



Ahfachkee students honor veterans
EDUCATION ♦ 1B

Tribe celebrates Red Ribbon Week
COMMUNITY ♦ 3A

Tribal basketball team competes in Hawaii
SPORTS ♦ 1C



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Veterans recognized at annual celebration

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
 Special Projects Reporter

where he was named Pastor Emeritus weeks before his death at age 78 last June 10. Cattleman, bowler, fisherman and archer, he also served in the U.S. Army.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Color Guard joined members of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 23 Color Guard to present the flags, standing at attention while Brighton Preschool students (assisted by Mahala Madrigal) recited the *Pledge of Allegiance*. Lucy Bowers, assistant to Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., sang the national anthem that exploded the auditorium with applause.

Seminole Tribal poet laureate Moses Jumper Jr. took to the podium with an original poem that “depicts what I think about this day and what Veterans Day means to me,” said the Seminole veteran. His poem began, “I am in awe as I stand among these warriors gathered here today/ Proud and honored for the sacrifices they made/ Words alone cannot express what this day means to me/A large price was paid that I might speak here of being free...”

Chairman James E. Billie and MacDonald sat next to each other on the stage throughout the program, which was broadcast on jumbo screens visible from all angles of the room. Seminole Media Productions also broadcast the event online as a live stream.

♦ See VETERANS DAY on page 5A



Brett Daly

Chairman James E. Billie and President Tony Sanchez Jr. are recognized with FSU President Eric J. Barron during the planting of the flame spear on Oct. 27.

Seminole Tribe honored during FSU Homecoming weekend

BY BRETT DALY
 Senior Editor

TALLAHASSEE — To recognize the role the Seminole Tribe plays in Florida State University’s heritage, FSU President Eric J. Barron invited Chairman James E. Billie and President Tony Sanchez Jr. to assist in the iconic tradition of planting the flame spear prior to the university’s Homecoming football game on Oct. 27.

The recently crowned Miss Florida Seminole Princess Alexis Aguilar and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez also participated in the festivities by crowning FSU’s Homecoming king and queen at halftime.

“To be able to come out and share the activities at Florida State is a tremendous honor,” President Sanchez said. “I think the relationship the Tribe has with the university is just our way of showing our commitment to the school.”

The pregame rite of FSU symbol Osceola riding down Bobby Bowden Field on his Appaloosa horse, Renegade, and planting his flaming spear on the 50-yard line began in 1978. Since its inception, only Chairman Billie, President Sanchez and FSU alumnus Kyle Doney have had the honor of assisting Osceola in the tradition that symbolizes the Seminoles’ warrior spirit.

“The relationship between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Florida State University is very unique; you won’t find anything comparable between

any other Tribe and university,” Doney said. “As a member on the FSU Alumni Association’s National Board of Directors, I was privileged to share a role in asking Chairman Billie and President Sanchez to participate in FSU’s Homecoming events and the Tradition of Tribute.”

The tradition of crowning a princess at FSU began in 1948, and Gloria Wilson became the first Seminole princess to crown the FSU Homecoming court in 1976. Since then, Seminole royalty have carried on the tradition, and Aguilar and Nunez did the honors in front of about 80,000 fans at Doak Campbell Stadium this year, which served as a highlight of the weekend for the girls.

“Florida State is based on tradition, and that’s how we’re raised,” Aguilar said. “When we were walking down the 50-yard line and the band was playing, it was so amazing. That’s the only time I’m going to get to do that, so I’m glad it was awesome.”

Both Aguilar and Nunez have goals of attending FSU upon their high school graduations, and the weekend, which included their first FSU football game, reinforced their commitment.

“I’ve always wanted to come to FSU,” Nunez said. “It’s such a great feeling knowing that all these people know who we are.”

Both princesses felt honored to represent their Tribe.

“I’m always humbled to be in this position,” Aguilar said. “I’m so honored to be chosen to do this for my Tribe.”

“It’s been overwhelming, but then again I can’t believe all the things I get to do,” Nunez added about her experience. “It’s such a great feeling.”

♦ See FSU on page 13A



Brett Daly

Miss Florida Seminole Princess Alexis Aguilar rides in the FSU Homecoming Parade on Oct. 26.

Happy Halloween!



Andrea Holata

Brighton preschoolers dress up for their annual trick-or-treating on Oct. 25. Tribal departments passed out candy to all the children. ♦ See more HALLOWEEN photos on pages 6A and 2B

Team Brighton defeats reigning champs at Senior Trike Fest

BY BRETT DALY
 Senior Editor

BIG CYPRESS — The Brighton Reservation reclaimed the title of Trike Fest champions after defeating reigning champs Big Cypress on Nov. 7.

Brighton won the title for four consecutive years before Big Cypress claimed top honors for the first time last year, so the victory proved bittersweet for Brighton.

“I guess practice makes perfect ‘cause we got the big trophy back,” said Brighton competitor Elbert Snow. “We’ve been having practice for three to four weeks. [The win] made us feel good.”

About 60 seniors gathered at the Big Cypress Aviation Hangar for the eighth annual Senior Trike Fest, which included a variety of courses and obstacles, as well as friendly competition among the Brighton, Big Cypress, Hollywood, Tampa and Immokalee reservations.

Health Department director Connie Whidden said the event keeps seniors active and healthy while offering a chance for them to interact with Tribal members from different reservations. And because many reservations practiced for weeks prior to the event, it meant additional exercise for the seniors.

“It was good seeing everyone out,” she said. “It turned out good. Everyone seemed happy.”

Seniors competed in five events aimed at testing their coordination and skills on a tricycle: the target toss, the maze, the cone weave, the puzzle challenge and the ladder ball (the only event not performed on a trike). In addition, the reservations competed in team relays that served as a highlight of the event.

Each team consisted of five people, with the first four teammates competing in the cone weave relay and the fifth one piecing together a puzzle to finish the relay. Brighton swept passed the competition with a time of 4:59.00, while Big Cypress placed second (5:37.59), Hollywood placed third (10:58.84) and Tampa placed fourth (11:33.10).

“It’s a good thing for the seniors,” Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard said. “It’s all about the seniors’ health. I think there should be more things for them to do like this.”

The Trike Fest also included awards for Best Decorated Trike and Best Dressed Triker. Each reservation decorated a tricycle in the event’s theme, Hawaiian luau, and competitors also dressed up, sporting Hawaiian prints, flowers and shells.

♦ See TRIKE FEST on page 15A



Brett Daly

Brighton competitor Alice Sweat takes her turn in the cone weave during the eighth annual Senior Trike Fest held in Big Cypress on Nov. 7.

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Editorial

Muscovy duck for Thanksgiving 1954

• James E. Billie

One of my first real memories of Thanksgiving occurred back in 1954. I was going to school in Clewiston, Fla. back then and living with my Clan grandfather, Morgan Smith (Bird Clan) and his wife, Katy Smith, who was Laura Mae Osceola's mother. They were getting ready to celebrate Thanksgiving. Up until then, I never gave too much thought to Thanksgiving because we lived way out in the swamps, far from the worldly ways, or the United States ways of celebrating Thanksgiving by having a bunch of Indians sitting around with Pilgrims dressed in some kind of white cloth around their necks and weird-looking hats. That is what I thought Thanksgiving was.

When I came home from school that day, Morgan and Katy had a bird on the table. Since it was Thanksgiving, I thought it was a turkey, but they indicated to me, "We don't eat turkey." That was because, once upon a time, way back in history, a man and a turkey had a fight and the turkey took the scalp of an Indian. The turkey won and he celebrates it by carrying the scalp on his chest. And we also don't eat turkey because the turkey possesses the man's soul.

So, I realized we were not going to celebrate Thanksgiving with a turkey, but I still wondered what kind of bird that was on the dinner table. And I come to realize that it was a Muscovy duck, you know, the duck with a bunch of warts on top of its head that you see in the city limits of Hollywood and Miami. It was one of those ducks that Morgan and Katy had in their yard. They had a bunch of 'em and had killed one to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Man, I thought that was the funniest thing. We were going to celebrate Thanksgiving by eating a duck.

So to this day, if you are celebrating Thanksgiving and you are a Seminole Indian, you

may run into some families who do not eat turkey, but instead they may have chicken, or maybe even a steak for Thanksgiving. And the ones who do not know will surely go to some Wal-Mart or Winn-Dixie and get a butterball turkey.

My son and I will be going out hunting this Thanksgiving. My son killed a turkey last year on Thanksgiving, and he wants his sister to kill one this year. I have never had any guilty feelings about eating a turkey. I've always taken his scalp. Sometimes, it will be an 8-inch scalp; sometimes, it will be 9 inches.

We never had Thanksgiving until the Pilgrims came over, and I think they shot a turkey and ate it, and we all thought about giving thanks, but when the Pilgrims multiplied and outnumbered the Indians and then killed the Indians off, they called it Thanksgiving. I don't think the Indians were giving thanks then.

But, all these years later, if we don't go into the history too much, it can actually be fun eating the turkey. My favorite Thanksgiving turkey is from Boston Market. Anyway, happy Thanksgiving, and if you don't know about the turkey carrying the scalp around, ask your grandma and she will tell you the legend.

Have a great Thanksgiving.
Sho-naa-bish.

James E. Billie is Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



Selling beef on the chickee business plan

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

Cattle has always been a solid part of our Seminole history from way back when the Spanish took off and left their cows. Today, we are still making history with our cattle program. We had a tasting event for Seminole Pride Beef at the Hard Rock recently as a way of setting up a national distribution for our beef. We had H.T. Hackney, who services a lot of independents and mom and pop carriers, the same ones who carry our water, Cisco, Sedano's Supermarkets, which has more than 40 Latino stores.

At our event, we attracted owners, their operations people and a number of other people in all corners of the industry. I was stunned to keep hearing the same question over and over again: People wanted to know where the beef came from. We'd tell 'em, "That's from our cattle." And they were amazed. They are surprised when they find out we are the second-largest beef producer in Florida and No. 4 calf producer in the country.

We take a lot for granted. I am guilty of that myself. But in this job I can't afford to. I need to find out how it all works in order to find out how to capitalize on our resources. So, I recently spent some time with Bigg (Big Cypress cattleman Moses Jumper Jr.), and he really enlightened me. I never really understood the actual mentality of the cowboy, the thought process behind their rodeos and lifestyle. I always wondered, when the day was done, what they were trying to gain out of all that. But let me tell you, after talking with Bigg Shot, I learned a lot about the industry and about our Tribe.

Cattle were all we had back in the old days. And we used the cattle and the rodeos, the prize money, anything we could, to finance our efforts to form an organized Tribal government. Bigg had a lot of stories about how the cowboys would take the money they won and pay for the gas it took to drive to Washington. To lobby, to go to meetings, to do what it took to get noticed.

Like Bigg kept saying, cattle have always been part of our history. I've heard the stories, how they packed their sandwiches and drove to Washington, but I never really connected all of that to the cattle program. Those early Tribal leaders were supporting the efforts with their lives and work. It was not just a matter of putting food on the table, but using it as a means to be heard and a way to attract attention to the very reason why we are here. I have a whole new perspective on the cattle industry.

But in our culture that is how it works. I hope, 20 years from now, I hope one of the young bucks will come up to me and ask the same questions I was asking Bigg: "Tell me about those days. Tell me all about what you were thinking when you did this or that. Help me understand how it made you feel. How were you able to convince people? Help me understand." And I'll let them know. Much better to ask questions first than to just go out and take a shot in the dark, right?

Honestly, if I am faced with a decision on whether we will support rodeos, I'm gonna be a big proponent, a big proponent. Now that I understand where it came from, to NOT continue to support that would be a slap in the face of those guys who did that so long ago and the guys today who are keeping that memory alive.

I'm not afraid to say, "I don't know." The person I lean on the most in the cattle program is Alex Johns, who is college educated and has spent his whole life in that industry. Hey, that is who I am leaning on. I don't have a discussion with anybody about cattle issues unless he is in the room with me.

One of my objectives I hope to accomplish with the cattle industry is, first of all, I want everyone to understand its history and its potential, everything associated with it that is important. It is not just individual Tribal members. It's a Tribal industry. Tribal members should know and understand why certain people went into that industry, that their families have been in it for generations, what that all means.

And we are going to continue to do whatever we can to support individual Tribal members who want to become businessmen in that industry and yet, at the same time, promote the important role the cattle industry has played in our history. Not just by putting food on the table, but what it has meant for our initial survival and continued existence. I am coming into a situation where it is my responsibility to make that venture maximize its potential. But in doing so, I am educating myself on all these things I just mentioned: the who, what, where, when, why. Like we are doing with everything.

The key to making decisions, making recommendations is knowledge – I need to know and understand, and that is what I am doing.

I am proud of the role the Seminoles play in both the state and national cattle industries – that is something every Tribal member needs to know and be proud of. Cattle are how we survived when we began as the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Without those cattle, we wouldn't be having any of these discussions.

As you know, I am a huge advocate for Tribal members wanting to be entrepreneurs, to capitalize on the things they know, and if the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. can play a role in helping them become more successful, we're gonna play that role.

The more exposure I can get, not only for our own cattle program but for the whole cattle industry, the better. For a long time, it was just about subsidy, subsidy, subsidy, and we're only now looking at ways to achieve overall Tribal goals, as well as helping the individual achieve his or her

goals. And that applies to any and all endeavors that Tribal members take on.

I want Tribal members to know that when we talk about maximizing the potential of our cattle program, that the key is to let the world know about our product. We are accomplishing that by striking distribution agreements with national vendors, partnering up with other businesses that want to market our product, all with confidence that we have a product that can compete with anyone else on the market. We just need to let the world know. We need to tell that story.

At the Minority Business Enterprise Council trade show in Denver, where there are buyers from Wal-Mart to Costco to Sam's Club – all big buyers – we had a tremendous response to our water, our beef, our juice. Those are the people we have to be out in front of, and that is what we are doing. The products we are talking about are not new products – these are products that existed, but we're ready to get out on a mass scale, so the trade shows, the food tastings, food and wine shows we are involved in is all a part of the story you have to tell in letting the world know. The last thing we want is to have the best kept secret in the industry. That won't make you any money.

I'm not here to talk about what could have happened, what should have happened and all that. I'm here to make it happen now. I have something to work with. I have the water, juice and beef. And I am doing what needs to be done to get distribution on a nationwide scale.

It is no different than building a chickee. If a person building the chickee, no matter how good he is, no matter the quality of his work, if the only people who know he can do that is his family, how much business is he gonna get? But if he gets out there and visits the people who own hotels, visits the people at parks and recreation, puts a sign on his truck, those are the things that tell people, "Hey this is what I do, this is what I have to offer. So if you're interested, just call me up on this number." So you are applying the same principles – it all depends on how big that chickee builder wants to be.

He decides, "Hey I want to do the same thing in the next county and the next county after that," or he decides, "You know what? I am just going to do things in my neighborhood, in my county. If I am successful, you know what I need to get? Yes, another truck. I need to hire another foreman. The new truck is going to need signs. I need to take out an ad in the yellow pages, visit the park people." To grow, that person has to get out and pound the pavement. We are doing the same thing. We've been pounding the pavement. Now, we are out in front of the people we actually need to get out in front of. Same principle, just different products on a different scale.

Again, I don't care if it is building chickees or making arts and crafts, it's all the same thing if it is a business. It requires hard decisions: "I will just make and sell to my family." Nothing wrong with that. Or, "I want to make and sell to other outlets," or, "I want to make myself available by going to various festivals." Soon, people will notice what you have to offer and, "Oh yeah! I need business cards and can't forget a website where people can go online to see what I have to offer." Same thing as selling beef. It is no different.

You can be sure that Tribal members will know everything we are doing. We go to community meetings, and everything is discussed. The worst thing that can happen is for some bad news to come down and not say anything, and then three months later, the community finds out and wonders why we didn't tell them before. That makes matters even worse. This administration will talk about anything. You may not like the news. If we have a community meeting and all we have is bad news, we are going to have that community meeting anyway. You need to hear the bad news as much as you need to hear the good. We aren't going to shy away from it.

Our support for a change in the dividend allocation is just one of those difficult subjects that has been swept under the rug for years. This is certainly not an issue that just came up now when we took office. It's an issue that should have been discussed years ago, but for whatever reason, it just kept being pushed back. "Oh it will go away, leave it for the next guy."

Well, you know what? We are the next guy. If we are not willing to address the hard issues, then shame on us. We don't need to be here. We have decided we are going to deal with this issue. It is unpopular but, 20, 50, 100 years from now, everyone is gonna say, "You know what? Those guys made the right decision." This is going to affect us all. Not just the unborn. The leaders have to take it on. You take it on, and you can't worry about how it might hurt your chances to get re-elected.

If it is all about getting re-elected – if that is your only motive – then stay out of office.

Tribal members are not looking for buddies. They are not looking for yes men. They are looking for people who are going to make a tough decision and stand by it.
Sho-naa-bish.

Tony Sanchez Jr. is President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.



Letter to the editor

Dear Tribune,

First to say is, I am Tribal member Waylon Hank Jim. I am Otter Clan.

I would like to respectfully submit a thanks and gratitude to all who have made and who have helped make *The Seminole Tribune* become what it is.

I was raised on the Brighton Rez by late Wonder Johns and family in the 1980s.

I received a little home schooling and Headstart daycare as an early start on education before reaching schooling age, which allowed me to be enrolled into Okeechobee public school programs.

By the time I reached by early teens, I had already started to engage in summer youth job programs, which were a new fad back then. Remembering the qualities given down to me by late Wonder and his family, I learned early that, if you were going to attempt a man's role in your life, you were going to have to stop being so scared to sacrifice other countless things a young man relishes; it wasn't always so easy. Sometimes it felt worse taking on manly roles than to just be a child and enjoy. I was warned and told so many times repeatedly and without a lot of soft heartedness that children usually get. I was made fun of because I wanted to be a man in a kid's body. It was embarrassing at times and humiliating other times, but I never gave in to be put down.

The things that meant less to me then mean more to me now; and remembering what I had then is sometimes painful because I want to time travel into that time again and do it all over again.

My memories of my childhood into young manhood to man adulthood are not all bad – most are good, and I am indebted to late Wonder and his family for guiding me while I lived with them.

Pets, cattle, horses, citrus groves, hog farm, going to school to socialize with people of my own Tribe and others of other backgrounds, getting involved in social life that (financially) less than average and average children imagine in dreams and fantasies of being able to do – a lot of those types of things I was able to do.

When James E. Billie still was adding to his camp, which now is Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki, I think back to a time when Wonder and his wife and I drove to Big Cypress to Billie's camp, and for the first time I met James Billie, and I met Wavoka Tommie, his father and mother. Wonder was skeptical of letting me be held in James' arms, but I nagged enough until he

let me go to James. Was it an experience? Oh, yes! It was! Looking back, those were the best years of my life. Alex Johns, Emma Johns, Eric Johns, Marty Johns are several influences that have been tough but good ones in my life – even Connie Whidden, who took me to Wonder's home and asked if he would be interested in adoption; he'd expressed early on of adopting a child. I watched Wonder's family grow, I mean really grow; it was like something I never knew can happen. I was really wowed and blown away with great surprise and suspicions if I was fixin to be the not-so-bundle of joy. It turned out for a while I was old news, an old favorite spoiled brat, but it wasn't that bad – really, it wasn't.

When I read *The Tribune*, I like to read more about business and the incomes. I like the joy, happiness and peace of mind and soul I get when I get to read and see pictures of employers and their employees going back to school or better, college; that's progress all day in America.

Student spotlight is quickly becoming one of my other favorites to read. I feel and believe education is like our family: We never are guided wrongly and we are always learning something new to us, even if it's old; new from old is better than old alone (meaning education).

But I feel and believe our *Tribune* shall make sports more vast and prioritized. I don't know how many times I have traveled that thought and interest, but it's there, and I can't ignore it or avoid it either. My inner tuition says express it; it may surprise you; you might get a response.

I will advocate to children and adults avid as possible for me to educate them on how so important it is to stay positively busy with things you can take and carry along your way in life, not to be trying to be accepted because it feels right; feeling right trying to be accepted does not always work and wrong doesn't either. Staying focal on life as a positive character and role/role model says a whole lot more and shows more than the wrong acceptance, which a lot of times is not acceptance; it's rejection felt right. I want avid readers and submitters to read this, take it in in the right perspective views and for good measures.
Again, great work!

*From a friend and avid reader,
Waylon Hank Jim*

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Community

A



Andrea Holata

Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Fitness specialist Kai Setty lead walkers during Brighton's Red Ribbon march on Oct. 23.

Tribe celebrates Red Ribbon Week

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

National Red Ribbon Week unites people and communities by taking a visible stand against substance abuse. The Red Ribbon campaign and the tradition of displaying red ribbons as a symbol of intolerance of drug use began in 1985, after drug traffickers murdered a Drug Enforcement Administration agent in Mexico. Since then, the week has been commemorated in schools and communities nationwide.

Immokalee

The spirit of the message for the Red Ribbon Week activities has become contagious and spread well beyond the boundaries of the Immokalee Reservation throughout October. Immokalee High School students, their families and the Immokalee High School Marching Indians Band have put this annual event on their calendar.

With the Seminole Police Department

and Color Guard in the lead, a parade of floats, swamp buggies, bicycles, golf carts, a horse-drawn carriage and cheering groups of marchers stretched for three quarters of a mile behind the Marching Indians Band playing *On to Victory*. Winding its way through the streets of the reservation, the parade drew a cheering crowd and eventually arrived at the Immokalee Community Center for a barbecue buffet catered by the Immokalee Seminole Casino.

The Casino and its employees have partnered with the Immokalee community for several years to help the Red Ribbon activities deliver their important message that can save lives and families. Various casino departments decorated doors with compelling themes on removable panels. On parade day, these panels were incorporated into a float and accompanied by a marching vanguard of employees.

"Drug addiction, alcohol and other devastating enemies wear many disguises in order to sneak up on you," said former

Chairman Mitchell Cypress. "These enemies are not prejudice and are anxious to attack everyone. We have all lost family and friends in this never-ending war. Don't allow yourself to become a casualty."

Community members, individual departments, service organizations and the First Seminole Baptist Church of Immokalee formulated a joint effort to make the 2012 Red Ribbon Week a success. Door decorating contests kicked off the event based on the theme, *The best me is drug free*.

Culture, Education and the Library departments stimulated creativity with the production of a pledge quilt. Meaningful patchwork squares were contributed by individuals and families followed by a pizza party. Comprised of 60 patches, the quilt will be on display at the gym to remind everyone of the pledge they took to be drug free.

Pastor Josh LeadingFox led a prayer walk on Spirit Night, ending with a special evening of inspiration and remembrance at the First Seminole Baptist Church of Immokalee. A traditional dinner was followed by a service of encouragement that included an emotional testimony by Edward Aguilar. Sharing his feelings of self-doubt, addiction, near-fatal experience and miraculous recovery, Aguilar is an inspiration and emphasizes the strength that comes from family support and belief in the Creator.

The Family Extreme Challenge provided an extraordinary climax to a week of community support. The Recreation Department constructed an obstacle course that drew an enthusiastic crowd. What began as five family teams of competitors blossomed into 12 teams who struggled through balance beams, a soap slide, an ice-filled tub, a military mud crawl, a ladder elevation and mountain climb over hay rolls. It took a team effort of family members helping each other by carrying, pushing and pulling to ensure that everyone from the youngest to the oldest completed the course.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee seniors express their support of family values and a drug-free community.

♦ See RED RIBBON on page 14A

Future Tribal Gaming executives trained in house

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Gaming plays a paramount role in the prosperity of the Tribe. In an effort to get Tribal members involved in all aspects of the gaming business and ensure that profits continue, Seminole Gaming operates the Tribal Career Development Program.

The program encourages Tribal members to consider the gaming and hospitality industry as a career. Started more than eight years ago, it is a paid work/study program where interns are management trainees who get on-the-job training in every department.

"We are trying to develop leaders for tomorrow," said John Eder, senior vice president of finance with Seminole Gaming. "It's all about growing the individual into the job."

Participants in the program learn all aspects of the gaming and hospitality industry by working in every department for a few months, performing a variety of jobs in each. Departments include table games, slots, cash operations, poker, public space, marketing, banquets and catering, food and beverage, Hard Rock Live, hotel operations and the Hard Rock Café. The first phase of the program, in which a

trainee works in each of the departments, can take up to three years. Being a 24-hour business, interns work every shift to see the differences between customers at different times of day.

The program consists of five phases. Phase two places trainees in supervisory positions for a few months each in their choice of four departments. After phase two, a trainee can choose a job and start working or continue on to the last three phases of the program. During phase three, trainees work closely with the director of the department while working in their regular positions. In phase four, they work directly with the general manager and president of the company and in phase five, with a senior vice president. The entire program can take six or seven years to complete.

"This is a way for people to work their way up the ladder while learning from the best," said Ervina Capricien, program director. "It's like an apprenticeship; they get hands-on and managerial experience. Our interns are lucky they get to interact with senior management."

Capricien graduated from the program, which gives her insight into what the interns go through and what each department needs from them. She expects

the same from the interns as any other employer: Come to work on time, follow policies and procedures, and work hard.

"We want people who want a career and want to learn," Capricien said. "Sometimes, people get comfortable in a department and stay much longer than a few months. Some of our interns have been with us a long time."

The program usually has about 15 interns at a time, but Capricien wants to expand that to 20 by October 2013. The criteria to join the program include being a Tribal member age 18 or older, (the current interns range from age 20-51), have a high school diploma or GED, and pass a background check and a drug test. Few have graduated from the program, but those who have showed motivation from the start.

"Sometimes, we get interns who have never worked, so it takes time to teach them to have a work ethic," Capricien said. "When I was an intern, all the interns were in their 30s; we were the ones who grew up without the dividend. Younger people grew up with the dividend, and many never worked before joining the program. We are looking for people who want a career and want to learn."

♦ See GAMING on page 12A

Business profile: Bigg E Customs

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — About six years ago, Eric Osceola bought a 1989 box Chevy from a nephew and started fixing it up. A new hobby was born, but it grew into something more when he decided to customize the car and bring it to car shows.

That old car, bedecked with the colors and logo of the University of Miami Hurricanes, became a crowd-pleaser and an award winner at shows around the state. Osceola bought more cars and frequented numerous car shops to get some of the work done. He met a lot of people at the shows who asked a lot of questions about his vehicles.

Being surrounded by creative people who shared his passion motivated Osceola to open his own paint and body shop, Bigg E Customs, which has been open for about three years. Located on U.S. 441 and Johnson Street, the shop specializes in custom work, including paint, body, rims and lifts, audio/visual, fiberglass work, tires, alarms and custom graphics.

"I was inspired by seeing other cars," said Osceola, of Hollywood. "I was using other shops and figured I could start

working on my own stuff. When people started telling me I should open my own shop, I did."

Before he opened Bigg E Customs Osceola traveled the state attending competitive car shows about twice a month. His cars have won Best in Show several times, and he has more trophies than he can count. Now he only has the time to go once every couple months with his current show-stopper, a 1971 Chevy Impala convertible.

Being a business owner suits Osceola. The business caters to anyone who needs body work, as well as those who want to customize their vehicle. There are usually one to three cars being customized in the shop at any time, which leaves plenty of room in his 2,500-square-foot garage for walk-ins. The company is conveniently connected to insurance companies for referrals regarding accident repairs.

Osceola enjoys cultivating relationships with car-part vendors and has made plenty of friends since opening the business.

"It's a lot of work, and there are a lot of ups and downs," he said. "You have to stick with it through the hard times. I keep at it because of the love of doing the job and seeing the cars completed."

♦ See BIGG E on page 12A



Beverly Bidney

Eric Osceola stands with a nearly completed car in front of Bigg E Customs.

Senior profile: Marie Osceola

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — During her 69 years (and counting), Marie Osceola transitioned from living a solitary life in the Florida Everglades to being a thriving member of society in the ever-expanding Seminole Tribe. Surrounded by family and friends on Oct. 14, she celebrated her birthday and her life, which is still deeply rooted in Seminole tradition.

Marie was born Oct. 5, 1943 at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital to Frances Billie Willie and Homer Osceola. Frances, daughter of medicine man Josie Billie and Louise Billie, lived out on the Tamiami Trail and traveled with her family frequently to find work picking crops for local farmers.

"It was hard, but we didn't know any different," Marie said of her early childhood. "I remember walking out in the Everglades, and we didn't have shoes because we lived out in the hammocks. We traveled by canoe or walked when the water was low."

As independent Native Americans, the family set up canvas tents where they found work, living off the land for food and

water. They hunted deer, birds and turtles and dug wells for water, which they boiled on open fires before drinking. Canals gave them a place to wash clothes, which they did using lye soap. As a small child, Marie accompanied her mother in the vegetable fields picking the harvest.

"They used to have crates for the tomatoes, and I would be in there while my mother picked them," she said, laughing. "That was my playpen."

In addition to working on farms her family found other ways to support themselves during the mid-1940s; Marie said they boiled garfish and sold their scales to locals for use in jewelry making. Although a simplistic lifestyle, Marie said she has fond memories of living in the Everglades. To this day, she craves the food she ate as a kid.

When Marie was about 5, her mother married Jackie Willie and the family relocated near Tropical Hobbyland, an Indian village tourist attraction in Miami. Jackie got a job wrestling alligators at the attraction.

♦ See MARIE on page 12A



Seminole Media Productions archive photo

Marie Osceola, right, sits with daughter, Tammy, and Ada Tiger.

A letter from Tribal veteran Gabriel Coppedge

BY GABRIEL COPPEDGE
Contributing Writer

My name is Gabriel Coppedge. My father is Gene Coppedge, of Big Cypress, and my mother is Cheryl Coppedge, of Blackwater, on the Gila River Indian Reservation in Arizona. I have two children. My daughter, Koo-wa-Chobee Coppedge, is 15, and my son, Gabriel Roy Coppedge, is 6. Both live with me in Arizona. I was asked to write and share my story of why I joined the military and why I have decided to make it a career in my life. This is an easy-to-answer question but also a deep-rooted question full of emotion, experience, tradition and education.

First off, I had always known somewhere deep down that I wanted to join the military. I remember as a very young boy, my grandfather would wake up early every morning and shave, then get ready. He always looked like he was going somewhere, even if he stayed home all day. He was a tall, lean man who always had a clean, faded haircut known as a buzz cut or “high and tight.” His clothes were clean and fitted like one of those men you see in a 1920s movie. On Sundays, he would take me with him in his old, white Chevy pickup, and we would bounce down the dusty dirt road where he would take me to the barber shop in town to have our hair cut. I cut mine as he cut his.

I never really gave his whole demeanor and process much thought at that age until I was a little older. I was in kindergarten when he passed away, and I remember seeing military personnel come to his funeral. They were dressed in dress uniform and carried weapons (M1 Garands). I remember the sound of the trumpet and shots fired. I remember the way they all carried themselves and how they were different from everyone else in attendance. They stayed together but greeted everyone, and even though the ground was dusty, their shoes stayed shiny black. Later in life, I realized that they were part of a proud tradition of Native American warriors who served honorably, and we as Natives have been known to hold the highest percentage of volunteers per capita when compared to other ethnic groups.

For me, the decision came to a head after Sept. 11. I realized I couldn't turn the TV or radio on or open a newspaper without hearing or seeing how many young men and women had lost their lives in a distant land nobody really cared to do more than talk about. Young faces stared back at me, and I wondered about their families, mothers, fathers, siblings and even children. I thought about my own sister Camille Santiago (Coppedge) who had been just off the coast of Norfolk, Va. aboard the U.S.S. George Washington during Sept. 11 and how she felt during such an uncertain time as her ship sailed north to New York. I conducted a self-assessment and decided that I was going to go and help make a difference.

On May 12, 2004, I walked into an Army recruiter's office and sat down. I stated I wanted to join the Army, and I wished to go as someone who could make the most difference for those young people dying over there.

After watching a few videos, I decided on the infantry. The recruiter tried to steer me away, saying that it was a hard job, that I would spend a lot of time away from my family and child, and that at the time we were losing an average of 10 soldiers a day. This only influenced me more because in

my heart I knew that I was going to fight, and I'll be damned if I let someone else do my fighting for me. I was going to learn, be smart and honor my family and the traditions that formed my character and who I was to become.

On June 9, 2004, I was sent off to Fort Benning in Georgia for basic combat training and then infantry school. When I initially shipped to basic training, there wasn't a whole lot that was explained to me about the structure of things and how it would work. I learned that other recruits had been given sign-on bonuses of up to \$20,000 and advancements in rank before we even began “Zero Day!”

Because I went in and said I'd like to go as soon as possible and I want the hard job, they had no reason to entice me with money, rank or other incentives. I look back on it now, and I don't feel like I made a bad choice. I went in and made my choices based on my values, my beliefs and most of all, what was in my heart. I didn't need anyone to help me along my way in making my decision, and I didn't take a handout. Sure, my family could have used the money, but I'd take care of them as I always had, as my parents taught me.

I wasn't told that my initial training period would be 14 weeks, so right off the bat, my experience started out badly. I found out I was staying longer than anticipated, not being paid as much, ranked less than some of the others, and it was day one.

Although I felt disappointed and discouraged, I knew that I had to keep going. In my heart, I was sad and happy. On the way to basic training, we were loaded into cattle cars with barely enough standing room with guys I never met in my life, and now, here we were all packed into a dark trailer with closed windows and full of anxiety. The next few weeks were a blur of movement, training, running and, of course, the never-ending pushups, sit-ups and yelling.

Once I graduated and became an infantryman, my father was there to put my blue infantry cord on. This was one of the happiest and most accomplished days of my life. I returned home in late September 2004 and married my girlfriend of three years.

I arrived at my first duty station at Fort Polk in Louisiana. Many veterans know this post as the “armpit of military” and dread going there. I was one of the very first members of a new brigade being formed, which was the 4th Brigade Combat Team in the 10th Mountain Division (light). I was assigned to Alpha Company 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, but before we could officially take on our new roles, we were attached as members of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, who were about to be relocated to Fort Lewis in Washington.

I learned to have a love-hate relationship with Fort Polk. It was a wonderful and grueling place for training, which created hardened and capable infantryman ready for war and able to adapt to changing situations at a moment's notice.

In January 2005, we were officially stood up and began rigorous training in preparation for Afghanistan, where 10th Mountain led the fight in helping rid the country of enemy forces and influence while assisting the local government to operate as a separate entity. For many months, we were told we would be leaving, and always, it was pushed back.

One small detachment was sent to southern Afghanistan as an attachment to 82nd Airborne Division operating in Kandahar. On Oct. 13, 2006, our company would lose our first brother as a casualty of war. Jason A. Lucas was killed and two others wounded when his vehicle was struck by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED). It came as a blow to us all, as we had all spent the better part of the past year and a half together through thick and thin. We knew each other's families, friends, biggest fears, regrets, high school sweethearts; basically, there wasn't much that we didn't know about the brothers we served with. We began to lose motivation in the long training hours and constant time away from family, but finally the call came we had all been waiting for: The Wild Boars were going to war!

In late November 2006, we found out that we were deploying to Afghanistan and that time would be short. It seemed like we were notified on a Friday, and by Monday we were wheels up on a bird headed for the frontlines. Many families didn't have the means or time needed to make the short-announced trip out to Fort Polk to see us off, but I was lucky. As soon as I called my family, they loaded the van and made the 21-hour drive to see me off. They brought my grandmother Leona Thomas. I didn't know it, but this would be the last time I would see her. She knew somewhere that she wouldn't be around to welcome me home.

As we boarded the bus, she pulled my buddy Christopher Meaux aside and whispered to him, “Take care of my Gabriel.”

On Dec. 13, 2006 she passed away, and my soldier Meaux told me what she had told him that day we left. I was glad that he hadn't shared that with me before that day. My grandmother was a huge influence in my life, and as much as I wanted to go home to see her laid to rest beside my grandfather, I knew that it wouldn't be possible. We had only been in Afghanistan for a month, and there were many things that needed to be done in order for us to be successful. I mentally told myself that nothing happened and that she would be there for me when I got home. I knew it wasn't completely true, but it helped to keep my mind on the important business that would get me home to even have a chance to deal with her passing.

I would learn mental and emotional strength from this experience that would play a role throughout my military career.

I know that life happens and that we cannot always put down what we are doing for others. We must carry on and honor those who have passed in all that we do. Because they are not here for today, I will do my best to be here to remember them tomorrow.

During our time in Afghanistan, we engaged in many combat patrols through freezing mountains and sometimes fighting more than the enemy was the minus 30-degree weather. With wind whipping through our cold-weather gear and ice freezing our feet, water and weapons, it was definitely hard to maintain complete readiness, but we did it, and when the bullets, rockets and bombs were sent our way, we fought back with tenacity. We took the fight to the enemy as we had been taught and as we had practiced for.

When the same enemy that had defeated the Russians many years before came after us, we knew we had what it took to beat them on their home turf. We suffered only five wounded and one killed during our time in Afghanistan. Specialist Kenneth Harker was shot in the leg by an armor piercing round from a machine gun along the Afghanistan and Pakistan border in one of the most intense firefights we would engage in. He would go on to fight with us in Iraq, where he was hit again, lost both his legs and suffered damage to his upper body as well.

We returned home in February 2007, and no sooner had we gotten home were we alerted that we would spend the next few short months in a hard training cycle for Iraq. I was scheduled to exit the military in September 2007, so I was counting down the months but still took my training seriously.

I trained to standard always and never to time. This meant that when I was given a task I was going to complete it to as near perfection as I could get it, even if I went over time by a little. I prepared my wife and son to move back to Arizona, where we had just purchased a house in August 2007. With all our personal belongings packed and shipped to Arizona, I bid my

family goodbye and promised to join them in a few short weeks. I would break this promise, as the very same day I was to process out of the Army, I was told to report back to my unit for further guidance and that I had been “stop-lossed” for the pending deployment. This meant that I was no longer going home and that I was no longer a volunteer soldier.

This was a hard blow to take.

I had made a mountain of plans for my future with my family and the new house. I had done my time honorably, deployed, faced the enemy and brought my soldiers home. I felt the pressure of commitment and self-sacrifice more than I had felt it before. Here I was now, without a home, without my belongings and, most of all, without my family, but I did have my brothers in my unit, and we stood strong. I notified my family of the changes and assured them that I would be OK. I told them to continue on without me and that I would be home as soon as I could after the Iraq deployment. I promised them again, knowing that I might break that promise as well, and it put a hurt deep in my heart to not be with my family and not see my children grow up.

That is the life and sacrifice of a service member, and nobody knows that better than combat veterans or their families.

In November 2007, we left for Baghdad, Iraq and would take on a huge chunk of northern Baghdad and the border of Sadr City. Our first engagement with the enemy was in January 2008, when our lead vehicle was hit with an explosively formed penetrator, a copper disc that when detonated forms into a teardrop shape that cut through our thickest vehicle armor like a hot knife through butter. We suffered four casualties that day and went on to lose two of those.

During February, the building we lived in was hit by a different kind of bomb. It was a crudely made rocket attached to a large oxygen tank wrapped in metal ball bearings, nails and anything else they could strap to it. A total of eight rockets were launched from the trailer of an 18-wheeler. The force from the explosions was enough to knock out every window, door and wall within our concrete building. Our vehicles and infrastructure took major damage, but only one soldier was injured during the attack.

Later that month and into March, our platoon was assigned a special task to retake a building in enemy territory right across the street from Sadr City, which was a section of the city that coalition forces were not allowed in.

This city housed around 2 million people and a huge number of enemy supporters, so we snuck in under the cover of darkness and for three weeks we worked day and night to fortify the building, clean it and prepare it for our operations. This was the building we would live and fight in for the next few months until we redeployed.

Once the building was ready for full-time operations, we left the other building for a follow-on group and moved our company of 119 infantrymen to our new building, known as Joint Security Station (JSS) Obaidy.

Not more than a couple weeks after we had moved into JSS Obaidy, we received a full-on attack from al-Sadr's forces from Sadr City. They attacked with AK-47s, RPGs, mortars and everything else they had at their disposal. They hit hard and in force, nearly gaining entrance into the building and occupying the first floor. Our entry control points had to be reinforced and were taking a lot of fire from the enemy. The enemy was scaling the walls in an all-out effort to get a foothold onto our location, but superior leadership, training, discipline and bravery fought them back.

The initial firefight would last for 12 hours, and the battle would last a week.

By the end of the week, we were cut off, surrounded and seemingly abandoned. Army explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams were being escorted to our location to help bring us much-needed supplies of water, food and bullets, but each time they set out for our building they took casualties, causing them to ditch their efforts in reaching us.

At night, Apache gunships would escort Black Hawk helicopters to our building for the minimum of needed supplies. Without landing, the Black Hawks would hover just a few meters above the ground as the crew chief would kick the boxes out for us to gather; then, they would fly away before the enemy could drop mortar rounds or rockets on them.



Photo courtesy of Gabriel Coppedge

Gabriel Coppedge enlisted in the Army in 2004.

Things were very intense and practically unreal for a time.

Time seemed to stop and leave us trapped in those moments where things just seem to play out in slow motion. The rest of our deployment in Iraq would go on like this, but we did make progress in weeding out the enemy and turning the local neighborhoods on them. By the time we would arrive home, we lost numerous soldiers, our brothers, to enemy attacks. We stood strong against them, and together we fought as a team to help each other get home.

To this day, we all keep in constant contact and rely on each other for support when bad memories come up or just to hold on to a brotherhood and friendship that not many other relationships can rival. There is something about training for the worst outcomes with a group of people who all share the same goals and fears as you and then to be tested time and time again as these men stand beside you and sometimes in front of you; it just makes for an unbreakable bond.

This brotherhood and sincere act of selflessness is the reason that I stay in the military and choose to make it a career for myself. We live in a world and in a time where so many things are uncertain. The one thing you can rely on is yourself and men like I had in the Army. Those men would go to earth's end if I only asked, and I'd do the same for them. We have held get-together events for marriages, funerals and even just visits or New Year's celebrations. Not everyone can always make it, but we always honor those who cannot be with us because they made the ultimate sacrifice. With that being said, we also support and help the families of those brothers we lost. In any way, shape or form, we will continue to support them and honor them.

This is only a very small glimpse of my time in the Army and my experiences. There are very intricate details that I am not ready to share or talk about from the darkest points of my deployments but perhaps in time. I don't regret a single thing that I have done because at the time, it was the right choice. My brothers and I carry a lot of guilt and sadness, but we also carry a lot of pride and honor. Sometimes, things just happen and there really isn't a reason or method for why or how. I think that once we are able to accept that, then we can be better soldiers for our country.

During my time overseas, I received tons of support from the Seminole Tribe of Florida and my friends and family in Big Cypress and Hollywood. I can't tell you just how much of a difference it has made to know that there are so many supporters back there. It was always something of a novelty that we still have such community when other races don't. My white soldiers would say how nice it must be to know that an entire Tribe comes together to support their soldiers and send them such nice gifts and cards when some of them have a hard enough time just getting letters from their families. I always shared what was given to me, and we all appreciated it.

Now that I am home, I am pursuing my educational goal of attaining my master's in clinical psychology so that I can work with the Veterans Affairs and help other soldiers and their families who struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder and other service-related issues.

To all the members and supporters of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and especially Steven Bowers, I thank you from the bottom of my heart! You are all my family, and I am happy to serve for you.



Photo courtesy of Gabriel Coppedge

Gabriel Coppedge gathers with his Alpha Team before serving in Afghanistan in 2006.

‘What Veterans Day Means to Me’

Poem by Moses Jumper Jr.

I'm in awe as I stand among these warriors gathered here today
Proud and honored for the sacrifices you had to pay
Words alone cannot express what this day means to me
A large price was paid that I might speak here about being free
This day reminds me of the Seminole warriors that died for us to stay
Upon this land
Their blood was scattered and soaked within the Florida sand
This day reminds me of my father and uncle who fought in the second World War
They loved this land and its people and were willing to fight for
It on a distant shore
This day reminds me of all the blood that has been shed

On the fields of battle there is no color of skin for
Every warrior's blood is red
Veterans Day means flags flying proudly in the wind.
A day to remember where that flag has been
Veterans Day means to me that God said all men are equal in His sight
And today a price is still being paid for us all to have that right
Veterans Day colors vary and our cultures are different between Me and you
But we all stand together for the colors of the Red, White and Blue
Veterans Day reminds me that battles will continue both Near and far away
What Veterans Day means to me is why we are here today

We honor you, the vets, for what you have given for us all
You have answered bravely to this country's call.
Veterans Day means we can educate our children
In any school we say
The freedom for our elders to teach them the Indian way
Veterans Day means people no longer have to sit at the rear of
The bus or be served their food outside.
It was a heavy price of why many soldiers died
Veterans Day is a day we give thanks for all you've done
To allow us to be here today
I wish there was more that we could say
I look out today and see many faces of people that are neither Boastful or loud
You are the stewards for this country and to you we are very proud

Veterans Day is a day we remember the warriors of the past
We pray that the creator has now given them true freedom and Peace at last . . .
Today we honor all warriors that have went on into that spirit land.
They have passed over and before the Breath Giver they will stand
Veterans Day means to me you warriors have paid the cost
Thank you for that freedom we have never lost.
And to our Native warriors whose names in our History books you will not always find
Your memory will never be forgotten In our heart and mind.
Today we stand as brothers and Sisters in this great land of the free
For we are all Americans and this Is what Veterans Day means to me.



Peter B. Gallagher

Moses Jumper Jr., right, spends time with Navajo Code Talker Peter Macdonald Sr. during the Veterans Day celebration on Nov. 2.

Tribal veteran Charlie S. Gopher officially commended

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

BRIGHTON — He fought for this country in five of the most ferocious campaigns of the 10-year Vietnam War, including the Battles of Ia Drang/Kim Son, Pleiku and Hoa Hoi. Then, they sent two truckloads of armed soldiers to arrest him in his hometown so they could officially throw him out of the U.S. military in dishonor.

He earned more than a dozen medals for bravery, most of them for saving the lives of hundreds of American soldiers as a frontlines M60 machine gunner. But the U.S. Army never gave Charlie Steel Gopher any of his medals, keeping the warrior in jail until the next frontline combat job came open, a cycle the Army repeated over and over again.

He received a traumatic brain injury and encephalitis (brain inflammation) from a grenade blast, spent 32 days in a hospital and then was sent right back to the frontlines again. The Army never awarded him a Purple Heart for his battle injury or the Bronze Star for his many documented heroisms in combat.

He never talked much about his three years, 11 months and 29 days active duty, almost all of that on the Vietnam frontlines, yet his family knew he was a hero. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), however, refused his family's request for a flag and military burial benefits after his death, barely two months after they kicked him out of the Army. Although he suffered symptoms of "battle fatigue," or post-traumatic stress disorder (as it was later called), Gopher was given machine guns and bullets, rather than treatment, for the combat mental disorder that eventually took his life.

Most of that all changed Nov. 1, however, when the flag, medals, benefits — even a letter from U.S. President Barack Obama — were officially presented to Gopher's wife, Louise, and daughters Rita and Carla at a colorful and heart-warming public tribute to the great soldier, *A Silent Warrior: The Life of an Unconquered Spirit*, sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida at the Brighton Veteran's Building.

"Welcome home, Charlie," said Marc McCabe, the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Bureau Chief whose sleuthing and pressure on government authorities reopened a case the Army had kept closed for 38 years. The cause was initiated and supported by Charlie's "determined" daughter, Rita, and "outspoken" sister Beulah, as described by McCabe in his remarks to a packed auditorium.

"It's not over yet," declared Rita, referring to the U.S. Army's refusal — so far — to upgrade Gopher's discharge to honorable. In fact, the Army recently responded to a request for information from U.S. Congressman C.W. "Bill" Young by declaring the case closed.

"There was a hearing, and they closed the case because the veteran did not attend. I flew to Washington to tell them how stupid that was since the veteran, Charlie

Gopher, had been dead for 38 years," said McCabe, who has made a full-time job out of regaining benefits improperly denied Native American Vietnam veterans. "That case is wide open, sitting on somebody's desk."

A spokesperson for Young said the Congressman "does not like to be lied to. He is going to get to the bottom of all this." Congressman Young is the country's longest-serving representative and Chair of the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. "He's the one who approves the Army's budget," McCabe said. "They were messing with the wrong guy."

Neither the U.S. Army nor the VA sent representatives to attend the Charlie Gopher event. "They were embarrassed," McCabe said. "The VA originally turned the family down. The Army put a civilian on a case regarding a soldier who put his life on the line. And the civilian closed the case because the dead soldier did not appear at his hearing."

The three-hour program was emceed by former Chairman and U.S. Marine veteran Mitchell Cypress. Seminole Marine veteran Moses "Moke" Osceola officially began the tribute with the customary invocation, adding his vivid remembrances of Gopher's athletic prowess at Brighton Field Days races and high school track meets.

"He was just a great athlete. When I saw him run the 100-yard dash, he would just leave everybody in the dust," said Osceola, the marvel still fresh in his voice. "He was a great, great man."

To which former Chairman Cypress quipped, "It doesn't matter what the stories you hear say about the rabbit beating the gopher. Charlie, he was one fast gopher!"

Cypress noted that Gopher played the catcher's position in baseball without a face mask. It brought to mind tales from Gopher's platoon mates about Gopher standing erect in his foxhole, firing his machine gun to cover escaping troops, oblivious to the bullets and grenades flying by his face.

"That was kind of scary," former Chairman Cypress said. "But Charlie was a great warrior, and we are going to hear more about what kind of person he was during wartime. And from what I've heard, he was better than John Wayne. John Wayne only fought in the movies, but Charlie was the real thing."

Seminole Chairman James E. Billie, who completed two tours of Vietnam for the U.S. Army, addressed the crowd with an anecdote of two Seminole soldiers meeting by coincidence in Vietnam.

"It's a great day to see Charlie being honored," the Chairman said. "I was in Vietnam back in 1968. It was monsoon season, and the tents we had to sleep in were wet. Water was shin high to our boots, and I splashed through and entered a building. It was so dark you had to have a cigarette lighter to see."

Chairman Billie's tour was over, and he was to catch a flight home in the morning, he said, describing his last night as a search for an empty bed and a familiar

voice he heard in the darkness.

"I heard (a) deep, resounding voice," he said. "I knew that voice from somewhere. Charlie Gopher and I would get in our squabbles, and I got some knots on my head . . . Finally, it came to me. He was in Vietnam the same as I was. I said, 'Gopher!'"

A deep growl, "Who wants to know?" "This is James Billie." "This is Sgt. Gopher!" "This is Staff Sgt. James Billie!"

Reunited, the two flew together to Tokyo for plane repairs and then on to Seattle, where they transferred to different flights east. Chairman Billie had no idea that Gopher was absent without leave at the time.

"I admired Charlie when I was growing up," Chairman Billie said. "Some bad things happened to Charlie, and sometimes they never get reinstated. I'm happy that Charlie's story will now be told."

President Tony Sanchez Jr. told the audience he "could not miss this event. Luckily for me or unlucky for me, I did not serve in the military. I was in school. I had a brother who served in the military, a Marine who made rank and passed away seven years ago. Sitting here, I remember speaking with my brother, and listening to James, you see how sometimes you take for granted that someone will be there for us. I'm happy for Charlie's family after all these years."

Brighton Councilman and Vietnam veteran Andrew J. Bowers Jr. spoke of his childhood pal.

"I knew Charlie better when I was growing up," Councilman Bowers said. "He had a little black horse that we would ride double. Night and day. That horse was very popular among the Seminole youth because that was the only horse we knew that would rear up like Roy Rogers did."

Councilman Bowers described one unusual night with the rough, tough Gopher.

"We went to Joe Johns' house one night. It was late. I remember Charlie saying, 'I'm gonna bake a cake.' He went into the kitchen, got all the ingredients you needed. Sure enough, he baked a cake. We ate some that night and got up and ate it in the morning."

"Just three short years ago, I remember some folks came, and I heard some stories about the war. I wasn't surprised because I knew what kind of character Charlie had. When we would have our little afternoon football games, he was the one we were all scared of. He didn't slow down for anything. We didn't have no pads. We were scared because we were afraid we'd get broken bones if we ran into him."

"I am glad he was recognized for what he did in combat. This day is long overdue, but from what I understand so far, it was not Charlie's fault. I don't know what kind of blame you can put on the Army 'cause there was something called PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) that came on after you came out of the jungle. I don't think the Army or anyone else knew about this thing. But when I hear those folks say, 'I thought he was always crazy and drinkin'



Peter B. Gallagher

Vietnam Veterans of America Bureau Chief Marc McCabe, who fought government bureaucracy for two years, describes his often frustrating, but valiant effort to bring final justice to war hero Charlie Gopher, while members of Gopher's family hold his awards.

all the time,' well maybe so, but when you think of the things I just said, PTSD it is called, I can't say it was (the real) Charlie that they saw when they described him like that."

Next was Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard.

"I know where [Charlie Gopher] comes from, and it's a good family," Rep. Howard said. "I've watched my Tribe battle for years and years and years, and we are here today in honor of Charlie Gopher. He served for our country, and he also served our Tribe. We are proud of him. I want to thank his family for the great things he did for this country."

With bagpiper Mike Hyde playing softly in the background, the VVA's McCabe spoke on the topic, *Who was Charlie Gopher?*

"I knew what Charlie went through," said McCabe, a former Vietnam vet himself. "When I first went to D.C. on behalf of Charlie, I ran into the proverbial brick wall. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs did not want us to reopen the case. . . . We wanted to make sure Charlie had this day where he is recognized as a soldier, a warrior and a Tribal member who has served with pride, distinction and valor."

McCabe was joined at the podium by Col. Jim Dingeman, of the 600-member 12th Cavalry Regiment Association, and Jim Stokely, 2nd Vice President of the 1st Cavalry Division Association, who discussed the 12th and 1st Divisions' Vietnam history. Col. Dingeman described war as "boredom, apprehension and then intense activity where you are surviving depending on yourself and your fellow man."

Stokely pointed out that "the M60 machine gun was a critical weapon for the Air Mobile (Brigade). You can see how vital he was to the organization. . . . PTSD

was an unknown thing back in those days. We were not sensitive to the problems and the struggles that young men have when facing a combat situation."

The tribute ended with the posting of the colors by the Seminole Police Department Color Guard, the Pledge of Allegiance and a pledge to the Seminole flag led by Brighton Seminole Princess Cheyenne Nunez and Brighton Jr. Miss Seminole Aubee Billie, both dressed in brightly colored royal patchwork outfits. Princess Nunez also recited a poem she had written for the occasion just prior to the presentation of a shadow box containing Gopher's medals to his family. (McCabe had secured the medals recently from MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa; the VVA created the shadow box.)

Both the Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals previously denied Charlie Gopher are being officially applied for, McCabe said. "He deserves them. The fact he didn't get those awards is just another example of the treatment of Native American veterans during that era."

The letter from President Obama was framed and available for all to see: "The United States of America honors the memory of Charlie S. Gopher. This certificate is awarded by a grateful nation in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country in the Armed Forces of the United States. (signed) Barack Obama, President of the United States."

The program ended with *Amazing Grace* on the bagpipe, *Taps* from trumpets far away and Matt T. Tiger, pastor of the First Seminole Indian Baptist Church of Brighton, giving the closing prayer.

"Charlie S. Gopher, may his spirit rest in peace," Pastor Tiger said. "God rest his soul."



Peter B. Gallagher

Fourth-graders from Brighton's Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School sing *America The Beautiful* and fifth-graders recite the Preamble to the United States Constitution, both in the Creek.



Peter B. Gallagher

Seminole veterans line up across the front of the auditorium as each name is called by Ben Humphries, president of the State Council of Florida's Vietnam Veterans of America.

◆ VETERANS DAY

From page 1A

Chairman Billie welcomed the crowd, reminding them to "lead, follow or get the hell out of the way!" and the preschoolers scurried about the audience handing out homemade cards to Seminole veterans, many who wore camouflage.

Former Chairman Mitchell Cypress presented the history of Seminole Veterans Day, which began when he and fellow veterans Roy Nash Osceola and Jacob Osceola "got together with six packs to tell stories," said Cypress, who was approached not long after by the parents of Lance Cpl. Herman L. Osceola seeking a way to honor their son, who was killed in a helicopter crash in South Korea in 1984.

"The first one was a hamburger/hot dog event on the ballpark in Big Cypress," the former Chairman said. "My belief is that we are educating outsiders. Outsiders think we are nothing but casinos. They see a Seminole and they think casino. But from the time the Mayflower came ashore, we've been fighting. We were fooled once, but we won't be fooled again. Our younger generation will learn the benefits of being a veteran."

Emcee Bowers informed the crowd of the ongoing project to add a Native

American to the Three Servicemen statue near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Veterans were thanked and given a personal welcome from Tribal royalty: Little Miss Seminole Jordan Osceola, Junior Miss Seminole Brianna Nunez, Miss Seminole Princess Alexis Aguilar and Brighton Junior Miss Seminole Aubee Billie.

Michele Thomas, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's administrative assistant, presented two children who read their essays advocating for a Native soldier to be added to the Three Servicemen statue: eighth-grader Alex Osceola-James, 13, and sixth-grader Raely Matthews, 11, from Crystal Drake's language arts class. Fourth-grade students sang *God Bless America* in Creek (thanks to interpreter Lorene Gopher and staff) and Heather Dobbs' fifth-grade class recited the preamble to the Constitution of the United States.

Then it was time for the guest speaker, MacDonald, who lavished sincere praise on the Seminoles "for this wonderful building." He began his formal remarks with a few statements in the Navajo language. "That's not talking in code," he quipped. "That's plain Navajo."

He recounted the early fighting of Tribes over sovereignty and self-determination, characterizing leaders Wendell Chino (President, Mescalero

Apache), Roger Jourdain (Chairman, Red Lake Band of Chippewas) and Chairman Billie as "real fighters and leaders of their people. We wanted it our way. We wanted what rightfully belonged to us." He presented an authentic Navajo blanket to the Chairman, who ordered that it be hung in the Veteran's Building.

MacDonald regaled the audience with tales of the Code Talkers who processed 800 radio messages during the first 48 hours of fighting at Iwo Jima "without a single mistake," he said.

Councilman Bowers told touching anecdotes about his longtime friendship with Joe Lester John: "...sneaking into drive-in theatres, sitting up in Australian pines. We drove to school every day; he would drive one week, and I would drive the next. In football at Okeechobee, he wore (No.) 23, I wore 33. In 1963, the Indian students all transferred to Moore Haven; Joe and I stayed in Okeechobee."

Councilman Bowers described John as "a real quiet person; he didn't say much," with the exception of when Okeechobee beat Clewiston "on the night of the JFK (John F. Kennedy) assassination. He kind of exploded, the one time I saw Joe get emotional."

John is survived by Julia A. John, his wife of 41 years; son, Shawn John, of Brighton; daughters, Joletha (Doug

Carney, of Hollywood; Jill John, of Brighton; four grandchildren, J.J., Carson, Sage and Lucky; an aunt, Happy Jones, of Brighton; and many cousins.

Veteran Dan Bowers, who had to miss the event because of a dialysis appointment, addressed the crowd on behalf of Wonder Johns via a pre-recorded video.

Wonder's widow, Mary Louise Johns, and Jack Smith Jr. accepted a plaque beneath the big screen as Dan Bowers spoke of the great benefits he and his pal Wonder received during their military service.

"One of the main things we talked about, we all had to go through boot camp or basic training," Bowers said. "Basic training took the laziness out of you. And Wonder lived up to being active all through his life. I'm thankful I got to know him all these years. Even today I miss him. I think he's in a better place."

Wonder is survived by Mary, his wife of 56 years; daughters Cynthia (Juan) Rodriguez and Theresa Bowers; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

"Wonder was a very spiritual person," Stephen Bowers said.

Staff Sgt. Gabriel Coppedge (U.S. Army) greeted his family and fellow Tribal veterans, appearing by way of Skype on the multiple overhead screens.

Coppedge enlisted in 2004, completed a tour of Afghanistan from 2006-2007, served in Iraq from 2007-2008, and after his honorable discharge in 2009, he joined the Army Reserves and is currently serving in Kuwait, attending school in pursuit of a doctorate in psychology with a specialty in counseling returning veterans from the Gulf Wars, Stephen Bowers said.

Bowers read a powerful essay, *We Did What Had To Be Done*, and surprised MacDonald with a gift of a Seminole camouflage veteran's shirt (which MacDonald had been admiring all morning) prior to the reading of the Seminole veterans' names by Ben Humphries, President of the State Council Florida VVA. *Taps* was played by U.S. Army Airborne Ranger Larry Morse, while Humphries and VVA Regional Bureau Chief Marc McCabe recited the names of fallen Seminole soldiers.

During the luncheon following the ceremony, outside, John Rowan, President of the VVA National Office, presented a plaque of appreciation to the family of the late soldier and Brighton resident Charlie Gopher.

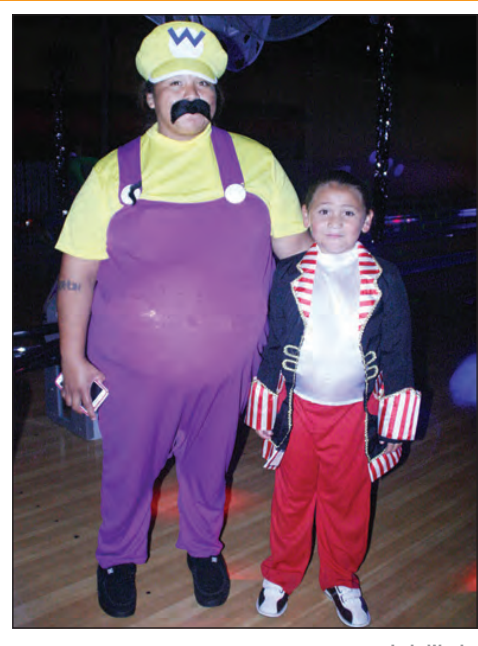
Veterans Day was celebrated a week early because many Seminole vets are planning to attend the 30th anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. during that weekend.

Happy Halloween!



Judy Weeks

Sandy Osceola and Connie Slavik create a frightful welcome for Naples Halloween party-goers on Oct. 26.



Judy Weeks

Tammy Billie and her daughter Lola Veliz line up for Halloween treats at the Naples party.



Peter B. Gallagher

From left, young boys Dominic Osceola-Lugo as a ninja, Nigel Osceola as a modern Robin Hood and a mysterious Spiderman enjoy wearing their costumes at the Tampa Halloween party.



Judy Weeks

Alexus Walden, left, and mother Naomi Walden display original costumes at Naples community's Halloween party on Oct. 26.



Judy Weeks

Naples community members don costumes to participate in a Halloween party at a bowling alley on Oct. 26.



Ryan Watson

Tampa seniors gather for Halloween.



Peter B. Gallagher

Tampa Liaison Richard "Viking" Henry conducts the Tampa costume contest.



Peter B. Gallagher

William Cypress, 11, sports the latest in furry spider headgear at Tampa's all-day Halloween party.



Kathryn Stolarz

Contestants eagerly await results in the 18-35 category at the Big Cypress Halloween clothing contest on Oct. 29.



Kathryn Stolarz

Contestants parade around the rodeo grounds in Big Cypress in hopes that the judges will pick them on Oct. 29.



Kathryn Stolarz

Spiderman William Bevenue leads the way on a ride at the Big Cypress carnival.



Kathryn Stolarz

Margarita Lugo, right, is on her way to beating Ellen Shultz Batchelor in the arm wrestling contest at the Big Cypress Halloween festival.

Happy Halloween!



Beverly Bidney

Magician Hearts the Clown surprises kids with the rabbit trick at the Hollywood Fall Festival.



Judy Weeks

Ninja Bradley Scheffler frightens party goers.



Judy Weeks

Carlos Bermudez earns first place in creativity for his construction port-a-john costume in Immokalee.



Kathryn Stolarz

From left, Joe Paul Billie, Maydel Osceola, Cornelia Osceola and Paul Buster crack themselves up during the seniors' Halloween costume contest on Nov. 2 in Hollywood.



Judy Weeks

Christopher Smith is the cutest little lobster in a pot during Immokalee's Halloween costume contest on Nov. 2.



Andrea Holata

Dyani Billie-Kayda makes a pretty Red Riding Hood at the Halloween carnival in Brighton.



Beverly Bidney

Women have a good time while searching for money in the haystack in Hollywood.



Judy Weeks

Judging beautiful fairies, princesses, butterflies and angels is a difficult challenge at Immokalee's Halloween costume contest.



Andrea Holata

The Brighton seniors participate in a Halloween costume contest. On Oct. 25, the Senior Center hosted a Halloween party for the elders.



Andrea Holata

The Sun Drop girl (Tammy Martinez), left, and Pocahontas (Talena Holata) are all smiles as they enjoy the Halloween carnival in Brighton.



Andrea Holata

The costume winners for 5- to 6-year-old boys in Brighton show off their costumes.



Beverly Bidney

Baby Beetlejuice (Nahki Billie, 2) enjoys a bottle of juice.

Health



Ryan Watson

Nancy Frank, second from left, and her family participate in the Making Strides against Breast Cancer 5K walk. Frank is a nine-year survivor.

Tampa residents participate in breast cancer walk

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TAMPA — A sea of people in pink bras took to the streets of Tampa for the American Cancer Society's annual Making Strides against Breast Cancer 5K walk on Oct. 20. To spread the message, many wore pink bras over their shirts, while others wore shirts with faux bras painted on the front. More than 14,000 people participated to raise awareness, honor survivors and raise money for the fight against breast cancer. About 30 Tribal members joined the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's

Rockin Walkstars (employees) at the Tampa Bay Times Forum. The team of about 240 people raised \$12,655 out of the total \$385,044, more than any other company. Korin Deitch, nutritionist and health educator with the Health Department, organized the Tribe's participation in the event. To prepare, she educated people on the importance of early detection, and then they decorated T-shirts and bras. "It's a fun event. There is a lot of really good energy," she said. "We got together before the walk and had a little pep rally to get people excited about it."

Tampa senior Nancy Frank, 62, has

been a survivor for nine years and still gets checked every six months. She brought her sisters, daughters, grandson, great grandchildren and nephew with her to the walk.

"I've walked before, maybe four or five times," Frank said. "It was a beautiful day. Grown-ups and babies were out there. It was a good time. I walked for everybody. It isn't easy, but you have to move on after cancer."

According to the American Cancer Society, since 1993, 8 million walkers have raised more than \$460 million to help fight breast cancer at Making Strides against Breast Cancer events. Among women, breast cancer is the second most common cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death. The rate of breast cancer deaths, however, has steadily declined since 1990.

"I told my daughters to go once a year to get checked, before it is too late," Frank said. "I tell people, 'I survived and you can, too. You have to be strong; don't be angry or sad. Try your best and just enjoy yourself and your family.'"

Frank takes her own advice. She has a grandchild and three great-grandchildren and is happy every time she sees them.

"They make me move on," she said. Today, there are more than 2.5 million survivors in the U.S.

"I think the event was inspiring," Deitch said. "Seeing all the people and the survivors walking, including some who are in the midst of the battle, was inspiring. I hope it moved people to be proactive about breast cancer."



Ryan Watson

Thousands of people in pink take to the streets of Tampa for the American Cancer Society's annual Making Strides against Breast Cancer 5K walk.

Holiday food safety for mail orders

SUBMITTED BY CHERYL MCDONNELL-CANAN
Environmental Health Inspector

Everyone enjoys getting packages in the mail. Sometimes, especially during the holidays, these packages contain mail-order or homemade food items. When the food items are baked or shelf-stable goods, packaged jar or can items, most people are able to identify the safe products. But what about smoked salmon, game birds, cheeses, sausage gift packs and other perishable items? Perishable foods are typically those foods that are high in protein and/or moisture (e.g., milk and dairy products; eggs and egg dishes such as custards, cheesecakes and pumpkin pies; and raw or cooked meat, poultry and seafood). So, if these food items are not packaged correctly or their delivery is delayed, the parcel may include other surprises – bacteria or mold. Perishable food must be handled properly to prevent foodborne illness. Whether you are giving or receiving, here are some food safety tips from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration to keep in mind for these special holiday gifts.

Tips for the purchaser

- Verify that the company you have chosen meets state and federal requirements for mail delivery.
- Make sure the company sends perishable items (like meat, poultry and seafood) cold or frozen and packed with a cold source, such as dry ice. These food items should be packed in foam or heavy corrugated cardboard and labeled, "Perishable – keep refrigerated," to alert the recipient.
- Food items should be delivered as quickly as possible – ideally, overnight.
- Notify the recipient if the company

has promised a delivery date or alert them a gift is in the mail so that they or a neighbor can be home to receive it. Otherwise, it could sit unsafely on the front porch or in the post office for several hours or days. Don't have perishable items delivered to an office unless you know they will arrive on a workday and there is refrigerator space available for keeping them cold.

Tips for the receiver

- When you receive a food item box marked, "Keep refrigerated," open it immediately and check its temperature. The food should arrive frozen or partially frozen with ice crystals still visible or at least refrigerator cold (less than 40 degrees Fahrenheit) as measured with a food thermometer.
- If perishable food arrives warm, immediately notify the sender. Do not consume the food or even taste the suspect food. Bacteria can grow rapidly in temperatures more than 40 degrees Fahrenheit, but they may not affect the taste, smell or appearance of the food. In other words, you cannot tell that a food has been mishandled or is unsafe to eat.
- Refrigerate or freeze the perishable item immediately. Even if the food product is partially defrosted, it is safe to refreeze it, although there may be a slight loss of quality.

Tips for the do-it-yourself mailer

- Allow your food to cool completely after cooking. This prevents moisture droplets from condensing within the storage container. Moisture makes the food soggy and promotes mold growth.
- Freeze the perishable food items that you plan to ship. This will help ensure the food is still cold or partially frozen when it arrives at its destination. Freezing will also

- prevent or limit bacterial growth.
- Ship the perishable food in a foam or corrugated cardboard box and pack with a cold source, such as dry ice. When packing with dry ice, don't touch the ice with your bare hands or let it come into direct contact with the food. Warn the recipient of its use by writing, "Contains dry ice," on the outside of the box. Be sure and fill all empty spaces in the food box with foam popcorn or crumpled newspaper as airspace will cause your food and cooling source to thaw faster.
- Use permanent markers to label the outside of the box and use recommended packing tape. Clearly label the outside of the box, making sure the address is complete and correct. Also write, "Keep refrigerated," on the outside of the box.
- Alert the recipient of its expected arrival date and have the food items delivered as quickly as possible – ideally, overnight.
- Do not send packages at the end of the week. Send them at the beginning of the week so they do not sit in the post office or mailing facility over the weekend.
- So how long will the food keep? Most mail-ordered food items will come with storage and preparation instructions. As some mail-order food gift items are unusual, make sure these instructions are sent to the recipient, as they may not know how to handle or prepare the item. As a gift recipient, freeze any food you cannot eat within a few days. Steaks may be kept in the refrigerator for three to five days, but a canned ham can be left there for six months. Frozen entrees should be cooked according to the instructions on the package – don't use guesswork. Following these tips will help ensure the food is safe and enjoyable.

Tribe participates in Step Out walk to stop diabetes

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

SUNRISE — Tribal members chose the path of education and action as they joined a larger community in walking to fight diabetes on Oct. 20.

The American Diabetes Association sponsored the Step Out walk, which raised almost \$200,000 with 1,730 registered participants, according to its website.

About 20 people represented Team Seminole, striding around the BB&T Center (formerly the BankAtlantic Center) in matching T-shirts for their 11th year. The Tribe sponsored the team.

The 8 a.m. kick off made Immokalee's Little Miss Seminole Jordan Osceola tired, but she was driven by the cause.

"I'm walking for the diabetics to help them," said Jordan, whose grandmother, Ruth Osceola, has diabetes.

Because diabetes is the No. 1 health problem among Native Americans and impacts one in three Americans, the event hit close to home for many Tribal members, including Eric Osceola, 47. He's a diabetic on a mission to lose 100 pounds, and this walk served as his first diabetes event.

"It's a good start to my journey," he said. "I'm glad to be here and see all the Tribal members out here in support."

At 2.5 miles, the walk was his longest trek in a while.

"You can start (improving your health) no matter how old you are, how big you are, how much you weigh, whatever it is," he said. "Come on out and start somewhere. Start easy, but start somewhere."

Nurse practitioner Pauline Good, who

works for the Tribe, said that exercise was only one of many benefits of the walk; others included social support, networking and education.

"If you don't have the education and background, you don't know how to take care of yourself," she said. "You don't know the right food portions. You don't know how good exercise is and what it does for getting insulin into the cells."

Several booths provided information about diabetes prevention, treatment and awareness, as well as free onsite medical screenings and blood pressure checks.

Walking coordinator Edna McDuffie encouraged Tribal members to take advantage of the resources provided.

"We have fun and come together and enjoy the walk," she said.

McDuffie connected the Tribe with Step Out in 2002, moved by the loss of her mother the previous year.

"It was all the more reason to do this (walk) every year, and the Tribal members really want to do this, too, in support of raising funds for diabetes," she said.

Suzanne Davis, Allied Health program manager, said the walk is one of many events the Tribe does in collaboration with the American Diabetes Association.

"Diabetes is one of those things that you can take some action yourself to help keep yourself well, and walking is a huge part of that," she said. "People don't always know what's going on, and so we like to show them that we have a very active, vibrant program to work with diabetes and to help prevent it and to help people who have diabetes take better care of themselves."



Photo courtesy of Suzanne Davis

Team Seminole supports the Step Out walk to stop diabetes.

Tricking your kids into eating healthy

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez

How can I get my child to eat healthy foods?

How many of you out there have a hard time getting your child/children to eat healthy foods, take vitamins or probiotics? It's a struggle for me, too.

My child only wants eggs, sausage and pancakes for breakfast and chicken nuggets with fries for lunch and dinner. Well, we all know where that will lead: obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, hypertension...the list goes on and on.

So, I have developed a few tricks I like to employ to get my child to eat healthy (at least three to four days out of the week):

- I want him to drink more water, so I buy juice water; it's flavored water with half the sugar as regular juice drinks.
- I want him to eat some veggies every now and then, so I give him veggie chews. He thinks they are fruit chew snacks, but really every chew is packed with a whole serving of fruits and vegetables.
- I want him to eat healthy fries, so I make my version of the french fry. I buy potatoes, slice them like french fries, season and bake them up all crispy. He thinks they are delicious.
- My child loves hot dogs, but we know they are made with all kinds of fillers. So, I buy buffalo hot dogs. They are made with buffalo meat, no fillers and

no nitrates or nitrites either. He absolutely loves the taste.

When it comes to chips and cookies, I buy the 100-calorie packs. They are great for a quick snack, and they are the real thing, so he gets the taste but fewer calories than the regular serving size.

My son loves chocolate milk. So, I buy 1 percent organic milk and use either a chocolate protein powder or another nutritional chocolate powder to make a low-calorie, low-fat chocolate milk.

I give my child probiotics on a daily basis. I found these great powder packs for kids that are dairy free and gluten free. I just add it to his beverage in the morning and he's set.

When it comes to vitamins, there are a number of gummy chews available. My child has no problem taking that in the morning. He thinks he's getting a yummy gummy bear with his breakfast.

These are just a few of my tricks to getting my child to take in healthier foods, vitamins and essential probiotics. If you have other ideas, I'd love to hear them. Send them to me via *The Seminole Tribune*.





Ann H. Moreland donates important manuscript to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

SUBMITTED BY JAMES H. POWELL
Registrar

In August, a series of calls and emails from several people resulted in the Museum receiving an important donation. These callers sought information on Army Col. Pinkney Lugenbeel, and they made references to a historic, handwritten document by Col. Lugenbeel. The subject of the document that was donated was in fact the Seminole Tribe, and the callers were seeking the best permanent home for it.

We are pleased to report that the owner, Ann H. Moreland, decided to donate the manuscript to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Further research revealed that Col. Lugenbeel was a well-known career military officer who entered the United States Military Academy in West Point in 1835; he served in Florida during the Second Seminole War, from 1840-1841, and retired in 1882. Col. Lugenbeel was Moreland's great-great-grandfather, and the manuscript has been in the possession of the family for three generations.

But the nature of the manuscript was what was most surprising. It turned out to be titled, *Roll of the Indians at Tampa Bay, May 1st, 1841*, on one side, and *Roll of Indian Negroes* on the other side. After a brief inspection, we realized we had acquired a very important piece of primary evidence about the Indian removal activities that took place during the Second Seminole War. These removals in particular were carried out by the U.S. military, of which Col. Lugenbeel was a part.

The manuscript lists 254 individuals who emigrated. Many are listed by name, while others are listed by relation, including wife, sister, daughter or child. The first section is subdivided into four groups: labeled, Mickasukies, Seminoles, Tallahassee and Creeks. In this first section, the column headings of recorded information are Chief's Name, Names of the Men, Names of the Women, Names of Children, Total and Remarks. The column headings for the second section are labeled Head of Family, Names of Men, Names of Women, Names of Children, No. (total) and Remarks.

Much of the history of the Seminole Tribe in the mid-19th century is interwoven in conflict with the United States government. At no time was this more evident than during the Second Seminole War, from 1835-1842. During this time, many Seminoles and their allies were forcibly removed under the Indian Removal Act of 1830 to lands west of the Mississippi River via Fort Brooke at Tampa Bay. The document we have by no means

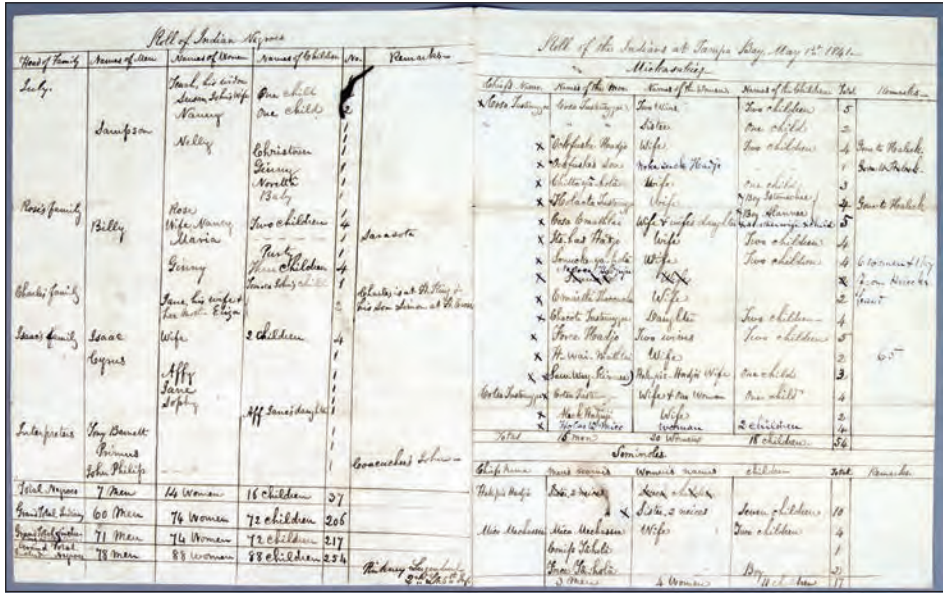


Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Side A, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum manuscript.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Side B, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum manuscript.

represents a comprehensive list of those who were driven from their homes; it is a partial list and a snapshot of this difficult time. However, the fact that an original document like this has survived to this day and has been returned to the Seminole Tribe of Florida is amazing. It is a credit to Moreland and her family that the document remains in such good condition, despite its age.

The Museum gratefully acknowledges Moreland and her family for preserving this significant manuscript and choosing to donate it to the Museum. This manuscript

is sure to provide new and important information on those Native Americans and Seminoles removed from Florida. And the manuscript will yield key information to those researching the topic of Indian removal and the Second Seminole War. We encourage anyone interested in the manuscript to call the Museum at 877-902-1113 to make an appointment to view it or to see anything else in the collection.

Tara Backhouse, Collections manager, contributed to this article.

Hah-Tung-Ke: Charles Cook

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

POLK COUNTY — Lakeland native Charles Cook spent seven years living in an Orlando apartment. The graduate of Lakeland Senior High, Polk State College and Florida Southern College was away from home for the first time.

"It was during the very time when all the huge environmental destruction came upon the area, destroying all the forests, building miles of super highways and putting up waterslide parks everywhere," said the biologist, who spent 22 years as curator of animals for Walt Disney World. "One day, I just couldn't take it anymore. I was depressed. I grabbed my guitar and drove south towards the Everglades. I don't know what I was searching for, but I knew I had to get away."

It was late 1980. It was a full moon. John Lennon had just died. Florida had been in a terrible drought. Bird and deer populations were down. Central Florida's wildlands had been paved away.

"I stopped in a little motel room in Immokalee, and the words just started flowing," he said. "I had run across the word 'Pa-hay-okee' and found out it was a Seminole word that meant 'river of grass.'"

"I thought about the Seminoles sailing over the Everglades, running away from soldiers way back then and running from the sprawl in modern times. The Indians have had a rough history, but they always managed to transcend the hardships and hold on to a special faith of survival. They have a special message for mankind and modern times."

Now back living in Lakeland again (not far from the Seminole Tribe's property north of Interstate 4), Cook has spent the past 14 years working with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as an environmental specialist with special expertise in wildlife and water issues. Since he wrote *Running through the Everglades*, Cook has become friends with many Seminoles, including Chairman James E. Billie. Cook was a regular among the troupe of Florida folk musicians and singer/songwriters who often stayed in chickees at Chairman Billie's old Big Cypress camp (where the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum stands now) and played music around the cook fire.

"The first time I met Chief Billie, he

offered me a drink of muscatel wine. So the next time I saw him, I brought him a bottle of muscadine wine," Cook said. "He looked at me cross, puffed up his chest and said, 'What's this? Winos drink this. I'm the Chief!'"

"It scared the living heck out of me... until everyone started laughing."

Cook said he learned a lot about Seminole culture from Chairman Billie, especially how the Indians were able to live in harmony with wild animals.

"One time, we were up late, and I noticed a bright light to the east," he said. "I asked the Chief, 'Is that Miami?' 'No,' he said, very solemnly. 'Our people call that the sunrise.'"

"It was 6:30 in the morning. I didn't realize we had been up all night playing music."

Cook said he is finally making professional recordings of all his songs, including *Chief Billie* and *Vulture Sleep*, about the time Tribal member Jeremiah Hall fell asleep at the foot of the fire and "the Chief cut off all his hair," Cook said. "He was warned to go to bed if he wanted to sleep. I sure miss those days. We had fun, but we all learned a lot. And I got a whole bunch of songs out of the experience."



Photo courtesy of Rachel Bullock

Songwriter Charlie Cook plays the guitar.

'Riding through the Everglades'

Lyrics by Charles Cook

Oh it's been too long,
Birds and beetles gone,
Tired of remaining closed up in my room,
Want to go south from these fountains and flumes,
Work it out 'neath the Miami moon,
I'm riding through the Everglades
I'm riding through the Everglades

I'm riding through the Everglades
I'm riding through the Everglades

Oh how long, how long,
Till the last one is gone,
Panther and bear done in by the jags
Homes disappeared 'neath the cement bags,
Leaving Miami and the traffic snags,

I'm riding through the Everglades
I'm riding through the Everglades

Oh Pa-hay-okee oh
Slow your waters go,
Down in the south where the rivers swell
Out of the land that makes America male
River of grass that the Seminoles sail

Early days of Seminole Police Department

SUBMITTED BY JERRY MEISENHEIMER
Seminole Tribe Police Officer

Many of you who know me still have a hard time pronouncing my German last name - Meisenheimer. So, most people just call me "Meisey." Some only know me as "the cop with the camera" or the D.A.R.E. officer. I've been involved in law enforcement for more than 45 years, and I'm proud to say the last 21 years have been with SPD.

I started off walking a beat in Wisconsin, and I'm finishing my career patrolling the Fort Pierce Reservation. In between, I've been a motorcycle cop, a traffic homicide investigator, a marine patrol deputy, an administrator and more. I've held a lot of ranks and titles through my career, all the way up to captain. God has watched over me and saved me from being shot in 2005. I've tried to make a difference. Before I was a police officer, I was a missionary for seven years in East Africa. I was even a big game hunter over there. I still can speak Swahili and understand what the natives are saying in the old *Tarzan* movies.

Anyway, I've reached the 70-year-old mark and will be retiring soon. I've done a lot in my life and might still write an autobiography. But in the space provided here, I'd like to go back and share what it was like being an SPD officer when I started working for the Tribe in 1991.

Back then, things were really basic. The Hollywood Rez was the hub of the police department, as it still is today. A small force of officers and one detective covered the Hollywood Tribal community, a bingo hall and a few mobile home parks. The police station was on 64th Avenue, and the parking lot flooded in a heavy rain. The current police station was a Ford dealership; and the new Tribal office building and the Hard Rock weren't even on the drawing board yet.

The Hollywood officers drove rented black Toyota Corollas that were so small the blue light bar on the roof was wider than the car. One officer even bought his own police car, a full-size Chevy. When he left, he donated it to the Tribe.

Big Cypress and Brighton each had only three officers and a sergeant. In Brighton, there was no one working after 2 a.m. Again, rented Toyota four-wheel

drive SUVs were used; but there were no police radios in them. The officer on duty carried a "bag phone" plugged into the cigarette lighter with a magnetic antenna. Hollywood would call the officer on this phone when he had a call.

After hours, the on-call officer was called out from home to answer a call or investigate an accident. Many nights, officers just slept over in the police station, especially if it was foggy. Brighton had a small bingo hall, and construction was just beginning on the Swamp Safari in Big Cypress.

No one was assigned permanently to patrol Immokalee, which consisted of a small community. The Tribal offices were in old mobile trailers. There was a small Laundromat for Tribal members to share. The casino came several years later. On weekends, the lone Brighton officer on duty had to drive all the way to Immokalee if there was a call to handle.

The most modern piece of equipment we had was a small-screen Apple computer in each office to do our reports on. It was in black and white and usually wasn't working right. So, most reports had to be done by hand.

In the early days, the SPD officer was also the first responder on the outlying reservations. He or she would be sent to all medical emergencies. It was common for a sick or injured patient to be transported in the police truck. The officer would meet halfway with an ambulance coming out of Clewiston or Okeechobee and transfer the person for the rest of the trip to the hospital.

If there was a fire on the reservation, the officer would go to the police station and sound the "air-raid" siren. This was a signal to the Tribal member volunteer firemen and firewomen to come to the station to get the fire truck. Yes, I said firewomen. Michele Thomas, in Brighton, and Jeannette Cypress, along with Mary Jene Koenes, from Big Cypress, usually drove the fire trucks. Harry Tommie, in Big Cypress, was the Fire chief.

Brighton and Big Cypress - and even parts of Immokalee - were a lot wetter than they are today. Back then, the pastures and some of the roads flooded during the rainy season. I remember the water being over my truck tires at times and coming into the cab.

Tampa was another story. The



reservation consisted of a museum, a wilderness area for tourists, a pond with a resident huge alligator named "Big Joe," a bingo hall, some Tribal townhouses and a Sheraton Hotel (not a Hard Rock Hotel). The police station was a smelly, old wooden building that was originally a fish market. I can still see the horrible shag carpet in the offices.

Even the name of the police department was different in 1991. We were called SDLE (Seminole Department of Law Enforcement). Before that, it was even called the United States Department of Law Enforcement - I still have some of those old patches. We wore gray shirts and black pants that had gray stripes on them. Tourists and even other police officers thought we were security guards.

Over the years, the Hard Rocks, the Fort Pierce community, the Coconut Creek Casino, and recently, the Lakeland property have sprung up. As the Tribe has grown, so has SPD. Today, SPD is considered the leader in law enforcement in Indian Country. Many of the officers are certified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to have police powers on other reservations throughout the country. Our motto, "Caring for your community," is what makes us stand out.

I hope this little time capsule has given you some insight into how far the Seminole Tribe and SPD have come in just two decades.

Again, I am proud and grateful to have served the Tribe for the past 21 years. Several years ago, James E. Billie presented me and some of my fellow officers with a gold medallion inscribed "Sho-naa-bish." Now, it is my turn to say, "Thank you."

Thanksgiving: a time to express gratitude

SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD
Seminole Tribe Police Chief

Thanksgiving: a word of action. Being thankful is a very rewarding activity we can bring into our lives each day. Sometimes, we become so used to our blessings, we take them for granted. This season, let's develop an attitude of gratitude. We should take time to be thankful for our good health, family and friends, and to teach our children reasons we should be thankful each and every day. Keep the tradition as strong as we can.

Gratitude is a very positive tool for placing focus on our minds on the positive things in life. Keep in mind, positive people draw positive outcomes. Always keep a

focus on what you do have, as opposed to what you do not have.

If we do not have any challenges in our lives, we can have no progress. If there are no obstacles, there is no achievement. Be thankful for the opportunities both provide us.

Thank you to the staff of Seminole Police Department working throughout the holidays to keep our Tribal members and families safe within the Seminole Tribe of Florida, an organization we are so proud to be a part of.

My deepest gratitude to my family who incessantly provide support to me as the Chief of Seminole Police Department as I diligently strive to make the Seminole Tribe of Florida the safest place it can be.

Complete your CodeRED registration form for SPD

SUBMITTED BY JEFF MASLAN
Seminole Tribe Police Sergeant

Under the direction of Chief William R. Latchford and as a positive community relations approach, the Seminole Police Department will be soliciting emergency contact information in order to populate the CodeRED database. In the near future, police personnel will meet and assist community members in completing the CodeRED registration form by conducting door-to-door contacts on each reservation.

CodeRED is a state-of-the-art voice messaging system the Seminole Police Department will primarily use to alert the Seminole Tribe of Florida community about local criminal activity, homeland security issues, missing children or adults, evacuation orders and other situations that require immediate dissemination of crucial information. Our efforts will also assist with emergency notifications from the Seminole Tribe of Florida Fire Rescue and Emergency Management. The CodeRED system can

deliver a recorded message to registered community members in a timely manner to all reservations and specific geographic areas. As a dialing system, CodeRED attempts each telephone number up to three times and will leave a message, as well as send an email.

Community members can assist in making this program a success by ensuring their contact information is added to the database by completing the CodeRED registration form. Additional telephone numbers (i.e., cell phones and out-of-county/state phone numbers) and email addresses may be included as long as the Seminole Tribe of Florida address is given for each additional phone number and email address.

Registration is free, and personal information will be kept confidential. In return, community members will be able to receive notification of emergency public safety information, community events and public service announcements in a timely manner.

New focus on old tradition of canoe making

Pedro Zepeda attempts to organize Tribe's first canoe journey

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

Before roads were built, canoes were the only means of transportation for Seminoles living in the Everglades. Today, canoes are no longer necessary, but they remain a critical aspect of Tribal culture.

According to the Florida Museum of Natural History's website, the oldest canoes found in North America date back 6,000-7,000 years and were integral for survival of people living near water.

Pedro Zepeda, traditional arts and outreach coordinator at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, wants to keep the Tribal tradition of canoe making alive and has devised an idea that could motivate people to build a canoe of their own. It's called a canoe journey, and he plans to lead one in the spring, the first in Tribal history. To get the project off the ground, he is spearheading the building of two large canoes: one in Brighton and one in Hollywood.

A canoe journey is a group of people traveling to a distant destination in their canoes. Zepeda was inspired by the Tribes of the Pacific Northwest, who revived their tradition of canoe journeys in 1989. Those Tribes say the true significance is the journey itself, which encompasses spirituality, respect, teamwork and honor. Zepeda learned about the journeys while at a conference a few years ago and believes it will help preserve the tradition of canoe making within the Seminole Tribe.

"We don't use canoes in our daily lives anymore, and there isn't a huge market for them out there," Zepeda said. "I thought an annual canoe journey would be a great way to promote making and using canoes."

In the Northwest, canoe journeys have created a renaissance of canoe making by a

new generation of Native carvers. Zepeda hopes that with the anticipation of a journey every year, the same can happen here.

The Tribe's first canoe journey, which Zepeda anticipates will take place in February, will be a 10-mile trip down the Turner River from U.S. 41 to the Smallwood Store in Chokoloskee, which should take about six hours. He hopes about 20-40 people participate.

"I've always wanted to take a canoe trip down the waterways our ancestors traveled," said Bobby Frank, Hollywood Cultural director. "I used to watch Henry John (Billie) carve canoes in Chokoloskee. Now, he's gone, and the torch is in our hands. It's our responsibility not to let it go."

Zepeda is optimistic about the challenge of beginning a new Tribal tradition.

"I think the Tribe will like it," Zepeda said. "I hope we can continue with this annually and that it grows, like any other festival. When they started the canoe journeys on the Northwest coast, they started very small. Now, they have more than 100 canoes participating every year."

In fact, more Tribal members are making full-size canoes now than they have in a long time. Zepeda is working with Frank in Hollywood and Lewis Gopher, cultural events specialist, in Brighton on large canoes. The cypress logs, about 20 feet long and 27 inches in diameter each, were recovered from the bottom of the Sampit River in South Carolina. The trees were probably 200-300 years old when they were cut; they sat in the river bottom for maybe 60-100 years, Zepeda said.

To get logs to sawmills in the 19th century meant floating them down a river, which would sometimes create logjams. These trees are the logs that sunk as a result of a logjam more than a century ago.

Cypress is the preferred wood for canoes because the wood contains an oil called cypressene, which acts as a preservative to make the wood resistant to decay and insect infestations. The logs were recovered and dried out before being

trucked to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at Big Cypress, a feat in itself. The two waterlogged logs weighed in at 15,000 pounds, Zepeda said, and each had to be moved to Brighton and Hollywood, which entailed the use of flatbed trucks, front-end loaders and large cranes.

In Brighton, students at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School help Zepeda and Gopher make the canoe a few hours each week. In the process, they learn traditional and modern ways to carve a canoe.

"A lot of lessons go along with making a canoe," Gopher said. "The students are learning if they keep up the hard work, they can accomplish a lot of things."

The traditional method of canoe making is entirely by hand using axes, adzes and other metal hand tools; the modern method utilizes chain saws and power sanders.

"It takes a lot of patience to do it all by hand," Frank said. "When it's done, it's done. You can't rush a good thing."

Zepeda believes there are different ways to carve a canoe.

"It doesn't bother me to use power tools," he said. "Hand tools are slower, but you learn other things, too. We aren't stuck in time, either. Some people think it may be cheating to use power tools, but it is each individual's choice."

Gopher believes his ancestors would use power tools if they were still around today.

"My ancestors always kept up with the times," he said. "If something new came along to help build a chickee, they used it. They would use whatever they had to make the job easier. I believe they are looking down on me and saying, 'Why wouldn't you use what is available to you?'"

Either way the canoe is built, the end result is a canoe created from a cypress log by a Tribal member.

If any male Tribal member wants to help carve the canoe in Hollywood, contact Bobby Frank at BFrank2@semtribe.com or 954-989-6840 ext. 10533.



Beverly Bidney

Students from RJW the Academy of Arts & Sciences in Miami examine the Seminole arts and crafts.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum hosts 15th annual American Indian Arts Celebration

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Once a year, during Native American Heritage Month, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum showcases the culture of other Tribes, along with that of the Seminoles. At the 15th annual American Indian Arts Celebration from Nov. 2-3, more than 800 people immersed themselves in Native American culture, history and food.

"This is the only event that covers more than Seminole arts and culture," said Anne McCudden, Museum director. "It is our one chance to display other Native American art and culture. We are very proud to host it. We bring Indian Country to your backyard."

Booths displaying Native arts and crafts filled the lawn behind the Museum. The program included Seminole storytelling, animal and birds of prey shows, alligator wrestling, canoe carving and traditional Northern Plains dancing by Kevin Locke, a member of the Lakota and Anishinabe Tribes.

RJW the Academy of Arts & Sciences in Miami brings a group of students to the event every year; this year, the school brought about 30 students.

"This broadens their horizons culturally and is a good experience for them," said teacher Walter Dennis.

The students seemed enthralled by the display of Seminole crafts, but they also appreciated the historical aspect of the day.

"I learned a lot about Osceola," said

Jahmir Cunningham, 14, a ninth-grader at RJW Academy. "He was a brave man and did his best to bring freedom for his people."

"He never gave up," added Paul James, 11, a fifth-grader. "He was a brave soldier."

At the ceremonial grounds, Billy Walker performed an alligator wrestling show. Afterward, he allowed people to interact with the gator. Once the mouth was taped shut, people touched, took photos with and sat on the gator's back. One brave tourist was Laila Avetta, of Pittsburgh.

"This event looked interesting," said Avetta, who found out about it in a travel book. "I like what the alligator wrestler said about not whining about where you live, but to go with what you have. He said, 'Today we have a hurricane, and tomorrow we have a lot of trees to make canoes from.' I like that attitude."

Avetta also liked her first taste of frybread. Other traditional Seminole dishes, including Indian tacos and Indian stew, were also prepared on site and available for purchase.

Locke played a flute and performed a traditional hoop dance. When he finished the dance, he taught the children how to maneuver the hoops around their bodies and how to do a few dance moves.

"There are more than 500 Tribes in the U.S.," said Van Samuels, Museum outreach specialist. "This celebrates the diversity of Native American Tribes while educating the public about the different cultures. It's a great event."



Beverly Bidney

Pedro Zepeda, left, and Bobby Frank carve the log into a canoe.



Andrea Holata

Charter School students get briefed on the art of canoe making.



Andrea Holata

Rudy Juarez helps carve the log into a canoe.



Beverly Bidney

Billy Walker sits on the alligator he wrestled into submission. The crowd watches in appreciation.

Bowers family reunites

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — More than 100 family members and friends gathered under the oak trees at the residence of former Chairman Howard Tommie on Nov. 3 for a family reunion on the Brighton Reservation.

Because years have passed and children have had children of their own, the family decided to hold a reunion to bring its members back together and to form new memories.

Many generations, descending from the eight children of Lena Morgan and Joe Bowers, attended.

"That's what the theme is for today is honoring the 'Bowers eight,'" said Stephen Bowers, son of Casey Bowers, one of the original eight siblings.

Many families traveled from different reservations and a few came from out of

state to join in a day of fellowship and reminiscing. The day also included music, food, games and bounce houses.

Back when things weren't so modern and the family lived near each other, the original eight would meet on a regular basis, Dan Bowers said.

"I remember when my dad would go visit people," he said. "He would stay for hours just enjoying talking and having good conversations...It means a lot to me (to see everyone here) because we all grew up together."

As for everyone who attended, they could not have agreed more and could not have been more satisfied seeing everyone come together, including Stephen's sister, Wanda Bowers, one of many organizers of the family gathering.

"I think it's awesome that we are here because I don't see them (my family) all the time because I live on the Hollywood Reservation," Wanda said. "I like coming back (to visit) because it's an all-afternoon hangout. When we moved to Hollywood, we don't get that."

One of the most important parts of the reunion was meeting relatives and family members who they had not met before, Wendi Riley said. "It's my family that doesn't get to see a lot of my family members. A lot of people haven't ever met my husband before, and we have been together for 10 years already. More importantly, it's bringing back the childhood memories that we almost [forgot]."

Knowing the hardships that some of the family endured through the years, including serving in the military, Stephen said, "I think they (the 'Bowers eight') would be proud to see all our family here."



Andrea Holata

More than 100 family members and friends gather under the oak trees at the residence of former Chairman Howard Tommie on Nov. 3 for a family reunion on the Brighton Reservation.



Andrea Holata

Sadie Cypress holds her great-grandson.



Andrea Holata

Esther Gopher tries to remember who is who of the children of the late Lena Morgan and Joe Bowers, while other family members look on.



Andrea Holata

Lewis Gopher, left, and son Lewis Jr. spend time together preparing for the family dinner.

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Police, federation wary of new online gaming site

SASKATOON, Canada — Waving a flag of “treaty rights” at concerned Royal Canadian Mounted Police, former Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Band Chief Bernard Shepherd (White Bear First Nation) has launched the province’s first online gambling site, www.NorthernBearCasino.com. Shepherd is acting without the support of the federation, which represents the 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan, or the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority.

Shepherd is in a familiar position. He set up the first casino on a Saskatchewan reserve in 1993. It was immediately shut down by the police. The confrontation led to negotiations between the government and First Nations, leading to a deal where the parties share in profits from casinos.

— Globalsaskatoon.com

Isleta Pueblo dumping Hard Rock name

RIO GRANDE VALLEY, N.M. — After less than three years and millions of dollars in licensing fees and casino renovations, Isleta Pueblo leaders have decided to stop using one of the most successful brands in marketing history on their casino and hotel: the well-known Hard Rock brand (owned by the Seminole Tribe of Florida).

“The whole overtone of Hard Rock just didn’t seem to fit right into this community,” said Isleta Hard Rock Casino and Hotel CEO Pam Gallegos.

The Pueblo claimed in a newsletter last month that the franchise owner did not live up to contracted agreements to provide marketing, management training and services. The Pueblo also attempted to reduce a \$1 million Hard Rock franchise payment (due at the end of 2012) to \$750,000.

The name of the Hard Rock Pavilion, where concerts are held just south of Albuquerque, will also be changed.

— Kob.com



Snyder back at familiar post with Senecas

SALAMANCA, N.Y. — For the fifth time, Barry Snyder Sr. has won the Seneca Nation of Indians’ presidency.

“It’s all about being transparent,” said Snyder, 72, who beat favored challenger Richard Nephew by more than 200 votes of the 2,636 cast.

In fact, Snyder and those closest to him won six of eight Seneca positions in the Nation’s general election.

“Throughout this fall, people were coming up to me and telling me, ‘We know you, we know who you are and we trust you,’” Snyder said. “That means a lot. To me, it is all about trust.”

A shrewd businessman, Snyder is considered a Seneca traditionalist and is known for his leadership with the Seneca Diabetes Foundation.

According to Seneca bylaws, the presidency is a two-year term and must alternate between its Cattaraugus and Allegany territories. Presidents can not run for re-election but can run two years later.

— Buffalo Business First



Indian land trust settlement appeal rejected

HELENA, Mont. — A Colorado woman’s challenge of a \$3.4 billion settlement between the federal government and Native American land trust beneficiaries will not be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The original settlement was reached in 2009 between the federal government and hundreds of thousands of Native Americans whose individual land trust royalties were mismanaged by the Department of the Interior under the auspices of Ken Salazar.

Kimberly Craven’s petition asking the Supreme Court to review the settlement was denied Oct. 29. She had argued the settlement enriched the attorneys and Blackfeet Tribal member Elouise Cobell, who initially filed the lawsuit in 1996. Cobell alleged mismanagement and lack of accounting for individual trust funds and lands held in trust. The Department of the Interior held the trust monies for land allotted to Native Americans under the Dawes Act of 1887.

Two classes of individuals are represented in the class action. The Historical Accounting Class, comprised of individual Indians who were alive on Sept. 30, 2009, had an open Individual Indian Money (IIM) account anytime between Oct. 25, 1994 and Sept. 30, 2009, and whose account had at least one cash transaction.

The Trust Administration Class includes individual Indians alive on Sept. 30, 2009 who had an IIM account at any time from 1985 through Sept. 30, 2009 recorded in currently available electronic data in federal government systems, as well as individual Indians who, as of Sept. 30, 2009, had a recorded or demonstrable interest in land held in trust or restricted status.

The estates of deceased class members are also

eligible to receive a settlement distribution if the deceased beneficiary’s account was open as of Sept. 30, 2009 or if their land interest was open in probate as of that date.

Every plaintiff who meets the eligibility requirements of the Historical Accounting Class will receive a single payment of \$1,000. The same plaintiffs may also be members of the Trust Administration Class as trust landowners and, if eligible, will each receive an additional \$800. Another \$1.9 billion is to be used by the government to purchase fractionated land allotments from willing individuals and turn over to the Tribe. An education scholarship for young Indians is also established under the agreement.

— Two Rivers Tribune

No Doubt controversy continues

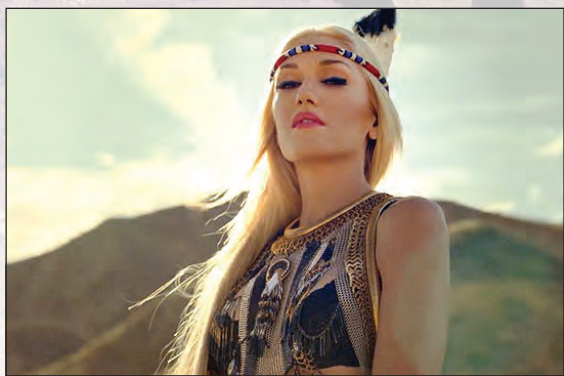


Photo courtesy of Interscope Records

LOS ANGELES — Controversy continues for Gwen Stefani, front woman for the popular rock group No Doubt, after she paraded across video screens wearing an array of Native American garb in her band’s *Looking Hot* video, described by the American Indian Studies Center (AISC) as “the grossest kind of cultural misappropriation.”

The music video was pulled and Stefani and group issued an apology within hours of the video’s debut.

“As a multiracial band, our foundation is built upon both diversity and consideration for other cultures,” the apology read. “Our intention with our new video was never to offend, hurt or trivialize Native American people, their culture or their history.”

“Although we consulted with Native American friends and Native American studies experts at the University of California, we realize now that we have offended people. This is of great concern to us, and we are removing the video immediately. The music that inspired us when we started the band, and the community of friends, family, and fans that surrounds us, was built upon respect, unity and inclusiveness.”

“We sincerely apologize to the Native American community and anyone else offended by this video. Being hurtful to anyone is simply not who we are.”

The AISC, however, wasn’t satisfied.

“We also want to make clear that, while No Doubt’s apology claimed to have consulted ‘Native American studies experts at the University of California,’ to our knowledge, no such person from UCLA was consulted about the video prior to its release,” the organization stated. “One particular challenge faced by American Indians in the United States is a perceived invisibility and a corresponding lack of understanding of the contemporary existence and relevance of Native peoples.”

The single comes off the band’s latest album, *Push and Shove*. In the video, Stefani and her band are reportedly seen fighting each other while dressed in cowboy and Indian outfits.

— The Associated Press

Earth’s most threatened Tribe makes rare visit to Brazil capital

BRASILIA, Brazil — The Awá, Earth’s most threatened indigenous Tribe, sent a contingent of 15 Tribal members on an unprecedented journey to Brazil’s capital with demands the government stop ignoring international appeals, take measures to protect their land, evict illegal invaders and throw out proposed legislation that would prohibit the expansion of indigenous territories.

The Awá’s three-day journey took them 2,000 km from the relative isolation of their forest homes in Maranhão state to the urban center of Brasília — the first time most of them had ever been to the capital city.

“For decades, the Awá have endured land theft and murder at the hands of ruthless invaders. Now, by traveling to Brasília, they are taking matters into their own hands and making their voice heard all over the world,” said Survival International director Stephen Corry. “It’s becoming increasingly difficult for the Brazilian government to ignore the international outcry over the invasion of Awá territory: Its reputation is hanging in the balance.”

The Indians chose Brazil’s Ministry of Justice, the body ultimately responsible for putting a stop to the alarming destruction of their land, as the site for their protest. The trip was directly inspired by



Photo courtesy of Survival International

the minister’s abrupt cancellation of scheduled talks with the Awá. They also plan to meet with Brazil’s Public Prosecutors’ Office, its Indigenous Affairs Department and the Solicitor General’s Office.

Unabated illegal logging, which has already destroyed 30 percent of the rainforest in Awá territory since 1985, has left the 460-member Awá Tribe surrounded and unable to survive as one of the world’s last hunter-gatherer Tribes. Hemmed in by illegal settlers and prevented from supporting their self-sufficient lifestyles through hunting, the Tribe has become desperate.

Recently mined satellite data reveals that the Arariboia reserve (home to about 60 uncontacted Awá) was one of the three indigenous reserves to suffer the worst burning by loggers in August and September. According to one Awá elder, “The loggers are going to destroy this whole area. They are chopping down wood, and they are going to destroy everything. Monkeys, peccaries (wild pigs) and tapir, they’re all running away. I don’t know how we’re going to eat.”

— Pechanga.net

Cherokee coyotes worth more dead than alive

CHEROKEE, N.C. — The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians’ Fisheries and Wildlife Department have begun a controversial program to pay \$25 bounties to enrolled Tribal members for each coyote they shoot and kill on Tribal land.

And the hunters can keep the pelt.

The bounty campaign seeks to reduce the number of coyotes, widely blamed for killing chickens and picking off small house pets throughout the mountains. The growing coyote population, officially considered a pest species by Cherokee wildlife officials, also threatens the fawns of an expensive herd of trophy white-tailed deer imported from Ohio to help establish a prized hunting population on Tribal game lands.

Robert Blankenship, the Fisheries and Wildlife program manager, estimates that a skilled hunter using electronic calls and decoys could shoot up to a dozen in a weekend — picking up an extra \$300 in cash. Traps, a threat to other species, are prohibited.

The Tribe has budgeted \$2,500 to pay hunters — the equivalent of 100 coyotes.

The deer in question are no ordinary white-tail deer; they are bred to weigh more than 200 pounds — dwarfing native mountain deer. The Tribe purchased 100 deer for \$100,000, transporting them by horse trailer from Ohio to Cherokee.

When it comes to a coyotes versus a deer, the yappers have no standing. Deer are a sacred animal, part of the Cherokee survival and lifestyle for more than 10,000 years. Coyotes are seen as a non-native newcomer — and at odds with deer. Coyotes migrated to western North Carolina to fill the void left by wolves and panthers — top predators in the food chain.

Coyotes, which have litters of up to eight pups per season, first showed up in the region around 30-40 years ago; they can be found in all North Carolina counties. The coyote symbolizes the “trickster” in Cherokee legends. Many believe seeing a coyote is a precursor to illness in the family.

— Smoky Mountain News



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia

Cordish moves to expand Maryland Live! Casino

BALTIMORE, Md. — Now that Maryland voters have approved an expansion to the state’s gaming program, the Baltimore-based Cordish Co. is planning to expand its Maryland Live! Casino.

The developer is planning to expand its Maryland Live! Casino at Arundel Mills to include table games, expecting to hire more than 1,000 employees by consequence, a company representative said.

Cordish, which developed the Seminole Tribe Hard Rock Casino complexes in Tampa and Hollywood, is one of the largest and most respected developers in the world with extensive expertise in almost every discipline of real estate: entertainment and mixed-use, gaming, lodging, sports anchored developments, retail, office and residential. Widely recognized as the leading international developer of large-scale urban revitalization projects and entertainment districts, Cordish has been awarded more Urban Land Institute Awards for Excellence than any other developer in the world. Many of the company’s developments involve public/private partnerships and are of unique significance to the cities in which they are located.

Cordish was a vocal opponent of the Question 7 referendum Maryland voters approved recently. The referendum adds a sixth gaming parlor in Prince George’s County in addition to legalizing table games at the state’s five authorized casino locations. Cordish officials felt the expansion would be unfair to existing operators.

There is no word on whether Cordish will seek a license to develop a casino in Prince George’s or file a lawsuit challenging the referendum.

— Washington Business Journal

FBI joins Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe sacred sites arson investigation

HAYWARD, Wis. — The Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe has asked for — and apparently received — federal help to investigate a rash of fires that destroyed or damaged religious and spiritual sites last July.

Neither the FBI nor the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Wisconsin would comment other than noting the suspected case of arson as under active federal investigation.

The six fires were at two sweat lodges, an historic drum lodge and a ceremonial circle at the Honor the Earth Pow-Wow grounds.

Paul DeMain, whose temporary home was one of the buildings torched, welcomed the federal intervention on a case that has stymied local police.

“I think they should’ve been involved in the very beginning because of the religious hate crime nature of the crime that was committed here — the fact that there are lots of federally owned buildings and land that are involved and because in my estimation, that could include some kind of conspiracy as well.”

— Duluth News Tribune

American Indian pitcher Kyle Lohse is a free agent

ST. LOUIS — At the advice of famed sports agent Scott Boras, St. Louis Cardinals ace pitcher Kyle Lohse (Nomlaki Nation) has refused to sign the club’s qualifying offer, making him a free agent available to sign with any team. The Cardinals will receive a draft pick from the club that signs him as compensation for losing the star pitcher.

The 34-year-old Lohse is at his prime, coming into his own as one of the league’s best throwers last season with a 16-3 record, which, combined with a low 2.86 ERA, was the key factor in leading the Cardinals to a surprising National League Championship Series berth against eventual World Series winners, the San Francisco Giants.

— Indian Country Today Media Network

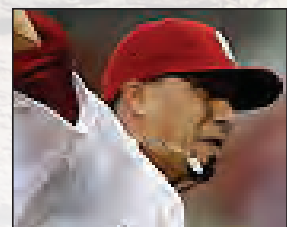


Photo courtesy of St. Louis Cardinals

American Indian QB Tyler Bray sets record

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — University of Tennessee quarterback Tyler Bray (Potawatomi Nation) set a new school record with 530 yards passing in a 55-48 win over underdog Troy, breaking the previous team record held by now NFL superstar Peyton Manning. Overall, Bray was 29 for 47, throwing for five touchdowns; he threw for 313 yards in the first half alone. His 530 yards passing are the second most in SEC history.

— Indian Country Today Media Network



UTSports.com

USET re-elects all officers by acclamation

MONTVILLE, Conn. — It was that easy. The call went out for nominations. There were none.

So, the whole slate of incumbent officers were re-elected by acclamation. No speeches, no platforms, the same folks for two more years.

That’s how the fall elections went at the Mohegan Sun as the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) held its general election. The re-elected team includes USET President Brian Patterson (Oneida Indian Nation), Vice President Randy Noka (Narragansett Indian Tribe), Secretary Brenda Lintinger (Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana) and Kirk E. Francis Sr. (Penobscot Indian Nation). The offices collectively are called the Administrative Operations Committee (AOC), whose officers will serve until October 2015.

Patterson begins his fourth term as president of the 26-member inter-Tribal organization that focuses on enhancing the development of Indian Tribes, improving the capabilities of Tribal governments and assisting the member Tribes and their governments in dealing effectively with public policy issues and in serving the broad needs of Indian people. USET advocates for Indian Nations both regionally and in Washington.

“(The vote by acclamation) speaks to the USET Board of Directors’ commitment to the continuity of leadership and direction to move forward and develop our strength in unity. It’s not about running unopposed,” said Patterson immediately after the re-election. “Forty-four years ago, four founding Tribes gathered under a great oak tree in Florida to create this great organization. They were the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, Mississippi Band of Choctaw, Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. And they put their minds together and created a vision. Forty-four years later we are still advancing that vision. We are bringing our moccasins on the path that those leaders created.”

— Indian Country Today Media Network



◆ GAMING
From page 3A

Ella DeHass completed the program four years ago and now works in the Finance Department of Seminole Gaming. She was hired by Betty Jones Goosens, who started the program. When DeHass entered the program she had already earned a bachelor's and two master's degrees from Oral Roberts University. "I learned the nuts and bolts of how to run a casino and hotel," DeHass said. "To succeed, you need a strong work ethic. When you walk in the door, there is no guarantee you'll stay, but it



Omar Rodriguez

Summer Billie currently works at the Immokalee Casino. She is in phase one of the program.

is guaranteed you will work and learn. It's a hands-on program. You have to be willing to work for it; it isn't going to be handed to you."

Karissa Tommie, an intern in phase two in at the Hard Rock in Tampa, joined the program two and a half years ago because she heard it was a good opportunity.

"It's been better than I expected it to be; it's more in depth," said Tommie, 25, of Tampa. "It keeps my interest, and I keep learning things I didn't know before. When I finished phase one, I felt like I accomplished something. Going through the program has been a challenge, but it keeps me busy and focused all day."

Neil Baxley, an intern in phase one and also a project manager at the Big Cypress Casino, didn't know what he was getting into when he joined the program five and a half years ago. His background is in electronic engineering, and he thought he would work on the slot machines. Once he got into the program and started learning the different aspects of the industry, he was pleasantly surprised.

"At first I just wanted a job, but later I changed and wanted to be a director of a department. Now, I may want to be a general manager or CEO one day," said Baxley, 33, of Hollywood. "This is a really good program; you get paid and learn from the best people in the business. Every day, I'm working alongside the leaders of the gaming industry. Hands down, its one of the greatest opportunities a Tribal member can have to start a career."

Summer Billie, an intern in phase one at the Seminole Casino Immokalee, wanted a career in gaming when she joined the program about two years ago. Her goal is to become a general manager of a casino or work in human resources.

"I enjoy the environment of the casino," said Billie, 23, of Fort Myers.

"Going through all the departments, you get to understand everything and how they interact and affect each other. Every day is a new learning experience. There is never a down or uneventful day; you're always learning something new. A good thing about the program is you get to try everything, so you can see where you fit in and what works for you."

Jason Don Billie, an intern in phase two at the Hard Rock Hollywood, wants to be able to help the Tribe and plans on a long-term career in Gaming. He has been in the program on and off for about eight years. He also worked in the Recreation Department, and he currently works at the Hard Rock Live booking entertainment and making arrangements.

"It beats sitting at home," said Billie, 39, of Hollywood. "I like the variety in the job; it's not the same thing every day. I look forward to getting up, coming to work and hearing another story about what happened the day before. Having the know-how and education of how the casino runs adds value to the company and to the Tribe."

Jim Osceola, an intern in phase one at the Hard Rock Hollywood, joined the program because he is a workaholic and didn't have enough to do. After attending Johnson & Wales culinary school, he lived in Croatia, Romania and the United Kingdom where he worked in the culinary field cooking and training people to manage resources. He also took business classes in Switzerland, Italy and Spain.

"I joined the program because I thought I wanted to use my culinary degree as an asset to the gaming industry," said Osceola, 51, of Hollywood. "I brought a lot of management skills with me, and I've learned a lot about the gaming business. It's a fantastic and well-run organization and a pleasure to work there. The core of the program is to develop people for upper



Beverly Bidney

From left, Jason Don Billie, Karissa Tommie, Ervina Capricien and Neil Baxley work for the Tribal Career Development Program.

management, and I feel like I'm contributing to the future of the program and Gaming."

Osceola also teaches public speaking to interns at all five casinos, which he believes is an important leadership skill.

The consensus among those who are in or have been in the program is that more Tribal members need to get involved.

"This is for the Tribe, not just for me," DeHass said. "I wish there were more Tribal members who are willing to put themselves out there and join the program. Gaming accounts for 90 percent of the Tribe's revenue, and we need Tribal members to

take the baton." Capricien knows how vital the program is to the Tribe.

"This is an awesome program. I wish more Tribal members would get into it," she said. "It's an awesome business, and people need to know more about it so they can take care of it in the future."

For more information about joining the Tribal Career Development Program, contact Ervina Capricien at Ervina.Capricien@stofgaming.com or call 954-585-5120 or 954-682-6504.

◆ MARIE
From page 3A

"It was a real pretty place," Marie said. "It was like a tropical paradise. It had plants and animals. It was beautiful there, I thought. I really didn't like the gators though, and I still don't today. I was scared of them, I guess. They never bothered us out there in the Everglades or anywhere, but I just didn't like them."

The move from Tamiami Trail brought a huge transition in Marie's life: She started public school at Citrus Grove Elementary in Miami and eventually moved onto the Hollywood Reservation, despite warnings from her grandparents.

"They didn't trust anybody because of the wars, but eventually we came and joined the Seminole Tribe around '49 or '50," she said.

She and her four half-siblings moved into a chickee on the reservation and lived similarly to the way they did in Tamiami Trail.

Beginning school proved challenging for Marie, as she only spoke her native language, Mikasukki. She didn't learn English until about the second grade and found herself isolated from the rest of the students.

"I was still happy though," she said. "I had a happy childhood."

Marie finished elementary school at Dania Elementary and moved on to McArthur High School. Her family moved from their chickee into a house on the reservation when she turned 15, and Marie found the transition relatively easy. She had grown accustomed to outdoor living and found modern appliances convenient.

"I liked my outdoor home at the time, but now I'm so used to living this way I would never go back," she said. "I still cook my Native American foods and speak my language fluently and make my Native American crafts. I have the best of both worlds."

In the 11th grade, Marie married Jimmy Osceola in a ceremony at Miccosukee Church in front of family and friends. Her brother-in-law Bill Osceola officiated. Marie's step-father, who she refers to as her father, introduced her to Jimmy.



Brett Daly

Marie Osceola, left, celebrates her 69th birthday with friends and family on Oct. 14.

"We've been married for 53 years," Marie said. "He's my first and only husband. I picked him because he was a good man. He was so nice, and that caught my attention."

During the ensuing years, the couple had five children: Jimmy III, Tammy, Todd and Amy and adopted Matthew Paul. But even with five kids to juggle at home, Marie completed her high school education five years after getting married and worked in various capacities for the Miccosukee Tribe. She eventually landed in the Seminole Tribal Office, where she worked as a receptionist for 20 years.

Coming from a traditional upbringing, Marie learned Seminole patchwork from her mother, and she learned how to use a sewing machine from her home economics classes in high school. She enjoys creating patchwork more than any other Seminole craft.

"When I do this, I don't feel stress; it's kind of like therapy, and I like that," she said. "I enjoy it very much."

Marie passes along her knowledge to her children, as well as to her 21 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren, to ensure their Seminole traditions stay alive. Following the advice of her grandfather, Josie Billie, who said, "Learn all you can and don't be shallow; be deeply rooted," Marie spends time helping her family learn how to cook, sew and speak their native language.

"I see our younger generation leaving our traditions," she said. "I wish they wouldn't because it sets us apart from everybody, and we're famous for that as Seminoles because we never signed a peace treaty. They fought back to stay who they were."

Since her retirement, Marie has devoted herself to her family and looks forward to watching them continue to thrive.

"I have a happy, content life," she said. "As long as my family is doing good, I think I've accomplished my goal."

◆ BIGG E
From page 3A

Customizing a vehicle can take one to two years to complete. For a show-quality vehicle, customization can cost \$20,000 and up. A custom paint job can cost \$5,000 to \$10,000.

"The first thing I tell someone is that it takes a lot of work and costs a lot of money," he said.

Osceola is currently working on a Cadillac he plans to paint in the Tribal colors and motif; he hopes to find a 1957 Chevy to customize with the same design. The shop's logo

features the car, which is from the year the Tribe was incorporated. Until he finds his '57 Chevy, he will continue working on his other Tribal car.

"I would encourage all Tribal members to get into something they really like," he said. "This started as a hobby for me, and it is still fun."

Bigg E Customs is located at 720 N. State Route 7 (U.S. 441) in Hollywood and can be reached at 954-391-7155.

If you are a Tribal member and business owner who would like to be featured in *The Tribune*, email BrettDaly@semtribe.com.



Beverly Bidney

Eric Osceola examines a detail on a car in the process of customization with his employees.

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◆ FSU
From page 1A

For FSU alumna Toni Sanchez, the Homecoming game meant another opportunity to perform with the Marching Chiefs. She played the trumpet in the band during her college career and relishes the opportunity to come back and play as an FSU graduate.

During the annual Homecoming Parade on Oct. 26, Chairman Billie and President Sanchez served as the grand marshals, while the Seminole princesses and Tribal FSU alumni – including Doney, Christine McCall and Doug Zepeda – were also recognized. They traveled via convertibles through FSU's campus, waving to thousands of cheering onlookers. Osceola and Renegade followed behind them.

"FSU is very proud to have the Tribe as their symbol," McCall said. "They've always shown great respect to the Tribe. Not only am I a Florida Seminole, but I'm an FSU Seminole. I'm very proud."

The presence of the Seminole Tribe at FSU has continued to grow since former FSU coach Bobby Bowden and former Renegade caretaker Bill Durham conceptualized the idea of using Renegade and Osceola as the university's symbols and asked former Chairman Howard Tommie for official permission in 1977. Tribal

members have not only participated in FSU football and Homecoming traditions, but Tribal enrollment at the school has increased as well.

To date, eight Tribal members have graduated from FSU, while an additional five have enrolled this fall – the most students ever enrolled at the university at the same time.

"That shows me that the future of the Tribe is very bright," President Sanchez said. "I think it's really important for us to be here not only to show our support to the school but to the students as well."

For Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers, FSU Homecoming weekend was another success.

"FSU loves us to come here, which makes us feel good," she said. "It's fun for us, and the students love it. I love seeing the kids (Seminole royalty) so excited to be down [on the field]. They get exposure to the school and say they can't wait to attend here."

FSU President Barron said he appreciates the support of the Seminole Tribe and their participation in Homecoming weekend.

"This is part of our spirit and our being," he said. "We work hard to maintain our traditions in a way that honors the Tribe. Having their support for what we do makes our traditions so much richer."



President Tony Sanchez Jr., Seminole royalty and FSU alumnus Doug Zepeda pose with the 2011 FSU Homecoming king and queen during a luncheon held at the Alumni Association Center on Oct. 26.



Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez crowns the new FSU Homecoming queen during halftime at the Homecoming game on Oct. 27.



Little Miss Seminole Jordan Osceola and Little Mr. Seminole Vincenzo Osceola wave to the crowd during the Homecoming Parade on Oct. 26.



Chairman James E. Billie and President Tony Sanchez Jr. pose with FSU President Eric J. Barron in front of Renegade and Osceola.



Chairman James E. Billie and his family watch as Osceola plants the spear on the 50-yard line before the Homecoming football game on Oct. 27.



Chairman James E. Billie and President Tony Sanchez Jr. serve as the grand marshals for the FSU Homecoming Parade held on Oct. 26.



Seminole royalty walk across the 50-yard line in preparation of crowning the FSU king and queen.



Little Miss Seminole Jordan Osceola and Miss Florida Seminole Princess Alexis Aguilar get in the FSU spirit.



FSU alumnus Kyle Doney rides in the Homecoming Parade.



Miss Florida Seminole Princess Alexis Aguilar and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Brianna Nunez pose with Renegade and Osceola during the Homecoming game. Both girls want to attend FSU for college.

RED RIBBON
From page 3A

"I have never been so cold, so muddy, swallowed so much sand and had so much family fun," said Immokalee Board Liaison Dorothy Scheffler. "Give yourself a big hand because each of you has made it happen. Families that play together stay together and support each other. Being a member of a family is a lifelong occupation and a big responsibility but one of the most rewarding things that you will ever experience."

"No obstacle is too high when you are drug free," said Family Services prevention specialist Fred Mullins. "Red Ribbon 2012 has been fantastic because of the contribution that each of you have made. Reach out and touch somebody and know that you are surrounded by love and understanding because 'the best me is drug free.' Each of you is important and can make a difference."

Fort Pierce

On Oct. 11, the Fort Pierce community gathered under the chickee at the Chupco Ranch to raise awareness of drug and alcohol prevention.

"We really like to get together every year just to remind everybody the importance of saying no to alcohol and drugs and keeping the Seminole Tribe's children and adults all safe, healthy and happy," said Valerie Marone, Family Services Department events coordinator. "It's important to keep that message out there to provide healthy activities for our children and members of the Tribe."

During the week, the community participated in a door decorating contest based on this year's theme, *The best me is drug free*.

Youth created posters using the same theme, and afterward, the community listened to guest speaker Sgt. Shane Altman from the Seminole Police Department. Sgt. Altman talked about his experiences working in the drug enforcement division.

Community members received T-shirts, bags and red ribbons to promote drug prevention, and many enjoyed a catered dinner by Golden Corral.

Tampa

In Tampa, Seminole youth, their families and friends, Tribal staff and special guests gathered at the Golden Corral in Brandon on Oct. 18 to celebrate Red Ribbon Week among the Tampa Seminoles. The event featured a sobering, yet hopeful talk by Cindy Grant, director of the Hillsborough County Anti Drug Alliance (HCADA).

Grant praised the Tribe for the family atmosphere of the event: "The family meals provides a very good way of bonding with your kids," she said, speaking in a room with walls covered in brightly-colored anti-drug posters.

Through her role as director, Grant has access to local statistics that indicate the rise in drug abuse in Hillsborough County, where there were 244 overdose deaths last year from prescription pain pill abuse, alone. On the other hand, she quoted data from a survey of county teenagers indicating that "71 percent of kids who took the survey do not drink, 91 percent say they do not smoke cigarettes, and 85 percent do not smoke marijuana," she said. "Those are very positive statistics."

Tampa Seminoles have been celebrating Red Ribbon Week for 10 years. Once again, this event was organized by Marilyn Stillwell, Seminole Family Services site manager for Tampa, and Valerie Marone, Seminole Family Services alcohol and drug prevention specialist.

Poster winners marched one by one to the front to receive their awards. First prizes went to Lauren Smith, Azaria Simmons and Julian Dillon; second prizes went to Corrina Smith, Desmond Miller, Avery Miller and Maya Smith; and a third prize went to Angel Dillon.

"It's all about drug education. We want to reinforce the message to think twice when certain situations arise," said Stillwell, who praised the support and involvement of the Police Explorers. "I am so pleased at how everyone up here works so well together. Most importantly, the kids seem to love it."

Hollywood

It seemed almost everyone in Hollywood participated in Red Ribbon Week. Preschoolers entertained elders, while school-age children made a promise and learned why they should remain drug free.

In addition to carrying out this year's Red Ribbon theme, *The best me is a drug-free me*, another long-held annual tradition was also continued. The Plant the Promise campaign, which coincides with Red Ribbon Week, encourages children to plant flowers and make a promise to live drug-free lives. For the Tribe, it goes further.

"The kids make a commitment to the elders that they will carry on traditions and keep the Tribe strong and healthy," said Kelly Hancock, Family Services Department counselor. "The plant symbolizes that commitment."

The kids gathered at the Boys & Girls Club to decorate pots and plant flowers in them. They also painted pumpkins to be used as centerpieces for the annual Red Ribbon youth basketball tournament and dinner, which was canceled because of the inclement weather brought on by Hurricane Sandy.

The Seminole Police Department presented a video titled, *The Truth about Drugs*, which showed testimonials from young people about their regrets about drug use. Sgt. Angie Margotta encouraged the kids to talk about what they know about

drugs and cautioned them to stay away from them.

At the senior center, preschoolers brought table decorations of flower pots with their own photos in the center of each handmade flower. The older children also presented potted plants they made to the seniors and used the gifts to decorate the tables.

Gathered at one end of the room, the preschoolers did their best as they sang a song and said the *Pledge of Allegiance* in Mikasuki. Charmed by the youngsters, the elders applauded their efforts.

On the way out, the children delightedly met McGruff the Crime Dog.

Big Cypress

Over in Big Cypress, Red Ribbon Field and Fun Day on Oct. 16 lived up to its name, but fun and games took a back seat to the reason for the event: encouraging everyone to live a drug-free lifestyle.

"As a prevention program, we want the kids to be outside and physical so they see they can have fun and get a high from doing things with friends and family," said Thommy Doud, Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club manager. "Mission accomplished."

About 65 kids, ages 4-14, participated in a number of field games, including an obstacle course, sack races, basketball free-throw contests and tug of war. Between contests, each child took the Drug-Free World Pledge administered by Fred Mullins, Family Services counselor, and witnessed by members of the Seminole Police Department.

"It is a good pledge," said Edie Robbins, 9, after taking it. "I will help my family, friends and community."

The pledge, created by the nonprofit Foundation for a Drug-Free World, is signed by youth around the world.

"I will tell everyone how much drugs harm people," Ricky Garza, 10, said.

The annual Red Ribbon Day parade on Oct. 18 featured 18 floats decorated in distinct Seminole fashion with balloons, people in costumes and Tribal cultural references. The floats entertained the crowd while competing to be named best in parade by a panel of judges from the Seminole Police Department. The criteria for the competition included culture, creativity and the theme, *The best me is drug free*.

Ahfachkee's float had a large floating globe surrounded by the milestones of life, including education, graduation, getting a driver's license, registering to vote and military service.

"We are going for first place," principal Lucy Dafoe said. "Last year, we got second place, and we want to win it this year."

The school prevailed and won the best float in the parade.

Important components of Red Ribbon Week were essays and posters by Ahfachkee students. Winners of the essay contest were:



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress seniors lead the reservation's Red Ribbon parade on Snake Road.

first place – Jalee Wilcox, second grade; second place – Anthony Joe, ninth grade; third place – Charlie Osceola, fourth grade. Winners of the poster contest were: first place – Kadin Tommie, first grade; second place – Elise Brown, fifth grade; third place – Cale Osceola, third grade.

Brighton

From Oct. 22-26, the Brighton community celebrated Red Ribbon Week by having activities all week focusing on the theme, *The best me is drug free*.

Coordinated by Family Services Department events coordinator Valerie Marone, Brighton had poster contests, speakers, car smashing, Jaws of Life demonstration by Fire Rescue, Walk Out on Drugs march, Preschool Get Fit Day, and door decorating and T-shirt decorating contests promoting a drug-free community.

"It's out there everywhere in every community, not just the Brighton community," Marone said. "It's in all communities, and we want to get the message out there to help people from falling in the trap of alcohol and drug addiction."

The youth kicked off the week by decorating posters. Later in the evening, the community enjoyed a dinner and speaker at the Veteran's Building, where Seminole Police brought their drug dog to do a drug search demonstration.

Youth then took to the parking lot to write drug-free messages on a car and then smashed it with a hammer, signifying "beating drugs out of Brighton." Once completed, Fire Rescue talked about the dangers of drugs and alcohol while driving a motor vehicle. Fire Rescue also demonstrated how they use the Jaws of Life to remove people who have been in car

accidents due to drug- and alcohol-related car accidents.

Community members, Tribal employees, Pemayetv Emahakv's students and faculty, as well as preschool kids, participated in the Walk Out on Drugs march around the community.

Led by the Seminole Police and Fire Rescue departments, all marched the streets of Brighton to raise awareness. PECS students decorated stop signs, mailboxes, fences and cars with red ribbons, while preschool kids chanted the slogan, "Say no to drugs," from the horse trailer they rode on.

"It's a reminder to say no to drugs and keep drugs and alcohol out of our community," Marone said.

Even the youngest of them partook in the week-long activities. The 3- and 4-year-olds from the preschool participated in a Get Fit Day promoting fitness and health.

"It's never too early to start with the children to promote healthy lifestyle and healthy choices," Marone said.

To conclude the week's message of being drug free, the Family Services Department held a movie and pizza night to watch *Heroes under Fire: Righteous Vendetta*, a movie about Drug Enforcement Administration Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, the fallen officer who inspired Red Ribbon Week.

"Brighton really came together and is really working to have a healthy safe community," Marone said.

Andrea Holata, Beverly Bidney and Peter B. Gallagher contributed to this article.



Beverly Bidney

Hollywood's Joey Puente, 10, and Kelly Hancock prepare a plant to be put in a pot.



Beverly Bidney

The Wildlife Department participates in Big Cypress' Red Ribbon Week parade.



Beverly Bidney

McGruff the Crime Dog encourages Hollywood's preschoolers to give him a high five.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee's soap slide is a tremendous challenge with slippery spills, laughter and loads of family support.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee's Josiah Osceola may only be a year old but he isn't too young to spread the drug-free message.



Peter B. Gallagher

Tampa youth Desmond Miller, 10, Angel Dillon, 9, Julian Dillon, 10, and Taryn Storm, 14, inspect their prizes.



Andrea Holata

Brighton youth write drug-free messages on a car before smashing it with a hammer, signifying "beating drugs out of Brighton."



Andrea Holata

Valerie Marone, Family Services Department events coordinator, helps Fort Pierce youth create their Red Ribbon Week posters.

Hurricane Sandy relief: Seminole Tribe helps Shinnecock Indians of New York

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

LONG ISLAND, N.Y. — Hurricane Sandy devastated parts of the Northeastern U.S. in late October, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida stepped in to help the Shinnecock Indian Nation of New York with relief efforts.

"This is the first time that we have been a part of the emergency management system as a conduit to provide assistance to another Tribe," said Jerry Wheeler, chief Public Safety officer for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Wheeler sent two members of the Tribe's Emergency Management Division to eastern Long Island, N.Y. on Nov. 3 to help develop an emergency management program for the Shinnecock Nation, including a recovery plan for the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Emergency Management operations manager Jason Dobronz and Emergency Management coordinator Keith Carson

helped the Shinnecock Nation assess and document the storm's damage for state and federal agencies, as well as helped coordinate resources, making progress from response to recovery operations.

"The Seminole Tribe of Florida embodies the spirit of cooperation necessary during catastrophic events like Hurricane Sandy," Gov. Rick Scott said. "I am proud of their leadership and I'm confident in their ability to help bring the Shinnecock Indian Nation back to normal."

Shinnecock Emergency Management reported to USET that it has never experienced disaster like this. Shinnecock Chairman Trustee Randy King described the damage as of Nov. 1.

"We know a tidal surge of about four to six feet came into the reservation," King said. "We still do not have electricity. We had [our] Tribal burial grounds halfway covered with water. Right now, it is the (lack of) electricity which is the issue; it's getting cold, and some of our elders don't have ways to heat their home."

Additional flooding, debris and damage to homes and government buildings were also reported on the Shinnecock Nation's New York reservation, where more than half of the Shinnecock Nation's 1,400 members reside.

For the country as a whole, Sandy's damage was only second to Hurricane Katrina, resulting in a reported 121 fatalities and an estimated \$50 billion in damage. At least 24 states were affected, leaving particularly severe damage in New Jersey in New York.

"As we work to assist the Shinnecock Indian Nation, we will not hesitate to expand our relief efforts to other entities that need assistance within our emergency management expertise," Wheeler said.

While this was the first time the Seminole Tribe offered emergency management support through the emergency management system, the Tribe sent the Seminole Police Department and Fire Rescue to assist the Choctaw Tribe in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina and

has held donation drives for goods to assist other Tribes in need across the country.

"I think one of the things that we would like to emphasize is the Nation-to-Nation relationship [of] the federally recognized Tribes. And when it comes to providing assistance, often Tribal governments are more tuned to some of the characteristics you need in order to help each other. We are a big supporter of mutual aid," FEMA administrator Craig Fugate said.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's recent assistance in New York ensured steps toward the Shinnecock Nation's recovery and built a foundation for effective emergency response for the future.

"We just give a very big 'Thank you' to the Seminole Tribe of Florida," said Harrell French, USET Emergency Management senior project coordinator.

Information was taken from press releases by the United South and Eastern Tribes and the State of Florida Division of Emergency Management.



Photo courtesy of Keith Carson
Keith Carson and Jason Dobronz arrive in Long Island, New York on Nov. 3 to help the Shinnecock Indian Nation recover from the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

TRIKE FEST

From page 1A

Team Tampa took home the honor of Best Decorated Trike, while Brighton's Alice Sweat, Jenny Johns and Whidden took first, second and third place, respectively, in the Best Dressed Triker competition. Big Cypress senior Carol Cypress tied for third as well, and Tampa's Bobby Henry won first place in the men's division.

For the fourth consecutive year, Team Tampa also won for Most Participants by Percentage with 46.15 percent.

"We tried the best we could," said Tampa competitor Nancy Frank. "We practiced and decorated a bike. It looks like Hawaii now."

Individual medals were handed out for each event and each age group, with all participating reservations claiming spots on the podium. Overall winners in each women's age group were Wanda Bowers (Hollywood), Jenny Johns (Brighton), Mable Tichenor (Brighton) and Linda Henry (Tampa). Overall winners in each men's age group were Ruggy Jumper (Hollywood), Joe Osceola (Hollywood), Billie Micco (Brighton) and Bobby Henry (Tampa) — tied in their category — and Tommy Billie (Big Cypress).

"I've been part of this since it first started," said Big Cypress competitor Edna McDuffie, community outreach coordinator for the Health Department. "It has grown tremendously. This is a good event, and I love to see everyone come out from the other reservations."

Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. was happy for his reservation's victory.

"They're an example of what practice and hard work can do for you," he said.



Team Brighton celebrates their win during the eighth annual Senior Trike Fest held in Big Cypress on Nov. 7.



Tampa seniors show off their Hawaiian attire for the Best Dressed Triker Competition.



Big Cypress competitor Mitchell Cypress takes his turn in the cone weave.



Immokalee competitor Linda Belesto swerves through the cone weave.



Hollywood participant Wanda Bowers takes her turn during the team relay race.



Edna McDuffie practices on her trike before the competition begins.



Big Cypress participant Louise Osceola hula dances during the Best Dressed Triker competition.



From left, Jonah Cypress, Ruggy Jumper, Elbert Snow and Buster Baxley accept their medals for first, second, third and fourth place, respectively, in the maze course.

Brett Daly

Brett Daly

Brett Daly

Brett Daly

Brett Daly

Seminole recipe: how to make pumpkin frybread

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

The holidays are here, a time for togetherness – usually centered on the sweet and savory dishes pouring out of the cooking chickees for Seminoles. One crowd pleaser guests are sure to look forward to is pumpkin frybread.

Pumpkin frybread is a traditional Seminole food that has been made for as long as Jenny Johns can remember. Johns, of Brighton's Culture Center, said early Seminoles grew their own produce, including pumpkins.

"We ate off the land, so we tried to grow everything we can grow," she said.

Throwing seeds onto fertile soil easily sprouts pumpkins after a few months, she said. Although pumpkins are typically harvested in the fall, canned pumpkin makes it available year-round. So, pumpkin frybread may appear at any given holiday party or special occasion.

As with most Seminole foods, women are the experts when it comes to making pumpkin frybread, and it's never too early

– or too late – to learn. On a cool day earlier this month, both 19-year-old Sheila Fortner and several Brighton Preschool students could be found in the Brighton Culture Center's kitchen learning for the first time.

"It's part of our culture," Johns said. "Plant, harvest and prepare as food to eat."

On warmer days, Johns and her students are outside under a cooking chickee. Regardless of whether it's made on a stove top or over an open fire, the basic steps are the same and the end result is just as sweet: hot, soft pumpkin frybread.

However, as with any food, there are plenty of variations. For instance, some add water to the batter, while others, like Salina Dorgan, add milk.

"The milk makes it softer," Dorgan said of the tip she picked up from the late Agnes Jumper. "It has more of a fluff."

Dorgan also adds a sprinkle of cinnamon sugar for a distinct flavor, which she said helped her win first place at a recent cooking contest in Brighton.

"Everyone has their own way of making this," Johns said.

There are also endless ways to eat it.

While the consensus seems to be that it's best plain, some dust it with powdered sugar after it's cooked, and Dorgan has even seen a few people spread butter on it.

The Culture Center recently served pumpkin frybread to preschoolers with juice as a snack, but Johns said – and many will agree – that it goes down easy with any meal. Jennifer Osceola likes it for dessert, while Paulette Lawrence enjoys it as a snack. Dipping it in meat gravy with a meal never seems to be frowned upon either among Tribal members.

The recipe is shared below from Johns and the Brighton Culture Department, but many Tribal members agree that cooking is more of an art than a science.

Ingredients

- (Feeds a large party of 50 or more)
- 1 6-lb., 1-oz. can of pumpkin (Libby's) (or fresh pumpkin can be chopped and boiled)
 - 5 lbs. of white sugar
 - 5-7 lbs. of self-rising flour
 - A large pot filled about halfway with vegetable oil (Mazola corn oil)



Kathryn Stolarz

Jenny Johns teaches Brighton Preschool students how to make pumpkin frybread at the Brighton Culture Center on Nov. 8.

Directions



Kathryn Stolarz

1. To make the dough, mix pumpkin, sugar and flour together in a bowl.

If you have time, cover the batter in tin foil and let it sit overnight. That way, it starts to rise and is less sticky to work with. The end result will be fluffier.



Kathryn Stolarz

2. To divide the dough, lightly coat hands in flour and roll small handfuls of dough into balls.

If the dough's too sticky, add more flour. If the dough's too dry, add more pumpkin. If it's not sweet enough, add more sugar.

Unused pumpkin dough can be frozen for later use. Like anything else, you must let it thaw out before cooking it.



Kathryn Stolarz



Kathryn Stolarz

3. To shape the dough, flatten balls into pancake-like discs. Add flour to your hands as needed to keep the dough from sticking to your skin.

Flattening methods include patting it with your fingers flat like you're clapping your hands or using the tips of your fingers to press the dough outward from the center.



Kathryn Stolarz

4. To cook the dough, carefully slip the discs into a pot or pan of oil boiling on medium-high heat.

If you're reusing the oil continuously, make sure you change it out when it starts to darken in color. Otherwise, the bread will burn more easily.



Kathryn Stolarz

5. Once the edges start to brown, flip the bread over with tongs. The other side cooks quicker, so be sure to check on it. If it floats up, it's usually done.



Kathryn Stolarz

6. To remove the dough, wait until the bread reaches a medium-brown color. Then, use tongs to pull it out of the oil. Let excess oil drip into the pan.



Kathryn Stolarz

7. Place the bread on a paper towel to absorb some of the oil before serving.



Kathryn Stolarz

8. Enjoy warm or store and reheat later.

Tips

- Don't knead the dough too much or it will get tough and make the end product chewier than desired.
- Don't forget to pat the dough flat and thin before you cook it. If it's too thick, it won't cook thoroughly and will result in a moist, raw center or a burned outside.
- Make sure you watch the bread while it's cooking. Since there's a lot of sugar in the batter, it can burn quickly if it's not watched closely.
- Remember to eat pumpkin frybread in moderation since it is high in sugar and oil content.

Tribal members take part in Okeechobee H.S. Homecoming



Andrea Holata

Tribal member Janet Smith is accompanied by Al Fludd in the Okeechobee High School parade. The parade was held on Nov. 1 in Okeechobee.



Andrea Holata

Brighton Miss Seminole Cheyenne Nunez is accompanied by Jacob Emmick in the Okeechobee High School parade. Nunez was chosen as the freshman candidate for Homecoming queen.



Andrea Holata

Janet Smith is named the 2012-2013 football queen for OHS.



Andrea Holata

Cheyenne Nunez is escorted by Jacob Emmick during halftime at the OHS football game on Nov. 2.



Andrea Holata

Tribal member Jaryaca Baker participates in the 2012 Okeechobee High School (OHS) Homecoming parade representing the OHS Student Council.



Red Barn celebration rescheduled

BY CARRIE DILLEY
Tribal Historic Preservation Office

BRIGHTON — The Red Barn celebration has been rescheduled for Jan. 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the site of the still-standing, 71-year-old wooden building. The first Seminole Tribe of Florida property listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Red Barn was built by the Indian Division of the Civilian Conservation Corps to help "jump-start" the cattle industry on the Brighton Reservation.

Seeking to preserve the beloved historic site, which also served as the first "town hall" type gathering spot for Seminole Indians, the Tribe has planned immediate phase-one structural repairs and will gather opinions from Tribal members and others on how to proceed on a future phase-two restoration.

The colorful event will feature a cattle drive, an unveiling of the historic site marker, a cookout, a raffle and live music from Paul Buster and his Cowbone Band. All Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal members, employees, friends, family, surrounding community members and the public at large are invited to attend. Dancing shoes and western attire are the preferred dress.

Those who have questions or would like more information can contact Carrie Dilley of the Seminole Tribal Historic Preservation Office at 945-364-5200 ext. 10760 or CarrieDilley@semtribe.com.

Education

B

Ahfachkee students learn the meaning of Veterans Day

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — To many school children, Veterans Day means a three-day weekend. To impart the meaning behind the holiday, Ahfachkee School held their first Veterans Day celebration on Nov. 9 at the Big Cypress Fitness Trail.

The student-led program included readings about veterans, the history of the day and patriotic singing. Four honored guests attended, all veterans of wars from

Vietnam to Afghanistan.

"We want the students to understand the holiday, why it exists and bring honor to veterans," said Lucy Dafoe, Ahfachkee principal.

The students ran the program and their hard work paid off.

"A lot of the younger kids don't know why we have a long weekend," said 11th-grader Kaylan Osceola, 16, the emcee of the event. "We're just saying thank you to our veterans."

The program got off to a rousing start

with a welcome prayer, a presentation by the Seminole Police Department Color Guard, and singing of the national anthem and the pledge, both American and Seminole, led by students Eyanna Billie and Charlie Osceola. Then the students gave heartfelt speeches about veterans.

"We honor the sacrifices of veterans," said 11th-grader Malari Baker, 16. "They are part of our families, community and are vital to society. If you see a veteran, be sure you say, 'Thank you.'"

Savannah Tiger, an 11th-grader, put the cost of freedom into perspective for her peers.

"Freedom is never free; it is paid for with the sacrifices and ultimate determination of veterans," said Tiger, 16. "Native Americans have taken up arms to protect their people since Micanopy, Sam Jones and Osceola. The sacrifices of our elders and ancestors are visible today, since many buildings are named for them. We must remember that freedom is never free."

The four veterans at the ceremony were former Chairman Mitchell Cypress; Curtis Canton, of the Building and Grounds Department; and Ahfachkee teachers Gary Chaffin and Elizabeth Jack. Each spoke of their experiences in the military and stressed the value serving had on their lives.

Former Chairman Cypress served in the U.S. Army from 1968-70 and told the children how veterans at that time weren't given a warm welcome home by the public.

"Native Americans always welcomed their warriors back home," Cypress said. "Today, there is no draft, but somebody has to sacrifice for you to be here. You are young, so you will be the ones who will keep our freedom. Make sure you think about our freedom and the sacrifices made for it."

Curtis Canton shared his feelings about serving in the military, where he worked



Beverly Bidney

Students line up to shake the hands of veterans during Ahfachkee's Veterans Day program on Nov. 9.

on fighter jets and bombers in Germany, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

"There is a sense of accomplishment when a pilot comes back in a jet I worked on," Canton said. "There is nothing in the world like it. We were taught respect for others, and it becomes routine; it sticks with you. I am an advocate for the military, and I want you all to consider it."

After the ceremony, students and teachers lined up to shake the veterans' hands.

"There was a lot of eye contact, more

than you usually get from kids, and some extremely firm handshakes," Canton said after the ceremony. "I think we really hit home our message to the kids."

"It's always a good feeling that somebody cares," Cypress added. "Maybe this was a little wake-up call for the kids; I'd like them to be part of the military. I'm proud they all came by and shook our hands; we must have delivered a good message."

♦ See more VETERANS photos on page 6B



Beverly Bidney

The Color Guard leaves the ceremony.

Student spotlight: Rhiannon Tiger, enthusiastic math major

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

DAVIE — Rhiannon Tiger has always liked puzzles. As a small child, her favorite thing to do was a puzzle; as an adult, she still enjoys playing sudoku and tackling a good jigsaw puzzle. She gets great satisfaction by finding the solutions.

Now that she is a student at Broward College, Tiger is in her element as a mathematics major. During high school, she realized why she loved math. Aside from getting straight A's, math was all about being organized enough to correctly solve each problem. She still appreciates that there is only one solution to a math problem.

"I'm a very neat, logical, literal, organized person," said Tiger, 21, of Pembroke Pines. "Math and science have always been my best subjects."

There are different areas of study within the field of mathematics, and Tiger has her most and least favorites. Algebra and trigonometry suit her skills best. She excels at breaking down an equation and solving it; she has a clear vision of exactly what to do when faced with an equation. She claims not to be a visual person, so geometry can be problematic for Tiger, and there are too many probabilities and variables in statistics. Tiger gets her joy in solving complicated equations, which are much like puzzles.

"I feel accomplished after I've

solved something," Tiger said. "I like to challenge myself."

Tiger would rather be productive than watch too much television or spend a lot of time on the Internet. After a couple semesters off from college, those had become habits. Now that she's back to school, she looks forward to the challenge.

"Doing math is more fun than sleeping in," she said. "Even though I'm tired, it feels better to be productive."

Tiger credits her teachers for her devotion to math, starting with her high school algebra teacher. When she entered Cooper City High School, she didn't score well in math. During her prerequisite classes, she paid attention and met with success.

"The more I did well, the happier I felt about it," Tiger said. "I am still doing really well in college. My teachers like me because I practice a lot at home and turn in organized homework assignments."

Today, she is inspired by her math teachers at Broward College. Once Tiger gets her associate degree, she plans to continue her education and get a bachelor's degree from a university, possibly Florida Atlantic University or the University of Florida. After that, she wants to earn a master's degree.

"A lot of people tell me I'm good, but I don't know how good I am," she said. "I think I'm a good student because I study, but I don't know if I'm really smart. I'd like to go to graduate school somewhere like MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) if I'm good enough."

Her dream job is to be a college math professor and continue studying as much math as she can.

"I want to teach students who like math and want to learn about it," Tiger said. "Not a required class students have to take whether they like it or not."

Her advice to young students is not to get discouraged about going to school. She believes it is easy for anyone to do well by following a few basic rules.

"Pay attention, do your homework, study when you have time, always go to class and take a lot of notes," she said. "Do what the teachers tell you to do and more. If you find a subject you really like, try to do more with it."

Tiger has a zeal for what she does. "Math is something I feel passionate about," she said. "People should try to find their passion; you can find it at any age."



Beverly Bidney

Rhiannon Tiger studies math at Broward College.



Andrea Holata

Peter MacDonald Sr., a four-term Chairman of the Navajo Nation, a former Marine and a member of the Navajo Code Talkers, speaks to seventh- and eighth-graders at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School on Nov. 1.

Navajo Code Talker visits Charter School

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Seminole Tribe strongly advocates the learning of their Native languages through family and Tribal programs. The Tribe also maintains language by educating youth through their school system.

On Nov. 1, Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School (PECS) received a special visit from Peter MacDonald Sr., a four-term Chairman of the Navajo Nation, a former Marine and a member of the legendary Navajo Code Talkers. MacDonald was in the area for the Tribe's Veterans Day celebration and stopped in to talk to youth about his experiences as a Code Talker during World War II and the value of maintaining Native languages.

Administrative assistant Michele Thomas and Tribal veteran Stephen Bowers helped orchestrate the visit.

"I've been wanting one of the Code Talkers to come to our school because of how important the story was and how Native language was used in something as big as a war," Thomas said. "I hope it would inspire our kids to see the importance of learning our language."

While speaking to students, MacDonald emphasized the value of learning Native languages whether it is Navajo or Seminole. He also spoke about the uniqueness of the languages.

"It (Native language) means more than just knowing what the words are for different things," he said. "It cuts into your



Andrea Holata

PECS' Student Council, along with administrative assistant Michele Thomas, presents Peter MacDonald Sr. and the Code Talker Foundation with a \$1,000 check.

future, your ability to maintain your culture and your sovereign status."

MacDonald also gave a few examples of the Navajo code words that were used during the war and how they were translated. When a Code Talker received a code, what he heard was a series of unrelated Navajo words. The message contained Native terms associated with military terms, as well as Native terms representing letters of the

alphabet because the Navajo's language is not written, MacDonald said.

At the conclusion of MacDonald's visit, Thomas and PECS students presented a \$1,000-dollar check to the Code Talker's Foundation on behalf of Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School to show their appreciation for his visit and his service.

Happy Halloween!



Kathryn Stolarz

Steven Hannahs accompanies his baby boy, Kasyn, in the Big Cypress infants' costume contest on Oct. 31.



Kathryn Stolarz

Edna McDuffie gives a Big Cypress preschooler a treat. The little ones paraded around the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium and trick-or-treated at several Tribal departments' booths.



Kathryn Stolarz

Cecilia Tigertail shows off granddaughter Kylie Billie at the infants' costume contest in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

Jateija Stewart, 4, dressed as Opsy the Clown, ponders the candy being doled out by adults at the Hollywood Preschool Halloween party.



Beverly Bidney

Jaisley Stewart, 10 months, dressed as a sunflower, has a difficult time remaining upright during the Hollywood Preschool Halloween costume contest on Nov. 1.



Kathryn Stolarz

Christopher Joe and son David sort through a pile of Halloween goodies at the Big Cypress Preschool Halloween party on Oct. 31.



Beverly Bidney

With the help of their teachers, preschool children collect candy from various Tribal departments in the Hollywood Gym on Nov. 1.



Kathryn Stolarz

Kalina Cavazos, 2, shines in the Big Cypress Preschool costume contest.



Beverly Bidney

This little princess struggles under the weight of all her candy and treats.



Andrea Holata

Brighton preschoolers dress up for their annual trick-or-treating on Oct. 25. Tribal departments set up under a chickee behind the preschool to pass out candy.



Andrea Holata

Brighton preschoolers open their bags wide for candy during their trick-or-treating event on Oct. 25.



Beverly Bidney

Jessell Young, 1, dressed as Boo from *Monsters, Inc.*, is held by her mother Jessica Young, who made the costume herself.

PECS students receive first quarter awards

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — For Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School students, the first nine weeks went by fast, but their efforts didn't go unnoticed. Kindergarten through eighth-grade students were recognized for their academic efforts on Oct. 30 at the PECS cafeteria. To conclude the first quarter of the academic school year, many PECS students were honored for earning at least a 3.0-3.4 GPA (bronze award), a 3.5-3.9 (silver award) and some were given the prestigious gold award for having straight A's (4.0).

Faculty, students, parents and family proudly joined the students in the cafeteria for the awards ceremony. To accommodate the growing number of students, each grade level held separate awards throughout the day. Students received awards for citizenship, effort, improvement, good grades and physical education, as well as for participating in the 100's book club. They were also honored for their efforts in their culture classes, receiving awards for arts and crafts and language.



Andrea Holata



Andrea Holata

Students eagerly accept their awards.

Kindergarten students show their awards for effort.



Andrea Holata

Smiling proudly, students display their awards for their parents and classmates.



Andrea Holata

Hard work pays off for these students.



Andrea Holata

First-graders show their improvement awards for their arts and crafts class.



Andrea Holata

Firefighters show fire equipment to PECS students.

Charter School students learn fire safety

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — To tie in with Fire Safety Week and to inform students about the importance of fire safety, staff from the Tribe's Fire Rescue Department educated students in kindergarten through second grade at Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School on Oct. 10.

"stop, drop, and roll," a technique that should be used if clothes catch on fire. Afterward, students practiced rolling out the fire. For fun, students used the fire hose to knock down a water bottle.

"The theme for Fire Prevention Week this year is having two ways out of your home," said Fire Marshall Bob Brown. "It's important because of life safety. Fires that occur in the home usually occur at night, and they have a very short time of getting out of the house to get to safety before smoke makes it difficult or even impossible." Students gathered in three groups and learned how to stay safe during a fire. They learned how to use a fire extinguisher; how to "stop, drop and roll;" and how to stay low during a fire, as well as the importance of having a meeting place. Students practiced using the fire extinguisher by following the acronym PASS, which stands for Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep. After using the fire extinguishers, students had the opportunity to see the different equipment firefighters use on the fire truck, including the Jaws of Life, fire extinguishers and sirens. Fire Rescue staff also showed students the firefighters' gear so they would not be afraid of Fire Rescue workers. Firefighters also built a room that replicated a house filled with smoke. Students practiced crawling low under the smoke and learned to have a meeting place outside their homes. During the last fire safety demonstration, students watched a puppet show demonstration that reinforced



Andrea Holata

Keenan Jones knocks down a water bottle using a fire hose.

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Andrea Holata

Fourth-graders sing *God Bless America* in Creek. On Nov. 12, PECS held a special ceremony to honor all veterans at the Brighton Veteran's Building and inducted the new members of their Safety Patrol.

Charter School honors veterans and inducts safety patrol

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — On Nov. 12, Pemahtv Emahakv Charter School took the morning out of the classroom to hold a special ceremony to honor and thank all veterans at the Brighton Veteran's Building.

Principal Brian Greseth explained the meaning of Veterans Day — to thank and honor all those who served honorably in the military during wartime or peacetime.

Veterans Day is intended to thank veterans for their service and to acknowledge their contributions to the country's national security. The holiday underscores the fact that all those who served — not only those who died — made irrefutable sacrifices.

PECS' Student Council began the program by reciting the *Pledge of Allegiance* in Creek and English followed by the national anthem.

Teacher Heather Dobbs' fifth-grade class continued the program by performing the Preamble to the Constitution of the

United States. The fourth-graders followed, singing *God Bless America* in their Creek language.

Students Aiden Tommie, Sunni Bearden and Odessa King read essays they wrote on the topics, *What's Veterans Day mean to us?* and, *Why should we honor our veterans?*

"Veterans are the ones who allow us to enjoy our lives," Aiden said. "They are the ones who allow us to hunt, fish and to ride our four-wheelers. They risk their lives going to unknown places. They deserve our respect."

A moment of silence for all fallen servicemen was also held.

In a joint ceremony that also celebrated PECS' Safety Patrol, everyone witnessed the new inductees take the oath of office.

PECS' Resource Officer Darryl Allen explained the requirements to be chosen as a Safety Patrol member. Student have to be fourth-, fifth- or sixth-graders. They are chosen by their teachers, have to maintain an overall grade of a "C" average and have to be role models. They also have to maintain satisfactory behavior and have to perform their Safety Patrol duties promptly.

One by one, 20 students were inducted as Safety Patrol members. Each was given a pin; then, they recited the PECS' Safety Patrol pledge together.

Lt. Lisa Bennis, of the Seminole Police Department, swore the youth in by having them raise their right hand and recite the oath.

The following students were sworn



Andrea Holata

Jathan Tommie receives a Safety Patrol pin from Lt. Lisa Bennis, of SPD.



Andrea Holata

Echo Billie receives a pin from Lt. Lisa Bennis for induction into PECS' Safety Patrol.



Andrea Holata

Pemahtv Emahakv Charter School's newly inducted Safety Patrol members pose for a picture.

into office: Capts. Alicia Fudge and Krysta Burton; Lts. Aiden Tommie and Alaina Micco; Sgts. Jathan Tommie, Echo Billie, Shyla Billie, Kamani Smith, Connor Thomas and Jenna Brown; and Officers Aubee Billie, Aubrey Pearce, Dalence Carrillo, John Gore, Mallorie Thomas, Julia Smith, Janessa Nunez, Jahbahn Arnold, Kaleb Doctor and Malcolm Jones.

Brighton Councilman Andrew J.

Bowers Jr. said to the new Safety Patrol members, "I think our future is safe, and by what I've seen here today, our leadership potential is in good hands."

In closing the ceremony, PECS' Safety Patrol, along with the present veterans, formed a receiving line for all students, teachers and parents to shake their hands to honor and thank them for their service.

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Beverly Bidney

Grades four through six sign – instead of sing – *America the Beautiful* in American Sign Language.



Beverly Bidney

Eyanna Billie and Charlie Osceola recite the pledges.



Beverly Bidney

Pre-K and kindergarten classes are led by their teachers in song. They sang *Oh, Veterans Day*.



Beverly Bidney

Students shake the hands of veterans.



Beverly Bidney

Veterans Gary Chaffin, Mitchell Cypress, Curtis Canton and Elizabeth Jack share their stories.



Beverly Bidney

Students shake the hands of veterans.



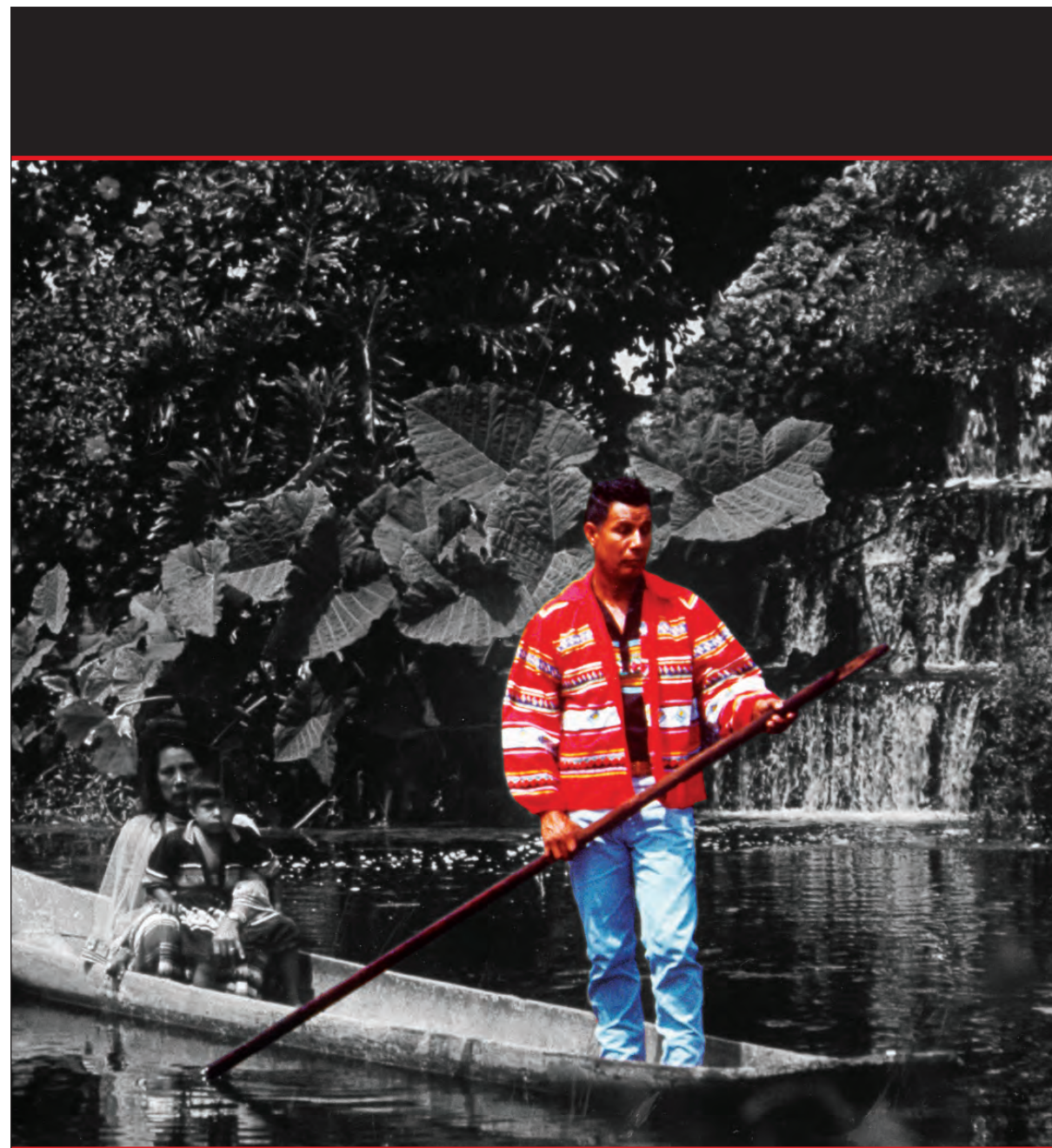
Beverly Bidney

The Color Guard's flags wave over the Ahfachkee Veterans Day ceremony.



Beverly Bidney

Grades one and two sing *Thank You, Soldiers*.



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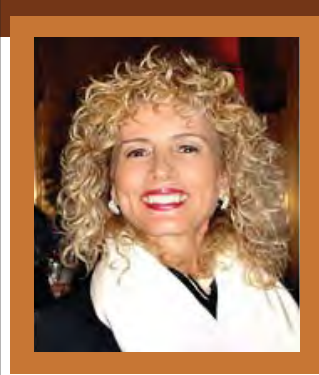
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Announcements

2012 - 2013 EIRA Rodeo Queens



Photo courtesy of Shawna Tommie

As of Oct. 13, Aiyanna Tommie, left, is the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association's (EIRA) newly crowned Jr. Queen, and Brianna Billie is the newly crowned Sr. EIRA Queen at the Fred Smith Arena in Brighton. Both young women will have the opportunity to travel around and represent the EIRA at many events, including the Indian National Finals rodeo in Las Vegas.

Well wishes to my family

To Jennie Billie Harjo (Momma)

You are appreciated each and every day. Since day one of my life, you showed unconditional love. I've been truly blessed to have you as my momma. You have stood with me all these years, and I will continue to stand with you until I breathe my last. I know what it is like to have people turn their back. That's why my loyalty is unmatched (I refuse to be like those). I truly enjoy paying your bills every month. It makes this warrior feel great. Thank you, Momma, just for being everything a Seminole is supposed to be. I love you and stay strong, Momma. This is In the Wind.

To Paula Ann Harjo (Big Sis)

Life goes on, Big Sis. But one thing and two for sure, you will not be forgotten. You know me better than anyone. My loyalty is unmatched. I live, I ride and I will die for you, Big Sis. Shed no more tears and smile for me. One day, I'll be in the Spirit World with you. Until then, I will celebrate your life in this world. Happy birthday, Big Sis! This is In the Wind.

To Burton Lee Harjo (Breeze)

I'm happy for you, Big Bro. When you touch down, handle that easy life and enjoy it. Momma and Lil Burt need you more than anyone else, so be there for them. No need to worry about those who think they are grown. Remember what I said. Only two I care to have on my team: my only brothers, you and Lyle. Happy birthday, Breeze! This is In the Wind.

To Lyle Vandell Billie (Craze)

We getting up there, ain't we, Big Bro? Just like wine though, getting better with age. Lil Lyle, when he is at Momma's, he doesn't want to leave. Momma tells me

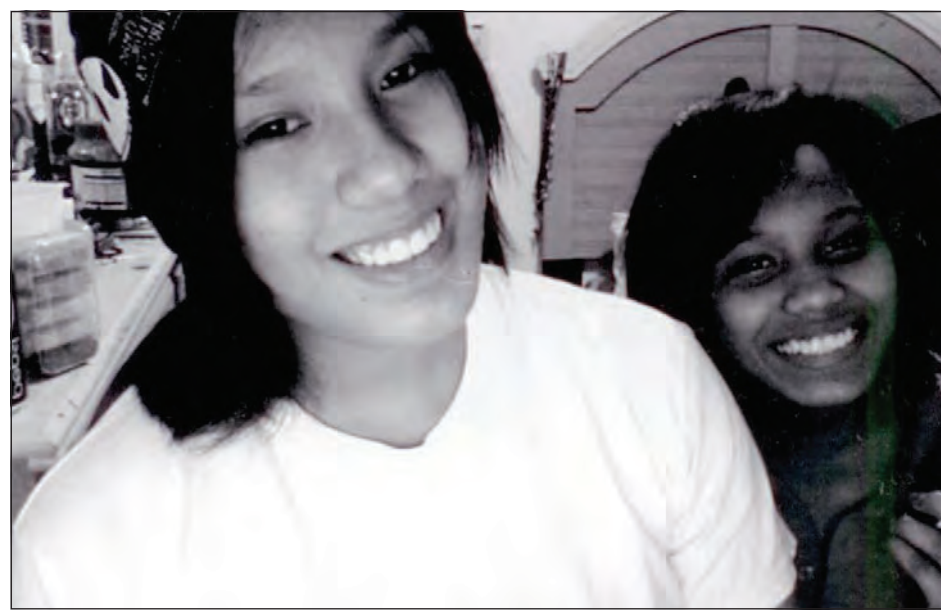


Photo courtesy of Ike Harjo

To my daughter India

As always, I hope all is well, especially on your day. It seems just yesterday you were a little girl. Now, look at you; you're grown now. This bond we have, I am thankful and grateful for it. That's how it should be, and as long as I am breathing it will remain that way. You are a blessing to me, and I am very proud of you as well. Enjoy your day. Happy birthday, India! This is In the Wind.

I love you all and much respect.

Warrior 4 Life,
Ike T. Harjo
Sholopahthi Bolchuncagha
Koowaathi

he is just like you. I hope all goes well for you. Just so you know, I will always look up to you and Breeze. You two are great brothers, great people. One day, I hope to be on the level you both are on. Happy birthday, Craze! This is In the Wind.

To my daughter Susie

I hope when you read this it finds you doing well. Another year and another birthday. May your day be all that you can expect. I'm a very blessed man to have you as my daughter. I want you to know that I am very proud of you. I am thankful and grateful you and I are communicating. I am a man of my word; I will right that wrong the first opportunity I get. So, just keep yourself together. Be the best you can be. All will be well. I will handle that with a smile. Happy birthday, Susie! This is In the Wind.

Tribune Announcement Submission Form

Attention Seminole Tribal members: If you would like to submit an announcement (birthday, new baby, marriage, etc.) or story idea to *The Seminole Tribune*, please fill out the information provided below. Please print clearly.

MESSAGE: _____

SUBMITTED BY: _____
DATE: _____
PHONE: _____
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Fax: 954-965-2937
E-mail: BrettDaly@semtibe.com
Please include your mailing address if photos are to be returned.

Happy birthday

Happy 17th birthday, Larissa.
Mom loves you.

Submitted by Rinella Billie,
Brighton Reservation

Happy 11th birthday, Wild Bill, and have
a good day.
Love, Mom

Submitted by Rinella Billie,
Brighton Reservation

Happy birthday to my best friend, my
husband, Ike Harjo.
Love you, baby.

Submitted by Mayra Harjo



'As the World Turns'

Poem by Ike T. Harjo

As the world turns, Big Sis, I've not forgotten you since day one, I've made sure you got flowers on Mother's Day and your birthday, It will continue until my life is done. Now I know how you felt when I wasn't around all those years, Big Sis, thank you for the love, respect and when you shed so many tears.
It's always been just us two living in this world of hate, Now it's just me but I'm a strong warrior that accepts my fate. Whatever comes my way I'm going to keep my head up, stick my chest out and handle it with a smile, You raised me to be mean, tough and when need be hostile.
I miss you and I look forward to the day I breathe my last, Reunited with my Big Sis, reminiscing of the past. Until then, I will continue on in this world, honoring you on those days, You will not be forgotten, that's my word, OK.
As the world turns another birthday of yours has come, I love you, Big Sis. Shed no more tears for this unconquered one.

Happy birthday

Chelsea Mountain,
Happy 23rd birthday to you on
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Submitted by
Esther Gopher



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Beverly Bidney

Richard Osceola gives college football's winningest coach, Bobby Bowden, a bust made by the Cooleys in his likeness.

Tribal member presents former FSU coach Bobby Bowden with gift

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

MIAMI GARDENS — The Seminole Tribe has had a special relationship with Florida State University (FSU) since 1947, when the school chose Seminoles for the team's name. Former coach Bobby Bowden had an enduring relationship with the school; he coached the football team from 1976-2009, won two national championships and earned the title of college football's most successful coach with a record of 377-129-4.

To commemorate the relationship between the Tribe and Bowden, Tribal member Richard Osceola presented him with a bronze bust of the coach at an FSU and University of Miami rivalry luncheon at the Calder Race Course in Miami Gardens on Oct. 19.

"We take a lot of pride in the fact that Bobby Bowden was the winningest coach under the Seminole name," said Osceola, who presented the bust on behalf of Tribal war veterans.

Made by longtime artists of the Tribe Bradley Cooley and Bradley Cooley Jr., the gift depicts Bowden in an FSU jacket with his hands draped over a football. Created in 2009, during Bowden's final year coaching, the bust stands 14 inches high and is a signed artist's proof.

Tribal veterans Stephen Bowers and former Chairman Mitchell Cypress came up with the idea of the bust, which the Chairman's Office funded, and they spearheaded getting it made for Bowden.

"He never got anything from the Tribe in all the years he coached," Bowers said. "I'm glad Richard finally got it to him."

Trevor Osceola: proud to be part of the team

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — Peer pressure may have had something to do with why Trevor Osceola started to play football in sixth grade, but love of the game and natural talent are the reasons he still plays five years later.

"Some of my friends were playing, so I decided to go out for the team," said Osceola, 17. "I fell in love with the game. I like the environment under the Friday night lights, and the team is like a family."

Now in his junior year, Osceola plays as a running back on the varsity team at Pine Crest School. The team had a winning record in the regular season and won their first playoff game against Florida Christian 31-14 on Nov. 1. Osceola was a standout in the game, carrying the ball repeatedly.

Osceola's late friend Payton Barber initially got him interested in football. Barber was in a plane crash with his parents three years ago, which had a major impact on Osceola's life. To this day, he plays to honor his friend.

"Playing for him always makes me feel better," Osceola said. "He's my inspiration."

Others who have inspired Osceola include Miami Dolphins running back Reggie Bush and former teammate Traveon Henry, who is now a running back for Northwestern University.

"Traveon took me under his wing and was like a big brother to me," Osceola said. "Reggie Bush is a humble man who gives respect to his offensive line. A running back only goes as far as an offensive line will carry him."

Some of the challenges of being a student athlete are the twice-a-day practices and dealing with losing games. Osceola realizes no matter how upsetting a loss can be, not every team goes undefeated.

"Coach (Jim) Fletcher tells us to wake up the next day, put our feet on the floor and go back to work," he said.

Osceola works hard to keep up his GPA and organize his time. Pine Crest offers mentors to help students with time

management skills, which helps Osceola complete schoolwork and still have time to do homework at night. But he is also a serious student of football and often watches old games with his football idols, including former Dallas Cowboy running back Emmitt Smith.

"I watch his games and slow them down so I can learn his moves," Osceola said. "I do the same with Reggie Bush's games. I try to be a combination of both of them."

Osceola hopes to play college football after graduation and has already received letters of interest from colleges.

"The coaches say not to worry about all that yet; the letters will come in and colleges will want you to play," Osceola said. "I try not to think about it too much; I just go out there and play. If someone wants me, that's great."

The most rewarding thing about playing on the team is the relationships he

has built with his teammates.

"We are all willing to do what we have to do to win; no one is selfish on the team," Osceola said. "We don't exclude anyone. After our Saturday practices, we all show up at someone's house and hang out together. You make a lot of good friends in football."

Osceola's advice to students interested in being an athlete is simple: Try all the sports and stick with the one you love.

"Athletics teaches a lot more than sports," he said. "It teaches discipline, how to work with others and mental toughness. It's also made my family happy and proud of me. I have always tried to make them proud on the field, in the classroom and at home."

Pine Crest won all their playoff games and will play in the Southeastern Football Conference championship at Florida Atlantic University on Nov. 17.



Beverly Bidney

Trevor Osceola carries the ball during his team's first playoff game Nov. 1.

Tribe wins division in Hawaiian basketball tournament

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

KANEOHE, Hawaii — The Seminole Tribe of Florida took first prize in their division at a Hawaiian basketball tournament last month.

The third annual Hawaiian Way Fund Basketball Tournament, from Oct. 5-7, pitted the Seminoles against two local teams and one from North Dakota in the 35-and-up division. It was the first time a team from Florida participated in the tournament.

"It was awesome," said Tribal member Jason Don Billie, who registered the Seminoles' team after finding out about it on the basketball website www.NativeHoops.com. "We felt very welcomed."

The Seminoles dominated the court at King Intermediate Gym in Kaneohe, Hawaii, finishing two days of round-robin pool play with a 3-0 record and taking the title after a 55-38 win in the championship game against a Hawaiian team. Team member Dave Smith won the 3-point contest.

"Everybody knew their job," Billie, of Hollywood, said of his teammates. "Everybody knew what they were best at, and they did it."

Olelo Community Media filmed the championship games to be televised on some of Hawaii's local public stations.

"This was a first for our tournament and was a treat for all our participating teams,"

wrote Lilia Kapunia, vice president of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement & Native Hawaiian Economic Alliance in an email. Kapunia said they also expanded the tournament to three divisions this year, one women's and two men's age groups.

Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. sponsored the Seminoles' entry fee, which benefited the Hawaiian Way Fund, an organization supporting Native Hawaiians' community- and culture-based initiatives.

The Seminole team won a cash prize, a wooden bowl (a customary gift in Hawaiian culture, Kapunia said) and a plaque, as well as bragging rights. However, the title didn't come without setbacks on and off the court. Four of the original seven teammates dropped out before the tournament, leaving Billie, fellow Tribal member Elton Shore, of Brighton, and Yaqui Tribal member Smith, from Arizona, to rebuild the team.

Billie said he found players through more than 15 years of connections he's made traveling and playing basketball. He welcomed the following players onto the team: Ione Emosi, Faamoana Emosi, Iosefo Emosi, Faatea Emosi and Tevita Seva, of Samoa; Mitch Granite, of the Pawnee Tribe; and Kurt Schwamp, of the Oneida Tribe in Washington.

Once the team regrouped, they came out ready to win, but Billie wasn't ready for the injury he would suffer.

♦ See BASKETBALL on page 2C



Andrea Holata

On Oct. 15, Pemayetv Emahakv and Ahfachkee face off in a friendly match of volleyball. Pemayetv Emahakv's Lady Seminoles came out on top in both sets with a score of 25-2 and 25-8.

PECS plays Ahfachkee in volleyball



Andrea Holata

Pemayetv Emahakv serves the ball against Ahfachkee.



Reinaldo Becerra

Ahfachkee gets ready to return the ball during their game against Pemayetv Emahakv.



Photo courtesy of Jason Don Billie

Seminole team members gather with Hawaiian Way Fund Basketball Tournament coordinator Kehau Meyer, center, after winning the championship game in the 35-and-up division on Oct. 7. Seminole Tribal members Jason Don Billie and Elton Shore were among the team members.

Brandtley Osceola completes high school football career

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Brandtley Osceola went out with a bang. Leading Hollywood Christian's football team through its first season in years, the senior made the last game his best.

The Hollywood Tribal member "was all over the field" at the away game against Miami Christian on Oct. 5, coach Joel Dunn said. "He was our go-to guy all day."

The team won 32-6, finishing the

season with a 2-5 record, and Brandtley, 17, hung up his helmet to end his first and last season of high school football.

"He was huge on offense and defense," said Dunn of the full-back tight end and linebacker. "He played well all season."

Many agreed that defense was where he shined most.

"He tackles hard," said his mother, Brande Clay, who cheered him on at nearly every game. "He's so aggressive, and it's just really fun to watch him play."

Brandtley credits several years of hard

work and experience, as well as his parents' support, to his success as an athlete.

He got his start playing football for a pee wee team in Okeechobee when he was about 10 years old. His athleticism was also built by other sports, including basketball, baseball and rodeo.

"In everything that he does, he puts 200 percent," Brande said. "He plays his heart out no matter what it is."

When he and his family moved back to the Hollywood Reservation, Brandtley played football for the Pasadena Panthers' 135 league and then started playing for Hollywood Christian in middle school.

But, after playing for Hollywood Christian for one season, the team dissolved because of a lack of players. He transferred to Paladin Academy for his first two years of high school, which also didn't have a football team, and transferred back to Hollywood Christian for his junior year. Their football team didn't start up again until this year.

The lull was tough for Brandtley since football is his favorite sport. With his free time, he got into boxing, but he also got into some unhealthy habits, influenced by his peers, he said.

Last summer though, he received a letter from the school's new athletic director, Dunn, informing him that football was coming back, albeit as a seven-man game instead of 11, and he wanted Brandtley to play.

"I was just so excited," Brandtley said. "I just had to overcome [the bad influences], and football kind of helped me out with that."

Brandtley said he turned his life around, refocusing on football and school, as well as



Kathryn Stolarz

Brandtley Osceola, No. 32, plays for Hollywood Christian at the last home football game of the season on Oct. 5.

adjusting his diet. He lost about 30 pounds in the last half year by eating healthier foods in controlled portions. He has a 3.0 GPA and is on track to graduate high school this spring.

"He's very talented," his mom said. "I'm very proud of him."

His coach had all positive things to say about Brandtley, as well.

"The thing about Brandtley is just his consistency — that's both with his personality and his playing," Dunn said. "He's a quiet leader. He leads by example. He practices hard and shows up every day."

Brandtley said his favorite parts of the sport are the adrenaline rush before the game and tackling players or running the

football in play.

"He's a great guy," Dunn said. "I loved having him on the team...I think he's a tremendous leader, and God's going to tremendously use him down the road one day."

Brandtley's compiling his highlight tape so he can start sending it out to colleges.

"I'm just gonna train and try to get better, faster, stronger so I can try to perform at the next level of college," he said.

Brandtley expressed his appreciation for the Tribe's support of his education.

"I'm just grateful that I'm part of the Tribe and that we can do all this stuff that they provide," he said.



Kathryn Stolarz

At Hollywood Christian's last home football game of the season, Brandtley Osceola is one of two seniors recognized for his contributions to the team. From left, football coach Joel Dunn, Brandtley Osceola, father Milo Osceola, mother Brande Clay and sister Charleze Osceola gather on the field.

CFA fighters come to Hard Rock



Photo courtesy of CFAfights.com

Fighters pose at a Championship Fighting Alliance event at the Hard Rock Live in Hollywood on Oct. 6.

BASKETBALL

From page 1C

Halfway through their first tournament game, Billie tore his ACL, taking him out of play for the rest of the competition. But despite the setbacks, he held on to fond memories of his team winning the tournament, as well as of exchanging culture at the 11th annual Native Hawaiian Convention that preceded it.

The convention is "the largest gathering of community members, organizations, policy makers, legislative representatives and federal agencies interested in Native Hawaiian community development," according to their website. At a convention luncheon on Oct. 4, Kapuniai chatted with Billie about culture, sovereignty and government, as well as introduced him to about 500 convention attendees.

"I think it's safe to say Hawaiians and Seminoles have started a friendship, and we look forward to hosting them in the islands for basketball, business, or both," Kapuniai wrote.

Shore acknowledged the bond as well. "After each game, [Hawaiians] always didn't shake hands — they gave a hug," he said.

Billie and Shore said the Seminoles will be back for next year's tournament.

Andrew Henry finishes high school football



Ryan Watson

Andrew Henry, No. 25, plays football for Spoto High School in Riverview, Fla. Henry had 15 carries for 118 yards and one touchdown in his final home game at the high school.

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Okeechobee Brahmans finish season in travel football league



Andrea Holata

Josh Madrigal attempts an onside kick for the Brahmans' senior division. The Brahmans' final score was 24-10 against the Heartland Hurricanes.



Andrea Holata

From left, Tribal members Drayton Billie, Zachary Gopher, Riley Smith and Josh Madrigal take time for a picture after winning their senior division game against the Heartland Hurricanes. They, along with the rest of the senior Brahman team, finished their season 8-1.



Andrea Holata

Tribal member Ramone Baker, No. 27, makes a 39-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter against the Heartland Hurricanes.



Andrea Holata

Tribal members pose for a picture on Oct. 20 after playing the Heartland Hurricanes in Okeechobee. Every weekend, the Tribal youth and the Brahmans traveled to different counties to play football in different age divisions.



Andrea Holata

Tribal members Javaris Johnson, Creek Gopher, Ramone Baker and Pherian Baker pose for a picture before their football game. The Brahmans finished their season strong with an 8-2 record in the Mighty Mite division.



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

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