

# Boys & Girls Club Teaches Youth How to Play and Love Music

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Writer

**HOLLYWOOD** — A new music program sponsored by the Boys & Girls Club aims at promoting and inspiring those interested in musical pursuits.

The project has been offering Tribal citizens music lessons on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays every week at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club location on the Hollywood Reservation for almost two years.

The program accepts all participants ages 6-18, is Tribally funded and is at no cost to all citizens.

“It is not for everybody, but for the kids that stick with it. It is fun and worth it,” said James Payne, Hollywood Boys & Girls Club counselor and music teacher. “My whole approach is to teach kids what they want to learn.”

Payne has been a part of the program since its inception and became a more serious music student at the age of 12. “For me, it is

about self-expression and is an outlet [emotionally and mentally],” he explained.

Payne plays and teaches acoustic and bass guitar and drums and said the youth decide which instruments they prefer to play. Two other instructors have also been brought aboard



Silver Wolf concentrates on learning the cords of his bass guitar.

due to the growing popularity of the program.

Special showcase performances are usually during the annual youth conferences, Red Ribbon Week and events such as the recent holiday youth performance on Dec. 10.

“They love it,” said mother Dawna Bell, who has three youth taking lessons: Kyler, 11, Adrianne, 9, and Kiana, 12. “I want them to learn the patience it takes to learn the full scale of playing an instrument.”

Daughter Adrianne Bell has been playing the piano for several months and said she enjoys the beauty of it.

“Playing keeps my day happy because I am not just sitting around at home doing nothing,” she said. “Some of it has been different for me because I am not used to moving my hands a certain way. Because I am playing more and more, I have gotten used to it. I want to learn more and more and someday be famous.”

▯ Please see MUSIC on page 2A

# Hard Rock Celebrates Garage Opening with Guinness Records Guitar Smash - Almost 2,000 Instruments Broken



A festive overhead view of the history making Winner's Way Parking Garage grand opening celebration at the Hard Rock Dec. 15 in Hollywood. The event featured a Guinness World record guitar smash of 1,914 guitars.

▯ See story and more photos on page 8A

# Tribal General Counsel Jim Shore Honored at Alma Mater

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Writer

**HOLLYWOOD** — Tribal Pioneer Jim Shore can now add Hall of Famer to his steadfast resume of personal and professional accomplishments.

Shore joined six others from his alma mater Stetson University College of Law as a part of its Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. The honor came on the campus Oct. 23 as family and friends were on hand to celebrate with Shore.

“The only time I had ever heard of a Hall of Fame was in football or baseball, and I did not know that law school ever had such a thing,” Shore grinningly noted. “Being selected and honored was a good thing for me and the school though.”

“It was an honor but not something I was searching for or campaigning for or anything,” he said

Shore and his fellow inductees were the sixth group recognized since 2004, which now includes more than 50 members. Other 2010 inductees included Kay Eddy, Harvey Firestone III and family, Edward and Bonnie Foreman, Ruthann Robson, Gary Trombley and Dan Warren.

“It all caught me off guard when I got the



Jim Shore speaks at the Hall of Fame induction ceremony in the Great Hall on the Stetson Law Gulfport campus on Oct. 23.

letter. I actually got a phone call first though notifying me I was selected as a designee or

honoree.” Shore said, “It is a small school and it has a reputation nationwide as a law school, and there are a lot of lawyers from the school that are here and there and so forth succeeding now.”

For Shore, the road into law began after he lost his sight. He worked in construction and as a cowboy early in his life but was born with sight in only one eye. He lost his remaining vision in an automobile accident in 1970.

After deciding to attend a junior college for two years, he continued his education at Stetson, earning a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1976. He then decided to apply to law school and was accepted. To learn the lessons in class, he used a method of tape recording class lectures and listening to them for numerous hours to retain the information. This routine helped him develop a keen hearing.

In 1980, he would become the first Seminole Tribal citizen to graduate from law school. After finishing law school, he became the Tribe’s deputy counsel, and a year later he became General Counsel, where he presently remains.

Some of his other noted accomplishments include helping develop the Seminole Police Department, negotiating several land and wa-

▯ Please see SHORE on page 2A



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Curator Saul Drake takes an interactive scroll through the Seminole War Timeline’s touchtable, a new historic feature that allows up to 10 people to view Seminole history right before their eyes at the same time.

# Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Launches Seminole War Timeline Touchtable

BY NAJI TOBIAS  
Staff Writer

**BIG CYPRESS** – Picture using your iPhone or MP3 podcast and having the opportunity to go through the Seminole War Timeline.

The chance to do that is now made a reality by visiting the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress.

According to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Curator Saul Drake, the Seminole War Timeline touchtable, which launched in August, is the newest piece of technology at the facility and has an array of features that make it similar to using a personal iPhone.

“With this piece of equipment, you have 200 points of touch,” Drake said of the touchpad. “What that means is we’re able to get large groups of people to touch this at the same time.”

Drake said that up to 10 people can look at the Seminole War Timeline at once.

“As you move your hands across [the touchpad], you’re interacting with the screen,” Drake said.

When one scrolls down the Seminole War Timeline, a group of access points can take the individual through audio, video and texts of information related to the Seminole Wars. The touchtable device, powered by Microsoft Surface, operates like a conventional computer desktop and features galleries and folders such as photo archives, oral histories and the touted war timeline.

In addition, one could listen to audio of the Seminole War Timeline via the use of a podcast on an MP3 player or iPhone.

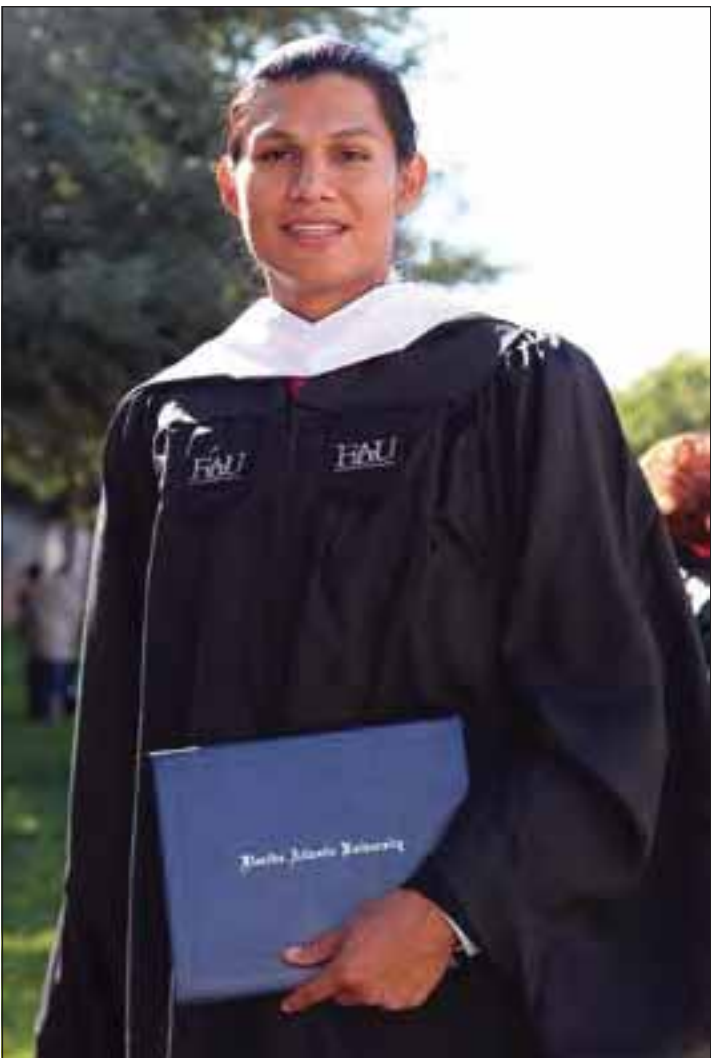
“We uploaded the information on the touchtable,” Drake said. “You could take an audio tour of anything that’s on there.”

The Seminole War Timeline is comprised of the three Seminole Wars fought on United States soil in the 19th century. It includes links to the events leading up to each of the wars and what transpired during and after the action.

“It’s really easy for people to jump right to those things,” Drake said. “If they don’t want to go through the detailed parts of history, they don’t have to.”

▯ Please see MUSEUM on page 2A

# Tribal Student Jarrid Smith Graduates with Master’s Degree from FAU



Graduate Jarrid Smith picks up his degree after the graduation ceremonies at Florida Atlantic University.



# Season's greetings

Greetings fellow Tribal Members, Employees, Friends and members of other Tribes:

The Holiday Season is one of the most joyous times of the year for many. It is a time where the joy and laughter of great friends and family fills the air.

The joy of the season allows me to reminisce about the days of old, where it seemed things were so much simpler back then. During those days our primary focus was family. As a Tribe, I pray we can hold on to those special values and show respect to our elders and each other as family and friends.

Let us unite in a Prayer of Peace for our Country, and to remember those who are not with their families during this Holiday Season. Within my every prayer, I ask our Creator to continue to bless you and your family with good health, an abundance of love and most of all a Happy Heart.

As we approach the New Year, I encourage you to be extra careful, make safe decisions and don't text or drink while driving.

Happy Holidays to all, wishing you a joyous Christmas Season and a Happy New Year!

Shonobish,

*Mitchell Cypress*

Mitchell Cypress,  
Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida



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## To: all Tribal members, employees and friends

After the past few months of diligently working on various projects throughout the year, the time has come for all of us to come together this holiday season and count our many blessings and be grateful that we have made it through yet another year.

May the many blessings of love, peace, and joy be with you and your loved ones this holiday season. I wish for everyone to have a good but safe time and from my family to yours, I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mvto,

Sho-naa-bish,

Thank you,

President Richard Bowers

*Richard Bowers*



## Winterfest Grand Marshal Reception Features Brooke Burke



Chris C. Jenkins

Seminole Media Productions Broadcast Reporter Briana D'Andrea interviews 2010 Winterfest Grand Marshal Brooke Burke at the annual reception held at the Hard Rock poolside Dec 10. The Dancing with the Stars co-host was on hand as part of Winterfest boat parade festivities aboard the lead showboat held on Dec. 11.

**F** See more photos on 8A

## F MUSEUM

From page 1A

A standout feature of the Seminole War Timeline is a correspondence display that shows all world history events that occurred in the particular Seminole War time period.

For example, on Aug. 5, 1842, one could look at the standoff between Seminole War hero Chief Billy Bowlegs and the U.S. military in South Florida. Also on the timeline is an account of the Opium War, which took place in the Far East and marked the relevance of Hong Kong.

"Not only does the timeline allow you to scroll through, it gives you the option to interact with it," Drake said. "It brings up a card and gives you a synopsis of what happened in those Seminole wars and other events in that time period."

Paintings of events related to the Seminole Wars can also be seen when touring the timeline. One example is a work of Guy Labre, a famous artist who painted a portrait of a battle between the Seminole warriors and the U.S. military in the 19th century.

"If you're interested in the picture, you could blow it up and take a detailed look at it," Drake said. "You could also play a video of the Second Seminole War time period. It gives you a sense of what went on in history back then."

With the Seminole War Timeline touchtable, tour groups can go through the courses of events to learn



Naji Tobias

The Seminole War Timeline's screen monitor views a television interview that Everett Osceola of the Seminole Channel had with Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Pedro Zepeda on Seminole war history.

more about these moments.

"It's a really good teaching tool," Drake said. "We really want to explore those events that happened in the Seminole Wars. There's nothing out there on the Seminole Wars and culture, so we wanted to pay homage to that period of time. It's so influential to the Seminoles today."

The Seminole War Timeline will be a permanent fixture at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, according to Drake.

For more information on the Seminole War Timeline, call the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at 863-902-3211.

## F SHORE

From page 1A

ter use challenges with the U.S. government and state of Florida, and negotiating the 2007-10 Tribal gaming compact agreements/acquisition of the Hard Rock Hotel, restaurant and casino franchise operations. He also finds time to engage in volunteer work with nonprofit civil organizations.

As the state of Florida's oldest law school, Stetson University College of Law weekly began in October 1900 with five white male students in the town of DeLand with its first graduating class in 1902. In 1954, the campus moved to a 21-acre area in Gulfport.

Through the years, it has developed into one of America's top-ranked trial advocacy programs (ranking first in the nation eight times and ranking second three times) with recognized programs in elder law, international law, the field of higher education law and policy.

For more information, visit [www.law.stetson.edu](http://www.law.stetson.edu).



Brandi Palmer

Stetson University President Wendy Libby Ph.D. with Jim Shore at the Hall of Fame induction ceremony.



Chris C. Jenkins

Kiana Bell works on her key and stroke techniques on the piano during music lessons at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club on Nov. 29.

## F MUSIC

From page 1A

Since Boys & Girls Club Tribal Youth Events Coordinator R.C. North Jr. began volunteering full time, he said he has been able to help make more of an impact.

"[The youth] know me and I know them, so it has worked out pretty well," said North Jr. who is also a veteran Tribal musician. "This is a means to express themselves. We try to be open and honest with them and give them words of encouragement." There are also plans to expand the lessons onto other reservations.

Payne said the students take a lot more from their lessons when learning to play a new instrument.

"They come here realizing that they are getting something out of it," he said. "They are building on discipline and character."

Boys & Girls Club Director Robert North said their experience is also part of positive fulfillment.

"The overall goal of the Seminole Boys & Girls Clubs is to encourage Tribal youth to pursue a road to good citizenship and productive living," said North. "If a young person invests in the process of learning a musical instrument or learning how to sing, it will pay off in a positive self attitude and true sense of fulfillment."

For more information on the program, call 954-964-5947 or e-mail Payne at [jamespayne@semtribe.com](mailto:jamespayne@semtribe.com).



Chris C. Jenkins

Music student Kyler Bell, left, takes instruction on playing the drums from Boys & Girls Club counselor and music teacher James Payne.

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# Community

A



Ryan Watson

Miss Florida Seminole Cassandra Jimmie, left, crowns FSU's 2010 Homecoming Chief Bobby Seifter while Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Lorelei Tommie crowns Homecoming Princess Ashley Jantschek.

## Seminole Princesses Crown FSU Homecoming Chief and Princess

BY RYAN WATSON  
Contributing Reporter

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** — It has been more than 60 years since Florida State University hosted its inaugural Homecoming Weekend. In the years since the original event in 1948, the state university that chose the Seminole as its mascot, regularly features Seminoles as a vital part of the festivities.

On Nov. 5 the Seminole Princesses embarked on a busy weekend for homecoming at the FSU Homecoming Parade, which featured hundreds of participants.

Among the Tribal members on hand was Seminole Princess Pageant Chairwoman Wanda Bowers, who travels to Tallahas-

see with Miss Florida Seminole and Jr. Miss Florida Seminole every year to crown FSU's Homecoming Chief and Princess.

"Every year my Chairman has said, 'Go on up there and crown homecoming Chief and Princess,' and we say, 'sure,'" said Bowers.

FSU always shows the Tribe first-class hospitality, Bowers added.

"Every year we come up here we get treated really awesome," she said. "The alumni [are] great, and the new president is really fantastic."

Miss Florida Seminole Cassandra Jimmie said she felt right at home in the collegiate atmosphere. "I'm not really nervous being out here in front of all these people."

Jimmie said she is giving serious con-

sideration to the prospect of attending FSU in the future. "This really just feels like a big pep rally and I'm used to that."

The parade also featured two of the Tribe's youngest royalty in Little Mr. Seminole Hunter Howard and Little Miss Seminole Elle Thomas.

Hunter and Elle's Ford Thunderbird Convertible was the first car in the three-car line of Seminole royalty to hit the streets of the parade around FSU's campus. They were followed by Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Lorelei Tommie in a Chevrolet Corvette convertible and Miss Florida Seminole Jimmie in a Mercedes-Benz convertible.

**F Please see FSU on page 10A**

## Fort Pierce Hope Center Design Wins Architecture Award

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Writer

**DELRAY BEACH, Fla.** — Recognized for designing the Fort Pierce Community Hope Center, the architectural group Leo A. Daly received a merit award of excellence by the Palm Beach Chapter of the American Institute of Architects at its annual award ceremony held Nov. 19 at the Old School Square Cultural Arts Center in Delray Beach.

Leo A. Daly got the award in design of the upcoming community center in the Unbuilt category. Out of 16 submissions, Leo A. Daly was awarded one of two certificates given out.

"We are extremely honored of the distinguished award presented to Leo A. Daly for their creativity in designing our build-



ing in Fort Pierce," said Fort Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie.

The community center held its ground breaking in August, and during that ceremony the name of the building was revealed:

the Fort Pierce Community Hope Center.

The center is the first building within the Seminole Tribe to be LEED Certified.

"We are extremely honored to be a part of an initiative that forces us to be a part of protecting our natural resources," Tommie said.

The 33,000-square-foot facility will house a gymnasium, pool, sauna, walking track and cultural center that will offer sewing and language classes.

"Due to the Fort Pierce reservation having less land mass than our other reservations, we are able to combine several facilities into this uniquely designed structure," Tommie said.



Submitted rendering

Rendering of the Fort Pierce Community Hope Center.

The Unbuilt submissions were judged by individuals and members of the American Institute of Architects from the leading architecture practices of AIA of Tampa Bay. The Palm Beach AIA Chapter has more

than 280 members and presents awards within three categories: Built Projects, Unbuilt Projects and Test of Time — 25 years or more. Awards are given out at the end of each year.

## Bongos Cuban Café Has Grand Opening, Red Carpet Event at Hard Rock



Chris C. Jenkins

Photo above, Seminole Gaming Chief Operations Officer James Allen, left, presents Bongos Cuban Café co-owners Gloria Estefan and husband Emilio with a custom Hard Rock guitar as part of a special red carpet celebration for the grand opening Dec. 7. at the Seminole Hard Rock's Paradise Live. The multi-level 7,000-square-foot indoor dining restaurant and lounge also featured a Cachao band, cigar rollers, music, a variety of Latin-themed hors d'oeuvres and specialty cocktails for special invited guests. Photo below, Gloria and Emilio Estefan take pictures with celebrities at the grand opening.



Chris C. Jenkins

World famous Cuban singer, songwriter and actress Gloria Estefan, left, with husband Emilio Estefan, right, and singer Jon Secada.



Chris C. Jenkins

Photo above, from left, Tribal citizens Neil Sanders, Mercedes Osceola, Virginia Osceola and infant Dahlia Sanders got together for the grand opening of Bongos Cuban Café. Photo below, Cachao band performs outside of Bongos.



## Tribal Council Convenes in Hollywood for Special Meeting

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Writer

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Tribal Council met on the Hollywood Reservation for a special meeting Nov. 30 to pass a series of resolutions on the consent and regular agendas, including:

- Fourth Amendment to the 23rd annual work plan submitted to the South Florida Water Management District by the Seminole Tribe of Florida.
- United States Department of the Interior U.S Geological survey joint funding agreement for the water resource investigation.
- PDI Communications, Inc., Bulk Rate Agreement.
- DIRECTV, Inc., First Amendment to the 2009 agreement for DBS Satellite Exhibition of Programming.
- Approval of E&E Consulting Engineers, Inc. service agreement for housing services.
- Landscape maintenance services agreement between the Seminole Tribe of Florida DBA Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino-Hollywood and Lawn Boyz, LLC.
- Honeywell Avionics Protection Plan (HAPP) Agreement for corporate operations with Honeywell International Inc., renewal; ratification.
- Florida Department of Health Prehospital Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS) Data Sharing Agreement.
- Amended and restated operating agreement for Seminole HR Holdings, LLC.

## Tribal Council Convenes in Brighton for Special Meeting

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Writer

**BRIGHTON** — The Tribal Council held a special meeting Dec. 15 at the Brighton Veterans' Building and passed a series of resolutions including:

- Informedrx, Inc. client agreement with the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.
- The Goss Agency, Inc. personal services agreement; phase III advertising, branding & marketing plan execution.
- Approval of service agreement for GAP Consulting Group, LTD. to assist in updating the Seminole Tribe of Florida population/infrastructure forecasting model.
- Approval of amended and restated Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal athlete sponsorship program policies and procedures.
- Seminole Tribe of Florida Indian Reservation roads inventory update of Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton, Tampa and Immokalee Seminole Indian Reservations and the St. Lucie County Trust Land, and update, amend and adopt the long-range transportation plan.
- A resolution to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Indian Reservations Roads Transportation Program affirming the Tribal transportation funds priority list for fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement fiscal year 2010 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant; ratification.
- Approval of first amendment to the license agreement with Hard Rock Café International (USA), Inc. for the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino — Tampa.

## Winterfest Black-tie Ball Kicks Off Annual Winterfest Festivities at Hard Rock



Chris C. Jenkins

Photo above, Rep. Osceola, third from left, with Winterfest President Lisa Scott-Founds, second from left, and evening emcees Paul Castronovo, co-host of "The Paul and Young Ron Show" on WBGG Big 105.9, far left, and Steve Shapiro lead sports anchor for WSVN 7 News, far right.



Chris C. Jenkins





Chris C. Jenkins

2009 and 2010 Seminole Star Search Grand Prize winners along with members of Tribal Council, judges and supporting family and friends joined together on stage as part of the 2009 Seminole Star Search Vol. II advance CD listening party held at the Seminole Star Search headquarters in Hollywood on Nov. 30.



Chris C. Jenkins

2009 Grand Prize winner Preston Osceola performs an original song entitled "Protected."

## Seminole Star Search Grand Prize Winners Hold Listening Party

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The next wave of Tribal talent on the music scene got their chance to shine in front of friends and family as the Seminole Star Search Volume II advance CD listening party celebrated the Grand Prize winners of 2009.

The Nov. 30 event was held at the Okalee Village and featured Tribal citizens Tori Osceola, Preston Osceola and Sheree Sneed in their first opportunity to hear and present their completed work to the public. Micki Free Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Director emceed.

Junior youth and varsity/teen category winners Tori Osceola and Preston Osceola both performed. Tori sang her version of the popular rock hit "My Hero" by the band the Foo Fighters. Preston performed some of his original songs including the tune "Protected."

Each artist recorded three original or cover songs for the upcoming project set for release in early 2011. It will be distributed through Amazon.com and iTunes.

Osceola said hearing her song at the party was a surreal experience.

"At first it was kind of weird, but when I started to really pay attention to it, it really felt good to hear," Tori, 12, said. "I have always wanted to be on stage, since I was around 5 years old."

"Seminole Star Search has been a great way to lift me up until I can do it myself," she said.

The event also featured the winning artists from the 2010 finale held in August, including youth and adult category winners Natamah Robbins and hip-hop group Unconquered Bird Clan.

"It feels awesome. I went for my dream and I have made it," said Robbins, a native of the Big Cypress Reservation.

The three members of UBC graciously gave thanks to the guests and audience in attendance.

"This is a once in a lifetime experience and we can not let it blow over," Derrick 'Lo-Ki' Timothy said. "We are trying to enjoy the moment, and without God we would not be here right now."

Trevius Dobson and Travelis 'Wiggy' Timothy are also members of the 20-something group and hail from the Fort Pierce Reservation.

"It is such a blessing and our hard work has finally paid off. Hustlers do not sleep, they nap," said group member Dobson '1-Po.'

The three will also be produced by Prince Markie Dee, legendary hip-hop pioneer and disc jockey at 99.1 Jamz FM radio.

"This is a part of another first [among Native Tribes], and another event I want to repeat," said Tribal Council Rep. Max Osceola Jr. "It all helps to teach a healthy lifestyle and something we [as Seminoles] should be proud of."

The other 2010 finalists on hand included Shelli Tiger, Paul 'Cowbone' Buster, Salina Dorgan, Corinne Cepeda and Ted Nelson Sr.

Tribal Council Chairman Mitchell Cypress also made an appearance in support.



Chris C. Jenkins

2010 Seminole Star Search adult category winners Unconquered Bird Clan at the listening party.



Chris C. Jenkins

Seminole Star Search 2010 Spotlight Award winner Ted Nelson Sr. performs an acoustic version of one of his songs.

## HURRICANE SEASON UPDATE Statistics Show 2010 Hurricane Season as One of the Busiest on Record

BY CARL FOWLER

Emergency Management Coordinator  
Brighton, Fort Pierce & Tampa Reservations

It may not seem like it, but the 2010 Atlantic Hurricane Season was very active. In fact, it was the third busiest on record. Yet ironically, for the fifth year in a row the U.S. was once again spared from getting struck by a major hurricane. Dr. Jack Hayes, director of NOAA's (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) National Weather Service, has called the season a "gentle giant." There are several reasons for this description, but before getting into that let's take a look at the numbers.

By the time the season ended on Nov. 30, there were 19 named storms that formed in the Atlantic basin. This year ties 1887 and 1995 for having the third highest number of named storms on record. Of the 19 named storms that developed in the Atlantic basin, 12 were hurricanes. That's the second highest number ever recorded and ties the record that was set in 1969. Finally, five of the 12 hurricanes that formed were major or with maximum sustained winds of 111 mph or greater.

As in previous years, the official weather forecasters were stunningly accurate. In August, NOAA issued its updated forecast for the remainder of the season calling for 14-20 named storms, 8-12 hurricanes and 4-6 major hurricanes. (An average Atlantic hurricane season produces 11 named storms, six hurricanes and two major hurricanes.)

Despite all of this activity out in the Atlantic, what makes 2010 remarkable is that while certain climate and atmospheric conditions kept the tropics active, other climate factors actually protected us.

To begin with, temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean this year were at record highs. That, combined with strong winds coming off the African continent and the lack of wind shear in the upper atmosphere, enabled storms to develop quickly and gain strength rapidly. Normally, this would not bode well for any land mass that happens to be in the way of these storms as they travel from east to west across the open ocean. However, this year's stream — that current of air that travels from west to east high above the U.S., dipping down in a kind of upside down bell-shaped curve — produced hot and dry conditions across much of the country and acted as a barrier that kept storms away from us. Another factor that was in our favor: many of the storms that developed formed early off the coast of Africa, and as a result they were turned northward over the open Atlantic as they headed west in our general direction.

Despite our relative good fortune, however, we didn't get by totally unscathed. In the U.S., there were two storms that caused



extensive property damage and casualties. Hurricane Earl bypassed the East Coast but brought massive flooding to North Carolina. Tropical Storm Hermine made landfall in Texas as a tropical depression and has been blamed for six deaths there. In South Florida, we received some heavy rains but no damage from Tropical Storms Bonnie and Nicole. Other parts of the Atlantic basin region were not so fortunate. There was Hurricane Tomas, which brought destruction and more misery to Haiti, and there were numerous storms such as Alex that struck Eastern Mexico and Central America where they produced heavy rain, mudslides and extensive flooding. But perhaps most importantly, there were no major hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico to further exacerbate the calamity of the BP oil spill.

As we close the book on the 2010 Atlantic Hurricane Season and breathe a collective sigh of relief, we must keep in mind that it was one of the most active on record and follows a pattern of busy hurricane seasons that began in 1995. Unfortunately, scientists expect this trend to continue for the next several years, so we should plan to prepare for the upcoming 2011 hurricane season and beyond.

The Department of Emergency Management urges all Tribal members and employees to be vigilant for many types of hazards, not just hurricanes.

Please keep the 2010 All Hazards Guide handy, and look for a new, updated Guide in the spring of 2011.

For more information, visit the Department of Emergency Management's website at <http://www.stofemd.com>, call the offices in Hollywood (954-950-0000, ext. 1177), Big Cypress (813-982-2150, ext. 12740) or Brighton (813-577-2020, ext. 15805), or call anytime at 1-800-17-7514.

## A Volunteer's Look Behind the Scenes of the Big Cypress Veteran's Day Celebration

BY MYRAN "MO" COLLINS

BC Veteran's Day Celebration Volunteer

We all love an occasion. Nov. 9 was no exception. It was the 2nd Anniversary of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Veteran's Event honoring its Tribal veterans and other veterans of America.

I was privileged to be among Native Americans — a group of people that includes proud warriors, both those still living, and the others who have passed away. They fought for this country, their country. The Navajo in World War II, the Wind Talkers, were able to communicate to anyone in the world as needed because no one except themselves understood their code. It was a gift of a native tongue, and our country was privileged to have their expertise made available.

So veterans came on this special day to celebrate the living and the Spirits who have passed on to a better place. The pomp and circumstance for all attending was wonderful. The many veterans and guests were treated to another "moving and spiritual" event. And, many individuals worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make a "Day of Honor" for veterans who make this country a safe place to live.

But the parts that the audience seldom sees, are the glitches behind the scenes. Two people were being honored; One for his bravery and loyalty to his family, and another for her continued support for veterans.

Now is where the fun starts. The first honoree came to register — the lovely young volunteer registering the lady saw the name and was so pleased to meet her. "Thank you so much for coming. We will be presenting you later in the program with a plaque." Oh no. As soon as the name registered in her brain, her stomach dropped to her feet, and a cold sweat quickly formed on her

brow. Her heart sank, and then some. The plaque — it was not here; it was in the back of her car, 45 minutes away. In the process of car pooling, not everything was transferred from the back seat of her car. "Help I'm going to pass out — I'll be fired. My life as I know it has just gone down the tubes. How could I mess up?"

She shared her disaster with someone else — a lady who is always cool under pressure. She just took the young gal by the hand, and together they ran to the car, and "flew" down Snake Road, headed back to town, with "metal to the pedal." They were both praying that the alligators would bless them by staying off the road. The lady driving always keeps to the speed limit, but this trip would be different. They were hoping for an SPD unit to appear to provide an escort, but they were busy keeping the event organized and safe. The event — they checked their watches and it had already started.

The ladies had the forethought to let someone know where they would be and not to worry. That person let the presenter of the plaques know, but to the other volunteers, they had simply disappeared out of sight — they were "MIA." Not to worry, they thought. As they made their way down the road, they called their friend who was also volunteering — her phone rang, but they heard the ring coming from the back seat of the car. She had left her cell phone in the car since she would not need it, or so she thought. Unfortunately, it seemed that everyone they knew had their cell phones turned off in respect for the occasion, but that problem didn't deter their mission of getting those plaques back to Big Cypress before the ceremony was over. Finally they got a text message through to another volunteer who relayed the disaster to others.

Soon, but not soon enough it seemed, after leaving the event location, they



Naji Tobias

The Seminole Color Guard begins the Nov. 9 Veteran's Day Celebration with a grand march.

reached the other car and retrieved the plaques. As they headed back to the event, the young lady began to breathe again, hoping all along that one of the invited speakers would get long winded. Nervous stomach, silly, scary thoughts — but as their car turned onto Snake Road for the second time in less than an hour, laughter started to creep into their conversation — they had a story to share. Lady luck was with them, and they made it back in time to have the plaques presented during the program.

The event was a total success, as it usually is. Everyone was pleased and proud to honor the war heroes. So, when attending the next function, remember those who work behind the scenes. Think about those individuals who deal with glitches that always seem to happen at any event — they usually handle them with grace and finesse, and the "show goes on," often with only a handful of people knowing anything out of the ordinary happened.

So, as we salute the heroes of our many (too many) wars, let's also give praise to the individuals who work tirelessly behind the scenes to give us uplifting and wonderful experiences.

—Article written by Myran "Mo" Collins, volunteer at Big Cypress Veteran's Day Celebration, non-Tribal, non-employee, just a volunteer who really cares.



Naji Tobias

Native American war veterans bow their heads in prayer as they pay tribute to those who have served in the armed forces.



## Tribal Council Officials Recognized for Supporting Various Events



Chris C. Jenkins

Big Cypress Tribal Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr., upper far right, and Troy Weekley, president of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Southeastern Region, third from left, present custom-designed Southeastern Circuit Rodeo Finals jackets, belt buckles and plaques to Tribal Council officials. The officials were recognized during Tribal briefings held at the Hollywood Headquarters Chairman's Office in a show of appreciation for their support for the Nov. 4-6 event held at the Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in Davie.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Council displays custom-made bobblehead dolls in their likeness presented to each for continued support of the Seminole Professional Billiards Tour sponsored by Seminole Media Productions. The tour concluded in early November with the Steve Mizerak 10-Ball Championships held at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

## Joe Osceola Sr. Celebrates his 85th Birthday

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

**BIG CY RESS** — Family and friends came from all over Florida and as far away as Oklahoma to join in a celebration of Joe Osceola Sr.'s 85th birthday on Nov. 1. A capacity crowd filled the Eddie Billie Fellowship Hall at the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church for dinner and then moved into the sanctuary for the Joe Osceola Birthday Sing.

Bird Clan Osceola Sr. was born on Nov. 10, 1925, in a remote village located deep within the boundaries of what has become the Everglades National Park near the Dade/Collier County line. He is one of 11 children belonging to Jimmie Truitt Osceola and Mary Motlow Osceola.

The old adage that time stands still for no man definitely applies to Osceola Sr. and his siblings, who have seen the massive transformation of the Florida swamplands and the establishment and recognition of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Throughout this journey, they have made a positive contribution to their fellow Tribal members and always strived to protect and preserve the land that they are a part of while creating a future for their descendants.

In his 85 years, Osceola Sr. has found it necessary to frequently adapt to change. When he was very young, the completion of the Tamiami Trail opened a corridor through his



Judy Weeks

Joe Osceola Sr. and two of his daughters, Janice Osceola and Beverly Alumbaugh show off his 85th birthday cake.

education.

By the 1970s, Joe and Martha Osceola relocated to the Big Cypress Reservation where they operated the first gas and convenience store in the community. They acquired improved pastureland near their new home and moved their cattle operation from Brighton to Big Cypress.

Early in their adult years, the Osceolas accepted Christianity, which changed their lives forever. Joe's brother Bill Osceola had become a Baptist pastor serving the Seminole Community in Hollywood. He was instrumental in establishing a mission that eventually was named the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church. Upon moving to Big Cypress, Osceola Sr. accepted the position of Church Deacon under Pastor Frank Billie.

Fulfilling his obligation to the Lord, Osceola Sr. has dedicated his life to Christian service. He has cheerfully accepted responsibility for whichever church position required his attention and served as a Sunday school teacher, choir leader, organist, lawn maintenance man and lay pastor, and he even learned to play the guitar for the congregation. For several years, he joined his church's annual gospel trek to Oklahoma and participated monthly in Sings at Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Trail.

Following the birthday dinner, a multitude of family members and friends came forward to pay tribute to Joe Osceola Sr. and reminisce about the many experiences they had shared. Leading the group, his son, Trail Liaison William Osceola, said, "When we strayed from the path, he was always there and wouldn't give up on us. He believed in us when we didn't believe in ourselves and was our tower of strength."

Hollywood/Fort Pierce Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. said, "When I see my Uncle Joe, I see my dad and it brings back great memories of the times when everything was all about family, religion and sports. We all grew up together and shared what little we had, and it made us rich in the things that really mattered. Those were happy times."

The Joe Osceola Sr. Birthday Sing kicked off with three traditional Seminole hymns led by his sister, Betty Osceola. Church members followed with a medley of his favorite tunes and offered numerous recollections of his long association with the church and community. Junior Baptist coordinated the event.

Special entertainment for the evening included The Jonathans, a gospel-singing group from Bremen, Ga. Evangelist Pastor Wayne Harjo of the Buckeye Baptist Church of Okemah, Okla. led the congregation in fellowship and praise.



Judy Weeks

Joe Osceola Sr., center, laughs as he shares memories with two of his children, Trail Liaison William Osceola and Janice Osceola.

Everglades homeland from the East to West Coast. This created the first link in a chain of events that would bring about the evolution of the Seminole people.

"When I was a boy, we were taught to live off the land," said Osceola Sr. "My parents hunted, fished and raised a garden to feed us. They were always working hard to make things to trade. It would take us two days to get to Miami in a dug out canoe, and we would cook our food over a fire built in the sand in the bottom of the canoe."

As a young couple, Joe and Martha Osceola recognized the changes necessary in order to meet the needs of their family and established a home on the Dania Reservation. Beginning in a chickee, they graduated to a small shed, then a two-room house and finally a small concrete block residence as the number of their children grew to three girls and five boys.

For several years, Osceola Sr. would travel to Miami each day where he had a job parking cars. Eventually, he learned how to operate heavy equipment and do light mechanical repairs. Looking toward the future, he invested in a small herd of cattle on the Brighton Reservation. His goal was to provide for his children, and to give them an opportunity to get a good



Judy Weeks

From left, Joe Osceola Jr., Joe Osceola, Sr. and Hollywood/Fort Pierce Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. reminisce about family experiences that helped to shape their lives.

## Communications Tower Dismantling Project Completed



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Realty Services Officer Bill Abell, far left, stands near the almost-completed remains of the old Hollywood Communications Tower on Dec. 1, at North 64th Avenue on the Hollywood Reservation. The area will now be used for housing development. A new tower was relocated and built for operation on vacant space off of State Road 7 in groundbreaking ceremonies June 10.

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# STOF – Tribal Historic Preservation Office Presents at National Tribal Geographic Information System Conference in New Mexico

**BY JOSH OOYMAN**  
GIS Specialist  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
Big Cypress Reservation

**BIG CY RESS** - This October, the Seminole Tribe of Florida – Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) staff traveled to Albuquerque, New Mexico to attend and present at the 2010 National Tribal GIS Conference (NTGISC). The attendees from THPO were Paul Backhouse (Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer), Juan Cancel (Chief Data Analyst), and Josh Ooyman (GIS Specialist). In addition, the keynote speaker was Tina Osceola, the Chief Historic Resources Officer at the STOF. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology permits the integration of digital map information with attribute information about the features on the map. GIS allows for vast amounts of data to be captured, stored, analyzed, and displayed on one map, which is especially useful when horizontally integrating, or overlaying, the various datasets. The capacity to compare all sorts of geographic datasets, such as roadways, power line locations, lease boundaries, and archaeological sites, to name a few, is a

powerful decision-making tool. The STOF-THPO utilizes GIS to accurately identify, inventory, and protect the historic resources, archaeological sites, and traditional cultural properties located throughout STOF reservations, as well as fulfill compliance review responsibilities for federal projects located off-reservation and from a good portion of the southeastern United States. In her keynote speech, Ms. Osceola outlined the importance to the STOF and other Native American Tribal communities of capacity building. In essence, this empowers Tribal communities to effectively manage various aspects of land development, planning, the permitting process, and other Tribal government functions through GIS integration. In addition to integrating GIS technology, capacity building also involves developing the necessary skill and competence levels required to provide essential services required by Tribal government. As President of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association (AIANTA), Ms. Osceola also spoke about the partnership between AIANTA and the Tribal GIS Association, in an effort to work together, demonstrating to Tribal communities and governments the various applications

of GIS technology to the Tribal tourism industry. Meeting the needs of a tourist was discussed, including important aspects such as the need for information regarding routes and direction, recreational, lodging, and dining facilities, jurisdictional and local protocols, entertainment options, safety, appropriate access points, and much more. The ability of Tribal communities and Tribal governments to build capacity through a tribe-wide integrated GIS can assist in meeting the aforementioned tourism needs while enhancing the visitor experience. Boosting the visitor experience would attract tourists who in turn add value to tribal infrastructural development and marketplace expansion. Ms. Osceola stressed the importance of the nexus between cultural heritage tourism, GIS technology, and Tribal governments as an essential link providing income, vitality, cultural sustainability, and reaching new markets, all of which contribute to an overall increase in the quality of life to communities within Indian Country. NTGISC, hosted by TribalGIS.Com, is a showcase of current Geographic Information Systems technology and standards being utilized within Indian Country and was held at facilities located on the campus of Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI). The Conference also served as an important forum for dialogue regarding GIS information, data standards, and interaction and collaboration with State and Federal agencies, as well as GIS industry leaders. Various Tribal communities were in attendance, including members and/or representatives of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Nava o Nation, Hopi Tribe, Chickasaw Nation, Ak-Chin Indian Community, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, and many others. The STOF-THPO presentation focused on past achievements,



Representatives of the National Geospatial Resource Center (NGRC) discuss GIS Technology in Indian Country with Tribal community members.



The Cellicion Traditional Zuni Dancers perform an Eagle Dance during the Opening Session.

TribalGIS.com

current endeavors, and future goals of the Archaeometry Section of the THPO. Dr. Backhouse participated in a round table discussion session with other Tribal community and federal agency members and stakeholders to address GIS policies. Mr. Cancel and I gave a presentation entitled “Spatial Heritage: Integrating multiple GIS Perspectives into the STOF-THPO,” in which we discussed the legal basis of the THPO activities and responsibilities relating to historic preservation endeavors on STOF reservation lands, and any ancestral sites located within native, aboriginal, or ceded lands. We then discussed how we have employed GIS technology and techniques to fully support the Tribal archaeology, collections, and compliance facets within the THPO. In particular, the presentation focused on the development of a digital infrastructure, deployment of a full-functionality data-file server, a database backup system, and the continued development, management and oversight of the THPO’s GIS, which has an annual average growth rate of 1 percent over the last three years. Also highlighted were the advancements in obile GIS the THPO has made in the past few years, including the acquisition of several Trimble

Geo T devices, which allow Tribal archaeologists to accurately, and, on location, document locations of shovel tests, artifact finds, and identify cultural sites throughout STOF reservation lands. Furthermore, the audience was shown how THPO archaeologists have progressed to survey over 23,000 of the nearly 53,000 acres, or 44 percent, of the Big Cypress Reservation. A current THPO endeavors were outlined, including the enhancement of compliance review capabilities through GIS data collection from multiple state cultural site files and the creation of easy-to-use map templates to aide compliance staff with project analysis. Moreover, the future goals, such as the development of the Seminole Site File fully integrated with GIS, in order to accurately locate and protect all Seminole cultural sites throughout the ancestral native, aboriginal and ceded lands. In addition to their presentation, the THPO staff attended several other Tribal presentations, a hands-on imagery interpretation and classification workshop, developed valuable professional contacts and identified potential cooperative ventures throughout the Tribal GIS Community.

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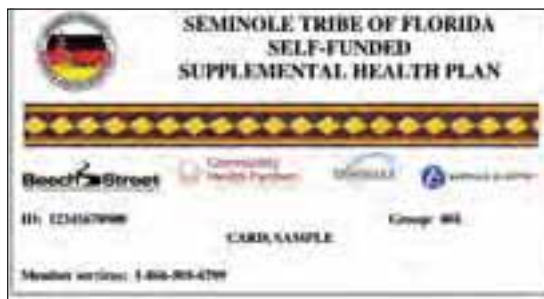
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# New Health Plan Card and Book

## New Health Plan Card

Begin using your new Health Plan card February 1, 2011.



## Old Health Plan Card

Destroy your old Health Plan card on February 1, 2011.



BY CONNIE WHIDDEN  
Health Director

A new Health Plan card and Health Plan book will be sent to you in January 2011, so please look for them to arrive in the mail. If you do not receive your card and book in the mail in January, please contact the Patient Services Coordinator at one of the Seminole Clinics so that a new card can be given to you. Please begin showing your new card to medical and dental providers and to the pharmacy on February 1, 2011.

On February 1, 2011 we will begin using a new company to manage your prescription drug benefit called Express Scripts. Your new card will contain the Express Scripts logo along with other information that the pharmacy will need in order to fill your prescriptions. It is important that you show your new Health Plan card at the pharmacy when getting prescriptions filled beginning February 1, 2011. If you do not show your new card at the pharmacy, the pharmacy will not be able to process your prescription.

In addition, beginning January 1, 2011, there will be changes to your Health Plan book. Some of the changes to read over include:

- Children's Center for Diagnostics & Therapy contact information was added (see inside cover of Book)
  - Outpatient services for Mental Health, Alcoholism, Drug Abuse, and other Behavioral Health Treatment (page 10)
  - Pediatric (birth to 21 years of age) Physical, Speech, and Occupational Therapy (page 10)
  - Eyewear benefit increased (page 10)
  - Smoking Cessation Prescription Medication (page 11)
  - Diabetic and Orthopedic Shoes (page 14)
- Please review the book and keep it on hand.  
Please contact the Health Plan Office if you have any questions about your benefits at 1-866-505-6789.

If you do not receive a Health Plan card and book in the mail, please call the Patient Services Coordinator at one of the Seminole Clinics:

Big Cypress Health Clinic: 863-983-5151  
Hollywood Health Clinic: 954-962-2009  
Brighton Health Clinic: 863-763-0271  
Immokalee Health Clinic: 239-867-3400  
Tampa Field Office: 813-620-2860

# Follow These Important Safety Tips During Holiday Season

BY LT BRUCE BRITTON  
Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue  
Fire Prevention Division

The holiday season is a time of happiness and joy, spent with family and friends sharing their most precious and memorable moments together. Parents do their best to provide presents for their children and deck their homes with lavish decorations, colorful lights, and of course, the blessed Christmas Tree. For most people this is just another wonderful time of the year, but, for others it can suddenly become a "living nightmare." December is considered the most dangerous month because each year during the holiday, fires cause thousands of injuries and millions of dollars in damages and property loss. Almost all of these incidents could have been prevented with a few simple precautionary measures. For example, keeping a tree moist and routinely turning off the holiday lights greatly reduces the risk of a residential fire. Please take the time to read and share this information with others. It could mean the difference between life and death.

## S I a T

- Needles on a tree should be green and hard to pull back from branches.
- The trunk should be sticky with resin. This is a sign of a freshly cut tree.
- Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and as a result is dry.
- Cut off 1-2 inches of the tree trunk to help absorb water.
- Artificial trees should be flame-retardant and labeled UL approved.

## Ca I T

- Do not place your tree close to a heat source.
- Keep cigarettes and ash trays away from the tree.
- Keep your tree stand filled with water for moisture.

## H I a L

- Unplug holiday lights when leaving your home or going to bed. Most residential fires occur during the nighttime.
- Do not overload electrical outlets and extension cords. A maximum of three strands should be connected.
- Inspect electrical cords periodically for heat and remove them if they are hot.
- Keep children from playing with the electrical cords and outlets due to risk of electrocution.
- Keep children from playing with decorative lights because the small detachable light bulbs are a choking hazard.

## H I a D a

- All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and labeled as UL approved.
- Choose child-friendly decorations, ornaments and toys that will not harm them (avoid sharp edges and small pieces that are easy to swallow).
- Keep decorations away from any heat source.

## Ca I Ca

- Use a stable candle holder.
- Do not place candles on or near the tree.
- Do not leave burning candles unattended.

## D

- Remove your tree shortly after Christmas because it will become dry and flammable.
- Do not place branches in a fireplace.



# The Spirit of The Holidays Is All Around Us

FROM OFFICE OF POLICE CHIEF WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD

It is with great enthusiasm I wish each of you a healthy and happy holiday season. As we begin to take part in planning for the holidays, it is a time of the year that is anticipated with joy in our hearts. Let us first take a moment to give thanks for the blessings in our lives including the Seminole Tribe of Florida, our family, good health and the ability to enjoy each other during this time of the year. Whether we celebrate our holidays through time-honored traditions or we begin new traditions of our own, it is important we have a good attitude toward those around us. A great way to celebrate the holidays is to pass along a Christmas story from your childhood. This is a time-honored valuable legacy and a sensational way to spend time together that will truly be cherished for years to come. Enjoy the holidays and let us all look forward to a prosperous and Happy New Year in 2011.

May God Bless each of you today and every day.

Will

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# Seminole Hard Rock Sponsors the Winterfest Boat Parade in Fort Lauderdale



The 2010 Tribal vessel floats down the river. This year's theme was Dancing through the Decades!

Kelly Frizzell

## More photos from the Winterfest Grand Marshal Reception Featuring Brooke Burke



Chris C. Jenkins

Brooke Burke, "Dancing with the Stars" co-host, poses for swarms of media during the Winterfest Grand Marshal reception.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen and Winterfest boat parade participant Max Osceola III is interviewed about the grandeur and traditions of Winterfest with Seminole Broadcasting.



Chris C. Jenkins

New Century Dance Group members perform during the Winterfest Grand Marshal reception.

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# Hard Rock Makes It in the Guinness Book of World Records with Major Guitar Smashing Event

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — In typical Hard Rock fashion, a grand opening was accompanied by the smashing of guitars, this time on a world record stage.

Tribal citizens, officials, Seminole Gaming executives, invited casino guests and various charity supporters partook in the grand opening celebration of the new Winner's Way Parking Garage with an extraordinary ceremonial guitar smash of 1,914 non-musician quality acoustic guitars at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

The Dec. 15 event was documented and recorded for the Guinness Book of World Records as the World's Largest Guitar Smash, with a representative on site to observe and certify the experience and also featured a special performance by Grammy-award winning pop group Huey Lewis and the News.

Kicking off the evening was a VIP cocktail reception for participants and guests before braving the chilly weather.

"I am glad to be here tonight, we are a part of history. This is the place to be," Hollywood/Fort Pierce Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. said to the local media prior to the evening's activities.

With the addition of 2,400 new parking spaces, the grand total comes to more than 12,000 along with 15 elevators, six escalators, a 351-foot-tall pedestrian bridge to Seminole Paradise, a 164-foot-tall pedestrian bridge to the casino and a car count system. The property also offers guest valet and self parking in the adjacent Seminole Way and Lucky Street Garages, as well as several surface parking lot areas.

"Now it will be much easier for the gaming situation because now everyone will be comfortable where they can just park and play," Tribal citizen Zach Battiest said. "This whole thing was really major for the Seminole Tribe of Florida and especially being in the record books."

The 112-foot, one million-square-foot project began in April and cost an estimated \$50 million while employing hundreds in the process.

"This is what we have been waiting for all along so that we would have more garage space for people to come on in and enjoy the Hard Rock and all its venues," said Tribal Council Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

The event was a "smashing" success for invitee and guitar smash participant Kimberly Courtland of Deerfield Beach.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal royalty Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Princess Lorelei Tommie, left, and Miss Seminole Princess Cassandra Jimmie have their guitars ready for smashing.

"I thought at first it would be kind of hokey but I said OK. I never knew it would be as amazing as it was. I am glad I came," Courtland said.

A musically synchronized fireworks display and a Hard Rock donation of \$50,000 in guitars to education officials toward music programs for public schools in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties were also a part of the ceremony. The funds will be used to purchase a new guitar for every public and charter school in all three counties.

A representative from the Ann Storck Center of Plantation also accepted the smashed guitar pieces to allow adults with disabilities to create original sculptures, decorative home accents and other works of art as part of the Ann Storck Center Fine Arts Program.

The artwork will soon be available for purchase as "Smashed GuitART" with all proceeds going to help support the program.



Chris C. Jenkins

Barbara Osceola Butera, left, and Mary Osceola Moore await the grand smashing.



Chris C. Jenkins

Participants prepare to smash their guitars in unison.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Sunshine Frank patiently awaits the countdown to smash her guitar during the celebration.





Naji Tobias

Big Cypress senior Sally Tommie led the seniors in prayer for success of the Culture Day event.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress senior Lucille Jumper was one of three winners in Bingo play.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress senior Joe Billie Jr. said he was pleased with how the festivities played out at the Family Investment Center. "I wasn't expecting this," he said. "A whole lot of our seniors came out to show support for our Seminole culture. It shows that our Seminole pride is still alive and well. And it starts with our seniors, who pave the way for all of our Tribal citizens in Seminole country."

**BIG CYPRESS SENIORS  
CULTURE DAY RESULTS**

**Bingo**  
Game #1 Winner – Letter "X": Lucille Jumper;  
Game #2 Winner – Crazy Letter "L": Claudia Doctor;  
Game #3 Winner – Cover All: Pilot Billie.

**Archery – After Three Rounds of Play**  
1. Joe B. Osceola (58 points), 2. Louise Billie (34 points), 3. Allen Jumper (29 points), 4. Joe Jr. Billie (28 points), 5. Carol Cypress (3 points).



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress senior Louise Billie takes proper aim for her target.

## Big Cypress Seniors' Culture Day Features Archery, Bingo, Traditional Cooking and More



Naji Tobias

Left photo, for the Nov. 30 Big Cypress Seniors' Culture Day, Tribal Elder Ruby Osceola makes some fry bread for lunch under a cooking chickee at the Family Investment Center in Big Cypress. Culture Day, which consisted of traditional foods, Bingo and archery, was held in conjunction with the November birthday luncheon for the Big Cypress seniors. "We grew up cooking food outside," Ruby Osceola said. "There was no refrigerator, no stove, no nothing like that in our day." Photo above, five Tribal seniors participated in the archery competition at Culture Day.

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Jimmie and Tommie stand with the entire Homecoming Court and Osceola and Renegade.

Ryan Watson



Ryan Watson

Wanda Bowers, Cassandra Jimmie and Lorelei Tommie stand in front of FSU's Osceola and Renegade at FSU's Homecoming Game.

## FSU

From page 3A

The Friday events continued after the parade as Bowers led the royalty to FSU's Powwow, another of FSU's pregame rituals.

"I just try to have the girls all dressed and ready, because when we are out here, people see them in their Seminole clothes, and they want to take pictures with them so I just try to keep them all prepared," Bowers said.

Saturday's events started with the annual FSU Alumni Homecoming Breakfast, where Lorelei and Jimmie distributed handmade Seminole arts and crafts to the attendees. The ladies took pictures with dozens of alumni and enjoyed a fruitful breakfast.

In the hours leading up to the game, Jimmie and Bowers traveled to the Cooley Ranch to take pictures for the design of the Miss Florida Seminole 2010-11 statue before heading to Doak Campbell Stadium for the 2010 Homecoming game versus the North Carolina Tar Heels.

At halftime, Tommie and Jimmie made their way across the center of Bobby Bowden Field to crown the Homecoming Chief and Princess.



Ryan Watson

From left, Cassandra's mom Elsa Zamora, Cassandra Jimmie, Wanda Bowers and Bradley Cooley Sr. visited the Cooley ranch just outside of Tallahassee.

"My favorite part of this weekend was crowning the king," Jimmie said. "I enjoyed being out on the field and getting to see everybody."

"I feel really proud to represent my culture, and I just feel really honored to be here," Tommie said.

The young ladies and their families enjoyed the remainder of the game in the President's Box at Doak Campbell Stadium.

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Legal Notice

## If You Are a Native American Who Tried to Get a Farm Loan or Loan Servicing from the USDA, You Could Receive Benefits from a \$760 Million Class Action Settlement.

A class action Settlement with the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") has been reached. The lawsuit claimed the USDA discriminated against Native Americans who applied for or tried to apply for farm loans or loan servicing. The USDA denies it did anything wrong.

### Am I included?

The Class includes all Native American farmers and ranchers who:

- Farmed or ranched or attempted to farm or ranch between January 1, 1981 and November 24, 1999;
- Tried to get a farm loan or loan servicing from the USDA during that period; **and**
- Complained about discrimination to the USDA either on their own or through a representative during the time period.

You are not eligible for this Settlement if you filed a claim, or intend to file a claim, in another USDA discrimination case like Pigford I or Pigford II (Black farmers), Garcia (Hispanic farmers) or Love (Women farmers).

Because of a law passed by Congress, you are also not eligible for this Settlement if you **either**:

- Experienced discrimination only between January 1 and November 23, 1997; **or**
- Complained of discrimination only between July 1 and November 23, 1997.

### What does the Settlement provide?

The \$760 million Settlement will pay cash to Class Members for valid claims as well as attorneys' fees (between 4% and 8%, subject to Court approval) and awards. The Settlement includes up to \$80 million in USDA loan forgiveness for Class Members who qualify. The USDA will pay an additional \$20 million to implement the Settlement and will make some changes to their farm loan programs. Any money left after all payments and expenses have been made will be donated to one or more organizations that help Native American farmers and ranchers.

### What can I get from the Settlement?

The amount of money you will receive will depend on whether you file a claim under Track A or Track B. It will also depend on the total number of claims that are filed and approved.

**Track A** – You can get a payment up to \$50,000 for your discrimination claim plus an additional 25% paid to the IRS to reduce any income tax you may owe.

**Track B** – You can get the amount of your actual damages up to \$250,000. Track B requires more proof than Track A.

**USDA Loan Forgiveness** – Under both Track A and Track B you can get forgiveness on part or all of your eligible USDA farm loans plus an additional 25% paid to the IRS to reduce any income tax you may owe.

### How do I get benefits?

You will need to file a claim by **December 24, 2011** to get benefits. After the Court approves the Settlement, meetings will be held across the country to help Class Members file claims. You can register for a Claims Package at the website or by calling the toll-free number.

### What are my other rights?

- If you want to keep your right to sue the USDA about the claims in this Settlement, you must exclude yourself by **February 28, 2011**. Unless you exclude yourself, you will be bound by the terms of this Settlement.
- If you stay in the Settlement, you can object to or comment on it by **February 28, 2011**.

The Court will hold a hearing on **April 28, 2011** to consider whether to approve the Settlement and the attorneys' fees. The Court has appointed attorneys to represent the Class. You or your own lawyer may ask to appear and speak at the hearing at your own expense.



# USS Jason Dunham Servicemen ‘Spend the Day with the Seminoles’

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — An invitation to ‘Spend the Day with the Seminoles’ was quickly accepted by 100 naval personnel recently assigned to the USS Jason Dunham and their families on Nov. 12.

Learning that the USS Jason Dunham, a 510-foot naval missile destroyer, was going to be commissioned at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale on Nov. 13, the Seminole Tribe of Florida offered complimentary day packages to the Billie Swamp Safari and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Coordinating the event was Jo Anne Lewis, Social Co-Chairwoman of the Commissioning Committee and Joe Ferrero.



Judy Weeks  
Servicemen of the USS Dunham and their families give the airboat rides at Billie Swamp Safari two thumbs up.

“As an American and as a veteran, I am proud that the Seminole Tribe of Florida can express its thanks and support to those soldiers and sailors and their families who make daily sacrifices to keep this country safe from harm,” said Chairman Mitchell Cypress.

Following its commission, a unit of 290 naval personnel and a small detachment of Marines will be deployed on the new missile destroyer named after Marine Jason Dunham, who sacrificed his life during operation Iraqi Freedom by using his helmet to cover a hand grenade dropped by an insurgent. His actions saved the lives of two fellow Marines.

“Sixty percent of the enlisted men and women in this unit have recently completed their basic and technical training, and this will be their first deployment,” said Senior Chief Felix Siri, a 19-year veteran who has completed three tours of duty in the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf vicinity. “Many of their family members have come to join them for the commissioning ceremonies,

and we are extremely grateful to the Seminole Tribe for offering us this opportunity to share in such a rewarding experience.”

“This is a first trip to Florida for the majority of our detachment, and the things that we have seen here today can hold their own in comparison to some of the extraordinary places that we have visited in other parts of the world,” continued Siri. “Until today, I thought that I had ridden on just about every type of boat imaginable, but I can now add an airboat to my list of unforgettable experiences.”

A 17-year veteran, Ronald Virgin Sr. has been active duty in Kuwait, Iraq and Iran and served with the Special Warfare Unit attached to the Navy Seals. His wife, three children and both of his parents have traveled from Virginia and Ohio to participate with him in the commissioning ceremonies. “My entire family have enjoyed themselves immensely and learned a great deal about the Seminole Indians during today’s visit. I am certain that this is going to be the highlight of their vacation, and it has given me a wonderful chance to spend quality time with my children.”

“The USS Dunham will be assigned to the Naval Station in Norfolk, Va. for a short period of time before receiving its official orders of deployment,” concluded Virgin. “Fortunately for me, my family lives near the base and we will remain there throughout the Christmas holidays. That is not the case for most of

the recruits here today who are a long way from home. The Seminole Tribe has certainly given them something to write home about.

The group included individuals from 27 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. A cross section of the U.S. Military, they represented many different cultures and ethnic backgrounds but all expressed their desire to learn more about the Seminoles and their unique homeland.

Marcia Cypress of Seminole Exchange provided an extensive complimentary buffet for the visiting armed forces and their families. The menu included kid-friendly items, as well as adult favorites. A highlight of the luncheon was the opportunity to sample gator bites, which were a novelty to the entire company.

Spending a full day in Big Cypress, the group took an eco-swamp buggy tour, rode on the airboats and visited the critter show at Billie Swamp Safari. A cultural and history review awaited them at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

# Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Named 21st Spot on Everglades Trail

BY NAJI TOBIAS  
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS – The Everglades Trail Association recently selected the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum as its latest landmark in efforts to showcase some of Florida’s history and culture to the touring public.

On Nov. 5, the ETA conducted a special presentation of this honor to the Tribe and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at the 13th annual American Indian Arts Celebration.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is ETA’s 21st site in Florida, joining locations such as the Lake Okeechobee Scenic Trail, Everglades National Park and the Collier-Seminole State Park in Naples.

“It has a place to fill that was not represented by the other sites on the Everglades Trail,” said Marvin Cook, president of the Everglades Trail Association. “Big Cypress provides a cultural connection to the people who have the Everglades [as] their home. It’s a connection to the Seminole Tribe and their heritage because the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum holds the objects and history of their people and has developed a site that provides a glimpse into their life.”

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Anne McCudden said she considers the inclusion an honor not only to the Museum, but also to the Tribe as a whole.

“Projects such as this will help to increase visitors to the area,”

McCudden said. “At the same time, it allows us to obtain an avenue to showcase what we know about the Seminole people and their relationship to the environment. It all teaches us that we can at once respect and protect our surroundings.”

ETA officials say the Tribe has been supportive of its efforts for the past two years, particularly when it comes to the print work of the association’s brochures, which were handed out to the public at last month’s AIAC Festival.

“I think that the state of Florida and the country have finally recognized the Tribe as a protector of nature,” Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger said. “I would like for the Tribe to continue protecting the Everglades and teaching our neighbors to take care of the wildlife around them. We need to keep the natural beauty and habitats of the Everglades intact.”

In 2003, the ETA began the Everglades Trail project that was initiated by Wilderness Graphics, Inc. and The Nature Conservancy. The Everglades Trail was introduced by former United



Naji Tobias  
A kiosk at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's parking lot site gives tourists a look at how the Everglades Trail Association sees Big Cypress as a key component to the conservation of South Florida's ecosystem. The kiosk provides information that will allow the touring public to see the Seminole Tribe's impact on culture and history in the Everglades.

States Sen. Bob Graham and was created with support from entities such as the Friends of Loxahatchee Refuge, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the Florida Department of Transportation, the South Florida Water Management District, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Office of Greenways and Trails.

For more information, visit [www.evergladestrail.com](http://www.evergladestrail.com).



Naji Tobias  
From left, Board of Governors Member for the South Florida Water Management District Charles Dauray, Everglades Trail Association President Marvin Cook, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Anne McCudden, Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Dorian Lange. They were all on hand for the Everglades Trail Association's presentation of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's selection as the Trail's 21st site at the 13th annual American Indian Arts Celebration on Nov. 5.

# Youth from Boys & Girls Club Enchant the Audience with Holiday Music Concert



Chris C. Jenkins  
Boys & Girls Club holiday youth performance concert participants get together at the Hollywood Boys & Girls Club Dec. 10, allowing the musicians to perform and sing cover songs for the evening guests. From left, music instructor R.C. North, Cameron Osceola, Shelli Tiger, Natamah Robbins, Aaron Osceola, and music instructor James Payne, back row, Annisa Osceola and Ashley Osceola.



Chris C. Jenkins  
Top photo, R.C. North Sr. Boys & Girls Club director, thanks parents and invited guests for their attendance and support of the youth concert. Photo above, Seminole Star Search Grand Prize winner Shelli Tiger sings a Christmas carol.



Chris C. Jenkins  
Tribal citizen and accomplished musician R.C. North Jr. performs on stage.

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# EducationB

## Pemayetv Emahakv Students Get More Hands-On Experience During Annual Culture Day

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**BRIG** — Students of Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School took part in their annual Culture Day Nov. 17-18 by getting to be a little more hands on with this year's activities held at the Culture Camp at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.

Students in kindergarten through eighth grade participated in various events focused on the Seminole culture.

"They are the ones that are going to carry it on from us," said culture teacher Reina Micco. "If we don't show them, then I don't know how they would carry it on."

The younger grades arrived for Culture Day Nov. 17 and jumped from activity to activity. The older boys learned carving techniques, while the younger ones practiced on soap as a safe alternative. As the boys carved, the girls learned how to make traditional fry bread and biscuits.

Herbert Jim from the Tampa community contributed his time once again for Culture Day by capturing the youth's attention with legends and storytelling. Jim told traditional stories about the Creator and late Seminole spirits.

For fun, the students' third cultural activity included a scavenger hunt that tested their Creek language skills. Students were given clues and were challenged to answer the riddle and run through the grounds to find their next clue.

Sixth through eighth grade had their Culture Day Nov. 18. The students started with hands-on learning as they were taught the proper traditional way to clean, prepare and butcher a hog and more than 60 fish.

"This year it was much smaller," culture history teacher Jade Braswell said. "We had the hog and it was just the eighth grade, and there's just three boys over there and they were all in it."

After preparing the meat, the girls took over and began the cooking process by placing the meat in skillet on the fire under the cooking chickee. The girls learned how to properly season and fry the meat.

"Again, with the smaller groups there's more interaction, and we have some elders here that can explain the process from start to finish," Braswell said.

As with the younger grades, when the girls cooked and prepared the traditional meal, the boys took to carving, painting and learning the craft of tomahawk carving. This year, more volunteers from the community helped to share the culture.

Achary Gopher, a new student at Pemayetv Emahakv, participated in his first Culture Day and said he enjoyed learning how his ancestors once lived. He also said he never learned anything like it at the public school he recently attended.

After the food was prepared, the students, staff and volunteers enjoyed a traditional lunch including the hog, fish and bread prepared by the girls.



Rachel Buxton

Mike Micco helps Layne Thomas carve as the boys learn to carve cypress, the type of wood their ancestors used.



Rachel Buxton

See more photos on 4B

Culture Department's Amber Buck gives students the first clue to the scavenger hunt, testing their Creek language skills.



Rachel Buxton

Tribal girls from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School mix the dough in preparation for frying the bread at their annual Culture Day Nov. 17-18.

## Immokalee Preschoolers Explore Their Creativity at Culture Department's Workshop

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Staff Reporter

**EE** — A chorus of "Chee-han-tah-mo" How are you came from the Immokalee Preschoolers as they arrived on a field trip to the Immokalee Culture Department on the morning of Dec. 13. Offering the traditional Mikasuki greeting, they were showing off the language skills that they have been learning during daily visits by the Culture Department teachers to the preschool.

The 3- to 5-year-olds came for an introduction to the

cultural facilities to enhance the curiosity they have developed during daily classes, when they learn language, history, traditional arts and crafts, and food preparation.

Cultural instructors Geraldine Osceola, Nancy Motlow and Juanita Martinez took them on a tour that included beading, basket making, sewing, doll making, cooking and language skills. Showing a keen interest in each category, the preschoolers carefully handled the sample items and asked a variety of questions.

The youngsters demonstrated their surprise with big smiles and shouts of delight when they spotted their colorful artwork being displayed on the classroom wall and recognized various teaching aids from their language studies.

By far the most fascinating object in the classroom was the hand crank sewing machine. Taking turns, they each tried their hand at operating the machine and were intrigued by the items that it had produced. They paid attention to the patchwork potholders and aprons created by the older students during their afternoon visits.

Taking their places around the worktable, each student received a bag of colorful beads, and assistance as they created their own necklaces. Despite their youth, they displayed definite preferences in colors and bead combinations that resulted in some very distinctive jewelry items.

Wearing their necklaces, they made another quick trip past the sewing machine while the instructors invited them to join the fun in the afterschool programs. Before departing, they thanked their teachers with a hearty "Sho-naa-bish" Thank you



Judy Weeks

Immokalee preschooler Samara Yzaguirre carefully chooses the next colored bead for the necklace she is making.



Judy Weeks

From left, Culture Instructor Geraldine Osceola shows Immokalee preschoolers Joshua Dimas, Jaylynn Rodriguez and Josie Osceola a hand crank sewing machine like the ones used by their great grandmothers.



Judy Weeks

From left, Immokalee Cultural Instructors Juanita Martinez, Nancy Motlow and Geraldine Osceola extend an invitation for the Immokalee preschoolers Joshua Dimas, Jaylynn Rodriguez, Samara Yzaguirre and Makayla Mata to drop by afterschool and join in the craft projects.



Naji Tobias

Thirty two high school students from the Ahfachkee School came out to the Education Department's College Admissions Panel on Dec. 1 at the Learning Resource Center in Big Cypress. Here, the group of youngsters are learning about the college choices they have at the following six higher education institutions represented: Florida State University, Florida Gulf Coast University, iTech (Immokalee Technical Center), Barry University, Lynn University and Nova Southeastern University.

## Higher Education Admissions Panel in Big Cypress Focuses on College Issues

BY NAJI TOBIAS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** – The Tribe's Education Department hosted a college admissions panel discussion for the Ahfachkee School's high school students on Dec. 1.

Several higher education institutions such as Florida State University and Florida Gulf Coast University were on hand at the Big Cypress Learning Resource Center to inform students about college-related issues.

"Every one of you possesses something special," Ahfachkee School Principal Walter Swan said to 32 Ahfachkee high school students. "I've seen it you are all critical thinkers. You can think past problems and you can think past high school. I'm very honored and thankful that you're here to ask questions."

Several Ahfachkee students inquired about housing accommodations, course credits, college majors, work-study job placement, bullying concerns and college requirements, such as taking a foreign language course at the high school level.

The majority of state high schools require taking a foreign language course such as Spanish, Italian or French to qualify for college. The Ahfachkee School, however, doesn't offer that option to its students.

The Ahfachkee School's culture department teaches words, phrases and sentences in the E-lap-on-ke language – something the Tribe takes great pride in, since it's their Native way of speaking.

"On your campuses, do you have a foreign language requirement?" Ahfachkee School student Stevie Billie asked representatives from FSU, FGCU, Barry University, iTech Immokalee Technical Center, Nova Southeastern University and Lynn University. "We have our own unique language that we speak it's E-la-p-on-ke. Can you

add our language to your requirement?"

Representatives from iTech, Nova Southeastern, Lynn and Barry universities said that a prospective college student doesn't have to meet a foreign language requirement. Meanwhile, at FSU and FGCU, at least two years of a foreign language is required for future students.

Seminole Tribe Education Director Emma Johns said the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School in Brighton offers the Creek language class as a way to meet the two-year foreign language requirement that most colleges have in place. Johns added that the special accommodation for Brighton's Tribal students was granted by the Glades County School District, the Okechobee County School District and the Florida Department of Education.

As for the Mikasuki language, Johns said preparations are currently under way for the same special accommodations to take effect for Tribal students at the Ahfachkee School and for Tribal students who go to private and public schools.

"We need to have all the Sunshine State standards in place for the State Department of Education to approve of it," Johns said. "How long it takes may depend on those who are going to write up the Mikasuki curriculum."

Nancy Iacovone, iTech workforce adviser, said she was impressed by the questions the Ahfachkee students asked at the college admissions panel function.

"They are a very bright group of kids," Iacovone said. "I want them to know this Follow your passion and do something that you love."

Johns said the Education Department will help Tribal students follow their aspirations in education.

"We will be there with our kids every step of their way, even if we need to hold their hands along the way," Johns said.



# Ahfachkee Students Challenge Their Knowledge in Science at School's Fair



Naji Tobias

Reagan Whitecloud, who placed third in the Science Fair's high school category, created a glowing water exhibit that she put on display at the event.



Naji Tobias

On Nov. 17 — a day after the Nov. 16 Science Fair — Ahfachkee School science teachers Vicki Pratt, far left, and Timothy Blount, far right, congratulate the individual winners from grades third through 12.

## SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS - WINNERS

**Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten -Class Project:** Mrs. Rudolph's class

**1st and 2nd Grades — Small Group Project:** Elijah Cook, Precious Jimmie, Gregario Reynosa, Liberty Robbins and Willie Smith

**3rd through 6th Grades — Individual Projects:** 1. Ryanne Pratt (104.5 points), 2. Evanne Pratt (102 points), 3. Nashoba Gonzalez (101.5 points), 4. Elisah Billie (100 points), 5. Alyssa Burnett-Osceola (99.5 points), 6. Janessa Jones (97.5 points)

**7th and 8th Grades — Individual Projects:** 1. Leauna Billie (116.8 points), 2. Mika Lopez (113.8 points), 3. Haden Littlebear (107.5 points), 4. Kaitlin Osceola (106.8 points), 5. Chelsey Alvarado (101.5 points), 6. Caitlin Cypress (94.8 points)

**9th through 12th Grades — Individual Projects:** 1. Taylor Pratt (152 points), 2. Jalen Cypress (127.3 points), 3. Reagan Whitecloud (123 points), 4. Stevie Billie (117 points), 5. Ryan Cypress (112.3 points), 6. William Jumper (100.3 points)



Naji Tobias

From left, before deciding to make a purchase, Mazzy Robbins, 10, and Destiny Robbins, 14, are reading science fiction books at the Science and Book Fair Nov. 16.



Naji Tobias

Swan Kimble takes a look at the Don't Bust Your Bubble! exhibit.

## Wovoka Tommie Visits Tribal Boys at Big Cypress Culture Room for Speaking Session



Courtesy of Barbara D. Oeffner

Family Reading Night is a program where scholar Elita Kalma and storyteller Carol Lubetkin use stories to promote reading and discussions about the book's messages. The Immokalee families enjoyed a dinner together before the story time, which was held for four weeks in November. Prizes were won by families for their attendance at Family Reading Night, and a Kindle was given out for the grand prize on Dec. 7.

## Immokalee Library Hosts Four-Week Family Reading Night Series



Courtesy of Barbara D. Oeffner

Carol Lubetkin reads "The Rough-Faced Girl" to the Tribal families. Other stories were "Coyote Steals the Blanket," "Amazing Grace," and "The True Story of the Three Little Pigs."



Naji Tobias

Tribal citizen Wovoka Tommie visits the Big Cypress Culture Room for a speaking engagement with Tribal youth from the Boys & Girls Club on Nov. 18. In the hour-long culture session, Tommie, 34, talked about his life as a Seminole Tribal youngster in Big Cypress.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Culture Director Jane Billie, center, makes sure the Tribal boys from the Boys & Girls Club are enjoying their snacks as they listen to Tribal citizen Wovoka Tommie in his speaking engagement.



Naji Tobias

The Big Cypress Culture Department staff and Tribal youngsters from the Boys & Girls Club share a moment with guest speaker Wovoka Tommie, in back, after his Seminole culture speaking engagement finished.



# Elgin Jumper Visits Big Cypress for Native American Painting Workshop



Dayra Koenes, left, and Trinity Williams work on their landscape creations.

Naji Tobias



Naji Tobias

Tribal artist Elgin Jumper, center, paid a visit Nov. 10 to Big Cypress and taught Tribal and community youngsters from the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club how to craft a landscape painting portrait, as part of the Native American Painting Workshop. Jumper showed the youth his modern-day painting rendition of a part of the Big Cypress Reservation, which encompasses Josie Billie Hwy at certain landmarks such as the Ahfachkee School, the Big Cypress Trading Post and the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.



Naji Tobias

Jonah Alvarado, one of 15 Boys & Girls Club youngsters at the Native American Painting Workshop, paints the background colors with a flat brush.



Naji Tobias

Carlee Billie puts the finishing touches on her Native American work of art.



Naji Tobias

Elgin Jumper finished the painting project, which features the Everglades sunset with cypress knees and trees. Jumper guides the Boys & Girls Club participants step-by-step in how to work on their own landscape creations.

# Students and Parents Attend Charter School Family Fun Night in Brighton



Michele Thomas

The Charter School hosted a Family Fun Night Nov. 18 with an agriculture theme. Each grade level had a special station pertaining to agriculture including citrus, dairy and poultry, giving parents and students a chance to sample something or to make something. Committee member and third grade teacher Leslie Pryor said the event featured hands-on activities for all students. -Rachel Buxton



Michele Thomas

Chastity Harmon and her father Danny Harmon visit the kindergarten station ,focused on dairy, with a mock milking station Family Fun Night held Nov. 18 at the Charter School.



Michele Thomas

Teacher Mrs. Dobbs runs her citrus station giving parents and students a chance to squeeze and sample their own orange juice at the Charter School Family Fun Night Nov. 18.



Naji Tobias

Tribal and community youngsters from the Boys & Girls Club of Big Cypress get some face time with Paul 'Cowbone' Buster just after the hour-long musical performance concluded on Nov. 17. The goal was to bring together Tribal and community youth with their Tribal leaders.

# Paul 'Cowbone' Buster Performs at Willie E. Frank Library



Naji Tobias

Tribal Elder Paul 'Cowbone' Buster spent the afternoon at the Big Cypress Reservation's Willie E. Frank library and performed a slew of Seminole songs for a group of Big Cypress Tribal youngsters. The Tribal and community youth enjoyed songs from their Tribal elder such as "Traveling Song," "Turtle Song," "Allegiance Shock" and "Miami Billie." The performance was hosted and sponsored by the Willie E. Frank Library staff.

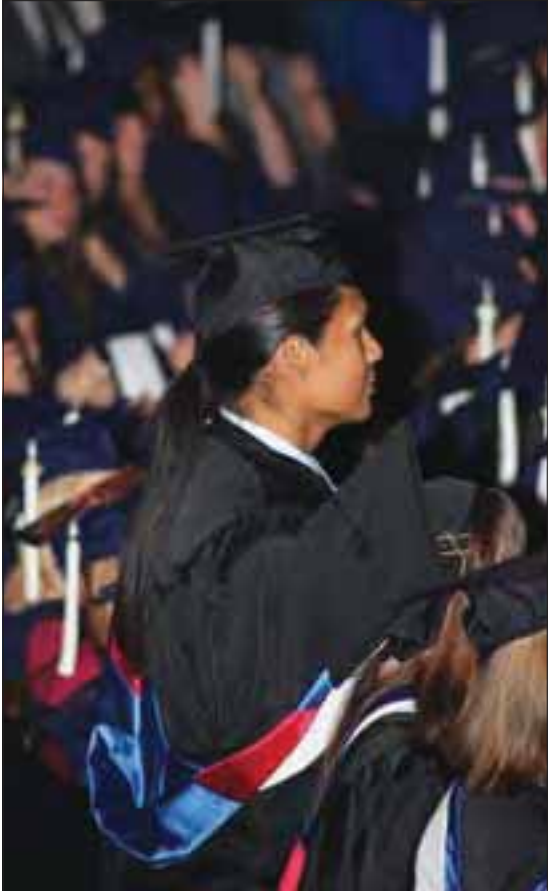


**F More photos from Jarrid Smith's Graduation**



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen and Florida Atlantic University graduate student Jarrid Smith, second from left, celebrates with his proud parents at commencement ceremonies held at the Carole and Barry Kaye Auditorium on the Florida Atlantic University campus Dec. 10. Smith received his master's degree in Communication Multimedia Studies and third degree overall. From left, father Curtis Osceola, mother Camellia Smith-Osceola and stepfather Vince Osceola.



Chris C. Jenkins

Jarrid Smith stands among hundreds of his fellow graduates.



Chris C. Jenkins

Jarrid Smith and Desiree Jumper after graduation.

**F More photos from Brighton's Annual Culture Day**



Rachel Buxton

Tatiana Herrera prepares the hog meat to be served at the traditional lunch.



Rachel Buxton

Chloe Chalfant gets hands on as she places the traditional lunch.



Rachel Buxton

Herbert Jim traveled from Tampa to share one of his many legends about the spirits with the students.

**F More photos from the College Admissions Panel in Big Cypress**



Naji Tobias

Stevie Billie asks the panel what the foreign language requirements are for each of their respective higher education institutions at the Dec. 1 event in Big Cypress.



Naji Tobias

RickyJo Alumbaugh inquires about bullying procedures, with the entire panel saying that their respective colleges adopt a "zero tolerance" policy on it.



Rachel Buxton

Demetrius Clark, new to Pemayetv Emahakv, shows history teacher Mr. Pritchard how to carve cypress wood.



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# Health



Rachel Buxton

Health Department Dietitian Valari Fauntleroy gives Agnes Bowers a taste of raw bok choy during one of the cooking demo classes held on the Brighton Reservation.

## Health Department Promotes Healthy Living

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

BRIG — Throughout the year, the Seminole Health Department has taken on several initiatives to encourage the Seminole Tribe Community towards a healthier and more active lifestyle.

“One of our strongest initiatives that we are really trying to promote is diabetic prevention [and] kidney health. [ ] those are our biggest two initiatives,” Seminole Health Department Dietitian Valari Fauntleroy said. “Then there are the side things that go along with preventing diabetes and [promoting] good kidney health, and that would be weight loss, making better health choices, making those lifestyle changes.”

The Pathways Walking Program was created to get Tribal members moving and exercising on a regular basis. The Health Department also holds numerous weight loss compe-

titions, trying to get individuals motivated to make a change. Health fairs and screenings are held on all reservations to provide Tribal members with the necessary information to make a life change.

The Brighton Health Department has begun to teach Tribal members how to modify their diets to incorporate healthier eating habits, which will help reduce the cases of diabetes within the Seminole Tribe.

“From my experience and knowing my fellow native people, I know a lot of people don’t cook right, don’t eat right, and I just think that has a lot to do with the diabetes,” Tribal member Larry Howard said.

One way the Brighton Health Department implemented its healthy eating initiative and has tried to reduce the health resistance from Tribal members is through a four-week cooking class. The class was formed to teach them healthy alternatives to their current diet.

“Really, what I’m trying to get them to see is that you can still make good, nutritious food that is quick and easy, but is full of the fruits and the vegetables and all those wonderful antioxidants and all those wonderful things that we need in order to stay healthy,” Fauntleroy said.

Fauntleroy changed up the menu to include a variety of meal options, varying from stir-fry, to pasta and even fish and chips.

“I’m looking to give them some ideas of things that they can make at home instead of going out to the restaurants,” she said.

Fauntleroy and the Health Department also offer regular nutrition consultations as a way to teach alternative eating habits. They believe that the more people know about nutrition and about health, the more likely they are to make those positive changes one step at a time.

For more information, call the Health Department at 3-7 3-0271.

## Motivational Speaker Devin T. Robinson X Hosts Worlds AIDS Day Presentation in Big Cypress

BY NAJI TOBIAS  
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS – Students from the Ahfachkee School were challenged by motivational speaker Devin T. Robinson to meet or surpass their expectations at a World AIDS Day presentation on Dec. 3.

Held at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress, Robinson had the youngsters complete a free-throw shooting exercise. According to Robinson, the purpose of this exercise was for the students to set their own expectations through shooting free throws.

They engaged in two free-throw shooting segments – one with their eyes opened for 30 seconds and the other with their eyes closed for 5 seconds.

“Everything you will have to do in life will involve beating someone’s expectations of you,” Robinson said. “This is how life goes. ou have to expect of yourself to be a successful person.”

For example, in the free-throw challenge, Ahfachkee eighth-grader and participant Sabre Billie was expected by her classmates to make only three free throws with her eyes closed in 5 seconds. However, Billie exceeded their expectations and made three shots in five seconds and nine overall in 5 seconds.

“We have expectations of ourselves and of our peers,” Robinson said to the students shortly after the

free-throw session ended. “They could either lead you to success or lead you to death.”

Robinson urged the Ahfachkee youngsters to overcome peer pressure when it comes to drugs, sex and drunk driving.

“Sometimes it gets hard and there will be real pressure on you,” Robinson said. “No matter what your friends do, always choose the right thing.”

Robinson performed a comedy skit entitled “I Never Wanted to Be.” It featured a fictional high school student named Tyrone Bigham, considered a fast runner by his peers. Encouraged by friends to try out for sports such as basketball, track and swimming, Bigham decided to play football instead.

Bigham, who dreamed of playing football for the University of Miami and being on ESPN, was later encouraged by a friend to try marijuana. At first, Bigham refused to use the drug. However, he later decided to give it a try.

Bigham then turned to crack and cocaine further into his high school career, a move that ultimately derailed his prospects of a college football scholarship.

When ESPN came to meet with Bigham, they noticed that he was missing football practices and had lost some of his athleticism. Eventually, it was discovered that the use of drugs through needles contributed to Bigham’s contraction of AIDS. The decisions he has made cut short his dreams of playing college and professional football.

“I got HIV, but I never wanted to be this way,” Robinson said playing Bigham, while coughing and stuttering. “Don’t look at me as a victim. I just didn’t have anyone to talk to me about it. I took so many drugs and could never control my body. But you could be anything you want in the whole world. Just don’t be me.”

To conclude the skit and presentation, Robinson encouraged the students to consider others before making decisions in life.

“ou have a unique gift in life right now and it’s called youth,” Robinson said. “It could either benefit you or hurt you. If you consider your parents and focus on making the best decisions, you will always come out victorious in your life.”



Naji Tobias

The Ahfachkee School’s seventh and eighth grade students were one of three groups to participate in a World AIDS Day presentation.

World AIDS Day guest speaker Devin T. Robinson X and the Tribe’s Allied Health Department share a moment with Ahfachkee’s high school students after the “Play It Safe” presentation concludes on Dec. 3 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.

Naji Tobias



## What’s That Smell? - Know the Air You Breathe

BY KIRK TRENCHFIELD  
Indoor Air Quality Specialist  
Seminole Health Department

Hello everyone, it’s that time of the year again. It is December, and the cold temperatures are here. With the recent cold front in Florida, homeowners may be turning on their heaters to escape the chilly temperatures. When you turn on your heater for the first time in a year, you may experience some foul odors. It may smell like something is burning. Don’t worry about this too much. This is often due to the fact that the heating coils have not been used in a while, and they are simply burning off any built up dust debris on the coils. As the unit continues to run, the odors should go away, usually within 30 minutes.

If the odors persist much longer than that, you may want to have the coils professionally cleaned by an A/C contractor. Also, have the contractor check the ductwork to make sure there is not fungal mold growth inside the ducts, which would cause persistent odors even after cleaning the coils. Remember that it is always a good idea to have the entire unit cleaned once per year. It is much easier and cheaper to maintain the unit as opposed to curing the resulting problems. Change the filter on a monthly basis for optimum indoor air quality. This will lessen the chance of mold growth on the coils and inside the ducts. Stay warm, and enjoy a healthy, comfortable home for the holidays.



Chris C. Jenkins

Preschool and Fitness Department staff works on stretching exercises with the 3-year-old students before beginning activities at the latest Hollywood Preschool Get Fit Day at the Seminole softball fields Nov. 19.

## Hollywood Preschoolers Learn How to Get Fit



Chris C. Jenkins

Lania Bert concentrates to complete the hopscotch course.



Chris C. Jenkins

Preschoolers enjoy a day full of activities at Get Fit Day.



Chris C. Jenkins

Fitness Department staff guide the preschoolers through various exercises.



Chris C. Jenkins

Together the preschoolers have more fun at Hollywood’s Get Fit Day.



Chris C. Jenkins

Mrs. Ronda Byers, head teacher of the 3-year-old class, assists Jeremiah, left, and Lorenna Osceola in the bean bag toss.





Naji Tobias

Preschoolers Laylah Billie, left, and Cashis Jumper stretch their arms during warm-ups at Get Fit Day Nov. 15 in Big Cypress.



Naji Tobias

Lavin Billie, 3, navigates his way through a road map maze at Get Fit Day function.



Naji Tobias

Photo above, Laylah Billie, 3, goes through the kids' maze at Get Fit Day. Right photo, Tia Billie, 2, and Seminole Fitness Trainer Cathy Cypress ride in the coaster relay race.



Naji Tobias

Preschoolers play with beach balls at the basketball hoop station.



## Seminole Fitness, Preschool Join Forces for Second Circuit of Get Fit Day



Naji Tobias

Seminole Fitness Trainer Mijail Iglesias leads the way as he directs 3-year-old preschoolers Darwin Brooks and Rylen Billie to jump over the Hula-Hoops at the kids' circuit in the Get Fit Day function on Nov. 15.

## Health Department Promotes a Healthy Lifestyle with Play it Safe Program

### STOF HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Each year, Dec. 1 is recognized as our official World AIDS day. This is a time when educators come together to raise awareness of the HIV epidemic, to increase HIV education and to promote HIV prevention. Dec.1 2010 will mark the 23rd annual World AIDS day.

AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, is a life threatening condition caused by the HIV or the human immunodeficiency virus. The virus is transmitted through infected blood, semen, vaginal fluids or breast milk. These fluids must enter your body through risky behaviors such as sharing needles with an HIV infected person, unprotected sex with an HIV infected person or an HIV infected mother breastfeeding her child. You cannot become infected by casual contact.

Once the virus is transmitted, you may remain symptom-free for years. If the virus continues to remain untreated, it multiplies and will destroy the body's immune cells. A person may begin to notice an increase in mild infections, swollen lymph nodes, diarrhea, weight loss, fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

Chronically untreated, the HIV virus typically progresses to AIDS in about 10 years. During that 10-year period, your immune system has been severely damaged. You will be susceptible to many opportunistic infections. Symptoms of these infections might include night sweats, chronic chills or fever higher than 100 degrees, cough, shortness of breath, chronic diarrhea, mouth lesions, headaches, persistent fatigue, blurred vision, skin rashes and weight loss.

There is no known cure for AIDS and no vaccine to prevent an HIV infection. You can protect yourself by abstaining from behaviors that would leave you at risk for HIV transmission.

•Use a condom every time you have sex. Make sure the condom is working properly by utilizing a water-

based lubricant only.

•Never reuse or share a needle with anyone. Properly dispose of any needle to reduce the risk of injury to others.

HIV tests are available through all Seminole health clinics. The tests are easy and confidential. If you do not utilize a Seminole health clinic, please visit [hivtest.org](http://hivtest.org) to locate the nearest HIV test facility.

In December, the STOF Health Department provided the Seminole community with HIV AIDS awareness program entitled Play it Safe.



Lance Vaz

Special Guest speaker Devin T. Robinson X educates on HIV/AIDS prevention.

## Know These Important Facts About Diabetes

### STOF HEALTH DEPARTMENT

November is National Diabetes Awareness month. Diabetes is a serious disease, with many possible complications. Many people have seen the devastating effects it can have on a family member or friend. It is estimated that one in every three children born in 2000 will develop diabetes if changes are not made. Prevention is the biggest key we have to successfully avoid this by acknowledging it and working together to help each other.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is committed to preventing and actively controlling diabetes. This can be seen at events such as the monthly Diabetic

Days at the clinic check your local reservation for date and time, one-on-one counseling sessions with a dietician or health educator and check-ups at the clinic. Programs such as Pathways Walking program, Rez Rally and the upcoming Pedometer contest are also directed to helping Tribal members and their families move more through local weekly walks, community walks, and participation in exercise activities. Blood glucose checks are important and available at the health clinic and monthly at the Senior Center. A person can have diabetes without having any symptoms and may go undiagnosed for years, but it is important to know the common symptoms of diabetes. These include

1. Frequently having to go to the bathroom
2. Feeling very thirsty
3. Being tired for no reason
4. Blurred vision
5. Eating more than usual
6. Weight loss that is not usual or intended
7. Sores or infections that will not heal.

If you notice these symptoms, make an appointment to see your doctor. The major risk factors for diabetes include being overweight, not having enough physical activity, age greater than 5 and having a family member with diabetes. Two of these risk factors you have control over to make better. One of the most effective ways to lower your risk for diabetes is weight loss if you are overweight. You can work towards this by eating a healthy diet of vegetables, whole grains, low-fat meats and milk and staying active at least 30 minutes for many days a week. Another way to reduce your risk is to make a plan to quit smoking if you are a smoker. Remember, making healthy choices is a lifestyle, not a diet.

For more information, visit American Diabetes Association's website for the Native American section <http://www.diabetes.org/in-my-community/native-american-programs>.



Jillian Guralski

Virginia Tommie checks her blood sugar with Lance Vaz, Big Cypress Health Educator.

## Learn How to Protect Your Pets from Contracting the Parvovirus aka PARVO

BY JONATHAN VAZQUEZ  
Animal & Wildlife Services Supervisor

Due to recent confirmation of Parvo in neighboring areas I have been asked to provide information for public awareness.

Parvo is a very infectious disease of dogs. It is caused by the virus Parvoviral Enteritis and is primarily a disease of young dogs less than 1 year old. Certain breeds including Rottweiler, German shepherds, beagles, American pit bull terriers and Dobermans appear to be more prone to infection than other dogs.

The symptoms of Parvo include high fever, loss of appetite, lethargy, vomiting, depression, dehydration and show bloody diarrhea. In the most severe and rare cases, puppies can have sudden heart failure. Parvo symptoms mimic other viral bowel diseases including Canine Coronavirus. Blood and stool work must be conducted in order to confirm Parvo.

Parvo is transmitted by unvaccinated dogs coming into contact with infected dogs, infected stool the virus is shed in stool of an infected environment such as a kennel. Dogs that have recovered from Parvo and show no symptoms can continue to shed the virus periodically in their feces. Dog parks are common breeding areas for transmission of the virus. The Parvo virus is ingested and makes its way into the blood stream and into the rapidly-dividing cells of the body including the lining of the intestines. In the intestines, it can destroy various cells causing diarrhea and upset and allowing bacteria to invade the rest of the body.

The virus is surprisingly difficult to kill and resists many types of disinfectants. It can survive for months on infected surfaces. A solution of one part bleach to 30 parts water can be used to clean any surfaces that could be contaminated. Make sure to use all chemicals for their intended purpose and to remove any food or water bowls from infected areas. Those items removed from the area being cleaned and disinfected should also be disinfected as they may contain the virus.

The virus can exist on your shoes if you walk through infected areas, your hands or other areas. When cleaning your clothing, bedding, collars, leashes, etc. use bleach and hot water in the washing machine. If an item such as a toy or leash cannot be cleaned with bleach, dispose of it. There are commercially available disinfectants that will kill Parvo. If an infected dog has been in the yard, it is best to keep unvaccinated dogs and puppies out of the yard for a year.

Puppies can receive some antibody protection although this can be weak from the mother. However, this protection is limited and can, oddly, interfere with Parvo vaccinations. Therefore, particularly in areas where Parvo is prevalent, puppies need to be kept away from strange dogs and environments dog parks, kennels until they have completed the entire course of vaccinations 1 to 20 weeks, or to 5 months. By that time, the maternal protection has abated and the administered antibody is working. There are several known strains of Parvo. Currently, the most effective vaccinations appear to be the live versions weakened version of the virus itself, which should cover all the known strains.

A puppy that is displaying these symptoms should be examined by a veterinarian. There is no particular treatment to eliminate the virus the symptoms need to be attended to. Sick puppies will require IV fluids to maintain water and electrolyte balance and possibly antibiotics to prevent secondary bacterial infections. They may need to be treated for additional symptoms such as vomiting. At times, the incidence of death can be as high as 30-100 percent. Generally, with immediate veterinary assistance, the majority of puppies can recover. Puppies that survive the first 2-3 days generally recover. As they recover, they can be fed a bland diet rice, for example or a prescription commercial food available from your vet.

In most cases your dog is not just a pet it is a family member that requires attention, interaction, love and at times medical attention. A yearly visit to the veterinarian's office can help ensure the health of your pet.



Lance Vaz

Big Cypress Youth have fun while learning good decision making skills.



# Announcements

## BIRTHDAY WISHES



I would like to wish a happy 10th birthday to Ms. Ryanna Osceola Jan. 1, 2011 with lots of love from Chenara Osceola

We would like to wish our special girl Ryanna "Nanna" Osceola happy 10th birthday on Jan. 1st 2011.

Another year has come and gone with the wind, baby girl. It seems like a couple of months ago I was wishing you your 7th birthday. I'm sorry I couldn't be there for your special day but "Nanna" I promise, the Good Lord's willing I won't miss another one of your special days. "Nanna," Daddy's got one foot at the door and as long as the Good Lord lets me, I'm gonna spend my days with you and your stepmoms Chenara.

I hope you got what you wanted and had fun on your special day. We love you and miss you a lot. Daddy's almost home, and once again us three will be out there rollin', Baby Girl.

Happy 10th birthday from Dad Ryan and stepmoms Chenara. We love you  
One Love  
Dad  
Ryan Osceola



Happy 32nd Birthday Markell

Love,

our Family and Friends



## POEMS

our eyes are alive and oh, so blue.  
I see you but I'm unknown to you.  
Maybe one day you'll see my face.  
You'll know it's me, I'm in a daze.  
If ever you saw me standing there  
No, never mind why should you care.  
I see your smile inside my head,  
So clear to me and I forget  
Why I'm always feeling blue  
Every time I think of you.  
There things have all been said before,  
So I'll stop here and say no more.

"On a High"  
Alex TUCKER  
O.D.B. OTTER CLAN  
Hollywood RE



Love can be good love can be bad  
We all want something we never had  
Is there a soul mate out there for me  
That special person one day we will see  
Someone to hold you in their arms  
Hands touching holding palms  
Sweet passionate lingering kisses  
Bodies fingerling heavenly bliss.  
I know someday I will find  
That soul mate who is loving and kind.  
I know you are out there waiting for me.  
You're in my thoughts, in my dreams.

"Anywhere but here"  
ALE TUCKER  
F.B.I. OTTER CLAN  
Hollywood Rez

## IN MEMORIAM

Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home Crematory  
550 Highway 1 North  
Okeechobee, Florida 33472  
Phone 335-7233 Fax 335-7239

Mildred B. Bowers, age 71, died Saturday, November 20, 2010, at Hollywood Regional Hospital.

Being born on the Brighton Reservation, she resided there for 35 years before relocating to Hollywood where she was employed by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. She was a member of the Baptist faith.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Marcella Bowers Green.

Survivors include a daughter, Paula Tony Bowers-Sanchez of Estero, Fla.

grandsons, Jesse Sanchez, Jeremy and uannah Bowers, and Brett Green great-grandchildren, Chesna Bowers, uannah Bowers II, Luxie Billie brother, Andrew Kay Bowers, Jr. of Brighton sisters, Elsie Bowers of Hollywood, Martha Jones and Lorene Gopher, both of Brighton, Gladys Bratcher of Tenn. and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, Nov. 23, at Ortona Cemetery.

All arrangements were under the care and direction of Matthew and Paul Buxton of Buxton-Seawinds Funeral Home, 550 Hwy. 1 N., Okeechobee, FL, 335-7233.

## THANK YOU

He's got the little bitty babies, in his hands, he's got Prince Nahki Santana Billie, in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands. Thank you Lord for touching the life you made with a merciful hand. We already owe you everything so please put this at the top of our tab. Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so

We as parents never plan one day in our lives to be prepared for a blow as hurtful and as hard to stomach like that of a very ill child. Much less the seed of a child you planted. My son was a warrior and never cried throughout his time in the hospital. He is still very much sick but your prayers and God's love guided him through it which proved



he is an angel on earth. He is my precious son and as a father I am proud of his strength which is far beyond my own. Thank you for your prayers, love, and all the messages we received in a hurtful time. Thank you for giving him the best mother, grandparents, older sis and brothers imaginable.

From Markel, Melinda, King Sy Billie.  
Alana Glover  
Lynn, Wayne, Nolan Mulligan

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NOTICE

ICE I BI I Y E  
E IR E SSESS E  
I I G SIG I IC I P C  
GE CY Bureau of Indian Affairs BIA  
C I Notice of Availability NOA  
S RY The Bureau of Indian Affairs  
BIA has issued a Finding of Significant  
Impact FONSI for approving the construction  
and lease of a home for Nellie Bain, on a 1.5  
acre parcel in the Big Cypress Reservation of  
the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida. New  
home construction is intended to help alleviate  
the current housing shortage for Tribal  
members. The BFA has approved and adopted  
the Environmental Assessment EA, dated  
November 20 I 0, prepared by the Seminole  
Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource  
Management Department and entitled  
Environmental Assessment, Nellie Bain Home  
Site Lease, Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida,  
Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County,  
Florida . This EA has been adopted and FONSI  
issued for the approval of home construction  
and lease of trust lands in compliance with the  
National Environmental Policy Act NEPA of  
19 9.

ICE This is a Notice of Availability  
NOA , that the EA and FONSI for the Federal  
action of approving the proposed home  
construction and lease of trust property are  
available for public review. The BFA has

approved and adopted the above referenced EA  
which addressed this proposal. The FONSI  
determination was based on review and analysis  
of the in formation in the EA. Based on the EA,  
it has been determined that the action will not  
result in significant impacts to the quality of the  
human environment, therefore, an  
Environmental Impact Statement is not  
required. ou may obtain a copy of the EA and  
FONSI from the BIA Eastern Regional Office  
or the Environmental Resources Management  
Department of the Seminole Tribe of Florida,  
3 5 Taft Street, Suite 300 , Hollywood, FL  
3302 , telephone 95 9 5- 3 0.

PPE S This FONSI is a finding on  
environmental effects, not a decision to proceed  
with an action, therefore cannot be appealed. 25  
C.F.R. Part 2.7 requires a 30 day appeal period  
after the decision to proceed with the action is  
made before the action may be implemented.  
Appeal information will be made publicly  
available when the decision to proceed is  
made. For further information please contact  
Kurt G. Chandler, Regional Environmental  
Scientist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern  
Regional Office, 5 5 Marriott Drive, Suite 700,  
Nashville, TN 3721 , telephone 15 5 - 32.  
Superintendent, Seminole Agency  
Bureau of Indian Affairs



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# SportsC

## Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Friends Pay Tribute to Michele Cypress at Pool Tournament

BY NAJI TOBIAS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** – Scores of pool players spent quality time with Tribal Council Chairman Mitchell Cypress and his family at the ninth annual Michele Cypress Memorial Pool Tournament from Nov. 26-27.

In honor of the late Michele Cypress, family members at several pool tables took to their sticks and hit a ceremonial first shot in unity just before the 8-Ball tournament began on Nov. 27 – the second day of competition. “Let the games begin,” David Cypress said to the field of about 60 pool competitors at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium. “One, two, three, break!”



David Cypress, left, and Tribal Council Chairman Mitchell Cypress, far right, celebrate with the women's 8-Ball top winners at the tournament. The top five places, from right of David Cypress, are: Hollywood's Juanita Osceola (fifth place), Brighton's Theresa Nunez (fourth place), Big Cypress's Louise Osceola (third place), Hollywood's Phalyn Osceola (second place) and Hollywood's Laura Clay (first place).

And break they did, as each of the contestants displayed sheer skill and focus in the battle for first place in the women's and men's categories of the 8-Ball tournament.

Big Cypress senior Louise Osceola, a Bird Clan Tribal citizen and Michele's aunt, finished third in the women's 8-Ball double-elimination tournament. Osceola talked about

the impact Michele had on her life.

“When [Michele] came into my life, she asked me to start playing pool,” Osceola said. “It was her favorite sport. She was able to get me to play years ago, and I've been doing it ever since.”

Osceola recalled a time when she and Michele began playing pool together in Clewiston in 2002 at the now-defunct R & R Pool Hall. She said the experience allowed them to share a special bond shortly before Michele's life was cut short that year.

“Michele was a good niece,” she said. “She was lovable, happy and always wanted to be in the crowd.”

Osceola said she was pleased with the high turnout for the two-day tournament – a sign that the spirit of Michele is still alive and well, according to Louise Osceola.

Meanwhile, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Michele's father, had many things to be happy about at the tournament.

The Chairman said that many people used to call Michele a shadow of him because they used to go to a variety of pool tournaments together.

“Michele was always right behind me,” Chairman Cypress said of his late daughter. “She started picking up the stick at 13 years old. Once she learned the game, there would be a high chance you would see her at a tournament. That's what she loved to do.”

He announced that next year's tournament – the 10th overall – will be named in



Naji Tobias

**Before the women's and men's 8-Ball competition of the ninth annual Michele Cypress Pool Tournament began on Nov. 27, David Cypress took time to thank each of the approximately 70 pool competitors for coming out to play and pay tribute to his late niece.**

honor of Michele and Angie Cypress.

The annual tournament will be re-named to honor the lives of both his daughters, who have now passed away.

“When Angie was growing up, she picked up a pool stick and followed her older sister's steps,” Chairman Cypress said. “Both of them would go out and compete against each other in pool tournaments, but they still loved each other and cared for one another.”

The Chairman was also happy about the birth of his infant daughter, Nichele Brandy Cypress. Nichele was born this year, on Oct. 26.

“Bless my newborn baby,” Chairman Cypress said on Nov. 27. “Today turned out to be a fantastic day and I'm proud of it.”

**F** See more photos on 4C

## Reservations Go Head to Head in Golf Rez Challenge

**C E I S** — Tribal Reservations went head to head Nov. 13 as 23 participants from all reservations competed in the Rez Challenge golf tournament at the Clewiston Golf Course. Teams were broken down by specific reservations and played two rounds, the first being a scramble, and the second being regular. Charlie Cypress, one of the organizers, said it was an idea Big Cypress Council Rep. Mondo Tiger had to get all Tribal communities together to enjoy some friendly fellowship and competition.

-Rachel Buxton



Photo above, Ricky Doctor switches reservations for the day, as he plays for Team Brighton, to even out players.

**F** See more photos on 4C

**Right photo, Allen Huff of Brighton hits the ball out of the rough.**

Rachel Buxton



Co-organizer Charlie Cypress



Naji Tobias

**The Fort Pierce Seminoles 90-pound team finishes their season as the Orange Bowl runner-up after losing 6-0 to the Dania Beach Bears in the Dec. 12 title game at FIU Stadium in Miami.**

## Fort Pierce Seminoles Youth Football Season Ends in Orange Bowl Championship Game

BY NAJI TOBIAS  
Staff Reporter

**I I** – The 2010 football season for the Fort Pierce Seminoles began with five teams – the 75-, 90-, 120-, 130- and 145-pound units.

Three of those teams – the 75-, 90- and 130-pound squads – qualified for the Orange Bowl playoffs.

Only one, however, advanced to the Dec. 12 Orange Bowl Championship Game at Florida International University Stadium in Miami.

The Fort Pierce Seminoles' organization, headed by Fort Pierce Tribal citizen/President Alexander 'Head' Tommie, sent its 90-pound team to face off against the Dania Beach Bears in the title matchup.

A scoreless tie at halftime turned into a 6-0 loss for the Seminoles as an onside kick in the third quarter, later followed by a 1-yard touchdown run from Dania Beach running back A.J. Reliford, decided the championship game's outcome.

“We held our ground as long as we could,” Fort Pierce Seminoles 90-pound head coach Gary Copeland said. “I just wasn't ready for that onside kick to begin the second half. That kind of threw me off guard and the game went downhill from there.”

Fort Pierce was in prime position to take the lead into halftime, as the Seminoles' offense made a late push to the Dania Beach 10-yard line with 56 seconds left in the second quarter.

But after an incomplete pass, the buzzer sounded, stopping the drive and ultimately their best chance at an Orange Bowl title.

“We just didn't execute,” Copeland said.

Nonetheless, Copeland was proud that his team made it as far as it did this season.

“All season long, including this game, we didn't

give up much on defense,” said Copeland, whose 90-pound team gave up just 26 total points to its opponents this season. “We faced and beat undefeated teams at different points in the season. I just wish we had all of our players at this game.”

Fort Pierce's 90-pound team last reached the Orange Bowl in 2008.

“We practiced really hard this season,” Copeland said. “The kids played their hearts out and didn't quit. All I can say is that we're going to go at it again next year and bring the championship trophy home.”

Tommie, the Fort Pierce Seminoles' 140-pound team head coach, offered his take on how the season turned out for the 90-pound unit and the entire organization.

“This has been the most successful season in the history of our program,” Tommie said of the Fort Pierce Seminoles' organization. “We sent five teams to the city conference championships, something that has never happened in its 11 years of existence. This year, our 90-pound team was the backbone of our program. It's a big accomplishment what they did.”

The Fort Pierce Seminoles competed this season in the Glades Tri-City Youth Football Conference, which included organizations such as the Pahokee Baby Blue Devils, the Glades Glen Browns, the Glades Youth Panthers, the Moore Haven Mighty Terriers and the Okeechobee Center Bulldogs.

The Glades Tri-City Youth Football Conference Championships were played on Nov. 13 at Anquan Boldin Stadium in Pahokee, with the Orange Bowl Playoffs taking place on Dec. 4 at the same venue.

“The coaching staff has been tremendous for our kids,” Tommie said. “The record speaks for itself. Now, we just want to keep a winning tradition here.”

**F** See more photos on 4C

## Ahfachkee Warriors Basketball Program Makes Tribal History in Inaugural Season

**Lady Warriors go into home stretch with 4-1 record, while Warriors seek their first win of the season**

BY NAJI TOBIAS  
Staff Reporter

For the first time in Tribal sports history, a Seminole school has fielded a Florida High School Athletic Association-sanctioned basketball program.

With half of its inaugural season now in the books, the Ahfachkee Warriors girls' and boys' basketball teams – based on the Big Cypress Reservation – have achieved a slew of milestones without focusing solely on the won-loss record.

**R E** In the program's first-ever basketball girls' and boys' games – played on Nov. 29 against the Moore Haven Terriers in Moore Haven – Terri Baker scored the first two points in Ahfachkee Lady Warriors' history, as she hit a pair of free throws early in the first quarter.

Over on the boys' end, Ahfachkee Warriors player Taylor Pratt scored the team's first-ever points on a three-point shot in the first quarter of their road game against the Moore Haven Terriers.

Ahfachkee's teams lost to Moore Haven, as the girls were edged by the Lady Terriers, 43-41, after taking a 24-18 halftime lead. The boys, meanwhile, were defeated by the Terriers, 76-23.

For the girls, Baker led the Lady Warriors with 26 points, while Stevie Billie led all Warriors with 14 points in their losses to Moore Haven.

“We only played together for a month before our first game, and we were out of shape,” Baker said. “We have mostly eighth and ninth graders on our team, but we're coming along.”

Ahfachkee Lady Warriors' head coach Kristin Stoots said the team was nervous before heading out to play for the first time but was happy with the effort the girls showed on the court in Moore Haven.

“They hustled to the ball and played solid defense,” Stoots said of the Lady Warriors. “I'm look-

ing forward to the rest of the season.”

**S** The Ahfachkee Lady Warriors moved on from the close loss and put together a four-game winning streak, highlighted by a 43-31 shellacking of the St. John Neumann (Naples) Celtics.

In that game – the Lady Warriors' first win in program history – Baker went on a tear, as she led her team with 28 points, 11 rebounds, eight steals, eight blocks and two assists. Tia Osborne added eight points, eight rebounds and four blocks in the Lady Warriors' 12-point win.

“We got better since our first game,” Baker said of their Dec. 2 road victory over St. John Neumann. “It just feels good to win. We're gelling together and playing to the best of our abilities right now.”

Naples Tribal Council/Board Liaison O.B. Osceola Jr., who played boys' basketball for St. John Neumann in the 1980s, came out to see his daughter, sophomore point guard Bryce Osceola, and the Ahfachkee Warriors play against each other for an opportunity to witness a historic occasion for the Tribe.

“It was a pretty unique experience,” Osceola Jr. said. “It's great to see Ahfachkee coming out on the court. I was kind of torn watching the game because my daughter is on St. John Neumann. I wasn't really rooting for anyone. This game was a win for the Tribe regardless of how it turned out.”

**B S** The next game on the Ahfachkee Warriors' season schedule, a road date with Grace Academy International in Opa Locka (Miami) on Dec. 4, proved to be a forfeit for the Lady Warriors. It moved the girls to a 2-1 record.

Meanwhile, the Ahfachkee boys took center stage for the day in Miami, as they suffered a 119-29

**F** Please see WARRIORS on page 5C

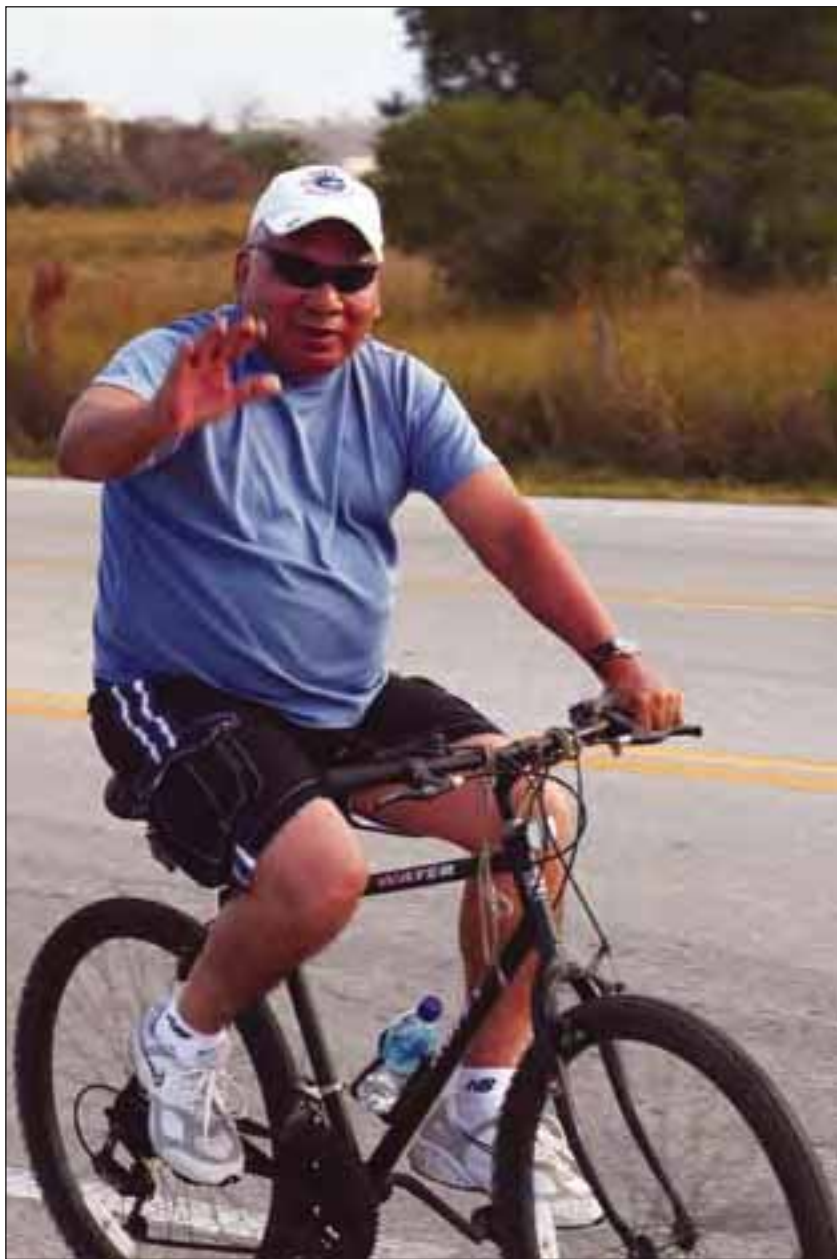


Ahfachkee Lady Warriors head coach Kristen Stoots, center, and assistant Hope Baker give the girls a pep talk in a timeout during their Nov. 29 game against the Moore Haven Lady Terriers.

Naji Tobias



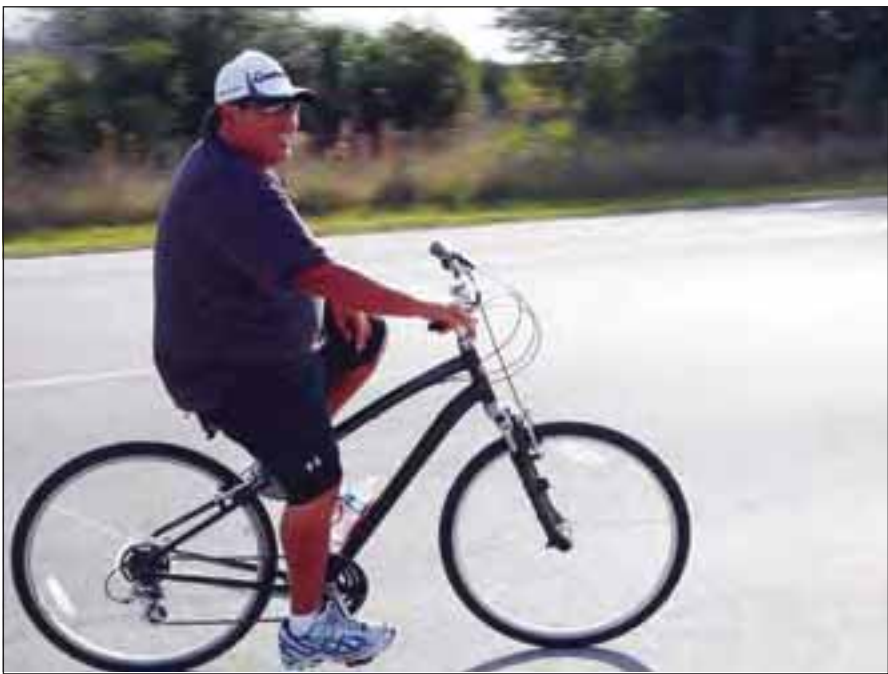
# Fourth Annual Bike Race at Brighton Recreation Gets Tribal Members Moving



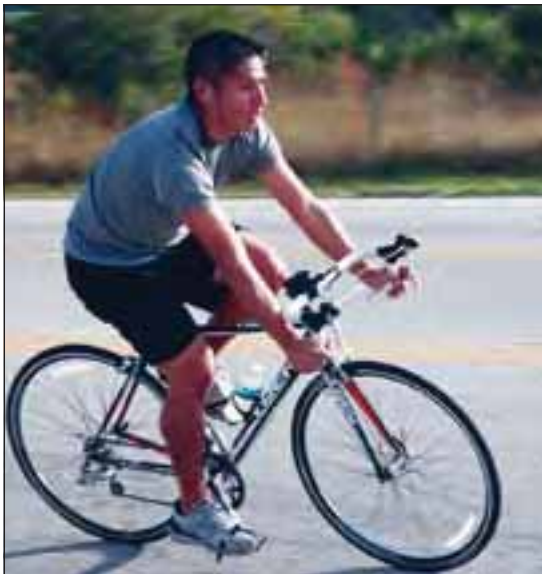
Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. gives a wave as he finishes his 5.8 mile bike ride. Brighton Recreation hosted their fourth annual bike race Nov. 20 with a great turnout in the early morning. With 11 participants, it made for an exciting competition with the seniors biking 5.8 miles and the adults biking 12.8 miles.



Jenny Johns crosses the finish line in her age group.



Raymond Garza Sr. traveled from Immokalee to participate in the fourth annual bike race.



Elton Shore races in without slowing down, finishing first in his age category with an amazing time of 41:04.



Avalon Puente paces herself during her ride and reaches the finish line in 1:01:01.

## November Classic Tourney Crowns Champs in Three Divisions



Left photo, Jose Puente Jr. looks for a teammate to throw the in-bounds during 9-and-under Hollywood versus Hollywood co-ed action held at the Hollywood Recreation Gym Nov. 6. Right photo, 13-and-under co-ed champions – Miccosukee.



17-and-under girls' champions – Hollywood Seminoles, from left, Kristen Billie, Chassidy Harjochee and Courtney Osceola (not pictured are Tianna Young and Jewel Buck)



17-and-under boys' champions – Woods Haven Prep.



## Coaches Discuss 77th Discover Orange Bowl

2011 Orange Bowl Head Coaches Jim Harbaugh, left, of the Stanford Cardinal and Frank Beamer of the Atlantic Coast Conference champion Virginia Tech Hokies share a moment together for the Orange Bowl Kick-Off news conference held at the Hard Rock poolside Dec. 8. The two schools will play in the 77th Discover Orange Bowl game to be held at SunLife Stadium on Jan 3. It is the first meeting between the two schools.

## Broncos Win OCRA Jr. Pee Wee Championship



The football team, the Broncos, captured the OCRA Junior Pee Wee Championship title Nov. 20 in Okeechobee. Tribal citizens James Madrigal and wife Sheila, along with Ridge Runner Airboats, sponsored the team and helped them go all the way. Tribal children among the team were Trevor Thomas, Silas Madrigal and Ozzy Osceola. Front row, from left, Trevor Thomas, Austin Waldron, Jarrett Mills, Leon Jones, Austin Spano, Ozzy Osceola, Silas Madrigal. Middle row, from left, Bracen Harvey, Kyle Palmisano, Hunter Sills, Kevin Townsend, Darian Deck and Dylan Sheffield. Back row, from left, coach Jimmy Mills, team sponsors Sheila and James Madrigal, coach Gene Thomas and coach Bobby Steiert. -Rachel Buxton

2010 AHFACHKEE WARRIORS GIRLS BASKETBALL			
DATE	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
Nov 29	Moore Haven	Moore Haven	5:30 pm
Dec 2	St John Neuman	St John Neuman	3:30 pm
Dec 4	Grace Academy	Grace Academy	3:00 pm
Dec 7	Cape Coral	Cape Coral	4:30 pm
Dec 11	Labelle	Labelle	1:00 pm
Jan 4	Grace Academy	Ahfachkee	5:30 pm
Jan 6	Cape Coral	Ahfachkee	4:30 pm
Jan 7	St John Neuman	Ahfachkee	5:30 pm
Jan 18	Moore Haven	Ahfachkee	4:30 pm
Jan 25	Labelle	Ahfachkee	4:30 pm

2010 AHFACHKEE WARRIORS BOYS BASKETBALL			
DATE	OPPONENT	VENUE	TIME
Nov 29	Moore Haven	Moore Haven	7:00 pm
Dec 4	Grace Academy	Grace Academy	4:30 pm
Dec 7	Cape Coral	Cape Coral	6:00 pm
Dec 11	Labelle	Labelle	3:30 pm
Jan 4	Grace Academy	Ahfachkee	7:00 pm
Jan 6	Cape Coral	Ahfachkee	6:00 pm
Jan 18	Moore Haven	Ahfachkee	6:00 pm
Jan 25	Labelle	Ahfachkee	6:00 pm





Rachel Buxton

Family of the late Rosie Billie, left to right, Sammy Gopher, Emma Urbina and Weems Buck break the balls in the start of the Second Annual Rosie Billie Memorial Pool Tournament Nov. 19.

## Late Tribal Leader Remembered at Rosie Billie Pool Tournament

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

BRIG — Community members from all reservations paid homage to a late Tribal leader and dear friend at the Rosie Billie Memorial Pool Tournament.

The event was organized at the Brighton gym with the seniors and kids competing on Nov. 19 and the adults rounding it out on Nov. 20.

“The only way I can remember my mom is shooting pool,” said Emma Urbina, daughter of the late Rosie Billie.

Urbina’s brother, Weems Buck, also remembers his days growing up in the pool halls underneath the pool tables as his mother honed her shooting skills. “Now after she passed away, we started to have an annual event in her honor,” Buck said. “So, here it is. This is our second year.”

Billie played a vital role within her Tribal

community. She was the only woman to have represented Brighton in the Tribal Council, serving as the Brighton Councilwoman from 1977-1979 and once more from 1997-1999.

During her time in office, she worked very hard on adding recreation events within her community. Billie is quoted as saying she didn’t know what she was doing when she went into politics, but saw community needs for a gymnasium, among other things. She also said that women needed to provide for their children.

“She cared for everything, especially the youth,” Buck said.

Always trying to honor her wishes, when Billie’s family realized they wouldn’t have enough money for the kids to compete in the tournament, they began organizing fundraisers, to include them.

“Her main goal was to bring the kids back,” Urbina said. “We didn’t have enough money and they only give you so much money to deal with. So, that’s why we raised the money and put out 2,000 for these kids. So we wouldn’t leave them out.”

The last few years of her life Billie struggled with breast cancer. She remained strong up until the very end when she lost her battle in October 1999.

This year marked the second annual Rosie Billie Pool Tournament, and her family said they hope to see it grow and to have their mother be remembered for the strong inspirational and Tribal leader that she was.

“The one thing my mom always wanted was to come together and just enjoy each other,” Urbina said. “She wanted to see people from BC, Hollywood, from all [reservations] just come around and have fun.”



Rachel Buxton

Sammy Gopher, husband of the late Rosie Billie, warms up before competing in the pool tournament.



Rachel Buxton

Granddaughter of the late Rosie Billie, Toby Gopher shows off her inherited pool skills during her grandmother’s memorial tournament.



Rachel Buxton

Louise Osceola traveled to Brighton to take part in the Second Annual Rosie Billie Memorial Pool Tournament.



Rachel Buxton

Weems Buck, son of the late Rosie Billie, shoots in memory of his mother who taught him how to shoot pool during their visits to the pool hall.

## Annual Randall Huggins Memorial ‘Big Ballers’ Tournament Is Another Success



Chris C. Jenkins

Two-time defending women’s champions Unknown display their championship trophy.



Chris C. Jenkins

Norman Huggins and son Lucas welcome participants and guests to the seventh annual Randall Huggins Memorial ‘Big Ballers’ Basketball Tournament held in his late son’s honor at the Hollywood Recreation Gym and other various locations Dec. 2-4.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Travis Osceola shoots against the clock during action in the 3-point contest.



Chris C. Jenkins

Norman Huggins, left, tournament sponsor and father of the late Randall Huggins, with men’s tournament Most Valuable Player Ronnie Battle of Team Big Town.



Chris C. Jenkins

Three-time defending champions Big Town join members of the Huggins family, far left. The All-Indian double elimination event featured dozens of talented Native teams from the West Coast, Midwest, East Coast and Canada, vying for thousands in cash prizes, gift bags, trophies and sweat shirts.



## More photos from Golf Rez Challenge in Clewiston



Rachel Buxton

Photo above, being one of the few women participants, Gale Boone from the Immokalee Reservation tees up and proves she can play with the guys. Right photo, Miguel Cantu chips onto the green during the scramble round.



Rachel Buxton



Rachel Buxton

James Tommie puts for birdie.

## More photos from Michele Cypress Memorial Pool Tournament



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress senior Louise Osceola, the aunt of the late Michele Cypress, performs the ceremonial first hit just before 8-Ball play began.



Naji Tobias

Caroline Cypress, the sister of the late Michele Cypress, sets up her group of balls as she plays her position in the 8-Ball competition.



Naji Tobias

David Cypress, left, and Tribal Council Chairman Mitchell Cypress stand with the men's 8-Ball winners. From fifth to first places are Randy Clay (fifth), Mario Posada (fourth), Ralph Gary (third), Tony Billie (second) and Abel Salgado (first).



Rachel Buxton

Pro pool player Corey Deuel took a break from his tour schedule Nov. 19 to spend some time with the Brighton youth and to teach them a few shooting skills at the Brighton gym.

## Pro Pool Player Corey Deuel Instructs Brighton Youth



Rachel Buxton

Professional pool player Corey Deuel works with Courtney Gore on hand position Nov. 19 at the Brighton gym.



Rachel Buxton

Shae Pierce gets a lesson on bank shots from professional pool player Corey Deuel Nov. 19 at the Brighton gym.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal elder Texas Billie competes in the men's 8-Ball tournament.



Naji Tobias

Right photo, Virginia Garcia competes in the women's 8-Ball tournament on Nov. 27.



Naji Tobias

Immokalee's Raymond Garza Sr. in 8-Ball play.





Naji Tobias

The Ahfachkee Warriors braved the cold in their Dec. 7 outdoor game against Cape Coral Christian in Fort Myers.

## F WARRIORS

From page 1C

loss to Grace Academy to drop to 0-2 for the season at that point.

G Perhaps the most interesting game of the season thus far took place on Dec. 7, a road contest against Cape Coral Christian. The Ahfachkee Warriors girls' and boys' teams played outdoors under a barn at the Lee County Parks and Recreation's Schandler Hall in Fort Myers.

The Lady Warriors outlasted Cape Coral Christian, 19-13, with Baker leading the team with 23 points, nine rebounds, eight steals, five blocks and four assists. Osborne added eight points, three assists, two steals, two blocks and a rebound in the 25-point win, as the Lady Warriors moved to a 3-1 record.

"It's the first outdoor high school game I've ever seen and been a part of," head coach Stoots said. "The girls played really well and I was proud of their hustle. They're being much more patient on offense and are making steals on defense. It was a well-played effort on both sides of the ball."

The Ahfachkee Warriors boys' team, meanwhile, dropped a 65-23 decision to Cape Coral Christian that gave them a 0-3 record.

Pratt led all boys' scores with eight points, while Ryan Cypress and Billie added six each.

"Sometimes, you have to face the elements," Ahfachkee Warriors student activities' coordinator Randall Cleckler said. "But I'm very proud of the way the girls and boys stepped up to the challenge. They've been fighting like warriors ever since the first day of practice."

R G B S

The final road game of the season, a Dec. 11 date with the LaBelle Cowboys, proved to be a hard-earned win for the Lady Warriors, a 37-34 victory that moved them to 4-1 for

the season.

Osborne, who led the Lady Warriors with 18 points for that game, briefly discussed how her team pulled off the win.

"It's good that we stayed in the game and hustled hard the whole time," Osborne said. "We were told by our coach to let the game come to us. Once that happened, everything ended up working out in our favor."

The Ahfachkee boys were outscored by LaBelle, 58-17, as they go into their January 2011 home stretch with a 0-record.

"Although the boys are small in number, they're really big in heart," Cleckler said. "Despite their win-loss record, they're going to battle and stay in each game until the finish. Fundamentals will be stressed and they'll continue to improve."

S

Both Warriors teams have four games remaining, which are all at home in the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

A pep rally and bonfire is scheduled for Jan. 3 at the Big Cypress Softball Field to get fans of the Ahfachkee Warriors amped up for their first home game in program history – a Jan. 3 rematch with Grace Academy. According to Cleckler, only the boys will be suiting up for that game.

Meanwhile, the pep rally is also geared for the Jan. girls' and boys' games against Cape Coral Christian and a Jan. 7 date with St. John Neumann, which is a girls-only contest.

Two more pep rallies are scheduled for Jan. 17 and 22, which will get fans hyped up for the final two games of the season – a Jan. 18 date with Moore Haven and the Jan. 25 season finale against LaBelle.

"When these teams come to our home, we're going to win," Osborne said. "With Moore Haven, we could've beaten them in our first game, but we gave up at the end. Now we have a mindset that we can keep going. If we play as a team and stick together, then we're going to win the rest of our games."



Naji Tobias

In the Dec. 2 Ahfachkee Lady Warriors game against St. John Neumann, Reagan Whitecloud, left, tries to get past Bryce Osceola, right, who plays defense.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee's Stevie Billie, right, drives toward a bucket in the boys' Dec. 11 game in LaBelle.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee's Taylor Pratt makes the first ever bucket for the boys in a Nov. 29 game against Moore Haven.

### AHFACHKEE WARRIORS TEAM ROSTERS

Note: Players are listed in alphabetical order

#### Lady Warriors – Girls

Terri Baker  
Sabre Billie  
Caitlin Cypress  
Dasani Cypress  
Michaela Cypress  
Mika Lopez  
Tia Osborne  
Sarah Osceola  
Reagan Whitecloud

Head Coach: Kristin Stoots  
Assistant Coach: Hope Baker

#### Warriors - Boys

Roderick Bert  
Corbin Billie  
Stevie Billie  
Quenton Cypress  
Ryan Cypress  
Haden Littlebear  
Taylor Pratt

Head Coach: Antonio Wright  
Assistant Coach: Cicero Osceola

Student Activities Coordinator: Randall Cleckler  
Principal: Walter Swan

## F More photos from Fort Pierce Seminoles' Football Season



Naji Tobias

Darrell Brown, #24, of the Fort Pierce Seminoles, runs for a touchdown in his team's 12-6 Orange Bowl playoff win over the Liberty City Colts on Dec. 4.



Naji Tobias

Fort Pierce Seminoles 140-pound head coach Alex Tommie, left, goes over a play with his quarterback.



Naji Tobias

Left photo, Alex Tommie, left, and the 90-pound coaching staff gives the players a pep talk at halftime of the Orange Bowl title game on Dec. 12. Right photo, Fort Pierce Seminole running back Dennis McNeal makes a 14-yard run toward the end of the Orange Bowl championship game against the Dania Beach Bears.



Naji Tobias



Naji Tobias

Fort Pierce Seminoles President Alexander 'Head' Tommie, center, is with the 90-pound team after they finish as the Orange Bowl runner-up on Dec. 12 at FIU Stadium in Miami.



Naji Tobias

The Fort Pierce Seminoles, left, and the Pahokee Baby Blue Devils 140-pound teams face off in a Nov. 13 game at Anquan Boldin Stadium in Pahokee.

### FORT PIERCE SEMINOLES FINAL TEAM RECORDS AND RESULTS

**75-pound team:** 7-3 final record; lost to Dania Beach Bears, 26-0, in Orange Bowl Playoffs on Dec. 4.

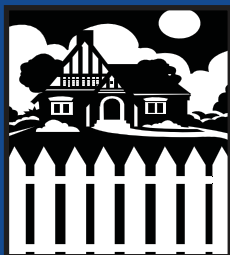
**90-pound team:** 12-2 final record; defeated Glades Youth Panthers, 41-0 in Glades Tri-City Youth Football Conference Championship Game on Nov. 13; defeated Liberty City (Miami) Colts, 12-6 in Orange Bowl Playoffs on Dec. 4; lost to Dania Beach Bears, 6-0, in Orange Bowl Championship Game on Dec. 12.

**120-pound team:** 5-6 final record; lost to Pahokee Baby Blue Devils, 28-0, in Glades Tri-City Youth Football Conference Championship Game on Nov. 13.

**130-pound team:** 10-2 final record; defeated Glades Youth Panthers, 40-6, in Glades Tri-City Youth Football Conference Championship Game on Nov. 13; did not play in Orange Bowl Playoffs.

**145-pound team:** 9-2 final record; lost to Pahokee Baby Blue Devils, 18-0, in Glades Tri-City Youth Football Conference Championship Game on Nov. 13.

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