



## Class III Slots Open at BC Casino ▯ 8A





(L-R) Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr., Hollywood/Ft. Pierce Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress and Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. make the opening official by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

## CHUPCO

said Liaison Tommie. "Thank you, Tribal Council."

Chairman Mitchell Cypress expressed his excitement for the Ft. Pierce community. "At the end of the day you will have a deed and key," said Chairman Cypress as the community applauded and cheered.

It has been a long time coming for the Ft. Pierce community who originally moved into Chupco's Landing in 2005, only to be forced out of their homes last year due to construction deficiencies.

Community member Shamy Tommie said it was hard to have his family split up after getting used to living so close together.

"Once we got separated it was like losing something," Shamy Tommie said. "But now we are back again."

The single family home community is lavishly green thanks to its lush landscaping. The 30 single-story homes in Chupco's Landing are also all painted in cheerful shades. "From the air we looked down and it looked like you were coming to the Palm Springs or Beverly Hills," said Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

During the ceremony, Holly Tiger Bowers, non-resident liaison and Director of the Housing Dept., and Kevin Sisson, Housing Dept. senior project manager both received special recognition. They both played key roles in the renovation project.

"I'm proud to stand

before you and say the homes you deserve are done," Sisson said.

Before the ribbon was cut and the gates reopened, Chairman Cypress presented each community member with a key and the deed to their new home.

Everyone made their way to the gate to make the key transfers and reopening of the community official with the cutting of the ribbon by Tribal officials. Community members and guests were then free to tour the premises using golf carts.

"I'm glad to be back home," said community member Mary Lucille Tommie. "We're here to stay."



Betsy Tommie, the last remaining descendant of the Tommie family lineage, welcomes the crowd and says she can't wait to move in.



The Ft. Pierce community becomes one again at the Key Transfer Ceremony, held July 22.



On behalf of the Tribe, Chairman Mitchell Cypress (L) accepts a custom jersey, plaque and picture from 90 pound South Florida Youth Football League Pompano Beach championship football team coaches Terrance Blue and Ronald Thurston for supporting their team.

The Seminole Tribune is a member of the Native American Journalists Association.

Letters/e-mails to the editor must be signed and may be edited for publication.

Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make checks payable to The Seminole Tribune, 3560 N. State Rd. 7, Hollywood, FL 33021 Phone: (954) 985-5702 Fax: (954) 985-2937 Or subscribe online at [www.seminoletribe.com](http://www.seminoletribe.com)

The following deadlines apply to all submissions to The Seminole Tribune:

Issue: September 25, 2009  
Deadline: September 9, 2009

Issue: October 30, 2009  
Deadline: October 14, 2009

Issue: November 27, 2009  
Deadline: November 11, 2009

Please note: Late submissions will be posted in the following issue.

## Just Say "NO"! by Doom-Cookie



Andy Cypress participates in a class drum circle activity.



Miles Osceola races back to his group on the beach as a part of a scavenger hunt activity for youth and teens.



Buster Welcomes guests, Director, Helene Trister welcomes guests and Tribal officials to the workshop.



(L-R) Samatha Hisler and son, Zaiden Frank, along with Ciara Billie-Guerre show off their canvas painting as a part of a group painting activity. Group members Meg Buster, Paul Buster and Josh Jumper are not pictured.

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The Seminole Tribune  
3560 N. State Road 7  
Hollywood, FL 33021

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# Community

A



Nancy Shore

Rachel Buxton

## Craft Artist Nancy Shore Pays It Forward

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Nancy Shore of the Brighton community continues to pay it forward by helping others learn about their Seminole culture and history. Shore, a frequent sighting on the Brighton Reservation, can often be found teaching Tribal youth arts and crafts.

She was born in 1947 to parents Frank and Lotie Shore. A member of the Bird Clan, Shore remembers traveling from campsite to campsite due to her father's work as a cattle foreman.

"We moved wherever he went," Shore said. "We just kind of moved here and there."

While her siblings helped her father Shore said she spent many of her days helping out her great-grandparents on their campsite.

"I was like a helper to them," Shore recalled. "I washed dishes, cleaned out the hammock. Grandparents help you and you help them. That's how it works."

Like many youth on the Reservation during that time Shore attended the Brighton Day School before transferring to school in Okeechobee.

Her first school year in Okeechobee proved to be a challenge due to the language barrier. Shore spoke no English with Creek being her native language. The Okeechobee school system had no formal English classes either.

"You had to pick it up on your own," Shore said. "You either got it or you didn't."

Shore had to repeat her first year in Okeechobee to make-up for her lack of English.

"I did the best I could," Shore said. "I caught on fast after that first year."

When Shore wasn't in school she could be found doing arts and crafts with her great-grandmother, Lucy Tiger.

"One day she said that she was going to show me how to do the bracelets," Shore recalled. "So we got her stuff out and we just went step by step by step."

From beaded bracelets Shore went on to learn how to sew by watching her mother. Shore laughs about how she thinks her mom played reverse psychology on her and her siblings to learn crafts by leaving her beads and loom sitting out in the open.

"She told us not to mess it up," Shore said. "I think she thought, 'If I tell them not to maybe they'll get into it.'"

Even having a great interest in them, Seminole arts and crafts had to be put on hold as Shore got married, started a family and attended Miami-Dade College and eventually Barry University. She received her bachelor's degree in liberal arts and master's degree in social work from Barry.

"I didn't do it alone," Shore admitted. "A lot of people helped me along the way; my mom especially. She babysat while I went to college."

Earning her college degrees wasn't an easy road for Shore. Each week when she was able to take a day off from working as an education counselor on the Brighton Reservation she would drive to the college to pick up tapes that had her class lessons on them.

"It was hard and I worked at the same time," Shore said. "I just listened to them at nighttime when things quieted down."

She remembers struggling through her lessons and said if it weren't for a random stranger that took Shore under her wing she probably wouldn't have been able to finish.

"She said 'I volunteer my service to help Indians here; help them go to college. I'd like to help you out,'" Shore recalled.

When Shore wasn't in class or taking care of her family she was working with her mentor. She said the lady was hard on her and never asked if she had time to do all of the things and would just say, "I want you to do that."

Those words have stuck with Shore throughout her life, and she said she often finds herself saying that exact phrase to the Seminole youth she mentors today.

"Those words are important to me," Shore said. "I like to help because other people helped me. Some kids say 'I can't do that' and I say 'Yes you can [and] I'm going to show you.'"

For the past two years Shore has worked as an arts and crafts teacher at Pemaquay Charter School in Brighton.

"I think it's good that we teach them part of our history in that school system," Shore emphasized. "Some of those kids know more than their parents."

Shore recently made the difficult decision to step down from the Charter School to help her granddaughters with their education and life. She said she wants to help them "so they can get somewhere."

"I don't want to give it up, I love teaching the kids," Shore said. "But I'm going to put my family first."

Shore won't be a stranger from the school, however. She said when things are quiet she might just pop in to see what is going on.



Rachel Buxton

Tribal youth learn what goes into picking a homesite on the reservation at a workshop during the 14th annual Brighton Youth Conference held in Orlando on July 27-31.

## Tribal Youth Learn Life Skills at Brighton Youth Conference

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**ORLANDO** — More than 300 participants from the Brighton and Tampa communities attended the 14th annual Brighton Youth Conference held in Orlando July 27-31 at the Loews Royal Pacific Resort.

With the theme, "Empowering Our Youth," students in grades kindergarten through 12th, learned some life skills that will help them further themselves educationally and personally.

Classes and curriculum were created by the different departments found within the Seminole Tribe including Recreation, Family Services, Community Planning, Fire Rescue and the Seminole Police Dept.

Co-organizer Salina Dorgan said the idea for the Brighton Youth Conference originated 14 years ago when then-Tribal Council Rep. Jack Smith Jr. asked for the children to learn about the different resources found within the Tribe.

"It gives them an idea as they get older what is on the reservation and what the Tribe has provided for them," Dorgan said. "They then have the knowledge of what they can do to provide for their future."

Many classes were instructional, touching on subjects such as finance.

"Money is something you're going to be dealing with the rest of your life," said financial educator Jennifer Villalobos. "We want to make sure they are educated so they can make the best choices and come out ahead; someone who contributes to the Tribe, community and world."

Robert Maza from the Board Representative's Office also educated students on the value of finance. Maza talked about the importance of credit and the ins and outs of budgeting, checking and loans.

"The world is yours when you get older," Maza told the students.

The Seminole Police Department helped update personal files by fingerprinting and taking snapshots of each child in case of an emergency. They also educated the older students on escape tactics if they are ever in a situation where they are being abducted by a stranger.

Fire Rescue gave a brief demonstration on the

proper way to administer CPR in an emergency.

Family Services reminded students about self-esteem and how a high self-esteem can prevent drug and alcohol use. Using a game to reinforce the message, Valerie Marone, community events coordinator, pointed out characteristics of someone who possesses a high self-esteem.

"We always like to add an element of fun to the teaching," Marone said. "The kids have had a good time with it and they were able to identify some of their strengths and some of their weaknesses while learning to build and improve their self-esteem."

The week wasn't all work and no play. Natasha Perez from the Fitness Dept. helped loosen everyone up with a dance class that called for all participants.

"I'm trying to teach the kids that they need to believe in themselves and it's ok to get up there and be yourself," Perez said.

Steve Baggett, owner of Ties that Bind, brought in his crew to help teach the students about teamwork using a ropes course. Students completed physical and mental activities by relying on team members.

"It's fun to see the light bulb go on and then share the ideas they have," Baggett said. "Their power is to-



Rachel Buxton

Preston Osceola plays a compilation of his favorite songs earning him first place in his talent show division.

gether and it's important that they learn the teamwork so their culture will keep going and thriving."

Seminole history and culture were not forgotten during the week and were interspersed throughout classes.

"My favorite class has been culture," said Lahna Sedatol-Baker. "We are learning how to make baskets and when I get older I want to teach kids how to learn about their culture."

Culture Dept. Director Lorene Gopher and teachers Nancy Shore and Jenny Shore helped the younger girls with beadwork while the older students worked on basket weaving.

The boys worked on wood carving with Herbert Jim and Victor Billie. The younger students focused on carving turtles and birds out of soap and the older boys honed their woodcarving skills making turtles and alligators.

Jim played double duty as he also helped out the museum class with his captivating storytelling.

"It doesn't need to stop at empowering our youth," said Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Smith. "We need to empower our elders, our culture, our traditions. As Seminole people we come from a strong background and a lot of the kids here don't know that. Hopefully they continue on to learn more."

The youth weren't the only ones to have fun. The adults also got to share in the teachings. They learned, danced and some even entertained during the talent show.

"We want it to be a family event," Dorgan said. "We feel if you're going to teach the child then the adult should get good examples by attending as well."

The week provided the youth with the tools and knowledge to accomplish any and all of their goals.

"I've learned a lot about the real life and how to prepare for it," Alissa Dorgan said, "I'm looking forward to next year."



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Victor Billie shows Tanner Shore the proper carving technique during a culture class.



## BIG CYPRESS



(L-R) Nutritionist Charlotte Porcaro hands Louise Billie information on calorie reduction.

## Seniors Attend Services Round Up Day

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — It was one stop shopping for the Big Cypress seniors when they visited the Senior Services Round Up event on July 28.

At the event, organizers set up booths in the Big Cypress Senior Center to offer an opportunity for the Tribal elders to see first-hand what kind of services the Tribe offers to enhance their quality of life.

While most of the seniors were already making use of the multitude of advantages extended from the various departments, many were surprised by additional options. Circulating through the booths, the guests picked up a series of gifts along the way and in the grand prize drawing to participate in the received an opportunity to participate in the grand prize drawing at the end of the fair.

From the Broadcasting Department's



Community Care for the Elderly Dept. representatives (L-R) Sheila Bevenue, Oweva Smith and Nelda Melton administer a broad spectrum of services.

## BRIGHTON

## Tribe Celebrates National Day of the American Cowboy



Roger Smith (R) rides in a Western-style wagon down the streets of Okeechobee.



Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. (R) represents the Seminole Tribe in the National Day of the American Cowboy cattle drive.

## Fred Smith Rodeo Arena Website Gets a Makeover

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Cowboys and cowgirls from all over can now be up-to-date with the news and happenings going on at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena on the Brighton Reservation by visiting their newly designed website, [rezrodeo.com](http://rezrodeo.com).

"This is not actually a new website," Director of the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena Amos Tiger said. "This is a much improved website."

The revamped website was several years in the making with the help of WebDesign Solutions, an all-in-one custom website design company based out of Orlando. The website domain now completely

belongs to the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena and allows staff members to upload posts whenever needed without having to go through a middleman.

"We took over the domain name since we wanted people to be aware that we had events going on here all of the time," Fred Smith Rodeo Arena Secretary Molletha Gomez said. [Rezrodeo.com](http://Rezrodeo.com) provides a calendar of scheduled events for visitors to view simply by clicking the month and day.

The website is incredibly user friendly and features a link that provides results for events that have taken place at the arena so the public and the competitors can see the current rodeo standings.

"The idea of revamping comes with the

## Gospel Celebrations Held for Frank Billie's 96th

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Members of the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church joined family and friends to follow the gospel trail blazed by Frank Billie July 11-13 in celebration of his 96th birthday.

President Richard Bowers Jr. offered kind words about the Tribal elder.

"What Frank Billie has done for the Seminole Tribe is priceless," President Bowers said. "He had a great vision and was an architect and signer of our constitution. Serving as our first president in 1957, he helped to build what we have today."

A member of the Wind Clan, Billie

was born in the Everglades in what is now part of the Everglades National Park near the Collier-Dade County line in circa 1913.

The son of Ingraham Billie Sr. and wife, Effie, he converted to Christianity during the 1940s and moved to the Big Cypress Reservation, where he has resided ever since. As a leader, pastor and cattleman, he helped shape his community.

Due to the frailty of advanced age, Billie was unable to attend his gospel birthday celebration, but his spirit was present in the vast accomplishments of his lifetime of service to his fellow man. As church pastor for more than thirty years, Billie conducted his first services in a chickee on the edge of the woods in Big Cypress and then moved to the permanent structure which currently houses the congregation.

By the early 1970s Billie began organizing "gospel sings." Residents from Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and the Tamiama Trail would take turns hosting the visiting congregations of their churches on a monthly basis. Before long his gospel tours included an annual trek to the Oklahoma Seminoles.

Since his retirement, this gospel trail has fallen into disuse. Billie's descendants and church members chose his birthday to reopen the way and are hoping to reestablish this time honored tradition.

The birthday dinner took place on the evening of July 11 in the newly constructed Eddie Billie Fellowship Hall. Several Oklahoma Seminoles joined the Gastineaux Gospel Singers from Ada, Okla., and journeyed to Big Cypress to participate in the festivities.

Sunday services included a tribute to Frank Billie by his great-granddaughter, Erin "Sissy" Buster, and a



Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church members and gospel singers celebrate Frank Billie's 96th birthday.



Frank Billie's great-granddaughter, Erin "Sissy" Buster, shares his accomplishments with the audience.

trip down memory lane with his grandson-in-law, Keemo King. As the oldest active church member, Joe Osceola Sr. did his part to recall the past 100 years. Church and family members shared a lifetime of experiences surrounding their past leader and participated in the gospel presentation.

The tour, featuring both the Seminole Boys and the Gastineaux Gospel Singers, as well as Big Cypress New Testament Baptist church members then made their way to the Chickee Baptist Church in Hollywood on the evening of July 12 to celebrate Billie's birthday there.

On the following day they also made

a stop at the Brighton Veterans Building to celebrate Billie's birthday with members of the Brighton Seminoles Bible Baptist Church.

## Emergency Management Dept. Prepares Community for Hurricanes

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The Seminole Tribe of Florida Emergency Management Dept. helped prepare Tribal citizens and employees for the current hurricane season during a hurricane presentation held Aug. 6 at the Brighton Veterans Building.

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. welcomed everyone for attending and stressed the importance of the topic. "These disasters don't discriminate," Rep. Bowers said about hurricanes. "We're all in this together. We want to make sure you are safe because the Seminole Tribe needs you."

He encouraged the attendees to take what they could from the presentation before handing it over to Emergency Management Coordinator Carl Fowler.

Fowler touched on points such as the dates of hurricane season, types of hurricanes, how to prepare for a hurricane, what to do when a hurricane hits and what to do in the aftermath of a storm.

Hurricane season officially began June 1 and lasts till November 30 with the middle of September being the peak activity time for storms.

"We can't let our guard down," Fowler said. "We can't assume nothing is going to happen until then."

Hurricanes are rated on an intensity scale known as the Saffir-Simpson scale and rate from Category 1 up to a Category 5 storm.

It has been predicted by Dr. William M. Gray a Professor Emeritus of Atmospheric Science and Dr. Philip Klotzbach that the 2009 hurricane season will consist of 12 named storms, six hurricanes and two major hurricanes at Category 3 or higher.

"Now is the time to plan," Fowler stressed.

Prior to a hurricane individuals should prepare a hurricane kit that will last between three and seven days. Some of the items included in the kit would be a well-supplied stock of water, nonperishable items such as canned foods, baby necessities, medications or any other medical necessities, a first aid kit, AM/FM battery operated radio with plenty of batteries and flashlights.

Fowler also discussed how families should have a plan of

action decided, which specifies whether or not the need to go to a shelter is necessary.

On the Brighton Reservation the Veterans Building will be used as a shelter for Tribal citizens while the preschool will be used for employees.

If a hurricane hits Fowler said the main thing is to stay calm and monitor the storm using either a television or radio. People should stay inside due to strong winds and possible flying debris, he added.

After a storm individuals should be prepared to be self-reliant for several days and outside activities and driving should be minimized. Generators should never be used indoors and everyone should practice safety when it comes to the use of chainsaws.

Individuals should continue to monitor the status and always carry a valid identification on them.

Tribal citizens and employees are encouraged to visit [www.floridadisaster.org/county\\_em/county\\_list.htm](http://www.floridadisaster.org/county_em/county_list.htm) to find their county's disaster contact info and what they offer during such emergencies.

For more information contact the Seminole Tribe of Florida Emergency Information Disaster Hotline at (800) 617-7514 or stop by the Emergency Management Dept. office to pick up a copy of the Seminole Tribe of Florida All Hazards Guide.



Emergency Management Coordinator Carl Fowler suggests using old milk jugs to start stocking up on water in the event of a storm.



## BIG CYPRESS



Judy Weeks

Museum Director Anne McCudden gives a last minute examination to the photographs and their accompanying placards at the opening reception of the Randle/Sheffield Collection at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress.

## Randle/Sheffield Photo Collection Opens at Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Photographer Florence Randle and her niece, Phyliss Sheffield, may be gone, but their legacy lives on in their artistic work.

A reception was held on July 17 for the Randle/Sheffield Collection, which opened at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. The exhibit provides a piece of the definitive historical record of the Seminoles living along the Tamiami Trail in the 1930s and 1940s.

The exhibit will be on display through Jan. 18, 2010, and provides a pictorial view of the camp life that existed along this remote corridor through the Everglades, which forever changed the economy of the Seminole people.

"As I examine these pictures, I can almost hear the voices of the people featured crying out from the past," said Museum Director Anne McCudden. "We invite the Tribal members to come and explore the exhibit and give identities to these faces. An area has been set aside for this purpose."

A commercial photographer and government employee, Florence Stiles Randle maintained a studio in Coconut Grove, Fla., and on weekends would venture out onto the Tamiami Trail looking for photographic op-

portunities. Her niece, Phyliss Sheffield, would accompany her on her quest as she documented her favorite subject, the Seminoles.

Randle captured the images of a sensitive, proud people, who raised their families while surviving in a hostile environment. From Musa Isle to eastern Collier County, she captured on film the determination and resourcefulness of an unconquered people.

During the passage of time, the negatives and glass plates that archived this valuable work were packed into boxes and stored in a forgotten area of an attic. Sometime during the 1980s, their existence came to light, and as their heir, Sheffield began to reproduce the images and sell them at art and craft shows around the state of Florida.

The South Florida Community College Museum of Florida Art and Culture in Avon Park purchased a set of the prints. A short documentary film of an interview with Phyliss Sheffield in 1995 accompanies the collection to authenticate the materials and their origin.

"Acquiring the photographs on loan, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has coordinated them into sub areas to create a comprehensive display of the subject matter," Curator of Exhibits Saul Drake said. "Separating the prints into categories, we have produced placards of associated information to enhance the images."

"Putting together an exhibit of this magnitude requires a great deal of research, but the end result is rewarding," added Exhibits Manager Greg Palumbo. "It brings the pictures to life and gives the subjects a realistic identity. Material objects help to put things into perspective."

Registrar Robin Kilgo and Conservator Corey Smith made a selection of objects to place on display in each sub genre. A hand crank sewing machine, winnowing or sifting basket, sofkee spoon, children's clothing and a drum from that era, painted and signed by Tommie Tiger, have been taken from the Museum collection and placed in plexiglass enclosures for their protection.

"Everything comes from the earth and wants in time to return to its original state," Corey Smith said. "As a conservator, it is my job to slow that process. Some articles in our collection are magnificent specimens, but too fragile for exhibition and substitutes must be incorporated."

"For instance, this canoe is a scaled down reproduction of an original," Smith continued. "It effectively serves the purpose to show the general construction of a dugout to link the photographs in the 'Highway of Water' portion of the exhibit."



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Anne McCudden and Conservator Corey Smith discuss the corn grinding log and sofkee spoon in the display titled, "A Woman's Work is Never Done."

## Reality TV Stars Visit Billie Swamp Safari

SUBMITTED BY BILLIE SWAMP SAFARI

**BIG CYPRESS** — The reality TV stars of the hit show "The Real Housewives of Orange County" enjoyed a swamp buggy eco-tour, rode on an airboat and sampled Seminole foods at the Swamp Water Café during their visit to Billie Swamp Safari on July 21.

Producers of the popular Bravo series wanted to include an active, outdoor component to the show and they brought the cast to film on the more than 2,000 acre nature preserve on the Big Cypress Reservation.

The show, which has an estimated audience of 90 million viewers, will air on Bravo in January 2010.

Submitted by Billie Swamp Safari

At Right: Bravo's Real Housewives of Orange County take a ride on a swamp buggy for the eco-tour at Billie Swamp Safari July 21.



## HOLLYWOOD

## Claudine Candy Cypress Joins HR Dept.

SUBMITTED BY HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.

**HOLLYWOOD** — Seminole Tribal citizen Claudine Candy Cypress has joined the Human Resources Dept. as the newest member of the Training & Development Team.

She will work alongside Karen Lindo, Human Resources training manager, and Stacy Adams, Human Resources training specialist, to coordinate Tribal-wide, valuable training workshops on topics including new

hire orientation, image management, code of conduct and harassment awareness.

Cypress earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Florida Atlantic University, and worked for seven years with Seminole Health Administration as a patient registration coordinator and patient accounts manager.

She transferred to the Human Resources Dept. from the Housing Dept., where she has served as the manager for the Native Learning Center since January 2009.

resolutions on the agenda including:

Resolution 6: Transfer of operation of Okalee Village;

Resolution 7: Approval of filing application for 8(a) BD certification.

## Council Rep. Celebrates 58th Birthday

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — It takes a very important person to convince Garth Brooks to come out of retirement and join Michael Jackson to entertain at their birthday party.

But that's just what happened when Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress celebrated his 58th birthday on Aug. 5. From the moment they were invited, there was never any doubt about their appearance.

Big Cypress community members and employees coordinated their efforts to throw a big bash for their leader. Weeks went into planning the extravaganza and people from all departments pitched in to decorate the gym on the morning of the event.

Recreation provided the set-up and last minute preparations looked like a well organized bee hive with all departments getting involved. Cooperation was the key and everything came together like pieces of a puzzle. When the doors opened at 10:30 a.m., it took less than 30 minutes for the room to fill with more than 400 people eager to help Rep. Cypress celebrate another year.

Paul "Cowbone" Buster and his band filled the room with country/western favorites for the opening performance, luncheon procession and then returned to answer requests for an encore.

It took Cypress's birthday to bring Michael Jackson back to the stage as the curtains opened. Wearing his silver studded, black leather outfit, he made the stage his home as he brought three of his classics to life. Switching costumes from black



Judy Weeks

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress cuts the cake at his 58th birthday party.

sequins to elegant red accompanied the changes in his repertoire.

Leaving the stage, Jackson gave special attention to the audience members and then brought the house down, when Cypress joined him on stage during his final appearance.

Working the stage and audience, Garth Brooks had all the moves, famous gestures and choreography that have endeared him to people around the world. Partygoers drummed the tables and tapped their feet as he serenaded them with his songs that had become gold and platinum on the charts. David Cypress mimicked him during his rendition of the song "Shameless."

Children from the Big Cypress Gymnastics Camp surrounded Rep. Cypress to wish him a Happy Birthday and then the audience joined in singing as he cut his cake. A table laden with gifts intrigued the crowd until he finally satisfied their curiosity by opening his presents.

A balloon artist and face painter entertained the younger set, while a rover circulated among the guests displaying his card trick talent.



Judy Weeks

Rep. Cypress holds up one of the gifts he received for his birthday.

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## Board of Directors Meet for Special Session

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Board of Directors met for a special session in Hollywood July 30 passing two



# IMMOKALEE



Immokalee 4-H participants and their parents gather in the gym to learn about what the 2009-2010 season will bring.

## Immokalee Begins New 4-H Season

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — In anticipation of the 2009-2010 season, Immokalee 4-H'ers and their parents gathered in the gym on July 23 to meet their new leader, Melonie Hamlet, and her assistant, Michelle Osceola. "Melonie Hamlet is not a stranger to the Immokalee 4-H program," said Seminole 4-H Director Polly Hayes said. "She served as a valuable volunteer during the past season and will be assuming the duties as your new leader. She has been actively involved in 4-H leadership for eighteen years and raised four of her own children in its programs."

During opening remarks, Hamlet announced that she would be available daily at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch 4-H trailer adjacent to the steer and swine barns. She provided everyone with her cell number in the event that anything requires immediate assistance. All future meetings and projects will be conducted from that location.

After joining together for the 4-H, American and Seminole Pledges, the group learned that they would be electing officers for the new season at their meeting on Sept. 1.

"4-H is a family brotherhood and sisterhood," said Hamlet. "Your parents and other family members are a vital part of a successful project, and through you, the next generation will become involved. I watched last year as our pee-wee division of Cloverbuds pitched in and they were very observant. They learn quickly by example and it is your responsibility to set high standards for their benefit as well as your own."

As in previous years, the youngsters were made aware of the many options available through the 4-H program. Raising steers and swine are just two of more than 300 possible projects that include subjects like fishing, sewing, cooking, small engines, photography and scrapbooking.

The ethics workshop schedule will soon be available.



(L-R) Immokalee 4-H Leader Melonie Hamlet and her assistant, Michelle Osceola, lay out plans for the new 4-H season.

Hamlet and Hayes emphasized that participation will be mandatory for everyone with a project.

Dates were announced for both steer and swine weigh ins. Immokalee 4-H'ers have the opportunity to take part in the Seminole, Palm Beach County and Collier County shows during the upcoming season. Work has already begun in preparation for these events, which require a separate project for each entry.

Seminole 4-H is promoting a Beef Judging Team, which plans to travel to different places judging livestock and acquiring showmanship techniques. Learning about the judging process and what to look for in the arena should prove to greatly enhance the current programs.

Prospect shows offer the opportunity for exhibitors to present their projects, improve their skills and develop higher showmanship qualities. Available to intermediates and seniors, the rewards are unlimited and provide access to fairs and private farms that specialize in show quality livestock.

"Our goal is for you to have a good learning experience and bond," said Hamlet.

## Youth Ranch Members Attend Orlando Field Trip

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**ORLANDO** — The Immokalee Seminole Ranch (ISR) youth members took a trip to Orlando July 14-16.

Hot summer days, high humidity and seasonal afternoon rain storms have seriously curtailed the horse back riding and rodeo activities at the ISR. However, while in Orlando, they took in shows at two popular attractions, Arabian Nights and Medieval Times, both of which feature performers on horseback.

While staff at the ISR have designed programs for all age groups, their primary target is the youth of the community.

"Youngsters have a short attention span and it is our job to continually seek new ways to inspire and encourage them toward a healthy lifestyle that will help them develop into responsible adults," said Immokalee Seminole Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis Sr. "Our goal is to beat the summer heat by capturing their interest in a series of fun filled educational opportunities."

Davis continued: "Our journey to Arabian Nights and Medieval Times in Orlando provided a chance for the kids to look at horses from a whole new angle and their imaginations ran wild. Following the shows, they were filled with questions about how the animals did their tricks and wanted to learn to ride like the performers. Taking advantage of their enthusiasm, we encouraged them to get involved with the ranch horse program."

Entering the Medieval Times Castle, the group traveled back in time to the 11th Century.

As royal guests, they participated in a traditional feast while they watched knights on horseback compete in joust with weapons of the period wearing authentic costumes. Racing down the courtyard of the Hall of



Submitted by Kenny Joe Davis Sr.  
The Arabian Nights Princess Genie introduces her horse to Immokalee Seminole Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis Sr.

Arms, the armored knights, their magnificent horses and fair ladies carried their audience through history.

Arabian Nights featured a unique blend of riders, special effects and costumes. The program is developed around the fairy tale of "The Black Stallion" created by Walter Farley and summons the magical powers of the Princess Genie. Daring stunts and remarkable horsemanship capture the imagination of all ages from the Circle of Fire to the chariot race.

Having VIP passes, the ISR children participated in a meet and greet opportunity behind the scenes where they met the performers and their horses. They were introduced to fourteen breeds of horses from all around the world and the extensive training program that prepares the animals for showmanship.

Hotel accommodations at Nickelodeon provided the group with access to a theme park of cartoon characters, water sports, miniature golf and an arcade.



Kenny Joe Davis Sr.

Harley Holloway (C) finds out what it feels like to be an Arabian princess.



Kenny Joe Davis Sr.

Curts Motlow (C) grabs the reins and is ready to ride at Arabian Nights.

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court Department

HAMPDEN Division Docket No. HD08D0326

Divorce Summons By Publication AND MAILING

MELVIN WILLIAM TORRES, Plaintiff  
v.  
CLARA INES ARDILA, Defendant

To the above named Defendant:

A Complaint has been presented to this Court by the Plaintiff, MELVIN WILLIAM TORRES, seeking to dissolve the bonds of matrimony.

An Automatic Restraining Order has been entered in this matter preventing you from taking any action which would negatively impact the current financial status of either party. Please refer to Supplemental Probate Court Rule 411 for more information.

You are required to serve upon Melvin William Torres - plaintiff - whose address is 226 Centre Street, Indian Orchard, Ma. 01151 your answer on or before November 6, 2009. If you fail to do so, the court will proceed to the hearing and adjudication of this action. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of the Register of this Court at Springfield.

Witness, ANNE GEOFFRION, Esquire, First Justice of said Court at Springfield, this 22nd day of July, 2009.

[sig] Thomas P. Moriarty Jr.  
Register of Probate Court

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## FIRE RESCUE DEPT.

### Tribe Welcomes New Fire Rescue Deputy Chief

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Fire-Rescue Dept. has a new addition to celebrate in Deputy Fire Chief Dave Casey.

A little over a month into his duties, the 51-year-old Chicago native brings a wealth of knowledge in apparatus acquisition, special operations training, promotional processes, prevention, training and building system infrastructure.



Deputy Fire Chief Dave Casey

Chris C. Jenkins

"My hope is to build and plan beyond the immediate," Casey said regarding the still infant program. "We are still growing up and the dynamics of the Tribe continue to change also."

"This is actually a growing up of the agency," he added.

The former 15 year veteran fire chief of Clay County said he is very encouraged by the great amount of youth, energy, enthusiasm and good physical fitness among his new group in their transition forward.

"I have been very impressed with this group," he explained.

As the overseer of services to seven counties, he will have his office established in Big Cypress but will be in Hollywood regularly.

He admits that one of the biggest challenges as chief will be developing experience among a group of personnel saddled with a lot of responsibility spread over hundreds of miles among the reservations.

"It is tough for [the fire-rescue unit] because it is much more of a learning involvement for them and really changes how they do their training," he noted. "I want to help continue to build our organizational infrastructure."

Casey has a family of four including wife Colleen and sons Thomas and Patrick.

The graduate of Plantation High School and Florida International University has also taught at numerous colleges including Broward Community College, Miami Dade College and Broward Fire Academy.

An author of several publications, he has a text book on live fire training due out in March of next year.



Brian Brown

Firefighters cut through the building's wall using a K-12 saw. The Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. trained and practiced firefighting techniques on the former Hollywood Seminole Police Dept. station during July and August.

### Firefighters Practice Rescue Techniques in Old SPD Station

BY BRIAN BROWN  
Contributing Writer

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue Dept. recently had the opportunity to train and practice firefighting skills on the building that used to be the Hollywood Seminole Police Station during the months of July and August.

The SPD headquarters recently moved to its new home at 3101 North State Road 7 in Hollywood.

Opportunities to use an actual building for training doesn't happen on a regular basis so the Fire Department takes full advantage of these structures when they do become available.

During their training, the firefighters practiced simulated fire drills, breaching exterior walls to create an escape route for victims and trapped firefighters, cutting holes in the building's roof to assist with ventilating the structure, and cutting open hurricane rated glass windows to create routes for escaping or ventilation.

The firefighters train daily, learning and re-learning firefighting and emergency medical skills in order to be current with the department's high professional standards.



Brian Brown

Firefighter David Allis kneels to remove his gear during the training exercises in Hollywood.

## SEMINOLE POLICE DEPT.

### Police Dept. Launches Explorers Youth Program

SUBMITTED BY SEMINOLE POLICE DEPT.

The Seminole Police Dept. is accepting applications for the newly formed Explorers Program.

Members will meet on a regular basis to learn about law enforcement. They will receive training in how the criminal justice system works.

Community projects, field trips, guest speakers, and hands on experience are all part of the program to help create a bond between the police department and the Tribal youth of our communities.

Those enrolled in the program will follow a code of conduct, wear a specially designed uniform and govern themselves with the assistance of a police officer advisor. Members can advance from trainees, to explorers, to sergeants, to lieutenants. This is a volunteer program,

not a paid position.

Tribal youth, both male and female, between the ages of 6-19 are encouraged to join. They must pass an interview process and not have had serious criminal infractions.

There will be an Explorer Unit on each reservation. At times all units will participate in joint events. Travel will be arranged when necessary.

The program will kick off in early September. Applicants will be notified of the date and time as soon as available.

To apply, please complete the preliminary application to show an interest in joining or find out more about it. Those under 18 years of age will need to have the signed parental permission completed.

### APPLICATION FOR SEMINOLE POLICE EXPLORERS PROGRAM

FIRST NAME _____	LAST NAME _____
NICKNAME _____	
BIRTHDATE _____	AGE _____
MALE _____	FEMALE _____
ADDRESS _____	
RESERVATION _____	
PHONE NUMBERS 1) _____	2) _____
SCHOOL _____	GRADE _____

If you are under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian must sign that it is OK for you to become a member of the Seminole Police Explorers Program.

I GIVE PERMISSION FOR \_\_\_\_\_ TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SEMINOLE POLICE EXPLORERS PROGRAM.

Mother's signature _____
Father's signature _____
Guardian's Signature _____

Submit this application to any Seminole Police Officer or at any Seminole Police Station: If you or your parents have questions, contact Lieutenant Jerry Meisenheimer at (863) 697-9577.

### SPD Available for Drug Awareness Presentations

The Seminole Police Dept. Street Crimes Unit now offers Drug Awareness Presentations to the Seminole Tribal citizens and departments. Topics include: Why people use drugs, Early warning signs of use, Methods of treatment, Negative effects on the human body and Drug identification.

Any Tribal citizen or department head who would like to schedule a presentation, please contact one of the Sgt. Scott Goodman, (863) 763-5731 for Tampa, Brighton and Ft. Pierce, and Sgt. Jarret Romanello, (954) 967-5100 for Hollywood, Big Cypress and Immokalee.

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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Guy J. Seligman worked as a Certified Legal Intern in both the State Attorney and Public Defenders offices in Dade and Broward Counties. He has been in private practice for 14 years. He graduated from Florida Southwestern University Law School in 1987, and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988.

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SoBe Edition | White, Cadillac Escalade, 2009, 20 Passenger



Freedom Edition | Black, H2, 2008, 25 Passenger



Chrysler 300 Lambo | White, 300, 2008, 12 Passenger



Tribal Edition | White, H2, 2008, 22 Passenger



Bentley Edition 2009 | Silver & Black, 300, 12 Passenger

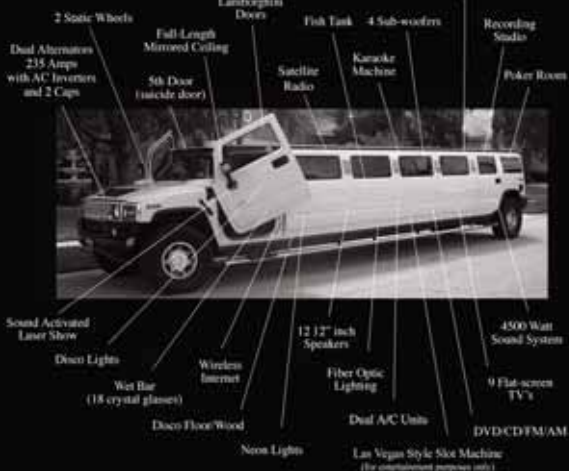


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## CASINO



(L-R) President Richard Bowers Jr., Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and Big Cypress Casino Manager Marlin "Tiger" Tommie cut the ribbon to officially welcome Class III slots to the Big Cypress Casino.

## Class III Slots Installed at BC Casino

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Big Cypress Casino achieved another milestone with the installation of Vegas-style Class III machines slots machines at the facility on July 23.

Since its grand opening three years ago, the Big Cypress Casino has operated with limited facilities, but maintained a high quality of service.

"Big Cypress is the home of our most challenging casino, but it meets the needs of our future business expansion," said Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. "One of our leadership goals is to train Tribal members to operate our business enterprises and this location is a prime opportunity for that program."

Big Cypress Casino General Manager Marlin "Tiger" Tommie asked his staff to come forward for a formal introduction to the Tribal Council and community members. Lining up across the front of the room, the employees were acknowledged for their dedication and hard work in maintaining the high standards set for all Seminole Casinos, regardless of location and volume of clientele.

Laughing, Tommie said: "We have the distinction of knowing how to deal with a wide variety of guests. In the beginning, some of our most frequent visitors were alligators in the parking lot."

"Today this may appear to be the frontier of gambling, but tomorrow it could become the cornerstone of future business opportunities," President Richard Bowers Jr. said. "In the past our slot machines have required a minimum of players to compete against each other in order to win. When you wager on Vegas Style Slots, you play against the House."

Chairman Mitchell Cypress recognized the fact that the limited addition of slots was a small beginning but based on the economy, it was a wise move. There is al-

ways room for expansion and a bright future predicts more machines and tables.

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers and Tribal Liaison William Osceola echoed his remarks and congratulated Marlin Tommie on a terrific job under difficult circumstances.

In anticipation of the ribbon cutting ceremony, Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie summarized by saying: "Today's small step is significant because it shows that we are continuing to grow forward during a period of economic down turn. The Seminole Tribe of Florida remains strong and is insuring the next level for its people."

Following the ribbon cutting by the Tribal Council representatives and the casino manager, the group took their places at the new slots to play the official opening games.



Members of the Tribal Council play the first games on the new Vegas-style slots at the Big Cypress Casino.

## Seminole Casino Sponsors Harley-Davidson® Run

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**ESTERO, Fla.** — The Seminole Casino-Immokalee attracted Harley-Davidson® bikers from throughout Florida for a motorcycle run in which they attempted to complete a record-breaking ride on July 26 and make it into the "Guinness Book of World Records."

The bikers rendezvoused at the Germain Arena in Estero at noon on July 26 to register and line up double file for the purported run of approximately 28.5 miles to the Seminole Casino-Immokalee.

After revving their engines, the motorcade pulled out on the highway at 1:30 p.m. with a helicopter keeping close surveillance overhead for documentation.

The motorcyclists stretched out for a 3 mile radius and drew an appreciative crowd along the highway, who waved and cheered their support. The first bikers crossed the finish line in front of the casino at 2:12 p.m. and a continuous stream followed for the next 16 minutes.

A bird's eye view of the parking lot revealed more than \$5 million worth of hogs had completed the run. However impressive, it wasn't a sufficient number to break the record, which had been set nearly seven years earlier.

The world record for the longest Harley-Davidson® parade was set in December 2002 in Denver, Colo., when 2,118 Harley-Davidson® motorcycles traveled 2.7 miles during a charity run.

On hand to greet the biker's arrival, Seminole Casino-Immokalee Manager Tony Sanchez said: "I can't say enough about the response. It was tremendous. We didn't break the record, but it certainly was a lot of fun and there is always next year."

The run coincided with the casino's July designation as "Go Hog Wild" month. During the month the casino gave away three \$16,000 Harley-Davidson® Road

King motorcycles during drawings on July 12, 19 and 26.

Moving inside the casino, the participants shared a luncheon buffet and afternoon of fun. If T-shirt logos, club jackets and vests are any indication, a cross section of America filled the Casino Entertainment Pavilion following the ride. Many of the participants belong to nationwide organizations and relished the opportunity to rub elbows with fellow bikers and talk shop.

As the oldest rider in the bike run, Frank Smyser, 74, said: "I'm not on the down hill grade yet. This was awesome and you can count on me to return next year. But first, I'm going to join the Seminole Player's Club and try my luck at winning that Harley this afternoon."



\$5 million worth of Harley-Davidson® bikes participate in the more than 20 mile run to the Immokalee Casino.



The first bikes cross the finish line at the Seminole Casino-Immokalee after completing the 3-mile ride.



## SEMINOLE STAR SEARCH



Rachel Buxton

Brighton's finalists ready to head to Hollywood for the Seminole Star Search Finals at the Paradise Live.

## Brighton's Talent Moves on to Star Search Finals

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Brighton's talent came out to claim their spot in the second annual Seminole Star Search finals Aug. 5 during tryouts held at the Brighton gym.

Competitors showed their skills in front of the celebrity judge panel consisting of singer and song writer Matt Kramer, singer Shea, bassist Jon Brant and hip-hop rapper/producer Prince Markie Dee.

The competition is divided into different age divisions, separating the adults from the youth. This year they also added a new category for dancers.

"Not everyone sings so we added a new hip-hop dance category," said Director of Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Micki Free.

Harley Johns and Amber Craig were the first to take advantage of the new competition offered.

Johns entertained the crowd showing off her moves to "Stanky Leg" by the G-Spot Boyz.

"That was amazing," said judge Prince Markie Dee, a former member of hip-hop group The Fat Boys. "I wanted to get up there and do the 'Stanky Leg' with you."

Craig moved to another modern single, "Crank That (Soula Boy)" by Soula Boy. The judges were also impressed by Craig's moves and said she looked like

she came right out of the music video.

Salina Dorgan and Trina Bowers both sang songs attempting to earn a spot in the finals. Both are returning competitors from last year.

"I was looking at your sign 'It's Back, It's Here,'" Dorgan told the judges about a sign she saw at the competition site. "I'm back, I'm here."

Dorgan went on to wow the judges with her rendition of Debby Boone's "You Light Up My Life."

"You are one of my favorite performers because you love singing," Brant said.

Bowers didn't disappoint either as she belted the praise and worship song, "Shout to the Lord."

"You showed versatility and you sang something you actually believed in and didn't go for the obvious pop," Kramer said.

Stormin Youngblood and Royce Osceola showed a completely different music genre as they performed Marilyn Manson together. Youngblood and Osceola rocked out with their guitars playing their own music.

"I loved your focus and concentration," Shea told the duo. "I was ready to start a mosh pit."

"It seems like everyone brought their A game tonight," Free said responding to the impressive performances.

Johns, Craig, Dorgan, Bowers, Youngblood and Osceola each secured themselves a spot as finalists at the Seminole Star Search finals.



Judy Weeks

The Big Cypress finalists joined the judges and producers following the auditions.

## Three BC Competitors Advance to Seminole Star Search 2009 Finals

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions brought lights, cameras and lots of action to Big Cypress for the Seminole Star Search 2009 tryouts on the evening of Aug. 4.

Aspiring young entertainers and their families entered the gym to find a professional sound stage equipped with the latest technology and ready for their auditions.

"Seminole Star Search is like a well-oiled machine that can't be stopped," said Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Director Micki Free. "Each year gets bigger and better and tonight is your chance to shine."

One of three Seminole Star Search 2008 winners, David Billy, provided an opening performance and encouraged the performers to reach for their dreams.

Free then introduced the Star Search judges. "Our judges come from a background of musical careers that encompass many entertainment categories and include major bands, a disc jockey, teachers to the stars and current recording artists," he said.

Following an introduction, the judges, Prince Markie Dee, Jon Brant, Shea Keck and Matt Kramer gave individual career summations and then critiqued each performance following the audition. They then announced that Tori Osceola, Preston Osceola and Christopher Joe had been selected for the finals.

## Tribal Stars Shine at Star Search Tryouts

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Paul "Cowbone" Buster and Shelli Billie Tiger came out to show their vocal prowess in the Seminole Star Search tryouts held at the Paradise Live the evening of Aug. 6.

Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Director Micki Free welcomed competitors, judges and supportive family and friends to the event and expressed the importance of music in Tribal culture.

"The Seminole Tribe of Florida is lucky that your [Tribal] Council cares," Free expressed.

He also encouraged Tribal citizens to take advantage of the yearly Seminole Star Search Music Camps.

"Tribal members, all you have to do is show up to our music camps," Free said. "We'll help you do whatever you want to do in the music business."

David Billy, a 2008 Seminole Star Search winner, and held supervisor for the Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Dept., spoke about his experience transitioning from more than 20 years working as a police officer to working doing something he "only thought was a hobby."

He also sang "Suspicions" by Eddie Rabbitt, a track from the "Seminole Star Search Grand Prize Winners: Volume 1 CD." As a winner, Billy has had the opportunity to perform across the country with Native Music Rocks, a Seminole Tribe initiative to support Native American music and artists.

Shelli Billie Tiger, 12, was the first contestant to entertain the judges. She sang "I Miss You" by Miley Cyrus. Jon Brant, Matt Kramer, Prince Markie Dee and Shea all gave her feedback on

her performance and noted her marked improvement since participating in the competition last year.

Paul "Cowbone" Buster closed out the tryouts with his rendition of "Lonesome, On 'ry and Mean" by Waylon Jennings.

Both contestants were selected to compete in the Seminole Star Search Finals.



Elizabeth Leiba

Paul "Cowbone" Buster sings his rendition of "Lonesome, On 'ry and Mean" by Waylon Jennings at the Seminole Star Search tryouts.

# Three Winners Announced at Seminole Star Search Finals

Tori Osceola, Preston Osceola and Sheree Sneed Win

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA  
Staff Reporter

After a whirlwind of tryouts on three reservations, the Seminole Star Search finals came to the Paradise Live at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on the evening of Aug. 16 with the best the Tribe has to offer in vocalists, musicians and hip hop dancers.

Tori Osceola, Preston Osceola and Sheree Sneed each came out on top of their respective categories in the junior (10-12), varsity (13-18) and adult divisions of the competition. Each received a Seminole Star Search trophy.

Fort Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie served as co-emcee for the night along with Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Director Micki Free. Liaison Tommie welcomed the audience to the second annual event and congratulated all of the contestants for their efforts.

"Everyone has worked so hard for this evening and they're eager to entertain you," Liaison Tommie said. "We want your support with our Tribal citizens who are eager to find that niche. They're working hard, very diligent, using their God-given talent."

The first performance of the night came from Hank Nelson Jr. and his all-star band. The 2008 Seminole Star Search grand prize winner shared his experiences since winning the competition last year.

"Life has changed dramatically," Nelson explained. "Getting to go on tour with Native Music Rocks ... we're taking this to the next level. Pretty much sky is the limit."

Next, Free introduced the judges for the night: vocalist Shea, Jon Brant, formerly of Cheap Trick, Matt Kramer, a former member of Saigon Kick, Beat 103.5 radio personality and former member of The Fat Boys Prince Markie Dee and 99 Jamz radio personality and Def Jam South President DJ Khaled.

First up in the junior category of the singing competition were Rumor Juarez, Tori Osceola, McKayla Snow and Shelli Billie Tiger. Each took the stage to entertain the audience and judges followed by an evaluation by each judge on their individual performances.

In the varsity category Preston Osceola, as well as Royce Osceola and Stormin Youngblood performed. Preston Osceola wowed the judges with an original composition called "Save Me," while the duo of Youngblood and Royce Osceola rocked out to a Marilyn Manson song.

Up next was the hip hop dance category. The newest addition to the competition brought out Harley Johns in the junior category. Johns showed the judges her moves while dancing to "Stanky Leg" by the G-Spot Boyz. Amber Craig followed that up in the adult dance category with a dance performance to a mix of hip hop artists from Timbaland to Missy Elliott.

To close out the competition musicians from the adult category came to the stage. Paul "Cowbone" Buster and his band performed "Lonesome, On 'ry and Mean" by Waylon Jennings. Trina Bowers was up next with her rendition of the gospel classic "Amazing Grace."

Gordon Oliver Wareham followed with a performance of "The Tiger Song" on his flute. Salina Dor-



Gordon Oliver Wareham

Seminole Star Search varsity division winner Preston Osceola sings his original composition "Save Me."



Gordon Oliver Wareham

Tori Osceola sings her rendition of "Mercy" by Grammy Award winning Welsh artist Duffy.



Gordon Oliver Wareham

Sheree Sneed accepts her Seminole Star Search trophy and roses for her performance of "Tyronne" by Erykah Badu.

gan was the next vocalist singing Debby Boone's "You Light Up My Life." Closing out the show, Sheree Sneed gave the audience a soulful rendition of "Tyronne" by Erykah Badu.

While the judges tabulated the scores, Liaison Tommie presented Tina M. Osceola, Trail Liaison William Osceola and all of the judges with Seminole Star Search platinum plaques in appreciation of their support for the program.

Liaison Osceola encouraged Tribal citizens to attend the Seminole music camps telling them to "be there or be square."

When the winners were announced, Tori Osceola tearfully accepted her trophy and thanked her mother and everyone that has supported and believed in her dreams. Preston Osceola and Sheree Sneed also accepted their trophies. Harley Johns and Amber Craig received cash prizes for their participation in the hip hop dance section of the competition.

Spotlight Awards for excellence and perseverance were presented to Shelli Billie Tiger and Gordon Oliver Wareham.

"I'd like to thank my mom for encouraging me to sing," Tiger said. "Even though I'm tired, she keeps pushing me. She wakes me up in the morning and says, 'Sing!'"

Hank Nelson Jr. and his band closed out the show with an encore performance, which was followed by an after party for the participants and attendees at Rene-gade Barbeque in Seminole Paradise.



Gordon Oliver Wareham

(L-R) Seminole Star Search judges DJ Khaled, Jon Brant, Shea, Matt Kramer and Prince Markie Dee serve as judges in the second annual Seminole Star Search Finals, held at the Paradise Live on Aug. 16.



## YOUTH MEDIA PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

# 3 Clans Entertainment Film Documents Mikasuki Language

BY SHELLI MAE OSCEOLA, HAYDEN ROBERTS, KIRSTEN DONEY, MILES OSCEOLA AND CLARISSA JUMPER

**HOLLYWOOD** — As a part of the third annual Youth Media Workshop, held July 19-25, 3 Clans Entertainment members Shelli Mae Osceola, Hayden Roberts, Kirsten Doney, Miles Osceola and Clarissa Jumper made a short film about the importance of preserving the Mikasuki language.

The film, "Journey to Language," was shot at various Tribal locations and featured Doney and Jumper as students, Seminole Media Productions Communications Dept. Director Virginia Mitchell played the role of an instructor.

According to Doney, the film was important because "the language is slowly starting to fade away from us."

"Language should be preserved for today, tomorrow and the future generations. It is very important to us and the tribe," she stressed.

Mitchell, who speaks Mikasuki fluently, agreed. "I wanted to do it because language is important and they are still wanting to learn about it," she said.

Known as a southeastern U.S. Native language, Mikasuki is one of two languages still in use today among the Seminoles; the other being Creek. Neither language is traditionally written, however, the Mikasuki language, in close relation to the Muskogean Hitchiti language, is depicted using the letters in the Latin alphabet.

"It is not recorded on paper or stored," said Youth Media Workshop attendee and "Journey to Language"

sound technician Miles Osceola. "Orally is how it is known and writing it is still a new concept. The people who know it are also passing away too soon to pass it on."

However, Osceola admitted that presently "there is not enough interest in it to get a complete understanding of it." He said he hopes the film will spark an interest.

"I enjoyed the fact that other people realize that our language's state is something to take seriously and others should be made aware of it through virtually any and all means possible," Osceola emphasized.

The Mikasuki language contains sentence structures and sounds that do not exist in English and are difficult to pronounce using the English language. Nouns in the language are also marked with suffixes for various functions and there are three tones, high, low and falling. Vowel length is also distinctive.

Many Seminoles are fluent in both Mikasuki and Creek; however, some generally speak one more than the other.

Robert North Sr. of the Hollywood Reservation Boys & Girls Club said he enjoyed the participants and being able to interact with the filming. Major scenes in the piece were shot at the Boys & Girls Club.

"It all felt good," North said. "It all gave me a sense of fulfillment to work with the Seminole teens. It was also good to hear laughter in the teen center."

For more information on the Seminole language, please log on to [www.seminole.com/culture/language.shtml](http://www.seminole.com/culture/language.shtml).



3 Clans Entertainment members (L-R) Shelli Mae Osceola, Hayden Roberts, Kirsten Doney, Miles Osceola and Clarissa Jumper during the Youth Media Workshop, held July 19-25.



Blaques Reign Productions' (L-R) Jesse Mitchell, Whitney Osceola, Lorelei Tommie and Mariah Buster-Osceola.

## Blaques Reign Productions Explores Seminole Storytelling

BY JESSE MITCHELL, WHITNEY OSCEOLA, LORELEI TOMMIE AND MARIAH BUSTER-OSCEOLA

**HOLLYWOOD** — Blaques Reign Productions members Jesse Mitchell, Whitney Osceola, Lorelei Tommie and Mariah Buster-Osceola interviewed Tribal citizens on the Hollywood Reservation for a documentary film they made about the traditions of Seminole storytelling during the third annual Youth Media Workshop, held July 19-25.

They chose this topic of their film, "Hidden Message: The Birth of the Stories," because they wanted to highlight how the morals of these stories played an important role in shaping Seminole culture.

"These stories pass on morals and lessons that can be cute or even scary. It was also mothers' ways of getting through to us children," group member Mariah Buster-Osceola explained. "Because the stories are old and a part of tradition they should continue to be a steadfast part of our culture and will be even after we are dead and gone."

Group member Lorelei Tommie said she enjoyed hearing these stories during the filming.

"What I enjoyed the most during the process had to be the interviews," Tommie said. "Each person had a special and individual way of telling their story. It was interesting to see what stories they told and how they presented them."

"Since people are different it is entertaining as well as educational for everyone," she added.

The origins of indigenous storytelling are rooted in the earth. Most stories are varied but have many common themes. Most stories talk about the living beings within a specific Tribe's homeland.

Each story is also a part of a greater whole, offering

a fuller sense of life. The connections with land, life, water and sky have also helped relate the narratives to the earth.

The different types of stories include: symbolism, life lessons, instructions from spirit mentors, descriptions of the natural processes, survival accounts, oral maps for traveling, magical tales of transformation or adventures in love.

Tribal senior Betty Osceola explained the importance of passing down lessons through storytelling.

"Kids have to listen to their parents, uncles and aunts," Tribal member Betty Osceola expressed. "If they tell you not to do something, you should obey them."

Seminole storyteller Gordon Oliver Wareham commended the filmmakers' approach.

"Back in the day we did not have all the stuff they have to document information; it was tape recorders then," he said. "The filmmakers got hands-on experience and they chose this topic alone."

Wareham told the story of the tortoise and rabbit. "The workshop taught me a lot and put us through many fun experiences showing us teamwork, compromise and hard work," documentary co-producer and group member Whitney Osceola pointed out. "It also helped build our people skills and took us on a train ride back into the past."

"The most fun and memorable thing about the documentary was just having the chance to hear our history and how we came to be the mouth of people that hold so much wisdom," she added.

For more information on Native storytelling please visit [www.pbs.org/circleofstories](http://www.pbs.org/circleofstories) or read "Legends of the Seminoles" by Tribal elder and storyteller Betty Mae Jumper, available for sale online through the Seminole Marketplace website.

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# YOUTH MEDIA PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

## WORKSHOP

From page 1A

tronic news gathering.

One new addition to the workshop this year involved the news writing aspect of journalism featuring The Seminole Tribune reporting staff discussing the basics of news article writing. Each group also contributed a feature article for the paper.

In addition, each group picked a company name and logo. The 3 Clans Entertainment group consisted of Miles Osceola, Hayden Roberts, Kirsten Doney, Shelli

Mae Osceola and Clarissa Jumper. They chose the Mikasuki language as their topic for a short film titled "Journey to Language."

They filmed the piece during a two-day period at locations throughout the Hollywood Reservation. The film explored the relationship between Tribal seniors and youth and the language's lack of use among families in modern times.

"Our language is dying and we need to learn it more as a Tribe," Clarissa Jumper said. "I liked learning how a camera works, about our Tribe's language and how hard it is to make a film. It was a fun experience though and I made a lot of new friends."

Her group members had similar observations about the project.

"The most exciting and important thing that I learned about this topic was that Mikasuki is more similar to the Creek language than I thought," Hayden Roberts added.

Blaque Reign Productions members included Lorelei Tommie, Mariah Buster-Osceola, Jesse Mitchell, and Whitney Osceola.

The group chose to make a documentary called "Hidden Message: Story Behind the Stories," which focused on Seminole storytelling.

"What I liked about putting the documentary together was that the people we interviewed talked about



Seminole Media Productions Dept. Director Danny Jumper encourages the students with a few words.

stories and lessons that we had never heard before. I thought that it was a great thing to listen to and learn about," second year workshop student Jesse Mitchell explained.

Parent and filmmaker Sam Tommie said the workshop experience has helped daughter Lorelei Tommie appreciate the media profession even more.

"Last year it gave [Lorelei] some ideas for the future and some confidence, personally. This year I feel she has gained more of a respect for the industry and filmmaking," Tommie pointed out. "I am really thankful for the staff and their professionalism throughout."

To close out the workshop experience, each group presented their video projects to the community in the T-



The Youth Media Production Workshop students are presented with certificates and trophies.

Tribal Headquarters auditorium.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, NBC-6 anchor and reporter Julia Yarbough and Native Learning Center Director Holly Tiger Bowers also showed their support as guest speakers.

"I am very proud of the nine of you and that you stuck through it," Chairman Cypress said.

Yarbough encouraged the youngsters to pursue their craft.

"Having a program like this where you can hone your skills is fabulous," Yarbough said. "You have the power to make sure your stories are told fairly, accurately and truthfully."



(L-R) Seminole Media Productions videographer David Baum shows student Jesse Mitchell how to use a camera.



Tribal citizen and former Broadcasting Dept. videographer Everett Osceola speaks to the workshop students about his time and opportunities in the department in years past.



(L-R) Student Miles Osceola practices with the boom microphone before shooting a scene for his group's short film, while Hayden Roberts observes the action.



Native Learning Center Director and guest speaker Holly Tiger Bowers shows her custom plaque presented to her for her services in the workshop.

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# Education B

## Tribally-Owned Woods Haven Prep School Opens Doors

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Aug. 31 marked the beginning of a new educational venture as owner and Tribal citizen Danny Tommie opened the doors to his school, the Woods Haven Preparatory School.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Woods Haven Principal Suzett Ledesma and owner Danny Tommie inside the school library.

Set on nine acres, the middle and high school institution hopes to provide a specialized alternative in teaching. It is located at 4200 S.W. 54th Ct. in Hollywood.

"I wanted to help provide another opportunity," Tommie explained. "This is also a perfect dynamic setting."

Unhappy with the setting and curriculum his son was taught in the public school system, Tommie said the concept and reality of creating Woods Haven emerged in 2008. In spite of having experience in the marketing and management field, he said a keen eye and the right advisement made the move into education the right one for him.

"I knew there was a better way to do things and the issues in the school my son was at needed to be addressed," Tommie expressed. "In a private setting you can bring kids along and provide them a road to success."

"A lot of parents are wise nowadays and want the needs of their child met," he added. "Today we can only blame our problems on selfishness and neglect."

Tommie said the hopes are that more Tribal students will enroll in the school throughout the year with only a small number expected in the short term.

The facility will fall under the direction of Principal Suzett Ledesma. As a former teacher and principal at Saint John the Apostle Catholic School for more than a decade, the Hialeah native said she has been on both sides of the public versus private school debate and prefers the hands-

on, private, one-on-one setting of Woods Haven.

"I am very excited to help build a school from the foundation," Ledesma said. "My main goal is my students and that they get whatever they need to succeed."

"[The students] need to be responsible and become lifelong learners," she added. "There are a lot of great things that can happen here as long as we work together."

Ledesma said curriculum will be tailored to fit the individual student and class size will allow for individualized teaching. While seeking full accreditation, which could take two to three years, the school will also operate on a provisional status.

Open enrollment will remain throughout the year with assessment testing for student placement. The McKay Scholarship and EVGA Step-up Programs will also be available for student assistance financially.

"I like the different levels of achieving the students will have available and that the curriculum seems good," Sunrise parent Debbie Lev mentioned. Lev's son, Justin, is entering Woods Haven as a sophomore. She heard about the school through Tommie.

"He outgrew the other private schools curriculum," she said of her son. "I want him to keep moving up in what he learns academically and socially."

The school also hopes to be a testing site for the ACT and SAT.

Tommie said other future plans include Native American studies, green building development, college courses, aviation and horticultural teaching as well as targeting international students.



Chris C. Jenkins

Woods Haven students play a pick-up game of basketball on the school's outdoor court.

Sports will be on the agenda as well, with events including football, track and field, wrestling, baseball and men's and women's basketball available for students.

The Warriors' inaugural season kicks off on Aug. 28 on the road at Archbishop Carroll High School of Miami in the Kick-off Classic. They will be coached by Eddie Alford in Class 1B with a 10 game schedule.

Home games will be played at Montella Park.

For more information please call (954) 583-4802 or log on to [www.woodshavenprep.com](http://www.woodshavenprep.com). For questions and comments please e-mail [woodshavenprep@gmail.com](mailto:woodshavenprep@gmail.com).



Chris C. Jenkins

The Woods Haven administrative building facility, located at 4200 S.W. 54th Ct. in Hollywood.



Judy Weeks

Pedro Zepeda (R) gives his brother, Doug (L), a final fitting before allowing him to close the back seam of his moccasin during the workshop.

## Museum Offers Workshop in Moccasin-Making

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**NAPLES** — In a continuation of its goal to educate Tribal citizens through their Traditional Arts Program, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum staff members conducted a workshop at the Juanita Osceola Center in Naples, July 23-24.

Instructor Pedro Zepeda taught the traditional method for construction of moccasins from leather during the two day class. Displaying completed examples from his personal collection, Zepeda familiarized the group with the basic techniques involved and the versatility of clothing items.

"For thousands of years Native Americans have depended upon their ingenuity to make use of the natural resources available to sustain their survival," Zepeda said. "Construction of clothing adaptable to their environment and capable of providing necessary protection for their bodies was a primary necessity."

The opening discussion dealt with the tools for the project, which included a sharp blade or scissors, cake of wax, wooden or steel awl and leather.

The topic of various types of leather led to a short commentary on the desirability of brain tanned hides verses the more contemporary chrome tanning process. Although they are more costly, the higher quality of the traditional brain tanning method was apparent by the texture, pliability, elasticity and durability of the finished product.

Adults and children from the Naples community participated in the project. Supplying the group with a basic pattern, Zepeda taught them how to measure their foot for a custom fit. After cutting out the foot wear, the students pierced the hide with an awl in preparation for hand sewing and cut long slender strips for lacing.

Once the stitching began, the project required numerous fittings and adjustments to insure a proper comfortable fit. Zepeda moved from one work area to another answering questions and assisting in the construction techniques.

At the conclusion of the second day, some of the class had finished a pair of moccasins and others were confident that they could complete their project without difficulty.



Judy Weeks

Connie Slavik uses a wood and steel awl to punch holes in the leather for stitching.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) "Critic Man" Richard Botelho helps Kenny Joe Davis Jr., Fred Mullins of the Family Services Dept. and Jon Jimmie support the weight of an albino Burmese python.

## 'Critic Man' Wows Youth at Animal Show

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — Reptiles, birds and arachnids interacted with the children at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch (ISR) Critter Show at the gym on July 22.

"On hot, rainy days the kids have lost interest in the horses, but we haven't lost interest in the kids," said ISR Director Kenny Joe Davis Sr. "Helping children to learn about the world in which they live and the creatures who share their environment is a worthwhile topic every day of the year."

Richard Botelho, AKA the Critter Man, brought a small portion of his menagerie for the children to see, touch and learn about some of nature's sometimes misunderstood creatures. During the presentation, the youngsters learned about the countries of origin, habitat, food and endangerment of the various species.

Passing around a baby alligator, gecko, Australian bearded dragon, African spurred tortoise, scorpion and Chilean taran-



# Seminole Youth Attend Annual Summer Trip to Camp Kulaqua

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HIGH SPRINGS, Fla.** — Tribal youth get their fair share of fun and sun while learning a few things along the way Aug. 2-8 at the sixth annual Seminole Youth Camp.

Also known as Camp Kulaqua, the annual getaway catered to ages 7-17, once again providing a fun-filled learning experience from morning to dusk with activities including flag football, basketball, softball, tubing, go-carting and swimming to name a few.

The camp also covered the topics of nutrition, money management, health, fitness

and culture.

With more than 180 youth attending this year, attendance was the highest ever according to camp co-coordinator and Family Services Vocational Community Liaison Jodi King.

"The kids love it and I see them all year round asking 'When is camp?'" King said. "I like seeing and being with all the kids each year."

The three-year camp aide and Brighton resident also said what started at around 50-plus youth in the beginning has continued to blossom to now include all reservations. The Immokalee and Big Cypress Reservation youth were the initial target for the event.

"I think all of you should experience this type of thing," Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. explained to the campers.

He reflected on his experiences as a member of the 4-H program as well as gave tips on budgeting and money management.

"It is a good thing to have all of you here," Rep. Bowers said. "Get as much as you can out of this experience and take what you learn from here with you."

Once again this year, the values of proper spending and saving were the focus as the younger campers were given paper money allowances while the teens received checkbooks. The emphasis remained on teaching them about the lessons of wise and unwise spending throughout the week.

The more than 600-acre facility also hosted and highlighted mainstays such as the 7-11 year old Seminole Youth Olympics and the Box Car Derby. A talent show and shaving cream fight highlighted the week as well. One new activity was the addition of a Frisbee™ golf workshop led by professional Gregg Hasfield.

"Each year the combination of our natural settings and outdoor activities makes this camp available for youth groups to keep them interested and teach them something along the way too," said 26 year old Camp Kulaqua Executive Director Phil Younts. "Other groups in our country would do well to follow suit with what the Seminoles are doing for their youth."

Organizers also placed more of an emphasis on healthy choices in food and diet at the camp this year.

"We wanted [the campers] to try some



Chris C. Jenkins

Jacob Smith looks for his next victim during the camp's annual shaving cream fight.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Campers Elisah Billie and Paul Tahchawickack admire a spider on a fence while at camp.



Chris C. Jenkins

The Hawaiian Girls, (L-R) Shana Balentine, Marina Garcia and Summer Martinez, perform on stage at the talent show.



Chris C. Jenkins

Summer Youth Camp attendees join staff members for a morning nature walk during the weeklong camp, held Aug. 2-8.



Chris C. Jenkins

Family Services Dept. Director Helene Buster welcomes the youth and teens to the camp.

things that they maybe have never tried before and to know that their health is related to what they eat," Camp Kulaqua Food Service Manager Paulette Bair said.

Several other departments contributed their time and efforts at the camp including Health, Fitness, Recreation, Fire-Rescue, Education and the Seminole Police Dept.

"I like coming back because it is something to do to have fun and you do not have to be somewhere fancy, you can just enjoy what Mother Nature gave us here," three year attendee Alexis James pointed out.

"It was nice. I liked the camp, getting the kids up in the morning and getting them to do what they were supposed to do. It all builds discipline," said camp chaperone and first time attendee Jeremiah Hall. "It also helps show them that there is more out there than just the reservation."

Camp Kulaqua, which means "cool water," got its name from a name contest back in the 1950s and hosts more than 50,000 visitors each year.

For more information please call (386) 454-1351 or visit [www.campkulaqua.com](http://www.campkulaqua.com).



Chris C. Jenkins

The Hip-Hop Bandits group put the finishing touches on their box car prior to competing in the Box Car Derby.



Chris C. Jenkins

Youth and staff walk the grounds of the 600-acre Camp Kulaqua facility during summer camp.




Chris C. Jenkins

Tequesta Tiger creates a beadwork necklace in culture class during the camp.



Chris C. Jenkins

Cypress Billie learns about lifesaving CPR techniques during class with Seminole Fire-Rescue Dept. members.



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Jon Jimmie holds very still as a Chilean tarantula crawls up his shoulder.



Arielle Garcia comes face to face with an Australian bearded dragon.

## SHOW

From page 1B

tula, the spectators held, petted and got an up close and personal examination of some of nature's most fascinating critters.

Botelho talked about reptiles and insects that have descended from prehistoric creatures throughout millions of years but are now threatened with extinction. He emphasized the loss of habitat, pollution and global warming as major factors in this process.

Placing Pogo, a white sulfur umbrella cockatoo, on an elevated stand he cautioned the children to keep their distance. The bird had been born with only one wing, and learned to compensate and live a relatively normal life, but was extremely defensive. Approximately 12 years old, Pogo laughed and talked to his enraptured audience.

Displaying his reticulated python, Botelho talked about the responsibility of keeping exotic pets.

"It is imperative that you realize how big they will become, how much care they require and determine whether you can afford to buy their food and pay their veterinarian bills," he said.

"A full grown Burmese python will grow to between 22 and 29 feet and needs the equivalent of a 40 pound pig or other fresh meat per week to satisfy its appetite," added Botelho. "Fatal accidents like the ones recently seen on the news are a result of starving the reptile or inadequately feeding at too long intervals."

"Unfortunately, people are turning loose their unwanted pets and they are multiplying and becoming a threat as they prey on the natural environment," he said.

A strong advocate of animal rights, Botelho frequently is called upon to rescue or provide temporary foster care for abused or abandoned exotic animals and pets. Allowing the children to hold a 10 foot albino Burmese python he recently rescued from a private home in Cape Coral, Fla., Botelho explained how the reptile had been neglected and under-fed, and said it took nearly a year for it to respond positively to humans.



(L-R) Christopher Briscall holds a Burmese python with the help of Family Services Dept. Prevention Program Manager Fred Mullins.



Arielle Garcia pats an African spur-sided tortoise on the back.



Sylvia Marrero feels the light touch of a Chilean tarantula on her shoulder.

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The Brighton preschoolers show what they learned about fire safety from Fire Inspector Bruce Britton (Back Row, Right) during their informational seminar on July 15.

## Preschoolers Learn Importance of Having A Home Fire Escape Plan

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Brighton's preschool students got low and crawled on July 15 when members of the Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. stopped by to teach them how to safely evacuate a house during a fire.

"Most fires are residential," said Fire Inspector Bruce Britton. "It's really important that the kids learn what to do at home."

The children first watched a video from the Rainbow Valley Fire Educational program, an educational tool that teaches children about fire safety.

The preschoolers learned they should have two escape routes per room. An escape route is any opening that leads out of a room such as a window or door. The video showed the students how to draw a picture of their house, marking all the windows and doors in bright colors.

The students then learned the importance of having a meeting place for family after evacuation. A meeting place can be a mailbox, a neighbor's driveway or anything else that is a safe distance away from the burning house where family can meet to make sure all members have made it out of the house safely.

"Go to the neighbor's and call 911," Britton educated the students.

After the video Britton showed the students what a smoke detector looks like and sounds like.

The children then put all that they learned into action by practicing how to escape by pretending a sheet was smoke and getting low and crawling under it to evacuate.

"They are never too young to learn," Britton said. "At this age and coming up, all of this is in their mind and they remember. We are very much on the prevention side."

Rachel Buxton

## Ahfachkee Teachers Practice Team Building Skills on Ropes Course

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BOCA RATON, Fla.** — Teachers from the Ahfachkee School stepped out of the classroom Aug. 10 for a day of adventure, fun and team building as they tested their limits at the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) comprehensive ropes challenge course.

Principal Walt Swan welcomed all the teachers to the FAU campus and joked, "To get teachers' attention after summer break is nearly impossible."

Nearly 60 teachers and administrators from the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress braved the heat to participate in FAU's Learning Initiatives for Team Building, or LIFT, course.

"We start off here today as a team to take us into the future," Swan said.

LIFT is one of the most extreme ropes challenge courses in South Florida and uses challenges referred to as low and high initiatives to create a practice field for organizations to learn how to quickly and actively apply strategies to every day life.

"We start light," LIFT Coordinator Manuel Larenas said. "The concept is that these challenges bring out personality traits and how we operate with others."



Rachel Buxton

First grade teacher Orlando Garcia, surrounded by ropes, discovers the true meaning of a ropes course.

log climbing. High initiatives all pertain to height and relying on your teammates for safety.

Many participants were torn on whether or not to attempt the high initiatives.

"Some of them don't believe they can do some of those things," Troadec said. "They'll complete them with the team and positive reinforcement. You have to think above your limits."

Teachers and administrators climbed and walked 40 feet above air while their fellow coworkers cheered them on and gave them the much needed support.

"Everyone plays a role," Larenas said. "There's a team on the ground that the climber is relying on to get them up and down safely."

Swan said the idea for the ropes course was a chance to get new teachers familiar with the current staff and just a chance to get out and have some fun.

"As teachers you can pick a job or you can pick a career," Swan said. "Teaching is a career and you can look around, a lot of teachers are having fun and that's what we're trying to promote. We can get this done and it doesn't have to be all dreary."

The Ahfachkee School's theme for the new school year is "Building it Better by Brick."

Swan said the ropes course and what it signified is just one of the first bricks being laid.

"This is part of our foundation; just creating a strong team," Swan said.

The school has been completely restructured bringing in new faculty and new program initiatives.

The "bricks" the school will build on this year include parent involvement, culture, PK-5, 6-12, ESE, sports, student growth, guidance, reading, math and the Boys & Girls Club.

"We're really going to be a strong, strong school," Swan said. "Are we going to fail, probably, but that's where we're going to learn the most, that's where we are going to get a whole lot better."



Rachel Buxton

Pre-kindergarten teacher Kristin Stoots walks across a log 40 feet in the air without fear.

Participants were divided into six teams where they took part in different team building activities on the ground. Activities forced teammates to work together to complete the challenge at hand.

"There's a lot of people taking on leadership skills that you wouldn't think would," Ahfachkee guidance counselor Dominique Troadec said.

Groups had to work together to beat times, get members across wooden beams, line teammates across wires, climb through hula hoops without breaking hands along with many other critical thinking activities.

"The initiatives we do on the ground, it's kind of like the meat," Larenas said. "That's where you get something out of it and use the next day, next week, next month."

After each group initiative teams took time out to speak about how they were able to resolve their challenge. Team members reflected and exchanged concepts and thoughts.

"The concept is to create an environment in which everyone feels comfortable in sharing and exploring these ideas so when you walk away you have more tools and resources to better work with your team or organization," Larenas said.

Some of the initiatives posed difficulties for groups. Teams had to work on communication skills to accomplish the skilled activity.

"It's getting us ready for the school year," Swan said. "We're building our frustration levels, building a lot of team working skills and getting our communication levels up."

After lunch teams moved on to high initiative challenges that included wall climbing, rope climbing and

growth, guidance, reading, math and the Boys & Girls Club.

"We're really going to be a strong, strong school," Swan said. "Are we going to fail, probably, but that's where we're going to learn the most, that's where we are going to get a whole lot better."



Rachel Buxton

Maintenance mechanic Billy Engel uses his balance as he makes his way through the course.

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### Seminole Smoke:

An odyssey of power, love and blood in the Seminole Wars

by Claude Walker

www.seminolesmoke.org

"Seminole Smoke: An odyssey of power, love and blood in the Seminole Wars" tells the tale of Paul Turtle ("You-che"), a bicultural, bilingual 19th Century Seminole who rises from transiort to guerilla strategist to diplomat. Paul Turtle has special gifts: stealth, inhumanly quick hands and an ability to create toxic smoke for any occasion.

The story spans 54 years, taking the reader under to the swamps of Florida, arid swamps of Mexico and corridors of Congress. Through Paul's eyes, the reader witnesses such pivotal events as the Negro Fort bombing, Andrew Jackson's invasion, Dade Massacre, Osceola's capture and the Black Seminoles' trek to Mexico. Paul wrestles with such issues as use of force, slavery and land ownership. The Seminole Wars mirrored the turmoil of a young United States struggling with identity, expansion and slavery. A war novel, love story and easy-to-follow history, "Seminole Smoke: An odyssey of power, love and blood in the Seminole Wars" is the first novel which spans the entire 50-year sweep of the Seminole Wars.



# 'Seminole Moments' Presents History of Patchwork Educational Lecture

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — Tribal elders and staff members got a special lesson from Ah-Tah-Tha-Ki Museum Community Outreach Specialist Willie Johns on the transformation of patchwork throughout Seminole history.

The presentation, held Aug. 5 in the elder luncheon room, was a part of the Seminole Moments lecture series.

"I was never really taught anything about sewing," Johns said. "I saw grandma over there at the sewing machine. But I did do my homework."

Johns began his lesson dating back to the 1800s when Native Americans didn't wear traditional cloth. Hide skins were the form of clothing back in those days and were used to help protect the individual from the elements.

Johns explained how the early Native settlers didn't originate in Florida. He talked briefly of how they migrated to Florida from states such as Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama later leading into the Indian Removal Act signed by President Andrew Jackson along with the historical Seminole Wars.

Florida's climate was a change to the Native Indians who were used to the cold and snow. With warm weather the Natives were no longer in need of hide skins and began trading with the Spaniards who possessed trade cloth. Fortunately for the Natives, hide skin was in such demand as it was then being used to help build ships.

Native Indian attire then transformed from hide skin to cloth. Johns cleared up the misconception depicted in old time war drawings of Native Indians wearing fancy clothes.

"The Seminole Wars is when you started seeing changes in clothing," Johns said. "It was very plain because they didn't have time to look pretty; they were being sought after."

Many Indians fought during the wars with no shirts on because of the fear of getting shot with a musket ball and having the cloth enter the wound and create an infection.



Willie Johns shares his knowledge about the history of Seminole patchwork.

It wasn't until the 1850s when the sewing manufacturer Singer distributed sewing machines to a few Seminoles that patchwork truly became more apparent and noticeable.

"Sewing machines helped make it fancy," Johns said. "We changed our thinking of what we wanted to look like and added trinkets and silver."

Johns discussed how then and now Seminole clothing has become a great commodity for the Seminole Indians by them selling their clothing to other people as well as back to their own people.

Sewing patchwork patterns has become simplified throughout the years. Johns joked how he thought his mom was working clothes traditionally and really finding on difficult pieces only to later find out that she was attending sewing classes where she was able to cut patterns that to make things easier and more modern.

"My mom just handed it to me and said 'Wear it,'" he said, laughing.

Johns brought samples of different patchwork used today in traditional Seminole garments for the audience to view as well as books showing sketches and different examples throughout history.



(L-R) Nancy Motlow, Billie Napper-Bodway and Beverley Rose compare patchwork samples.



(L-R) Cayuga Community College faculty member Dr. Patricia Gridley, Adult Vocational Administrator Marie Dufour and Management Trainee Ervina Capricien discuss the Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's operations.

## Tribal Education Dept. Hosts Visitors from Cayuga Community College

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Cayuga Community College faculty members Dr. Patricia Gridley and Teresa Hoercher visited Big Cypress and Hollywood to learn about Seminole culture Aug. 6-7.

The duo was hosted by the Education Dept. and the Tribal Council in their tour to gather information about the Seminole Tribe. During their visit they explored Billie Swamp Safari, the Ah-Tah-Tha-Ki Museum, the Hollywood Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, the Hollywood Administration building and the Native Learning Center.

Using the information they received, they hope to develop a college course featuring Tribal operations, education, history and culture. The week-long interdisciplinary course will only be offered during the spring and fall intercession and will give the New York college students an opportunity to enjoy the sunshine state with a purpose.

"It's not just a trip to Florida," Dr. Gridley emphasized. "As soon as the kids get off the plane, before they get here, they will have assignments to do."

Those assignments will involve the early childhood and education students working closely with the Tribal schools tutoring the students while learning about the Seminole culture. Dr. Gridley

suggested the 12 students who take the course each term may also work in the reservations' gyms or preschools.

"We see the value for all of our students to be able to serve and give through something like this," she said.

Both visitors were impressed with the welcome they received from Tribal representatives and were excited to return later in the year when they hope to participate in the annual Education Dept. College Fair.

"I'm just floored by the hospitality and spirit and sense of community," Hoercher said. "It's so much more than I could have expected."

For more information about Cayuga Community College, please visit [www.cayuga-cc.edu](http://www.cayuga-cc.edu).



(L-R) Teresa Hoercher and Dr. Patricia Gridley view the painting "When the Time Comes" in Chairman Mitchell Cypress' office. The painting by Guy LaBree represents a vision the Chairman had in a dream.

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# Health

## Safety Tips for Snake Encounters

BY BRIAN BROWN  
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: Brian Brown is the chief of the EMS Division for the Seminole Tribe's Fire Rescue Dept. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write to [brianbrown@seminoletribe.com](mailto:brianbrown@seminoletribe.com).]

During the summer time there is a noticeable increase in animal bites among the reservations. There are a multitude of animals on the reservations that can give a nasty bite to a person who is causing them to feel threatened, who has been stepped on by accident, or has been handled in an improper manner.

Amongst the different types of animal bites the Fire Dept. sees throughout the year, the most common are snake bites.

Snakes are beautiful creatures that play an important role in the Florida ecological system. Unfortunately fear, lack of education, and a neglect of general respect for snakes lead people to have dangerous and life threatening encounters with them.

Below are some general safety tips to follow the next time you have an encounter with a snake of any kind.

The most common venomous snakes that are regularly encountered on the reservations are cotton mouths (water moccasins) and diamond backs (rattle snakes).

Cotton mouths can usually be found on the water edges and at times during rain storms on the sides of the paved roads searching for locations to keep warm. Diamond backs can be found in the low-lying dry brush areas along trails and pastures and resting on the leaves and branches of palm trees.

If you encounter a snake, back away slowly and do not touch or try to handle the snake. Always try to keep a good distance between you and the snake when ever possible. Majority of the time snakes will want to get away from you as fast as possible, but it is known that some water region snakes like the cotton mouth will

be aggressive and stand their ground.

If you or someone else has been bitten by a snake, try to see and remember the color and shape of the snake. This will help with the assessment and treatment of the snake bite.

Call the Seminole Police and Fire Departments as soon as possible. If you are in a pasture or away from the main road then try to bring the person who was bitten to the main road way, only if they are able to. If the patient is not able to travel to a main road then stay in place and make attempts to signal your location to responding Fire Rescue and Police staff.

Provide First Aid to the patient while you are waiting for help to arrive. Have the person who is bitten sit or lay down with the area that was bitten below the level of the heart to aid in slowing the spread of the venom. Try to cover the site of the bite with a clean dry dressing/bandage and keep the person as calm as possible.

As a precaution you should always call the Seminole Police and Fire Departments to remove the snake for you. Do not make attempts to handle or remove a snake of any kind. Only those who are specially trained to handle venomous and non-venomous snakes should remove the snake from your home, property, or work.

Always have the paramedics evaluate a snake bite to make sure proper medical care is provided and whether advanced medical care is needed.

Snakes are very interesting creatures to study and have beautiful color patterns that at times can provoke a person's curiosity to a dangerous level. Just keep in mind that if you leave the snake alone, the snake will leave you alone.

Snakes of all kinds have an important part in our ecosystem and should be left to play their part in nature.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the different types of snakes on your reservation, please stop by your local Public Safety Office and we will be happy to assist you.



## Tips for Severe Weather Emergencies

BY NICHOLAS PERSAUD  
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: Nicholas Persaud works as an Environmental Health Specialist for the Tribe. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write to [nicholaspersaud@seminoletribe.com](mailto:nicholaspersaud@seminoletribe.com).]

It is halfway through the 2009 Hurricane Season, and we have yet to experience a major hurricane of Category 3 or above. This can change at any time, however.

Often, the first things to be affected by severe weather events are water and food caused by power outages in the home. In turn, the lack of a potable water source as well as food spoilage may contribute to increases in food borne illness outbreaks.

Listed below are recommendations that should be used in the event of power outages and a lack of potable water supply.

### Power Outages

Keep the refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to maintain the cold temperature. Each time the door is opened, a significant amount of cold air is lost.

The refrigerator will keep food safely cold for about four hours if it is unopened, and a full freezer will hold the temperature

for approximately 48 hours; 24 hours if it is half full and the door remains closed.

Food may be safely refrozen if it still contains ice crystals or is at 40 degree Fahrenheit or below.

Never taste a food to determine if it is safe to eat or not.

Obtain dry or block ice to keep your refrigerator and freezer as cold as possible if the power is going to be out for a prolonged period of time.

If the power has been out for several days, then check the temperature of the freezer with an appliance thermometer or food thermometer. If the temperature is at 40 degree Fahrenheit or below, the food is safe.

If a thermometer has not been kept in the freezer, then check each package of food to determine its safety. If the food still contains ice crystals, or is at 40 degree Fahrenheit or below then the food is safe. Remember you cannot only rely on appearance and odor.

Discard refrigerated perishable foods such as meat, poultry, fish, soft cheeses, milk, eggs, leftovers and deli items after four hours without power.

Group food together in freezer; this helps the food to stay cool longer.

### Boiling Water

If there is a lack of potable water supply,

it is essential to boil water.

When boiling water, wait for it to bubble. These bubbles show that the water is churning and beginning to turn from liquid to a vapor, a sign of boiling. The bubbles are large and rise to the surface, then break quickly; it is safe to assume the water is boiling and ready for use after proper cooling off period.

If you can't boil water, you can disinfect it using household bleach. Bleach will kill some, but not all, types of disease-causing organisms that may be in the water. If the water is cloudy, filter it through clean cloths or allow it to settle, and draw off the clear water for disinfection.

Add 1/8 teaspoon, or about eight drops, of regular, unscented, liquid household bleach for each gallon of water, stir it well and let it stand for 30 minutes before you use it. Store disinfected water in clean containers with covers.

The above simple tips can be useful in a variety of other emergency situations and can often lessen the traumatic life and death experiences posed by these events.

Please call the Environmental Health Office at (954) 965-1300, Ext. 10325 should you need more information.

## SEEKING ORAL HISTORIES FOR MUSEUM COLLECTION AND VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BUILDING EXHIBIT

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is seeking to conduct oral history interviews with Seminole veterans and family members of veterans. The interviews will become a part of the existing oral history collection of the Tribal Museum. In the interview, you may choose what you would like to speak about. If you give permission, the interview might be considered for use in the exhibits to be created within the new Veteran's Memorial Building in Brighton. We hope that Seminole veterans will share stories for the benefit of current and future generations, as we look to honor your dedication and service.

To participate contact:

Elizabeth Lowman  
Oral History Coordinator  
Phone: 863-903-1113 ext. 12210  
[elizabethlowman@seminoletribe.com](mailto:elizabethlowman@seminoletribe.com)

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# Sports

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## Competitors Attend Annual Sonny Billie Golf Tourney

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Seminole Tribal citizens met at the Heritage Golf Course in Naples on Aug. 8 for the 6th annual Golf Tournament in memory of Sonny Billie.

Born in circa 1935 in a remote area of the Everglades, currently the located in the southeastern portion of Collier County, Billie was a member of the Panther Clan. A medicine man and spiritual leader, he dedicated his life to preserving the traditions and culture of the Seminole people.

Even though Billie considered the Tamiami Trail region his permanent home, he worked for several years as a heavy equipment operator in Homestead to supplement his income. He was a former Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and a leading bundle carrier for more than thirty years.

The father of eight children, Billie leaves a legacy of numerous descendants to carry on the traditions that meant so much to him in his quest to preserve his heritage. His son, Ricky Doctor, organized the tournament as a memorial to his father.

Tournament play comprised a Two Man Bramble in which both players tee off. The best drive determines the location of the next shot for both players, who then continue to compete. The best score between the two players is tabulated for the team per hole.

Each of the participants received a tote bag commemorating the event with a T-shirt, hat, towel and package of balls.

Starting on the back nine holes and then completing the tournament on the front nine, Ricky Doctor set the tempo for the day with a remarkably long drive on the 12th hole. His ball cleared the bunker and stopped at the edge of the green. Unfortunately, his next shot lightly kissed the flag pole as it whispered past the cup.

All of the players had a terrific day

with the teams turning in some very close scores. A three way tie for second, third and fourth place and a two way tie for fifth and sixth place resulted in matching cards, starting on the #1 Handicap Hole, to determine the placement of winners.

Players congregated at the Immokalee Seminole Casino for a memorial luncheon and distribution of prizes following the tournament.

Tournament winners were as follows:

Two Man Bramble: 1. Cicero Osceola and Johnny "Trey" Boone III, 2. Ricky Doctor and Allen Huff, 3. Johnny Boone and Lawrence Osceola, 4. Raymond Garza Jr. and Bruce Pratt, 5. Raymond Garza Sr. and Jason Tommie, 6. Charlie Cypress and Keeno King, 7. James Tommie and Duane Pratt.

Closest to the Pin: Men: #6. Charlie Cypress, #8 Raymond Garza Jr., #13. Johnny Boone, #17. James Tommie; Seniors: #6. Allen Huff, #8. Ricky Doctor, #13. Allen Huff, #17. Allen Huff.

Longest Drive: Men: #1. Johnny Boone, #7. Raymond Garza Jr., #14. James Tommie, #16. Johnny Boone; Seniors: #1. Ricky Doctor, #7. Ricky Doctor, #14. Allen Huff.



Judy Weeks

Ricky Doctor makes a long drive on the 12th hole.



Judy Weeks

Raymond Garza Sr. displays his commemorative tote bag at the 6th annual Sonny Billie Golf Tournament.



Seminole Tribune Archive Photo

Sonny Billie prepares to perform a social dance in 1999 at the Ah-Tah-Ti-Ki Museum.



Judy Weeks

Players in the 6th annual Sonny Billie Golf Tournament practice putting before the game.



Judy Weeks

The young athletes stretch out before their class during the Big Cypress summer gymnastics camp.

## Tribal Youth Attend Summer Gymnastics Camp

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The staff from the Big Cypress Gymnastics Program held three camps during the summer for the benefit of the Tribe's young athletes, ages 5-16.

The camps focused on developing the skills of those already enrolled in their programs, as well as those interested in becoming involved.

Coach Gina Allardye has 30 years of gymnastics training in her background and worked with Seminole youth for the past 18 years.

"The Tribal members have proven to be talented, physical and flexible," said Allardye. "It is our job to teach them agility, strength, focus and balance with emphasis on self-discipline and self-esteem. Our program walks hand in hand with education. School work, homework and responsibility are stressed."

Beginning each session with a cardio and stretch warm up, the group does a work out on the floor, trampoline, beams, bars and balls. Each class is scheduled for one hour, however due to the amount of enthusiasm displayed by the children it usually runs a half hour longer. Following a quick cooling off period in the swimming pool, they eat lunch and participate in extra curricular activities.

The coach's daughter, Gianna Allardye, competes in national competitions and is currently in second place for All Around Level 2 Gym-

nastics. Occasionally visiting the camp, she works out with the children and they look forward to spending time with her. At a young age peer pressure is an important factor and finding a connection with someone of their own age, they appear to be inspired by her athletic abilities and view her as a role model.

Coach Allardye, Asst. Coach Mike Iglesia and aide Denise Freund invited the parents to join their children on the morning of July 17 to view their accomplishments. Lining the walls of the Fitness Center, the

spectators applauded as the group did tumbling, straddles, vaulting, right and left cartwheels, hip circles, hand stands and backward walkovers on the floor, trampoline and balance beam.

"Our fall program will include gymnastic classes, Ahfachkee physical education and preschool fitness," said Allardye. "We are always looking for more boys and girls to begin training."

Anyone interested in the program can get more information at (863) 983-2787.



Photo Submitted by Denise Freund

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress (Back Row, Center) stopped by the Fitness Dome to see the gymnasts before he made his way to his birthday party on Aug. 5. The young athletes later joined him at the party and gave Rep. Cypress a birthday card they made for him.

## Friday Night Fights Come to Hard Rock Live

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Fight fans watched four hopeful championship contenders in the junior welterweight and heavyweight division square off July 31 in Hard Rock Live.

As a part of ESPN 2 Friday Night Fights coverage, Seminole Warriors Boxing sponsored seven scheduled bouts with five undefeated fighters trying to stay perfect coming in.

In the main attraction, the veteran and two-time lightweight champion Julio "The Kidd" Diaz (36-5, 26 KOs) faced an undefeated Victor Cayo (22-0, 15 KOs).

Diaz would face one of his toughest opponents in Cayo. He had hopes of a rebound losing to Rolando Reyes by a fifth round TKO in his last action.

Prior to the bout with Cayo he explained that the loss as well as the wear-and-tear on his body caused him to rethink his path in competing among other lightweights.



Photo Courtesy of Redline Media Group

A victorious Victor Cayo with his World Boxing Association FEDE Caribe Championship belt after his win against veteran Julio "The Kidd" Diaz.





A photograph of two women standing indoors. The woman on the left is wearing a white t-shirt and holding a large bag of rice and a framed portrait of a man. The woman on the right is wearing a pink short-sleeved shirt. They are both smiling at the camera.

A photograph of a woman standing outdoors. She is wearing a dark blue short-sleeved top with white polka dots and a long, wide skirt with a bold, colorful geometric pattern in yellow, black, and red. She is holding a small, light-colored rectangular object in her hands. The background shows green foliage and a red structure.

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# Youngsters Celebrate End of Tribal Summer Swimming Program



Chris C. Jenkins

The 2-4 year old Tribal summer swim program participants surround preschool swim instructor Stacy Meyer. The eight year program had its end of the summer swim party with youth receiving certificates and medals for their participation.



Chris C. Jenkins

The 3 and 4 year olds wait their turn for a ride on the water slide during their end of the summer swim party.

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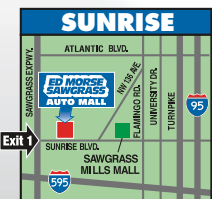


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# Announcements D

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Brandtley Osceola**, the son of Milo Osceola and Brande Clay, is going to attend Hollywood Christian High School this year and will be in the ninth grade.

He made us so proud when he got in the boxing ring on March 17 of this year at the Golden Gloves and I am so proud of all of his accomplishments in life.

It just seems like the other day when I was putting him on his first sheep to ride at the rodeo ... or I put on his first helmet to wear at his first football game ... or I watched him hit his first home run at a T-ball game. Now, he is putting on the boxing gloves and is getting ready to fight some matches in the upcoming months.

I am just so amazed at how much he is becoming a young man and I know that he is making his grandparents, the late Theda Osceola and the late Jacob Storm, proud.

Brandtley, you know that we are all behind you and love you so much! I know that you take on a big responsibility helping take care of your younger sisters. I know we all have to choose our own path and I know that you will choose the right one. You need to keep going forward with hard work and good decisions.

Love,  
**Your Dad & Mom**



**Happy 16th Birthday Tana Wind.**  
You have grown into a beautiful young lady.

Love, Aunt Mary,  
**Mark and Dayne**

To my son, **Samuel C. Hunter II**, I wanted to let you know that I love you and I care about you. I only want the best in life for you.

I know you will be a positive role model and a positive influence in your community. I just wanted you to know I am proud of you and I love you, mommy's little rat!

I'd rather have you so far away and alive than to have you so close and be buried!

Love,  
**Mom (Arnita Tiger)**

To my daughter, **Aralena L. Jordan**, I want you to know I am proud of you.

You've been through a lot in your short life, but you've kept your head up and brought yourself up. I know you will succeed in life, just set your mind and stay focused, stay strong and stay positive.

I love you and I want the best for mommy's tomato!

Love,  
**Mom (Arnita Tiger)**

To my daughter, **Daniell A. Sharp**, you have been my best friend since you were born. I am very proud of you and how you have taken charge of your life. You have turned out to be a very strong woman, always standing your ground.

I just wanted to say I love you and I am proud of mommy's butterfly!

Love,  
**Mommy (Arnita Tiger)**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS



**Happy birthday Rickyjoe Alumbaugh!** When you turn 14 on Sept. 20, please know that we love you very much and are proud of you.

Love,  
**Mom (Beverly Osceola Alumbaugh), Dad (Rick Alumbaugh) and Grandpa (Joe Osceola Sr.)**

**Happy birthday to Dar'Rick Christopher Nelson-Williams** on Sept. 7. You're 7 years old now and we've come a long way down a crazy and long road, yet we've made it to the sunshine. I'm so proud of you and I'm so glad you still love me and respect me as your mother. You are the true warrior in my life. Just seeing you happy now is my drug. Thank you for helping me everyday to stay clean and sober. Have fun and enjoy being 7. I love you always and forever, no matter what, Rick.

Love always,  
**Your Mom (Carolee Anderson)**



To my grandson, **Jovan J. Jenkins II**, grandma is very proud of you. You have been an A/B Honor Roll student and you are doing good in school. Keep up the good job! Grandma loves Grandma's "Harvard" very much.

Happy big 8th birthday on July 31.

Love,  
**Grandma Aranita**

**Happy 16th birthday to Tana Wind.** You have grown into a beautiful young lady.

Love,  
**Aunt Mary L. Billie, Mark & Dayne**

## THANK YOU

**Dear Mr. Stephen Bowers,**

Thank you for your support during Fleet Week Port Everglades 2009. Our sailors and marines were treated exceptionally well — each experienced warm hospitality and established new friendships.

Your efforts with the Seminole Color Guard and the employer support of the Guard and Reserve Luncheon are greatly appreciated. Your kindness and generosity contributed significantly to the success of Fleet Week.

Visiting south Florida was truly a pleasure; we look forward to returning.

Sincerely,  
*John N. Christenson*

**J.N. Christenson**  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy



## IN MEMORIAM

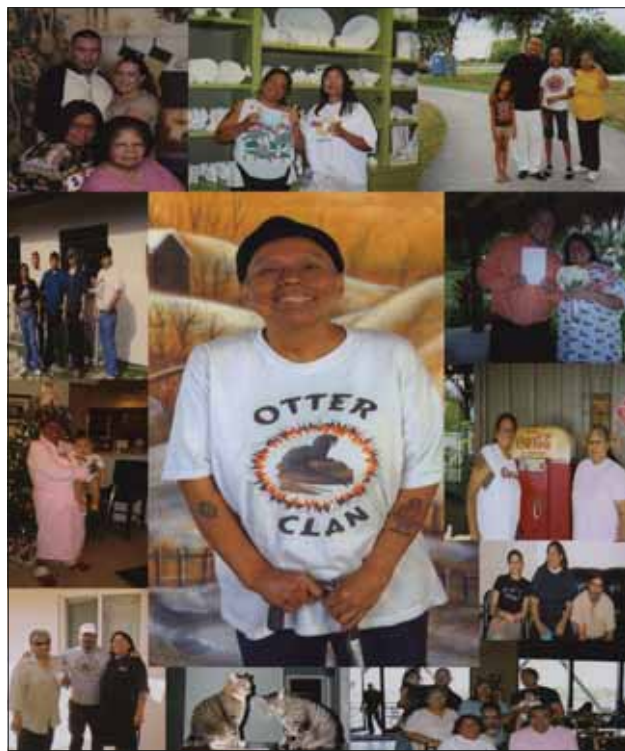
If I had only known tomorrow was going to be so lonely

I would've smiled a little more,  
Done some things a little different,  
Paid more attention,  
Laughed with you a little more,  
Held your hand a little tighter,  
Spoke a little clearer,  
Wrote a little deeper,  
Acted a little more stronger,  
Asked for forgiveness,  
Prayed alongside you,  
Gave you a kiss,  
Played your favorite song,  
Read your favorite book,  
Fed your cats,

Brought you food,  
Fixed the temperature in your room,  
Eased your mind,  
Took a picture to remember how strong you are,  
Tucked you in,  
Made you smile,  
Tried a little harder,  
But stubbornness hurt me,  
For that I am sorry,  
If only I had known.

Forgive me and embrace me  
I'll mourn until I join you

Always & Forever,  
**Your Son Eli**



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# POEMS

## White Man's World

White man's world is built on blood, sweat and tears, many wars against us natives and picking their cotton were the black folks with fear. Since 1492 not a damn thing good the pale face brought to this land, disease, greed and destruction is their master plan. They have fulfilled that plan as you can see; only they didn't foresee they would be the ones down on their knees. The creator doesn't like ugly, now pale face must pay. Your disregard for humankind and nature is being collected today. In the name of your religion you did what you done, slaving the black folks and your military committing mass genocide on native camps while the warriors were on a hunting run. You had superior weapons but you didn't have superior strength to survive, with our nomadic ways we will continue to thrive. We have been blessed to withstand the tests of time, you keep placing obstacles in our way but we continue to climb. Centuries have passed and we are still here, don't

cry about what's fair no in your state of fear. Throughout all those centuries of unfairness and mistreatment you didn't cry, it didn't matter how many natives were killed or black slaves suffered and died. We natives know you don't want to see us on top, we also know that your hatred for us isn't going to stop. We are not a people of greed we just want what's right, Unconquered Seminoles we remain always ready to fight. Where you get the nerve to speak of fairness is beyond me, you're repeating the same mistakes on my Arab brothers and sisters across the sea. Allah is great pale face that will come back on you too, you can't lure the world in the end you will see this is true. Impose your will on your own kind and let us be; now that would be fair and right in this land of the free. White man's world isn't all that it seems, the reality of it nothing is free and they keep a dirty team.

— Ike T. Harjo  
Panther Clan



## If This Was It

Lady, tonight is all we need  
So forget about what tomorrow may bring  
And just stay with me in this moment  
Let's make a memory to remember  
We're two of a kind with one beat,  
one love  
You're a beautiful angel sent from above  
No worries right now, I just want to hold you tight  
Kissing your body from head to toe,  
don't fight  
If this is our last time together,  
We can make a love that lasts forever  
Take the time to appreciate the little things  
That keeps our lives tied as one  
Lady, tonight, until the light breaks the dark  
I'll sit back and wait and never let go

— Kiel Jumper

## It's Been Years

It's been years since we first met  
Since we looked into each other's eyes  
Not realizing that we were meant to be together  
It's been years since we first glared our first laugh, our first smile  
Since we shared our first kiss  
I remember how strong your arms embraced me  
How soft you held me  
How warm and gentle you were

## Ready for Seminole Love

Take my hand and lead the way  
Tell me all you have to say,  
Whisper softly in my ear,  
All those things I want to hear.  
Kiss my lips and touch my skin;  
Bring out passions deep within.  
Pull me close and hold me near;  
Take away my pain and fear.  
In the darkness of the night;  
Be my beacon, shine your light.  
In the brightness of the sun;  
Show me that you are the one.

I remember how passionate that first kiss was  
Now my heart is dancing happy  
Knowing that it's been years since we first met  
And you're still here kissing me just the same  
You're still here holding me just the same  
It's been years  
And that feeling will never change.

Hot pursuit,  
— Alex Tucker  
Otter Clan

Give me wings so I can fly;  
For I can soar when you're nearby.  
Enter my heart, break down the wall;  
It's time for me to watch it fall.  
I've been a prisoner, can't you see?  
Break my chains and set me free.  
Strip me of my armor tight;  
You'll find I won't put up a fight.  
Release my soul held deep within...  
I'm ready now, let this Seminole love begin.

Flava in ya ear,  
— Alex Tucker  
Otter Clan

## TRIBAL ATHLETES



## Hollywood Baseball Team Travels to NY for NAYO

The Hollywood 12 and Under Baseball Team went to New York for the Native American Youth Organization (NAYO) baseball tournament.

The team included Mingo L.D. Jones, Daniel Rodriguez Jr., Francisco Rodriguez, Trevon Blayne Marks, Luke Baxley Jr., Ark Dalton Jumper, Ethan Rage Cypress, Cameron Neil Osceola, Tyson Grant Osceola, Devan Bowers, Tristen Wilcox, Tam Wilcox and Blevyaf Jumper.

The team played several games. They also visited Niagara Falls where they celebrated Trevon Blayne's birthday at the Hard Rock Café.

Head Coach J.D. Bowers said the team had a good time and wanted to thank Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and the Recreation Dept. for their support. He was assisted by Assistant Coaches Truman Bowers, Jason Cypress and Billie Hanks.



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