



The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Beverly Bidney

The Hollywood Reservation plays a game of stickball during their Indian Day celebration on Sept. 28.

Board of Directors launches new business venture

Seminole Unconquered electronic cigarettes now for sale

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — With plans to conquer the national market, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. introduced the Seminole Unconquered brand of electronic cigarettes and cigars at the NIGA mid-year conference on Sept. 18. With more than 500 people from around the country in attendance, the time was right to unveil the Board of Directors' latest product.

The cigarettes are a joint venture between the Board and Safecig in which the Tribe has ownership of the brand. They will sell the product in Tribal smoke shops, casinos, trading posts and the Tribal store at the Hard Rock Hotel, as well as online at www.seminolecig.com. They have plans to manufacture the product in Hollywood in the near future.

According to the Seminole Unconquered website, electronic cigarettes provide nicotine without any smoke, tar, ash or smell and only contain vaporizing fluid, distilled water, natural flavors and essential oils, in addition to nicotine. A heating coil inside the cartridge vaporizes flavoring fluid that contains nicotine. When puffed, a flow sensor automatically turns the coil on, heats the vaporizing fluid in the cartridge and generates vapor. The vapor does not contain harmful second-hand smoke.

"If you are smoking these, you are not smoking tobacco," Safecig CEO John Cameron said. "You don't feel the need to pick up a cigarette; it feels like you are smoking. This is the first technology that could save millions of lives from tobacco-related illness and death."

♦ See E-CIGS on page 4A

Tribe hosts NIGA conference

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Indian gaming began with a modest bingo hall on the Hollywood Reservation and has grown into a multi-billion dollar industry. Last year alone, Indian gaming revenue accounted for approximately \$27.2 billion nationwide, according to the National Indian Gaming Commission. If not for the farsightedness and perseverance of the Seminole Tribe, Indian casinos would not exist in the U.S.

The Tribe shared their experience and gaming success as they welcomed members of the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) to Hollywood for the annual NIGA mid-year conference, held at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino from Sept. 18-19. About 500 people representing 86 Tribes from 35 states and two Canadian provinces attended the event, more than double the typical turnout for the event. NIGA communications director Michael Woestehoff attributed the turnout to the issue of Internet gaming.

"To the rest of the nations, we've always been leaders in gaming and helped start the gaming association in the 1980s," said Joel M. Frank Sr., the first National Indian Gaming Commissioner. "We went to the Supreme Court...we pushed and pushed and ended up with the right to develop and regulate gaming."

As an Indian gaming advocacy group established in 1985, NIGA included a variety of seminars during the conference, including federal policy updates on Internet gaming, taxation issues and gaming developments affecting Indian Country, as well as how to protect casinos from fraud, how to market effectively, use of social media and crisis management. The Tribe led panel discussions about success stories in Indian gaming and procurement procedures to encourage companies to do business with the Tribe.

During the session on success stories, John Eder, senior vice president of finance for Seminole Gaming, outlined benefits of gaming for the Tribe.

"The Tribe started Indian gaming in the U.S. but didn't have a premiere facility," he said. "They put together this team 10 years ago; all of us had gaming and opening experience. In the 10 years since, cash flow to the Tribe has quadrupled."

♦ See NIGA on page 10A

Seminole Tribe celebrates Indian Day

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

The fourth Friday in September has become known as Indian Day and is celebrated by the Seminole Tribe of Florida to honor Native Americans as the first occupants of this nation.

"As Seminoles, we are among the First Americans, and our cultures have been making valuable contributions to mankind since the arrival of the first Europeans," Naples Liaison Brian Zepeda said. "Many of our Native food sources have found their way to tables around the world and become a staple of their food supply and economy, in addition to valuable medicine resources. The federal proclamation of American Indian Day recognizes this fact and creates an opportunity for us to celebrate our heritage."

Each reservation held its own celebration, but many Tribal members stopped by other reservations' festivities to visit.

During the Naples celebration, a campfire breakfast awaited community members as they kicked off a day of cultural events that included traditional activities that once comprised part of the elders' daily routine.

"The move from extended family

chickee camps to individual housing has had a profound effect upon the way Seminole children learn language, customs, clan traditions and discipline," Jessica Osceola said. "My dad, Douglas Osceola, has strong cultural values. He built chickees in a campsite setting around our home to provide us with a way to grow up in a more traditional atmosphere. We spent a lot of time here with our parents, and today we are sharing this experience with our extended family of the Naples community."

While Pedro Zepeda demonstrated the technique for fashioning bows and arrows from carefully selected saplings, Liaison Brian Zepeda applied storytelling in the same manner as his ancestors to teach the children important life lessons and moral behavior.

While the women prepared traditional favorites over the campfire, the youngsters participated in frybread preparation.

Immokalee's gathering also successfully showcased Seminole culture.

Prior to Immokalee's Indian Day celebration on Sept. 27 and 28, Tribal members created traditional crafts for competition in a variety of age groups. Examples of self-made clothing, patchwork, baskets, dolls, wood carving and beadwork were submitted for exhibition, judged and awarded.

"Our culture and heritage are among our most valuable assets and no one can take them away from us," Immokalee Culture coordinator Geraldine Osceola said. "However, we could lose them if we don't make it a priority to teach our children and grandchildren. This is a year-round responsibility, but American Indian Day is a wonderful opportunity for us to reinforce our cultural teachings."

The clothing contests stimulated sewing talent by stipulating that each garment must have been of Seminole or Miccosukee origin and must have been fabricated within the past year. From infants to seniors, the contestants displayed traditional, modern and contemporary apparel.

Laughter, cheers and shouts of encouragement expressed good-natured rivalry during the 3-mile walk, canoe, fan tacking and log racing events.

An enthusiastic audience listened to Gordon "Ollie" Wareham's animated storytelling, inspired by the oral history of their ancestors. A wood carving and miniature canoe building exhibit displayed traditional ways to make items that once were a vital part of Seminoles' existence.

The highlight of the day's activities centered upon the traditional meal prepared over the campfire.

Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar and Little Miss Seminole Jordan Osceola coordinated a group of young ladies in the preparation of the popular frybread.

For the Fort Pierce community, they kicked off their festivities at the Chupco Youth Ranch on Sept. 22 and didn't let the rain dampen their celebration.

Adults enjoyed friendly competitions held throughout the day, including horseshoes, skillet toss, archery, log peeling, axe throwing and bingo, while the youth entertained themselves with waterslides, popcorn and cotton candy.

For dinner, many enjoyed a traditional meal provided by Brighton resident Mary Jo Micco, including fried pork chops, chicken, collard greens, shredded beef over rice, corn on the cob, frybread and sofkee.

Although it rained half the day, most residents still had fun coming together and participating in the friendly games.

"It's a great thing for each community to celebrate, no matter how large or small it is. It's always a good thing," Fort Pierce resident Crystal Sneed said. "I think everything went well bringing everyone together and participating in the events."

♦ See INDIAN DAY on page 1D

Students explore options at College-Career Fair

Education Department's annual event returns for seventh year

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The ballroom at the Hard Rock Hotel was set up as it is for any trade show; there were rows of tables for vendors to display their literature, each one staffed by experts to answer questions and clarify facts. What made this trade show unique was it had nothing to do with commerce and everything to do with education.

The seventh annual Seminole Tribe of Florida College-Career Fair, held Oct. 12, was a resounding success. Fifty-eight universities, colleges and trade schools set up shop so Tribal students could get all the information they need to make a decision about their post-secondary plans. Representatives from schools nationwide answered students' questions and promoted their schools.

"The students are here to explore their academic options for higher education," said Paola Moneymaker, Education adviser.

"They are all looking for the right match in a school. We want students to know about the schools' admissions processes and what it is going to take to get in. They can pick the brains of the admissions people, ask questions and leave an impression."

Students came from Hollywood, Immokalee, Brighton and Big Cypress; some of the 73 students came with their parents. The Ahfachkee School brought 18 students, the principal and guidance counselor.

"We want to expose them to as many schools as we can so they can narrow down their career paths," said Lucy Dafoe, principal. "We need to make sure they are taking the right courses to get where they want to be. We are planting the seed of higher education early; we don't want them to wait until senior year to decide."

In his role as Higher Education recruiter in the Education Department, Robert Caruso encourages students to consider multiple schools.

♦ See FAIR on page 4A



Beverly Bidney

Nena Waggeberby, 16, Caitlin Cypress, 15, and Kaitlin Osceola, 15, all 10th-graders at Ahfachkee, get information about Florida Gulf Coast University.

Editorial

Someone is watching over me

• James E. Billie

I have to share this with you: Every so often during my lifetime, I have run into situations that could have taken my life or injured me badly.

For instance, in Vietnam when I was a squad leader in my Company, my squad ran into some Viet Congs who happened to be running away from us. We started chasing them and shooting at them. And they also started firing back at us.

I had a radio operator behind me, so I picked up the handset and started giving instructions to other soldiers around me about where the shooting was coming from. I started to hide behind a small 5-inch tree that was standing right in front of me.

As I leaned forward, the radio cord was extended too far, and it yanked me back away from the tree. In that instant, as I was falling backward, the tree exploded from one of the bullets. I thought to myself, what a lucky situation. If I had stayed there another second, my head would have probably exploded, too. Thank you, radio cord!

There have been many other similar situations throughout the years.

Just the other day, Oct. 15, the Pemaeytv Emahaky Charter School had a volleyball game against the girls from Moore Haven and Ahfachkee School. As I was entering the gymnasium, I ran into a good ol' buddy of mine, Ramsey Osceola, grandson of the Tribe's first Chairman, Billy Osceola, and the son of Addie Osceola.

I hadn't seen him for a while, so as the game was going on, I hobbled over and sat down beside him, to his right side, and chatted for a while.

All the girls finished their games, and a bunch of different children came onto the floor and started playing volleyball. They were knocking the heck out of the ball, sending the volleyball flying through the air at a tremendous speed.

As I was observing the volleyball being served over the net, another person with another volleyball was serving as well. As she hit the ball, my head was turned to the right. The ball was coming straight for the left side of my face at a high speed.

I barely sensed that the ball was about to hit my face when all of a sudden, almost at the speed of light, a hand struck out and deviated the ball away from my face. If Ramsey hadn't been there and struck the ball as he did, I may have had some sense knocked into my head and a black eye along with it.

I thought to myself, this is another lucky omen of mine. Somewhere, somehow, someone is watching over me.

Sho-naa-bish, Ramsey.

Have you had any incidents like this? I bet you have!

Sho-naa-bish.

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



From sovereignty to smoke, Board is on

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

When I was watching the presidential debate, it occurred to me that the issues Obama and Romney were talking about are really no different than the issues we are facing. They want the United States to prosper. We want the Seminole Tribe of Florida to prosper. Just like our national leaders, we Tribal leaders need to understand the needs of the Tribal members, be certain we have the right training, social support, recreation programs and education in place to provide a solid foundation for each Tribal member to be successful.

Success is really not how much money I'm making. Success is NOT falling into the alcohol rut. Success is NOT falling into the drug rut that has taken down so many of our Tribal members. Each Tribal member should know that he or she must contribute to the progress and success of the Tribe.

The more I watched the debates, the more our issues seemed the same, only on a different scale. As I travel across the country, I've observed that all Tribes are fighting the same issues as well, just on a different scale. When Obama and Romney were talking about cutting taxes, whether it be business or individual, and the need to create jobs in the U.S., we are no different here at the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

We have to evaluate all our programs and above all, make sure our sovereignty is protected, whether it be from challenges by the IRS or new rules and regulations from our own U.S. government. Our sovereignty is being attacked from many different angles, and we must be diligent in our defense. We have to protect our sovereignty at all costs.

To be lax in the defense and protection of our sovereignty is a disservice and is disrespectful to those Tribal members who came before us, who fought and worked long hours to forge the system of government we now have. They didn't make these sacrifices to watch us just roll over and become a people who turn the other cheek.

I speak a lot about these things. I truly want Tribal members to understand that while on one hand, we are doing everything we can to protect the Tribe, we also have to do it in such a way that interacts with the United States. We can't adopt the attitudes of some of these countries that defy everyone and say it's my way or the highway. That's not the right approach to take.

Even though at times we may sound like a broken record, these issues have to be on the forefront. Unless we want to go back to the days where we rely on selling our baskets and patchwork, we have to fight harder to maintain our status and protect the achievements that have been attained.

The Board Administration has been very diligent in recognizing the responsibility put before us in both protecting and utilizing our sovereignty. We work every day to protect and capitalize on our advantages as a sovereign nation. For example, we are in the process of becoming our own fuel distributor, which will allow us to undercut our pricing, lead to more gas being sold and the ability to sell gas we buy at the Port for lower prices to the "jobbers" who sell it to the gas stations.

We leverage our sovereignty; we leverage our tax-exempt status. Those are the rights we have been given, and if we don't exercise those rights, shame on us!

There are other projects we are developing. We are looking for other legal opinions to make sure the Tribe is not doing anything to derail our success. Whatever the project, whatever we eventually roll out will be designed to not only be successful on its own but also to complement other Tribal projects and programs already in place.

One of the most exciting ventures we are working on is the manufacture and distribution of Seminole-brand electronic cigarettes. This is a project we have developed over a nine-month period: looking hard at the industry, identifying the future trends, how the big tobacco companies fit in, distribution scenarios, meeting after meeting.

We feel we have the right partner – Safecig, headed by John Cameron, the brother of James Cameron (director of *Titanic*, *Avatar*). We have brought in Seamus Blackley, the inventor of the Xbox, as the brain behind the technology and a host of other well-known executives in tech, marketing and distribution industries.

Our approach to this venture is not only to capture our share of the retail business for Seminole-brand electronic cigarettes and cigars but also to be the first American manufacturer of electronic cigarettes and cigars. Currently, the

ones on the market now are all made in China. The biggest tobacco companies – Lorillard, Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds – have all announced they are going into the electronic cigarette business. When it is time, we will manufacture their products.

The big tobacco companies, we have all been in communication. We have learned enough about this business to be certain electronic cigarettes are a growing trend. They allow people to get their nicotine fix without inhaling the known carcinogens in the real cigarette. There is no secondhand smoke. The smoke that comes out is water vapor.

We have purchased and are preparing a few buildings. I hope to have a manufacturing plant up and running by May 2013. That's our target date.

As far as the retail, we are in communication with 7-Eleven, and we are expecting a retail agreement that will give us shelf space in 43,000 stores. We are also in touch with Walgreens, Costcos and casinos in various jurisdictions that have non-smoking poker rooms and other casino areas. Our product will be available on JetBlue and Virgin Airlines.

We believe this is a venture that has long-term sustainability. We believe we have the right partners to make this work. When we were at G2E (the recent Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas), a number of casino executives stopped by talking about electronic cigarettes in relation to gifts to high-stakes players, reducing housekeeping costs and many different marketing scenarios. We were very well received.

Roughly 400,000 people will succumb to cancer associated with smoking this year. All of us have family members who died because of cigarettes. I have to say, the humanitarian side of this project really got to us. The ability to affect the country, the world . . . that is huge!

The financial aspect was always a given. But to be in a position where you can affect someone's life, how special is that? We have testimonials from staff who go on and on about how good this product has made them feel, how it changed their lives, how without inhaling cigarette smoke, the lung capacity increases, how breathing is easier and you don't have to be asked by your significant other to walk outside. There is no smoke to bother anybody.

When we mentioned that we were pursuing the idea of manufacturing, the reaction we had from a number of people was, "What?" The big tobacco companies were surprised. But they recognize the trend. But you see, the tobacco companies can't come right out and say, "You were right, smoking causes cancer," and tell how we are going to sell electronic cigarettes. It's kind of like BP; they want to talk about what they are going to do to help the whole economy.

I'm very proud that this administration is spending long hours and going where we have to go and doing what we have to do to evaluate these opportunities. This administration has accepted the challenge and is meeting the challenge head on. We don't rest until the job is done. There are a lot of long meetings. Even when I was out in L.A. enjoying my birthday, I was in their backyard, so I called up and set up a meeting.

It's not just me. We really don't have any time off, none of us. But that is what we signed up for. There is a lot of work to do, and it's our job to do it. I hope as people read these monthly reports in *The Tribune*, they realize that right now, in a time when it is much easier to do nothing, we are taking our responsibility seriously. We are committed and are not going to rest until we do everything in our power to secure our future for current and future Tribal members.

In order to do our job and the long hours, I joke about it by saying, "If I'm still married at the end of our term, it'll be a success!" I mean sometimes I feel as if my house is a dressing room. I drive up, go in the house, jump in the shower, get dressed and get back on it. But all work and no play is not good, either.

So we all are facing a challenge to find that balance. For this we ask for everyone's blessing every day. Please say a little prayer for us. Sho-naa-bish.

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



Board of Directors convenes for regular meeting



BY CAMELLIA SMITH-OSCEOLA
Editor in Chief

HOLLYWOOD — The Board of Directors convened on Aug. 20 at the Tribal Office Auditorium in Hollywood.

The following items were passed at the regular meeting:

Resolution: Approval of Joshua Abe Jumper to assume ownership of pasture land.

Resolution: Authorization for the creation of Tribal and state limited liability companies.

Resolution: Termination of the sublease between The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. as landlord and Sempar, a Seminole company LLC, as tenant.

Letter to the editor

Dear Tribune,

I have been following *The Tribune* for a long while now. I recently have read that Rev. Wonder Johns has passed. The late Rev. Wonder Johns and widow wife Mary L. Johns, of the Brighton community, raised me while I was a small, young boy in their home. I was taken very well care of. Early this year, I had received a letter from Mary Johns telling me of their loss of the late Victor Johns, their late son. (Wonder is Panther Clan.) I feel that, like many late members, Wonder, too, should be respected with some sort of sport memorial if he hasn't already received one.

Wonder spent many years devoted to bettering the communities as he was able; he directed a hog farm and citrus groves; he was an excellent cattleman and one of many pasture and cattle owners, among others. He pastored many miles to help lead God's faithfuls. I've seen first-hand the successful businessman that he was while he was here; he's gone, but he is still here.

I've been keeping track of individual and community events and otherwise the like, etc. Brighton Rez's Cheryl Fish's son Richard Harris was diagnosed (AML) leukemia, and I would like to know how Richard is progressing. His mother, Richard's, is a friend to me. I wrote to ministries close and far to pray for Richard and attended church services to also request prayer for Richard. I only received one reply from one ministry concerning Richard Harris' conditions; I hope he is OK, or if he's since left us, I pray his family and rez community receives comfort from the Great Spirit.

I had broken my left arm previous to finding out about Richard Harris' conditions and was overwhelmed, almost going AWOL, but I controlled my predicament well considering what happened to Harris.

I read the Sept 28 issue. Alex Johns is a close friend to me, and I remember what it was like to speak to him in 2003 in the Hollywood Tribal Office. He's an awesome person and his sister is a wonderful person to cross paths with if one has that luck! Alex Johns, keep up the great successes.

Everyone of *The Seminole Tribune*, I give best wishes and luck to your future and present. To the many successfuls in Sept. 28 issue, I hope to all the best that life can offer and give you!

Sincerely,
Waylan Jim

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Community

A

Senior profile: Wanda Bowers

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

HOLLYWOOD — Wanda Bowers has made a lifetime commitment to being an ambassador of the Seminole Tribe. As a student in the public schools, a past Miss Florida Seminole Princess, an entrepreneur and a program director, she has served her Tribe with pride and respect. She is proud to be Seminole and considers it a privilege to represent her people.

Her Miccosukee/Creek heritage is very important to her, and she has made it a priority in the education of her own children and the young people she influences through her position with the Tribe. Some of her fondest memories are of the time she spent in the Brighton Bird Clan camp of her grandparents, Lena Bowers and Eli Morgan.

Wanda's father, Casey Bowers, was introduced to cattle ranching at an early age as his family participated in the development of the Seminole cattle industry. Becoming a Christian, the young cowboy traveled with his church to Oklahoma, where he met and married Stella Narcomy, a Creek girl from the Deer Clan from Oklahoma.

Casey found it necessary to supplement his ranching income in order to raise a family. Moving close to work opportunities in Hollywood, he joined the construction industry and became a mason, but his heart was always in Brighton, where he maintained a herd of cattle. Being a cowboy was his first love, and he took his children



Photo courtesy of Wanda Bowers

Wanda Bowers in 1968.

to the ranch whenever possible.

Wanda Faye Bowers was born on Aug. 28, 1951 in a Fort Lauderdale hospital. Her parents, Casey and Stella Bowers, were living in a small wood-frame structure on the Dania Reservation. She and her brothers, Steven and the late Russell, spent their early years growing up in close proximity to the site of the church and trailer park. Together they watched the development of the Seminole community and were among the first families to occupy the newly constructed permanent housing.

When the Tribe adopted its Constitution in 1957, Wanda was just reaching school age. Only a few Tribal members attended public schools at this time, but the need for education was apparent, and more families were enrolling their children.

"Public school was a difficult transition for many of the kids," Wanda said. "We were raised within our own community, had little outside interaction and the majority of our parents spoke Mikasuki at home. This created stumbling blocks for many of the students that were difficult to overcome. Teachers pointed out to our parents that it would be beneficial to our comprehension skills if they only spoke English at home, but this was not always the case. Some of the children became discouraged and did not complete school."

Wanda indicated that this language issue had pros and cons. Her father started only speaking English to his children, and therefore, they grew up with limited knowledge of their language, but it helped them do well in school. Unfortunately, it left them with passive skills in Mikasuki. Native language skills are important to preservation of culture, and she is happy to see the emphasis that the Tribe is placing on teaching Creek and Mikasuki in the schools and culture programs.

"When the other students and coaches recognized that we excelled in sports, it helped us fit into the student body and achieve acceptance," Wanda said. "With acceptance came more self-confidence and better performance that led to higher attendance and grades. You had to make the grades or you couldn't play sports, and that became a strong motivator."

When Connie Gowen became the first Miss Florida Seminole in 1957, it opened a new field of opportunity for young women in the Tribe. With the title came a responsibility to favorably represent the Tribal members and serve as an ambassador. She became a role model to the younger girls and someone they could strive to emulate as they dreamed of some

day competing for the crown.

That dream came true for Wanda when she won the coveted title in 1968 and 1969. Each of the princesses has made her own contributions to the position. Traditional attire and a beaded crown have always distinguished the appearance of the recipient, but the items have undergone transition over the years, and an embroidered sash has been added.

As Miss Florida Seminole, Wanda realized that knowledge of community, culture and history were important factors in adequately representing the Seminole people. She advocated that it is important to know about the problems that exist and to display a positive attitude and pride in your ethnicity.

Following her reign, Wanda married David McCall and accepted one of the most important roles of her life when she became the mother of Christine, Casey and Elliott Levi. She also took in David's other kids, twins Danielle and David, twins, and Justin McCall, raising them as her own. While she has known much joy and triumph in her life, she has also had to endure her share of tragedies. She lost Casey, Elliott and her husband while they were just beginning to experience life. When David passed, she was left a young widow and single mother. Elliott passed when he was 5, and Casey departed shortly after graduation from high school. Even though these losses have had a profound effect upon her, she has found the strength to continue and cherishes their memories.

Her daughter, Christine, graduated from high school with honors and then followed in her mother's footsteps as Miss Florida Seminole. She attended Florida State University (FSU), where she earned a bachelor's degree in social work. As a student at FSU during her reign, she juggled her busy schedule to maintain her high GPA while traveling extensively to meet her commitments. It wasn't always easy, but she had inherited her mother's perseverance and did an exceptional job with her mother's support.

Wanda recognized the potential of the role of Miss Florida Seminole and, after several years, accepted the position of director of the program. Under her guidance, it has developed into an important vehicle for young Tribal women competing for the crown to enhance their skills in a manner that will benefit them in their careers, social lives and personal achievements.

◆ See WANDA on page 5A



Brett Daly

Jake Keyser, who started the Trail Fish Fry, prepares grouper for lunch.

Trail Fish Fry brings community together

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

TRAIL — The Trail community hosted their annual Fish Fry for Seminoles in Recovery on Oct. 13, bringing the community together to celebrate life and sobriety.

The fourth annual event, held at the Trail Independent Baptist Church with about 60 people in attendance, kicked off with a welcome address from Family Services director Helene Buster, while others started frying 100 pounds of grouper under the chickees.

"We want people to know that we're here to help," she said. "We want everyone to come and feel welcomed."

The Family Services Department created Seminoles in Recovery in 1993 in an attempt to provide conferences and support to Seminoles with addictions, Buster said. Since its inception, the program has grown to include several annual conferences and events, including the Fish Fry, to promote camaraderie among people who seek help with recovery.

Trail resident Jake Keyser started the

Trail Fish Fry four years ago after attending a similar event in Tampa. The Tampa event, he said, showed him that he could have fun without alcohol.

"Everyone was having a good time, so I thought it would be nice to have one here," he said. "We have to stick together to show there's a better way."

Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous meetings were both held at the Trail Fish Fry, during which participants read stories of recovery and shared their personal achievements.

Fred Mullins, Family Services prevention specialist, said the events sponsored by Seminoles in Recovery show members that they can have fun without high-risk components and that they have support from other members of the community.

"The event involves having fellowship and encouraging others in their commitment to sobriety," he said. "The real goal is that people move from a systematic program to a [positive role] within their Tribe."

◆ See FISH FRY on page 10A

Business profile: Fantasy Lighting/The Hunters' Den

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE — After working for the Tribe for many years, Christie Strickland knew she wanted to try something new. She and her husband, Earl, noticed Okeechobee didn't have any lighting stores and decided to fill that niche. Earl worked as an electrician for 29 years, so the business made sense to them both. Christie retired, and they opened Fantasy Lighting in 2003.

The Stricklands also enjoy the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing. When a local outdoor outfitting business was about to close in 2006, they saw another opportunity and took it. The Stricklands bought out the entire inventory and opened The Hunters' Den, which sells almost everything necessary for an outdoor adventure — except firearms.

The two stores are located unexpectedly, yet conveniently, under one roof in downtown Okeechobee.

"We combined the two because we are the only employees," Earl said.

Because many people in the area like to hunt and fish, the outdoor business brings

in the most traffic. But people still need lighting for their homes.

"If wives come shopping with their husbands and they don't like to hunt, they can always look for lights," Christie said.

The front of the store contains the lighting and chandeliers all on one wall. And because of limited space, lamps dangle from the ceiling, hang on the wall and stand on the floor. Inventory includes lamps, chandeliers, pendant lights, under-counter lighting and bathroom, outdoor and indoor fixtures, as well as ceiling fans.

As a Tribal vendor, Fantasy Lighting may submit bids when Tribal members build their homes. Other Tribal vendors also come to them for business, many who know Earl from his electrician days.

"We deliver and warranty the merchandise for one year," Earl said. "Our goal is to have 10 customers walk in and fulfill 10 houses with the inventory we own."

The Stricklands came up with the name Fantasy Lighting on a long drive home from Tennessee.

◆ See BUSINESS on page 10A



Beverly Bidney

People in pink gather in front of the Frank Billie Tribal Field Office in Big Cypress.

The color pink marks Breast Cancer Awareness Day across the Tribe

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and the Seminole Tribe made sure to do its part in raising awareness.

Tribal members in Big Cypress gathered to show support for the global campaign by wearing pink, decorating cookies and participating in a breast cancer walk. Some people had personal reasons for attending the event sponsored by the Health Department; others just wanted to show support for a worthy cause.

"We want everyone to learn more about breast cancer and have awareness for themselves," said Brenda Bordogna, Health Education coordinator. "More knowledge means less fear. We try to get people to seek help early."

About 45 people gathered in front

of the Frank Billie Tribal Field Office for a photo before heading out to the Big Cypress Fitness Trail for the walk.

Breast cancer has hit Big Cypress Library assistant Brenda Townsend's family hard; she lost an aunt to the disease, and her sister just completed her last treatment for breast cancer.

"She's walking with me now," said Townsend, who wore a photo of her sister on her shirt.

Victoria Hernandez started getting mammograms at age 20, after her aunt died from breast cancer.

"More and more people are getting breast cancer, so I want to stay on top of it," Hernandez said. "I do all the walks, including in Miami. It's a big thing for me and my family."

Other reservations showed their support as well. Over in Immokalee, Tribal members and employees gathered on Oct.

16 for a Breast Cancer Walk to encourage awareness. In Brighton and Hollywood, the Human Resources Department held a Wear Pink Day in coordination with their employee birthday luncheons. The Health Department set up tables at the events to raise awareness about the disease, which affects more than 220,000 women in the United States annually, according to the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

Medical advances account for higher survival rates than ever, so detecting the disease early is critical. The mobile mammogram van will be in Big Cypress in November. The Health Department can schedule a mammogram for those people who haven't had one yet this year. Contact the Wellness Center at 863-983-5798.

◆ See more WEAR PINK photos on page 10A



Beverly Bidney

From left, Christie, Hunter and Earl Strickland are in The Hunters' Den/Fantasy Lighting.

Bobby Henry learns lesson: Don't give the finger to a saw

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter



Peter B. Gallagher

"This ain't s'posed to happen to a medicine man," Bobby Henry said of his recent injury.

TAMPA — Bobby Henry knew something was going to happen. He said he had a feeling.

"A voice was sayin', 'Walk away. Walk away. Come back tomorrow. Take a break.'" But the Seminole Tribal elder and highly respected medicine man ignored his own inner voice and turned on the table saw.

Whirrrrrrr. After all, Bobby thought, these were the last five arrows he was going to make — long sections of Australian pine to be fashioned into the colorful arrows his father taught him to make when he was a boy. He looked around his work area at his homestead in West Tampa. It was Oct. 8 just after 4 p.m., and he had already sent his assistant home.

Bobby moved his left hand to match the edges of the wood, planning to cut all five at once. He looked at his right hand, guiding the wood as he pushed it through the spinning saw.

"For some reason, my left hand just started roamin' towards the saw," he said.

Whirrrrrrr. Weeeeeeee. Suddenly the saw made a high sound "like it was cuttin' aluminum or somethin'," he said. "It was a different sound, and I looked over. It was my hand. The saw was cuttin' my finger to the bone."

Bobby Henry had given the finger to the saw. It was the middle finger on his left hand. The cut was long and deep, stretching from his knuckle up to the fingernail, which was completely ripped off. Splayed open "like you cook a hot dog," said Bobby, who quickly wrapped his hand in a napkin and ran to his car to get his camera to take a photo of the injury. "But the camera was already used up," he said.

He ran into his house, where wife, Annie, was on the couch watching TV. "Hey, Annie, I cut my hand," he yelled. He grabbed the phone and called his worker, ordering him to come back: "Hey, we got to go to the emergency room," he yelled.

Five minutes later, they were speeding to Brandon Hospital.

"I did little secrets Indian people do," he said. "It worked. The hurt went down, only hurt a little bit."

At the emergency room, he waited three hours for a doctor who never came. When a nurse came over and asked to look at the cut, he refused.

"Indian people don't do that. It's bad luck for too many people to see the cut. It won't heal," he said. "I wanted to see a doctor."

He sent his worker home. "I told him I'll be OK," he said. "It ain't an alligator. Just one finger. I got nine (more)."

Another hour later, two nurses came into the room to tell him the X-rays showed "it's a bad cut," he said.

"I already knew that," Bobby said. "I wanted a doctor to wrap it up."

"The bone is broken," they told him. "No, it's not," the medicine man said. "I can move it."

They suggested he spend the night in the hospital, and he could see a doctor in the morning. Bobby refused.

"I ain't gonna stay in no place 'round a bunch of sick people," he said.

He walked out. Daughter Susie came to take him home. Next day, Bobby went to Hillsborough County Hospital, where a doctor told him the bone was chipped but not broken. The cut was cleaned and wrapped up, left to heal without stitches.

"I got to take it easy for 'bout a week," he said, laughing. "Then I'll be back to normal, workin' like a son of a gun."

He puts the blame on himself for the mishap. "Didn't follow my own teaching," he said, shaking his head. "I tell kids all the time to be careful, pay attention to what you're doing when you use anything like a knife or saw. And walk away, take a break, come back tomorrow, quit when you think somethin' might happen."

"When I was a kid, the old people told me that all the time: 'Don't be stubborn. If it's gonna happen and you keep goin', it's gonna happen. Use your brain.'" If anything, the incident has rejuvenated his longtime dream to create a chickee workshop "to teach kids what my grandfather and father taught me," using the same words and ways used by the elders of his youth.

"How to work with your hands and use your brain," he said, pointing that fat, bandaged middle finger to his forehead.

"Kids need to learn: Accidents can happen to anyone, even the medicine man."



Beverly Bidney

The *IndiVisible* exhibit is on display inside the Willie Frank Memorial Library in Big Cypress through Nov. 23.

IndiVisible exhibition on display

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Throughout history, the lives of Native Americans and African Americans have intersected. Their rich histories are seldom on display together, but thanks to the National Museum of the American Indian, pieces of their past can be seen at the Willie Frank Memorial Library in Big Cypress and the Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library in Immokalee through the *IndiVisible: African-Native American Lives in the Americas* exhibit.

"The exhibition shows how the Native and African Americans' identities are interwoven," said Gretchen DeBree, Big Cypress librarian. "We have half of the 20-panel exhibit in Big Cypress and the other half in Immokalee and will switch them out after a month so both communities will see the entire exhibit."

Seminoles featured in *IndiVisible*, a Smithsonian traveling exhibition, include Billy Bowlegs III and John Horse.

Billy Bowlegs III (1862-1965), a descendant of African and Seminole parents, adopted the name of Billy Bowlegs II, a Tribal leader during the Seminole Wars. A member of the Snake Clan, his grandfather

was Chief Osceola.

John Horse, a slave of African, Seminole and Spanish descent, played a paramount role in the Second Seminole War of 1835-42. As a leader of the other escaped slaves who became known as the Black Seminoles, Horse advised Chief Osceola during the war. Unwilling to accept a restricted life of defeat in the Oklahoma Indian territory, he led a band of Black Seminoles into Mexico. Once there, he used the alias Juan Caballo and lived in Mexico the rest of his life.

Through the themes of policy, community, creative resistance and lifestyles, *IndiVisible* relates stories of cultural integration and diffusion, as well as the struggle to define and preserve identity. Since the arrival of Christopher Columbus in the Americas, Native and African people intermarried, established communities and shared lives and traditions. The exhibit outlines their survival strategies and involvement in social movements to fight oppressive conditions and racially motivated laws.

The exhibit, on display through Nov. 23, was produced by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, an institution of living cultures dedicated to advancing knowledge and understanding of the lives, languages, literature, histories and arts of the Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere.

FAIR

From page 1A

"I tell them not to be so closed-minded," he said. "They might not get into their first choice, so they need a backup plan. Knowledge is power."

At the fair, students perused tables and asked about majors, athletics programs and student life. Some students took the opportunity to interview the admissions representatives. Dasani Cypress, 13, brought a tape recorder and a list of questions she wanted answered. At Florida Atlantic University's table she asked about admissions. Admissions representative Justin Duval told her test scores and GPAs play a major role in the admission process, but extra-curricular activities can put a student over the edge.

"I want to make it easy to choose a school based on their answers," said Cypress, a seventh-grader at Ahfachkee. "I want to go into physical therapy or business management."

Duval was impressed with Cypress' approach to the fair.

"Not many students come prepared with a list of questions," he said. "Most are afraid to ask questions and want you to read their minds."

Florida State University attends the college fair every year.

"We've had a lot of interest," FSU admissions representative Alberto Ortiz said. "We have some great Seminole students; five came this year. This is always a good fair for us."

As the students moved from school to school, they learned more about the process.

"We wanted to see the schools," said Lewis Gopher, 15, a ninth-grader at Okeechobee High School. "I learned it takes work and dedication. Some schools are tougher than others, but you can do it."

Nena Waggerby hasn't yet decided what field she wants to pursue. She asked detailed questions of the admissions representatives.

"I'm thinking about medical or law," said Waggerby, 16, a 10th-grader at Ahfachkee. "I'm not sure yet, so I'm just asking questions and getting



Beverly Bidney

Jayce Smith, 15, Lewis Gopher, 15, and Thomas Bearden, 14, all of Brighton, get information about the University of South Florida St. Petersburg.

information."

The Seminole Tribe of Florida also had a few tables with information about various careers at the fair.

"Career opportunities range from entertainment to finance," said Jim Osceola, a management trainee with the Tribal Career Development program. "The two-year training program lets you work in each department. Seminole Gaming is something you should all be proud of, and it's a great place to have a career."

During the luncheon after the college fair, Paula Bowers-Sanchez motivated students to continue their education.

"When I was in high school, I had no idea what path I'd take, but one thing was for certain: education," Bowers-Sanchez said. "It was a little scary, but it made me a better person and opened my eyes. No matter what you want to do, with an education, you can do it. You are at the point in your lives where change is inevitable, so make your plans and put them into manageable steps. Success builds confidence, and with confidence there is nothing you can't accomplish."

E-CIGS

From page 1A

Although not sold as a device to help quit smoking, electronic cigarettes have shown a 50- to 70-percent success rate for smokers who wanted to quit (compared to a 3 percent success rate for the nicotine patch, a 4 percent success rate for gum and a 6 percent success rate for pharmaceuticals, Cameron said). Seminole Unconquered electronic cigarettes also come in three nicotine levels.

"This is a new opportunity for the Tribe," President Tony Sanchez Jr. said. "I was hooked from the very beginning when I was told about how many people succumb to complications from smoking. If we can save some individuals, then we can affect their lives."

Hollywood Board Rep. Chris Osceola, a smoker for 25 years, kicked the habit with electronic cigarettes.

"I haven't smoked a cigarette this year because of these things," he said. "They can change your life. The rest of the Board was looking at me since I was the only smoker; I was the test dummy. I've tried different products, and this is the best one."

The Board spent nine months negotiating with Safecig, the manufacturer of the product. In addition to owning the brand, the Tribe owns the manufacturing side of the business as well. They will also have the capability to make private label brands for other companies once they move the manufacturing to Hollywood, which they have planned for May 2013.

"This was a venture we knew we wanted to be in," Brighton Rep. Larry Howard said. "This is better for the future. We are always looking for other businesses for the economic arm of the Tribe."

During the conference, about a dozen striking women walked around the Hard Rock Hotel lobby and casino handing out samples.

The cigarettes come in a variety of flavors, including Classic, Tribe, Menthol, Traditional, Columbian and Trinidad, and each cigarette lasts about 120 puffs; one pack of cigarettes is roughly equivalent to 180 puffs,

according to their website. The cigars come in three flavors: Chairman Cuban, President Dominican and Representative Honduran; each cigar is equivalent to 10 tobacco cigars.

"The launch went great; it couldn't have been any better for us," Rep. Osceola said. "We made a lot of good contacts of big potential customers around the country — in Russia, Germany, Mexico — and other Tribes who want to be distributors. We will be the only e-cig manufacturer in the country, so when we sign deals, we will be the manufacturer, as well as the wholesaler. This was a great effort by the Board."

The Board brought the Seminole Unconquered booth and product to the Global Gaming Expo (G2E) in Las Vegas from Oct. 1-4 as well. The event, sponsored by the American Gaming Association, is an international show by and for the gaming industry worldwide.

"I'm glad how the booth turned out," Big Cypress Rep. Joe Frank said. "We've gotten a lot of good feedback."



Beverly Bidney

Founder of Safecig Jon Deak, his brother Rob Deak, President Tony Sanchez Jr. and Safecig CEO John Cameron gather at the NIGA conference to promote their new electronic cigarettes.



Beverly Bidney

Ashley Gonzalez, 16, an 11th-grader at Ahfachkee, and Destiny Robbins, 16, an 11th-grader at Immokalee High School, get information about Syracuse University.

Brighton Community Culture center holds open house event

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Brighton community members, employees and staff gathered at what was formerly the seniors center to get an insider's view of the new home for the Community Culture program on Oct. 11.

The new Culture center location offers more space and a more centralized location in the community than its previous location off S.R. 721 at the Dan Bowers building; it's now near many other frequented Tribal buildings, including the Preschool, Tribal Field Office, Education center and SPD. (The seniors center was relocated to a new 17,500-square-foot facility set on 7.5 acres on the Brighton Reservation in May.)

With a focus on keeping traditions alive, the Culture Department staff used the opportunity to showcase the services they offer. With more than 100 people in attendance, the staff welcomed the community to their new home by displaying the arts and crafts services they provide.

Emcee Johnnie Jones talked about the importance of the program.

"If you teach your kids one thing, maybe they will grow up 'n' teach their kids," he said.

He also thanked Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. for assisting in acquiring the building.

"He fought for us to get this building," Jones said. "If we don't teach all these things, it will be forgotten."

Jones introduced Tribal officials and staff in attendance, each giving congratulations for having such an important facility and thanking all who made the opening possible.



Andrea Holata

The Brighton Community Culture center staff pose for a picture during the open house.

"It's an important program we have here," Councilman Bowers said. "Take advantage of it and pass it on to your relatives and friends."

Brighton Community Culture director Jenny Johns discussed the services the program has to offer, including instruction in beadwork, Native clothing and designs, basket making, wood carving, cultural cooking, Seminole doll making, chickee building, storytelling, practicing traditional medicine, speaking Creek and Mikasuki and more.

Johns welcomed all community

members to participate.

"This (building) is here for the whole community," she said. "We are here for the whole community, whatever you want to learn. That's what we're all about – working together."

Everyone agreed on the importance of preserving the identity of the Seminole Tribe.

"Culture is who we are," Hollywood Community Culture director Bobby Frank said. "This is the strong point of the Tribe, and if we lose it, we lose everything."



Andrea Holata

Community Culture staff prepare lunch for open house attendees.



Andrea Holata

Hollywood Community Culture director Bobby Frank visits the Creek display station during the Brighton Community Culture center open house.



Photo courtesy of Wanda Bowers

Wanda Bowers' father, Casey, pictured above, is preparing to brand cattle. He helped develop the Tribe's cattle program.

WANDA

From page 3A

The platform has increased to include a Junior Miss Seminole, Little Miss Seminole and Little Mr. Seminole.

She assessed the relationship of her program with other princess pageants and developed a structure competitive with Miss Indian World. The participants in her curriculum receive instruction in public speaking, appearance, cultural awareness, poise, presentation, talent, social graces, etiquette, history and language. Participants must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher, work their trip schedule around exams and carry laptops to complete assignments online.

"We must feel good about ourselves if we are to exhibit a demeanor that will influence how others perceive us," Wanda said. "This is important on both a personal and Tribal level and will have a positive impact upon our future. As ambassadors, our Seminole royalty has the opportunity to travel and learn about other Native American cultures and tell our story from our perspective."

Under her guidance, Miss Florida Seminole makes numerous appearances at Seminole Tribal events, Miss Indian World, the Gathering of Nations and FSU and receives a host of invitations to public and Native American activities. Travel opportunities have taken them

across the United States, to Canada and on one occasion, to Europe.

"I want to thank the Tribal Council, who have always been very supportive during my annual struggle for a budget, and the local communities, who help to make our program an overwhelming success," Wanda said. "Their sponsorship makes it possible for us to adequately represent them."

Wanda could be described as a workaholic as she strives to make use of every available waking hour. As an entrepreneur, she has established her own business, "Wanda's Seminole She-La-Musk-Kee," (Stuff You Use) with the logo "The Unconquered Seminole."

"It all started with a coffee cup," Wanda said. "I love coffee, and in my daily contacts and travels I have encountered a lot of personalized and promotional cups. Before long I was collecting, and then I decided it was time for the Seminole Tribe to join my collection. After designing that first cup and seeing its potential, my inventory expanded, and the orders started to arrive."

Wanda promotes the Tribe through her distinctive line of office and promotional items that include flags, pens, stationary, money clips, back packs, event commemoratives and a variety of other resources. She makes creative use of patchwork, Tribal colors and the seals of the Council and Board.

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SEMINOLE CHANNEL

NOVEMBER GUIDE

Tuesdays 8-9 PM
Thursdays 5-6 PM

THE SEMINOLE CHANNEL WORD OF THE DAY

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THANKSGIVING

15TH ANNUAL ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL AT AH'TAH'THI-KI

VETERANS DAY

CHARLIE GOPHER MEMORIAL

Channel 9545

Immokalee youth get a visit from Fire Rescue



Judy Weeks

Naples youth gather around firefighter Jonathan Menendez to examine his firefighting attire.



Omar Rodriguez

Fire Marshall Robert Brown talks to the kids about how to prevent and react to a fire.



Omar Rodriguez

Jordan Osceola practices with a fire extinguisher.

Naples community youth learn about fire safety

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

NAPLES — The children of the Naples community ran out waving their hands to greet representatives of the Seminole Fire Rescue Department when they first caught sight of the big red fire truck pulling into the driveway on Sept. 22.

As the team of professionals dismounted the truck, it was immediately apparent that this wasn't their first encounter but a greeting of old friends. The boys and girls take fire prevention seriously and look forward to interacting with the Fire Rescue crew on a regular basis.

Swarming around the truck, they were given a thorough tour of all its compartments and equipment and learned valuable lifesaving tips to take home and teach their parents.

Kicking off the first demonstration, the boys and girls learned how fast a fire can flare up in dry grass and leaves and the importance of spreading a help alert as fast as possible. They eagerly took turns examining the fire extinguisher and learning how it works.

"If I'm burning up, I won't run around. I'm going to stop, drop and roll," yelled 5-year-old Angelina Osceola-Lugo as she threw herself on the ground. "I learned that from Sparky the Fire Dog."

Fire Marshall Robert Brown assured her that Sparky and his other puppet friends Stan, Joey and Bill were prepared to take the stage for an informative show. Cheerful music announced the puppet performance, and the children crowded around to interact with the program.

"When the call comes to fight a fire, we have to move quickly," Lt. Bruce Britton said. "Being prepared and able to move

rapidly can mean the difference when saving lives and property. We have our protective clothing, boots, oxygen tank and mask arranged in the station for immediate action to save time."

Racing a stopwatch, firefighter Jonathan Menendez demonstrated the reaction time necessary to answer a fire call in full gear.

While he dressed, the purpose of each piece of equipment was explained. Afterward, the children took turns trying on the fire hat and asked numerous questions about the oxygen mask.

Each youngster received an insulated tote bag with an assortment of school supplies to commemorate Fire Prevention Month.



Judy Weeks

Aspen Tommie tries on a firefighter's hat during the Fire Rescue Department's demonstration.



Omar Rodriguez

Mauro Raynosa sprays a fire extinguisher.



Omar Rodriguez

Anthony Raynosa gets ready to spray a fire extinguisher.



Omar Rodriguez

Jaylee Perez talks to a Fire official.



Omar Rodriguez

Lt. Bruce Britton explains the many features of a firefighter's gear.

Trail community gets in on Fire Prevention Month activities



Kathryn Stolarz

Tribal members in Trail visit the Fire Rescue truck at the Huggins Camp.



Kathryn Stolarz

Firefighters show the Trail community their uniforms and equipment.



Kathryn Stolarz

Trail youth excitedly explore the inside of a fire truck on Sept. 28.

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Help kids live a life without bullying

SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD
Seminole Tribe Police Chief

Back when I was a kid, bullies existed without a doubt. However, the severity of bullying and the frequency in which it occurs with our kids today is alarming. I believe most of us are familiar with bullying, which entails threatening or making fun of kids, hitting them and talking about them behind their backs. It is the intimidation of a weaker person or the mistreatment of somebody in a vulnerable situation.

Today, we have the added component of cyberbullying. A victim is still intimidated, mistreated or left feeling vulnerable, but it's through the use of electronic technology, like computers and cell phones, including social media, text messages, emails and chatting. For example, a rumor or a picture about a child can be sent anonymously and be posted on a social networking site, allowing for quick distribution for a large audience to see. Cyberbullying can happen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can even reach a child who may be home alone. Tracing the

source is difficult.

Bullying in any form challenges parents because it is usually a silent threat to kids, and we often do not know that it is happening. Kids tend to keep it a secret because they are afraid and embarrassed. However, the following are some telltale signs parents can look for that may indicate a child suffers from bullying:

- A child seems quiet or withdrawn, not showing interest in things that used to be a symbol of enjoyment.
- A child frequently complains about not feeling well, thereby missing school.
- A child's general demeanor changes, such as acting more stressed than normal.
- Use of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Skipping school.
- Poor grades.

How can we help our kids stay safe from being bullied, as well as save them from becoming a bully?

- Look at the cell phones of children, and sit with them while they are on the computer.
- Talk to kids and help them understand what bullying entails; tell them it is unacceptable, and stand up to it safely.
- Listen to your kids and know their

friends. Ask questions about what they do and who they spend their time with.

• Make sure kids have hobbies and fun things that keep their self-esteem high along with their level of confidence. (A person often bullies someone because of their own lack of self-esteem. They feel better making someone else feel vulnerable.)

• Teach kids to be respectful. Model this behavior and lead by example.

Keep open and honest communication with your child. This will enhance the chance he/she will come to you about the issue of bullying. The goal is to be sure children feel comfortable enough to come and discuss items of this nature early on to prevent the bullying from escalating. As adults, it is our responsibility to uncover the signs of a bully or someone being bullied by staying involved, informed and educated.

We cannot have a child feel let down because as a parent we lacked awareness.



Deputy Fire Chief Mark Steele joins Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue

SUBMITTED BY DONALD DIPETRILLO
Seminole Tribe Fire Chief

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is proud to announce the appointment of Mark A. Steele as the Deputy Chief of Administration for the Fire Rescue Department. Chief Steele brings more than 30 years of fire, medical and emergency service experience to the Tribe and has a long history of serving the residents and visitors of the Hollywood Reservation while employed in various capacities by the City of Hollywood Fire Rescue Department.

"It's a privilege to be associated with such a fine organization, with such a deep history and one that has an outstanding

approach to personal service to the Tribal members and visitors," Chief Steele said.

Chief Steele holds a bachelor's degree from St. Thomas University, two associate degrees from Broward College in fire science and emergency medical services, and multiple certifications in the fire and medical field.

Fire Chief Donald DiPetrillo appointed Chief Steele in late August to be responsible for coordination and oversight of the divisions of fire/EMS, training, administration and prevention/life safety education.

While employed by the city, Chief Steele directed or participated in multiple capacities, including administration, field operations, training and specialty

services, beach safety, dive rescue, hazardous materials, grants management, public information and emergency management. He also served as a flight paramedic and EMS instructor, and he worked with various citizen volunteer groups.

Chief Steele was selected as the Broward County EMS Educator of the Year in 2000 and Hero of the Year in 2003.

The Seminole Tribe welcomes him to the Office of Public Safety family.



Fire Rescue holds Fire Prevention Month events

SUBMITTED BY BRUCE BRITTON
Seminole Tribe Fire Lieutenant

The purpose of Fire Prevention Month is to teach children about fire safety practices and what to do if a fire occurs. This year's theme for Fire Prevention Month was "Two ways out." This means making sure that in case of a fire, you have two ways out of each room in the house. This may include a door and a window. Fire Rescue presented this message, as well as other safety messages, through different activities during the month.

Fire Prevention House prop

The Fire Prevention House prop was designed and built in 2011 to simulate a residential structure. This year, children learned how to put out a fire on the stove in the kitchen and how to escape a house when it is on fire. The objective was for the children to learn how to crawl low through a 3-by-3-foot maze and beneath the smoke (sheet) until they made it outside to safety. They learned that everyone in the home must go immediately to a predetermined meeting place, which may be a tree, mailbox or the beginning of a driveway in front of the house. This is called a home escape plan, which the family creates in advance to ensure everyone makes it out of the house safely.

Fire safety puppet show

Stop, Drop and Roll was the song children sung along to as their puppet friends Stan the Fire Dog, Joey, Maria and Bill the Lil Firefighter demonstrated the technique on stage while the music played. Sparky went into the crowd to show the children how to do the maneuver up close. The children were reminded that they should never run around when their clothes are on fire because it will fan the flames, so "stop, drop and roll-o-o-o-l-l!"

Wild land firefighter

Florida is No. 2 in the entire country for wild land fires. Wild land firefighters talked to children about how brush fires



commonly start and how to prevent them. For example, they teach children to never pick up a lighter off the ground and instead, go tell an adult. Children learned about different tools they may use, like a fire shelter, a flapper and a drip torch. In addition, children sprayed water from the fire hose on the brush truck, an off-road vehicle used to attack brush fires in difficult terrain that a normal fire engine cannot operate in.

Firefighter personal protection equipment

Bunker gear, or firefighter protective clothing, is made with three layers of material that protects firefighters from heat and flames. A self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), or an air tank, provides them with breathable air in toxic environments for an average of 20 minutes under working conditions. However, this

demonstration involved more than just a firefighter putting on protective clothes and an air tank. The children learned the following during this one activity:

• **Pants and coats** – A firefighter must be able to jump out of bed at any time of the night and get dressed in a matter of seconds to respond to a fire alarm. How long does it take you to wake up and get dressed for school in the morning? Do you go to your bed early to get plenty of rest for the next day?

• **SCBA** – If firefighters did not have air tanks, they would not be able to enter smoke-filled structures to fight fires and rescue people. This is because fires produce toxic smoke and gases that make people sick if they breathe it in. If a fire occurs in a home, get low and crawl out because smoke rises toward the ceiling and the cleaner air is close to the ground.

• **Seatbelt** – In order to properly wear the SCBA, a firefighter must buckle a seatbelt-like strap around the front of his/her waist to keep it in place. How many of you always buckle your seatbelt when you get into a car? What can happen if you do not wear a seatbelt and the car stops suddenly or collides with another vehicle? Do mom and dad fasten their seatbelts every time as well?

• **Helmet** – A firefighter's helmet protects his/her head from heat, flames and falling debris. Do you wear a helmet when you ride your bike, scooter, skateboard or ATV? What kind of injuries can occur if your head hits the ground without a helmet on?

Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue provides fun and interactive activities for children. Most importantly, they help reinforce important fire safety concepts at the same time.

We hope that after reading this article you will have a better understanding of what makes Seminole Tribe's Fire Prevention Month events special.



Photo courtesy of State University Libraries of Florida

The historic 1950 FSU Fight Song meeting: (sitting) song composer Thomas Wright and FSU president Doak Campbell; (standing) song lyricist Doug Alley and Student Government president Reubin Askew.

Hah-Tung-Ke: FSU Fight Song

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — One of the most famous songs using the Seminole Indian name and image is none other than the FSU Fight Song, which has been played at every Florida State University football game since 1950.

That was the year FSU professor of music Tommy Wright noticed song lyrics written by master's English student Doug Alley printed in the *Florida Flambeau*, the official newspaper of the FSU Seminoles. Prior to the fall of 1950, FSU had no official fight song. In a video interview posted on *The Florida Times-Union's* website, Wright said the university was "using the words to *On Wisconsin* to the (music of) *Notre Dame Victory March*." Wright said, "I thought, 'We oughta have our own fight song!'"

Alley's words inspired Wright: "I thought, 'Gosh those words are good. I'm gonna write some music to that.'" Wright said he immediately went to his studio that afternoon, composed the now-familiar score and brought it to the FSU marching band director.

"He had it arranged and put it on the field the next Saturday," said Wright, who retired in 2008 after 59 years at FSU. "A week later they voted it in."

The FSU Fight Song was officially premiered by the newly christened Marching Chiefs at the 1950 homecoming game halftime show, which also included a dedication ceremony naming the stadium

in honor of university president Doak Campbell. Sixty-two years later, it is one of the most widely recognized college tunes in the country, played repeatedly at all FSU sporting events. Mission Control used the song to awaken FSU alumnus and astronaut Norman Thagard during all of his space shuttle missions and throughout his time on the Russian Mir Space Station.

This summer, FSU awarded Wright an honorary doctorate in music, and he gave the commencement speech. Actually he "played" the speech, banging out the FSU Fight Song on a piano.

Of the 280,000-plus students who have graduated from FSU, 58,500 of them stepped foot in Wright's classroom. Wright wrote numerous songs for the university, including the *Florida State Victory March*.

Wright, who owns the rights to the song, allows FSU to use his fight song every year in exchange for two free season tickets. Lyricist Alley's whereabouts are unknown.

FSU's other fight song, the wordless *Florida State War Chant*, developed as a random instrumental, tweaked over 40 years by different Marching Chiefs units until a 1984 game against Auburn, when the student body in the stands continued humming the "war chant" portion after the band stopped. The "Seminole chop" hand motion came along about the same time to symbolize the wielding of a tomahawk, and by 1986 it had become a national sports phenomenon.

FSU Fight Song

Lyrics by Doug Alley, music by Tommy Wright

You've got to fight, fight, fight for F-S-U
You've got to scalp 'em Seminoles
You've got to win, win, win, win this game
And roll on down and make those goals,
For F-S-U is on the war path now,
And at the battle's end she's great;
So fight, fight, fight, fight to victory
Our Seminoles from Florida State!
F-L-O-R-I-D-A S-T-A-T-E
Florida State, Florida State, Florida State

Product recalls: gas dryers, night lights

SUBMITTED BY ROBERT BROWN
Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately until a repair is completed on affected dryers. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of product: LG Electronics and Kenmore Elite® Gas Dryers

Units: About 21,000

Manufacturer: LG Electronics Inc., of South Korea

Hazard: The gas valve in the recalled dryers can fail to shut off properly, continuing to heat the dryer and its contents after the drying cycle is complete. High temperatures inside and on the exterior surface of the dryers can scorch the drum, as well as burn or damage the dryer contents, posing a risk of burn, fire and smoke inhalation.

Incidents/injuries: LG Electronics and Sears have received 141 consumer complaints about dryers continuing to heat after the drying cycle is complete. There were three reports of minor burns to hands or arms. Burnt or scorched clothing was reported in more than 50 incidents.

Remedy: Consumers should turn off the gas supply and stop using the dryers until repaired. LG brand owners who purchased their dryer at retailers other than Sears should contact LG customer service to arrange for a free gas valve replacement. Customers who purchased Kenmore or LG brand dryers from Sears should contact Sears' customer service to schedule a free repair to replace the gas valve. Some consumers have already been notified and have received the repair service.

ATTENTION: Dryers that have a colored sticker on the back, top, or a colored sticker or a plus sign ("+") on the back, bottom, near the gas valve assembly, have already been repaired. If accessible,

consumers can check for these stickers or sign. If not accessible, contact LG or Sears as detailed below.

LG consumer contact: For additional information about the recall and to schedule a repair, contact LG toll free at 866-223-5355 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. CT Monday through Friday and between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. CT on Saturday, or visit the firm's website at www.lg.com/us and click on Public Notices.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission also announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of product: Energizer Rotating Night Lights

Units: About 260,000

Importer: Energizer, of St. Louis, Mo.

Manufacturer: Ningbo Sun-alps Industry Develop Co. Ltd. of China

Hazard: The night lights can overheat and smoke, posing a burn hazard to consumers.

Incidents/injuries: Energizer has received nine reports of the night lights overheating, including three reports of minor property damage. No injuries have been reported.

Sold exclusively at: Target stores nationwide from February 2010 through July 2012 for about \$6.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using and unplug the recalled night lights. Contact Energizer for instructions on returning the night lights for a \$7 coupon towards the purchase of an Energizer product.

Consumer contact: For additional information, contact Energizer at 800-383-7323 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's website at www.energizer.com.

Health

Preschoolers get fit in Hollywood

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In a gymnasium filled with squeals of delight, about 70 Hollywood preschoolers learned the joy of fitness firsthand. The Health Department's Hollywood Preschool Get Fit Day roused an abundance of fun among the children on Sept. 21.

The department has held Get Fit Day

for about five years, said Jeff Garland, Hollywood fitness site supervisor. In addition to involving children in a fitness regimen, the program also builds hand-eye coordination and other skills.

"We have these once or twice a month on each reservation," Garland said. "We have seen a high drop in kids doing physical activity as they get older, so we try to plant the seed early to get them to stay active."

Separated into age groups, children

navigated an obstacle course, raced each other on wheeled seats, played under a colorful parachute, and learned to kick a ball and throw it into a basket. At the same time, they also learned to follow directions, wait their turn and play well with others.

One-year olds crawled through tunnels and tossed balls, and the youngest babies enjoyed a bounce house with their teachers.



Beverly Bidney

Preschoolers love playing underneath a parachute.



Beverly Bidney

A preschooler balances as she completes an obstacle course.



Beverly Bidney

Autumn Cypress, 1, peeks out of a tunnel as she crawls through it.



Beverly Bidney

Kids enjoy a race during Hollywood's Get Fit Day held at the gym on Sept. 21.



Andrea Holata

Youth health specialist Amy Kimberlain gets the kids excited to learn about eating healthy, balanced meals.

Tribal youth learn healthy eating habits

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — To continue promoting healthy eating habits for Tribal youth, the Big Cypress Library and the Wellness Center teamed up to teach kids about nutritious meals on Sept. 17.

Staff from the Willie Frank Library and the Wellness Center invited youth to visit "Nutrition Island" at the Frank Billie Tribal Field Office in Big Cypress. About 10 kids from pre-K and kindergarten participated in the class, which highlighted healthy food choices by reviewing the food pyramid, playing a game and preparing a healthy snack.

"It's so important to teach kids about nutrition at such a young age (because) you're planting seeds with them," youth health specialist Amy Kimberlain said. "If it tastes good and it's healthy, it makes them want to learn more. Starting them from such a young age is important for them to see that we want their bodies to be healthy so that we can help prevent disease later in life."

Kimberlain began the class by

reminding kids of healthy food options. Youth took apart each food group and identified healthy food choices for each.

"I like to give the kids a general nutrition lesson just to get them back into the swing of things," Kimberlain said. "It helps reinforcement of what the different food groups are."

After reviewing the food groups, kids played a game similar to Candy Land in which they furthered their knowledge of smart food choices.

To end the class, youth gathered around the table to prepare a balanced snack. Using each food group, they enjoyed a "banana dog" made with sunflower seed butter, bananas, wheat bread and honey, and enjoyed a "groovy green smoothie" made with yogurt, spinach, green grapes, bananas and apples.

"We picked a food that had all the food groups," Kimberlain said. "Some were hidden, but they didn't know."

With the help of Gretchen DeBree, Big Cypress librarian, Kimberlain said she expects to hold nutrition classes quarterly. The next class is scheduled for January.

Understanding the effects of trauma and post-traumatic stress

SUBMITTED BY DEBRA RAY
Family Services Department

The essential psychological effect of trauma shatters innocence. Trauma creates a loss of faith that any safety, predictability or meaning in the world exists. It involves utter disillusionment. The trauma then takes on a life of its own and through its continued effects haunts the survivor and prevents normal life from continuing until the person gets help.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a condition created by exposure to a psychologically distressing event outside the range of usual human experience, one which would distress almost anyone and which causes intense fear, terror and

helplessness. The trauma assaults the person's biology and psyche. The event may have happened recently or a long time ago. There are three categories of PTSD symptoms: hyperarousal, re-experiencing and avoidance/numbing.

Hyperarousal occurs when the traumatized person's physiology is in high gear, having been assaulted by the psychological impact of what happened and not being able to reset. The symptoms of hyperarousal include difficulty sleeping and concentrating and being easily startled, irritable, angry, agitated, panicked and hypervigilant (being hyper-alert to danger).

Re-experiencing includes intrusive memories, nightmares, flashbacks,

exaggerated reactions to reminders of the event and re-experiencing (including re-experiencing physical symptoms when the body "remembers").

Numbing includes feeling robotic or on "automatic pilot" — disconnected from feelings and from vitality, which is replaced by a sense of deadness. Symptoms of numbing/avoidance include loss of interest in life and other people, hopelessness, isolation, avoidance of thoughts and feelings associated with the traumatic event, feeling detached and estranged from others, withdrawal, depression and emotional anesthesia. Preoccupation with avoiding trauma or feelings and thoughts related to trauma can become a central focus of the survivor's life.

PTSD is treatable. Treatment for PTSD through psychotherapy involves helping the trauma become processed and integrated so that it ultimately functions as other memories do, in the background, rather than with a life of its own.

Therapy for PTSD initially focuses on coping and comfort, restoring a feeling of safety, calming the nervous system and educating the person about what they are experiencing and why and — through the process of talking — interrupting the natural cycle of avoidance (which actually perpetuates PTSD symptoms although it is initially adaptive and self-protective).

Therapy provides a safe place for trauma survivors to tell their story, to feel less isolated and to tolerate knowing what

happened. Psychologists help patients make connections between feelings and symptoms occurring in the present and aspects of the traumatic event(s). Through treatment, survivors begin to make sense of what happened and how it affected them, to understand themselves and the world again in light of it, and to ultimately restore relationships and connections in their lives.

Should you wish to learn more about the effects and treatment of trauma, please feel free to schedule a confidential meeting with a Family Services counselor on your respective reservation.

Source: www.Psychcentral.com (2010)

Don't be afraid: Change is opportunity

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez

I know I normally write about health and wellness, but after speaking at the College-Career Fair the other day, I was motivated to encourage not only those graduating shortly but also all those students who still have a ways to go. It is necessary to pursue your education with great enthusiasm, but it's also important to keep watch of your health and well-being, because eating well and exercising are key to helping your brain work more effectively and efficiently.

I am constantly amazed at the speed with which change takes place. But with change comes opportunity. What is your vision of the future? Will you fight the changes? If you remember one thing I say, let it be this: "CHANGE IS OPPORTUNITY." If you embrace change in your life with education, health and fitness — no matter how ugly or scary it may look — you will realize your goals and then some.

You are at a point in your lives where change is inevitable. The educational, physical and emotional demands you feel will change and will continue to change as you go through life. Change can be overwhelming at times, but as you deal with it, remember everything doesn't happen at once. Baby steps are absolutely necessary. We all started out with baby steps; eventually we learned to crawl, to stand, to walk and finally, to run. Confidence comes with each accomplishment in our lives. I encourage you to make a plan and then break it down into manageable steps. Maybe you're not

ready for the rigors of being a full-time college student. So, take a few classes first; build confidence. You'll learn to run soon enough.

I would also encourage you to keep an open mind. Aspire to be or do whatever is in your heart. I love this scene from one of my favorite movies, *Sister Act*. Sister Mary Clarence tells a student that, if when she wakes up in the morning all she can think about is singing, then she's supposed to be a singer. So, I tell you all: Find what it is that inspires you, excites you, makes your heart happy, and go for it.

Remember to incorporate healthy eating habits and fitness into your weekly schedule. See yourself and where you want to be in a year, 10 years or 20 years. Be strong, but flexible like bamboo, and you will thrive. Sometimes, I don't feel like working out and watching what I eat, but I think about my son and wanting to be around long enough to attend his high school graduation and his wedding. It takes dedication and determination. Don't forget, no one is perfect; so, if you slip, get up and try again.

When I was a high school student, I was looking forward to a new, exciting and yes, a little scary phase of life. Although I had no idea what to expect and no clear path of how to get there, I knew one thing for certain: Education was a must. I wanted to address this column to all the students out there. No matter what grade you are in, I want to encourage you to pursue the highest educational degree you can attain. I do so with the knowledge that your path

may be far different than mine but certainly no less attainable.

In my early years, I really wanted to be a singer and actor, but my course of education led me to obtain a bachelor of arts in psychology from New York University and a master's degree in mental health counseling from Nova Southeastern University. I value my education and wouldn't trade it for the world, and I never could have predicted where I would end up as a result of it. Today, I have no regrets because I was willing to do something completely different, and it scares me to think about the consequences I might have suffered because of rigidity and closed-mindedness.

The final and most important key to using change to seize opportunities is to continue to learn. Education doesn't stop when you receive a diploma. If it does, then you've stopped thinking. Please don't do that. When you continue to learn, you ensure exposure to new ideas and ways of thinking.

I'm not saying to take classes for the rest of your lives. Spend 10 minutes a day reading a paper, a book or an article. Go to a museum, or learn a new language. Each new idea you consider is a mind-opener. If you are open-minded, you can be flexible. When you are flexible, you will bend, not break. As you bend, you will embrace the opportunity to pursue the life you desire, and you will live that life to the fullest.



Keep pets healthy during the holidays

SUBMITTED BY JONATHAN VAZQUEZ
Environmental Health Department

This time of year, the holidays pose a huge amount of stress on everyone. Pets can be affected by the activity, or lack of, from the holiday routine as well.

For the most part, pets are confident and friendly and may not be affected in any way during the holiday hustle. However, for shy or fearful pets, their once safe haven is now an unfamiliar battle zone filled with strangers and unfamiliar voices.

In most cases, eating habits will change, and their nutritional balance will get thrown off track. All attempts should be made to make the necessary adjustments to make the holidays delightful for furry friends.

Consider making these changes a few days in advance before guests arrive. Food, water, toys and bedding materials should be available in the new environment. This will ensure that pets acclimate to the environment before the noise level in the house changes, which could cause unnecessary stress.

Emotions can also add to pets' stress levels. Yelling at the kids to pick up toys before guests arrive or playing loud music can cause pets unnecessary stress and even depression.

Although you may be tired from the holiday hustle, pets don't know this, and any change from routine can affect their behavior.

Pets rely on routine and expect a certain amount of constant activity. Ensure the health and safety of pets and supply them with the best life possible. If pets are not shy

and do well with the holiday schedule, there are still things to watch out for:

- Halloween candy should be placed away from the reach of your pets. Dogs that ingest chocolate or anything sweetened with xylitol can experience low blood sugar, leading to seizures and liver failure, causing death.

- Christmas decorations, such as holly and mistletoe, can cause gastrointestinal upset and cardiovascular problems in pets.

- Christmas trees that are not anchored have been known to tip and fall when pets try to reach the stagnant tree water. Not only can the tree hurt your pets if it should fall on them, but the water is a breeding ground for bacteria that cause nausea or diarrhea.

- Holiday lights can deliver a potentially lethal electric shock to your pets.

- Beware of unattended holiday candles. Pets have been known to run around and tip candles over, starting home fires.

- Medications should not be left unsecured at any time. Pets have been known to ingest human medications that can have irreversible life threatening results.

These are just a few things to keep in mind for furry loved ones during the holidays.

From all of us at Animal Wildlife Service, have a blessed and memorable holiday season.

Information taken from the *Journal of Veterinary Pharmacology and Therapeutics*, *American Red Cross Pet Fire Safety* and *www.PetPoisonHelpLine.com*.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum receives donation of 1930s documents

SUBMITTED BY JAMES H. POWELL
 Registrar

documents and correspondences dated in the 1930s and early 1940s.

The items originally belonged to Shelly Boothe. Sybil Skannel gave these items to the Museum after inheriting them from Boothe's daughter, Mildred West.

This group of items contains a typed and

handwritten, annotated manuscript titled "Indians of Florida." It includes information and descriptions of the Seminole Tribe and a listing of Tribal members. One of the handwritten notations states Boothe served as the third chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs.

Many will recall that Ivy Stranahan, of the Stranahan House, was the first chairman of this group. If you have not had a chance to see it, one of the Museum's current exhibits, *From Surviving to Thriving*, includes a small representation of the Stranahan Trading Post and examples of products that were available for trade.

Also included in this group of items are a photographic postcard of Deaconess Harriet Bedell, a 1939 map of the United States titled "Indian Tribes, Reservations and Settlements in the United States" and correspondence.

The correspondence includes a brief two-page report titled "Department of Indian Welfare Report, Year 1939-1940" from when Boothe was chairman and a letter to Boothe from Benjamin F. Axleroad Jr. commending Larry Osceola on his high school studies.

We have begun to process this group of items. One of the first steps we completed was to remove the manuscript paper pages from the rusted metal three-ring binder. We placed each page in archival polyester film and will further house them in archival envelopes and boxes. As we continue to process all the items in this group, we will work with the Museum's conservator to



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

This group of items donated by Sybil Skannel dates back to the 1930s and early 1940s.

safely unfold and flatten the map before we add it to the Museum's collection of maps.

The Museum would like to thank Skannel, and all donors, for her thoughtful and valuable donation. Each donation is a welcome addition to the Museum's holdings. We will continue to research this donation as we incorporate it into our collection, and we will continue to research Boothe, including her advocacy activities on behalf of the Seminole Tribe.

Do any *Tribune* readers remember Shelly Boothe? Would you like to help us research and process this group of items? If so, please call the Museum at 877-902-1113. Or if you would like to view these items or anything in the Museum's collection, please call us to make an appointment or just stop by.

Don't forget the Museum's annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) on Nov. 2 and 3.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

This is a photographic postcard of Deaconess Harriet Bedell and an unidentified female Seminole Tribal member. Unknown date.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

This is the back of postcard with the inscription, "Deaconess Bedell on her tour to one of the distant camps."

Museum returns historic objects to several Tribes



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Figure 5. Nanticoke water vessel made of a dried gourd, a twig and a corn cob.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Figure 6. Gourd water cup meant to accompany the water vessel in Figure 5.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Figure 1. Rappahannock salt box, 4 inches tall and made from a dried gourd.

Media Productions and aired on The Seminole Channel. And then in September, we returned 13 more objects to four other Tribes: the Chickahominy Indian Tribe, the Rappahannock Tribe, the Pamunkey Indian Tribe and the Nanticoke Indian Tribe. It meant so much to us to accomplish this, and we know we have done the right thing by sending these objects home.

One of the objects was a wooden toy crossbow made by John Bradby, a member of the Chickahominy Indian Tribe in Virginia. Two more objects, a fishing lure and a salt box (Figure 1), were transferred to the Rappahannock Tribal Cultural Center, also in Virginia. In the same state, the Pamunkey Indian Museum happily received two turtle shell masks and two necklaces, one of shell (Figure 2) and one of clay and animal bone (Figure 3). They have coincidentally been renovating their gallery, and they reported that the new acquisitions will fit into their new exhibits nicely. Lastly, we sent six objects to the Nanticoke Indian Museum in Delaware. The objects included some fishing and hunting equipment (Figure 4), as well as a mask and two gourd vessels (Figure 5 and 6).

Museums make a commitment to take care of their collections for as long as they can, so transferring things to another museum or cultural group is not something done lightly. At the same time, however, a museum will be a good steward only if its collection closely matches its mission. Since our mission at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki is to preserve Seminole culture and history, it was clear to us that continuing to care for these non-Seminole objects would take us further away from that purpose. We researched and planned carefully before making the decision to remove these objects from the Museum. Next, we contacted the Tribes who originally made the objects and made sure they could care for the objects. Lastly, we presented the project to Tribal Council for approval. All deaccessioning

that we carry out can only be done with the Council's approval. Had they expressed dissatisfaction, we would not have moved forward with the process.

We are honored to be a partner in preserving Native American culture and history by making it more accessible. We believe that when we remove non-Seminole objects from the Museum's collection and transfer them to more appropriate institutions, we are doing more to preserve the past than if we continued to care for these objects at the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Museum. We hope that these objects will take on a new life and bring knowledge and cultural appreciation to the people who produced them. We will make an equal effort in the coming year to match more of Speck's objects to their ancestral homes.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Figure 4. Nanticoke fishing lure and two floats started by Edgar Morris and completed by his son in 1943.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Figure 2. Pamunkey Shell necklace collected by Frank Speck in 1913.



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Figure 3. Pamunkey necklace made of clay and animal bone, including muskrat jaws.

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NIGA
From page 1A

"That money is used for Tribal schools, housing, health care and per capita and pays for 10,000 employees. In addition, gaming has a positive effect on the local economies. What we have done for the Tribe and the community is very fulfilling."

In addition to the seminars, the conference included a mini-expo with about 20 exhibitors, including the Tribe's Seminole Pride line of products. They displayed beef, orange juice, honey and water. The Tribe also launched a new product, Seminole Unconquered electronic cigarettes.

At the 14th annual Sovereignty Awards Banquet on Sept. 18, President Tony Sanchez Jr. and Frank received the John Kieffer Award. The award recognizes selfless dedication to advancing the lives of Indian people socially and economically, building self-sufficiency through gaming enterprises and advocating for Indian self-determination. The late Kieffer, a member of the Spokane Tribe in Washington, was instrumental in the modern structure of NIGA and dedicated himself to the protection of Indian sovereign rights. In his memory, NIGA chooses honorees dedicated to the organization's mission and purpose.

"This is an extreme honor," President Sanchez said. "I just don't have the words to describe the feeling. I want to add to the legacy that was put into place long before I got here. We have fought for our dream and vision and don't take sovereignty for granted. I come to work not for the recognition but because I want to be part of the legacy we leave for future generations. I do all I can to lead by example; I believe it is my responsibility to show the younger people how to lead."

The NIGA Chairman's Leadership Award was presented to Chairman James E. Billie for his exemplary and historical contributions to the Tribe. The award, which was presented at the luncheon on the last day of the conference, honors individuals who have contributed and advocated for Tribal sovereignty and economic development.

In his acceptance speech, Frank outlined the history of the Tribe's struggle to assert sovereignty and get gaming legalized on Tribal lands.



Photo courtesy of Ethel Huggins

President Tony Sanchez Jr. speaks on a panel at the Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas.



Beverly Bidney

Joel M. Frank Sr. with his award. From left, NIGA Chairman Ernest L. Stevens, Frank, Spokane Tribal Council Chairman Greg Abrahamson and NIGA executive director Jason Giles.

"This place, the Hard Rock Hotel, used to be a swamp," he said. "We used to go fishing and hunting on this very spot. Sometimes that's where our food came from. In the 1960s, Chairman James Billie ran the Indian Village on these grounds. We were hungry for new ideas; we knew our children needed to be self-reliant."

High-stakes bingo came into the conversation in the 1970s and was discussed at community meetings, where it was ultimately approved, Frank said in his acceptance speech. In 1979, the Tribe opened the bingo hall on the site of the Hollywood Casino. Years of litigation followed with rulings from the U.S. Supreme Court upholding the Tribe's immunity from state laws regarding gaming.

"The driving force was sovereignty," Frank said. "In 1984, five Tribes showed up and created NIGA (a year later). It's been 27 years since we started, and we are pleased to show off our economic prosperity."

NIGA, a nonprofit organization of 184 Indian Nations, aims to protect and preserve the general welfare of Tribes striving for self-sufficiency through gaming enterprises. They work with the federal government and Congress to develop sound policies and provide technical assistance and advocacy on gaming-related issues.

At the moment, the hot-button issue in Indian Country and Congress is Internet gaming. Currently, a draft of a bill by Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nevada) and Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Arizona), which would legalize Internet poker in the U.S. while cracking down on Internet gaming, has been released. The bill, which has not yet been introduced to the Senate for a vote, would violate nearly every principle developed by Tribal leadership in the NIGA resolution on federal Internet gaming bills, would harm Indian gaming and would limit Tribal governments from participating in the new industry. NIGA is working diligently to

add language to the bill to protect Tribal rights.

Sanchez also represented the Tribe on a panel discussion Oct. 4 at the Global Gaming Expo held in Las Vegas, where he discussed the 25th anniversary of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA). Established Congress in 1988, IGRA governs Tribal gaming nationwide. President Sanchez acknowledged the gaming industry is still evolving and noted the Tribe is continually examining how new technologies can be incorporated into the Tribe's existing gaming business.

"Tribes have an inherent sovereign right to have Internet gaming," NIGA Chairman Ernest L. Stevens Jr. said. "We are ready to work until Christmas to get this done."



Beverly Bidney

David Kline, of Larry Kline Meats, carves some Seminole beef for people to taste at the mini-expo.

BUSINESS

From page 3A

They figured people who are building a home want to have their fantasy house. The name for The Hunters' Den was more straightforward. The store carries everything from clothing to gear to outdoor-themed giftware. They even have their own line of shirts with eight unique designs. But perhaps the most popular items are the camouflage clothes, which come in all styles, colors and sizes.

"We have camo apparel for everyone from babies to grandparents," Christie said. "And we sell a lot of camo lingerie."

The baby clothes sell the most, but all baby items, including crib sets, bibs and infant's and children's clothing sell well, too. The store also produces custom corn hole boards and beanbags. The Hunters' Den's Facebook page displays some of their products.

Christie and Earl enjoy running their business. Being their own bosses gives them the flexibility to attend to the needs

of their 12-year-old daughter, Hunter, and to partake in important events in her life.

"I'm here every day, but I have my own 'banker's hours,'" Christie said. "Earl opens and closes and lets me do what I need to do to be a wife and mother."

Some of the challenges they face, however, are the long hours and the slow summer season. In the Florida heat, it isn't easy to stay outdoors for extended periods so business is slow.

"If we can survive the summer, I know we will make it the rest of the year," Christie said. "Hunting season starts in the fall, so people will start coming in before the season starts to get their supplies."

The Hunters' Den/Fantasy Lighting is located at 513 S.W. Park St. in Okeechobee. Their phone number is 863-467-5483.

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



Brett Daly

Fish Fry attendees join hands for strength and support during the fourth-annual event.

FISH FRY

From page 3A

The Fish Fry, which also had a waterslide for children and horseshoes for adults, raised money for the fifth annual Florida Native American Recovery Convention, an event sponsored by Seminoles in Recovery, which brings together people recovering from addictions to offer support and hope. The event takes place from Feb. 28 to March 3 in Clewiston.

"We want to be self-supporting," Buster said about their fundraising efforts.

"We have to work hard to earn that money." Seminoles in Recovery is now a nonprofit organization to help in that quest, she said.

With another successful event completed, Mullins said they will continue to grow their operations and invite everyone to participate.

"Every year, it's amazing how it continues to grow," he said. "We've had a great time, and the food is amazing."

The sixth-annual Hollywood Fish Fry will take place on Jan. 12 at Markham Park in Sunrise.

WEAR PINK from page 3A



Beverly Bidney

Big Cypress senior women proudly display their pink decorated cookies.



Ishma Fray

Hollywood employees show their support for breast cancer awareness during the employee luncheon.



Beverly Bidney

Brenda Townsend walks with a photo of her sister, who just completed treatment for cancer.



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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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NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



Oregon votes Nov. 6 for first private casino

PORTLAND, Ore. — State voters go to the polls Nov. 6 to decide on ballot measures to redevelop the former Multnomah Greyhound Park (12 miles east of Portland, Ore.) into one of the nation's largest casinos and entertainment complexes — in direct competition with the Tribal-owned Spirit Mountain Casino.

The contest pits the Portland Entertainment Co. — backed by Clairvest Group Inc., a private-equity investor based in Toronto — against Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes, including the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, who operate Spirit Mountain (60 miles away, currently closest to Portland's population hub).

— Pechanga.net



Photo courtesy of South Dakota Tourism

Western N.Y. residents keep eyes on Seneca presidential election

SENECA, N.Y. — With casinos in Niagara Falls, Buffalo and Salamanca, the Seneca Nation of Indians spend more than \$630 million a year on salaries, goods and services and employ roughly 5,000 people — 3,700 in casino jobs and 1,300 in Tribal jobs — across Western New York. As the rest of the area cuts jobs, the Senecas are creating hundreds more at the new casino they are building in downtown Buffalo.

The stakes are high for non-Indians, as well as Indians in the Nov. 6 Seneca Tribal elections. The winner of a five-man race for president will serve two years and make \$185,000 a year with a \$40,000 annual expense account and control a Tribal economy that has more than twice the combined economic impact of the Buffalo Bills and Sabres combined. He'll become the public face of a Tribe that is locked in a fierce battle with New York over \$460 million in casino revenues that the Senecas are withholding from the state and the cities of Niagara Falls, Salamanca and Buffalo.

The five presidential candidates are as follows:

- Richard E. Nephew, 55, a stone-carver, who is the current Tribal Council Chairman and has been a member of the Seneca Council for 14 years.
- Barry E. Snyder, 72, a wealthy businessman and four-time president.
- Norman "Cochise" Redeye, 56, a retired Erie County sheriff's detective, former Chairman of the Seneca Gaming Corp., and current executive director of Emergency Management.
- Cyrus "Cy" Schindler, 64, a former President who helped negotiate the state casino gaming agreement in 2002.
- Aaron J. Pierce, 42, an entrepreneur who operates smoke shops and an ammunition company.

Like all Seneca elections, the choices are complicated by the practice of vote-buying, a long tradition in the Tribe. The Senecas do not prohibit candidates from giving people cash for their votes. In a *Buffalo News* article, an aide to a presidential candidate predicted that Seneca voters will be paid anywhere from \$250 to \$500 for their votes this year. "Vote-buying has been around since I was a little girl, and it gets worse every election," Joyce Waterman Cruz, 67, an outspoken Seneca from North Collins, told the *Buffalo News*. "I don't think it will ever change."

— Buffalo News

Judge OKs part of Mohawk claim

BOMBAY, N.Y. — Courts have not been kind to ancestral Tribal land claims in New York. In 2005, for example, the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed an Oneida Nation land claim, declaring the 18th century treaties that the claims are based on invalid because of time. Other courts have issued similar rulings regarding other Tribal land claims.

Recently, however, Magistrate Judge Therese Wiley Dancks recommended throwing out 85 percent of the Mohawk land claims in St. Lawrence and Franklin counties; the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe focused on the 15 percent that has a chance to survive — 2,000 acres of land in the Franklin County town of Bombay. It's called the Bombay Triangle, or the Hogsburg Triangle. Mohawks call it the Akwesasne Triangle.

Judge Dancks dismissed the rest of the Mohawks' 12,000-acre land claim because of the "long-standing non-Indian character" of the land. St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Chief Ron LaFrance said just the fact that a judge would support any part of the land ruling is positive, telling North Country Public Radio, "The Indian land claims of New York state have all been dealt death blows...There's a light at the end of the tunnel for us."

LaFrance said that doesn't mean the Mohawks will stop fighting, however: "We have never left this area. We have always been here, and our presence in this region is a very strong presence, unlike the Cayugas that didn't have a land base or the Oneidas who had a very small land base. I thought treaties were the supreme law of the land. We're finding out that that's not necessarily true."

— North Country Public Radio

Study proves hatchery salmon productive as wild salmon

BOISE, Idaho — Salmon raised in a Nez Perce Tribe farm hatchery will spawn as successfully in the wild as wild salmon. So says a study published recently in the journal *Molecular Ecology*, which found that the Tribal Johnson Creek Artificial Propagation Enhancement program equaled the reproductive success when spawning with wild salmon as wild salmon spawning together.

The findings knock down longtime scientific beliefs that hatchery-raised fish are less successful and could ultimately weaken the wild salmon population as a whole. Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries program manager Dave Johnson told *The Idaho Statesman* that the study demonstrates how supplementation programs can boost salmon numbers and minimize impact on wild fish populations.

The Nez Perce Tribe instituted the Johnson Creek project in 1998 in an effort to boost low salmon numbers that were returning to Idaho rivers to spawn. In 1995, the number of salmon that were counted after returning to Johnson Creek had dropped to five. Today, the number of salmon returning to the creek consistently counted at more than 350 adults, and the numbers have reached more than 1,000 several times.

— HeraldNet.com

Choctaws to build a better bathtub

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. — The first bathtub to be manufactured in Philadelphia, Miss. will be an Eco-Elite walk-in bathtub for elderly and disabled individuals.

That's just fine with Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Chief Phylliss Anderson, who told *The Neshoba Democrat* that the Tribe's business portfolio has been reinforced and jobs created with KemPosits LLC's \$2 million investment.

KemPosits President Charlie Quinn praised the cooperation of the Tribal Council and local business in helping the company establish its plant on the Choctaw Reservation.

— Altoona Herald

Clock ticks while Sioux raise millions to buy back stolen land

BLACK HILLS, S.D. — One hundred and fifty years after their sacred, mountainous land in South Dakota's Black Hills was stolen from them by the U.S. government, the Sioux Indians are desperately trying to raise \$9 million to get it returned by the end of November.

The irony is monumental. Tom Poor Bear, the Vice President of the Oglala Lakota Tribe in South Dakota, told *The New York Times*, "It's like someone stealing my car and I have to pay to get it back."

A portion in the heart of the rolling Black Hills mountain range, called Pe' Sla by the Lakota Sioux Tribes, was offered for sale earlier this year by the Reynolds family, who homesteaded the property after the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876.

The family accepted a \$9-million bid for the land made by a partnership of six Sioux Tribes. They have always allowed the Sioux to access the land for prayer ceremonies.

The seizure of the Black Hills, given by the Treaty of Fort Laramie to the Sioux in 1868 and snatched back by the U.S. government after the discovery of gold, was described as one of the most dishonorable acts in American history in a landmark 1979 federal court decision. The U.S. government committed numerous atrocities to drive the Sioux from Pe' Sla before it appropriated the land, including starving them. More than 100 years later, the United States Court of Claims said of the federal government's actions, "A more ripe and rank case of dishonorable dealing will never, in all probability, be found in our history."

In 1980, the Supreme Court ordered the United States to compensate the Sioux for the seizure, but the Tribes refused to accept the money. Accepting compensation effectively condones the sale of the mountain, the Sioux said; they have held steadfast with the insistence the Black Hills be returned to Tribal authority.

The Sioux Tribes are among the poorest people in the country. Despite that fact and despite the fact that the Black Hills fund has grown to more than \$800 million as it sits in a bank account accumulating interest, the Sioux have refused to use the money to buy Pe' Sla. If they do not make the deadline, they stand to lose their sacred land, as well as the \$900,000 initial payment they put down. The deadline is Nov. 30.

— DailyMail.co.uk

Dartmouth Native filmmakers take on Christopher Columbus

HANOVER, N.H. — Native youth-founded Savage Media (SM) has released a striking new video in which American Indian students from Dartmouth College respond to The Spanish Requirement of 1513 — in which Spain declared that it was ordained by God to take possession of what is known today as the Americas — with their own "Requirement of 2012."

SM co-founder Preston Wells said the project was inspired by a touring Native sketch comedy group that challenged students to make their own videos.

Dartmouth College has graduated more American Indian students than the rest of the Ivy League schools combined. The school's Indian mascot was phased out in 1974, although students and alums still occasionally sport the image on T-shirts on and off campus. Wells explained that Dartmouth has "swept the (Indian mascot) issue under the rug as if it was never used on football uniforms."

SM is also raising funds to create its own website, T-shirts, equipment and props. Because the students receive no Dartmouth subsidy, they used personal or borrowed equipment to create their current catalogue of five videos. The video is posted on YouTube.

— ColorLines.com

Eskimos out of water for six months

KIVALINA, Alaska — For the next six months, Inupiat Eskimo villagers in this small Alaskan community (83 miles north of the Arctic Circle) will have to melt ice and snow nearly every time they want to cook a meal or bathe. Freezing temperatures in October hit before workers could fill the village's two large storage tanks with Wulik River water.

Officials in Kivalina had hoped to pull more than 1 million gallons from the nearby river before it froze over — enough to allow residents to cook, clean and keep its Laundromat, or "washeteria," open all winter.

Now, Kivalina has only enough water stored to keep its school open through mid-March — if the rest of the village forgoes the luxury of showers and washing machines at the washeteria (which now can only be open two days a week).

Superintendent Norm Eck told *The Associated Press* that the school, which opened late this year because of the water problem, has to be operational until at least May 16, if not longer.

"Those kids deserve to have a good education, and they deserve to have their school," Eck said.

The community has just two months — July and August — to extract water from the Wulik River. The pipe freezes in winter, and there's too much ice in the river during May and June. In July, the community was ready to fill tanks but did not have funds on hand because of a problem with a state revenue sharing application. Late summer rainstorms damaged the PVC pipe and washed some of it to sea. The water tanks, even when full, hold just a six-month supply for the entire community (670,000 and 500,000 gallons). Every February, the washeteria closes to showers and laundry so the school will have enough. Water is doled out to use at home. Residents haul their own bathroom waste to a landfill.

The city has no way to melt massive amounts of snow or ice in winter.

Kivalina is on a barrier reef in the Chukchi Sea off Alaska's northwest coast — about 625 miles northwest of Anchorage. The community is like a lot of Alaska villages off the road system. Conveniences that most Americans take for granted are still a dream.

According to the state Commerce, Community and Economic Development Department, Kivalina's infrastructure problems are compounded by its uncertain future at its current location. Shore ice that used to protect the reef from waves generated by fierce Chukchi Sea winter storms has diminished with climate warming, leaving the shore susceptible to erosion. The community hopes to relocate to higher ground.

— The Associated Press

Hopi oppose Grand Canyon Escalade proposal by Navajo



Photo courtesy of National Park Service

GRAND CANYON, Ariz. — Hopi Tribe elders are steadfastly opposing the 420-acre "Grand Canyon Escalade" multi-use resort proposed by the Navajo Nation. In a dramatic move to create jobs and grow its economy, Navajo wants to put a tram gondola ride (from the canyon rim to the bottom), a resort, a vendor village, a new river trail and a large restaurant at the confluence of the Little Colorado and Colorado rivers between Cameron and Desert View.

Navajo President Ben Shelley has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Scottsdale-based Fulcrum Group, paving the way for feasibility studies in advance of an actual agreement.

At a hastily called Tribal Council meeting, Hopi leaders unanimously agreed to approve a resolution formally stating their strong opposition to the "Grand Canyon Escalade." Hopi Vice Chairman Herman G. Honanie told the *Native News Network*, "The proposed development located at the confluence is unacceptable to Hopi religious leaders, practitioners and the Hopi people as it will significantly and forever adversely impact Hopi sacred places to which Hopis have aboriginal title and use."

— NativeNewsNetwork.com

Poarch Creeks halt casino construction on Muscogee Creek sacred land

WETUMPKA, Ala. — As a "measure of good faith" toward the Muscogee Creek Nation and their concerns about destruction of a sacred site, the Poarch Creek Indians halted construction and removed all equipment and personnel from the site of their planned 20-story hotel and casino in Wetumpka, Ala.

This followed a meeting between Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger and Poarch Creek Chairman Buford Rolin on Oct. 8 to discuss an ongoing rift that was headed for the courts.

The Muscogee Creeks had threatened legal action if the expansion at the site along the Coosa River did not stop. They believe the land where the casino is planned is sacred land known as Hickory Ground. Creek ancestors lived there, and the site contains a ceremonial ground, a Tribal burial ground and individual graves.

The Poarch Band, which operates casinos in Montgomery, Atmore and Wetumpka, expected to complete the \$246-million expansion project by January 2014. A Muscogee Creek news release indicated that the Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes unanimously approved a resolution in mid-October stating "the Inter-Tribal Council of Five Civilized Tribes supports the lawful efforts of the lineal descendants of Ocepovf (Hickory Ground) ceremonial ground/Tribal town to halt the desecration and all future desecrations of Ocepovf ceremonial ground/Tribal town located in Wetumpka, Ala., as should be afforded protection under federal laws."

The resolution also accused the Poarch Band of Creek Indians of desecrating the original location of Hickory Ground, alleging they are in violation of federal Historic Preservation laws, as well as Muscogee Creek traditions.

The council, according to the resolution, unites the Tribal governments of the Chickasaw, Choctaw, Cherokee, (Muscogee) Creek, and Seminole nations, representing more than 750,000 blood descendants of Southeastern United States American Indian Tribes. The sacred land was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

— The Montgomery Advertiser

Dr. Phil explores baby Veronica Cherokee child custody case

LOS ANGELES — A widely publicized and controversial American Indian child custody case going on since 2009 made it to the *Dr. Phil* television show recently when the popular talk show host told the compelling story of Matt and Melanie Capobianco, the non-Native adoptive parents of Veronica, a 3-year-old Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma citizen.

In a legal arrangement set up and signed by her birth mother, non-Cherokee Christina Maldonado, Veronica was adopted by the Capobiancos, who were actually present in the delivery room for the girl's birth. Her biological father, Dusten Brown, an enrolled member of the Cherokee Tribe, was never consulted and began a relentless campaign to get his daughter back — an effort that culminated last New Year's Eve when authorities, armed with a South Carolina Supreme Court ruling, removed 2-year-old Veronica from the Capobianco's home in South Carolina and sent her to live with Brown in Bartlesville, Okla., a suburb of the Oklahoma Cherokee Reservation.

The move was hailed as a victory for the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) — which gives first preference to family members in American Indian children adoptions — for the Cherokee Nation and for young Veronica, who will now be raised in Indian Country with full exposure to the traditions and culture of her Cherokee heritage.

Others have denounced the ruling as destructive to Veronica and unjust to the adoptive parents.

The Capobiancos shared their anger and frustrations at losing in their conversation with talk show host Dr. Phil McGraw.

"The Indian Child Welfare Act is destroying families," Matt Capobianco said. "Veronica's our daughter."

Dr. Phil also questioned Cherokee Nation assistant attorney general Chrissi Nimmo as to why the ICWA has the power to overrule a mother's decision: "Does this mother need the permission of the Tribe to do what she wants with the child if it's not to the child's detriment?" Nimmo replied, "...one of the concepts of the law is that the Tribe has an interest in protecting its children."

In an interview with the *Indian Country Today Media Network*, Portland-based attorney Craig Dorsay said the Tribe should not be painted as a villain: "You have to remember, the Tribe is interested in the health and welfare of the child."

"Although non-Native adoptive families can promise to expose children to ceremonies and culture, there is no substitute for immersion. In the Indian community, grandparents, aunts and uncles, they all share equal responsibility for the child, and the child's life is enriched by this."

This episode of the *Dr. Phil Show*, however, described the removal of the girl from the home of her adoptive parents as a heart-breaking "nightmare," severing a young girl's ties with the only caretakers she has ever known. The show featured an appearance by Troy Dunn (host of the TV show *The Locator*), who is a non-Native brother to an adopted American Indian man.

Dunn interrupted Nimmo's explanation of the ICWA by demanding, "Have you told Dr. Phil how much of this child's blood is actually Indian? Because I think we're leading people to believe this is an Indian thing."

"She is an Indian baby," Nimmo replied.

Dr. Phil suggested the couple should have permission to visit Veronica, offering this opinion: "To tear this child away from y'all in an abrupt fashion like that, there's no question that it was traumatic for her. There will be real issues for this child going forward. I will tell you, however, that research suggests long term that children can recover from this; children are resilient. She can have a happy and adjusted life in a new environment if, in fact, that environment is loving, nurturing and productive for her."

Denied a rehearing on Aug. 23 by the South Carolina Supreme Court, the Capobiancos have appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

— Indian Country Today Media Network

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Education

B



Shae Pierce raises her right hand to be sworn in as the Chairwoman of PECS.

Andrea Holata

PECS Student Council take oath of office

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School held a Student Council inauguration ceremony to swear in their newly elected students at the Brighton Veteran's Building on Sept. 27.

Students elected into the Student Council were kindergarten Rep. Kalissa Huff, first-grade Rep. Ashlynn Collins, second-grade Rep. Tanier Gore, third-grade Rep. Elle Thomas, fourth-grade Rep. Todd Pierce, fifth-grade Rep. Kamani Smith, sixth-grade Rep. Connor Thomas, seventh-grade Rep. Rudy Juarez and eighth-grade Rep. Martina Herrera. Shae Pierce was sworn in as Chairwoman.

"I felt that our school can be even better than it already is and that we could use more help to get the school together," Pierce said. "I feel good (about being elected). I think I

can help out a lot."

Each newly elected officer took a turn placing his or her left hand on a Bible, while raising the right and repeating the Student Council oath recited by Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. Every student promised to serve as the best representative, to work hard and to learn Creek and Seminole culture.

"When you take oath, it has to mean something because you are on your word," Councilman Bowers said. "So remember that and be a good example at the school."

After they were sworn in, the elected officers received a sash from outgoing Student Council members. They then gave acceptance speeches in Creek.

To end the ceremony, elected officers formed a line for all students, teachers and parents to shake their hands and to formally welcome them as the Charter School's new Student Council.

Paul Buster gives musical lesson to students



Photo courtesy of Gretchen DeBree

Paul "Cowbone" Buster teaches kids the importance of their history through song.

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

BIG CYPRESS — Paul "Cowbone" Buster visited the Willie Frank Library in Big Cypress on Sept. 25 to give students a lesson in Seminole history and culture.

During the event, which about 20 children ages 6-9 attended, Buster explained the importance of preserving Seminole language, taught kids words

in Mikasuki and sang to them in the language to reinforce the lesson. He also emphasized the need to receive an education and finish school.

"He relates really well to the children," librarian Gretchen DeBree said. "He really gets their attention. The music was wonderful."

For more information about events at the Willie Frank Library, call 863-902-3200 ext. 13123.

Student spotlight: Fort Pierce resident pursues career in fashion merchandising

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor



Photo courtesy of Tommie Tommie

FORT PIERCE — Quentin Tommie always thought he would study law when he pursued his higher education. He assumed it would be a safe, successful career choice.

But while in high school, Tommie had a realization because of his friends; they continually complimented his sense of style.

"It's something I didn't even realize I had a talent for," Tommie said. "For me, it was just something I did. They helped me realize I had an eye for fashion and for putting things together."

Once he graduated from St. Lucie West Centennial High School in 2009, Tommie decided to attend Miami International University of Art & Design and study fashion merchandising. He wanted to learn how to make a career out of his talent.

Tommie enrolled in classes that taught him not only about sewing and choosing fabrics but also about marketing, public relations and advertising. He learned the fashion side of his career choice, as well as the business side.

As part of his classes, he assisted in several fashion shows by dressing models; he designed a storefront window display; and he organized and styled a photo shoot. In addition, he worked as a freelance stylist for models and magazines, including *Sixty Magazine* in Tampa, and interned with Danny Santiago, a fashion stylist for the movie *Sex and the City* and the TV show *Burn Notice*. Tommie had the opportunity to work on the *Burn Notice* set while interning for Santiago.

"It's something that I love, and that's what's really great about it," he said.

But out of all the opportunities Tommie's already had, one stands out above the rest: styling a photo shoot for *Italian Vogue*. The set contained a private jet and fancy cars, and Tommie styled a model using high-end jewelry, including Breitling watches and yellow canary diamonds that came complete with a security guard.

"Photo shoots are such hard work," he said. "People just see the end product, but it's more work than people expect."

Tommie said styling a photo shoot includes picking out clothes — plus steaming and ironing them — selecting accessories and coordinating with hair and makeup artists to complete the look. But even when the first look is complete, wardrobe changes create additional work. For Tommie though, the hard work is well worth it.

The 22-year-old will graduate from Miami International University of Art &

Design in December and plans to go back to school for a master's in marketing. He would like to pursue the degree in either New York or Los Angeles so he can study in a city known for fashion.

"I want to learn more things about marketing and advertising," Tommie said. "I definitely see myself owning my own styling company and taking on personal styling for celebrities."

Tommie said his success would not have been possible without the help of the Seminole Tribe and hopes other Tribal members will pursue higher education as well.

"The Tribe is playing a huge role in helping me get my education," he said. "I encourage anyone and everyone to take advantage of receiving an education basically for free."



Photo courtesy of Quentin Tommie

Fort Pierce resident Quentin Tommie has worked as a freelance stylist for *Sixty Magazine* and has interned with Danny Santiago. Pictured are samples of Tommie's work.

Teacher profile: Rebecca 'Sue' Tiger

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

BIG CYPRESS — Teacher Rebecca "Sue" Tiger wears the veteran's hat at Ahfachkee.

She recently started her 30th year teaching at the Big Cypress school and has witnessed a lot of growth on the reservation throughout the years.

"I remember they told me when I first came to fill up my car because there was only one pump," she said.

She remembers when the reservation didn't have a gymnasium or Tribal police and fire departments; when the clinic used to reside next to the school; and when Ruby's and Joe Osceola's Stores were perhaps the only ones around.

During her first year at Ahfachkee in 1979, the Muscogee Creek Tribal member was one of about a dozen staff members, while today the school employs about 80 people.

Through the years of change, one thing remained constant: Tiger's passion for teaching kids.

"I just enjoy teaching and watching them learn," said Tiger, 59, who teaches third-graders this year. "I'm like a mama to them."

Although she initially considered nursing, Tiger quickly chose the path that three of her brothers and her aunt took. She couldn't help but crave a job that would give her summer and holiday breaks, she laughed.

But not everything about teaching

came naturally to her; she felt intimidated about speaking in front of the class.

"I was always shy, and I didn't think I could teach older kids," she said. "I was always afraid to speak in public."

Tiger became increasingly more comfortable among elementary school students and found her niche teaching kindergarten through third grade throughout

her career. She has taught at several schools since completing her bachelor's degree in elementary education at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma in 1975. She landed her first teaching job at her old elementary school, Twin Hills, in Oklahoma.

♦ See TIGER on page 5B



Beverly Bidney

Rebecca "Sue" Tiger teaches students at Ahfachkee for her 30th year at the Big Cypress school.

Native Learning Center to host grant writing workshop

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

ORLANDO — For the first time in its four-year history, the Native Learning Center (NLC) will host the workshop Grant Researching and Proposal Writing in Indian Country from Dec. 3-5.

The free workshop, to be held in Orlando, gives Native Americans from around Indian Country an opportunity to seek out grants, as well as to successfully write grant proposals.

"We wanted something that covers everything from researching to actually writing grants — a boot camp sort of speak," said NLC executive director Georgette Smith. "This is the focus area that we have the highest attendance and most feedback from (during conferences)."

The center offers free courses and training to Native Americans and Indigenous people with a focus on areas critical to the growth and improved quality of life for their communities, according to the NLC website. The focus areas include culture and language, financial wellness,

housing strategies, Tribal government and grant education.

To satisfy the demand for more information on grants, the three-day workshop will contain 19 courses taught by 12 instructors from around Indian Country, including from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. NLC's grants compliance manager Vincent Franco will also teach a course titled *Searching for Information on Grants and Funders*.

"This class is hopefully going to give people information on how to obtain a grant," NLC marketing coordinator Christina Gonzalez said. "We hope that participants get a better understanding of the grant process and get inspired to go out and get a grant."

The agenda also includes topics that touch on how to seek private and federal grants, the role that the mainstream philanthropy sector plays in sustainable Native communities, and the responsibilities of receiving and administering grant funds once awarded.

"There is nothing in Indian Country



that teaches about grants for all Tribes and for all levels, beginners to advanced," Smith said, encouraging all Tribal members to take advantage of the workshop. "We hope that people take the information back to their Tribes, and we hope that more Tribes have the ability to go after the funds that are available to them."

The event, which takes place at the Sheraton Lake Buena Vista Resort, is now open for registration.

"We think this is going to be a huge success," Gonzalez said. "We hope that participants come with a grant in mind or get ideas for grants (from the workshop)."

For more information, call 954-985-2300 or visit www.NativeLearningCenter.com.

Emma Johns says farewell to Education Department

Johns spent nearly six years as director of Education

BY EMMA JOHNS
Contributing Writer

Have you ever woken up thinking you have plenty of years left to have a house full of children, plenty of time to enjoy them and spend time with them? Then one day reality strikes and you realize that time has slipped away and the house full of children you hoped for is you plus one, and your plus one is entering high school, planning for college and has grown up in a blink of an eye.

After leaving my daughter's high school open house back in August, I returned home, set my keys on the counter and picked up a picture that was lying there. It was a picture of her kindergarten year. I began to cry and feel the emotional pain of feeling like so many memories and so much time had gone by without notice.

That moment was a vivid reality shock. The reality being that I have four more years to hug, kiss and see my daughter every day before she moves on to a life of her own. Wow, talk about a meltdown and an overwhelming feeling of fear.

My daughter, Kailin, has been my champion over these past 13 years, enduring my whirlwind schedule without complaint. We truly are a team. I have made a bold

and painfully difficult decision to leave my position as the director of Education to be more accessible, both mentally and physically, to my daughter. The rumor mill has been doing some fine work about why I am stepping down, but after 13 years with the Tribe, I assure you neither one person nor incident could run me away from doing what I love. Only my sweet little blessing of a daughter is possible of this influenced decision.

I will not say that a job like this does not come without many struggles, but facing and overcoming trials is the nature of making a difference.

Of my nearly 13 years with the Tribe, five-and-a-half of those years have been as the director of Education.

When I was offered this position, I was hesitant in accepting. I doubted myself, my ability and the timing. I knew the directorship was one of my goals, but I was not sure if my employment history was at a maturation level that warranted the position. However, I knew that I wanted to make a difference, and I knew that the opportunity was a blessing being offered up to me. I never turn down a blessing, so I accepted the position and I have no regrets.

Over the past five-and-a-half years, we have been able to transform each program

within Education.

Our Higher Education numbers are at an all-time high for both enrollment and graduates.

Our goal this year was to have 75 students enrolled in college, and we currently have 88. This past year, we celebrated our highest number of college graduates. Our 2012 high school graduating class received more than \$50,000 in outside scholarships. Our tutoring program has been successful with the overall GPA hovering at 3.2 for one on one.

This year, we had our first student accepted to and now attending an Ivy League school. Recently, we held a senior college application workshop where we have students applying to Ivy League schools for their freshman year.

I am proud of the fact that we have helped nearly 80 members obtain their GED with a new program implemented in 2011 that has brought our GED program into the 21st century.

We have taken the work experience program from approximately 20 Tribal members to more than 100 members employed by the program.

Our Tribal Youth Council initiative is beginning to make statements, very recently meeting and impressing former U.S. Sen.



Beverly Bidney

Emma Johns finishes her last day as Education director during the 2012 College Fair on Oct. 12.

Dorgan. The accomplishments and success stories are endless and accolades are due to the students and the staff for each and every one of those stories.

I believe that my greatest accomplishment has been continuing to build a department that was gifted to me by my predecessors. I was handed the gift of being the director because others believed in me, my vision and my abilities. Individuals like the former director Louise Gopher and past and current Tribal Council members are due my ultimate gratitude for this opportunity.

I am proud of the highly competent, educated and dedicated team that is in place within the Education Department. Without them, the department's success and accomplishments could not have been possible. I have learned so much from each one of them, which in turn has helped me to be a better director. The invaluable acceptance and support from parents and students has helped support me in an indescribable way. I will miss these daily interactions, trips and overall constant communication with them.

My years with the Education Department have been some of the most rewarding and self-fulfilling years of my life. Being in a position that has afforded me the opportunity to help my people achieve educational milestones is a rewarding feeling that can never be described in words. It is a feeling that can only be felt

within, and articulation could never do that feeling justice.

My prayer is that this department continues on its current path, building on the current foundation, creating bigger and better things. Obtaining an education is the one thing that an individual can forever feel proud of and use as a tool to achieve bigger and better things. There isn't an age limit on continuing your education. If you think about it, then DO IT. Fear is something that is meant to be conquered, so don't let it stop you from pursuing your goals and dreams.

What's next for me? First real estate school, writing for *The Tribune*, tutoring, and I have recently been accepted to Warner University because I am contemplating adding to my educational resume. I plan on staying busy and continuing to assist my Tribe in any capacity that I can.

I would like to thank the Creator for all the opportunities he has gifted to me. Thank you to my family for your continued support and love. Thank you Kailin for sharing me so that I could carry forward a vision to help my Tribe. Thank you Education staff for your commitment to my people and to me as the director. Thank you students for our lasting bonds and for your perseverance and achievements that make me smile every day. Thank you STOF for believing in me.

This is not a retirement; it's a break to fulfill another commitment.



Beverly Bidney

Emma Johns gives students their awards at the 2012 incentive awards banquet in Hollywood.



Brett Daly

Emma Johns speaks to students at the college admissions panel that the Education Department hosted on May 2.

Little Mister & Miss Seminole 2013

who will be next?

at the 42nd Annual Seminole Tribal Fair



Jordan Osceola

Little Miss Seminole 2012 - 2013

My name is Jordan R. Osceola and I am your 2012-2103 reigning Little Miss Seminole. I am a member of the Wind Clan family. My mother is Geraldine Lee Osceola and my father is Randall Byrd. My grandmother is Ruth Osceola. I reside on the Immokalee Indian reservation. Since my crowning during Tribal Fair in February, I've been busy representing my tribe. In my spare time I like to read, watch movies on my iPad and play with my sister Randean. My personal hobbies include basketball, softball and soccer. I love sports! I love to draw, and my ambition is to become an artist. I hope to work for the Seminole Tribe of Florida as a professional artist someday. Sha-na-bish!



Vincenzo Cordell Osceola

Little Mister Seminole 2012 - 2013

My name is Vincenzo Osceola. I was born on November 16, 2004 in Miami, Florida. I reside on the Hollywood Reservation. I am the son of Sharon Olvera and Samuel C. Osceola, Jr. of the Bird Clan family. My grandparents are Marlene Smith of the Bird Clan family from the Trail Reservation, and Samuel C. Osceola, Sr., of the Panther Clan family from the Big Cypress Reservation. I attend the Sagemont School in Weston, Florida and am in the second grade. My interests are alligator wrestling, fishing and comics.

*Tear along line for registration

2013 SEMINOLE TRIBAL FAIR
Little Mister & Miss Seminole Contest
Hollywood Executive Office

Friday, February 8, 2013
at 6:00 p.m.

Contestant # _____

Little Miss Seminole _____ Little Mister Seminole _____ (check one)

Date: _____ Reservation: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Enrollment #: _____ Date of Birth _____

Tribal Member Parent or Legal (circle one) _____ Print Name _____
Guardian Signature _____

Contestants must be an enrolled Tribal member, 5-years-old by February 8, 2013 and reside in the state of Florida. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Registration deadline is Friday, February 1, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. All contestants must be preregistered. No applications will be accepted on the day of the contest. Email application(s) to wandabowers@semtribe.com or fax to 954-967-3488.

Confirm that your applications have been received by fax, Committee member, or walk-in's to the Secretary's office. Call Wanda Bowers at (954) 444-9827, Charlotte Burgess at (863) 634-8924 or the Secretary's Office, (954) 966-6300 ext. 11463 for information.

CONTACTS:

- Hollywood – Wanda Bowers, (954) 444-9827
- Hollywood - Secretary's Office, (954) 966-6300 ext. 11463 for information
- Brighton – Charlotte Burgess, (863) 634-8924
- Brighton – Carla Gopher, (813) 299-4071
- Ft. Pierce – Mary Stomboli, (772) 467-2454
- Big Cypress – Erika Vasquez, (863) 902-3200
- Trail Seminoles – Michael Cantu, (305) 553-8245 ext. 18702
- Immokalee – Crystal Salinas, (239) 867-5300
- Tampa – Vicky Opsey, (813) 246-3100



Andrea Holata

Fourth-grade winners show off their traditional outfits at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's annual clothing competition on Sept. 27 at the Brighton Veteran's Building.

Pemayetv Emahakv students compete in annual clothing contest

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Students dressed in their best traditional clothing on Sept. 27 for the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School annual clothing competition held at the Brighton Veteran's Building.

Kindergarteners through eighth-graders took turns modeling their outfits for the judges.

In the boys' division, some dressed in turbans and traditional shirts, while others wore traditional jackets or shirts. The girls wore dresses, capes and skirts, along with beaded earrings and necklaces.

All the winners were awarded with first-, second- or third-place ribbons.



Andrea Holata

From left, Taryn Osceola (3rd place), Ashlynn Collins (2nd) and Nena Youngblood (1st) smile.



Andrea Holata

Kindergarten boys show off their traditional clothing.



Andrea Holata

From left, fifth-grade winners Kaleb Doctor, Blake Baker, Echo Billie, Waylenn Bennett, Mallorie Thomas and Brienna Brockman pose for a picture.

HEALTH & FITNESS STUDIO Opens at Hollywood Senior Center

Submitted by Health Department

Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012 marked the grand opening of the Hollywood Senior Center's fitness studio.

The studio, spearheaded by Hollywood Council and the Hollywood Senior Center, was designed especially for the senior community, featuring fitness equipment for every preference: a state-of-the-art FreeMotion Cable Machine, treadmills and an elliptical for cardio workouts, floor-to-ceiling mirrors and space to incorporate innovative fitness classes.

"It was important to me to make more room for the senior activities," Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said. "Before the fitness room was completed, it was just too tight on space — the pool room, computer room and fitness equipment were all grouped together. Now, there is room to spread out."

"It doesn't get easier as you get older," he continued. "It is really important to give people the opportunity to keep their joints moving".

Councilman Osceola concluded with a laugh, saying that even though he gains most of his fitness activity on the golf course these days, he felt strongly about having a place for seniors to socialize. By providing group fitness activity at the Senior Center, it would encourage them to get together more, he said.

The Health Department's Allied Health Wellness Program made smoothies for the grand-opening event and gave out heart-healthy snacks. Seniors got acquainted with the health and

fitness staff through a "Meet the Trainers" introduction.

Seniors also experienced a few minutes of each new class the Senior Center offers, including "Senior Stretch and De-stress" and "Sit and Fit," and participated in salsa and country line dancing to generate some smiles and bring up heart rates.

"The 'Senior Stretch and De-stress' class is about finding what's right for you and working at your own level," Health educator Jennifer Schleiss said. "We use music and movement and also practice a variety of stretches and meditation techniques to release stress and exercise at the same time."

Fitness site supervisor Jay Garland demonstrated the new cable resistance machine, and Kenny Bayon encouraged the seniors to get revved up for TrikeFest.

The event also featured Pathways Program sign-ups, raffles, stress reduction giveaways and competitive games. "I look forward to having all the seniors come by to take advantage of all the center has to offer," Hollywood Senior Center site manager Debra Hampel said.

Seniors were enthusiastic about having their own place to work out and get fit. The new classes will give the community the chance to discover diverse forms of exercise.

Check out your local Senior Center schedule to see what class is perfect for you.



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- Eating for Health Nutrition Classes
- Blood Sugar Testing
- Trike Fest Practice offered everyday

New Classes To Try:

- Stretch & De-stress
- Tai Chi
- Rhythm & Movement
- Free Motion Cable Resistance Training
- Sit & Fit



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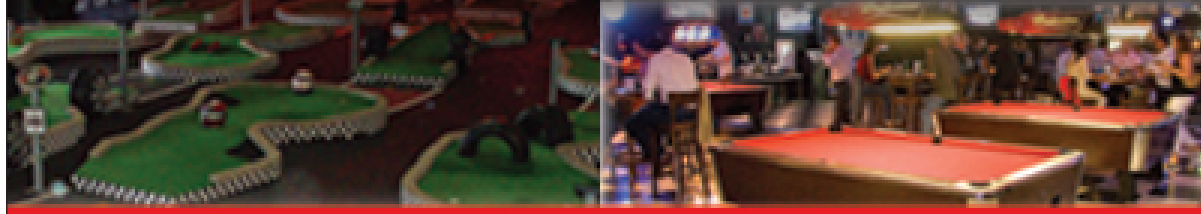
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Can't watch the event live? See it later; same link, on demand!

Presented by:



Children's Center, Boys & Girls Club hold open house at PECS

BY ANDREA HOLATA
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Health Department's Children's Center for Diagnostics and Therapy (CCDT), along with the Brighton Boys & Girls Club, hosted an open house for the Brighton community on Oct. 4 at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School.

Staff from both departments showed off their new facilities and presented the services they have to offer the community.

"Amazingly, it started back in March 2012," said Lisa Izenwasser, CCDT program manager, regarding the new facility. "Right after school started in early September, the modulars were delivered, and we are now able to provide therapy on the Brighton Reservation."

The services offered at the CCDT include speech, occupational, physical and behavioral therapy, as well as educational testing by a child psychologist.

Therapists greeted each guest with a brief explanation of their therapeutic services.

The mission of CCDT is to provide a culturally appropriate, comprehensive, multidisciplinary team to promote the highest possible outcomes for children and youth with special health care needs and

their families within the communities. With the new modular in place, the therapists agreed that they will be able to provide just that.

The therapists use the latest technology, such as iPads, to work on speech and language; conduct behavior assessments using age appropriate games; and work one-on-one using equipment to improve gross motor skills.

The Boys & Girls Club opened their doors as well for guests. The tour included several activity rooms, a large television area equipped with a Nintendo Wii, a teen room and a kitchen for afternoon snacks.

Guests saw the projects the youth have been working on, including rocket building, music production and the remodeling of a dollhouse.

According to their mission, the club not only offers fun activities, but they also assist youth in self-confidence, self-esteem, culture and the ability to grow into productive, responsible contributors to society.

"The Boys & Girls Club is there for homework help for afterschool as well," said Pemayetv Emahakv principal Brian Greseth. "It's a great thing for parents and for students. In fact, we've gone up from averaging 40 students a day to over 50 students."



Andrea Holata

Tribal member Perrie Pearce, left, receives information from CCDT speech therapist Clint Wells.

Lead club counselor Taylor Mauldin said that by having their own building away from the school, they already noticed changes in youth.

"They feel safe here because it feels like their home," Mauldin said. "We've already noticed behavior changes."



Andrea Holata

From left, Boys & Girls Club's lead counselor Taylor Mauldin and unit manager Derek Pierce gather with Family Services Department's Valerie Marone and Peg Gillick on Oct. 4. The CCDT and the Boys & Girls Club held an open house for the Brighton community to show their new facilities and services.



Beverly Bidney

Rebecca "Sue" Tiger is ready for another day teaching at Ahfachkee.

◆ TIGER From page 1B

"The first year teaching is the best experience," she said. "You can't get it out of a book."

She spent the next couple years teaching in Mississippi and Oklahoma. In 1979, she moved to Florida and started teaching at Ahfachkee. She said the Tribe invited her to live on the reservation.

"I was welcomed," the Clewiston resident said, recalling the trailers that she and a few other teachers lived in near the school.

Although she moved between Oklahoma and Florida a couple more times over the next three decades, she kept returning to Ahfachkee and found her home there. She said she enjoys working in a Tribal community with culture similar to her own.

Tiger said she also enjoys the small class sizes — she has six students this year — and the generous resources at Ahfachkee.

"Public schools have limited budgets, but here, whatever you need you get," she said, mentioning furniture and classroom supplies as examples.

And although keeping up with technology can present a challenge, she said she embraces her new Smart Board to incorporate more games and interaction into her math lessons.

When it comes to her strengths as a teacher, Tiger shines at teaching math.

"Math is my specialty," she said. "I love math."

Tiger also likes preparing students for the annual Science Fair by conducting experiments with them, such as making slime, giant bubbles and miniature volcanoes.

In addition to teaching, Tiger worked in administration at Ahfachkee from 2004-2006 and served as acting principal in the early '80s and again in the early '90s.

Tiger's almost on her third generation of students, and she plans to continue teaching at Ahfachkee until she retires.

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in a feature section of the November Seminole Tribune!



PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

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2012 Native Women & Youth in Ag Annual Writing Competition

Sponsored By: USDA Office of the Secretary-Tribal Relations and Intertribal Agriculture Council.

ESSAY TOPIC: "Are You Currently Involved in Agriculture; If So, How? If Not, What Will it Take to Involve You in Agriculture? What Would it Take to keep You Involved in Agriculture as an Adult?"

(To begin, please read <http://www.cfra.org/nuraimonitor/2012/04/18/shortage-us-farmers-reaching-epidemic-proportions-usda-official>. (This is one of the reasons your feedback on this topic is so important to the NWYIA.)

NO REFERENCES REQUIRED: just YOU.....talk to us!

DEADLINE: 5:00 PM (MST) NOVEMBER 5, 2012

Who Is Eligible? Young Native American Women & Men who will be entering grades 9-12 in the fall of 2012. Must be a member of a **Federally Recognized Tribe**.

Winners & Prizes: Three (3) finalists will be announced the second full week of November 2012 & provided an all-expense paid trip (including one (1) chaperone) to the 2012 Intertribal Agriculture Council Annual Membership Meeting in Las Vegas, NV December 10-13, 2012. Finalists will be awarded several other special prizes presented at the Awards Luncheon & will serve as Native Youth Ag Ambassadors in 2012/2013. Each finalist is required to read a short introduction and their original essay at the Awards Luncheon.

Guidelines:

- 3-6 pages in length
- 3-5 sentences about yourself
- Typed
- One-inch margins
- Double spaced
- 12-point font

Judging Criteria:

- ✓ Quality of Grammar
- ✓ Spelling & Punctuation
- ✓ Organization of information
- ✓ Length of entry



2011 Essay Finalists posing with 4-time NFR qualifier, Derrick Rogers, 2009 INTR World Champion Bill Baker, Dakota Lewis, 6-time INTR World Champion Saddle Horse Rider, Mary Hebb, 3-time World Champion, Joe Wilson, & 2011 NFR qualifier, Levi Rogers.

All entries **MUST BE ACCOMPANIED** by the IAC's Youth & Chaperone form containing the student's name, address, telephone number, email (if available), school attending & Tribal affiliation.

Send Essay Submission to:
 Native Women & Youth in Ag
 c/o Vicki Hebb, Executive Director
 PO Box 217
 Cherry Creek, SD 57622
 Email: vicki.hebb@indianaglink.com

Phone: 605.964.4342
 Note: all entries will be used in future publications & for PR purposes

Entries may be mailed (postmarked 11/05/2012) or emailed (re: **NWYIA ESSAY CONTEST**)

8TH ANNUAL

SENIOR TRIKE FEST

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2012



Big Cypress
 Aviation Hangar
 "LUAU" Theme

Registration & Breakfast
 7:30am - 9am
 (Registration ends 9am sharp)

Register at your local Senior Center

Lunch & Entertainment for the Whole Family!

- Team T-Shirts, Give-a-ways, Raffle Prizes for all Seniors
- Great Prizes and Awards for Individual & Team Events



CONTACT YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND SENIOR CENTER FOR MORE INFORMATION
Seniors must receive medical clearance to participate. We strongly encourage all seniors to practice.

Announcements

Happy birthday, Sarafina Rose & Byron Michael

We would like to wish our Princess and Warrior a wonderful happy birthday. We are so proud of you and love you more than words can ever express. The Creator blessed us with a beautiful family, and we are forever grateful.

Love,
Mommy & Daddy

Daddy loves you and is very proud of what amazing people you are. Happy birthday to my SheShe princess girl and my Tooti man best bro.



Happy birthday

We would like to wish our brother and uncle Ridge a happy birthday. We love you. Love always, sissy Emme, sissy Rissa, brother Bill and last but not least, your niece Malarie.

We would like to wish our son a very happy birthday and hope you have a great day. Love always and forever, Dad and Mom

Submitted by Rinella Billie, Brighton Reservation

Well wishes

Ike,
I am truly blessed to have a good man like you in my life! Keep up the good progress you're making. Love you, baby.
Mayra

Submitted by Mayra Harjo



Photo courtesy of Wanda Bowers

Hollywood Councilman Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and former Miss Florida Seminole Jewel Buck present Carla Gopher with a necklace in recognition of her finishing her higher education.

Thank you, Princess Committee

I would like to thank you, the Seminole Princess Committee, for a job well done this past July during our 55th Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant weekend.

Every year, we, the Princess Committee, try to do better than the year before. So far, we've been lucky to entertain the Tribal members who attend. The past princesses who volunteer every year to work the pageant are beginning to grow in numbers, being the younger generation, which I am very glad to see step up.

This year at our formal banquet at the Seminole Hard rock Hotel and Casino, the Princess Committee and Tribal Council had the pleasure of recognizing not only the princess contestants who were running for the title of Miss or Jr. Miss Florida Seminole; we also recognized our past princesses for continuing their education during their reign or even after their reign. The fact is that they continued on with their education and received a degree with pride. The following ladies were recognized:

- Lorene Bowers Gopher
- Priscilla Doctor Sayen
- Miss Florida Seminole, 1964
- Associate's degree in business
- Haskell Indian Nations University, 1963
- Mary Gay Osceola
- Miss Florida Seminole, 1962
- Associate of arts
- Art Institute of New Mexico, 1965
- Louise Jones Gopher
- Miss Florida Seminole, 1965
- Bachelor of science in business management
- Florida Atlantic University, 1970
- Agnes Billie Motlow,
- Miss Florida Seminole, 1971
- Bachelor of arts in liberal arts
- Barry University, 2011
- Shirley Motlow
- Miss Florida Seminole, 1972
- Bachelor of arts in elementary education
- Palm Beach State College, 1977

- Tina Osceola
- Miss Florida Seminole, 1986
- Bachelor of arts in political science
- Rollins College, 1989
- Charlotte Gopher Burgess
- Miss Florida Seminole, 1987
- Associate of arts in business
- Haskell Indian Nations University, 1991
- Rita Gopher
- Miss Florida Seminole, 1990
- Associate of arts in math,
- Indian River State College, 1994
- Carla Gopher
- Miss Florida Seminole, 1994
- Master of business administration
- Florida State University, 2005
- Vanessa Frank
- Miss Florida Seminole, 1996
- Associate of arts
- Broward College, 2003
- Suraiya Smith
- Miss Florida Seminole, 1999
- Associate of arts in psychology
- Indian River State College, 2001
- Desiree Jumper
- Miss Florida Seminole, 2000
- Associate of arts in elementary education
- Rowan-Cabbarus Community College, 2006
- Christine McCall
- Miss Florida Seminole, 2005
- Bachelor of science in family and child sciences
- Florida State University, 2009
- D'Anna Osceola
- Miss Florida Seminole, 2008
- Bachelor of science in family and child sciences
- Florida State University, 2009
- Brittany Smith
- Miss Florida Seminole, 2009
- Associate of arts
- Indian River State College, 2011
- Cassandra Jimmie
- Miss Florida Seminole, 2010
- Associate of science
- Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts, 2011

Submitted by Wanda Bowers



Photo courtesy of Wanda Bowers

Brittany Yescas, D'Anna Osceola, Charlotte Gopher Burgess, Wanda Bowers, Alice Billie, Christine McCall, Priscilla Doctor Sayen, Cassandra Jimmie and Connie Gowen pose for a picture.

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: _____
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Please include your mailing address if photos are to be returned.

'Free at Last'

Poem by Patrick Doctor Jr.

I am free,
Now I can see.
What I see is the sun and sawgrass...
Yes, I am free at last.

Locked in the chain gang with nowhere to go.
I understand my freedom,
I never ever sold my soul.

Beautiful is the day,
I give thanks to the Almighty for what they say...

What they say is that freedom will be forever.

Yes, I am free.
So, again, I will give thanks to the Almighty
For he created me.

Indian is what I be,
Gator is my name.

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Poem by Patrick Doctor Jr.

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thanks to the almighty for I am blessed, life is good to lay down and rest. Peace and grace be unto us all.... Forever and ever

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Electronic Health/Dental Record PHASE II BEGINS

We are now ready to begin Phase II, the final implementation of the Electronic Health and Dental Record.

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WHY is CONVERSION to an ELECTRONIC HEALTH/DENTAL RECORD IMPORTANT?

- ◆ Maintains compliance with federally mandated health care standards. We MUST be electronic by 2014
- ◆ Improves efficiency of health care delivery
- ◆ Instantly available patient health information at any STOF medical or dental clinic
- ◆ Reduces duplication of tests and treatment delay
- ◆ Reduces medical errors
- ◆ Improves safety and accuracy through the capacity to bring all patient information together
- ◆ Improves privacy and security

WHEN WILL PHASE II TRANSITION TO the EHR/EDR BEGIN?

- Phase II Medical Record:** Begins FALL 2012
EHR Transition: All patient history, medications, allergies, office visits and immunizations will be entered into the system electronically by department staff.
- Phase II Dental Record:** Begins SPRING 2013
EDR Transition: All dental history and visits will be entered into the system electronically by department staff.

WHAT to EXPECT FROM TRANSITION to ELECTRONIC HEALTH/DENTAL RECORD:

- ◆ Some delay in patient waiting time during first few weeks of each phase
- ◆ Consider calling to schedule “routine” medical visits away from Electronic records start dates. Be sure to call immediately if you are feeling ill or need dental attention

Phase II Medical EHR:
Hollywood Health Center: Oct 16–19, 2012
Immokalee Health Center: Dec 4–7, 2012
Brighton Health Center: Jan 29–Feb 1, 2013
Tampa Health Center: Jan 29–Feb 1, 2013
Big Cypress Health Center: Mar 12–15, 2013

Phase II Dental EDR:
 In spring 2013 at each Dental Center

- ◆ Patients will be seen more quickly by calling for an appointment than by just walking in (unless urgent care is required)
- ◆ The option for electronic medication prescribing will be available

NEXTGEN
HEALTHCARE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

We welcome your questions regarding our transition to the Electronic Health Record. Please contact Clinical Application Coordinator, Jeff Anderson, at 954 445-5056 or JAnderson2@semtribe.com

Sports

C



Brett Daly

About 85 kids participated in the Tribalwide Back-to-School Basketball Tournament on Oct. 6.

Recreation brings Tribe together through basketball tournament

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

HOLLYWOOD — To kick off the school year and encourage friendly competition among reservations, the Recreation Department held a Tribalwide Back-to-School Youth Basketball Tournament on Oct. 6.

About 85 kids from Immokalee, Trail, Brighton, Big Cypress and Hollywood participated in the event, which took place at the Hollywood Gym. Six teams registered for the high school division, two for the girls' division and two for the middle school division. Youth 10 and younger also had the opportunity to play in exhibition games during the day-long event.

"This was the first Tribalwide tournament of the year, and we plan on having more throughout the year," Tribalwide Recreation director Richard Blakenship said. "The idea is to expose the Tribal members to each other in an effort to increase the quality of play."

The tournament was also open to non-Seminole teams to increase the number of teams and to increase the competition.

"Everybody needs to see each other and play each other," Recreation aide and event organizer Ashley Wilcox said about hosting a Tribalwide event for players off the reservation as well. "We like to keep them going and encourage others to play."

In the girls' division, Trail's Young Bloods faced Hollywood's ABC in a best-of-three matchup. The Young Bloods proved victorious with a close 30-28 win in game three. In the middle school division, the Rez Boyz took on the co-ed Team Brighton. The Rez Boyz won the division in two games with a score of 25-15 in game two.

In the six-team high school division, Team Brighton took on Team Spalding in the championship game. Team Brighton took the tournament title, while Trial's Finest took third place in the tournament.

Philip Jones, a member of the winning Brighton team, said he enjoyed playing in the tournament.

"It was good to get back on the court and play with my teammates from Brighton," he said. "They showed good effort."

The tournament was just one of the Recreation Department's ways of keeping youth active. They created baseball and softball leagues as well, all in an effort to teach youth discipline and problem-solving skills, keep them fit and show them how to play on a team.

With the excellent turnout at the tournament, Wilcox said they will organize more tournaments throughout the year; a youth Thanksgiving tournament is planned for Nov. 3.

♦ See more BASKETBALL photos on page 2C

Ahfachkee golf team finishes season

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Although the golf team at Ahfachkee School completed their third season without a winning record, they have accomplished a great deal in a short time.

"They are doing a tremendous job," head coach Amos Mazzant said. "Our goal was to have the team improve with each match, which they have. They are also starting to have more fun at play because they see they have accomplished something on the course."

Over the course of the season, the team of 12- to 17-year-olds has taken about 50 points off its total score, a significant accomplishment for such a young team. Most of the seven-member team only began playing golf for the first time in August, and they must also practice in a cow pasture and drive 40 miles to play on a real golf course.

"The experience has been really good," Nashoba Gonzalez, 13, said. "I've learned

patience and made friendships."

Only one player, Quenton Cypress, golfed on the team last year, and he brought his experience to the season.

"My goal for the season was to hit a birdie," Quenton, 17, said. "I finally hit one and it was awesome. I hit a chip shot and got the hole — that's how I got my birdie."

At a match at the Clewiston Golf Course on Sept. 27, Ahfachkee played Clewiston, Moore Haven and Labelle.

"It's amazing that after only five or six weeks they are hitting the shots," Mazzant said. "For never having a club in their hands to how they are playing today is a beautiful thing."

Most of the kids took their first golf lessons from Mazzant before joining the team and had never stepped foot on a golf course. They learn from the experience they get during matches and produce good golf shots more often, he said.

Mazzant has coached golf for about 30 years, mostly in his home state of Pennsylvania. He approaches coaching

with more than just a win-and-loss record; he teaches students a sport they can enjoy for the rest of their lives.

"They may not be the best team out there, but they have the best spirit and heart to do it," Mazzant said. "You can always measure things in wins and losses, but you cannot measure the hearts of these kids that way. They take a lot of pride in what they do and work hard to improve. It's been a pleasure to work with them and very rewarding."

After the season ended, Dasani Cypress and Quenton Cypress competed in the Florida High School Athletic Association Class 1A District 17 tournament on Oct. 15 at the Port Charlotte Country Club in Fort Myers.

This season's team consisted of the following golfers: Quenton Cypress, 17; Dasani Cypress, 13; Tyrus Billie, 15; Troy Cantu, 12; Nashoba Gonzalez, 13; Chelsey Alvarado, 14; and Ashley Gonzalez, 16.

♦ See GOLF photos on page 2C

Joseph John excels on the field and off

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Joseph John may not be built like a football player, but he plays the game with great enthusiasm on the three-time defending district champion team at the University School in Davie. At 5 feet 7 inches tall, he isn't a typical defensive lineman or linebacker, but neither was John's sports hero, former Miami Dolphin player Zach Thomas, who played the same positions as John.

"We have 14 seniors going to play Division 1 football in college," John, 17, said. "I motivate myself even though I'm short. I work out with the top 14 kids in the state, and I know I make them even better."

Football is important to John, but it isn't his ultimate goal in life. With a 4.0 GPA, he has applied to a number of top-tier universities, including Stanford, Dartmouth and UCLA. He wants to study biology and go into the medical field, possibly as a doctor.

Although his football career will likely end after high school, John loves playing on the team, which he said is like a brotherhood. His head coach, Roger Harriott, inspires him both on and off the field.

"He tries to make each of us a better person," John said. "He transitions us into doing better in school and gives us fundamental guidelines to live by even if you aren't playing sports."

The team is undefeated this year (as of Oct. 12). ESPN ranked them among the top 25 high school teams in the nation, and the team is ranked second in the state for all divisions. In 2010, the team was state runner-up in Class 2B finals. The first game of the season, against Trotwood-Madison High School in Ohio, was broadcast nationally on ESPN as part of the network's high school football kickoff programming.

As rewarding as being on national television was to John, he is equally proud of his accomplishments in the classroom. He is a member of numerous honor societies, including the National Honor



David Diaz

Joseph John plays during his varsity football homecoming game on Oct. 4.

Society, the Science Honor Society and Mu Alpha Theta, the math honor society.

"Being in the honor societies and maintaining a high GPA from my freshman to senior year is the most satisfying thing," he said. "It gave me the chance to apply to so many schools I didn't think were possible when I was in middle school."

John was also greatly influenced by his grandparents and parents, who have always taught him to be a good person.

"I just listen to them. They taught me all about my culture, faith and religion," he said. "They always wanted me to pursue college because they never could. I'm doing this for them, but mostly I'm doing it for me."

Like many students, John has faced the challenge of juggling academics and athletics. He used to struggle with

organization, but he worked hard to overcome that obstacle.

"Now I can get all my work done and excel in my classes," he said. "I write down all of my assignments and when my tests are scheduled. I also keep all my study guides in one place, manage my time accordingly and get help when I need it."

These tactics have made a big difference for John and have allowed him the chance to play the sport he loves.

He has some simple advice for other students who want to do well.

"Keep pushing yourself to your limits and past them," he said. "If you push past what you know you can do, you will perform at a high level. Just follow your dreams. If you have big dreams, you can work toward them and when you get there, you will have a sense of accomplishment."

Trail raises awareness for ovarian cancer at 3-mile walk/run



Beverly Bidney

About 20 Huggins family members, all from the Trail community, hit the road on the Miccosukee Reservation on Sept. 22 to participate in a walk/run for ovarian cancer awareness. ♦ See TRAIL WALK on page 2C

◆ **TRAIL WALK** from page 1C



Beverly Bidney

The race includes puddle jumping for some participants; others trudge through the water.



Beverly Bidney

Runners near the finish line.

◆ **BASKETBALL** from page 1C



Brett Daly

The Immokalee team warms up their layups before the tournament.



Brett Daly

In the girls' division, team Young Bloods takes on team ABC and wins the title.



Brett Daly

The high school division had six teams vie for the championship title.



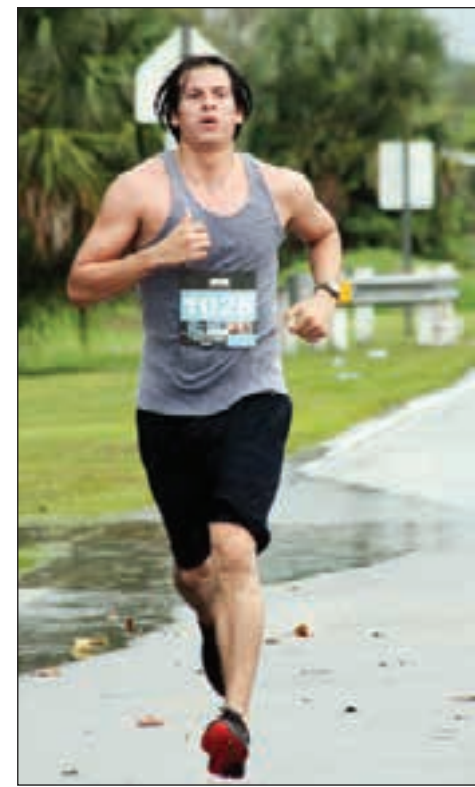
Beverly Bidney

Trail Liaison Norman Huggins, at far right, gathers with some of his family at the start of the race.

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY
Staff Reporter

TRAIL — Although touted as a 3-mile walk/run sponsored by the Miccosukee Wellness Center, the Huggins family used the event as an opportunity to honor National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in recognition of their matriarch, Kathy, who was recently diagnosed with the disease.

About 20 Huggins family members, all from the Trail community, put on their sneakers and hit the road on the Miccosukee Reservation on Sept. 22. The family donated the T-shirts given out to the 50 participants, which had a teal ovarian awareness ribbon on the back.



Beverly Bidney

The overall winner, Tribal member Pete Osceola III, is in the home stretch.

"Our family approached the Council to put it on the back of the shirts for everyone to wear," Trail Liaison Norman Huggins said. "My wife is strong-minded and is doing a lot better than we thought she would do."

The rainy day of the event may have wet people's clothing, but it didn't dampen their spirits as they tried to avoid puddles on the road.

"The event is held three or four times a year to promote a healthy lifestyle and activities," said Anna Van Stippen, of the Miccosukee Health Department. "More people attend when it isn't raining."

The Huggins family in attendance included Liaison Huggins' sister Alberta Billie, daughter Adriana, and numerous nieces, nephews and grandchildren. Kathy did not attend because she did not want to risk getting sick in the inclement weather, Liaison Huggins said.

"I always like to support community events," said Stephanie Huggins, who came in first place in the 18- to 28-year-old runner category. "It was very well organized and fun. I also wanted to be here for ovarian cancer awareness."

The rain stopped after a time, but the water on the course remained, to the delight of some.

"It was excellent," Jayden Billie, 8, said. "The best part was walking through the puddles."

Other family members who won their categories were Liaison Huggins, first-place male 39- to 49-year-old walker group; Alberta Billie, first-place senior women; Karlyn Huggins, fourth-place in the female 13- to 17-year-old walker group; and Adriana Huggins, third-place female 18- to 28-year-old walker group. Also, grandchildren Juelz Billie, 7, Jayden Billie, 8, and Amos Billie, 8, took first, second and third in the male 1- to 12-year-old runner group.

A lavish, healthy brunch and prizes, including new bicycles, backpacks and duffle bags, capped off the event.

"I was sweating; I couldn't believe it," Liaison Huggins said. "It was a great race."

◆ **GOLF** from page 1C



Beverly Bidney

Dasani Cypress, 13, watches her ball after a putt.



Beverly Bidney

The team practices driving before the match at the Clewiston Golf Course, their home field.



Beverly Bidney

Quenton Cypress, 17, successfully hits his ball out of a difficult location.



Beverly Bidney

Nashoba Gonzalez, 13, tees off.

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Indian Day

2012

NAPLES INDIAN DAY



Christina Billie prepares breakfast over the campfire during Naples' Indian Day on Sept. 22. Judy Weeks



From left, Marissa and Jessica Osceola and Christina Billie help the children fashion their own pieces of frybread. Judy Weeks



A traditional Seminole feast is prepared over the campfire. Judy Weeks



Naples Liaison Brian Zepeda uses storytelling to teach the children about their heritage. Judy Weeks



Connie Slavik turns sweetgrass and palm fiber into the base for a new basket. Judy Weeks



Joel Frank Jr., Martin Slavik, Briar Tommie and Joseph Osceola-Lugo watch Pedro Zepeda use a hatchet to begin shaping a bow. Judy Weeks



Jessica Osceola, left, and Christina Billie tie for first place in the young women's log peeling competition while Pedro Zepeda holds the timer and log. Judy Weeks

◆ INDIAN DAY

From page 1A

Over in Big Cypress, the community kicked off their three-day Indian Day activities with a language contest on Sept. 24 and a clothing contest for seniors and youth on Sept. 25. Dozens showcased their knowledge of the Mikasuki language and modeled Seminole clothing during the events.

On Sept. 27, Allied Health organized a walk/run to continue the reservation's festivities. About 50 Tribal members and employees gathered before the sun rose to trek alongside the canal to improve their health.

"Indian Day is a special day for all of us Native Americans," Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger said. "As a Tribal member, I love where we are going. I love that we're one of the best Native American (Tribes) striving to be better. I think the Seminole Tribe is on the right track."

Later that morning, Tribal members celebrated their culture through a variety of events, including tomahawk throwing, gator calling and archery competitions, while Tribal women cooked food for a traditional meal. For Beverly Alumbaugh and her great-niece Aileen Cypress, the day included spending hours cooking frybread for the entire community.

"Indian Day is about family, fun and culture," said Cypress, adding that she learned how to make frybread from Alumbaugh.

While the day included a variety of activities and friendly competition, the

community also reflected on the meaning of Indian Day.

"The real purpose of today is to remember those people who made sacrifices for us to be unconquered," Wovoka Tommie said. "Today is to honor our culture and our heritage."

In Hollywood, Indian Day started with a walk-a-thon and ended with a rock concert. In between, there were contests, races, reptiles and a rousing game of stickball for all to enjoy.

The competitive spirit was alive all day. Contestants put their best efforts into contests in pumpkin frybread cooking, log peeling, skillet tossing, language and clothing.

"It used to be we did [log peeling] for economic reasons," Jim Osceola said. "Chickee businesses gave stability to families."

Language is important to the culture, and preserving it is a priority for many in the Tribe. Paul "Cowbone" Buster moderated the language contest by giving an English word and having the contestant say it in Mikasuki.

"There are different accents from the different reservations," Buster said. "Sometimes we can't understand each other."

Stickball, a traditional game played throughout Indian Country, appeared to be anarchy with sticks, whooping and laughter. Men and women of all ages played the cacophonous and lively game together, which seemed to be a highlight of the day.

The Brighton community also enjoyed a vast array of traditional and non-traditional competitions on their reservation from Sept.

27-30.

Just before dawn on Sept. 27, several Tribal members participated in the Indian Day 5K walk/run sponsored by the Health Department.

The judging of the arts and crafts followed. Tribal members submitted their crafts a day earlier, including dolls, patchwork, beadwork, sweet grass baskets, turbans and wood work.

The clothing contest was held later in the evening at the gymnasium with Chairman James E. Billie as the emcee. Community members ranging from 5-year-olds to seniors dressed in their best Seminole attire. Judges evaluated three categories of traditional clothing: traditional/old style, traditional and modern traditional.

The following day was the main event. "Today is a very fun day for everybody to come out and have time to mingle with the whole community and do the things we used to do back in the old day," Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard said. "We all need to come out and interact with each other and get our roots back. This is part of our culture."

The youth kept busy by competing in turtle races and frybread and pumpkin bread contests, as well as by competing in several fielding events on the softball field.

The highlight of the day was the newly added co-ed canoe races held at Tucker Ridge on the Brighton Reservation. Teams of one woman and one man raced against each other for the fastest speed. The first-place team of Reina and husband, Joey Micco, said they enjoyed the canoe races, but it also took a lot of energy from them. Reina said it was fun but also tiring. "I didn't

think I was going to make it," she said.

"I don't know who thought of it, but it's a new thing," Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. "I enjoyed it and had fun. I hope we continue doing it."

A thunderstorm stalled to dump heavy rain and flashed bolts of lightning over Tampa community members for several hours at the beginning of their Indian Day activities on the Tribe's Lakeland property. The downpour, combined with several days of rain prior, resulted in a field of muddy standing water that prevented most of the planned recreational activities. Tampa Seminoles had fun anyway beneath the tents by working on arts and crafts, telling stories, playing bingo, conducting a raffle and, most importantly, eating a barbecue dinner.

When the sun finally peeked out through the clouds in the late afternoon, a few drenched kids began throwing and splashing around with a football, and horseshoe activities began. Several boys and their chaperones grabbed canoes and took advantage of the high water in the canal and other streams. Maintenance supervisor Paul Simmons shook his head at the standing water and frowned: "It's going to take a long time for all this to drain. If we have any more rain, I don't think we'll be able to use this property for our Halloween festivities."

Rainmaker Bobby Henry pleaded innocence: "Don't blame me. I didn't have anything to do with it this time!"

Down in Trail, the Huggins Camp buzzed with activity on Sept. 28. High spirits, sunshine and plenty of food and games for all ages made for a joyous Indian Day celebration.

"I like to see all the clans and the families get together," Trail Liaison Norman Huggins said. "It's a chance for everyone to get together and celebrate family."

For Trail's second year hosting the holiday, they added archery to the schedule, as well as more categories to the clothing contest, evidenced by the two-plus hours the clothing contest endured.

They also featured several cultural activities from last year: log peeling, frybread making, deer skinning, horseshoes, hay rolling and a language contest.

"Our culture is very strong," Trail office manager Michael Cantu said. "They practice the language more here."

Seminoles traveled from Hollywood, Big Cypress, Immokalee and Naples to join their friends in Trail. Miccosukees, including three councilmen and former Chairman Billy Cypress, also stopped by.

"We're all family here," Liaison Huggins said. "A good majority of the community turned out, and that's what I like to see."

Bingo, raffles, carnival rides and a bounce house filled the time between cultural activities, as did snacks and meals. Ice cream and snow cones cooled attendees off in the afternoon heat, and a traditional meal awaited them for dinner, including deer from the skinning demonstration earlier that day.

Brett Daly, Beverly Bidney, Peter B. Gallagher, Andrea Holata and Kathryn Stolarz contributed to this article.

2012

IMMOKALEE INDIAN DAY



Judy Weeks

Ray Yzaguirre Jr., Spencer Jock and Randy Osceola model Seminole shirts.



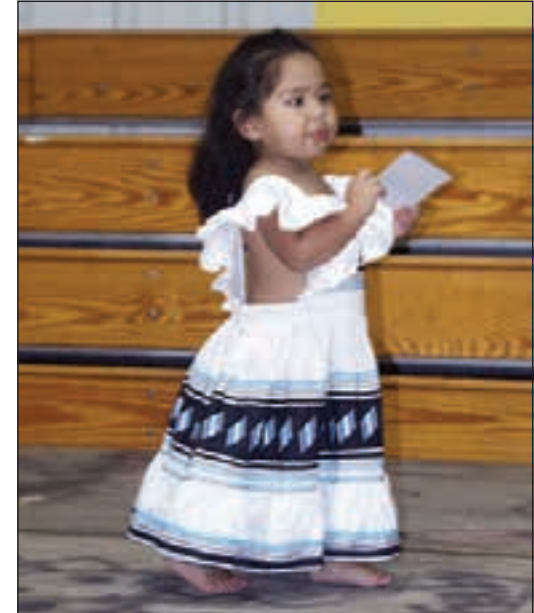
Judy Weeks

Linda Beletso's traditional skirt and cape display Tribal colors.



Judy Weeks

Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar, right, and Marissa Sanchez make frybread.



Judy Weeks

Bebeyanna Quinones steals the judges' hearts in the 1-year-olds' clothing contest.



Judy Weeks

Ray Yzaguirre Jr. pounds nails in the fan tacking event.



Judy Weeks

Geraldine Osceola and Susan Davis ace the canoe race competition.



Judy Weeks

Esmeralda Billie puts her whole body into the skiller throw.



Judy Weeks

Remy Rodriguez enters the turtle race.



Judy Weeks

Gordon "Ollie" Wareham conducts a traditional storytelling.



Judy Weeks

Nancy Motlow, Caniah Billie and Linda Beletso demonstrate the proper stance for the shaker race.



Judy Weeks

Men and boys compete in the annual archery competition.

2012 FORT PIERCE INDIAN DAY



Andrea Holata
Marlon Tommie races to finish first during the log peeling competition.

Fort Pierce resident Josh Sneed shows his skills in the log peeling competition.

Andrea Holata



Andrea Holata

Celeste Stockton aims for a ringer in a friendly game of horseshoes.



Andrea Holata

Patricia Wilcox plays a game of horseshoes.



Andrea Holata

Hope Sneed aims for a bull's-eye in the archery competition during Fort Pierce's Indian Day activities.



Andrea Holata

Miah Stockton embraces his grandmother Bessie Tommie during the Fort Pierce Indian Day celebration.



Andrea Holata

Fort Pierce Liaison Jane Stockton competes in the log peeling contest.



Andrea Holata

Fort Pierce resident Crystal Sneed races to finish the log peeling contest first.



Andrea Holata

Mary Margaret Wilcox takes part in the skittles toss competition.

2012

BIG CYPRESS INDIAN DAY



Brett Daly

From left, Charlie Osceola, Alyssa Osceola and Brandi Osceola compete in the clothing contest.



Brett Daly

Big Cypress women spend the day cooking a traditional meal for the community.



Brett Daly

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, right, and Josh Jumper compete in the canoe race.



Brett Daly

Nick Andrews tries spearing a fish with a gig.



Brett Daly

The Big Cypress Reservation begins their Indian Day with a walk/run to promote healthier lifestyles.



Brett Daly

Micco Billie taunts an alligator during the alligator and critter show put on by Okalee Village.



Brett Daly

Participants sign up for the Indian Day walk/run.



Brett Daly

Ricky Joe Alumbaugh and Aileen Cypress pass out frybread.



Brett Daly

Big Cypress holds a wood carving competition for Tribal men.



Brett Daly

Vinson Osceola gives Lazzlow Billie a lesson in soap carving, while mother, Megan Otero, looks on.



Brett Daly

Beverly Alumbaugh makes frybread for the Big Cypress community.



Brett Daly

Raymond Garza, right, and Everett Osceola throw tomahawks at a target.



Brett Daly

A.J. Tigertail shows off the work of the face painter.



Brett Daly

Archery competitions take place throughout the Indian Day event.



Brett Daly

Ronnie Billie competes in the log peeling competition.

2012 HOLLYWOOD INDIAN DAY



Beverly Bidney

The contestants in the language contest share a laugh. From left, Cornelia Osceola, Holly Tiger-Bowers, Dora Tiger, Agnes Billie-Motlow, Maydel Osceola and Mary Osceola.



Beverly Bidney

Cornelia Osceola watches as her granddaughter Cindy Osceola competes in the pumpkin frybread making contest.



Beverly Bidney

The ball comes loose during a game of stickball.



Beverly Bidney

Tribal youth compete in a sack race.



Beverly Bidney

Tribal members compete in stickball during the Hollywood Reservation's Indian Day celebration on Sept. 28.



Beverly Bidney

Kids must use their heads in the watermelon roll.



Beverly Bidney

Tribal members start the day with a walk-a-thon through the reservation.



Beverly Bidney

Vincent Billie demonstrates his log peeling skills.



Beverly Bidney

The crowd lines up to get a photo while sitting on the alligator.



Beverly Bidney

Charles and Keith Osceola are in sync as they prepare to shoot the arrows.



Beverly Bidney

Ashley Wilcox is about to toss the skillet.



Beverly Bidney

Hollywood Board Rep. Chris Osceola concentrates during the log peeling contest.



Beverly Bidney

Shannon Gopher gracefully tosses the skillet.



Beverly Bidney

Cassandra Jones turns over her nicely browned pumpkin bread.



Beverly Bidney

The stickball game begins.

2012

BRIGHTON INDIAN DAY



Andrea Holata

The young boys are all smiles as they show off their traditional/old style clothing during the Brighton Indian Day festivities.



Andrea Holata

Brighton women and youth eagerly look on to see which turtle will move the fastest outside of the circle to win the race.



Photo courtesy of Barbara Boling

Heather and Loretta Peterson complete the Indian Day 5K walk/run. Heather crossed the finish line first.



Andrea Holata

Missy Huff is all smiles as she aims for a ringer during the co-ed horseshoe tournament.



Reinaldo Becerra

It's time to show off a good catch at Brighton's Indian Day.



Andrea Holata

Amanda Smith works on peeling a log during the race.



Andrea Holata

Deliah Carrillo and mom, Joyce Jumper, check the frybread before submitting it for judging.



Andrea Holata

Brighton women show off their traditional dresses during the clothing competition.



Andrea Holata

Rufus Tiger aims for his target during the archery competition.



Andrea Holata

The Brighton men race to finish first during the log peeling competition.



Andrea Holata

Billy Micco shows off his first-place traditional shirt for his age category.



Andrea Holata

Quayton Billie shows off his first-place turtle.



Andrea Holata

Laverne Thomas races to finish peeling her log during the competition.

2012

TAMPA INDIAN DAY



Peter B. Gallagher

Tribal boys canoe in Tampa.



Peter B. Gallagher

Arts and crafts are popular at Tampa's Indian Day.



Peter B. Gallagher

Lazaria Simmons hangs out on the old tire swing.



Peter B. Gallagher

Family and friends are happy to be together for Tampa's Indian Day.



Peter B. Gallagher

Bobby Henry wins first prize for his handmade traditional Seminole spear.



Peter B. Gallagher

Julian Dillon admires his grandfather Bobby Henry's traditional wood carvings.



Peter B. Gallagher

Colorful couple Arnie and Maggie Garcia display several large tables full of Seminole crafts at the event.



Peter B. Gallagher

Safe from the rain under the big tent, Jenny Martinez concentrates on making moccasins.



Peter B. Gallagher

Michael Jimmie demonstrates her sewing skills for wide-eyed Lazaria Simmons.



Peter B. Gallagher

Boys enjoy some time on the water during Tampa's Indian Day celebration.



Peter B. Gallagher

From left, Bobby, Johnny and Susie Henry load up on an Indian Day feast.



Peter B. Gallagher

Cultural director Herbert Jim tells a Seminole story in the native language to Tampa children.

2012

TRAIL INDIAN DAY



Kathryn Stolarz

An arrow is in mid-flight as Jake Keyser teaches the young boys archery.



Kathryn Stolarz

Trail Liaison Norman Huggins is on his way to winning the log peeling contest. "I still got it," he said after they announced his record 59-second time.



Kathryn Stolarz

Nicole Billie races to peel a log faster than her competitors. Trail Liaison Norman Huggins said it's fun getting the women to compete.



Kathryn Stolarz

Maxine Osceola, 9 months, enjoys her first Indian Day from her play pen near the cooking chickee.



Kathryn Stolarz

Youth compete in the Ela-pon-ke contest finals.



Kathryn Stolarz

Virginia Poole, left, and Megan Chrisohn judge the frybread contest on taste, texture and experience.



Kathryn Stolarz

Chandler DeMayo, 10, is excited to learn how to skin a deer. He came from Hollywood to learn.



Kathryn Stolarz

Tribal elder Francis Osceola plays bingo in the shade of a tent.



Kathryn Stolarz

Addison Huggins, 10, of Hollywood, tries his hand at archery for the first time, and Jake Keyser looks on. "It's pretty fun," Addison said.



Kathryn Stolarz

Adriana Huggins checks on her frybread during the cooking contest.



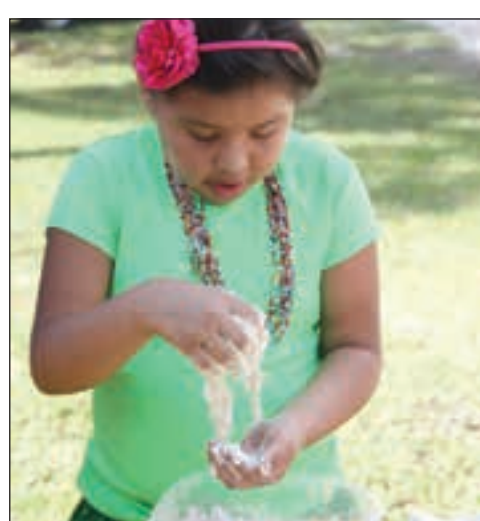
Kathryn Stolarz

Men show the youth how to skin a deer. "We still want them to learn how to hunt and fish," Trail Liaison Norman Huggins said.



Kathryn Stolarz

Teegan Osceola-Bartlett, right, wins the clothing contest in his category for 0- to 5-year-olds. Byron Billie Jr. is at left.



Kathryn Stolarz

Alivia Osceola competes in the frybread contest.



Kathryn Stolarz

Girls model dresses during the clothing contest. More categories were added this year.



Kathryn Stolarz

Hay rolling makes some young girls giggle.



Kathryn Stolarz

Little ones take front-row seats to learn deer skinning from the men.



Kathryn Stolarz

Seniors enjoy playing bingo in Trail for Indian Day.



The girls win the tug-of-war competition, but not without a fight from the boys at Trail's Indian Day on Sept. 28 at the Huggins Camp.



Kathryn Stolarz