



Jaylee Jimmie, 3, is intrigued by the Thanksgiving cake at the Immokalee Preschool dinner held at the Senior Center on the evening of Nov. 13.

Immokalee Reservation Celebrates Thanksgiving



Participants in Immokalee's Turkey Trot follow the Seminole Pathway to better health.

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar summed up the essence of Thanksgiving and what it means to the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

"When things don't go right, it doesn't take long for our problems to become the center of our thoughts and actions. Unfortunately, it seems as though we move from one problem to another," said Liaison Aguilar. "Thanksgiving is a time to set aside our troubles and conflicts and think about all the wonderful things in our lives."

"We have so much to be grateful for each day," continued Aguilar. "Our ancestors welcomed the sunshine that brightened their day, the rainfall that made their gardens grow and the companionship of their family and friends. If you stop to think about it, you will realize how fortunate we are and how wonderful it would be to spend as much

time on our blessings and we do our problems."

Preschool Thanksgiving Dinner

The Immokalee Preschool kicked off the Thanksgiving season with a festive dinner on the evening of Nov. 13 at the Senior Center. It was a joyous occasion for the children as they welcomed their parents and grandparents.

The room was decorated in the traditional Thanksgiving manner with turkeys, harvest vegetables, and the colored leaves of fall. However, these things were insignificant compared to the wonderful decorations that the children had created. Feathered headresses, little turkeys fashioned from finger-paint, hand prints and crayon drawings adorned the tables.

Seniors' Fall Festivities

The Immokalee seniors extended an open invitation to all senior Tribal citizens on Nov. 18 for a Thanksgiving Party.

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Brighton Wins Senior Trike Fest Competition

BY NAJLI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — With the Brighton Reservation coming into the Trike Fest as the overwhelming favorite to win a third consecutive Trike Fest, Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress did everything he could to pump up the competitors early on.

"The pressure is on Brighton, but we all got to try hard," Rep. Cypress said. "We expect this every fall in November, so let's have a good time and compete."

Hollywood Board of Directors Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. also rooted for his reservation before the start of the 5th annual Senior Trike Fest, held Nov. 19 at the Big Cypress Airplane Hangar.

"I'm not looking to be a senior with the competition we have here," Rep. Osceola said as he rooted for the Hollywood Reservation to win its first Trike Fest title since 2006. "David [Cypress], you have your work cut out for you here at Big Cypress. Let's go Hollywood!"

None of that fazed the Brighton Reservation's seniors, however, as Brighton took home the coveted Senior Trike Fest's traveling trophy. The Brighton team triumphed against the Hollywood, Big Cypress, Tampa and Immokalee teams at the event.

▮ Please see TRIKE on page 2A

Reese Bert Promoted to Assistant Housing Director

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Tribal citizen Reese Bert was recently promoted to Assistant Housing Director of Brighton's Housing Department by Tribal Council member and active Housing Director Holly Tiger Bowers.

Bert, a resident of the Brighton Reservation, has been a part of the Housing Department for more than 10 years and has worked within the Tribe for more than 20.

During those years, Bert has held a variety of positions in the Housing Dept. including junior project manager, property manager and most recently, service manager.

"It's a process to build a house," Bert explained. "It is always a challenge and once a new house goes up, I feel excited that it is completed and everything is in order."

Bert began his experience in the Housing Department handling construction and general maintenance issues on the Hollywood and Big Cypress Reservations.

He joined the department with a certificate for technical support in air conditioning and later received his state

▮ Please see BERT on page 2A



Reese Bert

Tribal Council Holds Special Meeting

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

FORT PIERCE — The Tribal Council gathered at the Chupco Youth Ranch in Fort Pierce for a special session on Nov. 30. They passed 33 resolutions on the agenda including:

Resolution 22: Service agreement with Florida-Spectrum Environmental Services, Inc., to provide professional laboratory testing and analysis services for all Reservations and trust lands of the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 24: Lease agreement between Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services, LLC, Pitney Bowes, Inc., and Seminole Tribe of Florida Ahfachkee School;

Resolution 28: U.S. Foodservice Master Distribution agreement to purchase, warehouse and distribute specified food and non-food related products for Seminole Gaming;

Resolution 29: Approval of agreement with Native American Construction, LLC, for utility improvements to Harney Pond Road and Harney Canal Road - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 30: Approval of agreement with Seminole Design-Build, Inc., for Billie Swamp Safari; ratification of execution of the agreement;

Resolution 35: Ha-Sho-Bee Golf, LLC, new consulting agreement for purchase, development, construction, financing and/or management of a golf course;

Resolution 36: Issuance of revocable permit to Bill Rhodes Honey Co., LLC, for beehives - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation; and,

Resolution 37: Issuance of revocable permit to Benoit Grenier for beehives - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation.

Tribal Youth Volleyball Team End With Perfect Season

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE — The Yearling Middle School (YMS) volleyball team completed their season undefeated with a perfect record (12-0).

The volleyball team was comprised of Tribal youth Jaide Micco, Trista Osceola, Harley Johns, Acealyn Youngblood, Cheyenne Nunez, Airi Nunez, Delaney Osceola and Kirsten Doney.

"The girls have enthusiasm," YMS volleyball coach Bruce Conrad said.

The teammates wrapped up their season and held fundraisers, including a serve-a-thon where each player was sponsored for the number of serves made out of 100 serves total. This event helped raise money so they could attend the NCAA Championship Tournament which was held in Tampa, Dec. 17 and 19.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida was extremely supportive and generous and provided the team with a sky box during the tournament that was held in the Tampa Bay Forum. The Tribe also chartered a bus to make it easier for the team to travel to Tampa for the exciting event.

"I can't thank them enough," Coach Conrad said about the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



Yearling Middle School Tribal youth volleyball players (l-r) Acealyn Youngblood, Kirsten Doney, Delaney Osceola, Airi Nunez, Cheyenne Nunez, Jaide Micco and Trista Osceola. Harley Johns is not pictured.

Rachel Buxton

TRIKE

Though the Brighton Reservation took home the biggest honor of the day, the Tampa Reservation took home the most trophies. Tampa, which brought along five female seniors to this annual event, won for best decorated trike and most participants based on reservation size. The five competing seniors in Tampa represented 50 percent of the community's total senior population.

"Tampa doesn't have too many people, but they're always active," said Andrew Bowers Jr., Brighton Tribal Council Rep.

The event began with Seminole Fitness Department Trainer for the Hollywood Reservation "Jay" Garland leading the seniors in a series of stretches before the races began.

"You guys have a great day and trike it out," Garland said to the seniors.

Following the warm-up and Trike Fest Fashion Show, the event's five races, the cone weave, the double figure-8, the maze, the ball toss and the team relays, began.

Mable Tichenor, a Tribal senior from the Brighton Reservation, was highly confident in Brighton's performance after the races concluded.

"We want to win a trophy again and take it back to Brighton," Tichenor said. "I don't see how any other reservation can beat us."

After lunch was the awards ceremony, with the five reservations collectively holding their breaths as the results were announced.

Though Hollywood won the team relay, Brighton scored the most points with 96, 24 more than the second place team Hollywood and Jenny Johns, both from the Brighton Reservation, snagged the top two places in the Best Dressed Triker category, with 60 and 58 points, respectively.

"Whoever thought of this thing here, the idea," Rep. Bowers said of the Trike Fest. "It lets us look forward to having a friendly competition with all the reservations and brings us all together."

The participation is more about winning and losing," he added. "There are no losers in the Trike Fest; everybody is a winner."

For the sixth annual Senior Trike Fest, tentatively scheduled for November 2010, Rep. Bowers said he hopes the event gets bigger in years to come.

"Everyone who had a hand in putting this



Seniors line up for the cone weave relay race at the Trike Fest, held Nov. 19 at Big Cypress.

event together should pat themselves on the back," he said of the event's organizing team, which included Tribal employees from the Seminole Fitness Department, the Big Cypress Recreation Department and others.



The Tampa Reservation's seniors conduct a presentation on their decorated trike, which gave them a victory for Best Decorated Trike.



Seniors from the Brighton Reservation win their fourth Best Overall Team Trike Fest award in five years for Nov. 19.



Seniors from the Tampa Reservation, with Chairman Mitchell Cypress (C), celebrate as they take home the Most Participants award in this year's Trike Fest.

5th Annual Senior Trike Fest Results

Relay Race

1. Hollywood Reservation, 8 points, 2. Big Cypress Reservation, 6 points, 3. Brighton Reservation, 4 points, 4. Tampa Reservation, 2 points.

Cone Weave

Super Seniors: Ages 55-61: Female: 1. Minnie Tigertail, 2. Wanda Bowers, 3. Patty Waldron, 4. Jenny Johns; Male: 1. Jonah Cypress, 2. Roger Smith, 3. Mike D. Tiger, 4. David Cypress. Golden Seniors: Ages 62-68: 1. Nancy Shore, 2. Louise Gopher, 3. Connie Whidden, 4. Mabel Doctor; Male: 1. Mitchell Cypress, 2. Ronnie Doctor, 3. Billie Micco. Diamond Seniors: Ages 69 and Older: 1. Mary Gay Osceola, 2. Onnie Osceola, 3. Mable Haught; Male: 1. Wonder Johns, 2. Coleman Josh.

Ball Toss

Super Seniors: Ages 55-61: Female: 1. Jenny Johns, 2. Susie Doctor, 3. Juanita Osceola, 4. Nancy Frank; Male: 1. David Cypress, 2. Roger Smith, 3. Jonah Cypress, 4. Mike D. Tiger. Golden Seniors: Ages 62-68: Female: 1. Peggy Cubis, 2. Nancy Shore, 3. Louise Gopher, 4. Nancy Motlow; Men: 1. Mitchell Cypress, 2. Mike Micco, 3. Ronnie Doctor. Diamond Seniors: Ages 69 and Older: Female: 1. Onnie Osceola, 2. Mary Gay Osceola, 3. Betty Osceola, 4. Mable Haught; Male: 1. Wonder Johns, 2. Coleman Josh.

The Maze

Super Seniors: Ages 55-61: Female: 1. Minnie Tigertail, 2. Wanda Bowers, 3. Molly Shore, 4. Juanita Osceola; Male: 1. Jonah Cypress, 2. Roger Smith, 3. David Cypress, 4. Mike Tiger. Golden Seniors: Ages 62-68: Female: 1. Mabel Doctor Osceola, 2. Peggy Cubis, 3. Louise Gopher, 4. Nancy Motlow; Male: 1. Ronnie Doctor, 2. Mitchell Cypress, 3. Billie Micco. Diamond Seniors: Ages 69 and Older: Female: 1. Mary Gay Osceola, 2. Onnie Osceola, 3. Mable Haught; Men: 1. Coleman Josh.

Double Figure 8

Super Seniors: Ages 55-61: Female: 1. Patty Waldron, 2. Molly Shore, 3. Jenny Johns, 4. Alice Sweet; Male: Jonah Cypress, 2. David Cypress, 3. Roger Smith, 4. Mike Tiger. Golden Seniors: Ages 62-68: Female: 1. Nancy Motlow, 2. Mabel Doctor Osceola, 3. Connie Whidden, 4. Peggy Cubis; Male: 1. Mitchell Cypress, 2. Ronnie Doctor, 3. Billie Micco. Diamond Seniors: Ages 69 and Older: Female: 1. Mary Gay Osceola, 2. Onnie Osceola, 3. Mable Haught; Male: 1. Wonder Johns, 2. Coleman Josh.

Best Decorated Trike - Team Award
1. Tampa Reservation, 58 points, 2. Hollywood Reservation, 57 points, 3. Immokalee Reservation, 55 points.

Best Dressed Triker

1. Patty Waldron, Brighton Reservation, 60 points, 2. Jenny Johns, Brighton Reservation, 58 points, 3. Louise Osceola, Big Cypress Reservation, 57 points.

Most Participants - Team Award
1. Tampa Reservation

Most Practices

Big Cypress: Male: Jonah Cypress; Female: Violet Jim
Brighton: Male: Wonder Johns; Female: Onnie Osceola
Hollywood: Male: Joe Paul Billie; Female: Juanita Osceola
Tampa: Female: Nancy Frank
Immokalee: Nancy Motlow.

Reservation Winner - Traveling Trophy

1. Brighton Reservation, 96 points, 2. Hollywood Reservation, 72 points, 3. Big Cypress, 63 points, 4. Tampa, 14 points, 5. Immokalee, 5 points.

THANKS

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No senior get-together would be complete without Bingo. Playing from six to eight cards each round, the players stayed busy stamping numbers and visiting with friends. Laughter filled the room as the caller occasionally slipped in an odd number just to see if they were paying attention.

The players had to stay on their toes as they attempted to be the first one to achieve some difficult combinations. Gift cards were awarded to the five winners as follows: Double Regular: Nancy Motlow, Double Postage Stamp: Nancy Motlow, Crazy Letter "T": Linda Frank, Doo-Dad: Pete Aguilar, Full Monty: Nancy Motlow.

Between rounds of Bingo, raffle ticket numbers were called and the winners received tokens to play Plinko. Players held their breath as the chips made their way through the maze and into the winning slots for prizes. The lucky gamblers were Ruth Osceola, Elizabeth Oleo, Linda Frank and Nancy Motlow.

A highlight of the party was the sugar-free desserts prepared by the Seminole 4-H Club girls' cooking class. Alexis Aguilar, Cartaya Billie, Jade Tapia, Alexis Jimmie and Caniah Billie selected recipes from their healthy lifestyle cookbook. They spent the previous afternoon creating a cake and cobbler from scratch for the senior Thanksgiving luncheon.

Community Thanksgiving Celebration

Residents of the Immokalee community congregated at the gym on the evening of Nov. 19 to count their blessings, and embrace their family members and friends in celebration of Thanksgiving.

"We have so much to be thankful for," Immokalee Board of Directors Liaison DeLores Jumper said. "What began as a small camp of five families sharing their livelihood and struggling for survival has become a thriving community. Each year brings growth to provide for our people and ensure a future for our children."

A fantastic holiday buffet was served to an enormous gathering. Adults counted their blessings and reminisced about the Thanksgivings of their childhood, while the children played games along the wall.

Turkey Trot

Following the Seminole Pathway, Immokalee community members and employees participated in the Turkey Trot on the morning of Nov. 20. Donning pumpkin orange-colored T-shirts and checking their pedometers, the group followed a course from the Administration Building to the athletic field and back through the community.

Pins commemorating the event were distributed at the finish line and earned points were added to the Seminole Pathways ledger.

"It is very easy to over indulge during the holiday season and before you know it, you begin to backslide,"



(L-R) Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar and Sylvia Marrero count their blessings.

Health and Nutrition Rep. Charlotte Porcario said. "The best way to combat this age old problem is to set aside time each day to walk. Walking helps to burn excess calories, improve your breathing and blood pressure and increase your good cholesterol, while lowering your bad cholesterol. Let's make a happy holiday season, a healthy one."



Linda Frank watches her Plinko chip head for a winning slot at the Immokalee Seniors' Thanksgiving celebration.



Angelo Colon Jr. (R) receives a Thanksgiving hug from great-grandma, Rachel Billie, at the Preschool Thanksgiving dinner.



Immokalee children listen as elders discuss their childhood Thanksgivings.

BERT

From page 1A

license, also for air conditioning.

"At the time when I was doing my trade I figured it was a smart move," Bert said of joining the department. "Then I just continued to move up the ladder."

Bert has a team of 25 employees who provide service for the Brighton and Tampa communities. Bert said he can't say enough

about his staff, calling them wonderful people and saying he knows if anything ever happened to him one of them would be able to step in and help out.

Bert said he looks forward to his new role as assistant Housing Dept. director and wouldn't trade his experience working for the Tribe for anything.

"Me and my staff will continue to work hard to service Tribal members with pride," Bert proclaimed.

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Community

A



Judy Weeks

Magician John Roberts makes a table fly through the air during a levitation performance.

Youth Enjoy Magic, Illusions at Show

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A bag of tricks that included slight of hand, illusions and comedy captivated a youthful audience at the Willie Frank Library on the afternoon of Nov. 13.

Skilled entertainer John Robert has 25 years of experience on stage and immediately acquired the full focus of his viewers with his opening antics that filled the room with laughter and intrigue.

"Do you want to know how I learned to do these things?" asked Robert. "I started going to the library and reading books when I was only 5 years old. I quickly discovered that the library was filled with material that could teach me about a whole world of interesting subjects. Over the years I have read thousands of books about magic and many other things."

Director of the Willie Frank Library Barbara Oeffner said: "The library holds a wealth of knowledge and the key to unlimited resource material on nearly every imaginable topic."

She invited the children to stop by her office anytime to help them locate the information they are seeking.

Inviting both individual and group participation into his performance, Robert's audience became mesmerized by the obvious and oblivious to Robert's slight of hand actions that made his tricks possible.

Holding up enormous playing cards, Dayra Koenes was shocked when she assisted in the transition of the ace of hearts into the nine of clubs. Savannah Tiger and John Robbins shackled and padlocked the magician's wrists, only to find he could free himself in a matter of seconds.

The crowd watched in awe as Thornly Billie put an identifying mark on a \$20 bill, ran it through a shredder and later opened a small wooden box to reveal the bill completely intact.

Robert also led a group discussion about magician, inventor and escape artist Harry Houdini, who passed away during a performance on Halloween in 1926 while performing an illusion. Emphasis was placed on safety and responsibility when participating in any type of activity. Knowledge and precaution is the key to successful magic tricks, Robert said.

During his grand finale, Robert placed a cloth over a small table and then used levitation to make it rise into the air and fly gently back and forth across the stage at eye level while his audience applauded with delight.



Judy Weeks

A room full of youngsters participate in a magic performance at the Willie Frank Library in Big Cypress on Nov. 13.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Dayra Koenes assists magician John Robert with a card trick at the magic performance on Nov. 13.



Naji Tobias

Rev. Fred Whirlwind (Rosebud Sioux) is overwhelmed with happiness after learning about the vast amount of toys that will be distributed to the Sioux youth for the holidays.

Holiday Toy Giveaway Highlights 'Rock the Rez'

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The holiday edition of Rock the Rez was full of energy and high spirits.

The event included a toy donation, coordinated by the New Testament Baptist Church, to collect toys for Sioux Tribal youth in South Dakota and Minnesota.

Held at the Eddie Cypress Billie Fellowship Hall on Dec. 5, the youth gospel outreach service began with several gospel selections performed by The Royal Pains.

Rev. Fred Whirlwind (Rosebud Sioux) was one of two guest speakers at Rock the Rez. A 20-year pastor of the Rosebud Bible Baptist Church in Rosebud, S.D., Whirlwind, the only Sioux pastor in South Dakota, gave a personal account of how he began preparing himself for spiritual service as a young child.

"It's encouraging to see all of you coming out together here to serve Christ," Pastor Whirlwind said. "You can reach your own people, your own kind, your own generation."

John Melina, a member of Sawgrass Community Church in Sunrise, Fla., also spoke at Rock the Rez.

Echoing much of Whirlwind's sentiments, Melina noted the positive vibe surrounding the event. He said he was confident about Rock the Rez's future in terms of Tribal and non-Tribal youth outreach.

The youth of Hollywood Christian Church, a church where Rev. Payne served as a pastor years ago, joined members of Sawgrass Community Church in New Testament's toy giveaway initiative.

"The more churches we can get together, the more impact we can have here," Melina said. "If we bring in more kids, then it will trickle into the residents of the [Big Cypress] Reservation. When people see churches working together, it impacts the community and creates an attraction that God is there among them. That draws the people because they want to come."

Rev. Whirlwind couldn't agree more, adding he was thankful the New Testament Baptist Church provided a "truckload" of toys to send to the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation for the holidays. The reservation is considered the second poorest Indian reservation in the nation.



Naji Tobias

John Melina (R) offers inspirational words to the youth at Rock the Rez, held at the Eddie Cypress Billie Fellowship Hall on Dec. 5. Melina is a member of Sawgrass Community Church in Sunrise, Fla.

Of the approximately 34,000 Sioux Tribal citizens in the states of South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota, 87 percent are unemployed at this time, with the vast majority of the Sioux population having to live on welfare and food stamps year round.

"These toys we got here from Big Cypress mean a whole lot to our Sioux kids for the Christmas holidays," Rev. Whirlwind said. "Other than what their families are able to buy them for Christmas, they probably wouldn't get anything else."

Upon conclusion of the holiday edition of Rock the Rez, youth from the three participating churches gathered around and brought the wrapped toy gifts to Rev. Whirlwind.

The Sioux minister said he was overjoyed with all that occurred at the holiday event.

"I'm grateful we have Tribal Christians with the Seminole Tribe of Florida that saw the need to distribute toys to their Indian brethren," Rev. Whirlwind said. "I don't show my emotions much, but I can't explain how happy I am to have been thought of so much to receive these gifts for our kids in Sioux country."

The next Rock the Rez service is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 16 at New Testament Baptist Church in Big Cypress.



Naji Tobias

The Royal Pains perform a holiday medley of songs aimed at Rock the Rez.



Naji Tobias

Kylen Jumper, 7, exhibits a giving holiday spirit as he brings some gift-wrapped toys to the Rock the Rez service, which ended with a toy giveaway presentation to Rev. Fred Whirlwind and the Rosebud Sioux youth.

Tribal Elder Sadie Billie has Entrepreneurial Spirit

BY NAJIB TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — It can be said that the gift of entrepreneurship runs through the blood of Tribal elder and pioneer Sadie Billie.

Billie owns the Big Cypress Landing convenience store, located on Snake Road in Big Cypress. However, most know the store by its nickname, Sadie's.

Since the grand opening of Sadie's in 2005, Billie has been the business thrive, with many happy customers who are grateful about the services they offer in rural Big Cypress. Not only does the store have traditional convenience store items, there is also a food counter where customers can enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner, and an arts and crafts section where traditional Seminole crafts are for sale.

The success of Sadie's, however, did not come without hard work. Billie said her strong work ethic is a direct impact from her two biggest role models — her parents.

Born in 1932 in Fort Pierce, Billie was a family-oriented person as a young child. When asked who her role models were, Billie admitted her parents, the late Sam and Mildred Tommie, shaped her life.

Growing up, Billie used to watch her mother sew clothing and make beaded jewelry and Seminole dolls. Her father used to hunt for other and alligator when she was a youngster.

"My dad was a hunter when I was a little girl," Billie said of her father, who passed away in 1971. "At the same time, my mom would make baskets, skirts and jackets so she could sell it to tourists. That was our bread and butter back then."

All that fueled Billie's desire to become an entrepreneur when she got older.

"When I grew up my dad was always into business, selling different kinds of souvenirs in different states," Billie said. "So I was around all that stuff as a child and it made me want to do what my dad did. I learned everything I knew from him."

In 1972, Billie made the move to the Big Cypress Reservation and ended up taking over a small business. She left behind the Hollywood Reservation, where the young entrepreneur spent most of her early years, to care for her sick uncle, Brown Tommie, who passed away in 1974.

"When I came to Big Cypress, my uncle wasn't able to take care of himself," Billie said. "I decided that I would have to make money to live out here."

During the time she was caring for her uncle, the Willie Tiger Shop, a small souvenir shop along the Josie Billie Highway, opened for business. With items such as ice cream, hamburgers, candy and drinks, Billie took advantage of her opportunity to operate the bustling store.

Under Billie's direction the store became so successful she literally outgrew the facility in just one year. In 1973, the shop ceased operation, with Billie knowing she had to open a larger store.

Between 1973 and 1984, Billie focused

saw fit to diversify her services. In addition to art, the store sold roses and had an in-house a kitchen to make breakfast, lunch and dinner for her customers.

All that evolved into what's currently in existence. In 2005, Billie's ultimate dream was fully realized when she opened the Big Cypress Landing convenience store, also known as Sadie's.

Billie's philosophy, which she said she imparts to her employees, is that the customers at Sadie's are the top priority for a successful business.

Billie has three children, seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. She said she hopes "one day one of my children will take it over when I'm gone."

Billie said she is confident in the future of the Tribe. She said she believes it will remain a thriving entity for many years to come, particularly in the area of individual entrepreneurship.

"I like it when the kids in the fourth Tribal generation come to the store and shop," Billie said with a wide smile. "It tells me I've been here too long."

As a Tribal elder who often talks about how her parents raised her, she offers some words of wisdom to the Tribal youth that she feels could help them later in life.

"Back when I was growing up, we had to work hard for whatever we had," Billie said. "I tell my grandkids and great-grandkids that it's a good idea to learn what they can from their elders so they can use that later on in life. If our youth listen to what we have to tell them, then they will become very successful in life."

Sitting on a bench table during a busy Friday evening at Sadie's, Billie looked long and hard at a wall painting of her late grandmother, Annie Tommie.

Billie cited her as a huge inspiration to her life, as Billie's late grandmother was also an arts and crafts shop owner in her heyday, operating a small souvenir shop at the corner of Stirling Road and State Road 7 in Hollywood.

Billie said she doesn't remember exactly when her grandmother's business was in operation, but she won't forget about the importance of keeping the Tribal entrepreneurial tradition going strong.

"It's important for each Tribal family to keep the Seminole legacy going on," Billie said. "That's how we were raised. It would be bad to lose that legacy. I don't know any other way to say it."



Sadie Billie, a Tribal senior and the owner of the Big Cypress Landing store, reflects on the successes of her family business ventures throughout the years as she thinks about her late grandmother, Annie Tommie, and the path she laid for future Tribal generations.

on her arts and crafts but also began plans to build and open another convenience store. She later purchased a 2.5-acre lot of land on Snake Road from the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

In that pivotal time period, Billie was also sewing Indian jackets, skirts, patchwork, blouses and shirts on a regular basis; something she has loved to do since age 6.

Later, in 1984, the Big Cypress Arts and Crafts store was built and open for business. "The [Willie Tiger Shop] was getting too small before we opened Big Cypress Arts and Crafts," Billie said. "I was looking around one day for some land and I found a good spot for my business. The location where we had this store, at the time, had more property than the old one I used to run."

With the Big Cypress Arts and Crafts store, which stayed open until 2005, Billie



(L-R, Back Row) Joe Collins, Recreation Dept. Director Moses "Big" Jumper Jr., Steve Young, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Fort Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie, Kenny Descheene, (L-R, Front Row) Patricia Stirrup and Kristin Duda at the Recreation Dept. luncheon on Dec. 2 at the Beer and Burger Joint. The Miami Beach restaurant served the group a 10 pound cheeseburger, which took nearly an hour to cook.

Longtime Tribal Recreation Department Employees Honored

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Staff Reporter

MIAMI BEACH — The "fab five," as Hollywood Recreation Department Public Relations Liaison Richard Osceola calls them, received plaques of recognition for their years of service to the department at a ceremony held Dec. 2 at the Beer and Burger Joint in Miami Beach.

The Hollywood Recreation Department employees recognized — Joe Collins, Kenny Descheene, Kristin Duda, Patricia Stirrup and Steve Young — have a combined total of nearly 100 years of service to the Seminole Tribe.

During the awards ceremony, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Fort Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie and Recreation Department Director Moses "Big" Jumper Jr. said kind words about each of the employees recognized.

"I take a lot of pride in you guys and what you do," Jumper said.

Chairman Cypress also briefly spoke about the history of the Recreation Department, saying "we have come a long way and 'Big' has a lot of good employees."

Joe Collins serves as the Aquatics Program director. He has worked for the Tribe for 15 years. Under his direction, the Aquatics Program offers swimming lessons, American Heart Association-approved CPR training and more to Tribal citizens.

Kenny Descheene was the longest serving employee recognized at the luncheon. He has worked for the Seminole Tribe for 30 years and is the maintenance director for the Hollywood Recreation Department.

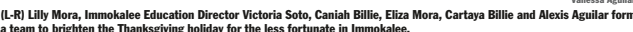
Kristin Duda has worked for the department for 18 years. She is the administrative assistant to several employees within the Recreation Department.

Patricia Stirrup, a 14-year Tribal employee, oversees the Hollywood Youth Center as its director. The center offers after-school services to Tribal citizens during the school year and also coordinates activities for the youth during summer vacation.

Steve Young has worked for the department for 19 years. He serves as assistant director of the Hollywood Recreation Department.

When organizing the luncheon, Public Relations Liaison Richard Osceola said he selected Beer and Burger Joint because of a phrase Hollywood Recreation Department Director Moses "Big" Jumper Jr. tells his employees when they need to get issues sorted out.

According to Osceola, his department director offers the advice "buy them a cheeseburger and bond with them" if ever two people need to work together to get a project finished. Osceola said he selected the restaurant because they serve a 10-pound cheeseburger — the largest one that can be found in all of South Florida.



Charity Begins at Home for Immokalee Community

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Tribal citizen Alexis Aguilar enlisted the help of Immokalee Education Director Victoria Soto to set up a plan to help feed 25 less fortunate families in Immokalee during the holiday season.

"I realize how fortunate I am to be a Seminole Tribal citizen when I go to school each day and see the effects of poverty that are all around us," Alexis Aguilar said.

"I was talking with my sisters and friends and pointed out that our ancestors had it really tough, and under different circumstances, we might have been just as poor," she added. "As a way to give thanks for our blessings, we decided to share our good fortune with others."

Soliciting sponsors for their project, Aguilar, Lilly Mora, Cartaya Billie, Eliza Mora and Caniah Billie, received an immediate generous response — Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress donated canned hams, Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar supplied canned vegetables, Immokalee Casino Manager Tony Sanchez Jr provided pumpkin pies and Immokalee Board of Directors Liaison Delores Jumper added rolls and stuffing to the menu.

The group contacted the Redlands Christian Migrant Association, which quickly produced a list of 25 less fortunate families in Immokalee. Gathering at the Aguilar residence on Nov. 24, the girls set up an assembly line and packed dinner boxes to be distributed the following day.



(L-R) Setting up an assembly line, Immokalee Education Director Victoria Soto helps Eliza Mora, Caniah Billie, Jack Aguilar and Lilly Mora fill boxes with food for Thanksgiving distribution.



(L-R) Caniah Billie, Cartaya Billie and Eliza Mora join their friends in passing out groceries for Thanksgiving to 25 less fortunate families in Immokalee.

On the eve of Thanksgiving, the youngsters experienced the joy of giving as they delivered their care pack

The group said they hope to collect donations again next year to distribute within their community.



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Seminole Princesses Attend Holly Day Parade

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

DAVIE, Fla. — Despite overcast skies and frequent showers, members of Seminole Tribal royalty participated in the 10th annual Holly Day Parade in the Forrest Ridge community Dec. 5.

Miss Florida Seminole Princess Brittany Smith, Jr., Miss Florida Seminole Princess Stevie Brantley, Little Miss Seminole Aubree Susie Billie and Little Mr. Seminole Lance Howard all donned their traditional regalia and represented the Seminole Tribe of Florida in the parade that kicked off at the entrance to Forrest Ridge. The parade route spanned a 2-mile stretch that ran west

toward Old Orchard Road.

Members of the caravan threw beads and gave smiles and waves to the parade watchers who lined the streets of the community and even brought out lawn chairs to stake out a place along the route.

Chairwoman of the Seminole Princess Committee Wanda Bowers said she was pleased with how the event turned out.

"We look at it as a community activity and an awareness of the Seminoles," Bowers said. "This is the first year it's rained on us but all the princesses were troopers; they still sat on the back of the convertibles while it was sprinkling."



(L-R) Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Stevie Brantley smiles and waves before starting off in the Holly Day Parade held Dec. 5. Her grandmother Alice Swann from Brighton and Hollywood Board Rep. Marcellus Oseola Jr. lent their support.

Board of Directors Holds Special Meeting

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Board of Directors members met Dec. 4 at the Big Cypress Reservation in the Family Investment Center's Conference Room. The board passed two resolutions on the agenda, which included the following:

Resolution 5: Approval of the amended and restated Seminole Tribe of Florida 401(K) plan and trust to conform with Wachovia Bank, N.A. ("Wachovia") defined contribution prototype plan and trust basic plan document #002; approval of adoption agreement #005, non-

standardized 401(K) plan, wherein Wachovia is designated as trustee; approval of the amendment for the final 415 regulations to the Seminole Tribe of Florida 401(K) plan; approval of the amendment for Pension Protection Act and Heart Act to the Seminole Tribe of Florida 401(K) plan; approval of a change in the Safe Harbor Contributions to the Seminole Tribe of Florida 401(K) plan from non-elective contributions to basic matching contributions; approval of a change in the eligibility criteria of the Seminole Tribe of Florida 401(K) plan to exclude leased and nonclassified employees; and

Resolution 6: Approval of Fiscal Year 2010 budget

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Friday, February 12, 2010, 5:00 PM
Hard Rock Live

Contestant # _____

(check one) Little Miss Seminole _____ Little Mr. Seminole _____

Date: _____ Reservation: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Enrollment #: _____ Date of Birth _____

Signature (circle one) _____ Print Name _____

-Tribal Member Parent
-Guardian

Contestants must be an enrolled tribal member, between the ages of 5 – 7 years old and be a resident of the state of Florida by February 1, 2010.
NO EXCEPTIONS.

Registration deadline is
Monday, February 8, 2010 - 5:00pm.

Contestants must be preregistered.
Absolutely NO applications will be accepted after February 8, 2010.

Confirm that your applications have been received by fax or walk-in to the Secretary's office.
Call (954)-966-6300 ext. 11468 to Wanda or Leila at ext. 11463
or your local princess committee member.

CONTACTS: FAX NO. (954) 967-3488
Hollywood – Wanda Bowers (954) 966-6300 ext. 11468
Brighton – Salina Dorgan (863) 763-3866
Big Cypress – Alice Billie (863) 902-3200
Immokalee – Crystal Salinas (239) 867-5300
Tampa – Tracy Massey (813) 246-3100
Ft. Pierce – Mary Stomboli (772) 467-2454
Trail Seminoles – Shawndra Billie (305) 553-8245

Fire-Rescue Conducts Confined Space Training

BY BRIAN BROWN
Contributing Writer

HOLLYWOOD— For the month of November, Instructor Robert Cook of Michigan-based Hazardous Management traveled to each fire station to conduct Confined Space Training with the crews of the Seminole Tribe Fire-Rescue Dept.

Many workplaces contain spaces that are considered "confined" because their configurations hamper the activities of employees who must enter, work in and exit them.

A confined space has limited or restricted means for entry or exit, and it is not designed for continuous occupancy. Confined spaces include, but are not limited to underground vaults, tanks, storage bins, manholes, pits, silos, process vessels and pipelines.

This is just one of many different types of Fire-Rescue Dept. training that crews must attend throughout each year in order to be ready to respond to the different types of emergencies that take place on and off the Seminole Tribe reservation properties.

The crews of Seminole Tribe Fire-Rescue Station



(L-R) Oscar Castillo, Lt. David Lugo, Jason Feliciano, Instructor Robert Cook and Lt. Todd Seliger conduct drills during confined space training on the Hollywood Reservation.

No. 108 on the Hollywood Reservation train with a tripod that is used to lift and lower rescuers into confined spaces.

Tools of Your Fire-Rescue Department: Halligan Tool, Flat Headed Axe

BY BRIAN BROWN
Contributing Writer

There are many different types of tools that firefighters use on a daily basis. Each tool is used for a specific rescue, entry, suppression, or removal purpose. In this first article of the "Tools of Your Fire-Rescue Department" series we are going to learn about two of the most widely used tools in any fire department — the Halligan bar and flat headed axe.

In the fire service, the nickname given to the combination of these two tools is "set of irons." The primary purpose for using these tools is to gain forcible entry through doors, windows, and other locations that need emergency entries and exits.

The axe as been around since the dawn of man

and has been used as a cutting tool for building fires, building shelters, and at times, it was used as a defense weapon. Firefighters use the flat headed axe for both its cutting and striking capabilities.

There are times when a firefighter needs to breach a structure in order to gain entry into a location or create a means of escape. They use the blade of the flat headed axe to cut through these structures and the flat hammer like side of the axe to strike against walls, doors, and other tools in order to create openings or force open locked entry ways.

The Halligan Tool is a multipurpose tool for prying, twisting, punching, or striking. It consists of a claw (or fork), a blade (wedge or adze) and a tapered pick mounted on a metal pole that can range in different lengths.

The firefighter can use the adze end or fork end of the tool to break through the latch of a swinging door, the pick can be placed into the shackle (or eye) of a padlock or hasp and twisted or pried to break it free, and the fork end is routinely used to shut off gas meter valves.

There are many other applications this tool can be used for and it is considered by many Firefighters as the most versatile tool on the trucks.

The "set of irons" is just one set of tools in a list of many stored on the fire trucks and ambulances. These tools in conjunction with the specialized training the Firefighters perform on a regular basis make it possible for the Seminole Tribe Fire Department to be very versatile in its abilities to respond to all types of emergency responses.

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



(L-R) Firefighter Juan Salazar prys a door open with a Halligan bar while Firefighter Ryan Polux gets ready with his axe.



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Education

B



Naji Tobias

Tia Osborne scores two of her 14 first-half points (16 overall) with this open jump shot to put the students up 14-3 over the staff with 9:02 left in the second quarter.

Ahfakkee Staff Members Triumph Against Students

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — In a highly entertaining basketball matchup between the Ahfakkee School's students and staff, it was a tale of two different halves for the two teams. The annual Student vs. Staff game, held Nov. 20 in the gym, however, was ultimately won by the staff in a 48-38 thriller.

Playing before a large crowd of Ahfakkee School students after their early dismissal, the first half featured the Ahfakkee School female students in action against their female staffers.

Standouts from the students' team, Terry Baker and Tia Osborne, led the Ahfakkee students to a 24-5 lead by halftime.

Leading 8-2 with 3:02 left in the first frame, Baker grabbed a key steal from the opposition and then drove the ball straight down the court, making an assist to Osborne, who converted on a lay-in to extend the students' lead. It was 10-2 at that point, with just 1:46 to go in the first.

Even when the teachers tried to get back in the game on offense, Baker simply made another quick steal with yet another assist to Osborne to put their team up 12-2 just 43 seconds later.

The teachers, who looked thoroughly outmatched after facing a 12-3 deficit to enter the second frame, gave up 12 more points in the half — all to Baker and Osborne. Osborne scored 14 of the students' 24 first-half points, while Baker added six, and eight overall.

"I knew we all did a good job in the first half, including the little ones," Baker said of the female students at halftime. "Even though the guys are better than the girls, I think the students will still win. We're just in shape and I just believe in my team."

After the halftime festivities concluded, the game's dynamics experienced a complete shift in favor of the staff. With the females on both teams taking a rest, it was the Ahfakkee male students and staff members who squared off in the second half.

Ahfakkee staffer Dominique Troadeck (14 points overall) led his team toward a furious comeback, as he scored 10 of the staff's 22 third-quarter points. This put the team within one point as they entered the fourth.

Clinging to a 28-27 lead to begin the final frame, the students were unable to put the clamps on staffer Randall Clevelker, as he served up an uncontested lay-in for a 29-28 lead with 9:40 to go.

It quickly grew to a nine point deficit for the students as Clevelker (10 points, all in the fourth) and teammate Bello Solano (12 points overall; seven in the third quarter) combined to score their next four baskets, which gave the staff a 37-28 lead with 7:52 left.

The staffers never looked back, with a combination of free throws, baseline jumpers, lay-ups and three pointers putting the game away for good.

All that enabled the staffers to claim the school's basketball trophy and bragging rights for at least another year. Mary Jene Koenes, a staff member at the Ahfakkee School, offered her assessment of the game.

"The girls we played against, they play all the time," Koenes said of how the game went. "The boys played too, but the [men] had the height over them. They were much taller and comfortable than the boys. The boys just got too excited, but I think they did a great job."



Naji Tobias

The Ahfakkee School students root in unison for their fellow players at the annual Students vs. Staff game on Nov. 20.



Chris C. Jenkins

Everett Osceola (L) discusses the historical significance of the Stranahan House and the Seminole Tribe to Tribal employees in his Seminole Moments presentation on Dec. 2.

Seminole Moments Lecture Series Presents 'Fort Lauderdale and Seminole History'

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In the latest presentation in the Seminole Moments series, Tribal citizen Everett Osceola discussed the unique and tradition-laden history of the Tribe and the city of Fort Lauderdale in the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium Dec. 2.

As a part of the Second Seminole War, and in order to capture Seminoles in the area, Lauderdale led the charge to build a series of forts from March 2-5, 1833 with more than 250 of his men. He and his troops cut a 63-mile trail through the land between what is now the city of Jupiter and the New River.

Decades later, the forts were destroyed and abandoned. They were rediscovered in 1893 by Frank Stranahan, an Ohio businessman who relocated to the Sunshine State and built a 2,000 square-foot house on the property.

Stranahan went on to build a strong and profitable trade with the Tribe's citizens, while wife, Ivy, also played a major role. She helped the Tribal youth on a number of projects, while also establishing an important civic and social life in town.

Within his discussion, Osceola credited the Stranahans in the early years of the Tribe's development and prosperity.

"If it was not for the Stranahan House and the Stranahans we would not have the opportunity we have had here as a Tribe and in Fort Lauderdale," he expressed. "When you are there you can feel the history and presence."

He added that as a teacher and socialite, Ivy Stranahan continually

ously supported and welcomed the Tribe to the trading post/house throughout the years, even after her husband's death in 1929. She offered instruction and taught Tribal citizens in small groups.

"She grew to love the Seminole children as a part of being around them in partnership with her husband," Osceola pointed out.

She also wrote a history of the Tribe and formed "Friends of the Seminoles," serving as its spokeswoman for 50 years and was also instrumental in encouraging the Tribe to accept and fight for their reservation west of Dania Beach leading to the establishment of the Hollywood Reservation in 1911.

Ivy Stranahan was also a key player in the successful effort to protect the Tribe from termination and maintaining its federal benefits in the 1950s before her death in 1971.

Osceola said in spite of numerous efforts to build real estate and other businesses on the property it has endured time even receiving a \$3 million donation from the Tribe in 2000 for renovations.

"It was interesting and I found out about a lot of stuff I never knew," said presentation attendee and Tribal citizen Christina McCall. "The history of Fort Lauderdale and Florida is a great thing to support."

Currently known as a major location for tourism and families, Fort Lauderdale has the nickname "The Venice of America," and began sometime at the end of the 19th century where centuries the area in and around the city was occupied by the Tequesta Indians. Most of their people were killed by disease and combat. Later other Native American tribes migrated and settled on the land, including the Seminoles.

For more information please log onto www.stranahanhouse.org.

Tribal Citizens Graduate from SPD Academy

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — After nine weeks of classes, the four graduates of the Seminole Police Department (SPD) Citizens Police Academy received their certificates of completion in a ceremony held Nov. 18 at Renegade Barbeque Company in Seminole Paradise.

Class cadets Charles Billie Hiers Jr., Kimberly Mena, John Osceola and Wilbert Izarrary represented the Citizens Police Academy graduating class. Osceola and Izarrary were not present at the ceremony.

This was the second graduating class in the program's history. The first Citizens Police Academy graduation took place in May 2005, according to event emcee SPD Sgt. George Gonzalez.



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) Graduate Kimberly Mena and SPD Chief William Latchford at the ceremony, held Nov. 18 at Renegade Barbeque Co. in Seminole Paradise.

The academy is a program offered to Tribal citizens and taught by SPD officers that gives attendees an inside look at police work. During the weekly classes, officers informed the students about topics including crime prevention, crime scene investigation, citizen complaints and internet, ATM and cell phone safety.

Opening the graduation ceremony, 2009 Seminole Star Search winner Sherree Sneed of the Fort Pierce

Reservation performed in a capella rendition of the national anthem.

SPD Officer James Bourdeaux then provided the opening prayer and a reading from *Romans 13: 1-5*, which he said "has to do with authority."

He reminded the Citizens Police Academy graduates that they are now authority figures on law enforcement in their community after receiving weeks of specialized police-style training.

Bourdeaux, who has worked for SPD since 1999, co-taught week nine of the classes and his presentation centered on the SPD Traffic Unit and its motorbike officers. He and three others make up SPD's motorbike squad, a division of the department that began in 1990.

Event emcee SPD Sgt. George Gonzalez then spoke about the Citizens Police Academy program, saying it benefits attendees because they get an insider perspective into police work.

He also said it gives community members the chance to meet the officers who serve them while attending the classes.

Sgt. Gonzalez commended the graduates for their commitment in completing the program and the hard work it took to do so, but also recognized the course instructors. He said with such a diverse and highly trained staff, SPD was able to find all the Citizens Police Academy instructors in-house.

"It truly reflects the experience and knowledge we have right here at the Seminole Tribe," Sgt. Gonzalez said.

He then introduced SPD Chief William Latchford who praised the graduates and told them "our department is always open to you."

Chief Latchford then presented Charles Billie Hiers Jr. and Kimberly Mena with certificates of completion. He also acknowledged the two graduates not in attendance, John Osceola and Wilbert Izarrary, and had plaques for both.

The goals of the Citizens Police Academy include developing a dialogue and improving relations between SPD and the Tribal community, exposing the problems faced by law enforcement and increasing knowledge within the community about SPD's mission.

For more information on the Citizens Police Academy please call the SPD Training Unit at (954) 967-5100, Ext. 10456 or Ext. 14016.



Shelley Marmor

(L-R) Citizens Police Academy graduate Charles Billie Hiers Jr., son, Raiden, 8, and SPD Chief William Latchford after he presented the grad with his plaque.



Holding a Seminole doll, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Traditional Arts Coordinator Pedro Zepeda explains to the Seminole Moments attendees the origins of how the item was made and what it meant for Seminole families years ago.

Seminole Moments Presentation Centers on History of Dolls

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Approximately 40 Tribal citizens and employees came to the Big Cypress Community Center to hear about the history of Seminole dolls on Nov. 18.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Traditional Arts Coordinator Pedro Zepeda conducted the 45-minute presentation, which covered Seminole dolls and two kinds of Seminole baskets.

Zepeda showed the attendees four Seminole dolls, which each had their own different hairstyle and clothing. He said Seminole dolls were first made between 80 and 100 years ago and typically only feature depictions of males, females and horses.

According to Zepeda, this craft has been a Seminole tradition for the past several decades. He said the origins of the dolls came from when the Seminole Indians of the early 20th Century were hired by non-Indians to build and operate tourist camps in Miami area along the Tamiami Trail/U.S. Highway 41.

He said after some time passed, however, the Seminoles cornered the tourist market and no longer had to rely on others.

"After while, we got the hang of it," Zepeda said. "We started building and running our own tourist camps."

The dolls generated sales

for Seminoles years ago, thus providing a sustainable way of living and giving the Tribal visionaries a desire to become future entrepreneurs in their own right.

Seminole dolls are primarily made of palmetto fiber. They are then dressed in traditional Seminole clothing made of a cotton fabric and then stitched together for an aesthetically satisfying look. To complete the design, beads typically grace the front of the doll's outfit.

Two types of baskets were also made for sale and utilitarian years ago, the coiled sweetgrass basket and the utilitarian basket.

The base of the coiled sweetgrass basket, according to Zepeda, is made from the palmetto fiber and taken right from a palmetto tree. The rest of the coiled sweetgrass basket is made from sweetgrass, Zepeda explained.

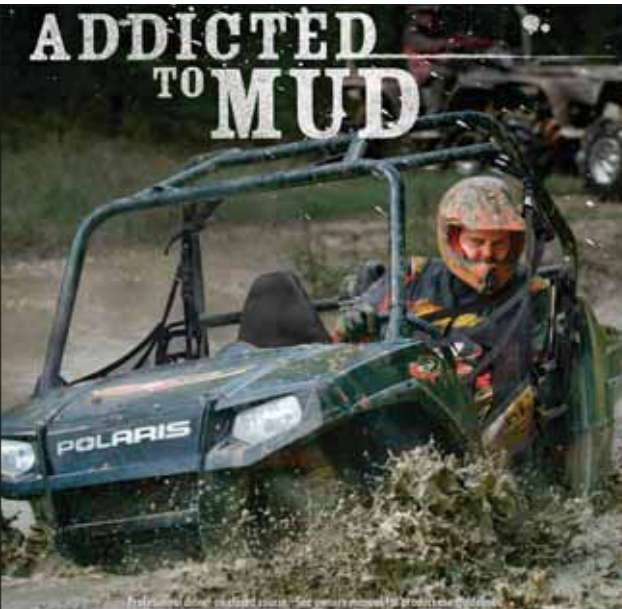
The utilitarian basket is derived from saw palmetto stems. These baskets were used to provide a means of living for Seminole families many years ago, including the use of a corn shiver through the utilitarian basket.

To conclude the presentation, Zepeda made it a point to let the attendees know there wasn't much of a philosophical or sentimental meaning to any of the Seminole arts and crafts designs years ago.

"Seminole items are made to look beautiful and appealing to the eye," Zepeda said. "When you look at the Seminole items, there's not a whole lot of meaning to it, other than to look pretty."



(L-R) Pedro Zepeda and Jake Oscele examine a utilitarian basket.



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Boys & Girls Club Members Attend Financial Literacy Class

BY ROBERT NORTH SR.
Contributing Writer

HOLLYWOOD — The Boys & Girls Clubs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida (BGC/STOF) is continuously searching for curriculum and activities to encourage Tribal youth to further their interest in financial literacy.

As a follow up to the Hollywood/Non-Resident Youth Conference financial literacy classes held during the summer, the BGC/STOF members began participating in the Tribal Exchange/Stock Market Game.

The Hollywood Teen Center became actively involved with the Tribal Exchange in September, which involved most of the active Seminole teen members.

The Tribal Exchange project was started by the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) to promote financial literacy amongst Native American youth. Youth who participate in the Tribal Exchange are provided opportunities to learn more about economics, math and other financial literacy skills which can provide them with increased motivation in school.

The Foundation for Investor Education, the parent organization behind the Stock Market Game, is a non-profit organization dedicated to increase the awareness of investing in the U.S. for all ages. This foundation oversees the management of the Stock Market Game Program, which combines a stock market trading simulation with classroom curriculum for youth in grades 4-12.

Participating teams of youth are provided \$100,000 of play money to invest in stocks. The Seminole teens were encouraged to research stock performances and then buy the stocks of their choice according to the rules of the game.

Throughout the 10-week course, the youth took classes in business, simple interest and stocks. During the game, they were further encouraged to use essential

skills in critical thinking, decision making, cooperation, communication, research, saving and investing.

The Seminole teens chose to buy stocks including Google, Hershey's and Apple. They competed with youth investor teams during the 10-week game that takes place throughout the country.



Photo Submitted by Robert North Sr.
Jeff Iserson explains price-to-earnings ratios to the youth.

Towards the end of the Tribal Exchange competition, the staff of the BGC/STOF invited Tribal Budget Director Jeff Iserson and Director of Finance Suresh Geer to present to the teens and provide insight on the economics of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Topics of discussion included: stocks, the Seminole Tribe economy and the Seminole Hard Rock enterprise.

"Given the state of our current economy and what has occurred in the financial markets in the past year it was exciting to see young Seminoles that are actively participating and learning about finance and the stock market," Geer said. "The more we can expose the youth to financial concepts the better prepared they will be for their economic future. I look forward to future discussions with the Seminole youth on finance and sharing my own experiences and knowledge."

The BGC/STOF has plans to participate in the spring Tribal Exchange to expose additional youth to the valuable lessons of financial literacy.

For more information about the Tribal Exchange please see <http://naf.smgwv.org>, or for the Stock Market Game, visit <http://stockmarketgame.org>.

For more information on the activities and schedules of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, please check <http://seminolbge.org>.



Photo Submitted by Robert North Sr.
(L-R, Center) Director of Finance Suresh Geer and Tribal Budget Director Jeff Iserson speak to the youth about finance management at the financial literacy class.

PEMAYETV EMAHAVK STUDENT HONORS

Awards for Oct. 19-30

Kindergarten
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Mrs. Pearce - Joss Youngblood
Mrs. Webber - Kayven Emley

First Grade
Mrs. Davis - Ramone Baker
Mrs. Johns - Shaela French
Mrs. Ringstaff - Jayton Baker

Second Grade
Mrs. Ball - Luzana Venzor
Mrs. Clements - Myron Billie
Mrs. Moss - Echoo Billie

Third Grade
Mrs. Pryor - Kano Puente
Mrs. Williams - Drake Lawrence

Fourth Grade
Mrs. Paige - Chandler Pearce
Mrs. Tedders - Sunni Bearden

Fifth Grade
Mrs. Dobbs - Dylan Sheffold
Mrs. Finney - Andrew Obfolds

Sixth Grade
Mrs. Hudson - Tyra Baker
Mrs. Wells - Thomas Bearden

ESE
Mrs. Bond - Sheldon Garcia



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Health

Seminole Police Department Educates Tribal Elders at Safety Clinic

Officer Michelle Daza, Lieutenant Olen Price Teach Class

BY NAIJ TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal seniors from the Big Cypress Reservation learned a variety of holiday safety tips at a clinic/luncheon on Nov. 30.

Held at the Big Cypress Senior Center, Seminole Police Department Officer Michelle Daza of the Youth and Elder Unit began the 45-minute presentation on elder safety.

Officer Daza informed the seniors about being extra careful at home and abroad, as she warned them that if they go out at night, it's important to turn their lights and televisions on. This is a good way to protect the home when unattended to, she said.

In addition to that key tip, Officer Daza encouraged the seniors to mark their valuables with a unique identification number to keep for their records.

What probably struck the seniors most — mainly because they're already doing this, Officer Daza noted — is the tip that it's safest to shop during the daytime, with a group of people and as little cash and jewelry as possible. This will decrease the chances of being involved in theft, Officer Daza explained.

"The holidays are the most exciting time, but it can also be the most dangerous time," she said.

Next up was Seminole Fire-Rescue Department Lt. Olen Price, who conducted a presentation on how to use the upward thrust maneuver in case an individual is choking.

In a safety clinic held at the beginning of November, the seniors saw examples of how to apply the maneuver to children and adults on first aid dummies. This time they got to see it again with assistance from Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. workers.

"Choking is a big problem," Lt. Price said. "It's scary, but it could be fixed."

Following, Seminole Fire Rescue Department Inspector Bruce Britton gave a presentation on preserving safety when it comes to dealing with Christmas trees. When selecting a Christmas tree, Inspector Britton informed the seniors, it's important to remember the best trees are moist, with green needles dominating the exterior.

He also advised the seniors to decorate their trees in such a way that any potentially harmful or breakable ornaments are kept on higher branches of the tree and out of the reach of children.

Britton then gave some pertinent tips on how to prevent an electrical fire in the home.

"During [the holidays] we have a lot of fires caused by a lot of lights being on," Inspector Britton said. "Don't overload your electrical outlets and extension cords and unplug the holiday lights when you leave your home."

The presentation continued with a simulation video of how a dry tree can quickly set a fire in the home. Surprisingly, the fire ignited in only 30 seconds.

The session ended with some New Year's Day safety tips, which focused mainly on a video of a DUI accident. Lt. Price, who offered his overall assessment of holiday safety after the presentation's conclusion, advised seniors to stay off the road late at night, if possible.

"You have a lot of family with you for the holidays and the last thing you want is an accident," Lt. Price said. "You need to take extra precautions to prevent any type of incident that may arise, whether it's a fire or a kid falling. With kids around, make sure they don't have access to any dangerous items. It's all about safety during the holidays."



Naij Tobias

At the conclusion of the Big Cypress seniors holiday safety clinic, Tribal senior Tommie Billie wins a holiday gift bag in the raffle drawing, courtesy of the Seminole Fire Rescue and Police Departments. He also received a First Aid kit and a smoke alarm at the event, which took place Nov. 30 at the Big Cypress Senior Center.



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Firefighter Steve Missett shows Shirley Sotelo the correct way to interlock her fingers when doing chest compressions at the CPR course on Nov. 13 at Chupco Youth Ranch.

Fort Pierce Community Members Attend CPR Class

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

FORT PIERCE — Community members took an active role and became certified in CPR Nov. 13 in a class conducted by the Seminole Fire-Rescue dept. at the Chupco Youth Ranch.

"It's just something we thought up because we have a ranch and a lot of events out here," Fort Pierce Community Outreach Specialist Stefanie Duda said in regards to getting Tribal citizens certified.

"We have a lot of Tribal members coming from all over and we don't know what medical issues they may have," she continued. "It's just more information and just knowing you have the knowledge will make you feel more comfortable."

The class was conducted by Steve Missett and O.J. Price of Seminole Fire-Rescue Department and focused on adult, pediatric and infant CPR techniques.

"CPR is one of the things we can do pre-hospital to keep people alive," Missett said.

Each student was given a dummy to learn and practice on. The class was taught alongside a DVD tutorial by the American Heart Association.

Students began by learning the basics of CPR, which stands for cardiopulmonary resuscitation. They learned the correct rate



Rachel Buxton

Anthony Osceola practices the complete CPR cycle for two minutes.

and ratio of compressions and breaths to be given — 30 compressions to two breaths at 100 beats per minute.

Tribal citizens then went through the proper steps to take in an emergency prior to actually administering CPR. These are: check to see that the scene is safe, check the victim, make eye contact with someone and tell them to call 911, check to see if the victim is breathing, tilt the head, lift the chin, give two breaths, and lastly, 30 chest compressions.

Putting all their new knowledge together, the students practiced on their dummies following along to different scenarios on the DVD.

After learning the technique for correctly performing CPR on adults, the students moved onto children and infants.

Along with CPR the class was taught what do to in a situation where someone is choking. They practiced procedures on an infant dummy and then paired up to practice the steps of helping an adult who may be choking.

Rounding out the class, Seminole Fire-Rescue Department Firefighter O.J. Price talked briefly about what an automatic external defibrillator, or AED machine, is and how and when to use one.

Price congratulated the class on their ability to grasp the content quickly.

"Don't get discouraged," Price told the class. "Just remember to stay calm."

Seminole Seniors Learn Holiday Season Safety Tips

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Seminole Fire-Rescue Dept. employees offered helpful hints during a holiday safety presentation at the Immokalee Senior Center on Nov. 18.

"A happy holiday is a safe one, but it takes only a few seconds to turn it into a tragedy," Seminole Tribe Fire Inspector Bruce Britton said. "Observe, plan and use common sense when cooking, decorating and celebrating during the holidays."

SPD Officer Orlando Hurtado joined Inspector Britton in a slide show and quick summary of basic safety measures that should be practiced year round, but are frequently overlooked during the holiday season.

One of the first rules of kitchen safety is to never allow young children near the stove or sharp utensils. This is a bad combination and should be avoided at all costs. Improper handling of food and refrigeration can cause salmonella poisoning.

Beware of turkey fryers. They should never be over filled or used on a wooden deck. Make sure that the bird is thoroughly thawed before placing it in hot grease to avoid an explosion and serious burns.

Inspector Britton gave a brief demonstration of CPR, the universal sign for choking and the Heimlich maneuver. Hard candies can have a lethal effect on young children and pets, he said.

SPD Officer Hurtado gave tips on selecting the proper Christmas tree.

"Fresh cut trees should have resin on the stem and not drop a multitude of needles when bounced on the ground," he said. "Before decorating, the tree stub should be trimmed and a fresh water supply placed in the stand to prevent excessive drying.

Artificial trees should be non-flammable and never made of metallic material which conducts electricity. Bear in mind that snow spray is a very combustible material."

It was stressed that caution should always be used with holiday lights. Never overload a cord or circuit breaker, check extension cords for damage and don't leave your home or go to bed with holiday lights on. Keep all decorations away from sources of fire. Candles are extremely popular during the holidays and should never be left unattended and must have a sturdy holder.

It is important to develop a pre-fire plan to insure the safety of your family and pets in the event of an accident and help prevent incapacitation from smoke. Make sure smoke detectors are in good operating condition.

Inspector Britton said: "Your home isn't the only place that tragedy can strike. Accidents that occur from driving while intoxicated increase during the holidays. Have a designated driver if you plan to drink. Allow extra time to arrive because of crowded highways. Be aware of your surroundings and do not use cell phones while driving."



Judy Weeks

(L-R) SPD Officer Orlando Hurtado and Seminole Tribe Fire Inspector Bruce Britton provide a holiday safety presentation at the Immokalee Senior Center on Nov. 18.

Sports

C

'Warrior Osceola' Golf Tournament Concludes

JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — The third and final leg of the Honor the Warrior Osceola Golf Tournament played out at the Heritage Bay Golf & Country Club on Dec. 5. As tournament chairman, Mondo Tiger initially planned for a 27-hole finale with a different game plan for each nine holes — Best Ball, Scramble and Odds and Evens. Unfortunately, the weather had other plans and the tournament was interrupted quite early in the day by a tremendous rain storm.

"Osceola never had it easy and adapted to worse conditions than this for a far greater cause," said Tiger. "He never lost sight of his vision of freedom and sacrificed himself for the sake of his people. It's not too much to ask that we sacrifice nine holes of golf."

As avid golfers, the participants opted to sit it out while taking an early lunch at the grill. Perseverance paid off and the players returned to the links in time to get in 18 holes after eliminating the Odds and Evens format.

At tee time Lawrence Osceola was in a decisive lead with 200 points to his credit. Ray Garza Jr. and Elliot Young were trailing close behind. Osceola was strong throughout the series and the first nine holes.

However, Garza rallied on the last nine to take over for first place. Osceola remained a shoe in for second with Tiger and Young finishing in third and fourth place, respectively.

Despite a triple bogey 7 on the 22nd hole, Ray Garza Sr. and Virginia Billie hung onto the fifth position. Ricky Doctor's long drives are becoming legendary and gave him a solid sixth place finish.

Jason Tommie and Alenden Huff accumulated the most points for the day. Husband and wife team, Johnny and Gale Boone, won the Best Ball format.

During the Scramble event, everything fell into place for Ray Yzaguirre Jr., who placed sec-

ond. Not only did Mitch Osceola distinguish himself for third, but his strong iron play gave him a closest to the pin reward along with Gale Boone, Allen Huff and Jason Tommie.

Ray Garza Jr., Elliot Young and Lawrence Osceola had the longest drives of the day.

"With more than 40 Tribal citizens participating in the three tournament series, it has been a tremendous success," Tiger said. "Plans are in the early stages to turn this into an annual series and commemorate a different warrior for each event."

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President Richard Bowers Jr., BC Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and BC Board of Directors Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. provided sponsorship for the tournament, according to Tiger.



Mitch Osceola took third place in the Scramble.



(L-R) Jason Tommie tees off on the 19th hole as Mitch Osceola watches.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Steve Mizerak Championship finalists Rodney Morris and Johnny Archer together after their race-to-nine-wins championship game. Archer took home the championship, 9-6 in the tournament Nov. 12-15 held at The Hard Rock Live.

Best in Men's Billiards Showcased at Seminole Pro Tour Mizerak Championship

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hard Rock Live was the location of choice once more for one of the premier men's billiard tournaments Nov. 12-15.

In its fourth year, the Tribe-sponsored 10-ball Steve Mizerak Championship featured 64 of the top male professionals in the world competing for cash prizes in the finale of the Seminole Pro Tour.

Of the many big names in action over the weekend, "The Prince of Pool" Corey Duell represented the Tribe making his fourth appearance in the double elimination tourney.

"This is one of the most prestigious

tournaments we have and it comes at a nice venue," Duell said prior to action.

He said he always likes to keep a simple strategy in tournament play.

"Taking one ball at a time and not getting ahead of myself and making good decisions and playing a good position to take the pressure off of myself is important," Duell said.

After finishing in fourth place in 2008, he held his own once again, making it to the elite eight in the winner's bracket before eventually being eliminated.

When the dust settled, defending champion Stevie Moore was out as well with a new champion crowned. The final four consisted of Johnny Archer, Rodney Morris, Shane Van Boening and John Schmidt, all

names synonymous with top notch play.

Archer would go on to face Morris for the title. The two also faced one other prior to the finals in the winners bracket with Archer coming out with the win.

In a race to nine, Archer called out early and in control but Morris rallied twice, knotting it up at 3-3 and 5-5 at one point before a break in play. Facing an uphill 6-8 deficit, Morris could not overcome mistakes on the break and Archer pounced winning 9-6 for the championship.

"It was one of those matches where we definitely were not playing our best, but I got a couple of shots after the break and took advantage," the future hall of famer Archer explained afterwards. "Rodney [Morris] is always going to be tough though, because he is a great player."

"My shots out of the break were the key," 2007 Mizerak champion Morris said. "That was the whole match in the end."

The championship was televised on the Sunshine cable network. The non-televised portion of the championships streamed live on seminoleprotour.com.

The tournament is named after the late former world champion pool player Steve "The Miz" Mizerak. As a dominant force during the 1970s and early-1980s in the game of 14.1 continuous, or straight, pool, Mizerak helped popularize the sport for a new generation of players.

He suffered a stroke in 2001 however, which left him with physical challenges and prevented him from playing the sport competitively afterwards.

He founded the Senior Tour in 1996 for players 50 years of age and older and was inducted into the Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame in 1980.

The Seminole Pro Tour is a series of 10-ball tournaments held throughout the southeast region. For more information please log on to www.seminoleprotour.com.



Chris C. Jenkins

Triball-sponsored Corey Duell concentrates on his next shot during tournament play.

Michele Cypress Remembered at Thanksgiving Pool Tourney

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — In the two-day Thanksgiving weekend pool tournament, held Nov. 27-28 at the Her- man L. Osceola gymnasium, the primary focus was on the late Michele Cypress, daughter of Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

Born in 1972, Michele was killed in a single-car rollover accident on May 30, 2001. The young woman was just 29 when she passed away.

With that being said, the eighth annual pool tournament, in honor of her, holds a special place in the Chairman's heart.

Chairman Cypress, who competed in the 8-Ball men's singles tournament on Nov. 27, was happy to see Tribal citizens from Hollywood, Brighton, Immo- kaalee and Trail come out and show support for the weekend function.

As the Chairman was observing the pool field before playing, he reflected on his daughter's life, as she was considered an avid softball and basketball player in her heyday.

Michele was also a former employee of the Semi- nole Tribe of Florida, working as an office clerk in the Chairman's Office.

"Every time we have a pool tournament, it's good to see Michele in spirit," Chairman Cypress. "She loved the game of pool and with that being said, her spirit still lives in us."

ment, according to Chairman Cypress.

"It's always good when everybody comes out to support a pool tournament," Chairman Cypress said. "This one is special to me because a lot of my classmates showed up in honor of my daughter for the Thanksgiving holiday."

Nicole Billie, older sister of Michele, attended the pool tournament for the first time in its eight years of existence. Proud to show honor to her younger sister, Billie, who recently moved to the Big Cypress Reservation after a 20-year-long stay in Canada, disclosed that she was shocked after hearing of her sister's 2001 death.

Billie's older brother, Amos, called her at about 6 a.m. on that fateful day to inform her of what transpired.

Vividly remembering the large funeral gathering that took place a few days after her younger sister's death, Billie took the time to speak about the memory of the pool tournament's honoree.

"Michele was nice, outgoing, funny and loving," Billie said. "I may not have played, but Caroline did. I still can't believe she's gone."

With Billie's other sister, Caroline Kingsland, in attendance, the function proved to be one that won't soon be forgotten.

"It's awesome to see a whole lot of people here," Billie said. "I may not have played, but Caroline did. It's her first time playing, so she played both for fun and to memorialize our sister. It was a pleasure being out here on this Thanksgiving weekend."



Naji Tobias

Chairman Mitchell Cypress focuses on his shot in a men's singles match at the tournament, held Nov. 27-28.

Results of the Michele Cypress Pool Tournament

November 27

8-Ball

Seniors: Women: 1. Dale Grasshopper, 2. Laura Clay, 3. Rena Blissett, 4. Louise Billie, 5. Shirley Pigeon; Men: 1. Charley LaSarge, 2. David Cypress, 3. George Grasshopper, 4. Tony Billie, 5. Roy Snow. Youth: Girls: 1. Chayenne Nunez, 2. Lisandra Baker, 3. Talia Rodriguez, 4. Hall Garcia, 5. Terri Baker; Boys: 1. Daniel Rodriguez, 2. Neko Osceola, 3. Anthony Cypress, 4. Daniel Nunez Jr., 5. Chaska Osceola. Scotch Doubles: 1. Tony Billie and Linda Billie, 2. Russell Osceola and Juanita Osceola, 3. Daniel Gopher and Rena Blissett, 4. George Grasshopper and Dale Grasshopper, 4. Roy Snow and Bess Bowlegs. 9-Ball

Seniors: Women: 1. Juanita Osceola, 2. Diana Only Chief, 3. Laura Clay, 4. Dale Grass-

hopper, 5. Alice Sweat; Men: 1. Charley LaSarge, 2. Billy Brown, 3. Roy Snow, 4. Gary Clay, 5. Tony Billie.

November 28

8-Ball Women: 1. Virginia Billie, 2. Theresa Nunez, 3. Shirley Pigeon, 4. Donna Antuna, 5. Laura Clay; Men: 1. George Grasshopper, 2. George Nunez, 3. Enrique Baker, 4. Roy Snow, 5. Mario Posada; Teams: Women: 1. Killer Bees, 2. 2 Indians and a Pilgrim, 3. Wheat Toast and an Egg White, 4. Meat and Potato Girls, 5. Natives; Men: 1. Stickmen, 2. The Departed, 3. Old School, 4. Predators, 5. Outcasts. 9-Ball Women: 1. Laura Clay, 2. Evelyn Yazzie, 3. Jane Freeman, 4. Louise Jim, 5. Shirley Pigeon; Men: 1. Charley LaSarge, 2. George Grasshopper, 3. Tony Billie, 4. Billy Brown, 5. Tony Bert.

SEMINOLE PRO TOUR



Chris C. Jenkins

WPBA Tournament wildcard Theresa Nunez concentrates on her next move versus opponent Michell Monk.

WPBA Championship Held at Hard Rock

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Sixty-four of the best in women's billiards converged at the Hard Rock Live Nov. 12-15.

The annual Women's Professional Billiards Association (WPBA) Championships in 9-ball brought a who's who of former, current and hopeful champions to one place, with thousands in cash at stake as well as bragging rights to end this year's Classic Tour schedule.

Running simultaneously next to the Steve Mizerak Championships, the points earned from the Tribe-sponsored event helped determine the top 48 ranked players at year's end and into 2010 with a guaranteed exemption into all WPBA events.

Two players of special note were Tribe-sponsored perennial top 10 player and former world champion "The Texas Tornado" Vivian Villarreal and Tribal citizen Theresa Nunez, a wildcard entry.

Villarreal stayed in contention as usual but kept it interesting, coasting into the elite eight before bowing out to "The Black Widow" Jeanette Lee, 9-5. Villarreal would finish in fifth place.

As a 15-year recreational player, Nunez, Panther Clan, got her first taste of the primetime coming in as a qualifier through a first-place finish in the annual Seminole Tribe Sports Festival.

Her team finished in third-place in the Celebrity Pro-Am on Nov. 11, leading into the big show. She became the third Tribal woman to play in the tournament along with Phalyn Osceola and Virginia Billie, who competed in 2007 and 2008, respectively.

"Coming in, I was told by Phalyn [Osceola] to have fun and not to let your nerves get the best of you," Nunez said. "It was a goal I wanted to accomplish ever since I started playing pool, and I did it."

The Okeechobee resident's run was bittersweet, however, as she ran into Billiard Congress of American hall of famer "The Striking Viking" Ewa Laurance in first round action on the morning of Nov. 12. Nunez

said as a fan of Laurance, her nerves definitely got the best of her.

"Inside I was giggly; I did not know whether to smile or what to do throughout," she revealed. "It was such a honor to play her because she is a legend. I did not really care if I won or lost."

Although Nunez would win twice in their race to nine match-up, Laurance went on to win 9-2 in the final.

Nonetheless, Nunez would get another shot to stay alive in the loser's bracket on the morning of Nov. 13 as she next faced friend, Michell Monk of the WPBA.

"She still had some nerves when we played and it is hard to separate friendship from the table," Monk said of Nunez. "The biggest turnaround in our matches though was her facing the shot clock."

Playing rules allow for 30 seconds per shot attempt.

In the end, Monk would come out the winner, 9-3, continuing her momentum into her next match where she triumphed against defending champion Monica Webb. Monk then moved on to the sweet 16 versus billiards great Allison Fisher before losing.

Nunez said it was all an experience she will always cherish.

"I learned that everyone is the same; it is about how you handle it all," Osceola said. "You are playing the table and I knew that coming in, but you tend to forget it."

The flower shop owner of the store Best Buds in Okeechobee, Fla., and mother of four said she will continue to play as part of a recreational league in Immokalee. Nunez, however, said she will be back.

"I will definitely be striving to play next year," she vowed.

The finals featured returning finalist from 2008 Xiaoting Pan against Jasmin Ouschan. The match was televised on ESPN. In a race to seven, Ouschan would continue her roll, going undefeated along the way winning her first WPBA Tournament Championship, 7-2, the final. It was her third title of the 2009 season.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Tribal Chief Operations Officer Elrod Bowers, 2009 WPBA champion Jasmin Ouschan and Seminole Media Productions Tribal Programs Officer Bobby Frank together after the championship game presentation.

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Annual Celebrity Charity Pro-Am Supports Charitable Organization

WPBA Player Kelly Fisher Earns First Place Finish

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Celebrities, billiards and charity made for a good combination Nov. 11 at the Hard Rock Live.

In the annual Celebrity Charity Pro-Am, guests from the world of sports and media once again joined Tribal citizens and Tribal Council and Board of Directors members in 9-ball tournament-style action in support of the "The Texas Tornado" Vivian Villarreal's charity, Vivian's Kidz.

"It felt so good to once again have the Tribe behind me," Villarreal said. "It meant so much."

Villarreal supporter and fellow WPBA player Kelly Fisher lead the winning team this year.

"We had great fun and I think it is a great cause," Fisher said.

Hollywood Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. said because of the charitable aspect, participation in the tournament had a bigger purpose this year.

"I think it was a great opportunity for me to be there and the best thing is that it supported the kids; they are the real winners," said Rep. Osceola, whose team placed second in 2008.

participant Phalyn Osceola agreed.

"It was a good opportunity and we always want to show our support for her," Osceola said. "Vivian also represents our Tribe and it is nice to give our support. This was also good for our kids. It shows them there are



Chris C. Jenkins

Women's Professional Billiards Association player Pan Xiaoting (C) with Pro-Am tournament teammates (L-R) Hollywood Board of Directors Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr., George Grasshopper, Eugene Bowers, Marcellus Osceola Sr., and Joe Osceola Jr.



Chris C. Jenkins

Former National Basketball Association Miami Heat player and Pro-Am guest Jamal Mashburn concentrates on his next shot in first round tournament action.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Tribal Council Representatives Max B. Osceola Jr. of Hollywood and David Cypress of Big Cypress also attended.

Villarreal, a native of San Antonio, founded Vivian's Kidz after her adopted daughter was kidnapped by the birth mother. Nine years later the two were reunited. The foundation focuses on helping missing and exploited children.

"Vivian just has a really unique story that really should continue to be told," said Eric Bachelor, Seminole Media Productions event marketing/ sponsorship coordinator and event organizer. "It was a challenge with the economy being as bad as it is. We knew it was going to be tough but with Vivian's story it seems to have touched people and they opened up their hearts and wallets for this."

Tribal citizen and second year par-



Chris C. Jenkins

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress looks for an approach in his team's match.



Chris C. Jenkins

The first place 2009 Pro-Am tournament team, led by WPBA pro Kelly Fisher (R).

very pleased to be a part of the festivities as a guest host for the evening. He also has his own nonprofit charity, the Mashburn Family Foundation.

"I was approached about being a part of it and was told what Vivian does with her charity so I jumped at the opportunity," Mashburn explained.

For more information on the charities supported, please log on to www.vivianskidz.com, www.achildsmisssing.org or www.jamalmashburn.net.



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The bikers await the signal to begin the third annual bike race, held Nov. 21 at the Brighton Reservation.

Rachel Buxton

Bike Race Brings Out Competitors

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Tribal citizens, spouses and employees from Brighton and surrounding reservations raced to the finish Nov. 21 for the third annual Bike Race held on the Brighton Reservation.

Put on by Brighton's Recreation Department more than 15 riders lined up at the First Indian Baptist Church for the start as Seminole Fire-Rescue Department stopped traffic.

The riders took off down what is known as Reservation Road with the adults biking 12 miles and the seniors competing in a seven-mile race. The adults paced themselves as they biked past the historical Red Barn where they received a strand of beads taking them into the second leg of the race.

The race finished at the Brighton Trading Post where riders hydrated and refreshed themselves with fresh fruits and treats and later took part in raffle drawings to win a variety of prizes including a sports watch and gift card to Sports Authority.



Rachel Buxton

George Micco (L) rides in with his mom, Mary Jo, during the race.

Brighton Bike Race Results

Ages 18-25: Men: Ignacio Orozco, 48:45; Women: Jo Jo Osceola, 50:25.
Ages 26-30: Men: Howard Jimmie, 48:58.
Ages 31-35: Men: George Micco, 53:10; Women: Female: Carla Gopher, 56:06
Ages 36-40: Men: Darin Koonitz, 42:50; Women: Brenda Youngblood, 51:46.
Ages 41-54: Men: 1. Robert Youngblood, 42:52, 2. Roy Snow, 1:03:31; Women: Michele Thomas, 1:09:59; Employees: Chris Goodwin, 1:01:09
Ages 55 and Older: Men: Andrew Bowers Jr., 30:57; Women: 1. Patty Waldron, 29:30, 2. Martha Jones 39:46, 3. Mary Jo Micco, 53:10.
Recreation Dept. Director Richard Osceola and senior Billie Micco both participated, but neither received times.

Seniors Participate in Disc Golf Clinic

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Disc golf instructor Gregg Hosfeld taught a class to the Big Cypress seniors on Nov. 20 in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum parking lot about his sport of choice.

Hosfeld, who started playing the sport in 1976, began the two-hour session with an introduction to game play. He explained that in the game, participants throw discs called Frisbees into a basket, much like how a golfer will hit a ball into the hole.

"As long as you can rotate [the Frisbee] a little bit, you should be able to throw," Hosfeld told the seniors in attendance.

Hosfeld said the player who gets their Frisbee in the basket in the fewest number of throws is the winner.

He said the sport is good for all participants, but especially the seniors because it's a low-impact fitness activity centered around a lot of walking.

"It's growing a lot faster than what people realize," Hos-

feld said. "Disc golf is very non-invasive; it's something you can get addicted to once you get the hang of it."

Hosfeld took the seniors to a field area near the museum parking lot that had a target located in the middle of it. Each senior had multiple opportunities to perform different throwing techniques, including the 360-degree distance throw, the short range throw and the turbo putt.

Regarding the short range throw, which is considered the most common of all disc golf throws, the seniors were instructed to rotate their torso areas and follow through for their throws.

"It keeps you balanced and it keeps your hips loose," Hosfeld said of the short range throw.

By the end of the day, all the seniors played a few games, including the ring of fire, which saw the participants aiming for the Frisbee "target," also known as the ring basket.

The Boys & Girls Club youth participated in the disc golf session later that afternoon. It was also taught by Hosfeld.



Naji Tobias

Disc golf instructor Greg Hosfeld gives an introduction on how disc golf is played, with the seniors getting several opportunities to participate.



Naji Tobias


Participants aim for the ring basket with their Frisbees at the disc golf session, held on Nov. 20 in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum parking lot.

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Naji Tobias
Fort Pierce Buccaneers 140-pound team Head Coach and organization President Alex Head Tommie (C) gives his team a pep talk as they play in a game against the Pahokee Baby Blue Devils on Oct. 24.

Buccaneers Football Program Honored at End-of-Season Banquet

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

FORT PIERCE — Alex Head Tommie, president of the Fort Pierce Buccaneers football organization, has proven to be a positive inspiration to scores of Fort Pierce area youth.

Much of that was on display at the program's end-of-season awards banquet, held on Nov. 21 at the Fort Pierce Community Center.

All five of its youth teams, the 75, 90, 125, 140 and 175-pound groups, made it to this year's Glades Tri-City Youth Athletic League playoffs, competing against fellow league teams such as the Pahokee Baby Blue Devils, the Glades Glen Browns, the Glades Youth Panthers, the Okeechobee Center Bulldogs and the Moore Haven Mighty Terriers.

Though none of the five teams reached the FedEx Orange Bowl Youth Football championship, played on Dec. 13 in Miami, Tommie said he was thoroughly pleased with how the program represented itself.

"We had some up and downs this season," said Tommie, whose 140-pound team advanced the furthest, reaching the Glades Tri-City Youth Athletic League's conference championship game — a 36-6 loss to the Baby Blue Devils on Nov. 28 at Anquan Boldin Stadium in Pahokee, Fla.

"But we know we must continue with the fight," Tommie continued as he spoke at the Fort Pierce awards banquet. "You can't quit ... I wake up with 110 thoughts in my mind and I sleep with 110 kids on my mind in order to make our organization better. Everybody has to pay their toll in this organization."

Tommie referred to the organization's coaches, cheerleaders and parents of the 110 players who he gave special mention to.

One thing Tommie took pride in talking about was the fact at least 10 players on this 140-pound team had at least a 3.0 grade point average by the end of first nine weeks during the 2009-2010 school year.

Before each player on the Buccaneers organization took to the football field for practice, Tommie regularly took the time to make sure all of them had their homework finished.

If that didn't happen, then they weren't allowed to practice that particular day. And if it continued, the players in question risked the possibility of sitting out in actual football games, he said.

Tommie said he hopes to instill positive morals and values in the youths' lives.

An example of that was on display during the awards ceremony, with several different guest speakers providing words of inspiration to the program, including former Kansas State University football player Cedric Wilson, former National Football League player Chad Bates and Rev. Dr. E.J. Parker, among others.

"Without your grades, you can't have fun," Wilson said to the program's youth players at the awards banquet. "You don't

want to regret anything you do. Go to school, I can't stress that enough."

Rev. Parker, a cousin of Tommie and the event's keynote speaker, captivated the audience's attention as he offered some words of wisdom.

"You are our boys and girls and it's in you we've invested in," Rev. Parker said after each of the program's players received special participation awards. "You just don't give up. You keep on striving when others say you can't make it ... Be a winner on and off the field. God bless you — players, coaches and cheerleaders."

The program is in its 10th year of existence — beginning in 1999 with seven youth teams and approximately 150 players. Tommie's presence, particularly as the president for the last three years, seems to have Fort Pierce's youth moving in the right direction.

"It takes a village to raise a kid; this is our village," Tommie said. "They're our future right here in this organization."

The Seminole Tribe of Florida and Community Investments, along with Intercoastal Financial, Ultimate Billiards, Indian Hills Golf Club, Flower Patch and Wal-Mart, were this year's sponsors for the Fort Pierce Buccaneers youth football organization.



Naji Tobias
Alex Head Tommie, Fort Pierce Buccaneers president, presents a special recognition award to Fort Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie (not pictured) for being a key sponsor to the youth football program.

Tribal Softball Enthusiast Roger B. Jumper Remembered in Tournament

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Teams from throughout the state converged on the Hollywood Reservation to commemorate the life of Roger B. Jumper, participating in the fourth annual softball tournament named in his honor.

The tournament took place on fields at both the Seminole Ball Field and Field Piccolo Park in Hollywood, Nov. 13-15.

Organizer Boettner "Rugby" Jumper said he started the tournament to celebrate the memory of his son, Roger, who passed away six years ago. And with more than 40 teams, some traveling from as far away as Gainesville, Jumper said he was pleased with the turnout.

"Every year it gets better," he said. "We had a good time. It's all about the fun and remembering our son."

In action that spanned three days of play, the teams battled it out to appear in the finals on Nov. 15 at Brian Piccolo Park. Of the six Seminole teams participating in the tournament, The Lady Seminole had the best finish and came in fourth place overall for the women.

For Jumper, the excitement of tournament play was a fitting honor for the memory of his son, an avid athlete, who also played baseball and football.

"Most likely if he was still alive, he'd be playing," Jumper said. "Our tournament here is one of the biggest in South Florida. I hope it will grow more."



Elizabeth Leiba
Tournament organizer Boettner "Rugby" Jumper spearheads the effort each year to celebrate the memory of his late son, Roger.

Roger B. Jumper Memorial Softball Tournament Results

Men's Upper Division (C-D): 1. BRUNS, 2. Miami Blitz, 3. Immokalee Seminoles; (E): 1. DHL Aviation, Delacruz Dry Wall, 3. Anarchy; Women: 1. Central Florida Ballers, 2. Blaze, B & B Softball.

Orange Bowl Press Conference Held Poolside at Seminole Hard Rock



Chris C. Jenkins
Seminole Hard Rock President Phil Madow (C) welcomes Orange Bowl Committee members, 2009 FedEx Orange Bowl game participants and the media at the Orange Bowl Kick-off news conference Dec. 9 poolside at the Hard Rock. (L-R) Head Football Coaches Paul Johnson of the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets and Kirk Ferentz of the Iowa Hawkeyes discuss their upcoming matchup scheduled for Jan. 5 at Land Shark Stadium in Miami Gardens.

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Tribal Martial Artists Advance Ranks

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Two youth groups participated in the Big Cypress Martial Arts (BCMA) first-ever belt testing, held Dec. 5 at the Community Center.

The Young Dragons, the first martial arts group, began their workouts with a total of 24 laps run around a mat. This was a prerequisite to pass the Level 1 belt test. It was followed by a set of stretch exercises that included arm circles and knee bending.

Then came the skill set tests, a combination of strikes, combinations, ground positions, escapes and self-defense techniques.

After several months of martial arts practice, the students put all they learned to good use and judges were proud of their strength, discipline and resiliency.

With the students having a varied set of belts coming into the testing, it was their chance to move up a belt closer to the coveted black belt.

Luis Gutierrez, the martial arts instructor, said he was pleased to see what transpired as a result of the students' stellar test performances on the mat.

"I was very happy and so proud of these kids," Gutierrez said. "When they first came in, they had no idea what they were learning. We do a lot of sports stuff, like dodgeball and wrestling...They train hard but they

have a lot of fun."

With all the lessons and techniques learned, including stand-up (boxing and kickboxing), clinch (Judo and wrestling) and ground (Jiu-Jitsu) fighting techniques, it turned into a seamless effort from the teenagers, the second group to test that day.

Jose Salazar, 16, weighed in on his promotion, which saw him move up from an orange to red belt.

"It was hard, but it was a great experience," Salazar said. "We got to learn a lot of new moves for self-defense. All of us are striving to get a black belt someday and this testing was a good start to get there."

Hilda Jumper, the mother of students Jose, Alex and Diego Salazar, saw this opportunity as a key to encouraging her children to stay out of trouble.

"It's something good for them because they're here to learn something," Jumper said. "They're not out on the streets and this class helps them to defend themselves if they're in danger. All the kids should just be proud of themselves for what they accomplished."

To conclude the martial arts testing, all who participated not only received a red belt, but got certificates as well.

"The idea behind this is to build the community up through martial arts," Gutierrez said. "Hopefully [the Tribal youth] can use this as a mirror for school, home and other parts of their lives."



Judy Weeks

The teenagers are all smiles after completing the Level 1 martial arts testing with their new belts on Dec. 5.

Rosie Billie Remembered at First Memorial Pool Tournament

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Community members from all Seminole Reservations came out in memory of the late, revered Rosie Billie for the first annual pool tournament held in her honor. The event took place at the Brighton Gym, Nov. 20-21.

"She was energetic, a leader for our Tribe, just a wonderful person," Emma Urbina, daughter of the late Billie, said. "My mom played pool and was in a lot of tournaments around here so we did a pool tournament in respect to her."

Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress participated in the tournament to show their respect for a woman who was once highly influential within the Seminole Tribe.

"She was a good lady for the whole Tribe," Chairman Cypress said. "Rosie was one of the few councilwomen, and she paved the way for where we are today."



Rachel Buxton

Mindy Fish shows her pool skills at the first annual Rosie Billie Pool Tournament, held Nov. 20-21 in the gym.



Rachel Buxton

Billie Micco wears a pink ribbon in remembrance of the late Rosie Billie and her advocacy against breast cancer.

"It's an honor to be here," Rep. Cypress said. Sammy Gopher, son of the late Billie, offered the blessing both days to begin the tournament.

"She had a lot of encouragement for the kids," Gopher said. "She has been missed."

In honor of the late Billie, a breast cancer survivor and advocate during her life, pink ribbons were passed out to be worn to help raise awareness for the cause.

On the first night of the tournament the youth and elders got to take part in some friendly games, competing in 8-ball double elimination. The next day the adults came out for some serious play competing in 8-ball, 9-ball and scotch doubles.

"I was freaked out that so many people came out," Urbina said. "We're going to try to keep this going forward year after year."

Rosie Billie Pool Tournament Results

Ages 10-17: Girls: 1. Cheyenne Nunez, 2. Rosa Urbina, 3. Alissa Dorgan, 4. Ashlee Gopher, 5. Odessa King; Boys: 1. Joshua Boromei, 2. Daniel Rodriguez, 3. Daniel Nunez Jr., 4. Lewis Gopher Jr.,

Seniors: Women: 1. Laura Clay, 2. Linda Billie, 3. Martha Tommie, 4. Juanita Osceola, 5. Rose Jones; Men: 1. Russell Osceola, 2. David Cypress, 3. Weems Buck, 4. Sammy Gopher, 5. Daniel Gopher.

Ages 18-49: Women: 1. Theresa Nunez, 2. Phalyn Osceola, 3. Emma Urbina, 4. Verna Billie, 5. Miranda Tommie; Men: 1. Daniel Nunez Sr., 2. Mario Posada, 3. Leon Micco, 4. Carl Yazzie, 5. Jessie Urbina.

Scotch Doubles: 1. Mario Posada & Theresa Nunez, 2. Tony Bert & Martha Tommie, 3. Jessie Urbina & Peggy Nunez, 4. Tony Billie & Ebonie Kelly, 5. Daniel Nunez Sr. & Arica Osceola.

9-Ball: Women: 1. Claudia Oliveira, 2. Phalyn Osceola, 3. Martha Tommie, 4. Emma Urbina, 5. Theresa Nunez; Men: 1. Jack Billie, 2. Mario Posada, 3. Daniel Nunez Sr., 4. Tony Bert, 5. Carl Yazzie.



Judy Weeks

AAU Coach Diana Neal (C) begins her class with a warm-up of stretches at the Skills and Drills Camp on Nov. 14 in the gym.

Tribal Ball Players Attend Skills Camp

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Dribbling and passing the ball, as well as lay-ups and shot control made up the topics for the Showtime Skills and Drills Camp held Nov. 14 at the Big Cypress gym.

Tribal boys and girls, ranging from 5-17 years of age, took advantage of the opportunity to study their favorite game of basketball.

Big Cypress Basketball Coach Eddie Redd made arrangements for Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) Coaches Kenny Gillion and Diana Neal to serve as instructors for the event. Basketball is a team sport and the coaches worked together as a team while teaching all aspects of the game.

"The game isn't all about you. It's all about your contribution to the team and we are here to help you become a valuable player on that team," Coach Gillion said. "We will strive to help you develop your skills, but the most important asset that you can bring to the game is good sportsmanship. It is the foundation for competitive sports."

Beginning the curriculum for the day, Coach Neal conducted a warm-up session with stretching before turning the court over to Coach Gillion.

"Offense is when you have the ball and dribbling is the first skill of offense, followed by passing and shooting. After learning to control your offense, we will work on defensive tactics," Coach Gillion said as he set the pace for the day's activities. "Basketball is a game that demands ambidextrous skills."

Working in unison, the coaches set up exercises designed to teach ball control with both the right and left hand. Participants dribbled through cone patterns, working two balls at a time and developing cross over skills.

Shooting involved right and left, over and under hand lay-ups, knee bends, shooting and following through for a perfect aim at the basket. Each player received individual instruction and the results were amazing. Jordan Osceola, 5, made six baskets back to

back from both right and left hand positions after just 30 minutes of practice.

Forming two-man teams, the players learned to dribble, pass and shoot with accuracy. The next objective was defensive strategy and ball recovery without aggressive behavior.

With extraordinary instructors and cooperative students, the players were ready to play some serious ball after the lunch break. Forming mixed teams of age and gender, the coaches circulated the court giving helpful criticism and frequently stopped play to help with correction. The result was amazing and all the players displayed genuine enthusiasm.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Jaye Smith and AAU Coach Diana Neal watch as Steve Billie dribbles the ball through the obstacle course.



Judy Weeks

Youngsters from three reservations participated in the disc golf clinic with pro Gregg Hosfeld (C).

Teens Attend Sports, Lifeskills Camp

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Seminole Teen Sports and Lifeskills Camp held in Big Cypress on Nov. 21 was designed as a summer camp flashback for those who attended or missed the summer activities.

"The objective of this camp is to introduce a healthy lifestyle to Seminole youth, while they get to know each other better," said BC Assistant Recreation Department Director Stan Frischman. "I have noticed that the adults and seniors have a keen awareness of their cultural relationships by blood and clan, however, it isn't quite the same with the younger generation."

"Many of the kids at summer camp were surprised to learn that they were related to each other," continued Frischman. "Through interaction between the reservations, we hope to build a stronger clan connection, friendships and bonds that will prove beneficial to the next generation. We are hoping that there is some truth to the old adage, 'Those that play together, stay together.'"

Gathering together at the gym for lunch, the group learned they were attending the first of a series of camps that will take place. A sport will be emphasized at each hosting reservation, in addition to other activities as follows: disc golf in Big Cypress, softball in Immokalee, basketball in Hollywood and touch football in Brighton.

Transporting the group to the temporary disc golf course on the grounds of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, they received basic instruction from two-time World Champion Disc Golf Professional Gregg Hosfeld. He just recently added the U.S. Grand Masters Championship title to his resume after finishing 14 strokes under par.

The rules and challenges of the game were explained in detail and the players learned the difference between the sizes and weights of the Frisbees™ used in disc golf. Forming a circle with the participants, Hosfeld demonstrated grip, stance, technique and scoring before organizing a few practice shots.

Forming groups of three to five players with an adult instructor for each, they disbursed onto the 10 holes golf course for an afternoon of competition. The children quickly picked up the game and laughed their way around the course dodging obstacles and attempting to throw the disc into the chain basket in the least number of tosses. Even though scores were tabulated, all players were considered winners.

The youngsters spent their late afternoon on the basketball court participating in some one on one competition and then shared an evening meal.



Judy Weeks

Disc Golf Professional Gregg Hosfeld (C) demonstrates grip, stance and technique to the participants of the Teen Sports and Lifeskills Camp at Big Cypress.

THANKSGIVING

Tribal Golfers Compete in Turkey Skins Tournament

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

CLEWISTON, Fla. — A total of 15 Tribal golfers made the trek to the Clewiston Golf Course for an 18-hole round in the Turkey Skins Golf Tournament on Nov. 27.

Mondo Tiger, an avid golfer, said he was happy to be competing on the Clewiston course, as he took the time to reflect on how far the Seminole Tribe of Florida has come through the years.

"What we're doing nowadays is finding yet another way to get together on the holidays as one," Tiger said of the golf tournament. "We get to enjoy a game of golf. We're thankful for this opportunity because we didn't have the means to play golf many years ago. I'm thankful for the Tribe being prosperous and its members being healthier."

In the skins game, golfers competed against each other in the 18 holes, with the best scorer winning the hole.

In the end, however, it wasn't about who won or lost; it was about all the golfers coming together and giving thanks for yet another day, as Tiger said.

"We all thank the Lord everyday for the life that He's given us," he said. "Through the hard times and our struggles, God has seen us through. We can't thank Him enough; life's been good."



Naji Tobias

Mondo Tiger focuses on how he's going to convert on the third hole of the 18-hole tournament.



Naji Tobias

James Tommie hits a shot on the sixth hole of the Turkey Skins Golf Tournament, held on Nov. 27.

Results of the Turkey Skins Golf Tournament

Winners of Skins: 1. Mondo Tiger, 2. Ricky Doctor, 3. Lawrence Osceola, 4. Charlie Cypress, 5. James Tommie, 6. Jason Tommie, 7. Cicero Osceola, 8. Bobby Frank, 9. Brett Green.

Closest to the Pin: Senior Men: Hole #2: Mondo Tiger; Hole #9: Lawrence Osceola; Hole #15: Lawrence Osceola; Men: Hole #2: Kevin Osceola; Hole #9: Jason Tommie.

Longest Drive: Senior Men: 1. Mondo Tiger; Men: 1. Brett Green.



Elizabeth Leiba

(L-R) Robert C. North and wife, Jo, collect beads from Health Educator Joanna Kentollal at the completion of their first quarter-mile at the Turkey Trot Walk/Run on Nov. 21.

Hollywood Residents Walk for Fitness

BY ELIZABETH LEIBA
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal citizens recommitted to their fitness and health improvement goals at the Turkey Trot Walk/Run on the morning of Nov. 21.

More than a dozen participants circled the Hollywood Ball Field, collecting beads from Health Dept. employees each time they completed the quarter-mile course. They walked or jogged a distance of anywhere from 1 to 3 miles and some even pushed themselves and walked farther than that to reap the benefits of cardiovascular exercise.

Hollywood Health Educator Joanna Kentollal emphasized the significance of getting moving and the role it plays in overall health.

"It's important for everyone to increase their physical activity and this walking program helps them to do that," Kentollal said.

She explained that participants collect points which will accumulate until the program holds an awards banquet in March of next year. At that time, walkers will be rewarded for their hard work with prizes courtesy of the Health Dept.

Robert C. North and wife, Jo, both walked 1 mile. They said they enjoyed exercising together.

"I started a lifestyle change about six months ago," Robert C. North said. "One of the things I need to improve is cardiovascular. It was good. We enjoyed it."



Elizabeth Leiba

(L-R) Perennial Walk/Run participant Judy Tiger grabs her beads from Chantal Vallee as she walks the track during the event. Tiger walked a total of 4 miles.



Judy Weeks

Winner of the raffled Mossberg 835 UNI-Mag 12-gauge shotgun, Demetri Garza (R) takes aim to try her luck for a turkey or ham under the watchful eye of Larry Hamlet (C) and SPD Officer George Murray (L) at the Immokalee Turkey Shoot on Nov. 14.

Community Participates in Annual Turkey Shoot to Support 4-H

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — It was a lucky day for Demetri Garza when she purchased a ticket for the Mossberg 835 Ulti-Mag 12-gauge shotgun being raffled off at the 4-H Thanksgiving Turkey Shoot on Nov. 14 at the Immokalee Seminole Ranch.

"I was just buying tickets to support the 4-H. I never dreamed that I would get to take home such an awesome prize," Garza said.

This wasn't her first big 4-H win. Participating in the program for eight years, she started raising swine and then moved up to steers. This past year as a senior, she raised the 2009 grand champion steer. Even though she has now graduated, she is a 4-H'er at heart and volunteers her services wherever needed.

The 4-H Program is designed to build character, responsibility and integrity through life experiences. One of its greatest accomplishments is the positive effect that it has upon strengthening family units. This year's turkey shoot is just one example of how this works.

The 4-Hers took turns manning the food concession, registration booth, setting out and collecting targets along with their parent volunteers throughout the day. Members of the Seminole Police Department worked with the fathers teaching the children gun safety and assisted them in the competition.

Seminole families weren't the only ones to benefit. A steady stream of competitors took their turns on the range and the majority was families who brought their children to learn the proper use of firearms and experience the thrill of competing for a prize.

The rules of the shoot are designed to give everyone a fair opportunity to win regardless of age and skill. A lot was riding on luck. If you could hit the target, you stood a fair chance of winning based on the pattern of shot delivered by the gun.

Firing a shotgun for the first time, Caden Purslow, 7, beat out nine adults when he got four pellets in the inner field of the target and won a turkey. He was so proud of his target that he took it home with him to show his grandparents.



Judy Weeks

Sidney Platt braces his son, Chris, as he falls back from the gun's recoil on the shooting range.



Rachel Buxton

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. uses his military shooting training to his advantage.

Participants Take Aim at Turkey Shoot

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Men, women and children of all ages came out for the annual Brighton 4-H Turkey Shoot, held Nov. 21 at the Brighton Golfing Range.

Lined up, shooters took turns aiming the 8.5 inch by 11 inch turkey target. They competed for either a fresh ham or turkey to enjoy with their family and friends during the holiday season.

After each round, 4-H coordinators and youth raced to the targets to determine which shooter hit the target dead on for the win.

Among the winners were: Kelly Youngblood, Jones Tommie, Jill Carner, Daylon Youngblood, Norman Johns, Matt Piz, Erena Billie, Reuben Burgess, Casey Platt, Greg James, Kim Youngblood, Quentin Smith, Daryl Simmons, Tom Riser, Justin Smalridge, and Kamani Smith.

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew Bowers Jr. sponsored youth rounds, giving the youngsters a chance to show their shooting skills. Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. also sponsored a few open rounds for the community.

Also at the event, members of the 4-H small animals group sold refreshments, while other community members sold a variety of home cooked foods including frybread. Raffle tickets were sold for a shotgun that was taken home by winner Jack Turtle.



Rachel Buxton

Bridget Kountz (R) gets a little help from father, Darin, during the youth round.

THANKSGIVING

Three-Mile Turkey Trot Walk/Run Draws Numerous Participants

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Turkey Trot Walk/Run began just as the sun rose at the south end of the Big Cypress Canal bank on Nov. 20.

Led by Seminole Fitness Department Trainer Neil Prager, attendees got ready for the event by performing a series of stretches to warm up their bodies.

It was off to the races from that point, with the runners leading the way, followed by the walkers.

At the 3-mile walk/run participants went half the distance down the canal bank. After the halfway mark — the length it was from the starting point to Snake Road — the walkers and runners were directed to turn back around to complete the course.

One-by-one, each person completed the 3-mile journey in the Seminole Pathways Walking Program-sponsored event.

With all the participants gearing up for a set of refreshment waiting for them at the finish, Edna McDuffie, Seminole Pathways Walking Program and Turkey Trot Walk/Run coordinator, announced the results.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Noella Dyan O'Donnell share a few laughs as they walk down the Big Cypress Canal bank together at the event.

Turkey Trot Walk/Run Results

Female Division: Walkers: Ages 18-40: 1. Clea Billie-Herrera, 2. Noella O'Donnell, 3. Sheila Aguilar; Ages 41-54: 1. Sue Jane Bert, 2. Janice Osceola; Ages 55-65: 1. Mary F. Tigertail; Ages 66 and Older: 1. Louise Billie; Runners: Ages 18-40: 1. JoJo Osceola, 2. Cathy Cypress, 3. Sara Osceola Turtle; Ages 41-54: 1. Almira Billie, 2. Barbara Billie; Ages 55-65: 1. Shirley Clay, 2. Helene Buster; Ages 66 and Older: 1. Edna McDuffie.

Male Division: Walkers: Ages 18-40: 1. Byron Billie, 2. Cicero Osceola; Ages 41-54: 1. Charlie Cypress; Ages 55-65: 1. Jonah Cypress, 2. Mitchell Cypress, 3. Rudy Osceola.

Community Member/Employee Division: Walkers: 1. Delwin McCowan, 2. Chris Hulbutta, 3. Lisa Bennis; Runners: 1. Giovanni Alvarez, 2. Ashley Burnett, 3. Marilyn Jumper.



Naji Tobias

Seminole Firefighter Giovanni Alvarez takes first place in the community/employee-run category.



Naji Tobias

Edna McDuffie, Seminole Pathways Walking Program and Turkey Trot Walk/Run coordinator, walks toward the finish.



Shelley Marmor

Sunni Bearden (L) of the Brighton team steals the ball from the opposing Hollywood team during the 13 and younger co-ed game of the Thanksgiving Classic Youth Basketball Tournament, held Nov. 13-14 in the Hollywood gym.

Results of Thanksgiving Youth Basketball Tournament

Ages 9 and Younger: Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood teams all received medals for their participation
Ages 13 and Younger: Co-Ed: 1. Brighton, 2. Hollywood

Ages 17 and Younger: Girls: 1. Hollywood, 2. Brighton; Boys: 1. Brighton, 2. Hollywood.



Shelley Marmor

Ark Jumper (L) from the Hollywood team moves the ball down court in the first game of the tournament, a 9 and younger co-ed game against team Brighton.

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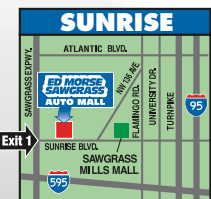


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***PATHWAY WEEKLY WALKS BEGIN**

BIG CYPRESS

Tuesdays at 8a
Senior, Fitness Trail

BRIGHTON

Thursdays at 8a, 12p & 4p
Florida Seminole Veterans Walking Path

HOLLYWOOD

Tuesdays at 7a
TY Park

Tuesdays at 12p
Hollywood Ball Field

IMMOKALEE

Thursdays at 9:30a
Immokalee Tribal Office

TAMPA

Wednesdays at 9a
Lettuce Lake Park

FORT PIERCE

Wednesdays at 9a
Fort Pierce Community

TRAIL

Mondays at 5p
East Village Parking lot

NAPLES

Wednesdays 5:30p
Sun-N-Fun Park

**Weekly walk times subject to change:
verify with health educator or website
www.semtribe.com/walk*

PATHWAY PROGRAM CALENDAR

REZ RALLY

Jan. 16, 2010
Brighton Rez

MARCH OF DIMES

March 6, 7:30a
Okeechobee, Flagler Park

HEART WALK

March 13, 7:30a
Davie, Nova Southeastern University

RELAY FOR LIFE

March 13 & 14, 2010
Clewiston, Clewiston High School

EASTER SEALS

February 27, 2010
Sunrise, Markham Park

Announcements

POEM

The Phase

From the time I could remember I was surrounded by pain
Da life of an Indian is not as easy as it seems
The alchy and the drugs are just the beginning
The land of destruction is where the rough life is tempting.
Check the history or the past confrontation s
Obstruction and deviation is just a creation
Through the early days, we didn't live the easy way
The killing of crying babies is just a little faze.
And now you want to sit down and talk about your emotions
Be grateful to be alive and with your families that

you're holding
"The world of creation and modernization is behold-
ing"
Andrew Jackson and Charlie Manson, what's dif-
ferentiated?
The Indian Removal Act is eternally dis-appreciated.
Without a mixed blood, might not be a sovereign
nation
But a sovereign nation is what we be, and the level is
elevating.

Sincerely,
THA SEMINOLE KING!!!
— Stephen Chad Billie
Otter Clan

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to our son, **Mitchell Primeaux Jr.**, on Nov. 27, and our daughter, **Marlys**, on Nov. 26. Your dad and I are blessed to have you two in our family, and we hope you both know that no matter what the situation is, we are both here for you two.

Also, happy belated birthday to **Denise Billie** on Nov. 16 and **Agnes Billie-Motlow** on Nov. 26.

From,
Darline Primeaux

Happy 18th birthday **Ryan Bert Osceola**.
From
Your uncle, Duane Jones

We would like to wish a belated 18th birthday to **Melanie Jones** on Dec. 1, **Ryan Bert Osceola** on Dec. 11 and **Daylon Youngblood** on Dec. 12.

From,
Emma Jane, Jessie, Jewel, Rosa and Timothy

Happy birthday to **Stacy Jones** on Dec. 17, and to **Duane Jones** on Dec. 21.

From,
Emma, Jessie, Jewel, Rosa and Timothy

We want to wish our son, **Timothy Chase Urbina**, a happy 1st birthday on Nov. 28.

Love,
Dad, mom, sisters and the rest of your family

Happy 18th birthday to our big sister, **Jewel Buck**.
We love you,
Rosa and Timothy

I would like to wish my **Jewel Buck** a happy 18th birthday on Jan. 9, 2010.

It seems like only yesterday that you were born; all 10.5 ounces of you. In the beginning it was only me and you, but thanks to grandma and grandpa, we made it. You turned into a bright and talented young lady. As you start your way into adulthood, be smart make the right choices and always remember your Lord and Savior, and you will have no problems.

Always remember Grandma and poege Sampson because you know they are telling you "Happy Birthday." Remember we love you lots.

Love,
Mom(Emma Jane) and Dad (Jessie)

A big happy birthday to my grandma, **Linda Tommie**, on Dec. 29.

Love you always,
Timothy Chase Urbina



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations **Cassandra Jimmie**! You were a vision of loveliness in the Immokalee Warriors Homecoming Court as the school's Homecoming Queen. We are so proud of you!

Love,
Mom (Elsa Zamora), Mark, Alexis, Destinee and Jon

Congratulations **Carson Knaby**! You had a great first year diving. I thank the Lord for giving you the strength, both mentally and physically, to compete. You have surprised us all and made us extremely proud of you.

Carson is part of the Seahawks diving team and dives for University School. She has also received the following awards: Florida Gold Coast champion, AAU national finalist, USA Diving national age division finalist and Florida High School District 11 1A champion.

We love you,
Mom, Dad, J.J. and Lucky



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SEMINOLE POLICE DEPT. SPD's January 2010 Training Calendar

Any Tribal citizen interested in observing the various training courses delivered to Seminole Police Department officers please contact Terry Tartah in the Training Unit at (954) 967-8900.

Jan. 6-8: Crime Scene Investigations for supervisors. This training is held at the Big Cypress Public Safety Complex from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and is both classroom and practical application.

Jan. 12: Firearms Training. This training is held in Moore Haven, Fla. at the Glades County Sheriff's Office Firearm Facility from 3-11 p.m.

Jan. 20-22: Patrol Rifle Operators Course. This training is held in Moore Haven, Fla. at the Glades County Sheriff's Office Firearm Facility from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Jan. 25: Crime Scene Investigations for supervisors. This training is held at the Big Cypress Public Safety Complex from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and is both classroom and practical application.

Jan. 27: Building Clearing Tactics. This training is designed to provide the responding police officer with the necessary knowledge to safely clear an unknown structure. Location is the Big Cypress Public Safety Complex from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.



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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely on advertisement. Guy J. Seligman worked as a Certified Legal Intern in the State Attorney and Public Defender's Offices in Dade and Broward Counties. He has been in private practice for 23 years. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1987 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988.



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Princess Committee Thanked for Donations to Flandreau Indian School

BY WANDA BOWERS
Contributing Writer

The Seminole Princess Committee sends boxes throughout the year to the inner city kids who attend the Flandreau Indian High School in South Dakota. These kids are so young when they leave their families and everything they're familiar with at home to attend the school.

The student enjoyed opening the recent shipment of boxes, according to Lillian "Tweedy" Goodeagle, who works at the school. They are really appreciative of the Seminole Tribe's concern for them and their families.

This month they would like to send a special thank you to Judybill Osceola and her grandchildren, Gerret, Royce and Druitt of the Hollywood Reservation, who sent them six boxes worth of donations.

"I was just cleaning out my house," said Judybill Osceola of her donations.

The students sent pictures of them opening the do-

nation boxes, which served as a reminder of how fortunate we are. Donating just a few toys to other Indian kids touches everyone on the Princess Committee.

Donating these toys shows the smallest choice we do here at home can affect others that are less fortunate throughout the country.

If any one else plans on cleaning house, especially now at Christmas, please give any member of the Princess Committee a call or bring it by my house in the Tribal Secretary's Office or even the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters. We send things out to Flandreau all year long.

We are also collecting school supplies if you would like to donate something stop by and just drop off a pack of paper, notebook or even pencils. We'll take just about anything.

Thank you for opening up your heart,
Wanda Bowers, Chairwoman
Seminole Princess Committee



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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Castillo worked as a Public Defender in Broward County from 1990-1996 and has been in private practice for nine years. In 1995 he was voted the Trial Attorney of the year. He graduated from Capital University in 1989 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1990, Federal Bar in 1992, and the Federal Trial Bar in 1994.

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



Tribal Edition | White, H2, 2008, 22 Passenger



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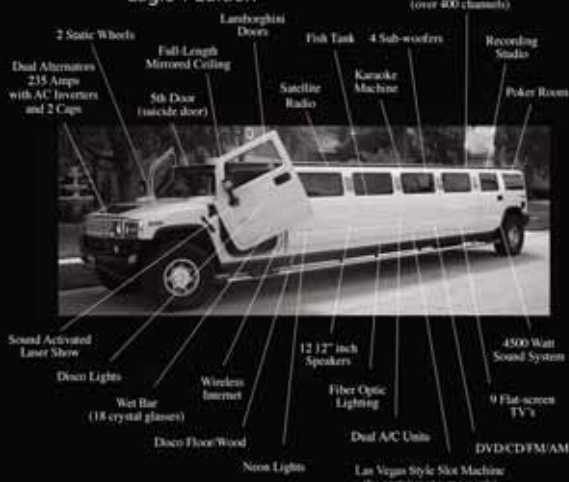


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Thanksgiving E

4-H Club Hosts Turkey Shoot, Promotes Recycling

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — A host of participants took advantage of the opportunities to win turkeys and hams for the Thanksgiving holiday at the annual Big Cypress 4-H Club Turkey Shoot, held Nov. 19 at the rodeo grounds.

Participants had a total of 10 shooting rounds to hit their target and win a prize. However, the event also took on a deeper meaning for 4-H Club members.

The club also used this event as a launching pad for its fundraising campaign, which focuses on recycling at the reservation. Proceeds and donations collected at the event will benefit the campaign.

Community member and avid environmentalist Rhonda Roff said during the Turkey Shoot there were recycling bins on hand to get the community motivated.

"It gives the kids a sense that they're making a positive contribution to a stressed environment," Roff said. "This is just the beginning of things to come with our 4-H Program."



Toi Andrews (C) prepares to engage her rifle at the annual 4-H turkey shoot held on Nov. 19 at the rodeo grounds.

Linda Billie of Big Cypress shared Roff's sentiment about the 4-H initiative. Billie added that she was proud she could support the 4-H Club, which she called "a good cause."

"The 4-H Club will learn more about the environment and maybe someday we'll get some Tribal members here who are into agriculture or want to be a scientist," Billie said.

Billie, who won a ham after accurately shooting her target, said she was pleased with the Turkey Shoot turnout.

"I come out here to shoot and I've been trying to win a shotgun for the last 20 years," Billie said jokingly. "All I get is either a ham or turkey every year ... But it's been great every year having the Turkey Shoot."

Billy Walker, who won a turkey at the shoot, said he was happy to donate some of his money to the 4-H Club's recycling campaign.

"Everybody received turkeys and hams for Thanksgiving and with that it's going to bring warmth and joy to all our Tribal families and clans for the Thanksgiving holidays," Walker said.

BC Turkey Shoot Results

Women: Rounds 1-6: 1. Rhonda Roff, 2. Linda Billie, 3. Amy Adame, 4. Mary Jene Koenes, 5. Ayze Henry, 6. Janice Osceola; Men: Rounds 1-10: 1. Drew Osceola, 2. Leo Onco, 3. Nick Andrews, 4. Willie Burkett, 5. Billy Walker, 6. John Mabry, 7. Wilse Bruised-Head, 8. Lenny Jim, 9. Joe Frank, 10. Cory Wilcox; Youth: Rounds 1-3: 1. Levi Billie, 2. Chebon Goodman, 3. Ricky Joe Alumhaugh; 50/50 Drawing: 1. Willie Burkett; Mossburg Shotgun Raffle Winner: 1. Janice Osceola.



Joe Herrera attempts a shot at the 4-H Turkey Shoot, held on Nov. 19 at the Big Cypress Rodeo Grounds.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress enjoys the Thanksgiving luncheon with the seniors on Nov. 17.

BC Seniors Enjoy Thanksgiving Luncheon

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Chairman Mitchell Cypress, who attended the Big Cypress Seniors' Thanksgiving Luncheon on Nov. 17, reflected on the holiday's history.

"When you look at it, Thanksgiving is every day because the Lord gives us another day to live," Chairman Cypress said. "You never know who will be at Thanksgiving next year. So it's a good time now to fellowship with each and enjoy the holiday."

And that the Big Cypress seniors certainly did.

Perhaps the most memorable part of the Thanksgiving luncheon was at the beginning when Rev. Bruce Pratt, of the Big Cypress First Baptist Church, was tapped to speak on behalf of the seniors.

"You may not be kicking yourself high, but you're still kicking," Rev. Pratt said. "Thanksgiving is a time we reflect and give thanks for all things. Sometimes, it's hard to do."

Rev. Pratt touched on an experience he had recently, which centered on his mother, who suffered a stroke in Ft. Myers, Fla. two weeks before the Thanksgiving luncheon occurred. He said he had to take his mother back home to Oklahoma for proper care and recovery, which was not an easy thing for him to do.

Nonetheless, Rev. Pratt added that he is thankful she's alive, despite what he admits will be a long road to recovery.

"We've all had hard times, difficult ailments and have dealt with family members in trouble," Rev. Pratt said to the seniors. "No matter what we go through, God is always there with us and for us."



Billy Walker (C) holds his daughter, Shylah, 13 months, at the preschool Thanksgiving luncheon as Bello Solano (L) and Pedro Zepeda (R) look on.

Preschoolers Enjoy Thanksgiving Luncheon

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Parents and teachers of the Big Cypress Preschool students spent quality time for the annual Thanksgiving luncheon on Nov. 20.

After a prayer by teacher Rosalyn Walker, everyone at the Community Center lined up to eat some traditional Thanksgiving and traditional Seminole food.

Douglas Zepeda, father of student Kaley, 3, said he could not have been more pleased with what transpired at the function.

"It's the first time I experienced this luncheon with the preschool," Zepeda said. "This is my daughter's first year in the preschool. She gets along with everyone and she's having a good time."

"It was excellent and everyone that put this together should be proud," Zepeda added. "We're all here for the kids and I'm glad they enjoyed themselves."



Preschool Thanksgiving luncheon attendees fill their plates up with food at the Big Cypress Community Center on Nov. 20.

BC Enjoys Thanksgiving Community Luncheon

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — It was perhaps the biggest luncheon gathering at the Big Cypress Reservation of the year thus far, as Tribal employees and citizens enjoyed the

Thanksgiving community function on Nov. 25.

To conclude the half-day of work for the Thanksgiving holiday, Tribal employees joined Tribal citizens for the luncheon, held at the Herman L. Osceola gymnasium.

The Thanksgiving community luncheon began with words and a special prayer by Big Cypress First Baptist Church Pastor Rev. Bruce Pratt.

"It's always been a good way for the Tribal leaders and people to come together with the community and break bread," Rev. Pratt said. "It's our Indian way to share what we have. We have a lot to be thankful for."

Followed by Rev. Pratt's prayer were comments from Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

"I thank everyone for coming out here for Thanksgiving," Chairman Cypress said. "All the employees have been nice to the Tribe. Without you all, we couldn't have the things we have here."

Paul "Cowbone" Buster and the Cowbone Band performed inspirational selections at the

luncheon, while Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, Big Cypress Board of Directors Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. and President Richard Bowers Jr. offered some thoughts about the



Fred and Susie Lindsey from Oklahoma pay a visit to the Big Cypress Reservation for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Thanksgiving holiday.

"Everybody, you should count your blessings," President Bowers said. "Take time out to give thanks throughout the Thanksgiving holiday. Have a great holiday. Sho-naa-bisha!"



Big Cypress First Baptist Church Rev. Bruce Pratt leads the attendees in prayer.



President Richard Bowers Jr. speaks at the Thanksgiving community luncheon.



Tribal citizens and employees from Big Cypress break bread together at the Thanksgiving community luncheon on Nov. 25.

Brighton Gives Thanks During Holiday Season

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton community gave thanks for the abundant blessings they received throughout the year during a variety of Thanksgiving celebrations held on the reservation.

Senior Thanksgiving

The seniors gave thanks for friends as they enjoyed the fellowship at their Thanksgiving luncheon on Nov. 17 at the Senior Center.

With a fall-themed tablescape, the seniors broke bread together for lunch. They enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast with all the trimmings, including the traditional Seminole favorite, sofkee.

The friends took part in a Bingo competition with several winning a chance to test their luck at another game popular with the seniors, Plinko, as the others cheered them on.

The day brought many regular Senior Center visitors, along with many new smiling faces there to share in the holiday spirit.

Preschool Thanksgiving

The preschoolers lined up one by one with their homemade paper Indian vests to welcome their family and friends to the Thanksgiving lunch, held Nov. 20 under the Brighton Preschool chickee.



Brighton's Director of Elder Affairs, Leah Minnick takes a break from work to enjoy a game of Bingo with friends.

The students took center stage and performed a variety of songs for entertainment. The younger students lead the group in singing the "Dinner Song," while the older students took the lead in the next two songs, which they sang in their native Creek language.

The little ones then raced to find their parents and family members so they could all enjoy lunch together.

Community and Employee Thanksgiving Brighton community members came together with

Brighton Tribal employees as one big family Nov. 24 to celebrate Thanksgiving at a lunch held at the Brighton Gym and sponsored by the Brighton Tribal Council Office.

"Let's be thankful that we all are here to begin with," Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. said to attendees in the packed gym.

Tables were decorated with cornucopias and pumpkin decorations as Parker Jones kept the party lively with his DJ and singing skills. Gary Sampson said the blessing before everyone made their way to the buffet line for a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

Raffle drawings were held for gift certificates provided by Brighton's Tribal Council Office to help community members and employees prepare for the holiday season.



Rachel Buxton

Preschoolers show off their handmade arts and crafts during their singing performance.



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Amir McKenzie, Avery Flowers, Kinya Tommie, Tyione Scott give thanks for family.

Fort Pierce Gives Thanks During Holiday

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

FORT PIERCE — With much to be thankful for, the Ft. Pierce community gathered together to enjoy a candlelit Thanksgiving dinner Nov. 18 at Chupco Youth Ranch.

In attendance were Hollywood/Fort Pierce Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. and Fort Pierce Liaison Sally R. Tommie.

"I am most thankful for my health and my family — the whole Tribe" Rep. Osceola said.

Rep. Osceola sent President Richard Bowers' regards for not being able to attend. He also handed out Seminole Tribe towels as a small token of the President's thankfulness for his fellow Tribal citizens.

Liaison Tommie then expressed Chairman Mitchell Cypress' holiday wishes to the community. He was unable to attend the dinner due to a briefing that ran longer than expected.

"It is such a beautiful thing to come and break bread together," Liaison Tommie said.

The community feasted on a traditional Thanksgiving meal while family members took turns at the podium saying either what they were thankful for or just little words of advice and encouragement.

"God has been good to all of us," Remus Griffin shared. "We as a family need to acknowledge it for what it is and get a little closer."

Sylvia Tommie kept with the holiday spirit and serenaded the community members with her rendition of the song "Thank You Lord."



Rachel Buxton

La'Shara Anderson (L) gives thanks for her precious Lynesis Anderson.

Naples Community Counts Their Blessings

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — The Royal Palm Room of the Naples Hilton Hotel was lavishly decorated in anticipation of the Naples Community Thanksgiving Dinner on the

evening of Nov. 15.

"As members of the Seminole Tribe we have so much to be thankful for," Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. said.

"Our forefathers sacrificed so much for us to be here and we have prospered," he continued. "While they had few material possessions, they were never poor, but rich in the things that really mattered. Family values and a strong cultural heritage were among their prized possessions and they have passed these on to us. It is our sacred duty to carry on their legacy by handing these traits down to the next generation."

A photo slide presentation provided highlights of the past year and the vast improvements to the Naples community facilities, as well as shared events and outstanding activities.

Gourmet delicacies and a bountiful buffet contributed to the festive occasion. An arts and crafts table had been prepared for the younger generation, who created their own decorations for the holiday.

From seniors to newborns, Naples community members participated in the Turkey Trot at the Vineyards Park on the evening of Nov. 18. While most walks are held in the morning, Naples prefers late afternoon or early evening in an effort to accommodate a wider cross section of their citizens.

Many of the adults are employed and the younger generation is attending school. Their presence makes a valuable contribution to the project as well as enhancing their health and lifestyle. Whole families look forward to walking around the lake on the well lit sidewalks of the park and sharing the events of their day.

Gathering in the parking lot at sundown, the walkers were a bright ray of color in their orange Turkey Trot T-shirts as they turned in pedometer readings to Health and Nutritionist Charlotte Porcario for Seminole Pathways and received their commemorative pins.



Judy Weeks

Jessica Osceola and Joseph Osceola-Lugo follow the Seminole Pathway at the Naples Turkey Trot.



Judy Weeks

Doug and Kaley Zepeda share a father-daughter moment at the Naples Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 15.

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Hollywood Community Celebrates Thanksgiving Holiday

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Thanksgiving holiday came a little early for Hollywood Tribal community members on Nov. 17.

In celebration of the day, the community gathered to celebrate and give thanks at the gym with friends, family and entertainment on hand to enjoy.

"As I look around this room, this is a family and we have this chance together and hopefully we will be able to come together as a family again," Hollywood Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. expressed to the community and guests in a moment of thankfulness.

Hollywood Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. also spoke a few encouraging words, before President Richard Bowers Jr. addressed the gathering.

"We are so blessed by the creator God, and this is a time when we should think about the people that are not blessed," President Bowers said. "It is always better to give rather than receive as the good book says and it is what we should always remember this time of the year and every day as well."

Tribal elder Paul "Cowbone" Buster of Hollywood gave a musical performance accompanied by his band.



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. talks about the family and the meaning behind the Thanksgiving holiday.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Jimmie Hank Osceola, Brady Latchford and Kevin Osceola enjoy the Thanksgiving dinner gathering, held Nov. 17 in the gym.



Chris C. Jenkins

Darrell Tiger plays with a tabletop turkey decoration filled with candy.

Hollywood Preschoolers Celebrate Thanksgiving

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter



Chris C. Jenkins

Gabriella Diaz, 3, shows off her handmade turkey.

HOLLYWOOD — The preschool youth and parents of the Hollywood community got in the Thanksgiving spirit at the Seminole Gym Nov. 24.

In a small luncheon gathering, organized through the Preschool and Parent's Committee, the 2-4-year-old students showed off their artistic sides, creating tabletop and other decorative holiday-themed creations.

According to Hollywood Preschool Parent Involvement Coordinator Dawna Bell, the children began making their creative projects at the beginning of the month. She said the arts and crafts the preschoolers make at the annual event helps to educate them about the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

"This helps put them in the spirit and helps let them know what this holiday is about and what they should really be thankful for," Bell explained.

Father Curtis Osceola said he enjoyed the day with daughter, Suzannah, 4.

"I like it because she is getting more of an understanding about the holiday and has come home over the years talking to me about what she has learned in school," Osceola said.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior Sally Billie looks for the winning numbers in a game of Bingo during the Thanksgiving party on Nov. 18 at the Senior Center

Seniors Gear Up for Thanksgiving Holiday at Party

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The seniors of the community got in the spirit of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday with a party at the Senior Center Nov. 18.

In celebrating the topics of gratefulness and thankfulness, those in attendance at the event had the chance to explain what these words meant to them.

"I am most thankful for the Tribe and the people supporting me," said Hollywood Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. "We are just now going into the holiday season and I am so glad to be around all our family and friends."

Tribal seniors including Paul "Cowbone" Buster and Jimmie Hank Osceola also attended the party and said they had plenty to be thankful for.

"I am thankful for God and the many things he has blessed us with; my health, the Seminole Tribe and a beautiful day are all important," Buster said.

Osceola expressed similar sentiments.

"God has given us another year and it is a tradition of course among Indians and non-Indians," Osceola said. "I like this time of year for getting together and enjoying each other because a lot of seniors from BC, Brighton and other areas are not really able to any more."

Party attendees enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving meal, played several games of Bingo, and several lucky winners left with door prizes.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior Paul "Cowbone" Buster talks to Seminole Broadcasting about what he is grateful for with the Thanksgiving holiday approaching

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