



**Big turnout for AIAC
in Big Cypress**
COMMUNITY ♦ 2A

**Ahfachkee robotics team
dives into competition**
EDUCATION ♦ 1B

**Moore Haven produces
undefeated regular season**
SPORTS ♦ 1C



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Banner day for Tribe at FSU's homecoming



Florida State wide receiver Justin Motlow makes a diving touchdown catch Nov. 18 against Delaware State. Motlow is the first Seminole Tribe member to play football for FSU, and is now the first Seminole to score a touchdown for FSU's Seminoles.



Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola, left, and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola wave to the crowd of 70,599 at Doak Campbell Stadium during homecoming ceremony at halftime of the Florida State football game Nov. 18 in Tallahassee.

Justin Motlow makes history with touchdown catch

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

TALLAHASSEE — As Justin Motlow answered questions from the media, the Florida State University senior talked about his first college touchdown catch and the ensuing euphoric reaction it generated from his teammates, but central to Motlow's postgame comments was

a bigger picture: his appreciation for the Seminole Tribe.

In the fourth quarter of a 77-6 homecoming win against Delaware State on Nov. 18, Motlow — a wide receiver and the Tribe's first FSU football player — became the first Seminole Tribal member to score a touchdown for the Seminoles when he made a diving, 12-yard catch in the end zone.

"That is just the most amazing honor you could ever feel," Motlow said. "I'm so proud to represent my Tribe. I don't even know what to say. The first member to score a touchdown, let alone just play, it's an exhilarating feeling. It just makes me so happy."

Being able to have a positive

♦ See **MOTLOW** on page 4C

Randee Osceola, Kailani Osceola proudly crown school's chief, princess

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

TALLAHASSEE — Before the start of Florida State's homecoming football game, Randee Osceola and Kailani Osceola sat in the Seminole Tribe's Micco Suite in the upper tier of Doak Campbell Stadium. They looked down at Bobby Bowden Field and realized their time to shine

was only a half away.

"We're so nervous, but we're really excited," said Randee Osceola, Miss Florida Seminole, about crowning FSU's homecoming chief and princess at midfield in front of more than 70,000 fans.

"Just like the [Princess] pageant, but just bigger," added Kailani Osceola, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole.

Similar to what they did all weekend with official duties, the girls — Randee from Immokalee and Kailani from Trail — executed the crowning with poise and grace Nov. 18. Randy placed a Seminole turban, made by the first Miss Seminole Connie Gowen, on chief Dionte Boddie while Kailani crowned princess Emily Galant with a tiara.

♦ See **HOMECOMING** on page 4A

Veterans Day celebrated across reservations

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

Every year, people around the U.S. gather on Nov. 11 to honor and celebrate the veterans of the U.S. military. The federal holiday was originally celebrated as Armistice Day and was created by President Woodrow Wilson on Nov. 11, 1919. Now, 98 years later, the Tribe continues to join in on the celebration and honor all veterans — both Tribal and non-Tribal — who served the country.

Board Rep. Larry Howard commemorated 78 veterans, both living and deceased. Among those who served includes Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. (U.S. Marine Corp), Stephen D. Bowers (U.S. Army), and President Mitchell Cypress (U.S. Army and National Guard).

"Thank you to all the past and present military [men and women]. Without you guys, opportunity wouldn't be what it is today," Howard said. "I just wanted to let you all know that you make this world a better place."

Joining in the praise for the veterans were Miss and Junior Miss Florida Seminoles Randee Osceola and Kailani Osceola, respectively, as well as actress and singer Chris Noel, a popular entertainer for troops during the Vietnam War.

Noel described herself as an "old-fashioned patriot" who has worked to help veterans since the 1950s.

"They tell me patriotism is out of style, but not for me, not ever. This is my country. It made me who I am and what I am. Nothing I do can ever pay back what is given to me," she said.

A large reason for her devotion to the U.S. is a trip she took to Vietnam during the war when the Pentagon asked her to volunteer to help and entertain the troops.

"I sang at landing zones, fire bases, hospitals. I was mortared, caught in sniper fire, crashed into rice fields, and walked through Agent Orange with the troops," she



Dan Hunt, president of Okeechobee Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1086, shakes hands with President Mitchell Cypress during Brighton's Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 2.

Brighton

Veteran's Day made its way to Brighton a few days early. The community gathered Nov. 2 to honor Tribal and non-Tribal veterans, as well as remember those veterans who have passed.

During the 30th Annual Seminole Veterans Celebration and Recognition, President Mitchell Cypress and Brighton

Pentagon asked her to volunteer to help and entertain the troops.

"I sang at landing zones, fire bases, hospitals. I was mortared, caught in sniper fire, crashed into rice fields, and walked through Agent Orange with the troops," she

♦ See **VETERANS DAY** on page 5A

Remembering American Indian Movement founder Dennis Banks

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Dennis Banks, a revered Native American activist of the 20th and 21st centuries, passed away at age 80 on Oct. 29. A member of the Ojibwa Tribe, Banks was laid to rest where he was born in 1937, at the Leech Lake Reservation in Minnesota.

Banks died from pneumonia he contracted after open heart surgery. His children and grandchildren announced his passing on his Facebook page:

"Our father Dennis J. Banks started his journey to the spirit world at 10:10 p.m. on Oct. 29, 2017. As he took his last breaths, Minoh sang him four songs for his journey. All the family who were present prayed over him and said our individual goodbyes. Then we proudly sang him the AIM song as his final send off."

Banks visited the Big Cypress and Hollywood reservations in June 2016 while he was leading the 3,600-mile Longest Walk 5 from California to Washington D.C. to raise awareness about substance abuse and domestic violence in Indian Country.

"Dennis Banks was a popular leader who fought for Native American rights, but he was unpopular outside of Indian Country," said President Mitchell Cypress, who met with Banks in Big Cypress. "I was proud of him. We lost a great man and leader. He left this earth and I don't know what he is going to start up there, but I'm sure it will be powerful. We have to carry on his message."

In 1968, Banks co-founded the American Indian Movement with Russell Means to challenge the U.S. government's exploitation of Native Americans. The group's protests included a takeover of Alcatraz and the occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs building in Washington D.C. The 1973 71-day siege of Wounded Knee, where the U.S. Army slaughtered more than 250 Lakota Sioux in 1890, brought attention to the movement and cemented its place in



Dennis Banks poses at Billie Swamp Safari in June 2016 with Tribal members and participants of the Longest Walk 5.

history.

"His influence helped change America's concept of Native Americans forever," said Banks' son-in-law Paul Collins during an address at a behavioral center earlier this year. "With the formation of AIM, the leaders and members brought to the forefront the massive abuse towards Native Americans. I first met Dennis when I was living on the Pine Ridge reservation and the Siege at Wounded Knee began. The world was watching and AIM was commanding their attention. The actions they took and the sacrifice they and other advocates made have given Native Americans the many opportunities that exist today."

Banks and AIM also created the Longest Walk in 1978 to protest bills before Congress that would have eliminated all

treaties between the U.S. government and tribal nations. By the time they reached Washington D.C., the one million signatures they gathered along the way were enough to prevent the bills from passing.

Since then, the cross-country Longest Walks took on other issues facing Indian Country, including one in 2008 to call attention to the importance of protecting sacred sites on tribal lands, in 2011 to reverse diabetes in Indian Country and in 2014 to educate Americans about the history of removing Native Americans from tribal homelands.

Former Hollywood Board Representative Steve Osceola, along with President Cypress, was instrumental in bringing Banks and the Longest Walk 5 to

♦ See **BANKS** on page 4A

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Editorial

Honoring veterans: A letter from President Mitchell Cypress

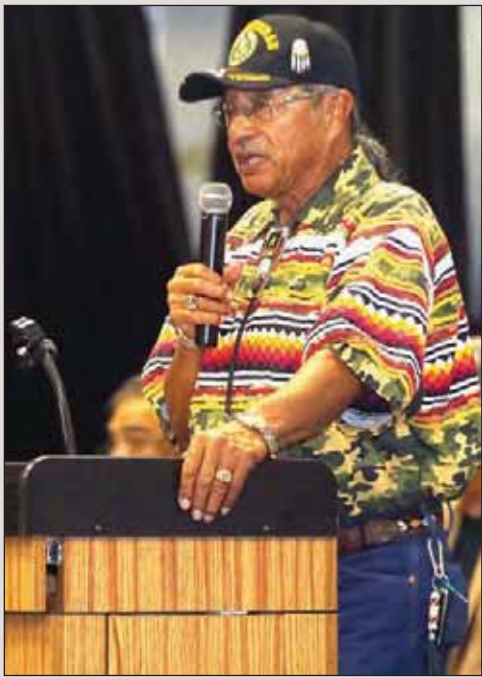
• Mitchell Cypress, STOF President

The following letter, written by President Mitchell Cypress, an Army and National Guard veteran, appeared in the programs for the Big Cypress and Brighton Veterans Day celebrations.

To our Veterans and Guests,
Today we celebrate, honor and remember our modern day warriors and heroes who so bravely fought and defended this great nation. Native American warriors saw a need, and without hesitation answered the call to protect their people and the nation that had adopted them.

In World War I, over 12,000 native warriors volunteered to fight for freedom, even though Native Americans were not citizens of the United States and did not have any protection under the Constitution. In World War II, over 44,000 Native Americans fought. Why did they do this? Because our people and these men and women knew the importance of honor, integrity and the strength of one's commitment to promises made. As one veteran stated: "My people signed a peace and friendship treaty with the U.S. and we promised to come to their assistance, and even though they have broken every promise to us, we are still honoring our obligation."

The example of integrity was set for us long ago by these great men and women who gave their blood and spirit in the service of



others. Perhaps they drew on the example of Jesus Christ as he laid down his own life so that we might find eternal happiness? I am inspired by their example, including that of my own brother, who enlisted and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. On this great day, it is my hope and prayer that we all remember and give thanks to those who set the greatest example of service and sacrifice for each of us to follow. To a long list of others grateful for your service, I add my name and that of our Tribe in saying thank you.

Understanding Native issues prevents future problems

• Aaron Tommie

"I am alive. Life is a gift. There is a reason I am still here."

These are the words Seminole Tribe of Florida's Vice-chairman and President Mitchell Cypress wrote in his 2007 autobiography "Having Diabetes & Acting in an Honorable Way." The book chronicles his journey overcoming obstacles he faced throughout his life, many originating from childhood. As a result of positive changes in his lifestyle, he was able to improve his overall health and has become one of the most respected leaders in the history of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Deep-seeded issues can fester and sprout into long-term ones if they are not resolved, leading to mental and physical complications. It has been explained to me that it is common for some Natives to not address their feelings or talk about past experiences that may have been traumatic. Outside of recreational usage, alcoholism and substance abuse would be used to suppress those issues, but once the effects wore off, the problems still existed and remain unsolved.

Over the past few years, several people I have known passed away, the majority of which were no older than the age of 40. I recently attended a funeral where there was a young boy who despite youth, understood, clearly heartbroken, the reality that his parent was no longer alive. After witnessing that emotional exchange, it made me think of how my five-year-old son would feel if I were gone.

Since many reservations are not

immediately close to major urban areas, it is difficult for Natives to have access to a sufficient standard of education and health care. Native Americans have some of the highest rates for poverty, unemployment, diabetes and obesity.

According to the 2015 article "13 Issues Facing Native People Beyond Mascots and Casinos" published on the Huffington Post, suicide is the second major cause of death among Native youth between ages 15 and 24, and Native American women have higher rates of rapes and sexual assaults than any other race.

These systemic conditions and many other issues undoubtedly originate from the mistreatment, laws and policies negatively placed on Native Americans throughout U.S. history. The cycle continues which perpetuates these unresolved issues. In order for true change to take place, more people have to know what really takes place in Indian Country amongst the majority of Natives. Campaigns such as Nike's N7 Collection—a clothing and shoe collection that supports organizations that provide recreational programming to Native American and Aboriginal communities throughout the U.S. — education seminars and lectures on the socioeconomic problems within Indian Country aid in these efforts. Any opportunity to bring them to the forefront of society could help be what actually begins to break it to help emphasize to Natives as well as everyone that Natives are still here and their voices and lives are important too.

Aaron Tommie has worked for the Tribe since 2015. He is a participant in the Tribe's Advanced Career Development program. He is currently working in the Executive Operations Office.

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American Indian Arts Celebration draws record-setting crowd

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — It was easy to see that the 20th annual American Indian Arts Celebration was a success by expressions of the event's 1,679 visitors as they experienced Native American culture first-hand.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum festival, held Nov. 3 and 4 in Big Cypress, drew record crowds and featured a variety of activities that focused on Native American arts, crafts, dance, storytelling, music and food. A daily Billie Swamp Safari wildlife show and alligator wrestling provided a few thrills and ensured there was something for everyone to enjoy.

"This was one of the most exciting AIAC events we've had," said Carrie Dilley, visitor services and development manager. "Everyone, from vendors to Tribal members to visitors, had smiles on their faces."

Bobby Henry led Tribal members and visitors in a friendship dance to kick off each day. Entertainment in the main tent included interactive performances by the Native Pride dancers from Minnesota, a demonstration of martial arts used in the Seminole Wars, a patchwork fashion show and music. A parade of IBEX puppets depicting endangered Florida animals was featured for the first time on Saturday.

Another new addition to the AIAC this year was an area filled with demonstrators who gave visitors insight into the cultural life of the Tribe. Guests sampled lapalle and sofkee made by Geraldine Osceola over an open fire in the cooking chickee. Nearby, Billy Walker transformed swamp cabbage from a tree stump into a delectable dish and shared it with attendees sporting healthy appetites.

"A lot of visitors flocked to the demonstration area," Dilley said. "The demonstrators were all happy to share the culture that way."

Other demonstrations were archery, beading, carving, spear making and pens turned from local wood. Sam Tommie, Daniel Tommie, Pedro Zepeda and other tribal members shared their knowledge and experience with anyone who listened.

On Friday, students from Ahfachkee and other schools in the area, including a group of home schooled high schoolers from West Palm Beach, explored AIAC.

"We had no idea what this was, it was a surprise trip," said Monique Blanchette, 16, of West Palm Beach as they enjoyed Indian burgers. "We were aware of the Seminoles, but didn't know much about them."

"We're learning a lot here," added Ender Fluegge, 15. "It's a nice culture and it's interesting to see how they do things. It seems more calm than normal life."

Ahfachkee students are familiar with the museum, which displays an annual exhibit of student-made art in its galleries. Many of the kids just wanted to shop; there was an abundance of vendors from which to choose and some had plenty of dollar items for sale.

"It's great to buy stuff and it's cool that people are here," said second-grader Mohayla Billie, 7. "It tells us that other people are inspired and want to visit our culture and see



Beverly Bidney

Billy Walker cuts up the heart of a cabbage palm tree to make swamp cabbage.



Beverly Bidney

Jacob Osceola teaches visitor Sarah Scott how to shoot an arrow in the demonstration area.



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee students shop at the AIAC. Thoughtful vendors made sure to include an ample amount of dollar items for the children.

the things we create."

Seminoles weren't the only Tribe represented at the celebration. In the show tent, dancer Larry Yazzie, of the Meskwaki Nation of Tama, Iowa, performed the eagle dance and Selena Jourdain, of the Red Lake Ojibwe tribe of Minnesota did a jingle dance before they led the crowd in a circle dance inside the tent.

David Graham, Ka Malinalli and their daughter Isabela Graham of Kissimmee planned a road trip through the state just to attend AIAC. The family tasted sofkee and lapalle and was delighted with what Osceola created in the cooking chickee. Malinalli was impressed with how the Seminoles lived off the land in nature and how it translated into homesteading.

"The three sisters garden [beans, squash and corn] has spread worldwide and has fancy names attached to it now," Malinalli said. "But it's an ancient tradition. I'd like to

see people talk to their grandchildren about Native Americans' contributions."

"Their traditions and how they were taught and raised is pretty interesting," said Isabela, 12. "I could imagine living that way."

Some of the youth who are living that tradition in Big Cypress were proud to show off the culture at AIAC.

"It's a beneficial thing because it brings awareness of who we are and to Native Americans as a whole," said Ahfachkee 11th-grader Mya Cypress, 16. "We want them to know we are people equal to them, we have our own way of doing things and we are still here."

Eighth-grader Marina Garcia had similar feelings about all the visitors.

"It feels pretty good for people to know what we're doing," said Marina, 14. "They never knew Native Americans had all this and it's cool that they came to check it out."



Beverly Bidney

Larry Yazzie, of the Meskwaki Nation, and Selena Jourdain, of the Red Lake Ojibwa Tribe, lead a group in dance around the entertainment tent at the AIAC on Nov. 3 in Big Cypress.

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Community



Big Cypress First Baptist Church celebrates 65 years

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The early days of Big Cypress First Baptist Church could have never predicted the impact the church would have on the community. A small gathering that once convened at the Big Cypress Day School is now a large following that, 65 years after the church's beginning, has its own building and big plans for the future.

In honoring the success of the First Baptist Church, Pastor Salaw Hummingbird and members of the congregation held a two-day celebration in Big Cypress, beginning Nov. 11 with a community supper and vocal performances by local church groups. The

bulk of the event happened Nov. 12 with more performances, an honor ceremony for local veterans, a church service, a depiction of the church's history and a special tribute for select church members who have remained faithful to Big Cypress First Baptist for decades.

While the anniversary celebration commemorates the construction of the official church in 1952, its origins truly began with Oklahoma Creek missionary Reverend Stanley Smith nearly a decade before that. Rev. Smith held dozens of social gatherings throughout Seminole communities in the '40s to share the message of Christianity.

"Stanley Smith was bringing good news and that's what kind of initiated everyone

to start hanging around the church more, when they began to hear what he had to say," Hummingbird said, explaining that Rev. Smith eventually encouraged Sam Tommie, Henry Cypress and Josie Billie to return to the Tribe from bible college to help start a new church.

With their help, Big Cypress First Baptist Church, then called Big Cypress Baptist Church, opened its doors in 1948. Since its inception, the

church has seen many pastors take the lead, including Henry Cypress and Paul Buster, who is now located in Hollywood.

Even with all the changes that occurred the past 65 years, Hummingbird said that church members are just as faithful today as they were in 1948.

"They have a lot of history that goes along with the church. Our elders are so filled with so many [memories of what took place at the church]," he said. "Alice Billie is one of our eldest members — she's 103 — and she's been with the church for a very long time. She comes very regularly; she hardly misses church."

Hummingbird, who has pastored the church on and off since 2001, explained that Big Cypress First Baptist is not just a place people go to on Sundays and Wednesdays for services. According to him, the church works hard to show the community its doors are always open.

"The church in itself is always a light for the community; it's always involved in community events," he said. "The church is a great asset to our community. We provide a great opportunity for everyone to come and be part of it."

One of those opportunities is in the form of Operation Christmas Child, an annual project sponsored by the international relief organization Samaritan's Purse. For Operation Christmas Child, Big Cypress First Baptist hands out shoe boxes to community members, who then fill the shoe boxes with small toys, hygiene items and school supplies. This year, the church collected roughly 97 boxes, which they then sent throughout the world to children who are impacted by war, poverty, natural disasters and other devastating occurrences. Before sending the shoe boxes to the children, church-goers took them to the First Baptist Church celebration, where

the congregation prayed over the boxes, wishing their receivers well.

Hummingbird said that practices such as this help keep the church's history alive and encourages younger generations to continue under its fellowship in new and innovative ways.

"We wanted to start doing a little bit more of the history of our church and bringing things up to date so that our young ones can pass all of that on as they continue on with their walk with the lord," he said. "By celebrating 65 years, we're recognizing how long God has been working in the Seminole people and all of the generations of the people that have come from that long ago."



Carlos Fuentes

The Big Cypress First Baptist Church congregation celebrates the 65th anniversary of the church Nov. 12.



Carlos Fuentes

Junior Billie, bottom right, celebrates his decades at the church with his family.



Carlos Fuentes

Pastor Salaw Hummingbird explains the significance of the First Baptist Church during the 65th anniversary celebration Nov. 12 in Big Cypress.

Big Cypress thanks employees with fun day

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — About 100 Big Cypress employees were treated to a day of fun, bingo and a leisurely lunch Nov. 7 as a thank you for the work they did related to

Hurricane Irma, which barreled through the reservation in September.

"I want them to know how important they are," said Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger. "Every company deserves employees like we have. This is a small appreciation for what they do for the Tribe and we want them to feel like part of the family."



Beverly Bidney

Members of the THPO team, Ellen's Degenerates, roll a really big tire as part of the obstacle course relay during Big Cypress's employee fun day Nov. 7.

Tribal leaders thanked the employees for their dedication and hard work.

"Thanks for coming out after the hurricane," said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank. "We needed a lot of help out here. You provided it and we are grateful for that. I think you all did an outstanding job. Shonabisha."

President Mitchell Cypress thanked the employees, many of whom left their families to help the BC community, and said he was grateful for their dedication.

"A lot of you stood toe-to-toe, shoulder-to-shoulder. It made me very proud to be your boss-man," Councilman Tiger said. "You all stood up and made me look good; I couldn't ask for anything better. You make me very proud to be a representative in this community."

After 25 years of service to the Tribe, SPD Chief and Executive Director of Public Safety Will Latchford knows the BC employees will step up whenever something goes wrong.

"You probably take care of this community better than any other in the Tribe," he said. "The ownership you take for the people out here is tremendous. I applaud each one of you and I believe that's a great asset. This storm brought out the best in you. Council, Board and the community saw you step up to the plate. It confirmed they have the best employees a government can have."

After a few games of bingo, complete with gifts, employees enjoyed a barbeque

lunch and some good-natured competition in the form of a wacky obstacle course. Teams from four departments tried to stifle their laughter as they competed in the relay race.

"We put together the obstacle course for a fun day, so have a good time, have a blast and let's see who walks away with the trophy," Councilman Tiger said. "You won't find any other company in the U.S. that does what we do for our employees."

Stations in the relay race included rolling a large tire, high-step running through eight tires on the ground, a log carry, pushing a riding lawn mower, a wheelbarrow run, wet and wild crawl under fake barbed wire, balancing an egg on a spoon while walking quickly over palm fans, and a dead golf cart push. The heat, sun and fire ants weren't counted as obstacles.

Before the race, the four teams strategized and decided who would do which task. The winning team was the Recreation Department's Team Rec with a record-setting time of 52.90 seconds to complete the course. THPO's team, the Ellen's Degenerates, took second place with 102.89 seconds. Cattle and Range's team, the Non-Conformists, came in third with 107.85 seconds and the BC Council's team, the Shysters, was last with 112.64 seconds.

Team Rec will proudly display the trophy in their office at the Herman L. Osceola Gym until someone else claims the win at the employee fun day next year.



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger balances in the wheelbarrow as his team, the Shysters, competes in the obstacle course relay at BC employee fun day. Alas, the team finished with the slowest time.

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Kevin Johnson

Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola gather with FSU's homecoming court on the steps of the Pearl Tyner House.

◆ HOMECOMING

From page 1A

The ceremony culminated a whirlwind few days for Randee and Kailani in Tallahassee. They had a private lunch with the homecoming court, participated in the homecoming parade through the campus's streets, watched an energized pep rally, attended a gameday awards breakfast with FSU President John Thrasher and the school's alumni association. They even met wide receiver Justin Motlow a couple days before the first Seminole Tribal member to play for FSU football scored a touchdown.

"They treat us like we're royalty and it's been a lot of fun meeting people, and honoring and representing the Tribe up here," said Randee, who added that the homecoming experience exceeded her expectations.

John Thrasher, FSU president, told a roomful of alumni during the breakfast that the university appreciates its relationship with the Tribe.

"Please convey to the Seminole Tribe our deepest appreciation for the incredible relationship that we share with the Seminole Tribe of Florida," Thrasher said while acknowledging Randee and Kailani. "It's a special relationship. I hope you all know that every single commencement the Tribe sends a color guard to be present at our commencement ceremonies. They do such a fabulous job. There are so many things that we are blessed to have that relationship. We promise to continue to treasure it and honor it with great respect."

Before they entered the stadium for the game, Randee and Kailani gladly posed for photos with a large contingent of Navy sailors from the USS Florida (Gold) SSGN. After taking an elevator ride up seven floors, Randee and Kailani entered the Tribe's Micco Suite and immediately saw a large framed photo on the wall of 2011 Miss Florida Seminole Jewel Buck.

"I want to be up there. It's so cool," Randee said.

After she graduated from Immokalee High School in June, Randee could have started her college career at Barry University in Miami. However, she viewed her responsibilities as Miss Florida Seminole

with such great importance that college was put on hold for a year in order so she could give her full attention to representing the Tribe.

"So far it's been a lot of fun, learning about the Seminole Tribe — because you can never learn enough — and also learning about other tribes," said Randee, who will compete in the Miss Indian World pageant in the spring.

When her duties as Miss Florida Seminole are finished, Randee plans to start college and major in psychology and then come back and work for the Tribe. Her path could include helping children or people affected by substance abuse.

"As long as she goes back to school after her reign, that's what we focus on," said Princess Committee Chairwoman

Wanda Bowers, who accompanied the girls along with their mothers Geraldine Osceola (Randee) and Melody Osceola (Kailani).

Randee said attending Barry is still a possibility, but she's also considering applying to FSU thanks in part to the impressions made from homecoming weekend.

Ditto for Kailani.

"I was thinking about going to the University of Hawaii Manoa to study fashion design, but now that I came on this trip, I'm rethinking my plans and coming over here to Florida State University."

Kailani said. "What really attracted me was the unity they have and the spirit and the pride they show in the Seminoles."

Both girls said they were grateful for being able to participate in homecoming.

"Very eventful and exciting," Kailani said. "I want to thank the Tribe and the Princess Committee for letting me have this opportunity to be a Princess and represent the Tribe in any way possible."

As Trail's first-ever princess, Kailani doesn't take her responsibilities lightly.

"A lot of girls have told me they look up to me and they want to run next year. I'm proud to be a role model to people in Trail and every reservation out there," she said.

"Never had a princess from Trail and we've never had an Otter, and she's an Otter," Bowers said. "Trail is a small community and they're all thrilled for her."

Randee and Kailani each wore different patchwork clothing for each function they attended.

"The one I'm wearing on the field [at the homecoming game] was made by Tammie Billie and she mimicked the patchwork on

united way."

Substance abuse and domestic violence were close to Banks' heart and home. He lost a granddaughter to violence and witnessed the destruction caused by substance abuse in Native American communities nationwide.

"The level of addiction is very deep, deeper than I thought," Banks said when he was in Big Cypress in June 2016. "We're in the eye of a monster drug storm and it's killing our people. All of our cultures are at risk now; the more people we lose, the less there will be to practice our ways."

The Longest Walk 5 in 2016 was followed in 2017 with the Longest Walk 5.2, which took a more northern route across the country. Longest Walk 5.3 is in the planning stage and will proceed without Banks. Collins said her father's big concern was



Tribune file photo/Beverly Bidney

Dennis Banks with one of his daughters on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial after the Longest Walk 5 reached Washington D.C. in July 2016.

who would take over the movement next.

"That's why he did the walks against drugs," she said. "If we could address that problem we can totally rebuild our society. When Standing Rock came, he was inspired and comforted knowing there were all those people who were ready to take the helm."

Banks spread his activism around. In



Kevin Johnson

Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola, left, places the turban on FSU homecoming chief Dionte Boddie while Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola crowns homecoming princess Emily Galant at halftime of the Florida State football game Nov. 18 in Tallahassee.

the football players jerseys. I told her I'm going to wear this on game day," Randee said.

Tammie Billie also made the patchwork clothing Kailani wore at the game. Kailani's other patchwork clothing was made by Oneva Smith and MinnieLou Billie, while JoJo Osceola and Francine Osceola made the

other patchwork clothing worn by Randee.

Every year homecoming gets circled on the princesses' calendar early in the reigns.

"This is kind of the highlight of their year," Bowers said. "They're anxious to come up here every year. As soon as they win, that's when they start talking about coming up here."



Kevin Johnson

Seminole Tribe royalty and Florida State royalty gather for a photo with FSU President John Thrasher and his wife Jean. From left, FSU homecoming chief Dionte Boddie, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola, President Thrasher, Jean Thrasher, Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola and FSU homecoming princess Emily Galant.



Kevin Johnson

Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola waves to a Seminoles fan during the homecoming parade on the FSU campus.



Kevin Johnson

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Kailani Osceola, left, and Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola gather for a photo with a Navy contingent from the USS Florida (Gold) SSGN stationed at Kings Bay, Georgia before Florida State's homecoming game Nov. 18 in Tallahassee.

◆ BANKS

From page 1A

Hollywood and Big Cypress. Osceola was impressed by Banks' accomplishments on behalf of Indian Country.

"He used his notoriety to take on issues for his tribe and others across the country," Osceola said. "I was inspired by his dedication, beliefs and standing. He was always an Indian first, before anything else. He was also a father, a leader and wanted to help his people. He didn't do it for a paycheck; he just did it for what was right in his heart."

Ray St. Clair, who walked across the country with Banks four times since 2008, was a close friend. When they met 18 years ago, St. Clair was intimidated by the co-founder of AIM until they started talking and all those barriers came down.

"He was just easy to talk to," St. Clair said. "He truly believed in one planet, one people. Now I'm just a branch of his tree and carrying on his teachings. It was a privilege and an honor to be his friend."

A team of people worked together to bring the Longest Walks to life, including his daughter Carol Collins, who was at Banks' side when he passed.

"The Seminole Tribe was super gracious at a time when the walk was exhausted and they needed a break," Collins said. "They showed him a lot of respect and he was really proud of that moment. People didn't always treat him with respect; they saw him as that radical from the '70s. The walks were all about making change in a peaceful and

an interview with Native News Online editor Levi Rickert in 2009, Banks was asked if there would ever again be something like AIM's 10-week siege at Wounded Knee. He said yes, but next time it will be about water.

Seven years later, his prophetic words came true. The Standing Rock protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline lasted about 10 months and Banks was there on numerous occasions. Collins said he couldn't wait to get back to Standing Rock.

"Nationhood was forming, it was beautiful," Banks said. "I have never seen such a gathering of people coming together, within weeks it was no longer an encampment it was a community."

Banks spent a lot of time in hospitals this year, but didn't allow that to slow him down. After the completion of the Longest Walk 5.2 in July, he attended the Sun Dance ceremony in Michigan.

"He just kept going and going," Collins said. "During one hospital stay, a nurse told me he was a very gentle man. I said, yeah,

that's him."

When the Longest Walk 5.3, which he helped organize, reaches Washington in July 2018, there will be a celebration of Banks' life.

"He was such a beautiful example of appreciating every human being for what they are; something we should all strive for," Collins said. "His accomplishments made him proud and we will continue to honor his vision and mission."

When his health was ailing, Collins asked her father if they should put all the projects aside.

"He looked at me, almost shocked that I would say such a thing, and said keep moving," she said. "He sacrificed so much for a more just world. His inspiration spread to almost everyone he encountered. I will miss my early morning calls, his chanting, and his wisdom. I will miss his wise remarks and silly jokes. I will always treasure his love, his trust in me and knowing that we were always there for each other."

Since Banks' visit, Osceola remained a friend and saw him whenever he came to Florida, which he did a few times. Another visit was planned for February 2018.

"He loved the Seminole Tribe," said St. Clair, who was with Banks each time he visited. "His gift was the love for people."

St. Clair said people came from all over, including Tokyo and Europe, for the funeral.

"My heart sank when I heard he passed," Osceola said. "He lived a hard life and certainly won't be forgotten. He left a large legacy."

Veterans Day walk in Big Cypress



Kevin Johnson

About 20 people gathered for an early morning stroll to honor all military veterans Nov. 8 at the Seminole Memorial Veterans Fitness Trail in Big Cypress. The Wellness Center provided small U.S. flags for the participants to carry during the walk. They also handed out beads and veterans T-shirts as participants finished. At left, Barbara Billie holds up one of the T-shirts. At center, the group poses for a photo before the 8 a.m. kickoff. At right, Brian Billie walks by the Veterans Memorial.

◆ VETERANS DAY From page 1A

said. "But the greatest compliment I ever got came in 1967 when the North Vietnamese army decided they wanted me dead or alive. They put a bounty on my head for \$10,000."

Despite the trauma she experienced overseas, she explained that is nothing in comparison to what U.S. veterans encounter every day.

"Every day, 22 veterans take their lives. War is hell to veterans," she said. "For them, every chapter in the history of war is written in blood and burned into their souls. They remember every day, every night, sometimes in dreams and sometimes in nightmares."

Two Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School students, eighth-grader Karey Gopher and seventh-grader Pearcey Trammell, showed their appreciation through Veterans Day speeches they submitted to their class.

To Karey, Veterans Day is more than just a federal holiday and a day off from school.

"To me, Veterans Day is not only a day where we all take the time to show appreciation to those who have risked their lives for yours and my freedom, but also remembering those who lost their lives," she expressed. "Without those people, we wouldn't have the freedom we have today."

Pearcetin expressed similar feelings, saying that veterans are not just strangers doing a job.

"When I hear the word veteran, I don't think about strangers who were in the military, I think of heroes and acts of courage and bravery," she said. "I think of people who never thought twice about what they were doing and they never complained; the only thing they think about is protecting our country."

Following a catered lunch, the event concluded with the Florida Seminole Veterans Foundation's second annual flag retirement ceremony. Guests gathered to formally retire worn Seminole and American flags. The formal retirement can only be done when the flags become worn, faded, torn or soiled. For the American flag, each stripe was separated, as well as the blue field with the 50 stars. Veterans and their families each took individual sections and said prayers over each piece before tossing them into a fire.

Rep. Frank said that Veterans Day is significant to him because the Seminole Wars started 200 years ago and it is the Seminole warriors who fought during that war that kept the Tribe free.

"This shows how far we as a Seminole people have come," he said, explaining that as wars continue, it is up to all of the U.S. to make sure all present and future service men and women are taken care of. "We need to work together to ensure that all returning warriors have access to dependable education on mental health and make a clean readjustment to normal civilian life in our country."

Big Cypress
Veterans Day ceremonies continued in Big Cypress the day of the national



Li Cohen

Vietnam War veteran Boye Ladd Sr. takes a moment of silence to remember fallen veterans during the Big Cypress Veterans Day celebration.

holiday, Nov. 11 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Along with remarks by President Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, the crowd also enjoyed special presentations by Ahfachkee students Emma DiCarlo, fifth grade; Thelma Tigertail, third grade; Alex Covarrubias, fifth grade; and Sarah Robbins, sixth grade; who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Eighth-grader Lauren Doctor also performed, singing the Star Spangled Banner for the crowd of more than 100.

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Making a guest appearance at the celebration was Boye Ladd, Sr., a Vietnam War veteran and member of the Ho Chunk and Zuni tribes. While thanking veterans and welcoming them home was a focus of his speech, he also used his time to address issues in Indian Country and with the treatment of veterans when they return home.

"Without our veterans, we simply wouldn't have our way of life. ... It's not necessarily that veterans believe in war; it's an opportunity to instill our traditions, our cultures, our rights and our way of life," he said, going on to explain how many veterans, including himself, fight during wars for freedom for their loved ones, regardless of the sacrifices that entails. For Ladd, that sacrifice includes ailments from exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

"A lot of the warriors here know it [the side effects from Agent Orange] takes about 20 years to begin," he said. "I lost my eyesight and my hearing."

Even with those sacrifices, he said it's crucial for people to understand that even though every person and culture is different, unifying will prove more successful than fighting.

"We are all Native Americans. No two of us are the same, even clan wise, but we all need to have a certain understanding that we're all unique," he explained. "If all the nations could come together as one, we will be a nation of everyone. We all fight under the same flag."

After a reciting of the poem



Li Cohen

At the end of the Big Cypress celebration, Tribal and non-Tribal veterans lined up to shake hands and thank each other for their military service.



Li Cohen

Husband and wife Kevin and Shelley Pinkerton, both Army veterans, were happy to celebrate Veterans Day in Big Cypress.



Li Cohen

Veterans thank PECS seventh-grader Pearcey Trammell for her Veterans Day essay she read aloud during Brighton's Veterans Day ceremony.



Li Cohen

After explaining her Vietnam War experience in a presentation to ceremony guests, Chris Noel personally thanked all of the present veterans for their service in the military, including Korean War Veteran Gene Jacobs.



Li Cohen

Vietnam War veteran Larry Davis pays tribute to the American flag during the Flag Retirement Ceremony following Brighton's Veterans Day celebration.



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Since 1990 I have protected rights like yours. My office defends DUIs, drug offenses, suspended licenses, domestic violence, and all felonies and misdemeanors throughout Florida and the United States.

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

RICHARD CASTILLO
FLORIDA CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY
WWW.CASTILLOLAWOFFICES.COM

Happy Thanksgiving



Beverly Bidney

Edna McDuffie examines the Yeti cooler she won in a raffle, brought over by Joe Kippenberger, Hollywood Elder Services site manager, at the annual tribalwide seniors Thanksgiving celebration in Big Cypress on Nov. 9



Gary Frank, Araceli Lucas and Kyron Frank pose together at the Immokalee Thanksgiving dinner.



Giving thanks to family are Susan Davis, Dennis Gonzales, Denise Gonzales, Antonio Billie, Tony Billie and Faith Billie at the Immokalee Thanksgiving dinner.



Susannah Sauls and Alex Severe take a family photo with daughters Zoey and Sincere at Hollywood's Thanksgiving dinner.



Cousins Loni and Jessica Billie along with Cassius Billie, 1, make their way into the Herman Osceola Gym for the Big Cypress Thanksgiving feast.



Minnie Doctor shares a special moment with her great-grandson Lucky Stewart at Hollywood's celebration.



Lupe Osceola, Michelle Garcia and Jonah Cypress look thankful at the Big Cypress Thanksgiving luncheon.



Tampa's Barbara Henry, Linda Henry and Maggie Garcia look at the patchwork bag Garcia won in a raffle at the annual seniors Thanksgiving.



Leatrice Cypress is surrounded by her nieces **Bonnie Billie**, **Cierra Billie** and **Taena Billie** at the Big Cypress Thanksgiving gathering Nov. 21.



Jennie Martinez is surrounded by family members Carlos Bermudez, Carlise Bermudez, Curtis Smith, Curmya Smith and Christopher Smith at the Immokalee Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 16.



Twice unsuccessful

BY NORA HERNANDEZ
Exhibits Fabricator

On the dawn of Nov. 23, 1817, 250 U.S. soldiers circled Fowltown in battle formation with the mission to remove the Red Stick Creeks from their homes and to arrest the leaders and warriors for disobeying General Gaines orders. It was the U.S. Army's second failed attempt to make the arrests. They had tried just two days prior. The Battle of Fowltown came to be known as the first battle of the Seminole War. General Gaines' particular disdain for Fowltown inhabitants came from the leader Neamathla's willingness to defend his warrior's actions towards citizens of Georgia and the U.S. Army. In September that year, General Gaines had sent a letter to the leaders and warriors of Fowltown asking that murders and "mischief makers" be handed to the U.S. for their crimes. The most heinous crime had been the murder of Mr. Garrett's family, but as Neamathla and other leaders noted that act was a just response to the murder of several Red Stick hunters whose kettle was found in Mr. Garrett's house. Prior to the attack, Neamathla and other leaders had written to the white men's "headman" about crimes against their people. These pleas were ignored.

Neamathla posed a threat to U.S. expansion not only because his warriors obtained justice on their own terms but because he was adamant he had hereditary and legal rights to the land near Flint River. After the Creek Wars, Neamathla relocated his town from Kinchafoonee, near Albany, Georgia, to Tualosi Talofa or Fowltown near the Flint River. The U.S. claimed that under the Treaty of Fort Jackson, the land that Fowltown occupied had been ceded to the U.S. A map by cartographer Joseph Purcell from 1778 labels a town called "Tootoloosa-Hopunga Creek" phonetically similar to Tualosi, also known as Fowltown. The "Hopunga" in Hitchiti dialect means abandoned or destroyed indicating that the Tualosi town had existed before 1778 and perhaps they resettled in Kinchafoonee. This map supports Neamathla's stance the land near Flint River had long been occupied. Thus they weren't part of the Treaty of Fort Jackson.

As the U.S. Army rebuilt Fort Scott, Neamathla had warned Major Twiggs not to remove a stick east of Flint River and that he was chosen to protect the land. Adding to the tension, Neamathla declined to speak with General Gaines in person to discuss the alleged crimes against the citizens of Georgia.

Acting on orders from Secretary of War George Graham, General Gaines was authorized to remove the Red Sticks and even retain hostages until reparations were made for crimes committed. General Gaines then ordered Major Twiggs to conduct the arrests with the explicit direction not to harm women and children.

On the dawn of Nov. 21, 250 U.S. soldiers approached the town in battle formation. Despite the darkness, their presence quickly became known. Startled and angry for the trespass, the Red Sticks warriors fired shots while evacuating the women and children into the swamps. Only one woman didn't survive she was shot by a U.S. soldier trying to escape. Lieutenant Twiggs later explained that the woman was mistaken for a warrior because she had a blanket fastened around her and the smoke made it difficult to see.

Unsatisfied, General Gaines ordered a second attack on Fowltown this time with 300 men. On Nov. 23, ready for the attack, the warriors of Fowltown hid in the swamps as the army approached the abandoned town. The battle was short lasting long enough to shoot several rounds until the Red Sticks ran out of ammunition and retreated into the swamps once again. A handful of Red Sticks warriors died that day and only one U.S. soldier casualty. This time, the soldiers stole the large reserves of corn and cattle left behind.

General Gaines, having gathered intelligence for weeks that Fowltown gained the support of neighboring Seminole towns, knew that the incident in Fowltown would unleash war. Many leaders viewed the U.S.' cowardly assault on Fowltown as sign of aggression and provocation. An alliance was made among Creek and Seminole leaders from different towns to develop a response against the U.S. that massive response became known as the Fort Scott Massacre.



Courtesy photo

Neamathla

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA AH-TAH-THI-KI M U S E U M A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.

Removal records tell the story

BY MARY BETH ROSEBROUGH
Research Coordinator

A few years ago, while on a search for Seminole materials and music recordings at institutions around the globe, I came across records too important to dismiss the Bureau of Indian Affairs Seminole removal records. The National Anthropological Archives in Washington, D.C. holds these documents from the Seminole War time in their collection and stores the scans on microfilm. (Microfilm 234 Roll 291). Considering the importance of the records and the mission of the museum to inform the world of the accurate history of the Tribe, we ordered scans for the Museum Library and have been compiling a finding aid for the past two years. Working at this slow pace has given me the opportunity to read each record. In this column I want to substantiate the Collection staff's writings, on the War and its devastating effects in remembrance of the Tribe's 60th anniversary this year, with these primary sources so poignant and disarming they can make you cry.

The first set of records numbers over 900 and the second set over 500, spanning the years 1839 – 1853. Included are personal letters, form letters, muster rolls, letters asking for money, letters listing money spent, and letters with arguments about getting money back. There are documents with famous names such as Alligator (record 0476) and General (Zachary) Taylor (records 0006 – 0007) - and famous places like Payne's Landing (records 011 – 0164) and New Orleans (record 0006). When all are synthesized and analyzed, the point of this correspondence (and let's be honest, removal) can be summed up in one word money. Money was the driver and the U.S. military, the bank.

The oldest letters on the first roll of documents are from 1839 and take a few moments to decipher not the content but the very old school cursive, penned in liquid ink.

These letters address the monies given to the "Apalachicola Indians under terms of the Treaty of Payne's Landing" when the U.S. government confiscated their land after they had "enrolled for emigration" to "country set apart for Indians west of the Mississippi."

Reading letter after letter, sent from Captain

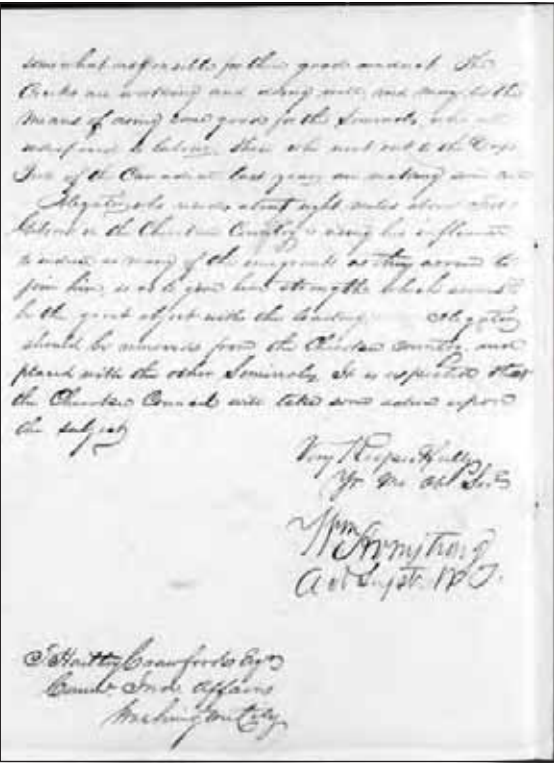
action counted as success. The writer of letter no. 0006, Capt. Abercrombie, says it is his honor to be under General (Zachary) Taylor's orders to move Indians north to New Orleans and return with several chiefs to be retained as agents in the removal of others from Florida. From what we already know from historical accounts, we can imagine the duress any leader would feel under that kind of (U.S. military) pressure. Not to mention the destabilization brought on by such tactics used against a threatened group.

Despite the U.S. military's might and the "successes" proclaimed in these letters, when Seminoles began to congregate under a strong leader, U.S. officials began to worry. If they wanted one Tribal member to work against the other, as shown in letter 0006 (referenced above), they certainly wouldn't want displaced persons, removed to Indian Country, to join together under one powerful, influential leader outside their control. Document 0476, accompanying this article, is proof of the U.S. military's discomfort at even the intimation of such a thing. In the letter, dated June 13, 1841, Major Armstrong states that "Alligator is using his influence to induce many of the emigrants as they arrive to join him, so as to give him strength. Alligator should be removed from Cherokee Country and placed with the other Seminoles."

These removal records contain many important historical facts that help us to more accurately tell the Seminole story. As a testament to the acts of removal, they stand alone, but more importantly, they testify to the courage and ingenuity of those resisting.

Everyone is welcome to come to the Museum Library and have a look. Much is left to be discovered and dissected in these documents come and join the search.

Museum library hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. To make an appointment, call 863-902-1113, ext. 12252 (Mary Beth Rosebrough) – or just drop by.



John J. Abercrombie to T. Hartley Crawford, identifying each man by name, gives the reader a sense of the magnitude of the removal and the loss. Picture the heart wrenching scene of a man receiving a small sum for the land he farmed, lived on, where he raised his family, and walking away knowing he was leaving it forever, but not knowing what awaited him and his family in the west.

Many letters start out with the phrase "it is my honor" to inform the higher up of

Immokalee BG Club delivers Thanksgiving turkeys around town

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Kids from the Immokalee Boys & Girls Club made Thanksgiving special for 100 needy families in Immokalee on Nov. 20 by surprising them with a delivery of turkeys and all the fixings. It was the second time the club helped fill bellies around town. Former Immokalee Council project manager Pete Aguilar spearheaded the effort he began last year.

Aguilar purchased double the amount of turkeys this year and former St. Thomas university basketball player and Immokalee resident Tony Perkins provided the side dishes.

"Our youth needs to see that not everyone is as fortunate as they are," Aguilar said. "It's a humbling experience and I want our youth to be exposed to these things."

The group of adults and kids caravanned around town with a trailer and pickup truck

filled with 100 boxes of food. First stop was a community of small clapboard homes not far from the casino. The kids worked in groups as they carried the boxes, knocked on doors and presented the turkeys. Smiles and even a stray tear were the thanks they received from the grateful recipients.

The next stop was a small apartment building followed by a row of duplexes. At every destination, people expressed surprise and gratitude.



Beverly Bidney (3)

Above, Tony Perkins accompanies Immokalee Boys & Girls Club members Alice Jimmie, Curmya Smith and Josiah Arteaga as they deliver Thanksgiving turkeys to underprivileged residents Nov. 20. Lower left, Boys & Girls Club member Ezekiel Roberts delivers a Thanksgiving box filled with a turkey and sides to a resident of Immokalee. Lower right, Alice Jimmie and Jaylee Jimmie pose with an Immokalee resident and recipient of one of the Boys & Girls Club's Thanksgiving baskets.



Workshop benefits Miss Florida Seminole in more ways than one

BY RANDEE OSCEOLA

During a recent weekend I had the pleasure of working with Jules Meyer with PR Pageant Coaches. To start off our fun-filled weekend, we did a health and fitness class. The class was taught by the beautiful Brook Marie Eneas. I learned that "some foods aren't good enough for your body." She also taught me a whole new way of thinking before I eat because food is made for three reasons: vitamins, nutrients and minerals. Ultimately this is what your body is made up of, so if you balance this with a little bit of fiber not only will you feel better but your body will thank you.

Also, did you know that you're not supposed to eat and drink at the same time? It causes bloating and makes you feel super full. This is called food combination.

The best part of the health and fitness class taught me to love my body. You only get one body so take care of it.

After the nutrition class was public speaking. I learned that I should make every appearance and speeches personal. It helps not only for the audience to get to know me, but also for someone to learn more about the Seminole Tribe. As Miss Seminole I want to do my best in every aspect of my reign.

I also did an interview training to help not only prepare for Miss Indian World, but for "one-on-one" talks with people that don't know anything about the Tribe. Public speaking class was very beneficial.

At the end of the day we did a team building exercise with all of the girls I met in the workshop. Team building was my favorite part because I got to meet one of my role models, 2016 Miss USA Deshauna



Courtesy photo

Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola with 2016 Miss USA Deshauna Barber.

Barber. She was my choice during the Miss SA pageant because she brought such a realness and boldness to the competition by being so proud of her military background. She shared with us all the craziness that happened behind the stage during the pageant. It reminded me of all the times I ran for Miss Seminole and all the laughs and fun we shared back stage.

Some of the PR girls were attending the workshop because they are running for titles. They talked to us about why they were running, the name of the title and how excited they were. The titles were "Miss Florida" and "Miss Florida Teen SA". Any of them would make a good fit for the crown.

I learned so much at the PR workshop. I learned a lot about myself and the woman I am becoming. I will continue to work with PR throughout my reign to make sure I'm on my "A game" to compete for Miss Indian World and hopefully be the first Seminole to bring home the title.

Randee Osceola is the 2017-18 Miss Florida Seminole. She's a 2017 graduate of Immokalee High School.



Courtesy photo

Miss Florida Seminole Randee Osceola, third from left, attends classes held by PR Pageant Coaches.



Health

Tribalwide clean eating challenge kicks off holiday season

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

The holiday season usually ends with resolutions to live a healthier year. Even though these resolutions don't usually begin until January, the Hollywood Clinic got a head start with the Clean Eating 21 Day Challenge to prepare people for healthier lifestyles.

The challenge started the week of Oct. 30 and ended Nov. 21, right before Thanksgiving. Throughout its course, participants were encouraged to give up carbonated drinks, refined sugar, artificial sweeteners and colors, and processed foods. Instead, Hollywood dieticians, including Karen Two Shoes, recommended they eat more fruits and veggies, organic lean proteins, omega-3 fatty acids and water.

"We're challenging tribal members and community members to clean up their plates," Two Shoes said of the challenge. "We're talking about getting rid of the processed foods and chemicals in their diet and trying to eat a whole food diet. Basically, eat stuff that doesn't come with a nutrition facts label and ingredients list."

The rule of thumb to effectively participate is to "stick to the perimeter of the grocery store." Unlike a regular diet where people generally purchase artificial products

claiming to be low-fat, low-sodium, low-carb or of the like for quick results, Two Shoes explained that this challenge emphasizes making healthy eating a lifestyle change rather than a temporary diet.

Upon entering the challenge, participants received the "10 Commandments of Clean Eating," which includes tips such as avoid purchasing foods with more than three ingredients, stock up on lean protein, including chicken, fish and legumes, and plan and prepare meals ahead of time to avoid mindless eating. They also received spice packs, such as cinnamon, ginger and turmeric to incorporate in meals. For those who may not know where to start in making 'clean' products, the challenge also came with recipes, such as overnight cinnamon oats and a mango ginger smoothie. To learn the simplicity in making 'clean' products.

"We were just trying to figure out ways to introduce people to clean up their plates," Two Shoes explained. "We have so many people in here, especially with diabetes and heart disease. We get a lot of people coming in saying, 'What can I do to clean up my diet,' and this is in response to what people have been asking for."

Even though the challenge itself only lasts three weeks, Two Shoes and other Hollywood dieticians hope that people will

carry what they learned into the holiday season. Once people integrate their goals into their lifestyle, Two Shoes says that clean eating becomes effortless. Even making healthier choices during holiday meals and family gatherings gets easier by the day.

"It sounds really daunting going into a diet, but once you get into it and keep your goals in mind, you might be able to roll into the holidays with your clean eating. You can maybe eat your mashed sweet potatoes, but without adding additional sugar to them."

Two Shoes said more participants got involved in the challenge than they anticipated. They only expected around 25 people to join, but 46 people from Tampa, Immokalee, Hollywood, Brighton and Big Cypress went through the challenge, and many told Two Shoes that the skills they learned were invaluable.

"A lot of people had goals of losing weight, which I think is just a goal for many people, but the biggest takeaway was that people picked up skills they didn't have before. They also became more aware of what they were eating," Two Shoes said. "Losing weight might be point Z and there's so many ways to get there, such as label reading, being aware, and getting rid of processed foods."

Participants also learned how to utilize better portion sizes in their meals and how to

prepare healthy food at home.

"It's a lot easier to go out and eat, and that's one of the things that people said was the hardest to do: stay home and eat," she said.

Two Shoes plans on taking feedback from participants and revamping the program to get more people involved in more challenges. Possible integrations include weekly check-ins and cooking classes to make it a more interactive initiative.

More information about upcoming challenges can be found at health clinics on the reservations.

Ten commandments of clean eating

1. More than 3, let it be (no items with 3+ ingredients).
2. Do you know what all those ingredients are on the label? If not, don't eat it.
3. No whites (flour, sugar, etc.)
4. Drink lots of water (half of your body weight in ounces).
5. No processed food.
6. Load up on lean protein, such as chicken, fish, steak, beans and legumes.
7. Plan and prep your meals ahead of time.
8. BYOS: Bring your own snacks when you leave home.
9. Don't be scared of healthy fats (nuts, avocados and eggs)
10. Limit your dairy intake.

Information provided by Karen Two Shoes

Eat smart and move more with a holiday challenge

SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BROWARD COUNTY

"This year, the only thing that should be stuffed for the holidays is the turkey."

That's the motto of the 11th Annual "Eat Smart, Move More, Maintain Don't Gain Holiday Challenge," a seven-week, email-based event that helps people avoid the bulge of holiday overindulging. The Florida Department of Health in Broward County encourages everyone to sign up. It's free.

Surveys show that many people gain one to five pounds over the holidays and may never lose it. Sounds small but it adds up over time. But suppose you didn't gain it. The point of the Holiday Challenge is not to lose weight (although who would complain). The point is to maintain your weight amid all the temptations, feasts, family parties, soirees and endless bowls of sweets that we all encounter at this time of year.

Think of the Challenge as a friend encouraging you to be strong. Until December 31, your "friend" will email you daily tips, a weekly newsletter, a weekly challenge, recipes, social media posts and logs for you to track your food, weight and activities. With balance and moderation, you can enjoy the holiday festivities and remain healthy.

Choose fresh fruit instead of candy. Limit fat, salt and sweet foods. Find fun ways to stay active, such as dancing to your favorite holiday music or going for a brisk walk after holiday meals. Make it a goal to be active for at least 30 minutes a day.

The Challenge gives you tips

- Survive a holiday party
- Manage holiday stress
- Be a healthy host
- Fit physical activity into your day
- Prepare quick and healthy meals;
- Serve healthy holiday recipes.

Does the Challenge work? Last year, 15,650 people participated, including 2,145 in Florida through Healthiest Weight Florida (second largest behind North Carolina). Of those who reported after last year's Challenge, 67.6 percent maintained their weight, 16.9 percent lost three to five pounds and 7.4 percent lost over five pounds. About three-quarters were confident they could keep off the weight and 95.7 percent said they would keep using the tips they learned.

More information, enroll: www.healthiestweightflorida.com activities holiday.html or https://esmmweighless.com holiday-challenge-live.

Staying safe for the holidays

SUBMITTED BY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

The holidays are here and this holiday season, the Office of Emergency Management reminds you to keep safety in mind as you decorate your home, shop for gifts, and travel. As you gather around with family and friends to celebrate, keep the following safety tips in mind to have safe and happy holidays.

Holiday Shopping Safety

Always park in a well-lit area and remember to lock your vehicle.

Don't leave money or valuables visible.

Keep packages locked in the trunk while shopping.

- When you return to your vehicle, have your keys readily available.
- Keep your cell phone with you at all times.

Stay alert Be aware of your surroundings and people around you. Trust your instincts.

Don't overburden yourself with packages while shopping.

Don't carry large amounts of cash or extra, unnecessary, credit cards.

Only make online purchases from trusted, secure websites. Look for "https" in the web address to verify security.

Don't respond to unsolicited emails that ask

you for information.

Don't click on attachments from email senders you don't know.

Holiday Decorating and Fire Safety

- Most residential fires occur during the nighttime. Plug holiday lights when leaving your home or going to bed.

Do not overload electrical outlets and extension cords. A maximum of three strands of lights should be connected.

Replace any holiday string lights with worn or fraying cords or loose or broken bulbs.

Never leave burning candles unattended. Place them in a sturdy candleholder that won't tip over and keep them away from other decorations and things that can burn.

Ensure your Christmas tree is properly secured and can't be tipped over by a child or pet.

Water your Christmas tree regularly. A dry tree can ignite into a blazing fire in a matter of seconds.

Ensure that your smoke alarms are working by pushing the test button.

Holiday Traveling Safety

- If you're traveling for the holidays, ask a neighbor to watch your house and remember to notify SPD so house checks can be conducted.

Put timers on different lights throughout the interior and exterior of the house.

- Have newspapers, mail, and deliveries held or picked up by someone you trust.

Avoid posting about your travel plans on social media.

Get your car serviced before going on a road trip. Have your fluids, lights, tires and wipers checked before hitting the road.

Keep blankets and an emergency kit in your car for any unexpected surprises along the way.

Don't drive if you've been drinking or are feeling tired.

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Protect the Circle of Life



SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF THE FLU

People sick with influenza feel some or all of these symptoms:

- Fever* or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (very tired)
- Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

*Not everyone with the flu will have a fever. You can be sick and contagious without running a temperature.

THE FLU & YOU

What is influenza (the flu)?

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness. At times, it can lead to death.

Who should get a flu vaccine?

Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine, especially if you are at high risk for complications, or if you live with or care for someone who is high risk for complications.

Your family may be especially vulnerable to the flu.

Influenza poses a greater risk to certain people, including pregnant women, children, and elders, who are all at high risk for flu-related complications. In fact, pneumonia and flu are a leading cause of death among Native elders. The flu also can cause certain health conditions, including diabetes, asthma, and heart and lung disease, to become worse. Pneumonia and bronchitis are examples of serious flu-related complications, which can result in hospitalization and sometimes even death.

HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE FLU

- Get a flu vaccine each year.
- Stop the spread of germs, including influenza viruses:
 - ♦ Cover your coughs and sneezes
 - ♦ Wash your hands often
 - ♦ If you're sick, stay home
- Take antiviral drugs if they are prescribed for you.

Where to Get a Flu Vaccine:

- Hollywood Health Clinic
- Brighton Health Clinic
- Big Cypress Health Clinic
- Immokalee Health Clinic
- Tampa Health Clinic
- Grocery Store
- Pharmacy
- Physician's Office

PROTECT YOURSELF. PROTECT YOUR PEOPLE.

This article was submitted by Pauline Good, ARNP, Clinical Operations Director

SEMINOLE SCENES



Li Cohen

VETERANS HERO: The sun shines brightly behind the statue of Marine Lance Cpl. Herman L. Osceola on Veterans Day outside the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress. Herman died at age 23 in a 1984 helicopter crash with 17 other U.S. Marines during a military exercise in South Korea.



Beverly Bidney

UNIQUE UNIFORM: Briar Tommie and Dominic Osceola-Lugo enjoy a traditional game of res ball at the Naples Indian Day celebration Oct. 27 and the turban stayed on throughout the scrimmage.



Kevin Johnson

SEMINOLE SHAKE: Florida State University graduate Kyle Doney greets FSU football coach Jimbo Fisher right after the Seminoles' 77-6 homecoming win against Delaware State on Nov. 18.



Kevin Johnson

PROUD ALUM: Max Osceola Jr. enjoys the sounds of the marching band from McArthur High School, his alma mater, after he was honored Oct. 19 with a star on the Walk of Fame at the Broward County School Board KCW Administrative Building in Fort Lauderdale.



Beverly Bidney

RAINBOW OVER BC: Big Cypress enjoyed a late afternoon treat Oct. 19 as a rainbow graced the sky near the Boys & Girls Club.



Kevin Johnson

FSU HOMECOMING: Ronnie Billie Sr. poses with Florida State's Osceola and Renegade during FSU's homecoming football game Nov. 18 in Tallahassee.



Courtesy photo

HAPPY HALLOWEEN: Wanda Bowers, Naomi Wilson, Leila Baksh and Amanda Bouby from the Tribe Secretary's Office get into the Halloween spirit Oct. 31.



Kevin Johnson

ROCK ON: Native American guitarist Stevie Salas, left, an executive producer of the documentary "Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World," signs a Hard Rock guitar for Steve Osceola during opening night of the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival on Nov. 3 at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood.



Beverly Bidney

SPLISH SPLASH: Youngsters at the Naples Indian Day celebration Oct. 27 have a blast on a hot day as they descend the inflatable water slide.



Li Cohen

FARM FRESH: Hollywood Health Educator Lauren Goas shows the fresh vegetable options to Mary Gay Osceola at Hollywood's Farmers Market on Nov. 15.



Kevin Johnson

TAKING SHAPE: Here's the view on Nov. 16 of the guitar hotel under construction at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-2019.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki exhibit honors Tribal elders

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

ICESS — While the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is known for preserving the Seminoles' past, it is constantly working to honor the present and pave the way for the future. In doing so, the museum curated the exhibit "Depicting Wisdom: Seminole Elders in Art."

The exhibit features work by Tribal members Noah Billie, Henahayo, Broden Osceola, Jimmy Ohn Osceola and Mary Gay Osceola. The collection of paintings, drawings and photographs, many of which are from the 1980s and 90s, is set for display until April 17. A reception for the artists was held Nov. 1 to celebrate their work.

Rebecca Fell, curator of exhibits, said that the exhibit is a way to push against the popular misconception that Native American tribes are losing their culture.



Broden Osceola poses with the photos he took of his grandfather O.B. Osceola, shown top left and bottom right.

"What you see here is artists from a lot of different generations taking the time and the energy to depict their elders and that is a very key aspect of Seminole culture. The elders hold the stories. The culture and the history is shared and passed through the elders," she explained. "You always want things to be interesting and you want people to come in, but I think the bigger, deeper story here is that these artists are depicting their elders. Artists are always at the edges and boundaries of culture, so when they depict something about their culture, it's important."

One of Billie's acrylic paintings, titled "Traditions," depicts an elder sitting around a campfire with a group of children. The elder is dressed traditionally and is seen sitting in front of a chickee, while the more modern-dressed children are shown in front of tall buildings. Despite the seemingly clashing settings, the painting also shows the shadows of various animals intertwined with the clouds, which Fell says demonstrates the traditions passed on within the Tribe. Even though customs change over time, the traditions and stories are passed on from generation to generation.

"Anyone, anywhere could understand that the guy in the painting is sharing his stories, sharing his legends," she explained. "Some people can construe legends to mean silly, fanciful stories, but really legends carry culture and carry traditions." **Featured**

artist Broden Osceola is the youngest artist featured in the exhibit, but his mission and message was just the same as Billie's. His two photos depicted images of his grandfather, O.B. Osceola, who he says has a story that many people can learn from.

"He has a crazy story. He grew up in a time when civil rights were huge. He wasn't even able to go to the white areas of Everglades City; it was really segregated. That's a huge part of our history that's kind of suppressed. I feel like we're going back there and that's not a good thing."

While Broden Osceola feels history may be repeating its ways, he also said that taking the time to speak with elders and learn the lessons they have can reverse that process.

"We can learn from how they were raised and treated, especially going back to what time was like for them back then. We can learn from what they experienced and bring it back to our current events to help prevent repeating history."



Li Cohen

The acrylic painting "Traditions" by Noah Billie.



Li Cohen

Curator of Exhibits Rebecca Fell explains the significance of portraying Tribal elders through art at the exhibit reception Nov. 16.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



TransCanada Keystone pipeline leaks 1 million litres of crude oil in South Dakota

TransCanada Corp. said its original Keystone pipeline has leaked an estimated 795,000 litres of oil in Marshall County, S.D., just days before Nebraska is set to decide the fate of plans to expand the pipeline network.

The company said its crews shut down the Keystone pipeline system the morning of Nov. 1 between Hardisty, Alberta to Cushing, Okla., and a line to Patoka, Ill. The line is expected to remain shut while it responds to the spill.

Brian Walsh, an environmental scientist manager at the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said the state has sent a staff member to the site of the leak in a rural area near the border with North Dakota about 10 kilometres west of Minneapolis.

"Ultimately, the cleanup responsibility lies with TransCanada, and they'll have to clean it up in compliance with our state regulations," Walsh said.

The leak comes as the Nebraska Public Service Commission approved the Keystone XL sequel on Nov. 10 to clear the last major regulatory hurdle for the \$8 billion project. The Keystone XL would route the pipeline on a more direct path through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska, where it would connect with existing pipelines that feed Texas Gulf Coast refineries.

American environmental groups seized on the spill as evidence that their warnings against Keystone XL would come to pass. Among the groups, 350.org, which helped launch national protests against the project in the U.S.

"This is exactly the kind of disaster we can expect more of if Keystone XL is approved," said the statement from 350.org executive director May Boeve. "No matter what TransCanada says, there's no such thing as a safe fossil fuel pipeline."

Among other concerns, opponents of Keystone XL say the pipeline would pass through the Sandhills, an ecologically fragile region in Nebraska of grass-covered sand dunes, and would cross the land of farmers and ranchers who don't want it.

"Just days before the Nebraska Public Service Commissions decides on whether to approve Keystone XL, we get a painful reminder of why no one wants a pipeline over their water supply," said Greenpeace campaigner Mike Hudema.

The Sierra Club was also quick to condemn the spill, urging the commission not to vote for the project.

"We've always said it's not a question of whether a pipeline will spill, but when, and today TransCanada is making our case for us," said campaign director Kelly Martin.

ent Moeckly, a member of conservation and family agriculture group Dakota Rural Action, who opposed the Keystone pipeline, said he drove to land he owns near the site of the spill Thursday.

"There's a heck of a south wind up here today, and man it just stunk of crude oil," said Moeckly, whose property is crossed by the pipeline. "A mile away, but I'll tell you it was like it was next door."

After years of delay, and rejection by Barack Obama, the Keystone XL project was given the go-ahead by President Donald Trump this year, but it's still mired in economic and legal problems.

In addition to the regulatory process in Nebraska, it faces dwindling demand for oil that has already prompted TransCanada to cancel its biggest Canadian project, Energy East.

- CBC News

Native American and Hunters coalition opposes Alaska oil development

A coalition of Native Americans and conservation leaders is opposing a Senate proposal to expand oil production along the North Slope of the Alaskan Coastal Plain in America's largest remaining wilderness area.

Senate Republicans say development in the rural region is needed to help decrease future budget deficits caused by their party's pending tax cut legislation.

The week of Nov. 13, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources voted 13-10 with Democrat Joe Manchin of West Virginia joining 11 Republicans in the majority to send the proposal to the Senate floor for a vote.

A representative of the Gwich'in Indian Nation said oil development on the refuge threatens the nation's existence.

"The Arctic refuge, home to wildlife and vast lands essential to my people's survival, has been reduced to a line item in a budget," said Bernadette Demientieff, executive director of the Gwich'in Steering Committee.

Demientieff explained that her people's identity is tied to the region's Porcupine Caribou Herd. "We call the coastal plain the sacred place where life begins, providing our food, our clothing, our tools, everything," Demientieff said.

For the Gwich'in, oil drilling would likely lead to disruption of their traditional subsistence way of life. Nine-thousand Gwich'in people live on or near the migration route of the Porcupine Caribou Herd. The herd's spring birthing and nursing grounds are in the zone of proposed oil development. The approximately 170,000 Caribou are still vital to the tribe's identity and culture, as well

as for meeting people's day-to-day needs.

ANW contains 19.5 million acres, 8.9 million of which are currently protected as wilderness. The refuge contains the 170,000 caribou, as well as a healthy population of polar bears, wolves, moose, mountain sheep and bowhead whales. The federal land lies adjacent to significant oil production to its West, the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

Current management, without oil production, allows native peoples to continue their traditional use of the land and wildlife in the region, while also bringing in a number of hunters, fishermen and other outdoor recreationists seeking a unique wilderness experience.

"This is the crown jewel that every backcountry hunter and angler should have the opportunity to fulfill in their lifetime," said Barry Whitehill of Fairbanks, Alaska. Whitehill is part of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers BHA, a conservation group that defends access to public lands for outdoor recreation. BHA recently launched a video urging those concerned about public land to urge Senators to vote against opening ANW to oil development.

Pursuing fossil fuel development on public land is a key priority of the Trump administration and many members of Congress. In early November, the Senate passed a budget package that included a provision directing the Natural Resources Committee to find at least \$1 billion in additional revenue since tax cuts would likely increase the federal deficit by trillions of dollars. The move provides a "fast track" process that would allow Committee members to push forward money-earning proposals on federal lands, such as opening ANW to fossil fuel development.

The committee on Nov. 15 approved the budget deal to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish and administer a "competitive oil and gas program in the non-wilderness portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Natural Resources Committee Chair, supports opening ANW to oil development. "This legislation is a tremendous opportunity for both Alaska and our country. The legislation I released tonight will put us on a path toward greater prosperity by creating jobs, keeping energy affordable for families and businesses, generating new wealth, and strengthening our security while reducing the federal deficit not just by \$1 billion over ten years, but tens or even hundreds of billions of dollars over the decades to come," Murkowski stated in a press release.

During the budget process to open ANW to oil development is criticized by Democrats, including Ranking Committee member Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.). "I guarantee you that people do not need to

ruin a wildlife refuge and an ecosystem that is intact just to give tax breaks to big corporations. We can do better than this. The only way they can open up drilling, again for something we don't believe is going to generate the revenue or is needed to give tax breaks to corporations, is by mandating it mandating the leasing," Cantwell said during a press conference last week.

By using the budget reconciliation process to tie the drilling in ANW to the Senate tax revisions, Republicans could pass the changes with a simple majority vote. In the past, efforts to expand oil production in ANW have failed to meet the regular Senate rules of a 60-vote threshold.

- The Daily Yonder

Hamilton County Parks fined for archaeological digs into Native American graves

The U.S. Department of the Interior has fined the Hamilton County Parks Department for violating a federal law designed to protect Native American graves.

The \$6,533 fine was issued after an IndyStar investigation found that archaeologists and park officials ran roughshod over the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

From 2001 to 2011, archaeologists from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne excavated Native American sites at Strawtown Mound Park. They pulled some 500,000 items from the ground, including more than 90,000 artifacts associated with human remains and 100 human bone and teeth samples, and put them in storage for potential study.

The investigation found a Native American burial site was desecrated in Hamilton County.

The archaeologists and park officials failed to notify and consult with tribal leaders during the excavations, as required by federal law. Several Native American tribes filed complaints after learned about the work. In 2013, the Department of the Interior issued two citations.

"I'm of the opinion that this is one of the most egregious breaches of the NAGP Act since it was introduced," said George Strack, former preservation officer of the Miami of Oklahoma.

Strack said he has been contacting the Department of the Interior frequently to ensure the fine would be assessed. He said this is the first fine issued over a NAGP violation since 2010 and only \$3,000 in fines have been issued since 1992.

Strack thinks the fines should have been higher, as much as \$70,000. He thinks more citations should have been issued, and that the length of time it took for the parks department to comply with NAGP Act

should have been considered. He thinks the parks department should have paid for expenses incurred by Native American tribes investigating the violations.

"I think they got let off the hook," he said.

In a prepared statement, Hamilton County Parks Director Al Patterson said the parks department's cooperation and mitigation led the agency to reduce the potential penalty.

Patterson said new guidelines have been implemented to ensure the department complies with the federal law in the future.

♦ A staff member will oversee archaeological activity and artifact collection on park property.

♦ The department created a policy to manage archaeological collections, including a procedure for human remains.

♦ The staff has taken NAGP training. Patterson said he's confident "that the corrective measures can be undertaken, without compromising the outstanding quality and value of the interpretive programming and education that the department provides the public."

He said the department will pay the penalty from money it has received through farming rental at Strawtown Mound Park, not tax dollars or donations.

The fine was the last issue to be resolved between the tribes and the parks department. This spring, the parks department agreed to return all artifacts that the Miami of Oklahoma says were taken from or near graves at the park. The Miami, which took the lead in negotiations for several tribes, had been asking for the return of the items for five years.

Archaeologists dug into Native American earthworks at Strawtown despite the fact they had plenty of reasons to believe the 810-acre park on Ind. 37 north of Noblesville was the site of an ancient burial ground. As far back as 1,000 years ago, Native Americans built two burials mounds and two enclosures in the sweeping bend of the White River. Farmers and curious locals had been unearthing skeletons and other artifacts for centuries at Strawtown, according to newspaper accounts.

Under the federal law protecting Native American graves, the parks department was required to consult with tribes about human remains, spiritual items and artifacts during excavations and to return any items if warranted. The IndyStar investigation found no such consultations took place and that no system is in place in Indiana to make sure such consultations happen.

- Indy Star

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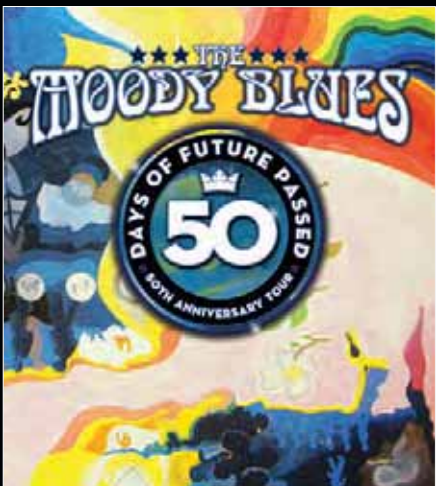
December 21 & 22 | 8PM



December 14
BILL BURR



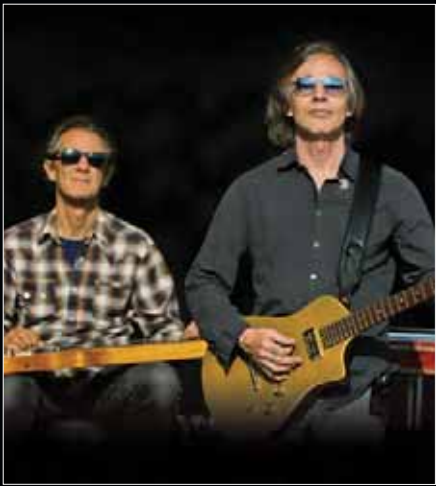
December 17
ALAN CUMMING
WITH THE GAY MEN'S CHORUS
OF SOUTH FLORIDA



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MOODY BLUES
DAYS OF FUTURE PASSED
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Education

B

Ahfachkee School robotics team competes in first tournament

BY GRACE DUCANIS
Special to the Tribune

FO T LA DE DALE — The Ahfachkee School robotics team participated in its first tournament Nov. 18 at Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale.

The tournament, organized by the South Florida FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics League, was attended by more than 20 teams consisting of middle and high school students.

"I'm really proud of this middle school group of kids who stepped up to the plate today to do this competition," said Dorothy Cain, principal of the Ahfachkee School. "It's

intimidating in that room, with all of these students who've had years and years of [competing] and this is our first go-round. So, hopefully they get the experiences and this gives them exposure to a whole different world."

The Ahfachkee team built their robot in six weeks, during club meetings and class periods. After the robot passed official inspection, the team competed against other schools several times throughout the tournament.

Matches took place in a walled 12-foot playing field. Each match featured four separate teams and lasted two minutes and thirty seconds. Robots scored points by moving objects while working together within a two-team alliance.

Johnnie Sue Russell, 11, and Jaylee Jimmie, 11, both members of the Ahfachkee School robotics team, said they were "nervicited" for the competition.

"Nervous and excited," Jimmie explained. "Building the robot and making new friends have been the most fun parts of being on team."

Family members signed up both girls for the robotics club, which is open to middle school and high school students, after they showed an interest in technology.

The Ahfachkee School robotics club was founded in the beginning of October, led by STEM teacher Chin-Tang Liu. The team built their robot, 13143 Warrior Machine, in about six weeks.

For robotics club leader Liu, the tournament is all about building lifelong professional skills in STEM fields and acknowledging students for their work.

"Students are being recognized," he said. "That's what I want to see. These students are very

smart in science and engineering, but in the classroom nobody cheers for them. They are loners. But here they can find their identity."

The robot experienced some technical difficulties during the tournament.

"We're seeing where we fit in this whole competition," Cain explained. "I don't expect us to be anywhere close to the top yet because we're just starting. We're learning."

"It's a really good experience for the kids, and we're growing the team," said Philip Bear, assistant principal at the Ahfachkee School.

Timothy Tigertail, 13, said he was excited to see if the robot would work and what the team could do to improve. He also said that he was nervous because the team had never tested the robot in front of so many people before.

"It's a new experience - something to try out," he explained.

For Liu, the competition is all about challenging students to form a new mindset.

"As a teacher, you always ask yourself: How can you open a new opportunity, to inspire the students, and to [help them] see the ways that they can improve? This is such an exciting opportunity for all students. We're building lifelong professional skills," he said.

Both Liu and Cain are expecting to see the team improve over the rest of this season's robotics tournaments, which will take place in December and January.

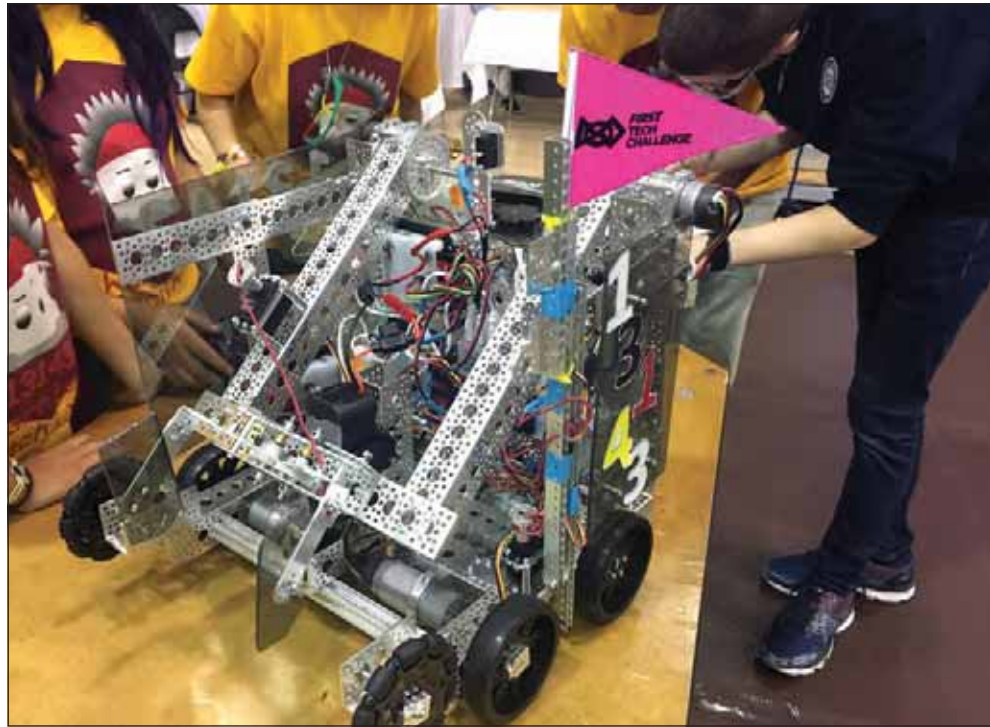
"We challenge, we inspire, and hopefully we are going to reach our best potential," Liu said. "If we work hard and we're very driven, we have a chance to be one of the top programs, because as long as the students are driven, I will spend my time with the students."

Cain agreed.

"This is our first year doing this," she said. "We've never done it before, ever. So it's going to take probably about three years to build a strong team, but we feel confident that we'll get there. It just takes time. It's a learning experience."

The Ahfachkee School robotics team will compete next on Dec. 2 at North Broward Preparatory School in Coconut Creek.

"I expect that when the students compete again in December and again in January that we'll be at another level," Cain said. "We just keep moving up and kids start learning. This is a benchmark day for us."



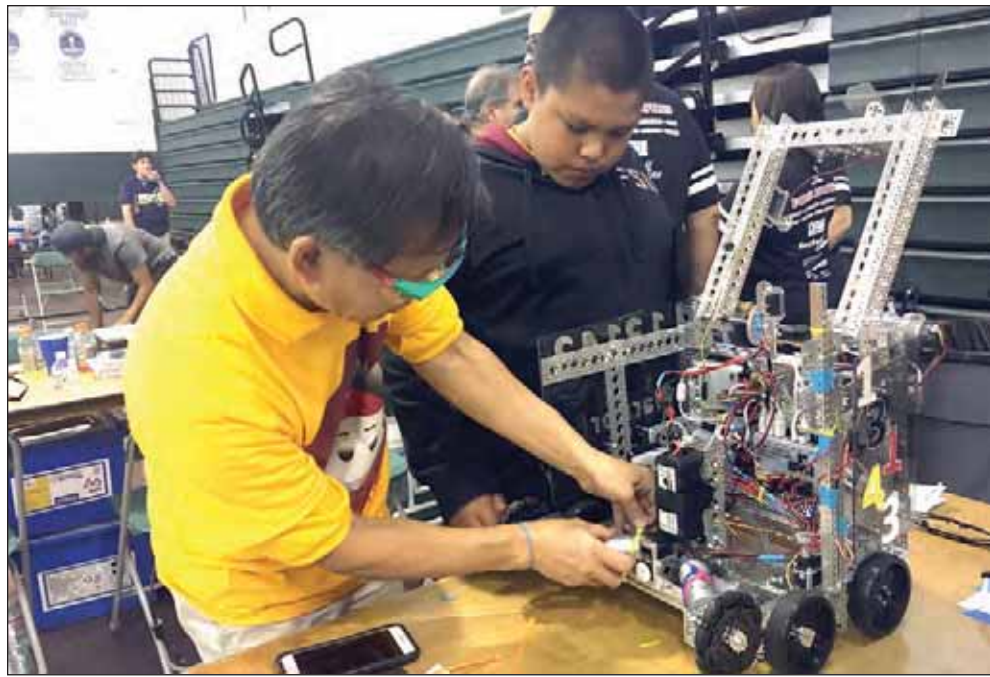
Grace Ducanis (2)

Above, the Ahfachkee School team's robot, 13143 Warrior Machine. Below, robotics club leader Chin-Tang Liu and club member Timothy Tigertail work on the robot between matches.



Grace Ducanis

Ahfachkee School robotics club members Jaylee Jimmie and Johnnie Sue Russell wait for their first match to start.



Ahfachkee students dig up history

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

ESS — Moses Jumper's Big Cypress pasture contains more than just cattle. It also holds the remnants of an old U.S. Army fort from 1855.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office has been excavating the presumed site of Fort Shackleford since 2008 and on Nov. 20 a group of THPO archeologists taught 20 Ahfachkee students the art and science of archeology during a field class at the site.

Jumper gave the students a personal account of the land that has been in his family since the 1950s.

"This is part of your history as Seminoles," Jumper told the students. "The army wanted to send us all to Oklahoma. Seminoles burned it down. If it wasn't for your ancestors fighting for what they believed in, you wouldn't be here. I'm always thankful for them. It's important to learn your history;

we all come from a proud bloodline. Take pride in who you are."

The fourth, fifth and sixth graders learned about archeology first-hand by participating in three different field stations. They excavated soil and then pushed it through a mesh screen to find small objects, looked for metal objects with a metal detector in another area and learned about objects that were previously found on the site in a lab activity.

THPO archeological field technician Sean Keyte told the story of the site. The fort would have contained a small building for the officers, but soldiers would have slept in tents. The site contains a marker placed in the pasture in 1943, but it may have been moved in later years to prevent looting. The land was also a watermelon farm and was plowed over many times.

The purpose of the dig is to find artifacts from the 1850s to prove the fort existed in this pasture. Keyte told the students THPO looks for and has found square nails, wood objects,

charcoal, musket balls and metal objects on the site. He said the most significant finds at the site over the years have been the square nails and charcoal.

During the dig, field technician Nick Butler told the students to look for different colors in the dirt as they dig deeper.

"We want to track and see how the dirt changes," Butler said. "But this soil is all jumbled because it used to be a watermelon field. Plowing it moved the dirt around a lot."

Regardless, students found a few artifacts including some wood and small metal pieces. All the pieces will be examined more closely in the THPO lab.

"The fort was made of wood, so that's a good thing," THPO project coordinator Bernard Howard told Lena Cypress, 9, after she found a piece of wood.

While screening dirt, Ina Robbins discovered a small piece of old metal.

"I like that we get to learn about this stuff," said Ina, 10. "We learned about the artifacts. I think the metal may have fallen off a knife or a nail."

At the metal detector site, students took turns wielding the heavy metal detector over the uneven grasses in the pasture. They also marked off the areas they searched.

In the lab activity, students measured and described photos of objects they were shown as they tried to figure out exactly what they were. They recorded the data and looked at the texture, color and size of each piece. Some were rusty old nails and some were pottery shards made of clay, but all were likely from the mid-1800s.

"Sometimes we take unidentified metal objects to the dental office to be x-rayed," Keyte said. "It lets you see if there is a square head and you can tell if it is hand cut."

The students were engaged in the discovery process and were also glad to be out of the classroom.

"This is fun," said Eli Hall, 9. "We get to mess with dirt and I found a worm."

It may have been fun for the students, but the meaning was much deeper for Jumper.

"This fort represents a time when our people were oppressed," Jumper told the students. "The soldiers were trying to take away our home and families. Take these opportunities you have and use them; it will help you to grow in your walk through this life. Talk to your elders, listen to their stories and learn your language."



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, Ahfachkee students, under the auspices of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, search for metal objects Nov. 20 on the presumed site of a U.S. Army fort from 1855 in Big Cypress. Below, Lena Cypress, THPO project coordinator Bernard Howard and Anna Tigertail look for artifacts in soil that was recently removed from the archeological site of Fort Shackleford in Big Cypress. After the photo was taken, Lena found a 3-inch long piece of wood that was sent to the THPO lab for further examination.



Beverly Bidney

Ahfachkee students examine the historic marker stating the area was once the site of Fort Shackleford, a U.S. Army fort in Big Cypress during the third Seminole War in 1855.



Osceola siblings bring Seminole history to life

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

A LES — About 50 fifth-graders at the Community School of Naples received an inside look at Seminole culture Oct. 20 thanks to their classmate O.B. Osceola III and his sister Bryce Osceola.

The duo gave a comprehensive presentation of Seminole history and brought



O.B. Osceola III stands with an intricate sweetgrass basket during a presentation about Seminole culture to his peers at the Community School of Naples.

a trove of patchwork, beadwork, sweetgrass baskets, dolls and carvings for students to examine. A slideshow presentation included plenty of information about historical figures, as well as some of their own family members.

Since November was Native American Heritage Month, the social studies classes learned about Native Americans from the Northwest, Southwest, Great Plains and Eastern Woodlands, as well as the ancient Aztec, Pueblo and Mayan tribes.

“I thought this would be a good time to do it,” said O.B., 10. “I want to tell kids about our Native culture and how we do stuff.”

Bryce, a senior at Florida Gulf Coast University, is an experienced presenter and led the students through a crash course of Tribal history starting with the Seminole Wars and Osceola, Billy Bowlegs and Polly Parker.

“Osceola was the fiercest warrior and chief,” she said. “But he was tricked, ambushed, captured and died in captivity.”

Bryce told the students that after the Seminole Wars, there were about 300 Seminoles left in Florida; today there are about 4,200 Tribal members.

“The U.S. Army sent 34,000 soldiers to try to beat us,” Bryce said. “We’ve been doing pretty well since then.”

Bryce explained the Tribe’s connection to the natural world and told the students that plants and animals have the same rights as



Bryce Osceola, left, and O.B. Osceola III make a presentation about Seminole culture Oct. 20 to a group of fifth-graders at the Community School of Naples.

humans. She explained the clan system and asked if anyone had cousins with the same last name. Hands shot up and she said “that’s how we know we are related.”

A description of a typical Seminole camp included chickees with different purposes such as cooking, sleeping, working and ceremonial.

“There is always a fire going, no matter what,” Bryce said. “The most famous chickee maker is our grandfather O.B. Osceola Sr. He’s been everywhere and is considered the best.”

When it came time for questions, the students were a bit shy, so social studies teacher Rachel Hansson filled in with plenty of her own. Bryce and O.B.’s answers contained insightful information.

Cultural tidbits were shared, including the amount of beads a woman had signified her worth and wealth. Patchwork was made because they only had enough to trade for strips of fabric, which were turned into the colorful patchwork still being created today. According to stickball rules, boys use two sticks and cannot touch the ball with their



A group of fifth-graders examines Seminole crafts after the culture presentation.

Immokalee parade celebrates Red Ribbon Week



Members of the Immokalee First Seminole Baptist Church throw candy out on the Red Ribbon parade route through the Immokalee reservation Nov. 6.



Willie Callins helps his children Mason, 1, and Willie Jr., 5, pick up candy after the Red Ribbon parade passed their home on the Immokalee reservation.



The Immokalee community enjoys a hot dog and hamburger dinner courtesy of the Immokalee casino after the Red Ribbon parade.

PECS October Students of the Month

E S Elementary	Lindi Carter	Neela Jones
Alakai Bert	Paizlee Miller	Maylon Foster
Tyse Osceola	Melaine Bonilla	J-Wayco Billie
Kanae Jumper	Serene King	Cordey Jumper
Raylee Turtle	Eriyana McQueen	
Silas Snow	Rylie Peacock	E S Middle
Cassie Pearce	Brandon Greene	Zach Riley
Mikayle Summeralls	Keanu Bert	Mariana Mora-Lara
Kairyn Dixon	Lason Baker	Aleah Pritchard
Ciani Smith	Preslynn Baker	



Lee Zepeda named Executive Director of Administration

BY LI COHEN
Staff Reporter

In a memo sent out Nov. 1, Chairman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. welcomed Lee Zepeda as the new Executive Director of Administration for the Tribe. In this position, Zepeda will oversee the Center for Student Success and Services, Boys and Girls Club, the Hollywood preschool, recreation, community culture and Office of Trust Management.

Zepeda has worked for the Tribe since 1996, three years after he graduated from Stetson University in DeLand, where he received his bachelor’s degree in art history. He started out at as a teacher at the Ahfachkee School where he taught for five years before being promoted to principal for another five years. After that, he served as Human Resources Director before receiving another



Lee Zepeda promotion as Education Director. As per the memo, the Tribal Council is confident that Zepeda’s experience in management and business will allow him to be successful in his new role.

Max Osceola Jr. inducted into Broward Education Foundation Hall of Fame

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

FO TLA DE DALE — The wisdom doled out by Seminole elders more than a half-century ago didn't escape the adolescent ears of a young Max Osceola Jr.

At that time, the elders realized education in classrooms — something that wasn't yet a big part of the culture — would be critical for Seminoles' survival.

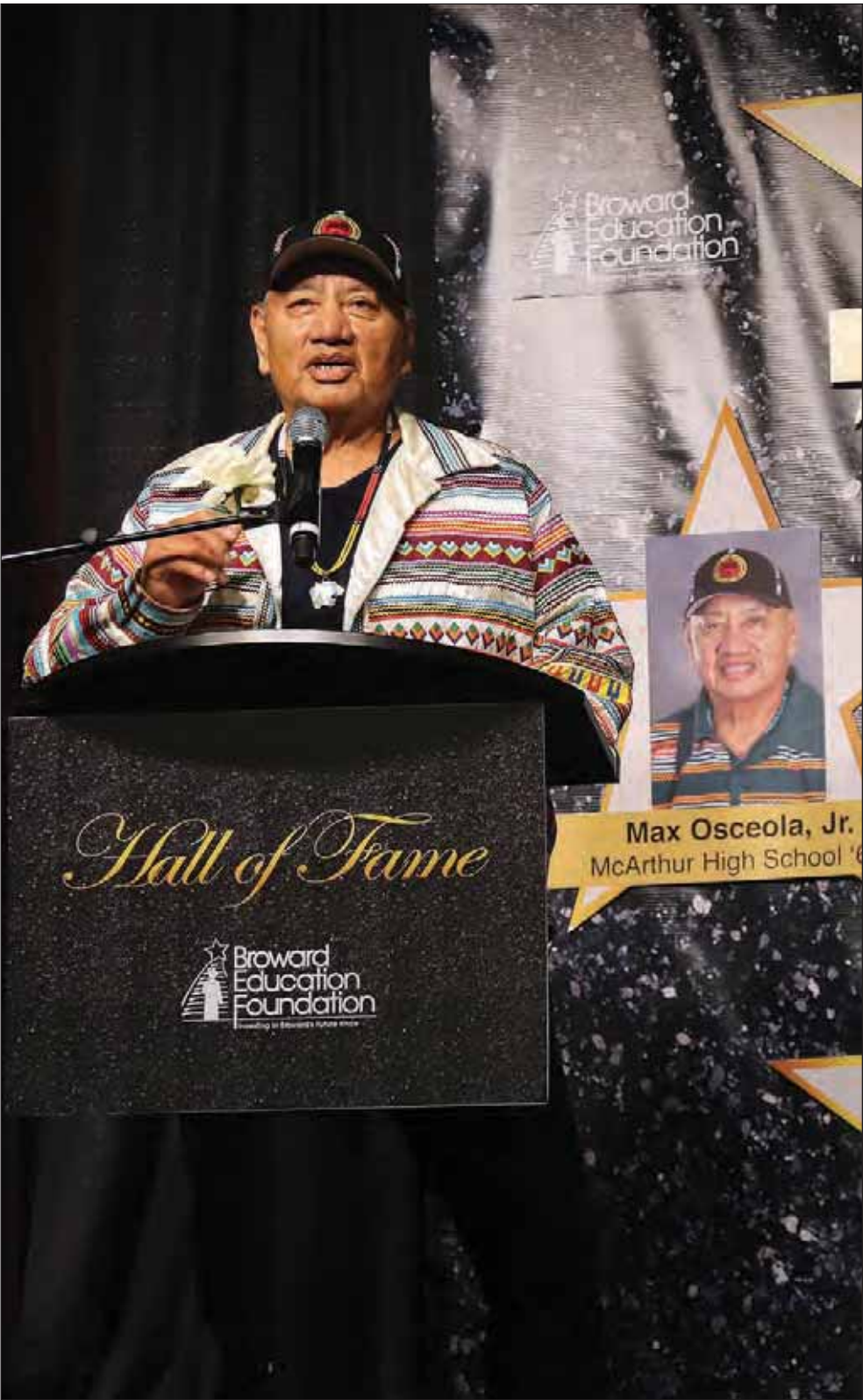
"Our elders knew we had to learn a new skill because we couldn't live off the Everglades anymore. So we had to live and work in the non-Seminole world," Osceola said. "In the mid-1950s, when the Tribe was going to be terminated by federal legislation, our elders said 'don't terminate the Seminole Tribe, give them 25 years.' Why 25 years? Because [the elders said] we're going to send our children to school to get an education to manage the affairs of the Tribe."

Thanks to the elders' wise vision, Osceola made the most of his educational opportunities in the Broward County public education system in the 1950s and '60s. A path that included Stirling Elementary, Driftwood Middle and McArthur High led him to earn degrees from Broward Community College and the University of Miami. He used his education to become a leader in the Tribe as Education director in the 1970s and a longtime tribal councilman from the Hollywood Reservation who served from 1985-2010. He's also been involved in numerous organizations inside and outside the Tribe, including the Boys & Girls Club on the local and national levels, the Winterfest Boat Parade, Stranahan House, Pine Crest



Kevin Johnson

Max Osceola Jr. joins fellow honorees from the Class of 2017 and other participants at the Broward Education Foundation's Hall of Fame breakfast ceremony Oct. 19 in Fort Lauderdale.



Kevin Johnson

Max Osceola Jr. addresses an audience at the Broward Education Foundation's Hall of Fame breakfast at First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale's Global Grille Event Center. Osceola was honored with a Community Achievement Award and a star on the Hall's Walk of Fame.



School, Intermountain Indian School, Ann Storck Center and several others.

For his accomplishments as a product of the Broward County public school system, Osceola was recognized Oct. 19 along with six other alums as a 2017 Broward Education Foundation Hall of Fame honoree. Osceola, a 1968 graduate of McArthur High School in Hollywood, was inducted in the community achievement category.

"Unexpected," Osceola said after his star on the Hall's Walk of Fame was unveiled during a ceremony outside the school board's administration building at the corner of Third Avenue and Sixth Street in Fort Lauderdale. "They called me out of the blue in August to tell me I was going to be nominated. It took me by surprise."

Prior to the Walk of Fame ceremony, honorees were the center of attention earlier in the morning at a breakfast less a mile away at the First Baptist Church of Fort Lauderdale's Global Grille Event Center. Osceola was joined at the breakfast by friends and family that included his wife Marge, daughter Melissa, brother Mitch, friend and high school teammate Stephen Bowers and Stephen's wife Elizabeth.

Other honorees included Winterfest President and CEO Lisa Scott Founds, Lauderdale Lakes Middle School principal James Griffin II, City Furniture President and CEO Keith Koenig, Memorial Healthcare System Senior Vice President Shane Strum, Panther Run Elementary School Principal Elaine Saef and Nova High School Athletic Director and baseball coach Patrick McQuaid, a lifelong friend of Osceola.

When McQuaid came to the stage, Osceola greeted his childhood buddy with a big hug and presented him with his Hall of Fame award.

"Max and I go back a long way," McQuaid told the audience. "We went to Stirling Elementary School together, we played football at Frost Park for the Dania Blue Devils and we never lost a game. We also played cowboys and Indians. The Indians always won."

In his address, Osceola recalled how terrified he was on his first day of school with Ms. Davis at Stirling Elementary.

"I was crying because I was scared to go to school," he said. "You have to remember I grew up in a generation where segregation was the law of the land. I can remember being in Fort Lauderdale and not being able to go to certain athletic facilities, not even being able to go in a bathroom because they were whites or colored. I asked my mother, 'mom, which one should I go to? I'm not white, I'm not colored. She said whichever one is open.'"

Osceola's first-day fears were extinguished when a little non-Seminole girl turned around and touched his arm.

"She said it's going to be alright," said Osceola, a gesture that made him know that everything was going to be okay. "It doesn't matter the color of your skin, it doesn't matter who you pray to, in the end we're all human beings."

As much as he appreciated the Hall of Fame's recognition, Osceola said the most satisfying part of his educational life in Broward—and beyond—is that he successfully adhered to those elders' wishes more than 50 years ago by getting an education and returning to help the Tribe survive and thrive.

"I fulfilled their vision," he said. "I was in that generation that fulfilled their vision to where we were educated, grew, came back and managed the Tribe."

Kevin Johnson

At left, Max Osceola Jr. and Nicole Krauss, master of ceremonies for the Hall of Fame breakfast and media and community relations manager for Publix in Southeast Florida, present Max's childhood friend Patrick McQuaid with a Hall of Fame award. At right, Max is joined by his wife Marge and daughter Melissa at the breakfast ceremony.



Courtesy photo

Max Osceola Jr. unveils his star on the Walk of Fame during a ceremony outside the Broward County School Board's Kathleen C. Wright Administrative Building in Fort Lauderdale.



Happy Halloween



Li Cohen

Hollywood's Fall Festival on Oct. 31 brought about many terrifying costumes, and even one character straight from the depths of the sewer to bring red balloons to the children.



Beverly Bidney

A queen and a princess lead the procession in the costume contest at the Big Cypress fall festival Oct. 27.



Li Cohen

One-year-old Kyren Osceola took home Most Original costume for his age group, showing the Hollywood community that Halloween doesn't have to be all scares with his unique mailman costume.



Beverly Bidney

A group competes in the cutest costume category in Immokalee on Oct. 26, but this giggly chicken probably distracted the judges and everyone else in the room as he stole the spotlight from the princesses and other adorable youngsters.



Li Cohen

Kylie Frank-Johns shows off her nurse costume during Hollywood Preschool's trick-or-treating celebration on Oct. 31.



Beverly Bidney

A vampire and an adorable zombie show their attitudes to the judges at the BC Halloween celebration.



Kevin Johnson

The Recreation Department's Jennie Busbin gets into the Halloween spirit while handing out goodies at Fort Pierce's Halloween celebration.



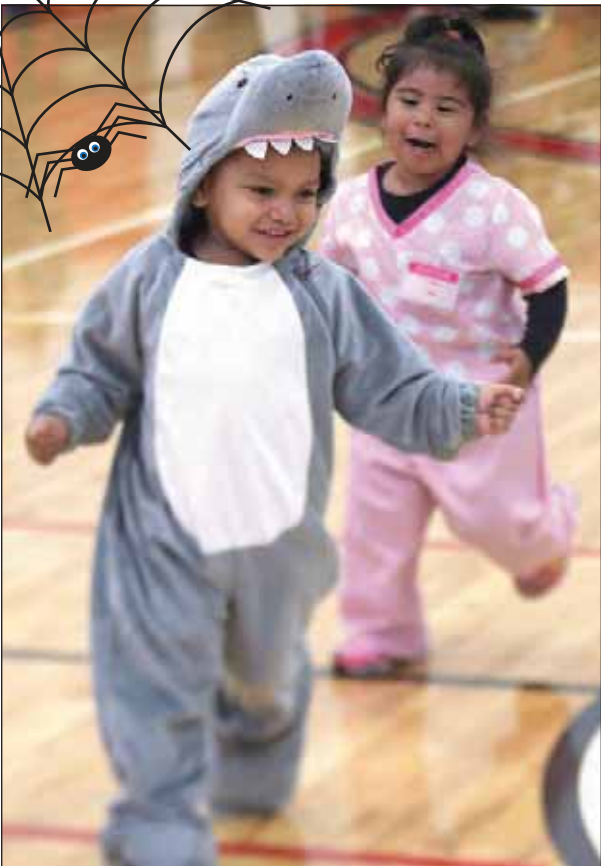
Li Cohen

Siblings Nellie and Leona Baxley, left, play with Azalea Stewart after they finish trick-or-treating Oct. 31 in Hollywood.



Kevin Johnson

Tristan Timothy, 9, left, and Trenton Timothy, 4, show off their powerful costumes during Fort Pierce's Halloween celebration Oct. 30 at Chupco's Landing.



Li Cohen

Kylie Frank-Johns got all her treats during the Hollywood Preschool's trick-or-treating, so decided to play some tricks on her friend Mayan Macias, left, and chase him around the Hollywood gym.



Li Cohen

Ella Mae Forbes-Osceola used her "Nightmare Before Christmas" costume to scare her way into getting more candy.



Beverly Bidney

Sporting a full grown grey beard, Duck Dynasty member Gage Escobar, 8 months, is safe in his mother Naomi Escobar's arms as his sister Shyanna Escobar gets a giggle from the little old man at the Immokalee Halloween celebration.



Li Cohen

Nettie Stewart wowed the crowd at Hollywood's Fall Festival Oct. 31 by transforming into a banana-loving gorilla for the senior costume competition.



Li Cohen

Hollywood Preschool teacher Gloria Comacho sits with students, from left, Peyton Doctor, Macy Tubby, Melvin Fish and Paisley Doctor after they finished gathering candy on Halloween.



Kevin Johnson

Knowledj Ervin, left, and Brian Villages, dressed as a dinosaur, get ready for Fort Pierce's Halloween celebration.



Li Cohen

William Osceola and Paul Buster showed off their Halloween costumes at Hollywood's Fall Festival before Osceola won for scariest costume.

Graham Greene, Burt Reynolds receive lifetime achievement awards

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — For those unaware of Graham Greene's successful acting career, the movie clips shown during a tribute video served as proof of how much the actor has accomplished in front of a camera.

After another, the video on a giant screen at Hard Rock Live showed Greene in scenes with Hollywood's biggest names: Kevin Costner, Robert DeNiro, Mel Gibson, Tom Hanks and Bruce Willis.

So it was no surprise that Greene, an neida from the Six Nations reserve in Canada, was recognized by the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival on its opening night Nov. 3, the same evening it honored Hollywood great Burt Reynolds.

"I'm just totally honored and incredibly stunned by this award. This is a beautiful thing," Greene said after he received FLIFF's lifetime achievement award from Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola.

Greene, 65, has acted in dozens of films, including "Die Hard with a Vengeance," "Maverick," "Thunderheart," "The Green Mile," and "Casino Jack." He earned an Academy Award nomination in 1990 for his role as Jack Bird in "Dances with Wolves," but he lost the battle for the Oscar to Al Pacino in "Goodfellas."

Greene received the FLIFF award following the showing of the documentary



At left, Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola presents actor Graham Greene with a lifetime achievement award from the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival on Nov. 3 at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood. At right, Councilman Osceola, actors Burt Reynolds and Graham Greene and "Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World" executive producer Stevie Salas and producer Christina Fon pose for photos on the red carpet at Hard Rock Live. It was opening night of the FLIFF. Reynolds also received a lifetime achievement award.



Kevin Johnson (2)

"Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World." Greene didn't appear in the film, but after the showing he participated in a question and answer session with

Councilman Osceola, executive producer Stevie Salas and producer Christina Fon. Legendary actor Burt Reynolds, 81, made an appearance at Hard Rock's red

carpet for the showing of the film "Dog Ears," which he plays the role of a former movie star. Reynolds, a former Florida State football player whose films include

"Smokey and the Bandit," "Deliverance," "The Longest Yard," and "Hooper," also received a lifetime achievement award from FLIFF.

Seminole artists on display during Native American Heritage Month

SUBMITTED BY TARA CHADWICK
Fort Lauderdale Historical Society

FORT LAUDERDALE — Seminole artists displayed their talent in November at two art shows honoring Native American Heritage Month in Broward County. "Seminole Women Artists," which ran from Nov. 5-30 at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, exhibited contemporary and traditional work including painting, patchwork, dolls and baskets. An artist reception and art talk was held Nov. 1 and featured spoken word, poetry, music and a mixed media performance by "Colorful Warrior Theatre."

"Native Art at the Cannonball" featured Seminole and other Native American artists. The show opened Nov. 1 in Fort Lauderdale's Sistrunk neighborhood with the aim to educate and inspire residents to be proud of their own cultural heritage and honor the history of the land we all share.



Courtesy photo

Danielle Nelson poses with some patchwork clothing at the opening of "Seminole Women Artists" at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society's New River Inn on Nov. 14.



Courtesy photos (2)

Above, Erika Tommie speaks to art lovers at the "Native Art at the Cannonball" opening Nov. 16. Below, Stephanie Hall provides insights on the inspiration and process that went into her work currently on display as part of "Native Art at the Cannonball" in the heart of Sistrunk Boulevard in Broward County.



Seinfeld to perform at Hard Rock Live in 2018

HOLLYWOOD — Comedian, writer, and television and film producer Jerry Seinfeld returns to Hard Rock Live at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel Casino on Friday, Feb. 3, 2018 and Saturday, Feb. 4, 2018, at 8 p.m.

Seinfeld's comedy career took off after his first appearance on "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson" in 1981. Eight years later, he teamed up with fellow comedian Larry David to create "Seinfeld," which went on to become one of the most successful comedy series in the history of television. The show ran on NBC for nine seasons, winning numerous Emmy, Golden Globe and People's Choice awards, and was named the greatest television show of all time by TV Guide in 2009.



Jerry Seinfeld

In 2011, Seinfeld released the Emmy-nominated and critically acclaimed web series "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee," which has garnered more than 100 million views. Most recently, Seinfeld has been performing at the Beacon Theatre in New York City as part of a year-long residency entitled, "Jerry Seinfeld: The Homestand." He recently made his Netflix debut this September with the original stand-up special "Jerry Before Seinfeld."

Tickets cost 180, 130, 110, 95 and 80. All seats are reserved and available at all Ticketmaster outlets online at www.myhrl.com, www.ticketmaster.com or charge by phone 1-800-753-3000.

Big Cypress Holiday Celebration

Friday, December 15, 2017
5pm-10pm
Junior Cypress Rodeo grounds

Rejoice the spirit of Christmas with friends, family and colleagues.

Seminole Tribal Members and immediate family only.

For more information contact BC Council Office (863)902-3200.

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Contact Tara Backhouse at 863-902-1113 x12246 or stop by the Museum on Big Cypress

Sports

Brighton plays big role in Moore Haven's undefeated regular season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — An undefeated regular season for the Moore Haven High School football team and the program's first regional playoff win in 10 years highlighted a memorable autumn for players from the Brighton reservation.

Starting offensive linemen Andrew Fish, Robert Harris and Conner Thomas and defensive end Richard Harris played key roles in the Terriers' success, which included a 9-0 record in the regular season and a thrilling 35-34 Class A-Region semifinal win against Glades Day on Nov. 10.

"It's a good season. It's been fun. It's my first year," said Fish, who decided to join the team during the summer after some lobbying by star quarterback John Cox III. "He told me we were going to have a good season."

It turned out to be a great season for the Terriers, who finished with a 10-1 record after being ousted by big and fast Hialeah-Champagnat Catholic in a regional final, 47-0, on Nov. 17.

In the playoff win against Glades Day, the trio of Brighton linemen often paved the way for big gains by Cox, especially in the second half when the Terriers rallied from a 28-14 deficit. A pep talk from first-year head coach Max Manin helped pump up the Terriers.

"He told us to keep pushing because we knew we were going to win this fight. Just have confidence," Fish said. "The difference is that we worked together and communicated more and we wanted to win more than them."

Moore Haven's defense, with Richard Harris at defensive end, made some pivotal 3-and-out stops in the third quarter that helped shift momentum.

Cox opened the third quarter with an early 50-yard touchdown run behind lead blocking from Fish. Midway through the quarter, Cox scored on a 1-yard scamper that knotted the game at 8-8.

Late in the quarter, Glades had a first down and goal, but Cox, as a defensive back, and linebacker Lorenzo Sampson came up with pivotal tackles for losses that halted the drive and led to a missed field goal attempt.

After the teams traded touchdowns in a four-minute span in the fourth quarter to make it 35-35, Glades gambled by kicking an onside kick with five minutes left. Glades recovered the ball, but officials apparently determined the ball was touched by a Glades player before it went 10 yards. With prime field position at the 50, Moore Haven ate up most of the remaining minutes with a



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven High School football players from the Brighton Reservation gather for a photo after the team's 42-35 playoff win against Glades Day on Nov. 10. From left, Jarrett Bert, Richard Harris, Andrew Fish, Robert Harris and Conner Thomas. Not in photo: Jaylen Baker. Moore Haven went 9-0 in the regular season.

successful ground attack before the speedy Cox scored the game winner in the waning seconds on an 8-yard run.

Robert Harris, Fish and Thomas were part of an offensive line that exceeded expectations this season.

"They've been unreal all year long. I've been coaching offensive line for 30 years and this ranks right up there with the one of the best," said Moore Haven offensive line coach Barry Goettmoeller. "Those guys take it personal when they're not playing well. They love the game and they are so coachable, which is so hard to find these

days in any sport. They've done phenomenal working together and they have a lot of pride in this team and this program."

"I'm proud of the whole line. They stepped up big tonight," added Thomas, who helped convince 300-pound Robert Harris to join the team this summer. "I tried to get Andrew to come out when we were in ninth grade. I didn't think he was into the whole idea of contact, but we finally convinced him to come out and he loves it. And we got Robert to come out, and he loves it."

Thomas admitted that he wasn't overly confident this summer about how effective

the two new starting linemen would be on his offensive line, but their improvement turned out to be better than expected.

"What I seen in the spring this year, I had my doubts," Thomas said. "And I had my doubts during the first part because Rob and Fish, they never played football on the high school level. But I knew they were big and I knew they were smart."

The Brighton players said they enjoy playing for Moore Haven High while also representing the Seminole Tribe.

"I see all the Brighton people in the stands. It's fun to represent them," Fish said. The good news for Moore Haven is

almost all of the Brighton players will be back next season, including backup lineman Jarrett Bert and freshman wide receiver Jaylen Baker, who missed the Glades Day game because he was competing at INFR in Las Vegas. Also, there could be promotions from V for additional players from the reservation.

Richard Harris was the lone senior from this year's group, but he's leaving the program in good shape thanks to the undefeated regular season and playoff win.

"It means a lot to me. This is my senior year and I'm trying to get these boys the experience they need," he said.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven defensive end Richard Harris, left, battles a Glades Day player during the Class 2A-Region 4 playoff game Nov. 10.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven offensive lineman Conner Thomas, center, battles Glades Day's Sinjin Soles (50) while Terrier Robert Harris (60) blocks Shawn Collins (52) in a Class 2A-Region 4 semifinal Nov. 10 at Moore Haven High School.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven High School shows its support with signs highlighting the football team's undefeated regular season.



Kevin Johnson

After receiving blocks from Andrew Fish (58), Moore Haven speedster John Cox III gallops for a touchdown in the second half of a Class 2A-Region 4 semifinal Nov. 10 against Glades Day. Moore Haven advanced with a 42-35 win.

Jacoby Johns, Jumper brothers win INFR short go



Starlyn Smith

Jacoby Johns raises his cowboy hat to the crowd during his victory lap after he won the INFR bareback riding short go Nov. 11 in Las Vegas.



Starlyn Smith

Naha Jumper, left, and Josh Jumper take a victory lap after winning the team roping short go at INFR.

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Three Seminole Tribe of Florida cowboys shined on the final night of the Indian National Finals rodeo.

Bareback rider Jacoby Johns and the brother team-roping duo of Josh Jumper (header) and Naha Jumper (heeler) departed Las Vegas as INFR short go round champions. Each took victory laps on their horses in front of thousands of spectators who packed South Point Arena on Nov. 11 for Indian Country's biggest rodeo event.

Johns, of the Brighton Reservation, won the bareback short go with a score of 84, two points ahead of short go runner-up and INFR world champion Cody Parker. Johns finished sixth in the overall standings for the week.

The Jumpers, of the Big Cypress Reservation, edged INFR world champions Travis Thom and Tad Williams for the team-roping short go title. The Jumpers had the fastest time at 5.89 seconds in the finale. Thom and Williams finished second at 6.07. In the overall race for world champion, the Jumpers finished sixth.

The short go victory capped an impressive week for the Jumpers, who twice had scores in the five-second range, including the second fastest time in Round 2 (5.31).

Naha Jumper also competed in tie-down roping short go, where he finished 10th with a time of 18.08. He ended ninth in the overall standings.

Luck wasn't on the side of two other Seminoles in the championship short go.

Bull rider Kelton Smedley, who started INFR in good shape with Round 1's fourth best score (77), had no score in the short go. His chances were hurt when the bull he was on stumbled after taking a few steps out of the gate. He wasn't alone with a 'no score.' Only two of the 10 riders stayed on for the eight seconds.

Steer wrestler Blevyns Jumper, who produced Round 2's third fastest time (4.35), never got a chance to wrestle in the short go as the steer stopped right after the gate opened. He finished 11th in the overall standings.

On the women's side, Ashley Parks, a Choctaw from Davie who races in the Eastern Indian rodeo Association with the Seminoles, finished second in the ladies barrel racing short go. Her time was 14.932, a fraction behind 9-year-old INFR world champion Rocksie Marchand. Parks finished seventh in the overall standings.

Trina Hipp, ladies breakaway roping; Boogie Johns, ladies barrel racing; Ahnie Jumper, ladies breakaway roping; and the team-roping team of Jason Baker and Catlin Tommie competed in the first three rounds of INFR, but did not advance to the final round.

In the senior division, Norman Johns made it to the championship short go and finished ninth overall in sr. breakaway.

Jaylen Baker also competed in the final round short go and finished ninth overall in jr. bull riding.

Other juniors from the Tribe who competed at INFR but didn't advance to their finals included: Budha Jumper (16th, jr. barrel racing), Madisyn Osceola (25th, jr. barrel racing, and 20th in jr. breakaway), and Norman Osceola (tie-20th, jr. bull riding).



Starlyn Smith

Jacoby Johns competes in short go bareback riding on the final night of INFR.



Starlyn Smith

Naha Jumper (heeler) and Josh Jumper (header) team up for the INFR win in team roping short go.



Starlyn Smith

Budha Jumper - Junior Barrel Racing



Starlyn Smith

Catlin Tommie, left, and Jason Baker - Team Roping



Starlyn Smith

Norman Osceola - Junior Bullriding



Starlyn Smith

Blevyns Jumper - Steer Wrestling



Starlyn Smith

Trina Hipp - Ladies Breakaway Roping



Starlyn Smith

Jaylen Baker - Junior Bullriding



Starlyn Smith

Madisyn Osceola - Junior Breakaway Roping

Fast start for Nova Southeastern's Skyla Osceola

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

It didn't take long for Skyla Osceola to make an impact on the collegiate level.

In an eight-day span to start the season, Osceola helped Nova Southeastern University to a pair of wins with late-game points.

Playing in her first collegiate game, the former American Heritage-Plantation standout made two crucial free throws in the final minute to help the Nova Southeastern University women's basketball team win its season opener, 57-53, against Delta State on Nov. 10 in Jackson, Tenn.

NSU was ahead 52-51 with 31 seconds left when Osceola went to the line. The freshman guard from the Hollywood reservation made both free throws, which were her first points as a Shark.

NSU made three more free throws in the waning seconds to notch the victory.

The Sharks trailed 27-20 at halftime, but used a 25-9 third quarter spurt to take the lead.

The game was part of the GSC/SSC Crossover Classic hosted by Union University.

In addition to her two points, Osceola had two assists, one steal and one rebound in 14 minutes coming off the bench.

The following night NSU dropped an 84-63 decision to Union. Osceola played 17 minutes and had three points, three assists and two rebounds.

In the Sharks final game on their three-game road swing, Osceola came off the bench and grabbed a game-high seven rebounds, including five on the defensive boards, and she made the go-ahead basket late in a 70-66 win against Lynn University in Boca Raton. She contributed three assists, two points and two steals.

Osceola's strong fourth quarter, which included a steal, assist, rebound and a layup in the final six-plus minutes, helped pave the way to victory. Her layup with 2:17 left put NSU ahead 63-62 and the Sharks never relinquished the lead.

On Nov. 18, Osceola made her first career start and helped NSU up its record to 3-1 (2-0 in Sunshine State Conference) with a 72-66 win against the University of Tampa in the Sharks home opener. She had three points, four assists, two rebounds and no turnovers.

NSU will have a five-game homestand Dec. 9-Jan. 3. They'll host Florida Tech (Dec. 9), Benedict (Dec. 15), Shaw (Dec. 19), Barry (Dec. 30) and Eckerd (Jan. 3).



Maury Neipris

Freshman guard Skyla Osceola is greeted by her Nova Southeastern University teammates during player introductions at the Sharks home opener Nov. 18 against the University of Tampa.



Maury Neipris (2)

Nova Southeastern freshman guard Skyla Osceola handles point guard duties, above, and plays defense, left, during NSU's home opener Nov. 18 against the University of Tampa.

2017-18 Ahfachkee School basketball schedule

IFESS — The Ahfachkee School girls and boys basketball schedule:
Nov. 10 at Glades Day (girls 5 p.m., boys 7 p.m.)
Dec. 1 at home vs Donahue Academy (girls 5 p.m., boys 7 p.m.)
Dec. 8 at Cypress Lake (girls 5 p.m., boys 7 p.m.)
Dec. 15 at Imagine School of Northport (girls 4:30 p.m., boys 5:30 p.m.)

5:30 p.m.)
Dec. 1 at Hollywood Christian Academy (girls 4:30 p.m., boys 5:30 p.m.)
Dec. 8 at home vs Glades Day (girls 5 p.m., boys 7 p.m.)
Dec. 15 at home vs Everglades City (girls 4 p.m., boys 5:30 p.m.)
Dec. 22 at Sagemont (girls 5 p.m., boys 7 p.m.)
Dec. 29 at Coral Springs Academy (girls 4:30 p.m., boys 5 p.m.)

Jan. 5 at Coral Springs Academy (girls 4:30 p.m.)
Jan. 12 at Canterbury (girls 5 p.m.)
Jan. 19 at home vs Imagine School of Northport (boys 4:30 p.m.)
Home games are played at Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.
Coaches: Cicero Osceola (boys), Eddie Redd (girls).

Hard Rock Stadium to host 2021 college football championship game

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

Hard Rock Stadium has landed another championship football game.

The stadium in Miami Gardens — already with the Super Bowl in 2020 on its plate — has been named the site for the 2021 College Football National Playoff Championship. The CFP Management Committee made the announcement Nov. 1 while also selecting Indianapolis (2022), Los Angeles (2023) and

Houston (2024) as future sites for the college championship games.

"Each of the four cities chosen met or exceeded our standards for selection," Bill Hancock, executive director of the CFP, said in a press release. "Each has a first-class stadium that our fans will enjoy, a great convention center, excellent hotels for teams and fans, and the communities have successful track records of hosting major events. Each city also has wonderful, supportive people who we rely on to host a successful game."

In August 2016, Hard Rock International, which is owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, entered into an 18-year agreement with the Miami Dolphins for the stadium's naming rights.

The 2021 national title game will be held Jan. 11, 2021. Two years before that game, Hard Rock Stadium will get a taste of the college playoffs as the Orange Bowl will be a semifinal in January 2019.

Super Bowl LIV, on the NFL's 100th anniversary season, is scheduled to be held Feb. 2, 2020.



Kevin Johnson

Hard Rock Stadium will host the Super Bowl in 2020 and the College Football National Playoff Championship in 2021.

2018

SEMINOLE

TRIBAL FAIR

AND POW WOW

47th Annual Celebration of Native Arts and Culture

February 9-11, 2018

Over \$150K+ in prize money

Southern Emcee: Jaquim Hamilton
Northern Emcee: Howard Thomas
Arena Director: Chaas LeBlanc

Arena Director: Wendall Powless
Drum Judge: Calvin "Beaver" Campbell

DANCE COMPETITION:

JRL MEN (18-35):
Fancy, Northern Traditional, Grass,
Southern Straight, Chicken
JRL WOMEN (18-35):
Southern Cloth, Southern Buckskin, Fancy,
Jingle, Northern Cloth, Northern Buckskin
SR MEN (36-54):
Fancy, Northern Traditional, Grass,
Southern Straight, Chicken
SR WOMEN (36-54):
Southern Cloth, Southern Buckskin, Fancy,
Jingle, Northern Cloth, Northern Buckskin
1ST \$1.2K • 2ND \$1K • 3RD \$800 • 4TH \$600
TEENAGE BOYS (12-17):
Northern Traditional/Southern Traditional
Combined and Fancy/Grass Combined
TEENAGE GIRLS (12-17):
Northern Traditional/Southern Traditional
Combined and Fancy/Jingle Combined
1ST \$400 • 2ND \$300 • 3RD \$200 • 4TH \$100
GOLDEN AGE MEN (55+):
Northern Traditional/ Southern Straight (Combined),
Fancy/Grass/Chicken (Combined)
GOLDEN AGE WOMEN (55+):
Fancy/Jingle (Combined), Northern Cloth/Buckskin
(Combined), Southern Cloth/Buckskin (Combined)
1ST \$1.2K • 2ND \$1K • 3RD \$800 • 4TH \$600

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GRAND ENTRY.
-\$10 at registration.*
-Thursday: 12 - 8 pm
-Friday: 9 am - 1:30 pm / Reopen: 2:30 pm - 6:30 pm
*Pre-registration also available online.

2018 POW WOW SCHEDULE:

POW-WOW STARTS:
Feb. 9, 2018:
Friday afternoon Grand Entry @ 2:00pm - 5:00pm
Friday night at 7:00pm - 10:00pm Good Night
Feb. 10, 2018:
Saturday afternoon @ 12:00 noon - 5:00pm
Saturday night @ 7:00pm
Payout
Feb. 11, 2018:
Entertainment

DRUM COMPETITION
NORTHERN/SOUTHERN COMBINED

\$20,000 - 1ST PLACE

\$15,000 - 2nd Place \$6,000 - 5th Place
\$10,000 - 3rd Place \$4,000 - 6th Place
\$8,000 - 4th Place \$2,000 - 7th Place
3 CONSOLATION PRIZES

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Deadline for space reservation is
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◆ MOTLOW

From page 1A

impact on younger Tribal members would also make Motlow happy.

“I have a platform that gives younger Tribal members a chance to look up to somebody and I want to make the most out of all this just to show all the young Tribal members that anything is possible,” he said. “I never thought I’d be sitting here right now and I want to show them that they can do whatever they want to.”

Being a role model doesn’t come easy. After a standout high school career at Tampa Catholic, the 5-foot-11, 190-pound Motlow arrived in Tallahassee in 2011 as a preferred walk-on for the Seminoles football team. A roster spot was guaranteed, but certainly not playing time. In the ensuing years, Motlow became a hard-working, loyal member of the scout team, whose players go up against starters in practice, but seldom see game action. Last season he earned a scout team MVP award and moved up to No. 3 on the regular offense’s depth chart at one of the wide receiver spots, but until Nov. 18, Motlow’s playing time in his FSU career consisted of brief action in just a few games. Never had a pass been thrown to him, but beforehand he figured the Delaware State game could be an opportunity for extended playing time.

“I knew if everyone came here today and did what they had to do I would definitely get a chance to play,” Motlow said. “Once I got in, I just wanted to make the most of it.”

With FSU comfortably ahead on an ideal sunny autumn early afternoon in front of 70,599 fans, Motlow entered the game late in the first half. The first ball to come his way was a short, low pass across the middle from quarterback D.J. Cosentino early in the third quarter. Motlow dove for it, but didn’t catch it.

“I was a little upset because it was my



Kevin Johnson

After scoring a touchdown, Justin Motlow is hoisted up by his Florida State teammate Corey Martinez in the fourth quarter of the Seminoles’ 77-6 win against Delaware State on Nov. 18.



Kevin Johnson

Delaware State players surround FSU’s Justin Motlow after his first career reception Nov. 18. The play was good for a 12-yard gain and first down.



Kevin Johnson

Florida State’s Justin Motlow, second from left, chats with teammates on the sideline during the homecoming game against Delaware State.

first-ever career pass intended to, but I knew it was early in the game and I was going to get one more chance and if I got that next chance I was not going to mess it up. Luckily, I didn’t,” he said.

Motlow received three more chances to make catches, and he snagged all of them.

Later in the quarter, his first catch as an FSU Seminole came on a short dump pass by Cosentino in Delaware State territory which Motlow turned into a 12-yard gain with a quick cutback to his left that froze a defender in his tracks. That play led to a field goal and a 3-0 lead.

In the fourth quarter, Motlow made a catch for one yard pickup. In the next play, Cosentino, from the Delaware State 12-yard-line, lofted a high, soft pass into the corner of the end zone. Fully stretched out, Motlow caught the ball and held on to it after bobbling it while he landed on the turf and into Seminole Tribe history.

“I came off the line and right when I came out of my break, time kind of stood still and I saw the ball in the air,” Motlow said. “I just knew this was my big opportunity and I knew I wasn’t going to drop it for anything. I

made the play and I was just the most excited I’ve ever been.”

He wasn’t alone in his excitement.

“It’s great for him and the Seminole Tribe of Florida,” said FSU alum and Tribal member Kyle Doney, who watched from the sideline. “He’s put in a lot of work and he deserves the touchdown that he got, and it wasn’t an easy one either. That was pretty cool.”

Motlow’s touchdown catch came in the same game that featured a halftime homecoming ceremony in which the Seminole Tribe’s royalty, Miss Florida Seminole andee sceola and crown Miss Florida Seminole aileni sceola crowned FSU’s homecoming chief and princess. While they were the center of attention at the break, the second half spotlight shined on Motlow.

After being hoisted into the air by lineman and former Tampa Catholic teammate Corey Martinez in the end zone, Motlow was met with enthusiastic congratulatory hugs, high-fives and head pats from teammates as he returned to a jubilant sideline.

“Our team was so excited for him. He is a great kid,” FSU coach Jimbo Fisher said.

“The entire team, I feel like, was psyched

up. Just four years of hard work and it seems like it all paid off in this big moment,” Motlow said.

The touchdown gave FSU a 70-0 lead, but it meant so much more than another score in a lopsided win. In addition to the Seminole Tribe significance, the TD catch also brought plenty of happiness to a team whose season hasn’t gone as planned. FSU was a preseason favorite to contend for the national championship, but losses to Alabama, Boston College, Clemson, Louisville, Miami and North Carolina State left the Seminoles struggling just to make a bowl game, any bowl game. Motlow’s catch provided a refreshing jolt of good news.

“To be able to walk out there and score a touchdown on senior day like that for him, you don’t know how happy that makes me for him,” said Fisher, who added that the catch was rewarding for him as well. “That was a great catch and something he’ll remember forever. That’s some of the greatest rewards



Kevin Johnson

Justin Motlow makes a one-yard catch in the fourth quarter against Delaware State.

you ever have coaching.”

Motlow finished with three catches for 5 yards and one memorable touchdown. He met his parents, Lisa and Clarence Motlow – on the field right after the game ended.

“I was extremely happy, but they were almost in tears,” he said. “They were so happy.”

In a pregame ceremony for FSU’s senior players, Lisa and Clarence Motlow

accompanied their son onto the field. Although he has one year of playing eligibility left, Motlow said this was would be his final season. He plans to graduate in the spring with a degree in sociology and return to the Tampa area. He’ll be coming back with more than just a degree.

“First Seminole Indian to ever score a touchdown,” Fisher said.



Kevin Johnson

Wide receiver Justin Motlow answers questions from the media after FSU’s 77-6 win against Delaware State in Tallahassee.



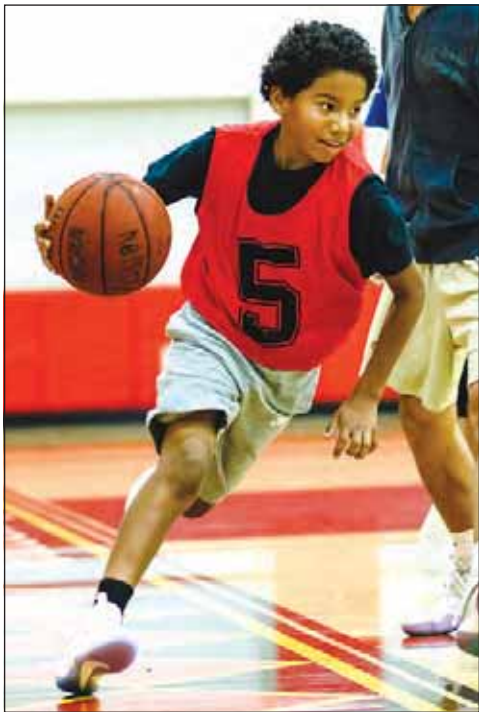
Chairman's Wild Turkey Bowl Tournament

Maury Neipris (3)

Tribal members hit the lanes for the Chairman's Wild Turkey Bowl Tournament on Nov. 18 at Sparez Bowling in Davie. Entry fee was \$20 or a canned food donation. Those vying for strikes included Ruggy Jumper, above; Melissa Billie, right; and Stacey Jones, below.



Ballin' for a Cause Basketball Tournament



Maury Neipris (4)

The Howard Tiger Recreation Center was the site of the third annual Ballin' for a Cause Youth Basketball Tournament Oct. 28, held during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Participants included, clockwise from upper left, Ezekiel Billie, Donovan Harris, Nick Andrews and Todd Pierce.



Courtesy photo

The Moore Haven boys and girls cross country teams, which includes Kaleb Thomas of the Brighton Reservation, center, competes in a meet during the fall season.

Season of improvement for Moore Haven cross country runner Kaleb Thomas

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — Kaleb Thomas won't have to wait until next fall to see the benefits from his first season running for the Moore Haven High School cross country program.

All those after-school workouts running up and down the bridge over the Calosahatchee river and all those sprints in the family pasture on the Brighton reservation have paid off for Thomas as the Terrier sophomore prepares to shift from cross country runner to baseball outfielder.

"I see a huge difference from last year to this year. I'm way faster," said Thomas, who hopes his increased speed will help his chances of earning a spot on the varsity baseball team.

Thanks to the urging of his friends, Thomas decided to join the cross country team before school started. Being able to run long distances including 5 miles in meets wasn't an issue for Thomas, who prepped by training for and competing in track events in July at the North American Indigenous Games in Toronto.

"It did come pretty easy, but after that I had to work hard," he said. "I wanted to get my time faster. My first time was 24:03."

Through dedication with the team and on his own, Thomas improved throughout the season and shaved about three minutes off his debut time.

His PR (personal record) was 21:03 in a home meet against Lake Placid. He concluded the season Oct. 8 with a time of 21:43 at the Class 1A-District 8 meet in Naples. Thomas had the fourth fastest time on the Moore Haven team and finished 49th out of 8 runners against schools mostly from Fort Myers and Naples.

Thomas said a lot of his improvement was due to help from Cristobal Morales and Delfino Mayorga, the team's top two



Courtesy photo

In his first cross country season, Moore Haven High School's Kaleb Thomas improved his times by a few minutes.

runners.

"They've helped me a lot this year," Thomas said. "Chris is like a legend here, fastest kid in the high school."

Thomas used the bridge to improve his breathing and sprints in the pasture to boost his kick.

"Running the bridge helps me focus on breathing, my stride and getting better. This year I struggled with my kick and I knew I had to get better with my sprint," he said.

As much as he enjoyed his first cross country season, Thomas's primary sport is baseball. He is squarely focused on the upcoming season this winter and spring.

"I love the game," he said.

Thomas plans to run cross country again next fall and knows he'll have to train even harder to knock his time down further if he wants to finish in the teens. For now, the low 20s was enough of an accomplishment.

"I'm real happy with that. I improved a lot," he said.

2017-18 PECS basketball schedule

THE HOWARD TIGER RECREATION CENTER — The Pemaic Charter School girls and boys basketball schedule:

Dec 5	home vs Clewiston Middle girls 5 p.m., boys 5 p.m.
Dec 6	at LaBelle Middle (girls 4:30 p.m., boys 5:45 p.m.)
Dec 7	at Osceola Middle (girls 4:30 p.m., boys 5:45 p.m.)

Dec 8	home vs West Glades Middle (girls 4:30 p.m., boys 5:45 p.m.)
Dec 9	at Yearling Middle (girls 4:30 p.m., boys 5:45 p.m.)
Dec 10	home vs Moore Haven Middle (girls 4:30 p.m., boys 5:45 p.m.)
Dec 11	home vs Yearling Middle girls 4:30 p.m., boys 5:45 p.m.)
Dec 12	at Clewiston Middle girls 5

p.m., boys 5 p.m.	home vs LaBelle Middle girls 5 p.m.
at West Glades Middle girls 4:30 p.m., boys 5:45 p.m.)	at Moore Haven Middle girls 4:30 p.m., boys 5:45 p.m.)
at Osceola Middle girls 4:30 p.m., boys 5:45 p.m.)	home vs Osceola Middle girls 4:30 p.m., boys 5:45 p.m.)

Perfect season for Chobee Gurls softball



Courtesy photo

Nobody was better than the Chobee Gurls 8 and under coach-pitch softball team this fall in the the Jupiter Fall Classic League that ran from September through November. The Chobee Gurls won the league with a perfect 10-0 record. Head coach Daniel Nunez Sr. and several of the players are from the Brighton Reservation. The team consisted of (in alphabetical order): Olivia Bartels, Serenity Billie, Allyson Bohannon, Melanie Bonilla, Audra Friend, Waniya Fortner, Kulipa Julian, Alyssa Madrigal, Daliyah Nunez, Joleyne Nunez, Tehya Nunez and Ila Trueblood. Coach Nunez was assisted by Roy Bohannon, Amanda Julian, Carla Rodriguez and Katarina Suarez.

Indian Day

Naples community celebrates Indian Day



Beverly Bidney

The Naples community gathers for Indian Day on Oct. 27.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

A LES — Indian Day came late to Seminoles in the Naples community thanks to Hurricane Irma’s destructive trek through the area, but the festivities were held Oct. 27 with renewed enthusiasm.

“The hurricane threw a wrench in our plans, but even Irma couldn’t keep us from having this event,” said Naples Council liaison Brian Cepeda. “We are a community and we come together to cook, eat and have a good time at competitions and contests.”

It was the fourth year the event was held in the open field next to the Naples administration building and more than three dozen community members and friends enjoyed the camaraderie of the day. Tribal youth learned how to make pumpkin bread, some for the first time, from Immokalee culture instructor Tammy Billie. Corn hole

games and a log peeling contest brought out participants’ competitive nature.

After a lunch prepared by the Immokalee culture department, Billy Walker put on his storytelling hat and captivated young and old alike with legends and tales of Seminole survival.

“Without your roots, you’re nobody,” Walker said. “You need to learn your stories and share them.”

A traditional Seminole hairstyle salon was set up in the Juanita Osceola Center and manned by Tribal members, which attracted a steady stream of young ladies who wanted to sport the distinctive style from the early 20th century.

The complicated hairdo takes real effort to perfect. Cardboard was cut to fit the top of each person’s head. Then the hair was carefully wrapped around it, fanned out to cover the board, pinned on top of the head and covered with a hairnet. It was the first

time some of the women and girls had styled or even seen the traditional hairdo in person. The theory of how the style evolved was to protect women’s faces from the sun in the Everglades; it served as a natural bonnet.

Bryce Osceola’s thick hair falls all the way down her back to her upper thigh area, so it took a team of women to wrangle the hair into a crown atop her head. After realizing the cardboard wasn’t strong enough to hold the weight of Osceola’s hair, a much thicker display board was cut to size and eventually the hairdo was secured.

The Naples community, many dressed in traditional patchwork, went outside to pose for photos and show off their clothing. The rest of the day was spent competing and learning from Walker how to dress a deer.

Indian Day in Naples truly was better late than never.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, the Naples community shows off their traditional clothing during Indian Day. At right, Ziyon Jones, 6, makes pumpkin fry bread for the first time.



Beverly Bidney (2)

Above, Tammy Billie, at right, teaches Naples youth how to make pumpkin fry bread at the Oct. 27 Naples Indian Day celebration. Below, Karie Osceola-Gamez and Jessica Osceola work on Bryce Osceola’s traditional hairdo.



Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino helps needy families

FROM PRESS RELEASE

DA IESeminoleHard RockHotel Casino chefs and team members volunteered for the annual Harvest Drive Food Drop on Nov. 17 at Western High School in Davie. The group dropped off, unloaded and sorted 15 pounds of non-perishable food items and household products to benefit Harvest Drive Florida.

Harvest Drive Florida works with Broward County students, schools and communities to help end hunger. The Harvest Drive is a yearlong project that culminates with events at several Broward County public schools every Thanksgiving. Thousands of families in need will receive a complete Thanksgiving meal and a week’s worth of grocery staples as well as personal and household necessities during the Thanksgiving season.



Courtesy photo (2)

Above, Teresa Shum helps move boxes of food at the Hard Rock. Below, Hard Rock and Harvest Drive team members gather to celebrate the thousands of food donations they received.



Call for design submissions for the National Native American Veterans Memorial

FROM PRESS RELEASE

ASHI TO D — Few people know that Native Americans serve the U.S. armed forces at higher rates per capita than any other ethnic group and have served since the American Revolution. That is about to change. On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian began accepting entries for designs for a National Native American Veterans Memorial on the National Mall. The international competition is open to all architects, artists, designers, students and anyone else who wants to submit a design. Entries will be accepted until 3 p.m. EST on 9, 2018.

Congress commissioned the National Museum of the American Indian in 2011 to honor Native American servicemen and women with a prominent memorial on the grounds of the museum located on the National Mall, a place that draws nearly 10 million visitors annually to the nation’s capital. Since then, the museum has been working with Native American veterans, tribal leaders, historians and cultural experts to consult on the needs that the memorial should express.

In 2015, the museum established an advisory committee composed of Native American leaders and veterans. Co-chaired

by former Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Northern Cheyenne) and Chickasaw Nation Lt. Gov. Jefferson Chel, the museum began consulting American Indian Nations across the country to gather input and support. Campbell, a Korean War veteran, is one of the few Native Americans to serve in the U.S. Congress.

“This is a tremendously important effort to recognize Native Americans’ service to this nation,” Campbell said. “Like so many others, I was compelled to serve to honor the warrior tradition that is inherent to most Native American societies: the pillars of strength, honor, pride, devotion and wisdom.”

In 2017, the museum selected a blue-ribbon jury of Native and non-Native artists, designers, scholars, veterans and others to conduct a two-stage design competition for the memorial. During the first phase, the jury will meet in session and select up to five finalists. The finalists will be announced Jan. 5, 2018, and advance to the second stage of the design competition.

The memorial is scheduled to open Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2020. The museum’s exhibition, “Patriot Nations: Native Americans in our Nation’s Armed Forces,” will continue to travel around the country through the 2020 dedication.

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230259	2012	DODGE SEDAN	CHARGER (RWD) POLICE	149,367	Poor	\$2,058.00
395366	2006	CHEVROLET SEDAN	IMPALA	101,952	Poor	\$1,464.00
A10569	2010	FORD SUV	EXPLORER XLT (RWD)	119,244	Fair	\$5,050.00

Note - Previously advertised items are not reflected on this advertisement, only new listings. For more information contact Fixed Assets Dept. 954-966-300 ext. 20034.

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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

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