of his students, not just those on the track and field team. In basketball, for example, he follows students' progress in 3-point shooting, dribbling and other areas. For running, he keeps track of students' times so that when a student like Gordon shaves off seven seconds in the 100 meter dash, the improvement from day one can be seen on and off the field. "Four months later, he ran 13.46. That's almost seven seconds [faster]. I was blown away," Beckham said. Since Franklin is a high school student, he can only compete in meets against other high school students, but the other four student-athletes can compete against middle and high school competitors.

The team's opening day — a middle school meet — was highlighted by Dar'Rick's third place finish in the 200 meter dash and sixth place in the 100. Gordon Jumper earned top 15 finishes in the 100 and 400. Dar'Rick (12th), Gordon (17th) and Nick (19th) all competed in the long jump. Nick also competed in the 100. On the girls side, Alonie raced in the 100. Beckham said the goal this season is more about seeing improvement in the student-athletes rather than what place someone finishes. "I always wanted to be an athletic

director," he said, "and I thought one of the most important things about being an athletic director was the ability to develop your athletes." Beckham also stressed that track and field is beneficial to kids whose interests might be in other sports. High school track and field teams tend to be loaded with football players and kids from other sports who want to stay in shape. "It doesn't matter what sport you play, track is going to get you better at that," he said.



Maury Neipris

Ahfachkee eighth-grader Alonie Gore competes in the 100 meter dash at Westminster Academy.



Maury Neipris

The 2017 Ahfachkee track and field team, from left Dessie Thomas (Big Cypress Recreation), Alonie Gore, Dar'Rick Nelson-Williams, Nick Andrews, Gordon Jumper and coach/athletics director Matthew Beckham.



Maury Neipris

Ahfachkee's Gordon Jumper, right, takes the inside lane in the 100 meter dash against other middle schools during a meet at Westminster Academy.



Maury Neipris

Nick Andrews competes the 100 meter dash at Westminster Academy.

Clewiston holds off PECS in title match of Around the Lakes Tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BRIGHTON — Clewiston Middle School proved to be the only thing that kept Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School boys basketball from an undefeated season and a championship.

The Seminoles settled for runner-up honors in the inaugural season-ending Around the Lakes Tournament. Two weeks after ending PECS’ undefeated season, Clewiston returned to Brighton and captured the tournament championship with a hard-fought, entertaining 55-52 win Feb. 10 on the Seminoles home court.

Facing a squad with a deeper bench, PECS’ uphill battle became steeper when the Seminoles lost guard Ramone Baker early in the game. After making a layup, Baker landed awkwardly on his leg and fell to the ground. He hobbled off, but his day and season were done. Minutes later, Seminole Tribe Fire & Rescue wheeled Baker away on a stretcher.

“It was unfortunate that Ramone went down. That really hurt us. He’s been playing really well lately,” said coach Kevin Jackson, whose final game as PECS coach wasn’t decided until the final minute.

Clewiston opened up a nine-point lead in the second quarter, but PECS fought back to knot the score at 26-26 at halftime. Donovan Harris sank a 3-pointer from the corner and Jaylen Baker scored on a putback at the buzzer.

In the second half, Clewiston appeared to be pulling away when it built a 39-31 lead. But again PECS clawed its way back. Harris scored nine points in the quarter to pull

PECS to within three points heading into the fourth quarter.

With three minutes left in the game, Dathan Garcia set up Dakoya Nunez for a layup that tied the game at 47-47, but Clewiston’s Morris James answered with his fifth 3-pointer of the game to give his team a lead it would not relinquish.

“We had some opportunities late; we just couldn’t capitalize,” Jackson said.

Harris and Baker led PECS with 20 points each followed by Nunez with seven points.

“[PECS] played great. They came right back. They played disciplined basketball,” said Clewiston coach Devon Scott, whose team wrapped up a perfect season with an 18-0 record.

Clewiston was led by sharp-shooting Demarcus Crawford with a game-high 24 points and James with 19 points.

The tournament featured four teams. Both teams won semifinals the prior day at PECS.

“I wish more teams would have got in,” Scott said. “The kids had a great time.”

PECS finished with an 11-2 record; the lone blemishes coming at the hands of Clewiston.

“Give them a lot of credit. They are a tough team. They shot well from 3-point,” Jackson said.

The championship marked Jackson’s final game as PECS coach. He said he and his wife, Kim, who coached PECS girls volleyball, have left their teaching and coaching jobs at the school and are pursuing graduate degrees.

“This is it for me. I’m retiring,” Jackson said.



Kevin Johnson

The PECS girls basketball team celebraetes after winning the Around the Lakes championship Feb. 3 on its home court in Brighton.

PECS girls win first Around the Lakes championship

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BRIGHTON — When the final second ticked off the clock, the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School girls basketball team erupted in celebration.

The substitute players leapt from their seats and joined their teammates in a triumphant display of emotion after claiming the inaugural Around the Lakes Tournament championship game Feb. 3 in Brighton. PECS enjoyed complete control from start to finish as the Lady Seminoles cruised past Yearling Middle, 35-18.

PECS coach Tim Thomas said he knew why his players were so excited. Some of the joy came from hoisting up the championship trophy that was presented to them by PECS principal Brian Greseth, but a lot of the emotion had to do with the fact that the players will get their names on a banner in the gymnasium. Only two sports banners hang in the gym, and both were for undefeated seasons.

After this year’s squad dropped a couple of regular season games, out went the chance to get on the wall for a perfect season, but

Thomas reminded his team the opportunity to get a championship banner still existed.

“They wanted to get a banner,” Thomas said. “When they lost their chance for an undefeated season they were so upset. I told them we have a tournament championship coming, and if we win that, we’ll get a banner.”

PECS’ determination was evident early and often in the championship. The Lady Seminoles led 11-2 after the first quarter and never trailed. Their suffocating defense held Yearling off the board for long stretches.

“I always tell them that you’re going to win this thing with your defense,” said Thomas, whose team finished with a 12-2 record and its first championship.

In their final games at PECS, eighth-graders Haylie Huff (17 points) and Caylie Huff (14 points) paved the path to victory. The team’s only other eighth-grader, Shaela French, added four points.

The season-ending tournament, in its infancy, drew only three teams, but the coaches see it as a starting point to something that can grow in the future.

“It’s a great concept, a great idea to get the teams involved to play for something,” Yearling coach Erin Perman said. “It’s good

to have something to play for at the end.”

In the end, the scene of PECS players celebrating with the championship trophy capped a remarkable season in the eyes of Thomas, who said the team surpassed his expectations.

“Fantastic. I couldn’t ask for anything else,” he said.

- 1 – Giselle Micco
- 2 – Caylie Huff
- 3 – Karey Gopher
- 5 – Haylie Huff
- 10 – Lashae King
- 11 – Elle Thomas
- 12 – Shylynn Testerman
- 20 – Tafv Harris
- 21 – Janaya French
- 22 – Shaela French
- 23 – Anglie Melton
- Coach: Tim Thomas



At left, PECS’ guard Dakoya Nunez battles Clewiston’s Hisham Romadon during the Around the Lakes Tournament championship game Feb. 10 in Brighton. At right, PECS guard Dathan Garcia scores two points on a layup.



Kevin Johnson (2)



Kevin Johnson

The PECS boys basketball team holds up the runner-up trophy after finishing second in the Around the Lakes Tournament on Feb. 10 in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

PECS and Yearling batlle for a loose ball in the Around the Lakes championship game Feb. 3.



Kevin Johnson

PECS’ Tafv Harris wins the opening tip of the championship game Feb. 3.



Kevin Johnson

It’s time to celebrate as PECS players react to winning the Around the Lakes championship.

Skyla Osceola helps American Heritage capture district, regional titles

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

NT TION — After missing her junior season with an injury, Skyla Osceola made sure her senior year featured a deep run in the postseason.

In February, Osceola led Heritage to district and regional titles before the Patriots were ousted in a state semifinal.

In both championship games, Osceola, a point guard, led the Patriots in scoring. She netted 28 points against Archbishop McCarthy as American Heritage won the Class 6A-District 16 title. Two weeks later, she poured in 22 points in her final home game as the Patriots held off Leesburg to win the 6A-Region 4 championship.

The victory against Leesburg earned Heritage, whose squad features three Seminoles (Osceola, Tiana Stubbs and December Stubbs), a berth in the Final Four, something only one other Heritage team (2010) had accomplished.

“It was really important to me,” Osceola said after the Leesburg game. “I never got the opportunity to go. Ever since I’ve been at American Heritage, we’ve always got knocked out by Dillard.”

Playing in her final home game, Osceola helped seal the regional title by calmly making 5-of-6 free throws in the final minute. Osceola, who signed with nearby Nova Southeastern University, made three 3-pointers, but it was her hard-fought layup through defenders with 3:33 left in the game that regained the lead for the Patriots at 45-44 and they never trailed again.

The Patriots received 14 points from Taylor Smith and 10 points from Femi Funeus, including six in the final quarter which saw Leesburg battle back to take brief leads after trailing most of the game.

“I knew we could do it,” Osceola said. “We have the chemistry together. I believe in these girls and I know they believe in me and they all have faith in me. I trust them. I wouldn’t want any other team to do it with.”

After American Heritage picked up its fifth team foul before the first quarter was five minutes old, Tiana Stubbs entered the game and made an immediate impact. She followed on the heels of a 3-pointer from Osceola by sinking a shot from beyond the arc that gave the Patriots a 13-6 lead.

“I can’t play nervous, I can’t play scared because it’s not going to help us,” Stubbs said.

Stubbs said Osceola’s play this season has been inspirational.

“Last year she tore her ACL so she couldn’t even play at all,” Stubbs said. “This year, her coming back and us making it to states, it’s the best. She inspires every single one of us to get better every day.”

Tiana’s sister December, a guard, saw



American Heritage's Skyla Osceola drives through heavy traffic in the paint during the Class 6A-District 16 girls basketball championship Feb. 3 at Coconut Creek High School.

a few minutes of action off the bench in the second quarter. Osceola said the sisters were key additions to the team.

“I’m really proud of these two girls. They got moved up from JV. They’re dedicated; they’re committed. I couldn’t be any more proud of them,” Osceola said.

In the district championship, Osceola scored 12 points in the fourth quarter to help American Heritage pull away from Archbishop McCarthy, 63-54, Feb. 3 at Coconut Creek High School.

Osceola’s 28 points included 17 in the second half after the teams were knotted 24-24 at halftime.

Nursing a 38-36 lead after three quarters, American Heritage surged to victory thanks in part to Osceola’s 8-of-9 performance from the foul line in the final quarter.

American Heritage also received double-digit point production from Funeus and Smith.

American Heritage’s season concluded with a loss to powerhouse Jacksonville-Ribault in a state semifinal Feb. 23 at the Lakeland Center.

The Patriots finished with a 28-3 record and plenty of memories.

“This season was definitely one to remember,” Osceola said.



Maury Neipris

American Heritage's Skyla Osceola shoots a free throw in the second quarter of the Patriots' 63-54 win against Archbishop McCarthy in the Class 6A-District 16 girls basketball championship Feb. 3 at Coconut Creek High School.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage's Tiana Stubbs (1) and Skyla Osceola (11) battle for a rebound against Leesburg during the Class 6A-Region 4 championship Feb. 17 at American Heritage School in Plantation.



Kevin Johnson

Skyla Osceola helps run off time in the final minute of American Heritage's Class 6A-Region 4 championship win against Leesburg.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage senior Skyla Osceola sinks a 3-pointer early in the first quarter of the Patriots' 54-48 win against Leesburg in the Class 6A-Region 4 championship Feb. 17 in Plantation.



Maury Neipris

The Seminole trio of Tiana Stubbs, Skyla Osceola and December Stubbs are all smiles after American Heritage's victory in a district championship.

2017 Rez Rally results

G
R

- 6-17
1. Issiah Alvarado 23:35
2. Kaden Grimaldo 24:32
3. Malaki Vazquez 26:40

- 18-54
1. Mario Silva 20:23
2. Tina O'Shields 21:15
3. Terrance Simmons 22:47

- 6-17
1. Wesley Frank 41:17
2. Lily Metcalf 45:37
3. Jewel Frank 54:58

- 18-54
1. Monique Young 36:55
2. Jennifer Heaton 39:10
3. Terri Frank 41:45

- T R
6-11 (male)
1. Curtis Motlow 24:44
2. Sebastian Motlow 32:30
3. Taycee Sanchez 34:11

- 6-11 (female)
1. Kimora Alex 28:17
2. Denise Gonzalez 30:14
3. Casidi Motlow 36:43

- 12-17 (male)
1. Chayse Billie 20:13
2. Chandler Demayo 23:20
3. Chaska Osceola 23:39
Kaleb Thomas 23:39

- 12-17 (female)
1. Julia Smith 26:35
2. Skyla Osceola 28:06
3. Alena Stockton 32:47

- 18-36 (male)
1. Petties Osceola 18:31
2. Hunter Osceola 19:24
3. Tyrek Lasane 20:30

- 18-36 (female)
1. Ariah Osceola 24:44
2. Tianna Garcia 25:47
3. Angel Billie 28:58

- 37-54 (male)
1. J.D. Bowers 21:23
2. Jeremiah Hall 34:25

- 37-54 (female)
1. Lenora Roberts 27:29
2. Lorraine Posada 28:19
3. Marlin Miller 34:31

- T
12-17 (male)
1. Romeo Garcia 28:20
2. Bryce Osceola 41:55
3. Brent Frank 43:18

- 12-17 (female)
1. Mary Cypress 40:58
2. Rylee Osceola 43:12
3. Lindsey Posada 44:47

- 18-36 (male)
1. Layton Thomas 39:24
2. Spencer Jock 59:22
3. Pedro Funes 1:09:13

- 18-36 (female)
1. Stacy Smith 39:16
2. Lauren Posada 41:42
3. Karen Bishop 44:11

- 37-54 (male)
1. Todd Johns 37:32
2. Marl Osceola 41:02
3. Brian Billie 42:02

- 37-54 (female)
1. Jennifer Osceola 38:55
2. Marcia Cypress 39:21
3. Francine Osceola 39:52

- 55-66 (male)
1. Richard Bowers 43:30
2. Nicodemus Billie 1:02:22

- 56-66 (female)
1. Shirley Clay 40:03
2. Kay Braswell 40:20
3. Mary Tigertail 43:14

- 67+ (male)
1. Mitchell Cypress 42:51

- 67+ (female)
1. Connie Whidden 48:11

- (male)
1. Sunny Frank
2. Michael Shaffer

- (female)
1. Rita Gopher
2. Leandra Mora
Kristen Billie
3. Chelsea Mountain

1. Charlie Tiger and Anita M. Osceola
2. Maxine Tucker and Mark Jock
3. Kayven Emley

R R T
Most Participants: Hollywood 210
Most Tribal Members: Hollywood 15 percent



Fort Gibson High School football players Jesse Sanchez, third from left, and Sammy Micco Sanchez, far right, receive plenty of family support at their final home football game in November. Jesse, a senior, led the team in rushing and touchdowns.

Sanchez brothers shine in final football season as Fort Gibson teammates

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

The Sanchez brothers left their mark in their final high school football season as teammates. Together, the Seminole duo of Jesse Sanchez and Sammy Micco Sanchez combined for more than 1,000 rushing yards and 13 touchdowns for the Fort Gibson Tigers in Oklahoma.

“Both kids are real tough kids,” said Fort Gibson coach Greg Whiteley, whose team finished its season in November with a 4-6 record.

Jesse Sanchez, a senior tailback, saved his best season for last. He was the team’s leading rusher with 843 yards and seven touchdowns.

“A really sound and good season. I was really pleased with him,” Whiteley said. “He was our guy. He did a super job for us. A great kid; a good team player. We’ll miss him a lot.”

Jesse was just about unstoppable in a win against Stilwell in September. He rushed for 201 yards on 29 carries and scored three touchdowns.

“That was his best game,” Whiteley said. “We told him ‘we’re just going to hand you the ball all game. He said ‘yes, sir.’”

The next week Jesse generated 119 yards in a loss against Poteau. In all, he topped the century mark in three games.

“He’s real quick and has good speed. He’s hard to hit,” Whiteley said.

Fort Gibson didn’t win its senior night, but Jesse’s final home high school game still carried plenty of significance as family members from Fort Gibson, including his mom Alicia Cabal and stepdad Frank

Cabal, watched from the stands alongside other relatives from as far as Tennessee and Florida. Jesse’s brother Andrew Henry came in from Tampa. Jesse’s sister Becca Conrey, from Tennessee, made special shirts for the family in Fort Gibson’s grey and red colors that read “Sanchez Squad #3” on the back.

At times, Jesse’s lead blocks and open holes came from his brother Sammy Micco Sanchez, a junior fullback/inside linebacker who excelled on both sides of the ball as the 6-foot-2, 225-pounder continued to emerge as a force in his third year on the varsity level.

“He’s probably going to be heavily

recruited to play linebacker in college. Several Division I schools are looking at him. He’s got great speed,” Whiteley said.

On defense, Sammy notched 89 tackles, including 41 solo, and three sacks. On offense, he was the go-to guy in short yardage and goal line situations. He finished with 189 yards. His six touchdowns were second only to his older brother.

“He’s big, physical and hard to tackle,” Whiteley said.

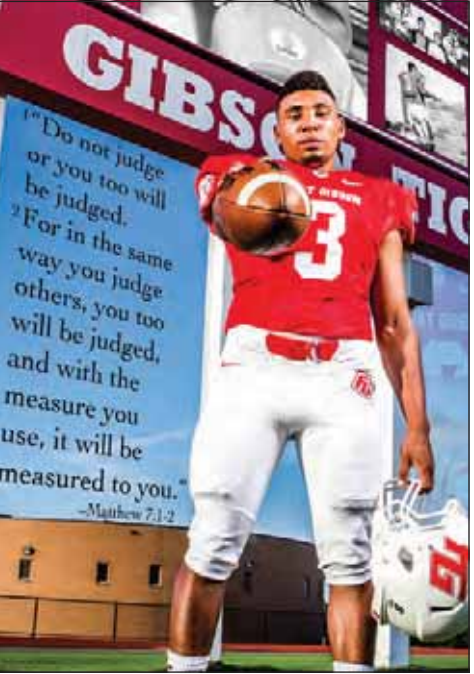
Although this season marked the final one for Jesse, Whiteley and Fort Gibson can look forward to having Sammy for one more year.



Family members of Jesse Sanchez show their support for him on his senior night at Fort Gibson High School in November.



Jesse Sanchez scores one of his team-leading seven touchdowns in the 2016 season.



Jesse Sanchez made the most of his senior year on the football field as Fort Gibson’s leading rusher.

Hustle Hard wins Tribal Fair tourney

HO OO — Hustle Hard captured the men’s championship in the Seminole Tribal Fair Adult Basketball Tournament on Feb. 4 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood.

Wayne Runnels sparked Hustle Hard with 32 points in the 73-51 championship win against LOP. Adrian Webber scored 13 points and Nate Lang, who lives on the Big Cypress Reservation, chipped in with 10 points.

Hustle Hard point guard Manny Garcia was named tournament MVP.

On the women’s side, tournament MVP Shauna Long scorched the net for 36 points to lead the Sharp Shooters past the Lady Ballers in the championship game. Jenna Plumley drained 10 3-pointers for the Lady Ballers.



Hustle Hard celebrates after winning the Seminole Tribal Fair Adult Basketball Tournament on Feb. 4 at the Howard Tiger Recreation Center in Hollywood.

Seminoles wrap up basketball season at Okeechobee High

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

ORT R — Despite being ousted in the first game of the regional playoffs, Okeechobee High’s basketball future looks bright thanks in part to two Seminoles.

Silas Madrigal and Sean Osceola spent most of the season on the junior varsity squad, which went 15-5, before they were promoted to varsity after the JV season ended.

“Those two guys, if they improve their game, they could potentially be starters next year,” said Okeechobee varsity coach Demetre Riles. “They were the leaders of [the JV] team.”

The varsity team fell to powerhouse Dillard, 70-27, in a Class 7A regional quarterfinal Feb. 16 in Fort Lauderdale. Madrigal and Osceola didn’t start against Dillard, but both saw action in the first and second halves as they gained valuable postseason experience against one of the state’s top ranked squads loaded with college recruits.



Okeechobee forward Sean Osceola vies for a loose ball against Dillard.

Dillard, a defending state champion, built a 20-4 lead after four minutes which included a dunk and 3-pointer from Florida State signee RaiQuan Gray. The future FSU Seminole finished with a game-high 17 points (five 3-pointers) in limited playing time. Including Gray, Dillard has three of FloridaHoops.com’s top 55 players in the state from the class of 2017.

Dillard led 48-19 at halftime.

Okeechobee was led by J-quan Ferrol with 11 points. Osceola, a junior forward, scored 3 points, including the game’s final point on a free throw. He could become a regular fixture in the paint for the Brahms next season.

“Sean is a smart kid. He plays smart. He’s good down low,” Riles said.

Madrigal, a freshman guard who was guarded by the 6-foot-8 Gray on offense, went 0-for-1 from the field in about six minutes of action.

“He’s big and strong. It’s a learning experience,” Madrigal said.

Riles praised Madrigal’s season and said he’s looking forward to next year.



Okeechobee guard Silas Madrigal tries to get past Dillard defenders, including Florida State recruit RaiQuan Gray (41), during the Brahms regional quarterfinal game at Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale.



Okeechobee guard Silas Madrigal (12) and forward Sean Osceola (55) head the bench during a break in a regional quarterfinal tournament game against Dillard in Fort Lauderdale.



Okeechobee senior Demetrius Clark goes airborne for two points against Dillard.

◆ **RODEO**
From page 1A

she said, “Being in rodeos is amazing. It’s an outlet for me.”

Before the shutes opened for the start of competition, Edwards read a prayer and Moses read a poem titled “Indian Cowboy.”

With Pitbull’s “Don’t Stop the Party” boosting an already upbeat atmosphere, Norman Osceola was the evening’s first rider as he tangled in junior bareback riding.

A full menu of events followed, including saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, calf roping, breakaway roping, team roping, barrel racing and bull riding. Fittingly, members of the Jumper family – including Ahnie, Blevyns and Jacee – won events on a night that honored the memory of Betty Mae, who led the tribe 50 years ago as its first chairwoman.

After being handed the public address microphone, President Mitchell Cypress said he was thankful to Betty Mae for helping him get his work career started.

“Betty Mae Jumper was my first boss back in 1975. She hired me for Community Health,” he said.

During a break in action, Moses and nearly 20 members of the Jumper family honored Councilman Osceola, who was presented with a plaque and picture in appreciation of his support. In turn, Councilman Osceola thanked the Jumpers.

“Thank you to Biggs, the Jumper family. It takes a lot of people to make this happen, and there’s a lot of guys who put some hard work in here to make what you see tonight. I didn’t think it was going to happen, but it did and I’m glad it did,” he told the crowd.

Councilman Osceola also thanked Steve Osceola.

“He’s the one who built this place,” said Councilman Osceola, who also recalled his days as a youngster at the old rodeo facility. “There’s a bunch of kids running around who don’t remember the days before the Hard Rock was here and we had that rodeo arena right over there across the street behind the church, and that’s kind of where we grew up.”

Seminole alligator wrestler Billy Walker provided entertainment during the break by tangling with a gator in the middle of the arena before the rodeo events resumed on a memorable opening night.

“Look at all the people out here,” Councilman Osceola said. “Everyone enjoys a rodeo, especially an all-Indian rodeo. I think it’s great for the Tribe and it’s great for the Hollywood community.”

Some of the same riders returned to Hollywood for the Bill Memorial Osceola the following week. Among the winners were: Kdawg Smedley (bull riding), Loretta Peterson (lady’s barrel racing), Josh Jumper and Naha Jumper (team roping), Trina Hipp (lady’s breakaway roping), Britt Givens (calf roping), Jake Longbrake and Spider Ramone (senior team roping), Alan Golbert (saddle bronc riding), Jacoby Johns (bareback riding), Spider Ramone (senior breakaway roping), Janae Bankston (junior barrel racing) and Jaylen Baker (junior bull riding).

Both the Betty Mae Jumper Memorial and Bill Osceola Memorial featured afternoon kids rodeos with mutton busting, youth pony riding, calf riding and bull riding.

The EIRA’s season contains four more stops, including the Junior Cypress Memorial Rodeo on March 18 in Big Cypress.



Kevin Johnson

Above, Jr. Rodeo Queen Madisyn Osceola, and below, announcer Norman Edwards, are part of the sights and sounds of the rodeo in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

Moses Jumper Jr. tips his cowboy hat to the crowd as he is introduced at the rodeo held in memory of his mother Betty Mae Jumper on Feb. 4 in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

Above, Jacoby Johns competes in bareback riding at the second annual Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo. Below, Randee Osceola loses her hat, but maintains control of her horse in barrel racing.



Kevin Johnson

President Mitchell Cypress addresses the crowd during the Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo.



Kevin Johnson

The Jumper family presents Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola with a plaque in appreciation of his efforts to bring rodeo back to Hollywood.

2nd Annual Betty Mae Jumper Memorial Rodeo 4-Feb-17		
Mutton Busting 1st Khoal Cochran 2nd Justin Rodriguez 3rd Xander Gopher 4th Augustice Jumper	4 - 8yr ol Barrel Racing 1st Kayle Alex 2nd Rylee Bowers 3rd Jayleigh Braswell 4th Jb Anderson	Lady's Breakaway Roping 1st Ahnie Jumper 2nd Trina Hipp
Youth Pony Riding 7-9 yr ol 1st Randy Ruda	9 - 12 yr ol Barrel Racing 1st Cylah Avila 2nd Kimora Alex 3rd Ashlynn Collins 4th TT Anderson	Team Roping 1st Blevyns Jumper / Hilliard Gopher 2nd Preston Louis / Dustin Farrows 3rd Blevyns Jumper / Happy Jumper 4th Josh Jumper / Naha Jumper
Pony Riding 10-12 yr ol 1st Chunky Osceola 2nd Willie Smith, Jr. 3rd Fayh-ne Andrews	13 - 17 yr ol Barrel Racing 1st Jacee Jumper 2nd Budha Jumper 3rd Madisyn Osceola 4th Canaan Jumper	Lady's Barrel Racing 1st Loretta Peterson 2nd Boogie Johns 3rd Toi Hernandez 4th Ashley Parks
Jr Bareback Riding 1st Norman Osceola	INFR Jr. Bull Riding 1st Jaylen Baker	
Calf Riding 7 - 10 yr ols 1st Randy Ruda 2nd Summer Gopher 3rd Jb Anderson 4th Oreste Perez Jr.	INFR Jr. Barrel Racing 1st Jacee Jumper 2nd Budha Jumper 3rd Cylah Avila 4th Ashlynn Collins	
Steer Riding 11 - 13 yr ol 1st Justin Gopher Jr. 2nd Chunky Osceola 3rd Fayh-ne Andrews	Saddle Bronc Riding 1st Alan Golbert	
Jr Bull Riding 14-17 yr ol 1st Norman Osceola 2nd Tucker Johns	Steer Wrestling 1st Blevyns Jumper	
Chute Doggin 1st Creek Gopher	Calf Roping 1st Jobe Johns 2nd Happy Jumper 3rd Ivan Bruisedhead 4th Naha Jumper	
Jr Breakaway Roping 8 - 17 yr ol 1st Ahnie Jumper 2nd Creek Gopher		



Kevin Johnson

The son and father team of Jaylen Baker, left, and Jason Baker compete in team roping.



Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo 11-Feb-17		
Mutton Busting 1st Cash Jumper 2nd Bill Osceola 3rd Teyah Osceola 4th Justin Rodriguez	4 - 8yr ol Barrel Racing 1st Kayle Alex 2nd Paizlee Miller 3rd Talen Jumper 4th Jaliyah Kroeplin	Calf Roping 1st Britt Givens 2nd Justin Gopher Sr. 3rd Connor Osborn 4th Hilliard Gopher
Youth Pony Riding 7-9 yr ol 1st Alex Rodriguez 2nd Randy Ruda	9 - 12 yr ol Barrel Racing 1st Ashlynn Collins 2nd Illiana Robbins 3rd Summer Gopher 4th Cylah Avila	Lady's Breakaway Roping 1st Trina Hipp 2/3 Boogie Jumper 2/3 Leanna Billie 4th Heidi Cuny
Pony Riding 10-12 yr ol 1st Willie Smith Jr. 2nd Chunky Osceola 3rd Fayh-ne Andrews	13 - 17 yr ol Barrel Racing 1st Janae Bankston 2nd Ahnie Jumper 3rd Madisyn Osceola 4th Allegra Billie	Team Roping 1st Josh Jumper / Naha Jumper 2nd Britt Givens / Spider Ramone 3rd Jake Longbrake/Spider Ramone 4th Connor Osborn / Dustin Farrows
Jr Bareback Riding 1st Norman Osceola	INFR Jr. Bull Riding 1st Jaylen Baker	Lady's Barrel Racing 1st Loretta Peterson 2nd Ashley Parks 3rd Marilee Ringer 4th Trina Hipp
Calf Riding 7 - 10 yr ols 1st Summer Gopher 2nd Lane Andrews 3rd Jb Anderson 4th Alex Rodriguez	INFR Jr. Barrel Racing 1st Janae Bankston 2nd Ashlynn Coplins 3rd Madisyn Osceola 4th Canaan Jumper	Bull Riding 1st Kdawg Smedley
Steer Riding 11 - 13 yr ol 1st Creek Gopher 2nd Justin Gopher Jr. 3rd Chunky Osceola 4th Fayh-ne Andrews	INFR Sr. Breakaway Roping 1st Spider Ramone	
Jr Bull Riding 14-17 yr ol 1st Cisco Rodriguez	INFR Sr. Team Roping 1st Jake Longbrake / Spider Ramone 2nd Jake Longbrake / Brett Givens	
Chute Doggin 1st Creek Gopher	Bareback Riding 1st Jacoby Johns	
Jr Breakaway Roping 8 - 17 yr ol 1st Ahnie Jumper	Saddle Bronc Riding 1st Alan Golbert	
	Steer Wrestling NO Catches	

Golfers tee it up in annual Tribal Fair tournament



Kevin Johnson
Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola practices his putting before teeing off in the annual Seminole Tribal Fair Golf Tournament on Feb. 9 at Grande Oaks Golf Club in Davie.



Kevin Johnson
From left, Mateo Jimenez, Mark McPartland, Mondo Tiger and Sunny Frank.



Kevin Johnson
From left, Jason Tommie, Kevin Osceola, Carla Gopher and Lalo Rodriguez.



Kevin Johnson
From left, Afqar Hafiz, Brian Conley, Gilbert King and Terry Tartsah.



Kevin Johnson
From left, Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola, Sam Nelson, Mario Posada and Josh Leadingfox.

Announcements

Life

Is it being there for family and friends
Or is it about love, the greatest gift od gave
to us through his son Jesus.
We get opportunities to invite a stranger
into our home, but do we How would we
treat a stranger let alone our own family
o we love like Jesus loves us Or are we
strangers in our own family
Love is free. o we freely give the way
Jesus does Just like anything of value to
you, you take care of it, or even cherish it.
But do we cherish each person that we have
in our family or do we pick and choose, like
we do fruits and vegetables
Mother always said be kind to one
another and love each other. The end of the
day and tomorrow are not promised. People
point their fingers and say you are supposed
to be a hristian. The thing is we are all
human and imperfect beings.
With all that being said, to my family
and fellow Tribal members if I have offended
you or even disrespected you, please forgive
me; I am an imperfect being just trying to get
my soul right.
Let me end with this one thing: People
and family are in our life for a reason, so treat
them as you would want to be treated. We
don't know where our road leads unless we
are on the sidewalk.

G

National poster contest open for Veterans Day

HINGTON Each year the U.S.
epartment of Veterans Affairs' ational
Veterans Outreach Office, in conjunction
with the Veterans ay ational ommittee,
publishes a commemorative Veterans
ay poster. The poster is selected from
artwork submitted by artists nationwide
and is distributed to VA facilities, military
installations around the world across cities
and town in our nation. It also serves as the
cover of the official program for the Veterans
ay Observance at Arlington ational
emetery.
Submit electronic versions as .jpg
images or PDF files by email to vetsday@va.gov or send copies of artwork on a
with artwork files to:
Veterans ay ational ommittee
epartment of Veterans Affairs
ATT : Micheal Migliara 002
810 Vermont Avenue,
W Washington, 20420
The deadline for submissions is April
15. A selection committee will convene in
May 2017 to review submissions and make
a final selection.
uestions should be directed to the
Veterans Day Coordinator at vetsday@va.gov or visit <https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday> .

RESIDENTIAL

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1-800-617-7514 Option: 4

Or

863-902-3200 Ext: 13014

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

FOR SALE						
LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
119306	2008	CHEVROLET PICKUP TRUCK	SILVERADO 2500 HD LT 4WD	154,352	Fair	\$15,180.05
B70241	2006	FORD SUV	EXPLORER	131,176	Fair	\$3,375.00
295628	2006	FOREST RIVER TRAVEL TRAILER	SALEM LE - SMT30BHSLE	N/A	Poor	\$1,804.00
D10315	2000	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F250 XLT 4WD	287,578	Poor	\$400.00

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

NEW!! - Tribal Members only- access this information at the website: <http://semtribe.com/FixedAssets>. (Registration required)

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Licensed Clinical Social Worker, SW5813, Indian Child Welfare Consultant-Expert, Board Member National Indian Child Welfare Association, Licensed and Insured, Seminole Health Plan Provider

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I offer 20 years of professional experience as a qualified therapist working with children, teens and adults in a confidential, private setting in your home or my office. I am available for individual counseling, dependency/custody cases and tribal court; services are available for all reservations.

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