



Newly crowned Miss Seminole Princess Cassandra Jimmie and Jr. Miss Seminole Princess Lorelei Tommie soak in the moment as outgoing Jr. Miss Stevie Brantley and Miss Seminole Brittany Smith adjust their tiaras.



Chris C. Jenkins

## Miss, Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Crowned in 53rd Edition of Pageant

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The journey toward becoming the Tribe's next representative in royalty took place in the 53rd annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant among dozens of eager family and friends at the Hollywood Headquarters Auditorium. Cassandra Jimmie and Lorelei Tommie claimed the crowns as the new Miss and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole July 31. Both were among seven contestants overall from four of the reservations with the theme pageant title, Clans - Our Family, Our Children, Our Future. "I felt so excited and my heart was racing. I felt so overjoyed," said Jimmie, an 18-year-old student at Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Orlando from the Immokalee Reservation. "Now I just want to represent the Tribe to the best of my ability." The experience also proved equally surreal for incoming 15-year-old Big Cypress resident and Jr.

Miss Florida Seminole Tommie after trying two previous times for the crown. "I thought it was a mistake at first," Bird Clan member Tommie said. "I really started preparing hard this year and really wanted it. I can not wait to announce myself as part of where I am from." The accomplishments of Jimmie and Tommie ended a two-year run of Miss Princess reigns from the Brighton Reservation. The contestants focused on three areas: traditional clothing, impromptu question answer and a talent portion which included: poetry, legend/storytelling and traditional demonstrations such as basket and shaker making. "It is amazing we [as a Tribe] are still continuing with this 53 years later," said Wanda Bowers, Princess Committee chairwoman. "To be Ms./Jr. Seminole you have to have heart. It is not just your reservation, but the entire Tribe you are representing."

The path to the coronation officially began mid-

week on July 28 with orientation, dinners, rehearsals and photos. Judging also began for each contestant during this time. Pageant judges and newly crowned Miss Florida U.S.A Lissette Garcia and Dakota Brant Miss Indian World of the Mohawk Nation Turtle Clan of the Six Nations Grand River Territory said a number of factors held importance to them throughout the week in helping determine their choice. "It was an exciting experience," Garcia said. "I was looking for someone [as the new royalty] that was down to earth, humble and would appreciate being the Seminole Princess." "I also gained a lot more knowledge of the Seminoles especially as a foundation of this state," Garcia continued. "I was looking for someone who knew who they were as a person," Brant said. "A girl that wanted to learn was important too."

♦ Please see PAGEANT on page A7

## New Big Cypress Council Rep. Sworn In



Chris C. Jenkins

Incumbent Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Manuel Mondo Tiger, right, is sworn into office in front of Seminole Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs Superintendent Keith Neves, far left, and event emcee Moses Jumper Jr., second from left, during induction ceremonies at the Herman L. Osceola Gym Aug. 13. Other elected officials, as well as family and friends joined Tiger for the gathering.

## SPD Citizens Police Academy Celebrates Graduation of First Series

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Teaching about law enforcement and police work perspective, the SPD Citizens Police Academy reaches out and offers citizens an opportunity to gain a better understanding about the welfare and safety of their community. "Our goal is to provide a glimpse behind the scenes of law enforcement with a program developed to build trust and respect," said Citizens Police Academy Coordinator Sgt. George Gonzalez. "We need your commitment to make your community a safer place to live and raise your families. Creating a balance between authority and responsibility establishes a strong bond between the police force and the community it serves."

The third class of the SPD Citizens Police Academy graduated at the Big Cypress SPD Headquarters on the evening of July 15. The initial 10-week course enrollment included 14 candidates, and resulted in 10 graduates. The course comprised a three-hour session per week for nine weeks with a new instructor each time and a final graduation event. Big Cypress Board of Directors Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. assisted Sgt. Gonzalez in distribution of diplomas to Candy Cypress, Sara Osceola, Mornin Osceola, Eldeen Tecumseh, Sheila Billie Bevenue, Sue Jane Cypress, Shelli Mae Osceola, Vera Herrera, Hilda Lozano and Naji Tobias. "Our own people want to serve and protect," said Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. "Knowl-

♦ Please see ACADEMY on page 2A

## Tribal Citizens Attend 17th Annual Wellness Conference

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**MARCO ISLAND** — Each year the Seminole Wellness Conference gets bigger and better. The 2010 17th annual Conference, held at the Marco Island Hilton from July 18-23, was no exception. With an enthusiastic crowd coming from all the Seminole Reservations and communities, the participants numbered more than 400 during the week-long event. The extraordinary agenda ensured that everyone found countless items of interest. The term "wellness" covers a broad spectrum of topics such as physical, mental and spiritual wholeness. As director of the Seminole Family Services Department, Helene Buster coordinated representatives from Recovery, Health, Fitness, Culture, Education and Recreation Departments, as well as Tribal citizen volunteers to implement scores of activities and presentations to assist, support and inspire personal wellness. "This year the focus is on you," said Buster. "Seminole in Recovery put together this conference and that means you! Like a well-trained army, strength comes in support and numbers. Wellness takes in a broad expanse of the human experience. Choices, self-control, relationships and respect affect your personal, family, work, social and financial life. We are all survivors in one way or another."

"Loss, grief, abuses and addiction take on many forms and we must be strong to deal with these traumatic events in our lives and prevent them from adversely shaping our future," she continued. "Don't be deceived by thinking that addiction is all about drugs and alcohol. When you allow something to take control of your actions and thoughts, you are flirting with addiction. Diabetes, obesity, smoking, gambling, physical and financial abuse are just a few of the dangerous traps that wait to catch us."

The conference kicked into high gear on July 19 when many of the Tribal leaders participated in opening commentaries, gave personal testimony and encouragement. In summary, President Richard Bowers Jr. said, "Recognize yourself during the presentations. We are all family and need to take care of each other. That is why we are here. We are fighting an up hill battle of recovery for our culture, language, family relations, elders and abusers. Be supportive and include those around you in fellowship. Rehabilitation is something that you must work to achieve, and remember, you only get back what you put into it."



Judy Weeks

From left, Julie Toma, Edna McDuffie and Barbara Billie share important health information during their presentation of "Making the Connection."



Judy Weeks

Lions, tigers and clowns roamed through the Big Top at the Wellness Conference Banquet.

The guest speakers focused upon health issues, child welfare, substance abuse, understanding Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and other childhood disorders, financial stability, community and family involvement, mentoring, recovery, grief, gambling, spiritual wellness, self-help groups, warning signs and relapse. The motivational speakers came from across the nation and had been carefully selected based on their expertise on specific topics and past presentations. For many this was not their first appearance at the Seminole Wellness Conferences, but their material was fresh and innovative and they quickly identified with their audience. This year's line up included Doug Cox, John Bird, Jeff Iserson, Kristi Hill, Dr. Bartlette, Dr. Schwarz Cohen, Sonya Bealand, Rick Benson, Dan Kirschenbaum, Charlie Tiger and Geraldine Osceola. Past conferences have made constructive use of Tribal citizens whenever possible, but this year their role was expanded to include group sessions with both men and women. Geraldine Osceola concentrated on self-help groups and the various stages of recovery, chemical dependency counseling

♦ Please see WELLNESS on page 2A





Judy Weeks  
The tall lady on stilts dances with a little friend at the Wellness Conference Banquet.

## ◆ WELLNESS

From page 1A

and continuing sobriety. Charlie Tiger examined the pitfalls of compulsive gambling and the chain reaction of its consequences.

Native American John Bird tackled the difficult topic of spirituality being challenged and covered up by addictions.

"We are born with our culture and heritage beliefs," he said. "It is important that we nurture these and draw upon the strength and protection that we derive from our creator. According to an old saying, 'To err is human, but to forgive is divine.'"

"A basic ingredient of the recovery process is to forgive oneself for past indiscretions, recognize your problems, make responsible choices and develop self-respect," Bird continued. "You must love yourself before you can share your love with others."

Among the most outstanding presentations was the theatrical skit by Allied Health and Seminole Health and Fitness Departments. Playing the roles of the heart, kidneys, liver and pancreas, staff members acted out the effects of diabetes, smoking, dietary risks, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, abuse of prescription drugs and lack of exercise. "Making the Connection" was a big hit with the audience and drove home the seriousness

of poor health choices before addressing responsible food selection and portions.

While the adults attended seminars, the younger generation was divided into two groups. The 5- to 8-year-olds attended art and craft classes, talked about health and exercise and discussed responsible behavior. Nine- to 16-year-olds participated in advanced group discussions on eating habits, peer pressure, pitfalls of addictions, health issues, respect and cultural awareness. Both groups took part in field trips to amusement parks, movies and fitness activities.

The highlight of each afternoon was the personal testimonies provided by Seminoles in Recovery. The audience quickly identified with each of the speakers, shared in the pain of their problems and the stressful transition to recovery. These presentations are often quite emotional for both the speakers and listeners but provide an overwhelming feeling of support and awareness.

"Our goal did not include breaking records but this year we exceeded our expectations on many counts," Buster said. "Getting up for a 6 a.m. walk on the beach is no easy task, but we had the largest group participation at any of our conferences. We started out on Monday with 104 people and the number just kept growing until we reached 114. We had a total of 160 people taking part and the least number was 93. The most important

part of this is the fact that we finished with a strong count."

"Each of our seminars took place with a full audience and the immediate feedback has been extraordinary," continued Buster. "Evening attendance at the AA meetings, women's group and culture has escalated from previous years and our closing sobriety count down is 503 years, six months and six days. It is important to note that you made these things happen and you are why we are here! The focus is on you!"

The closing dinner party took place on the night of July 22 at 7 p.m. and revolved around a circus theme. Helene and Andy Buster greeted guests in red and black tuxedos with top hats as ringmasters and conference attendees arrived in circus garb

or their evening attire. Makeup artists, jugglers, a lady on stilts, a magician, balloon artist and contortionist created the atmosphere of a circus big top. Following an exquisite buffet, the participants joined in the floorshow and proved that sobriety can be fun.



Judy Weeks  
Chairman Mitchell Cypress joined staff members of the 17th annual Wellness Conference at the circus-themed dinner banquet.



Judy Weeks  
Herbert Jim shares the importance of culture and spiritualism with the young Tribal citizens.



Judy Weeks  
During testimony, Harry Billie gives insight into his past, present and struggle to achieve sobriety.



Judy Weeks  
Blackfoot motivational speaker John Bird explains that one must love and respect himself before interacting positively with others.



Judy Weeks  
Trail Liaison William Osceola and Norman "Skeeter" Bowers discuss the topics presented at the Wellness Conference.

## ◆ ACADEMY

From page 1A

edge is powerful and this program has given them an opportunity to understand what kind of situations come before our police officers and the reason for their reactions."

A new topic was introduced at each session that included ways to apprehend an offender, self-protection, a Taser demonstration, the use of police dogs, MILO simulation, a mock crime scene simulation and witness observation training.

"The enthusiasm of the participants in this class was astounding," said SPD Chief William Latchford. "The more they learned, the more they wanted to know. Three of these academy classes have been offered by SPD, with the first two taking place in Hollywood. This is our largest enrollment to date and following the Big Cypress graduation, the goal of the program is to reach out to each of the reservations."

The graduation ceremony got underway with an opening prayer by Joe Osceola Sr. and Tori Osceola sang the National Anthem. A short video presentation recapped the students' experiences during the training course and enlightened the audience on the program curriculum.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the graduates addressed the assembly expressing their satisfaction with the program, respect

for the dedication of the officers, the SWAT Team and a better understanding of the methods used during domestic violence and armed conflicts.

The graduates and their guests attended a generous barbecue buffet following the ceremony.



Judy Weeks  
Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr., right, assists SPD Sgt. George Gonzalez in the presentation of diplomas to graduates of the SPD Citizens Police Academy.



Judy Weeks  
Graduates of the SPD Citizens Police Academy in Big Cypress received their diplomas after completing a nine-week law enforcement course.



Rachel Buxton  
Javaris Johnson gets a little exercise jumping rope during the Recreation Department's class.



Rachel Buxton  
Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. speaks to high school students on Tribal government.



Rachel Buxton  
Third graders see the K-9 dog in action.

## ◆ FAMILY

From page 1A

roduced a little Latin flavor into the group by teaching the merengue dance.

"We've done it with the adults, the children, we've done it with the high school students and it looks like it's working," Perez said about the dance. "It's getting them to liven up a little bit and bring their personalities out."

The organizers added new teachings for the older youth this year, including a youth panel comprised of Tribal citizens D'Anna

Osceola, Jarrid Smith and Brittany Smith. The youth panel spoke to students from the older grades about goals, dreams and opportunities. They gave personal examples and told personal stories to help mentor the youth.

Another addition to the conference was a lesson given by Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. on how Tribal government works. Rep. Bowers spoke to the sixth to 12th graders on the importance of knowing how government, particularly their Tribal government, runs.

"The high school people are going to be eligible to take part in selecting these people

somewhere down the road very soon," Rep. Bowers said about electing Tribal officials. "I want them to know that regardless of who's on the Tribal government or Tribal council the people are the bosses."

Each year the conference continues to grow with more and more families attending. With the growth the conference has become known as the Brighton Family Conference as it is no longer just geared toward the Tribal youth. "We're trying to keep the family unity there," Sweat said. "As the children go to class, the parents go to class too."

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

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

Subscription rate is \$35 per year by mail. Make  
checks payable to The Seminole Tribune, 3560  
N. State Rd. 7, Hollywood, FL 33021  
Phone: (954) 985-5702  
Fax: (954) 965-2937  
Or subscribe online at  
www.seminoletribe.com

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

•  
Issue: September 30, 2010  
Deadline: September 13, 2010

•  
Please note: Submissions that come past  
deadline will be posted in the following issue.

Advertising:  
Advertising rates along with sizes and other  
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Postmaster:  
Please send address changes to

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

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# CommunityA

## Big Cypress Tribal Council Election Results Announced



Chris C. Jenkins

**Tribal Council Secretary Priscilla Sayen announces the official voting results of the special election for the office of the Big Cypress Reservation Tribal Council Representative on Aug. 6. Among the nine candidates running for the position, Manuel Mondo Tiger won with a total of 76 votes (73 from the Big Cypress and Immokalee communities and three by absentee vote).**

## Tribal Council Holds Meeting in Big Cypress

**BY NAJI TOBIAS**  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** – The Seminole Tribe of Florida’s Tribal Council convened at the Big Cypress Community Center for its monthly meeting and passed 30 resolutions, including:

Resolution 13: Service line agreement between Centurylink and Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of a telephone line to the Sports Complex Building – Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation.

Resolution 17: 2010 lease agreement between Peterson’s Harley Davidson of Miami and the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Resolution 22: Approval of agreement with Native American Construction, LLC for construction of the east parking lot expansion at the Seminole Indian Casino – Immokalee.

Resolution 23: Ratification of the Seminole Tribe of Florida filming permission letter granting Rakontur Short Form, LLC

permission to film the Action Fight League MMA at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino on the Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation.

Resolution 32: Seminole Brands, L.L.C. and Cherokee Tobacco Company LLC trademark license agreement with Seminole Tribe of Florida to license the mark “Seminole” regarding the manufacture and sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products.

Resolution 33: CBS Outdoor Inc., bulletin advertising agreement for Billie Swamp Safari.

Resolution 35: The formation of a Tribal truancy committee and policy to address truancy in schools Tribalwide.

Resolution 37: First amendment to lease-industrial commercial between the Seminole Tribe of Florida D/B/A Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino – Hollywood (tenant) and the Guardian Life Insurance Co. of America (landlord); limited waiver of sovereign immunity; ratification.

## Seminole Tribe and Okeechobee County Keep Western Heritage Alive at National Cattle Drive

**BY RACHEL BUXTON**  
Staff Reporter

**OKEECHOBEE** — Cowboys, cowgirls and spectators lined the streets of downtown Okeechobee to take part in the National Day of the American Cowboy cattle drive on July 24.

Each year the Seminole Tribe is a major sponsor of the event, continuing its longstanding relationship with Okeechobee County, as well as maintaining its cultural heritage.

“They sponsor the wagons and all the cattle that will be in the cattle drive,” said Dennis Deveaugh, manager of the livestock wagons, carriages and horses. “They were driving cattle here in Florida long before anybody else was, so they are the original cowboy.”

The cattle drive began at the west end of town with politicians, community members, and members of the Cattlemen’s Association herding more than 50 head of cattle, and ending at the Agri Civic Center, where vendors were set up selling western knick-knacks.

Shootout demonstrations were held before the ranch rodeo kicked off bringing riders from various ranches.

The National Day of the Cowboy organization was founded in 2005 and is a nonprofit. The resolution that was started to help preserve America’s cowboy heritage was first passed by the U.S. Senate in July 2005.

This year marked the organization’s sixth annual National Day of the Cowboy with towns throughout the country taking part in the festivities with arts, celebrations, gatherings, rodeos and community activities.



Rachel Buxton

The Seminole Tribe of Florida sponsored the old time carriages in the national cattle drive.



Rachel Buxton

Barbara Billie represents the Seminole Tribe in the National Day of the American Cowboy cattle drive.

## Seminole Casinos Partner Toward Canine Adoptions



Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

Left photo, Jennifer Brant, of Sunrise, shows off the newest addition to her family, the newly adopted 2-month-old Labrador retriever Jasmine, at the Hollywood Classic Casino Aug. 5. Her pet was one of many breeds of homeless dogs available as part of the three Broward County Seminole Casinos’ unique Big Dogg a Day public adoptions campaign, with the Humane Society of Broward County, Broward Animal Care and the Florida Humane Society. The Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and the Coconut Creek Casino also partook in the event held Aug. 4-6 and collected food and toys Aug. 9-13. Right photo, SMP reporter Briana Abittan, left, interviews Lisa Mendheim, public relations coordinator for the Broward County’s Animal Care & Regulations Divisions.



Rachel Buxton

Roger Smith, center, rides horseback representing the original cowboy.

## Best of Best Entertainers Go Head to Head in Annual Seminole Superstar Finals



Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

Left photo, Tiffany Rosario, middle, of the Seminole Classic Casino Hollywood, is on stage with fellow competitors and supporters Aug. 9 after winning the grand prize of \$5,000 in the annual Seminole Superstar Finals which celebrated the Tribe’s best in entertainment. Rosario was among six finalists in several genres including song, comedy, and magic from each of the Seminole casinos to partake in the event held at the Hard Rock Live. The evening also featured a special weight loss award presented to the Tampa Hard Rock employees, as well as a Michael Jackson tribute. Photo above, the judges critique ardently in “American Idol” style.



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# Hard Rock and Classic Show Off Talents for Sixth Year



Chris C. Jenkins

Tiffany Rosario of the Hollywood Seminole Classic Casino is the winner of the Seminole Classic Casino Talent Show. Rosario won first place prize, \$2,000, and was among nine other acts to perform July 19 at the Seminole Paradise Live.



Chris C. Jenkins

Hard Rock employee Erik Rodriguez accepts his \$2,000 first place check as part of the sixth annual Team Member Seminole Hard Rock Talent Show.



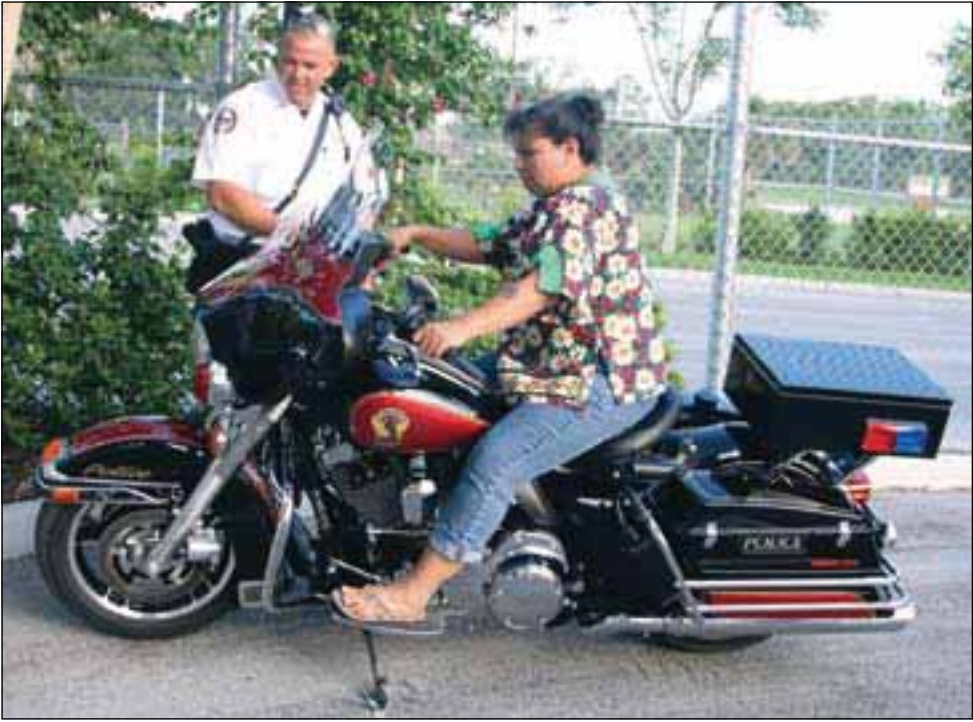
Naji Tobias

# SPD Citizens Police Academy's Class Features Motorcycle Presentation

Left photo, Seminole Police Department Sgt. James Boudreaux speaks to Tribal academy students on June 21, at the SPD's Public Safety Building, about the new Harley Davidson motorcycle that SPD purchased recently. The 2010 Harley Davidson Road King-Police Edition bike features the red, yellow, black and white Seminole colors – a combination not seen on any other motorcycle on the road today. "The whole key behind the paint was to better represent the Seminole Tribe of Florida," Sgt. Boudreaux said. "Here at SPD, we take great pride in representing our Tribal members in everything we do." Bottom left, Sgt. Boudreaux gets ready to take off on the Harley. Below, Sgt. Boudreaux, left, shows Big Cypress Tribal academy student Mornin Osceola how the SPD motorcycle plays a role in the department's operations.



Naji Tobias



Naji Tobias

# Hip-Hop Artist Stephen Billie Aims to Become the First-Ever Successful Seminole Rapper

BY NAJI TOBIAS  
Staff Reporter

BOCA RATON — On June 28, Tribal citizen and aspiring Seminole hip-hop artist Stephen Billie put in some quality time at his home-built music studio, creating some songs in his recording booth.

While in the studio room, Billie, 24, reminisced upon his childhood upbringing and how he used it to fuel his drive to become the Tribe's first-ever commercially successful rapper.

Overcoming a series of tragedies and setbacks in his young life, Billie translated the experiences into his music.

In what's perhaps his first love, as far as career aspirations are concerned, Billie also logged in some time creating a few of his own beats and sounds – something not everyone does in the music industry today.

Recently, Billie enlisted former Fat Boys rapper Prince Markie D to work with him on his budding rap career at Circle House Studios in Miami, a popular stu-

dio regularly used by some of the music industry's top artists, including Alicia Keys, DJ Khaled and Rick Ross.

The two met in 2008, shortly after Billie competed in the Seminole Star Search competition at the Seminole Hard Rock in Hollywood.

Currently, the two collaborate at the Miami studio on a weekly basis, as Billie strives to complete his first full-length album for commercial release in the not-too-distant future.

As of this moment, Billie has not been signed to a major label record deal. However, he hopes it could happen at some point.

**Question:** You say you're trying to become the first-ever successful Seminole rapper in history. As an aspiring rapper, how does that feel for you?

**Stephen Billie:** I don't know; it's just that

somebody has to do it. We have a message and a way of life that people in the outside world don't know about. And the people that do know about us just know about the Hard Rock and that we get money. I think it's insulting to us because it's not just about the money. It's about everything we've been through on the reservations. People assume we're just making money and living this wonderful life, but really, it's not like that. There's a whole different side to it. And that's what's driving me to be successful rapper, I think.

**Question:** What's your message going to be about as you try to break into the rap industry?

**Stephen Billie:** It's going to be about the life of a Seminole Indian. It's going to be about my experiences, what I've been through, my influences in my music and what I listened to when I was growing up. I listen to all different kinds of music, not just rap. I also listen to R & B, country, pop and 50s music. My dad, Steve Osceola, listened to Lynyrd Skynyrd when I was young. My mom, Rita Billie, listened to Alanis Morissette. All these different artists and genres I listened to in my life, you'll see that in my music.

**Question:** Talk about how you began to work on your music.

**Stephen Billie:** I'm going to be honest with you, I didn't know computer software as far as music was concerned until I found out about beats, production and instrumentals on the Internet. Before that, all I knew was about my CD recording and DJ thing. The first thing I knew about computers and music recording, I learned to record my laptop to the CD recorder and freestyle on other people's beats. Then, I wanted to have my own studio in my apartment.

**Question:** You spend a lot of time using your studio equipment. With a home-built booth room in place, explain how all that helped your drive.

**Stephen Billie:** I wanted to build me a studio in my room. And then one day, when I went to a music store, I told someone I want to make beats. A guy told me I need to get a laptop, a piano, a DJ interface where I could plug my microphone

and headphones and a Pro Tools device. After that, I wanted to start recording in the studio.

**Question:** You credit Carradine Billie and Markell Billie, both of the Seminole rap group Savage Money, as the first Seminole rappers in the Tribe's history. How do you plan to separate yourself from them?

**Stephen Billie:** Carradine and Markell are both my cousins; they've been doing it since 2000. What I want to do different is take my talents worldwide, Seminole style.

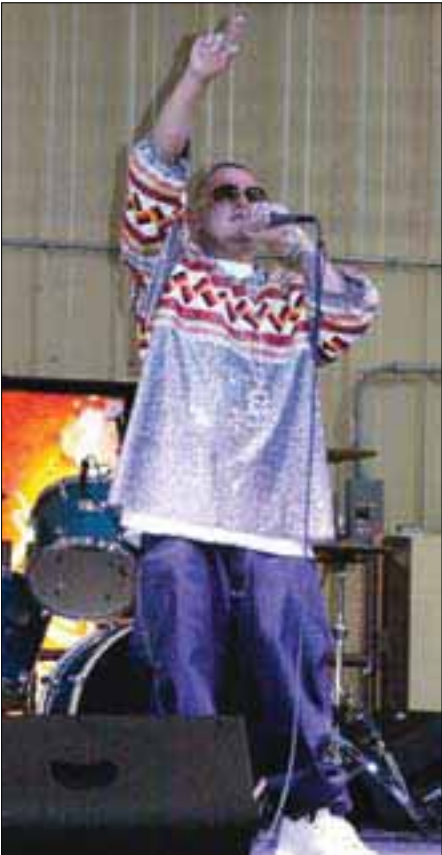
**Question:** How do you plan to move forward from this point on?

**Stephen Billie:** I want the people out there to know everything about my life. I want them to feel my pain. I want to be a rapper that could relate to everybody, regardless of where at in their lives. As long as I could do that, then I'll be alright.



Naji Tobias

Tribal hip-hop artist Stephen Billie is in his home studio on June 28, creating some beats for an as-yet-untitled track to be placed on a future album. To date, Billie has produced six Tribe-exclusive albums, which include "Rez World Wrecker" and "Dem SFL (Seminole For Life) Boys" – his first two album recordings.



Naji tobias

Stephen Billie performs several of his original rap tracks at the Seminole Arts and Music Festival on May 1 in Big Cypress, including one of his favorites, "I'm a Seminole."

# GUY J. SELIGMAN

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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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Naji Tobias  
Seminole Fire Rescue firefighters test out the water hose in the live training drill conducted on June 16 at the Fire Rescue's training ground facility in Big Cypress.



Naji Tobias  
With temperatures approaching 100 degrees, the firefighters take a break to cool off.



Naji Tobias  
In the Seminole Fire Rescue's first live fire training on June 16, firefighters clad in bunker gear, safely and effectively put out a fire at the department's fire simulation building – a two-story facility that has two doors and one window.

## Seminole Fire Rescue Breaks Ground in Live Fire Training Session



Naji Tobias  
A group of firefighters from the Seminole Fire Rescue enter the department's two-story simulation building, where a fire awaits them to put out. In the simulation building is a supply of hay, which sits atop three stacks of wooden pallets. Just before the firefighters rush into the building an ignition officer sets the hay on fire.



Naji Tobias  
The firefighters get ready for the simulation.



Naji Tobias  
Two firefighters put on their gloves as they prepare for training.



Naji Tobias  
The firefighters remove protective gear after successfully completing the live training.



Naji Tobias  
Captain Michael Hopkins gives an overview of how the Tribal department's personnel accountability system works.

## Big Cypress Seniors Invite Various Departments for the Annual Services Round Up



Naji Tobias  
Tribal Senior Joe Osceola Sr., left, receives a generator pamphlet from Big Cypress Building and Grounds Administrative Services Generator Service Advisor Scott Calvert.



Naji Tobias  
Big Cypress Wellness Nutritionist Jillian Guralski, left, hands Tribal Senior Mary Jane Robbins a to-go container and a diabetes nutrition placemat at the Big Cypress Senior Services Round Up.



Naji Tobias  
Tribal senior Louise Billie, left, shows Big Cypress Family Services Employee Linda Fleischman her newly printed identification card, created by the Tribe's Information Technology Department.



Naji Tobias  
Tribal Senior Ginnie Bowers, left, receives an informational lesson from Big Cypress Administrative Projects representatives Denise Freund and Nery Mejicano on how to obtain a passport and renew a driver's license at the Big Cypress Senior Services Round Up on July 27.

## Seminole Moments Teaches Fort Pierce Tribal Community About Alligator Wrestling



David Baum  
Fort Pierce Tribal citizens and employees gathered around the table in the cabin at the Chupco Ranch Aug. 4 and got a lesson from Everett Osceola on the history of alligator wrestling within the Seminole Tribe. Osceola explained how in the early years Seminoles used alligators for food and armor as a way for survival. He then led the listeners into the early 1900s when Seminoles began wrestling alligators for tourists as a means of financial survival. -Rachel Buxton



# PRINCESS PAGEANT



Chris C. Jenkis

Painter and artist Nick San Pedro, right, offers former Miss Seminole Princess Priscilla Sayen a custom-painted portrait of her from 1964.



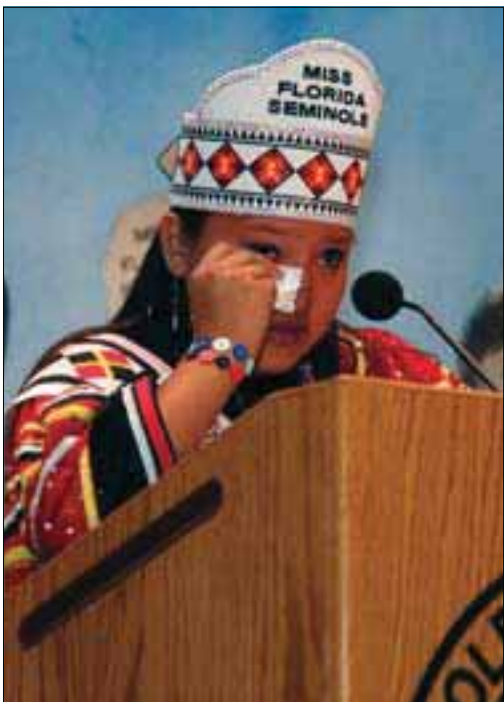
Chris C. Jenkis

Seminole R&B artist Spencer Battiest entertains the guests with some of his original songs.



Chris C. Jenkis

Christine McCall, far left, coordinates routines and activities with the pageant contestants prior to the big day.



Chris C. Jenkis

An emotional Brittany Smith, the outgoing 2009-10 Miss Florida Seminole, says her goodbyes during the Pageant ceremony.



Chris C. Jenkis

Jr. Miss Seminole and Miss Seminole Princess pageant contestants and judges together at the pageant dinner.



Chris C. Jenkis

Former Jr. Miss Stevie Brantley, right, helps the newly crowned Jr. Miss Lorelei Tommie with her sash.



Chris C. Jenkis

Tribal Council Chairman Mitchell Cypress, far left, and Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr., far right, joined by the newly crowned Jr. Miss Seminole Princess Lorelei Tommie and Miss Seminole Princess Cassandra Jimmie.

## ◆ PAGEANT

From page 1A

Outgoing 2009-10 Miss Florida Seminole Brittany Smith said her time as princess provided several memories including traveling and the opportunity to meet other Tribal youth and teens.

“To hear the youth in some of these high schools made me realize how fortunate we, as a Tribe, really are,” Smith said. “Our kids often overlook what our Tribe has been through in the past.”

“Be true to who you are and be true to yourself,” the sophomore architecture student at Indian River State College said to the new sovereigns.

The evening also included musical performances by Native flutist Sonny Nevaquaya and Seminole R&B artist Spencer Battiest, as well as Tribal Council and Board appearances.



Chris C. Jenkis

Princess Pageant Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers, middle, with the new Princess royalty, Cassandra Jimmie, left, and Lorelei Tommie, right.



Chris C. Jenkis

Miss Indian World Dakota Brant, left, poses with Miss Florida Seminole 2009-2010 Brittany Smith.



Chris C. Jenkis

Tribal royalty from the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma along with, third from left, Miss Seminole Princess Brittany Smith, Miss Indian World Dakota Brant, Miss Florida U.S.A Lissette Garcia and Little Ms. Seminole Elle Thomas, bottom.



Chris C. Jenkis

Jr. Miss and Miss Florida Seminole pageant contestants together during the ceremony.



Chris C. Jenkis

Jr. Miss Seminole contestant Brooke Osceola demonstrates the process of shaker making during the talent portion of the pageant.



Chris C. Jenkis

The newly crowned Jr. Miss and Miss Florida Seminole with family members.



Chris C. Jenkis

Miss Florida Seminole 2009-2010 Brittany Smith, fourth from the left, poses with pageant contestants at the Hard Rock Cafe in Hollywood.



## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

### Lowered Seasonal Forecasts Can Still Mean a Busy Storm Year

BY CARL FOWLER

Emergency Management Coordinator  
Brighton, Fort Pierce & Tampa Reservations

In early August, the federal government's official weather agency lowered its forecast for the number of tropical storms and hurricanes expected this year. The forecast, issued by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), now calls for 14-20 named storms with top winds of 39 mph or higher, 8 to 12 hurricanes with top winds of 74 mph or higher, and 4 to 6 that could be major hurricanes with winds of at least 111 mph. (These numbers include the storms that have already occurred.)

The good news is that these numbers are down slightly from the May forecast NOAA issued calling for 14-13 named storms, 8-14 hurricanes and 3-7 major hurricanes.

However, the revised forecast doesn't mean the coast is clear. The most active part of the Atlantic hurricane season, which extends from June 1 to Nov. 30, is in full swing. "All indications are for considerable activity during the next several months," said Dr. Gerry Bell, a lead seasonal hurricane forecaster with NOAA. "As we've seen in past years, storms can come on quickly during the peak months of the season. There remains a high likelihood that the season could be very active, with the potential of being one of the more active on record."

Along with this warning, it is important to remember Hurricane Andrew, which made landfall first in South Florida and then in Louisiana in late August 1992, was the first hurricane to form that year. It also was one of only three Category 5 hurricanes to strike the mainland during the 20th century.

Just before Andrew formed thousands of miles away in the eastern Atlantic and then grew to a powerful hurricane, plenty of people in South Florida were convinced they were getting a pass for that hurricane season. As is now known, they couldn't have been

more wrong. Despite the reduced forecast for this year, NOAA is so confident about their latest numbers that it gives them a 70 percent chance of occurring.

Despite its staff of highly qualified scientists and meteorologists, there are some who question the accuracy of NOAA's seasonal forecasts. Last year, the agency predicted 14 named storms, 4-7 hurricanes and 1-3 major hurricanes. The actual numbers for 2009 were 9, 3 and 2, respectively.

Emergency management personnel rely upon seasonal forecasts as more of a planning tool for how active those months from June through November will be, rather than focusing on the actual numbers. Seasonal forecasts are based on current conditions in the ocean and in the atmosphere in addition to historical data from previous years.

NOAA, in issuing its revised forecast, also cautioned that the conditions are very favorable for storm development. A major factor is a weather phenomenon called La Niña.

In a La Niña year, there is lower wind shear over the Atlantic Basin, allowing storms to organize and grow. It's the opposite of an El Niño year when there are strong winds in the upper atmosphere over the Atlantic Basin that often tear storms apart.

According to NOAA, another reason to expect an active hurricane season is the warmer-than-usual water in the tropical Atlantic and Caribbean. NOAA also cites the continued presence of something called the tropical multi-decadal signal that appeared in 1995. Since then, it has produced favorable ocean and atmospheric conditions, leading to more active hurricane seasons.

With all of this in mind, the Emergency Management Department urges all Tribal citizens and employees to prepare for the possibility of severe weather this year from a tropical storm or hurricane. Taking the time now to prepare for these perils and other emergencies as well will help to successfully meet the challenges that these events can bring.

Be sure to obtain the All Hazards Guide that is available at all Tribal communities, and visit the Department of Emergency Management website, <http://www.sto-femd.com>, or call the department in Hollywood, 954-966-6300, ext. 11773, Big Cypress, 863-983-2150, ext. 12740, or Brighton, 863-357-7620, ext. 15805. For non-life threatening calls about emergencies, please call 1-800-617-7514 outside of normal business hours.



## Brighton Water Study Brings Useful Information

BY LISA MEDAY  
Water Quality Specialist

*The Seminole Tribe Brighton Water Use Study is the largest FY10 BIA Water Rights and Water Resources Management Planning and Pre-Development Program Project on the East Coast.*

*The study will review how much water was provided to Brighton Reservation by the South Florida Water Management District and how water deliveries occurred during times of drought.*

So far, 2010 hasn't really followed regular seasonal weather patterns; we have had a wetter winter ("dry season"), and a drier summer ("wet season").

How might this impact South Florida Water Management water supply deliveries to the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation?

The Seminole Tribe Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) is looking ahead to answer that question and many others.

ERMD recently initiated a study of water use for the Brighton Reservation.

In the last 10 years, the Indian Prairie Basin has experienced severe drought, and flood events, including four hurricanes in one year.

In August 2009, ERMD recognized the advantage to the Tribe of studying water delivery and supply to the Brighton Reservation. With Tribal Council approval, ERMD applied to the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for grant funding. The proposal was one of only two East Coast Tribe studies to receive funding from BIA under the Water Rights and Water Resources Management Planning and Pre-Development Program. The Seminole Tribe received the largest grant amount.

In 1987, the Seminole Tribe settled a long-standing land claim and water rights dispute with the state of Florida and through a negotiated Water Rights Compact, quantified the Tribe's entitled water rights for the Big Cypress Reservation and the Brighton Reservation.

The Big Cypress Reservation Entitlement water supply is 47,000 acre/feet of water per year (divided into 12 equal amounts, to be delivered on a monthly basis). The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) provides the Tribe's entitlement water through pump station G-409 (in Confusion Corner). The negotiated entitlement amount of water for the Brighton Reservation



Roel Herrera

is 15 percent of water available to all users in the Lake Istokpoga Watershed; and an amount of water from Lake Okeechobee proportionally equal to the amount of land the Brighton Reservation occupies in the SFWMD's Lakeshore Perimeter Basin.

The Big Cypress Reservation Entitlement Water process is very clearly defined.

The Brighton Reservation's entitlement process is based on percentages. It is the goal of the Seminole ERMD to obtain clear information on water supply for the Brighton Reservation as well.

The Brighton Water Use Study developed by ERMD will be an objective professional independent study of water quantity delivered to the Brighton Reservation in a scientifically and legally defensible manner.

The first part of the study requires investigation and identification of all water inflows to, and outflows from the Brighton Reservation to determine if all water quantities are measured. It will also examine groundwater withdrawals by property owners adjacent to the Brighton Reservation to determine if there may be any effect to the Brighton Reservation's groundwater levels.

The second part of the study is to determine if the SFWMD water measurement calculations are correct by comparing their water flow data to actual water flow measurements made in the field.

The SFWMD "measures" water flow through Brighton by mathematical equations based on the level of water in the canals, and whether flood control gates are open or not. This portion of the study will determine if all water flowing into and out of Brighton Reservation is measured, and if the SFWMD water flow measurements accurately reflect real water flows.

The remainder of the Brighton Water Study will provide a comprehensive analysis of water supply available to the Brighton Reservation for the past 10 years, and water used by the Brighton Reservation.

This study will consider current and future Brighton water use needs, as well as water use needs in the future.

The Seminole Tribe Environmental Resource Management Department looks forward to receiving the results of the Brighton Water Use Study, and providing the information to Brighton Residents and Tribal citizens.

Please call 954-965-4380 for more information about the Brighton Water Use Study.



Roel Herrera

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## SPD Officer Awarded Officer of the Year

**BY LIEUTENANT JERRY MEISENHEIMER**  
**Seminole Police Department**

Anyone who knows Seminole Police Department Officer Kenneth Tillman will quickly say that he's a hard worker and is dedicated to providing community service.

In recognition of his accomplishments, Tillman was recently awarded the South Officer of the Year Award at a ceremony sponsored by the Seminole Public Safety Department. This is the second time he has received this distinction, having received the award also in 2006 while he was the School Resource Officer at the Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress.

In his six years of being stationed on the Big Cypress Reservation, Tillman has worn several hats. He started as a road patrol officer and then became the School Resource Officer. For the past two years he has served as the Agricultural Officer; and has since been given the title Agricultural Detective. He currently investigates crimes that occur on the many back roads, pastures, groves, and wilderness areas of the reservation. His patrol vehicle is a four-wheel drive pickup, equipped with gear that makes the truck accessible to off road situations and emergencies.

Tillman was born in Okeechobee, Florida, but grew up in Immokalee, Florida, where he completed his schooling. He now lives in Alva, near LaBelle, with his wife, Debbie. Their two sons are both firefighters. They have five grandchildren, who all live nearby.

In 1994, Tillman began working for the Seminole Tribe as a security officer at the Immokalee Casino. He then attended the police academy at South Florida Community College in Avon Park and served for 16 years as a reserve law enforcement officer with the Florida Freshwater Fish and Conservation Department. As such, he assisted in the late 90s at the ValuJet airliner crash site in Miami, searching by airboat for the many victims' remains. He also made a notable criminal arrest in the Corkscrew Sanctuary when he came upon illegal cutting of timber inside the Reserve.

As a sidelight, Tillman is also a proficient welder and heavy equipment mechanic, and his favorite hobby is fishing. But what he is most proud of are his contributions to the Seminole Community. He teaches kids lessons about ATV safety.

He has acted as a chaperone on four senior trips with the elders, and for Boys & Girls Club weekend campouts.

During Hurricane Katrina, Detective Tillman was deployed, along with other Seminole Police Department officer volunteers, to assist during the devastation on the Choctaw Reservations in Mississippi. This month, Detective Tillman was a counselor at the Seminole Youth Camp in north Florida, where he was assigned to a cabin and supervised 11 boys, all 11-years-old.

Detective Tillman received the Officer of the Year award from Chief of Police William Latchford, in front of Chairman Mitchell Cypress and other members of the Tribal Council.



**OFFICER KENNETH TILLMAN**

## HR Team Hosts Employee Birthday Luncheon in Big Cypress



**laji Tobias**

Photo above, on Aug. 5, Tribal employees from various Big Cypress departments line up to receive a hearty lunch at the Human Resource Department-sponsored birthday luncheon at the Family Investment Center. Held every two months, it's meant to show employees the appreciation of the work they do for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and for the communities, according to Human Resources Assistant Marian Billie. The Human Resources Department wishes all of the Tribal employees born in August a happy and belated birthday. Left photo, Big Cypress Tribal Council Coordinator Alfonso Tigertall, left, and Big Cypress Tribal Council Administrative Assistant Noella Dyan O'Donnell, second from left, talk with Human Resource Department's Employee Benefits Manager Leslie S. Weber, second from right, and Human Resources Assistant Marian Billie, on how to update their employee benefits packages.



**Naji Tobias**

## Two Famous European Capitals, One Big Event, Seen Through the Eyes of a Young Seminole

**BY MALCOM LACEY**  
**SMP Intern**

Our plane lands in London around 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 24 and I'm tired. I walk out along with the other passengers and head towards Immigration. The walk is unusually long, but I'm just excited to be on the ground. The voices on the airport wide intercom have British accents; I laugh for a second, and recoup a straight face after I receive weird looks from people around me.

It's 11:20 a.m. and I'm opening the door to my hotel room. It's hot in here, so I turn the thermostat to the lowest degree Celsius possible. After I put my bags down, I jump in the shower. I'm still in between days and trying to stay awake through Thursday. And in an attempt to boost my energy, I turn the shower on as low as it can go and get in. It's cold, but at least I'm awake.

It's Friday, 5:35 p.m. I just awoke from a pretty decent nap in my room near Hyde Park. The hotel is gorgeous. The Intercontinental London, the sign read when I came in yesterday. I grab my old 35 mm Minolta, load it, and snap a few pictures of the view out my room. The room phone rings. In 30 minutes, we're heading to the famous Hard Rock Calling concert.

My grandmother made a patchwork shirt for me on a whim before the trip and I decide to put that on and head down. I'm surprised as to how well it fits. I'm feeling anxious as I meet up with my "uncle" and his wife down in the lobby and proceed to head over to Hyde Park. Its cool tonight; dry too. I like the weather a lot. We continue to walk closer and when I see the large mass of people in front of the gates to get in; I feel surprised. I had seen live video from BBC on the TV before I left, but I didn't think it would be this many people. "This is a pretty big deal." I think and the anxiety comes back as soon I remember how much I'm going to stick out in this shirt. I'm carrying with me a large Canon camera and quickly tear it apart and stuff the lens in my cargo short pocket. Professional cameras aren't allowed

without photo passes and I don't have one. I'm nervous again. But I slide past security and they don't notice.

Looking at the crowd, I try to estimate how many people are here at the concert and realize it's probably more than any number I'm going to think of. So we walk aimlessly in search of the VIP section and get redirected several times when finally, after about 45 minutes of walking in circles around the crowd, we find the area. It's cozy and cool. We order something to eat and relax while Pearl Jam gets ready to play their set. Larry, Kathy, and I decide not to go the concert tomorrow.

Nearly two and a half hours it takes for a train leaving from London to reach Paris. We decide to do it. We're on the Eurostar - a high-speed passenger rail service that connects London with Paris and Brussels - and I'm bracing myself for the next time my ears pop as we pass through the many tunnels. The crew serves us breakfast and it's good. I usually don't eat breakfast foods, but I couldn't pass up the eggs Benedict this morning.

I spend most of the ride to Paris staring into the English/French countryside. The haze is un-ignorable and I fantasize for a moment about a huge vacuum that could come and suck it all up and spit it into outer space. A ridiculous thought. I think about how spoiled we are in south Florida.

“Parlez-vous français?” My two years of French and I can just barely get around. We spend an hour in the Gare Du Nord trying to get a ticket for the SNCF, the public train, before finally settling for a taxi. We head to the Mecca of tourism in Paris, The Eiffel Tower. And it’s just that for a reason. Hundreds of people stand underneath its giant waiting to get to the top. The queue is nearly three hours so we just decide to take some pictures instead of going up. We leave the park and walk towards the Arc de Triomphe.

I take a glance at my phone and notice it's a lot later than I expected: 1:57. The train leaves at 7:20 p.m. We decide to go to the Hard Rock Café for lunch, of course. While we wait for our order, I head inside and

grab a few Paris Hard Rock pins for my mother and older sister.

3:30. Finally we get to the Arc de Triomphe. We buy a few tickets and take a tour through the structure,

which is actually much larger internally than I thought it would be. The three of us trek through the several flights of stairs and reach the top. The view is incredible. I take several pictures and start to stare again at the distance. The haze is prominent over the entire city. All of the Rococo-, Baroque-, and Empire-style architecture in near perfect condition makes up for most of Paris' beauty. But still the blanket of pollution pulls me out of taking it all in.

Sunday we go back to the concert after we take another walk through London. It's hotter than it was before, but still more pleasant than anything in Florida. I walk around the concert with my camera and try to take as much video and pictures as I can before security stops me and points me back to the VIP area and disallows me to leave. Faced with that predicament, I order some dinner and wait a while and exit through the back and walk to my hotel. I get in and fall asleep.

Monday came too fast and all I want to do is sleep in and stay for a couple more days, weeks, months. On the way to the airport I tell Larry and Kathy how much I'd love to live here in London. I'm not sure if I meant it. We get to check-in and make our way to the gate. Three hours left in London. Two Hours. 30 minutes. The plane accelerates and we're up in the air again as I was four days ago. I sleep most of



Malcom Lacey

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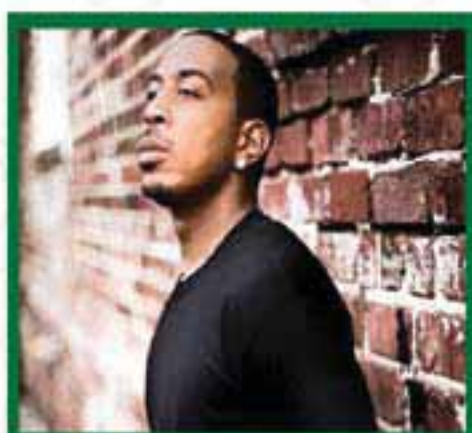
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# Education

B

## Brighton Reservation Awarded for Supporting Education

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**OKEECHOBEE** — The Brighton Reservation was honored by the Okeechobee School District for its continued support of education at the regularly scheduled School Board meeting in Okeechobee.

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. was recognized at the July 13 meeting with the Commissioner's Business Recognition Award by Okeechobee's Superintendent Dr. Patricia Cooper.

"It is a great feeling and it goes toward the relationship that we have always had with Okeechobee County," Rep. Bowers said.

Each year the Florida Education Foundation and Florida Department of Education recognizes businesses throughout the state that have shown an outstanding commitment to improving education by partnering with schools in their community. The Okeechobee School Board selected the Brighton Reservation as the honored business for its financial contributions and moral support toward the Okeechobee schools.

"The Seminole Tribe has been a great business partner for the school district of Okeechobee for many, many years," Cooper said. "It's quite an honor for us to receive that support, but it's nice recognition for the Seminole Tribe as well."

The Brighton Reservation and Seminole Tribe give out scholarships to graduating seniors every year, to help further their education. The Tribe has also offered financial athletic support by purchasing the Okeechobee High School's softball field

scoreboard and contributing to Yearling Middle School's volleyball team in the form of warm-up outfits and sponsorships.

"The Tribe puts education at its number one priority these days," Rep. Bowers said, "And I think it's important that we recognize the effort that Okeechobee County has put toward our children. [...] We want to be able to show some kind of appreciation and I think that it works out for a good relationship."

The Tribe's relationship with Okeechobee dates back as early as the 1950s. Cooper reminisced during the meeting about the days when she and Rep. Bowers used to ride the school bus together traveling to school.

Throughout the years the two entities have developed a close friendship and business relationship, both working toward educating the Tribal youth.

"Not only are they business partners with us, but the



Superintendent Dr. Patricia Cooper, left, presents long time friend Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. with the Commissioner's Recognition Award.

Rachel Buxton

students that are from the Seminole Tribe are fantastic students. They are athletic, they are academic, they just are great in all realms," Cooper said. "We just do great things with the Seminole Tribe and they certainly do great things for us."

Children's book author, Elaine Huffman, reads her book about Florida's ecology as seen through the eyes of her cat to the Summer Enrichment Program participants at the Willie Frank Library.



Judy Weeks

## Children's Author Visits Willie Frank Library

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Youngsters attending the Summer Enrichment Program at the Willie Frank Library took a trip down the Little Wekiva River in central Florida on July 15. The unique aspect of their journey was the fact that they never left the library.

Children's book author, Elaine C. Huffman, introduced the group to Florida's fresh water ecosystem, wildlife and plants as she read to them from her most recent publication, "The Mis-Tails of Mooscha and the Little Wekiva River."

"Children, animals and a desire to protect our environment were the deciding forces behind my book," said Huffman. "As rescue advocates, my husband, Danny, and I adopted a stray cat who wandered on to our property and into our hearts a few

years ago. We named her Mooscha, which is Arabic for little darling."

"We live on the banks of the pristine Little Wekiva River near Altamonte Springs, which is a rich wildlife habitat," Huffman said. "Looking for a vehicle to introduce children to the wonders of the world that surrounds them, I chose the opportunity for them to explore through the eyes of my cat. The positive response has been overwhelming and I am currently working on a book series to further inspire young people."

Reading with animation and sound effects, Huffman captivated her audience and encouraged their participation as the story unfolded.

"Books are a key that can open doors to the world of knowledge and they map a pathway to the future," said Willie Frank Library Director Barbara Ooffner.

## Immokalee Students Received Incentive Awards at Banquet

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**IMMOKALEE** — Immokalee students and their parents gathered at the gym for a good old fashioned country-western hoedown on the evening of Aug. 12 to celebrate the Education Incentive Awards. Rail fences with a corral gate, a horse drawn carriage, and bales of hay, saddles, wanted posters and checkerboard tablecloths created an atmosphere right out of the Wild West.

"This has been an amazing year and you have made that possible. Attendance in the after school homework program has soared and grade averages are climbing upward. We have seven high school graduates from our community and two college students," said Education Advisor Victoria Soto.

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar said, "I was sent to school for only four reasons: learn English, reading, writing and arithmetic. When I thought I had these under control, I quit school. It wasn't long before I learned that this was not enough. I felt ashamed as I sent my children to school and asked them to get the education that I have turned my back on, so I went back to school and got my GED."

"Education has always been important and I encourage you to take advantage of its opportunities," continued Liaison Aguilar. "Go to school and bring back the wonderful gift of knowledge. Embrace your culture and pass it on to your children when the time comes. Our language and culture will die without you. Your ancestors fought hard for you to be here and now you must carry

on the torch for the next generations. Think about your choices and get an education under your belt so that you can someday replace me!"

Seminole Education Department Director Emma Johns recognized the staff of the Immokalee Education Team and talked about the opportunities that await students as they develop their educational careers.

"We are here to help you make positive choices and achieve your goals," said Johns. "Immokalee has a wonderful group of high school graduates this year and I am very proud of your increased attendance and grade averages. You have what it takes for success and we are here to help you get it."

Higher Education Advisor Linda Iley invited the graduates to explore their options and recognized college student Allison Garza for making the Dean's List.

Tutoring Advisor Julissa Collazo explained the Summer Reading Challenge Program and congratulated the participants for outstanding effort.

"You are an extraordinary group of children and we are rewarding you with medals of achievement for a job well done," Collazo said. "These kids have racked up a lot of hours in the log book while improving their reading skills, vocabulary and study work habits. There are many high achievers on this list, but Priscilla Alvarado earned the highest score with 148 hours."

A high school diploma was awarded to Esmeralda Billie who recently com-

pleted her GED and plans to continue her education by attending cosmetology school.

Education Director Johns was assisted by Victoria Soto, Bianca Serpas and Amy Yzaguirre in presentation of the Education Incentive Awards.

A fabulous country buffet couldn't have been better if it had been cooked over the open campfire. Both children and adults rushed back for seconds and then surrounded the dessert table for generous slices of cake.

♦ PLEASE SEE LIST OF GRADUATES ON 4B



Judy Weeks

From right, Education Director Emma Johns presents Esmeralda Billie with her high school diploma.

## Naples Gives Incentive Awards During Trip to Tennessee

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**NAPLES** — Parental involvement plays a key role in the education of children and the Naples community takes this to heart. With students enrolled in public and private schools, their progress is closely

monitored by their parents, the Seminole Education Department and the Parents Advisory Committee (PAC).

"Attendance at the homework assistance and tutoring program offered at the Juanita Osceola Center is a tremendous success," said Tutoring Specialist Julissa Collazo. "This is a very close knit community

and watching the children's progress, I have noticed that the after school programs have become a social experience as well as educational. The youngsters have told me that they look forward to their sessions at the center followed by a chance to spend time together in the culture workshop."

While planning a community trip to Tennessee, it was no surprise when the members decided to combine their vacation with the presentation of the Education Incentive Awards.

Traveling to the Lodge at Buckberry Creek in Gatlinburg, Tenn., the families visited the Dollywood theme park and Smokey Mountains National Park. The younger generation enjoyed the amusement park and sightseeing by day, and also looked forward to the s'mores over a campfire and storytelling at the lodge during the evenings. Family time included hiking and games on the large veranda at the inn.

Pointing to the panorama of the Smokey Mountains, Naples Liaison O.B. Osceola, Jr. said, "Education is like these mountains. It is something solid that you can depend on for the future; however it isn't always easy to achieve our goals.

"Sometimes the climb is steep and rough, but you must not give up," Liaison Osceola Jr. said. "If you work hard, you will reach plateaus where you can rest and plan your strategy for the next phase of learning. When you finally arrive at the summit, you will feel that you have reached the top of the world and it will be time to extend a helping hand to those who come after you."



Jessica Osceola

From left, Ross Zepeda, Joseph Osceola-Lugo, Malcolm Wallace, Tori Osceola, Martin Slavik, Dominic Osceola-Lugo and Eliska Slavik. Following the Naples Education Incentive Awards, some of the youngsters sharpened their wits over a game of chess while waiting for darkness that would bring the s'mores campfire.



Jessica Osceola

Naples community members took their children on a vacation to Tennessee in conjunction with the Education Incentive Awards presentations.

**Assisted by Cultural Specialist Jessica Osceola, O. B. Osceola, Jr. distributed the Naples Education Incentive Awards as follows:**

Kindergarten: Joseph Osceola-Lugo, Alexis Walden.

1st Grade: Martin Slavik GPA 3.45 Three or Less Days Absent; Mari Veliz GPA 3.84.

2nd Grade: Dominic Osceola-Lugo GPA 3.14; Patsy Veliz GPA 3.37; Serena Zepeda Three or Less Days Absent.

3rd Grade: Allegra Billie GPA 3.39.

4th Grade: Nicole Slavik GPA 3.76 Perfect Attendance; Ross Zepeda GPA 3.36.

5th Grade: Matthew Billie GPA 3.94 Three or Less Days Absent-Awards & Certificates; Broden Hagen Effort Awards, Nicholas Zepeda GPA 3.73 Awards & Certificates.

6th Grade: Courtney Osceola; Victoria Osceola GPA 3.03; Corinne Zepeda GPA 3.19, Three or Less Days Absent.

8th Grade: Marissa Osceola GPA 3.88 Honors Class.

9th Grade: Kaitlin Billie GPA 3.38; Bryce Osceola GPA 3.40 Honors Class-Awards & Certificates.

10th Grade: Jessica Osceola GPA 3.66 Honors Class-Perfect Attendance; Dakota Osceola Effort Award.



# Tribal Youth Recognized for Outstanding Academics at Incentive Awards



Rachel Buxton

Amanda Smith receives her award for earning her Associates Degree and Indian River State College.

### Higher Education Awards:

Bryan Arledge—Bachelor of Science  
Amanda Smith—Associate Degree

### 2010 High School Graduates:

Melanie Jones  
Hayden Roberts  
Elizabeth Dehass  
Duelle Gore  
Jenna McDuffie

Daylon Youngblood  
Jewel Buck  
Ryan Osceola  
Jodi Huffman

Kindergarten

Caitlyn Olivarez  
Jahcole Arnold  
Tammy Martinez  
Diego Meras  
Tehya Howard  
Pherian Baker  
Dakota Entry  
Mariah Garner  
Tanner O'Donnell

### First Grade

Billy Bailey  
Kanyon Billie  
Ruby Lin Osceola  
Aubee Billie  
Caylie Huff  
Isaiah Bishop  
Kyle Entry  
Shaela French  
Justin Gopher, Jr.

Jahbahn Arnold  
Davin Carrillo  
Aleks Betscher  
Morgan Yates  
Ramone Baker  
Kiowa Garcia  
Jagger Gaucin  
Leon Edouard  
Heith Lawrence

### Second Grade

Yaylen Baker  
Caillou Smith  
Beyvinn Billie  
Santiago Billie  
Hunter Howard  
Todd Pierce  
Dakota Micco  
Kamani Smith  
Kai Osceola  
Alaina Micco

Madisyn Osceola  
Dante Thomas  
Araya Youngblood  
Mallorie Thomas  
Silas Madrigal  
Malcolm Jones  
Julia Smith  
Lauren O'Donnell  
Ozzy Osceola

### Third Grade

Blake Baker  
Aleina Micco  
Ridge Bailey  
Conner Thomas  
Burgundy Pierce  
Kano Puente  
Oscar Yates  
Tavis Jumper  
Joseph Toneges  
Caroline Micco

Luzana Venzor  
Keely Billie  
Satie Ricco  
Alyke Baker  
Jarrett Bert  
Lucas Osceola  
Billy Yates  
Michael Harvey  
Krysta Burton  
Gage Riddle

### Fourth Grade

Rylee Smith  
Cyrus Smedley  
Marquis Fudge  
Chole' Chalfant  
Ivess Baker  
Joseph Osceola  
Brian Bishop  
Rodolfo Juarez

Logan Ortiz  
Isaac Osceola  
Pernell Bert  
Jalynn Jones  
Morgan King  
Bly Davidson  
Krystal Toneges  
Bakari Micco

Elle Thomas  
Tatiana Torres  
Warrick Billie  
Jaime Smith  
Caleb Burton  
Jaytron Baker  
Malakai Micco  
Corey Jumper  
Adryauna Baker



Rachel Buxton

Melanie Jones is one of nine Brighton 2010 high school graduates. With a camouflage décor the Brighton community headed to the gym Aug. 11 to recognize the academic achievements of the Tribal youth at the 2010 Brighton Education Incentive Awards. The Education Department awarded 75 percent of Brighton's Tribal youth with academic awards including honoring two college graduates and nine high school graduates. Along with their award each recipient received a backpack and folder to help them prepare for the upcoming school year. -Rachel Buxton



Rachel Buxton

Education's Becky Bowers awards Caleb Burton for perfect attendance.



Rachel Buxton

Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. congratulates Jennifer Tommie on her seventh grade accomplishments.

### Fifth Grade

Kelton Smedley  
Drayton Billie  
Joshua Madrigal  
Diamond Shore  
Eric Puente  
Deliah Carrillo  
Jermaine Bennett, Jr.  
Dax Haught

Samuel Osceola  
Robert Fudge, Jr.  
Erik Garcia  
Odessa King  
Shae Pierce  
Jerry Smith  
Apolonia Osceola  
Alexus Osceola-James

Ruben Burgess  
Lanie Sedatol  
Bethany Billie  
Crysten Smith  
Sean Osceola  
Gabrielle Doctor  
Zachary Eagle  
Rayla Gopher

### Sixth Grade

Christopher Olivarez  
Desthon Shore  
Elizabeth Johns  
Yopalakiyo Osceola  
Kalgary Johns  
Tyra Baker  
Nathaniel Doctor  
Ashlee Gopher

Richard Smith  
Rayce Osceola  
Harley Johns  
Jayce Smith  
Brydgett Koontz  
Lahna Sedatol  
Spawn Loudermilk  
Jobe Johns

Rayven Smith  
CW Ortiz  
Trista Osceola  
Michael Garcia  
Cheyenne Nunez  
Chastity Harmon  
Donovan Osceola  
Rumor Juarez

### Seventh Grade

JT Smith  
Tatiana Herrera  
Jennifer Tommie  
Daniel Nunez, Jr.  
Brittany Oakes

Korvette Billie  
Isiah Thomas  
Larissa Cortez  
Arianna Nunez  
McKayla Snow

Alexis Gopher  
Kaley Riley  
Jennie Eagle  
Lewis Gopher  
Layton Thomas

### Eighth Grade

Randy Shore  
Jessi Osceola  
Acealyn Youngblood  
Joshua Tiger

Marshall Tommie  
Kirsten Doney  
Raina Robinson  
Frank Huff

Trewston Pierce  
Kiylier Baker  
Brianna Nunez

### Ninth Grade

Janet Smith  
Amelia Nunez

Alexander Buck  
Garrett Thomas

Destiny Nunez

### Tenth Grade

Lois Billie  
Sheila Jones

Stevie Brantley

Stormin Youngblood

### Eleventh Grade

Alicia Nunez

Farrah Lytle

Ceejae Smith.

### Presentation of Straight As All Year:

Caylie Huff  
Ruby Lin Osceola  
Brandon Entry  
Alaina Micco

Haylie Huff  
Aiyana Tommie  
Shyla Gopher  
Robert O'Donnell

Tanner Shore  
Jaden Puente  
Santiago Billie  
Lauren O'Donnell

### Presentation of Perfect Attendance:

Jahcole Arnold  
Brydgett Koontz  
Bakari Micco  
Krysta Burton  
Deliah Carrillo

Tammy Martinez  
Silas Madrigal  
Cheyenne Nunez  
Caleb Burton

Jaden Puente  
Hunter Strickland  
Daniel Nunez, Jr.  
Leilani Burton

### 3 or Less Days Absent:

Jahbahn Arnold  
Alyke Baker  
Jewel Buck  
Jagger Gaucin  
Lewis Gopher  
Tehya Howard  
Tavis Jumper  
Joshua Madrigal  
Lauren O'Donnell  
Alexus Osceola-James  
JT Smith  
Kamani Smith  
Jennifer Tommie  
Luzana Venzor

Tyra Baker  
Ramone Baker  
Ruben Burgess  
Ashlee Gopher  
Lance Howard  
Rumor Juarez  
Corey Jumper  
Alicia Nunez  
Royce Osceola  
Kano Puente  
Jayce Smith  
Camryn Thomas  
Aiyana Tommie

Jaylen Baker  
Jaytron Baker  
Larissa Cortez  
Karey Gopher  
Hunter Howard  
Rodolfo Juarez  
Heith Lawrence  
Robert O'Donnell  
Kai Osceola  
Lahna Sedatol  
Crysten Smith  
Joshua Tiger  
Aidan Tommie



Rachel Buxton

Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. congratulates Jerry Smith.

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# Big Cypress Recreation Department Takes Children on Annual Field Trip to Lion Country Safari

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Willie Frank Library’s Zoo Week wound down to the perfect climax by coordinating with the Big Cypress Recreation Department’s annual field trip to Lion Country Safari on July 16. Lions, giraffes, hippos, chimps, deer and zebras were among the many creatures that delivered an important message to the children attending the Summer Enrichment Program. Mankind and the animals of the Earth depend upon each other for survival.

The children were able to get close to hundreds of animals and birds while taking a safari adventure through 300 acres of natural wildlife habitat. Enhanced by an informative audio presentation, they visited the forests and savannas of Africa, Australian Outback, mountains of South America and tropical rainforests of the world.

“It has been a lot of fun at the library making the pages for our own pop-up zoo books,” said Mariah Smith. “But coming here to see the animals has been awesome. The giraffes and their baby are my favorite. They are so tall, but look so gentle and friendly.”

“The hippos must weigh tons, and tons, and tons,” remarked Willie Smith. “I bet the ground shakes when they walk and they eat big piles of food every day. It

takes a big place for them to live.”

Herd of antelope and several varieties of deer wandered throughout the preserve, while prides of lions snoozed in the afternoon sun and zebras glided across the landscape. Batting their long eye lashes, ostriches and llamas peered into the windows of the bus making eye to eye contact with the children.

Upon the caravan’s return to the main complex, the youngsters cooled off at the Safari Splash Water Park, ate lunch and then strolled through the amusement park and visited the individual animal compounds, reptile and bird enclosures.

Thomlynn Billie gave close scrutiny to the archeological displays and commented on the many species of animals that are gone forever and was curious about what could be done to keep this from happening.

Marveling at the huge ostrich eggs, Trinity Williams and Janessa Jones agreed it is important to protect all of the wonderful animals.

Library Special Projects Curator Gretchen DeBree said, “The world is full of more wonders than we can count and its future depends upon us for survival. This is our world and we share it with many different ecologies and species of animals, birds, plants, reptiles, fish and insects. We must all do our part to protect the environment to insure the future.”



Judy Weeks

From right, Willie Smith, Trinity Williams and Thomlynn Billie look at the ancient past through archeology.



Judy Weeks

Mariah Smith chose a cuddly stuffed lion for a playmate rather than the more ferocious king of the beasts who lives at the zoological park.



Judy Weeks

Trinity Williams wants to know what we can do to avoid future extinction like the dinosaurs of prehistoric times.



Judy Weeks

From left, Jonah Alvarado, Tyrus Billie and Issiah Alvarado cool down at the Safari Splash Water Park.



Rachel Buxton

Cece Thomas, left, and Telena Holata, get to know their new teacher Alisa Whyte while doing crafts. Decorated in a western theme with teachers in denim and bandanas, the Brighton Preschool welcomed parents and students Aug. 5 for an open house to help get the children ready for their first day of school Aug. 9. Students were introduced to their teachers and new classrooms for the upcoming school year. Students received goodie bags to get them excited for the big day and then enjoyed refreshments with their parents. -Rachel Buxton



Rachel Buxton

Teacher Laverne Thomas helps Cece Thomas put on her handmade western necklace.

## Open House Gives Brighton Preschoolers Opportunity to Meet Their Teachers for the School Year



Rachel Buxton

Jimi Huff shares a special hug with Kateri Smith.



Rachel Buxton

Kaylee-Joe Gore practices her letters with Grandma Molly and teacher Dorothy Rucks.

## Trail Students Attend Back to School Bash

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**TAMIAMI TRAIL** — Children of the Trail community eagerly rushed to complete their homework assignments on the afternoon of Aug. 9. The parking lot of the Petties Osceola Trail Field Office had been converted for their pleasure into a miniature water park with bounce houses and a slide for a Back 2 School Bash.

Dunning their bathing suits, they appeared to be oblivious to the summer rain showers that passed over their heads.

“The rain can’t bother me; I’m getting wet anyhow,” said Mary Pauline Cantu. “This is really cool!”

Apparently everyone had the same idea as a steady stream of children made trip after trip down the water slide into the pool screaming, “Great White Shark!” and “I’m a Gator!”

School began 10 days earlier for the 28 students to ensure early release in the spring for the Green Corn Dance without interfering with holidays and customary school breaks.

Parents gathered in the community chickee to keep a watchful eye on their children while discussing school schedules, rules and time frames for the teaching programs.

“Community and parental involvement in education is one of the best investments that you will ever make,” said Trail Liaison William Osceola. “Our children are the future and in order for us to survive, we must give them the tools necessary to achieve their goals. These are our future leaders and they will have the heavy burden of keeping our culture alive and providing for generations to come.”

Seminole Education’s K-12 Advisor Will Bacon conducted the first meeting of the 2010-2011 Parents Advisory Committee (PAC) and helped orchestrate the election of new officers.

“You should all give yourselves a big pat on

the back,” said Tutor Advisor Julissa Collazo. “This is the second year for Inspired 2 Think Tutoring Service here on the Trail. We started out with only a few children in the classrooms and enrollment has now doubled. An increase in grades and attendance is a tribute to your commitment as parents. With your help, these teachers are striving to be motivators and mentors for your children and help them learn self-discipline in order to make learning a fun and rewarding experience.”

Blue lips and shriveled finger tips were testimony to the fabulous time the children were having as their parents coaxed them in out of the rain for the wonderful barbecue dinner that had been prepared over the fire. Under the chickee, the youngsters discovered an added attraction of snow cones, popcorn and cotton candy.



Judy Weeks

Children of the trail community play in the water slide pool at the Back to School Bash.

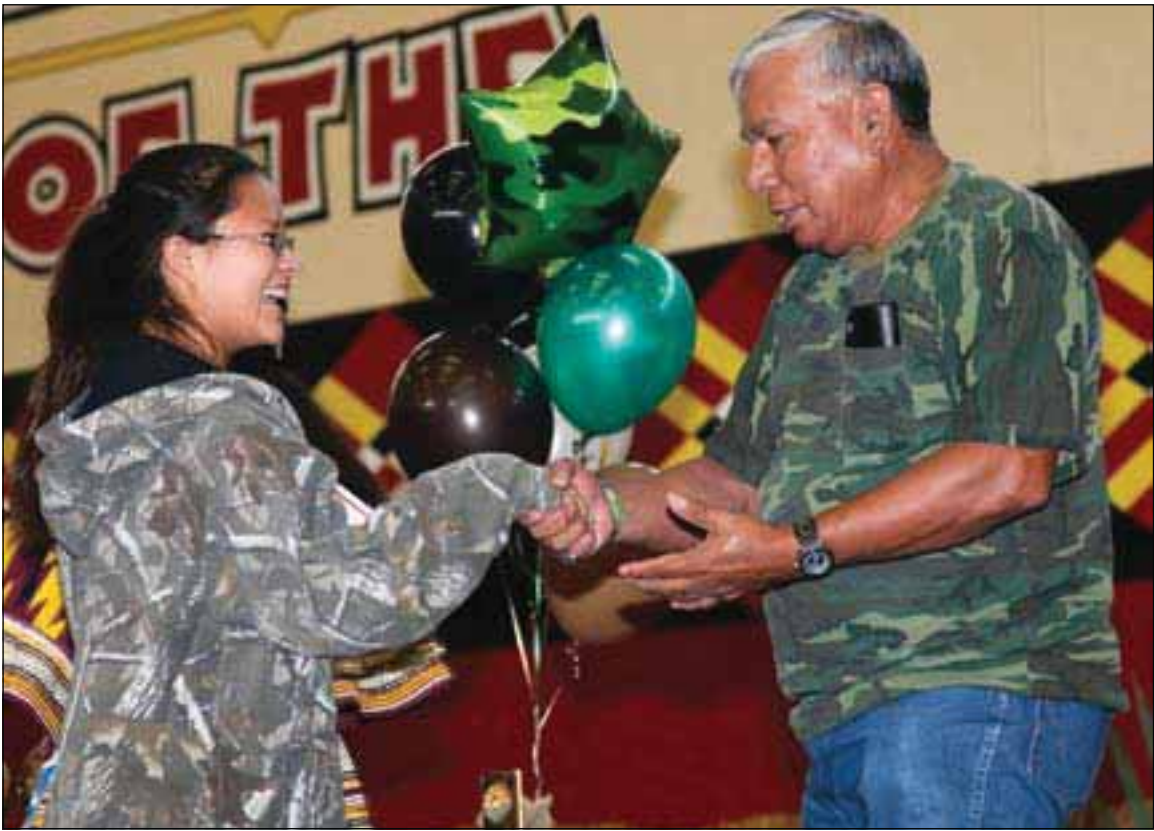


Judy Weeks

Christina Billie and her children, Briar and Aspen, receive acknowledgement for their commitment to the summer education program at the Trail.



## More Photos from the 2010 Brighton Education Incentive Awards Ceremony



Rachel Buxton

Larissa Cortez takes the stage for her academic achievement.



Rachel Buxton

Sheila Jones, left, receives her award for 10th grade.

## Immokalee Education Incentive Awards Recipients

Immokalee Education Incentive Awards for the year of 2009-2010 were presented as follows:

5th Grade:

High School Graduates:

Cassandra Jimmie & Honors Advanced, Josie Davis, Nikki Jo Davis, Allen Hernandez, Esmeralda Billie, Cheyenne McInturff.

Kindergarten:

Jalilah Arteaga, Caniah Billie-Awards & Certificates, Isaiah Garcia, Jordan Osceola-Three or Less Days Absent, Anthony Avalos, Jr., Sovann Gonzalez-Awards & Certificates, Maria Villarreal, Curtis Motlow-Perfect Attendance-Awards & Certificates, Ava Nunez-Awards & Certificates, Dontae Russell-Awards & Certificates, Harley Holloway-Three or Less Days Absent-Awards & Certificates, Nariah Mata-Awards & Certificates.

1st Grade:

Spencer Aguilar GPA 3.87-Awards & Certificates, Ahmad Cummings-Awards & Certificates, Kaden Grimaldo GPA 3.39-Three or Less Days Absent, Cameron Garza GPA 3.31, Randeau Osceola GPA 3.81, Mercedes Davis GPA 3.36-Awards & Certificates, Liberty Robbins GPA 3.91 Awards & Certificates, Shyanna Escobar GPA 3.14-Perfect Attendance, Marina Garcia-Effort-Awards & Certificates.

2nd Grade:

Eli Alvarado-Effort, Gregorio Reynosa-Effort, Priscilla Alvarado GPA 3.25-Awards & Certificates, K.J. Davis GPA 3.17-Perfect Attendance-Awards & Certificates, Geneva Garcia-Effort-Awards & Certificates, Raymond James Mora-Effort-Awards & Certificates, Thoya Robbins-Awards & Certificates, Miah Davis GPA 3.11, Ezekiel Roberts GPA 3.06-Awards & Certificates, Kegan Sanchez GPA 3.11-Awards & Certificates, Kenau Correa GPA 3.00, Brandon Frank GPA 3.22.

3rd Grade:

Issiah Alvarado GPA 3.31-Three or Less Days Absent-Awards & Certificates, Nicholas Correa GPA 3.07, Jack Aguilar GPA 3.45, Three or Less Days Absent-Awards & Certificates, Joshua Colon GPA 3.69-Awards & Certificates, Aiyanna Gonzalez-Effort-Awards & Certificates, Jada Holdiness GPA 3.68-Three Days or Less Absent-Awards & Certificates, Neo Motlow GPA 3.31, Mazzy Robbins-Effort-Awards & Certificates, Edward Aguilar, Jr.-Effort, Crystal Garcia-Awards & Certificates, Carlos Romero-Effort, Jillian Rodriguez GPA 3.67-Awards & Certificates, Lindsey Posada GPA 3.72-Awards & Certificates, Jon Davis GPA 3.33-Awards & Certificates.

4th Grade:

Haylie Holloway GPA 3.37-Awards & Certificates, Paul Tahchawhwickah-Effort, Amber Alvarado GPA 3.14, Cartaya Billie GPA 3.72-Three or Less Days Absent-Awards & Certificates, Destinee Jimmie-Awards & Certificates, Jon Jimmie-Awards & Certificates, Gherri Osceola GPA 3.75, Celia Reynosa-Effort, Candice Davis-Effort, Aaliyah Mora GPA 3.15-Awards & Certificates, Zephaniah Roberts-Three or Less Days Absent-Awards & Certificates, Billy Walker, Jr.-Effort-Awards & Certificates, Allyson Yzaguirre GPA 3.44.

Jonah Alvarado GPA 3.96-Three Days or Less Absent-Awards & Certificates, Damion Escobar GPA 3.17-Three Days or Less Absent, Ethan Aguilar GPA 3.29-Three Days or Less Absent-Awards & Certificates, Dennis Gonzales Jr.-Effort-Awards & Certificates, Makayla Gonzalez-Awards & Certificates, Alycia Mora GPA 3.42-Improved GPA-Awards & Certificates, John Robbins GPA 3.06-Awards & Certificates, Alexander Garcia III-Effort, Kyle Alvarado GPA 3.15-Three Days or Less Absent.

6th Grade:

Chelsey Alvarado GPA 3.68, Camisha Cedartree-Effort, Chelsey Ford-Three Days or Less Absent-Awards & Certificates, Jack Tahchawhwickah-Effort, Alphonso Alvarado, Jr.-Effort, Tarra Boone-Effort, Kenny Davis Jr.-Perfect Attendance-Awards & Certificates, Joelli Frank-Advanced Class, Eliza Mora-Awards & Certificates, Keniya Yzaguirre-Effort, Lauren Posada GPA 3.71-Advanced Class-Awards & Certificates, Rheannon Robbins-Effort, Nehemiah Roberts-Three Days or Less Absent, Cleofas Yzaguirre GPA 3.65-Awards & Certificates, Randeau Osceola-Effort.

7th Grade:

Larissa DeLaRosa GPA 3.76, Ashley Faz GPA 3.54, Vanessa Billie-Effort, Johnny Boone III-Effort, Alexis Jimmie-Effort-Awards & Certificates, Jade Tapia-Effort, Ellyse Frank-Effort, Esyra Frank -Effort.

8th Grade:

Aaron Alvarado-Three Days or Less Absent, David Billie III-Effort, Christopher Briscall-Effort, Mshquazeed Jewell Davis-Improved GPA, Salena Perez-Effort, Marissa Sanchez-Improved GPA, Juliza Martinez-Effort.

9th Grade:

Alexis Aguilar GPA 3.93-Honors Class-Advanced Class, Taylor Boon-Effort, Damion Garza-Effort, Robert Yzaguirre-Effort, Le'andra Mora GPA 3.63-Perfect Attendance.

10th Grade:

Corey Garcia-Effort, Charlie Osceola-Perfect Attendance, Starz Sanchez-Advanced Class-Honors Class. 11th Grade: Jean Frank-Effort, Chelsey Storm GPA 3.58-Three Days or Less Absent, Spencer Jock-Effort, Michael Shaffer II GPA 3.95-Perfect Attendance.

Reading Challenge Hours:

Jack Aguilar 108, Cartaya Aguilar 80, Priscilla Alvarado 148, Caniah Billie 108, Ethana Billie 61, Jon Davis 51, Kenny Davis Jr. 47, Crystal Garcia 58, Geneva Garcia 62, Marina Garcia 36, Makayla Gonzalez 65, Aiyana Gonzalez 80, Sovann Gonzalez 60, Alexis Jimmie 34, Destinee Jimmie 45, Aaliyah Mora 111, Alycia Mora 101, Eliza Mora 26, Raymond Mora 51, Neo Motlow 26, Ava Nunez 111, Dontae Russell 44, Grace Robbins 53, Mazzy Robbins 44, Liberty Robbins 36, Thoya Robbins 38, Ezekiel Roberts 75, Zephaniah Roberts 83, Jillian Rodriguez 68, Kegan Sanchez 107, Billie Walker 80, Jalilah Arteaga 80, Keanu Correa 31, Ahmad Cummings 112, Keniya Yzaguirre 39.

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# Health

## Big Cypress' Seminole Shape Up Program Focuses on Healthy Habits



Janice Osceola

Left photo, the winners present on the last day of the program, are, from left, Erin Espinosa – Housing; Julie Bond – Big Cypress Administrative Services; Sabrina Dukes – Community Center; Carridine Billie – Tribal citizen; Patricia Rodriguez – Ahfachkee School; Valerie Whiteside – Ahfachkee School. Right photo, dietitian Jillian Guralski, front, talked about healthy eating, weight gain and physical activities, while health educator Lance Vaz spoke about the body mass index, portion sizes, label reading and more.



Janice Osceola

### SEMINOLE SHAPEUP PROGRAM ENDING June 29-30, 2010

#### WINNERS

Tribal Male:  
1st Place – Bronson Hill 18.5 lbs.  
2nd Place – Carradine Billie 6.5 lbs.

Tribal Female  
1st Place – Pauletta Bowers 12.0 lbs.  
2nd Place – Wanda Billie 6.0 lbs.

Non-Tribal Male  
1st Place – Jesus Lizarraga 27.0 lbs.  
2nd Place – Ruben Hacman 21.0 lbs.  
3rd Place – Jose Solano 18.5 lbs.  
4th Place – Karlos Suarez 16.0 lbs.  
5th Place – Harley Roberts 15.0 lbs.

Non-Tribal Female  
1st Place – Crystal Wilcox 22.0 lbs.  
1st Place – Julie Bond 22.0 lbs.  
2nd Place – Valerie Whiteside 20.0 lbs.  
3rd place – Sabrina Dukes 16.0 lbs.  
4th Place – Erin Espinosa 14.0 lbs.  
4th Place- Robin Riley 14.0 lbs.  
5th Place – Patricia Rodriguez 13.5 lbs.

## Learn About Mold and How Important Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Is to Your Home

BY KIRK TRENCHFIELD  
IAQ Specialist

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Department is gearing up for a busy 2010 hurricane season. This could mean lots of rain in our area this summer. For those homes that may have unforeseen roof and/or window leaks, the combination of heavy rains and Florida's high humidity are the perfect recipe for mold growth indoors if your home experiences water intrusion. We advise all homeowners to take the necessary actions to safeguard their homes to minimize the potential for indoor mold problems.

### What is Mold?

Molds are living microorganisms that exist everywhere in the environment. Their purpose in nature is to help facilitate the decay of dead plant (cellulose) materials in the outdoor environment. Mold will feed on any cellulose materials such as wood, paper, leather, dust, etc. in the indoor environment. Mold reproduces by producing spores, which are like "eggs." The spores can lay dormant for extended periods of time (months to years) until the conditions become favorable for growth.

### What Causes Mold Growth Indoors?

- Mold will grow when three conditions are all in harmony:
- Food source (such as drywall, paper, clothes, leather, dust etc.)
- Moisture (water, condensation)
- High humidity (usually above 60 percent).

### What can you do to prevent mold growth indoors?

The best way to minimize the chance of mold growth is to control the three factors mentioned above:

Control the food source. Since mold loves to grow on dust, efforts should be made to keep your home as clean and dust free as possible. This also means changing your A/C filters on a monthly basis.

Control the moisture from water intrusion such as roof leaks, window leaks and plumbing leaks. Efforts should be made to ensure that your roof, windows and plumbing are in good condition.

Control the humidity. Keep the humidity between 45-55 percent. The best way to control humidity in your home is to set the A/C thermostat temperature between 73 and 78 degrees. Keeping the temperature too cold or too warm can cause condensation and lead to mold growth. Install a digital thermostat to make sure that your setting is accurate.

### What should I do if I have mold in my home?

If you see mold, report it to your Housing department immediately. Do not touch the affected area. Limit occupant exposure to the affected area as much as possible. If you feel that you are experiencing mold-related health effects, let Housing know so that the appropriate action can be taken to keep your family safe.

Make sure that Housing contacts the Health Department; we are here to help you maintain a healthy indoor environment. Have a safe season everyone.



## Mosquitoes Cause Serious Suffering. Be Informed on These Mosquito-Borne Diseases

BY AVA JOHN  
Environmental Health

Mosquitoes cause more human suffering than any other organism -- more than 1 million people die from mosquito-borne diseases every year.

Not only can mosquitoes carry diseases that afflict humans, they also transmit several diseases and parasites that dogs and horses are very susceptible to. These diseases include dengue, Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), West Nile virus (WNV), Saint Louis encephalitis (SLE) and dog heartworm.

In addition, mosquito bites can cause severe skin irritation through an allergic reaction to the mosquito's saliva - this is what causes the red bump and itching.

### Dengue

Dengue is a mosquito-borne infection that is transmitted to humans through the bites of infected female Aedes aegypti and less frequently by Aedes albopictus mosquitoes.

Mosquitoes generally acquire the virus while feeding on the blood of an infected person. After virus incubation for eight to 10 days, an infected mosquito is capable, during probing and blood feeding, of transmitting the virus for the rest of its life. There are four distinct, but closely related, viruses that cause dengue: DENV 1, DENV 2, DENV 3 or DENV 4. Recovery from infection by one provides lifelong immunity against that

virus but do not provide protection against subsequent infection by the other three viruses. After being bitten, following an incubation period of five to eight days, symptoms are high fever, severe headache, pain in the joints, pain behind the eyes, muscle and bone pain, mild bleeding and rash.

Mild dengue fever rarely causes death, and your symptoms will usually subside within a week after starting. Dengue hemorrhagic fever, a more severe form of the disease, usually begins the same way as dengue fever then become worse after several days.

When the fever declines, symptoms may include damage to blood vessels, decrease in blood cells, bleeding from nose and mouth, bleeding under the skin and sometimes death. There is no specific medication for treatment of a dengue infection; persons who think they have dengue should consult a physician, care of patients' centers on treatment of symptoms and complications. There is no vaccine available against dengue; therefore prevention is the most important step in staying healthy.

### Eastern equine encephalitis

Eastern equine encephalitis is a rare illness in humans and is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito; only a few cases are reported in the United States each year. The virus is maintained in nature through a bird - mosquito cycle, these mosquitoes feed on infected birds, become carriers of the disease and then feed on horses and other mammals, and very rarely on humans.

Infection can cause a range of illnesses with symptoms appearing four to 10 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. While most people are asymptomatic, others get only a mild flu-like illness with fever, headache and sore throat.

Some people develop infection of the central nervous system, with sudden fever and severe headache, which can be followed by seizures and coma. About half of these patients die from the disease. Of those who survive, many suffer permanent brain damage and require lifetime institutional care. There is no specific treatment for

EEE. Antibiotics are not effective against viruses, and no effective anti-viral drugs have been discovered. Care of patients centers on treatment of symptoms and complications. There is no vaccine against EEE for humans. Reducing exposure to mosquitoes is the best defense against infection with EEE and other mosquito-borne viruses.

### West Nile virus

West Nile Virus is cycled between birds and mosquitoes and transmitted to mammals (including horses) and man by infected mosquitoes. If you become infected with West Nile virus, you may not experience any signs or symptoms or you may experience only minor ones.

WNV might be described in one of three illnesses. The first is an asymptomatic infection. The second West Nile Fever is the least severe and is characterized by headache, tiredness, body aches, swollen lymph glands and occasionally skin rash. This might last a few days to several weeks.

The third and most severe are grouped as "neuroinvasive disease," which affects the nervous system; West Nile encephalitis affects the brain, and West Nile meningitis is an inflammation of the brain and membrane around it. Symptoms include high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis.

It is estimated that approximately one in 150 persons infected with the West Nile virus will develop a more severe form of disease.

Serious illness can occur in people of any age. However, people over age 50 and some immunocompromised persons (for example, transplant patients) are at the highest risk for getting severely ill when infected with WNV.

Most people recover from the infection without treatment, and because this disease is not caused by bacteria, antibiotics do not help treat WNV. In severe illnesses standard hospital care may help decrease the risk of complication.

The best way to prevent WNV is by reducing exposure to mosquito bites.

### Saint Louis encephalitis

St. Louis encephalitis is a rare disease caused by a virus spread by infected mosquitoes and is one of a group of mosquito-transmitted viruses that can cause inflammation of the brain (encephalitis).

It takes five to 15 days after the bite of an infected mosquito to develop symptoms of SLE disease. Most people who are infected with SLE have no symptoms or only mild non-specific flu-like illness. However, in its more severe form, SLE can cause serious illness that affects the central nervous system.

Symptoms often include fever, headache, stiff neck, disorientation, convulsions, coma and death.

There is no specific treatment for SLE. Care of patient centers on treatment of symptoms and complications. Also, there is no vaccine to prevent SLE, therefore prevention centers on public health action to control mosquitoes and on individual action to avoid mosquito bites.

### Dog heartworm

Dog heartworm can be a life-threatening disease for canines. Heartworm is caused by roundworm, which is transmitted to your pet through mosquitoes.

Dogs and sometimes other animals such as cats, foxes and raccoons are infected with the worm through the bite of a mosquito carrying the larvae of the worm. Visible signs of heartworm disease may not appear until a full year after being bitten by infected mosquitoes. In fact, the disease may be well advanced before the dog shows any symptoms.

Dogs with typical heartworm disease fatigue easily, cough, and appear rough and not thriving. The initial symptom of heartworm is coughing and as the parasites find their way from the heart and into the lungs, it will cause a group of symptoms similar to a pulmonary disease. The disease in dogs cannot be eliminated, but it can be controlled or prevented with pills and/or injections. Some risk is present when treating dogs infected with heartworms, but death is rare.

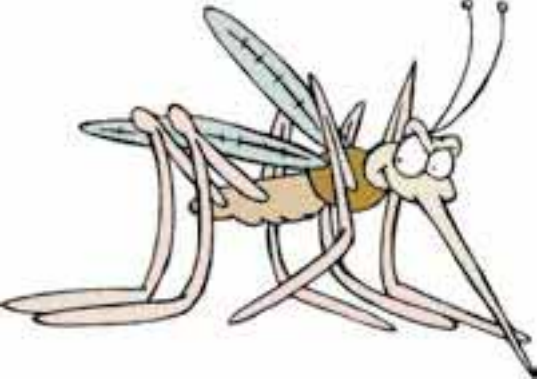
Still, prevention is best. Of course good residential mosquito control practices reduce the treat of mosquito transmission. There are several approaches you and

blers Anonymous, counseling, or residential treatment.

However, there is also some debate that certain medications may be helpful in reducing the symptoms of compulsive gambling. Gambling addiction is very treatable, and like most mental health issues, responds best to early detection, intervention and treatment.

Gamblers Anonymous is probably the best-known self-help group for gambling addiction and offers free meetings in most regions of the country.

Assessment for problem gambling is available at your local STOF Family Services offices. In Hollywood, call 954-964-6338; Immokalee, 239-867-3480; Fort Pierce, 772-461-7363; Brighton, 863-763-7700; Tampa, 813-246-3100; Big Cypress, 863-902-3206.





# Follow These Tips and Have a Safe Labor Day

## SEMINOLE TRIBE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

The Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue Department would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Labor Day holiday. Labor Day weekend is traditionally the end of the summer season, when people take advantage of the weekend to have fun with friends and family.

But this is also a time when serious accidents can happen from the misuse of barbecue grills, fireworks and sparklers.

The following are some safety tips to follow when grilling, using fireworks and sparklers.

When grilling:  
Propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors (they give off a deadly gas known as carbon monoxide).

Place grill well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

•Keep children and pets away from the grill area.

•Keep grill free from fat buildup and the tray below the grill surface.

•Do not leave the grill unattended.

Charcoal grills:

•If you use starter fluid, only use charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire (possibility of the fire following the fluid back into the can and burning you or an explosion of the fire itself).

•Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.

•When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing of them in a metal container.

Have a Happy and Safe Labor Day!



### Fireworks and Sparklers:

- Use fireworks/sparklers outside only.
- Always have water handy.
- Only use fireworks as intended. Do not alter them.
- Never relight a dud firework. Wait at least 20 minutes and then soak it in water.
- Keep spectators away and the shooter should wear eye protection.
- Do not mix alcohol and fireworks.
- The temperature of sparklers can reach temperatures of 1,200 degrees.
- Only adults should use fireworks and sparklers.

The Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue Department recommends that you watch a professional show instead of making your own show.

### Hurricane Portable Generator Safety Tips

- Generators should be operated in well-ventilated locations outdoors away from all doors, windows and vent openings.
- Place generator so the exhaust fumes cannot enter the home through windows, doors, or other openings.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Follow the manufacturer's advice for proper placement and mounting height.
- Do not refuel the generator while it is running; turn it off and allow it to cool before refueling.
- Do not store fuel in the home. Gasoline and other flammable liquids should be stored outside of living spaces in properly labeled containers.
- Appliances should be plugged directly into the generator or a heavy-duty outdoor rated extension cord. Check all cords for cuts and tears, and make sure the plug has all three prongs.
- If generator is to be connected to the house wiring to power appliances, a qualified electrician should install a properly rated transfer switch.

# In Order to Help Your Child, Know the Adolescent Brain



"Don't you trust me?" your child asks. Your answer may be "yes," on many levels. But when it comes to decision-making about the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, it's not just about trust; it's about understanding the adolescent brain.

There is a reason so many of our teens and preteens behave as if they are immortal, acting on impulse without considering the consequences. Blame it partially on their brain.

The part of the brain that promotes im-

pulsivity and risk-taking develops early in teens, while the brain area responsible for thinking, planning, good judgment, decision-making and impulse control is undergoing the most change (and will continue to develop well into a person's mid-20s).

Because of this lack of brain maturity, teens and preteens do not have the ability to control impulses like adults do, which in turn increases an adolescent's chance of engaging in risky behavior, like smoking, drinking and illegal drug use.

In this critical stage of development, the child needs a parent, not a "trusting" friend, to step in, set clear boundaries and serve as that impulse control.

### How you can help your child:

- Explain the risks of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use
- Talk early and often

- Set clear non-use rules
- Know your child's friends (and their parents)

- Know where your child is at all times
- Play an active role in your child's daily life

*Sources: American Medical Association: Alcohol's adverse effects on the brains of children, adolescents and college students. Califano, Joseph, Jr.: How to Raise a Drug-Free Kid, The Straight Dope for Parents, NY, 2009. ParentsEmpowered.org: Utah Department of Alcoholism Beverage Control and Utah Prevention.*

*Mission: The Big Cypress Team – "Be The Wall Task Force" is dedicated to empowering youth to reject harmful substances by increasing education, motivation, collaboration, and awareness to create a safe and healthy community.*

## SAFETY CORNER

# Know What Heat Emergencies Are and How to Treat Them

BY CHIEF DAVID LOGAN, FIRE MARSHAL  
Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue

The Sunshine State is a top tourist destination and second home for many visitors, largely due to the attractive subtropical climate, which is atypical from the rest of the U.S.

However, it is apparent to many that outdoor activities in the hot, humid conditions can become life threatening for those not prepared to deal with it. As the body succumbs to the heat hazard, and body temperature rises, the following symptoms of one of these heat emergencies can occur:

•Heat cramps occurs when exerting the body during strenuous activity in a hot environment, which leads to muscle pains and spasms, often in the legs. Typically this is an early warning that the body is in trouble because it is dehydrated. The cramps are caused due to a depletion of water, salts,

and minerals, and an effected person will need to stop and address the problem immediately by resting and drinking water or a sports drink.

•Heat exhaustion causes the body to push blood to the skin in an effort to increase cooling because too much water is being released through heavy sweating. This takes blood from the vital organs, resulting in a mild shock condition and symptoms including paleness, nausea, dizziness, fainting and a high body temperature. This is a very serious situation that requires the person to move to a cooler place and to drink water (unless the person begins to vomit).

•Heat stroke, is most severe out of the three heat emergencies, and a deadly heat illness. The key symptom is that the person becomes hot and flushed but is not sweating because they have run out of adequate sweat to cool the body. There may still be sweat on the skin, but no or very little sweat is being produced. Other symptoms are loss of consciousness, seizures and delirium. The body temperature has reached 105 degrees and this is definitely a life-threatening situation in which emergency medical services should be contacted immediately.

•Outdoors temperatures can become extremely dangerous when it them prolonged periods of time. If it is necessary to be outdoors, include periodic breaks in a cool environment. Even a shaded area such as underneath a tree may be 10 degrees cooler than the direct sunlight temperature.

•Hydrate Yourself by drinking plenty of liquids (at least eight glasses per day), espe-



cially prior to outdoor activities in the heat. However, coffee and sodas, which contain caffeine, should be avoided because they are diuretics and increase fluid loss within the body.

Parked vehicles can reach soaring temperatures hotter than those outdoors because the heat is contained. Open the doors to allow the heat to dissipate or turn on the air conditioning before entering. Remember not to leave children or pets in the vehicle, even with the windows cracked. Interior temperatures can rise quickly to cause coma and/or death within several minutes.

First aid involves calling 911 and moving the patient from the heat into a cool environment. Begin to cool the patient immediately with wet towels or ice packs to the neck, armpits and groin. Use a fan if possible or fan the patient manually, remove clothing, lie the patient down and elevate the legs 6 to 12 inches until the emergency medical responders arrive.



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ORLANDO MAGIC  
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ANDRE RIEU



# Announcements

## BIRTHDAYS



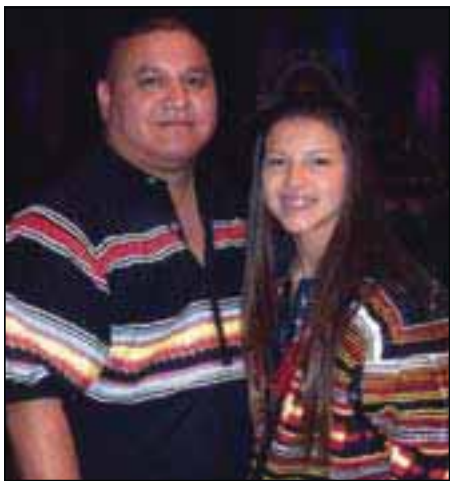
Happy birthday to our grandma Alice Sweat on Aug. 6, 2010. We love you and want to thank you for everything you do for us. You are an awesome grandma. We've really enjoyed traveling with you this year.

Love,  
Cheyenne, Stevie, Brianna and all of your grandchildren



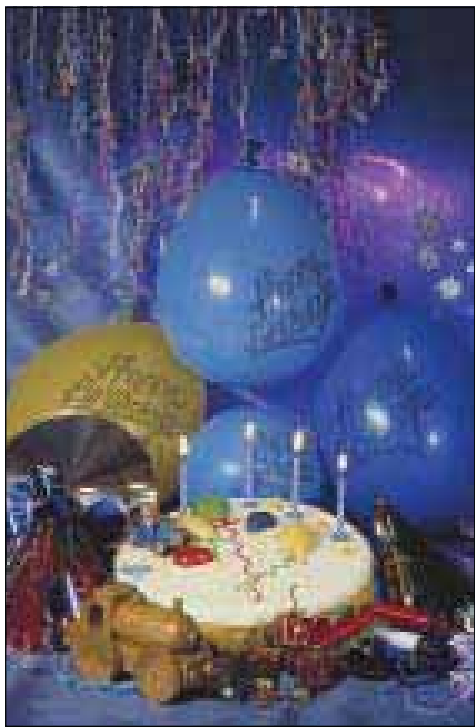
Happy "14th" birthday Daniel Nunez Jr. on Sept. 28, 2010. We are very proud of you for your hard work this year receiving A's and B's all year and perfect attendance. Keep up the hard work and it will pay off in the future.

Love always,  
Mom, Dad, Courtney, Cheyenne,  
Joleyne and Daliyah



We would like to wish our Dad "Boogie" a happy birthday on Aug. 1, 2010. You are the greatest dad and we love you very much. Thanks for everything that you do for us. We are lucky to have you Dad.

Love,  
Courtney, Cheyenne, Daniel, JoJo,  
Daliyah and Mom



WE WANT TO WISH YOU A  
HAPPY 19TH BIRTHDAY MELA!!

You have grown from our adorable baby girl to a gorgeous, intelligent woman and we hope you Have a wonderful birthday and wish you many, many more birthdays to come.

Love you baby,  
Mom, Dad, Ethan & Vanessa Billie



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Connecting People – Empowering Communities

## NOTICE OF SECRETARIAL ELECTION

NEWS RELEASE  
2010

DATE: July 22,

Contact: Keith Neves  
(954) 983-1537, Ext 22

### THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT A SECRETARIAL ELECTION FOR THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA

**Hollywood, Florida** – The Seminole Tribal Council has requested the Bureau of Indian Affairs to conduct a Secretarial Election pursuant to Tribal Council Resolution No. C-257-10, "Secretarial Election, Amendment No. XXI to Constitution and Bylaws Seminole Tribe of Florida; to repeal Article II, Section 9."

Members of the Seminole Tribe of Florida are hereby advised that a Secretarial Election will be held on SEPTEMBER 7, 2010, for the purpose of voting on the proposed amendment to the Tribal Constitution to retain or repeal Article II, Membership, Section 9. This election is being conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in accordance with Part 81 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations (25 CFR Part 81).

Pursuant to the requirements of 25 CFR 81.6(d), adult tribal members who register to vote in this election shall be entitled to vote for the retention or removal of Article II, Membership, Section 9 of the Tribal Constitution. A notice is being mailed to all tribal members 18 years of age and older thirty days prior to the election, at the address listed on the current tribal membership roll with a voter registration form enclosed. Any member who does not receive such form by mail should request one from the Seminole Agency, 6100 Hollywood Blvd, Suite 206, Hollywood, Florida 33024, or from the Election Board, Seminole Tribe of Florida, 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Florida 33024.

THE REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE SEMINOLE AGENCY OR THE SEMINOLE TRIBAL OFFICE BUILDING NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM (CLOSE OF BUSINESS) ON AUGUST 16, 2010.

If any adult member is unable to vote at a designated polling place because of non-residence, temporary absence from the reservation, illness or physical disability, the individual may vote by absentee ballot. Requests for absentee ballots must be designated on the voter registration forms.

It is particularly important that only adult members who register to vote in this election will be permitted to cast ballots on the retention or removal of Article II, Membership, Section 9 of the Tribal Constitution.

Immediately after the ballots are counted, the results of the election will be posted at the Seminole Agency and the Seminole Tribal Administrative Office.

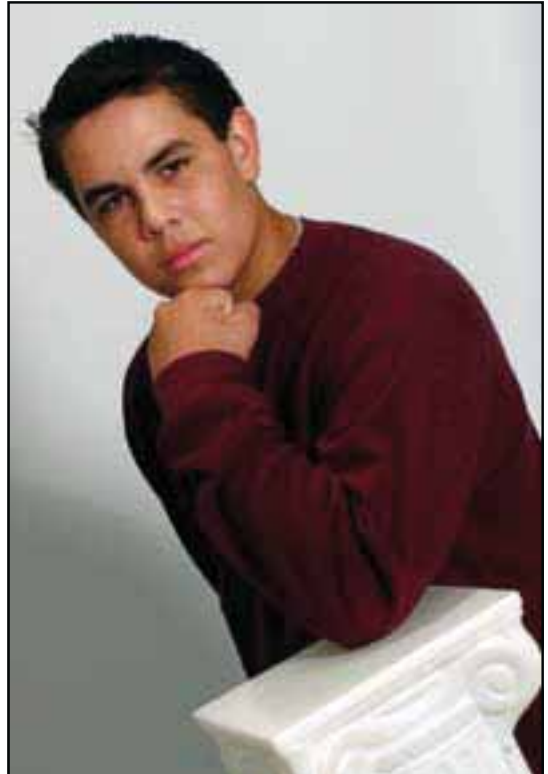
## THANK YOU

This is the hardest letter we have ever had to write! To start off we would like to thank all the employees and friends for all the hard work and supplies given to our family at this awful time in our lives. To all the people and departments that sent flowers and cards, and for all the prayers, love and support we have! To SPD you went over and above to let us know you were there to help. We wanted to also thank the Recreation department and all the people who showed up in support of our baby Tyler B. Cypress for his fishing tournament. Lord willing we can do it again next year!

You never expect for one of your children to leave this earth before you and only having Tyler B. for 15 years was NOT enough! We miss and love him more than words can express! Our hope is that every person reading this note would realize how precious and delicate life is and we only have but a second on this earth! So grab your love ones and hold them tight and tell them you love them.

And to our other children we want you to know how much mom and dad love you!!

Charlie & Wendy Cypress and Family



## POEMS

### *My Perfect Little World*

In my perfect little world, people greet,  
They kiss and hug each time they meet.  
Friends hold hands, and calm your fears;  
They stick around to wipe your tears.

But in the world today, we just don't care,  
And showing love is somewhat rare.  
When times are fun all friends are near,  
Then things get tough and must disappear.

In my perfect little world, we give and share;  
We make it a point to show we care.  
We live to love, and love to live,  
And find it easy to forgive.

But in the world today we strive on greed,  
And crave the things we rarely need.  
We step on others to get our way,  
And hurt with what we do or say.

In my perfect little world, children

smile,  
And parents go that extra mile.  
No child is ever harmed or hurt,  
Abused or treated just like dirt.

But in the world today most people cry,  
And only pray in case they die.  
We've given in to all that's bad,  
And then complain that life is hard.

In my perfect little world we're all the same  
And life is not a spiteful game.  
People are loyal, honest and just,  
And value the gift of friendship and trust.

But in the world today it seems,  
We've lost all hope or goals and dreams.  
Malicious acts are seen as witty,  
I think it's sad and such a pity.

It's like that  
Alex Tucker  
Otter Clan

### *"My Princess"*

M-y love, my heart, my soul is my gift to you  
Y-our smile, your love is the reward I would want.

P-recious, like a gem made by angels to shine forever  
R-eleasing the passion inside me that burns for you.  
I-ntertwining our destinies, so that we two soul mates,  
N-ow and forever can live out our hopes and dreams  
C-reating our own bond of life, to overcome the challenges,  
E-xplore the mysteries, and to enjoy life as it should be  
S-haring the peace and love that everyone looks for.  
S-o in the end I want nothing, because I have everything I need.


Good to B-King  
Alex Tucker  
Otter Clan



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I am giving away my 2 Yorkshires for free due to the transfer I had from my working place. Kindly contact me for more info at Gregjarvis3@gmail.com

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our baby girl Esmeralda Sabrina Billie on graduating high school!!

It's been a long hard road but we are so proud of you for sticking in there, working hard and never giving up.

This is just the beginning for you and we know you will do great things and we love you very much.

Love,  
Dad, Mom, Vanessa & Ethan



## CONGRATULATIONS



Division Champs the OCRA Gators Midget won the division with a record of eight wins and one loss. Congratulations to Coach Mo Madrigal, Coach Vern Smalls and Coach Daniel Nunez Sr. and also to all the players for their hard work throughout the season.



Congratulations to my girlfriend Esmeralda Billie for graduating!! I'm so proud of you babe and I love you.  
Love,  
Randy Osceola

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*You are cordially invited to celebrate  
Indian Day with the Fort Pierce Community*

**Saturday - September 18, 2010**  
At Chupco Youth Ranch

- The day will begin with out traditional 5k walk for wellness (Registration begins at 5:30am and the walk begins at 6:00am promptly)
- The day will continue with our annual Indian Day Celebration (Commencing at 11:00am)

Please join us for food, fun, music, cultural activities and fireworks!

Lunch and Dinner will be served.

For more information please contact:  
Paulette Robinson at 954-258-5963

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**We are looking for LOTS of fun and friendly volunteers to help us at the Fort Pierce Indian Day Celebration.**

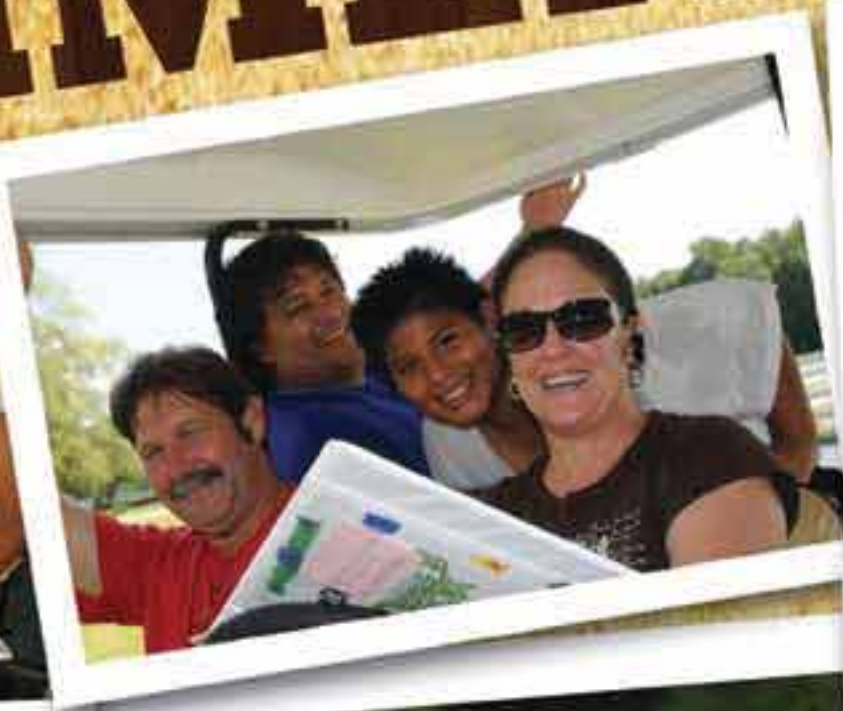
**Volunteers are needed on Saturday, September 18, 2010 from 9:00am to 9:00pm at Chupco's Youth Ranch.**

**This is the perfect opportunity if you like to have fun and meet new people!!!**

For more information please contact:  
Paulette Robinson at 954-258-5963



# 2010 SEMINOLE YOUTH SUMMER CAMP





# CAMP KULAQUA - SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA'S ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH CAMP



Darryl Allen, right, gives tips on viewing life in positive ways. Front, Ruben Burgess. Adults in back are, from left, Scott Akin, Debra Ray and Jody King.

Seminole Health Department

## Life Lessons Happen on the Sidelines

The older kids at Youth Camp are on a "Sports and Life Skills" track. Family Services Staff Ray Yzaguirre from Immokolee summed it up: "The camp is more than playing sports and learning about managing your bank account. It's about learning to care about each other and love each other."

Caring and love can't easily be learned in a workshop, but this possibly be learned on the sides of a ball field. This was demonstrated on a hot, sweaty camp afternoon.

At the end of a game of a testosterone-charged flag football, a group of five younger men were standing with arms crossed and smile-less faces on the side of the field. A counselor says to another, "We've got to diffuse this."

Details spared, some boys were not happy with others. The counselors encouraged them to voice their gripes. Brighton School Resources Officer Darryl Allen challenged the campers' assumptions of one another. He gave them an idea that maybe, just maybe, their perceptions of each another were wrong. Maybe they didn't

know each other. He listened intently, and then he zeroed in on a possible underlying reason for the conflict.

"You feel like you have to prove to someone you're not scared? But there's no need to prove you're not afraid. No one's asking you to do this. You don't have to prove nothing to no one," said Darryl. This is camp. This is magic Seminole Youth Camp, where there is a water park, a blob, a Canteen selling pepperoni. (Darryl didn't exactly say that. He used other words to get the young men to see that, through positive thoughts, they could shape their reality.)

The young men's arms were still crossed. They weren't buying it. They were mad. Darryl tried another angle. "You are brothers and cousins. You're from the same creed. You're from common ground." He encouraged them to stop focusing on the one thing that peeves them. "Find one thing you like about the other person." Arms still crossed.

Ray took over and instructed the young men to let it out, say exactly what was bugging

them. Voices rose. Muscular, sweaty bodies leaned in, took steps toward each other. Counselors moved in and separated the group into two. After 5 minutes of talking and listening, a counselor said, "You got everything out of you? Then that's it."

Some of the boys shook hands. All went away knowing that they could all get along, that they could get over it, or not. In 15, short, heated minutes, the counselors had given five young men tools to solve interpersonal conflicts, to acknowledge fear, talk things out, care for each other as brothers- cousins-family, to look for the good in people and ignore the bad, and OMG, the big one, the biggest one -- the option to forgive, get over it, and get on with camp.

Would each boy really "get" this mini-life lesson conducted on the sports sidelines? Each boy had the remainder of the day, the next three days of camp, and the weeks and months ahead to decide.

## Beneath the Blob - What Really Goes on at Seminole Youth Camp?

ALL STORIES AND PHOTOS  
SUBMITTED BY THE SEMINOLE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

There's a blob, a go cart track, a disc golf course, sports fields, a river raft trip, a water park, even a zoo with a tiger. Is this Camp Kulaqua, the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Annual Summer Youth Camp? Or is it more? Is it nutrition and money management classes, cyber-bullying presentations, or internet safety workshops? This was the sixth year the camp was held... a good time to ask, What is The Real Seminole Youth Camp, is heart?. What lies beneath the blob? Here is what campers, counselors and staff know about Seminole Youth Camp:

### 1. Youth Get It

No matter what their age, campers understand the main messages at camp. They get it if the message is about health. "Some health drinks tell you they are healthy, but when you start learning about them, you find out they have a lot of sugar and sugar's not good for your health," says Darius Friday, age 11, (BC).

They get the message if it transcends physical health to balanced health. To have a good life, you have to get an education, don't do drugs, play sports, have a family that loves you and takes care of you and feeds you every day," says John Osceola, age 10, (Hollywood).

They get the message if it's scary (like the message in the safety class). "I learned a little girl got captured, so I shouldn't walk on the street alone," says Randean Osceola, age 7 (Immokalee).

On the same topic, 10-year-old Stanley Cypress, age 10 (BC) says, "I learned that abductions happen. You should kick and scream and have a positive mind. "Did the workshop make Stanley more afraid? "No," he answers. "It made me more courageous."

They get the message if it hits home (like the message in the internet safety class). "I learned that sexting is a felony and that child predators are everywhere. I'm going to be more careful, and if I see friends doing dangerous behavior, I'm going to tell them to stop," says Steve Harrison, age 16, (Hollywood).

### 2. Campers' Behavior Changes

Many adults noticed youth's behavior improving each day. In the course of one week, little, positive changes were happening. "At the start of camp, when they wanted my attention, they said, 'Hey!' Now they say, 'Excuse me,'" says Veronica Mata, counselor of 13-year-old girls.

Tommy McGee, After Care Counselor from Hollywood says, "I was standing in line to get a drink, and a 7-year-old boy passed in front of me. He looked up at me and said, 'Excuse me.' I wasn't expecting that."

These small changes in behavior may seem insignificant by themselves, but when you have a movement through camp of better behavior in seven days, and near the end of camp, a 12-year-old boy opens the door for you to let us go first, now, that is really something. Which leads us to the next point.

### 3. Campers Learn Respect, Teamwork,

#### Respect and More Respect

Respecting others was the main lesson that camp-

ers say they learned. Almost every youth I talked to said what Aaron Alvarado, age 14 (Immokalee) says, "I learned teamwork and respect. I will take the need to help me with me. I will keep reminding myself, 'I need to respect my parents, help my parents.'" The message of respect was continuously reinforced in the cabins, during lunchtime, on the ball fields.

Fred Mullins, a Family Services Counselor at Immokalee, was a counselor for a cabin of six 10-year-olds. He helped one boy learn how to put the big concept of respect into action by giving him three easy-to-follow steps: Be slow to speak. Be slow to anger. Be quick to listen. The boy thanked Fred by making him a red, yellow, white and black beaded necklace, which Fred wore every day.

And, if the connection with caring adults doesn't do the trick, youth are encouraged to act respectfully through monetary rewards. Counselors are on the lookout for "random acts of kindness and respect," and when they see campers trying to quiet others down while an adult is speaking, or picking up trash, they reward them with play money that campers can spend at the Canteen or the camp store.

### 4. With Parents' Help, It

#### Continues

The lessons kids learn at camp don't stop when they get home. Justin Roff, age 14 (BC), used to wake up at 11, but started waking up at 6 at camp, "Waking up early gives you a better feeling for the day. I'm going to try get up early when I get home."

Logan Ortiz, age 11 (Brighton) says on the final day of camp, "I learned to eat healthy foods and to be active every day. I plan to work out at the gym."

But these quotes came from the kids in the midst of the magical camp. In reality, sticking with healthier habits of mind, body and spirit is challenging. Parents and other adults are needed.

"I think the youth can retain what they learned if their parents help by making healthier foods available, by encouraging them to drink lots of water," said Cindy Aguilar, who, with her husband, Edward, was a volunteer counselor. Cindy and Edward attended camp with their two sons, and intend on keeping the healthy habits going all year. "It's doable," she says.

In addition to parents and family support, youth will need and can use the support of tribal programs to stay healthy. "We can't do this camp all year," says

Stan Frischman, Assistant Recreation Director, BC. "If kids get home and start saying, 'I'm bored, remember that all the reservations have great rec departments.'"

Two hours before camp ended, Jennifer Tommie, age 13 (Brighton) was standing with two friends on her cabin's porch. She was realistic as she thought about what the next several months held in store for her. "There will be relationship drama when we get back, and it will be difficult to stay out of it."

Her two friends agree, and add that there's also a lot of peer pressure and parents don't really understand what teens are going through. "We know they care. They tell us to behave," say the girls. But their lives are complex. "There are people fighting, spreading rumors, and lots of drama at school," say the girls.

Camp lessons will help them. They say they learned to not bully or give in to peer pressure, but will still need help from parents, family and tribal staff to repeatedly put these lessons into action during the school year.

### 5. It Changes the Community

This is the camp's sixth year. It started with 32 youth. This year attendance was around 220. Campers come from all tribal locations, and are ages 7-17. Many

of the campers have been to camp multiple times.

The atmosphere of camp is changing, noted many adults. It is calmer, runed more smoothly. Of course, the staff are more experienced. But something more profound is happening. Youth are changing. The camp is having an impact.

Lilly Yawn has been a cook at Camp Kulaqua since the first time the camp was held there. She watches the dinner buffet line, to make sure the aluminum pans are never empty. She has a peaceful, non-food related look on her face. "I've noticed a change in the youth. They've become more respectful. I just want to hug them all."

Seminole Summer Youth Camp is not a one-time, week-long vacation. It is a life-changing, multi-year experience for youth, starting at age 7 and ending at 17. Imagine if a boy or girl, age 7, goes to camp each summer for 10 years. Imagine if, during the school year, parents, staff and tribal programs reinforce what the youth learned. Imagine if health of mind, body and spirit, high self esteem, and respect of peers, elders, and community is embraced, put into practice and never forgotten by 250, 300, 350 Seminole youth.

No need to imagine. This is happening now.



Seminole Health Department

Rafting the Ichetucknee River is one of camp's highlights. Youth learn courage, trying new things and patience.



"Counselors ask us to be respectful. What does that mean? It means not being angry at people all day. It's part of being mentally healthy. I'm learning that at camp, learning life skills, not just eating right." Talon Youngman, age 14 (Lake Placid)



"We showed the youth a 5-pound bag of sugar. This is the amount of sugar you get if you drink two sodas a day for a month. All of them seemed shocked. They said, 'Oh my gosh! I didn't know soda had that much sugari!'" Jillian Guralski, Detician



"Our counselors are teaching us to not talk back, to be better people." Ethan Aguilar, age 11 (Immokalee)



"I learned that competition is good. It's what keeps us going. And teamwork is what gives us an edge. If we work together, there is no way you can stop us." Justin Roff, age 14 (Big Cypress)



"It's dangerous out there. Even when you think it's safe, there's drugs and kids joining gangs. That's why it's good to have a camp like this. The camp helps youth learn teamwork, stay active and have a strong cultural identity. It helps them from doing drugs and joining gangs." Nick Frank, counselor



"I learned I have to be able to control my temper, calm it down." Tyler Tiger-tail, age 15 (Big Cypress)



"I used to drink four sodas a day, but I'm cutting back to zero because it has a lot of sugar and I could get diabetes." Tyrus Billie, age 12 (Big Cypress)



"The youth learn that they have to choose to make the rez what they want it to be. Because of what we learn here at camp, youth can make choices to make our reservations good, clean communities." Helene Buster, Family Services Director



"I learned to not stoop to a bully's level. Be better than the bully. Be nicer. The camp is a good place to learn about bullying. A lot of places don't teach you stuff like that." Turquoise Battiest, age 13 (Hollywood)



"On the first day I got here, I drank five waters. On the last day, I drank 12." Brevon Cypress, age 11 (Hollywood)



# CAMP KULAQUA - SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA’S ANNUAL SUMMER YOUTH CAMP



Seminole Health Department  
Youth make friends from other Reservations. They say it helps them have confidence when visiting Seminole locations away from home.

## Camp Unifies, with Friends, with Purpose

One goal of Youth Camp is to bring back the old feeling of “when everyone knew everyone.” Campers from Hollywood, BC, Brighton, Immokalee, Tampa, Trail, and Ft. Meyers are deliberately mixed together in cabins.

“We are a tribe. There should be no more, ‘I’m from Brighton. I’m from Immokalee,’” says Helene Buster, Camp Director.

But do living, playing and learning together for one week really bring kids, and an entire tribe together? “I’ve made a lot of friends,” says Lisandra Baker, age 14 (BC).

She lists where her new friends live: “Brigh-

ton, Hollywood, Tampa and Immokalee.”

She says she used to have only three friends from other reservations. Now, she has dozens. When Lisandra goes to an event at a different reservation, she will see people she knows, people who are already friends. “I will feel more confident because I already know so many people.”

Justin Roff, age 14 (Brighton) agrees. “I made new friends from different reservation,” he says, then goes on to explain why this is important. “If we all work together, we can make a bright future for our kids and their kids.”

## Teens Get an ABC Lesson From Boss

You may know her as Helene Buster, Director of Family Services and Youth Camp Director. But for one week during the summer, over 200 Seminole youth know her as “the boss,” or simply, “Boss.” When Boss speaks, you listen. She tells it like it is, and doesn’t hesitate to name names. “John Smith (fictitious name to protect the guilty.) You stop running right now. Sit down and be quiet. I know your momma.” It is lunchtime, and Boss is using a microphone. Singling out one youngster does the trick. Everyone ratchets their behavior down a notch. They sit stiller, lower their enthusiastic voices.

During the six years that the Seminole Youth Camp has been held, Helene and about 150 other staff and adult volunteers have learned many lessons. But the need for a “The Buck Stops Here” kind of leader is the most important one. “We’ve learned that there has to be a boss. And the kids have to know that when that person speaks, that’s the bottom line,” explains Helene.

The Boss had to be called out on the last morning of camp because of a “situation” that happened in the middle of the night. Someone had sprayed the police cars with shaving cream. Standing in front of the older campers at 7 AM, Boss was not happy.

The campers were unusually silent as Helene gave many of them a viewpoint they had not considered: This was not a harmless prank, but one that could have had serious consequences. If the shaving cream had dried on, it could have damaged the paint. Repainting the

police cars would have been expensive; not just white, but red, yellow, black, with lettering and complex logos, each one an art project. Not many campers had considered that.

By 7:05, she had the campers in pin-drop silence. Some were fidgeting, moving their weight from foot to foot. Boss was not yet finished. “Who do you think would have to pay for the painting of these vehicles?” she asked. “It would come out of the tribe’s pocket. And who is the tribe? It’s you. When you damage the vehicles, when you spray graffiti on a tribal building, when you leave the lights on in the gym overnight, who pays for this? You do. When the tribe prospers, you prosper. When the tribe has to pay for damage, you have to pay for damage.”

Several sets of eyes dropped down, and there was more

silence. Boss had done it again. She had used a “situation” at camp to give a life lesson. A was connected to B was connected to C. Your actions are connected to consequences which become connected to the tribe (which is you.)

Later, in a remote corner of camp, a group of teens were washing the shaving cream off the police cars. Some may have been thinking about the early morning ABC lesson provided by the boss.



Seminole Health Department  
Helene Buster's honest words lets the youth know when they are not respectful. They also know how much she cares about each of them.

## Poster Assignment Looks Simple, but Requires Grown-Up Skills

The lessons at Seminole Youth Camp happen everywhere, at every moment. While campers are drawing posters, they are also learning about working together as a team and treating others with respect.

On the morning of the third day, the younger campers are making posters that sum up camp. Sounds easy, but it means multiple ideas and abilities, and in the end, one poster. It requires collaboration, and collaboration requires ego containment, and choosing words wisely.

At a table of six 10-year-old girls, things go well, initially. Counselor and Tampa Police Officer Claudia Acevedo asks the girls to sketch their ideas on small pieces of paper. Everyone gets busy. One poster stands out: a simple black line drawing of a girl running with words above that read Seminole Youth Camp, and words below that read Shine On.

Claudia suggests using this one as the main design of the poster.

“Who agrees?” she wisely asks. No answers. Shine On’s creator is too shy to speak up and five others are rooting for their own ideas. Claudia asks again, “Do you agree?” Silence.

The tension is high at the girls’ table. But at a nearby table of 9-year-old boys, everyone is working together and making quick progress. They have already agreed on the main message: “Don’t be a flea.” Be drug free.” Everyone is happily adding their art on the sidelines of the main slogan-- collaboration at its best.

At other tables kids are drawing rainbows, American flags, coke cans encircled with the international no sign. Pasted onto many of the posters are soccer balls, footballs, turtles, and even a penguin. Words read: take a bath, wash your hands, don’t do alcohol, be nice, don’t throw your trash

on the ground, have a healthy heart, and have fun.

Back at the girls’ table, Shine On’s creator is clearly not having fun. She has pushed her chair away from the table, and is not speaking. Counselor Claudia steps away from the table and explains, “They all want to do their own thing. There are six different minds, six different ideas trying to come together. The main lesson here is to work together.”

Claudia says that she sees the potential in each girl. “One is artistic. One is athletic. One is more personable. We’re trying to allow their own personalities and abilities to shine.” She goes on to explain that the main thing the camp is teaching kids is how to be emotionally healthy. That’s a hard lesson to learn, harder than, ‘Don’t drink that soda.’

When the poster workshop is

done, each group brings their poster to a corner of the dining hall, and props it up. Some have central designs, signaling that one person’s design was voted in. Others have 6, 8, 10 designs, evidence that no single design was agreed upon. All have clear messages about physical, mental, emotional and community health.

And Shine On’s poster? Her design is in the middle, but small, not the focal point. It is surrounded by five other drawings of equal size. By the looks of their poster, the group decided to not collaborate, to not select one camper’s design over the others, but another way, a way that worked better for them. They chose to compromise and let each camper a portion of the poster space.

The poster drawing session is over. The lesson is learned and the campers are off to another activity.

## Talent Show Is Opportunity to Really Shine

It could have been a nightmare. Twelve-year-old girl up on stage during the talent show on the last night of camp. Solo. She starts to sing. Spotlight bright. Sings half the song, then realizes the sound person played the wrong cut. It is time now for her to put her hands over her eyes, to gasp and giggle and walk off stage in extreme, justifiable humiliation, but she does not. She raises her eyes to the back balcony and says, “This is the wrong song.” She calmly waits for the sound person to start another version of the song. She starts singing again.

Whew. Tragedy averted. Who is this girl? How did she have the guts, extreme courage and inner calm to remain on stage?

After the talent show, she is milling outside the entrance. Denise Osceola (Hollywood) is surrounded by friends and a counselor, Jalisssa Collazo. How did she do it? “My friends and the audience kept me going,” explains Denise. That’s it? A smiling audience?

Jalisssa gives more information, “During the week of camp, I’ve seen a transformation in Denise and other campers. Everyone accepts everyone here. It allows you to be comfortable in your own skin.”

Denise agrees. She says when she first got to camp, she could have never envisioned herself up on stage, singing a solo, let alone having a CD malfunction and handling it with grace. “Before camp, I didn’t want to do anything.” But tonight, she wanted to share her song, no matter what. “I love the song,” she says. And she had to sing it, get it out, right sound track or wrong.

Campers pass by and say, “I liked your song,” to Denise, and she smiles ever so slightly, says, “Thank you.”

Jalisssa says, “That’s what the camp is about. It’s about bonding, establishing lasting friendships. It’s about developing confidence, finding inner joy.”

Jalisssa goes on to say she thinks most campers will hold on to this feeling of camaraderie, confidence and joy, that many of them will start the school year with a higher sense of self-esteem because of camp, and because of lessons like Denise’s.

Denise looks up and adds, “I feel like I can do whatever I want. I’m content and have inner happiness.” Her words are not needed, because, even without the spotlight, she shines.



Seminole Health Department  
Art projects are important learning lessons. Youth learn to problem solve as a group – to listen more and speak less. (Note to parents – Donovan taped his mouth shut – it wasn’t us!)



Seminole Health Department  
While making box cars, creative ideas and enthusiasm flow; and youth are reminded to get along, share and take turns.



Seminole Health Department  
Denise Osceola age 12 (Hollywood) sings a solo during the talent show of the camp’s final evening.

## Adults Learn Just as Much as Kids at Camp

There’s a lot of bait and switching going on at camp – kids thinking they are making a poster or a box car, playing a game of flag football or rafting a slow-moving, icy-cold river, but instead they are learning about ego containment, teamwork and patience. Yet the biggest

gest bait and switch is not for the kids. It’s for the adults, the staff, the parents, the Seminole programs that fund the camp. We call the camp a Youth Camp, but the ultimate lessons might just be learned by the adults.

Scott Akin, a BC Police Officer, was a counselor to seven 12-year-old boys. On the second night of camp he averted a situation: One boy was crying and wanted to go home. He talked him down, and by the third day, the boy was happy.

On the second-to-the-last day, Scott spent much of the morning standing in the frigid water of the Ichetucknee River, helping campers get into inner tubes. At first glance, you would think that Scott is the hero, that he is helping these kids so much, but Scott says he is the one who is benefitting from the camp, that being a counselor helps him

be better at his job. “I see a lot of what is going on in their personal lives. This camp gives me a different perspective. I can see why kids behave in certain ways. I see where they are coming from.”

Participating in the Youth Camp also helps Scott be an ambassador for the Police Department. “Everyone automatically looks at the guys from the Fire Department as good guys. The Police Officers have to work at it. By coming here, we are bridging the gap. We are letting youth know that we are here for them to talk to.”

Claudia Acevedo, a Tampa Police Officer, agrees with Scott. Getting to know tribal members is one of her greatest job challenges, because tribal members live throughout the city, and not on a reservation. “I’ve learned a lot about Seminole culture. This camp will make me a better police officer. I will be able to see people with more compassion.”

What adults take away from camp transcends improved job performance. It might just make them better human beings. Says Thommy Doud, Boys and Girls Club Manager from BC, “Knowing that these youth are here, what they are learning, gives me confidence. It strengthens me. I think, ‘If they are working so hard to be leaders, to have great futures, then I’m going to work



Seminole Health Department  
River Dillon, Timothy Bearden, Thomas Bearden, Mike Hopkins, Chloe Chalfant, Dayra Koenes, and Levy Pearce got to know each other at the camp.

hard for their futures.’ This camp, these youth, give me a reason to get up in the morning.”

Darryl Allen, School Resource Officer from Brighton, was also deeply affected by the youth at camp. “This will help me interact better with different people. It taught me that we are all striving for the same goal. We are coming together with one mind frame, to do the same job, to impact these kids.”

Darryl, normally cool and calm, is visibly moved. He says he is here at camp to impact the kids, but on the final day of camp it is him who is impacted, changed for the better, inspired, thanks to the youth.



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# SportsC

## Big Cypress Seminoles T-Ball Players Honored in Inaugural Season's Awards Ceremony

BY NAJI TOBIAS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** – In a fledgling sports program's first year of existence, it's not about winning or losing, according to Tribal citizen Carol Osceola.

During the Big Cypress Seminoles T-Ball Awards Ceremony, held Aug. 9 at the Billie Swamp Safari Café, the upstart Tribal team instead focused on the fundamental accomplishments made on the field this season.

Osceola's 7-year-old daughter, Brandi, was noted by her teammates, coaches and parental support group

for making a commendable effort in learning the fundamentals of the game of T-Ball.

"As a young kid like that, it's hard to remember all the plays and where you're supposed to be at," Osceola said of Brandi and her teammates at the awards ceremony. "It's more about the kids having fun and learning the basic skills of the sport."

Despite finishing their first season with a 3-4 record – the Big Cypress Seminoles T-Ball team's final two games were cancelled due to inclement weather – the program finished its season strong after a slow start, as the players began to jell as a team toward the end of their inaugural year.

Big Cypress Seminoles T-Ball Head Coach Alfonso Tigertail and Assistant Coach David Rojas teamed up to form the collection of Tribal youngsters, comprised of 12 players - boys and girls - from 3 to 7 years old.

Rojas spoke of how Tigertail enlisted him to help assemble the collection of youngsters.

"Al organized our program," Rojas said. "I never played T-Ball in my life before, but he saw something in me to help boost our kids' confidence. I was glad we got to show the kids how much we care about them. It's a way to give them something to do and stay away from trouble."

With the season beginning on April 15, the Big Cypress Seminoles started with four consecutive losses. However, the last three contests were wins, which were likely aided by the players' abilities to trust each other on the field. In addition, the team trust enhanced their learning abilities to combine timely hitting, fielding and throwing over the course of the season.

Regardless of how the inaugural season turned out, Tigertail told the players and their parents at the banquet he was highly encouraged by their play and is looking forward to another year with the T-Ball program.

"It was our first year playing together, but it was fun," Tigertail said. "It's going to take some time to build our program the way we want to, but we have something going on here. Sports build character in our kids, so let's keep encouraging them."

All of the Big Cypress T-Ball games were played at the Clewiston Ball Field Complex, with the season ending on June 3.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress T-Ball players David Rojas Jr., 5, left, Timmy Tigertail, 6, second from left, Thomas Tigertail, 3, second from right and Dayne Billie, 5, have a group hug to celebrate their accomplishments in the program's first season at the T-Ball Awards Ceremony.



Mary L. Billie

From left, Big Cypress T-Ball players Isadora Jumper, David Rojas Jr., Timmy Tigertail, Dayne Billie, Thomas Tigertail and Willie Smith share some quality time together during one of their games this season.

**SEE MORE  
PHOTOS ON 2C**



Rachel Buxton

World Series Champions, the Seminole Warriors with Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr.

## Banquet in Brighton Honors Seminole Warriors 12U Travel Team

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The Seminole Warriors 12U travel baseball team, which recently became the World Series champions, was recognized for their hard work and determination at a banquet in their honor put on by Brighton's Tribal Council Office and the Recreation Department.

The banquet was held at the Seminole Veterans Building Aug. 3 and included a dinner, followed by congratulatory speeches and awards.

"I've seen these boys from beginning to now go from crawl, to start walking and now they're dancing," Seminole Warriors founder and Brighton Event Coordinator Larry Howard said.

Each player was presented with a memorabilia baseball and World Series Championship plaque for their accomplishment.

Director of Recreation Richard Osceola, Tribal Council assistants Lucy Bowers and Danette Bowers, and Howard received baseballs from team and head coach David Simmons, for their help throughout the

season. Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. was thanked for all his help and support, as well and was presented with a memorabilia plaque.

"That's the way to do things, start something from scratch," Rep.

Bowers said to the crowd. "You're not sure if it's going to work, but you take that shot anyway and I think that's what we did here. Hopefully we can continue this thing."



Rachel Buxton

Larry Howard congratulates Layton Thomas for his World Series win.

## NAYO Boys Bring Home 2nd Place Trophy



Rachel Buxton

Native Tribes from around the country traveled to Atmore, Ala., to compete in the 2010 NAYO baseball tournament July 16-17. Tribes included Seneca, Choctaw, Cherokee and the Seminole Tribe. The 9-12 year-old Seminole boys division placed second in the tournament bringing home bragging rights and a trophy. Pictured are, front row, from left: Luke Baxley, Trevor Thomas and Tameron Wilcox. Back row, from left: Drayton Billie, Arek Jumper, Yopalakiyo Osceola, Joshua Madrigal, Cameron Jumper, Imillakiyo Osceola and Jerry Smith. Back row Coaches, from left: Gene Thomas, Larry Howard and John Madrigal.

## Tribal Youth Completes Championship Season

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The sky is the limit for Tribal youth softballer Charli Frye.

At the young age of 7 she still has time to dream and accomplish more, but she is well on her way.

She and her Pembroke Lakes Bandits 8-and-under A-division travel softball team are still celebrating after winning three state titles and one World Series title in one year,

under Head Coach Pam Denham.

Compiling a 56-5 overall season record, the young right fielder/pitcher helped the Bandits go undefeated in the regular season winning 13 straight tournament games capturing the Independent Softball Association (ISA) and National Softball Association (NSA) state championships. To cap things off, they also took home the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) championships on the state and world stage, facing teams from Texas, Iowa and Georgia along the way.

In the World Championship Tournament, six teams squared off with Frye's squad going 6-0, while defeating the Clearwater Bombers 4-2 for the title held in Kissimmee, July 31.

The experience has all been a part of having fun and enjoying the sport for the Panther Clan member.

"I like to get dirty the most," Charli said. "I also like to go fast and play hard."

As the youngest player on this years team, mother Danielle Jumper-Frye said the rough and tumble youngster has always had a natural tendency toward athletics following in the footsteps of older sister Dasani.

"She loves the sport [softball] now, and I like that she sees what she needs to fix to

correct her problem areas," Jumper-Frye said. "I told her often throughout the season, when you are on the field, nobody cares what your age is."

"She approached every game the same and always kept her cool. What has impressed me the most about her though has been her analysis and understanding of the game at an early age," Jumper-Frye continued.

Coach Denham said although Charli's coy demeanor is evident off the field, her forward play on it speaks to her potential.

"When she showed up to play she was often more seasoned than her years," Denham said.

The coach also said Frye had a big role in the team's great run, showing great hitting ability and solid throwing. But at this point, because of her young age, the enjoyment of the sport outweighs the team accomplishments.

"She [Charli] does not understand the reality of what we accomplished [as a team]. She is just out there having fun. Right now, she just does what your typical kid would do, but she will look back on it all and say, 'wow' when she gets older."

Charli said she hopes to play on through to the college and professional levels, but playing in the outfield, catching pop-ups and getting the older girls out on base were her most enjoyable moments this season.

As the only returner to the 8-and-under squad for next year, Denham explained that the team will be centered around Charli as one of the team leaders. She said Charli should continue to improve on her speed



Danielle Jumper Frye

Charli and her championship teammates.

and agility.

"As her coach, I am going to expect her to take on the role of leader. She is going to be the most experienced and needs to show

the others what needs to be done and will be an important foundation for next year," Denham said.



Chris C. Jenkins

Charli Frye, bottom right, with family including sister Dasani, top right, mother Danielle, top left, and brother Chanon.



## More photos from the Inaugural Season's Awards Ceremony Honoring Big Cypress Seminoles T-Ball Players



Naji Tobias



Naji Tobias

Left photo, Big Cypress T-Ball leftfielder Brandi Osceola, 7, left, is embraced by T-Ball Head Coach Alfonso Tigertail, after receiving her medal during the team's awards ceremony on Aug. 9 at the Billie Swamp Safari Café. Photo above, Tribal and community parents Carol Osceola, left, Raleigh Osceola, center and Almira Billie, congratulate the Big Cypress T-Ball on completing their first season in action at the Aug. 9 T-Ball Awards Ceremony.



Naji Tobias

At the conclusion of the Big Cypress T-Ball Awards Ceremony, the players and coaches round it up one last time for a group shoot. Here's a listing of the 12 players, followed by the coaches, in alphabetical order: Dayne Billie, Andrew Bowers Jr., Avery Bowers, Harmony Cypress, Canaan Jumper, Isadora Jumper, Adam McElroy, Brandi Osceola, David Rojas Jr., Willie Smith, Thomas Tigertail, Timmy Tigertail, T-Ball Head Coach Alfonso Tigertail, left, and T-Ball Assistant Coach David Rojas Sr., right.

## Seminole Warriors 12U Travel Team Capture Series Win

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

ORLANDO — The Seminole Warriors 12U travel baseball team played their last game of the season July 23, making all their hard work and dedication worthwhile as they claimed the World Series Championship title.

The World Series was held at the Wide World of Sports Disney resort in Orlando from July 19-23. The team snagged the series win in a nail biting game winning by only one run.

"We told them about it at the beginning of the season," Head Coach Dave Simons said about the World Series. "You always have to set goals, because if you don't set goals, there's nothing to achieve; and the kids have made it, they've earned it."

The Seminole Warriors travel team was created by Brighton Event Coordinator Larry Howard.

Howard saw the potential in many of the Bright youth on the reservation and de-

cided to create with help from the Brighton's Council Office and from the Recreation Department, a travel baseball team giving the youth a chance to see life off the reservation.

"So, by me doing this, making an equal opportunity, they could get out there and play amongst everybody else and that way they'd get out of their shell," Howard said.

In January there was an open tryout on the reservation that brought players from all nearby cities including Okeechobee, Lake Placid and Sebring. The tryout ended up having to be held in the Brighton gym due to a downpour rainstorm. Twelve boys showed up allowing each one a spot on the team. After roster changes and the elimination and addition of a few players, the Seminole Warriors 12U team was born.

"When we first saw the team we knew it was going to take a lot of work, a lot of practicing, and they had to gel," Coach Simons said. "You can't take kids in a travel league and expect them, bring them in and practice together and be successful. It just doesn't work like that."

Throughout the season the Seminole Warriors practiced at least three days a week, up to three and a half hours.

They traveled around the state playing in tournaments, and even bringing home a few trophies that will reside in the Brighton Gymnasium.

The boys, however, had to travel to play baseball. In order to travel and pay to play in the different tournaments the team organized fundraisers such as a car wash and spaghetti dinner to pay their way.



Rachel Buxton

Layton Thomas slides into second for a steal.



Rachel Buxton

Josh Madrigal steps up to bat.



Rachel Buxton

The Seminole Warriors huddle for a quick pep talk.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Seminole Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis, Sr., center, awards Championship Saddles to Jordan Urichi, left, and Raymond Bellos.

## Immokalee Seminole Ranch Saddle Series

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Two teenagers, competing against adults of all ages, won the Immokalee Seminole Ranch Saddle Series Round Robin on July 31. Seventeen-year-old Raymond Bellos acquired 27 points to qualify for the Header saddle and 18-year-old Jordan "Shortie" Urichi won the Heeler saddle with 24 points.

Both boys were awarded fully tooled championship saddles with ostrich inlays and matching breast collars.

"We have a lot of young people who come to rope in our arena and they frequently enter the very competitive roping series," said Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis, Sr. "However, this is the first time that two of

them have taken the grand prize. Both of these boys have worked hard to develop their skills and share a bright future on the roping circuit.

The Immokalee Seminole Ranch Saddle Series was comprised of three One Header Average Round Robins capped at a USTRC #5 based on catches, downs and legs caught. Several postponements were caused by rain storms but eventually the events took place on May 29, June 19 and July 31.

The race for the winning points was very close at the beginning of the final leg of the series with two tied on the Headers side and three on the Heelers. It was close right up until the final steer was released and the contestants lined up in the arena to hear the results calculated.



Judy Weeks

Header Doc Shewmaker and Heeler Jordan "Shortie" Urichi catch doubles to take first place in the third competition of the Immokalee Seminole Ranch Roping Series.

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# Big Cypress Senior Center Hosts Annual Pool Tournament in Honor of Juanita Billie



Naji Tobias

## Results of the 9th Annual Juanita Billie Pool Tournament

8-Ball  
Women: 1. Esther Buster, 2. Louise Billie, 3. Nancy Billie, 4. Louise Osceola, 5. Mary Tigertail, 6. Virginia Tommie, 7. Vanessa Billie;  
Men: 1. Lonnie Billie, 2. Joe Junior Billie, 3. Richard Doctor, 4. Edmond Billie.

9-Ball  
Women: 1. Louise Billie, 2. Mary Tigertail, 3. Esther Buster, 4. Nancy Billie;  
Men: 1. Joe Junior Billie, 2. Richard Doctor, 3. Lonnie Billie.



Naji Tobias

The Big Cypress Senior Center held a pool tournament on July 29 in honor of the late Juanita Billie. Eleven Big Cypress Tribal seniors participated in the event, including Edmond Billie, the son of Juanita Billie. “We dedicated this day every year for her (Juanita),” Big Cypress Senior Center Site Manager Cecilia Guzman said. “I didn’t know her much, but I did get to meet her and she was a wonderful person. Juanita was very nice; she liked talking about history and her family.” Left photo, Big Cypress Tribal Senior Louise Billie wins the women’s 9-Ball competition at the ninth Annual Juanita Billie Pool Tournament. Big Cypress Senior Center Site Manager Cecilia Guzman said she hopes ‘we can continue to do these pool tournaments in the future.’ “It brings a lot of laughter and joy to their [the seniors’] hearts and spirits.” Photo below, Big Cypress Tribal Senior Esther Buster plays her way to a win in the women’s 8-Ball competition. Big Cypress Senior Center Site Manager Cecilia Guzman talked about how the seniors felt about the experience. “It brings back a lot of memories to them,” Guzman said. “They can sit back and remember the good pool moments they had in the past. Some that never used to play pool are now doing so.” - Naji Tobias



Naji Tobias



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# Seminole Warriors 10U Respect All and Fear None in the Game of Baseball

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The Seminole Warriors 10U baseball travel team made a name for themselves early on in the season bringing home the first place trophy at their very first tournament in Kissimmee.

The tournament was held at Fortune Field April 3 with the Seminole Warriors 10U up against the difficult

and seasoned, Winter Springs Matrix Black team.

The team’s motto, “Respect all and fear none,” was put to the test throughout the season as the team traveled throughout Florida competing in several tournaments at various levels.

“The players just keep getting better,” head coach Michael Warner said. “We appreciate the opportunity to offer an environment that provides positive reinforcements and for all players to improve their abilities, compete and enjoy the game of baseball.”

Coach Warner along with assistant coaches Gene Thomas and Larry Howard used the game of baseball to help teach the young players about commitment, discipline, accountability and how to be part of a team while demonstrating good sportsmanship.

The Seminole Warriors 10U baseball team was part of the travel baseball program started by Howard, Brighton’s event coordinator.

“He has put so much work and energy into making this program a success,” said Michele Thomas, mother of 10U player. “Our local youth are very lucky to have people like him.”



Rachel Buxton

Front row, from left, Dyami Nelson, Johnny Rodriguez, Lance Howard, Tay Williams and Michael Warner. Second row, from left, Layne Thomas, Jason Andrews, Sean Osceola, Damian Lusby, Trevor Thomas and Brian Bishop. Back row, from left, Coaches Michael Warner, Larry Howard and Gene Thomas.

# Tribal Teen Makes History as Seminole Scholarship Athlete



Chris C. Jenkins

Bottom left photo, Tribal citizen Kelcie Jumper recently signed a letter of intent basketball scholarship to the Southeastern Community College Lady Blackhawks basketball team with friends and family in attendance. The former Flanagan High School star becomes the first Seminole athlete to receive a college athletic scholarship in basketball and will be playing the point guard position. Located in West Burlington, Iowa, the Region XI institution is a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICCAC). Photo above, Jumper and father William Lee Jumper Jr., fourth and third from the left, joined by Blackhawks Head Coach Jerry Jerome, second from right, as well as members of the Seminole Recreation staff, from left, Marl Osceola, Carlos Adamson and at right, Richard Osceola. Photo below, Jumper, bottom row, second from left, celebrates her signing with Recreation Department staff and community members.



Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

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