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restaurant opens**
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The Seminole Tribune

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Hard Rock buys former Trump Taj Mahal

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The iconic Hard Rock guitar will take its place on Atlantic City's famed boardwalk sometime next summer. Hard Rock International, owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, purchased the former Trump Taj Mahal from investor and business magnate Carl Icahn.

Scheduled to close March 31, the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Atlantic City will feature more than 2,000 guest rooms, a 168,000-square-foot casino and a Hard Rock Live that can accommodate more than 5,000 music fans. Guest rooms and most of the public spaces will be renovated to reflect the Hard Rock vibe.

"The Tribe and Hard Rock International are always looking to expand the brand," said Jim Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming and Chairman of Hard Rock International. "This was an opportunity we felt would be beneficial to long-term success. It is a project that continues to expand the Tribe's global presence."

Majority ownership of the 17-acre property on prime boardwalk real estate, in one of the largest gaming locations in the U.S., is expected to have a positive impact on the Tribe and the city. Hard Rock International is in partnership with the Morris and Jingoli families of New Jersey, who have a minority share of the business.

"The Hard Rock brand is incredibly iconic and when we open new locations, there's a tremendous amount of excitement and optimism," Allen said.

The hotel and casino is expected to create more than 3,000 jobs and add to the revitalization of Atlantic City. Allen said reaction to the sale has been positive throughout the state, including Gov. Chris Christie and state senate president Stephen Sweeney.

"It has been nothing but positive," Allen said.

President Donald Trump opened the hotel and casino in 1990 but his company filed for bankruptcy in 2014. Icahn purchased it, retained the Trump name and shut its doors for good in October 2016. The Tribe announced the purchase March 1.



Beverly Bidney

From left, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Immokalee Board Liaison Gale Boone, new tenant Gwen Garcia, Immokalee Council project manager Pete Aguilar, President Mitchell Cypress, Naples Council Liaison Brian Zepeda and Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola cut the ribbon together at Garcia's new home in Immokalee on March 15.

New homes debut in Immokalee

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The keys to brand new homes on Alice Jimmie Circle in Immokalee were officially handed over March 15 to seven families who had been waiting years for a home on the reservation.

"This is a step in the right direction and it took a lot of people to make this happen," said Immokalee Council project manager Pete Aguilar. "Soon we will have to update our master plan and go vertical with our structures. More than likely we will have to take care of more people in the reservation's limited space. These kids are popping them

out faster than we can build."

Each of the three- and four-bedroom rental homes are well appointed and come with two bathrooms, generously-sized fenced yards, laundry rooms, large pantries, granite countertops in the kitchens and a walk-in closet in the master bedroom suites. Most of all, the homes provide a secure place to raise a family.

"This is a small step to providing housing for Tribal members," said Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. "We have a long way to go, but this is a start. The challenge is to build homes on all the reservations and we're working hard to get more built."

Chairman Osceola said 300 people are

on a waiting list for housing tribal wide. Three-story apartment buildings will be part of a new master plan, which is being worked on now. Hollywood, Immokalee and Lakeland are good candidates for the multifamily units.

Other Tribal officials in attendance at the opening ceremony included President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, Naples Council Liaison Brian Zepeda and Immokalee Board Liaison Gale Boone.

"About 45 years ago the original Immokalee families had a dream," Rep. Frank said. "The Tribe just built 12 or 15 homes when a fire broke out. A lot of work

has been done since then and housing is still sorely needed. Godspeed for the next 50 units in Immokalee."

All the dignitaries recognized and thanked the staff for their hard work completing the project.

"This has been a long time coming," Boone said. "We look forward to the future and, to the families, welcome back home to Immokalee."

Gwen Garcia has been waiting seven years for a home on the reservation. In the interim, she lived in a trailer home in Immokalee.

♦ See HOUSING on page 4B

Seminole play big role in Chalo Nitka celebration

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

MOORE HAVEN—Although Moore Haven's Chalo Nitka Festival began in 1948 to commemorate paving of Main Street, it has evolved into an annual celebration of small town life near the banks of Lake Okeechobee. What makes the festival unique is how the culture of the Seminole Tribe is intertwined into the festivities.

The March 4 parade, the centerpiece of the two-day festival, was led by Mingo Jones and grandsons Justin and Cisco Rodriguez in traditional Seminole garb on horseback. Moore Haven's elected officials and Seminole and Chalo Nitka royalty followed, along with the Moore Haven Middle and High School marching band and other Glades County groups and businesses. A slew of horses and their riders brought up the rear.

Residents and Tribal citizens lined the

parade route and kids gleefully gathered candy as quickly as it was thrown. Seminoles and non-Seminoles alike donned colorful patchwork as a tribute the Tribe. The entry fee into the fairgrounds was waived to all those wearing the traditional Seminole fashion.

"We don't come to Chalo Nitka often, but this year we are competing in the clothing contest," said Alice Billie, who was there with her children Tahniya, 9, Mohayla,

6, and Allekeao Billie, 3.

The festival grounds offered Seminole, local and carnival food as well as rides, plenty of shopping opportunities and entertainment. The Country Rhythm Cloggers opened the on-stage entertainment, were followed by the clothing contest and alligator wrestling.

A conveniently placed chickee made an impromptu dressing room for clothing contest competitors. Families helped each other with their outfits. Toddlers and young

children waited patiently as mom made sure all the important details were in the right place.

Chalo Nitka means big bass in Creek, so of course there was a fishing tournament Feb. 25 on Lake Okeechobee. Like a county fair, the event lasted the entire week and included a 5K run, royalty pageant, ranch rodeo and country and western dance.

♦ See CHALO NITKA PHOTOS on page 7A



Betty Billie and her grandson Myron Billie ride their decorated ATV in the Chalo Nitka parade March 4 in Moore Haven.



Mingo Jones and grandson Cisco Rodriguez lead the Chalo Nitka parade through the streets of Moore Haven on March 4.

Beverly Bidney

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Editorial

Testimony of Ryan K. Zinke, Secretary U.S. Department of the Interior, before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, March 8, 2017

• Ryan K. Zinke

Good Afternoon, Chairman Hoeven, Vice-Chairman Udall, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for inviting me to testify before you today. I would also like to extend a thank you to my fellow Montana Senators, Steve Daines and Jon Tester, for their service on this Committee and for welcoming me here today. This is my first hearing since being confirmed as Secretary of the Interior and it is truly an honor to be here before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs to discuss the Trump Administration's vision for Indian Country. I am also fortunate to share the panel today with an esteemed group of Tribal leaders from across the country. I look forward to working together with each of you as equals to grow and strengthen Indian Country.

I entered the Department just a few days ago, but the importance of my mission to partner with American Indians and Alaska Natives is one I do not take lightly. It is an issue of incredible importance to me personally. Regardless of political party, our duty as Americans is to uphold our trust responsibilities and consult and collaborate on a government-to-government basis with Tribes from Maine to Alaska.

Growing up in Montana, I learned very quickly that our Tribes are not monolithic. There are seven federally recognized Tribes in Montana, along with the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians who are in the midst of the federal recognition process. Each of them are spread throughout the entire state, working on their diverse priorities to provide for their people. In whatever form their economic development takes, from online lending to energy development, all tribes are sovereign and we must respect their right to self-determination.

In my experience, one thing is clear: sovereignty should mean something. As Montana's lone Congressman, I made it my priority to remain accessible to each of our Tribal members, from the Crow Nation to the Blackfeet Nation, so we could collaborate on their priorities on a leader-to-leader basis. I viewed them as equals, not rivals. We shared and debated our priorities and ideas while seeking common ground. As a warrior, I respected their culture and traditions greatly and I agree with the core value, "if you have to fight, fight for your people."

I am incredibly proud of the work Congress did to advance Montana tribes' priorities, such as the Blackfeet Water Rights Settlement, which was signed into law as part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. The warriors of the Blackfeet Nation, led by Chairman Harry Barnes, greatly sacrificed time and resources for this historic achievement. Congress also made tremendous headway on the Little Shell Federal Recognition bill, which passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources for the first time in history. And lastly, Congress worked with the Crow Nation to support their energy development

potential by extending the Indian Coal Production Tax Credit and demanding their rightful seat at the table with the federal government to actualize their treaty rights. I am grateful to have Chairman A.J. Not Afraid sitting next to me today to tell his story about their future goals and priorities for success and look forward to working together in my new capacity of Secretary of the Interior.

I now have the honor to lead the very Department that, unfortunately, has not always stood shoulder to shoulder with many



Ryan K. Zinke

of the Tribal communities for which it is tasked to fight. Many reservations continue to struggle with high unemployment rates and a lack of business opportunities. Indian schools, roads, and houses are literally falling apart. Despite all this, the Administration has an opportunity to foster a period of economic productivity through improved infrastructure and expanded access to an all-of-the-above energy development approach. I fully understand that not all nations have access to energy resources or choose to develop them and I respect their position. As I have mentioned earlier, sovereignty should mean something and the decision to develop resources is one that each tribe must make for itself.

The President has remained steadfast in his commitment to infrastructure and seeks to address the excessive maintenance backlog that directly impedes our nation's economic growth and potential. Safe roads and bridges support Tribal economic self-determination by incentivizing investment in tribal communities. My team at Interior is already working to identify these top priorities within Indian country. I look forward to working with each of you here today and the Tribal leadership across our nation to continue this important discussion.

While economic development and infrastructure investments will play an important role in revitalizing Native communities, the immediate issues facing

the Bureau of Indian Education must be addressed to ensure long-term stability in Indian country. I read the Government Accountability Office (GAO) High Risk Report for 2017; the determinations were disheartening and devastating. Words cannot capture how terrible it is that children in schools overseen by Bureau of Indian Education are so poorly served. Each of them deserves a high-quality education that prepares them for the future. Having served as Chairman of the Senate Education Committee during my time in the Montana State Legislature, I have a keen interest in education in rural communities. It is unacceptable that some of our students are attending schools that lack the most basic necessities, like insulation and clean water. We must also craft clear standards, develop measures for assessment, hire qualified teachers and principals to provide much needed leadership, and hold people accountable for mistakes. I do not expect to resolve these issues quickly, but I am personally invested in making real changes that will last.

There are plenty of other issues I know we will grapple with during my tenure at Interior. I have plenty to learn, but with your assistance I remain optimistic that we can work together with Tribes to foster stronger and more resilient Native communities. Conclusion One of the great privileges of my life was participating in the memorial ceremony for Michael Bell, a fellow Navy SEAL from the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribe. In between deployments in 2006, he was tragically murdered. Mike was a warrior I had the privilege of instructing as he began his SEAL career. To meet his family and pay respect to the life and sacrifices he made was truly humbling. In an incredibly moving tribute that same day, I was adopted into the Assiniboine family as an honorary member, and given a name and song.

I carry the honor of my traditional name, Wowonga Intacha, Seal Leader, with me today. As Secretary of the Interior, I will hold true the sacred words of my song, "as I walk this road in life, I will help people as I go." That said, there is strength in numbers, which is why I will need each and every one of you to assist me. This includes being accountable for your actions as we warrior ahead and make tough decisions to strengthen Tribal communities. In the SEALs, we are frequently reminded that "The Only Easy Day was Yesterday." As we begin the hard work before us, we must recognize that failure is not an option. I am here to listen, to accomplish your goals, and to move Indian Country forward to the best of my ability.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with the Committee. I look forward to working with you all and Tribes across the country to better the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, and all programs at Interior that impact Indian Country.

Testimony of Jefferson Keel, Chickasaw Nation Lt. Gov., before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, March 8, 2017

• Jefferson Keel

Chairman Hoeven, Ranking Member Udall and members of the committee, thank you for inviting me to testify in today's important hearing to identify Indian Country priorities for the new Trump Administration. My name is Jefferson Keel. I serve as the Lieutenant Governor of the Chickasaw Nation and speak today on behalf of Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby and the people of the Chickasaw Nation.

We look forward to working with and supporting Secretary Zinke in protecting our treaty rights and carrying out the federal trust relationship to tribes. Full federal recognition of tribal sovereignty, as that status is recognized in the United States Constitution, is of paramount importance to Indian country. We look to this Congress and the Trump Administration to continue the long-standing federal policy of engaging with tribal sovereigns on a government-to-government basis. This principal is fundamental to all issues that will come before you arising from Indian country.

Federal policies supporting American Indian tribal self-determination and self-governance grows directly from the government's respect for the importance and value of tribal sovereignty. It is a simple fact that these policies work because they rest on the core principal that tribal peoples are in the best position to address the issues affecting their own communities. This committee has helped lead the way in crafting policies that support tribal self-determination and self-governance, and while we have accomplished great things, much remains to be done.

All too often, federal statutes and regulations treat tribal governments differently than every other form of government. While the Constitution establishes tribal governments as sovereigns with rights and responsibilities similar to those of states, in practice, policies are almost always more restrictive for tribes. Indian country has, accordingly, long called for parity—for the treatment of tribal sovereigns in a manner consistent with what states and other sovereigns within the United States system are afforded by federal law. Indeed, given the federal fiduciary obligation to protect tribal sovereignty, we believe our argument for such treatment is even stronger than the states, in many instances.

We commend the new administration's policy to affirm and commit to existing tribal consultation policies, which establish frameworks for meaningful government-to-government engagement and collaboration. We believe such frameworks are essential to a high functioning federal-tribal dynamic and call on this Congress and Administration to deepen and enhance its commitment to effective consultation, wherever and whenever possible. We believe all executive departments and agencies should consult and collaborate with tribes on the development of federal policies with tribal implications, and we believe this is true whether the government is considering the establishment of a new statutory or regulatory provision or the repeal or abrogation of an existing one. Doing so will strengthen our government-to-government relationship and further empower the unparalleled progress made in Indian country since the advent of these policies in the late-1960s.

One example of this body's pragmatic responsiveness to strengthening the federal law's provision of parity to tribal sovereigns is recent action relating to the National Labor Relations Board. Several years ago, the Board administratively set aside decades of settled policy and law and determined, notwithstanding its own profession of having no expertise in federal Indian law, that tribal actors are not all entitled to the

protection of tribal sovereignty. Specifically, the Board concluded that non-tribal labor organizations could assert the protections of the National Labor Relations Act against tribal government employers—treating tribal governments in a manner that no state or territory has ever been subjected to. The Chickasaw Nation litigated the matter for several years before the Board finally acknowledged that our sovereignty and treaties with the United States demand the parity of treatment we claimed. But other tribes do not benefit from our treaties, and nothing necessarily precludes the Board from again changing its mind as to what respect it should afford these sources of federal law. I want to thank this committee and our champion on this issue, Sen. Jerry Moran, for recognizing the untenable position in which this put tribal sovereigns and the quick approval of S.63, the Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act. Mr. Chairman,

I respectfully urge you to work closely with your colleagues to bring this important issue to a vote by the full Senate as soon as possible. Basic fairness and adherence to long-standing policies regarding tribal sovereignty would support such action.

We also urge swift action to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) by the committee and the Senate. For several years running, the House has overwhelmingly passed a NAHASDA reauthorization with a large bipartisan majority, but Indian country has been forced to wait on reauthorization in the Senate because one or two senators have put holds on the measure—blocking the will of the body and ignoring the needs of Native peoples. This issue is too important to let another two years go by without approval. Indian country and this successful program deserve better.

Another timely issue of critical concern is the status of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. That measure was permanently reauthorized after a decade-long bipartisan effort to enact the measure; however, it was unfortunately tucked into the Affordable Care Act in 2010. The Indian Health Care Improvement Act, which stands apart from the rest of the Obamacare measures, is critical to the provision of health care throughout Indian country and must be safeguarded in any effort to change federal health care laws.

There are a number of other issues inside the Affordable Care Act that I would like to bring to the committee's attention. We believe, for example, that the employer mandate represents an unwarranted intrusion on tribal self-government. In addition to health services to our tribal citizens, the Chickasaw Nation provides generous health care insurance coverages to all its employees—benefits that far exceed the standards in the prevailing market—and the Act's mandate created complications and burdens where no problem could be shown.

We would also point out that the Act uses a definition of Native Americans that differs from that found in other parts of the U.S. Code and the regulations, which has been widely acknowledged as a drafting error over the years. We urge the committee to correct this error in any legislation on the subject. Finally, tribal health departments have well developed third party payer arrangements with Medicare, Medicaid, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other federal programs. Congress should pay careful attention to nuance and detail in overhauling the Act so that these relationships are not inadvertently disrupted or unsettled.

President Trump has spoken for many months about a wide-ranging infrastructure package. We support the concept of vigorously investing in our nation's roads,

◆ See KEEL on page 4B

Time to recognize Indigenous people as one of Canada's founders: Steward

• Gillian Steward

As people fearful of living in Trumpland straggle to our border through bitter cold and deep snow trailing suitcases behind them, they seem reminiscent of an earlier time.

A time when some aboriginal people had to gather all their possessions and walk to the piece of land that had been deemed their new home.

Of course, those people weren't walking to the kind of freedom the current U.S. escapees are hoping to find. They were walking to confinement and in some instances starvation.

This is exactly what happened to Doug Cuthand's ancestors. The Saskatchewan writer and film producer evoked that era recently in a thought-provoking piece for the [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation].

He detailed how his people originally lived in the Cypress Hills in what is now southeastern Alberta near the U.S. border. After signing Treaty 6, their chief wanted a

reserve there but the government had other ideas and they were sent much further north to the Fort Battleford area.

It is a story that resonates across the Prairie Provinces where once nomadic peoples such as the Cree, Blackfoot, and Sioux were forced to abandon ways that had sustained them for thousands of years to live in a much smaller world where food was scarce and disease was plentiful.

Too bad, as the joke goes, the First Nations didn't have an immigration policy at the time so they could slow the onslaught of settlers who were pushing them aside and taking over their land.

"... it's kind of odd as an Indigenous person to sit and watch refugees cross the border into Canada," writes Cuthand. "It's kind of late to complain about immigration. There are 35 million people in Canada and only 1 million of us are members of the original First Nations. What difference will a few more make?"

That First Nations were so brutally pushed aside after they had in fact worked with French and British explorers, fur

traders, and buffalo hunters was perhaps the worst indignity. Without the sure knowledge of how to survive in the northern wilderness, how to find and trap fur-bearing animals, how to track the vast herds of buffalo, the newcomers might have given up and gone home. It might have been well past 1867 when Canada started to come together as a country.

So when are we actually going to formally recognize that Canada has three founding peoples — Indigenous, French, and British — not just two?

The final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommended that the oath of Canadian citizenship include a promise to honour Indigenous treaties. It also recommended that government information packages designed for newcomers include Indigenous history.

The government is already following through. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's mandate letter for new Immigration

◆ See CANADA on page 4B

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Community



Restaurant opening fulfills dream for Shamy and Wanda Tommie

BY AARON TOMMIE
Special to The Tribune

FORT PIERCE — After more than 15 years of being caterers, Tribal citizen Shamy Tommie and his wife Dr. Wanda Tommie's vision of being restaurant owners came to fruition March 4. Over 300 close friends, relatives, and patrons attended the much anticipated grand opening of Shamy's Rib and Chicken Shack to fellowship and feast on an array of dishes.

"This is a place of peace and love," said Dr. Wilhelmina Lewis-Lyons, a close friend of the Tommies. "I like the care that goes into the food."

The process to open Shamy's Rib and Chicken Shack began in October 2016. Located in the heart of Fort Pierce, renovations took place to transform a once drive-through venue into a full-fledged restaurant, which is located about a 20-minute drive from Chupco's Landing, the Fort Pierce community's reservation that is named after Shamy's grandmother Sallie Chupco Tommie.

As many as 35 people can be seated in the restaurant, and there is ample space for parking and dining outside. Within a few weeks, alcoholic beverages will be available.

"We have been improving since we started," said Shamy Tommie, who also serves as Chupco Landing's Ranch Director. "We worked hard to get to where we're at."

Due to their success and popularity as Tribal vendors — coupled with a passion for cooking — Shamy and Wanda wanted

to expand their horizons as entrepreneurs. Over the years they discussed the idea of owning a restaurant, but did not act upon it until years later. Wanda stated that it has been a long time since Fort Pierce has had a restaurant that offers homemade types of food. Shamy's Rib and Chicken Shack also differs because it is able to introduce a new culture of tastes to the community, she said.

"God gives us a gift, but we have to discover it," Wanda said. "That's what happened to me and Shamy. You can't separate God and your gift."

The menu consists of Native American and traditional soul food dishes such as Shack's Meatloaf, Wanda's Mac 'N' Cheese, frybread, and other popular choices such as rib dinners, collard greens, and potato salad. There are also specially made teas and desserts for guests to enjoy. Wanda mentioned that many of the foods offered on the menu are based on what people request.

"Tribal members tell me what they want. They always get a mixture of foods," she said. "They tell me what they want me to cook."

As co-owners, Shamy and Wanda work together to manage and operate the restaurant. They have lived in Fort Pierce most of their lives. After having spent many years working various professions in and outside of the Tribe, Shamy and Wanda, who is the head pastor at World Harvest Eagle Ministries, wanted to leave something behind for their family.

"I have always been a family man. All of us in Fort Pierce, we're family," Shamy said. "We should support one another. When



Aaron Tommie

Lavivian Renee (far left) and Dr. Wanda Tommie chat with attendees at the grand opening of Shamy's Rib and Chicken Shack March 4 in Fort Pierce.



Aaron Tommie

Shamy's Rib and Chicken Shack is located at 1311 Ave. D. in Fort Pierce.



Aaron Tommie

The namesake for Shamy's Rib and Chicken Shack, Shamy Tommie, grills chicken during the grand opening March 4.

you have family back you up, that means a lot."

Family and culture are extremely important to Shamy, who is African-American and Seminole. His late mother is the Bird Clan's Minnie Tommie Howard. He is the eldest of four siblings, who include Leona

Tommie, Sallie Tommie and Larry Howard; all have been influential in their respective positions within the Tribe. Shamy is a distant cousin to the late former Chairman Howard Tommie.

Shamy and Wanda will continue to be vendors for the Tribe. Their catering is available for weddings, baby showers, corporate parties and other events. No matter who and what he is serving, Shamy said he will always embrace his culture.

"I believe in my history and my people. Nobody can take that from me," Shamy said. "I am carrying my heritage on until I die. I am thankful to the Seminole Tribe for

standing behind me."

Shamy's Rib and Chicken Shack is located at 1311 Avenue D., in Fort Pierce. Hours of operation are: Wednesdays and Thursdays 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to midnight; Sundays 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. The restaurant is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

REGULAR ELECTION NOTICE



SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA & SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC. MAY 8, 2017

In accordance with the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Amended Corporate Charter of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. a Regular Election is scheduled on Monday, May 8, 2017 for the following offices:

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
TRIBAL COUNCIL
BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION REPRESENTATIVE (1)
BRIGHTON RESERVATION REPRESENTATIVE (1)
HOLLYWOOD RESERVATION REPRESENTATIVE (1)

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION REPRESENTATIVE (1)
BRIGHTON RESERVATION REPRESENTATIVE (1)
HOLLYWOOD RESERVATION REPRESENTATIVE (1)

Enrolled Tribal Members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida who have reached their 18th birthday on or before April 8, 2017 and who have registered to vote by March 1, 2017 are eligible to vote for the positions above.

Representatives are voted in by the Registered Voters of their respective Reservations.

Eligible Tribal Members who wish to become candidates may obtain a preliminary packet from the Tribal Secretary's Office located at the Hollywood Headquarters beginning March 23, 2017. The completed petitions must be in the Tribal Secretary's office by 5:00 pm, April 18, 2017.

The announcement of candidates will be published April 19, 2017.

Absentee registered voters are urged to contact the Tribal Secretary's Office for an absentee ballot request form at 954-966-6300 ext. 11461.

ALL REGISTERED TRIBAL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO VOTE

LaVonne Rose
Tribal Secretary
3/2017

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Performance pays tribute to Betty Mae Jumper

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

FORT LAUDERDALE — Before Shira Abergel put on a patchwork outfit and paddled across the New River in a canoe, and before she sat barefoot in a tree singing a tribute song that she wrote, the Miami songwriter and actress did her homework.

Abergel, 31, wanted to make sure her performance that honored the late Seminole leader and pioneer Betty Mae Jumper adhered to the Tribe's culture.

"Shira was so wonderful about it," said visual and performance artist Christina Pettersson. "She was concerned about whether it would be okay to portray her given the fact that [Shira] has no Native American roots. She approached different people [in the Tribe] to receive the blessing for it. I thought that was really wonderful of her, and that's exactly the kind of person she is."

Pettersson organized an evening of individual outdoor public performances along Fort Lauderdale's downtown Riverwalk on March 9 as part of a Girls Club offsite performance series that coincided with Women's History Month. "Along the Shadow of the River" honored six renowned women who left their mark in South Florida history: pioneer Frankee Lewis; real estate developer Mary Brickell; educator and activist Ivy Stranahan; champion swimmer/diver and World War II pilot Katherine Rawls; civil rights activist Eula Johnson; and Betty Mae Jumper, who led the Seminole Tribe as its first and so far only female Chief and in a vast array of other areas, including education, health and journalism.

As Abergel discovered while doing her research, Betty Mae also sang.

"I was asked by Christina to create a piece about Betty Mae Jumper," Abergel said. "I had no idea what I was going to do. So I started doing research and I came across her Smithsonian Folkways recordings where she is singing a cappella some Native songs. There's one called 'Hallelujah;' there's one called 'Turtle's Song to the Wolf.' I listened to those recordings. They moved me; they influenced me. I was inspired by those melodies and rhythms. From that, I just caught a melody in my head and I went with that. I did a lot of research about her and I wrote a song paying tribute to Betty Mae Jumper."

After canoeing across the New River with performer Tara Long as her co-pilot, Abergel sat along the water's edge on the base of a tree as she performed her song about Betty Mae. About 60 spectators quickly took Abergel's lead and joined in with rhythmic clapping for the duration of the 2 minute and 45 second piece, whose words touched on a variety of aspects in Betty Mae's life,

including her contentious entrance into the world that was not universally welcomed in the Tribe, her education and "driving spirit," and how she helped the Tribe.

"The fact [Abergel] created this whole song I thought was really tremendous," Pettersson said.

Asked about what she learned, Abergel reeled off facts about Betty Mae, from her birth in Indiantown, to nearly being killed by medicine men, to the important role education played in her life.

"She somehow convinced her family to allow her to go to high school in North Carolina, and received an American education, which [was] a big stepping outside of the ways. She went to Oklahoma and got her nursing degree and learned western medicine and brought it back to the Seminole Tribe," Abergel said.

Abergel's voice wasn't the only enlightening part of her repertoire. She wore a Seminole dress that was made especially for the performance by Trisha Osceola and Brittany Macias.

"It's amazing. I'm super touched," Abergel said. "I can't believe they put this much love and energy into this for a small local performance. It's really touching."

Abergel learned more about Seminole culture after the show when she met Everett Osceola, Vanessa Frank and J.D. Bowers. Abergel noted that until the Betty Mae role emerged, she had no association with the Tribe. Her research on Betty Mae yielded a greater appreciation.

"She seemed like a really busy person without feeling busy," Abergel said. "It was just her nature to do the best that she could for her Tribe. She saw it as her Tribe and she wanted to go out and educate herself and bring it back to them and help them and enlighten them and give them whatever she could offer. She made stories for kids; she started The Seminole Tribune, where Seminole voices could be heard and they could communicate in other ways than they had before. I definitely have admiration for her."

The evening's performances brought guests through a walking journey that started in the fountain of a plaza, stopped on train tracks before moving onto the grounds of the New River Museum and along the banks of the river. Each stop featured individual performances, such as Nikki Rollason swimming and dancing the role of Katherine Rawls in the fountain, and opera singer Shanna Nolan Gundry, as Ivy Stranahan, singing from the second floor balcony of the museum. Other performers included Octavia Yearwood as Eula Johnson, Jessica Farr as Mary Brickell and Mae Silver as Frankee Lewis.

"The trick I always find is to pick really talented people to be involved in these things and then you don't have to worry about it,"



Kevin Johnson

Actress and songwriter Shira Abergel, right, joins Tara Long for a brief canoe trip across the New River in Fort Lauderdale on March 9 as part of an outdoor public performance that honored great women in Fort Lauderdale history. Abergel performed the role of Betty Mae Jumper.



Kevin Johnson

Shira Abergel sings a song she wrote about Betty Mae Jumper during a performance along the New River in Fort Lauderdale.

Pettersson said about the cast.

For Abergel, the opportunity to play the role of a Native American sparked something from within.

"I've been ignited by this for sure," she said. "I think it's important that all Americans get in touch with the Native American story. That's where it began. We should all know it, inside and out."



Kevin Johnson

Opera singer Shanna Nolan Gundry portrays Ivy Stranahan during the March 8 performance.

Betty Mae Tiger Jumper

Written By: Shira Lee

CHORUS

Betty Mae Jumper
Betty Mae Tiger Jumper Jumper (2x)

VERSE 1

Native name: Potackee
First female Seminole Chief
Now back to the time - when she was born half white
Mother: Medicine Woman
Father: French trapper
She was a Snake Clan Woman
Snake Clan Woman
Of the Tribe
Woman of the Tribe
Of the Seminole Tribe

CHORUS

Betty Mae Jumper
Betty Mae Tiger Jumper Jumper (2x)

VERSE 2

"Half Breed" - so they said
Tried to put her to death
From her first breath
From her first breath
She was a Driving Spirit
Driving Spirit
Drove her to education - to help her people

CHORUS

Betty Mae Jumper
Betty Mae Tiger Jumper Jumper (2x)

VERSE 3

There were stories that she told

And the wounded that she heal-ed
Spirit that she drove
Challenged Anglo and Seminole
Her deeds historical
Influence universal

CHORUS

Betty Mae Jumper
Betty Mae Tiger Jumper Jumper (2x)

VERSE 4

Brought her tribe the new ways
Opened minds and pathways
Alligator Wrestler - showed how you can test her
She got the strength of a Tiger
That's Betty Mae Tiger Jumper

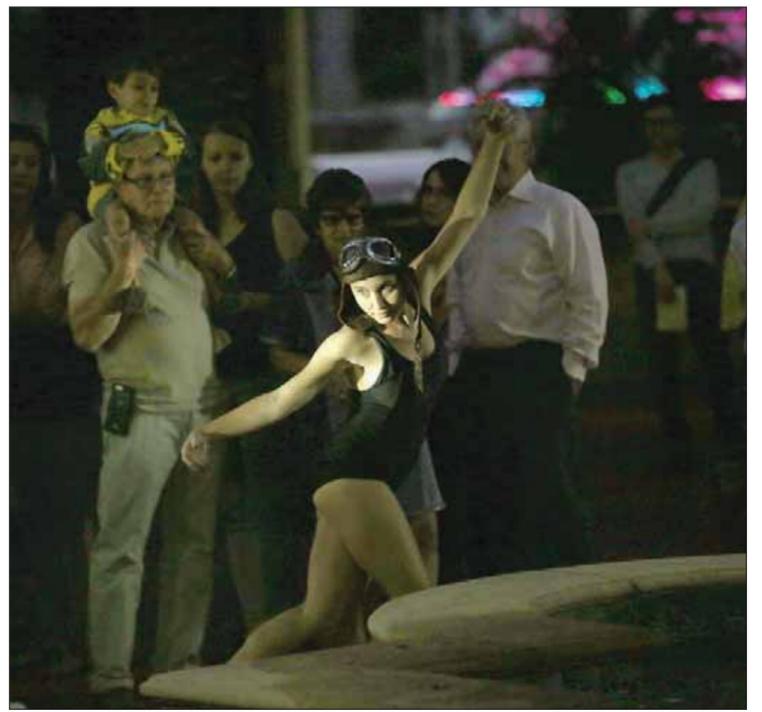
CHORUS

Betty Mae Jumper
Betty Mae Tiger Jumper Jumper (2x)



Kevin Johnson

After her tribute to Betty Mae Jumper, Shira Abergel is joined by, from left, Vanessa Frank, J.D. Bowers and Everett Osceola in downtown Fort Lauderdale.



Kevin Johnson

Nikki Rollason performs as champion swimmer and World War II pilot Katherine Rawls.

Edward Aguilar earns gaming management certification

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Edward Aguilar Sr. is passionate about every aspect of the gaming industry. As the assistant director of slot operations at the Seminole Casino in Immokalee and a graduate of Seminole Gaming's Tribal Career Development program, he continues to sharpen his professional development.

Aguilar earned a gaming management certificate from the University of Nevada Las Vegas International Gaming Institute's Executive Development Program, held at Lake Tahoe in November. The program, sponsored by UNLV and University of Nevada, Reno, has graduated 1,290 executives from gaming companies and regulatory agencies worldwide in the last 25 years. About 75 casino executives attended the most recent program.

"About half were representatives of Native American casinos," Aguilar said. "Knowing our place in the history of Indian gaming, being the pioneers, it was humbling to see other tribes finding their own success and leading the way to better their tribes."

Classes during the week-long program explored important strategic issues common to casino gaming. Key topics such as sustaining a competitive advantage, responding to political uncertainties, managing organizational change, developing strategic alliances and adapting to the rules of a new playing field in the evolving gaming industry kept the participants engaged.

"We are further ahead than most as far as technology, program and abilities," Aguilar said. "It's good to know we are ahead of the game, a trendsetter. You see problems being discussed throughout the industry and we are fortunate enough to have been through and overcome those things."

Aguilar believes the education he received at the Executive Development Program will help to prepare him for his ultimate goal, which is to serve as the Immokalee casino's general manager.

"Seminole Gaming is all I know, so to get that perspective of what and who we are and how we do things differently from others was helpful," he said. "We are a few steps or very far ahead of most; not just Indian gaming but Caesars, MGM and those big names we associate with gaming."

Aguilar believes the ability to install fresh carpet or purchase new furniture when necessary is an advantage not all companies share, and it shows. He went to every casino during the week and took notice of the details.

"We have a great property," he said. "Little ole Immokalee can compete with

those big names."

Aguilar is also involved in the first of its kind training program that is customized to his skills and goals. The program, part of the ongoing professional development through TCD, is the next level of management training. TCD will use it as a model for other interns in the future.

"Edward is a great person to have as the first person; he's truly a rock star," said Ervina Capricien, TCD director. "He's gone so far in such a short period of time. I tell the interns that you get out of this program what you put into it and he has put in 1,000 percent."

Capricien credited Aguilar's drive and desire to learn everything he can about the industry for his success. She believes he will achieve his goal and become Immokalee's general manager in the next few years.

Until that time comes, Aguilar continues to work closely with other executives in Immokalee including Aniel Bonachea, director of human resources.

"Ed has a keen eye for the business that not a lot of people have," Bonachea said. "He is able to spot things and he has the confidence of the staff. He is our eyes and ears on the floor."

Bonachea said the perception of Seminole Gaming is that of an industry leader that others come to for advice.

"We don't realize the reputation we have within the industry until we go out there," he said. "It's very exciting when other organizations ask what our secret is. We're playing with the big dogs now."

The Immokalee executives and Aguilar are creating the standard operating procedures for the program, which will be used by TCD for other interns.

"It makes it even better that it's coming from Immokalee, a non-Hard Rock property, but from a true Seminole Gaming property, our original brand," Aguilar said.



Edward Aguilar on the floor of the Seminole Casino in Immokalee March 2.

Beverly Bidney

The Hard Rock and Seminole gaming brands have distinct identities, but a common theme is the Seminole culture of warm hospitality. The difference of guitars versus core traditional values defines the properties. The standards are the same at both brands, but Seminole Gaming's focus on traditional culture is unique.

"Hard Rock came with an identified logo and service standard, but the Seminole service standard was already part of their culture," Bonachea said. "That has carried over into every property in the operation. The culmination of both cultures coming together made us the unique industry leader we are today."

Aguilar is proud to be from Immokalee, a small property which has excelled in all areas. His repertoire continues to expand; he recently added marketing to the mix. He believes learning everything about the casino operation gives him a strong foundation for the future. He wouldn't change a thing about the experience.

"This is where my Seminole comes out in me; everything has a purpose and

the Creator gives you things," Aguilar said. "Not in your time, but in his time. Being able to accept the things that come and understanding that if you were given the opportunity, you were meant for it. And if you don't get it, finding the willingness to accept it is the challenge."

Jim Allen, CEO of Seminole Gaming and Chairman of Hard Rock International, was impressed with Aguilar's words at his TCD graduation in December 2015. Aguilar stated his goal was to be general manager in Immokalee, which was in line with Allen's goal of leaving the business in the hands of Tribal citizens. After graduation, Aguilar was promoted to assistant director of slots.

"We are honored to be the first property to move forward with this project and help Jim Allen with his vision and promise to the Tribe," Bonachea said. "We are creating a future leader for this organization and for the Tribe."

Aguilar is a strong supporter of the TCD program and always has an eye out for young Tribal citizens who may be interested in pursuing a gaming career.

"I'm a lonely Indian so I'd like to have some company here," he said. "This generation is so in tune with technology and the modern world; they are a different breed of Tribal member. We want them to keep us in mind, get their education and then come back and use it here."

The Immokalee program can be customized for other interns.

"Depending on what area they want to go into, we can use this template to easily slide in the information tailored to their goals," Capricien said.

TCD is open to all Tribal members age 18 and older who have at least a high school diploma or GED. Interns work in every department including Table Games, Slots, Cash Operations, Poker, Marketing, Food and Beverage, Hard Rock Live, Hotel Operations and Hard Rock Café. They work every shift so they experience the casino at all hours of the day and night.

For more information contact TCD director Ervina Capricien: 954-364-2076 or ervina.capricien@seminolehardrock.com.



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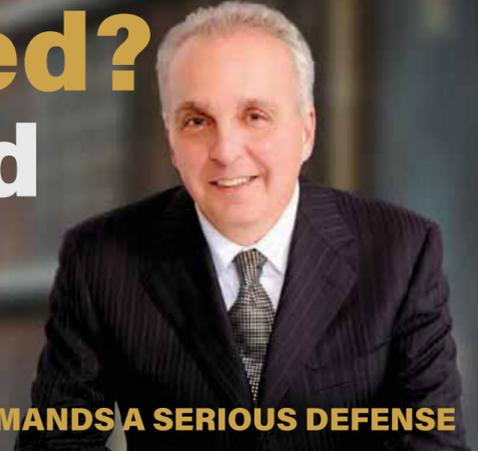


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Beverly Bidney

The 21st annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive passes the water tower, a Big Cypress landmark on Josie Billie Highway, as it travels from the spillway to the rodeo grounds March 18 on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Cattle drive evokes fond memories of Morgan Smith

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

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Beverly Bidney

Participants on horseback keep the cattle in line during the Junior Cypress cattle drive in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Trail Boss Paul Bowers leads the 21st annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive through the heart of Big Cypress on Josie Billie Highway March 18.

ERMD hosts RTOC semi-annual meeting

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Kevin Johnson

Roberto Luque, Environmental specialist for the Seminole Tribe, explains the history and potential future of the Seminole Farms brownfield site to a group from the RTOC's semi-annual meeting March 15 during a tour of the Big Cypress Reservation.



Kevin Johnson

Kristen Mills, Water Resources manager for the Miccosukee Tribe, gives a presentation during the RTOC semi-annual meeting March 15 at the Native Learning Center in Hollywood.

Seminoles, Moore Haven celebrate Chalo Nitka



Sisters by birth and royalty Jr. Miss Brighton Leilani Burton and Miss Brighton Krysta Burton wave to the crowd as they ride in the Chalo Nitka parade March 4 in Moore Haven.



Mila Leah, 16 months, waits as patiently as a toddler can for the Chalo Nitka clothing contest to begin.



Nearly ready to go onstage for the clothing contest, Chance Madrigal, 5, waits for his turban in a nearby chickee.



Toddlers Jilayne Jamison, Kylynn Laurence and Mila Leah show off their finest Seminole garb at the Chalo Nitka clothing contest in Moore Haven.



Krysta Burton, Thomlynn Billie and Talia Rodriguez pose for a photo during the clothing contest at Chalo Nitka.



A fire burns close to Interstate 75 in Collier County on March 8.

Wildfire forces evacuation of Naples field office

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

A LE — A 7,500-acre wildfire in a line transected the Naples field office March 7. Emergency personnel removed the office from the office the next day.

After a week of rain, the fire burned in the area of the Naples field office March 8. "Firefighting helicopters have used the lake behind the office to fill their buckets with water to fight the fire."

The field office on Plover Avenue is not to be used until the fire is out due to the fire that started March 5.

Members of the Seminole tribe are participating in the fire cleanup effort. The tribe is working with the state to help with the cleanup. The tribe is also working with the state to help with the cleanup.

The tribe is working with the state to help with the cleanup. The tribe is also working with the state to help with the cleanup.

The tribe is working with the state to help with the cleanup. The tribe is also working with the state to help with the cleanup.

By March 12, the fire was 80 percent



Items from the Naples field office are loaded onto a truck March 8.

Control of the fire was in the hands of firefighters, including Seminole wildland firefighters. The field office reopened March 13.



Seminole Tribe police officers tag photos during the removal of items from the Naples field office March 8.

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Health



Stressing less stress as reservations focus on heart health

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

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report b the epart ent of



Big Cypress heart participants in heart health awareness activities pose for a photo at the field office Feb. 26.

Beverly Bidney

Health and Human Services Office of inorit ealthfo n that ati e eri an are ore li el to be ia no e with heart i ea e than their white o nterpart i fa tor for heart i ea e in l in hi h bloo pre re obe it an i arette o in are ore pre alent a on ati e eri an than white

hil ren al o nee to learn abo t heart health o the e a eart a e an appear an e at e a et aha in Bri hton an at the er an eola in Big Cypress. The giant inflatable heart is a f n han on tea hin tool

"There are four chambers in the heart; two re ei e bloo an two en it ba o t o r heart beat ti e a a ai Justin Reiswerg, of Medical Inflatables, a he too the i thro h the e hit an pointe o t the i portant part of the heart and their functions. "We want the students to learn how the heart wor an how to eep it health

To fight heart disease through education, the Health Department brought facts, figures an f n to the re er ation ew a titie thi ear in l e o a ai hi an oo in la e to prote ote fellow hip f n an learnin ealth e ator Barbara Bolin e en bro ht the a lt olorin ra e to Bri hton where olorin intri ate pattern in olorin boo a e the arti t to rela

"If you blend the education with o ethin en o able the infor ation i assimilated better," Davis said. "Mental, ph i al an e otional health reate a better path to wellne



Beverly Bidney

Tai Chi, the ancient Chinese graceful form of exercise, was a hit for these Big Cypress heart health awareness participants.



Photo courtesy Barbara Bolin

Beulah Gopher works on her stress reducing adult coloring project in Brighton Feb. 28.



Beverly Bidney

America Ramirez, Clarrisa Garza and Andrea Kuzbyt took a brisk two-mile or so walk through the Immokalee Reservation Feb. 23.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, Caylie Huff, Hyatt Pearce and other eighth-graders learn about the heart by walking through a larger than life version at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School March 22. Justin Reiswerg, at left, teaches about the parts and functions of the heart. At right, seventh-graders learn about the danger of smoking from health educator Jamie Diersing outside of the Mega Heart at PECS.



A nurse's tour of the supermarket

SUBMITTED BY KRISTIN HALLDORSDDOTTIR, RN
Florida Dept. of Health in Broward County

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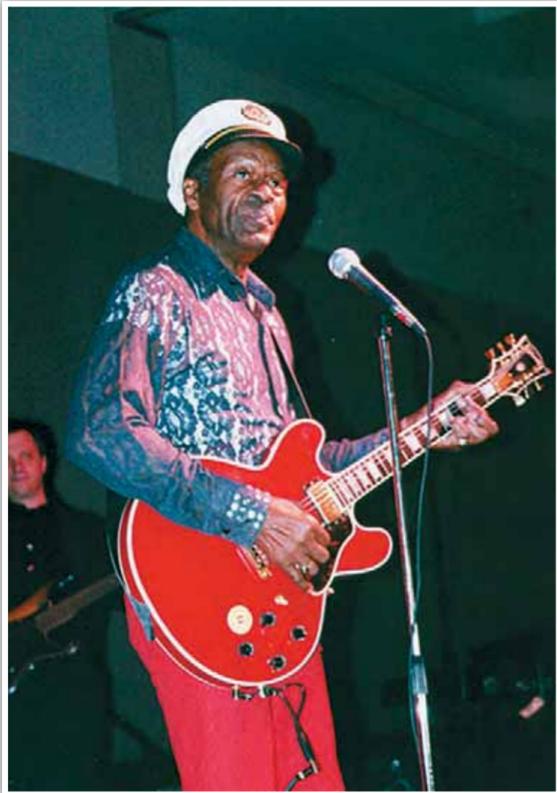
ore infor ation i it http www healthiestweightflorida.com.

Food summit for Native youth

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SEMINOLE SCENES



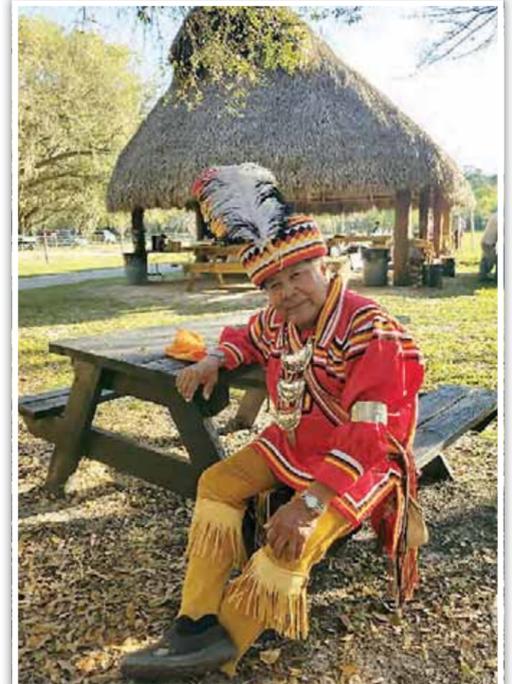
Tribune file photo

REMEMBERING A LEGEND: Rock 'n' roll star Chuck Berry is shown here performing during the Seminole Tribe's Christmas party on Dec. 18, 1998 at the Broward County Convention Center. Berry passed away March 18 at age 90.



Maury Neipris

BC SUNSET: The sun begins to set outside the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena on March 17.



Courtesy photo

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BOBBY: Bobby Henry enjoys a peaceful moment during a birthday celebration for him in February at the Tribe's Lakeland property.



Photo courtesy Miami Dolphins

DOWN IN FRONT: A cow in the back tries to poke his head above others during the 21st annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive on March 18 in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

BIRD'S EYE VIEW- A lone farmer plows a field near Immokalee March 7. When viewed from above, it is easy to see the importance of the canal, which keeps the forest from taking back the land.



Beverly Bidney

DUNK CITY: Tony Billie and R. J. Garza enjoy an informal game of hoops at the Immokalee Boys and Girls Club on March 16.



Maury Neipris

WATER BOYS: Big Cypress youngsters enjoy a splash in a canal March 11.



Beverly Bidney

BATH TIME: A panther takes a relaxing mid-morning bath at Billie Swamp Safari on Feb. 21 and found the perfect place for a promotional photo op.



Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa (2)

HARD ROCK DONATIONS: Charity organizations Hands Across the Bay, above, and Bill Edwards Foundation of the Arts, below, accept \$10,000 checks from Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa in March. The DeBartolo Family Foundation and Metropolitan Ministries also received \$10,000 checks. The checks to the non-profits were part of Hard Rock Tampa's 13th anniversary celebration.



Photo courtesy Alex Johns

WINNING OFFSPRING: The reserve grand champion steer award at the Hendry County Fair belongs to Windfall Tindall, who bought the calf from Joe Frank's Big Cypress herd and raised it. At the sale, Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola purchased the calf from Tindall on behalf of STOF. The calf is a Salacoa Valley Farms sired calf. It is a product of artificial insemination using the Tribe's elite Salacoa bull herd.



NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



IO reate u i t impr e ati e Ameri a re ati

BLOOMI TO I niana ni er it i for in an a i or rop to tren then the ni er it relation hip with the ati e eri an o nit hi new a i or rop the ir t ation ea er hip ba a or on il will a i e on how be t to re r it an eep ore ati e eri an t ent an fa lt a or in to an pre relea e

The Council will meet with IU officials pril an before the ann al owwow he on il will be a e p of i e ber ea h of who ha tate their pport for the ati e eri an o nit Ben Barne e on hief of the hawnee ribe lenna alla e hief of the tern hawnee ribe i i hael e retar of the elaware ribe of n ian hillip eloria profe of eri an It re an hi tor at the ni er it of i hi an i hie e er tribal relation ire tor for o th a ota tate ni er it an e lli o teller ire tor an tribal historic preservation officer of the Citizen otawato i ation lt ral erita e enter

hope thi on il will in rea e a ati e oi e at n iana ni er it Barne ai in the pre relea e in e n iana i na e after ati e people wo l i e to ee a tron er ati e pre en e at wo l i e to ee ore ati e t ent parti larl fro the tribe that were re o e fro n iana

he on il will a i e the ni er it on i e h a helpin re r it an retain ore ati e t ent an fa lt increasing scholarship and financial aid opport nite for ati e t ent an pro i in er i e that help for a better onne tion with the ati e o nit

Indiana Daily Student

er r ig i t at re uire tea i g tri e i t ry u ture

E E E y o in o att ea i ne the n ian ation or ll tin ar h that re ire the o in e part ent of ation to tea h the hi tor an lt re of o in two tribe the a tern ho hone an the orthern rapaho in i er ati e o a enter ire tor a on Bal e ai o ial t i e tea her will oon be able to a e o in B i eo o le a e in ollaboration with the orthern rapaho an a tern ho hone on the ation e part ent web ite

Bal e a the tribe ha e been wor in to a hie e ati e eri an e ation in o in hool for e a e he ri h hi tor that we ha e in thi nite tate i n t reall ta ht nfort natel Bal e ai n o the fa t that o in an other tate ha e teppe p with thi ati e eri an education program for all recognizes the i portant ontrib tion that we a e in the pa t b tal o in the pre ent an into the f t re

Both tribal b ine on il hair en atten e the i n in

Bal e ai learnin ati e eri an hi tor in o ial t i e la e a help reduce racial conflicts among kids in o in

hen o r port tea tra el to other part of the tate we on twant to hear a ial l r Bal e ai n nfort natel to a a lot of o n people are fa e with that thin that an e ational pro ra that tea he i hi tor i a wa to a h that ra i bi otr an i r i nation he ore o n er tan abo t o ebo the le o re oin to ha e ill will toward that per on

During the final days of the 2017 le i lati e e ion heri an enator Br e B m wante to alter the bill to in l e other tribe li e the row an he enne who al o ha e a tron pre en e an hi tor in the state's northeast corner. But the final bill li ite the pro ra to in i er e er ation tribe with the option for other tribe to a to the rri l later

Wyoming ublic edia

tre gt e e y ta i g R ati e Ameri a mar D

A I TO D — e pite bitter ol win rain an hail h n re of e ber of ati e eri an tribe an pporter fro aro n the o ntr turned out March 10 to march on the White o e in an effort to tr n the o ent of the tan in o prote t into a ore taine o e ent for nati e ri ht he ar h an a rall in afa ette are a ro fro the hite o e a e after fo r a of prote t pra er an lobb in on apitol ill where ati e o nitie alle for the prote tion

of nat ral re o re an e an e the new a ini tration honor treatie with in i eno people

ho e i e were rawn into harp fo la t ear rin the onth lon fight over the Dakota Access Pipeline at the tan in o re er ation i i et to flow as early as next week through the pipeline, a \$3.8 billion, 1,172-mile project r nmin fro orth a ota to llinoi

in e the er be innin we understood that Dakota Access was just one part of a greater fight for indigenous rights an in i eno o erei nt ai alla ol tooth of the n i eno n iron entw or one of the ore a ti e rop behin the a ota e prote t at tan in o

at l the tan in o io and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes filed a law it to top the pipeline on tr tion par in onth of prote t n o r t filings, they said the pipeline "threatens the ribe en iron ental an e ono i well bein an wo l a a e an e tro ite of reat hi tori relio an lt ral significance."

On his fifth day in office, President onal r p a e the reen li ht to the a ota e ipeline a well a the e tone pipeline whi h in i eno rop ha e al o prote te he r orp of n ineer whi h i e per it for all water ro in rante a final easement required to complete for the a ota e ipeline la t onth

he e ti e or er an r orp e i on wa a blow for opponent of the pipeline B t ol tooth ai the o ent from the fight signaled the start of a larger o e ent

hat re i tan e i rowin he ai "The fire of Standing Rock burns brightly in o ntle o nitie a ro the o ntr nati e an non nati e

On March 10, indigenous groups were joined by Democratic Rep. Tulsi abbar of awaii along with elebriete en iron ental rop p ea e a ti t veterans, college students and nonprofits wor in on ir t en ent an B ri ht

Veterans for Peace, a nonprofit that pro ote alternati e to war ai e ber of the group from Arizona, New York, i hi an orth arolina an e i o tra ele to a hin ton to parti ipate

Douglas Ryder, 70, a veteran from rha who atten e the ar h ai he wa on erne that re i ent r p wa too fo e on tren then in the lilitar in tea of pro i in ore fe ral f n in for i e li e en iron ental prote tion here to pea for tho e who ha e no oi e the water the hil ren the e en eneration o in own the roa er ai r poli ie are ta in awa re o re fro e ential i e

Before taking office, Trump's transition tea et twi e with tribal lea er fro aro n the o ntr a or in to report fro oliti o an the n ian o ntr e ia etwor B t the o nit re ain war he hite o e i not re pon to ew o r re e t for o ent on it relation hip with the ati e eri an o nit

BS.org

D a i egi ati a e pp iti r m tri a airma aritie

BI MAR K D harit officials and a tribal chairman who rely on gaming revenue testified March 13 against a re ol tion that o l open the oor to tate owne a ino in orth a ota whi h one opponent ai wo l re lt in an e plo ion of a blin in the tate

t i e wa o e on rrent Resolution 3033, introduced by House Majority Leader Al Carlson, R-Fargo. The re ol tion if appro e b oter in ne t ear pri ar ele tion wo l a en the tate on tit tion to allow the e i lat re to authorize up to six state-owned casinos.

he fa liti e o l n t be lo ate within five miles of a city with a population exceeding 5,000 or within 20 miles of a ati e eri an re er ation

he re ol tion a the a ino t be e tabli he a a e tination oriente attra tion ele te for the eni hi tori re ational an to ri a anta e of the ite an it potential to ontrib te to the r ral e ono i e elop ent of the tate thi oin to et ri of all o r other ta e b ol tel not arl on ai it oin to boo t o e of o r r ral o nitie thin it oe

he o e i ar o ittee i not i e iatel a t on the re ol tion after the hearing March 13, which lasted almost two ho r

arl on wa peppere with e tion abo t the fa liti e lo ation how lo al o ern ent wo l pa for an a tional ot an wh the a ino nee e to be tate owne n the latter e tion arl on o bte e eloper wo l open a a ino in a r ral area an bill o pon or en onnie affen ran or ite unspecified issues and "bad actors" in the

a ino b ine e are not a e a arl on ai e nee to ha e a er ontrolle en iron ent if we roin to o thi

he i ea fa e oppo tion fro ar Fox, chairman of the Three Affiliated ribe who warne a in a ino wo l p et an e ilibri an at rate the ar et

a ino are allowe on tribal lan in orth a ota thro h fe ral law an o ai the re ne e it e for ario er i e wo l be reatl i ini he if the tate opene it own a in fa liti e He also pointed to the hundreds of jobs that ea h ite pro i e

"You will gain revenue, but it's not with t o t an it not with t lo o tol law a er n o re oin to find our reservations still struggling hard to tr to e tabli h the ele an that one ehi le that ha helpe p ll o t of that i now oin to be re e re an i ini he th B falo a e ber of the hree Affiliated Tribes and the Democratic art an i ate for in ran e commissioner last year, emphasized the nee for i pro in tate tribal relation in the wa e of the prote t a ain t the a ota e ipeline

a ree it a two wa treet b t thi propo ai e er one i e he ai arl on ai hi re ol tion i n t a retaliator ea re a ain t the tribe for ir p tion a e b the onth lon prote t

han f l of people repre entin nonprofit organizations also testified a ain t the ea re hile the on tit tion prevents the Legislature from authorizing an a e of han e lotter or if t enterpri e it a e e ption for a lti tate lotter an haritable a in

onathan or en en pre i ent of the haritable a in o iation of orth a ota ai tate owne a ino wo l ta e awa f n fro haritie

or ear a in e pan ion ha been fo ht or en en ai hi i not an e pan ion of a in hi i an e plo ion of a in

he re ol tion wo l reate a e en e ber a ino a in o i on with e ber appointe b the o rnor tate a itor attorne eneral an le i lati e lea er fro both partie ep bli an o o B r e pre e pti i abo t the on e pt in an inter iew la t wee parti larl abo t the potential to reate ore tate e plo ee

he whole on e pt i o to e he ai f o thin that a in i reat for orth a ota e ono whi h i a eparate e tion then wh wo l the tate be oin it

B t arl on b itte an a en ent March 13 that would require the Casino a in o i on to ontra t with a pri ate entit for lea in fa liti e an ana in the a ino i a e en tal o specifies that 70 percent of net profits from a ino operation t be tran ferre to the Tax Relief Fund, while 30 percent must be ent to the o nit ealht r t n

WD .com

La ma er e ge et OK t a i eme

ARTFORD tate lawmakers hedged their bets March 15 on the f t re of a blin appro in eparate a ino bill

ne wo l allow a partner hip of the ati e eri an a ino to o forwar with an a t in or fa liti he other wo l enable a o petiti e pro e that o l ite a new thir a ino el ewhere in l in po ibl Bri eport

B t e ber of the le i lati e bli afet o ittee a ree that it wo l be p to other lea er of the eneral e bl to e i e whether the tate will a satellite casino to keep gambling jobs and disposable cash in Connecticut as a \$950 illion a ino e tination near o pletion in Springfield, Mass.

hile per onal po ition ha n t changed, my position as an elected official i to pport both bill ai en ra i Miner, R-Litchfield, a committee member who enerrall oppo e the e pan ion of a blin

nother o ittee e ber en win o e Bri eport ote for both bill b t ai he pport the pen in East Windsor site along Interstate 91 that was recently selected by the joint venture of the ohe an an a hant et e ot tribe

wo l be in line to o with the ho e bo o e ai rin the brief ebate on ea h of the bill he bill that wins could be the one projected to bring the tate a i re en e a t i e when the eneral e bl i opin with a projected \$1.7 billion deficit in the \$20 billion b et he le to ta e effe t l l

ith a pen in battle in fe ral o r t an a le al opinion fro ttorne eneral eor e p en warnin that an off re er ation a ino o l threaten the existing deal with the tribes and the \$260

illion a ear in re en e t rne o er to the tate the i e of a thir a ino re ain er n lear

he bill that wo l fa or the two tribe ne t hea to the tate enate he other pie e of le i lation whi h o l open pa tate wi e o petiti on hea to the o e he le i lati e e ion en ne n etail anno ne b ep oe erren ia et artfor o hair an of the o ittee the latter bill wo l allow forre e t for propo al ne t an ar o t town wo l ea h hol a lo al referen an be li e ble for illion pa ent innin a ino propo al wo l include: \$300 million capital investments; prote tion for e i tin pari t el bettin facilities; a \$250 million licensing fee; and eal to i e the tate per ent of lot machine revenue and 10 percent of gross ale of other a e

nrea tion ri linton e ort enior i e pre i ent ai the pa a e of the o petiti e bill wo l be the be t eal for the tate

ar et ri en o petiti e bi in pro e i how onne ti t enerate ore revenue, creates more jobs, and drives reater e ono i e elop ent he ai n an open tran parent o petiti e process removes the significant risks o line b the attorne eneral that are inherent in a no bi non o petiti e awar that could jeopardize revenue streams riti al to tate an ni ipal b et he tribal on rti al o fo n the appro al of the enate bill a po iti e e elop ent

ethan the bli afet o ittee for on tin in thi i portant on er ation ai a hant et e ot ribal o nil hair an o ne B tler here are ore than 9,000 jobs and millions in tax revenue at ta e for the tate o a ote ta e one tep lo er to eep in both ri ht here in onne ti t

ha hti o e ribal ation hief i har el who wo l li e to b il a a ino in the Bri eport area b t hi tribe ha n t won fe ral re o nitio n pporte pa a e of the o e bill

f thre i oin to be a thir a ino a fair an e itable pro e e e t e in an or erl fa hion i the onl wa the citizens of Connecticut can succeed without jeopardizing funding to the state," Velky ai in a tate ent fro the ent ba e tribe

onnecticut ost

I i ge u a t r i app i te a ter ar a a a re ue permit r Liam ee m ie

The Canadian government's rejection of a Hollywood film that was scheduled to be hot in Banff ational ar i i appointe ai an in i eno ana ian actor who is starring in the film.

ar ow er tarrin ia ee on wa he le to be in hootin aro n Banff this month, but Parks Canada rejected their per it in part be a e it oe n t lie how an in i eno hara ter pla e b in i eno a tor o a on i portra e a on ai the atter i a e tion of en or hip

e allow o ebo in o r worl to ha e the han of a en or that i repre entin the fe ral o ern ent then thin that that ha to be re e a ine a on ai

a on ai he ha a lot of inp t on his role in the film, and added that he thinks there i nothin wron with an in i eno hara ter bein portra e a a illain ar ow er i a ri e ra a in whi h ee on pla a nowplow ri er who e on i r re b a r in pin i effort to bre a the artel par a t r f war with a ir t ation an bo pla e b a on he a e thi e i on an it i appointe e ore than an thin a on ai a in he al o plea e at the fa t that the worl i be o in ore en it i e to i e re ar in ir t ation people

he blo ha ir e not onl a tor and film producers, but many businesses in the Banff area that rely on the film industry for wor an e ono i boo t he a losing a blockbuster film could hurt them.

Brittan ton who wor at the Grizzly Paw Pub in Canmore, says when oll woo o e to town b ine pi e he ai he een a tor on lo ation aro n town on e ral o a ion e een eonar o i aprio at the Rose and Crown, just hanging out, having a beer ha in o e inner ton tol al ar

e ral ini ter of n iron ent atherine enna ai the r le surrounding park permits are fluid.

ar ana a priorit i e o lo i al he tol reporter at a al ar e ent t prote tin o r par it al o ettin ana ian into par an thin we e al ate a h oppo nit on it erit a on ai ar ow er i till oin ahea b t it won t be hot in lberta

T ewe

Navajo Nation police officer t i e rep i g t me ti i e e a

ALBU UER UE M—A Navajo Nation police officer in New Mexico wa hot an ille while re pon in to a o e ti iolen e all a thortie ai March 12.

Officer Houston James Largo, 27, was pronone ea at ni er it of ew e i o o pital in lb er e where he ha been airlifte after the hootin in the all town of rewitt

thortie ai a pet wa in to b t no other infor ation wa i e iatel a ailable he B i in e ti atin the hootin along with the tribe

n a tate ent the B e ribe Largo as a decorated officer with five years of er i e

"We pray for the officer, his family and the police force," Navajo Nation President ell Be a e ai in a tate ent before ar o i e

"Our officers put themselves in highly olatile it ation e er a in a re in o e ti iolen e it ation Be a e ai ltho h the are hi hl traine the an till be e erel wo n e whi h nfort natel i what happene to a

Be a e ai the tribe re entl p ra e e ip ent an prote ti e e i e for it poli e e part ent

hi a new reinfor e the an er our police officers face every day -- so we an o r fa ilie on t ha e to ew Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez said in a statement. "I'm confident the monster who took this brave officer from us will face the full measure of justice."

The Navajo Nation covers 27,425 square miles in portions of Arizona, Utah an ew e i o

Fox ewe

Tri e te i a r ame e marriage

ati e eri an tribe in northea t Oklahoma voted to legalize same-e arria e be o in the late t in a all n ber of n ian o ntr tribe to o o o er the pa t e arl ear

Citizens of the Osage Nation, one of Oklahoma's larger tribes, voted March 20 to legalize gay marriage with 52 percent of the vote, according to unofficial results po te b the tribe new paper he a e News. Of the tribe's approximately 15,000 registered voters, about 1,470 citizens cast their ballot a or in to the re lt

now that for a lot of people it wa a ontro er ial i e b t for e it wa not ai a e le i lator li e B falohea the ea re a thor

or al oppo ition to the ea re i not e re e b t o e in the tribe felt allowin a arria e wo l n er ine the tribe lt ral herita e

enr oanhor e ra who o reate a Facebook group called Osage Citizens for arria e alit ai he wa rpi e b t in re ibl e ite abo t the o t o e new the ote wa onna be a e hallen e to et a t pi all on er ati e an reli o e le torate to pa arria e e alit o e it bein h a lo e ra e wa no rpi e he tol B t thro h a a ebo e a e t reall how the i portan e of otin hi tor wa tr l a e b the one who howe p

ra ai he wa i appointe onl per ent of re i tere oter in the tribe a t their ballot in the ele tion e erthele he said, the outcome goes beyond just arria e e alit

"To every Native kid just beginning to n er tan who the are in i e the tribe ha a e it lear we pport an lo e the he ai

The 23-year-old Tulsa resident said he i opti i ti the a e ation ote ar a t rmin poing for a e e arria e in all of n ian o ntr

ho h the pre e o r t legalized same-sex marriage in 2015, it did not extend to federally recognized tribes, be a e the are o erei n nation with their own o ern ent

elf eter inin o erei n o ern ent n ian tribe an eter ine an re ol e the e internal i e the cle i hael Bri e hair of the n ian aw a in i i on at rowe

Bri e ai the on re an pass a law specifically directing tribal governments to recognize same-sex unions, b t he ai he o bt on re wo l take such a step. The Osage Nation joins a han f l of other pro inent tribe that conduct or recognize same-sex marriages, in l in the hero ee ation an the he enne an rapaho ribe

B ewe

ompiled by Senior ditor evin ohnson

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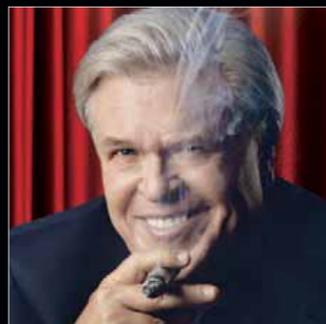
April 1
JIM JEFFERIES



April 5
DURAN DURAN



April 22
THERESA CAPUTO



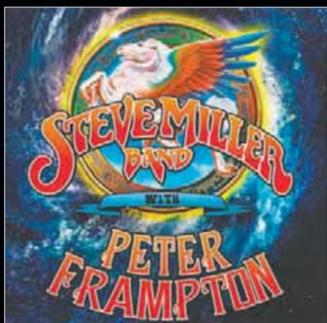
April 27
RON WHITE



May 26 & 27
**FRANKIE VALLI
& THE FOUR SEASONS**



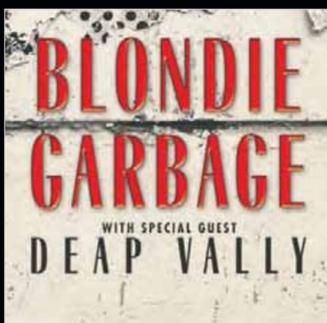
July 6
ROD STEWART
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
CYNDI LAUPER



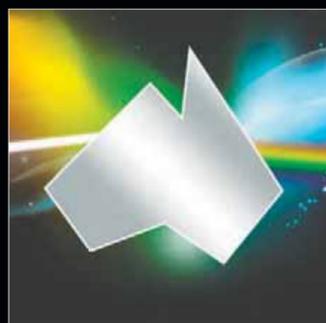
July 14
**STEVE MILLER BAND
WITH PETER FRAMPTON**



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THE BLOCK**
PAULA ABDUL & BOYZ II MEN



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HOLLYWOOD, FL

Education



Italian exchange students learn Seminole culture at Billie Swamp Safari

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A group of Italian high school exchange students received a taste of authentic Florida during a visit to Billie Swamp Safari on Feb. 21. Archbishop McCarthy High School senior John Osceola joined the group, which spent two weeks at the school and other South Florida attractions.

"I enjoyed showing them our culture," said Osceola, 18. "I wanted them to see the culture of the true Americans, the true people of this land."

The exchange program, in its third year at the Southwest Ranches school, lasts just a few weeks and is mostly a cultural exchange, but the exchange students attend classes with their peers at McCarthy.

"We want to increase understanding between the cultures and build bridges instead of walls," said English teacher Ryan Parrish. "We come from different countries, but we are just the same."

The day's itinerary for the 12 Italian and 10 McCarthy students included a snake show, critter show, airboat and swamp buggy rides. During lunch, the students shared their impressions of Florida. They were impressed with the landscape and said there are no swamps in Italy.

Perhaps the most important lesson the students learned was the difference between the American and Italian high schools. The Italians noticed how frequently the McCarthy students are quizzed and tested on the material and that they change classes all day long.

"We are always with the same class; the teachers move around," said Irene Vitabila, 16, of Italy. "We are close because we stay together and are with the same kids all



Archbishop McCarthy High School and Italian students pose for a photo with McCarthy senior John Osceola, far right, who helped organize the cultural exchange outing to Billie Swamp Safari on Feb. 21.

through high school."

Another student mentioned that it might be nice to change classes so they can make new friends. Unlike their American counterparts, the Italian students don't have the same classes daily. Their work load

consists of 12 subjects per term, so they don't have each one every day.

The Italian students attend a science magnet high school in Palermo, Sicily. They pointed out that they use books instead of iPads in class and seem to study more than

the McCarthy students.

After a box lunch on the porch at the Swamp Water Café, John's father Gem Osceola welcomed the students and treated them to a cake with the Seminole Tribe of Florida logo.

Beverly Bidney

Living the ACD experience: Cherished time spent in Broadcasting

BY AARON TOMMIE
Contributing Writer

My time working in the Seminole Media Productions' Broadcasting Department is coming to an end. Starting April 3, I will begin a six-month stint working in Business Marketing, another sector of SMP. This will be my third rotation to another department since I have been in the two-year Advanced Career Development program.

Broadcasting manager Sunshine Frank has been incredibly supportive of me. She, too, has a family, and understands the importance of balancing one's professional and private life. This past Valentine's Day, I covered a rodeo in Brighton with one of my co-workers, Carlos Menendez, who is Broadcasting's senior editor. We were unable to spend that day with our wives, but when we returned to the office we both had packages of candy waiting for us, which was one of the nicest gestures a manager has ever done for me.



Prior to working in Broadcasting, it never occurred to me how much time and effort it takes to cover and run events such as Council meetings and other Tribal community events. There is so much preparation and attention to detail that takes place behind the scenes. Often, sacrifices are made to get the job done. On multiple occasions, I have worked on weekends and hours outside the traditional 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. schedule. This has helped increase my appreciation for the people who work for us.

In addition to Sunshine Frank and Carlos Menendez, there are three other staff members. Records specialist coordinator Carlisle Jebodh is the newest addition to the team, followed by videographer Carlos Fuentes, and Ishma Fray, the audio and writer specialist. Each has aided in my development as a professional in their own ways. I feel we all have developed a strong camaraderie due to the amount of time we have spent together working.

Broadcasting has been an interesting department to work in. Ms. Frank has a vision of taking the department into a direction the Tribe has not yet experienced, and I am excited to see it progress. As was the case during my time with the Tribune, I have been welcomed and treated as part of the team. I would not consider myself an expert yet, but I definitely feel more comfortable doing work as a videographer and editor now than I did months ago.

Although I am a Tribal citizen, I have always wanted to be treated as if I were a regular employee so I could have as authentic of a work experience as possible, and that has been accomplished thus far. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working for the Tribe and have matured as a professional. I have continued to learn the importance of patience and being optimistic. As is the case with anything, things will not always be perfect, but the journey is what is most important.

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

Poster contest for Native American artists

GAINESVILLE — USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is holding the 2017 American Indian Heritage Month poster contest for American Indian artists in Florida. The submission deadline is June 14. The winning artist will be awarded \$2,000 and the poster will be distributed nationally to celebrate the American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month in November.

This year's title is "Big Water of Life," and the theme: "Water is the Essential Element" (Okeechobee means Big Water in the Seminole language).

The guidelines are:

- Open to American Indian/Alaska Native artists in Florida.
- Submit one original piece of artwork, 18 by 24 inches, acrylic or oil on canvas.
- Include a brief written narrative about how the artwork relates to the title and theme.
- Winner must sign an agreement allowing NRCS the right to reproduce and distribute copies of the artwork.

Artwork will be judged on creativity and originality; portrayal of the heritage and culture of American Indians in Florida; incorporation of the title and theme and, artistry and skill. Submit artwork, narrative and contact information by June 14 to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Labelle Field Office, 1085 Pratt Blvd., Labelle, FL 33935.



Beverly Bidney

Archbishop McCarthy senior John Osceola and his father Gem Osceola treated the group at Billie Swamp Safari to a Seminole themed cake.



Beverly Bidney

Archbishop McCarthy High School students and exchange students from Italy enjoy an airboat ride at Billie Swamp Safari on Feb. 21.



Chairman visits Hollywood Preschool for Read Across America

Kevin Johnson (2)

As part of Read Across America Week, the Hollywood Preschool welcomed Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. as a guest reader Feb. 28. The chairman read a story from Betty Mae Jumper to two classes.





Kevin Johnson

Youngsters take off from the starting line in a sprint event at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's track and field meet in February.

PECS students display their track skills

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BRIG N Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School figures to be well represented at the Okeechobee County track and field meet in May.

In February, PECS held its own meet to determine which students ages 9-14 would represent the school at the county meet. Younger students also participated, but not for qualification.

The county meet is organized by the Okeechobee Parks and Recreation Department.

PECS' qualifiers for the Okeechobee County track and field meet are:

- Raylen Smith
- Brandon Gabbard
- Preslynn Baker
- Aaryn ing
- Truly Osceola
- Bryce Ward
- Carriss Johns
- Sydney Matthews
- Ashlynn Collins
- Trace Wilcox
- Jrayko Billie
- Angelie Melton
- Jacee White
- JB Anderson
- Bryce Trammell
- Lason Baker
- Tiyanni Anderson
- Jarrett Beecham
- Renaee Ringer
- Caleb Burton
- Lexi Thomas
- Carlee Osceola
- David ing
- Dathen Garcia
- Corey Jumper
- anyon Billie
- Jordan Johnson
- Maricella Garcia
- Saniyah Rodrigues
- Nena oungblood
- Bryce Baker
- Trace Wilcox
- Jacey White
- Penelope
- Steel Gopher
- Merleaysia Billie
- Creek Gopher
- Ramone Baker
- Haylie Huff
- Mariah Billie
- Alyssa Madrigal
- Greyson Johns
- Waylon ates
- Chovi Weimann
- alissa Huff
- Candice Melton
- Jace Brown
- Charlie Armstrong
- Santana Alvarez
- ach Riley
- Elaina Simmons
- Madison Taylor



Kevin Johnson

Ross Jones, left, and Joshua Torres compete in Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's track and field event in February.



Kevin Johnson

Ila Trueblood competes in the standing broad jump.



Kevin Johnson

Ross Jones receives a ribbon for his outstanding performance in the track and field event.

Deven Osceola earns MAP award

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

ceremony March 3.

"He scored really well," said Ruth Osceola, Deven's mother. "He was surprised and said last year he didn't try, but this year he's really putting in the effort. It takes dedication and focus."

Deven Osceola's efforts at Mount Dora Christian Academy have paid off. His score in the winter MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) tests for mathematics, reading, language usage and science were in the top 10 percent of all students nationwide and showed a 10 percent or higher gain in one of the four subjects.

The 10th-grader's accomplishments were recognized in front of family and friends at the school's academic awards

Osceola said Deven loves school and excels at math, science and history, but has a passion for music. He plays piano, has been a percussionist in the school band for six years and creates electronic dance music under the stage name Panthreks. Deven plans to pursue music at Full Sail University after he graduates high school.



Courtesy photo

Mount Dora Christian Academy sophomore Deven Osceola receives an academic honor March 3.

Brighton Boys & Girls Club among national finalists in contest

FROM PRESS RELEASE

BRIG N In preparation for National Boys & Girls Club Week, March 27-31, Boys & Girls Clubs of America has partnered with Lowe's to host the annual Blue Door Decorating Contest. More than 600 Boys & Girls Clubs across the country submitted photos of decorated doors that illustrate how their Clubs are opening the door to great futures.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Boys & Girls Club in Brighton was selected as one of the top seven entries to compete in the national online voting campaign for a chance to win \$20,000 to make improvements to the Club's facilities. The winner will be the door with the most overall votes. Voting is open from March 13-31.

Voters are allowed to vote a maximum of one time per hour per machine/device during the duration of the voting period.

The Brighton Boys & Girls Club door is titled "Endless Possibilities." It depicts how great futures start at the Club because children are allowed to be themselves and are encouraged in daily activities to do anything they set their mind to do.

"The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida is a pillar in the community, serving nearly 700 kids and teens. This grant would allow us to grow the Brighton Boys & Girls Club to be able to serve the expanding and newly introduced kids Club which is for 5- and 6-year-olds," said Valentina Arce, Youth Events Coordinator.

The Club with the most votes will receive a \$20,000 grant and the other finalists will receive \$1,000 grants.



Photo courtesy Boys & Girls Club

Brighton's Boys & Girls Club entry in a door decorating contest advanced to the final seven in the nation.

4-H'ers shine in Big Cypress show, sale

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS After years in Brighton, the annual Seminole 4-H show and sale shifted to the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress on March 23 and 24.

An enthusiastic group of 62 4-H'ers vied for awards and accolades as friends and family cheered them on from outside the ring and stands.

Before the show, the kids washed and groomed their animals onsite to get them show-ready. Hoses, soap, clippers, brushes and other tools were used to bring out their best attributes. Grooming was not exactly like putting lipstick on a pig, but it did make those pigs, heifers and steers look as good as possible for the judges.

As they primed their animals, the 4-H'ers had time to reflect on their time raising them.

"He likes to play and eat my hair; he thinks it's hay," said Caniah Billie, 13, of Immokalee. "I feel great about it, but I don't want to let him go."

It was Caniah's third year raising a steer and although selling her steer was not something she liked to think about, she knew it was something she would do.

Jayton Baker, of Brighton, said the hardest part of raising his first steer was getting up in the morning to feed it before going to school.

The 4-H program teaches youth to be responsible and care for the animals but it also teaches them about the business of raising livestock. The youth tracked every cent they spent on food, supplies and veterinarian costs and kept it in a log. They kept whatever profit was made from the sale.

"This steer is calmer and was easier to train than the one I had last year," said Priscilla Alvarado, 14, of Immokalee. "I liked watching him grow and it will be sad to sell him, but I learned a lot about responsibility and will be more responsible from now on."

At age 11, Jalee Wilcox is already a 4-H veteran. Over the years she's had hogs and steers. This year she raised a steer and a heifer.

"Having both was fun because when one was being hard, I could play with the other one," said Jalee, of Big Cypress. "They like being together so it was hard to get them used to walking in the ring alone."

Jalee figured out an effective reward system for the steer; he enjoyed being scratched, so she used that as a reward whenever he was cooperative. Her work paid off. Jalee's heifer won Reserve Grand Champion and she earned the Intermediate Showmanship award for steer.

First up during the show were the youngest competitors. Beginning at age 5, children may join the 4-H Cloverbuds and learn to care for small animals such as hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits and chickens. The group proudly filed into the show ring with their animals. By age 8, the Cloverbuds are old enough to raise a hog and at 10 they are responsible enough for a steer or heifer.

While the 4H-ers showed their heifers and steers in the ring, judge Allen Gahler pointed out positive attributes of the animals and explained why the winner in each class was chosen.

"There is a tremendous amount of good in this heifer, in terms of a breeding female," Gahler said about Jalee's heifer.

Big Cypress's Brianna Bowers' Grand Champion heifer was an obvious choice to Gahler, who said, "She has the most natural muscle shape. This is just a nicely made female from end to end."

When the steers entered the ring, Gahler said, "These are the ones we will put on the kitchen table. They need enough fat and muscle and these have that very well. They will all make tremendous carcasses."

A pair of steer-raising sisters dominated the competition. Canaan Jumper won Grand Champion Steer and Ahnie Jumper won Reserve Grand Champion Steer.

After the show, the Big Cypress sisters reflected on the event and their relationship. It was the first time Canaan, 13, had bested her older sister.

"They both worked very hard," said mom Andrea Jumper.

The steers came from family herds; Canaan's from uncle Naha Jumper's and Ahnie's from her father Josh's. The sisters have an easy camaraderie.

"This brings us closer together," Canaan said.

"Every dog has his day and today was Canaan's," Ahnie said.

"eah, and every other day is yours," Canaan retorted.

The swine show featured 34 4-H'ers who proudly guided their hogs in the ring for judge Doug Albright, who looked for structure, power and attractiveness.

"All these animals will end up in the food chain," Albright said. "We look for market readiness, balance and correctness."

Abbiegale Green raised a hog for the first time this year.

"It was hard and I'd get mad sometimes, but he made me smile," said Abbiegale, 9. "He'd go crazy whenever he saw me."



Cloverbuds show their small animals at the Seminole 4-H show March 23 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress. Kulipa Julian cradles her chicken as she steps out of line to survey the competition at the other end of the show ring.



Steer judge Allen Gahler examines Jacee Jumper's steer in the show ring at the Seminole 4-H show in Big Cypress. The 1,189 pound steer took second place in its class.



Jaylen Baker walks his steer around the show ring at the Seminole 4-H show.



Ashlynn Collins directs her hog through the ring as swine judge Doug Albright assesses the group. Ashlynn's 254 pound hog won Grand Champion Swine at the March 23rd show.



Jalieg Braswell guides her hog around the ring as a curious onlooker moves in for a closer look.

G	C	S	Canaan Jumper,
Big Cypress			
R	G	C	Ahnie
Jumper, Big Cypress			
G	C		Brianna
Bowers, Big Cypress			
R	G	C	Jalee
Wilcox, Big cypress			
G	S		Ashlynn Collins,
Brighton			
R	G	S	Austin Thomas,
Brighton			
I	S		S
Jalee Wilcox, Big Cypress			
S	S		Ivess
Baker, Brighton			
S	S		Atley
Driggers, Brighton			
I	S		S
Ce Ce Thomas, Brighton			
S	S		Conner
Thomas, Brighton			

National Museum of American Indian to host program for educators

AS IN G N C Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian will host a Teacher Training Institute at the museum in Washington, D.C. this summer as a part of its national education initiative, Native knowledge 360. This in-depth, weeklong teacher training experience will provide foundational information about American Indians and support effective use of a new online interactive lesson, "American Indian Removal: What Does It Mean To Remove a People."

The sessions will focus on the impact of removal on Native Nations before, during and after the passage of the Indian Removal Act in 1830 under Andrew Jackson's presidency.

Applications are open for middle and high school educators, including classroom teachers, librarians, curriculum or content coordinators and school administrators in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Tennessee the region most affected by removal. Applications for the program will be accepted through April 14.

The goal of Native knowledge 360 is to inspire and promote the improvement of teaching and learning about American Indians. The summer institute is a pilot project funded through a Smithsonian Institution Youth Access Grant.

The Teacher Training Institute will take place July 10-14. Each selected educator will receive an honorarium. Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation and housing. Summer institute participants will take part in scholarly lectures and discussions, tour the museum's collections and work with staff, Native scholars and education experts throughout the week.

For more information visit <http://nmai.si.edu/explore/education/summer-educator-institute/>.

NIEA to hold convention in Orlando

RLAN The 2017 National Indian Education Association convention will be held Oct. 4-7 at the Caribe Royale in Orlando.

The convention theme, "Building Education Nations by Amplifying Innovative Voices," recognizes the role educators and communities play in shaping the future leaders of Native education. The convention will include participatory workshops, research presentations, poster sessions, and keynote addresses by educators and advocates.

Early-bird registration opens April 1. For more information visit www.niea.org.

FLORIDA INDIAN YOUTH PROGRAM 2017

- College Preparatory Program for Native American Youth (ages 14-17)
- Classes held daily from 9 am – 5 pm
- Activities during the evening and weekends! (Bowling, Mall Trips, Pool Parties and more!)
- Students live on campus at FSU to gain college experience
- Classes include STEM, Computer Literacy, and SAT/ACT Prep
- College and Career Fair to explore post-secondary education and technical careers!



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

- For students entering their **senior year** or **recently graduated** from high school
- Additional activities separate from Youth Program Participants
- On campus visits to FSU, TCC, and FAMU to tour different programs of study and career centers

* For those interested in being a Counselor or Training Assistant please call or email our office for an application. Counselors and Training Assistants are with the participants 24/7. **Must be 18 or older.**

For questions please call FGCI at (850) 487-1472
Toll free 1-800-322-9186
Or email info@fgcia.org



Applications available
Feb. 13th, 2017
Deadline to turn in will be
May 26, 2017

Ahfachkee celebrates Dr. Seuss

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Students at the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress joined millions of others around the country to celebrate Dr. Seuss's 113th birthday March 2 by reading his books.

The event was part of Read Across America Week, founded by the National Education Association in 1998 to celebrate reading, a critical factor in student achievement. According to the NEA, students who read more do better in school.

At Ahfachkee, students celebrated the week of Feb. 27 to March 3 with a series of fun events based on Dr. Seuss books. For Green Eggs and Ham day, the appropriate breakfast was served; on Fox on Socks day, crazy mismatched socks got students into the Seussian spirit; Thing 1 and Thing 2 day paired students up in lookalike outfits; Cat in the Hat day found them in Dr. Seuss inspired garb; on Oh The Places 'ou'll Go day they donned college t-shirts.

During parents' reading night March 2, students enjoyed whimsical activities related to Dr. Seuss's famous works at five hands-on stations. Kids created green slime at the "Bartholomew and the Oobleck" table, just like in the book. At the Hat's Off table, kids made fruit skewers with grapes, strawberries and bananas mimicking the Cat's famous red and white head topper.

The hat was also created with red and white cups at the Cat in the Hat table's stacking challenge. The goldfish crackers were all orange at the One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish counting activity, but the students didn't seem to mind as they gobbled them down after the count. The cozy story time area featured a kindergarten teacher reading Hop on Pop to the gathered children, comfy in their bean bag chairs.



Beverly Bidney

Kindergarten student Laila Osceola does her best impression of the Cat in the Hat at Ahfachkee's Read Across America Week celebration March 2.



Beverly Bidney

Fourth-grader Abbiegale Green tries her best to stack cups during Ahfachkee School's celebration of reading and Dr. Seuss during Read Across America Week.

◆ KEEL From page 2A

airports, waterways, water and sanitation systems, and other critical infrastructure. Indian country has, for generations, faced chronic shortages of public and private investment in this area, which adversely affects public safety as well as opportunities for sustainable economic development and self-sufficiency. We believe tribes should be full participants in any and every program authorized by Congress for the rehabilitation of aging or the development of new infrastructure. We further believe funds for such projects should flow directly to tribes rather than be run through state governments, which have not always adequately addressed Indian country needs. In Oklahoma, we work closely with our colleagues in local government and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to identify and execute projects that help the entire community but are of particular importance to tribal citizens. Without an ability to bring funds under our control to the bargaining table, tribal needs and interests would likely not receive the prioritization they deserve.

We believe tax reform would present great opportunities to incentivize tribal investment and bring badly needed opportunities to Indian country. We commend the Native American Financial Officers Association and the outstanding work they have done identifying workable tax and pension reforms that would have an immediate beneficial impact on tribal economies. In particular, we commend efforts to repeal the "essential governmental function" rule that applies to tribal bonds and which forces tribes to maintain two separate pension or employee retirement programs. Members of this committee and the Senate Finance Committee have been working hard to address this particular matter, and we thank you. Our success in these efforts would have tremendous positive impact on Indian country.

We also believe that the New Markets Tax Credit program has already demonstrated its utility for Indian country development and suggest the program should be expanded and stabilized. The Chickasaw Nation was recently awarded a \$20 million allocation and is facilitating economic development projects throughout Indian country with these monies. Projects that are creating jobs, enhancing infrastructure, and deepening service provision and tribal entrepreneurship. We previously used a New Markets Tax Credit allocation to completely redevelop an outdated and dilapidated Indian Health Service facility in Ada, Oklahoma, to serve now as the Carl Albert Service Center, a multi-purpose tribal government facility. Both the construction and the operation of this new facility has been an economic and programmatic boon to the community. We believe Congress should support the allocation of a stable revenue stream to support the implementation of this program in Indian country.

The Chickasaw Nation works closely with the federal government in the provision

◆ CANADA From page 2A

Minister Ahmed Hussen lists making the change to the citizenship oath as one of his key priorities. Consultations between bureaucrats and Indigenous representatives are already underway.

Talk about squaring the circle: Hussen is a former refugee from Somalia. Perhaps refugees understand the isolation and humiliation of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples better than anyone else.

Philosopher and author John Ralston Saul asserts that Canada's story is one

of a wide variety of services to our citizens. Often times, we administer federal programs under 638 self-governance compacts. We have been a leader in the Indian Health Service's joint venture program, which we used in conjunction with \$220 million of our own funds, to construct and equip three health facilities, including the 80-bed Chickasaw Nation Medical Center in Ada, Oklahoma, which serves American Indians throughout southeast Oklahoma. Our facilities in Ada, Ardmore, and Tishomingo provide critically needed health services in this region, which we operate in conjunction with other services and programs addressing suicide prevention, mental health and substance abuse, child welfare, domestic violence, and sexual assault. Without continued federal support for self-governance compacts, Indian country, American Indians, our citizens would be deprived of these programs and services, and we commend you for your continued commitment to ensuring that the compacting system remains strong and vital to the federal-tribal relationship.

We appreciate Congress's passage of the Violence Against Women Act, which statute is key to the protection and well-being of American Indian women among the most basic responsibilities of any government. This legislation provides American Indian tribes the tools to enable to do even more to help keep Native American women safe through effective law enforcement and prosecution.

Our own work under the Violence Against Women Act supplements our other law enforcement programs throughout the Chickasaw Nation. We have made it a priority to work closely with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies within a complicated jurisdictional landscape to protect and serve all citizens of Oklahoma, and federal support for these efforts through the Self-Governance Compact and Community Policing Act is important to continued success of the Chickasaw Lighthouse Police.

Additional governmental services include the Johnson-O'Malley education program, high school equivalence tutoring and testing. Education has long been a high priority for the Chickasaw Nation. Therefore, we request the Chickasaw Nation High School Equivalency (HSE) testing centers and certification and transcript issuing processes be certified and recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. While the U.S. Department of Post-Secondary Education currently only recognizes state-issued HSE transcripts, the Chickasaw Nation HSE testing center policies are set up to adhere to equivalent security and testing practices as those of state recognized testing centers. We have a signed and approved Educational Testing Service contract in place to provide the HiSET exam which is one of three HSE tests federally recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and has been approved in 21 states. The exam aligns itself to the College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education.

Broadband internet availability is an important aspect of the infrastructure challenges facing Indian Country. Tribal

citizens access only internet connectivity speeds that are far below the FCC broadband standard. This limitation stifles economic development, technical advances like telemedicine, and negatively impacts education by accelerating the already increasing homework gap. Current federal funding models are aimed primarily at for-profit businesses and often focus on specific institutions that provide too little service to those in need. Tribes are dedicated to improving the lives of the traditionally underserved including tribal citizens, rural schools and health care institutions, and those living in economically depressed areas. Directing funds to groups such as tribes could improve the likelihood of these funds benefiting those who need it most, and we ask that you remember Indian country when considering any measure to upgrade the country's internet availability.

Chickasaw identity is founded upon a unique and special heritage embodied in our language, our sacred sites and our traditional knowledge. Repatriation of our ancestors' remains is extremely important to us. The repatriation process, however, can take many years to complete. The Chickasaw Nation aboriginal homeland in the southeastern United States is rich with generations of our ancestors, including archaeological sites and sacred burial places. In 2016 the Chickasaw Nation actively pursued 21 repatriations, which will allow us to take care of 4,034 of our ancestors and thousands of their funerary objects. We ask the government to continue to provide supportive funding for tribal repatriation efforts, both culturally affiliated and culturally unidentifiable.

Finally, I want to touch on a recent announcement by the Department of the Interior about reforming the Indian Trader Act and attendant regulations. We believe this effort to be representative of the well-intended work by career staff across Administrations of both parties. We support this effort and believe there is good work to be done on this front. We would, and will, encourage the Department both to modernize the regulatory framework and to streamline mechanisms for tribes to conduct direct oversight of the federal regulatory system via appropriate self-governance compacts. We would, and will, also urge the Department to proceed carefully in its effort with the principal of "do no harm" clear and foremost in mind. Given the complexities of the federal common law of Indian affairs, any statutory and regulatory change must be approached carefully and with due consideration of potential unintended consequences. Indeed, a number of important Supreme Court decisions rest on the preemptive scope of the Indian Trader Statutes and implementing regulations. In attempting any update of those laws, the Department must not displace or alter the careful balance of sovereign interests that those decisions uphold. While we support update and reform indeed, we would applaud it we also ask that caution be observed in all future actions.

efferson eel is the lieutenant governor of the Chickasaw ation in klahoma.

colonizers had already been signed at the time but technically Aboriginal Peoples are not considered founders. As we celebrate the 150th year of Confederation surely it is time to recognize that Aboriginal Peoples are intrinsic to what we are as a country. It would be a symbolic gesture but it would go a long way to recognizing and embracing the idea that First Nations have always been much more than refugees in their own country.

illian Steward is a Calgary writer. This commentary appeared in thestar.com.

Delores Jumper, President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola and Gwen Garcia, among others, tour Garcia's new Immokalee Reservation home March 15.

Beverly Bidney



Delores Jumper, President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola and Gwen Garcia, among others, tour Garcia's new Immokalee Reservation home March 15.



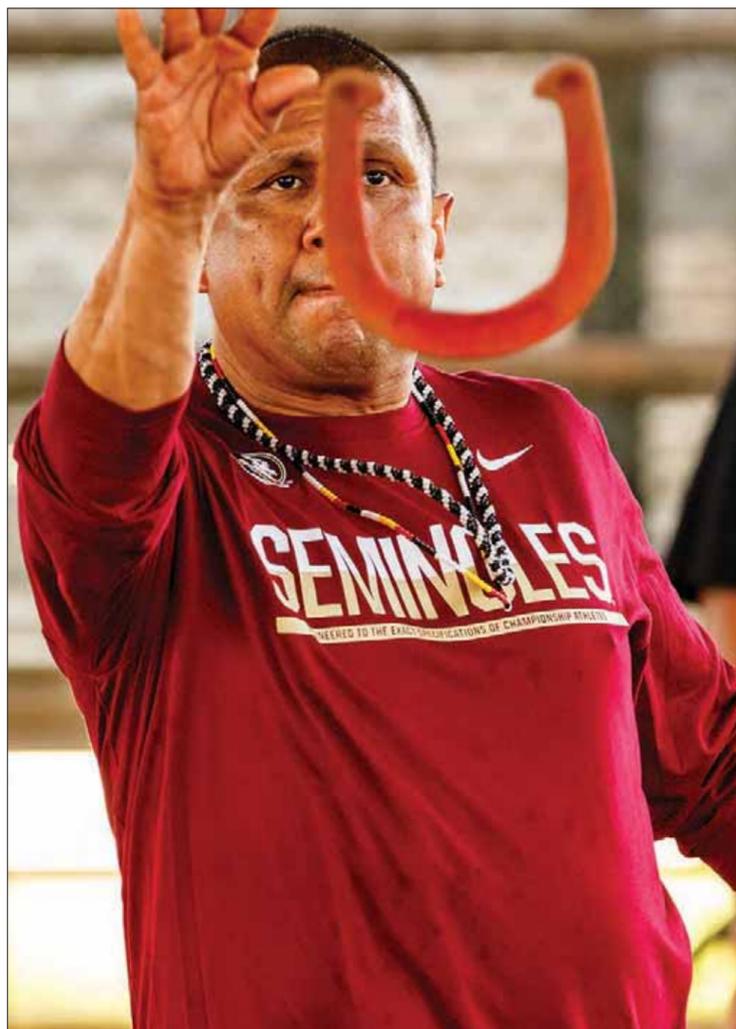
Beverly Bidney

Sisters Mohayla and Tahniya Billie, age 6 and 9, run carefree on the driveway of one of the new Immokalee Reservation homes.

Horseshoes, ribs highlight fun afternoon in Big Cypress



Romeo Osceola smiles at the offerings in front of him during a rib cookoff contest in Big Cypress on March 11 on the grounds of Junior Cypress Arena. The day also featured a horseshoe tournament.



Kenny Tommie sends a horseshoe to its target in the horseshoe tournament.



Maury Neipris (2)

Above, Alvin Buster tosses a horseshoe toward its target in tournament action. At right, Big Cypress Fire Rescue firefighter Gus Ajuz, left, and Lt. Steve Pagan help judge the entries in the rib contest.



Maury Neipris

Stanley Cypress III, left, and Lonnie Billie participate in the rib cookoff contest.

◆ SAHLIN From page 8A

Madame Chiang ai-shek and was startled to see his paintings on her walls. (But) he was too shy to ask where she had got them.

His works usually bear his initials "C F S" uniquely entwined together, most often in the right bottom corner of the work. Often too, near his initials in these ethnographic works, he added a reference to where the painting originated: Malaya, Hong ong, or a specific area: "Nikko" (a small city in Japan's mountains north of Tokyo), "andy" (an area of Buddhist sites in Sri Lanka), or the familiar South Florida destination: "Tamiami Trail."

He painted dancers in Sumatra, Bangkok, Bali, the Celebs, the Maori Canoe Dance in New ealand, snake charmers in Mexico, sampans in Hong ong Harbor, and "Chief Jimmie Doctor of the Seminoles" in Florida.

Sahlin " claimed he'd been in every country but Siberia," said Richards. Because of the intrinsic value of his ethnographic works in Central and South America " depicting the types and dress of little known tribes in almost inaccessible jungles and highlands of the American continent," he was given membership in the elite Explorers Club, an invitation only' voted in society.

Forty of Sahlin's paintings of South American Tribes are in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution. A catalog, "Watercolors of Latin America" by Sahlin was produced for a show running January 4-28, 1945 at the National Museum, Washington, D.C., while "Watercolors and Oils of Latin America by Carl Folke Sahlin" was published by the Corcoran Gallery of Art" Washington, D.C. in 1946. The University of Miami's Lowe Art Museum has 22 Sahlin paintings in their collection including: "Tamiami Trail," a depiction of a Mikasuki family.

"Travel," Sahlin believed, "is the most potent medicine in the world." And at 89 Sahlin Rose Richards recalled that he was "full of plans for future journeys. He recalled that, " he wanted to bus the length of South America again to Buenos Aires However, he passed away after an accident in 1976, a week before his 91st birthday.

A 1947 newspaper clipping of an art show discussed a show of Sahlin's art in Miami; the article itself had been saved by Edith M. Boehmer and William D. Boehmer who were long associated with

the school on the Brighton Reservation. The location of the painting, advertising the show was Mikasuki women making patchwork, entitled "Seminole - Miami." In 1998, it was displayed in an exhibition of Ah-Tah-Thi- i Museum's paintings at the Okalee Hollywood facility gallery with curator Tom Andrew. They were the two Sahlin's seen there, the first a watercolor, the second a more rare "oil painting" ascribed

"Seminole" and at that date were recent gifts from a donor to the newly opened Museum. Two additional art museum collections that contain paintings by Sahlin of Seminole and Miccosukee subjects; "Seminole Indians, Florida" and "MIAMI" a more rare "oil painting" that was gifted by the artist Are both in the collections of the American Art Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

A comprehensive compilation of Sahlin's total works, with special emphasis on those depicting Seminole and Miccosukee subjects, is in the beginning stages. Please contact Patsy West if you have any information on the artist or his works: at westpatsy aol.com.

thnohistorian Patsy est is Director of the Seminole Miccosukee Archive in ort auderdale and author of The nduring Seminoles A Seminole egypt with Betty Mae umper and Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes of Southern florida. rom Ms. est wrote the award-winning "Reflections" column for the Seminole Tribune.



Courtesy photo

A Sahlin watercolor in the collection of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum



Courtesy photo

Oil Painting "Miami." Gift to the Smithsonian by the artist Carl Folke Sahlin in 1963.

Picking sweetgrass brings back sweet memories

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

I ALEE — Sweetgrass is the fiber that binds the Tribe together, at least when it comes to baskets.

For generations, the process of finding the grass and preparing it for basket making has been passed down through families. To continue the tradition usually assigned to grandmothers, the Hollywood community Culture Department organized a tribalwide expedition March 8 into the wilds of Immokalee in search of the elusive grass.

"We came together and brought young ones out to show them how to find it," said Bobby Frank, Hollywood community Culture Center manager. "Some missed school for this, but it's important; this is our teaching."

Frank said picking sweetgrass isn't a job for one person; everything must be done together.

About 20 women, of various ages and reservations, trekked into a small area of forest with plenty of the palmetto. The slender grass is about as wide as a piece of thin spaghetti and found in the undergrowth of saw palmetto. Gathering it is difficult. First, it must be found, and then it has to be pulled up very carefully one strand at a time to avoid being scratched by the sharp edges of the palm fronds.

"I picked it when I was a little girl," said Tammy Billie, of Immokalee. "I went out with my grandma, but I wasn't paying attention."

Susan Davis also remembered picking sweetgrass with her grandmother, mother and aunts as a child.

"While we were out there today, I felt like I could see my family," Davis said. "It brought back a lot of memories."

Most of the women on the outing, who came from Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee, either hadn't

picked since childhood or it was their first experience.

"It takes patience to find it and it isn't easy," said Allegra Billie, 16. "You need a good eye for it."

When each person had collected sufficiently sized bundles, they returned to the Immokalee culture camp where they sorted through the bundles and picked out the brown strands. The search was fruitful, but would have been more so had it been rainy season.

"The grass is stronger and stands straight up in the rainy season, making it much easier to find," Frank said. "In the dry season it lays down, so you have to pick it up and see if it's good enough."

Skyla Osceola had good luck finding the grass in the shade under the palmettos, where the ground is still moist.

Once the bundles were picked clean of brown grass, Donna Frank showed the group how to wash it with soap and water in large galvanized steel basins. When the grass was clean, it was laid out to dry on tables.

Frank brought a few bundles she collected over the years to show how the color changes with time from green to tan to light khaki color. Baskets are made by tying the coils of sweetgrass together with beeswax coated embroidery thread.

Seminole basket making began in the 1930s when they were made as trinkets for the tourist trade. In time, it became a real art form and Donna Frank is happy to share her knowledge.

"It was an art form that was dying off," she said. "Now it's starting to come back because of the Culture programs."

Tammy Billie doesn't consider herself a gifted basket maker, but wants the tradition to endure nonetheless.

"Not everyone is made to be a basket maker, but it doesn't hurt to try it and teach it to your children," said Billie, whose talents are in beading and sewing. "Maybe they will be the ones to be meant for it."

The younger generation appears to be open to learning.

"Finding sweetgrass isn't easy and it hurts your hands," said Destiny Jimmie, 19. "But I'm going to learn how to make the baskets now so we can teach our children later."



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress community Culture Center manager Geraldine Osceola shows Destiny Jimmie how to find the brown strands of sweetgrass.



Beverly Bidney (2)

At left, Skyla Osceola removes a brown strand and takes it out of the bunch of green sweetgrass she picked in Immokalee. At right, Donna Frank gets some help from Ida Osceola as she washes a large bundle of Immokalee sweetgrass.



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Sports



Kelvin Robinson/BC Recreation

Native Soldiers - Runner-up Men's Division



Kelvin Robinson/BC Recreation

After winning the Herman L. Osceola Memorial Tournament Men's Division, players from Big Town join Herman's family members on March 25 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress. A picture of Herman is on the wall in the background.



Kelvin Robinson/BC Recreation

Soul Clean - Third place Men's Division

Big Town wins Herman L. Osceola tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BIG CYPRESS — Nobody was able to slow down Big Town's big offense in the 32nd annual Herman L. Osceola Memorial Basketball Tournament on March 25.

Big Town won all three of its games including a slugfest against Native Soldiers that featured more than 200 points to claim the title in the Men's Division, which featured four teams.

Playing in the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, the tournament is a tribute to Lance Corporal Osceola, who died in a military helicopter accident in 1984 while serving the country with the U.S. Marines in South area. Members of Herman's family attended the two-day tournament and provided meals and snacks for players and spectators. The family presented the prizes to the winners of three divisions: Big Town, the Seminoles (Men's Legends) and the Lady Seminoles (Women's Legends). There were no teams for the adult women's division.

In the men's championship, Big Town opened up a 57-44 halftime lead and held off Native Soldiers, 106-97. Jerome Davis set the tone early by scoring all 25 of his points in the first half. While Davis thrived down low, Jess Hart lit up the scoreboard from the outside. Hart poured in 21 points on seven 3-pointers. Big Town also received a dominant performance from Rob Given, who drained a team-high 33 points. Lucias Liotta had eight points while Jim Archambault, Wayne Runnels and Jay Liotta chipped in



Kevin Johnson

Members of Herman Osceola's family gather at the conclusion of the 32nd annual Herman L. Osceola Memorial Basketball Tournament on March 25 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress. From left, Kiaressa Osceola, Herman's mother Ruby Osceola, Caroline Osceola, Kalina Cavazos, 6, and Veldina Osceola.

with six points each.

The hottest hand of the game belonged to Hunter Osceola, who led Native Soldiers with a game-high 46 points, which included a dozen 3-pointers. Native Soldiers received

26 points from Duelle Gore, who made eight 3-pointers. Greg Carter chipped in with 15 points and his brother DeForest Carter had 8 points.

The opening game of the men's division

featured an outstanding performance from Adrian Baker, who scored 46 points in Soul Clean's victory against Just Buckets.

In what turned out to be a preview of the final, Big Town edged Native Soldiers, 80-

70, in the second game. Hart paced Big Town with 32 points, which included 10 3-pointers. Gore accounted for half of Native Soldiers' production with 35 points.

In the third game, Big Town used 22 points from Runnels to outgun Soul Clean, 71-64. Soul Clean was led by Jackson Frye (20 points) and Isiah Billie (16 points).

Native Soldiers ousted Just Buckets in the fourth game. Frankie Garcia and Neshoba Reed led Just Buckets with 17 points each.

Native Soldiers came right back to edge Soul Clean, 71-69, and advance to the final. Hunter Osceola propelled Native Soldiers to victory with 21 points. Baker paced Soul Clean with 23 points followed by Jackson Frye with 17 and Caden Blanchard with 12.

The tournament opened March 24 with the Legends Division. Two men's and two women's teams battled for championship bragging rights.

The Lady Seminoles needed just two games to claim the women's Legends title against the Hollywood Ladies. The Lady Seminoles' Rita Gopher was the offensive star of the division. She scored 11 points in the first game and 12 points in the second game.

The men's Legends Division between the Seminoles and Old School went the distance with three games. The Seminoles won game one, but Old School answered with a 37-35 win in game two behind 18 points from Preston Baker before the Seminoles captured the winner-take-all finale, 52-37. Howard Tommie had 10 points for the champions.

Hard Rock Stadium to host clash of international soccer powerhouses

FROM PRESS RELEASE

IA I GAR ENS — Defending La Liga champion FC Barcelona and defending UEFA Champions League winner Real Madrid C.F. will meet on July 29 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens as part of the 2017 International Champions Cup.

The International Champions Cup was launched by Stephen Ross and Matt Higgins in 2013 with the creation of Relevent Sports, led by Charlie Stillitano and Jon Sheiman. El Clásico Miami will mark the first-ever match between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid C.F. to take place in North America. The current rosters for each club feature some of the best players in the world. Real Madrid C.F. is anchored by recently crowned FIFA Men's Player of the Year and Ballon D'Or winner, Cristiano Ronaldo, alongside Welsh superstar Gareth Bale, while perennial world-class Argentinean national Lionel Messi leads FC Barcelona.

"I am thrilled to bring the International Champions Cup back to the city of Miami," said Stephen Ross, RSE Ventures chairman and co-founder and Miami Dolphins owner. "The opportunity to showcase two of the most storied clubs in the history of the sport is why we created this tournament. That it will take place at Hard Rock Stadium is a testament to the recent transformation of this venue into a global entertainment destination."

The ICC and El Clásico Miami management team will develop a program of events leading up to the match including concerts, brand activations, team pep rallies, art activations, and more which will be hosted in and around Hard Rock Stadium as part of an immersive experience site during the week. Additionally, El Clásico Miami week will provide an opportunity for fans to experience the culture of Miami by creating events around Miami Beach, Wynwood and Bayfront Park.

As part of the week's activities, four-time defending Ligue 1 champions Paris Saint-Germain F.C. and five-time defending Serie A champions Juventus F.C. will square off at Hard Rock Stadium on July 26.

In an 18-year deal announced last August with officials from the Seminole Tribe on hand, the stadium changed its name to Hard Rock Stadium. The stadium is the home of Miami Dolphins and University of Miami football. Hard Rock Stadium hosted the Orange Bowl on Dec. 30 between Florida State and Michigan. Upcoming special events include the Super Bowl in 2020, more college football playoffs and concerts by U2, Coldplay and Metallica.

The facility is in the midst of Phase III of a \$500 million, multi-year renovation privately funded by Ross.

For more information about the soccer games visit www.internationalchampionscup.com.



Photo courtesy Miami Dolphins

HARD ROCK SOCCER: Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross, center, announces El Clásico Miami on March 10 at Fountainebleau in Miami Beach. El Clásico will feature world powerhouse soccer programs Real Madrid and Barcelona in a match at Hard Rock Stadium on July 29.

Defending state champion American Heritage picks up where it left off

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

PEBBLE PINES — American Heritage-Plantation clawed its way out of a deep hole to edge Pembroke Pines Charter, 6-5, in an opening round game at the Speedball Classic softball tournament March 16 in Pembroke Pines.

Tournament host Pembroke Pines Charter built an early 5-0 lead at the Silver Lakes Park South complex, but defending state champion American Heritage, whose roster includes Seminoles' Ahnie Jumper, Budha Jumper and Jauna Martin, rallied with six unanswered runs in a battle of powerhouse programs.

American Heritage was ranked No. 3 overall in the state by Miracle Sports and No. 1 in Class 6A as of mid-March; Pembroke Pines Charter was ranked No. 4 in 7A.

"Pembroke Pines Charter had a lot to do with how we played. They played well," said American Heritage coach Marty Cooper. "Would I have liked to see us play a little cleaner I thought we could have played some better defense at times, and we ran ourselves out of an inning, but they were putting the pressure on the whole game."

Trailing 5-4 in the final inning, American Heritage knotted the game when Martin, as a courtesy runner, scored from second base on a one-out single by Marley Felder. With two outs, Katherine Rodriguez's walk-off double

to deep left-center brought home the winning run for the Patriots.

Senior catcher Ahnie Jumper caught the entire game and drew one walk in two plate appearances.

"She's been our No. 1 catcher. She's our senior catcher, leader. She's been back there probably 85 percent of the time," Cooper said.

American Heritage followed up the victory against Pembroke Pines Charter with wins against Doral Academy and Monarch, but the Patriots had to settle for runner-up honors as they fell to Coral Springs Charter, 5-0, in the Classic's championship game.

American Heritage, which had a 10-2 record as of the final week of March, has won seven state championships, including three in the past five years. Cooper said he's trying to find the right mix as the team enters the final month of the regular season.

"We have a lot of talent on the team; we have a lot of depth," Cooper said. "We have 18 kids. Right now we're just trying to figure out who our top 10 or 12 are going to be. We have to give them opportunity to do that; we have to see them play."

Cooper said he's been pleased with the play of the Seminole players.

"They're doing well," he said. "Whenever they come in they produce; they do a nice job. I'm happy with their performance."



The Pemaevt Emahakv Charter School softball team celebrates a run in its 18-2 win against Moore Haven on March 7.

Kevin Johnson

PECS softball cruises to victory in home opener

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BRIGTON — After falling behind early, the Pemaevt Emahakv Charter School softball team wasted no time in racing past Moore Haven, 18-2, in the Lady Seminoles' home opener on March 7 at Ollie Jones Memorial Park in Brighton.

PECS trailed 1-0 after a half inning, but then scored five times in the bottom of the first, six in the second and seven in the third when the game was called.

Winning pitcher Elle Thomas had three hits, including two triples. Kayln Hammil had an inside-the-park home run. Lashae King blasted a double. Mariah Billie had two RBIs.

PECS evened its record at 1-1 after an opening day loss against LaBelle.

"They're doing good," said PECS coach Melissa Hines. "It was a little rough in the beginning, but they're coming together really well. We're proud of them."

PECS enjoys strength in the circle and behind the plate with Thomas and Haley Huff handling pitching duties, and Thomas and Lashae King sharing the catcher position.

"We're fortunate enough we're able to switch them out. That helps tremendously," Hines said.

The starting batting order against Moore Haven consisted of: Haylie Huff (2B), Kayln Hammill (SS), Caylie Huff (2B), Elle Thomas (P), Mariah Billie (RF),

Lashae King (3B) and Angelie Melton (LF) with Shylynn Testerman as a substitute.

With only two eighth-graders on the team, Hines said the team has time to grow.

"Just continue to improve, come together and have fun; that's the most important thing," said Hines, who is assisted by assistant coach Nicole Platt and parent volunteer coach Mona Baker. "I think they have fun for the most part. We try to keep it positive. We don't want to break them down, we want to build them up."

Eighth-grade parent night and the home finale will be April 4 against Okeechobee at 5 p.m.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage's Ahnie Jumper eyes the ball during an at-bat against Pembroke Pines Charter on March 16 in the Speedball Classic. American Heritage rallied for a 6-5 win.



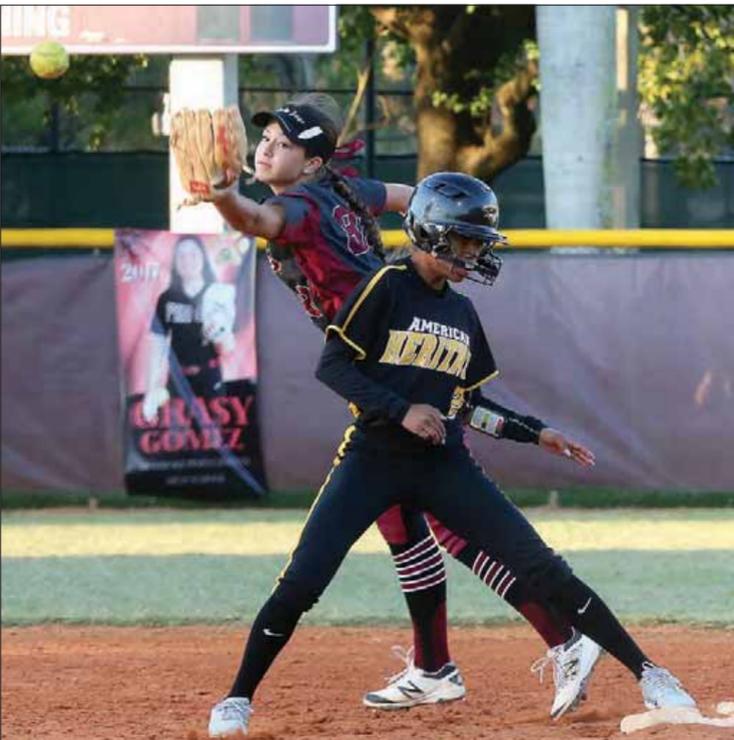
Kevin Johnson

Elle Thomas drills a triple into left field against Moore Haven on March 7 in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

Lashae King cranks out a base hit against Moore Haven.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage's Kiauna Martin reaches second base safely as a throw from the outfield eludes Pembroke Pines Charter's Isabella Devasa during the Speedball Classic on March 16. Martin scored the tying run in the Patriots' 6-5 win.



Kevin Johnson

PECS' Kayln Hammil rounds second base with her eyes on third against Moore Haven.

Pooh King named Big Smoky Conference Player of the Year

BY SCOTT MCKIE
Cherokee One Feather Staff Reporter

CHEROKEE, N.C. — For the second year in a row, Cherokee has taken home the top post-season honors in girls basketball in the Big Smoky Mountain Conference. Identical to last season, Pooh King, senior point guard, was named Player of the Year, and Chris Mintz, Lady Braves head coach, was named Coach of the Year.

"It's always an honor to be acknowledged by your peers," Mintz commented. "It's all because of what our team did and what the girls did that I even got nominated for this award. So, I give all of the credit to them."

King, a member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, has played at Cherokee two seasons where she averaged 15.3 points per game, 5.5 steals, and 4.4 assists. "I'm honored to get it two times in a row, and I just wouldn't have done it without my team."

In speaking of her time in Cherokee, she said, "I've enjoyed it. They welcomed me here, and I was just blessed to play with this group of girls. We're more like a family than a team, and I just really enjoyed that."

On King, Mintz noted, "She's a special player that has given her all for two years here. She has played really great and been consistent. I'd put her up against any point guard in western North Carolina, and I think we have the best one."

For the season, the Lady Braves went 25-3, won the BSMC regular season title, and took second place in the conference tournament.

In addition to King, Tori Teesateskie and Shelby Wolfe were named to the All-Conference team, and Timiyah Brown and Raylen Bark were named Honorable Mention.



Pooh King, shown here playing for Cherokee High School in North Carolina, was named the Big Smoky Conference Player of the Year for the second consecutive season.

The Braves ended the 2016-17 campaign at 19-9. They took second place in the BSMC regular season, and they won the conference tournament.

Tye Mintz and Holden Straughan were named to the All-Conference team and Sterling Santa-Maria and Josiah Lossiah

were named Honorable Mention.

This article appeared in the Cherokee One Feather newspaper.



The Neshoba Central High School bowling team celebrates winning Mississippi's Class II state championship.

Allie Williams, Neshoba Central win high school bowling state championship

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

PINEBLAIF, Miss., Feb. 16 was a big day for Allie Williams (Seminole Tribe's Panther Clan). The seventh-grader at Neshoba Central Middle School in Philadelphia, Mississippi helped the Neshoba Central High School's Lady Rockets win the MHSAA Class II state bowling championship in Jackson.

The Lady Rockets went undefeated in the regular season with a 9-0 record. They also won North Regionals.

What started as another weekend hobby has turned into one of Allie's favorite sports next to fastpitch softball. Allie was the only middle school student who made the high school team. Also, she is one of the top six bowlers on the 12-person team. Her highest score this season was 206.

During the state championship games, the Lady Rockets finished in second place in the first round. They then went on to bowl a Baker Series out of the top two teams to determine who wins state. On a Baker Series only five girls can bowl toward one total score. They also combine to bowl 10 frames per game. Allie was one of the five girls selected to bowl in the Baker Series. Her teammates called them the clutch players because they always came through when they needed them.

The Lady Rockets played best-of-five games in the Baker Series. In the first game the Lady Rockets won 178-128 over D'Iberville. D'Iberville won game two (190-158) and game three (214-181). In the fourth game the Lady Rockets won by one pin, 182-181. The fifth and final game was a nail biter. Allie (2nd bowler) got two strikes to keep her team in the game. It all came down to the final frame with the Lady Rockets down by a spare and six pins. Allie's



Courtesy photo

Allie Williams holds the Division 2 state bowling championship trophy. Allie was the only middle school student on the Neshoba Central High School team.

teammate Hailey Copeland, a senior, was the last bowler. She got the spare; then on her last bowl she finished strong with a strike for the state victory.

Allie's family said they are very proud of Allie and encourage her to continue to be the best she can be.

All-Broward County First Team honor for Skyla Osceola

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

American Heritage senior Skyla Osceola earned a postseason honor in March when the 5-foot-10 standout guard was named Sun Sentinel First Team All-Broward County for classes 1A through 6A.

As a starting point guard, Osceola helped the Patriots compile a 27-3 record. She was a force in the 6A playoffs. She scored 28 points and dished out 11 assists in a district championship victory against Archbishop McCarthy. In a regional quarterfinal victory against Fort Pierce-Westwood, she had 17 points and 10 assists.

Osceola, of the Hollywood Reservation, helped the Patriots earn only their second trip to states in the program's history by scoring 22 points and 12 assists in a regional championship win against Leesburg.

Heritage was ousted by state champion Ribault in the state semifinals Feb. 23 in Lakeland. Osceola scored seven points, had three assists and went 3-for-4 from the foul line.

Overall, Osceola led American Heritage in assists with an average of 10 per game, twice as many as anyone else on the team. She was second in points per game with 16, behind only Sun Sentinel Player of the Year Femi Funeus. Heritage claimed more honors as coach Greg Farias was named Coach of the Year.

Entering the state semifinal, Osceola was the team leader in free-throw percentage with 81 percent.

Osceola and her teammate Taylor Smith have signed with Nova Southeastern University in Davie.

Before the loss to Ribault, Heritage had won 22 straight games, a streak that lasted more than two months.



American Heritage's Skyla Osceola provides tough defense against Ribault in a state semifinal Feb. 23 at the Lakeland Center.

New council to oversee Indian Relay racing

FROM PRESS RELEASE

PINE RIDGE, S.D. — Calvin Ghostbear, a member of the Oglala Sioux Nation, announced March 1 that a new organization has been formed to manage and operate Indian Relay races in 2017 and into the future. The new organization, Horse Nations Indian Relay Council (HNIRC), is comprised of all Native American members of the Horse Nations. The goal of HNIRC is to support and promote the traditional lifestyle of the Native people through Indian Relay racing.

Board members include President Calvin Ghostbear (Oglala Sioux), Vice President Carol Murray (Blackfeet), Secretary Benita Plainfeather (Nakota), Treasurer Marlys Langdeau (Lower Brule Sioux), Jamie Howard, of Oklahoma, and Richard Kail and Diana Volk, both of Wyoming.

Indian Relay racing features competition between the Indian Nations of the Northern Plains.



A scene from an Indian Relay race.

Diana Volk



Bill Kemp

American Heritage senior guard Skyla Osceola controls the ball against Ribault's La'Quanza Glove during a Class 6A state semifinal Feb. 23 at the Lakeland Center.

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FSU spring game set for April 8

ALLA ASSEE — Florida State University's Spring Weekend will feature the football team's annual Garnet and Gold spring game on April 8 at Doak S. Campbell Stadium. Kickoff will be at 3 p.m.

The 2017 Seminoles, which include Seminole Tribe member Justin Motlow, return six starters on offense and nine starters on defense from 2016's team that finished 10-3, defeated Michigan in the Orange Bowl and was ranked eighth in the final Associated Press poll. Seven early enrollees from Florida State's consensus signing class will go through spring practice and are expected to play in the game.

General admission tickets to the spring game are \$5. Entrance is free to FSU students with valid ID's, while FSU's regular season ticket policy will apply to non-FSU students including children.

Seating in the Champions Club is available through Seminoles.com. The price for Champions Club season ticket holders and University Center Club members is \$40 per ticket while the general public can purchase tickets in the club for \$50 each. The price of admission includes all food and soft drinks.

As part of the spring weekend, FSU athletics will host a free Friday Night Block on April 7. Lemen Plaza in downtown Tallahassee will be blocked off with assorted street vendors, food trucks and a free concert by country artist Eric Paslay.

In addition to the Block Party, FSU's beach volleyball team will play doubleheader home matches on Friday and Saturday and the men's tennis team will play on Friday and Sunday. The three-day Word of the South literary and music festival will begin on Friday.

Ashton Locklear signs with Nike N7



Ashton Locklear Instagram

Gymnast Ashton Locklear (Lumbee Tribe) displays her Nike N7 signing document Feb. 9. Locklear, 19, of North Carolina, signed as a N7 ambassador. Locklear was a member of the USA's World Championship gold medal team and she served as an alternate on the 2016 Olympic squad. Proceeds from the N7 program go to Native American youth sport and physical activity programs.

Triple Crown Fishing Series kicks off in Big Cypress



Maury Neipris

Fishermen, families and Recreation staff pose for a photo at the conclusion of the Bass Buster's Fishing Tournament on March 11 in Big Cypress.

BY STAFF REPORT

BIG CYPRESS — The annual Seminole Sportsman's Triple Crown Fishing Series started March 11 with the Bass Buster's Fishing Tournament in Big Cypress.

Mario Posada had an outstanding day on the water. He was awarded the Josiah Johns Memorial plaque for capturing the biggest fish (6.76 pounds). Fred Phillips finished runner-up.

Posada was also part of the winning team as he and Frank Marrero teamed up to win the team competition with more than 17 pounds of fish. Phillips' team finished second. Marty Tommie and Marvin Newkirk came in third.

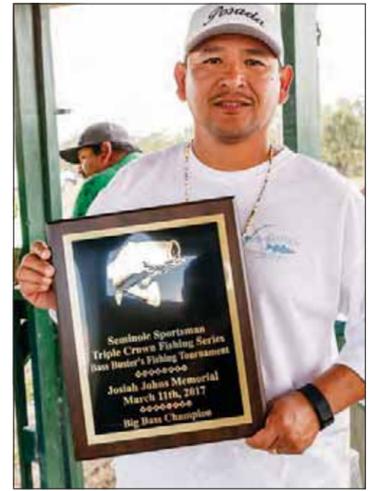
The second leg of the series will be the Howard Tiger Memorial Fishing Tournament on April 8. The series will wrap up May 13 with the Seminole Sportsman's Tournament. An overall champion will be crowned.

Tournaments are open to Tribal and Community members and STOF employees. Each team must have at least one Tribal member.



Maury Neipris

Moses Jumper Jr. casts in Big Cypress.



Maury Neipris

Mario Posada holds the plaque he won for reeling in the biggest fish of the day.



Maury Neipris

Frank Marrero, left, and Mario Posada hold the first place trophies they won in the team competition.



Maury Neipris

Marty Tommie, left, and Marvin Newkirk hold their third place trophies in the team competition.

Lessons for Immokalee kids stretch beyond basketball

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

I ALEE — Life's lessons can often be learned while playing sports — a philosophy adhered to by former St. Thomas University basketball player Tony Perkins during his basketball clinics.

Perkins brought his Tony Perkins Basketball Academy to the Immokalee Reservation's Boys Girls Club on March 16. More than 20 youngsters age 7 to 16

honed their skills on the court through skills and drills intermixed with those all-important life lessons.

"A lot of things on the court correlate to real life," Perkins said. "Respect the rules, pay attention, play hard all the time and follow directions."

Originally from Immokalee, Perkins is also a scout and attends AAU events to identify young basketball talent throughout the state. His academy also offers summer basketball camps and skills training sessions.



Beverly Bidney

Young participants in the Tony Perkins Basketball Academy clinic in Immokalee are run through their paces March 16 as they learn the proper way to move sideways on the court.



Beverly Bidney

Tony Perkins teaches Immokalee kids how to get into defensive mode during a well-attended basketball clinic in the gym March 16.

Assisted by former Florida Memorial University basketball head coach Benny Bellinger, the clinic taught the fundamentals of the game and life, along with the discipline necessary to succeed at both.

"As coaches, we encourage you guys to mess up," Perkins said. "That's the only way you gain confidence and learn the game."

That led to a couple of hours of foot work,

coordination and stamina drills. Learning to be tough on the court was another important lesson imparted by Perkins.

The budding athletes also learned proper shooting technique and form, zig zag dribbling and had a fun lay-up relay race. Another relay race combined the defensive slide maneuver to the out-of-bounds line and then a sprint to the middle of the court.

"When the clinic was over, they all wanted more," said Immokalee Boys Girls Club manager Patrick Shepard, who attended Immokalee High School with Perkins. "They were excited and wanted me to get him back in the future. Until then, we will keep it going with our staff a couple of times a week."

Big night of action at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena



Norman Osceola gets tossed during bull riding at the Junior Cypress Memorial Rodeo on March 17 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress. The event featured a full night of rodeo action, including 10 riders each in Tie Down Roping, Lady's Breakaway and Barrel Racing, and 12 teams in Team Roping. The following day the annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive was held on the reservation. Justin Gopher has a firm hold in Tie Down Roping.

Maury Neipris

Maury Neipris



Boogie Johns' cowboy hat soars into the air near her lasso as she focuses on her target during Lady's Breakaway Roping.

Norman Johns manages to smile during Senior Breakaway Roping.

Maury Neipris

Maury Neipris



A bull appears ready to pounce on a rider.

Maury Neipris



Jonah Cypress addresses the audience during the Junior Cypress Memorial Rodeo.

Cisco Rodriguez competes in bull riding.

Maury Neipris

Maury Neipris

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Announcements



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Eastern Regional Office
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

AGENCY: BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ACTION: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

SUMMARY: The Seminole Tribe of Florida (Tribe) is currently evaluating a modernization project of the Ahfachkee Indian School located on the east side of County Road 833 (Josie Billie Highway) approximately 17 miles north of Interstate 75 on the Tribe's Big Cypress Reservation in Hendry County, Florida. The Ahfachkee School serves members of the Tribe living on the Big Cypress Reservation with a current enrollment of approximately 156 students. The existing school is over capacity and currently requires the use of several portable buildings. The planned modernization would improve existing buildings and add 30,000 square feet of new space for the school. Several buildings and auxiliary structures on the Ahfachkee Campus are owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The Tribe has requested that ownership of the structures be transferred from BIA to the Tribe, prior to beginning the important modernization improvements. Due to the need for federal approvals, this project was reviewed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act.

The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), prepared by the Tribe's Environmental Resource Management Department, dated February 2017 and titled "Environmental Assessment for Ahfachkee School" to determine the environmental impacts that may result from the project. The EA is well written and considers all direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts that may be associated with the project.

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability, that the EAs and FONSI for the project are available for public review. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information in the As. You may obtain a copy of the EAs and FONSI from the BIA Eastern Regional Office or the Environmental Resources Management Department of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 6365 Taft Street, Suite 3008, Hollywood, FL 33024, telephone (954) 965-4380.

This FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore cannot be appealed.

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

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AHFACHKEE SCHOOL TRANSFER
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA**

AGENCY: BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
ACTION: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

SUMMARY: The Seminole Tribe of Florida (Tribe) is currently evaluating a modernization project of the Ahfachkee Indian School located on the east side of County Road 833 (Josie Billie Highway) approximately 17 miles north of Interstate 75 on the Tribe's Big Cypress Reservation in Hendry County, Florida. The Ahfachkee School serves members of the Tribe living on the Big Cypress Reservation with a current enrollment of approximately 156 students. The existing school is over capacity and currently requires the use of several portable buildings. The planned modernization would improve existing buildings and add 30,000 square feet of new space for the school. Several buildings and auxiliary structures on the Ahfachkee Campus are owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The Tribe has requested that ownership of the structures be transferred from BIA to the Tribe prior to beginning the important modernization improvements. Due to the need for federal approvals, this project was reviewed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The BIA has reviewed and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), prepared by the Tribe's Environmental Resource Management Department, dated February 2017 and titled "Environmental Assessment for Ahfachkee School" to determine the environmental impacts that may result from the project. The EA is well written and considers all direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts that may be associated with the project.

DETERMINATION: Based on review and analysis of the EA and supporting documentation, it has been determined that the proposed action is not a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, according to Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and the BIA is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

This finding is based on the following factors:

- A. There will be less than significant impacts to land resources. See EA, Section 4.3.11.
 - B. There will be less than significant impacts to water resources. See EA, Sections 4.3 .1 through 4.3.6.
 - C. There will be less than significant impacts to air quality. See EA, Section 4.4.2.
 - D. There will be less than significant impacts to living resources. See EA, Sections 4.3.9 and 4.3.10.
 - E. There will be less than significant impacts to cultural resources. See EA, Sections 4.2 and 4.2.2. Based on the Phase I Cultural Resources Survey and Assessment of the Ahfachkee School Expansion 2016-035 (03-2016-008241), the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer determined on October 10, 2016, that the expansion project would result in 'No Historic Properties Affected' under Section 106 of the NHPA and 'No Cultural Resources Affected' under the Tribe's Cultural Resource Ordinance.
- Should undiscovered archaeological remains be encountered during the project, work will stop in the area of discovery and the stipulations in 3 6 CFR 800.11 will be followed.
- F. There will be less than significant impacts to natural resources. See EA, Section 4.3.
 - G. There will be less than significant impacts to physical resources (noise, air quality, etc.). See EA, Section 4.4.
 - H. The proposed action would improve the economic and social conditions of the Tribe.

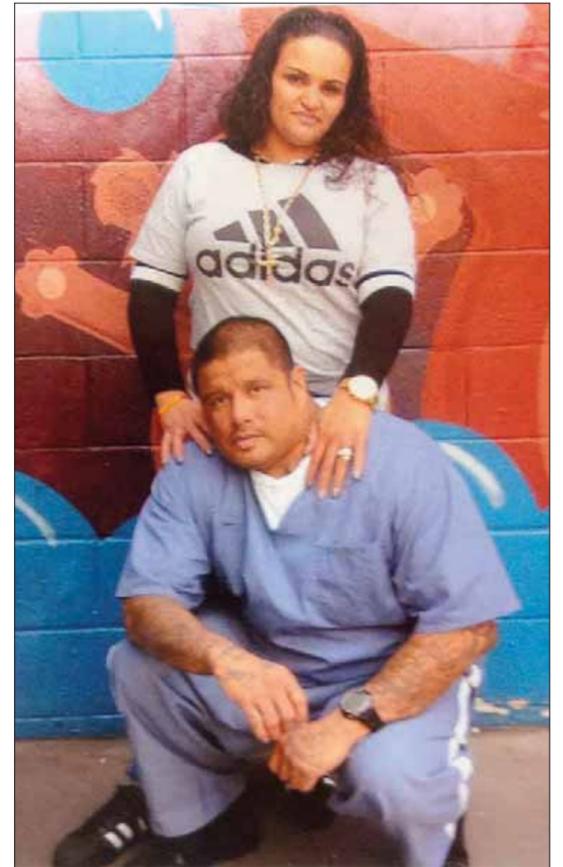
Regional Director, Eastern Region

Date: **3/2/2017**

Thank you

Thank you Veronica for loving me the way you do.
Baby without you I'm nothing.
With you, I am everything I ever wanted to be.
If God made you any more perfect He would've kept you for himself.
Veronica you are my blessing sent from up above.
You been riding with me through this little 24-month bid I caught.
Baby you got my back 1000.
I can't complain.
There's no better way to express my appreciation than to put in the paper for the world to see how much you mean to me.
I love you Veronica Cypress.
And thank you for your conditional love.
You are all I ever wanted.

E L C



FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE/ HRS	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
B37618	1994	FORD PICKUP TRUCK	F150 4WD REG CAB	N/A	Poor	\$250.00
322387	2007	CHEVROLET SUV	TAHOE 4WD	201,948	Poor	\$3,800.00
B17251	2006	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT RWD	189,958	Poor	\$1,077.00

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

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

RESIDENTIAL GENERATOR EMERGENCY CONTACT

1-800-617-7514 Option: 4

Or

863-902-3200 Ext: 13014

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT



Theodore Nelson Sr.

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

Are you unhappy with your current counseling/child welfare services? Now there are alternative services for you and your family. Philosophically, we all have difficulty balancing social life, culture, health, substance use/abuse, self-esteem, sense of belonging, emotions, our hopes and dreams.

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

Office: (954) 965-4414; cell: (954) 317-8110; 6528 Osceola Circle, Hollywood, Florida 33024