



Seminole Pride beef
a big hit at FSU
COMMUNITY ♦ 3A

FIU students march
against Columbus Day
EDUCATION ♦ 1B

Hard Rock hosts
Native billiards
SPORTS ♦ 1C



The

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Flanked by the Marching Chiefs, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie, left, and Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney wave to the crowd Oct. 15 as they walk onto the field to crown Florida State's homecoming chief and princess during halftime at Doak Campbell Stadium.

Proud moments for Princesses at FSU homecoming

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — Traditional patchwork worn by Seminole royalty and Tribal citizens stood out in a sea of garnet and gold throughout Tallahassee during Florida State University's homecoming celebration Oct 14-15.

It was a whirlwind weekend for Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie and their families as they attended numerous events around town as guests of the FSU Alumni Association.

"We love the relationship we have with the Seminole Tribe and we always have," said FSU President John Thrasher.

Homecoming events included the annual parade through the streets of Tallahassee during which Doney and Billie sat in convertibles waving to the throngs of students, alumni and other FSU fans along the route. As Billie passed a fraternity, a young man threw her a football.

"I caught the ball and they all cheered," she said. "This was my favorite parade so far. It's an honor that they have us as their mascot. It's a great relationship."

Doney has looked forward to attending homecoming weekend as a Princess since she first started competing for Jr. Miss Florida Seminole when she was 14. Currently a student at Tallahassee Community College with plans to transfer to FSU, Doney has plenty of friends in the area. She said the parade was extra special for her since a lot of those friends cheered for her.

"This is a really big deal; it's very exciting," she said. "Seeing my friends and family at the parade gave me a burst of energy."

That energy was compounded as the crowd roared when they heard the Noles' war chant and caught sight of Osceola riding Renegade. Even water and cotton candy vendors got into the spirit and did the

♦ See HOMECOMING on page 4A

Seminoles cruise back in time aboard Jungle Queen

BY EILEEN SOLER
Special to the Tribune

FORT LAUDERDALE — When more than 60 seniors and their families cruised up the New River on a recent Tuesday evening, they landed on an oak hammock close in distance but far from the world they live in now.

The "island" was a trading post for their parents and grandparents from the mid-1930s through around the late 1980s — sort of. It was a tourist destination owned by white entrepreneur Al Starts, only accessible via a guided boat ride that would bring hundreds of wealthy vacationers to see Seminole Indians wrestle alligators and make and sell crafts.

"A lot of our people grew up here. They remember this as 'the Indian village.' Tonight we're going to look at it with a different lens," said Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, who organized the night of memories and fun Oct. 11 that began aboard the famous Fort Lauderdale-based Jungle Queen riverboat.

Many of the guests thumbed through a book of black and white photographs before the boat left the dock at the Bahia Mar Yachting Center. The photos were all of family members — men, women and children dressed in patchwork doing what tourists expected: wrestling gators and selling crafts. Hardly any of the people were identified by name.

When they arrived on the island, this time as paying guests at the lush tropical hideaway surrounded by wetlands, they were greeted by Polynesian dancers who adorned them in colorful leis.

Once inside, they feasted on a lavish barbecue dinner while listening to a jazz trio belt out classic hits. Afterward, a comedian, magician, ventriloquist and several fire dancers provoked the packed house into laughter and applause. For likely the first time in nearly 80 years, a community of Seminole Tribe citizens that ranged from babies to elders gathered at the scene and were not part of the attraction.

"I grew up here under tourism. We'd come up on the river, there was woods everywhere, and we'd follow the boats. Everywhere the boats went, we went to sell. The old wrestlers made their way here, too. That's what we did," Moses Jumper Jr. said when he, Rep. Osceola and President Mitchell Cypress took the stage to address the crowd before showtime.

Rep. Osceola remembered hearing

♦ See CRUISE on page 7A



Juanita Osceola is greeted by Polynesian dancers who provided guests with colorful leis during a cruise on the Jungle Queen riverboat Oct. 11 in Fort Lauderdale. Seminole gathered for an evening of entertainment, stories and memories.

Florida State softball team cherishes first game on Seminole reservation

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD —Before they joined their teammates for postgame pizza in the aimasium, Florida State University softball players Anna Shelnett and Jessica Burroughs soaked up the final moments of the team's trip to the Hollywood Reservation. They realized that their fall exhibition game carried far greater significance than the final score.

FSU had just walloped Florida International University in front of about 125 spectators who filled the grandstand at Osceola Park on Oct. 23. The final score — 14-0 — didn't mean much compared to the historic moment that marked the first time a Florida State Seminoles sports team played a game on a Seminole reservation.

"It was a great experience to be out here on actual Seminole land," said Shelnett, a freshman catcher from Georgia. "It ... made us think who we're playing for and what we're representing."

The team, which won the Atlantic Coast Conference and played in the Women's College World Series last season, made the most of its two nights in Hollywood. The Seminoles stayed at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, took batting practice at Osceola Park on the morning of Oct. 22 before defeating rival Florida in Plantation, and learned about the Tribe and its history through chats with Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie and Ollie Wareham.

"It was cool to get a little bit of

background about who we play for, what's across our jersey every day, and it adds some pride to our game because now we're not just out there playing, but we're playing for people who have been fighting and have made such a huge impact down here," said Burroughs, last season's ACC Pitcher of the Year who tossed a shutout against Michigan in the World Series. "It's really cool to get out there and play for them and to get them to be part of our family just like they've opened up and let us be part of theirs."

"I think we got a good education as to when this reservation was founded and when people started coming here and living here," said FSU coach Lonni Alameda. "We got a little education on kind of the unconquered spirit, but also the unconquered Tribe and what that means."

Alameda said the idea for playing a game on the reservation came about through her conversations with Tribal members Doug Zepeda and Wareham.

"I thought it would be really cool to educate the girls a little bit about the Seminole Tribe. [Ollie] said 'we have a field down here,'" Alameda said.

Alameda joined Councilman Osceola in the pitcher's circle for the ceremonial first pitch. With FSU players lined up on the first base line and FIU on the third base line, Councilman Osceola delivered a strike to catcher Sydney Broderick.

The teams started the game without umpires. The first inning was played on the honor system. At one point, FSU batter



Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, left, and Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, center, chat with Florida State softball players Lauren Harris, right, and Sydney Bates prior to the Seminoles exhibition game against Florida International University on Oct. 23 at Osceola Park on the Hollywood Reservation.

♦ See FSU on page 6C

Editorial

Have your ever walked Pine Island?

• Patsy West

Have you ever walked Pine Island? The Hollywood Reservation was established on a former Everglades island called “Big City,” but have you ever experienced nearby Pine Island?

This former Everglades island of over 360 acres is a most spectacular site and exists as the most unique land feature in Southeast Florida. The two and a half mile-long island site soars to the unheard of elevation of 29 feet above sea level, while the landscape of rolling hills is actually made up of connected islands. Oak trees preponderate today because the 1926 hurricane destroyed the pine trees there and throughout its swath through southeast Florida. This site is one of three islands in the Pine Island complex, which includes Big City Island/ nee Hollywood Reservation and Long Key to the west. Pine Island is at the heart of area Mikasuki-Seminole settlement history and later Seminole War history, associated with the culture hero Sam Jones, Coacoochee, and Snake Warrior.

I heard of the existence of Pine Island from my grandmother, Ethel Freeman West, who had been born at Little River (North Miami) in 1888. Almost 100 years later, in 1986, I became involved in my first major historic preservation project, to keep Pine Island from being devastated by development. Most fortuitously I had just completed the first comprehensive research of the site. Twice I represented the Seminole Tribe in Conservation and Recreational Lands (C.A.R.L.) Selection Hearings in Tallahassee with the support of Chairman James E. Billie and tribal citizens, significantly the O. B. Osceola family. I also solicited public and Tribal signatures of support at the Osceola family’s Indian Days held in Naples to have the site recognized and co-managed by the state of Florida. The state paid \$6.5 million to the developer for the threatened acreage. Florida Gov. Bob Martinez flew down from Tallahassee to speak at Pine Island’s dedication in February 1990.

The Island was on my mind the other day as I discussed my recent research on Sam Jones (soon evolving as a documentary film by Seminole Media Productions), with my son Jon. I said that I had reason to believe that from the heights of Pine Island, Jones’ men could actually see from the tree lookouts all the way to Camp Lauderdale on the beach...across from today’s Bahia Mar Yacht Basin some six miles away. Indeed a recent article in the military genealogical service “Fold3” had verified wartime Signal Corps “sightings” during the Civil War at six miles, so it seemed feasible that this estimate supported my theory from Pine Island to the beach.

But in our discussion I realized with a shock that Jon was only a baby when I was working to preserve the site. He didn’t even recollect that he had ever been to Pine Island and I realized that I had not been back for years.

It was definitely time to rectify this situation. Since we were eating at the Islamorada Fish Company, I suggested that we just “go over” to the west and experience the reality of Pine Island. Of course because of this snap decision, neither of us was dressed or shoed for the five- mile hike that

resulted.

On site at Tree Tops Park we drove past eight “kid parties and barbeques” at various pavilions and a large equestrian area. We parked in front of the welcome center.

Standing on the paved walk covered by huge, beautiful spreading oak trees, the path into the hammock beckoned. It didn’t take me long to take my shoes off and walk barefoot, enjoying the experience of nothing but sand, leaves, thick grass and a bit of mud under my feet. Up the west ridge in the sun, down the east ridge in the shade, often in very dense hammocks of truly huge oaks up the middle and crossing over horse trails, we had walked almost three miles before we even thought about retracing our steps.

It was a fantastic experience. I had only fully traversed the island twice, before the state’s purchase...back when there was a small community of African American fieldworkers; back when there were acres of native scrub vegetation, plenty of vivid green and black Malachite butterflies, and native huckleberries to munch on. Yet, to experience this site now, with the knowledge that the Island fortress has been preserved in its entirety, made the walk joyful.

Following the end of the Seminole War(s) 1817-1858, Pine Island again became

and foremen at multiple pioneer Seminole tourist attractions in Miami.

After the Charlie and Sally Willie family left Pine Island around the turn of the century, Charlie Willie (Big Towns) operated a trading post from the 40 mile Bend area of the Tamiami Trail and also became an early foreman of the Musa Isle tourist attraction in Miami. His son Willie Willie (Bird Clan) was a recognized Native entrepreneur and began the first “Indian Village” that became the famous “Musa Isle.”

With ties to the Burdine Department store family of Miami, for whom he served as a mannequin, Willie Willie wore the latest New York suits. His mother, Sally Willie, of Pine Island’s Bird clan camp, was the grandmother of Buffalo Tiger, artist, articulate spokesman for the Traditional Council, head of the Miccosukee recognition movement in the early 1960s, and the first Chairman of the newly organized and federally recognized Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida in 1962.

Buffalo’s siblings were noted entrepreneurs of the Tamiami Trail camps airport attractions, who conceived the prototype of the future Tribal-owned Miccosukee Village. Their nephew was an acculturated Miami

High educated cousin, activist Mike Osceola Sr. Buffalo Tiger’s sons, Stephen and Lee Tiger, became entertainers who started the Rock Band “Tiger Tiger.” Steven, an artist, and Lee a promoter, made the newly recognized Miccosukee Tribe a household word in the 1970s.

Near Pine Island, on Big City Island, Annie Tommie’s Panther clan children included well known Tony Tommie, the earliest enrolled Seminole student in Fort Lauderdale’s public school and an early foreman of Musa Isle tourist attraction. His brother Sam Tommie became spokesman for the Creek-speaking Seminole minority (his in-laws). Sam Tommie breached Traditional Mikasuki Council law forbidding discourse with the U.S. government, asking government representatives for concessions. His actions led to the acquisition of the Brighton Reservation for the benefit of the Creek-speaking Seminoles, along with a plea for this group of Seminoles to receive the first formal tribal education and economic advantages, to which the government responded with the introduction of cattle, eventually becoming a major tribal enterprise.

The preservation of Pine Island in the latter 1980s, spearheaded by Broward County Planning, was a major contribution to local, tribal, state, and national history. The county supported this significant preservation project through to its fullest, and in doing so, saved for generations of Seminole and Miccosukee Tribal citizens this most outstanding historic site, one of the most unique in existence today.

You owe it to yourself and to those ancestors, who worked so hard to preserve the people On the Land, to visit this most valuable tribal legacy.

Ethnohistorian Patsy West is Director of the Seminole/Miccosukee Archive in Fort Lauderdale and author of “Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes of Southern Florida” (Arcadia Publishing, 2003).

Outrageous charges against reporter signal abuse of power

• Bryan Pollard

Bryan Pollard, president of the Native American Journalists Association, issued the following statement Oct. 18 in response to charges filed against journalist Amy Goodman in North Dakota.

The Native American Journalists Association expresses relief and gratitude that the criminal charges against Democracy Now! journalist Amy Goodman have been dismissed by Judge John Grinstead in North Dakota District Court.

Goodman traveled to Morton County, North Dakota, to report on a gathering of peaceful protestors who stand in opposition to an oil pipeline installation near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. Protestors – engaged in nonviolent, civil disobedience – have been met with an inordinate police presence, arrests and harassment by pipeline workers, private security contractors and local law enforcement. Goodman’s reports and international broadcast of this event are significant because this is the largest intertribal protest gathering in recent history and she is one of the few nationally broadcast journalists to provide meaningful coverage of these rapidly transpiring events.

Goodman, who was clearly credentialed as a reporter and with a film crew, reported on a confrontation between private contractors

with trained dogs and pepper spray and unarmed civilians. She was later cited with criminal trespass and a warrant for her arrest was issued. Before trial, Morton County prosecuting attorney Ladd Erickson filed a motion to dismiss the charge of criminal trespass and instead filed a proposed charge of riot. Judge Grinstead dismissed this charge due to insufficient evidence.

It is the stance of NAJA that these charges were an outrageous abuse of power and naked attempt to intimidate and discourage journalists from covering events that government officials want to remain out of public view. We applaud the action of the court to dismiss this frivolous motion by the county prosecutor as wholly without merit.

In an interview with the Grand Forks Herald, Erickson said “She’s a protestor, basically. Everything she reported on was from the position of justifying the protest actions.”

Our democracy is only as strong as our collective will to uphold our freedoms of expression, an independent press and the public’s right to know. This collective will is a responsibility that must be shared equally by citizens, industry and government. When industry and government collude to undermine and curtail these freedoms, it corrodes the foundational principles of our society. We admonish Erickson and his cynical actions to silence the press and the people’s right to know about these important events that will have ramifications for generations to come.

Tomorrow

• Patricia Riles Wickman, Ph.D

According to the old axiom, “The only dependable things in life are death and taxes.” I think that there is one more item that should be added to that list, and that is: change. All things change, slowly or quickly, which is to say, perceptibly or imperceptibly. It’s like another old story: If you put a frog in a pot of very hot water, he realizes it, and jumps out. If, however, the water is cool when he goes in, and is heated only very gradually, he will not realize it, and will make no attempt to get out. Goodbye frog!

It is not only frogs who are like that. People are too. The difference is that we humans have the intelligence (theoretically), to realize what’s going on, and change the temperature of the water or, even better, get out of it.

The Seminole people are not immune to this process, any more than anybody else. I certainly have seen this process in action, even though I’ve only been close enough to understand what I was seeing for almost three decades so far. I’m an Historian. I study the past, and I live in the present, and I can see the path that is being walked toward the future. In the past, especially since the 1500s, the ancestors have been pushed to adopt the habits and beliefs of the white men. In fact, you’ve been pushed and bribed and killed to do what one of my colleagues described as “committing cultural suicide.” And the huge fact that you are all still here is the greatest proof possible that you have been wise enough not to do that – not to simply accept whatever you are offered. The Elders have held you together. Green corn – the búsketa – has held you together. Your clans have held you together.

But there are winds of change blowing across the whole United States now, and Seminole Country is not immune to them – that are especially seductive. That is, in many ways they are harder to ignore than anything that you have ever had to withstand before. When an army marched toward you, wearing uniforms and holding guns, pointed at you – the water was certainly hot enough to recognize that you had better get out!

But, since the end of the wars, the pressures to change have been much harder to recognize, and you know how the white man works: if you give him an inch, he’ll take a mile. In the past, he’s lured you with cast iron pots and religions. He’s used guns, and horses, and cows, and titles. Then, most

recently, it has been sneakers and pickup trucks and TVs and iPhones. Some of these things have had positive values; they have been useful. Some certainly have not.

When the Tribe got enough money to buy Susie Billie a TV, she watched it once and had it turned off, because she said, the motion of peoples’ movements made her sick at her stomach. The speed of the non-Indian world was too fast.

Years later, I recall, when the Tribe became a little better off, they gave telephones to the elders, but some had them taken out because some young ones would go and use the telephones and run up huge bills that their grandmothers couldn’t pay. So, most of these lures are what we call in English, “mixed blessings.” The trick is to recognize one from the other – to know which is useful and which is not.

The lures that are the hardest of all to recognize are the sneakiest. The lure of individuality is one of them. And that lure is fed by the lure of white man’s money – “Green Frog Skins” as some of the northwest Tribes call it. The thing is, the non-Indian world is addicted to money, and they want you to feel the same way. The good news is that money gives you choices, and some are good and some are bad. Again, you have to think about each choice and make a decision, more and more often, by yourself. And the more money you have, the more choices you’ll have to make, every day.

In days past, you lived in clan communities with a hilliswa haya, and your grandmothers and aunts around you to advise and consider the long-range value of each choice. It was the same process you used when decisions were made about punishments. As one elder explained to me years ago, you have to think about what is best not only for this generation, but for your children and your children’s children. That is, if you act too quickly and push the world out of balance, the world will eventually swing itself back into balance, and you may come to regret your rash actions. Too many young people have not been taught this today. I’ve seen examples of this process, and it’s not a very happy picture; no one winds up satisfied.

See, that’s where the lure of individuality comes in. In the non-Indian world of today, people are not only allowed, they are encouraged – to think for themselves and about themselves. They don’t stop to think about their children or their grandchildren. Having their own money makes them think this is their “right.” They think it is a “freedom.”

♦ See TOMORROW on page 5A

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Community



Seminole Pride Beef makes FSU debut

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State's homecoming weekend wasn't only about football, parades and princesses; it also marked the debut of Seminole Pride Beef on the menu for students at the Suwannee Room dining hall Oct. 14.

It wasn't the first time Seminole Pride Beef has been featured on campus; the brand has been supplying beef to athletes in their dining room for about a month.

There are three dining halls plus 29 restaurants on campus. The Suwannee Room, which serves about 21,000 meals per week, offers a large variety of food choices but steak isn't normally on the menu.

Michael Saucedo, Seminole Pride Beef director of business development, provided about 220 pounds of beef striploin for the debut.

"This is the beginning of a relationship with student meals," Saucedo said.

Students began lining up at 4:30 p.m. for their steak dinner with all the trimmings including a baked potato bar, vegetables and freshly baked rolls and desserts.

"It won't be every day, but we hope this evolves into a regular thing," said Jeff Spencer, FSU food service director for Aramark Seminole Dining. "We fed about 900 people here tonight."

Students clearly enjoyed the unexpected treat. A generous portion of hand-carved beef filled the plate, leaving little room for the side dishes.



Beverly Bidney

The carving chef offers up a plate of Seminole Pride striploin to a hungry FSU student in the Suwannee Room dining hall Oct. 14.

"It was amazing," said freshman Madeline Trost, 18, of Plantation. "It was so good I wanted to pick it up and eat it all. I haven't had steak since I moved here."



Beverly Bidney

Seminole Pride Beef director of business development Michael Saucedo, thumbs up next to the chef, poses with members of the FSU food service department by the Seminole Pride Beef display in FSU's Suwannee Room dining hall during the special event that fed 900 people a grand meal of carved striploin steak Oct 14.



Beverly Bidney

Seminole Tribe police officer Jack Morgan and police canine Cali search a room at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton on Oct. 18.

SPD drug-sniffing canine has a nose that knows

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Cali's wagging tail showed she was a happy dog as she perused the classrooms at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School. The 10-year-old chocolate Labrador retriever and her trainer, Seminole Police Department Officer Jack Morgan, came to school to sniff out any contraband drugs Oct. 18. None were found, but Cali was still rewarded with an empty water bottle to play with after searching middle school rooms.

Trained detection canines were introduced into public schools in Texas in the 1980s and the concept soon caught on around the country. Courts have upheld schools' right to invite drug-sniffing dogs onto their campuses as a way to deter drug use and maintain a drug-free environment.

Although the fourth amendment of the U.S. Constitution prohibits unreasonable search and seizure, federal courts have upheld the constitutionality of random searches at public schools based on the fact that students do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy in school.

The drug policy is clearly explained to students at the start of each school year. Consequences are stiff; students receive a nine-day suspension and must spend 45 days in an alternative school located in their home counties. There used to be an alternative school on the Brighton Reservation, but it was cut for budgetary reasons.

The PECS drug prevention program has been in place for five years. Students never know when Cali and Morgan will appear, but the visits are done with regularity during the school year.

"They come at least monthly for surprise visits and never at the same time of day," said PECS Principal Brian Greseth. "We're trying to keep drugs off our campus. Students never know when the dog will be here, so hopefully they know not to bring drugs on campus."

Dogs have up to 300 million olfactory receptors in their noses and can detect odors in parts per trillion; humans have about six million. According to dog cognition researcher Alexandra Horowitz, people might notice if a cup of coffee has a teaspoon of sugar in it but dogs can detect a teaspoon of sugar in a million gallons of water.

By inviting Cali onto campus, PECS put her snout to good use.

Greseth entered classrooms and asked each teacher to take the students outside for a few minutes. Morgan and Cali then entered and Cali went to work sniffing every backpack in the room. In one room, SPD planted a backpack with a magnet that had been wrapped in a towel with some marijuana.

To the human nose, the magnet smelled like any other. But to the superior canine olfactory system, the magnet was clearly contraband. Cali sniffed the bag and then sat at attention until Morgan congratulated her

♦ See CANINE on page 6C



Beverly Bidney

FSU students line up for the special Seminole Pride Beef dinner of carved striploin steak, baked potato bar, creamed spinach and seasoned buttered corn in the Suwannee Room dining hall Oct. 14.

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◆ **HOMECOMING**
From page 1A

tomahawk chop in time with the music.

Other events during the weekend included the Pow Wow pep rally at the Civic Center starring comedienne Whitney Cummings, the Alumni Association’s homecoming awards breakfast and the tailgate party at the President’s house followed by the big game against Wake Forest.

At every event, attendees made it a point to greet and pose for photos with the Princesses.

“We felt so welcomed,” Doney said. “They were so kind and generous and talked to me as if I were family.”

Many of the alumni know her big brother Kyle Doney, who serves on the board of the Alumni Association, but he attended the weekend as a proud sibling.

“It’s a great testament to never giving up on her dreams,” he said. “To see Kirsten finally win is a dream come true. It made me happy to see her here.”

During the tailgate party, hosts of a local television show “Live in Tallahassee” interviewed Doney and Billie on camera. The host Marsha Doll called them the biggest celebrities at the event since “everyone is waiting in line to meet you and take a picture with you.”

After the Marching Chiefs performed, President Thrasher introduced the Princesses and remarked on the Seminole Tribe’s relationship with the school, which dates back to 1947. He then shared some recent FSU accomplishments with the crowd.

“FSU is doing extraordinarily well and has moved up from 43 to 38 in the U.S. News best colleges rankings,” Thrasher said. “We gained the most slots of the top 50 public universities in America. I told Jimbo [Fisher] he has to be careful or we will be ranked higher than the football team.”

Homecoming theme was “A Living Legacy” and it endured at the 50-yard line before the start of the game. As 77,102 fans in Doak Campbell Stadium cheered, Osceola galloped across the field on Renegade and planted a flaming spear in the turf, just as it has been done since 1977.

Tribal citizen and FSU wide receiver Justin Motlow didn’t see action on the field,

but he gave support to his teammates on the sidelines.

“He has a big impact on the team,” Thrasher said. “They all recognize the great tradition of the relationship between FSU and the Seminole Tribe. Justin certainly embodies that.”

FSU led Wake Forest 10-3 at halftime. Surrounded by the marching band and homecoming court, the Princesses took the field to crown the homecoming chief and princess. Billie was so excited she appeared to jump for joy as she prepared to crown the FSU princess.

“It’s so exciting to be here with her,” said Alice Billie, Thomlynn’s sister and Miss Florida Seminole 1997. “I can’t believe it’s been so long ago since I did it.”

Doney had a few pre-crowning nerves, but placed the turban on the homecoming Chief’s head skillfully.

“I know I’ve made my family proud,” she said. “I’m so proud to be part of the Seminole Tribe.”

The weekend culminated with a win. Led by quarterback Deondre Francois, FSU defeated Wake Forest 17-6.

“I used to be a Gator fan,” Billie said, “but now it’s FSU for life.”



Beverly Bidney
Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie wave to the crowd during FSU's homecoming parade Oct. 14.



Beverly Bidney
Osceola rides Renegade through the streets of Tallahassee during the Florida State University Homecoming Parade Oct. 14.



Beverly Bidney
Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie places the crown on FSU Homecoming Princess Megan Federico as Homecoming Chief Rashard Johnson adjusts his turban, which was placed on his head by Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney on the 50-yard line of the Bobby Bowden Field at Doak Campbell Stadium during halftime of the FSU-Wake Forest game Oct. 15.



Beverly Bidney
The Doney family poses with Osceola and Renegade on the sidelines of FSU's Doak Campbell Stadium after halftime Oct. 15. From left are Ken, Marilyn, Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten and Kyle Doney.



Beverly Bidney
FSU cheerleaders entertain the crowd during the school's homecoming weekend festivities.



Beverly Bidney
Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie and her sister Alice Billie pose with Osceola and Renegade during FSU's homecoming game.



Beverly Bidney
Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie pose with FSU's Homecoming Chief, Princess and Court during the President's Tailgate Reception.



Beverly Bidney
Seminole Tribal citizen and FSU Seminole wide receiver Justin Motlow (86) consults with his teammates on the sidelines before the homecoming game against Wake Forest Oct. 15.



Beverly Bidney
Spectators line the parade route during FSU's homecoming weekend in Tallahassee.

Plenty to see at American Indian Arts Celebration

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS – The 19th annual American Indian Arts Celebration promises to have something for everyone Nov. 4 and 5 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress. Among the highlights will be a reenactment of the Seminole Wars, a new event at the AIAC.

“Since the shootout was cancelled this year, we wanted to keep it going and bring it back to our campus,” said Carrie Dilley, visitor services and development manager. “It will also be the last chance to see the Buckskin Declaration, since it leaves the museum at the end of November.”

The Friday and Saturday event, held at the grassy festival grounds next to the museum parking lot, will feature about 45

fine arts, crafts and jewelry vendors from around Indian Country and six-time world Hoop Dance champion Nakotah LaRance, of New Mexico, who will demonstrate his expertise with hoops.

Seminole musicians Rita Youngman, Ted Nelson and Cypress Billie will perform Friday; Paul Buster, Texan folksinger and storyteller Rickey Pittman and California-based Native American indie rock band Miracle Dolls will take the stage Saturday.

Saturday will also include a martial arts demonstration and a tribal patchwork fashion show, a big hit at last year’s event which drew a crowd of about 2,000. School busses will fill the parking lot as about 500 students from all over Florida gather for the celebration.

AIAC will begin each day at 9:30 a.m. with a traditional friendship dance led by

medicine man Bobby Henry. Seminole food vendors will offer favorites such as fry bread and Indian tacos. Food trucks and alligator wrestling will round out the festivities.

Attendees are welcome to peruse the museum throughout the day, a perk included with the \$10 AIAC admission fee. Current exhibits include Struggle for Survival, 1817-1858 and the Buckskin Declaration; Samuel Tommie: Promised Land; and Drawings and Prints by Jimmie Scott Osceola.

AIAC Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

“We hope people walk away with an appreciation of modern and historic native culture,” Dilley said.

For more information go to ahtahthiki.com or call 869-902-1113.

TCD graduate
Ervina Capricien named
Classic Casino’s HR director

FROM PRESS RELEASE

HOLLYWOOD – Seminole Gaming has announced Tribal Career Development program graduate Ervina Capricien as the director of Human Resources for Seminole Classic Casino.

As the HR director, Capricien is responsible for providing strategic direction, guidance, support and oversight to the property. Her role also includes responsibility for directing day-to-day human resources functions, including recruitment, compensation, benefits, training and team member relations.

Most recently, Capricien served as Seminole Gaming’s director of the Tribal Career Development and Team Member Relations director from 2013-16. She will continue to run Seminole Gaming’s TCD program.

Capricien joined Seminole Gaming through the TCD program in 2004 at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek. The TCD program blends a mix of on-the-job learning and technical training to prepare members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida for a career within Seminole Gaming and the hospitality industry.

In 2005, she transferred to the Hollywood Hard Rock to complete the program. Through the TCD program, she found herself drawn to two departments: banquets and human resources. After graduating from the TCD program, Capricien chose HR and accepted the human resources coordinator position at the Hollywood Hard Rock in 2010.



Ervina Capricien

In her 12 years with Seminole Gaming, Capricien has worked at all Seminole Gaming properties in Broward County and in every department.

In her free time, Capricien enjoys napping, reading and making memories with her husband and two daughters, Jeanie and Callie.

Guy LaBree Seminole exhibit opens in Tallahassee

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

An exhibit titled “Guy LaBree: Painted Stories of the Seminoles” is on display at the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee through Jan. 29, 2017.

An opening reception, featuring medicine man Bobby Henry and live music from the Rita Youngman Band, was held Sept. 29.

The exhibit features original and reproduction paintings by LaBree, who passed away at age 73 on New Year’s

Day 2015. His artwork portrays Seminole lifestyles, legends and history as well as nature scenes.

A self-taught artist, LaBree created hundreds of paintings depicting Seminole life, some of which hang in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. and in Seminole government buildings.

Also on display are objects from LaBree’s studio, including the easel and palette he used throughout his career. Other artifacts in the exhibit demonstrate the connection he had with the Tribe since his childhood near the Hollywood reservation.

The exhibit celebrates LaBree’s life, art and unique relationship with the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

In a program related to the exhibit, Elgin Jumper will appear Nov. 17 at the museum to relate his life story, writings and artwork in a performance piece titled “Elgin Jumper: A Seminole’s Story.” The performance chronicles how art and poetry saved him from a troubled life and potentially ruinous existence.

The Nov. 17 program is from 6:30-8 pm at the Museum of Florida History, 500 S. Bronough St, in Tallahassee.



Peter B. Gallagher

From left, Lisa Dunbar, Museum of Florida History senior curator; Jeana Brunson, museum director; Bobby Henry; Pat LaBree, widow of Guy LaBree; and Secretary of State Ken Detzner attend an opening reception Sept. 29 for the Guy LaBree: Painted Stories of the Seminoles. The exhibit is on display until Jan. 29, 2017 in Tallahassee.



Peter B. Gallagher

Rita Youngman performs Sept. 29 at the opening reception of an exhibit featuring Guy LaBree’s Seminole paintings.

◆ TOMORROW
From page 2A

But one Seminole friend explained it all to me this way. She said, “My world is a series of circles, one inside the other. In the center of them all is hishákí(t) emishít, the Giver of Breath. In the next circle is me and my clan, and the largest circle is my community and the people. And, if I do anything that stretches these circles out of shape, it is my responsibility to fix that, to get them back into their proper relationships.”

The other sneaky lure of individuality and money that I have found today is that the more money people have, the more they expect, and they become angry when they don’t get it. They start political fights; they talk outside of their clans and outside

of the Tribe. They expose the Tribe to the opinions of non-Indians, who know nothing of traditions and the requirements of being good Seminoles.

I have never heard a Seminole elder say what white men call a “curse word.” I have never heard a Seminole elder call others unkind names. The toughest thing I have ever heard is when an elder says that someone who acts rashly and selfishly is a “foolish person.” I respect the Seminole people and I sincerely hope and trust that your future does not rest on the words or actions of foolish people.

Patricia R. Wickman, Ph.D. is an Ethnohistorian and former director of the Tribe’s Department of Anthropology & Genealogy.



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Tribe fights drugs with Red Ribbon fun

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

The mission of the Red Ribbon campaign is to convey the message that living a drug-free life is far better than being a substance abuser.

In his opening prayer at the Big Cypress Red Ribbon community luncheon Oct. 20, Moses Jumper Jr. added his own voice to the message.

“We know drugs and alcohol is a killer brought on by the devil himself,” Jumper said. “We pray that all our children know what Red Ribbon Week is for.”

The Red Ribbon campaign and the tradition of displaying Red Ribbons as a symbol of intolerance of drug use began in 1985 after the murder of DEA agent Enrique (Kiki) Camarena in Mexico City. Since then, the week has been commemorated in schools and communities nationwide.

The serious message of Red Ribbon Week was marked with activities such as poster contests, door decorations, a 20-foot long banana split, essay contests, community marches against drugs, pledges and promises to remain drug free on every reservation. The theme of this year’s campaign was YOLO (You Only Live Once), Be Drug Free.

Red Ribbon Week began with a fun run in Immokalee Oct. 17. Led by aftercare and prevention counselor Fred Mullins, children and community members gathered for a YOLO run/walk through the reservation. But first, Mullins told the group that they must fight the biggest enemy of the Tribe.

“You guys are part of the unconquered Tribe,” Mullins said. “You have an enemy

reminded of 52 weeks a year,” said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank. “Our expectations of you are high, you are our future leaders.”

Awards were presented for the poster and essay contests. Mya Rosette Cypress won first place for her moving essay in which she wrote about her mother Michelle Evanston’s struggle with alcoholism.

“It’s not her fault and I don’t blame her for it,” said the 15-year-old sophomore. “Even though it affected my childhood, I’m so grateful she is with us.”

She began her essay acknowledging how cliché the phrase ‘Be Drug Free’ sounds. Her words echo her vast experience, which left her certain that she will always remain drug free.

“Drugs are one of the things in life I can guarantee you will never need. I’ve witnessed several friends and family members convince themselves that they absolutely need some sort of drug to function. Although they claim the drugs make them feel or act better, any person with common sense can see how obviously negatively their lives are being affected by it,” she wrote.

After lunch, Ahfachkee students tried to create a new Indian Country record for the largest banana split at 20 feet long. At their disposal were 36 gallons of strawberry, chocolate and vanilla ice cream, 50 pounds of bananas, eight large cans of chopped pineapple, plenty of whipped cream, one and a half gallons of chopped peanuts, three 48 ounce bottles of chocolate syrup, strawberry syrup and caramel, six jars of sprinkles and 10 jars of cherries for the top.



Beverly Bidney

Immokalee youth take the Red Ribbon pledge in the community center prior to kicking off Red Ribbon Week Oct. 17 with a community walk/run through the reservation.



Beverly Bidney

As part of Red Ribbon week, Ahfachkee School students use teamwork to create Indian Country’s largest banana split Oct. 20. The sundae with all the fixings, including cherries on top, took less than 6 minutes to make. It took much longer for students and staff to consume.



Beverly Bidney

Amber Craig, Andrea Holata and their children take a time out from the Say No to Drugs YOLO Community March in Brighton Oct. 18.

today; not warriors, but drugs. The drug dealers want to get it to you kids and if you take them your life will be wasted. We are taking a stand. Hold your heads high when you run or walk today; you are doing it for your people.”

The children then raised their hands, repeated the words after Mullins and took the Red Ribbon pledge to stay drug free.

“We’re helping our community by participating in Red Ribbon Week,” said Jaylah Garcia, 10.

“It teaches kids not to do drugs so we can stay healthy and live longer,” added Denise Gonzales, 9.

About 500 Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School students, teachers, staff and community members marched through the streets of Brighton Oct. 18 to show their solidarity in the fight against drugs. Preschool students rode in a cattle trailer and babies in the Creek immersion program were comfortable in their strollers.

The Big Cypress community luncheon included Ahfachkee School students, who were all dressed in red.

“This is a something we need to be

Students had their assignments and worked furiously down the line creating a mess of sweet goodness. Five minutes and 54 seconds later, a new record stood. The crowd cheered and everyone celebrated by devouring the enormous sundae.

Hollywood’s full slate featured five consecutive days of activities starting Oct. 24 with a proud “Say No To Drugs” community march that included Hollywood Preschool students. Other scheduled events included a YOLO poster contest, youth basketball tournament and dinner, and a talent show at the airnasium.

The Fort Pierce Reservation is scheduled to hold its Red Ribbon events Nov. 3.

Stephanie Rodriguez

The Hollywood Preschool, from infants to age 5, pose for a photo after participating in the Oct. 24 Red Ribbon walk through the Hollywood Reservation.



Beverly Bidney

During a drawing for prizes, prevention counselor Fred Mullins presents THPO geospatial analyst Lacee Cofer with some movie tickets at the Big Cypress Red Ribbon community luncheon Oct. 20.



Beverly Bidney

A crowd of about 500, including all PECS students, took to the streets of Brighton to march against drug use Oct. 18.

◆ **CRUISE**
From page 1A

stories about the tourist days when families did what they could to make money and take care of each other. He recalled seeing photos of his uncles wrestling alligators, women making crafts and children posing for pictures.

“These days our kids just have to ask for something and they get what they want. Back then, they just had a bucket or a can so when tourist took a picture of them they could collect a nickel,” Osceola said.

The Jungle Queen sightseeing river tour and Indian village destination was launched by Starts in 1935. After World War II, he added a dinner cruise component. Later, the cruise included moonlit tropical island shows.

In 1958, former vaudeville showman Earl Farber purchased the place and added outdoor entertainment areas. His son Jerry Farber took over in 1963 and expanded the business to include the 500-seat sternwheeler vessel and a bar. Today, the family business is run by Todd and Mike Farber and includes animal displays and critter shows, a gift shop, and several stages. Since the beginning, the entertainment ground has included Seminole-built chickees and some buildings topped with chickee-thatched roofs.

“We had a long-standing relationship with the Seminole people,” Mike Farber said. “Now, tonight, it’s kind of reversed. I’ve seen the Tribe’s transformation from

bingo and cigarettes to the casinos and Hard Rock, but I do miss seeing the people here regularly.”

Donna McCarthy, the company’s vice president of operations, said Seminole vendors were still selling dolls and jewelry there in the early1990s but they stopped coming regularly about a dozen years ago. None of the current alligator wrestlers are known to be Tribe citizens. Still, the website boasts 48 old-time photos with some of Seminoles and many framed photos with Tribe members dot the establishment’s walls. A small historical section planned as the next addition will include the Seminole connection.

While chatting with Mike Farber during the event, Jumper was asked if he knew one of the famous alligator wrestlers from the old days named Chief Willie Jumper. Moses Jumper answered no, but when he looked at a photo of the supposed chief, he recognized his own father, Moses Jumper Sr. who apparently had been accidentally misidentified by Jungle Queen staff for years.

Other Seminole alligator wrsters who worked there included Ronnie Doctor and James E. Billie.

“We just can’t tell our story without the Seminoles. We’re in our history books together,” McCarthy said.

But some of that history is comfortably left behind for some Tribal members who remember those days as difficult times. On the return cruise from the night of dining and entertainment, several of the seniors shared their thoughts.

Rosetta Jumper Rhodd said she sung at



Eileen Soler

Tribal citizens aboard the Jungle Queen riverboat Oct. 11 view the Stranahan House while motoring up the New River on the way to a dinner and a show at a location where Seminoles sold crafts and wrestled alligators for tourists during the 1930s through about the late 1980s. The event, organized by Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, was held for seniors and their families.



Eileen Soler

Mitch Osceola and Polly Hayes get ready to board the Jungle Queen riverboat Oct. 11 in Fort Lauderdale.

the Indian village when she was a little girl. She called it “going to boats.” The children would line up on the dock and sing “Jesus Loves Me” in Mikasuki then recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judy Bill Osceola also recalled singing “Jesus Loves Me” for tourists.

“I remember all the white people would come and give me money but I didn’t know what I was singing. I didn’t even know who Jesus was. But I know now that He brought us this far. We were so poor but still my dad prayed at dinner and he thanked God for what we had,” Osceola said.

Janice Osceola remembered vividly how the elders struggled. Her father parked cars for a living, though he couldn’t afford his own car. Those were days when Seminoles were not welcome in the “white people store,” so her father went to the “blacks only store” where one day, an African-American man felt sorry for him and drove him home.

“Other times we had to go behind Publix for groceries they couldn’t sell. We’d pick through lettuce and peel back the leaves to get to the part that was still good. Those days, we had to know how to hunt, fish and build things. And we’d ‘go to boats’ to make



Eileen Soler

Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola opens a variety of show at the oak hammock dinner and entertainment center during the Oct. 11 Jungle Queen riverboat cruise up the New River.



Eileen Soler

Tribal citizens, young and young at heart, laugh heartily at the antics of a comedic magician during a night out Oct. 11 in Fort Lauderdale that featured a cruise up the New River aboard the Jungle Queen riverboat plus dinner and a show at the tourist attraction’s oak hammock “island” steeped in Seminole memories.

beadwork and sing to get money,” Janice Osceola said.

Even though the memories conjured by the night on the island were mostly borne out of struggle, no one spoke angrily.

“Being there reminded me of way,

way back when I was growing up and mom worked there with my older brother Ronnie,” Doctor said. “We kind of grew up there but we were all together with all of our brothers and sisters and I’m glad we were together. Memories are kind of like going home.”



Eileen Soler

President Mitchell Cypress addresses the audience filled with Seminole seniors and their families Oct. 11 during an evening excursion along the New River in Fort Lauderdale that included a riverboat ride aboard the Jungle Queen and dinner and show at the attraction’s tropical oak hammock.

Filtration taught at water treatment plant



Stephanie Rodriguez

Bassem Sanaallah, Johnnie Jones, Derek Koger and Mario Isidron stand next to Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, Kenzie Motlow, Zion Edwards, Scherina Marshall, Kira Mowatt, and Valentina Arce inside the Hollywood Water Treatment Plant on Oct. 13 after touring the facility as part of a national Boys and Girls Club project called Climate Superstars, which teaches kids how to conserve energy, minimize the impact of climate changes and help the environment.



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Stories from the archives: Growing the Seminole Tribe’s cattle industry through partnership

SUBMITTED BY MISTY SNYDER
Collections Assistant, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

Have you ever set out to organize a closet, garage, or other places in your home that tend to gather the personal history of lives and found yourself being distracted by the objects that you uncover along the way? This is relatable to my experience while conducting an inventory of the archival vault at the Museum, except that the extensive collection houses the extraordinary and rich history of the Seminole Tribe. Who wouldn’t be enticed by the stories resonating from these artifacts?

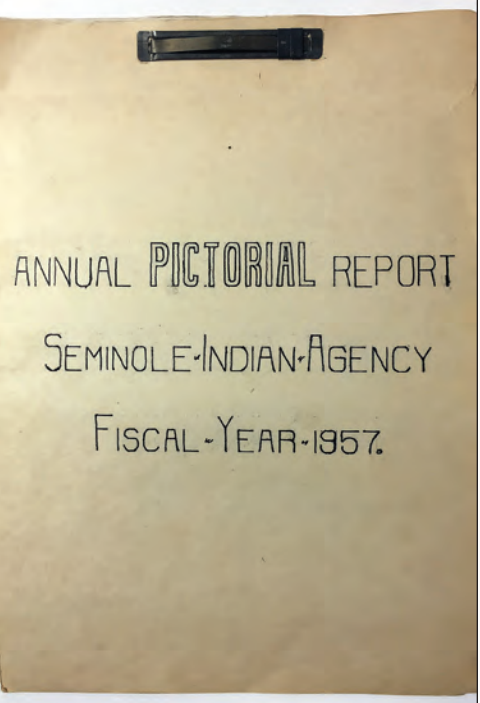


Photo courtesy Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
The hand-written cover of 1957 Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Land Operations report.

One of these stories is the development of improved cattle pastures, and how the Tribe was able to increase its beef production from about nine pounds per acre per year to 810 pounds by working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, University of Florida Extension Agents, and a local farming operation. While going through some of the items yet to be cataloged we discovered nine Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Land Operations reports from 1957, 1958, 1964, and 1965, respectively (some of the reports were in duplicate). Many people are aware that the Seminole Tribe has a long history of herding cattle that can be traced back for centuries. These reports document the first establishment of improved rangeland to

graze Seminole cattle as recommended by the Branch of Land Operations, which led to greater beef production. Beginning in 1955, the improved rangeland program was a lease agreement with S&M Farms, out of Fort Pierce, for the improvement and development of 7,500 acres on the Big Cypress Reservation. The agreement allowed the farm to improve the land in order for them to be able to plant crops, and after two harvests, turn it into to pasture land for the Tribe’s use. Tomatoes were the first crop planted on 1,333 acres, with cucumbers, peppers, beans, or squash to follow. In developing the land for crop production, the farm invested in land clearing, leveling, and drainage. To do this they constructed field dikes, drainage and irrigation ditches, irrigation wells, and fencing, all of which were then able to be used in pasture operation at no cost to the Seminole Tribe. Along with the land improvements, the farm would plant pasture grasses in the fields after the two crops of vegetables had been harvested. Through this industrious strategy, 13,009 acres were transformed into high quality grazing pastures for Seminole cattle. Previously, the cattle had been grazing freely on the native landscape, which included vast areas of submerged and forested land. The improved grassland pastures not only gave the cattle easy access to nutritious food but

also made the day-to-day management of the herds less difficult for the Seminole cowboys. The reports also detail the beginning of the Seminole Tribe’s working relationship with State of Florida Agricultural Extension Agents and University of Florida faculty to improve the genetic quality of the Seminole cattle by introducing Angus bulls and utilizing selective breeding practices. The Extension Agents also worked with the community in other ways. Through 4-H Clubs, boys and girls became involved in cattle projects as well as in forestry, electricity, and junior leadership projects. Working together with these organizations had many benefits for the Tribal economy and community. Conducting a comprehensive inventory of the Museum’s archives is an ambitious and important task. We have made great progress so far, while still taking some time to appreciate the history contained in them. Sometimes these artifacts tell us new stories, and other times they add small pieces to the well-known patchwork of Tribal history, but each one has a story to tell us, and we are ready to listen. If you would like to view these or any documents in our collection, please contact the Museum at 863-902-1113 and ask for the Research Coordinator, Mary Beth Rosebrough, at ext. 12252.



Photo courtesy Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum
Seminole cattle grazing on Native submerged landscape before drainage.

Senior Culture Day kicks off traditional fun

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD —Senior Culture Day proved to be an ideal start to celebrating tradition right before the Indian Day festivities. The event, which was open tribal-wide, was held in Hollywood on Sept. 2 for seniors to celebrate the Seminole culture. They enjoyed traditional cooking by women from all the different reservations, participated in crafts, and bought traditional clothing and/or jewelry from a few vendors. Whether it was joining Juanita P. Martinez in sewing, watching basket-making with America Ramirez, listening to the Paul Buster Band, or hearing Native hymns by

some of the elders, Senior Culture Day was filled with activities and fun. Senior Culture Day drew at least 50 people, including Hollywood Councilman Christopher Osceola, who spoke about the importance of the event as well as the North Dakota pipeline issue. Councilman Osceola said 3,000 cases of water were sent to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and other protestors against the Dakota Access pipeline. He urged seniors and anyone who was physically capable to help with the cause. “We do care, and we’re a 100 percent behind them [Standing Rock Sioux Tribe],” Councilman Osceola said. “There are a lot of Seminole representatives out there, and I would like leadership out there.”



Stephanie Rodriguez
Women prepare food during Senior Culture Day on Sept. 2 in Hollywood.



Stephanie Rodriguez
Juanita P. Martinez, of Immokalee, sews using her antique Singer, which is decades old, as part of a traditional demonstration for Senior Culture Day on Sept. 2 in Hollywood.



Photo courtesy USET
From left, United South and Eastern Tribes President Brian Patterson (Oneida Indian Nation – New York), former USET President Eddie Tullis (Poarch Band of Creek Indians), Lakota/Dakota/Nakota Chief Arvol Looking Horse, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Principal Chief Patrick Lambert and Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Robert Thrower participate in the opening ceremony of the United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund, Inc. (USET SPF) 2016 annual meeting Oct. 24 in Cherokee, North Carolina.

USET SPF holds annual meeting

FROM PRESS RELEASE

CHEROKEE, N.C. — The USET fire passed Oct. 24 from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, where the last meeting was hosted by a member Tribal Nation, to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, who hosted the United South and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund, Inc. (USET SPF) 2016 annual meeting in Cherokee, North Carolina. USET President Brian Patterson welcomed members of the board of directors and leadership from the 26 member Tribal Nations. “Some great change, development, and success is taking place with USET and USET SPF,”

Patterson said. “ I have great confidence in all of us that we will continue to evolve, grow, and strengthen as an organization and as Tribal Nations. While here in the mountain region of the Qualla Indian Boundary we take the opportunity to build on our strength in unity.” EBCI Principal Chief Patrick Lambert also participated in the welcoming ceremony. “These meetings serve as important dialogue where we can collectively meet challenges and improve the lives of our people,” Lambert said. The meeting started with the passing of the fire from Poarch Band of Creek Indians Chairwoman Stephanie Bryan to Chief Lambert. The three-day meeting was held at

the Harrah’s Cherokee Casino. The board of directors were slated to hear updates and presentations on the following: • Indian Law Resource Center – Discussions of the impact and value of international economic development, healthcare, best practices, and diplomacy. • Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) – Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairman David Archambault will discuss the status of DAPL. • USET Organizational Growth and Development – The organization is growing to include new enterprises that will foster economic development, healthcare support, and administrative services to its member Tribal Nations.

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(866) 505-6789 or (954) 981-7410 **(when in doubt please find out)**
(fax) 954-967-3447 or 954-981-1671

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- ◆ Hollywood Health Clinic: 3006 Josie Billie Avenue, Hollywood, FL 33024
(954) 962-2009
- ◆ Big Cypress Health Clinic: 30851 Buffalo Jim Loop Road, Clewiston, FL 33440
(863) 983-5151
- ◆ Brighton Health Clinic: 17201 Civic Street, Okeechobee, FL 34974
(863) 763-0271
- ◆ Immokalee Health Clinic: 1120 South 1st Street, Immokalee, FL 34142
(239) 867-3400
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- ◆ Contact (877) 608-2200 for pre-certifications on inpatient admissions or outpatient surgery
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SEMINOLE SCENES



Stephanie Rodriguez

HURRICANE PREP: Workers install shutters outside the Seminole Media Productions building in Hollywood in preparation for Hurricane Matthew in October. The storm brushed the area, but did not inflict major damage, saving the worst for northeast Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas.



Courtesy photo

SWAMP RADIO: Winners of a contest by South Florida radio station HITS 97.3 enjoy a day with some of the station's personalities Oct. 13 at Billie Swamp Safari in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

SUNFLOWER SEASON: A field near Brighton is in full bloom with sunflowers in mid-October. Fall is Florida sunflower season, but the daisy-like flowers last only a couple weeks.



Beverly Bidney

DUDE, WHERE'S THE CAR: This pair of nearly four-foot tall sandhill cranes appear to be searching for their car in the parking lot of the Brighton gym Oct. 24. They were actually feasting on fallen acorns provided by the numerous live oak trees in front of the gym.



Photo Courtesy Hard Rock Tampa

HOTEL HONORS: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa has been recognized as a Top 10 hotel in Florida by Condé Nast Traveler's 29th annual Readers' Choice Awards. Over 300,000 readers, nearly twice as many as last year, casted votes for 7,394 hotels, 606 cities, 500 cruise ships and 236 islands in a survey that lasted about eight minutes, resulting in the 1,402 best travel experiences in the world. The Readers' Choice Awards was announced in the November issue of Condé Nast Traveler.



Photo courtesy Ah-Tah-Thai-Ki Museum

COLORFUL EXHIBIT: An exhibit titled Joyful Watercolors by Mary Gay Osceola runs Oct. 24 through April 9, 2017 at Ah-Tah-Thai-Ki Museum in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

INDIAN DAY SMILE: Big Cypress Councilman Cicero Osceola enjoys a good laugh at the Big Cypress Indian Day celebration Sept. 22.



Photo courtesy Hard Rock Tampa

CHEF NEWS: Chris Fearnow has been named Executive Chef at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek. He will oversee the culinary operations as connected to Seminole Casino Coconut Creek's six dining venues. Prior to joining Seminole Casino Coconut Creek, Fearnow primarily worked at Las Vegas-based properties including Green Valley Ranch where he was featured on the cable network show American Casino. He's also appeared on Food Network's Meat on the Bone and was a judge on Fox Network's Hell's Kitchen. Fearnow has accumulated almost 40 years of culinary experience, after starting as a prep cook at a coffee sandwich shop his parents owned in Las Vegas.



Beverly Bidney

HAPPY HOMECOMING: Florida State running back Jacques Patrick finds a hole after Wake Forest during the Seminoles' 17-6 homecoming win Oct. 15 in Tallahassee.



Photo courtesy Seminole Casino Coconut Creek

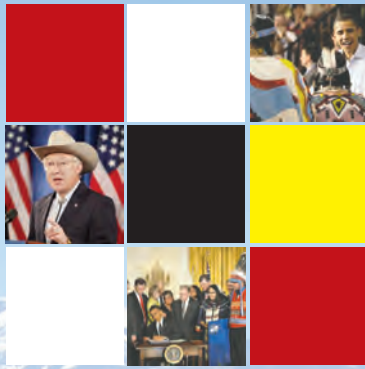
STARS ON DISPLAY: Artwork from Taglialatella Galleries featuring seven celebrity icons is now on display in "level2" at Seminole Casino Coconut Creek. The seven pieces (John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, Jagger, Marlon Brando, Sophia Loren, Grace Kelly and Coco Chanel) were created by artist Russell Young, who has shown in galleries and museums in London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Tokyo, Singapore, New York, Detroit, Miami and Los Angeles. This is the second of a group of art exhibits the casino is scheduled to host. The first exhibit consisted of eight Marilyn Monroe pieces created by Young. Young's celebrity icon artwork is available for sale through the gallery with the seven pieces ranging in price from \$13,500 to \$29,000. The most expensive piece is of Marlon Brando.



Kevin Johnson

BC PINK OUT: Big Cypress Tribal citizens and employees showed their spirit by participating in the Big Cypress Wellness Center's annual Pink Out Day for breast cancer awareness. Tables at the entrance of the field office were filled with information about breast cancer as part of October being national breast cancer awareness month.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Senator opposes California Indian casino expansion

VALLEJO, Calif. — U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein says California has too many casinos already and the Bay Area doesn't need another one.

Feinstein is leading an effort to squash a Native American tribe's megaproject in Vallejo, California.

"I've seen the buses pull up at housing projects and take people to gambling facilities from here when the Social Security checks come in. Candidly, that's not a good expenditure of money for these people," Feinstein said.

The casino is proposed by the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians, a tribe based almost 100 miles away in Lake County.

The \$700 million casino would be built in an already traffic-congested corridor. However, it would be the largest employer in the city, according to the tribe, and provide tribal housing.

"Our goal is to have a homeland for our tribe. Our tribe has been landless for 150 years at a minimum," Tribal council liaison Crista Ray said.

Already, Napa and Solano counties as well as three congressmen have joined Feinstein and the city of Vallejo in opposing the project.

— KPIX-TV

Special business license proposed for Native art merchants

SANTA FE, N.M. — A proposal, endorsed by the Santa Fe City Council's Finance Committee, would establish a Native American Arts or Crafts District and require businesses selling such merchandise to obtain a special business license from the city with new requirements.

"Businesses found to be in violation of these requirements would be subject to revocation of their business license," city documents state.

The new rules merchants would have to comply with include: displaying a sticker at their front entrance stating that they sell Native American arts or crafts; clearly distinguish which items are authentic and which are not; and displaying a sign at the cash register informing shoppers of their rights under federal and state law.

The City Council was scheduled to consider the proposal during a public hearing Oct. 26.

During a committee meeting, most of councilors' questions revolved around enforcement.

"I'm in support of this. I think it's important for the integrity of Native arts and culture in our arts and crafts sector, and it also gives legitimacy and really just recognition for Native artists," Councilor Renee Villarreal said. "I was trying to figure out how does this really get enforced. Like anything we have in the city, it falls under land-use enforcement."

There's a need for such protections, not just for consumers but artists, said Debra Garcia y Griego, director of the Santa Fe Arts Commission. A state study found that knockoffs are diverting millions of dollars away from Native artists.

"One of the things they really brought up is that fraudulent and misrepresented Native American arts and crafts are undercutting the livelihoods of Native American artists," she said.

— Santa Fe New Mexican

Connecticut tribe files suit against state over land

The Schaghticoke Tribal Nation is seeking hundreds of millions of dollars in damages from the state of Connecticut for land that it says was taken from the tribe's northwestern Connecticut reservation, beginning more than two centuries ago.

In a lawsuit filed in Hartford on Oct. 13, the tribe alleges the state took the land it was managing for the Schaghticoke — eventually amounting to 2,000 acres — without compensating the tribe. The lawsuit contends the tribe is owed at least \$613 million, but the tribe says it expects that number to rise because it has not been able to determine the value of all the tracts.

"This is not a case where we are seeking the return of any private citizens' land," said Austin Tighe, a lawyer for the tribe. "We're simply asking the state to do what it promised to do and what it is constitutionally required to do: pay the tribe for the land it took."

The taking or poor government stewardship of land belonging to Native Americans has been an issue for decades both nationally and in individual states. Just three weeks ago, the federal government agreed to pay nearly \$500 million to 17 American tribes for mismanaging tribal assets.

"There are parallels here," Tighe said. "The resolution of those cases was based on the trust relationship between the federal

government and those tribes. So yes, there are similarities that would join those cases and this case."

"We are reviewing this complaint and will respond at the appropriate time in court," said Jaclyn Falkowski, a spokeswoman for Connecticut Attorney General George Jepsen.

The Schaghticoke has assembled a high-powered legal team to pursue the case. Tighe is counsel to the Texas law firm of Nix, Patterson & Roach, which last year resolved claims by the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes in Oklahoma alleging that U.S. government failed to protect tribal interests in the sale of timber lands from 1908 to 1940.

Also last year, the firm also won \$3 billion from oil giant BP for the state of Florida following a devastating spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Schaghticoke also have enlisted Joe Lieberman, former U.S. senator from Connecticut, to work on the case. Lieberman is now senior counsel at the New York law firm of Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman, which has counted presidential candidate Donald Trump among its clients.

— Hartford Courant

Obama receives high marks from tribal leaders

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama told tribal leaders Sept. 26 that they and his administration had come far since he took office eight years ago, but that there is still work to be done to solve problems in Indian Country.

"We haven't solved every issue, we haven't righted every wrong," Obama told the hundreds gathered for the 2016 White House Tribal Nations Conference. "But together we've made significant progress in almost every area."

Obama promised to keep working with tribes even after he leaves office — while tribal officials said they will look closely to see if the next president continues what they consider to be a productive relationship that has developed with Washington under this administration.

National Congress of American Indians President Brian Cladoosby said the Native American community was "fortunate to have a president like President Obama."

"There's no guarantee that going forward that we will have the same commitment from the next administration," Cladoosby said in his remarks. "Or they will make the same commitment to continuing to bring us together, or continue to look towards the gains that we could possibly make in the next eight years that we have made in the last eight years."

The comments came at the eighth and final tribal conference under Obama, who started the meetings when he took office. The annual meetings are open to representatives of all 567 federally recognized tribes, bringing them together with White House and Cabinet officials for a day of meetings.

"They've done great strides in the eight years that President Obama has been in office," said Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez. "Previous administrations didn't really get out to Indian Country as much."

Nez said the current administration has had a "better understanding" of Indian Country than "lot of the former presidents."

Tribal leaders and Obama both listed what they see as gains in recent years, including reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act to include assaults on Native women, a \$1.9 billion program to help tribes buy back fractionated land, expansion of tribal court jurisdiction and designation of a White House Council on Native American Affairs, among other efforts.

— Cronkite News Arizona PBS

Navajo president testifies at Senate hearing on cultural protection laws

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye called on lawmakers and administration officials to improve upon cultural resource protection laws. He testified Oct. 18 at a U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs oversight field hearing on the "Theft, Illegal Possession, Sale, Transfer and Export of Tribal Cultural Items" at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

President Begaye requested Congress and the federal government to join together diplomatically and through passage of legislation to "enhance protection and repatriation of our human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony. These laws must have timelines, unambiguous definitions, defined roles and responsibilities and teeth to enforce their compliance."

The field hearing is important as several measures to address these issues have been drafted and are circulating in both the House and Senate. The Senate passed the

PROTECT Patrimony Resolution, H. Con. Res. 122. When the House reconvenes following the general election the Navajo Nation expects the House to take action on the Senate amended concurrent resolution. This will demonstrate a powerful message by the Congress that they are serious about protecting Native American cultural patrimony.

Additionally, Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) introduced S 3127, the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) Act. The bill would prohibit the exporting of sacred Native American items and increase penalties for stealing and illegally trafficking tribal cultural patrimony. Sens. Tom Udall (D-N.M.), Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), John McCain (R-Ariz.), Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Steve Daines (R-Mont.), Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) and Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) have signed on as cosponsors of the bill. Earlier this year in June, the Navajo Nation Council passed a resolution supporting the bill.

"By passing these cultural protection laws, Congress will take another step in making history in its endeavor to make the Navajo Nation and all tribes across the country whole after experiencing the erosion of their cultural identities. You will contribute to our hózhó, the beauty way of our life," President Begaye said.

— Native News Online

NC tribe hit hard by Hurricane Matthew

LUMBERTON, N.C. — Severe flooding in swampy, southeastern North Carolina took a particularly hard toll on the Lumbee, a Native American tribe.

Emergency crews rescued people from flooded homes in rural Robeson County on Oct. 13. Water rose on many of the county's arterial roads, making it difficult for emergency workers to travel from one part of the sprawling rural county to another.

"It's a mess," said Norman Brewington, a 45-year-old Lumbee. Water rose to nearly 3 feet above ground level inside his Lumberton mobile home, soaking everything he owned, even his Bible.

Hurricane Matthew has left a wide path of destruction, leaving at least 38 dead in the U.S. and hundreds more in Haiti. Power remained out for homes and business across North Carolina Friday, though repairs brought the number of outages down to about 18,700 by noon. Thousands of people were in shelters in the eastern part of the state.

The storm was felt by many of the estimated 61,000 Lumbee who live in North Carolina, most of whom are in Robeson County, the traditional Lumbee homeland. Many have very little income and assets.

Mr. Brewington, a maintenance worker at a meat-processing plant, said he chooses to live near other Lumbee and that some face intense poverty, a longtime problem that has plagued the tribe and the region. Robeson County American Indians have a median household income of \$28,227, just 60% of the state median, according to the Census Bureau.

Patrice Blue, a 40-year-old Lumbee, spent much of a recent afternoon driving in search of gasoline. Her family had no power or water, and relatives had been cooking meals on a grill and taking sponge baths since Friday, she said. "It's misery," she said.

The natural disaster has turned into a financial disaster for many people in the county, who she figures maybe have about \$15 in their pocket at any given time. "They say, 'paycheck-to-paycheck,' and that's us," she said.

The origins of the Lumbee, which has sought unsuccessfully to secure federal recognition since the 1800s, are murky. Past historians speculated the Lumbee descended from various other groups, including the Cherokee or even refugees of European decent from the Lost Colony of Roanoke. Modern historians think they were a combination of small tribes who sought shelter in the swampy lowlands of southeastern North Carolina and formed a new cultural entity sometime before the 1700s.

The Lumbee speak English as their primary language, as they have since at least the 1700s. But they formed a "distinct, indigenous identity...well before the U.S. formed," said Malinda Lowery, a Lumbee and a history professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill who published a book on her people.

— Wall Street Journal

Health center director calls for bigger conversation about Indigenous suicides

Data released by Statistics Canada states Indigenous young adults are more likely to have suicidal thoughts compared to their non-Indigenous counterparts.

The Oct. 13 report also says Aboriginal young adults who live off reserve are twice

as likely to have suicidal thoughts compared to non-Aboriginal people of the same age.

The report comes almost six months after the Liberal government said it was making Indigenous suicide prevention one of its top priorities.

But in order to stem what some are calling an epidemic, Canadians need to learn about the history of Indigenous peoples in the country, including the era of colonization, said Angela Recollet, the executive director of the Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre in Sudbury, Ontario.

"I believe very strongly that mainstream society is now at a turning point where they have education to those true facts in history and that we all have to create a safe place of belonging for our youth," Recollet said.

Suicide is not a topic that's discussed openly in Canada, Recollet said, but it's precisely the dialogue that needs to happen before the situation facing Indigenous people improves.

"We know that suicidal rates in our Indigenous communities are high. But I think the more important conversation to be had is not about the stats, it's about the realities of suicides and the conditions within our communities both on and off reserve."

— CBC

Tribe immune from age bias lawsuit in U.S. Court

An American Indian tribe can't be sued in federal court for age discrimination because it is immune from the U.S. court's jurisdiction, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit ruled in *Williams v. Poarch Band of Creek Indians*.

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians has sovereign immunity from an Age Discrimination in Employment Act lawsuit filed by a former lab manager in the tribal health department who alleged she was fired and replaced by a younger worker because of her age, the appeals court said Oct. 18.

It affirmed a district court's dismissal of Christine Williams' federal lawsuit against the Alabama tribe.

The ruling is consistent with the conclusions of three other federal circuits that also have held American Indian tribes are immune from ADEA lawsuits.

Lawsuits against American Indian tribes in U.S. courts are barred by sovereign immunity unless a plaintiff shows either that the tribe clearly waived its immunity or Congress expressly abrogated immunity, Judge C. Lynwood Smith Jr. wrote.

Since no evidence indicates the Poarch Band waived its immunity, Williams must prove that Congress abrogated the doctrine of tribal sovereign immunity when it enacted the ADEA, the court said.

The difference between Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which expressly says American Indian tribes aren't employers under that law, and the ADEA, which doesn't expressly exclude American Indian tribes from its definition of employer, shows Congress meant to override tribal immunity, Williams argued.

But Congress' silence in the ADEA and its legislative history about tribes as employers falls short of the "clarion call" needed to overcome the presumption of tribal sovereign immunity, Smith wrote in an opinion joined by Judges Adalberto Jose Jordan and Ed Carnes.

"Indeed, one could just as easily conclude from the omission of any reference to Indian tribes in the text of the ADEA, related committee reports, or the floor statements of legislators during consideration of the act that Congress never considered the ADEA's impact upon Indian tribes," the court said.

The ADEA is a statute of "general applicability" and Congress didn't exclude American Indian tribes from its reach, Williams said. The court should rule tribes therefore are subject to ADEA lawsuits in federal court, she argued.

But Eleventh Circuit precedent establishes an American Indian tribe may be covered by a federal law but nonetheless be immune from suit, the court said.

"Thus, even though the ADEA is a statute of general applicability, and the Poarch Band might be generally subject to its terms, the doctrine of tribal sovereign immunity protects the Poarch Band from suits under the statute," the court said.

— Bloomberg BNA

Francis Ford Coppola turns to American Indian cuisine for new restaurant

GEYSERVILLE, Calif. — After months of evading questions about what, exactly, its new restaurant would be, the Francis Ford Coppola team has announced they will open Werowocomoco, a restaurant serving "American native cuisine" at its Virginia Dare winery in Geyserville. It opens to the public Nov. 5.

Pronounced exactly as it's written (wer-o-wo-co-mo-co), Werowocomoco takes its name from a 17th century American Indian settlement on Virginia's York River, once

the capital of the Powhatan Confederacy. You might wonder: What do the Powhatans have to do with Sonoma, to which a number of American Indian groups are native?

It doesn't — rather, it has something to do with the story of Virginia Dare, a complicated myth that offers an origin story for winemaking in America.

"The focus of our story is on another early Virginia colony," Coppola explained through an email, "also known in the story as 'the lost colony' because that is the setting of the birth of Virginia Dare, and one of the earliest American wine producers."

"Given the setting of this early colony and the birth of Virginia Dare, I felt it appropriate to feature American native cuisine," Coppola added.

The restaurant, with a 66-seat interior and additional patio seating, features menu items like a bison burger on an acorn bun, venison chili and "rotisserie prairie chicken." Fry bread makes several appearances: as tacos (where salsa choices include a butternut squash number with Urfa chile), as sponges for the stews and as dessert, when it is filled with berry compote. A spokesperson for the restaurant said there is no executive chef and that Coppola himself created the menu.

A short wine list is dominated by Virginia Dare bottlings, supplemented by a few Sonoma County neighbors like Seghesio, Pedroncelli and Idlewild. The by-the-glass selections, all Virginia Dare, range from \$5.25 to \$7, and bottles go up to \$120. Liquor is not available.

— San Francisco Chronicle

Actress Shailene Woodley discusses arrest over Dakota Access Pipeline

"Divergent" star Shailene Woodley was arrested earlier this month while protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota.

She has pleaded not guilty to the incident that happened live on Facebook, which she streamed on the site before local police intervened in the protest. Woodley faces a max penalty of 60 days in jail and/or a fine of up to \$3,000 if convicted, according to court documents obtained by ABC News.

In an op-ed recently written for Time magazine, Woodley speaks about the arrest for the first time.

The actress, 24, said she and 200 others were protesting the pipeline because they believe "if we don't begin taking genuine steps to protect our precious resources—our soil, our water, our essential elements—we will not have a healthy or thriving planet to pass on to future generations." In all, 27 people were arrested during the protest. Woodley is expected back in court later this month.

Furthermore, Woodley believes Native Americans are being ignored and it took her, a white actress, getting arrested to bring attention to their cause.

"We are still silencing their dedication to protect us from the planetary consequences that will catastrophically bleed from our ignorance," she wrote in the magazine. "We wear their heritage, their sacred totems, as decoration and in fashion trends, failing to honor their culture ... We grow up romanticizing native culture, native art, native history ... without knowing native reality."

She continued, "We are allowing Native American voices to be swallowed by the white noise of distraction."

Woodley is referring to a federal court of appeals denying the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's request to block the ongoing construction of the pipeline by Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners.

"When we talk about marginalized communities in our country, we do not (on a mainstream level) include Native Americans," she added. "So much so that it took me, a white non-native woman being arrested on Oct 10th in North Dakota, on Indigenous Peoples' Day, to bring this cause to many people's attention."

Woodley argues the 1,172-mile pipeline that Standing Rock tribal leaders resisted will ultimately impact all Americans.

"I know it is easy to be apathetic or detached from the reality that fossil fuel contamination could actually affect you and the ones you love... But hear me loud and clear: If you are a human who requires water to survive, then this issue directly involves you," she added in her piece.

She closed with, "Thank you, to all the tribes who have gathered. To all the nations standing as one. To all the people who know that if not we, then who? And if not now, then when? ... Will you join us?"

— Bloomberg BNA

Compiled by Senior Editor Kevin Johnson

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Education



FIU Indigenous forum, march highlight darker side of Columbus Day

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
Copy Editor

MIAMI — Columbus Day has been celebrated by Americans throughout history while a much larger truth remains hidden beneath the surface.

The documentary “Columbus and the Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code” was shown Oct. 10 in an auditorium at Florida International University’s student union as part of the Global Indigenous Forum program. The film detailed the genocide of Indigenous people after Italian explorer Christopher Columbus’ arrival to the New World.

For centuries, America’s children have been taught Columbus discovered America in 1492. Contrary to popular belief, the land was already inhabited by and belonged to Native Americans.

The film, which is based on the book “Pagans in the Promised Land: Decoding the Doctrine of Christian Discovery,” traces the origins of Columbus’s story and how he initially set sail from a Spanish port to find India in order to trade spices, how he got lost, conquered a new land, and murdered Native Americans.

The film’s primary focus is an ancient doctrine linked to Vatican Papal orders issued by Pope Alexander VI about seven months after Columbus’s arrival, which resulted in the claiming of non-Christian lands and their inhabitants, global domination and dehumanization.

The documentary discloses graphic details of how Indigenous babies, children, women and men were slaughtered, burned alive, enslaved, and tortured as the outcome of the 15th century’s orders, which declared war on the non-Christian world and instructed Christians “to invade, capture, vanquish, and subdue all Saracens, pagans, and other enemies of Christ, to reduce them to perpetual slavery, and to take away all of their possessions and property.”

The historical events debunk the history lesson taught for centuries and puts emphasis on what led to law systems in the United States and elsewhere in the world still used against Original Nations and Native people.

Bobby C. Billie, clan leader and spiritual leader of the Council of the Original Miccosukee Simanolee Nation Aboriginal Peoples, spoke to the audience about environmental and Aboriginal rights after the film concluded. As an advocate and educator of Indigenous peoples, his life is dedicated to working on behalf of the environment, sacred



Stephanie Rodriguez

Wendolynne Perez, president of the FIU Global Indigenous Group, leads fellow students through campus Oct. 10 calling for the abolition of the Columbus Day holiday.

lands, waters and his ancestors.

FIU students held an open discussion panel with Billie and a Skype session with Shawnee/Lenape scholar Steven T. Newcomb, author of the book the film is based on and one of the film’s producers.

After the forum, about 10 FIU students staged a protest on campus as part of an ongoing effort to educate people about how Columbus treated Natives and to abolish the federal Columbus Day holiday that closes public libraries, courts, banks and post offices.

“We need to change the celebration of

this holiday and recognize that it represents a larger tragedy much like the holocaust,” said Wendolynne Perez, president of the FIU Global Indigenous Group. “People need to know the historical truth about this holiday.”

One student even became emotional and cried as she spoke at the forum, revealing she is fortunate her ancestry did not suffer the fate of Native Americans and that she did not realize the level of adversity they faced before joining FIU student protestors on campus.

“When I was in elementary school I was part of an Italian language program, and we

were taught songs about Columbus and how he discovered America and it was something that was heavily celebrated and taught to do and it’s just something that I realized was pushed onto to me and other children but it’s all a lie,” said Sofia Villalonga, a member of FIU’s Global Indigenous Club. “As I’ve gotten older and see the truth of how disgusting it is, we should just tell the truth about the history instead of this fairytale story about discovery.”

The first celebration of Columbus Day took place 300 years after his first voyage on Oct. 12, 1792 when New York’s Columbian

Order—also known as the Society of St. Tammany—held an event to commemorate the anniversary of Columbus’s landing. After that, various celebrations around the country started popping up to honor Columbus’s Italian and Catholic heritage and are still celebrated today.

“Even today, the mentality of colonization still prospers with humanity destroying the environment, land, and water; Indigenous cultures are still in danger,” Villalonga said.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Bobbie C. Bille and Steven T. Newcomb speak at Florida International University’s Global Indigenous Forum film screening of “Columbus and the Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code” on Oct. 10 at FIU in Miami.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Students walked across Florida International University’s campus holding vibrant signs to capture people’s attention after the film screening “Columbus and the Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code” on Oct. 10.

McGruff joins kids for Red Ribbon



Stephanie Rodriguez

Valorie Holata walks with her son, Jarvis Odem, alongside McGruff as he also holds Betty Osceola’s hand and she holds hands with Elaynia Williams for the Hollywood Preschool’s Red Ribbon walk held Oct. 24.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Aliyah Ruidiaz and Joelle Beasley finish drinking water after walking in Hollywood Preschool’s Red Ribbon walk.

Strong turnout by high schoolers for FGCU tour

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ
Copy Editor

FORT MYERS — More than 40 Seminole high school students received a taste of college life Oct. 14 as they explored and toured Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers.

The students listened to presentations about FGCU's colleges of engineering, business, and education before they asked questions and spoke to the university's faculty and administration.

"Our mission is about helping these kids transition from where they're coming from into a university setting; they need an education," said J. Webb Horton, assistant

graduation, according to the college's website. Size and facilities were among key attractions for some of the high school students.

"I thought it was interesting how they have small classes because typically you think of an auditorium," Eyanna Billie said. "There are more privacy in the dorms here [FGCU] than FSU. I also think you can have more close relationships with professors."

Eyanna, 16, started her college search early with hopes to find a degree catered to illustration or the graphic arts. She used her illustrative talent in a separate room while her peers watched an FGCU volleyball match at Alico Arena, which was part of the tour.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Tribal students Carissa Colon and Eyanna Billie listen to details about Florida Gulf Coast University's U.A. Whitaker College of Engineering during a visit to the Fort Myers campus Oct. 14.

director of the Office of Community Outreach for FGCU. "We want them to have an education."

Students visited housing facilities on campus, explored the university's bookstore, and enjoyed a BBQ dinner as they engaged in conversation and were mentored by current FGCU students, including some Tribal members.

FGCU freshman Lewis Gopher Jr. said was pleased that so many young members of the Tribe came out for the tour.

"It's great to see them looking for something brighter in their futures and the future of our Tribe," Gopher said.

FGCU senior Bryce Osceola was also encouraged by the turnout.

"It's a sign that young people are getting ready to take that first step into getting their education, which is something that we as a people need and the non-Native world needs to know who we are," Osceola said.

FGCU has an enrollment of nearly 15,000 and ranks among the top Florida universities for alumni employed or continuing their education one year after

"We want to reach out to unrepresented and student populations with the purpose of exposing them to higher education opportunities and a pathway to further their education," said Marc Laviolette, FGCU's director of admissions. "That's why we do this and many other activities we do."

Ahnie Jumper, 17, is interested in early childhood education and she already had her mind made up as soon as she toured the university and saw how the dorms have single rooms.

"Overall, I thought it was a great experience," Ahnie said. "As for education, this is one of the top schools for what I want to study."

Stephanie Rodriguez

Jillian Rodriguez and Ahnie Jumper laugh while they pick out FGCU sweaters and shirts from the university's bookstore.



Stephanie Rodriguez

An FGCU tour guide sits next to Mayra Beraza as an entire classroom filled with Tribal students waits to watch a presentation Oct. 14.



PECS students shine in September

BRIGHTON — The following Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School students earned Student of the Month recognition for September:

Elementary: Kylo Cochran, Jon Jones, Jenna Huff, Aurelius Lara, Geonnie Koger, Luci Banda, Heidi Thomas, Marley Jimmie, Timothy Urbina, Oreste Perez, Landon

French, Deanthony Torres, Bryce Trammell, Lason Baker, Serenity Lara, Preslynn Baker, Madison Taylor, Sydney Matthews, Hannah Wilson, Ashlynn Collins, Caleb Burton, Stanley Rodrigues.

Middle school: Terald Garner, Mariah Billie, Shaela French.



Photo courtesy PECS

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School middle school students of the month for September.



Photo courtesy PECS

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School elementary students of the month for September.

Native Nations Institute launches online resource

FROM PRESS RELEASE

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona is launching a new Constitutions Resource Center in an effort to provide increased resources to Native nations. The website provides access to examples to learn from and tools to use in the process of constitutional reform.

As more and more Native nations explore their governance challenges and visions for the future, they also have the need to amend their constitutions accordingly. The CRC addresses governance and constitutional questions within four main categories:

- The Defining category considers what constitutions are, their role in the

lives of Native nations and the history of indigenous constitutional governance.

- The Developing category reviews topics that commonly are included in the constitutions of Native nations and presents a number of Native leaders talking about constitutional issues.
- The Changing category reviews governance reform processes and the methods that other Native nations have used to change their constitutions.
- The Living category highlights how Native nations interpret their constitutions and cultivate their youth to become future leaders.

The free resource is a new component within NNI's already existing Indigenous governance database, another resource dedicated to Native nation building,

governance and leadership. Using text, video and audio resources already on this database, the CRC will feature case studies of Native nations' constitutional efforts, including video-recorded interviews with Native nation leaders, key decision makers and other governance experts.

Much like all NNI resources, it will highlight what is working, what isn't and why, as Native nations move to control their own affairs and create futures of their own design.

Obama signs bill designed to help Native American children

FROM PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON — President Obama signed into law a bill Oct. 14 designed to improve the lives of Native American children.

Sponsored by U.S. Senators Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), the bill creates a commission on Native children to identify the challenges facing Native children in the United States by conducting a study on issues including high rates of poverty, unemployment, child abuse, domestic violence, crime, substance abuse, and dire economic opportunities. The commission is also designed to make recommendations on how to ensure Native

children get the protections and economic and educational tools they need to thrive.

"For every Native child whose chance to flourish has been stifled by the overwhelming odds stacked against them, today belongs to them," Heitkamp said. "For these children, the president's signature on a bill dedicated to fighting the myriad of challenges they face means more than tackling barriers including unsafe housing conditions, epidemic levels of suicide, and a dire lack of educational or economic opportunity. It means showing every child across Indian Country who has ever felt isolated or hopeless that they are not alone."

PECS elects new student council

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The short election season is officially over at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School. After a two-week campaign, ballots were cast and counted Sept. 16. A new chairman and student council were sworn in during a ceremony in the school gymnasium Sept. 22.

Chairman Heath Lawrence leads a council comprised of representatives from each grade level. It's a responsibility he doesn't take lightly.

"I ran so I could set a good example for all the students," said the eighth-grader. "I was the seventh grade representative last year and people looked up to me."

Heath likes to examine issues carefully so he can be prepared to do what needs to be done. His platform called for a longer lunch period for the eighth grade due to the crowded conditions in the lunchroom.

"I will also try to get more recess or activity time for everyone," he said. "It will get more blood flowing and help us learn."

Heath enjoys math and science. He has

been taking piano lessons for about a year and a half. His hobby is learning.

"It's something I like to do every day," he said.

The newly minted politician hopes to someday parlay this victory into a much larger role as Tribal Chairman. In the meantime, he plans to continue to excel in math, attend Moore Haven High School and eventually earn a doctorate degree.

"I feel like an open book," he said. "People know me."

2016-17 PECS Student Council
Chairman – Heath Lawrence
Kindergarten – Jenna Huff
First Grade – Braylen Thomas
Second Grade – Brody Riley
Third Grade – JB Anderson
Fourth Grade – Candice Melton
Fifth Grade – Sydney Matthews
Sixth Grade – Winnie Gopher
Seventh Grade – Mariah Billie
Eighth Grade – Caylie Huff



The 2016-17 Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Student Council gathers on its inauguration day Sept. 22. From left, front row: Jenna Huff (Kindergarten), Braylen Thomas (First Grade), JB Anderson (Third Grade), Candice Melton (Fourth Grade), Sydney Matthews (Fifth Grade); middle row: Winnie Gopher (Sixth Grade), Brody Riley (Second Grade); back row: teacher Jade Osceola, Chairman Heath Lawrence, Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., Caylie Huff (Eighth Grade) and Mariah Billie (Seventh Grade)

PECS students vie for clothing contest honors



From left, Dakota Fish, Pherian Baker, Jarrett Beecham show off the ribbons they won during Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Indian Day clothing contest Sept. 22.



From left, Zander Gopher, Silas Snow, Chance Madrigal.



From left, Jenna Huff, Zoie Foster-Snow, Kulipa Julian (#57), Elainna Fonseca (#55), Amalia Estrada (#54), Augustana Banda (#53), Jaelle Weimann (#72).



From left, Dominic Gaucin, Koty Gopher-Turtle, Timothy Gopher.

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SEMINOLE TRIBE'S INDIAN DAY 2016



TAMPA: Maggie Garcia celebrates Indian Day in Tampa Sept. 24 with great-grandchild Kinsley Briggs.



HOLLYWOOD: JD Bowers and Joe Kippenberger show early morning strength as they compete in the canoe race.



BIG CYPRESS: Marlin Miller gives it her all as she winds up to throw the skillet Sept. 22.



TAMPA: Jordyn Henry wears a colorful outfit.



BRIGHTON: Daliyah Nunez, 6, turns the corner during the palm frawn race Sept. 23.



HOLLYWOOD: Beverly Alanbaugh prepares pumpkin bread as Wanda Bowers laughs at someone's joke.



HOLLYWOOD: Bobby Frank prepares the log before the start of competition.



IMMOKALEE: Trey Hinton, of Billie Swamp Safari, wrangles this gator into the perfect position to show off his pearly whites.



FORT PIERCE: Josh Sneed throws a horseshoe towards his target for the Horseshoe competition.



TRAIL: Goldie Huggins, dressed in traditional Tribal clothing, spends time with her pet pony, Apple Jack, between Indian Day activities Sept. 18.

SEMINOLE TRIBE'S INDIAN DAY 2016



Stephanie Rodriguez

FORT PIERCE: Allekeao Billie eats popcorn before going into the pool with the rest of the kids.



Kevin Johnson

BRIGHTON: Boys show plenty of energy as they chase elusive chickens during a youth event inside the ring.



Beverly Bidney

BIG CYPRESS: Dorian Jumper, 19, helps his brother Hank Jumper, 4, hold a young alligator as his brother Indigo Jumper, 2, watches from a safe distance.



Beverly Bidney

IMMOKALEE: Bebeyanna Quinones, 5, Antonio Hernandez, Winter Hernandez, 4 months, and Allen Hernandez enjoy each other's company.



Kevin Johnson

BRIGHTON: Elton Shore lugs logs during a competition.



Beverly Bidney

BIG CYPRESS: Billy Walker, Big Cypress Board Rep Joe Frank, Josh Jumper and Cicero Osceola participate in archery and the hatchet throw.



Sunny Ploch

TAMPA: Nancy Frank, Peggy Cubis, Susie Doctor, Pete Osceola and Wayne Billie



Stephanie Rodriguez

HOLLYWOOD: Angel Billie and Cassandra Jones laugh after racing their canoe through one of Hard Rock's lakes.

SEMINOLE TRIBE’S INDIAN DAY 2016



Sunny Ploch
TAMPA: Richard Henry with granddaughter Ava Henry and Susie Doctor.



Stephanie Rodriguez
TRAIL: Adriana and Savannah Huggins compete against each other during the log peeling contest.



Kevin Johnson
BRIGHTON: Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney competes in the palm frawn contest.



Stephanie Rodriguez
FORT PIERCE: Shamy Tommie plays in a bingo match.



Stephanie Rodriguez
BRIGHTON: Tiyanni Anderson, 9, tosses a skillet high into the air during the skillet toss event for youngsters.



Stephanie Rodriguez
TRAIL: Young girls Paris Huggins, Mae'Anna Osceola, Xiya Osceola, Mary Sally Osceola, and Rickel Osceola participate in the the clothing contest.



Stephanie Rodriguez
HOLLYWOOD: Jordan Jumper enjoys his run during the celebration.



Stephanie Rodriguez
TRAIL: Ted Billie, Randall Billie, Dylan Phillips and Daniel Billie watch Rachel Phillips as she tosses a skillet during the skillet toss competition.



Beverly Bidney
BIG CYPRESS: Carla Cypress plays bingo while her children Indigo Jumper, 2, and Hank Jumper, 4, enjoy some relief from the heat with sweet snow cones.



Stephanie Rodriguez
TRAIL: Frances Osceola and Virginia Osceola show off their sewn masterpieces for the clothing contest.



Kevin Johnson
BRIGHTON: Janet Smith and Tommie Jackson head toward the finish line during the co-ed canoe race while their competition –Delaney Osceola Imillakiya Osceola – try to get back into their canoes with Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue nearby to provide assistance if needed.

Sports



Native billiards players right at home with the pros

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The sea of light blue billiards tables that filled the floor of the Hard Rock Live arena was a welcomed sight for Native American players.

As part of the Tornado Open tournament, which featured pros and amateurs, a division for Natives proved to be popular. The division drew about 40 participants.

“It’s a very good turnout,” David Cypress said. “We’re thankful for the Tornado for putting it on. People get together and talk about old times. It’s competitive and friendly.”

The camaraderie extended from table to table as soft rock-n-roll music played throughout the event Sept. 28-Oct. 2 that was organized by professional player Vivian Villarreal. Some of the top names in the sport from throughout the world competed for thousands in prize money.

“You have pool players that are professionals that you see on TV all the time. It’s nice talking to them and reminiscing about old times and all that stuff,” Cypress said.

“I knew it would be a big tournament and there would be a lot of pros and I’d be able to catch up with guys I haven’t seen for a few years,” said Mario Posada, who lives on the Immokalee Reservation.

Posada, who is married to a Seminole, said there’s a vast difference between an amateur like himself and the pros.

“Their control of the cue ball; they know exactly where the cue ball is going to; us amateurs hope and pray we know where it’s going to go,” he said. “We have an idea, but those guys have it down to a science; that’s why they’re pros.”

Lance Blackdeer, a billiards enthusiast from the Ho-Chunk Nation, arrived at the

tournament with a couple friends. They drove from Wisconsin just so they could stop and play at pool halls from the Midwest to South Florida.

Blackdeer, who runs a Native billiards website, has a desire to organize a Native world championship.

“My goal is to promote Native pool,” he said.

That’s why Blackdeer was especially impressed with the Seminole Tribe’s involvement in the Tornado Open.

“I’m really glad this tribe is showing other tribes that it’s not about how much money you make; it’s what you’re promoting and stuff like that,” he said.

Even though he said there is interest from

Natives for such a tournament, he admitted there’s just not enough interest right now.

“In order to have a good tournament, you really need to have the numbers,” he said, “and right now I just don’t have the numbers to warrant a quote ‘world championship.’”

The Native division winners were Charles Osceola (men’s 9-ball), Jason Onespot (men’s 8-ball), Phalyn Osceola (women’s 9-ball) and Trudy Bigplum (women’s 8-ball).

Some of the big first-place winners in the pro ranks included Kelly Fisher, who won \$13,000 on the women’s side, and Shane Van Boening, who took home \$15,000 in the men’s division.



Kevin Johnson

Dozens of billiards tables were in use on the floor of Hard Rock Live for the Tornado Open.



Kevin Johnson

Justin Aldridge, of Brighton, gets ready to break during an early round match Sept. 30 in the Tornado Open at Hard Rock Live in Hollywood. The tournament featured divisions for Native Americans, professionals and amateurs.



Kevin Johnson

Players are given final instructions before the start of the Native American tournament Sept. 30 at the Tornado Open.



Kevin Johnson

David Cypress stands on one leg to position himself for a shot at the Tornado Open.



Kevin Johnson

Johnny Shawnee, Arapaho, from Oklahoma, lines up a shot Sept. 30 during the Tornado Open.



Kevin Johnson

Participants in the Native American portion of the Tornado Open compete Sept. 30 at Hard Rock Live.

Seminole trio shines for Okeechobee JV

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

FORT PIERCE — A versatile trio from the Seminole Tribe recently completed their first volleyball season for Okeechobee High School.

Freshmen Jaycee Jumper, Janessa Nunez and Brienna Brockman played pivotal roles on the Brahman's junior varsity squad, whose season ended in October.

"They did super," said Okeechobee JV coach Todd Jones.

With Jaycee as a setter, Janessa as a libero and Brienna as an outside hitter, Seminoles covered a lot of key spots on the court.

"The three of them could put together a really good beach team," Jones said.

Jones said Jaycee excelled in the setter's role and as a leader.

"Jaycee did a great job anywhere I put her," Jones said. "We tried a bunch of different spots and we realized she's an awesome setter. She's so strong. She can get to any ball. She's super fast and she's got great hands. She's got a really good future in setting."

During the team's match at Fort Piece Central on Oct. 11, Jaycee was among the most vocal Brahman as she tried to spur her team to victory.

"Jaycee did a great job tonight being positive on the bench and on the court, en-

couraging her team," Jones said.

Janessa led the squad defensively against Central as she frequently prevented aces and kept the ball in play with back row quickness. She also had a strong serving game.

"Janessa played awesome as our libero this season," Jones said. "She's quick, she gets to balls and she was a very consistent server for us."

During the season Brienna shifted in the front row from middle to outside, a move that paid off.

"Brienna we had in the middle playing middle blocker and then we made an adjustment and put her on the outside as an outside hitter and it was definitely an improvement for her and for the team," Jones said.

In the game against Central, Okeechobee fell behind 4-1 in the first set, but reeled off four straight points on Jaycee's serves to take a 5-4 lead. After Central went ahead, a pair of aces from Janessa kept the Brahman close. Late in the set, a block from Brienna energized her teammates before Central regrouped and pulled away. Central went on to post a two-set victory.

Overall, Jones said his team, which lost more games than it won, has room for improvement, which he expects as many of his players — still early in their high school careers— shift over to their club teams for the winter and spring.



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee High School freshman Jaycee Jumper manages to control the ball with her back to the net in a JV match against Fort Pierce Central on Oct. 11 in Fort Pierce.



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee High School's Brienna Brockman (13) battles at the net against Fort Pierce Central in a JV match Oct. 11 in Fort Pierce.



Kevin Johnson

Okeechobee High School freshman Janessa Nunez passes the ball during a JV match against Fort Pierce Central on Oct. 11.

Perfect day for Brighton girls

TAVARES — The Brighton Seminoles U11 girls volleyball team made a lengthy trip worth their while.

The Seminoles departed the Brighton Reservation at about 6 a.m. Sept. 25 and traveled to the Big House Complex in Tavares for the All American Sports Volleyball 1-Day round robin tournament. The Seminoles, coached by Kelley Smiley, won all their games to return home undefeated.

The Brighton Seminoles are: Winnie Gopher (1), Ashlynn Collins (2), Jana Johnson (12), Nena Youngblood (4), Saniya Rodrigues (5), Naleah Billie (10), Kendra Thomas (3) and Melina Steve (13).



Beverly Bidney

Florida State running back Dalvin Cook picks up some of his 123 rushing yards in the Seminoles' 17-6 homecoming victory against Wake Forest on Oct. 15 in Tallahassee.

Seminoles provide spark for Moore Haven MS football

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

MOORE HAVEN — It took all of about five seconds for a Seminole to make an impact in Moore Haven Middle School's football game against LaBelle Middle School on Oct. 13.

On the opening kickoff, Jaylen Baker sprinted straight ahead and made a thunderous solo tackle as he drilled the LaBelle ball carrier. Having delivered what turned out to be perhaps the hardest hit of the night, Baker set the early tone in Moore Haven's 33-6 win.

Seminoles play a significant role for Moore Haven's middle school squad. They comprise one-fourth of the entire 24-player roster. Jaylen and Hyatt Pearce are eighth-graders; Corey Jumper, David King, Deagan Osceola and Austin Thomas are sixth-graders.

"This is a well-disciplined team," said Moore Haven coach Al Gary. "They are willing to learn. They ask questions. The team is young. We only have five eighth-graders. A majority of the team is sixth-graders."

Five of the Seminole attend Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School. Since PECS doesn't have a football team, the kids are allowed to play for Moore Haven.

In addition to special teams, Jaylen, one of the taller players on the field, made his impact felt elsewhere against LaBelle. As a linebacker, he made an interception in the fourth quarter and he stopped a two-point conversion attempt. Offensively, his first carry out of the backfield didn't come until the third quarter, but the wait was worth it. Jaylen made a quick dash to his right and picked up 12 yards. He finished with 31 yards on four carries. He also provided the key outside block on a 15-yard touchdown run by teammate Artavistus Ware.

"Jaylen has been doing good," Gary said. "Run, tough plays, critical yards, fourth-and-2, fourth-and-3 we give it to him. He's an all-around good player. He's got good speed, good hands. He's also our punter, although we've only had to kick one game."

Corey saw plenty of playing time on offense as a tight end. He and the rest of the line helped protect Moore Haven's agile quarterbacks and opened holes for them to dart through.

"Corey is a very good blocker," Gary



Kevin Johnson

David King (6) and the Moore Haven Middle School football team take the field for their game against LaBelle Middle School on Oct. 13 at Moore Haven Middle/High School. Moore Haven won, 33-6.

said. "We can rely on him on the wide side of the field. Defense, he's coming around. Overall, he's going to be a good player."

Gary said he's seen vast growth from the other Seminole, too, throughout the season.

David, a safety, was involved in a few tackles and helped stifle LaBelle's offense.

"He's been our most improved player," Gary said.

Hyatt saw action on special teams and a few plays on defense.

"First game out, he was a little timid, but as the season has gone forth, he's been

coming around," Gary said. "He's very knowledgeable. He's very quick to ask questions to learn his position. He's doing pretty good."

Austin's season was halted when he suffered an injury during practice in a collision with Jaylen.

"He's a first-year player. He came out and he was starting to pick up everything, but unfortunately he got hurt in practice," Gary said.

Gary said he's also pleased with the progress of Deagan, who plays safety.

"He's coming around," Gary said.

Austin and Deagan did not play against LaBelle.

In addition to the win against LaBelle, Moore Haven notched earlier victories against Jupiter Christian and Glades Day.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Jaylen Baker tackles a LaBelle player on the opening kickoff of a middle school game Oct. 13 at Moore Haven Middle/High School.



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven Middle School coach Al Gary joins four of the Seminole on his team after they defeated LaBelle Middle School on Oct. 13. They are Hyatt Pearce (27), Corey Jumper (80), David King (6) and Jaylen Baker (7). Other Seminole on the team but not available for the photo are Deagan Osceola and Austin Thomas.



Moore Haven's Corey Jumper (80) provides blocking on offense during the Terriers' 33-6 win against LaBelle Middle School on Oct. 13



Kevin Johnson

Moore Haven's Jaylen Baker, left, and Hyatt Pearce line up for a kickoff against LaBelle Middle School.



Kevin Johnson

Burgundy Pierce (12) helps lead the Hollywood Christian School volleyball in a Class 2A-District 7 quarterfinal match against Atlantic Christian on Oct. 19 in Boca Raton.

Burgundy Pierce takes leadership role on young HWC squad

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BOCA RATON — Hollywood Christian School’s solid volleyball season — which saw a young Challengers squad post a 10-4 mark — came to an end a little earlier than they hoped.

Hollywood Christian, seeded No. 3, was eliminated from the Class 2A-District 7 quarterfinals with a 3-1 loss to No. 6 Atlantic Christian on Oct. 19 at Grandview Preparatory School in Boca Raton.

Still, the season featured plenty of highlights, including a victory against rival Sheridan Hills.

“[We] had a great season,” said Hollywood Christian coach Trisha Metcalf. “We beat our rival team for the first time in six years.”

The Challengers roster featured two

girls from the Tribe: Burgundy Pierce and Italia Sisto.

Although only in ninth grade, Burgundy is a veteran of a few years on the varsity squad where she emerged as a leader and a captain this year.

“Burgundy took leadership in helping the new girls that joined the team and also by explaining to them the positions and what to do,” Metcalf said. “Burgundy gave her team a lot of encouragement even when we were down.”

Burgundy, the team’s main setter, was a standout in the victory against Sheridan Hills.

“She made a lot of key plays which lead us to the win,” Metcalf said.

In the season finale, Burgundy played the entire match. The game started on a good note for Hollywood Christian thanks

in part to Burgundy’s serving. She delivered nine consecutive service points — including a couple of aces — to close out the first set, 25-12.

But Atlantic Christian soon snagged the momentum away and won three straight sets to oust Hollywood Christian.

This season marked the first varsity year for Italia, a ninth-grader who previously played middle school ball.

“Italia didn’t play that much but always came in and helped her team when needed,” Metcalf said. “From the beginning of the year her serves and passes have improved.”

With only two seniors and no juniors, the young Challengers will no doubt be eager to build on this season’s success in 2017.



Kevin Johnson

Hollywood Christian ninth-grader Burgundy Pierce sends the ball over the net against Atlantic Christian on Oct. 19.



Kevin Johnson

Hollywood Christian's Italia Sisto passes the ball during a match against Atlantic Christian on Oct. 19.

Season ends for Moore Haven volleyball

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor



Courtesy photo

Tribal members Sydnee Cypress, left, and Courtney Gore, right, join their 2017 Moore Haven High School classmate and teammate Olivia Everett at the start of the volleyball season.



Beverly Bidney

Moore Haven senior Sydnee Cypress, left, provides defense for the Terriers in their final game of the season Oct. 17 at Southwest Florida Christian Academy in Fort Myers.

The 2016 volleyball season ended for Moore Haven High School on Oct. 17.

Seeded sixth, the Terriers fell, 3-0, to third-seeded Southwest Florida Christian School in a Class 3A-District 6 quarterfinal in Fort Myers. The scores were 25-8, 25-14, 25-13.

It was the final high school volleyball game for senior Sydnee Cypress, who played

alongside junior Sunni Bearden all season.

“It was fun playing with Sunni all year,” Sydnee said.

“The best part of the season was beating Clewiston both times we played and Glades Day,” Sunni said. “They are our biggest rivals.”

The playoff loss in Fort Myers would have been the final game for senior Courtney Gore, but her last game came at the start of the season when she suffered a season-

ending injury in the first match.

Courtney, Sydnee and their class of 2017 teammate Olivia Everette were honored during a senior night ceremony at the team’s final home game in October.

Staff reporter Beverly Bidney contributed to this story.



Beverly Bidney

The Brighton duo of Sydnee Cypress, left, and Sunni Bearden exchange low-fives during Moore Haven’s Class 3A-District 6 quarterfinal Oct. 17 at Southwest Florida Christian Academy in Fort Myers.

Lady Seminoles volleyball wraps up another winning season

BY KEVIN JOHNSON
Senior Editor

BRIGHTON — The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School volleyball team lost its eighth-grade parent night home finale, but the setback didn’t dampen an otherwise productive season for a young squad.

Despite being loaded with inexperience, the Lady Seminoles shrugged off their newness and finished the season with a 7-3 record.

“Pretty successful. I only returned three players from last year, so I can’t complain,” said PECS coach Kim Jackson.

For the season, Elle Thomas finished as the team’s leader in aces (29) and kills (22). Karey Gopher was the only other player that reached double-double in aces and kills with 19 and 17, respectively. Melina Steve finished second in aces with 23. Tafv Harris was a force at the net with a team-high three blocks and a dozen kills.

“We’ve improved quite a bit. We’ve become stronger as a team. We moved things around and found what worked for us,” Jackson said.

The Lady Seminoles ended their season on a high note with a 25-9, 25-12 victory at LaBelle Middle School on Oct. 19. Melina led the team with nine aces and four kills. Mariah Billie had five aces and two kills. Elle added five aces. Shaela French had three aces. Gisselle Micco had one ace and one kill. Karey had one ace. Alyssa and Tafv both added a kill.

On Oct. 12, PECS honored its two eighth-graders — Shaela French and Alyssa Gonzalez -- in a pregame ceremony. Jackson greeted both players and their families with flowers.

Yearling Middle spoiled the night by winning a hard-fought match that went the full three sets. After dropping the first set, the Lady Seminoles rallied in the second set. Down 8-5, PECS went ahead thanks to four straight service points from Karey and won the set, 25-22. Yearling regrouped to win the third set, 15-8.

Before the varsity match, the PECS JV squad followed a similar route as it fell to Yearling in three sets.

Considering the varsity team will lose only one starter from this year’s roster and the JV squad won nearly all its games, next



Kevin Johnson

PECS’ Tafv Harris battles a Yearling Middle School player at the net during the Lady Seminoles final home match Oct. 12 in Brighton.

season is shaping up to a strong one for the entire program.

“We’ve got some pretty good kids coming up,” Jackson said. “Our fifth-grade group is really strong as well, so it should be pretty fun to watch the next couple years.”

2016 PECS volleyball final stats

Varsity

Elle Thomas: 29 aces, 22 kills
Karey Gopher: 19 aces, 17 kills
Tafv Harris: 5 aces, 12 kills, 3 blocks
Mariah Billie: 16 aces, 5 kills
Shaela French: 19 Aces, 3 kills
Melina Steve: 23 aces, 5 kills
Gisselle Micco: 19 aces, 5 kills
Alyssa Gonzalez: 3 aces, 3 kills

Junior Varsity

Alice Osceola: 125 points
Leilani Burton: 85 points
Lashae King: 22 points
Karalyne Urbina: 21 points
Kalynn Hammill: 21 points
Winnie Gopher: 18 points
Angelie Melton: 18 points
Ryanna Osceola: 15 points



Kevin Johnson

Karey Gopher controls the ball in Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School’s final home match of the season Oct. 12 in Brighton.



Kevin Johnson

Gisselle Micco sets up a pass for PECS against Yearling Middle School on Oct. 12.



Kevin Johnson

The PECS junior varsity squad works together to keep a point alive in a match Oct. 12 against Yearling Middle School.

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 SOFTBALL
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Carsyn Gordon checked with the FIU catcher to confirm the count. By the time the umpires arrived at the start of the second inning, FIU's Stephanie Texeira had already notched the game's first hit – a double – and FSU slugger Alex Powers belted the first of her two home runs, a two-run shot over a temporary outfield fence in left-center field.

Powers delivered a three-run shot in the fifth that gave FSU a 6-0 lead. A grand slam from Sabrina Stutsman in the seventh stamped an exclamation point on a victorious and educational weekend for the Seminoles.

"It worked out,"
weekend was perfect."

After the victory the Seminoles gathered in right field and received a brief postgame talk from Thomlynn, who then sought as many of the players' autographs as she could get on a softball.

As for the upcoming season that starts in February, FSU will try to defend its ACC title and take another shot at winning a national championship. Last season the Seminoles won a couple games at the World Series but were narrowly ousted with a pair of one-run losses. They are eager to return.

"A few years ago we got to the World Series and we lost out the first two games. Finally, we got back and made a run for it," Burroughs said. "I think now we have the experience to come back and really push and go all the way. We have great leadership on this team and the freshmen have bought into everything that we've been working for."

