



Calves ship out from
BC, Brighton
COMMUNITY ♦ 3A

Students gain experience
thanks to SWEP
EDUCATION ♦ 2B

Seminole clinch spots for
INFR in Las Vegas
SPORTS ♦ 2C



The

Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Tribal members from far and wide attend non-resident meeting

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

ORLANDO — About 200 Seminole Tribal members who live off the reservations gathered at the Sapphire Falls Resort in Orlando July 17-19 for an orientation of sorts. The attendees came from within the state and as far away as Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, New Mexico, Minnesota and Oklahoma to learn what benefits and programs are available to them.

Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. welcomed the group July 18 and thanked them for taking time off to get together and gain useful knowledge about Tribal services.

“We want to help you have the ability to tap into programs that are available to you,” he said. “Ask us questions, we are here to work with you and assist you.”

The crowd wasn’t shy and almost immediately asked questions. Subjects varied during the open forum, including alternative ways Council is considering increasing revenue to the Tribe, how they plan to groom future Tribal leaders and how culture can be learned off the reservation.

Presentations and Q&A sessions for every Tribal department followed, starting with a gaming and Hard Rock update by Jim Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming and Chairman of Hard Rock International. He talked about the success of the Hollywood and Tampa Hard Rock casinos and reported that Tampa brings in a sizable chunk of the Tribe’s total profit.

“The most profitable casino in Las Vegas is the Wynn, which makes \$400 million profit annually and is the number two casino in the U.S.,” Allen said before he noted that Hard Rock Tampa is number one.

Allen gave an update on the new construction in Hollywood and the continued expansion in Tampa. Hollywood will have 1,400 guest rooms, private villas, ample

♦ See MEETING on page 7A



Maury Neipris

After being named Miss Florida Seminole Princess and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess, Randee Osceola and Kailani Osceola, respectively, are joined on stage in the Hollywood headquarters auditorium by President Mitchell Cypress, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Miss Indian World Raven Swamp and royalty from other tribes during the 60th annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant on July 22.

Randee Osceola, Kailani Osceola crowned Seminole Princesses for 2017-18

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — With their heads held high and confidence glowing, three young women crossed the stage July 22 attempting to earn the crowns of Miss and Junior Miss Florida Seminole Princess. After a night full of talent, congeniality and intellectuality, the 2017-18 titles went to Randee Osceola and Kailani Osceola, respectively, during the 60th annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant at the Hollywood headquarters auditorium.

Kailani described her win as an

emotional experience that made her feel ecstatic for the future.

“There is no emotion to describe how I feel right now,” the new Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess said with tears in her eyes. “All of this hard work finally paid off.”

Emcee Wovoka Tommie, who is the older brother of the 2016-17 Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Thomlynn Billie, explained that earning the title is more than a label.

“Whoever comes out here has to take on responsibility. They have to be on call, and sometimes they’ll even have to miss family events and that’s just one of the sacrifices

they may have to make,” he said. “But it builds them up for the future. They’re future leaders.”

Brighton resident Camryn Thomas, 17, also competed for Jr. Miss Florida Seminole. Although she didn’t win the title, she won an award for Best Essay as well as a trophy for first runner-up. She said it was a fun experience and plans to continue playing softball at Lake Placid High School and will apply to the University of Florida to become an agriculture teacher.

Randee, 18, and Kailani, 17, won their titles after acing three components of the pageant: Clothing, talent and Seminole-

related impromptu questions.

For the clothing contest, both young women sported traditional dresses. Kailani’s aunt created her dress, made of vibrant colors and unique patterns. Randee represented traditional medicinal colors with her dress, wearing red, white, black and yellow.

“There’s a lot of work that goes into these garments. You may see them and think, ‘Wow. That’s nice,’ but there’s more to them than that,” Emcee Tommie said. “You’re not going to go into a department store and find hundreds of them, and that’s the pride that

♦ See PAGEANT on page 4A

Seminole strike gold in Canada

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

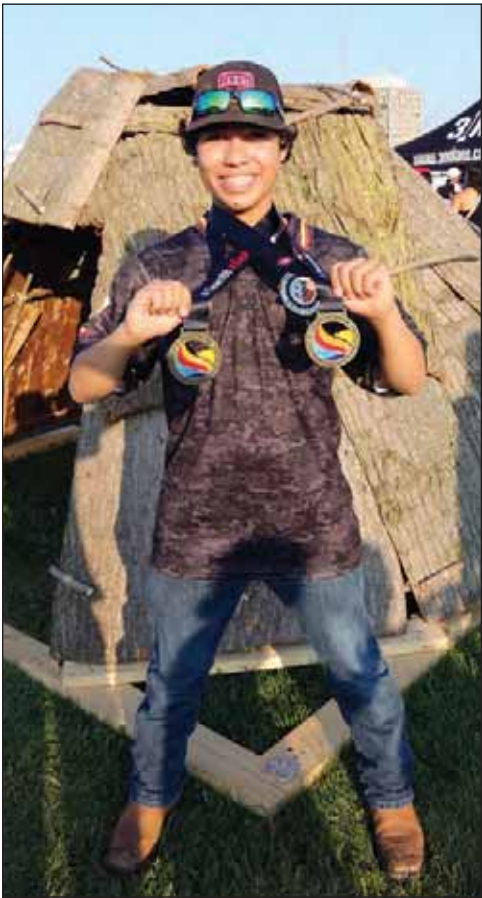
TORONTO — As thousands of athletes filled up most of Aviva Centre, Team Florida’s Seminole colors appeared to be only a speck among the colorful, flag-waving masses that surrounded them. Compared to squads such as Team Ontario, Team British Columbia and Team Wisconsin – which brought hundreds of competitors – the two dozen young athletes from the Seminole Tribe were far outnumbered as the 12,000-seat tennis stadium hosted the opening night ceremony for the 2017 North American Indigenous Games on July 16 in Toronto.

Florida athletes occupied about three rows while some of the larger teams required entire sections.

Despite fielding one of the smaller contingents, Team Florida spent the next six days not only competing in six sports, but often excelling as well. Coached in most sports by staff from the Seminole Recreation Department, Team Florida departed Canada with the proof of their success: four gold medals and one bronze.

Two gold medals were earned by Santiago “Echo” Billie, of Brighton, whose accuracy in rifle shooting made him the class of the field. Conner Thomas, another Brighton resident with pinpoint accuracy, captured gold in archery with an outstanding performance over three days. Wrestler Sammy Micco Sanchez of Fort Gibson, Oklahoma added to his gold medal collection by winning his weight class for the second consecutive NAIG.

Aubee Billie, the younger sister of Echo, made a lasting first impression by earning a bronze medal in her first archery competition.



Kevin Johnson

Rifle shooter Santiago “Echo” Billie proudly holds up the two gold medals he won in July at the North American Indigenous Games in Canada.



Kevin Johnson

Wrestler Sammy Micco Sanchez has two reasons to smile as he won a gold medal for the second consecutive NAIG.



Photo courtesy Rhonda Roff

Team Florida picked up two medals in archery at NAIG thanks to Aubee Billie, who won bronze, and Conner Thomas, who captured gold.

CBC broadcast several events. Electronic traffic signs on the busy 401 highway promoted the Games. Involvement included the city’s mayor, the Premier of Ontario, an energetic opening ceremony performance

from Taboo and appearances from famous indigenous athletes.

Threatening weather delayed the start

♦ See NAIG on page 5C

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Editorial

Racists and colonizing metaphors: Names and symbols that Native Americans struggle with every day

• Cleve Davis, Indian Country Today

In light of the current and divided political climate, which includes a travel ban from Muslim dominated countries and the building of the American Wall between the U.S. and Mexico, we must not forget about the ongoing domestic racism and discrimination towards Native Americans that has existed on this continent since 1492. Unlike other ethnic groups or races, the indigenous people of North America face a unique type and long-standing form of discrimination from other fellow Americans. Our discrimination originates from European colonialism, supremacy and racism which is, sadly, part of American culture and identity.

Although it is well known in Indian country that federal policy for the original inhabitants of North America included genocide, assimilation and oppression, discrimination against Native Americans continues to occur on many fronts. One place you can easily find discrimination towards Native Americans is through the everyday use of American English. For example, a racists and colonizing metaphor came recently from former Republican speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, when he commented on the Russian Meddling issue. Gingrich referred to the FBI's investigation of Russia's attack on our American Presidential election system as, "an Indian hunting party...out looking for a couple of scalps." Although scalping is assumed by many Americans as a practice associated with savage Indians, the vicious practice of scalping and head removal was practiced throughout the world. It should also be noted that Europeans were known to offer bounties for indigenous scalps (red

skins) in North America, as well as across Europe and other places where Europeans colonized. However, scalping is a Native American stereotype, that is obviously perpetuated by even the influential, educated and wealthy elite of the U.S.

To provide another example from an elitist, Hillary Clinton used a colonizing metaphor during the 2016 Presidential race when she said, "I have experience with men 'off the reservation' like Donald Trump." Although this phrase is part of our language, most who use the phrase probably have never even considered its origins or that it is a slur. It originates from an early American assumption that whenever Indians are off the reservation they are behaving 'badly.' After all, Indians should never leave the reservation, right?

Derogatory names and symbols against Native Americans are also widely known and used daily by many American citizens and corporations. In fact, a recent Supreme Court opinion recognized the right of private parties to register disparaging names and symbols with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in the Matal v. Tam case. This case involved registration of a rock band's name The Slants, which the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office deemed offensive to Asians. The case was filed by Simon Tam, the lead singer, who ironically is an anti-racism activist. However, what has resulted from the case is that Supreme Court now recognizes that federal trademarks with disparaging names or symbols are protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. In the past, an individual or organization who was harmed by disparaging names and symbols could seek to prevent the trademark from being federally registered under a provision of the Lanham Act. Although federal registration with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has some benefits

that include federal enforcement of illegal importation of infringing or counterfeit goods with the registered trademarks and right of the trademark holder to file infringement lawsuits, it does not mean disparaging names and symbols cannot be used.

The Metal v. Tam case will also likely mean trouble for the 2014 decision by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office that cancelled the federal registration for the pro football team Washington Redskins. The registration was cancelled due to a preponderance of evidence that the name was disparaging to Native Americans. The Native American petitioners, who originally sought the cancellation of the Redskins trademark, described the racial slur as "pejorative, derogatory, denigrating, offensive, scandalous, contemptuous, disreputable, disparaging and racist designation for a Native American person." To discuss one history of the term "redskin," Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz wrote in her book An Indigenous People's History of the United States that the term "redskin" was used to describe the dead bodies of Indian children, women and men of North America after their scalps had been taken by bounty hunters. Nonetheless, we all know that the Washington Redskins continued to use the name without the federal registration status and some Native Americans even support its continued use even though the redskins name has a history rooted in genocide and colonization of North America.

Although the Washington Redskins cancellation received National attention in the media, there has been and continues to be long, substantial and widespread use of disparaging names and symbols in advertising or the promotion of support. Most of the institutions and individuals using disparaging and unregistered trademarks

maintain that the name or symbol has a secondary and more important meaning that harms no one, or worse, they simply do not care how it impacts Native Americans. For example, in my home state of Idaho, the town of Salmon has a public high school called the Salmon Savages. Salmon, Idaho is located at the epicenter of the Lemhi Shoshone civilization, and near the Lemhi Shoshone village where Sacagawea guided Lewis and Clark on the Corps of Discovery. Originally, the Savages' mascot included various depictions of an Indian head as the school logo. However, the Indian head logo was removed after the Salmon District school board decided not to engage in a costly antiracism legal battle with the National Coalition on Racism in Sports and the Media – not because it was disparaging to the local Native American population. Today, the name of the high school stands without the Indian head logo. Apparently, this is a victory for Native Americans.

Sadly, the Republican dominated state of Idaho has many examples of disparaging names and symbols, which includes depictions of an Indian lynching in the former Idaho courthouse and the use of derogatory place names such as "squaw" which are officially recognized by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. In Idaho, there are a total of 51 creeks, buttes, camps, bays, bars, canyons, humps, gulches, flats, springs, and other places that use the term "squaw." What disparaging names are commonly used towards indigenous people in your state, province, or country?

Another troubling example of negative views towards Native Americans came from the U.S. military and CIA in 2011. During this year we learned that the name Geronimo was applied as the code name to the former al-Qaeda founder Osama

bin Laden. Although I am not going to say the name used was insensitive, it does give us some insight into how the U.S. military and CIA continue to view Native American resistance leaders. So, if you are Native American, don't get any ideas about "starting an Indian uprising"! Also, let us not forget that Geronimo's skull has not yet been laid to rest and remains, according to suit brought by the descendants of Geronimo, the skull was stolen in 1918 and kept in a glass case by the Skull and Bones secret society at Yale University.

These are just a few examples of racists and colonizing metaphors, names and symbols that Native Americans struggle with every day. Incorporation and use of racists and colonizing expressions into our language and world says something about American culture and identity. What does it say to you? At the very least, and history has shown, we can expect discrimination to continue to harm the physical and emotional being of Native Americans, as well as negatively affect Native American communities, education and economy. Furthermore, as the radical right has been emboldened by the election of Donald Trump, it is very likely an increase in hate crimes will be committed against Native Americans in the form of oppressive legislation and budget cuts to essential Native American programs, not to mention violence from extremists and those in law enforcement sworn to uphold a colonizing and imperialistic legal system. Also, Native Americans cannot rely exclusively upon the federal court system, as it only recognizes equal justice of the law created and passed by legislators that have no meaningful representation from Indian country.

Christie should abandon this tribal warfare

• South Jersey Times Editorial Board

South Jersey's most prominent Native American tribe has won a victory that keeps its legal quest for full state recognition moving ahead, while the mystery of how the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation lost its state designation in the first place remains unsolved.

A Superior Court Appellate Division panel revived the tribe's legal case last week, deciding that a lower-court judge had wrongly tossed out the case by accepting one of the state's key claims: that the Lenni-Lenape never had official recognition by the State of New Jersey.

There are more holes in that claim than in an initial Donald Trump Jr. account of a meeting with Russian operatives. In 1982, the Legislature clearly passed a resolution granting acknowledgement of the 3,000-member Lenni-Lenape as an official American Indian tribe. The tribal population lives throughout the Northeast, and its official headquarters is in Fairfield Township, Cumberland County.

The importance of the recognition isn't limited to the ability to stamp tribal craft items as "genuine," or to grant authenticity to the Lenni-Lenapes' open-to-the public South Jersey pow-wows. A state's official recognition of a tribal nation allows it to receive federal anti-poverty funds and preferred-bidder status for certain contracts.

As tribal officials tell it, the first they

learned of any problem was early in the Christie administration, when a federal inventory listed no official tribes based in New Jersey, even though the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape and two other tribes had been given the designation by the Legislature.

The state's reasons for withdrawing the tribe's official status remain opaque.

The state Attorney General's Office backed up the "no tribes here" claim in 2012, which is what sent the Lenni-Lenape running to court under civil rights and anti-discrimination statutes. Although a separate federal court suit is ongoing, a trial court in May 2016 upheld the AG's position in the state litigation.

What's never been clear is why the AG's office even bothered to defend the apparent de-listing. Official recognition mainly

qualifies a tribe for federal benefits, not state-financed ones that Garden State taxpayers pay for directly.

We see only two likely motives here, neither of which would speak well of the Christie and his administration.

One possibility is that the administration was carrying water for Atlantic City casino interests, who feared that the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape would claim rights to plop a competing tribal casino somewhere in Cumberland or Salem counties. And, although this is pure speculation, "Atlantic City casino interests" at the time could have included President Donald Trump.

At any rate, tribal officials have claimed to have no interest in developing their own gambling site.

Secondly, there is an alternate view among some local historians that too little proof exists that the Lenape who inhabit South Jersey are a legitimate tribe. But, that's just speculation, too, and American Indians should not lose tribal status based on blind acceptance of an unproved theory that turns generations of history books upside down on their spines. Every fourth-grader in New Jersey knows about the Lenni-Lenape.

Gov. Christie seemingly joined the "climate-change deniers" when he yanked New Jersey out of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). His administration's strange actions concerning the Nanticoke-Lenni-Lenape suggest he has a charter membership in the "Native American deniers," as well.

Change the Mass. seal by 2020

• The Mashpee Enterprise staff editorial

Massachusetts got a lot of things right in the mid-1770s. The state seal wasn't one of them.

In 1775, the same year that American patriots bravely fought and died at Lexington, Concord and Bunker Hill, the state Legislature adopted the state seal that essentially has come down to us to this day.

Starting things off in a circle around the seal is "Sigillum Republicae Massachusettensis," a Latin phrase for "This is the seal of the Republic of Massachusetts," a reasonable pronouncement.

The main part of the seal is a shield with a Native American standing with a long bow in one hand and an arrow in the other. In the upper left hand corner is a five-pointed star.

Fine so far.

But now matters begin to go downhill. To the left and right of the shield is a Latin motto, "Ense petit placidam sub liberate quietam," the loose translation of which is "By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty."

Not the kind of saying that rolls off one's tongue, either in Latin or in English.

In a state historically renowned for its political speech, what committee of hamfisted writers put that one together?

You could make a case that the Legislature, in a convoluted way, was making the argument for liberty against and peace with the British crown and was prepared to take up the sword to do so. Or something like that.

But the real problem is what is found above the shield: an arm, bent at the elbow, holding a long curved sword, just at the moment before the elbow is straightened

and the arm comes down, to wound or kill whoever is in the way.

Taken together, the war sword, with the Native American immediately below, and the sword motto convey a different message: that we Englishmen entered this land and militarily vanquished the Indian, so that we could have peace and liberty.

That's what happened. But is this the kind of sad history that Massachusetts wishes to glorify or boast about?

Consider, too, how helpful Native Americans were to these Englishmen who, when they first arrived, were hard-pressed to even survive.

In that light, the seal is a case of the victors writing their version of history, leaving out the parts where they weren't so strong or secure.

So, with the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower off Cape Cod just

three years away, the time has come for Massachusetts to show a generosity of spirit and change its seal into an emblem in which all the state's residents can take pride.

For starters, lose the sword-wielding arm. Put something else up there: maybe the Mayflower sailing over the waves.

Second, change the motto. The obvious choice: "We shall be as a city upon a hill," the words of the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay colony, John Winthrop.

The ringing words remain as alive today as when they were written four centuries ago. They are key bedrock in America's vision of itself.

Third, keep the Indian, a true picture of this state's historic roots, and the star, a nice touch.

Some in the state might voice concern

about the cost of suddenly replacing all those Massachusetts flags and repainting the seal on all those state vehicles.

The solution is obvious: adopt a new seal as the state's official emblem, but physically phase it in over time.

Symbols matter. The design of the American flag — with its 13 stripes representing the founding states and the 50 stars representing the nation's current states — matters.

The design of the Great Seal of the United States — with its eagle holding an olive branch and arrows in its talons and its motto, "E pluribus unum," that is, "From many, one" — matters.

Massachusetts should have a seal — and a flag — that matters.

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Community



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, Natural Resource director Alex Johns helps direct calves into the scale at the marsh pens in Brighton July 13 during the annual calf shipping. At right, Emma Urbina counts calves as they exit a cattle trailer at the Brighton marsh pens.



Thousands of Seminole calves shipped out

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Tribal pastures in Brighton and Big Cypress are a bit less crowded now that 60 cattle owners sold nearly 4,000 calves during the annual calf shipping July 10-21.

The calves left the reservations about 80 to 100 at a time on large multi-level cattle trucks. It took 44 truckloads to complete the job during the 11 days. The calves were sent to feedlots in Colorado, Nebraska and Texas where they will spend the next nine or 10 months eating. When the cows reach about 1,350 pounds, they will be sent to market. The calf shipping has a positive economic impact on the cattle owners.

“Folks put their efforts into taking care of their cattle for a year and now they reap the reward,” said Natural Resource Director Alex Johns. “You only get one crop a year. It’s a lot of hot days and hard work.”

The challenge for Johns is to get the calves into the pens before the days get too hot. The animals need time to rest before being loaded onto trucks for the trip west. Cowboys who work calf shipping typically awaken at 3 or 4 a.m., rest during the heat of the day and continue the job until dark.

“We do it because this is who we are, this is our heritage,” Johns said. “It’s a big responsibility; the cows depend on you for everything. It feels like God put you on earth to take care of livestock and feed folks. That’s the satisfaction of it.”

In Brighton, a few crews of cowboys brought the calves to the marsh pens where they were weighed and sorted by gender and size. The 9-month-old calves averaged about 520 pounds each.

With help from the cowboy crews, cattle owners herded the animals from their pastures to their own pens, where the calves were separated from the herd and loaded into cattle trailers. It sounds simple enough, but with the size of the pastures and the willfulness of the animals, the process can take time.

Norman Johns’ herd was mostly settled into his southern pasture, but about 40 were grazing in the northern one. He joined two cowboys and a few dogs to get the cattle, but before they could be moved south, the rest of the herd meandered into the northern pasture. It took a few more cowboys and a lot more work to get them all together and in the pen for sorting.

The marsh pen was a noisy place July 13 with the bellowing of cows and the

mechanical sound of bovines trying to get their footing on the cramped scale. But Sheri Holmes’ voice rose above the clatter as she yelled out to which pen each newly weighed calf would be sent.

While the calves were on the scale, computer chips in their ear tags were scanned and their weight was added to the database.

The holding pens fan out from a central hub. Once Holmes identified which pen a calf was destined for, a worker opened the gate to that specific pen and gave the animal only one direction to run. Steers had three pens based on weight; heifers were sorted into replacements, small or big.

“We are keeping more replacement heifers than usual to build up the herd,” Alex Johns said.

After nine years on the job, Holmes did her job seamlessly as she simultaneously input data and filled the pens with similarly sized animals.

“The challenge is keeping everything straight,” said Holmes, Natural Resource office manager. “We have all these pens and don’t want to overload them. This week means everything; it is the end of the year for this group. The work is hard, but it’s rewarding.”

“Alex is such a great cattleman and keeps this well organized,” added Lonnie Gore, 4-H special project coordinator, who made sure the proper calves were set aside for 4-H’ers to raise.

Joe Osceola has been working with cattle for more than a decade, the last three years in Brighton. Although he isn’t a cattle owner yet, he aspires to get his own herd one day. He enjoys the work, the stories and the camaraderie on the job.

“I was raised around cattle, my uncles and grandfather all owned cattle in Big Cypress,” Osceola said. “I love it and especially like when you see a cattle owner bring in good calves.”

After a hot, humid and busy morning, a traditional cowboy lunch prepared by cattle owners was served under the trees. The feast included plenty of protein to fortify the workers for an equally busy late afternoon and evening.

After the last calf was loaded, the crew enjoyed a week off before coming back to start pregnancy testing, which will take another few weeks.

“People don’t do this to get rich, they do it because they have a passion for producing food,” Johns said. “It’s a calling that not many people get to experience. It takes a rare breed of folks to take care of livestock; it’s a close network of people, like a family.”




Beverly Bidney

Cowboys Dayami Nelson, Todd Johns and Andrew Holmes move calves from pen to pen during the calf shipping in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Cattle owner Norman Johns in his Brighton pasture with some of his horses before rounding up calves for shipping July 13.



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◆ PAGEANT
From page 1A

these women take into the garments.”

For her talent, Kailani demonstrated her sewing skills and explained how she put the garments together as her younger sister modeled a modern traditional dress Kailani made for her, comprised of three rows of patchwork and a sheer cape.

Randee sang the traditional traveling song, otherwise known as the spider song, which originated during the Seminole Wars. She explained that during that time, the women would stay behind when the men went off to fight battles. U.S. Army soldiers invaded their camps while the men were away and attacked them, so the women learned how to travel to various camps to protect themselves. They developed this song along the way.

Following the talent portion of the pageant, the contestants reached into a basket and each drew a question related to the Tribe and its history, culture, politics and traditions. Randee explained why the Tribe is known as the unconquered Seminoles and Kailani defined what it means to be a federally-recognized tribe.

The ladies’ answers, combined with their talents, clothing and interviews from earlier in the competition, ultimately led them to success.

“I was so nervous throughout the whole pageant, but now I feel relaxed. Everything went so smoothly. It was such a great competition,” Randee explained. “I’ve wanted this for four years and I finally got it. It’s been a stressful week, but everything paid off.”

Hollywood Board Representative Gordon O. Wareham had nothing but kind words and congratulations for the former and new Seminole Princesses.

“Each woman plays a part in our tribe and touches our lives in a certain way. Over this year, I watched Kirsten [Doney] grow to what it means to be Miss Seminole. I got to see Thomlynn do the same thing,” he said. “To the contestants, this is your night, this is your experience. Take this in and remember what this night is.”

Kailani is most looking forward to visiting the various reservations, helping younger children — particularly with education — and attending the Florida State University homecoming game. While Randee is also excited about traveling, she is most excited about competing in Miss Indian World next spring.

Most of all, the girls emphasized their newfound confidence. They explained that the pageant committee and pageant coaches helped them break out of their shells and the pageant experience is just the beginning. The newly crowned princesses urged those who did not win or those who want to compete in the future to keep trying and maintain positivity and composure.

“Keep on going and have confidence,” Kailani encouraged. “Never stop believing in yourself.”

Randee agreed, saying, “It was a nice learning experience seeing all of us grow from our first day and seeing us come out of our shells.”

Miss and Junior Miss Seminole Princesses of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma joined the festivities. Miss Seminole Nation Melissa Sanchez, 19, and Junior Miss Seminole Nation Shelby Factor, 17, attended the pageant community dinner and the pageant. They explained that having a support system is fundamental to success. Kirsten and Thomlynn went to Oklahoma to see them crowned last fall, and now, the Oklahoma princesses are doing the same to continue building relationships.

“It’s great to support everybody through anything,” Sanchez explained. “You can do anything so long as you put your mind to it, and if you have a good support system behind you, it’s just great to have someone there to back you up.”

Factor said that holding the titles of Miss and Junior Miss Seminole Princesses are an honor that should be respected and appreciated.

“Being a Seminole Princess is staying involved with the tribe,” she said. “It’s



The 2017-18 Miss and Junior Miss Florida Seminole Princesses celebrate their wins with their families. Junior Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola, left, joins her mother, and brothers and sisters. Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola, right, celebrates with her mother, sisters and aunt.



Kirsten Doney formally crowns Randee Osceola as the 2017-18 Miss Florida Seminole Princess.

important to carry on traditions and give girls a role model to look up to.”

Winning these titles is just another chapter in Randee and Kailani’s books, as they both plan to pursue higher education. Randee, who just graduated from Immokalee High School, plans to attend Barry University in the fall to study psychology and criminology. When Kailani graduates next year from G. Holmes Braddock Senior High School, she plans to leave Miami and attend the University of Hawaii to study fashion design.

The event ended with farewells from the outgoing princesses, Kirsten and Thomlynn. After watching recap videos of each young woman’s past year as tribal royalty, the two gave their final adieus and left inspiring and emotional words for their successors.

“It feels as if I was crowned just yesterday ... this was an amazing opportunity for me to get out of my comfort zone,” Kirsten said. “Carrying this title becomes a reflection of the young woman who holds it. What the job entails is determined on how high she is willing to let herself soar as an ambassador.”

After thanking her ‘mama’ for helping her stay fabulous and announcing she will return next year as a candidate for Miss Seminole Princess, Thomlynn joined in on the best regards, saying to the winners, “Go to as many places as possible. Go to show everyone that we are here, we are still standing and we are still growing.”

To request an appearance from Miss and Junior Miss Florida Seminole, contact Wanda Bowers, princess coordinator, at the Tribal Secretary’s office at 954-966-6300, extension 11468.

Visit SeminoleTribune.org to see more photos from the 60th Annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.



The newly crowned Miss and Junior Miss Florida Seminole Princesses are all smiles after winning the pageant.



Randee Osceola shows off her traditional clothing in a dress comprised of the Tribe’s medicinal colors — red, white, black and yellow.



Above, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. presents Kirsten Doney with the customary trophy crown to commemorate her reign. Left, Kailani Osceola demonstrates her sewing talent.



Maury Neipris (2)



2016-17 Junior Miss Florida Seminole Princess Thomlynn Billie laughs as she reflects on her year as royalty.



Miss Indian World and visiting Seminole Nation of Oklahoma royalty enjoy the pageant. From left to right, Sr. Miss Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Dena Tiger-Kloehr, Little Miss Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Anjelica Gunville, Miss Oklahoma NDN Biker Princess Perla Gunville, Miss Indian World Raven Swamp, Jr. Miss Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Shelby Factor, and Miss Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Melissa Sanchez.



Wanda Bowers presents Leila Baksh, both former princesses, with an award for her commitment to creating a successful Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.



Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant contestants and committee members gather backstage to finalize preparations for the 60th annual pageant.

A lifetime of art with Elgin Jumper

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Elgin Jumper is no stranger to the art world. His latest pieces, on display at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum through Oct. 16, are only one collection of the hundreds of pieces he has created throughout his life.

Jumper, 53, started his journey with art when he was only 8 years old after he saw people draw what he described as beautiful creations. With only paper and pencils, he became addicted to an artistic escape. Although drawings were his primary outlet for most of his artistic tenure, he started expanding to more mediums about 12 years ago. Since then, he has become more skilled in painting with oils and acrylics and has even delved into written art with poetry, plays and essays.

Jumper does not have a preference of medium, he just says he wants to gain experience in as many aspects of art as possible.

“Art is very disciplined,” he said. “You can’t get too distracted.”

Driving inspiration from nature, life and others’ poetry, Jumper said that his work is a gateway to a life of positivity. Before his acquaintance with the passion, he was immersed in a life of trouble and difficult



Elgin Jumper discussed the inspiration behind his art at the artist reception on July 11.

Li Cohen



Two of Elgin Jumper's more vibrant pieces, depicting Seminole warriors.

Li Cohen

paths.

“Art led me away from a downward spiral of negativity,” he explained. “Art saved my life.”

This driving factor has led him to

creating hundreds of pieces focused on his many observations related to life and nature. At the current exhibit at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum — Jumper’s third exhibit at this location — his work is focused on Seminole culture and surroundings. He said that preserving the world through art is important in keeping perspective on the beautiful aspects of life.

“I see myself as a painter of the modern day, trying to focus on culture as well as other things,” he said. “There’s a whole world out there and painting the world keeps a record of history.”

To commemorate this new exhibit, the museum held an artist reception for Jumper on July 11. During that time, Jumper discussed the various paintings on-site, read some of his newest poems and complimented young artists.

While he is proud of his own works and accomplishments, he emphasized that younger generations need to be acknowledged for their efforts in preserving culture through art and language. Without acknowledging them on their successes, he explained that their drive and passion can dissipate.

“They’re really far-reaching in their ideas and subjects and with techniques they develop,” he said. “It’s really important to get involved with all aspects of culture.”

He finished the event by encouraging younger artists to stay committed to their work and not give up on their aspirations.

“It’s not an easy thing to do. It takes a lot of time and a lot of dedication,” he said. “You have to try to not get too distracted by social media and other things.”

Spencer Battiest to perform at Smithsonian museums in NYC and Washington, D.C.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Award-winning singer and songwriter Spencer Battiest will perform at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian’s New York City and Washington, D.C. locations Aug. 3 and Aug. 5, respectively.

The mission of the NMAI is to advance knowledge and understanding of Native American culture, past and present, and Battiest’s concert will give the audience a taste of his award-winning take on pop music.

“I was contacted out of the blue by the museum,” said Battiest, of the Seminole Tribe. “It’s very special to be able to perform at a place that holds the history of all Tribes. They showcase some of the best Native talent in America. It’s an honor for me to do this.”

Battiest’s Aug. 3 performance in New York City is part of the Native Sounds Downtown concert series at the NMAI George Gustav Heye Center located at One Bowling Green near Battery Park in Manhattan. The open-air concert will start at 5 p.m.

Two days later Battiest will perform as part of the Indian Summer Showcase Concert at the Washington, D.C. museum, located on the east end of the National Mall. The concert is scheduled to start at 4 p.m.

“New York is one of my favorite cities and Washington, D.C. is so important,” Battiest said. “I will be able to share my voice and give my views on the world today and do it all through my songs.”

The last couple of years have been a whirlwind for Battiest, who won the 2016 Native American Music Award for Best Pop Recording for his album “Stupid in Love.” In 2015 he released the album and toured 25 U.S. cities to promote it, including a performance at Hard Rock Rising in Barcelona and Miami Beach. He signed



Courtesy photo

Singer-songwriter Spencer Battiest will perform at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian in New York City and Washington, D.C. on Aug. 3 and Aug. 5, respectively.

with Hard Rock Records in 2013, and with his brother Doc, won Best Music Video at the 2011 American Indian Film Festival for “The Storm.” As a teenager, he opened for Aerosmith and Sting at the 2007 Hard Rock Calling music festival in London. A natural performer, Battiest grew up singing gospel music and hymns in Mikasuki, Creek and Choctaw.

For more information on the shows, visit nmai.si.edu/.

Road construction update

HOLLYWOOD — The Buildings and Grounds Department is currently doing construction to improve Stirling Road. Through Aug. 4, the Florida Department of Transportation Broward Construction will

be closing up to two lanes in each direction of Stirling Road from University Drive to the Turnpike overpass to repave lanes. Construction will be conduction from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. nightly.



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USET moves forward after semi-annual meeting

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) did not stop their momentum for change in Indian Country at the semi-annual meeting in Nashville last month. The organization is moving forward with actions that they believe will help Native Americans grow and progress.

The semi-annual meeting focused on programs and services that USET, Indian Health Service (IHS) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs provides to 26 federally recognized tribal nations in the south and eastern U.S. Unlike previous meetings, which tend to focus on legislative matters, the June meeting was intended to create a collaborating partnership between the three aforementioned groups.

As such, leaders from those groups, as well as Tribal representatives — two from every tribe — and federal partners discussed major issues affecting Indian Country: Opioid and substance abuse, the presidential directive on reorganization and the administration’s prioritization of infrastructure. Substance abuse and federal reorganization were the main points of discussion, resulting in a new drug task force and plans for becoming more involved with federal affairs.

SEfter attendees heard numerous comments and stories about the prevalence of opioid and substance abuse, they decided to create a new drug task force at the suggestion of Chairwoman Stephanie Bryan from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. USET Executive Director Kitcki Carroll said the force, built from a partnership between the National Congress on American Indians, will target and work with groups that are focused on getting funding to help and prevent drug abuse and other related services.

“Opioid is getting much of the attention right now, inside and outside Indian Country,” Carroll said. “But what many of our board members were very clear to

share with us is that there all kinds of other substance abuse issues they are experiencing in their communities, such as heroin and methamphetamine.”

Currently, the organizations are working with groups who are already known for advocating against opioid and substance abuse. Because there were already substance abuse programs in place, the force plans to further enhance their success and be available for assistance when they are needed. When an issue is resolved, the force will disassemble until they are needed again.

Carroll explained that oftentimes, federal groups ignore substance abuse in Indian Country. For example, during Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price’s May visit to Maine to hear about the effects of the opioid crisis, he did not acknowledge the local Wabanaki Tribe and their problems with the epidemic. After hearing about this, USET sent Price a letter expressing their disapproval of his inattention to a tribe that was next door to where he visited and suffering from the same problem as non-natives.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Tribal members are much more likely to suffer from substance abuse. Surveys conducted by the organization found that the average number of American Indians and Alaska Natives needing substance abuse treatment was even higher than the national average. Furthermore, 45.9 percent of the treatment referrals are by the Criminal Justice System, which is more than 10 percent higher than the amount of the same referrals for other races.

“This opioid epidemic is just as relevant to Indian Country as it is to non-native communities,” Carroll explained. “We took the position that if they fail to deal with the crisis in Indian Country, there will continue to be a problem.”

With President Trump’s plans to reorganize the executive branch of the government, USET decided it was time

to coordinate a strategy against doing so. Carroll explained that it is up to USET and partner organizations to ensure that Indian Country has the opportunity to voice their opinions prior to the administration making reorganizations to prevent any intentional or unintentional diminishing of the government’s trust responsibility with Native Tribes. The organization already submitted their comments and concerns to the Department of Interior (DOI).

Carroll explained that Trump’s March 13 executive order is not the first time the administration has tried restructuring departments and organizations related to Indian Country. Organization members believe that any restructuring that impacts the trust relationship with tribal nations should be dealt with professionally and uniquely so that the tribal and federal governments can work together to avoid the U.S. not fulfilling its core trust responsibilities and accountabilities.

“This was an overall administrative charge to reduce the federal bureaucracy to achieve greater efficiencies and streamline federal functions,” Carroll said. “There are federal functions that cannot be contracted away. There are functions that should never be deferred to state or local communities for execution before the administration, whether it’s in DOI or any other federal department.”

A major issue USET constantly addresses within the region is the government’s suggestion that the services rendered to the region could be handled by other regional offices. Previously, some services were contracted out to other regions, leaving many tribes feeling as though their needs are not a priority. Accordingly, the organization has been adamant about submitting comments to federal departments, even though, according to Carroll, each department is already supposed to reach out to Indian Country on related matters.

SEAlthough this was not a main concern during the semi-annual meeting, Carroll assured that it is not a topic that went unaddressed.

Florida drops gaming lawsuit, settles with Tribe

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The Tribe and the state of Florida settled a legal battle regarding violations of the existing gaming compact July 5. The settlement agreement will allow the Tribe’s gaming operations to continue with blackjack and baccarat through 2030.

The agreement ends the state’s federal lawsuit challenging the Tribe’s right to keep blackjack and other table games in its Florida casinos. It also guarantees that the Tribe will continue to make monthly revenue sharing payments to the state.

Additionally, the Tribe and state agreed to prohibit pari-mutuels from operating designated player games, which in a 2016 federal court case were ruled to be banked card games and a violation of the compact. There is also a clause that the state must take “aggressive enforcement action against the continued operation of banked card games.”

“This is the first time since 1979 that the Tribe hasn’t had a lawsuit with the state,” said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola. “It will ensure the stability of the Tribe and sets the path for the next 13 years of the compact.”

Since the 2016 compact violation ruling, which stated the Tribe no longer had to make payments to the state, the Tribe made those payments anyway to a state escrow account. The action was a show of good faith and was noted in the settlement agreement.

“The settlement is 100 percent in favor of the Tribe,” said Jim Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming and chairman of Hard Rock International. “All the leverage goes to the Tribe.”

Officials agree the settlement ensures a stable future for Tribal members and employees.

“The state and the tribe are good partners,” said Chairman Osceola. “We think this is a good thing for the state and it’s definitely a good thing for the Tribe. We will continue to do our business, pay our bills and send money to the state so they can create jobs as well.”

Summit to address climate change’s impact on archaeological and cultural resources

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD The Florida Climate Institute is taking a hands-on approach in addressing climate change and its impact on communities. On Aug. 4 and 5, the institute will raise awareness about worldwide climate change at the Tidally United 2017 Summit.

The summit will focus on the impact of sea level rise on Florida’s archaeological and cultural resources. On Aug. 4, guests can take part in talks and panels from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., lunch provided, at the Seminole Native Learning Center, 6363 Taft St. in Hollywood. On the morning of Aug. 5, there is an optional off-trail walk through ankle- or knee-deep water at Everglades National Park led by a ranger. A tour at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation will follow the walk in the afternoon.

The importance of this topic comes from statistics surrounding Florida’s cultural sites. According to the institute, the state has 16,015 sites that may be completely flooded if there is a 3-foot sea level rise. Most of

these places are neglected in resiliency planning. Tidally United will specifically highlight indigenous groups and individuals who speak about climate science, planning and cultural heritage.

Sara Ayers-Rigsby, director of southeast/southwest regions at the Florida Public Archaeology Network, said this event is a great opportunity for people to take part in climate-related discussions.

“People should come for a day of discussion about how climate change and sea level rise will impact archaeological and culturally significant sites,” she said.

The Florida Public Archaeology Network, Seminole Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Florida International University Indigenous Forum are co-sponsoring the event. The summit is open to 100 people based on first-come, first-served, and is free for Tribal members and \$30 for non-members. Those interested in speaking at the event or who want more information should contact Sara Ayers-Rigsby of the Florida Public Archaeological Network at sayersrigsby@fau.edu or visit fpan.us/projects/tidally.php.

NIGC finds increase in 2016 gaming revenues

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

After reviewing 2016 revenue numbers, the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) found that the fiscal year 2016 gross gaming revenue totaled 1.2 billion, a 4.4 percent increase from 2015.

11 of NIGC’s administrative regions showed growth during the year. The following regions saw the corresponding increases: Sacramento — 6.3 percent, Oklahoma City — 5.7 percent, Portland — 5.1 percent, Phoenix — 4.4 percent, Tulsa — 4 percent, Washington, D.C. — 3.8 percent, and St. Paul — 1.1 percent. While Sacramento and Oklahoma City showed the highest increases, their overall growth rate declined by 1.7 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively. On the other hand, Portland, Phoenix and Washington, D.C. have continued to show steady progress since 2014. From fiscal years 2015-2016, the regions increased their gross gaming revenue by 1.9 percent, 0.7 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively.

This is the first time the gross gaming revenue was more than 0 billion in Indian Country. Fiscal year 2015 was the closest prior attempt, managing to hit just under the mark at \$29.9 billion. The success came steadily, as in fiscal year 2014, the NIGC found miniscule growth across the regions, even negative growth in two of the regions.

NIGC Chairman Jonodev Osceola

Chaudhuri said that that the success is partially due to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act promoting tribal self-determination principals.

“The stable growth is reflective of a healthy and well regulated industry with



a tremendous impact on local and state economies,” Chaudhuri stated in a press release. “When Congress passed IGRA almost 30 years ago, it expressly cited in its findings and purposes the long standing

federal policy goal to promote tribal economic development, tribal self-sufficiency and strong tribal governments.”

The NIGC calculates revenues by analyzing 484 independently audited financial statements from 244 federally recognized tribes from 29 states. To calculate the gross gaming revenue, analysts subtract winnings players earn from the amount wagered, as well as earnings before salaries, tribal-state compacts and operating expenses of casinos.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act created NIGC to support tribal self-sufficiency and to preserve integrity within Native American gaming. The four initiatives created to fulfill this purpose are:

To protect against gamesmanship on the backs of tribes, stay ahead of the technology curve, rural outreach, and to maintain a strong workforce within NIGC and its partners.

2017-18 SAT & ACT testing dates

The testing dates for the 2017-18 academic year are now available. For more information, contact the Tribe’s Higher Ed Advisor at 954-989-6840. To sign up for the tests, visit collegeboard.org for the SAT and act.org for the ACT.

S	C
October 7 <i>*Register by Sept. 3</i>	March 10 <i>*Register by Feb. 9</i>
November 4 <i>*Register by Oct. 5</i>	May 5 <i>*Register by April 6</i>
December 2 <i>*Register by Nov. 2</i>	June 2 <i>*Register by May 3</i>
September 9 <i>*Register by Aug. 4</i>	October 28 <i>*Register by Sept. 22</i>
February 10 <i>*Register by Jan. 12</i>	April 18 <i>*Register by March 9</i>
	June 9 <i>*Register by May 4</i>

Tribal members become tribal leaders

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

Leaders are not expected to be perfect, but with some training, those leadership skills can go to the next level.

From July 25-28, approximately 45 Tribal members had the opportunity to participate in free leadership training. Held at

the Native Learning Center, the 4-day event focused on increasing the understanding and awareness of effective leadership principles. Every day focused on a specific topic regarding the theme.

The Native Learning Center created the leadership training to provide Native American community leaders and members with interactive leadership training. Quechan Indian Tribe member Ron Sheffield, who has been an instructor at the Native Learning Center, instructed the event. With decades of leadership experience as a student, doctor of philosophy and author, he has worked with countless tribal communities to better their skills. The training is for everyone in the community who wants to better their leadership skills, not just those in active leadership positions.

“You don’t have to have the title of a leader to recognize that in a split second, the community may need you,” Sheffield said. “In that moment, I want that person in the room to feel confident that they can stand up and say, ‘Hey I got this and we will be OK.’”

All courses taught during the training are highly interactive. Participants engaged in classroom settings, as well as individual leadership coaching. Each day of the training targeted on a specific topic, including leadership theory, identity, culture and synthesis. After being placed into smaller groups the first day of the event, attendees were able to discuss and create projects related to each topic as a large group and on a more individual basis.

As Sheffield explains in much of his speaking engagements, the fundamental concepts of leadership theory can easily be traced through the lineage and qualitative story telling within Indian Country. This was a common theme throughout the training and is what made this opportunity so significant for Tribal members.

“I’ve understood the general modern day idea of a leader and I’ve attached those elements back to data that exists in Native America,” he explained. “Whenever we got to a place where the core underlying tone of that leadership concept or theory is Native, we talked about it. I want the students to get the greatest benefit of a fully-understood, digested and respected academic

background.”

s part of this deeper understanding, participants had to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. According to Sheffield, multiple moral topics were discussed that can cause sensitive reactions. He said that the only way to get a firm grasp of the topic is to address basic elements, and not all of those are comfortable to discuss.

“Moral dilemmas are a bit touchy, but I want them to be a little uncomfortable and touchy on purpose,” he explained. “When you’re uncomfortable, you learn. We learn only when we’re slightly uncomfortable.”

Georgette Smith, executive director of the Native Learning Center, said that Sheffield has made a significant impact in previous trainings and is not only an amazing instructor, but also has outstanding qualifications. She further said that the training is a great opportunity for Tribal members who are interested in sharpening their leadership skills, expanding their networks and fostering unity across Tribes and Indian communities.

“Leadership training for our communities is a commitment to the advancement, promotion and development of the cultural, educational, social, economic or political welfare of our American Indian people,” Smith explained about leadership. “Leadership is more than a position or a role, it is actually a part of an intricate journey that we are making whatever our career path may be, weaving exceptional parts of ourselves together for the betterment of our Native American people.”

This is the first time the community has held a leadership training event. If it is successful and the community is interested, the Native Learning Center will likely offer the course again.

“My internal objective that anyone who attends this course walks away and questions...When you have knowledge, you have power,” Sheffield said. “Power is something I want to deliver carefully, calmly, but most assuredly, to Native America. I want Indian Country to know how powerful it truly is. The only way that can happen is through some very basic knowledge...and the bulk of it comes from our native families.”

♦ MEETING
From page 1A

meeting and convention space, a new Hard Rock Live, up to 55,000 square feet of retail space, a comedy theater and 14 restaurants. They estimate it will be complete in the summer of 2019.

Tampa's expansion is being done in two phases. The property will have 798 guest rooms, seven restaurants, nearly 8,000 square feet of retail and 57,000 square feet of convention space. A low rise should be completed in April 2018 and a tower is slated for completion in 2019.

Allen gave an update of the Atlantic City Hard Rock project, formerly the Trump Taj Mahal, which should open in May 2018. President Donald Trump spent \$1.2 billion to build the property in 1990. The Tribe bought it for four cents on the dollar in March.

Since the Tribe's credit rating was just **upgraded, lower interest rates on loans are available** which leads to millions of dollars in savings. Most U.S. gaming companies pay 4 to 5 percent plus on loans.

"The Trump Taj Mahal lost money every year not because it wasn't busy, but because the interest on the loans was 14.75 percent and 17 percent," said. Allen, who noted the Tribe just borrowed money at a far lower interest rate. "That shows the investment community believes 100 percent in the Seminole Tribe, its leadership, the business, the exclusivity that we enjoy in Florida and obviously the ability to expand on a global basis."

Treasurer Pete Hahn followed with a presentation on personal finances. He said the Tribe's standard deduction is 25 percent of Tribal members' income for taxes.

"Each of you should be in a higher tax bracket," he said. "We can deduct more so you don't owe taxes in April. We can help you work out the best tax bracket for you."

Presentations about Tribal finances, the health plan, education programs, housing, business loans and a Board update filled the rest of the day's program. Throughout the day, people in the culture room kept busy beading, carving and making patchwork.

Sally Josh and her daughter Niki traveled from Anadarko, Oklahoma for the meeting. She was hoping to get updates on policies and procedures, see family and friends and learn more about culture.

"I learned more beading skills," Josh said. "I'm going to take back all this information to family members who were

unable to attend the meeting."

Megan Yescas has lived in St. Paul, Minnesota for five years and appreciated getting information about services and Tribal business activities.

"I'm proud to be a Tribal member and have access to all the opportunities they provide for us," she said. "I went to the Hard Rock Café in Iceland and was the first Tribal member to go there. The Icelanders knew all about us."

Julie Bush brought her son Canary Yescas, 16, to the meeting.

"He's enjoying seeing his family," said Bush, who is not a Tribal member. "He is interested in his Tribe and this has been very informative and good for him."

Carla Cypress of Pembroke Pines lives off the Hollywood Reservation because there **are no homes available. She said the meeting was helpful.**

"I'm picking up new things and learning **what's available. I'm a new homeowner and need some advice and help,**" she said.

Naples liaison **Brian Zepeda was pleased** to see so many Tribal members from such far distances in attendance and said things are going in a positive direction for non-residents.

"That all the executives and leaders came shows the extent of the support. The Chairman made great effort to reach out to non-residents out of state. They are not forgotten," he said. "I was born a Seminole **and I'll die a Seminole and I've never lived on a reservation.**"

Larissa Tucker and her son Kian Madrid **traveled from Honolulu, Hawaii, the farthest distance of anyone.** Despite living far from home, Tucker comes back often to Hollywood and Brighton, where she checks on her cattle. **She had some issues addressed and was glad she attended the meeting.**

"I'm glad I got to voice my opinion and they listened to me," Tucker said. "It's good to see everybody and connect with family and friends. I'm glad Council did this for us."

Chairman Osceola's goal for the meeting was achieved as information was shared and individuals' questions were answered.

"To see the smiles on their faces gives us gratification that we know we are making a difference," he said. "That's what we are here for, to assist Tribal members and make a difference in their lives."

Seminole Fire Department graduates six recruits

BY GRACE DUCANIS
Freelance Reporter

The Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue Department welcomed six new firefighters to the team at a graduation and badge ceremony on June 29.

Family and friends gathered to celebrate graduates Jose Cabañas, Rafael Diaz, Brandon Harris, Vincent Sovik, John Vilches and Devyn Williams, who completed the fire department's six-week training.

"It's not easy getting through school. We put them through the ringer...so I'm very proud of them," said Donald DiPetrillo, fire chief and director of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Department of Fire Rescue.

During their first six weeks of training, firefighter recruits learn medical and departmental protocols and undergo physical training. They also get specialized instruction in working with hazardous materials and dealing with snakes and other reptiles.

Firefighter, paramedic and graduate Devyn Williams called training "a grueling six weeks."

"I was honored to be [at the ceremony]," he said. "I was proud of myself. I was proud of all the guys. It's a big accomplishment for us."

All of the graduates were certified firefighters and paramedics before beginning the department's training.

"This process is not only renewing their skills but bringing them together as a group because some of them get trained at different locations but we want them to come together as a team," said DiPetrillo.

During their affirmation of oath, the graduates swore to serve and protect the Tribal members and their communities. Next, they'll be assigned to various members of the fire department to receive additional training during their probationary year.

"The training that they do is what keeps us safe and what brings them home to their families at night," said former Deputy Fire Chief Robert Brown.

Brandon Harris, one of the graduates, was excited about the opportunity to work for the department. Harris said it took him

five years to get hired.

"It's a remarkable feeling to be where I am right now," he explained. "I know what I'm getting into, I know that I'm going to have to work hard, I know that nothing is going to come easy and I know that I'm going to have to earn every ounce of respect I can."

he's looking forward to being able to help tribal members and their communities.

"They expect you to be that person that helps them when they call 911 and to be that person who can solve basically any problem or issue that they have," Cabañas explained.

Cabañas said he appreciated that the department hosted a graduation for the



Grace Ducanis photo

From left, firefighters Devyn Williams, John Vilches, Vincent Sovik, Brandon Harris, Rafael Diaz and Jose Cabañas take their affirmation of oath.

The ceremony opened with a presentation of colors by the Seminole Police and Fire Honor Guard and the Black Pearl Pipe and Drums – a ritual Harris said gave him goose bumps.

"I always get goose bumps at these kinds of ceremonies, just with the...honor guard, the drums, the pipes, everything...and the first time I ever felt that feeling I knew that this was something I wanted to do for the rest of my life, just because of how it made me feel from the inside out," he said.

Jose Cabañas, another graduate, said

recruits and their families.

"A lot of departments don't do that," he said.

During his brief speech at the ceremony, DiPetrillo stressed that the fire department is fortunate to be part of the Seminole family.

"Being in the fire service – it's a family, and the Tribe is just like that. It's a family. Even though they're spread out across the state...they still feel like they're family," said DiPetrillo. "They treat every one of us like family members and we try to take care of them like they're our family members as well."



Grace Ducanis

Surrounded by his classmates, Devyn Williams shakes hands with fellow firefighter Rafael Diaz.



Grace Ducanis

The graduation opened with a presentation of colors by the Seminole Police and Fire Honor Guard and the Black Pearl Pipe and Drums.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki scores well with secret shopper

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is known for its beautiful artifacts and nature boardwalk, but its latest accomplishment emphasizes the museum's service.

On June 30, the Florida Attractions Association (FAA) informed Museum Director Paul Backhouse that a secret shopper filed a score of the service she received at the museum. After visiting the museum on March 25, she scored the museum 98 out of 100 percent for her experience during the 2016-2017 membership year.

A detailed score report showed the museum received a 100 percent on cleanliness and truth in advertising and a 93 percent in hospitality. According to the report, the hospitality score suffered because of interaction at the admissions/ticketing desk; however, the secret shopper said everything else, including the phone call to the museum, was impeccable.

Backhouse said that the museum has been a part of the FAA for at least 5 years and that despite never knowing when a secret shopper plans to visit, they consistently perform at a high level.

"Having the standard operating procedures, policies and practices in place is the backbone of how you achieve these high scores," he explained. "Having a staff that's passionate, enthusiastic and that cares about the Seminole community is paramount as well."

According to the FAA, every attraction



Courtesy photo

Exterior view of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress.

that is a member of the association is secretly shopped once per year. During the experience, the shopper evaluates an attraction's hospitality, cleanliness and truthful advertising. The three components are a part of the FAA's Code of Practices, which also includes safety and complaint resolution, which the FAA handles directly.

Despite the lower hospitality score, Backhouse said the staff did very well and they are excited about the report overall.

"There are some areas we can bring to 100 percent...Hospitality is everything we're about," he said. "When people come through the door we want to make sure they feel welcomed and well-served."



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



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Tips for back-to-school immunizations

SUBMITTED BY ROBERT LAMENDOLA
Florida Department of Health in Broward County

Don't let too much of summer vacation slip away before planning to get ready for school again by including all childhood immunizations.

The best choice is to have children vaccinated by our family doctor. If that is not possible, you can visit the Tribal Health Department or county offices of the Florida Department of Health. It is offering free immunizations over the summer, including a big campaign at Lauderhill Mall in Broward County from Aug. 22.

Skipping the shots does matter. In South Florida and elsewhere in the U.S., a few unvaccinated children have come down with cases of diseases that previously were virtually eradicated, namely measles, chickenpox and whooping cough.

Florida law says children cannot start school unless they have received all vaccinations against nine contagious and potentially fatal childhood diseases. Back-to-school shots are especially important for children entering kindergarten and seventh grade, because different requirements begin at those grade levels. Don't let a missing vaccination mess up the first day of school.

Vaccinations are required for school inlude:

- diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis whooping cough 4 doses of a for babies and pre-schoolers. 1 booster dose, at age 4, before seventh grade.
- Polio 3 doses for babies and pre-schoolers.
- Measles, mumps, rubella German measles 2 doses of MM for babies and pre-schoolers.
- varicella chickenpox 2 doses for babies and pre-schoolers. 1 booster dose before seventh grade.
- Hepatitis B 3 doses for babies.

Parents are encouraged to consider additional vaccinations not required for school but recommended by federal health officials. These include vaccines against flu (early starting at six months old), rotavirus (3 doses for babies), Haemophilus influenzae B (3-4 doses for babies), pneumococcal disease (4 doses for babies), hepatitis A (2 doses for babies), human papilloma virus (2-3 doses starting at age 9 and meningococcal disease (2 doses starting at age 11).

Seminole Tribal Line gives required back-to-school immunizations. Parents can make an appointment for their children and be ready for school in advance. For details, phone numbers and locations, visit semttribe.com/Services/Health.asp.

Additionally, H gives free shots for back-to-school through the federal vaccines for Children program.

DOH-Broward free health shots at two health centers. Also available Monday, Aug. 13, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 23 at Lauderhill Mall, 126 N. 40 Ave. Evening hours 4 to 8 p.m. are available on Aug. 10, 14 and 17. An immunization and family fun fair is set for Aug. 12 when free vaccines for H and meningitis will be available. 4 467-4705 or broward.floridahealth.gov.

DOH-Hendry free shots available at health centers. 863-674-4041 or floridahealth.gov.

DOH-Okeechobee free shots available at Line. 863-462-1101 or okeechobee.floridahealth.gov.

DOH-Collier free shots at health centers. 239-222-3000 or collier.floridahealth.gov.

DOH-Hillsborough free shots at certain locations. 813-300-0000 or hillsborough.floridahealth.gov.

DOH-St. Lucie free shots available at health center. 888-246-2300 or stlucie.floridahealth.gov.

4th of July bike ride through Big Cypress



Courtesy photo

The Seminole Recreation Department sponsored a 'Rise 'n Ride' bike ride July 3 as part of the Fourth of July celebration in Big Cypress. Participants included, from left, are Paul Bowers, Marlin Miller, Cathy Cypress, Claudine Cypress and Ronnie Billie Sr. Prizes were awarded for best decorated bike and best dressed bicyclist.



Courtesy photo

Ronnie Billie Sr. shows off his highly-decorated bicycle while decked in full Fourth of July attire in Big Cypress.

Be on the lookout for heat advisories

The summer heat can be difficult to beat. Take caution outdoors when the National Weather Service issues heat advisories, as abnormal heat and humidity can cause serious health issues. The Seminole Management recommends the following precautions: Drink plenty of fluids, stay in air-conditioned spaces and away from the sun, and complete strenuous outdoor activities early in the morning or in the evening. If working outdoors during the day, schedule frequent breaks in shade or air conditioning, wear light, loose-fitting clothing, and drink a lot of water.

If heat exhaustion and/or a heat stroke occur, immediately move to a cool and shaded location and call 911.

For more information, contact the Seminole Management Disaster Hotline at 1-800-611-14 and press option 3.

Jill Kehaulani Esch chosen NICWA's Member of the Year

PRESS RELEASE

In April, the National Indian Child Welfare Association honored Jill Kehaulani Esch, Sr. as 2017 NICWA Member of the Year. NICWA's annual Member of the Year award honors and recognizes an individual or organizational member of NICWA who has demonstrated outstanding service, contributions and leadership in his or her profession, as well as involvement as a member of NICWA.

Kehaulani Esch has long been involved with promoting her Native Hawaiian culture. After moving to Minnesota nearly two decades ago, she became part of the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association as a member, board member and secretary, as well as fundraising for their Native law scholarships. NICWA said her appointment in 2013 as the Minnesota ambassador for American Indian families is testament to her commitment to native children and families. In this role, she investigates complaints for non-compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), the Minnesota Indian Affairs Reservation Act, and statutes, rules and policies that involve child protection cases.



Courtesy photo

NICWA Member of the Year Jill Kehaulani Esch

Emergency Management Corner: Dealing with lightning

SUBMITTED BY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Seminole Police Department's Emergency Management team is committed to keeping our Tribal Communities informed and prepared so that they will remain safe if disaster strikes. Keep an eye out for future articles and tips from the Emergency Management team in the monthly Seminole Tribune's Emergency Management Corner.

- When thunder roars, go indoors
- Avoid open areas, isolated trees, towers or utility poles. Lightning tends to strike taller objects in an area.
 - Keep away from electrical equipment and plumbing. Lightning can travel through wiring and plumbing if our building is struck. Do not shower or wash dishes during a storm as it can also carry a current.
 - Do not lie on concrete floors or lean against concrete walls.
 - Lightning often strikes outside the

area of heavy rain and as far as 10 miles from an area of rainfall.

- What you might not know
- Out of the lightning-related deaths in 2011, 60 percent have occurred in Florida.
 - While not all lightning victims die, many survivors must live with permanent disabilities.

If someone is struck

Cardiac arrest is the immediate cause of death for lightning victims.

- Call 911
- Begin CPR if you are trained
- If possible, move the victim to a safer place. Lightning CAN strike twice.

If you have any questions or concerns, call the Emergency Management Disaster Hotline 1-800-611-14, friend us on Facebook or visit our website at em.semttribe.com.

Join the Seminole running club

Every Tuesday and Thursday, Tribal members are encouraged to begin and finish off the day with a run/walk with the Seminole Running Club. The group meets at 6 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Seminole

states and provides water for all runners and walkers. For more information, contact Kenn Baon at 466-3200 or Kenneth.Baon@semttribe.com.

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SEMINOLE SCENES



Kevin Johnson

HANDS-ON LEARNING: Youngsters attending Mensa's annual gathering at the Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood on July 6 learn a traditional Seminole way of making sofkee by grinding corn. Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum educational coordinator Alyssa Boge provided instruction to the youngsters, who are members of Mensa by placing in the top 2 percent of IQ tests.



Li Cohen

BEHIND THE SCENES: Kailani Osceola finalizes her preparations for the 60th Annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.



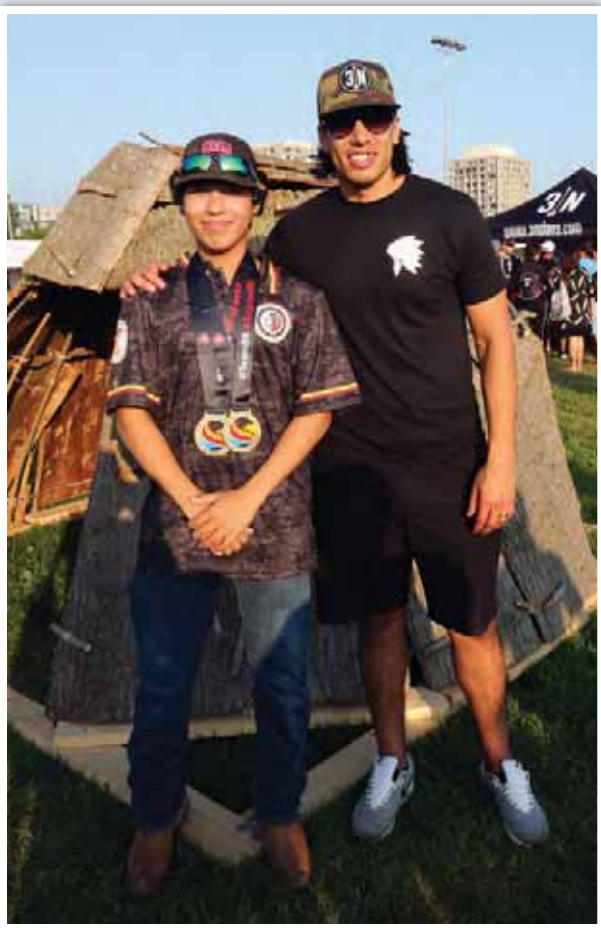
Beverly Bidney

HANGING AROUND: This tiny tree frog, who bears a striking resemblance to Kermit the Frog, was spotted playing on the Immokalee preschool playground July 12.



Kevin Johnson

PINS AND WINS: Team Florida's pin for the North American Indigenous Games in Toronto proved to be a much sought-after trading item with other athletes from throughout the U.S. and Canada. Team Florida won five medals, including four gold medals.



Kevin Johnson

TWO KINGS: Team Florida's gold medal rifle shooter Santiago "Echo" Billie and Los Angeles Kings hockey player Jordan Nolan, from First Nation Ojibwe in Ontario, pose for a photo after the North American Indigenous Games' rifle shooting awards ceremony July 20 at York University in Toronto.



Courtesy photo Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

TRIUMPHANT TRIO: Seminole Casino Coconut Creek's 4th of July Celebration included a fireworks show with food, drinks and live entertainment by the Victory Belles.



Courtesy photo

NATIVE TALK: WLRN Radio's Topical Currents program on July 18 featured a discussion about the history of Florida's Native tribes. Participants included, from left, hosts Joseph Cooper and Bonnie Berman along with Samuel Tommie, Seminole Tribe member; Jorge Zamanillo, CEO of History Miami Museum; and William J. Osceola, Culture teacher at Miccosukee School. The program, which lasts 50 minutes, can be heard online at wlrn.org/post/floridas-native-tribes.



Beverly Bidney

AND THEY'RE OFF: Norman Johns herds his horses across the pasture and through the pen he needs to put cattle during the Brighton calf shipping July 13.



Beverly Bidney (2)

INDOOR SUMMER FUN: With a heat advisory outside, the Immokalee recreation department found a way for kids to move around and have some fun indoors with a challenging obstacle course relay July 26 in the air conditioned gym. Girls warm-up by running and sliding laps around the gym. Having successfully navigated the cones, hoops and hurdles, Tony Billie prepares to crawl quickly under the noodle arches of the obstacle course.



Beverly Bidney

SEEKING SUMMER SHADE: These Big Cypress reservation cattle seek shade under a generous tree on a sweltering summer afternoon in June as a flock of cattle egrets fly by.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



State director gathering ati e merican in ut on rand ound

he s ope of input is e panding on whether Grand Mound, a Native Ameri an burial site lo ated west of International alls, should reopen to the publi .

“e’ll ontinue to engage with the ommunit up there, the International alls ommunit and people in oo hi hing Count . e’ll ontinue to engage with Native Ameri ans up in that area, but we’ll e pand the s ope to native groups in Minnesota, as well as the larger region, said Joe Horse Capture, who is now overseeing the Grand Mound site.

Grand Mound is one of several sites that are now handled b Horse Capture, who was hired in e ember as the new dire tor of Ameri an Indian initiatives at the Minnesota Histori al So iet . Horse Capture, an enrolled member of the A’aninin in Montana, has previousl wor ed as the urator of Native Ameri an arts at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the Ameri an Indian.

After more than 30 ears as a state histori site, Grand Mound was losed to the publi in 200 amid de lining visitorship and on erns about treating a burial site as a tourist attra tion. Grand Mound’s use dates ba to the Laurel Indians in 200 B.C., and it’s onsidered the largest prehistori stru ture in the pper Midwest.

“I thin it’s important to get Native input on how we determine the future of the site where their an estors are interred. I thin a reasonable person would ertainl understand that, Horse Capture said.

He said he hopes a de ision an be made b spring of 201 . hat will ensure enough time to gather input, renew relationships with people who have an interest in it and de ide how to move forward “so that ever bod ’s interests are served,” he said.

he pro ess to reopen Grand Mound has been ongoing for two ears and a ommittee of Histori al So iet staff, Native American officials and Koochiching County officials, among others, met last ear to dis uss the topi . he Histori al So iet onsidered opening the site in a s aled ba operation, whi h the ount board opposed.

oo hi hing Count ommissioners have e pressed on ern in re ent months that the ’ve been left out of the pro ess and weren’t told of the hange in who oversees Grand Mound. heir on erns were outlined in a Ma letter from board chairman evin Adee to state ep. ob lund and then dis ussed at a June ount board meeting.

At that meeting, the board unanimously approved a \$2 million bonding re uest for 201 to reopen Grand Mound in a partnership between the ount and ain iver irst Nations, whi h operates the a Nah Chi ah Nung Histori al Center at burial mounds a ross ain iver from Grand Mound, a ording to meeting minutes. In its motion, the board noted that county officials and Native Americans in the area have ontinuousl s ed the Histori al So iet to reopen Grand Mound “for its prote tion and to share the ultural, spiritual and historical significance of the Native peoples who have inhabited this area for thousands of ears.

At the June meeting, the board was told a meeting in Clo uet had been held to dis uss the site and a de ision had possibl been made. Horse Capture told the News ribune that no de isions have been made et about Grand Mound’s future and the meeting in Clo uet was with the state’s Tribal Historic Preservation Offices — the first in a series of meetings to gather input from Native Ameri an groups about whether to open Grand Mound. However, he said, “people ma be under the impression that something significant like decisions were made and that’s far from the ase.

Horse Capture said he respe ts the opinions of people living in the area and he said he plans to renew dis ussions. He is also wor ing in ollaboration with Histori al So iet staff who previousl led the pro ess to determine whether reopen the site.

He said he’s planning to visit oo hi hing Count b summer’s end to dis uss the site and the input pro ess. He said he doesn’t now the out ome et be ause he’s still doing outrea h to Native Ameri an groups, but he would be “more than happ to tal to people in oo hi hing Count about the ne t step in the pro ess.

Duluth News Tribune

ati e mericans say lifting rotection of gri ly bear iolates religion

H L , ont. — Native American tribes, lans and leaders from seven .S. states and Canada sa the .S. government’s de ision to lift prote tions for grizzly bears in the Yellowstone National ar area violates the groups’ religious freedom.

he are suing to blo the government from removing Yellowstone grizzlies from

the endangered and threatened spe ies list, whi h would allow Montana, oming and Idaho to hold grizzly bear hunts.

he Native Ameri an plaintiffs argue that troph hunting for grizzly bears goes against their religious and spiritual beliefs. The lawsuit filed June 30 asks a federal judge to rule that the .S. ish and ildlife Servi e must onsider the Native Ameri ans’ beliefs and onslt ade uatel with them before removing grizzly prote tions that have been in pla e sin e 1

“He is our relative, or us Bear Clan members, he is our un le, Ben Nuvamsa, a former chairman of the Hopi ribe in Arizona, said ednesda . “If that bear is removed, that does impa t our eremonies in that there would not be a being, a religious i on that we would now and re ognize.

he three states have not planned an hunts for this ear but have agreed to uotas and to ease all hunting if the Yellowstone population falls below 600 bears. here are now about 00 in the region.

Basing a legal hallenge of an ndangered Spe ies A t de ision on religious beliefs and inad euate tribal onsltation has not been tried before, said the plaintiffs’ attorne , Jeff asmussen. It’s an argument that differs from those of the onserva tion and wildlife advo a groups that have also filed intentions to sue over last month’s .S. ish and ildlife Servi e de ision.

“he don’t feel li e the ’ve been listened to, both with regard to their religious beliefs and spiritual beliefs, and with regard to some of the issues in this ase, asmussen said. “he feel the .S. is not listening to them, and we’re hoping to hange that.

.S. ish and ildlife Servi es and Department of Interior officials declined to omment on the lawsuit. .S. epartment of Justice officials did not return a call or email for omment.

he government began the pro ess of delisting the bears in Mar h 2016 under the administration of resident Bara bama, and re eived 6 0,000 publi omments.

he ish and ildlife Servi e sa s on its website it offered an opportunit for government to government onsltation to 3 tribal governments through letters, phone alls, emails and webinars during that time.

It is government poli to ondu t dire t onsltations with tribes, whi h are sovereign nations, on ndangered Spe ies A t issues.

he lawsuit alleges that government officials only contacted four tribes initially, and onta ted the others onl after the de ision had been made.

“he promised us that the would onslt with us before the made the de ision, Nuvamsa said. “he reneged on it.

he plaintiffs are 1 tribes, lans and individuals from Montana, South a ota, North a ota, oming, Arizona, New Me i o and Canada. asmussen said two more tribes from Nebras a and South a ota are being added.

ati e mericans Sue rackers O er annmade arth uakes

lahoma has be ome one of the world’s most notorious earth ua e hubs. In fact, in 2014 for the first time, the number of magnitude 3 or greater ua es in the state surpassed California’s total.

In terms of natural disasters, the pla e “where the wind omes sweeping down the plain has histori all been better nown for tornados. hat’s hanging. he in reased seismi it is a relativel new phenomenon, simultaneous with the upti in oil and natural gas a tivities in the state over the last de ade. hough lahoma t pi all e perien ed zero to a ouple magnitude 3 or greater ua es annuall , the rate shot up to 20 in 200 . In 2013, the state had 10 su h earth ua es followed b in 2014, 03 in 201 , and 623 in 2016. In other words, the state went from some two sizable ua es a ear to two or three a da .

H drauli fra turing, or fra ing, has been a lightning rod for the blame, but it’s not so mu h the fra ing itself as the leanup afterwards that’s indu ing these temblors. ra ing involves shooting a high pressure stream of water, sand, and hemi als into the ground to release gas from shale. But in the pro ess, hazardous fracking fluid and toxically salty water rise to the surfa e as well, so to dispose of this dangerous waste, ompanies pump it down a different opening deeper under the shale to rest permanentl in a well of porous ro . he thing is, when these wastewater injection wells are continuously filled, pressure builds up on geologic faults—enough to ause earth ua es when the two sides of a fault slip past ea h other, the .S. Geologi al Surve a nowledges. In 200 , ompanies in lahoma pumped 4 million barrels of wastewater into wells. B 2014, that number hit 1. billion.

hat’s been a problem for lahoma’s

awnee Nation and their advo ate rin Bro ovi h, the famed environmental a tivist law er, given that the tribe has endured some of the most devastating earth ua es in the state. n September 3, 2016, a magnitude . ua e hit right near the town of Pawnee—Oklahoma had never experienced one more powerful—and was felt from e as to South a ota. hen on November 6, 2016, a .0 earth ua e hit nearb Cushing. a erbating the danger, Cushing is the storage site of 60 million barrels of oil, the largest suppl of rude in the world—a sticking point of concern for the epartment of Homeland Se urit .

he awnee Nation has retained the services of law firm Weitz & Luxenberg, aided b Bro ovi h, to sue a gle oad il LLC, Cummings il Compan , and 2 other oil and gas ompanies for damage to its histori governmental buildings and reservation propert resulting from what it alleges are human indu ed ua es. he tribe’s petition suggests the defendants were “nowingl ausing the ua es and that their a tions “onstitute wanton or re less disregard for publi or private safet .

At the damaged main ommunal building, a former s hool house built in 1 , white tea hers used to tea h s ewed versions of Native Ameri an histor to awnee students. Now oil ompanies are tr ing to s hool the awnee tribe in what the sa is reall going on with the seismicity, deflecting blame from the salt water deposit wells. a gle oad and Cummings did not respond to a re uest for omment for this arti le.

Still, the on erns in Cushing aren’t just about the oil storage. here are massive amounts of fluids and gases that are pushed through pipelines in Cushing, and mu h of that infrastructure is aged—and just 20 miles from awnee.

Boa a nowledges the ontinued ris for major seismi events in the region but sa s there is s ant data to predi t them.

National Geographic

c uire bill seeks to boost ati e merican community college enrollment

A bill ma ing its wa through the California Legislature see s to give low in ome Native Ameri an students the same priorit enrollment in ommunit olleges as other low in ome California residents.

North Coast state Sen. Mi e M Guire Healdsburg said he introdu ed Senate Bill 164 to orre t a “glaring oversight in a pie e of legislation in 2013 that gave California residents who receive benefits under California or pportunit and Responsibility to Kids — also known as CalWORKs — priority enrollment in ommunit olleges.

“But the left out Native Ameri an students, M Guire said last wee . “I would all it an oversight, but it is a glaring oversight and it’s simpl una eptable.

Senate Bill 164 would give the same priorit enrollment to Native Ameri an students who re eive emporar Assistan e for Needy Families welfare benefits.

“hat we have seen is those students who re eive priorit registration leads to faster degrees, faster certificate completion and we also now that priorit registration helps students go on to a four ear college degree as well, M Guire said. “he North Coast is home to more Native Ameri an tribes than an where else in California. e also now that a ess to higher edu ation is one of the best tools we have to brea the le of povert . hat’s wh we want ma e it as eas s possible for Native Ameri an students to enroll in ommunit olleges.

he Assembl Appropriation Committee’s anal sis of the bill released ednesda found that 4,300 tribal members could benefit from the bill, adding to the nearl 10,000 Native Ameri an students the ommittee states are already attending ommunit olleges.

College of the edwoods e utive ire tor of College Advan ement Mart Coelho said ednesda that their ollege already gives priorit registration to students in the Cal S program.

“ur poli does not urrentl address tribal members overed under the emporar Assistan e for Need amilies rogram, but we would support hanging our poli ies and pro edures to in lude priorit enrollment for these individuals, Coelho wrote in an email to the imes Standard.

he per entage of Native Ameri an students enrolled at College of the edwoods has de reased sin e 2012, a ording to state data, hanging from per ent to . per ent in the 201 2016 s hool ear. otal student enrollment at the ollege has also de reased during this time from nearl ,300 students in 2012 2013 to 6, 62 in 201 2016, a ording to California Communit Colleges data.

College of the edwoods re entl began offering lasses in the el Norte Count town of lamath after forming a partnership with the Yuro ribe, the state’s

largest federal re ognized tribe. Courses offered see to prepare tribal members for ollege edu ation as well as tribal government jobs.

A ording to the latest .S. Census Bureau data, about one in four Native Ameri ans and Alas a Natives lived below the federal povert level in 201 , the highest rate of an ra e group. he national povert rate was about 1 per ent, a ording to the bureau.

M Guire said onl 13 per ent of Native Ameri ans have ompleted a ba helor’s degree or higher ompared to 2 per ent of the total .S. population.

“In fa t, 22 per ent of native Ameri an students have not finished high school,” M Guire said. “his is the lowest of an ra ial or ethni or demographi group in California s hools. California has a lot of wor to do to in rease ollege a hievement levels within the native population.

he bill was pla ed on the Assembl Appropriations Committee’s onsent alendar in a unanimous vote on hursda .

he ommittee found the bill would result in minor osts to the ommunit ollege s stem, and M Guire said it will be a significant benefits.

“More than an other orner of the state this bill will benefit Humboldt Count and North Coast, M Guire said. “e believe that this will ma e ollege more affordable and a essible for Native Ameri an students and this will also open up additional enrollment for College of the edwoods.

he bill was passed in the Senate with a unanimous bipartisan vote in April, and has et to re eive a no vote in the ommittee pro ess, a ording to the state legislative information website. M Guire said he e pe ts the bill to ma e it to the Assembl floor b September.

“hether ou’re a emo rat or epubli an, ou now we must do better for California Native Ameri an students, he said. “Native Ameri an students deserve fast and eas a ess to ommunit olleges.

Times-Standard

BHS honoring two local ati e merican Leaders

S ISH, S. Dak. — Black Hills State University officials are honoring Native Ameri an leaders who had an impa t on ampus.

he are renaming one building while giving a new name to the Center for Ameri an Indian Studies.

he newest resident hall on ampus whi h was named Crow ea will be named after alumni Lionel . Bordeau who is one the longest serving ollege presidents in the .S.

he Center for Ameri an Indian Studies will hange to the Ja e e or Center to honor her for the 33 ears of tea hing at the s hool.

his is a wa for the s hool to honor Native Ameri an lega .

i e resident of niversit Advan ement Steve Mee er sa s the “s hool has reall done great for a long time with our Native Ameri ans. e have the highest per entage of Native Ameri ans In the state s stem of South a ota and so we reall herish our relationship with them and we wor hard at that relationship to ma e sure we’re one here at Bla Hills State.

ormal naming eremonies for both pla es will be held this fall.

Kota Territory News

ati e merican ashion Designer Bethany ellowtail akes Dresses With a essage

Native Ameri an fashion designer Bethan Yellowtail had an epiphan while attending the protests at Standing o in 2016.

“As I was in these spa es where I normall would not have been, I saw these friends, and women, and sisters, m relatives who ma be would not step into a leadership role, she sa s. “I saw them bloom and I saw them blossom into these women the were alwa s meant to be. he stepped into their own power.

he Los Angeles designer hanneled the moment of inspiration into the latest olle tion of her B.Yellowtail line, whi h she re entl debuted at the orld of onder Storefront Galler in Holl wood. Among her brightl olored dresses and intri atel patterned women’s wear, she based a parti ular pie e on ledger art. iginall drawn on tanned bison s in, then transferred to paper after the near eradi ation of the buffalo in the late 1 00s, ledger art re orded ever da life for the lains tribes, as well as battle e ploits, relationships and the en roa hing ultural changes — and erasure — brought by Manifest estin .

or what she sa s is her favorite of her latest olle tion, Yellowtail ollaborated

with illustrator a eah Jhane to apture the ledger art st le, depi ting seven women of various ages s et hed on a long s irt. Yellowtail sa s that the s irt has a deeper meaning. “Indigenous people thin about their a tions toda and how the will affe t our grand hildren and seven generations forward. ver thing ou do affe ts them, she sa s.

his forward thin ing design ethos is the ore of Yellowtail’s pra ti e. She ma es fashion with a message. “eople get it, the get that what we’re tr ing to do isn’t just about reating beautiful lothes, selling jewelr , but it has purpose, it has meaning, she sa s. “It an be a atal st for a message.

In a time where big retailers li e Anthropologie and Urban Outfitters steal indigenous design, small time ‘ma ers on ts or Instagram are ompli it in ultural appropriation, and the persistent Coa hella headdress still summons groans a ross the internet, the importan e of true Native Ameri an reators su h as Yellowtail be omes even more pertinent.

Navajo in model Siera Bega e, who showcased a flowing yellow dress during orld of onder’s step and repeat, emphasizes wh authenti it is important to Native Ameri an design. “Native ulture, when it’s authenti , it omes from within, she sa s. “It omes from within our spirit. You put out something, when ou ma e something. You put our spirit into it, and ou give it life. And that’s something I see in Bethan ’s wor .

Yellowtail sa s that her design wor “trans ends normal fashion shows be ause of what we’re tr ing to tell through our lothing and our stories. She uses tradition, histor and her own lineage as a jumping off point to reate something new and distin t. “I’m from the Northern Crow and Che enne nations. his olle tion is inspired b old st le Crow and lains beadwork. I love floral designs from the earl 1 00s, and a lot of our beadwor and traditional designs were influenced by that.

She also ollaborates with other Native ma ers and designers to mash up ultural st les, bringing a ontemporar feel to sometimes an ient art forms. “e’re elebrating what’s happening now, right now in indigenous Ameri a and indigenous omunities.

B highlighting other Native Ameri an designers, Yellowtail amplifies the reach of their reative efforts, and together the an fight cultural erasure one dress at a time.

Weekly

an accused of murdering -year-old ati e merican girl wants to strike deal with rosecutors

LB

A man a used of idnapping and illing an 11 ear old girl whose death stunned the nation’s largest Ameri an Indian reservation and prompted new federal legislation is s heduled to hange his plea in ourt.

om Bega e’s hange of plea hearing in federal ourt is s heduled for August 1 in Albu uer ue. His attorne s said in ourt that he was loo ing to stri e a plea deal, but it’s unlear what he’ll hange the plea to. His federal defender did not return a all and email see ing omment. Bega e previousl pleaded not guilt .

Bega e is fa ing murder, se al abuse and other harges in the illing of Ashl nne Mi e in Ma 2016. he ase prompted federal legislation that would e pand the Amber Alert s stem to tribal omunities after it was learned that an alert of Mi e’s idnapping didn’t go out until the ne t da .

Bega e is a used of luring Mi e and her brother into his van. He told investigators he se uall assaulted the girl and stru her twi e in the head with a rowbar, and that she was still moving when he left her in the desert, a ording to ourt do uments. he ounge brother was able to es ape.

Mike’s father filed a lawsuit against the Navajo Nation for failing to have an emergency notification system that he says would have saved his daughter’s life.

epubli an Sen. John M Cain of Arizona introdu ed legislation in April expanding the notification system to tribal lands. M Cain said there are over , 00 Ameri an Indian hildren listed as missing in the .S.

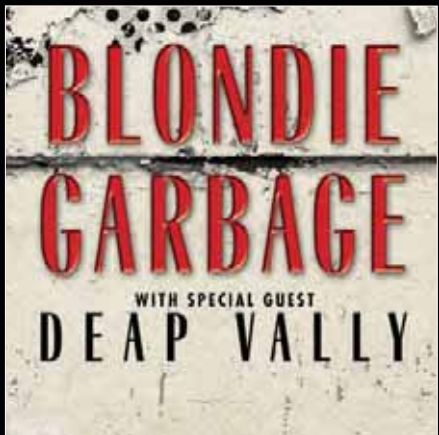
“e must give Indian tribes the tools the need to help our hildren and put an end to this traged , M Cain said in a written statement.

An Amber Alert s stem for the 2 ,000 s uare mile reservation had been proposed ears ago but was never implemented, despite the tribe having been awarded \$330,000 in federal funding as part of a .S. Justi e epartment pilot proje t. Half the mone was used to bu e uipment su h as megaphones and pop up tents, but the rest went unspent.

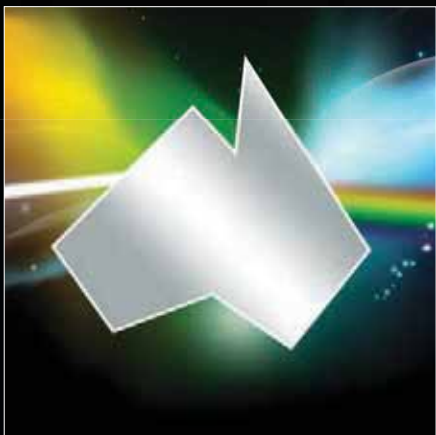
he Navajo Nation overs parts of Arizona, New Me i o and tah.

Idaho State Journal

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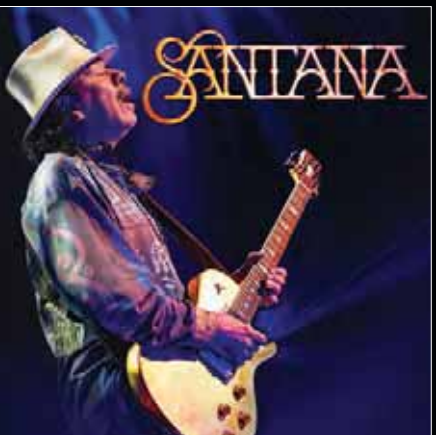
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Education



Summer of science greets Pemayetv Emahakv students

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

B I H O About 100 Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students got an inkling of what the scientific method of discovery is all about during the school's four-week summer science program.

The program focused on fun with plenty of hands-on experiments, but it also snuck in additional learning through journal writing, data collecting and discussing the process.

It was the school's second year hosting a summer program and the first to incorporate science.

"We want them to learn the scientific method because it is something they need to apply by the time they take the Florida State Assessment fifth-grade science test," said instructional coach Paige. "The kids love the involvement, the messier the better."

During the program, students experienced hands-on projects at Brighton's Billy Osceola Library. The outing included making gummy worms swim. The secret was baking soda and vinegar. The students created lava lamps by pe bottles as Al Seltzer made the colorful bubbles float to the surface. They also watched librarian Robin Hayes attempt to create a blimp from sugar, baking soda and lighter fluid.

Students donned aprons and safety goggles and tackled the tasks with gusto. Some experiments worked well, others too. Some extra effort, and one, the blimp, was an abject failure. Hayes filled a bucket with sand, added the sugar baking soda mixture

on top. She doused it in lighter fluid, lit it and voila.

Nothing happened. It burned, but didn't create the wriggling blimp as it was supposed to. Hayes told the students that she may have gotten the measurements wrong. Regardless, it was another learning experience.

"That's science," she said. "Sometimes experiments don't work the first time and you have to try again."

After the failed experiment, they went back inside the library and talked more about the scientific method and ate a healthy treat. Hayes showed them some library books with more scientific experiments they can do at home with their parents.

"Call our parents to come and get these science books," Hayes said. "And read, read, read."

Science wasn't the only subject on the agenda during the CS program. Students set their own reading goals and read daily for 15 minutes in class. Teachers helped them log their time for the school's Just Read Florida summer reading requirement.

Interactive experiments were done in the classrooms, along with reading and writing. Encouraging the students to talk about the science was an important component of the lesson. After each experiment, students and teachers discussed it to ensure they all understood.

A group of first-graders made colorful slime and then put it inside uninflated balloons to create stress balls.

Some third and fourth graders learned about density before they could conduct



Beverly Bidney

First-grader Josephine Snow Severino works with the icky-feeling slime at the PECS hands-on summer science program July 6.



Beverly Bidney

Kindergarteners Benjamin Smith, Marley Cypress and Rosalie Jones conduct a science experiment to make candy gummy worms swim in a concoction of water, vinegar and baking soda at Brighton's Billy Osceola Library during the PECS summer science program.

an experiment. He had to predict which candies would float and which would sink in a cup of water. He learned an object will float if it is less dense than the water and sink if it is more dense.

Paige instructed the students to write down their predictions before the experiment commenced.

"As scientists we record and collect data," she said. "We've been doing that all

summer in our logs. Part of scientific learning is you aren't always going to be right."

Clipboards in hand, candies were tested one by one. Peppermints, Smarties, Starburst, wizzlers, gummy bears and more all sank to the bottom of the cup. Not a gumball floated and as it did, the outer coating of sugar dissolved. Students diligently recorded the data and compared it to their predictions. Right or wrong, they were all rewarded with

a piece of candy.

"Students found out that science doesn't always turn out how you expect it to," Paige said. "They have to understand that's how we learn. They teachers also enjoyed the program and we hope to get even more students next year."



Beverly Bidney

Josiah Gopher proudly shows off the slime he made at the PECS summer science program.



Beverly Bidney

PECS instructional coach Vicki Paige explains the next experiment to a group of third and fourth-graders.

Thanks to Creek immersion program, PECS wins Little Red Schoolhouse award

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

B I H O Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School won the 2017 Little Red Schoolhouse award in June for its Cree immersion program. Sponsored by the Florida Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals (AEMSP), the award recognizes programs that make education engaging, challenging and meaningful for students.

"It's an exciting award that recognizes the hard work the culture department puts into the immersion program," principal Brian Greseth said. "His isn't something that's on their radar. They are usually focused on assessments. Ours was the only culturally based entry and it really stood out."

Greseth submitted a 10-minute video narrated by immersion program manager Marissa Briggs Cloud with the application. The video began with a provocative opening statement.

"It is estimated that a language dies every 14 days. Ninety percent of the world's languages are predicted to be extinct by the end of this century. The Cree language is no exception."

There are fewer than 40 fluent Cree speakers in Brighton and the immersion program aims to create more. Briggs Cloud believes nothing is more effective than a language immersion program for babies to reverse the road to extinction.

"His is the only place on earth someone can go to hear the Cree language exclusively spoken throughout the entire day," Briggs Cloud said in the video. The video explained the benefit of having



significantly more fluent speakers in one space, which generates conversation patterns and a passive listening context for students. It also poses them to utilize idioms representative of authentic Cree language and cultural ideology instead of generating a mirror translation of English. His is best represented in humor, as illustrated in the video by a group of four elders talking and laughing together in the classroom.

ounded

In 2011, the Little Red Schoolhouse award recognizes schools for their unique and creative ways to meet the needs of students. Submissions are judged on originality, implementation, staff and community involvement and longevity during the school year. Programs at six schools were recognized in 2017.

"Cree Immersion by Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School was chosen because of its uniqueness," said Janet Nott, AEMSP president. "It is a prestigious award that recognizes outstanding programs that exist within a school that focus on culture, achievement, positive behavior and or a combination."

CS' mission is to "provide parents, students and the community of Brighton with a school that meets high standards of student achievement by providing a rigorous student-oriented curriculum, infused with the Seminole language and culture, in an environment that is safe, nurturing, conducive to learning and designed to preserve Seminole traditions."

The award-winning immersion program is one crucial way the school works toward achieving its mission.

Fulfill your minor trust financial literacy requirement

The Office of Trust Management will host two series of financial literacy seminars this fall. The sessions will be held on October 21 and November 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Native Learning Center, room 204. The seminars are open to all Seminole tribal members up to 18 years old. Registration must be completed by September 28 by visiting [semintribe.com/signmeup](#). Attending both sessions will fulfill students' Minor Trust Financial Literacy requirements. For more information, contact Lisa Stoppan at 407-663-6300, extension 11442.



Tribalwide summer jobs keep students learning, earning

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY AND LI COHEN
Staff Reporters

hirty teenagers gained valuable experience in the working world this summer through the Summer of Opportunity program Sponsored by the Center for Student Success and Services Department.

Founded in 2007, the program aims to prepare students for the workforce and expose them to opportunities within the tribe. The participants whose whose department they were interested in and went to work June 12. The program ends Aug. 4. Just like another tribal employee, the students were up early every day from Monday to Friday, to learn and perform their jobs.

"We want to make them more marketable," said Terlene Patterson, tribal professional development coordinator, who manages the program. "A lot of kids are still trying to figure out what they want to do with their futures and this gives them the chance to work in various departments."

Students worked in a variety of departments including the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Cattle and Range, preschools, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Seminole College, Seminole Indian Boys and Girls Clubs, Information Technology, Culture, Recreation and Housing.



Beverly Bidney

SWEPP participant Lindsey Posada works in the classroom with Immokalee preschoolers July 12.

proactive, gritty and honest. The book is a team effort and will be written by Canale, Carrie Miller and C. Press.

"Alissa is doing historical preservation by telling the history of Osceola in her own way," Canale said. "We find different ways of storytelling so why not use a medium like a comic book to preserve and promote

perfect for her since she is studying early childhood education at Florida Southwestern State College in Fort Myers and plans to be a preschool teacher. In fact, working at the preschool influenced Lauren's choice of major. She knows a lot of patience is necessary for the job and fortunately, she has it in abundance.



Beverly Bidney

Gherri Osceola creates patchwork as part of her SWEPP experience at Big Cypress Culture Department.

like to work and think other students should take advantage of the Summer of Opportunity program.

"You get paid and that's a good incentive," he said.

Moving out of the office, Morgan Yates and Conner Thomas are no strangers to cattle. They have worked with cows in 4-H and in the pastures, but this was their first

trucks used within the department, the ins and outs of the rescue and ambulance and even how to help patients who need heart monitors and ventilation.

In addition, the two learned how to use ropes and tie knots and fire station operations, where they attended training class with professional firefighters. While Estlin favored the ambulance and services associated with it, Cahalani leaned toward the "Jaws of Life," which is used by rescue personnel to save people who are stuck in vehicles after serious collisions. Despite their varying favorites, the girls agreed that working together like "being with family."

Cahalani, 19, said that the program is a great experience. She chose to work with the fire department at the advice of her older sister, who completed the Summer of Opportunity program with the department two years ago. At 19 years old, she isn't sure if she wants to work as a firefighter professionally, but she plans to return to the fire station next summer to gain more experience.

"My favorite part is going on all with the firefighters and seeing how they handle and respond to everything," she said. "It's an awesome experience."

While Cahalani and Estlin were learning how to protect the tribe, Borals C. Press, Elizabeth Rann and Brent Rann spent their summers working as junior counselors with the Hollywood Boys Girls Club. While the organization has a year-round teen mentoring volunteer program, SWEPP allowed the three students to assist with opening the clubs, daily game and a trivia preparation, leading, youth supervision, serving and cooking meals, assisting youth to and from programming, and mentoring. The program only requires the Summer of Opportunity participants to work between 2 and 3 hours every week, but receive a Bright unit manager of BGC, said that the passionate volunteered outside those times.

Brent explained that Borals, Elizabeth and Brent were all previously involved with the clubs, making the passion toward the jobs much stronger. While they have independently grown throughout the program, she has also seen them supporting each other and operating as a team.

"We have all been with us from previous summers and have grown tremendously," Brent explained. "As a group, the work pretty well together and have developed a rhythm that allows each of them to show their strengths while learning ways to improve their weaknesses from each other."

Challenging the group, Brent regularly challenges them to work towards personal goals and also toward facilitating their own youth trivia during the last week of the program. In doing this, the students demonstrate the new skills gained during the program and receive recognition for their hard work.



Beverly Bidney

Lauren Posada makes sure these Immokalee 2-year-olds see the tiny frog perched on the playground equipment.

The experience the students acquired is as diverse as the individuals themselves. Randeane Osceola, 14, has always loved reading and writing so she opted to work at the Museum to hone those skills. An aspiring writer, she is using the resources of the Museum archives to research and write an article about significant people in Native American history since 1913, the start of the Seminole wars.

"There is a lot more here than I thought," said the Sagamore School ninth grader. "We preserve a lot of things and I learned that a lot of work goes into putting together the displays."

Randeane spends her time researching and learning more about Seminole history, which is fine with her since she would like to be a journalist or maybe write a book one day.

"It's not a burden. It's fun," she said. "The program gives you the opportunity to do something you choose. It's pretty much everyone's dream, to do what you want to do."

Budding artist Alissa Osceola, 16, chose to work at the Museum where she is using her own gritty style to help illustrate a comic book about Osceola's life. After she graduates from Florida Virtual School, where she is a junior, Alissa will attend the Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota. The work she did during SWEPP will expand her portfolio and the experience will help her to pursue a career in art.

"I'm getting used to working in an office and learning about deadlines, the planning process and publishing," she said.

Wenton C. Press, a former SWEPP student and current 4-H employee, mentored Alissa during her time in SWEPP. In his job as community engagement coordinator, Wenton has tried to get more youth and tribal members involved in the Museum.

"I've always wanted to be someone kids look up to and be a role model," Wenton said. "Kids are watching and will follow, so I try to use that to do good things. We are achieving our goal of more community involvement."

Chief data analyst Juan Canale supervises the comic book project and acknowledges that comic books can be

historians want kids to come here and learn in different ways.

Gherri Osceola, 19, chose to work in the Big Cypress Culture Department to bring her closer to her Seminole roots. She was interested in crafts as a young girl, but hadn't made anything in a long time.

"I'm reconnecting with it again," said the Immokalee High School senior. "The ability to work for the tribe helps me understand how things work inside the tribe."

Gherri's workday included time at the sewing machine, where she made a patchwork pattern of her own design. Her advice to other students for next summer is simple: just do it. Gherri said she benefited from her time in SWEPP and is sure other kids will, too.

Lindsey and Lauren Posada worked in the Immokalee Reservoir. It was Lindsey's second summer at the preschool and third in SWEPP.

"Working with the kids and helping them learn gives me a feeling of satisfaction," said Lindsey, 16, an Immokalee High School junior who is also enrolled at Florida Southwestern State College. "It's good to know we are helping children in our own community."

A student, Lindsey learned that getting young children used to new things isn't as simple as it would be for an adult.

"We need encouragement and delayed gratification before they can do what they like," she said. "The strategy works out well most of the time. The kids are really great and the staff are the funniest things."

This was Lauren's fourth summer in SWEPP and second at the preschool, which is



Beverly Bidney

SWEPP student Randeane Osceola does research in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's archives for an article she is writing.

"This gives me good experience and will help me with my career in the long run," she said. "The kids make it enjoyable, do something different every day so it's never boring."

Lauren, who works with the 2-year-old class, gets high praise from teacher Diana Garza.

"The kids love her and always look forward to her in the morning," Garza said. "She stays with them and engages them, she's a big help."

In Brighton, two-year SWEPP alumnus Edward Gauvin, 19, spent his days surrounded by books at the Bill Osceola Library. Last year he worked at the Seminole College Department and wanted something different this time around. His duties included helping elementary, middle and high school students complete science experiments as well as general library work.

"I like getting work experience and seeing how people do their jobs everyday," said the Osceola High School sophomore. "Participating in the program last year made me more open to new experiences."

Edward admitted working up early was not fun, but he liked learning what it was

year at SWEPP. A typical day includes fixing fences and another task that needs to be done in the pastures and pens. Two intense weeks were spent helping to ship the calves, a major annual undertaking in Brighton and Big Cypress.

Morgan has worked with her father Bobb Yates in the cattle and range department for a few summers, but this was the first time she earned a paycheck. The Moore Haven High School ninth grader said she enjoys the camaraderie, stories and jokes told on the job.

"Since I'm getting paid, I am more responsible for getting up and going to the job," said Conner, a junior at Moore Haven High School. "SWEPP is a good opportunity. But if you're going to work here, you better have tough skin and be willing to work. It's a lot of fun, but it is work."

In Hollywood, students received a taste of other careers. Summer participants Estlin Iaz and Cahalani Hayes learned that careers are not confined to office spaces. The two participants spent the summer learning how to become firefighters with Seminole Indian Rescue. After initial learning how to conduct CPR and about fire behavior, the two progressed to learning about the various



Beverly Bidney

Alyssa Osceola works on a comic book about Osceola's life July 10 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum where she is working as a SWEPP participant.

Recent grads learn about the Tribe

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

ORLANDO — Newly minted Tribal high school graduates traveled to Orlando July 16-18 for an education about the Tribe.

The mission of the program, held at Sapphire Resort, was to provide an overview of what services the Tribe offers its members. About a dozen graduates participated in the program, at which representatives from Tribal departments outlined what they do and how the students can take advantage of their services and programs.

Elected officials in attendance included Chairman Marcello Scola Jr., Board President Mitchell Cress, Big Cypress County Commissioner Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Hollywood County Commissioner Chris Scola and Hollywood Board of Commissioners Gordon Areham.

“Everything we do is for you, the future of this Tribe,” Chairman Scola said. “What we are going to show you is what you have the opportunity to be a part of. Regardless of where you go today, tomorrow you will still be a Tribal member. There are so many resources and opportunities to take advantage of.”

The officials each greeted the grads and encouraged them to ask questions.

“That’s what we’re here for,” Areham said. “Tell us aside. We have a lot of knowledge.” Resident Cress told the students the Tribe is behind them and will support them in their future educational endeavors. County Commissioner Scola urged them to learn and get a depth of knowledge about what the Tribe does because “tomorrow you are going to be doing what we are doing today.”



Recent high school graduates attended a program in Orlando July 16-18 to learn about various resources and opportunities the Tribe provides to them. While some parts of the program were more discussion-based, other parts were based on fun. Above, students got to practice their intricate beadwork. Below, recent graduates got to enjoy their time learning new traditional instruments they did not get to learn in high school.



“Be proud of who you are and where you come from,” County Commissioner Bowers said. “It’s very competitive out there. The man outside wants to see you come to work every day and on time.” The departments used PowerPoint presentations to explain their function to the students. Suresh Geer, executive director of finance, gave a tutorial on the Tribe’s budget, including resources that come in and how they are used for the benefit of the Tribe. He told the students the percentage of the Tribe’s income that comes from gaming and used pie charts and other graphs to show how money is spent.

Treasurer Pete Hahn explained how a budget works.

“Assets are the money you put in; our property, liabilities are that money out of our pocket,” Hahn said. “Remember what you have coming in and don’t spend more than that. People don’t plan to fail, they just fail to plan.”

Health department representatives described the basics of insurance coverage. Auditor Andre Budde gave advice for postsecondary studies and assured the grads the department will help them navigate the opportunities. Secretary LaDonna described the important functions of her office.

“Please register to vote,” she said. “That’s the right to sovereignty, to elect our own leaders.” Housing Director Terri Smith explained good financial management so they can eventually get a home loan. He suggested they save at least 10 percent of their income.

“The more you save, the better you will be

set up for the long term,” he said. “And be careful with credit and debt.”

Lewis Gopher spoke about the risk of the Tribe losing the connection to its culture. He told the grads it is everyone’s responsibility to keep the culture alive.

“It makes us who we are,” he said. “We’re the remnants of 300 people that escaped in the 1900s. The blood we have in our veins comes from strong people who fought to survive. We still have teachers who have the knowledge and it’s our job to go learn.”

Gopher told the group that he still sees out elders. He said the “just want to talk and have someone listen to them.”

“That’s how we used to learn in a camp setting and it’s still alive today,” he said.

The Culture Department set up in an adjacent ballroom. Abris, a sewing machine, ironing boards and a cutting table made a complete patchwork lesson possible for those who wanted to learn. A large beading table was filled with beads of all sizes and colors.

Mihael Jimmie of the Tampa area brought her nine children to the event.

“It’s good for the kids to learn different cultural things as well as to meet kids from other reservations,” she said. “We do this at home, but it’s good to come together with other people.”

Jim Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming and Chairman of Hard Rock International, gave an update on the Tribe’s gaming operation. He reported that since the Tribe bought Hard Rock International in 2007, the value of the company has more than doubled. There are 226 Hard Rock locations in countries and growing. He called it the greatest family business in the world.

Allen has spent his entire career in the

Jenna Billie right at home with Mensa gathering

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — That is the capital of is onsin Stumped

Jenna Billie wasn’t. Even though she is only 5 years old, Jenna has an name all 50 state capitals without much hesitation. The daughter of Jennifer and Jonah Billie from Hollywood knows a lot more than just the capitals, too. Jenna’s high intelligence level is one reason why she will be starting the second grade this year well ahead of where peers her age are placed, which is kindergarten.

But Jenna has already graduated from kindergarten and with the blessings of her Montessori school and her parents, is bypassing first grade thanks to her exceptional academic skills. When she started kindergarten last year, she was already far ahead of the curve reading at a fifth-grade level.

“She learned how to read on her own, teaching herself to read,” Jennifer said. “I never sat down and taught her to read. I taught her the alphabet. She learned it all when she was 18 months old. I taught her the sounds of the letters, and with that, on her own with books and with certain things, she basically taught herself how to read. She spends her days reading. When we go on far trips, she always wants books in the car.”

Jenna quickly grasped multiplication tables to be a whiz in math. It is in history.

“She learned the states and capitals in less than three days,” her mother said. “Her memory is incredible. She wanted to learn the states and capitals. She wanted the second graders to know that she knows what she knows. She doesn’t realize the probability doesn’t even now.”

Skipping a grade is a perk that comes with a 140 IQ, which is what Jenna scored at age four. Another benefit is inclusion into Mensa International, an organization for bright adults and youngsters that requires a member to score within the top 2 percent of approved IQ tests.

Jenna, along with 1,000 other Mensa members known as Mensans, attended the organization’s annual gathering July 6-7 at the Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood. A sampling of titles from the dozens of diverse sessions for adults ranged from “Addressing Urban Inequality and Overtourism” to “Understanding Surrealist Art to Investing in Future Technologies.”

With the event practice all in her backyard, Jenna didn’t pass up an opportunity to join fellow astute minds her age for the youth programs. Her small group for ages 4 to 6 included kids from Florida, California, Ohio, South Carolina and Texas.

“Our primary goal at Mensa is to provide social interaction,” said Jamie Phold, Mensa’s gifted youth and leadership coordinator. “Our kids are different. They are exceptional in every sense of the word. They stand out. Mensa is a place where they fit in. Some of these kids are making friendships today that they will have for life.”

An array of educational programs set up on the third day of the gathering allowed the kids to



Kevin Johnson

Jenna Billie, 5, center, wears and shows patchwork during a program about the Seminole Tribe at Mensa’s annual gathering July 6 at Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood. The program for ages 4 to 6 emphasized the Tribe’s culture and history and was led by Alyssa Boge, far left, education coordinator at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. About 1,800 Mensa members, including youth and adults, attended the gathering. Acceptance into Mensa is based on high scores on IQ tests.

learn about pizza geometry, invasive species and wild animals, all in one morning. Another caveat, especially for Jenna, was a program about the Seminole Tribe’s culture and traditions.

“You know who the Seminoles are?” Alyssa Boge, educational coordinator from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, asked the group of eight kids.

“I’m a Seminole,” responded Jenna, whose great uncle Noah Billie has artwork displayed at the Museum.

“She’s a proud Tribal member,” said mom Jennifer, who is not a Tribal member. “I don’t think she really understands that she’s gifted. She knows she’s different. She’s definitely a proud Seminole.” Dad made sure to make her a very proud Seminole girl.

Boge spent the next 10 minutes explaining and demonstrating the important history behind the Tribe’s patchwork designs, sweetgrass basketry, necklace, fans, headdresses, saw palmetto, softee, still ball and the see bone game. It was a hands-on morning for the kids, who grinned while grinding corn, smiled while smelling sweetgrass and played the see bone

game with the see bone of a cow. When she began to consider which programs to offer the kids at the Mensa gathering, Phold said the Seminole Tribe’s name kept popping up on her searches for “Hollywood Florida culture.” She was thrilled to be able to include the Tribe in the day’s youth menu.

“That’s something I want our kids to be exposed to. They love to learn. They love new and different information,” she said.

The Seminole program hit home with Jenna in many ways. When Boge started to explain about headdresses, Jenna mentioned her family has a headdress in their front yard on the Hollywood reservation. When the discussion turned to patchwork, Jenna became part of the demonstration by showing the patchwork design she wore.

As for those state capitals, when Boge casually mentioned she came from Florida from is onsin, Jenna, without any prompting, immediately provided an answer to a question that wasn’t even asked.

“Madison is the capital,” she said.

AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM *Seminole Discovery Days*



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July 22nd: Everglades Survival

September 9th: Art at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Spanish Days

Habla Español? Join us for special programs in Spanish from 1-4pm on June 18th, July 16th, and August 13th!

All activities are free for Tribal Members, Tribal employees, museum members, or included with your admission.



Class of 2017

Graduating high school is a major accomplishment. The Class of 2017 is filled with designers, social champions, athletes, and many diverse personalities that are ready to take on the world. As high school ends, it is time for a new journey into adulthood to begin and graduates from around the Seminole Tribe of Florida are preparing for new adventures that lie ahead. Regardless of where these graduates go, what they do and how they choose their claim to fame, there is no doubt they will be successful. Below are some of this year's graduates. The Class of 2017 is a class to remember and The Seminole Tribune wishes them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Congratulations, Graduates!



Ahnie Jumper
American Heritage High School
Ahnie will attend Florida Gulf Coast University where she will play on the softball team and study early childhood education. Her favorite high school memory was winning the state softball championship three times. In the future, she hopes to run a preschool.



Savannah Redbone Osceola
Anadarko High School
Anadarko, Oklahoma
Savannah's staying true to her roots, as she will attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University to study psychology. Her younger cousins inspire her to be a role model and she plans to carry that into a career in counseling.



Morgan Bert
Florida Christian School
To support her family and remain close to Tribal roots, Morgan plans to study agriculture at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida. Her younger siblings inspire her to always learn and to be kind to all whom she encounters.



Nashoba Gonzalez
Ahfachkee School
Headed to Johnson and Wales University in North Miami, Nashoba plans on studying hospitality management and tourism. Throughout high school, her parents inspired her to never give up and always keep trying. She plans on working in the travel and tourism industry.



River Osceola
Moore Haven High School
River plans to pursue a music career, already underway, as he looks forward to writing and producing songs. He intends to study business, perhaps at Florida State. River thanks his cousin Yo Osceola for helping keep him out of trouble in high school and credits other friends and family with help along the way.



Trevor Thomas
Okeechobee High School
Trevor plans to attend either Indian River State College or Warner University to focus on an agriculture-related major and hopefully continue playing baseball. His favorite high school memory was a walk off win against Martin County in a district semifinal this year.



Ditoyyo Billie
Devereux Glenholme School
Washington, Connecticut
Ditoyyo will trade seasons for beaches in college, as he will attend Lynn University in Boca Raton to study hospitality management. His great grandmother valued education, inspiring him to work toward a career in the Tribe's gaming department.



Randee Osceola
Immokalee High School
Aside from reigning as the 2017-2018 Miss Florida Seminole Princess, Randee plans on attending Barry University in Miami to study psychology, a subject her mother also studied before her. She plans on going far in education to earn her doctorate to better serve the Tribe.



Michelle Garcia
GED
Michelle plans to enter the medical field and study nursing at Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers. Her mother, who was a single parent raising six children, inspired her to never give up and taught her that she can achieve anything she sets her mind to.



Jeremiah Osceola Santiago
The Vanguard School
While taking a break from school, Jeremiah plans to get a job. He is still deciding upon a school and is considering entering the athletics field through sports medicine or a similar field. He knows that life can pass by quickly and he wants to seize every opportunity possible.



Rhett Tiger
NSU University School
The Athletics field is calling Rhett's name, as he plans on attending Queens University of Charlotte to study in sports management. Whether he was playing sports on the field or studying in class during high school, his mother inspired him and he learned no one can take away his education.



Alexis Osceola-James
Montverde Academy
To challenge herself, Alexis will move out-of-state and attend the University of Alabama to study political science or communications. She is driven to stay focused and draws inspiration from Assata Shakur's books. She aspires to be a lawyer.



Sydnee Cypress
Moore Haven High School
Sydnee wants to study psychiatry and play softball in college, hopefully in Melbourne, with an ultimate goal of coming back to open her own practice and help the Tribe. She attributes her success in academics and athletics to her mother, who taught her to do her best and never give up.



Nicholas Zepeda
Liberty University Online Academy
Hoping to own the next big film studio, Nicholas will attend Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida to study film. He has made films since he was a child and is inspired by his father's work ethic, wisdom, leadership and love for God, which he values immensely.



Hunter Tiger
John A. Ferguson Senior High School
During high school, Hunter learned that confidence in himself is far more valuable than worrying how others view him. He plans on carrying that mentality to Miami-Dade College to get his associate's degree in business administration so that he can start his own company.



Rylee Osceola
American Heritage High School
While Rylee plans to continue her education from an on-line school, she does not yet have a set career path. She is considering becoming a pediatrician, but regardless of her ultimate decision, she plans on following the good example set forth by her father, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.



Mason Foret
Lennard High School

After taking time off to travel, Mason plans to enter the management training program at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa where he looks forward to learning the business and helping the Tribe.



Isaac Urbina
GED

Knowing he did not want to continue throughout life without an education, Isaac decided to get his GED. His family inspires him to succeed and continuously encourages him to be better and push farther than he thinks is possible. He plans to go to technical school and become a mechanic.



GraySun Billie
Ahfachkee School

Though undecided where, GraySun plans to attend college to learn video game design and coding. During high school, GraySun became inspired by art, as well as the support and dedication of his teachers, to follow his dreams and trust himself. He hopes to become a video game designer.



Chloe Smith
Hollywood Hills High School

Chloe plans to attend Florida International University, where she will study social work. The biggest lesson she's taken from high school is to never procrastinate and her family inspired her to achieve greatness. In the future, she wants to be a social worker so she can better the Tribe and help children.



Ivan Billie Jr.
Neshoba Central High School
Philadelphia, Mississippi

From his parents' inspirational messages throughout high school, Ivan plans to follow his dreams and study in game art at Full Sail University in Winter Park, Florida.



Trevon Marks
American Heritage High School

Entrepreneurship is in Trevon's future, as he plans to take business management courses online. He said only time will tell exactly what lies ahead, but he is confident that a business background will lead him to success.

Eric Jaden Puente
Moore Haven High School

Although undecided about college, Eric knows he wants to pursue a multimedia major. He already sells figures that he paints, molds and sculpts. Eric's parents helped make sure he stayed on track with his school work during high school, preparing him for his time in college.

Drayton Billie
Okeechobee High School

After being a standout wrestler for four years and receiving much support from his coach, Drayton plans to tackle an automotive-related career. He hopes to study at Universal Technical Institute with an eventual goal of starting an auto repair business.

Raylon Eagle
Okeechobee High School

Raylon is eying a career as a paramedic, which she will pursue at Valencia College in Orlando. Her inspiration to help people comes from Salina Dorgan, who also helps others and encouraged her throughout high school.

Dennis Gonzales
The Vanguard School

Dennis' future includes attending Florida South Western State College and studying criminal justice to become a game warden. Basketball played a big part of his high school life, which included many memories, including receiving support on and off the court from his coach.



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Cattle Country Sale

Written By: Sam Duvall 9/14/2016

The week of the sale
Has come and gone
The nights were short
And the days were long

Working together as
One big team
A slacker's nightmare but,
A cattlemen's dream

Working the cattle
From dawn till dusk
The chores we do
These things are a must

Cattle hauled in
Day after day
At night we would
Feed, water, and hay

Constructing pens on the
Rodeo arena floor
Carrying steel panels
Till our bodies were sore

Bobby and his crew
Holding down Marsh Pens
Jerry, Gene, and Jessie
Hauling cattle again, and again

Kelsey on the road
Day after day
Loading and unloading
A bunch of bales of hay

Mark helping out
On punishment from school
Working at the arena
Making sure water troughs were full

Helth and Matt stacking
Cattle pen after pen
Ready for the day
When this nightmare will end

Keeping the records straight
A burdin the secretaries must carry
Talking about, Emma, Melissa, Margaret, and Sheri

Alex our boss
Working along with Phill and Chris
Planning the strategy
Along with AMS

Mark, Richard, Matt,
And Trey
An unbelievable crew
What else can we say

The sale they say
Was a huge success
It takes an unselfish crew
Nothing more nothing less

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Fourth of July



Beverly Bidney
Richa Doctor flops right into the water to cool off from a hot day.



Beverly Bidney
Sammy Kershaw entertains the crowd with his signature style of country music at the Big Cypress Fourth of July celebration.



Kevin Johnson
Omar Ridley and Paige Tommie enjoy some fun on a water slide during Fort Pierce's July 4th celebration.



Beverly Bidney
Krystal Rodriguez plays bingo as her daughter Addylin Rodriguez finds something else more amusing to watch at the Immokalee Fourth of July party July 3.



Michael James
Susie Doctor relaxes with a magazine on her day off in Tampa.



Beverly Bidney
Ricky Doctor aims for the stake during a game of horseshoes at the Big Cypress Fourth of July celebration July 3.



Beverly Bidney
Carlise Bermudez, Madison Martinez and Denise Gonzalez cool off with some sweet snow cones at the Immokalee soiree.



Drew Osceola
Lana Gadson, left, and Brenda Cypress pose for a photo at the Seminole Estates in the Hollywood July 4.



Beverly Bidney
A steep slippery slide gives this boy some cool thrills at the Immokalee Fourth of July celebration.



Michael James
Anthony and Mark Holmes enjoy an amusemant park ride for July 4th in Tampa.



Drew Osceola
David Jumper shows us his bowling technique at the Seminole Estates in Hollywood on July 4.



Beverly Bidney
Kids line up to show their mettle as they sit on an alligator at the Big Cypress Fourth of July party at the rodeo grounds.



Sammy Micco Sanchez brings home more NAIG gold

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

OOO About 10 minutes after he won a grueling championship match in wrestling, Team Florida's Sammy Micco Sanchez was still breathing heavily as fellow Seminoles congratulated the two-time gold medal champion.

After breezing through two victories on the first day of competition, Sammy needed every ounce of his 122-pound frame to edge a larger team's Bronson's Brandon King, 3, in the 220.5-pound North American Indigenous Games' title match July 1 at the Toronto Track & Field Centre on the campus of York University in Toronto.

"I'm bringing home another gold," declared Sammy's stepdad Frank Cabal as he held up Sammy's first gold medal in front of about 20 Seminole supporters who filled a set of bleachers next to the mat. Amid the fans in the front row was Sammy's mom, Alicia Cabal, whose presence provided additional inspiration.

"She just had surgery on her arm and it's been killing her to do anything," Sammy said. "Just the fact she wanted to come here and support me, it's amazing. That's why I do it all for her. All my medals go to her. Every medal I win I give it to her because if it wasn't for my mom I wouldn't be here participating."

As the do before ever wrestling match and football game whether it's at NAIG or Fort Gibson High School in Oklahoma — Sammy and his mom prayed.

"I came out winning for a second time, it's really a blessing. Me and my mother prayed before every match and every football game. I feel like I'll lose if I don't pray with my mom," Sammy said.

Sammy's additional supporting cast, including Frank and his coach Sammy Johnson, has played roles in both gold medals.

"If it wasn't for my coach, I wouldn't be the best I am today. I wanted to quit so many times, and he wouldn't let me. My stepdad ran, too. I mean we have our ups

and downs, but I love him. I do it for both of them," Sammy said.

And Sammy does it for the Seminole Tribe. Before the start of the championship matches, all finalists gathered in an area away from the mats as they prepared for a brief introduction ceremony to start the session. Sammy wore a blank black tank top and shorts, but went back to his bag and returned with Team Florida's Seminole jacket. He tied it around his waist just in time for the introductions.

"I didn't just come here to represent myself. I came here to represent the tribe. I had to run back and get it so the new where I am from," he said.

Winning gold for a second consecutive NAIG proved to be tougher for Sammy than the first time three years ago in Saskatchewan. King was a solid opponent.

"I gave 30 pounds. He was strong. He was way bigger than me," Sammy said.

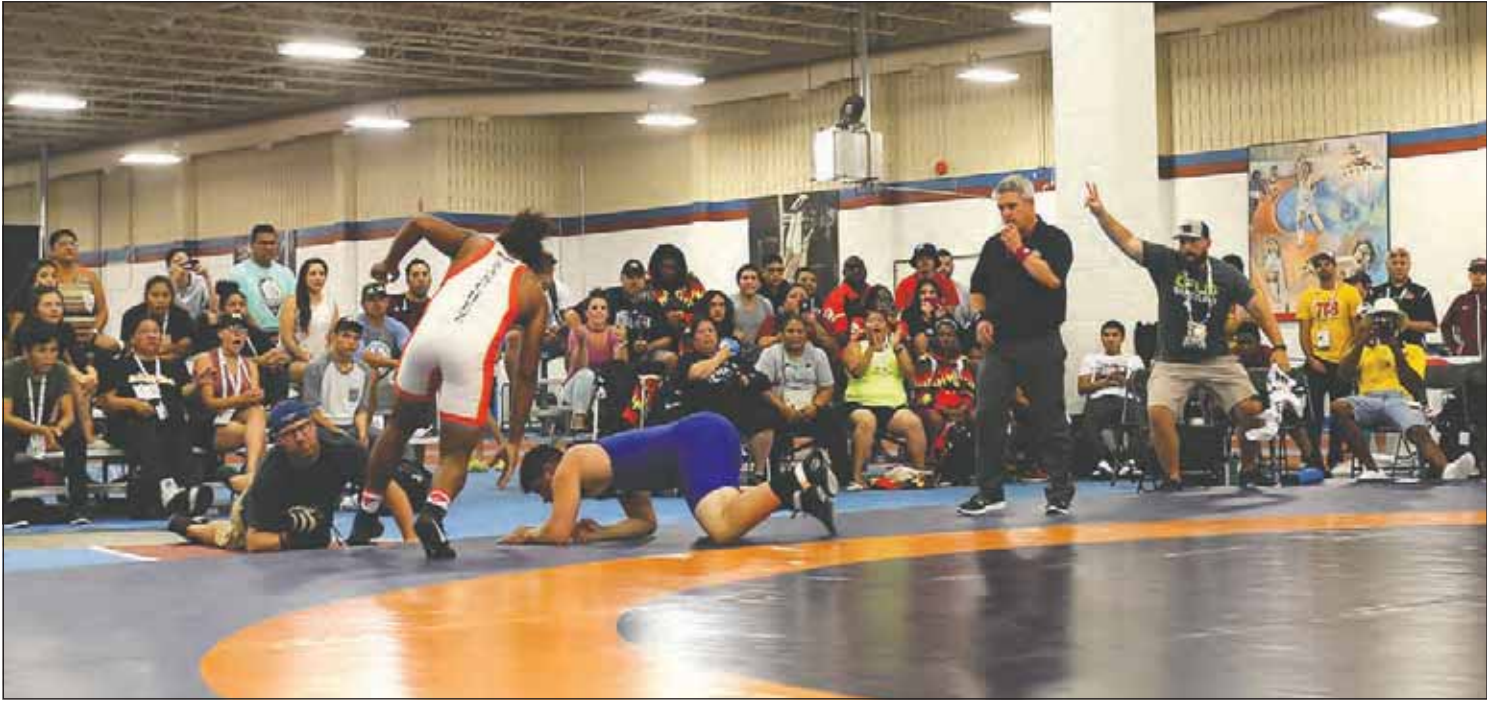
"I was kind of off on this last match because Sammy is weighing 192 and he's wrestling a kid that's 220 and the kid was stout and very muscular," Frank added. "I knew Sammy would be real competitive in it, but he even told me, 'Dad, I was sweating so bad that if I would have tried to get in there he would have got a good hold of me and flip me. Basically I could win it by points.' He played it safe."

Sammy fell behind 1-0 early in the match, but he didn't panic.

"I told myself I'm not leaving here without gold. Silver won't cut it. I won it once, I can win it again. I repeated it over and over in my head," he said.

Sammy quickly changed the tone and the score as he took the lead for good with two points for a takedown. He scored additional points for pushing King off the mat and built his lead to 11 before King scored a couple late points to make the final 5-3 in a match that lasted the full two 3-minute rounds on a day when nearly every other championship match ended in the first round. The wrestlers spent most of the match on their feet.

"I thought we created the action the whole time," Coach Johnson said. "I wrestled really well. It's a big match for us."



Kevin Johnson

Team Florida's Sammy Micco Sanchez increases his lead against Team Wisconsin's Brandon King in the U19 championship match for 220.5 pounds in the North American Indigenous Games at York University in Toronto. Sanchez won the gold with a 5-3 win.

Hopefully that will carry over to football season and wrestling season back home.

Sammy's preparations for NAIG were limited because he spent part of the summer participating in football camps at Oklahoma State and Florida State. The middle linebacker on the FGHS team planned to shift his focus back to football when he returned to Oklahoma, but he cherished his wrestling victory in his final NAIG.

"He wanted to make his coach proud. He wanted to make his mom and I proud. He did what he always does," Frank said.

Kevin Johnson

Team Florida's Sammy Micco Sanchez wins his second NAIG gold medal in wrestling.



Sharp-shooting Eecho Billie wins two gold medals

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

COO SOW, Ontario As he waited for his son to receive two gold medals during a ceremony on a sprawling open lawn at Toronto's York University, James Billie reflected on the path that helped make Santiago "Eecho" Billie a North American Indigenous Games champion in rifle shooting.

"When he was a little boy, he started out with a squirt gun. Next came the old BB gun. Then a pellet gun," said the former chairman of the Seminole Tribe. "So he's not ignorant of guns. I was not surprised by what he did. I'm proud of him."

Eecho, 17, will start his sophomore year at The Pine School in August. He plays lacrosse and baseball, but when he doesn't have a stick or a bat in his hands he usually has a rifle or rod.

"If you'd let him, he would hunt 24/7. If he's not hunting, he's fishing," his father said.

Eecho dominated the overall boys' 16-rifle shooting at NAIG from start to finish at the Toronto International Trap & Skeet Club in Cookstown, Ontario, about a half-hour drive north of Toronto. He earned gold medals in 3 positions and overall.

"This means a lot to come up here and do this," Eecho said.

Guidance came from Coach Darren Marlin, from the Seminole Recreation Department, and coach/Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, who peered through a scope behind Eecho to gauge his shots throughout the three-day event.

"He helped me out and show me different techniques, how I should stand, how I should kneel," Eecho said. "He told me where I'm aiming, where I'm shooting at. If I don't have a scope, he told me where I'm hitting so I can adjust."

Eecho, the only rifle shooter from Team Florida, led a field of 14 each day. He finished with 1,066 overall points, which was a comfortable 104 points ahead of runner-up Jared Erickson from Team British Columbia. Included in Eecho's point total was 1,044 points for 3, which is a cumulative category for firing from three positions: standing, kneeling and laying down. He excelled at all three.

"The whole team chemistry was good. He was able to shoot and relax and the results showed," said Rep. Frank, who also coached Eecho in the 2014 NAIG in Saskatchewan. "Three years ago we had all young kids. Even though they didn't have experience, we brought them out to Regina to get experience. Eecho was one of those that returned and he did good this time. Hopefully, three years from now, he'll have company."

Eecho made sure he prepared for NAIG



Kevin Johnson

Team Florida's Santiago Billie competes on day one of North American Indigenous Games' U16 rifle shooting in Cookstown, Ontario. Billie went on to win the gold medal.

honing his skills at home in Brighton. "I learned a bunch of different techniques on how to shoot and to do whatever I have to do up here. I've been practicing at home and whenever I get the chance to shoot, he said."

From toy guns to real ones, Eecho has been shooting "ever since I could walk."

"I've always loved shooting. I shoot game. I do anything out of shooting. I can get it," he said.

Eecho's two gold medals in rifle shooting were only part of an impressive week in Canada for the Billie family. While Eecho's ears of shooting experience paid off with gold, his sister Aubee won bronze in archery in her first-ever competition. The award ceremonies were held about the same time in venues far apart, so James attended the rifle shooting and his wife Maria attended the archery ceremony as the Billie children accounted for three of the five medals won by Team Florida.

"First time around for Aubee, that's great. Eecho, I would expect nothing less from him than what he did, James. Billie said."



Kevin Johnson

Team Florida's gold medal rifle shooter Santiago "Eecho" Billie is joined by some of Team Florida's coaches, staff and athletes after the North American Indigenous Games' rifle shooting awards ceremony July 20 at York University in Toronto. The coaches and staff include Jennie Busbin, Dessie Thomas, Stephanie Ecker, Darren Marlin and Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank. The athletes include Dennis Gonzales, Nakai Alex, Kimora Alex and Kamani Smith.

Medal-winners Conner Thomas, Aubee Billie lead Team Florida archery

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

C S , Ontario Conner Thomas isn't the t pe of teenage athlete who see s the spotlight he's too humble for that but the Moore Haven High S hool junior from Brighton ouldn't help but be the enter of attention than s to the wa he dominated ar her at the North Ameri an Indigenous Games.

In the male 16 division, Conner was the onl ar her in 16 ompound to s ore 200 points or higher in a session. Nobod else hit that mar , but Conner e lipped it a remarkable five times on his way to capturing a gold medal in the woods at the Hamilton Angling Hunting Asso iation site in rural An aster. His s ores grew progressivel better as he posted 1 4, 201, 202, 20 , 20 and 210.

he numbers Conner was popping, that's unheard of. He's an absolute ma hine, said eam lorida ar her oa h Joe Collins. hree or four 11s in a round is fantasti this gu is popping 11 or 12.

Conner said he's wor ed hard to get where he is now.

"I an go ba home and sa I've a omplished what I wanted to do.

Conner finished with 1,224 points during the three da event, during whi h ar hers too aim twi e per da at 20 stationar 3 animals pla ed at the end of paths in the woods. a h animal station was separate, similar to holes in golf.

arren Collins, from eam Alberta, finished runner-up with 1,155 points.

Conner, who is an offensive lineman for Moore Haven's football team, ame into the Games fresh from a solid performan e at the 4 H national ar her ompetition in Nebras a.

"I told him oming in that he was an obvious legitimate ontender for the gold and he just never let up, Collins said.

Conner's e e popping s ores were noti ed even be ond the eam lorida amp. ther states and provin es were oming up as ing about him. He was a elebrit , Collins said. "I traded one of m shirts with the oa h from is onsin and he had Conner signing the shirt. he 'll be loo ing for him in three ears.

Conner's gold medal performan e was just one of the highlights to a su essful NAIG for lorida's ar her team. At the 2014 NAIG, the team had onl three ar hers. his ear si teens represented lorida, with three ea h on the bo s and girls sides.

Aubee Billie and revor homas two of the new omers performed well beyond expectations in their first archery ompetition.

Aubee, who was interviewed b CBC



Kevin Johnson

Conner Thomas fires a shot during NAIG's archery competition July 18 in Ancaster, Ontario.

media during her da , surprised ever one b apturing the bronze medal in female 16 while revor just missed out on a medal and finished fourth in male U19.

"Aubee didn't miss a beat. She was a huge surprise, Collins said.

Before arriving in Canada, Aubee attended a performing arts amp in New Yor .

"Aubee de ided to do it a few months ago so we got her the best damn bow we ould get for her and what we onsider the best instru tor, said her father James . Billie, "Aubee is into fine arts, Broadway shows, singing and dan ing. o do this is a little bit out of line. or her to ome up and get a bronze is great. She's a ver fo used id.

Her overall s ore was 1 points with her best round oming in session 4 with 14 points.

Meanwhile, revor was in the hunt for a medal right up until his final few shots. He finished fourth, nine points from third and a bronze.

"I was two good shots awa from third. It was reall lose, revor said.

Being in ontention surprised revor, whose relaxing first two days of competition gave way to a more serious round in the final sessions.

"I wasn't e pe ting to do as good as I did so I was just ind of having fun with it, the 201 ee hobee High graduate said. he third da rolled around and I was top four so I was a little more ompetitive that da .

ven though a medal eluded him in his final NAIG, Trevor said he was glad he joined the team.

"I li ed the e perien e. All the gu s I met out there were reall ool, he said.

lorida also re eived strong efforts on the girls side from a lon agle and alholl ran , who battled through the three da s despite having a wounded finger, and Kyler Bell on the bo s side, who ompeted in the traditional or instin tive division that features far less sophisti ated bows than the compound division. Kyler was in contention for a medal. He racked up 587 points, good enough for fifth place.

ith two medals, a ouple of near misses and a dedi ated roster of si , eam lorida's trip to NAIG proved to be one to remember.

"I'm proud of all of them, Collins said. he host lub out there thought the lorida team was well behaved and nowledgeable. hen ou sa that about m team, that's m medal.



Kevin Johnson

Aubee Billie is interviewed by Canadian media during the archery competition at NAIG.



Kevin Johnson

Team Florida's girls archery squad gets ready to start their opening day at the North American Indigenous Games on July 18 in Ancaster, Ontario. From left, Aubee Billie, Valholly Frank, Raylon Eagle and coach Joe Collins.

Young swimmers gain valuable experience in big-time environment

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

O O O The first competitive swimming event for Kimora Alex and Talena Holata won't be one the pair of 11 ear old girls forget an time soon.

Big it , foreign ountr , international ompetition and a world lass fa lit were on the agenda.

heir debut swimming with opponents in the pool for the first time came July 20 in the North Ameri an Indigenous Games in oronto where the not onl fa ed top Indigenous athletes from Canada and the .S., but older ones as well. If that wasn't enough of an e e opening en ounter for two girls with no e perien e e ept pra ti es, then swimming in the bright, sprawling, world lass oronto an Am Sports Centre served as another jolt.

"It was s ar, alena said about swimming in a facility that hosted the 2015 an Ameri an Games.

Talena, from Brighton, and Kimora, from Holl wood, ompeted in the 14 ategor be ause that was the oungest age

group available. The first day of competitive swimming for the onl members of eam lorida featured another aveat when the swam in the same 50-meter backstroke preliminary heat. Kimora lined up in lane 3 while three spots awa was her teammate alena in lane 6. Both wore red swim aps with the Seminole ribe e reation logo prominentl featured. he didn't glan e at ea h other at the start.

"We had to look up," Kimora said.

As e pe ted, neither advan ed out of the heat. Talena finished sixth in 1:02 while Kimora finished seventh in 1:08, but places and times are not what their e perien es were about for this event or for the other heats that the swam. Stephanie er, who oa hes the girls with fellow ort ier e lifeguard Jennie Busbin, was thrilled with the girls' debut.

he did fantasti . he 've ome su h a long wa , er said.

Indeed, Kimora and Talena only started swimming under the guidan e of their oa hes about si months ago. he small team, whi h also in luded Sh la Holata,



Kevin Johnson

Team Florida's swim team gathers for a photo July 20 during the North American Indigenous Games at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre. From left, coach Stephanie Ecker, Talena Holata, Kimora Alex and coach Jennie Busbin.



Kevin Johnson

Team Florida's Kimora Alex, lane 3, and her teammate Talena Holata, lane 6, get ready to start a heat in the girls U14 50-meter backstroke at the North American Indigenous Games on July 20 at the Toronto Pan Am Sports Centre.

who was unable to attend NAIG, met uesda s and hursda s in iviera Bea h for pra ti es.

"I'd li e to get them in the pool ear round if possible and get them into ompetitions lo all , er said.

er would also li e to see more Seminole ids ta e an interest in swimming and has a goal of someda reating a ribal swim team for ids from all reservations.

" ur hope is over the ne t three ears to start building up a swim team within the Seminole ribe. hat ma re ure us to travel a ouple times a week, which we're fine with, she said.

"If the an build that team and get those swimmers then ma be the 'll go on to be ome junior lifeguards and lifeguards in e reation, said e reation's Salina organ, who wat hed the girls ompete.

Team Florida hoops solid effort at NAIG

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Even before the stepped onto the basketball courts in Toronto for the North American Indigenous Games, Team Florida faced an uphill battle.

The 16 boys, who deserve plenty of credit for being Florida's only basketball entrants in the Games, never had a full squad for practices leading up to the event.

"I didn't have ever body at practice," said Eddie Edd, who coached the squad along with "Brant" Hite. "There were about three kids that never came to practice, so it was kind of hard to put something together during the tournament."

It took the opening 10 minutes of its first game for Florida to know they were facing well-prepared competition. Team Sas at hewan employed the two basketballs produced in rapid succession, complete with pinpoint passing that left Florida reeling and staring at deficits at Tait McKenzie Center on the campus of York University in Toronto.

Slow starts plagued Florida, which went 0-4 in pool C with losses to Sas at hewan (101-53), New York (100-71), Eastern Door & The North (88-67) and Alberta (85-69).

"I got in that hole early," said Edd, whose team gamely battled back at times to slice into opponents' leads, but the early deficits proved to be too much to overcome.

"I didn't give up. I kept going," said Dennis Gonzales, one of the team's top scorers.

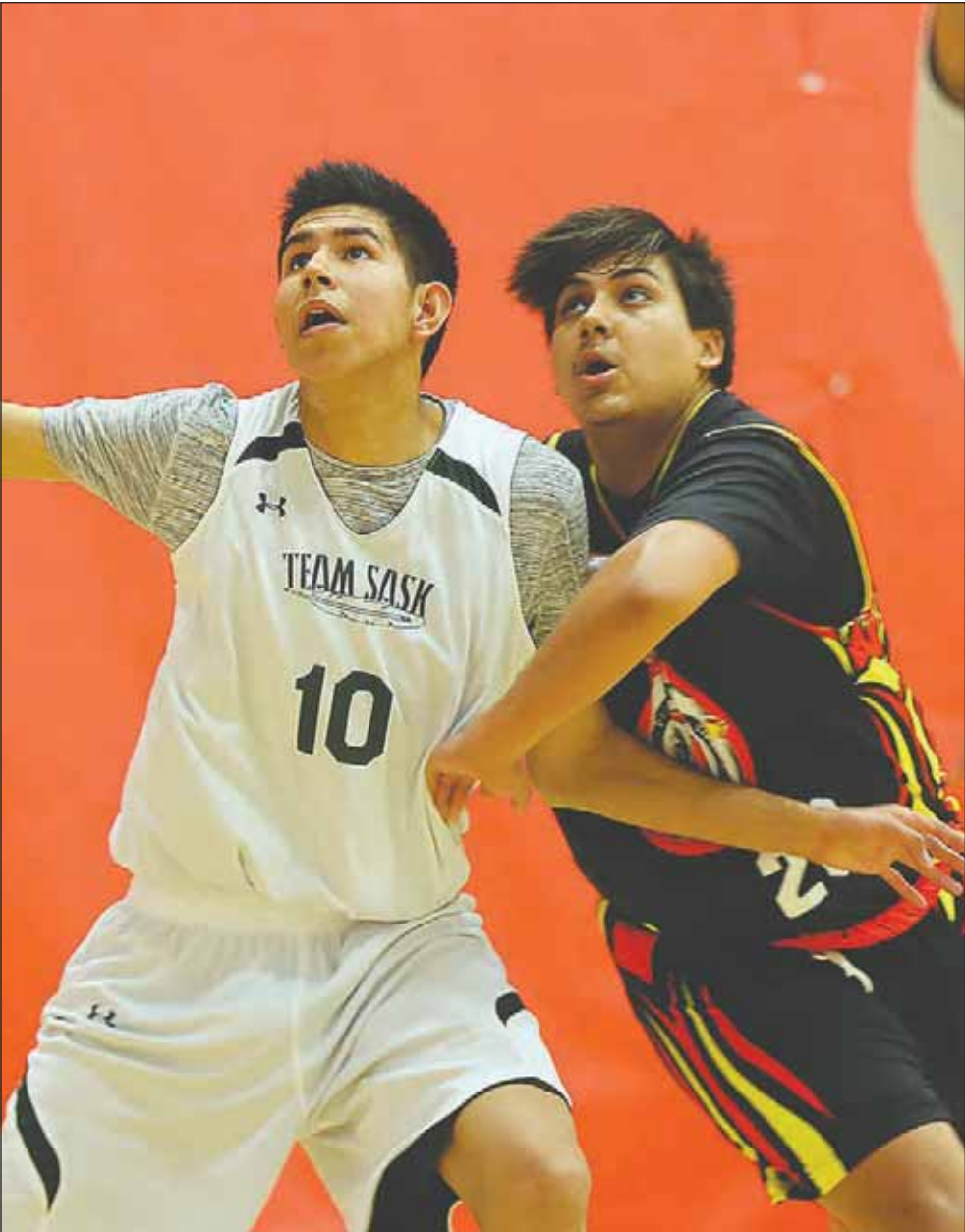
Florida fell behind Sas at hewan 26 after the first quarter. Florida battled back to narrow the gap to 10 points midway through the second quarter, but never got closer.

Sas at hewan led 42-24 at halftime.

Adam Souler, a member of the Mohegan tribe from Connecticut who attends York University in Boston, joined Florida because there were no Connecticut basketball teams. Souler made an immediate impact as he poured in a team-high 23 points against Sas at hewan followed by Gonzales (10), Ethan Balentine (7) and Kamani Smith (6).

Similar to its opening game, Florida's second game against New York featured a spirited run spurred by hard-working point guard Adam Souler, who led the team with 21 points followed by Gonzales (20), Na'ia Ale (13) and Souler (13).

Florida fell behind by double digits early and then made a run to pull within eight points midway through the second quarter before New York pulled away for good. New



Kevin Johnson

Florida's Jon Jimmie, right, battles for position against Saskatchewan in a NAIG U19 opener July 17 in Toronto.

York led 59-36 at halftime. Florida made another charge in the third quarter to pull within 13 points, but New York controlled the final quarter.

New York went on to win bronze in the field of 15 teams. Washington captured gold with a 3-1 win against Minnesota.

Even though Florida went home without a win, Edd said he hopes his players, who

also included Leslie Gopher Jr. and Jon Jimmie, didn't leave empty-handed.

"The experience and learning to have camaraderie with our teammates," he said. "A lot of them are individually inside players together. It's all about having fun and playing together."



Kevin Johnson

Team Florida's Dennis Gonzales keeps the ball in play with a behind-the-back pass against Team New York at NAIG on July 18 in Toronto.



Kevin Johnson

Team Florida guard Ethan Balentine soars to the hoop against Team New York in a pool play game July 18 at the North American Indigenous Games at York University in Toronto.

Seminoles tackle NAIG track and field events

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

On the start of the North American Indigenous Games' track and field competition began with an impressive flash of speed from Team Florida's Julius Aquino, who provided a glimpse of his talent on the track before abruptly being felled by injury.

Running against older kids in a division above his own age group, Julius, 14, blazed his way to the fastest time in a heat for the 100-meter dash in the boys' 16 division in York Lions Stadium on the campus of York University in Toronto. Julius's time of 11.6 seconds was better than the other 15 competitors from Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia and other provinces and states in the heat as the first Gibsonville High School freshman comfortably punched his ticket to the finals later that evening.

After he watched his uncle Sammie Mioc Sanhez receive a gold medal during the wrestling awards ceremony, Julius shifted his focus to seeing gold himself in the 100 final. With a strong start, Julius appeared to be on his way to earning a medal and perhaps gold as he battled for the top spot against seven other runners. But with about 20 meters to go, Julius, who

was in good shape in first or second place, suffered a devastating injury. Despite being in tremendous pain from an apparent Achilles' injury, Julius bravely finished the race, crossing the line in fourth place in 12.21 before going to the ground. After a few minutes, Julius was helped up by Seminole teammates and placed in a wheelchair. The unfortunate mishap ended Julius's first NAIG in his first event. He was scheduled to run other events, but the injury prevented him from competing.

Julius was one of four track and field athletes for Team Florida, which was coached by Warren Mershon and Green Cummings. Silas Madrigal, 16, finished fifth in a field of 14 in the 100. He missed qualifying for the 400 final by one spot, finishing. He also competed in long jump, where he finished 16th out of 21 with his top jump of 4.4 meters out of three attempts.

Silas plays baseball and basketball at Lee Hobbes High School and would like to add track to his agenda.

"I want to keep doing track," he said.

Kaleb Thomas opted for longer distances. He ran the 1600-meter third and the following day returned for the 800th. Kaleb said after the 800 that he knew right away the 2000 had taken a lot out of him.

Nico Torran ran the 1400-meter 20th, 150-meter (21st) and long jump (23rd).



Kevin Johnson

Team Florida's Kaleb Thomas competes in a track event at NAIG in Toronto.



Kevin Johnson

Julius Aquino dashes off to a first place finish in a 100-meter heat at NAIG.



Kevin Johnson

Team Florida's Silas Madrigal soars through the air in the U19 male long jump July 19 during the North American Indigenous Games at York University in Toronto.

Seminoles wrap up EIRA season, ready for Vegas, INFR

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

B I H O he astern Indian odeo Asso iation's 201 season wrapped up the wee end of Jul with a regional ompetition and ban uet, but the wor isn't done et for some of its riders.

Adults and youth qualified to compete at the 42nd Annual Indian National inals odeo that will be held Nov. 11 at South oint Arena in Las egas.

"It was a great ear. e had good parti ipation, said I A president Josh Jumper.

spe iall en ouraging was the turnout on the outh level throughout the season.

" e were probabl between 0 and 100 ids. It's probabl one of the biggest sporting events we have for the ids, said Jumper's father, Moses Jumper Jr.

"Seems li e we're building ba up again. he ids are getting into it again, Josh Jumper said. " e're going to send a good rew of ids to IN .

Jumper's advi e to the roo ies who will ma e their IN debuts

"Just go out there and do our best, he said. " hat's a big stage for those ids to be in as far as being in egas and the lights and the sound s stem and people wat hing them. Go out there and do our best and tr to ta e one go at a time.

he regionals at red Smith odeo Arena provided one final chance for a competitor – adult or youth – to turn an average season into a memorable one.

"A gu an have a bad ear and turn around and win the average this wee end and go to egas, Jumper said.



Connor Osborn takes care off business in roping at EIRA.



Taylor Johns gets the EIRA regional underway with the flag entrance in Brig

Congratulations, EIRA riders, on qualifying for INFR

Jacoby Johns — Brighton
Bare Back Riding

Blevyns Jumper — Big Cypress
Steer Wrestling

Naha Jumper — Big Cypress
Calf Roping

Connor Osborn — Oklahoma
Calf Roping

Ahnlie Jumper — Big Cypress
Lady's Breakaway Roping

Trina Hipp — Brighton
Lady's Breakaway Roping

Josh Jumper & Naha Jumper — Big Cypress
Team Roping

Jason Baker & Caitlin Tommie — Brighton
Team Roping

Ashley Parks — Davie
Lady's Barrel Racing

Jo "Boogie" Johns — Brighton
Lady's Barrel Racing

Kelton Smedley —Brighton
Bull Riding

Madisyn Osceola — Brighton
INFR Jr. Breakaway Roping & Barrel Racing

Budha Jumper — Big Cypress
INFR Jr. Barrel Racing

Jaylen Baker — Brighton
INFR Jr. Bull Riding

Norman Osceola — Brighton
INFR Jr. Bull Riding

Norman "Dad" Johns — Brighton
Sr. Breakaway Roping



Action from lady's barrel racing at the EIRA Regionals in Brighton.



Let the rodeo begin as the grand entry starts off EIRA's regional.

Sean Osceola hurls complete game shutout in national tournament

BY STEVEN WALTERS

SO , a. Sean s eola, of the Brighton eservation, threw a omplete game shutout for S L Nation 201 against the St. Louis irates, as his team advan ed to the pla offs in the 1 BA National Championship in earl Jul . S L left fielder Connor Berry walked with the bases loaded to score the game's first run, and they ta ed on one more in the bottom of the si th to ap a 2 0 win at La e oint in Georgia.

s eola arved up the irates lineup all morning and pun hed out nine batters over his seven innings of wor . he 1 ear old allowed onl three hits, whi h amounted to four 1 2 3 innings, and he never allowed a runner past se ond base. He was 1 mph

with his fastball and ommanded it on both sides of the plate. he 6 foot 2, 230 pound rightly needed just 79 pitches to finish off the game and seal the win for his team.

"Just getting ahead with m fastball and then when I got ahead, urveball just to eep them off balan e, said s eola on his approach in the game. "The first three batters, the were reall aggressive, so I li ed to start them off with a hangeup or a urveball and then after that, I'd get them guessing, so I'd just loo fastball awa .

A first inning double was the only threat that amounted against s eola, as the irates would go down uietl from there. Head oa h Justin arn said that s eola has been their big game gu all season, and he was not surprised at the performan e.

" hat's ind of just t pi al Sean right there, arn said. "He throws pit hes with three stri es. He ompetes e tremel hard. He's the gu ever big game we now what we're going to get out of him just be ause he's su h a ompetitor and he has good stuff on top of it.

hile s eola did his part on the mound, the offense needed to do their part at the plate. he would mount an atta in the third inning after irates started Heze iah Goodman walked the first two batters of the inning, before a third would rea h on an error. Goodman would wal in a run before being removed from the game. Although it was a great opportunit to add on, irates reliever Ni holas o o ame in and indu ed two flyouts to escape the jam. One run would be

all the team would need though, as the at bat b Berr proved to be a ru ial moment.

" heir pit hers did a reall good job of eeping us off balan e, arn said. " hrew a lot of stri es, and we've been prett hot swinging the bat, and the ind of shut us down a little bit there. e were fortunate to put some balls in pla when we needed to, and that's just our approa h throughout the whole ear so far.

Another run would ross the plate in the bottom of the si th inning after Berr singled with one out in the inning. A wal to evin Szafran would set up the stage for Matthew Cedarburg who hit an infield single to score Berr .

"I saw that first fastball that I think I should've drove for a double in the gap or

something, but then I ept on battling, got another fastball, fouled that one off, and then he ame ba with another fastball and I just tried putting it in pla , help m team out, and I got a hit out of it, Cedarburg said.

he run would provide insuran e for s eola on the mound, who set the irates down 1 2 3 to lo down the win. Although he was ruising, the run gave him that mu h more room for error.

"It made me feel reall good for the seventh. I knew I didn't have to be too fine," s eola said. "I just let them put the ball in pla and then m defense an ma e the pla s behind me.

This article was reprinted with permission from perfect Game.

"I was overweight as a young kid, he said. "I had to lose a lot of weight when I was turning pro. I had a few off issues. I've been sober for three and a half years now, so I dealt with that. hat's something for these kids to now, and realize that if you have a problem to see help and tal with your family and friends. You definitely need a team to over come it.



Head oa h aniel Nunez Sr.
Asst. oa h Che enne Nunez
Asst. oa h Lalo odriguez
Asst. oa h Carla odriguez

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Jeff Stewart
General Manager

Announcements



AMERIND Risk recognizes Joel Frank Sr. for outstanding service

PRESS RELEASE

AMERIND Risk is proud to recognize Joel M. Frank Sr., a Seminole Tribe member and former AMERIND Risk Board of Directors Chairman, for his outstanding service. Frank currently serves as Vice President on the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) Board. Frank's distinguished leadership positions have included serving as president of the National Indian Gaming Association, president of the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., and as a member of the Florida Civil Rights Commission, to name a few. AMERIND Risk's stated purpose is to create affordable and sustainable insurance products and services for Indian Country.



Joel M. Frank Sr., center, is honored by AMERIND Risk for outstanding service. The recognition came during the AMERIND Risk/NAIHC Conference and Tradeshow June 27-29 in Nashville, Tenn.

Hard Rock Café opens at Houston airport

PRESS RELEASE

HOUSTON – The Houston Airport System, Hard Rock International and SSP America celebrated the official grand opening of the new location for the Hard Rock Café restaurant and shop in Terminal B at George Bush Intercontinental Airport on July 12. Capping the rollout of an expansive and new lineup of dining and shopping choices at Bush Airport, representatives from the airport system, Hard Rock International and operator and manager, SSP America, were on hand and capped the celebration with a ceremonial "guitar smash." "We are thrilled to include Hard Rock Café in the new and exciting choices customers have for shopping and dining now at Bush Airport," said David Goodman, Director of Concessions for the Houston Airport System. "We bring an established, recognized brand both in merchandise and food, and are a good fit in our efforts to elevate our food and retail choices at the airport. With venues in 16 countries, including 16 cafes, 24 hotels and 11 casinos, and, now, two airports, Hard Rock International is one of the most globally recognized companies. Beginning with an Eric Clapton guitar, Hard Rock owns the world's greatest collection of musical memorabilia, which is displayed at its locations around the globe. "Hard Rock has been looking forward to opening its second location in Houston after many successful years of operating in



A Hard Rock guitar smashing takes place during the official grand opening of Hard Rock Café on July 12 at the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston. This iconic ritual, said Mike Liedberg, Area Vice President of Café Operations North America, is a tradition that could not have existed for a better location to showcase our unique dining experience. As part of the celebration, Hard Rock International and SSP America donated 10 guitars to the United States Veterans Initiative.

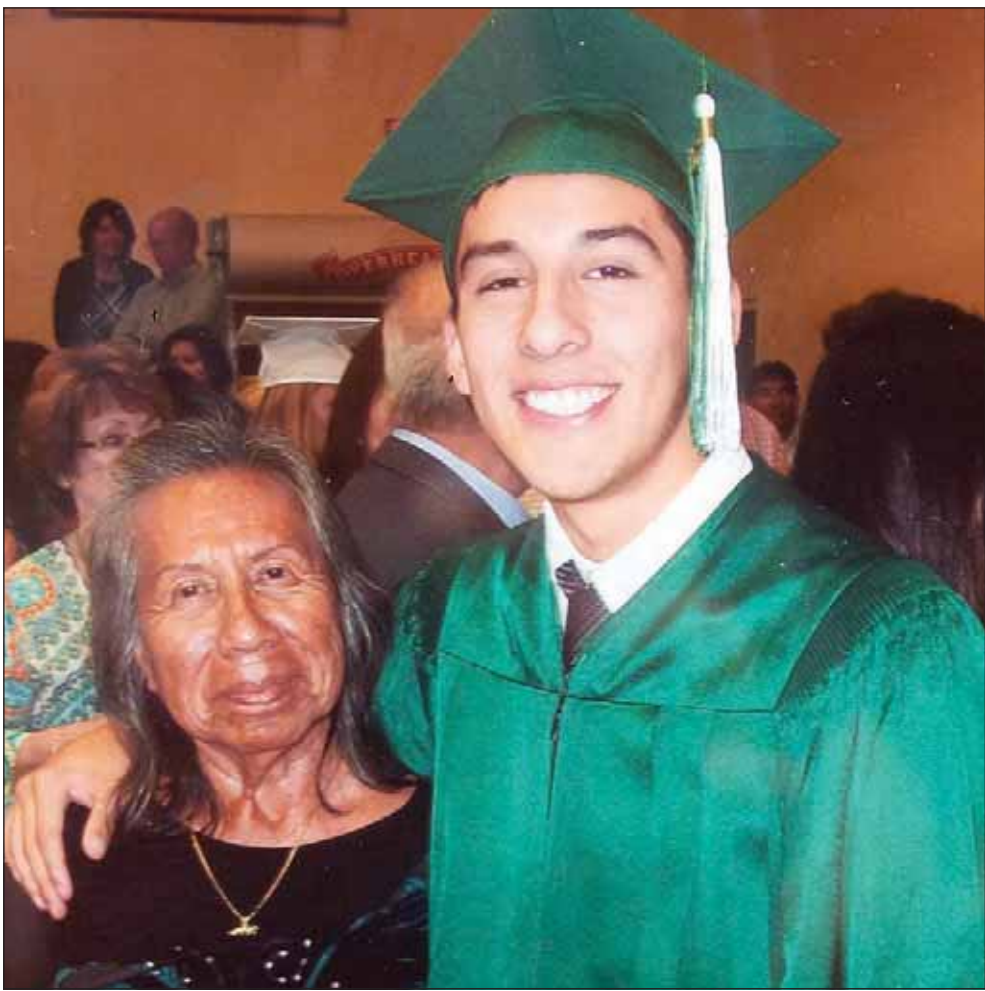


Photo courtesy V. Tommie
Virginia Tommie and Tai Numire Cypress celebrating his graduation from Glades Day High School

The best day of my life

BY VIRGINIA TOMMIE

Congratulations to my grandson, Tai Numire Cypress, a graduate from Glades Day High School. I wish him the best, whatever he chooses to do with his education. He made his family and grandma proud. "For now I have plans for you," declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future. Jeremiah 29:11

NYC Steak receives third straight Wine Spectator Award of Excellence

PRESS RELEASE

COCO Canyon, or the third straight year, NYC Steak in Seminole Casino Coconut Creek has been awarded the prestigious Award of Excellence by Wine Spectator for its menu of 200 fine wines. "We're excited that NYC Steak has been honored once again with the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence," said Dawn Lazo, Vice President of Food Beverage at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek. "His award further solidifies NYC Steak as being an innovative and refined dining experience." The Award of Excellence recognizes wine lists that offer interesting selections and are appropriate to their cuisine and appeal to a wide range of wine lovers. Qualifying, the

list must present complete, accurate wine information. It must include vintages and appellations for all selections, including wines available by the glass. Complete producer names and correct spellings are mandatory, while the overall presentation and appearance of the list is also taken into consideration. After meeting these basic requirements, lists are judged for one of the three awards. The Award of Excellence is offered for lists that feature a well-chosen selection of quality producers, along with a thematic match to the menu in both price and style. In all, these lists offer at least 10 selections. NYC Steak will be listed in the Wine Spectator's annual dining guide in the August 31 issue.

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