



Visitors flock to  
Indian art celebration  
**COMMUNITY ♦ 7A**

Japan's Ainu people visit  
Brighton Reservation  
**EDUCATION ♦ 1B**

Skyla Osceola signs  
with Nova Southeastern  
**SPORTS ♦ 2C**



# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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## Judge's ruling deemed a win for Tribe

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

A federal judge ruled Nov. 9 the Seminole Tribe may continue to deal blackjack and baccarat, known as banked card games, at all seven of its Florida casinos for another 14 years.

The news means the Tribe is legally authorized to continue the games through 2030, the end date of the Compact with the state, and add them to the Brighton and Big Cypress casinos.

"The Seminole Tribe is very pleased with Judge [Robert] Hinkle's ruling and is carefully reviewing it. The Tribe believes the ruling provides for its future stability and ensures 3,600 Seminole Gaming employees will keep their jobs," the Tribe's spokesman Gary Bitner wrote in a statement.

U.S. District Judge Robert Hinkle sided with the Tribe in a lawsuit against the state. The suit claimed the state breached the Compact by allowing electronic banked card games at pari-mutuels in Florida. In the 36-page decision, Hinkle ruled the Tribe may keep the games because an exception was activated when the state authorized designated player games at dog and horse tracks.

"The order declares that the exception has been triggered - that the Tribe may conduct banked card games for the Compact's 20-year term," Hinkle wrote.

As stated in the 2010 Compact, the Tribe is authorized to operate banked card games for five years "unless [1] the authorization to conduct such games is renewed by the parties or [2] the state permits any other person, organization or entity ... to conduct such games."

♦ See GAMING on page 2A



Eileen Soler

Tribal citizen Elgin Jumper, center, of the Otter Clan, explains to an audience Nov. 6 at an opening reception for the Artists Seminoli exhibit at the Fort Lauderdale History Center, New River Inn Museum of History, how his emotions and thoughts are expressed in his artwork.

## Artists Seminoli exhibit plays role in Native American Heritage Month

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Special to The Tribune

FORT LAUDERDALE — Artist Elgin Jumper said history comes alive when he puts his paintbrush to canvas. Whether his strokes recreate a bucolic landscape or the pain of war, his use of bold and vivid colors speak loud and sure.

During a live presentation Nov. 6 at the Fort Lauderdale History Center just yards from the New River, Jumper allowed an audience of nearly 50 guests inside his head as he painted from his mind's eye an emotional interpretation of brutal confrontations with U.S. soldiers that occurred just north of Tampa during the Second and Third Seminole Wars.

"Now, time has allowed us to honor both sides. In Florida, we have become friends and can now preserve the sites. But we still have to remember the past. For me, history comes alive when I paint," Jumper, of the Otter Clan, said.

Flanking Jumper, Gordon Oliver Wareham, of the Panther Clan, played haunting melodies on a traditional Native American flute; Erika Tommie, of the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska and now a Hollywood Reservation resident, used pastels on paper to depict war's inhumanity; and Stephanie Sneed, executive director of Legacy Art Studio in Fort Lauderdale, punctuated the scene with stirring notes on slide guitar.

The mixed media theatrical performance was held to herald a two-room art exhibit called Artists Seminoli and to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. The center is housed in the historic New River Inn about a mile west of the landmark Stranahan House where Seminoles traded with white settlers in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

"This is the first time for the center to exhibit Native American art in both rooms at the same time," said Patricia Coyle-Zeiler, the Historical Society's executive director.

Wareham, who is also a Tribal storyteller, said he and Jumper first performed together in 2007 at a Seminole cultural presentation at Florida State University. Then, Jumper recited a few of his many native-centric poems and Wareham shared traditional

stories. Later, Jumper suggested that he paint while Wareham plays the flute.

Jumper said he puts himself into a story, tries to conjure a memory and then paints what he feels. Wareham takes his cues from Jumper.

"I watch Elgin's paint strokes and follow his rhythm. Every stroke he makes, I feel that energy and convey it to the audience," Wareham said. "The first time we did it, the room lit up. It was like lightning in a bottle."

Andrew Foster, a member of the Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservationists, traveled from Jupiter to attend the event, watch Jumper paint, and commemorate

♦ See ARTISTS on page 6A

## Seminole Petroleum fuels growth for Tribe

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

NAPLES — Seminole Petroleum rolled out its new name and freshly painted tanker trucks Oct. 28 at the company's bulk fuel processing plant in Naples. Tribal officials introduced the Seminole Petroleum management team as they celebrated the transition to the new brand with a luncheon at the Naples plant.

The petroleum distributor provides fuel and lubricant products to retailers and other companies in Florida with a fleet of fuel tankers and smaller trucks, all of which prominently display the Seminole Petroleum name and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. logo.

In 2013, the Board purchased Evans Oil Company, an established Naples company since 1959, and has been operating it ever since. The Naples bulk plant is equipped with fuel pumps for fleets and a dozen above-ground fuel storage tanks. The fuel supplies arrive in Tampa, Fort Lauderdale and Jacksonville ports. Once it arrives, Seminole Petroleum trucks load and deliver either to the bulk facility in Naples or directly to customers.

"STOFI was in the process of purchasing it for the convenience stores when I came onto the Board," said Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola. "It was an opportunity to control the operation and the entire line. We've grown the business since then and are working to keep building it to make sure it will be ours for a long time."

Customers include the Trading Post convenience stores on the Hollywood and Brighton reservations as well as five Florida Chevron gas stations, marinas, golf courses, construction and agricultural companies, hospitals and other large consumers of fuel

and petroleum products. Most customers are located from the Orlando area and south, but there are plans to expand the market and look for other opportunities in and eventually out of Florida.

"It's been a long time in the works," said Naples Liaison Brian Zepeda. "The Board put a lot of effort into making this a go and here we are kicking off Seminole Petroleum in Naples."

Seminole Petroleum owns a fleet of eight 9,200-gallon fuel transport tankers and five 4,500-gallon tank wagons. The company distributes regular and premium gasoline, aviation gasoline, low-sulphur clear diesel fuel and dyed diesel for construction equipment, generators and off-road vehicles.

The company also sells 90-octane, non-ethanol fuel for boats and lawn maintenance equipment as well as a variety of lubricants and greases.

The luncheon included a few words from key people involved in the management and rebranding of the company.

"The most important thing is we've completed the new branding and we're ready to grow," said Carol Begelman, general manager.

Immokalee Liaison Gale Boone also spoke and thanked everyone for their contribution to Seminole Petroleum.

Operations director Jim Talik thanked the Board and the employees for their work, many of whom have been with the company for years.

"I'm reminded of an old Polish proverb," Talik said. "When the going gets tough, you get a tough team; and we did."

"Today is a great day, not only for the Tribe and the Board, but for the employees," Trail Liaison Norman Huggins said. "This has taken a lot of hard work and we thank them."



Beverly Bidney

Naples Liaison Brian Zepeda, Immokalee Board Liaison Gale Boone, Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, Seminole Petroleum general manager Carol Begelman and Trail Liaison Norman Huggins pose for a photo by the holding tanks and a tanker truck at the Naples headquarters Oct. 28.

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# Editorial

## Why we take a stand at Standing Rock

• Dennis Banks

The history of building pipelines to carry water, petroleum products, natural gas, coal slurries and toxic crude oil has been a practice in the United States since the 1880s. Many of these pipelines were built without the safety concerns that are now present under EPA guidelines and engineering safeguards concerning the thickness and welding of the pipelines. Rarely did Americans protest against the practice of using pipeline to ship the many types of dangerous products.

Yet the very real danger of a pipeline break or other environmental disaster in the extraction industry has occurred countless times before. No amount of money or apologies can heal the damage. That is why the Standing Rock Sioux Nation has called out to other nations to protest the Dakota Access Pipeline.

I first saw evidence of toxic chemicals being poured into the Cayuga River in Cleveland in May 1969, when the river exploded into a huge fire.

My first thought was of astonishment. How could America create a situation that would cause water to catch on fire? What did this show to the world — a large, billowing cloud of black smoke rising up from a river on fire? Who speaks for the rivers?

I realized that it is we Native Americans who were entrusted by the Great Spirit to speak for the protection of our relatives: the water, soil and the air. Further, we also speak for the protection of the many species of life, the protection of the sacred sites of our ancestors, sites where our people are buried, sites where we gather herbs, roots and other leaves we use to heal our people. These are our duties and responsibilities that the Creator gave to us in the beginning. We accepted these instructions for eternity.

Now comes the Standing Rock Sioux Nation in North Dakota and South Dakota, who saw the impending doom that lay in the path of the Dakota Access Pipeline. The nation moved quickly to defend the sacredness of

the lands that would be destroyed by the huge earth-moving machines.

The nation called out to other nations to send their medicine bundles, their sacred pipes, their sacred drums and to come and pray with the Standing Rock Nation. Today, 460 of the 567 Native American nations in the U.S. have come to Standing Rock, in addition to Canadian First Nations sending delegations.

On April 1, the Standing Rock Sioux Nation, with a permit in hand issued by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, opened its large main spiritual camp across the Cannonball River in North Dakota.

Each day begins with a ceremony welcoming the sun, giving thanks for another day. Then follows prayers to protect the soil, the water and the air. Every day there are pipe ceremonies, sweat lodge ceremonies, talking circles and the making of tobacco ties. We have built a small school to teach our young people the meaning of life.

Each day we walk to the site carrying our prayer ties to place them on the land near the digging and bulldozing sites. It is there that we meet the many police, sheriffs and their deputies, and the dogs that are trained to attack us. It is there we meet the young men in uniform, military forces of the same government that massacred our people at Sand Creek in 1864 and Wounded Knee in 1890, that also sent our sons and daughters to carry the same flag we fly today alongside our tribal nation flags, in World War I, World War II, and the wars in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan.

We only want to carry out our spiritual duties and go home. We must, however, stay until Standing Rock releases us and tells us the sacred sites are protected now and the water is safe. We shall never abandon Standing Rock. Never. Standing Rock is who we are.

*Dennis Banks is the longtime leader of the American Indian Movement. He ran on the Peace and Freedom Party's ticket as a candidate for U.S. vice president. This opinion piece appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle in early November.*



## If N.D. governor won't act, Obama should step in to resolve pipeline standoff

• Editorial Board, Star Tribune (Minnesota)

The regrettable escalation in force by both pipeline protesters and law enforcement Sunday evening underscored the urgent need for political leadership to forge a peaceful end to the standoff near North Dakota's Standing Rock Sioux Reservation.

If North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple is unwilling to lead, as this Editorial Board has previously called on him to do, then it's time for President Obama to appoint an influential staffer or even Cabinet member to find compromise. Another violent clash between protesters and law enforcement Sunday, sparked by protesters trying to get closer to the pipeline construction, suggests that moment has arrived.

According to a Bismarck Tribune report, officers had rocks and burning logs thrown at them when they tried to stop protesters from removing burned-out vehicles blocking a road near the main protest encampment. Protesters told the paper that the vehicles

were blocking the road for incoming emergency vehicles as well as outgoing protesters heading to a demonstration site closer to the pipeline. Law enforcement turned fire hoses, tear gas and beanbag rounds on protesters after orders to halt went unheeded. Seventeen people were taken to a hospital for injuries. An officer was also injured when struck by a rock.

Photos taken at the scene by Star Tribune photographer Rich Tsong-Taatarri provide jarring views of protesters facing down armored police vehicles. Sadly, this is but a precursor of violence to come if political leadership does not seek solutions. The new, oil-friendly Trump administration isn't likely to continue the Obama policy of delaying approval of the pipeline's Missouri River crossing. The Standing Rock tribe contends the pipeline threatens its water supply and that it goes through sacred ground.

The Obama delay raised hopes that the nearly complete pipeline can be blocked or moved. The president now needs to appoint a trusted adviser to bring all sides together to work toward a nonviolent resolution. This is a late addition to his agenda, but a must-do.

## Documentary sheds light on Black Seminole war hero

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — A rarely told story of a Black Seminole hero is being made into an educational documentary called "Suwannee Warrior." Filming began Nov. 6 on the Big Cypress Reservation.

"It's one of those stories that is rarely spoken about nowadays, in the Tribe and outside as well," said Naples Liaison Brian Zepeda, who played a role in the film as a member of the war council. "Suwannee Warrior was an interpreter for the Seminoles, but the story starts before his time with the Seminoles."

Suwannee Warrior's given name was Abraham. He was an escaped slave from Georgia who became a leader of the Florida Black Seminoles and fought with the Seminoles against General Andrew Jackson in the first Seminole War and Generals Edmund Pendleton Gaines and Zachary Taylor in the second. He eventually led the Black Seminoles to Texas and then Mexico where slavery was abolished.

"You have a Spartacus figure in American history," said Broward College history professor Michael McGuigan, Ph.D., who wrote and produced the documentary. "He led epic battles with escaped slave armies against powerful U.S. Generals Jackson and Taylor. With the help of Native Americans, they were able to secure the only emancipation treaty prior to the civil war."

McGuigan, who has taught history for 15 years, realized there is a gap in history that has been overlooked. To raise awareness of Seminole history in Florida, he wrote the screenplay for "Suwannee Warrior" and presented it to director Chris Kilayko, a film professor at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale.

"I get presented ideas all day long, but it's all smoke and mirrors in the early stages," Kilayko said. "Mike had an amazing story and it's as historically accurate as he could make it. He's extremely passionate about history and telling the story of human existence; I couldn't walk away from it."

Scenes shot by the crew included life in a chickee village that was filmed behind the Ah-Tah-Ti-Ki Museum, a reenactment of Seminoles in a canoe, an ambush against U.S. soldiers, and Seminoles maneuvering through the woods. Locations included the museum and Ron Bergeron's property next to the reservation, which is as untouched today as it was in the mid-19th century.

Interviews with Zepeda, Daniel Tommie, Samuel Tommie, Billy Walker and Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Ah-Tah-Ti-Ki Museum director Paul Backhouse will be included in the film. Filmed the day after the American Indian Arts Celebration, the production used the same reenactors who performed there.

"I felt strongly that the story of the Seminoles should be told by the Seminoles," McGuigan said. "They should be the ones educating the youth and controlling the



Moses Jumper Jr., far right, joins actor Ralph Smith, center, and other cast members during the filming of the documentary 'Suwannee Warrior' on the Big Cypress Reservation.



A film crew captures the work of Billy Walker during the filming of the documentary 'Suwannee Warrior' in Big Cypress.

story. It makes it more authentic."

When finished, there will be two edits of the three-hour documentary; one a feature-length for big screens and the other for broadcast episodes. It is being filmed in state-of-the-art 4K Ultra HD technology with cinema grade equipment. The high resolution elevates the level of beauty the film can capture, Kilayko said.

Next, Kilayko and the crew will shoot a few more scenes, create the trailer, build a website and start raising money to complete the documentary. They plan to shoot in Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Washington D.C. and the Bahamas. The fundraising plan for the \$550,000 budget is extensive and includes reaching out to numerous organizations, philanthropists, crowdfunding, sponsorship packages and social media outreach.

"We have so many stories about the wars and our history," Zepeda said. "I don't think any of them are told enough. They used to be part of our daily lives and were bedtime stories. Now people are more interested in social media."

McGuigan and Kilayko believe Seminole history — including the story of the Black Seminoles — should be well known and part of the national consciousness.

"The story is so profound and yet nobody knows it," McGuigan said. "The tragedy of Osceola and Abiaki and others have been overlooked. At one point Osceola was the most famous Native American and all that has been forgotten. I'm using film to educate and allow the story to be told."



A crew shoots a scene in the filming of the 'Suwannee Warrior' documentary on the Big Cypress Reservation.

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# Community



## Seminole/Stiles captures two Eagle awards

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ  
Copy Editor

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — The Seminole/Stiles construction team won two Eagle awards in this year's Associated Builders and Contractors Excellence in Construction Awards.

The awards were announced at the 27th annual black tie dinner celebration held at the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention Center on Oct. 28 to honor the nation's most innovative and high quality construction projects, safety programs and diversity programs.

The high merit achievements were for Hollywood Hard Rock's renovations and for Brighton's Public Safety Complex — projects worth \$35.8 million and \$22.8 million, respectively.

The two Eagle awards were selected and presented with just over 100 member companies from across the country in attendance.

In 2013, the Tribe teamed up with Stiles, as part of a joint venture to provide all-around construction and development services throughout South Florida and the southeastern part of the United States.

The first project to emerge from the partnership was the renovation of Hollywood's Classic Casino, which included a six-month-long renovation of the building's interior and exterior structure.

The Eagle awards granted to the Seminole/Stiles team come after a \$100 million expenditure decision in 2014 for upgrades and renovations to seven of the Tribe's properties.

The award won for Hard Rock was in the Interior renovation category and the award won for Brighton was for the community/public service new construction category.

The Seminole/Stiles joint venture continues to thrive with other projects under its belt as the Eagle awards granted to them are a small piece part of a much larger picture.

"The Tribe is incredibly happy with the

partnership with Stiles," Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola said. "We're happy with the Eagle awards. We have a great portfolio to start more work."

The Hollywood Hard Rock's renovations composed of several phases of renovations and improvements including the Plum Lounge, 12th floor executive suites, Kuro restaurant, the Lobby Bar, the Council Oak steakhouse restaurant, the renovation of the pool, the main entrance to the casino, and other retail demos and improvements.

The Brighton Public Safety Complex is unique as it is comprised of three buildings and when viewed from above resembles an eagle. The complex is about 111,000-square feet and houses administration, emergency response, fire, police, and rescue.

"They [Stiles] have been a good partner to work with completing projects for the Tribe, and we look forward to working with them for many more projects we plan to do outside of the reservation in the future," Rep. Osceola said.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola, center, stands with Terry Hardmon, project executive, and other members of the Seminole/Stiles team after they won awards at the Associated Builders and Contractors Excellence in Construction Awards gala Oct. 28 at the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention Center.



### Immokalee Boys & Girls Club deliver care packages

Courtesy photos

A few Immokalee Boys and Girls Club youth delivered Thanksgiving care packages Nov. 23 to residents in the town of Immokalee. The care packages included a 10-pound turkey and all the fixings for a Thanksgiving feast such as stuffing, cranberry sauce, potatoes, green beans and cookies.



## SMP drone provides Tampa construction updates

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**TAMPA** — As Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa continues with its expansion project, it has opted to use aerial filmmaking to provide construction updates for guests.

Utilizing DJI Inspire 1 drone video shot by Seminole Media Productions, guests are now able to view the construction progress on

the Orient Road garage, which will provide 750 new parking spaces. The video can be viewed on YouTube.

The new parking garage, which is scheduled to open in 2017, is part of an expansion project that will also include a 30,000-square-foot premium gaming area featuring upscale games; a new 50-table state of the art poker room; increased amenities including an upscale

restaurant; and a new, expanded porte-cochere.

The table games area will open in December — smoke-free gaming on Dec. 2 and high limit/premium on December 22. The new poker room is scheduled to open Jan. 12, while the ballroom/event space is slated to open Jan. 8.



Martin Ebenhack

The view from a Seminole Media Productions drone shows the construction project underway at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

### JUDGE From page 1A

In 2011 the Legislature delegated the task of regulating cardrooms to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, which allowed the cardrooms to conduct designated player banked games. The ruling states that these games are in fact banked card games and violate the Compact.

The Compact ensured the Tribe would have exclusivity for banked card games for five years. For that

assurance, the Tribe paid more than \$1 billion to the state. The ruling doesn't address payments, which the Tribe has continued to pay since the five-year term expired in July 2015. The state has put the payments in escrow, said attorney Barry Richard.

"The Tribe wants guaranteed exclusivity," said Richard, who argued the Tribe's case during the non-juried trial. "If the Legislature allows more gaming, which is an infringement of the Compact, then the Tribe can reduce or terminate payments and continue to conduct gaming."

Richard said no decision had

been made about the payments. He noted the Tribe has had a good partnership with the state, which has kept gaming from spreading to other areas in the state.

Although the state filed actions to stop the way pari-mutuels were conducting player designated games, it never repealed the rule about those games.

"It has no significance," Richard said. "Based on Florida statutes, they are banked games, period."

There is no word as to whether the state will pursue another compact with the Tribe.

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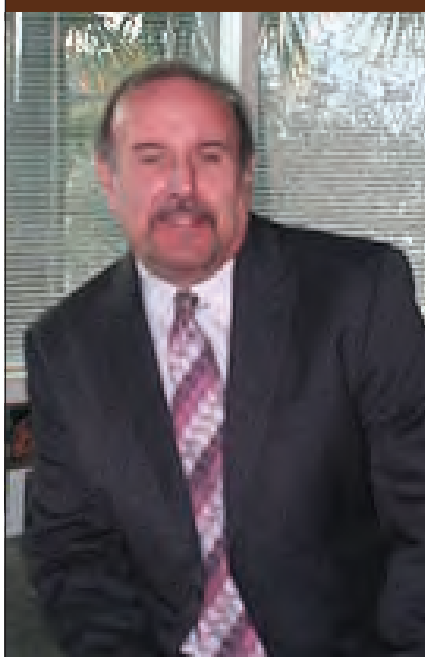


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# Brighton Veterans Day honors Native American military service

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Honoring military service was the focal point of the 29th annual Veterans Day celebration Nov. 3 as the sacrifices made by Native Americans in the U.S. Armed Forces were recognized during a ceremony at the Florida Seminole Veterans Building in Brighton.

"This is an important day and we honor those folks who made America what it is today," said Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., U.S. Marine Corps. "We thank those young men and women who are probably sitting on some hill or on top of a building or in a vehicle halfway around the world right now so they can look for those bad folks and take them out before they have a chance to come here."

The event posthumously honored Sammie Gopher, U.S. Army 1966-68, and Gary Billie, U.S. Army 1972-73. Plaques were presented to their families.

"Vietnam veterans didn't get a welcome home; we didn't get a parade," said Stephen Bowers, U.S. Army. "So we give out shirts and pins commemorating when we left Vietnam in 1975."

Guest speaker Jay Pfeiffer, U.S. Marine Corps 1965-69, met Bowers, Howard Tommie, Fred Smith and James Billie in 1972 when he was on the staff of the manpower planning council in Tallahassee and worked on Native American workforce issues. He went on to a 40-year career in the Florida Department of Education and now serves on the Florida Governor's Council for Indian Affairs. He is also a member of the

Vietnam Veterans of America and serves on the Board of the American Indian Veterans Memorial, Inc.

"It [military service] was a challenging period of our lives," Pfeiffer said. "We were young and going away from home for the first time. For many of us, the responsibilities we had were way beyond anything we had before. That can be traumatic when combat is involved."

He went on to praise the existence of the Brighton veterans building as a place for veterans to gather and talk about their experiences together. He noted most veterans don't have that opportunity.

"Most people don't understand that not every veteran did the same thing," Pfeiffer said. "There are as many jobs to do in military service as there are in civilian life. We all have a common general experience, but the specifics are as diverse as anywhere."

Prior to Pfeiffer's speech, Native Voices, from All Family Ministries in Brighton, performed a few hymns in Creek and the audience was welcomed by Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie.

Marc McCabe, regional director of the Vietnam Veterans of America, read the roll of fallen Tribal soldiers and then introduced Tribal veterans, who stood at the front of the room and greeted every person in attendance.

"We need to educate non-Indians about our involvement in conflict from day one when Columbus got here," said President Mitchell Cypress, U.S. Army veteran. "We protected our land then and we still protect our land."



Tribal military veterans, including Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr., greet well-wishers at the 29th annual Brighton Veterans Day celebration Nov. 3.

Beverly Bidney



Charlene Hunsinger accepts a plaque commemorating her father Gary Billie's military service from Stephen Bowers during the Brighton Veterans Day event Nov. 3.

Beverly Bidney



Stephen Bowers, at far right, presents a plaque commemorating Sammy Gopher's military service to his sister Beulah Gopher Nov. 3 during the Brighton Veterans Day event. Also pictured are, from left, Alyxter Loudermilk, Daniel Gopher and Madeline Tongkeamha.

Beverly Bidney

# Veterans contributions to country highlight BC ceremony

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ  
Copy Editor/Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Veterans Day celebration in Big Cypress honored Natives and non-Native veterans Nov. 11. The program featured guest speakers, singer Spencer Battiest and a sermon by Pastor L.W. Howard.

The ceremony started with a march and flag presentation from the Seminole Public Safety Color Guard to honor all those who have served the United States of America; it ended with a moment of silence to remember fallen heroes, especially Lance Cpl. Marine Herman L. Osceola, who died in the line of duty.

The gymnasium, which is named in memory of Lance Cpl. Osceola, was packed with people who recited the pledge of allegiance. Spencer Battiest sang 'God Bless the USA' to kick off the day's observance.

Master of Ceremonies Junior Battiest introduced President Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Rep. Joe Frank for opening remarks. Battiest described the moment he met his longtime friend Herman Osceola.

"I just knew we were going to be friends," Junior Battiest said. "He was kind of intimidating at first, but then he welcomed me with open arms into the Tribe. He became my first friend in Big Cypress."

Junior's journey as a Choctaw working

with the Tribe was one he said he holds dear to his heart. He said he is privileged to have the honor of recognizing veterans.

"I've been singing and emceeding for the Tribe for 30 years," Junior said. "I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity to lead the ceremony."

Specially-made embroidered baseball hats were given to the oldest veterans in the crowd, David Whidden and Ken Fuller, non-Natives who served for the Marine Corps and Navy.

Eight handmade patchwork vests sewn by Seminole women were given out through a raffle drawing to honor male vets. An intricately-designed patchwork blanket was given to Navy veteran Salli Josh, the only woman in attendance who served the armed forces.

All Seminole veterans and non-Native veterans lined up side-by-side to receive handshakes from family, friends, and Tribal members as a token of appreciation and respect from all those who haven't served. President Cypress said the large Veterans Day celebration is the Tribe's way of educating non-Natives about the Seminoles serving the military.

"We protected our country before Columbus, and we continue to do so today," President Cypress said. "By having a Veterans Day, we are encouraging the younger generation to serve the country and defend our freedom."



Pastor L.W. Howard delivers an oration next to President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, and Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola during a Veteran's Day ceremony Nov. 11 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.

Stephanie Rodriguez



Hollywood Board Rep. Steve Osceola and Master of Ceremonies Junior Battiest present U.S. Navy veteran Salli Josh with a blanket especially designed and created by Seminole women for the Veterans Day celebration.

Stephanie Rodriguez



Special guest Spencer Battiest sings 'God Bless the USA' on Nov. 11 at the Veterans Day celebration in Big Cypress.

Stephanie Rodriguez

## Cool weather grass grows in Brighton field trial

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — With an eye toward increasing productivity in Tribal cow pastures, Aaron Stam, University of Florida extension agent, began a field trial of cool weather grasses on a 20-acre pasture in the Brighton feedlot Nov. 1.

Bahiagrass, currently used in pastures, is a fine choice most of the year but it goes dormant in winter. During wetter months, bahiagrass grows abundantly and provides each cow with about two and a half acres grazing land per pasture.

The 90-day trial will help determine if other varieties of high protein and nutrient-rich pasture grass will grow well during the cooler, dryer winter months and grow back after cattle graze on it.

“We want to see if we can have more cattle on the same amount of land,” said Stam, who is also affiliated with the Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program. “If we can grow more grass, we can have more cattle and make more money.”

The feedlot site was planted with one-acre plots of triticale, ryegrass, oats and wheatgrass. The grasses are annuals and more labor-intensive since they must be planted each year. The trial will track the cost of the seed and compare it to the amount of forage it provides. Stam will tally the amount of protein in the grass, the amount produced and the total digestible nutrients to determine cost effectiveness.

Extension agents James McWhorter, from Highlands County, and Jonah Bosquez, from Hardee County, helped plant the seed and will track the results with Stam.

The large parcel should mimic the real world. University scientists have conducted similar studies on a much smaller scale; usually 12 foot by 12 foot plots without cattle grazing on them. UF researchers do things very scientifically; extension agents look for practical applications.

“Producers just want to know what works and if there is a better way to do things to increase profits,” Stam said.

He pointed out the Brighton pasture is not a research study; it is a field trial.

“Our job as extension agents is to help our cattle producers gather information and understand it, with the goal of making more money,” Stam said. “That’s what the cattle business is all about. We are putting it to the test out here.”

Stam doesn’t know whether or not the trial will be successful; a lot rests on whether the field gets enough rain in the first seven to 10 days to germinate the seeds. In 90 days, more cattle will be sent to the feedlot to graze on the new grass.

“We will section off each acre after they graze and watch the regrowth,” Stam said. “The important part is to see how it



Beverly Bidney

University of Florida extension agent Aaron Stam walks behind the tractor driven by Highlands County extension agent James McWhorter as triticale grass is planted in the Brighton feedlot Nov. 1. Triticale and other grasses are being tested for cool weather durability.

withstands grazing pressure and determine if it will grow back.”

The feedlot site isn’t a perfectly flat



Beverly Bidney

Aaron Stam shows a handful of various types of grass seeds before planting four types of cool weather grass on a 20 acre parcel at the Brighton feedlot Nov. 1.

parcel of land; it has a pond, ditches and other obstructions that created challenges for marking off the one acre parcels. When the grass grows, it will look like a patchwork of grass. Ten foot walkways between the grasses give the extension agents access to study it.

The grass won’t have a chance to grow into full-grown fields of waving wheat and grain. Cattle prefer to eat it while it’s tender, after germination during the vegetative, or grazing, stage. Not coincidentally, that’s when the grass has the best nutritional value and the most amount of protein. The vegetative stage lasts about 45 to 60 days, depending on temperatures and rainfall.

The clock is ticking and 90 days will come in the blink of an eye. Stam said the field trial should be done more than once. He plans to build a database over time.

“You never know what the weather will be, so we have to do it every year until we have it figured out,” he said. “Without repetition, one year of data is interesting but not that informative. You need more years of trials to be able to show which varieties do best in South Florida. If out of 10 years we have seven good years; that will be valuable data. Cattlemen will look at the results and make their decisions.”

Stam spends about half of his time working with the Tribe’s cattle program and the rest with the 4-H program, whose youth are possibly the future of the cattle program.

## Digging for solutions at fracking summit

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**FORT MYERS** — Hundreds of environmentally concerned citizens attended the Florida Fracking Summit Nov. 2 to learn about the threats to the environment and what they can do to help prevent them.

The room remained silent throughout the day as the crowd listened intently to expert speakers at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers. The serious and technical agenda held the attention of the audience comprised of college students, working adults and retirees.

The summit, sponsored by Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Natural Resource Defense Council, Earthjustice and Center for Biological Diversity, featured a lineup of 11 scientist and activist speakers.

Keynote speaker and fracking expert Dr. Anthony Ingraffea, of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, went from being an industry insider — he was a principal investigator of research and development projects for institutions and companies including the National Science Foundation, NASA, Exxon, General Dynamics, Boeing and more — to an outspoken fracking opponent.

“Fracking is a global issue that creates air and water contamination and affects

climate change,” said Ingraffea, Cornell professor of engineering and senior fellow of Physicians, Scientists and Engineers for Healthy Energy. “I hope to continue the education of this group so when they engage with regulators and legislators they do so knowledgeably. People in charge of making the rules don’t know the science and it makes them vulnerable to non-science influences, like lobbyists.”

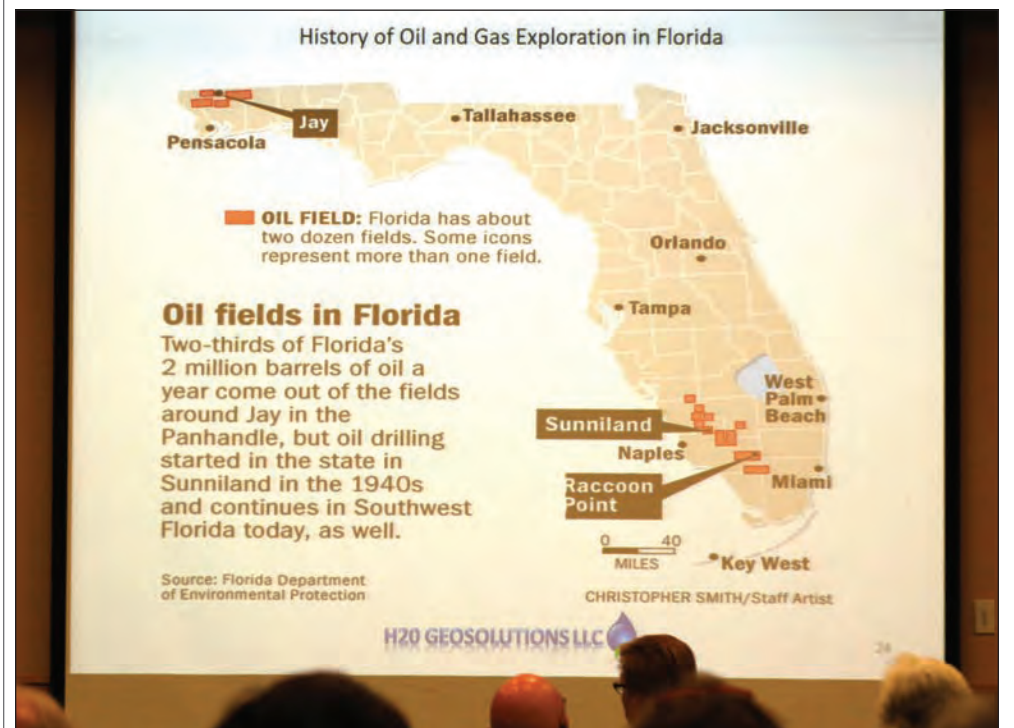
Ingraffea presented facts and figures, graphs and charts. Laser pointer in hand, he stood before the audience like the professor he is and explained the dangers of fracking in plain language.

“We are citizens of the world and the issues we face are not particular to Florida,” he said. “As far as we know, there are 4,100 oil and gas wells drilled in Florida. Likely there are hundreds more we may never know about until they start to leak.”

The first Florida oil well was drilled by Humble Oil Company in 1943 near Immokalee in the Sunniland Trend, an oil field that spans from Fort Myers to Miami. Much of Sunniland is located in the Big Cypress Preserve not far from the Big Cypress Reservation.

Florida’s oil industry is small compared to others in the U.S. There are less than 100

♦ See FRACKING on page 6B



Beverly Bidney

A slide showing the history of oil and gas exploration in Florida is displayed as part of an expert’s presentation during the Florida Fracking Summit at Florida Gulf Coast University on Nov. 2.

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# ERMD balances needs of wildlife and community on reservations

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — For the last decade, the Environmental Resource Management Department's wildlife and wetlands divisions have been monitoring the health of Tribal land and the non-human species that call it home.

ERMD has what appears to be conflicting roles; it aims to protect the environment as it works with Tribal departments that build new homes and make use of the natural resources.

The department's biologists conduct home site surveys before construction plans are made, document species on the reservations through use of remote cameras and are responsible for land management duties such as invasive plant removal, grassland burns and native burns.

"We want to make sure we aren't impacting wildlife habitats during construction or burns," said wildlife biologist Pauline Campi. "Our goal is to protect tribal resources."

Native burns of forested areas are beneficial since they bring back native plants for cultural use and provide clear walkways for wildlife, including panthers and their prey. Grassland burns take place in pastures and remove overgrown, tough grass cattle cannot easily eat. Tender grass grows back after the burn.

ERMD is responsible for about 80,000 acres in Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood. The staff, which is trained by wildlife experts for every new project, has been conducting surveys of the land since 2006. They recently learned how to conduct acoustic surveys to listen for the newly endangered Florida bonneted bat.

"The ERMD plays an important role in keeping the Tribe in compliance with federal environmental regulations," Whitney Sapienza, environmental science division supervisor, wrote in an email. "The majority of the Tribe's reservations persist in environmentally sensitive habitats. It is a constant balancing act to ensure conservation of the sensitive habitat while enabling the Tribe to continue to develop on the reservations as they see fit. In working closely with the Tribal community and Tribal Departments ERMD is able to provide insight to avoid or minimize environmental impacts that may be caused by development activities."

Prior to 2014, the department consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on all projects to ensure they were in conformity with the Endangered Species Act. In 2012, the ERMD wrote its own Wildlife Conservation Plan to streamline the process. It took two years for the USFWS to approve the Tribe's plan and it has been used successfully ever since.

The plan's goals include providing for sustainable use of wildlife and other natural resources while balancing wildlife conservation with the Tribe's cultural and economic interests; conforming to the Endangered Species Act; providing resource management procedures for threatened and endangered species which are culturally significant to the Tribe.

Endangered species listed in the plan include the Florida panther, Everglades snail kite, red-cockaded woodpecker and Florida bonneted bat. Threatened species are the Audubon's northern crested caracara, wood stork, eastern indigo snake and gopher tortoise. The bald eagle, found in a few nests in Brighton, has been de-listed but is protected under the Migratory Birds Act/Bald and Golden Act.

ERMD uses 20 to 30 remote cameras on each reservation to create a wildlife database with photos, GPS locations, dates and what the animals were doing at the time. Some of the animals caught on camera are panthers, deer, hogs, bobcats, raccoons, turkeys and bears.

"Panthers are everywhere, but we are able to track them more because of the cameras," said biological technician Mandy D'Andrea. "Bears are curious and have



Beverly Bidney

Mandy D'Andrea photographs lichen on the side of a tree during a home site inspection Nov. 14 in Big Cypress.



Beverly Bidney

ERMD wildlife biologist Pauline Campi looks for wildlife paw prints in a dirt road in Big Cypress Nov. 14. Plenty were found, including those of panthers, wild hogs and dogs.

knocked some cameras down. Now we have cameras in bear boxes attached to the trees, which has saved us a lot of cameras."

ERMD biologists prefer to do bird surveys very early in the morning, starting at about 6:30 a.m., to get the animals while they are still in nests or roosting. Since much of the land is privately held, access isn't always easy.

"When they wake up is the best time to catch them," Campi said. "Evenings are best for reptiles and bats."

Armed with a GPS locator and a clipboard, Campi and D'Andrea recently surveyed a one and a half acre home site in Big Cypress to look for evidence of wildlife activity on the property. While on these surveys, if they determine that the parcel is a wetland, they notify the wetlands division which will survey the land to establish if it is suitable for building.

The home site turned out to be mostly wetland. Evidence included an abundance of wetland plants, cypress knees and high water lines on trees, indicating standing water. Other clues were flattened pads of algae and

thick muck underfoot.

In the muck, Campi and D'Andrea found tracks that prove panther, bear, bobcat, deer and other animals recently spent time on the property. They also found an area disturbed by a possum or armadillo and a live baby box turtle. Invasive plants, lichen on trees and bird droppings were also discovered during the meandering transect of the home site.

After the home site survey, cameras were retrieved from the field elsewhere in Big Cypress. The cameras are motion triggered; one had 969 images and the other had 51. Near the cameras were more paw prints from mammals large and small. ERMD biologists used to put cameras in dense areas but learned they get better results, and more photos of wildlife, in more open areas.

"We have every species and from year to year we see how they are doing," Campi said. "It's important for Tribal members to live off the land, so we work without encroaching on their traditional activities."

## ARTISTS From page 1A

Native American Heritage Month. The organization is dedicated to preserving Loxahatchee Battlefield Park, the site of two Second Seminole War battles.

In July, Jumper visited the park and spent four hours painting the legendary Tree of Tears. The massive 300-year-old live oak, now embraced by a surrounding fence, was

used to shade dead and wounded soldiers nearly 180 years ago.

"Every time I visit a place like that I think deeply about it all the way home. I have to process it. I have to wind down," Jumper said.

The painting was his first in a series of Florida battlefield and historic site paintings, according to an August report in The Seminole Tribune. The Tampa painting was his second. Jumper hopes to include Okeechobee, Dade, Ocala, St. Augustine and others in future works.



Eileen Soler

Tribal citizen Gordon Oliver Wareham, of the Panther Clan, plays a haunting melody on a Native American flute during a performance art show Nov. 6 at a reception for the Artists Seminoli exhibit at the Fort Lauderdale History Center, New River Inn Museum of History. Wareham played background music while Tribal citizen Elgin Jumper, of the Otter Clan, and Erika Tommie, of the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska created paintings that depicted a Seminole War battle just north of Tampa.



Eileen Soler

Artist Erika Tommie, of the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska and a Hollywood Reservation resident, introduces herself during a performance art show Nov. 6 at a reception for the Artists Seminoli exhibit at the Fort Lauderdale History Center, New River Inn Museum of History. Tommie used pastels on paper to express how she imagined a battle between her ancestors and the U.S. Army would have looked like during the mid 1800s.

## USET elects officers

FROM PRESS RELEASE

**CHEROKEE, N.C.** — During its 2016 annual meeting in Cherokee, North Carolina, on Nov. 9, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc./USET Sovereignty Protect Fund board of directors selected and installed its officers.

The officers are President Kirk Francis Sr., Vice President Robert R. McGhee, Secretary Lynn Malerba and Treasurer B. Cheryl Smith. These officers will serve as the Executive Officers Committee (EOC) for two years.

Kirk Francis is the Chief of the Penobscot Indian Nation, which is located at Indian Island, Maine. He has served as Chief of the Nation since 2006 and holds the distinction of being the longest serving Chief of the Penobscot Nation since the electoral system began in 1850. He also chairs the Natural Resource Committee of the National Congress of American Indians.

Robert "Robbie" McGhee serves as the Vice Chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Tribal Council and has been an advocate for Native American issues at all levels of government. Robbie holds a Master's of Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis and an Executive Master's in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee. He serves on the Board of the National Indian Child Welfare



USET Photo

USET's recently elected officers are, from left, Chief B. Cheryl Smith (Jena Band of Choctaw Indians - Louisiana), Chief Kirk Francis (Penobscot Indian Nation - Maine), Vice Chairman Robert McGhee (Poarch Band of Creek Indians - Alabama) and Chief Lynn Malerba (The Mohegan Tribe - Connecticut).

Board, Children First Alabama, is a member of the Secretary's Health and Human Services Tribal Advisory Committee, and the Board of Advisors for the Center for Native American Youth and the Native American Rights Fund.

Chief Mutáwi Mutáhash (Many Hearts) Marilyn "Lynn" Malerba became the 18th Chief of the Mohegan Tribe of Connecticut in August of 2010, which is a lifetime appointment, and is the first female Chief in the Tribe's modern history. She served as Chairwoman of the Tribal Council,

and also worked in Tribal Government as Executive Director of Health and Human Services. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Connecticut, an honorary doctorate from the University of St. Joseph in Hartford and earned a doctor of nursing practice at Yale University.

B. Cheryl Smith has spent her professional career working in various capacities for her Tribal Nation, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, including as a member of Tribal Council from 1975-98.

## Fitness trail gets a workout



Stephanie Rodriguez

Several Tribal members and employees walked the Seminole Veterans Memorial Fitness Trail after its opening ceremony in Big Cypress. The ceremony, which was led by President Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank, was held Nov. 11 in conjunction with the Veterans Day celebration at the Herman L. Osceola Gym. Participants stretched and completed short exercises before walking the trail next to the Big Cypress Senior Center. The trail was dedicated to veterans of the armed forces, but its inspiration also comes from Seminoles who have struggled with diabetes. President Cypress urged elders to exercise and walk at least 20 minutes a day, preferably three times a week.



# Visitors flock to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki's annual AIAC

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Special to the Tribune

**BIG CYPRESS** — Before Hopi Tribe member Nakotah LaRance mesmerized an audience with his championship hoop dance moves during the 19th annual American Indian Arts Celebration at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, his father Steve LaRance dedicated the performance to friends in Standing Rock 2,100 miles away.

"The hoop represents Mother Earth... and she is a living dynamic being. We recognize our friends in North Dakota and what they are doing to protect and preserve our land," Steve LaRance said referring to ongoing protests by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and its supporters against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

Though art and culture were the main attractions for the event in Big Cypress that featured dance, music, crafts, food and re-enactments, tradition and cultural preservation were underscored by many who attended the two-day event.

Historian and Chief Justice Willie Johns said he hoped visitors appreciated the Seminole clothing fashion show, the alligator wrestling, the rows of craft booths filled with beaded jewelry, patchwork, sweetgrass baskets and fine art. But he really wanted people to witness a staged Seminole War skirmish on land near locations where

ancestors like Sam Jones, also known as Abiaki, stood their ground against the U.S. Army in the late 1830s.

"You know how you feel when you go to Gettysburg and walk on the ground and hear the cannons going off and the shooting? We hope that visitors here get a feel for what it could have looked like for us here," Johns said.

For the first time at the annual arts festival, a re-enactment featured a small unit of Army soldiers on the approach to a Seminole camp with weapons drawn and fired, but the unit was outwitted by Seminole men who used guerrilla tactics to wage a successful counter attack from inside a thick cypress mound. Earlier in the day, the Big Cypress Martial Arts group demonstrated how Seminoles used hunting skills outmaneuver soldiers in hand-to-hand battle.

Associate Justice Moses Jumper Jr. and Matthew Griffen, a Black Seminole descendant now of Groveland, led the Seminole resistance while on horseback inside the thicket. Rey Becerra, a community outreach specialist for the museum, organized the re-enactment.

Jumper addressed the crowd before the re-enactment began. He told them about the Battle of Okeechobee — on Christmas Day 1837 near the northeast tip of Lake Okeechobee — where Abiaki, Billy Bowlegs

and Alligator led about 400 Seminoles to defeat 1,100 U.S. soldiers.

"The Battle of Okeechobee was kind of like our Little Big Horn," Jumper said referring to the famous battle fought in 1876 that was won by the Lakota, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes against the U.S. in eastern Montana. "Gradually we started making our way to [Big Cypress] where just a few miles away is the River of Grass. We had different skirmishes here, but not all history books tell our story."

Jumper explained briefly how ancestors settled nearby but still endured occasional confrontations with soldiers. He also told about how raising cattle, farming, and other enterprise with white settlers who began to populate Florida helped influence the Seminole Tribe today.

Tourism opportunities led to crafting and alligator wrestling as attractions, while the tribe built a reputation in the cattle industry. Years after launching the first successful high stakes Indian bingo operation in the nation, the Tribe began opening casinos and now owns the entire Hard Rock brand. Its cattle business is fourth in Florida and among the top 10 in the nation.

"Our determination and diversity help us support our people with health, education and public services. We are a nation inside a nation," Jumper said.

Visitors included John Yeager and Doug Davis of the Historic Hernando Preservation Society. They are helping to survey Chocachatti, one of the first documented Creek settlements in Florida near Brooksville. Davis said some of the area has already been documented.

"We found out about the art celebration from a friend and the enthusiasm to come down spilled over us. We need to be in touch with the Seminole Tribe so the people know we are truly connected. We are not some flash in the pan," Davis said.

The art celebration, organized by Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff and Tribal members, featured Seminole musicians Rita Youngblood, Ted Nelson, Cypress Billie and Paul Buster. Medicine Man Bobby Henry opened each day with ceremonial dances. Alligator wrestler Billy Walker kept spectators entranced during several wild animal shows.

Ashley Billie, of Immokalee, brought her five children and mother, Janie Billie, to the event so they could reconnect with friends and family, take in a day of culture and simply be outside in the fresh air. She browsed for patchwork clothing while her daughters shopped for jewelry.

Steve LaRance said the beauty of



Eileen Soler

Shylah K. Walker, 8, of the Bear Clan, performs a shawl dance Nov. 5 at the 19th annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress. The two day event featured dance, music, crafts, fine arts, and cultural exhibits provided by Seminole Tribe citizens and members of other tribes throughout Indian County.



Eileen Soler

Seminole War reenactors playing the parts of Army soldiers shoot their weapons in a salute to Seminole warriors Nov. 5 in Big Cypress during the 19th annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Eileen Soler

Ashley Billie, of Immokalee, browses for patchwork clothing at the American Indian Arts Celebration at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Eileen Soler

Volunteers play the roles of Seminole women for a brief reenactment of a Seminole War skirmish in Big Cypress during the 19th annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

the event was made more special by the participation of younger Tribal members who are living in their culture and sharing it with others. His son, Nakotah LaRance, 27, a six-time national hoop dance award winner, began dancing Fancy Dance when he was a little boy.

Before introducing his son to the

audience, he invited Shylah K. Walker, 8, of Big Cypress, to demonstrate a shawl dance. She stomped gently and twirled modestly with great reverence.

"When we see our young people elevate a share our culture it shows everyone that Native American people are still here and we are still strong," Steve LaRance said.



Eileen Soler

Nakotah LaRance, the hoop dance champion of the world, performs Nov. 5 at the 19th annual American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC) at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress. The two day event featured dance, music, crafts, fine arts, and cultural exhibits provided by Seminole Tribe citizens and members of other tribes throughout Indian County.

## Seminole Hard Rock Gasparilla Pirate Fest names U.S. Navy Lt. Haytasingh as 'community hero'

FROM PRESS RELEASE

Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa, along with Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla and EventFest, Inc., announced on Veterans Day that U.S. Navy Lt. Ramesh Haytasingh will be the "Community Hero" for the 2017 Seminole Hard Rock Gasparilla Pirate Fest and the Gasparilla Parade of the Pirates on Jan. 28.

Lt. Haytasingh is a Special Operator with the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa. During his 19 years of service, he has had eight combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Despite seeing his share of battle wounds during those deployments, it was a surfing accident in 2013 that deeply affected his life. He sustained a broken neck as well as several other injuries.

Lt. Haytasingh would go on to endure 12 surgeries covering more than two and a half years before ultimately having the opportunity to compete in the DOD (Department of Defense) Warrior Games in June 2016 for the USSOCOM team in rifle, archery, swimming, track and field, and wheelchair basketball. He was also selected to be the torchbearer for the opening ceremony and was awarded the "Heart of the Team" by fellow teammates and coaches.

"We're grateful for Lt. Haytasingh's service and commitment to our country," said Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa President John Fon-



U.S. Navy Lt. Ramesh Haytasingh

tana. "He clearly fits the mold of what a 'Community Hero' should be. We're certainly honored that he will participate in this great event."



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Identifying the **Past**



# A place to remember

BY ERIC GRIFFIS  
 Oral History Coordinator

One way of identifying the past is to match stories with places. Places are important cultural features that cannot be put in a box on a shelf, or put in a frame and displayed on a wall, and they cannot be recorded to be played back later. But we all know that they are just as important as material objects and memories.

Many times, people say a place reminds them of a story, or a story reminds them of a place. For example, during the American Indian Arts Celebration in the Museum parking lot Nov. 5 I watched Reverend Paul "Cowbone" Buster perform. He introduced his songs, his stories, by pointing out the places all around him that he could see from the stage, and recalled fond memories as he looked out in the distance.

Traditionally, when we record stories, they involve an audio or video recorder and a person sitting in a chair answering questions or telling a story. These recordings are valuable resources, but with the changing technology of today, we can record stories in much more dynamic ways that enrich our ability to preserve cultural heritage.

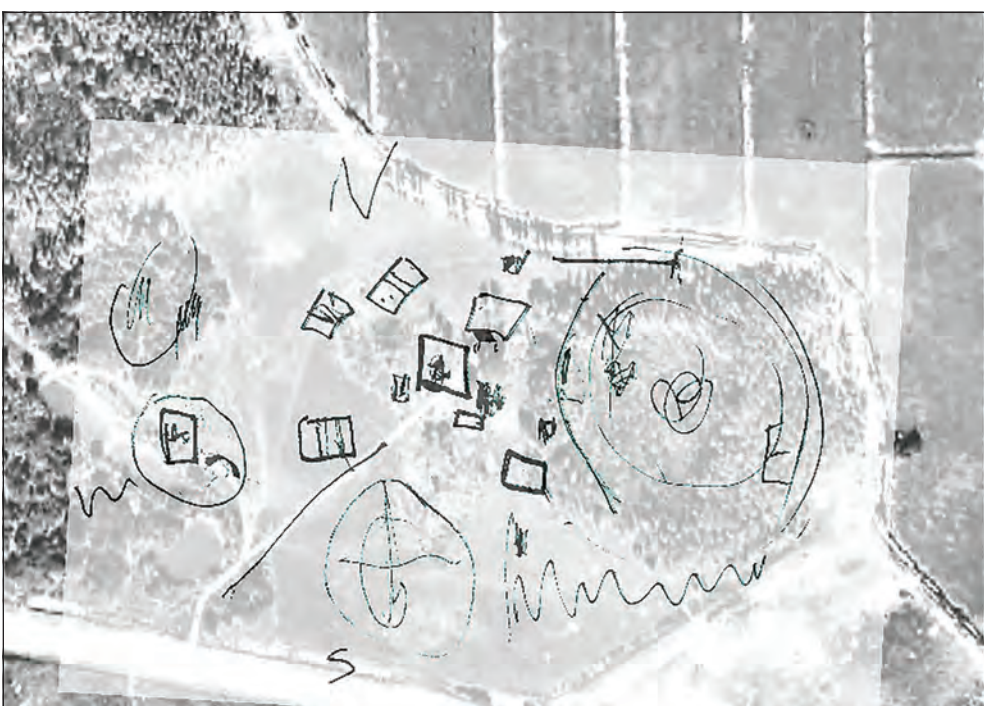
Recently, the Museum held an event called Seminole Story Days during which Carol Cypress drew a map of the area of her grandfather's camp that she lived in as a girl. She pointed out where all the chickees were, the roads, the gardens, where her grandfather parked the canoes he built for other people. Years ago, much of the camp was cleared and leveled to use as cattle pasture land. But we are now able to take her drawing and line it up with historic aerial photography, using GIS, and see exactly where everything in the camp was located. This helps the archaeologists, who may find remnants there, know how to interpret them using the context Carol's map and oral history recording offer. And Carol's information can be preserved and remembered.

Another way we have recorded the history of a camp recently was by physically visiting a site and asking the person who lived there to walk to the center of where each of the chickees and other important landmarks were, and we recorded their position with a satellite signal. Again that lets us interpret historical maps with a much greater amount of detail, and we can attach the stories he told to the exact positions on the Earth.

This kind of information recording has led to the creation of the historic markers



As part of Seminole Story Days, Carol Cypress draws a map of the area where she lived as a girl.



Carol Cypress' drawing is placed over an aerial photo of the area.

now being placed around the reservations and surrounding areas. It also gives us the ability to share information in new ways. The possibility exists to attach oral histories to interactive digital displays so that when you scroll across a map, and zoom in and out, the place comes alive with stories.

History becomes three-dimensional, in a way, and leads us to a greater appreciation of "place." These technologies are new and still developmental, but at the Museum, we are always looking to the future for better ways to identify the past.



# When does something begin? Remembering the British Fort

BY PAUL N. BACKHOUSE  
 Director, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and  
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office

The answer to the simple question "When does something begin?" is often not easily answered. For instance, when you go to work in the morning, does the day begin when your eyes open and you realize it's not the weekend anymore? Or perhaps when you leave the house and get in your car? Or when you clock in to begin your job at your place of work? The answer is a matter of perspective. For you, it probably was waking up but for administrators it would almost certainly be clocking in. The same is true when we look at history. It is all about perspective.

Non-Seminole historians have long debated the origin and sequence of the Seminole War. To do so they typically divide the 19th century conflicts into three separate chunks that fit largely with the U.S. perspective. The Tribe sees the conflict differently and elders have often characterized the first half of the 19th century as one long struggle for survival. After all, no one told Tribal members when the "First" Seminole War ended and the "Second" Seminole War began. The question of where and when it all started often comes up. An event held on Saturday, Oct. 22 of this year, deep in the Apalachicola Forest near the tiny town of Sumatra, marked the 200th anniversary of a strong contender for both the "where" and the "when".

The event was held at the site of the former fort at Prospect Bluff on a meandering bend of the beautiful Apalachicola River. The large fort, often referred to as the British Fort or the Negro Fort, was built in 1814 by local Red Stick Creeks and Seminoles under the direction of two British naval officers. High earthen ramparts were constructed around the perimeter of the fort, the remnants of which can still be seen today. The massive size of the fort is a testament to the countless hours required to construct it. The Seminoles, aided by their British allies, were making a powerful statement in the defense of their homelands.

The fort also became a safe haven for refugees of African descent. Training for the defense of the fort was continuous until the British were forced to pull out of Florida in May of 1815. They left behind a substantial fighting force wary of the continual U.S. encroachments into their remaining homelands. After the British sailed home to the east, the majority of the Native warriors returned to their traditional

towns and villages to hunt and live as they always had. The fort was left defended by a force of former slaves and free people of African descent with every reason to fear U.S. imperialist designs on Florida - and the slavery system, still very much in operation.

The tragic day for those men, women and children at the Fort occurred on July 27, 1816. The fort was surrounded by U.S. forces commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Duncan L. Clinch. Still the defenders did not surrender. Two gunboats moved up the Apalachicola River and started shelling the fort. The fifth shot proved to be fateful. Heated to be red hot in the boat's oven, the shot flew directly into the fort's gunpowder magazine causing a massive explosion. Approximately 270 of the fort's 320 defenders were killed. The British Fort, and the lives of its defenders, were in ruins and easily overrun by U.S. forces. One man who escaped that day, the former slave, Abraham, would carry the story of what happened to the Tribe and become an important interpreter for Micanopy as a key figure in later conflicts.

Was the attack on the fort the first act of the first escalation of the War? Human loss and suffering are masked by such distinctions. Perhaps in the end the "when" question doesn't matter when we place in context the impact the decisions that day had on the spirit of a people who remain unconquered to this day.

As Tribal members Joe Frank, Bobby Henry and Herbert Jim took to the podium and delivered moving speeches, history came full circle, bringing the original residents of the Apalachicola Forest home to remember the spirit and resilience of their ancestors. Big Cypress Board Representative Joe Frank eloquently placed the role of the Tribe in historical context and reminded the gathered crowd that the Seminoles are not a historical artifact but an integral part of modern Florida. Bobby Henry was animated. He looked at the landscape, the plants, the trees and animals and knew he was home.

Tribal members, if you are ever in the Tallahassee area and want to explore the history of the Tribe, the drive out to the British Fort takes you through forest toward the beautiful Apalachee Bay. Today the site is managed by the U.S. Forest Service and they would also love to welcome you home. For more information on the fort and how to go and see it please do stop by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation. We would be happy to help you plan your trip.



Tampa residents Bobby Henry and Herbie Jim talk to former Seminole THPO Bill Steele.

# Amid pipeline tensions, water's importance is stressed

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
 Senior Editor

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — For the first five years of his life, Sam Tommie was surrounded by water.

Growing up as a young boy in the Everglades made a lasting impression on Tommie, who spoke about the importance of water during the second night of a three-day Native American Heritage Month program hosted by the Upper Room Art Gallery in downtown Fort Lauderdale on Nov. 15.

Before his family moved to the Big Cypress Reservation in the early 1960s, Tommie learned a lot about water.

"My family has been in this area since the early 1800s. They lived off the water and off small islands," Tommie said. "My family could dig into the ground and clear water would come into the hole and we could drink that; it was good water. We did that."

Tommie recalled going with his grandmother to other small islands where the family had gardens. He remembered how the songs from the birds in the morning differed from their songs in the middle of the day and in the evening. He discussed the spirituality that flows from water.

"The water is spirit; there's spirit in it. There's life in it. There's healing properties

in the water," Tommie said. "We used it to wash our face to wash away bad dreams from the night before. This is how we would start the day."

Tommie's discussion came in the midst of continued tensions over the construction of a pipeline in North Dakota and growing tensions over a natural gas pipeline in Florida.

"We have to do something; the time is now," he said.

Tommie said he is planning to go to North Dakota and join protesters for part of the winter. He said he talked to Standing Rock Sioux chairman David Archambault about both situations.

"He's aware of the environmental problems in Florida. I talked to him about that and about things going on out there. I hope to meet with him again," Tommie said.

"We did three days of solidarity, different things people could do for immediate response to the situation," said Robin Haines Merrill, the Upper Room Art Gallery's executive director. "Today was like the national anti-[Dakota Access Pipeline] issue and we've got our own pipeline issue, too."

Indeed. Just a couple days before the start of Upper Room Art Gallery's program,

14 protesters were reportedly arrested in Gilchrist County east of Gainesville while protesting the construction of the Sabal Trail natural gas pipeline. The concerns of environmentalists are similar to those in North Dakota, that the pipeline could harm waterways and drinking water.

According to organizers of the Gallery program, "the pipeline is being laid in sensitive Florida wetlands, disturbing natural springs, sinkholes, and traveling under creeks and the Suwannee River." Haines Merrill said Nicole Williams, an artist who participates in the Gallery's Tribal Arts Project, was among the arrested.

The situation made the Gallery's program even more relevant and timely as participants sought avenues to help the protesters and educate the public. Only a handful of people were in attendance in the Gallery to listen to Tommie's discussion and a talk from former Congressional primary candidate Tim Canova about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, but hundreds watched live online thanks to streaming.

"We wanted to have this event to help bring awareness to the issue, but also we need



Sam Tommie, center, speaks about the importance of water Nov. 15 during a Native American Heritage Month program at the Upper Room Art Gallery in Fort Lauderdale.

♦ See WATER on page 6C



# Health

## Mending a Native food web

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians use research, new partnerships to expand access to wild foods at the heart of their culture

BY CATHERINE CLABBY  
North Carolina Health News

On an Appalachian Mountains slope coated with trees and low plants, Tommy Cabe got on his knees to look for shiny black seeds inside a late-season ramp patch.

"Here there are five seedpods but no seeds," the forest resource specialist for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians pronounced, adding quickly, "Here's one!"

As Cabe reported every wild onion seed or pod he spotted, Michelle Baumflek, an ethnobotanist at Virginia Tech, logged numbers on a clipboard. With help from a measurement grid that Cabe moved from one research plot to the next in the patch, Baumflek cited precise locations too.

The meticulous work on secluded land may help Eastern Band tribe members regain the right to forage for wild ramps in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a practice banned since 2007.

That would be momentous. Cherokee people have collected and consumed the plants for thousands of years. National park property bordering tribal land in far western North Carolina, the Qualla Boundary, were long a reliable source.

As important as it is, the ramp research is just one way the Cherokee tribe is working today to expand both access to and protections for native plants they treasure. Many new partnerships are cropping up along the way.

"Ultimately we're talking about food sovereignty," is the way Cabe explains the growing drive to help steer policy on these fronts. "Tribes have inherited rights to this."

### Broader goals

In addition to the ramps, the Eastern Band is seeking permission to harvest leaves from sochan plants, also called green-headed coneflowers, on national park land. Cherokee people collect the plant's young leaves, the mineral contents of which can compare favorably to other health-food greens.

And the tribe has signed an agreement

with the North Carolina Arboretum, the U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station and the U.S. Geological Survey to share traditional knowledge and scientific findings to better monitor climate change effects on wild plants the Cherokee favor.

It has also commissioned botanist/chemist Joe-Ann McCoy, who runs the arboretum germplasm repository — a seed bank, to protect the seeds of the wild plants and to document their nutritional value.

"They still eat native foods. They want to collect those foods the way their ancestors did," said McCoy, who also has a research project underway comparing Cherokee harvesting of ramps to other methods.

Expanding consumption of wild foods could have positive health implications as well. Cherokee people in North Carolina are three times more likely to be diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, a potentially lethal condition, than other people in this state.

Wild foods that Cherokee Indians have traditionally consumed — greens, berries and nuts among them — are healthful alternatives to high sugar and carbohydrate-laden meals associated with diabetes, said Robin Callahan, a registered dietician with Cherokee Choices, an Eastern Band diabetes prevention program.

"Traditional foods are whole foods. They are not processed or refined," Callahan said.

Multiple forces have prompted the expanding number of Cherokee partnerships focused on plants. Fundamental to it all is the Eastern Band's ability to finance some research with profits from Harrah's Cherokee Casino, money that is subsidizing tribal public services in many arenas.

At the same time, federal agencies seem to be more awake to American Indians' expertise in and connections to wild native plants.

In August, a new rule approved by the Obama administration allowed national parks to permit federally recognized Indian tribes to remove plants for traditional purposes. That paved the way for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to launch

talks with Eastern Band members about ramp and sochan harvesting.

The southern Appalachian Mountains is a prime spot for foraging for diverse types of plants due to the land's ecological heritage. It contains more plant and animal diversity than most temperate ecosystems in the world.

Cherokee people in North Carolina have had a long time to explore those natural treasures, contact many American Indians in the eastern United States lost in the 1800s they were coerced or forced to move from their traditional homelands to distant reservations.

When the U.S. government started its armed clearance of Cherokee from the Appalachian region, an estimated 10 percent stayed, some by hiding in the forest. Many eventually became part of the Eastern Band, enabling knowledge of local plants gained over thousands of years to stay put too.

"Now it's a big issue. How does western science incorporate the traditional knowledge?" Baumflek asked.

### Traditional expertise

The story of how the Cherokee lost access to ramps and other plants within Great Smoky Mountains National Park is a reminder of the importance of incorporating American Indian insights, Cabe said.

Decades ago many considered ramps a poor person's fare in the Appalachians, eaten by impoverished Indians and whites alike. Cabe recounted how a public school teacher once kicked him out of a classroom after complaining that he did not like the smell of the pungent wild onions on him.

But by the 2000s, appetites for regional foods had swelled in the United States. Exotic and sharp tasting ramps became favorites at upscale farmers markets, on foodie blogs, and at high-dollar restaurants in Manhattan. To satisfy demand, more and more people had started picking them in the Great Smoky Mountains park.

That became a concern because a study by a park service researchers dating to the



Catherine Clabby/North Carolina Health News

Tommy Cabe, forest resource specialist for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and ethnobotanist Michelle Baumflek at work counting ramp seeds in a research plot in the Appalachian Mountains.

1990s found that an extensively harvested ramp patch could take 20 or more years to recover to pre-harvest levels. As a result, the park started prohibiting most of the public from harvesting them in 2002. The Cherokee were exempt until 2007 after the park's leadership said they didn't have the legal authority to make that exception.

But the red-flag study's conclusions were based on a harvesting method that yanks ramps out the ground roots and all, not the traditional Cherokee approach. The Cherokee way leaves a small portion of the plant's bulb, its nourishment-storing rhizome, and its roots in the ground, a foundation for a plant to grow back.

The study Baumflek designed, enacted among giant basswood, poplar tulips and buckeye trees, is comparing the Cherokee technique to the more aggressive approach on research plots in three remote locations on preserve land. The study is tracking how plants fare at all growth stages, hence the early autumn hunt for the tiny black seeds.

Baumflek and Tyson Sampson, another

Eastern Band tribe member, are also recording interviews with Cherokee people about how they find, collect and use ramps, accounts that are expected to reinforce the cultural importance of the food. All findings are expected to be published in academic journals.

Given the negative experiences Cherokee Indians have had with non-tribe members, people who long ago evicted so many ancestors from their land and banned Cherokee language from their schools, tribe members aren't always keen to give anything to outside researchers, Sampson said.

But this time, many understand that talking about traditional plants may help protect them.

"This is us sharing our identity to preserve our identity. And that identity is the plants," Sampson said.

This story appeared in North Carolina Health News, a nonprofit, independent news organization.



## Tampa community turns out for health walks

Courtesy photos

Members of the Tampa community recently participated in walks for breast cancer and diabetes awareness. Above, breast cancer survivor Nancy Frank is surrounded by her kids, grandkids and great-grandkids who showed their support for Nancy by walking with her in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5K. They participated as part of the Hard Rock Rockin' Walkstars team. In middle photo, Nancy is joined by Korin Deitch, a nutritionist and health educator for the Tribe. At far right, Dominic Osceola, 10, and McKenna Smith, 11, participate with their four-legged friend in the Step Out Walk to Stop Diabetes in Tampa. Below, participants in the diabetes walk gather for a photo.



## Safe and effective use of pesticides around the home

BY RACHEL TONIA  
Environmental Resource Management Dept.

### What are pesticides?

A pesticide is any material (natural, organic, or synthetic) used to control, prevent, kill, suppress, or repel pests. Pesticide is a broad term that includes insecticides (insect killers), herbicides (weed or plant killers), fungicides (fungus killers), rodenticides (rodent killers), growth regulators, and other materials like miticides, which are used for mite control, or products that kill snails and slugs (molluscicides). These products are relatively safe, but must be handled as instructed on the product label. If not used correctly, it can threaten the health of the user, humans, or pets. Always read the label before using any pesticide product.

Pesticides can be classified as either "restricted use" or "unclassified/general use."

Restricted use pesticides: could harm humans, livestock, wildlife, or the environment, even if it is used as instructed. Application of this kind requires a certification obtained through the EPA Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides or direct supervision of a previously certified applicator.

Unclassified/general use pesticides: can be applied by anyone according to the label. Common household pesticides include insect repellents, flea and tick sprays, powders, and pet collars, kitchen, laundry, and bath disinfectants and sanitizers, products to kill mold and mildew, and some swimming pool chemicals.

### How to choose the proper pesticide

Many pesticides are specific towards the pest it controls. To choose the proper pesticide please consider the following:

1. Properly identify the pest you are trying to control.
2. Determine if you will control the pest yourself or hire a professional.
3. Consider the use of a nonchemical control.
4. If controlling pests yourself, purchase the least toxic product by referring to labels "Precautionary Statements" or similar caution statements.
5. Only purchase a quantity for immediate use.
6. Read the label to familiarize yourself with the pesticide product prior to application. Remember, misuse of a pesticide product is a violation of the law as a pesticide label is a legal document.
7. Follow all directions and safety requirements on the label.
8. Keep records of all pesticide use, even if it is not required in case of an accident. Record the date, time, pesticide name (including the brand), formulation, rate applied, temperature and wind conditions, and location of the application.

### How to safely apply, store and dispose of pesticides

Keep equipment in good condition to avoid injury to yourself and damage to the surrounding environment. Cover all bird feeders and baths before applying. Only apply when there is no wind to prevent drift from sprays or dusts. Keep children and pets away from the area the pesticide was applied as stated in the label. Never eat, drink, or smoke while applying pesticides and wash your hands before using the restroom. Immediately following the application clean the equipment and bathe thoroughly using soap. The clothing worn during the application should be washed separately from other clothing.

Do not store chemicals in beverage containers or near food, livestock feeds or pet food. These can be mistakenly ingested and poison someone. Storing pesticides in containers other than its original is considered a violation of the law. Always store pesticides with the label attached and the lid securely sealed. Keep all chemicals out of reach of children and pets and store them in cool, dry areas that are protected from excessive heat or freezing. Lock all chemicals in a building or cabinet and label the storage facility to clearly indicate the pesticides are stored inside. Check the containers for cracks or leaks.

Pesticides that have been disposed of improperly can injure sanitation workers and lead to environmental pollution. Read the label to find out how to dispose of the pesticide and the container. Never store excess pesticides in sprayers or dump excess pesticides into toilets or other drainage systems due to contamination. Clean a spill or leak immediately. Scatter saw dust, pet litter, or other absorbent materials over the spill, and sweep it into a garbage bag. Wash the area with industrial strength detergent and water, and properly dispose of the contaminated absorbent and wash water according to the product label.

### Pesticide first aid

If you become ill after exposure to pesticides, call the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222. Indicate your physical situation and that you have been applying pesticides. Have the product label available so you can answer questions about the product. Remember, the label contains important medical information such as active ingredients and antidotes. After speaking to the Poison Center, call 911 and inform them that you have spoken to the Poison Center. The Poison Center personnel will then discuss your situation with the 911 response team. Take the pesticide label or container to the hospital with you if possible.

For more information call ERMD at 954-965-4380.

# SEMINOLE SCENES



Kevin Johnson

**JOB WELL DONE:** Brighton Building & Grounds property manager Jody Goodman holds up an Employee of the Month certificate and other goodies she earned for being named Employee of the Month for October by the Executive Operations Office. Jody is in her 20th year as an employee for the Tribe.



Beverly Bidney

**PATRIOTIC PITCH:** Members of All Family Ministries' Native Voices perform at the Brighton Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 3. The group consists of Carla Gopher, Nikki Osceola, Mary Jo Micco and Beulah Gopher.



Beverly Bidney

**HEALTHY CHOICES:** Cheyenne McInturff chooses some vegetables at the Immokalee Farmers Market Nov. 15. The health department sponsored the event to promote healthy eating, educate about diabetes and share a recipe and taste of Three Sisters Soup, which features corn, green beans and squash.



Ralph Notaro

**HOLLYWOOD STARS IN HOLLYWOOD:** Film director Robert Schwartzman, front left, and actor Johnny Simmons are joined by actresses Talia Shire, back left, and Beverly D'Angelo at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Nov. 4 for the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival's opening night premier of 'Dreamland.' Shire, known for her role as Sylvester Stallone's girlfriend and wife in the 'Rocky' movies, and D'Angelo, known for her role in the 'Vacation' movies, star in the movie along with Simmons. The film was directed by Schwartzman, who is Shire's son.



Beverly Bidney

**HALLOWEEN HIGH-** Kids lined up for a chance to soar on a bungee over the rides, ghouls and goblins at the Big Cypress Halloween event Oct. 28.



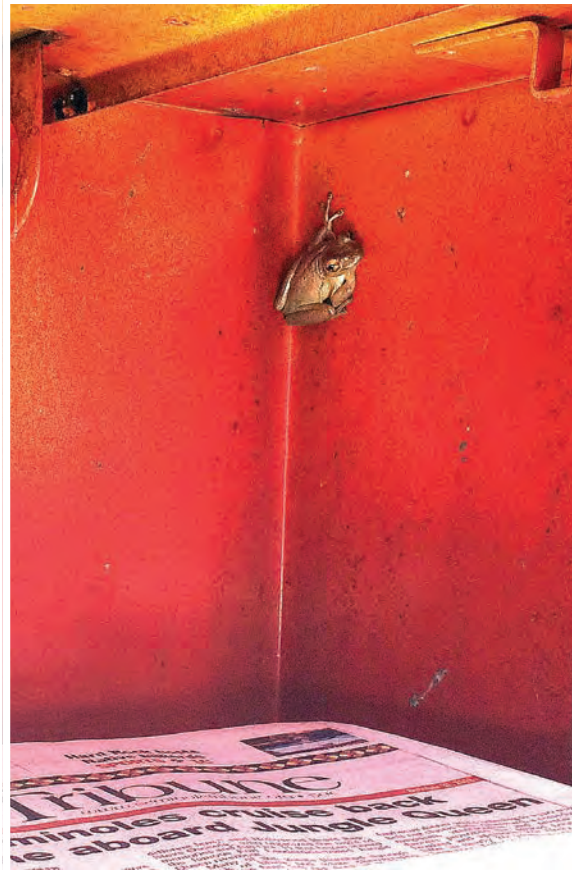
Stephanie Rodriguez

**PRINCESSES AND PRESIDENT:** Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Thomlynn Billie, left, and Miss Florida Seminole Kirsten Doney join President and veteran Mitchell Cypress at the Veterans Day ceremony in Big Cypress on Nov. 11.



Tribune file photo

**REWIND:** Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election Nov. 8 came 20 years after the New York real estate mogul visited the Big Cypress Reservation and checked out the sights at Billie Swamp Safari, including Max Osceola Jr.'s motorcycle. An alligator at the Safari was named 'Trump' following his visit in 1996.



Kevin Johnson

**READIT, READIT:** A frog takes a peek at The Seminole Tribune while resting inside a newspaper machine Oct. 31 at the Trading Post on the Brighton Reservation.



Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood

**HOLIDAY HELP:** Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino chefs and volunteer staff came together at Western High School in Davie on Nov. 18. to drop-off, unload and sort 2,219 pounds of non-perishable food items to Harvest Drive Florida, which assists more than 2,000 food insecure families during the Thanksgiving season. Families receive a complete Thanksgiving meal and a week's worth of grocery staples, as well as personal and household necessities.



Beverly Bidney

**FEEDING TIME-** This white peacock butterfly and blister beetle find a way to share a meal of nectar in Brighton on Nov. 1.



Stephanie Rodriguez

**PUMPKIN PATCH:** Pumpkins are on display in all shapes, colors and designs during Hollywood's pumpkin decorating contest.





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# Education

B

## From FIU to Brighton, Japan's Ainu people share culture

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ  
Copy Editor

**MIAMI/BRIGHTON** — The Ainu people of Japan, whose ancestry is believed to date back as early as the 12th century, brought their culture from the other side of the world to Florida International University in Miami and the Brighton Reservation.

The Ainu shared and explained their native songs, dances and customs during visits in early November as part of FIU's ongoing Global Indigenous Forum geared toward enlightening the public about global issues involving indigenous groups through community activities and academic programs.

"We're very honored to have had the Ainu visitors at FIU to share their traditions with students, faculty and with the Seminole people," said Dennis Wiedman, an associate professor in FIU's Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies. "I'm especially happy that freshman Eden Jumper, who's on the executive board of the Global Indigenous Group student club, was able to welcome the Ainu people to the audience and represent the Seminole Tribe."

Similar to some of the hardships Seminoles endured, the Ainu people — who come from Japan's Hokkaido and Honshu islands — historically had their land invaded, were enslaved and about 70 percent of their population died out in a century.

Despite being recognized by the Japanese government as an Indigenous people in 2008, the Ainu still face adversity and prejudice. They try to keep their identity alive by touring and educating the public about their customs.

Five Ainu women demonstrated an array of traditional dances, including a crane bird dance, the Ainu girls' black hair dance that resembles a pine tree blowing in the wind, and a dance known as the fable of the owl, inspired by the nocturnal bird, which the Ainu see as protector of the forest.

Two Ainu men demonstrated other traditional dances, including one dedicated to a hunter who forgets to hunt when he gets distracted by a beautiful bird.

Dancing for the Ainu is used mostly for ceremonies to exorcise evil spirits and remains an integral part of their culture.

Musical instruments used by the Ainu, such as the Mukkuri and the Tonkori, are believed to have spiritual deities connected to them and were played for an audience of about 200 at FIU. Forum attendees participated in workshops on how to use the traditional instruments. They learned about the patterns in Ainu handmade clothing, traditional robes known as Kimonos, and headbands. They also watched hand-carving of prayer sticks,



Stephanie Rodriguez

An Ainu woman teaches Martha Jones and Alice Sweat how to play the Mukkuri, an instrument made out of a type of bamboo, during the Ainu's visit to the Brighton Reservation on Nov. 7.

known as inaw.

Masako Kubota, FIU's instructor for the Asian Studies Program & Department of Modern Languages, said she couldn't be more thrilled that the Ainu people shared their way of life and beliefs.

"This started five years ago when I finished my thesis for my master's," Kubota said. "I promised them that they would be able to exchange ideas with the Seminoles and Miccosukees; and my dream came true. I'm extremely grateful for the generous grant from the Foundation for Research and Promotion of Ainu Culture and the Japan Foundation the trip to fly across the world possible for the Ainu. I'm also grateful for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's participation with FIU to make the educational experience that much more meaningful."

A few days after the FIU program, the

Ainu attended the American Indian Arts Celebration on the Big Cypress Reservation before they headed to the Brighton Reservation on Nov. 7. The group visited the Creek Immersion School, housed in the Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School, and the Brighton Senior Center.

The Ainu toured the reservation with Chief Justice Willie Johns, interacted with the immersion school's instructors and met with elders MaryJo Micco, Billie Micco, Debbie Carter, Alice Sweat and Martha Jones.

"They were able to emerge themselves into the Creek language. It was fantastic," Kubota said.

The Language Enrichment House, known at the Emahavk Cuko, features staff who are dedicated to developing Creek materials and only Creek is spoken.

After meeting with Language Enrichment

program manager Marcus Briggs-Cloud and studying the environment inside the house where children ages four months to 3 speak only Creek, the group performed for a small audience at the senior center. They showed the seniors how to use the Mukkuri instrument, which is made from nemagardake bamboo. The instrument consists of a thin plate with the center carved out in the shape of a tongue. A string is attached to both ends.

When played, each person's instrument sounds different because of the differences in the shape of people's mouths, according to the Ainu people. Tribal elders were fascinated by the Mukkuri as they tried to play the instrument.

"We wanted [the Ainu people] to be really engaged with the Seminole people and for both Native groups to learn from each other," professor Wiedman said.

The Ainu stayed in cabins on the reservation. During a dinner with Chief Justice Johns, the Ainu discussed how their people could excel in the area of tourism, a highly-demanded request in their country. Johns talked about the Seminole culture and compared it to the Ainu culture and told them how the Seminoles obtained gaming and entertainment, according to Wiedman.

Wiedman explained it was integral for the Ainu people to learn how to maintain control of their destiny, decisions and their rights to arts, music and land.

"Everyone was so welcoming, and to experience the reaction from the two cultures towards one another was amazing," Wiedman said. "It was a great moment in my life."



Stephanie Rodriguez

Masako Kubota, instructor for the Asian Program and Department of Modern Languages at FIU, presents the Ainu visitors from Japan during a program Nov. 4 at FIU in Miami. They are, from left, Midori Toko, Eiko Yamamoto, Kayo Watanabe, Fukiko Goukon, Masao Nishida and Akira Toko.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Masako Kubota, left, FIU instructor for the Asian Studies Program and Department of Modern Languages, stands with members of the Ainu people while they watch a sewing demonstration from Nuthkee Henry with guidance from retired nurse wife Felicia Wiedman, wife of FIU instructor Dennis Wiedman, during the Ainu's visit to the Brighton Reservation on Nov. 7.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Fukiko Goukon, of the Ainu people, plays the Tonkori instrument, which plays like a harp, in front of a large audience at Florida International University.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Chief Justice Willie Johns, far left, stands next to Dennis Wiedman, FIU Instructor for the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies, along with members of the Ainu people and Seminoles from the Creek School in Brighton..

# Seminole students excel in Sagemont science fair

BY STEPHANIE RODRIGUEZ  
Copy Editor

**WESTON** — Four Tribal students who attend the Sagemont Upper School in Weston tested their own hypotheses, created experiments, and discovered conclusions to their science projects in the school's annual science fair Nov. 18 as part of a competition where only 10 spots make it to regional finals.

Sagemont encourages young minds to think through scientific inquiry and problem solving. The top projects will be selected to represent the school at the Broward County School Science Fair regional competition in February 2017.

The school, known as one of the top private schools in Broward County, has had winners in the past place in the county, regional, and state competition for the science fair. In order for students to qualify for the fair, projects that earned an "A" or a "B" were considered for the competition.

One student with high scientific aspirations created an intricate and advanced experiment about the inhibitory effects of sweeteners on beneficial gut bacteria.

"When I was presenting in the actual science fair, I had one science teacher asking me a lot of questions about it and I used fancy terms and some of the seniors didn't really know what I was talking about and it felt a little awkward," said Valholly Frank, 13.

Valholly spent about 30 hours creating her experiment in a lab with Sheryl van der Heiden, Florida Atlantic University professor for Biological Sciences, just to enter the science fair.

"The project was really hard to experiment on, yet a lot was learned," Valholly said.

Ohitika Billie, 12, decided to make his experiment about the growth of mold on different types of bread, such as store-bought bread and homemade bread.

"It was tedious because we had to rush and print everything the next day," Ohitika said. "My goal is to at least get an award place even though my project didn't have the right materials."

Ohitika said he didn't have plastic bags that he needed in order to reach the conclusion he sought and that his bread got stale.

"There's no such thing as a bad question, and there's no such thing as bad information; all information gathered properly is valuable," said Rhonda Roff, Valholly's mom. "It's so important for kids to learn how to recognize they have the power to learn how to answer their own questions; they no longer have to rely on someone else to answer it. It's powerful for them."



From left, Valholly Frank, Ohitika Billie, Caidence Smith, and Alisa Brooks hold up their poster boards Nov. 18 as part of the Sagemont School's science fair in Weston.

Stephanie Rodriguez

Caidence Smith, 12, is an example of a student that had an inner question and wanted to find the answer.

Caidence opted to focus on proving if her dog, Nina, has a higher respiration rate before or after exercise. She tested Nina's breathing for 15 seconds prior to exercise and multiplied the number by 4 in order to get the total inhalation per minute number. Later, she played with her dog for five minutes and repeated her math once

more. Caidence repeated this process for four days, alternating games she played with her dog such as fetch, tug-of-war, running, and playing with a Frisbee in order to have a definitive conclusion to her experiment.

"I had fun working on my science project, and I hope I get to go to nationals," Caidence said.

All the Tribal kids who entered the science fair had their own unique flair

and decided on their projects for different reasons.

Alisa Brooks, 12, selected a topic that she researched online. She decided to find out how much salt an egg needs to float for her experiment. As it turns out, after three trials, the answer is two and a half teaspoons using a boiled egg without the shell, according to Alisa's findings.

"I thought the picture on the internet looked cool and it interested me," Alisa said.

"My reaction at my result was 'Oh my God; it's floating,'" she said.

Learning and testing the methods in their projects proved to be as educational for the students as the final results.

"Science is eliminating all variables and focusing on one in order to determine the answer," Roff said.

# PECS names October students of the month

**BRIGHTON** — The following Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School students earned Student of the Month recognition for October:

**Elementary:** Onnie Cypress, Kenyon Billie, Shaela Issac, Elainna Fonseca, Matti Platt, Zoocy Bowers, Liam Berry, Case Prescott, Brayden Huff, Keira Snell, Jace

Johns, Chaka Yani Smith, Jetta Osceola, Tahniah Billie, Merlelaysia Billie, Maricella Garcia, Tiyanni Anderson, Summer Gopher, Saniya Rodrigues, Nena Youngblood.

**Middle:** Hailey Leach, Elle Thomas, Davin Carrillo



Photo courtesy PECS

Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School middle school students of the month for October are, from left, Hailey Leach, Davin Carrillo and Elle Thomas.



Photo courtesy PECS

Pemaayev Emahakv Charter School elementary students of the month for October.

# Florida State nursing professor promotes Native American health equity

BY ALEX BURNHAM  
FSU News Staff Writer

**TALLAHASSEE** — A top researcher, professor and global advocate for culturally competent health care for Native Americans and indigenous populations has been added to the Florida State University School of Nursing staff and is already making his impact known.

John Lowe — a Cherokee Native American tribal member — is the new endowed McKenzie Professor in Health Disparities Research at FSU, and is in the process of creating the Center for Indigenous Nursing Research for Health Equity (INRHE).

Lowe, one of only 20 Native American nurses with a doctoral degree in the U.S., has been recognized as of the country's "Edge Runners," by the American Academy of Nursing, for his innovative leadership and ways of thinking about healthcare challenges.

The center (INRHE) will focus on local, national and international indigenous communities and will work with organizations to attain health equity for marginalized groups of Native Americans and other indigenous peoples.

The center will also encourage the belief that nurses should have a voice when deciding the nature and type of research being conducted in the communities who have not had their voices heard by the government or surrounding populations.

It is the first research center of its kind worldwide.

"Nurses in indigenous communities all over the world are delivering most of the healthcare," Lowe said. "It only makes sense that nurses act as the catalyst for research."

Dr. Lowe is widely known for his work with Native American substance abuse prevention, and with the funding he has received from the National Institutes of Health, Lowe is implementing and evaluating the "Intertribal Talking Circle"—an after-school intervention program to help curb substance abuse, which has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice as a promising, evidence-based program, preserving the well-being of youth populations.

"What we find within all indigenous, native or aboriginal populations throughout the world who went through a colonization experience tend to have similar health issues," Lowe said. "The prevalence of these health issues are usually higher

than any other group or population in that geographical region."

As well as maintaining a focus on substance abuse, Lowe and other leading researchers will examine issues like diabetes, cardiac disease and obesity.

The recently endowed McKenzie Professor at Florida State has worked with disadvantaged groups in China, Australia, Tanzania, Costa Rica, and served as the John Wymer Distinguished Professor at Florida Atlantic University.

In addition, Lowe received the 2016 Luther Christman Award from the American Nurses Association.

"Dr. Lowe is an outstanding researcher and a passionate advocate for Native American health. He is an eminent scholar and global leader, who will have an immediate impact on our research agenda, our curriculum and our students," said Dean of the FSU College of Nursing Judith McPetridge-Durdle.

As of this year, there are approximately 370 million indigenous peoples living in over 70 countries. At Florida State, Lowe plans to continue using his research on health equity to spread global awareness and to promote healthcare equality for all groups of indigenous populations.



Photo courtesy FSU College of Nursing

Dr. John Lowe's work focuses on the unique health problems of indigenous communities, including alcoholism, obesity and heart problems.

"We are delighted that someone with Dr. Lowe's experience and high level of accomplishment is joining our faculty," said Vice President for Research Gary K. Ostrander. "His unique research on the health

issues affecting indigenous populations will greatly complement the existing work being done by the college to further our knowledge of health issues affecting our world."



## Immokalee preschoolers celebrate Thanksgiving

Beverly Bidney

Above, Allison Concepcion with her son Franky'J Concepcion, 1, and mother Delores Lopez enjoy the Immokalee Preschool Thanksgiving luncheon Nov. 15. At right, Lynn Osceola, 3, and Kadience Venzor, 4, choose their sweet treats carefully. Below, Clarissa Salinas is surrounded by sons A.J. Yzaguirre, 3, and Ray Yzaguirre IV, 5.



## American Indian College Fund named American Indian Non-Profit of the Year

BY PRESS RELEASE

**DENVER, Colo.** — The American Indian College Fund was named the American Indian non-profit of the year by the Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber of Commerce at its American Indian Achievement Awards Gala on Nov. 5 in Denver.

Cheryl Crazy Bull, President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, accepted the award on behalf of the organization, which was chosen for its national work providing higher education opportunities for American Indians.

"We are delighted and honored to be recognized for the work we do in Native

communities," Cheryl Crazy Bull said. "Our experience over more than 25 years has proven to us that education can help Native students navigate any challenge they encounter along life's journey. We provide scholarships and programs to ensure that students succeed across all ages and grades starting with early childhood through high school, ensuring they are college ready, while providing them with the financial and program support in college so that they can succeed and graduate."

In addition to being presented with a stole, the College Fund received a check for \$500.



Photo courtesy American Indian College Fund

Cheryl Crazy Bull, president and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, center forward, receives the American Indian Charity of the Year Award on behalf of the College Fund on Nov. 5 in Denver.

## Storytime at Hollywood Preschool



Stephanie Rodriguez

Special guest storyteller Everett Osceola tells an old fable his grandmother used to tell him to youngsters from the Hollywood Preschool in November.



Stephanie Rodriguez

The 1-year-old and 2-year-old classes sit with Hollywood Preschool teachers for a special guest storytime about an armadillo.



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# Schools get into trick-or-treat mode



Stephanie Rodriguez

Dalina Rodriguez dresses as an old lady while she trick-or-treats inside the Classic Gym with the rest of the Hollywood Preschool on Oct. 31.



Beverly Bidney

Little angel Tawnee Baker, 3, examines her treats at the Brighton Preschool trick-or-treat day Oct. 24.



Stephanie Rodriguez

From left, Neko Osceola Jr., dressed as an elephant, Chanel Billie as Wonder Woman, and Macy Tubby as a witch, sit in a stroller during the Hollywood Preschool Halloween event.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Chaos Micco, Alizayah Alvarado, and Russell Primeaux sit next to each other after they trick-or-treated with their classmates.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Fiona "Chatee" Osceola and mom Sherry Osceola both dress alike as Snow White for the Hollywood Preschool Halloween.



Melissa Sherman

Daniel Tommie and Shonayeh Tommie enjoy the Halloween festivities Oct. 31 at the Big Cypress Preschool Halloween.



Melissa Sherman

Pirate Zhane Carter takes in the Halloween fun with his mom Lovely at the Big Cypress Preschool.



Beverly Bidney

Jo 'Boogie' Jumper loving her granddaughters Lillie Tai and Kaillin Dale Coleman, both 1, on their first Halloween at the Brighton Preschool Oct. 24.



Melissa Sherman

Students in the 3-year-old class shows off their costumes during Big Cypress Preschool's Halloween party.



Kevin Johnson

BRIGHTON: Staff members at PECS put their Halloween spirit on display Oct. 31.



Beverly Bidney

Dressed as Dory the fish, Maryjane Osceola, 3, struggles with the weight of her goodie bag at the Brighton Preschool trick-or-treat event.



Melissa Sherman

Tiffany Billie and her son Batman Amasiah Billie, join Batgirl Arya Billie-Quintanilla during the Halloween party at the Big Cypress Preschool.



# Reservations celebrate Halloween



Stephanie Rodriguez

Tony Billie and Hayley Garcia enter the couple's contest at Hollywood's Fall Festival on Oct. 31.



Beverly Bidney

Nancy Motlow holds granddaughter Natalie Schaffer, 1, in her arms as Nancy Schaffer, 3, holds on to her grandmother's hand as they arrive at the Immokalee Halloween celebration Oct. 28.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Jax Bowers dresses up for the costume contest at Hollywood's Fall Festival.



Beverly Bidney

Freddy Krueger, aka Madasyn Osceola, 11, and zombie Mayli Tommie, 9, walk/shuffle to show off their costumes during the Big Cypress Halloween party Oct. 28.



Beverly Bidney

Rebecca Osceola and her son Daniel Osceola, 2, have a blast on the slide at the Immokalee Halloween celebration.



Kevin Johnson

Youngsters try to impress judges during Trail's Halloween party Oct. 30 at the Miccosukee Resort.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Jo-lin Osceola, dressed as Wonder Woman, draws her sword and shield at Hollywood's Fall Festival.



Beverly Bidney

Pedro and Marissa Ramirez get in the Halloween spirit at the Big Cypress celebration.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Skylinn Billie dresses as Lilo from Disney's 'Lilo and Stitch' movie at Hollywood's Fall Festival.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Kayle Billie-Alex and Mi-Lyn Jones-Williams pose for a photo at Hollywood's Fall Festival.



Kevin Johnson

Jo Jo Osceola and Deron Billie, 10 months, display their colorful wardrobes during Trail's Halloween party at the Miccosukee Resort.



Beverly Bidney

Infants, including Willow Cypress, 1, in her father Quenton Cypress's arms, compete in the costume contest at the Big Cypress Halloween celebration.



Kevin Johnson

Kelvin Huggins and Lorelei Huggins, back row, and Paris Huggins and Kelvin Huggins Jr., front row, feature a variety of creative costumes at Trail's Halloween party at the Miccosukee Resort.

# Creative seniors make Halloween fashion statement



Beverly Bidney

Louise Osceola really wears that witch's hat at the tribalwide seniors Halloween party in Brighton Oct. 27.



Beverly Bidney

Devoted Miami Dolphins fan Juanita Osceola aims the dart at balloons during the seniors Halloween party in Brighton Oct. 27.



Beverly Bidney

Alice Sweat, dressed as a Hoover vacuum cleaner, competes in the costume contest at the tribalwide seniors Halloween party Oct. 27 in Brighton.

## Big Cypress hosts Thanksgiving luncheon



Beverly Bidney

Caroline Osceola fills her burlap bag with vegetables at the Big Cypress Thanksgiving luncheon Nov. 21. Tribal citizens, community members and employees were welcome to the abundance of vegetables provided by the council office.



Beverly Bidney

Above, Tanner O'Donnell, 12, distributes bags for the Honey Baked hams being passed out to everyone by Josh Jumper at the Big Cypress Thanksgiving luncheon Nov. 21. Below, Xzavion Tommie, 9, and his grandmother Virginia Tommie enjoy the food and each other's company at the luncheon.



## FRACKING

From page 5A

producing oil and gas wells statewide that account for income of about \$15 million per month, a paltry amount by industry standards.

"There is always someone making money," Ingraffea said. "As usual, a few will get rich and we will have destroyed the Everglades in the process."

In Florida, 32 counties and 48 cities have either banned fracking or passed resolutions opposing it.

The process of finding and extracting natural gas requires millions of gallons of water per well, which is forced through the rock through fracturing, or fracking. An alternate method, matrix acidizing, dissolves the rock to create channels for oil to flow through. The only difference is the method, not the outcome or the amount of water and toxic chemicals used.

The natural gas boom began in 2008 and went bust by 2015. Ingraffea believes the shale natural gas boom worsened climate change. He cited hundreds of peer-reviewed scientific papers that are overwhelmingly critical of shale gas, including one written by himself and a colleague at Cornell in 2011. That paper concluded that modern oil and gas are far worse than coal because more methane gas escapes into the atmosphere.

"When shale was approved in 2009, no science was available," Ingraffea said. "The decisions were all based on industry lobbying."

Since then, 256 scientific articles have been published, most of which say fracking contaminates water and air and has a negative impact on human health. Ingraffea believes its impact needs to be minimized with more viable alternatives.

"Shale is the most expensive and extreme form of energy invented by humans," he said. "Had we not gone to shale we would have had more renewables today.

Shale stopped that progress."

During the question and answer period following Ingraffea's presentation, Tyrell Hall, legislative assistant to Florida Senator Dwight Bullard, asked how to change the minds of legislators who refused to let an anti-fracking bill out of committee for a Senate vote during the 2016 session.

"Show them the papers so they can see what scientists say," Ingraffea said. "There is no excuse for ignorance anymore; there is ample science now."

The science, however, doesn't stop companies from exploring for oil and gas.

In 1974, Big Cypress Preserve was created when the Collier family donated about 160,000 acres they owned. The family retained mineral rights to the land, which allows them to lease it out for oil and gas exploration. Breitburn Energy Partners has operated a few wells in Big Cypress since 2007.

Texas-based Burnett Oil Company received approval in May from the National Park Service to search for oil and gas in 110 square miles of Big Cypress Preserve using seismic testing. In July, a coalition of six environmental groups – including all of the sponsors of the summit plus the South Florida Wildlands Association – filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Fort Myers to stop Burnett.

Seismic testing uses heavy off-road equipment to pound the ground with large steel plates. The coalition claims the activity could be catastrophic for the Florida panther and other wildlife and that drilling could endanger South Florida's water supply. According to the NPS's environmental assessment, no significant impact would result from the seismic survey.

"Florida is on the front line of climate change," said speaker Scott Smith, chief technology officer and investigator at Water Defense, a non-profit organization dedicated to clean water. "Whoever controls energy controls destiny. If your government doesn't believe in climate change then organize, organize, organize."

Jennifer Hecker, director of natural

resource policy at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, closed out the summit with some practical tips for communicating with those in power, such as legislators and regulators.

She advised those who want to get involved to know the proper decorum and

etiquette, use the right language to sound credible, understand an issue completely and speak unemotionally without yelling.

"This is our moment," Hecker said. "They [the oil companies] aren't dug in here yet; it hasn't progressed to a point that we can't control it. It is still an imminent

threat but citizens are complacent because they don't think it's a real thing. We have a window of opportunity during the next legislative session; this is our best chance to get something positive done."



Beverly Bidney

Attendees fill a room during a fracking summit Nov. 2 at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers.

# Sports



## Tribe players conclude University School football careers

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**DAVIE** — When it came time for senior night hugs, University School football coach Daniel Luque saved plenty of his tears for Brady Latchford.

"I cried on his shoulder like I haven't cried for a long time," Luque admitted.

One reason for the emotional farewell during a ceremony before University seniors played their final game Nov. 4 is because Luque and Brady have been through all of the program's peaks and valleys in the past four years. But even playing for three head coaches in four years and the unexpected departure of star players, Brady, son of Amy Latchford and Seminole Police Chief William Latchford, never wavered. While others bolted, the 6-foot-1, 245-pound lineman from the Tribe became a key part of a core that helped hold the program together through the rough times.

"He remained loyal to the program," Luque said.

A 3-7 season when Brady was a sophomore came just two years after the 2012 team went undefeated and won a state title with Roger Harriott at the helm. When Harriott left after the 2013 season, plenty of the team's top players exited as well.

"During those years that the coach was still here, football was a really big sport at the school, but once he left nobody really had the feel that the team was going to be good, which we kind of showed that year, but even the year later after that coach had left they still thought football wasn't a big deal," Brady said. "We, as players — and the coaches helped us as well — started to rebuild the trust in the school."

Under Luque, the road back to trust started when University rebounded with a 7-4 mark and playoff appearance last season. This year University overcame the loss of a highly-touted quarterback to another school before the season, yet still raced out of the gate with five straight wins and finished with



University School senior offensive lineman Brady Latchford (55) provides protection during the team's final game of the season against West Broward on Nov. 4 in Davie. Brady, a starter and captain, played three years of varsity football.

Stephanie Rodriguez

a solid 7-3 record that wasn't good enough to make the playoffs, but included victories against Nova, International School, St.

John Paul II, Somerset, Village Academy, Westminster and Suncoast. West Broward dealt University a loss on senior night.

Brady, a three-year starter, served as a captain this season. He handled left tackle duties and generated a memorable final season. Luque said Brady graded an 85 on the line — representative of how he handled his assignments — and had the team's second highest number of pancakes — flattening opponents — with 28.

"He had an amazing season," Luque said.

The growth of the team's younger players — those who will replace the seniors — impressed Brady.

"A lot of the young guys stepped up as young men, and us seniors becoming young adults, I feel the seniors really stepped up to bring up the younger guys to play like varsity players," Brady said.

Brady's work with helping the future of the team didn't go unnoticed.

"He's one of the best leaders I've been around at the U School," Luque said. "He's always trying to help the new guys on the team learn. He's always kept positive and remained optimistic about the team. He definitely will be missed."

Brady said he plans to attend college and study either criminology or accounting. He's not sure if his playing days are over.

"If I get offered by a D-II school I'd highly consider it, but right now I'm just focusing on my education," he said.

University won't be without a Latchford. Brady's younger brother Bradley, also a

lineman, will be a senior next season.

Brady wasn't the only Seminole who suited up this season at University. Rhett

Tiger, a senior safety/cornerback, finished his second and final year with the club.

Rhett joined University as a junior after he moved back to Florida from North Carolina.

"He's a great character kid. He always gives 100 percent in practice," Luque said.

Although he wasn't a starter, Rhett produced a memorable game in a win against Somerset Academy on Sept. 16 when he picked off two passes.

"He had his best game against Somerset. He was all over the field," Luque said.

Football isn't Rhett's main sport. His primary athletic competition comes as a long distance runner on the track team, but he enjoyed every moment of being a football player, which made the finality that accompanies senior night tough to grasp.

"It felt surreal," said Rhett, who was joined by his parents Holly Bowers and Elrod Bowers during the ceremony. "I couldn't process that this was the last time I

get to put on my pads; it's the last time I get to be on this field, but it was fun."



Stephanie Rodriguez

Rhett Tiger is joined by his parents, Elrod Bowers and Holly Bowers, and younger sister Katie Young during University School's senior night ceremony Nov. 4 in Davie.



Stephanie Rodriguez

University School senior Brady Latchford (55) is joined by his parents, Amy Latchford and Seminole Police Chief William Latchford, brother and teammate Bradley (56), and other family members during the team's senior night ceremony Nov. 4 in Davie.



Stephanie Rodriguez

University School senior Rhett Tiger finishes his second season on the squad Nov. 4.



Stephanie Rodriguez

Brady Latchford stands on the sidelines with his University School teammates in his final game Nov. 4 against West Broward.

# Skyla Osceola signs with NSU

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

PLANTATION — Skyla Osceola arrived for basketball practice Nov. 16 sporting a smile under a dark blue ball cap whose three letters revealed where the American Heritage School standout will play her college ball: NSU.

Skyla, a hard-working 5-foot-9 senior who can play any position for the Patriots, signed with Nova Southeastern University the night before in front of her family at home on the Hollywood Reservation, only a few miles from the Fort Lauderdale campus.

"I always wanted to go to college since I was a little girl, but I never knew where I'd end up going," Skyla said. "I just knew with my hard work and dedication that I was going to get there someday."

Before practice began, American Heritage coach Greg Farias gathered the team in a huddle and announced Skyla's college decision. Hugs and applause followed before practice got underway.

Farias described Skyla as being very passionate about winning and is "one of the most versatile players I've ever coached."

"She's the best shooter on the team, and people don't realize how big she is, but she can guard the best player on the [other] team, too, small guard or big girl. She can play 1 through 5," said Farias, who is familiar with NSU basketball having played for the men's team in the 1990s.

Farias helped his alma mater while helping Skyla, too. He alerted NSU about Skyla. It didn't take long for NSU to like what it saw during a fall league game.

"Within the first 15 minutes of the first game, [the coach] was already texting me, telling me 'Thank you for calling me. We appreciate it, and we love her,'" Farias said.

The attraction was mutual. "From right when they saw me play in the fall league, they definitely showed a lot of interest in me," said Skyla, who added that she "fell in love" with NSU during a visit.

NSU plays in the Sunshine State Conference with fellow NCAA Division II members Barry, Eckerd, Embry Riddle, Florida Southern, Florida Tech, Lynn, Palm Beach Atlantic, Rollins, St. Leo and Tampa.

Although she has already signed, Skyla will take part in American Heritage's national signing day celebration with its other student-athletes this winter.

Before she adjusts her tassel and shifts her focus to college, Skyla still has her senior season, one that carries even more significance than it otherwise would. This is a comeback year for Skyla, who missed her entire junior campaign due to a torn ACL she suffered while playing in a summer tournament with her club team the Miami Suns.

Long-term injuries for high school basketball players in their junior year are especially cruel because it's such a vital season to impress college coaches.

"When I first found out I was kind of in shock," Skyla said. "I had a few tears come down, but I never really let it define me and who I was. I came back and I knew what I had to do. It was hard; it was brutal. I went to physical therapy and I wanted to cry every time I went, but I knew I couldn't because I knew mentally it was preparing me for something bigger."

Skyla said she didn't dwell on all the negative aspects of having to sit out her junior year; instead she used the time off the court to reenergize her passion for basketball and her health.

"I learned a lot of things, especially discipline and being dedicated to the sport I love," she said. "It took a lot of time and a lot of dedication. It was a rough year, but I'm glad that I'm back and I'm better than I've ever been."

Skyla, who is active in crossfit training, comes from a talented basketball family that includes older siblings and former high school stars Ariaiah (Hollywood Christian) and Hunter (American Heritage) and dad Marl, an assistant coach for the American Heritage boys team.

By signing with NSU, Skyla is etching a name for herself.

"I've been known as Ariaiah and Hunter's little sister and I just wanted to make my own name for myself so that with my younger siblings people will say, 'There goes Skyla's little sister or Skyla's little brother,'" she said.



Kevin Johnson

American Heritage School guard Skyla Osceola lines up a jump shot during practice Nov. 16, one day after she signed with Nova Southeastern University.

# EIRA honors its champions

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association held its annual season-ending banquet in October.

Here are the winners:

2016 Eastern Indian Rodeo Association

**Champion**

- T.O. Yazzie — Saddle Bronc
- Blevyns Jumper — Steer Wrestling
- Connor Osborn — Calf Roping
- Mindy Fish — Ladies Breakaway Roping
- Josh Jumper — Team Roping (Header)
- Naha Jumper — Team Roping (Heeler)
- Ashley Parks — Ladies Barrel Racing
- Kelton Smedley — Bull Riding

**Sudden Death Champion**

- Greg Louis — Steer Wrestling
- Greg Louis — Team Roping (Header)
- Ed Harry — Team Roping (Heeler)
- Loretta Peterson — Ladies Barrel Racing

**All-Around Cowboy**

Connor Osborn

**Youth Champions**

- Clayton Osceola — Mutton Busting
- Lason Baker — Youth Pony (7-9)
- Chunky Osceola — Pony Riding (10-12)
- Norman Osceola — Jr. Bareback Riding
- Jace Johns — Calf Riding
- Norman Osceola — Steer Riding

- Ricking Ringer — Jr. Bull Riding
- Cyrus Smedley — Chute Doggin
- Ahnie Jumper — Jr. Breakaway Roping
- Kalie Alex — Barrel Racing (4-8)
- Jaylee Wilcox — Barrel Racing (9-12)
- Budha Jumper — Barrel Racing (13-17)

**INFR Jr. and Sr. Champions**

- Cisco Rodriguez — Jr. Bulls
- Cisco Rodriguez — Jr. Breakaway
- Budha Jumper — Jr. Barrels
- Ed Harry — Sr. Breakaway Roping
- Ed Harry — Sr. Team Roping (Header)
- Norman Johns — Sr. Team Roping (Heeler)



Carlos Fuentes

With a row of prizes for champions in front of him, Moses Jumper Jr. addresses the audience at the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association banquet in October.



Carlos Fuentes

Jace Johns proudly carries the saddle he won as the EIRA youth calf riding champion.



Carlos Fuentes

Willie Smith, center, is joined by Moses Jumper Jr., Josh Jumper, Allegra Billie and Madisyn Osceola at the EIRA annual banquet.



Carlos Fuentes

EIRA ladies barrel racing champions Loretta Peterson and Ashley Parks gather with newly crowned EIRA Sr. Queen Allegra Billie, far left, EIRA Jr. Queen Madisyn Osceola and EIRA president Josh Jumper.

# Pink Panther Prowl sets course for breast cancer awareness

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Special to the Tribune

**BIG CYPRESS** — Most runners who showed up before dawn Oct. 30 for the inaugural Hard Rock Half Marathon and Seminole Tribe sponsored 5K and 10K Pink Panther Prowl cared less about winning and more about the cause.

The race that cut through the streets of the Big Cypress Reservation was held to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

"We're not competitive. It's a personal journey," said Pam Miller, of Hollywood, who ran the 5K with her friend Meloni Bocus, also of Hollywood. "We know friends and family who have battled breast cancer. It's hard to find anyone who hasn't been touched by it."

Still, about 300 people participated and were officially timed in the three-race event sponsored by the Tribe's Health Department in partnership with the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and operated by Split Second Timing. The race was originally scheduled for Oct. 8 but was postponed under the threat of Hurricane Matthew.

First place winners of the half marathon were Tim Setterlund, 34, of Boca Raton, who

came out to cheer. Nearby, under a chickee between the race start-line and finish line at Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena, Marcellus and Trisha Oscoela and Mary Jo Micco cooked free plain and pumpkin frybread.

In the 10K, Kathy Cypress finished as the top master female (56:57) and took fourth place overall among all female runners. Other Seminole 10K winners included Clinton Billie, who was first (54:30) among men ages 30-34, and Lenore Roberts (1:02:53) and Marlin Miller (1:10:3) who came in first and second, respectively, among females in the age 40-44 category. Erika Tommie, of the Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska and a Hollywood Reservation resident, came in fourth place (1:31:38) in the female age 45-49 category.

In the 5K, Lorraine Posada place first (34:00) and Tara Robbins placed second (58:31) in the female women's 40-44 age group. Among men, Brian Billie came in second (41:04) in the 45-49 age group, Trent Daryl McInturff placed first (34:03) in the 20-24 age group, and Trevon Marks placed first (34:03) among males ages 15-19.

Seminoles dominated in the girls' 14 and under age group: Teena Maree Covarrubias, 9, came in first (44:53); Anahny Jim, 8,



Eileen Soler

Airan Peraza, of Spain, is the first to cross the finish line in the Pink Panther Prowl 5K held Oct. 30 on the Big Cypress Reservation.



Eileen Soler

Runners of all kinds take off at the start line in the Pink Panther Prowl, a 5K and 10K run, walk, or stroll Oct. 30 through the Big Cypress. The event also featured the first Seminole Hard Rock Half Marathon.

finished at 1:45:01 among men, and female runner Marlene Persson, 46, Deerfield Beach, who crossed the finish line at 1:34:29.

More than a dozen Seminole Tribe citizens laced up their running shoes to complete the 5K or 10K. Dozens more

placed second (44:59); and Lauren Doctor, 12, finished in fifth place (58:23).

Clinton Billie said he prepared for months to finish the run. It was his third attempt since the Health Department's Allied Health Program launched the Panther Prowl

5K and 10K races through Big Cypress in 2014. But this one, the first dedicated to breast cancer awareness, was too special to go halfway — his great grandmother battled breast cancer.

"I'm finally doing it. I did a lot of biking, a lot of training. Healthy living goes a long way," Billie said.

Kristi Hinote, the Health Department's special events coordinator said partnering with the Hard Rock and Split Second Timing for the races during Breast Cancer Month provided a clear focus to the already established Panther Prowl annual run.

"To have something open to the public and the Tribe really emphasizes health and wellness for everyone," Hinote said. "We are always doing events to fight diabetes and to get people out doing healthy activities. This way, everybody can come out to the reservation, compete with their families and stand together. Health is the main message."

Kiko Reverte, of Hollywood, who placed as the top master male in the 5K, said the run was his third Panther Prowl on Big Cypress. This time, he and a handful of friends from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) based in Miami came

out dressed in pink veils and other girly "pinktober" regalia.

"We're running for a friend with cancer," Reverte said. "We're not professional

runners; we just do it for fun, to support an excellent cause and to run here (Big Cypress). It's safe, full of fresh air, exciting and always friendly."



Eileen Soler

Elia Mendez, of Miami, shows off her 5K medal Oct. 30 after running in the Pink Panther Prowl, a 5K and 10K run, walk, or stroll through the Big Cypress.



Eileen Soler

Seminole Tribe citizens Lorraine Posada, right, and Trevon Marks dash toward the finish line Oct. 30 in the Pink Panther Prowl, a 5K and 10K run, walk, or stroll through the Big Cypress.



Eileen Soler

Already finished running the Oct. 30 Pink Panther Prowl (5K and 10K), family and friends line the roadway and cheer on other participants.

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Kelton Smedley in action at the Indian National Finals Rodeo bull riding in November in Las Vegas.

Smith Rodeo Photography



Budha Jumper and her horse make a turn during junior ladies barrel racing at INFR.

Smith Rodeo Photography

# Strong showing from Tribe at INFR

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

Being a part of the short go at the Indian National Finals Rodeo suited bull rider Kelton Smedley just fine.

"I got to walk out on the trailer in front of everyone in the grand entry. It was cool," said Smedley, 19.

Thanks to Smedley and the brother team roping duo of Josh and Naha Jumper, the Seminole Tribe of Florida was well-represented in INFR's short go in Las Vegas.

The second round proved to be Smedley's best. He started as the day's first bull rider out of the gate and promptly put up a score of 79.

"I like setting the pace for the boys. He was a little fast, but I ended up spurring on

him and keeping on him," Smedley said.

Smedley didn't score in the short go, but said he was satisfied with his overall performance. He returned to Colorado with his girlfriend to recuperate.

"I got pretty beat up at the Finals, so I'm hitting the road to rest," said Smedley, who moved out west from Brighton to pursue his bull riding career. "I got some bruising on my right hip and I took a horn to the back of the left shoulder."

INFR week started on a rough note for the Jumpers. Josh Jumper said his bits were stolen and he had to borrow bits and eventually also used another horse.

"We didn't sit and complain," Josh said. "I ended up borrowing Justin Gopher's horse. I thank him. That was another good horse."

The Jumpers shined in round 2 when they clocked the second fastest time of the round in 7.02 seconds. They entered short go in second place with a chance to win the title, but didn't record a time and settled for fifth place overall.

"Our goal is to win the world championship; we came close," Josh said. "We've been roping a long time. I'm proud of my brother. He roped really well."

Smedley and the Jumpers were among more than two dozen EIRA members who qualified for INFR, including some in the junior and senior divisions.

Josh's son, Blevyns, who ropes on the Ranger College rodeo team in Texas, barely missed qualifying for short go in steer wrestling. He finished 17th overall, two spots out of the short go. Blevyns' top performance came in the third round with a time of 5.03, the fourth fastest of the day.

"It was his first time qualifying for steer wrestling. He did real well," Josh said.

Justin Gopher also missed out on the short go by two spots. He finished 17th in tie down roping.

EIRA calf roping champion Connor Osborn reached the short go and finished eighth overall. EIRA's Greg Louis and Ed Harry finished seventh overall in team roping.

In ladies breakaway, Mindy Fish turned a speedy time of 5.54 in round one and eventually finished 21st overall. LeAnna Billie finished 30th.

In ladies barrel racing, Ashley Parks finished 17th and Loretta Peterson was 31st.

On the kids' side, Jacee Jumper (16th) and Budha Jumper (24th) competed in Jr. barrel racing; Cisco Rodriguez (20th) in Jr. Breakaway and (17th) in Jr. Bull Riding; Norman Osceola (10th) in Jr. Bull Riding

In the seniors' division, Ed Harry finished 12th in senior breakaway and 18th in senior team roping with Britt Givens. Norman Johns and Jeff Johns tied for 21st in senior team roping. Norman was 28th in senior breakaway.



Smith Rodeo Photography

LeAnna Billie competes in ladies breakaway at INFR.



Smith Rodeo Photography

Norman Johns hits his mark in the senior breakaway at INFR.



Smith Rodeo Photography

Justin Gopher competes in tie down roping at INFR.



Smith Rodeo Photography

Blevyns Jumper competes in the INFR steer wrestling.

# Champions feast in Turkey Bowl tournament

BY KEVIN JOHNSON  
Senior Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — A one-day, double elimination tournament hosted by Big Cypress Recreation proved to be a popular stop for youth basketball players before the Thanksgiving holiday.

Champions were crowned in five divisions Nov. 12 in the Turkey Bowl Basketball Tournament at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

Kai's Squad was the first team to hoist a championship trophy. Coached by Erin Buster, Kai's Squad knocked off Lil Rebels, 26-14, in the U11 coed championship. Tanner

Gore had the hot hand with a game-high 10 points for Kai's. Ezekiel Billie contributed 8 points and Jalen Cole added 7 points.

In the U14 boys title game, Natives used a game-high 16 points from Jaylen Baker to hold off N3, 37-35. Ramone Baker's 10 points helped the Natives secure the title. N3 was led by Kutch Huggins with 12 points and Demarcus Crawford with 11 points.

Native Elite ruled the U17 girls division with balanced scoring that was evident in the 38-36 championship win against Benchwarmers. Charli Frye scored a team-high 10 points followed by Tiana Stubbs (9), December Stubbs (8), Caitlin Billie (6) and

Amarys Huggins (5). Benchwarmers nearly pulled out the upset thanks to 26 points from Alena Stockton.

Native Elite also captured the U14 girls crown.

Charlie Osceola drained three 3-pointers on his way to a game-high 17 points as Darkside cruised past Triple Threat, 57-43, in the U17 boys championship game. Darkside received a strong inside game at both ends of the floor from Shelby Osceola. Triple Threat was led by Nate Crawford with 15 points and Issiah Alvarado with 7 points.



Big Cypress Recreation

The Natives U14 boys team celebrates at midcourt after winning their age group in the Turkey Bowl Basketball Tournament on Nov. 12 in Big Cypress.



Kevin Johnson

Native Elite's Caitlin Billie reaches for a loose ball during the Turkey Bowl Basketball Tournament at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.



Big Cypress Recreation

Darkside celebrates its championship victory in the U17 boys division in the Turkey Bowl Basketball Tournament on Nov. 12 in Big Cypress.



Kevin Johnson

Corbin Billie drives the lane during the Turkey Bowl Basketball Tournament on Nov. 12 in Big Cypress.



Kevin Johnson

Corey Jumper (32) battles Jose Puente for a tip ball in the Turkey Bowl Basketball Tournament.



Kevin Johnson

Trevon Marks lines up a 3-pointer at the Turkey Bowl in Big Cypress.

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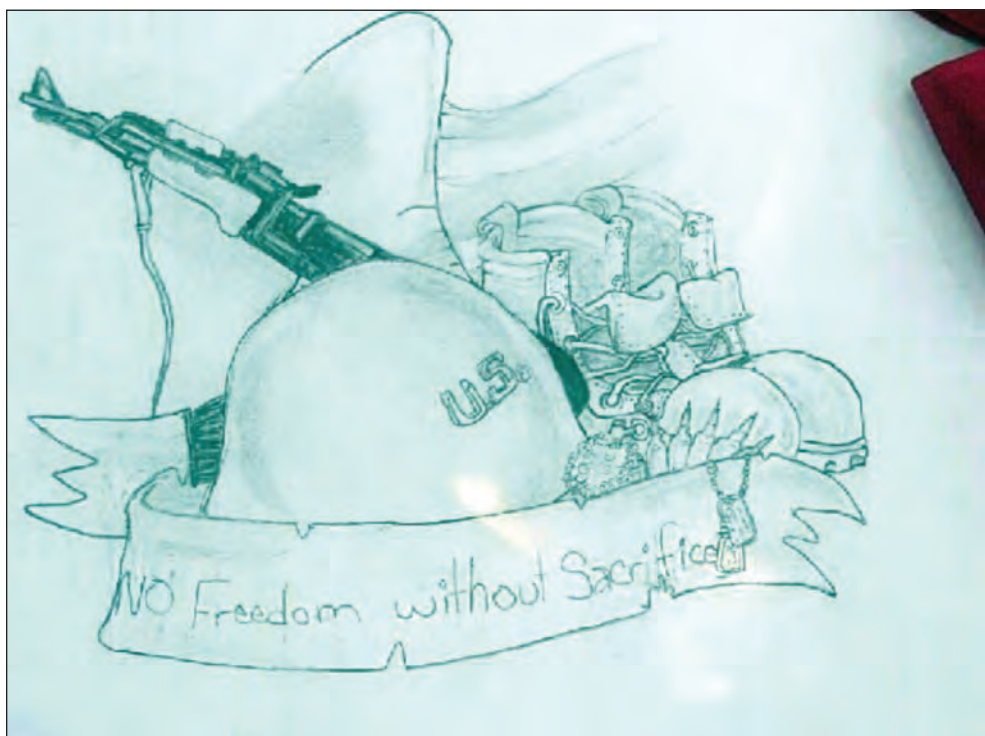
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# Announcements



Above, Maggiemay Jimmie's artwork that won second place in a 9/11 memorial contest. At right, Maggie May with her art mentor Kyle McQuilkins.

Courtesy photos



## 'I Am Blessed'

I am blessed even with natural life in this cage, If given an opportunity in society again you will see me on stage.

Not singing or rappin, just giving you my life story, Though I've lived it I don't promote hate or violence only chumps give that glory.

What I give praise to is the great family I hail from, First and foremost that's the ultimate blessing for this Native son.

From Amposhe, Aawaache, Eekooshe, uncles and cousins, too, I live I ride and I'll die for each of you.

We withstand the tests of time because of our unconquered bloodline, Strong Seminole women and men is just one of the many reasons I am proud of this family of mine.

Shonaabish for not turning your backs on me throughout the years for being the criminal I've been, One more reason I am grateful you all remember me as I sit in the pen.

I am blessed and very appreciative of my family and those chosen friends, This unconquered warrior is very proud of those great people I descend.

Ike T. Harjo  
Koowaathi

## Congratulations, Maggie

Maggiemay Jimmie recently took second place in an art contest in memory of our fallen heroes in the 9/11 tragedy. The contest was held as part of the Lytle Freedom Festival.

Maggie, 12, is the daughter of Ronnie and Cynthia Jimmie. She has worked very hard to compete at the level she is in.

Maggie is a sixth-grade student at Lytle Junior High School in Texas where she is pursuing her art under the direction of her mentor Mr. Kyle McQuilkins.

We would like to extend a huge thank

you to the judges from the Lytle VFW Post 12041 for your military service and patience as judges.

Maggiemay "OHANA" great job on your recent win. We're so proud of your achievement. Continue to pursue the dream you have and all things will fall into place.

We love you,

Mom, Keanu, Rosalinda, the Garza Crew, the Massiate Crew.

## Hernandez joins PR staff

TAMPA — Brianna Hernandez has been named Public Relations coordinator at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino Tampa.

Hernandez, who will report to Public Relations manager Nikki Yourison, has been with Seminole Hard Rock Tampa since February as a Player's Club representative and a Player's Club trainer.

Hernandez has nine years of experience in hospitality and guest service.



Brianna Hernandez

## ★ WATER From page 8A

to financially support them," Haines Merrill said. "All of us are working and not all of us can leave our jobs and go up there. How are they going to pay their bills? We're trying to give them gas cards and Publix cards to help

them with their supplies. They're camping out in three locations and it's going to be long term."

As part of the program, Pedro Zepeda spent a good chunk of the three days continuing his canoe-carving project. Zepeda, who is carving the canoe from a Cypress tree felled by Hurricane Wilma in 2005, answered questions from visitors and performed his work in front of anyone who stopped by the window-front space.



Perrone Ford

Florida State guard Xavier Rathan-Mayes drives toward the hoop during the Seminoles' 99-78 win against Iona on Nov. 15 at the Tucker Center in Tallahassee. FSU will face Manhattan on Dec. 17 in the Orange Bowl Classic at the BB&T Center in Sunrise.

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295628	2006	FOREST RIVER TRAVEL TRAILER	SALEM LE - SMT30BHBSLE	N/A	Poor	\$3,329.00
210518	2010	CHEVROLET PICKUP TRUCK	1500 REG CAB (4WD)	180,390	Poor	\$2,914.00
122577	2004	FORD SEDAN	TAURUS	83,186	Poor	\$817.00
B66064	2003	FORD MINIVAN	WINDSTAR	212,057	Poor	\$435.00
DIAMOND	1994	ARABIAN HORSE - MARE	BAY - DIAMOND	N/A	Fair	\$600.00
LONNIE	2005	QUARTER HORSE - NEUTERED MALE	BAY - LONNIE	N/A	Fair	\$325.00
BOB	2002	GRAY PERCHERON HORSE - GELDING	GRAY - BOB	N/A	Fair	\$275.00
BIG CYPRESS2	2010	QUARTER HORSE - GELDING	SORREL-BIG CYPRESS2	N/A	Fair	\$250.00
THOMASINA	2005	QUARTER HORSE - NEUTERED	SORREL-THOMASINA	N/A	Poor	\$242.00
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LADY	2000	PAINT HORSE - MARE	BAY/WHITE - LADY	N/A	Fair	\$175.00

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