



**Elaine Aguilar Retires after 27 Years of Tribal Service**  
COMMUNITY □ 5A

**Country Star Welcomes New Leaders**  
COMMUNITY □ 7A



**Youth Tour Southern Schools on College Tour**  
EDUCATION □ 1B



# The Seminole

Voice of the Unconquered



# Tribune

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July 29, 2011

## Tribal Citizen Edward Aguilar Sr. Expresses his Gratitude

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Writer

**IMMOKALEE** — Tribal Citizen Edward Aguilar Sr. hosted a Community Appreciation Dinner on the evening of June 24 at the Immokalee Gym with the assistance of his family. Realizing that they could never find enough words to express their gratitude for all the prayers and help they have received during their recent traumatic experience, the Aguilar family invited everyone to join them in a celebration of life.

Edward Aguilar knows what it means to face your mortality and by the grace of God receive a second chance. Suffering from a nearly fatal case of pancreatitis, his vital organs went into failure and he lapsed into a coma with very little chance of survival.

Following more than 10 weeks of hospitalization and physical therapy, he is on a slow journey to recovery. He attributes his success to the love and support of his family, friends, Immokalee community members, the Tribe and several churches for the power of prayer and belief in God's healing.

"The doctors told my family that it would take a miracle for me to live and if I did, the chances of my leading a normal life were very slim," said Aguilar. "My wife Cindy and my father and mother, Pete and Elaine, rarely left my side. The intensive care unit saw a steady flow of visitors as my brother and sisters, their families, co-workers, community and Tribal members formed a support team. I know in my heart that their prayers sustained my family and gave me the strength to live."

"Our culture believes that it takes a village to raise a child and

I know that this is true," continued Aguilar. "My grandmother was one of the founders of the Immokalee community and this is where I grew up. As we grow older, we choose our separate lifestyles but no matter how far we wander, our families always welcome us back with open arms and a helping hand. The Tribe is one big family and we must never forget how fortunate we are to have each other."

During his ordeal, Aguilar underwent numerous surgeries and required several pints of blood. Co-workers Maria Billie and Crystal Salinas organized a blood drive. On May 23 the Community Blood Mobile set up at the Immokalee Administration Building and registered 51 donors.

According to Donor Recruiter Karen L. Monzone, 114 local lives will be positively affected by the generosity of Aguilar's support group. Donors comprised members from nearly every department of the Immokalee work force, family, friends, community members and seniors.

After sharing his feelings of gratitude, Aguilar congratulated his parents on their recent retirement and recognized the many years of hard work that they endured while dedicating themselves to raising their children and helping to provide a future for their grandchildren.

"Because of my hospitalization I missed my niece's (Jessica Lopez) high school graduation," said Aguilar. "I want her to know proud she has made me. It is important that we encourage and inspire our young people to stay in school and celebrate their achievements. They hold our future in their hands and our heritage depends upon their success."

□ Please see photo extra on page 7A

## Big Cypress Community Celebrates Fourth of July/Watermelon Festival



Naili Tobias

Kadin Tommie, 5, wins the Watermelon Eating contest in the 3- to 5-year-old category during the Fourth of July/Watermelon Festival on June 30.

□ Please see Fourth of July stories and photos on page 3A



Chris C. Jenkins

Denis Grachev, right, works his right jab on opponent Eddie Caminero, left, in early round action of their title bout at the Hard Rock Live July 9.

## Tribal Owned Panther Promotions Makes Debut at Hard Rock Live

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Tribal citizen Elliot Alvarado and partner Benny Collins of the newly developed Panther Promotions Boxing are two of the novel, fresh, ambitious faces in the dog-eat-dog world of the sport.

Both hoped to make a splash as they made their debut in the promotions game at the Hard Rock Live Arena July 9 with a seven fight card event featuring several hungry and eager talents looking to establish themselves.

"We want fights and fighters that want to become stars," said Alvarado whose boxing days may still yet to be behind him, currently holding a 3-2 (3 KOs) mark as a professional. "The others (boxing promoters) are going to have to change their ways or get out of the way. We are going to bring back the old style and set our own way."

As part of Alvarado and Collins new marketing arrangement of quality over quantity in the ring, Panther Promotions will operate under a five-year development plan with the Tribe's backing and approval with fight cards events to come throughout the Tribe's casinos. There are also plans to expand outside of Florida and beyond, explained Harold Weston Panther Promotions President of Operations.

□ Please see PANTHER on page 2C

## Tribune Q-and-A: Helene Buster The Seminole Tribal Court

Helene Buster has been wearing two hats for five years now. Most know her as Director of the Seminoles' Family Services Division where she provides guidance, support, protection and care for Tribal families. But, in her spare time, she has also been spearheading the herculean effort to develop a viable Tribal Court System.

"Just getting to the meetings and making them happen was a real struggle with my job," sighs the longtime Tribal employee, who is married to Miccosukee Court judge Andy Buster. "But I look at it this way: it's worth it – a Tribal Court is one of the most important things that we are developing...not only for my department, Family Services, with all our dependency cases, but for the sovereignty of our entire Tribe."

The original 30-member Tribal Court Committee has dwindled to seven but they are now officially called the Judicial Commission (Helene Buster, Edna Bowers, Willie Johns, Connie Whidden, Alison Osceola, Francine Osceola and Delores Alvarez). During the early years, when folks were confused and interest started to wane, Helene says she wondered about Tribal leaders in the previous administration: "I wasn't real sure they weren't hoping this would just go away, you know -- die in a committee or something. If that's true, then the biggest mistake they ever made is they put me in charge of the committee. Something this important, I am not about to let it die!"

Seminole Tribune writer Pete Gallagher caught up with busy Helene with a few questions about the special Tribal-wide "Secretarial Election," Aug. 16 – all about the proposed Seminole Tribal Court.

PG: What is a Tribal Court?

HB: It is an actual court system. A Court Committee was put together about five years ago to look into this. The Seminole Constitution has always allowed for a court, but it was never implemented. Having a court system will also strengthen our sovereignty -- of everything we will be able to do with our Court, that is the most important thing. It will show everybody that we do business with that we Seminoles can deal with our own issues. We do not have to depend on the state, the feds or anyone else to adjudicate or handle any of our problems. We can do all of this in-house.

PG: Is it just like the outside court system where somebody is given a ticket, or accused and hauled in on charges, and brought before a judge?

HB: Yes. We'll have real judges and justices. We will have an appeals process. That way we have a place to go if something needs to be appealed, without going before the Council. Our Court system will be an entity of its own, that will not be over, or under, the eyes of the Council. It's gonna be a separate entity. Once our judges are there, the Council will not be able to go in and override our judges. To begin with, because of the child

welfare program and all the dependency cases we have, we plan to concentrate mostly on a Civil Court. A "family court" is pretty much what we've been calling it. We are working on developing the children's code now. We've been doing that probably about a year. That way, we can have a good package together to present to Council.

□ Please see TRIBAL COURT on page 2A



HELENE BUSTER

## Native Vietnam Veterans Want Their Statue

Stephen Bowers, Seminole Tribe Take the Lead

BY RAMONA MAROZAS  
Special to the Seminole Tribune

**HOLLYWOOD** — Stephen Bowers can still hear the sounds of the bombs and gunfire bursting in the combat zones of Vietnam.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida veteran was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1969, where he served a tour in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Currently employed by his Tribe as the Liaison for the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs, Bowers, feels disrespected by those who designed and created the "Three Servicemen" bronze sculpture, part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial monument on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

"Why isn't there a Native American veteran alongside those three soldiers?" Bowers asks, echoing the feelings, he says, of Native American vets everywhere. "Native Americans have served in U.S. military actions for over 200 years. Even George Washington praised our courage, determination and fighting spirit."

National Park Service officials say the three bronze figures of the statue represent all vets, but Bowers believes the famed artwork fails to recognize Native American veterans, an oversight he and other vets find "astounding," as he writes in a *Seminole Tribune* editorial (See page 10A). "I've read just about everything there is about those bronze figures and there is no mention of that third soldier standing in for all 'other' ethnic groups," says Bowers.

Stephen Bowers returned home in 1971; forty years later he

is both "sad and angry" there's still no component of the world famous Vietnam Veterans' Memorial that recognizes his service or that of any other Native. With the support of the Florida Seminole Veterans Foundation, Inc. and a resolution from the Seminole Tribal Council, Bowers has created the Native American Veterans Memorial Initiative (NAVMI) and has embarked on a mission to gather support and bring the issue before the national American Indian community.

"There is a Caucasian, Hispanic, and an African-American veteran, but there is no statue that reflects or resembles a Native American veteran, which is what this initiative is all about," said Bowers, who was first encouraged on his quest by former Tribal Chairman Mitchell Cypress in the first part of this year. "If the three statues that stand in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial are supposed to reflect the soldiers that stood in Vietnam, then Native Americans, who per capita put more of our people in that war than anyone, should be represented."

The "Three Servicemen" was funded through the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and designed by Frederick Hart; it addressed concerns from Vietnam vets who did not like the black Wall of names designed by architect Maya Lin, which was finished in 1982 (seven years after the fall of Saigon). The "Three Servicemen" was dedicated by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.

"I have, from the start, conceived the work of sculpture with three goals in mind: first, to preserve and enhance the elegant

□ Please see VIETNAM on editorial page 11A



In the Seminoles' Native American Veterans Memorial Initiative, Stephen Bowers proposes adding a fourth bronze soldier – a Native American – to the famed "Three Servicemen" monument in Washington, D.C.

INSIDE:

COMMUNITY: A

EDUCATION: B

Health ..... 5B

SPORTS: C

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 7B

See the Tribe's special presentation at NAACP ceremony on 4A

**PG:** Will the outside world accept and recognize the Seminole Court?

**HB:** Well, you know that's completely up to us and how we present ourselves. The way we have it set up, the way we plan for it to go, it should gain that respect and acceptance.

We will be getting signatures on a Memorandum of Understanding from all the various court systems and agencies we deal with on a regular basis. I mean, we are working with the DCF (Department of Children and Families) of the state of Florida right now, They know it is coming. They are ready to turn everything over to us.

**PG:** They've already indicated that to you?

**HB:** Oh yes. We have conference calls twice a month with different entities of DCF, setting up the agreements, so that once everything is set for us, that everything will be turned over. They know that it is coming. We are going to different conferences and our judges will be going and getting training. We will be ready to go.

**PG:** How do you pick the judges?

**HB:** They will fill out an application that will go before the Judicial Commission.

**PG:** Do judges have to be Seminole Tribal citizens?

**HB:** This is part of what the "Secretarial Election" is addressing. Right now, Article 10 of our Constitution says the judges and justices must be enrolled Seminoles between 35 and 70 years of age, never convicted of a felony (or, within the last year, a misdemeanor), and meet all other qualifications required under Tribal law or ordinance. Also, no Seminole judge or justice can hold an elective office. That's what it says today.

We are proposing two versions of changes in the wording of Article 10: On the ballot they will call these versions Exhibit A and Exhibit B. That is what the people are being asked to vote on. Which one do they want? Exhibit A says all judges and justices must be enrolled Native Americans, 35 years or older with no retirement limit, never convicted of a felony and meet all other qualifications required under Tribal law or ordinance.

Exhibit B says all judges and justices must be enrolled Native Americans, 35 years or older with no retirement limit, and, if convicted of a felony, it must have happened over 20 years before and civil rights must be restored. The two versions are exactly alike except for the felony issue.

**PG:** But still, in both versions, no judge can hold elected office while he or she is a judge.

**HB:** That's right. There is no change proposed for that. When you see the ballot it will have two questions. The first asks if the voter agrees to change Article 10. If you say "No," you are through. Just walk out. If you say, "Yes," then you go on and pick either A or B. And we are going around now, as a Committee, to all the reservations and all the communities and explaining to them about the ballot and how it's going to look. We are trying to encourage people to read everything and be prepared to make a decision on that day. But the most important thing is that people come out and vote, because right now, if we had a Court System, the Tribal Council can overrule. So we really want it to be changed so the Court System can be a separate entity from the Council. It will be funded by the Council, but it will be its own entity – sort of like Jim Shore's office.

**PG:** How are the judges and justices chosen?

**HB:** Once we got the Judicial Commission ordinance passed through Tribal Council, then we became the Judicial Commission. In our Constitution it says the Tribal Council or Chairman of the Tribe has the final say on who the judges are; so, what we decided, instead of taking that away from Tribal Council or the Chairman, what we would do is have the Judicial Commission review all the applicants and provide a few for the Tribal Council to make a final selection from. That way, they can't go and pick you, out of the blue. You'll have to have your application reviewed by us first. Then we say, "Here, Mr. Chairman, are three that we like. Pick from these." If he doesn't like any of them, then we go back into more applications and pick more.

**PG:** How many judges will there be?

**HB:** There will be two justices and three judges.

**PG:** Okay, what's the difference between justice and judge?

**HB:** Justices will serve on the appellate court. The rest are judges. The Judicial Commission will also serve on the appellate court, with the justices. The terms will be eight years for first election and six year terms after that. And they will all be held up to a high standard of character. We're not gonna have no drunk judge.

**PG:** What other court systems have you researched? Miccosukee?

**SECRETARIAL ELECTION**

**Amendment of Article X:  
Tribal Courts of the Constitution  
of the Seminole Tribe of Florida**



August 16, 2011

**Polls Open  
8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

**HB:** Oh yes. We've actually gone through several court systems. We never used that as a way to get in there. They have a new judge out there now who seems to be reaching out to Seminoles more to try and work together. He has reached out to me a lot more. Prior to, I never was invited to court to see what was going on. My husband and I, we don't bring our jobs home. I don't discuss with him what happens over here in Seminole and he rarely talks about his cases or the goings-on at Miccosukee.

**PG:** Will people have a choice of going to Tribal or an outside court, once this is all set up?

**HB:** Once it is all set up, it is all going to come to us if it happens inside our boundaries. As the Director of Family Services, I'll be sending everything that way. Only if it happens outside our boundaries will there be a choice.

**PG:** Your husband has been a well respected judge in the Miccosukee Indian court system for many years.

**HB:** Even though my husband has always been judge out there, I've never used that as a way to get in there. They have a new judge out there now who seems to be reaching out to Seminoles more to try and work together. He has reached out to me a lot more. Prior to, I never was invited to court to see what was going on. My husband and I, we don't bring our jobs home. I don't discuss with him what happens over here in Seminole and he rarely talks about his cases or the goings-on at Miccosukee.

**PG:** What about non-Indians?

**HB:** If there is a non-Indian living on the reservation or, say, a spouse of a Tribal member, it will be an "implied consent," you know you that while you are living here on our reservation that you will fall under our jurisdiction. People should know that. And if you don't want to, then you better get your booty off our rez!

**PG:** What if a Seminole cop gives a speeding ticket to a non-Indian driving through the reservation?

**HB:** When we start dealing with criminal, our Court will definitely handle that.

**PG:** What if the non-Indian doesn't like that, and wants to go to a County court?

**HB:** Well, we don't like goin' out to Broward courts, but we got to. If

you are on our land and we give you a ticket, you come to our court. That's how it works in their world and that's how it will work here. But, I don't want to get too much into criminal court discussions right now, because we are not really focusing on criminal issues, right now. To become a criminal court, it takes a lot more than does a civil court. You have to have a jail system, a holding system and all that. We don't have any of that yet.

**PG:** Are there plans to build some judicial buildings?

**HB:** Yes. Our last administration was agreeable to having a Court House out there in Big Cypress. I have not really talked to our new administration about where it might be built. Later on, hopefully we will be able to do that. What we are probably going to do is eventually have a courthouse on each reservation. If everyone is agreeable to it, the main one will be in Big Cypress. Because it is central. And it will be our only courthouse to begin with. Our judges will be like circuit judges, they will go to the communities. Like Monday might be Brighton Day and Tuesday will be Hollywood Day and Trail on Wednesday, where ever we need to go. That's how we are envisioning it right now. Hopefully one day we will be able to build a courthouse on each of the main reservations.

**PG:** This is an important election. You've been describing a major change in the entire Seminole system.

**HB:** Yes it is. I am so hoping people turn out to vote. I really wanted to have this on the ballot during the general election. 'Cause then I know everybody would be voting. We have to have at least 530 voters to make this happen, tribal-wide. 530 voters! All I can do when I go to these meetings is press upon them the importance of it. We are going to have a court system, whether we change it or not, whether we stick with what the Constitution says, or whether we change it, it is up to you. As a Tribal member, make it important enough!

**PG:** Do you think most people understand and want this?

**HB:** I think so. They were having a hard time at the beginning. People would say, "What if we don't want a court system?" The whole thing, bottom line right now today, is we are going to have a court system. We've gone through all the communities and all the changes and every time something major is done we come out to you guys and tell you about it, so don't stand there dumbfounded and look like this is the first time you have heard about it!

Some people say "Are we going to have it traditional?" And I look at them and say, "How can we have a traditional court when more than half of our Tribe now is non-Indian. I don't see that. People say, "What if it is a non-Indian in the court who is not familiar with our culture and traditions?" First of all, if it gets to court, there is no culture or tradition to that. If it ever goes to court why would you want to consider culture and tradition in it? When you make decisions with your fellow clans and with your families, that is culture and tradition.

**PG:** Some judicial traditions may be viewed as way out of date. You don't kill children . .

**HB:** . . .who were born twins. Right. I'm gonna tell you, a lot of the people who are saying these things are not people who are cultural or practice traditions anyway. They are just throwing that in there because they think everything we do has to have culture and tradition in it. This committee had 30 people when we started five years ago, and all the clans were represented. Now today, we are seven individuals. And we are all panthers. And one no-clan.

**PG:** The Seminoles have had Article 10 in their Constitution for 54 years. Why is this movement for a Tribal Court coming about now?

**HB:** I think that, without the finances and stuff, the Councils have always preferred to handle it themselves. Not that they couldn't handle it, but I think we are at a whole different level of life, now, that we have never been at before. We are not as traditional as we would like to appear. And therefore our people are going to this outside world and mimicking things that are happening there and bringing it back into this world. And the only way that we are going to be able to keep up with that is by having a judicial system. Because we are gonna have to start handling situations like drug abuse, alcoholism, child abuse, sexual abuse, and things like that.

**PG:** Currently, when those issues arise, they are handled by the outside. Outside attorney comes in, outside judge makes a decision, put 'em in an outside holding cell and an outside prison . .

**HB:** Yes. Right. Hopefully, we can make a difference in all that. And by having our own court system, with these terrible things being dealt with in front of their own people maybe it will have a greater impact. Say you are Seminole and you rape somebody in your community and you go to court over there in Broward County: well, those people don't know you over there. But you go to court over here in Seminole, all of the people sitting there listening to your testimony are going to be your family, friends and neighbors. People you grew up with. I think that will make a difference in our communities -- when we start looking at ourselves. And we have to start really looking at ourselves and stop always blaming outside people for what's happening.

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

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# Community

# A

## Immokalee Spends Fourth of July at Water Park



Photo above, Edward Aguilar cools off under the waterfall during the Immokalee July 4 water park excursion. Left photo, Immokalee's Fourth of July trip to the water park gives Denise Gonzales a chance to play mermaid.

Judy Weeks

See more photos on page 6A

## Brighton Brings Out the Competition for July 4th

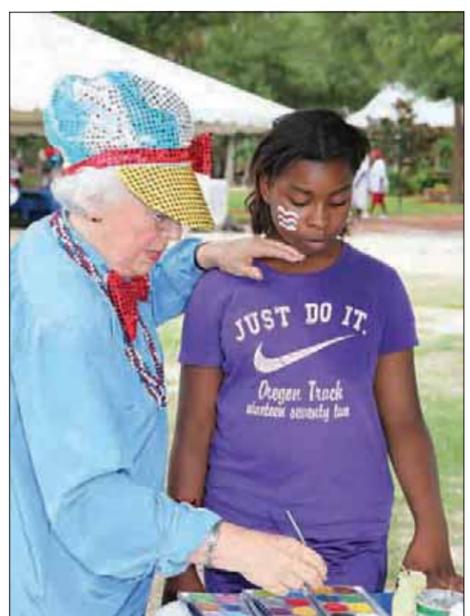


The Brighton women try their luck at the watermelon roll July 4 during Brighton's Fourth of July celebration at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena.

Rachel Buxton

See more photos on page 7A

## Fort Pierce Fourth Offers Something for Everyone



Chairman James E. Billie brings his daughter Aubie Billie on stage to say the blessing before dinner at the Fort Pierce Fourth of July celebration July 2 held at the Chupco Ranch.

Rachel Buxton

Chrissy Tommie gets patriotic as she gets painted with red, white and blue at the face painting booth.

Rachel Buxton

See more photos on page 12A

## Tampa Seminoles Party At Their New Lakeland Home

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

LAKELAND – The Fourth of July weekend seemed like a good excuse for a family get-together, so Seminole Tribe Tampa Council Liaison Richard Henry directed, "Let's have a party! All of us!"

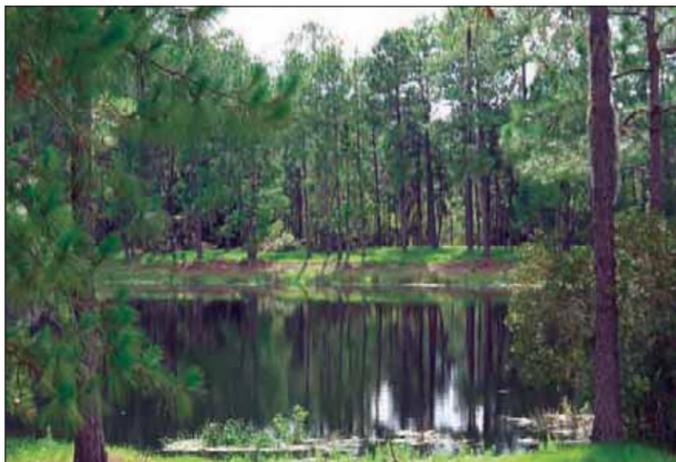
After all, Tampa Seminole reunions have been rare since 2004, when the expansion of the Hard Rock Café gaming operations completely filled the tiny 5-acre reservation footprint and scattered the village of Tribal families all over West Central Florida . . . waiting for Tribal officials to locate replacement residential land.

The land deal finally came together last spring with the purchase of some 800 acres of picturesque Polk County land, just north of Interstate 4 not far from the City of Lakeland's west boundary line. Combining large green pastures with postcard pretty cypress ponds, and a healthy mixture of Green swamp and longleaf pine forestland, the parcel is now going through a federal trust lands review. Council Liaison Henry's staff spent weeks braving inclement weather to remove trash from the property and spruce it up for the party.

"It really looks good. The Seminoles have done a lot of work out

here. They will be great neighbors," said Charles Cook, a state water biologist whose daughter's property shares a boundary line with the Seminoles. "When we all heard the Seminoles had purchased this property, rumors flew about what they might do with it. People dreamed up everything

See more photos on page 6A



Peter Gallagher

This is one of three picturesque ponds on the new Seminole Polk County property. Application has been made for federal trust status for this land, which will soon bring back together the former residents of the Tampa reservation.

## Big Cypress Community Celebrates Fourth of July/Watermelon Festival at Rodeo Grounds

BY NAJI TOBIAS  
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS – For the seventh year in a row, the Big Cypress Reservation hosted its annual Watermelon Festival.

This time, however, the location and setting was different, as the seventh annual Watermelon Festival and the Fourth of July Celebration combined to become one big event on June 30 at the Big Cypress Rodeo Grounds.

The Fourth of July and Watermelon Festival – which in past years were separated and held at the Big Cypress Softball Field – featured a slew of bounce houses, a Bungy-jumping ride and water slides for the Tribal and community youth, to name just a few amenities. In addition, there were a series of Watermelon Festival-based contests that tested the skills of the Tribal participants.

With more than 25 Big Cypress Tribal departments out on the Rodeo Grounds with their booths on full display, Tribal citizens, community members and employees made the most of all the fun-filled activities available to them.

"It was not all work and no play," Big Cypress Tribal citizen Toi Andrews said. "What I liked was that all the different departments were able to interact and get to know one another better. I feel that it was also a great time for our community to interact with each other and get to know our employees at the same time."

A standout action at the Big Cypress Reservation's Fourth of July/Watermelon Festival was the watermelon race. With several different age groups in competition, it was a relatively quick one around a course that tested to see which Tribal citizen can run the fastest while holding the watermelons above their heads without dropping it.

In the Tribal adult category, it was a tight race between the likes of Toi Andrews, Barbara Billie, Nadine Bowers, Azye Henry and Kassim Stockton. Though it began as anybody's race to win, it was Andrews who found a way to plow ahead and power her way past the competition toward the end, zooming her way around the final corner to take the victory.

"It always feels great to come out on top, but I did not compete to come out on top," Andrews said. "I competed to enjoy the festivities."

The seed-spitting contests and the watermelon-eating contests were the other two Watermelon Festival-based competitive activities.

Andrews offered her conclusion of how all of the Watermelon Festival contests turned out.

"Overall, the watermelon races were awesome," Andrews said. "It was so exciting to watch the kids race each other with all the different races dealing with the watermelons."

Meanwhile, over at the Big Cypress Rodeo Arena, several Tribal adults took to the horseshoes,

See more photos on page 4A

## Naples Community Takes Part in July 4 Parade



Naples community members decorate a float for the annual City of Naples Fourth of July Parade.

Judy Weeks

See more photos on page 8A

## Hollywood Community Celebrates Fourth of July Weekend



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal youth and adults enjoy one of the many games on hand at the annual Hollywood Fourth of July community celebration at the reservation softball fields on July 4. Other activities included horseshoes, bounce-houses, a petting zoo, horse rides, lunch, dinner and a fireworks demonstration.



Chris C. Jenkins

Alyssa Bowers tries to pet a baby calf in the petting zoo.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Jerome Davis aims his target in partners play of the horseshoe toss.

# Tribe Shows Support at NAACP Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS  
Staff Reporter

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — The Tribe made a special presentation and gave its support toward another historical moment in Fort Lauderdale history on July 4.

As many Americans celebrated the ultimate day in Patriotism, some of the Tribe's citizens including members of Tribal Council and Board paid their respects to the late leader, activist and former Fort Lauderdale NAACP President Eula G. Johnson.

In a special open house and ribbon cutting ceremony at Johnson's former home, Tribal community activist Richard Osceola, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and Big Cypress Tribal Board Rep. Joe Frank helped organize a portrait gift presentation of a Seminole warrior entitled "Never Surrender" to be displayed in the new home office of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of the NAACP.

"I felt the picture would be the best way of showing my (and the Tribe's) support in saying never give up and keep the faith," Osceola said, hearing of the event through longtime friend Sherman Mosely, a Florida Supreme Court Circuit and County Mediator. "History is their story as in his-story, but the story of these folks and us (as Seminoles) is still being told."

Rep. Osceola said the experiences of African-Americans and Natives are still the same in many areas.

"We (as Seminoles) share the same struggles and are striving for the same goals," said Rep. Osceola. "I am very happy to assist and will continue to help any way I can in the future."

Johnson was the first African-American female president for the Fort Lauderdale Chapter, from 1959-1967 but to most is best known

for helping spearhead the desegregation of Fort Lauderdale's beaches in the 1960s. She passed away at the age of 94 in 2001.

"I thought it (the event) was a very good thing," Rep. Frank said. "Through some of the efforts of the NAACP, we (as Seminoles) became citizens of this country."

"I support a lot of the goals they have," he added. Independence Day also marks the 50 year anniversary for Johnson, Dr. Von D. Mizell a local black physician, and community supporters as they made their famous six-week series of "wade-ins" at the then white-only Fort Lauderdale Beach in 1961.

"My grandmother had a journey and was a visionary," Gregory Johnson the grandson of Johnson said. "When I think of her I think of the fact that they (Johnson and supporters) never got to tell their story, we can tell it now."

Before the brave feats of Johnson and company, blacks were restricted to visiting the "colored beach," by way of a ferry from Port Everglades. This land represented a one mile area of barren land on the northern tip of what is presently known as John U. Lloyd Beach State Park, located in Dania Beach.

"I thank her (Johnson) for making a significant mark on this city," said Fort Lauderdale Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler. "As we leave here today let us remember to advance and move forward together and advance and move this city."

After the ceremony, guests boarded trolleys revisiting Ft. Lauderdale beach for a re-enactment of the wade-ins. The city of Fort Lauderdale also posted a historical marker at A-1-A and Las Olas Boulevard marking the spot where Johnson and others first led their protests.

The new branch office is located at 1100 NW Sixth Street (also known as Sistrunk Blvd).



Chris C. Jenkins

Fort Lauderdale NAACP First Vice President Bertha Smith, second from left, joins Presentation Organizer Richard Osceola, left, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., second from right, and Big Cypress Tribal Board Rep. Joe Frank, right, with a special painting by Noah Billie called "Never Surrender" as part of open house and ribbon cutting ceremonies held at the new Fort Lauderdale branch office of the NAACP on July 4.

## Hollywood Community Celebrates Centennial



Chris C. Jenkins

From left, Hollywood Tribal Board and Council Reps. Chris Osceola and Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. look for the winning numbers in a game of bingo.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal youth stand ready at the starting line to participate in the 40-yard dash. The event also featured T-shirts, games, bounce houses, lunch and dinner.



Chris C. Jenkins

Photo above, from left, Daniell Sharp, Phalyn Osceola and Savannah Huggins together as participants in the 18- to 35-year-old contemporary category of the women's clothing contest as part of the Council and Board sponsored Hollywood Reservation centennial. Right photo, Charles Osceola enjoys playing in one of several bounce houses at the Hollywood centennial.



## Understanding Pool Water Quality

BY NICHOLAS PERSAUD  
Environmental Health Program

It's all about the water! In order to make your pool look inviting, you need to keep the water crystal clear. Therefore you should understand the components that make your pool water safe and ideal for swimming. The components (chlorine and pH) are tested based on a part per million (ppm) measurement. This is the measurement of the parts of a substance in relation to one million parts by volume of pool water.

During the summer months it is essential to maintain pool water quality. Basic routine maintenance to keep pool water crystal clear should include the following:

- Vacuum daily to remove leaves, bugs and other debris
  - Clean skimmer basket
  - Clean pump trap basket
  - Backwash or remove filters from housing and hose them off every two weeks to keep filtering system clean
- Pool water testing is also essential. A basic pool test kit from the pool supply store should be sufficient for testing.
- Take water sample for testing in an area away from the skimmer and the returns
  - Dip plastic vial into your pool about 18 inches below surface for about 10 seconds
  - Fill with pool water to the "fill" line
  - Add reagents and compare each component's color reading to the color range

Test strips can also be used as a basic indicator of water quality. Use the strips that show the chlorine, alkaline, pH and cyanuric acid.

Chlorine is needed in your pool as a sanitizer to keep bacterial, pathogens and algae from growing in your water. Chlorine level needs to be at a safe range for swimming and should be monitored daily. The optimal chlorine test reading should be between 1.0 and 3.0 ppm. When using chlorine tablets, avoid inhaling or touching your eyes, keep children and pets away and wash hands after handling the tablets.

The pH balance of the water impacts the effectiveness of the chlorine as a sanitizer and should be monitored daily. The ideal reading for pH is between 7.4 and 7.6 ppm. If the test reading is below 7.2 ppm then the water is more on the acidic side, while test reading above 7.8 ppm indicates the water is more on the alkaline side. An imbalance of pH can result in the following:

- Burning eyes and nose
- Dry itchy skin and scalp
- Unclear water clarity (cloudy)
- Algae growth

Under these conditions, please contact your pool supply store for advice. Remember to have life saving equipment readily available before swimming.

Please call the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Health Office at 954-985-2330 should you need more information about this subject.

## WATERMELON FEST

From page 3A

they competed against each other in tournament fashion.

Big Cypress Councilman's Office Compliance Officer Wovoka Tommie discussed how the Tribal departments were on board with the concept of combining this year's Watermelon Festival into the Fourth of July celebration.

"We don't want to take away any events that we've had in the past," Tommie said. "We all know that there was a big drought this past season; that's not the best condition for watermelons to grow. But with that said, we wanted to celebrate the watermelon harvest and the Fourth of July celebration to make it a huge event for everyone."

Tommie also touched on the importance of keeping the Seminole culture alive, regardless of what community event takes place on the Big Cypress Reservation.

"We're an unconquered group of people," Tommie said. "The definition of unconquered is to remain who you are, who you grew up with and what your ancestors taught you. To remain unconquered is to keep your tradition alive, culture alive, to keep your people alive and to keep your land. We're all about our community, we're not going to let that slip away and we're here to stay."

For Andrews, her thoughts were with cousin and U.S. Military soldier Sgt. Gabriel Coppedge on the

Fourth of July. He is currently the only Tribal citizen who is enlisted in the U.S. Armed Forces.

"The Fourth of July did not mean to me as much as it should have," Andrews said. "But now that I have my first cousin (Sgt. Gabrielle Coppedge) fighting for our country, this day means a whole lot more to me. He is one of the reasons our country will stay free."

Andrews offered some parting thoughts of the entire holiday-themed spectacle.

"The overall impression was good," Andrews said. "I believe that Big Cypress Council and Recreation had done a great job with getting it all worked out; kudos to them. I also would like to say kudos to all the other departments for doing their part as well."

Since 2005, the Big Cypress Community has held its annual Watermelon Festival to mark the conclusion of the watermelon harvest, which typically ends between mid-April and mid-May. More than 200 watermelons were on display at this year's festival.

The Watermelon Festival was held in the month of May for the past few years, while the Fourth of July celebration would take place on the holiday weekend.

Meanwhile, the Fourth of July celebration in Big Cypress is usually geared toward having a festival of this magnitude and to conclude the holiday with a fireworks display. That spectacle occurred on the night of July 4 at the Big Cypress Bingo Hall facility.



Naji Tobias

Jared McInturff, 10, plays a game of archery at the Big Cypress Administrative Services booth.



Naji Tobias

It's a close race between Virginia Tommie, left, and Louise Osceola in the 55-and-up senior category of the watermelon holding race. Osceola edges Tommie for first place as they both cross the finish line.



Naji Tobias

From left, in the 55-and-up senior category, Susie Jumper, Violet Jim and Mable Jim are in fierce competition against each other in their quest to be the first one to finish eating the watermelon slices administered to them, as Mable Jim comes out on top.



Naji Tobias

Ricky Doctor, right, aims for his target in the Fourth of July Horseshoe Tournament, with Rudy Osceola looking on.



Naji Tobias

Keaton Billie, 6, enjoys his experience on the Euro Bungy jumper.

# Elaine Aguilar Retires After 27 Years of Tribal Service

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Writer

**IMMOKALEE** — In order to accommodate the vast number of people wishing to acknowledge Elaine Aguilar's years of service to the Seminole Tribe, two banquets were held in her honor. Big Cypress Council Rep. Mondo Tiger and her co-workers sponsored the first luncheon at noon on June 20 and her family and friends hosted the second dinner on the evening of June 24. The Immokalee Gym was filled to capacity for both occasions.

Born in the woods behind a Seminole camp in Clewiston, Elaine Aguilar was the second child of Lucy John. Her early years were spent traveling with her mother wherever she could find work, but her permanent childhood home was a camp in Big Cypress near the current location of the RV Park.

Aguilar attended the public school in Clewiston through the ninth grade and then quit to join the workforce that sustained her family. In later years she frequently told the Tribal youngsters that education is an important asset no one can take away from you. Heeding her own advice, she returned to the books to obtain her GED.

Around 1965 Lucy John, Mary Watts Billie, Alice Osceola, Lena Frank and Jack Motlow's family established a camp in Immokalee near the curve on SR-29. Their goal was to bring their families closer to public schools and year round employment in the agricultural community. She considered this her home even after starting her own family and moving to LaBelle.

Officially Aguilar's Tribal career began when she took a part-time job with Education in 1984. However, her service to the Immokalee Community really started around 1969 when the Immokalee camp moved

to a piece of land dedicated for their permanent use on Stockade Road. Taking the back seat out of her car, she helped cut cabbage fans and build chickees for what would become the Immokalee Reservation.

As the Reservation grew, Aguilar took on additional responsibilities with Community Care for the Elderly, Community Action Agency, Community Health Representative, Immokalee Board Representative and Immokalee Council Liaison.

During the opening presentation at the noon luncheon, Big Cypress Council Rep. Mondo Tiger awarded Elaine Aguilar a gold bracelet for her commitment to her community and the Seminole Tribe. Past Immokalee Board Rep. Delores Jumper provided a brief review of Aguilar's contributions to the Community as a representative, community member and friend.

Tribal members from all across South Florida applauded when Secretary Priscilla Sayen presented Aguilar with a Council Oak Plaque recognizing her service from 1984 to 2011 during the evening appreciation dinner.

Wrapping Elaine in a handmade red patchwork quilt, Wanda Bowers said, "This signifies the warmth and compassion that she has shared with her people. We are all one family striving for one common cause and she has done her share to insure a future for the Tribe."

Acting on behalf of the Immokalee Reservation employees, Maria Billie thanked Aguilar for her compassion, understanding and fairness as overseer of the daily operations and administration of her office. She said, "Elaine made each of us feel like a member of the community and extended family. It gave us purpose and inspiration as we worked beside her."

As the microphone was passed throughout the assemblies, a chorus of praise and accomplishments highlighted the guest of honor's career. Among her greatest attributes was the ability to see everyone as an equal regardless of their condition in life. Tribal leaders, members, pastors, family and friends acknowledged the devotion of a Tribal icon who will always hold a special place in their hearts.

Speaking on behalf of the Immokalee elders, their mothers and grandmothers who envisioned a dream, Linda Beletso said, "You answered our prayers when you brought us a church and helped shape a future for our descendants. We will be forever grateful."

Paul "Cowbone" Buster offered entertainment for the evening and serenaded the Aguilars with old time gospel favorites. With five religious leaders present, Buster led the group in prayer and thanked God for the miracles that he has performed: "Life is precious, it is like a shadow. Respect and pray for each other. We are all one big family and God has truly blessed us. Let us preserve our heritage and carry on his good works."

Past Big Cypress Rep. David Cypress summed it up when he said, "Elaine Aguilar has been the heart and soul of her community and there are not enough words to thank her for everything that she has done. She is our sister by blood, clan and compassionate example and our thanks come from the bottom of our hearts."

Filled with emotion, Aguilar responded, "I can't thank all of you enough for your kind words. However, what I really appreciate is your giving me this opportunity to thank you for trusting and believing in me. In my heart I feel that all of you are my family and I have found the strength from you to do the job that you have entrusted to me."

"My mother always said to treat people as you would want to be treated and she opened her heart to everyone unconditionally," continued Aguilar. "Mom had little feet and even though mine are huge, I don't think that in a lifetime I will ever be able to fill her shoes."



Judy Weeks

Priscilla Sayen, right, watches as Wanda Bowers, left, ceremoniously wraps Elaine Aguilar in a quilt signifying the warmth of love and compassion she has shared with her people.

In conclusion she said, "Looking back I realize that I couldn't have worked for you, if it hadn't been for the tremendous support of my husband, Pete, and our wonderful children. We are a close family and they have each contributed to making it possible for me to devote so much time to my job. Pete worked tirelessly as an agricultural crew leader, grove foreman and most recently retired from assisting at the Big Cypress Senior Center. We look forward to spending our retirement together and enjoying our family."



Judy Weeks

Big Cypress Board Rep. Mondo Tiger presented Elaine Aguilar with a gold bracelet in recognition of her many years of service to the members of the Seminole Tribe.



Judy Weeks

Big Cypress Senior Center Site Manager Cecilia Guzman recognizes Pedro Aguilar Sr. for his years of service at the B.C. Hot Meals.



Naji Tobias

Here's a look at the nine-foot tall cellular phone tower at the Ceremonial Grounds station of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's boardwalk, complete with a built-in stanchion and a solar panel at the top. The panels are said to be most effective in sunlight.

# Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Makes Safety Improvements to its Boardwalk

BY NAJI TOBIAS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's boardwalk has been a staple of the Tribal facility ever since its 1997 grand opening.

Now 14 years old, it has been undergoing a not-so-subtle renovation that paves the way for technological and safety enhancements of its well-regarded structure.

Citing potential concerns for safety and past injuries, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum officials recently hired a contractor with RATH, a company that specializes in the installation of its own solar-powered cellular phone towers. The nine-foot tall structures, erected at three strategically-placed locations on the approximately mile-long boardwalk, are highlighted by a solar panel at the tower's top.

The towers, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum officials said, were built to eliminate the need for any cords or power lines. It was primarily designed with the patrons' safety in mind, as guests are now able to simply push a button at any one of the three towers if they want to reach any Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum security officer for assistance on the boardwalk.

The phone towers are made up of metal device, known as a stanchion. Concrete pillars were constructed to be at about four feet above ground — the height where the boardwalk's walkway is built from. With the emphasis on aesthetics and safety, the stanchions were mounted to the concrete pillars and had to be free standing, according to code enforcement rules.

With the boardwalk broken into 53 total parts — each area part is measured at approximately 100 feet in length — the towers have been erected in the following locations:

- Area 14 (West Side) – Clan Pavilion
- Area 28 (Back Side) – Ceremonial Grounds
- Area 41 (East Side)

"In the past, we've had some people get out there with a twisted ankle or get caught in a thunderstorm," Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Operations Manager Gene Davis said. "If someone has an emergency, they'll be able to get us to respond pretty quickly. All they have to do is stay at their location and we'll get someone to reach them."

The safety device is deemed to be ADA-compliant, according to Davis. "Somebody in a wheelchair or a disabled individual can get up to it and use it (the cellular tower's push button) without assistance," Davis said. "We consider it to be a great user-friendly device for our visitors."

As for the appeal of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's boardwalk, the handrails have been revamped for the purpose of making the structure safer and more aesthetically friendly for the guests.

To greatly reduce or eliminate the possibility of guests suffering finger and hand injuries from wood splinters on the handrails, the wood has been

replaced by a synthetic material called Moisture Shield, according to Davis. It's a plastic device that is designed to keep the handrails from cracks, warps and splinters.

Davis said the handrail replacement, part of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's ongoing maintenance program, is also environmentally-friendly, as it is made to be mildew-resistant.

"It's the result of our goal to go 'green' as much as possible," Davis said. "It was a need that turned into a project we did some research on."

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Anne McCudden commented on the improvements made to the boardwalk.

"People really enjoy the physical property of the museum and they really love the boardwalk," McCudden said. "As much it might not seem important to some people, we have to pay attention to all the details. We want to keep the area aesthetically pleasing to our guests and continue giving them a beautiful structure to visit."



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal citizen George Billie, left, and Pedro Zepeda, right, take a look and touch the renovated handrails on the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's boardwalk on June 27. Zepeda said the handrail improvements will give patrons more of a "safety net" to work with, thus making for perhaps a splinter-free experience.

# 4-H Members Enjoy Special Fun Day at Immokalee Seminole Ranch



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Seminole 4-H Coordinator Melonie Hamlett, center, said, "Participation in the Fun Day by all of the Tribal Departments showed the support from the Reservation to the kids of our community and we are grateful to the Immokalee Seminole Casino for providing a terrific lunch."



Judy Weeks

Photo above, brothers Kyle and Alphonso Alvarado cool off in the super Slip 'N' Slide at the Immokalee 4-H Fun Day on July 13. Right photo, Haley Hollaway samples a snow cone from the multitude of treats provided by each of the Reservation Departments for the Immokalee 4-H Fun Day.



# Immokalee Block Party Focuses on Families

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Writer

**IMMOKALEE** — A community block party drew the residents of Immokalee from their homes and into the street for a family style get together on the evening of June 20.

An afternoon rain storm didn't dampen spirits. The participants enjoyed the cooling effect that the rain had on a lazy summer evening. A large tent blocked off the street extension connecting Ethel Frank Court and John Jimmie Boulevard and created a staging area for the event.

"Our theme of 'Dancing in the Streets' was designed to promote family togetherness and sober celebrations," said Immokalee Family Services Site Supervisor Billie Napper-Bodway. "The strength of this reservation is the ability of the residents and employees to pull together as a team and they did an awesome job. Each of the departments contributed food and drink donations along with decorations, game plans and prizes. With community support, success

was inevitable."

A continuous crowd of young people surrounded the Fitness Wheel hoping for a spin that would win them something from the wonderful stack of prizes.

This year's bright yellow T-shirts transformed the crowd into a sea of waving sunflowers as they danced and swayed to the musical classics. The disk jockey frequently changed the repertoire and was quick to respond to personal requests that were made throughout the evening.

A professional guru, the disk jockey joined the group to lead off the Cha-Cha-Slide, Chicken Dance, Cotton-Eye Joe and the Hula Hoop Contest. The younger generation vied for opportunities to take over the microphone and serenade their audience. Everybody was a winner in the dance and singing contests.

"This community is in love with life," said Abuse Prevention Specialist Fred Mullins. "They are proof that it is great to be drug and alcohol free as they get high on their own enthusiasm."



Judy Weeks

Children gather around Dennis Gonzales and Liz Pickering of Recreation and Fitness for a chance to win prizes with a spin of the Fitness Wheel during Immokalee's Community Block Party on June 20.



Judy Weeks

Hula-Hoop champion Raymond James Mora puts a new spin on Dancing in the Street.

## TAMPA PARTY

From page 3A

from a giant casino to Wal-Mart World!"

Not so, says Liaison Henry, waving his arm out over the scope of the property: "The great majority of this land will stay exactly as it is now. We will only take a small part for our individual homes and a Tribal headquarters – necessary development." Henry arranged for a swamp buggy tour of the terrain for Cook and his family.

Over 100 Tribal citizens of all ages showed up for the Saturday afternoon events, which included paintball wars, giant rolling balls, a bubble bath pool and soccer and football contests for the kids, as well as an hours-long raffle for the adults. A large tent and ample refreshments kept the searing Florida heat at bay. Country music from a deejay and a wonderful catered meal squared off the party.

"It will be fun getting back together, all of us, in one village," said Bobby Henry, the erstwhile Tribal rainmaker. Henry recalled back in 1979 when Tribal Chairman James E. Billie asked if he would move his family to live on the brand new Tampa Reservation. "I said, 'Sure!' All 17 of us came down here and we started building chickees."

It was pointed out that the original 17 has grown to more than 120. "We've been busy," laughed Bobby Henry, one of the finest traditional craftsmen in Seminole history. "And now we got a lot more chickees to build."



Peter Gallagher

Children, suds and water add up to Fourth of July fun in the Polk County, Fla., heat.



Peter Gallagher

It was Curtis Motlow's lucky day! He won the month's (week's?) supply of toilet paper at the Tampa Fourth of July raffle!

## More photos from Immokalee's Fourth of July Celebration



Judy Weeks

Jailee Yzaguirre, Haley Holloway, Shyanna Escobar, Ava Nunez and Jaycee Dimas were bounce house buddies at the Immokalee 4th of July Celebration.



Judy Weeks

Learning to swim is easy for Blake Osceola in the water park kiddie pool in Immokalee.

# Plastic Water Bottles: Facts and Measures that Protect the Environment

BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) was created in 1987 by the Tribal Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida to protect and evaluate the Tribe's land and water resources. ERMD is overseen by the Seminole Water Commission which was created in 1989 by the Tribal Council. The Commission, with technical assistance from ERMD, has developed rules to protect the quality of surface water within the boundaries of the Tribe's reservations. ERMD assists other Tribal Departments such as Housing, Real Estate and Community Planning and Development and works with Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. in the development and management of tribal natural resources.

To continue our mission for education and dissemination of information that aims to environmental compliance, ERMD will publish a series of articles that inform and educate the Seminole community and citizens in general about common practices that can potentially harm our environment and alternative practices that can minimize or prevent the adverse impacts to our health and the environment.

We welcome your suggestions, comments and questions. Please send them to [isidroquede@semtribe.com](mailto:isidroquede@semtribe.com) or contact us at (954) 965-4380

The following article about plastic water bottles is the third article in our series.

Many people love the convenience that plastic water bottles can offer for a person on the go. However, this convenience comes at a cost to your health and the environment. Initial environmental impacts can be identified at the source, where local streams and underground aquifers become depleted by the excessive withdrawal of water from the bottled water industry. Additional pollution is inevitable with the increase use of bottled water, from manufacturing, packaging, storing and shipping to the end use by the consumer. The United States is the largest consumer of water bottles in the world, adding approximately 29 billion water bottles to the problem each year.

Mostly all plastic water bottles are manufactured from polyethylene terephthalate (PET) and in order to meet the high demand of plastic water bottles,

manufactures utilize 17 million barrels of crude oil. This is enough oil to fuel a million cars for 12 months. To put this large quantity of oil in perspective you can think of filling a water bottle up a quarter of the way with oil; that's about how much oil was needed to produce that single plastic bottle. Additional economic and environmental costs are associated with the packaging, storing and shipping of bottled water.

Pollution of plastics within the environment are produced with the improper disposal of plastic water bottles by the consumer. Nationally, only 10 percent of plastic water bottles are recycled; 90 percent end up as either garbage or litter. When plastics break down they don't biodegrade they photodegrade. This means that the plastic water bottle material breaks down into smaller pieces but never disappears completely. Small particles of plastics readily absorbed pre-exciting organic pollutants including Bisphenol A (BPA) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). These plastic particles contaminate soil, waterways and animals upon ingestion.

Now that you know the facts about manufacturing and pollution caused by plastic water bottles you may wonder why more people don't drink water from the tap. It is a common misconception that bottled water is cleaner and healthier for you. However in comparison to bottled water, tap water is often subject to more stringent regulations and testing than bottled water. A four-year review of the bottled water industry was performed by the National Resource Defense Council (NRDC) and independently tested the water quality of over 1,000 bottles of water. Their conclusions of the study indicated that there is no assurance that just because water is bottled it is cleaner or safer than tap water.

In fact, approximately 25 percent or more of the bottled water tested is really tap water in a bottle with no additional treatment. Plastic bottles themselves may be the source of decreased water quality as the chemicals in the plastic bottles may leach into the water. Tap water is a cleaner and healthier choice when compared to bottled water and is also a fraction of the cost. In order to decrease the use of bottled water in your homes ERMD recommends the use of glass or steel reusable bottles. If plastic water bottles are used please remember to recycle. Additional questions regarding water quality may be directed to the ERMD office.

# Okalee Village Celebrates Hollywood Centennial with Pow-Wow



The Hollywood Tribal preschoolers and staff recite the Tribal Pledge of Allegiance during the Grand Entry ceremonies of the Hollywood centennial Pow-Wow held at the Seminole Okalee Indian Village July 1-3. The three-day event featured dancers from the U.S. and Canada, a wildlife show, traditional Seminole arts and crafts, foods and a special appearance by Tribal officials.

Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Chairman James E. Billie welcomes special guests and dignitaries to the opening day of the Pow-Wow.



Chris C. Jenkins

From left, Tribal citizens Wanda Bowers and daughter Christine McCall participate in a special welcoming ceremony during the Pow-Wow.

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Seminole Agency  
6100 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 206  
Hollywood, Florida 33024  
(954) 983 1537  
(954) 983 5018 fax

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)  
**ACTION:** Notice of Availability (NOA)

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and lease of a home on trust property for Ronnie Jimmie. The approximately 1.5 acre lot is located on SW Canal Street at Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Section 24, Hendry County, Florida, which is located on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Reservation. The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated May 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Ronnie Jimmie Proposed Lease, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County, Florida". This EA has been adapted and FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and lease of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

**NOTICE:** 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 BIA has approved and adopted the above referenced EA which addressed this proposal. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information 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. You 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, 6365 Taft Street, Suite 3008, Hollywood, FL 33024, telephone (954) 965-4380.

**APPEALS:** "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, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6832.

Date: 5/19/11  
 Superintendent, Seminole Agency  
 Bureau of Indian Affairs

# Country Star John Anderson Welcomes New Seminole Leaders at Big Cypress Concert

BY PETER GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** – Country music superstar John Anderson has never forgotten how important the Seminole Indians have been for his career. In 1992, with his Hall of Fame career on the skids, the Apopka native said “I went back to my roots,” spending time with his Seminole friends out on the Big Cypress Reservation, hunting and playing his guitar around the campfire at Billie Swamp Safari.

There the distinctive song stylist gained the inspiration for his mega hit “Seminole Wind,” a song, album and video, which catapulted Anderson back to the top of the charts and granted him a statesman status right up with the likes of Hank Williams and Johnny Cash.

“All I wanted to do was write a song about Florida,” he told a small gathering of fans at the Swamp Water Café, out at Big Cypress, recently. “When we came up with Seminole Wind we knew we achieved our goal . . . and got a hit record at the same time!”

Anderson, buoyed by the news that his longtime pal Chief Jim Billie had returned to the Chairmanship of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, grabbed his guitar and fiddle player Joe Spivey and drove unannounced to Florida from Nashville on June 12 to personally congratulate the latest squad of Tribal leaders.

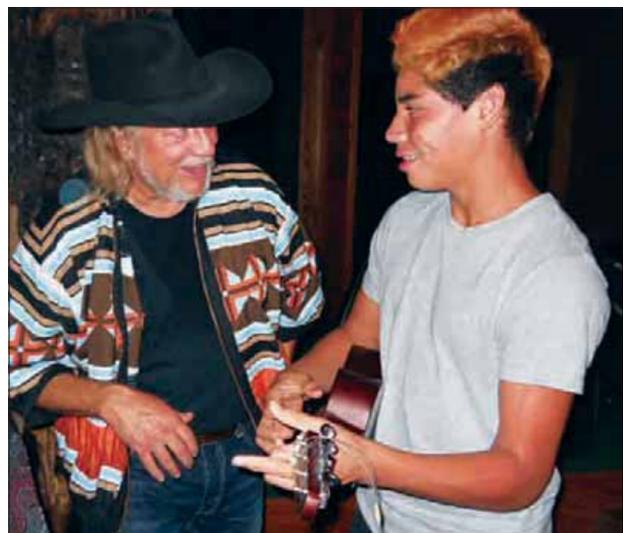
“I felt like I wanted to do something special for Jim Billie, Mondo and all the others,” he said. “They’ve all done so much for me.”

Anderson pulled his van into Big Cypress, where he had resurrected his career so many years ago. An impromptu concert was scheduled; attendees included Chairman Billie, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank and anyone who had access to the last-minute, word-of-mouth “grapevine.”

“The Human Jukebox” Raiford Starke set up a small sound system in the back of the restaurant and played a few opening tunes, providing a startling imitation of Anderson’s distinctive voice on one song that brought loud applause from the country star.

Cameras flashed throughout John Anderson’s 75-minute set, which included all of his hit songs, sung sparsely (with just the one accompanist) but powerfully in the stone quiet intimate room. Anderson paid heartfelt tribute, several times, to his Seminole friends and fans, thanking them for “all your support of me and my music. I could not have accomplished so much without you.”

The cameras continued flashing long after the show ended, with folks lining up for photographs with, and/or autographs from, their favorite country singer. Both Anderson and Spivey stayed late into the night, at one point giving lessons to talented Kowoko Billie, a son of the Chairman and near-virtuoso on the ukulele, in his own right.



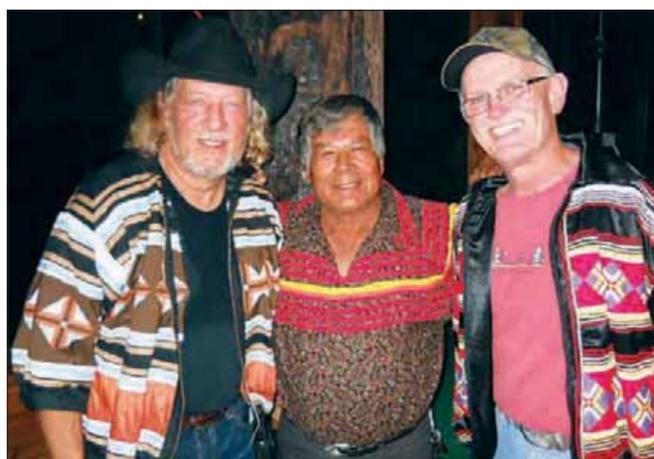
Peter Gallagher

Seminole musician Kowoko Billie shows John Anderson a few licks on the ukulele.



Peter Gallagher

The Jim Billie Clan gathered at the Swamp Water Café and posed for a photo with John Anderson after the show.



Peter Gallagher

Old friends: John Anderson, Bobby Henry and Joe Spivey in their Seminole garb.



Peter Gallagher

“Blow blow Seminole Wind,” sings songwriter John Anderson, as fiddler Joe Spivey plays the familiar refrain known the world over.

## More photos from Fourth of July in Brighton



Rachel Buxton

Sisters Amanda Smith, left, and Brittany Smith pull as hard as they can to make it all the way to the tug-of-war finals.



Rachel Buxton

Photo above, Gary Sampson goes glasses deep into his plate to win the pie eating during Brighton’s Fourth of July celebration July 4 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena. Center photo, Elle Thomas keeps coordination as she hops through the obstacle course hoops.



Rachel Buxton

Keenan Jones uses all of his strength to push the 80-pound weight past the line.



Rachel Buxton

Deliah Carrillo gets air as she leaps over the barrel during one of the Brighton Fourth of July obstacle courses.

## Naples Community Ends School Year with a Beach Party



Photo courtesy of Jessica Osceola

Connie Slavik and her daughter Nicole push off from the beach to try out their kayaking skills.



Photo courtesy of Jessica Osceola

Pedro Zepeda takes his young son Kyle on his first trip to the beach with the Naples Community on June 10 at Delnor Wiggins Pass State Park.

## Photo extra from Edward Aguilar’s Community Appreciation Dinner



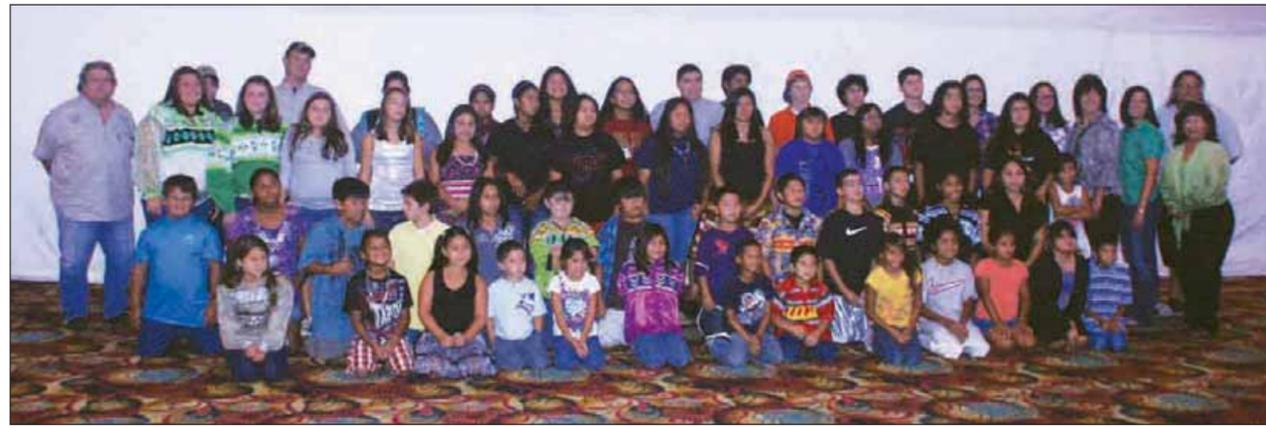
Judy Weeks

Edward Aguilar and his parents Elaine and Pedro Aguilar Sr. thank Linda Beletso, Rachel Billie and Mary Sanchez for their endless prayers and support.



Eliska Slavik, Nicole Slavik and Serena Zepeda dry off in the shade of the mangroves at Delnor Wiggins Pass State Park in Naples while they wait for their picnic lunch to come off the grill. They were among approximately 30 Naples community members who attended the end of the school year beach party on June 10. Naples community members took part in a variety of activities that included swimming, volleyball, shelling and sandcastle building during their annual beach outing.

Photo courtesy of Jessica Osceola



2011 Seminole Indian 4-Hers attended a year-end banquet at the Seminole Casino Immokalee on June 28.

Judy Weeks

Dionne Smedley, right, awards Jessica Lopez, center, and Ty Huff as graduating seniors.

Judy Weeks

## 2011 Seminole Indian 4-H Season Concludes with Banquet in Immokalee

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Writer

**IMMOKALEE** — The Seminole Indian 4-H concluded its 2011 season with a banquet in the entertainment pavilion of the Seminole Casino Immokalee on June 28. The event focused on recognition of the responsibility, dedication and personal growth of its participants.

"A great deal of effort goes into raising a livestock project," said Seminole 4-H Coordinator Polly Hayes. "It means shouldering a lot of responsibility and commitment by other family members. I am extremely proud of all the youngsters that participated in the 2011 4-H season and want to acknowledge their hard work, diligence and positive attitude."

Since the beginning of the Seminole 4-H more than 50 years ago, the program has seen enormous growth. Hayes acknowledged that the backbone of its success lies in the competent hands of the 4-H staff from each of the reservations and their ability to coordinate local family cooperation.

"Our rotation schedule brought this year's banquet to Immokalee, and I want to congratulate our Immokalee 4-H Assistant Melonie Hamlett on the tremendous job that she has done," said Hayes. "All of our leaders have given 100 percent to the program, and I want to take this opportunity to recognize the other members of my staff of Dionne Smedley, Donald Hayes, Emma Urbina, Michael Bond, Dallas Nunez, Yolanda Gore and Big Cypress Leaders Toi Andrews and Crystal Wilcox."

Guest speakers Immokalee Board Rep. Dorothy Scheffler and Collier County 4-H Extension Agent Tish Roland, who congratulated this year's 4-Hers and emphasized the impact that they can make throughout their community. Respecting others, exerting

positive peer pressure and being examples of responsibility and commitment can go a long way toward shaping the future.

"Pat yourselves on the back for having completed a great year and look forward to the next one," said Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. "You can learn a lot from the 4-H Program and carry it with you into the future. Dedication, responsibility and commitment build strength and purpose."

Presenting plaques to the cattle and swine producers, the 4-Hers recognized that a successful project gets its beginning from a quality foundation. This year's Grand Champion Steer came from the herd of Scotty Baxley and the Reserve Grand Champion belonged to Josh Jumper. Both Swine Champions were a product of Dale McQuillen.

Special recognition was given to the graduating seniors: Ty Huff, Jessica Lopez, Ashton Baxley, Preston Smith, Quinton Smith and Justin Roff.

"I want to extend an invitation to all of our graduating seniors to return and share their experiences," said Small Animal Leader Emma Urbina. "I started in 4-H with sewing projects, small animals, swine and steers. Today I hold a job in the cattle industry. I am raising a family in 4-H and committed to helping the next generation achieve their goals. My husband Jessie works with the Swine projects. 4-H helps build strong families and communities."

The 4-H assistants made the presentation of awards for the Steer, Swine and Small Animal Projects. Each reservation elects club officers and they were recognized for the important role that they play in a successful 4-H season.

During the final countdown, all of the 4-Hers were acknowledged according to the number of years they had participated in the program. They each received their certificates, proceeds from the sale of their livestock, their graded record books and a 4-H T-shirt. Trophies were presented to the small animal owners.



Judy Weeks

Seminole Indian 4-H Coordinator Polly Hayes congratulates the 2011 4-Hers and her staff.

## Miami Food Truck Rally Begins Tradition at Seminole Hard Rock



Chris C. Jenkins

Local patrons talk under the stars while enjoying the Adam Sandler/Drew Barrymore hit '50 First Dates.'



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal elder Jimmie Hank Osceola, seated right, relaxes with fellow friends and patrons before movie time.



Chris C. Jenkins

Patrons stand in line at one of 20 varieties of food trucks during the Miami Food Truck Rally/movie night at the Hard Rock Seminole Paradise valet parking lot on June 16. The new tradition in entertainment was introduced by Tribal citizen Jimmie 'Jimbo' Osceola targeting families of Broward, Dade and surrounding counties and will run every week on Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. through August and will also feature alcoholic beverages and seating.



Judy Weeks

Kaley Zepeda puts on her red, white and blue to celebrate Independence Day.



Judy Weeks

O.B. Osceola III helps his sister, Bryce, blow up balloons for the Juanita Osceola Center Fourth of July float.



Judy Weeks

The Juanita Osceola Center in Naples sponsored a float in the annual City of Naples Fourth of July Parade from which the community members showered the spectators with candy.

More photos from the Naples July 4th parade

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Seminole Agency  
6100 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 206  
Hollywood, Florida 33024  
(954) 983-1537  
(954) 983-5018 fax

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)  
**ACTION:** Notice of Availability (NOA)

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and lease of a home on trust property for Norman Billie. The approximately 1.5 acre lot is located at 30060 East Cowhorne Island Road, Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation (BCSIR), in Hendry County, Florida (Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Section 10). The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated May 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Norman Billie Proposed Lease, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County, Florida". This EA has been adopted and FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and lease of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

**NOTICE:** 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 BIA has approved and adopted the above referenced EA, which addressed this proposal. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information 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. You 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, 6365 Tait Street, Suite 3008, Hollywood, FL 33024, telephone (954) 965-4380.

**APPEALS:** "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, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6832.

*Kurt G. Chandler*  
Superintendent, Seminole Agency  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: 6/23/2011

### Dr. Brian C. Rush

#### Chiropractic Physician

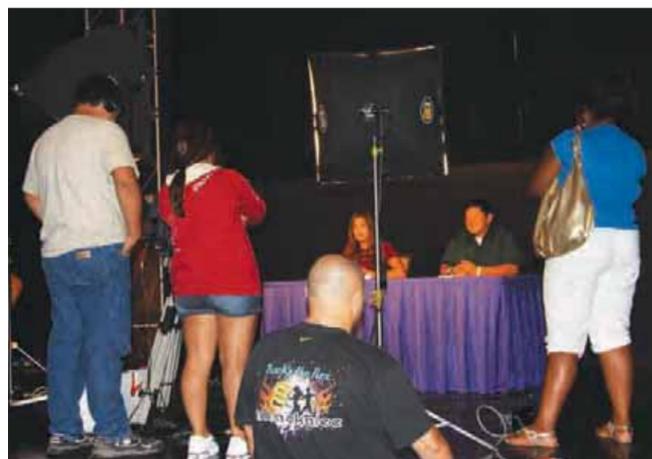
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Chris C. Jenkins

Tori Osceola and Julian Billie practice their anchoring skills for The Seminole Channel 'Takeover' Show.



Aimee Hoyt

Y.M.P.W. participants pose with guest speaker and NBA Champion Alonzo Mourning after he delivered words of encouragement, about the importance of continued education on July 13.



Chris C. Jenkins

SMP staff member Ryan Watson teaches Y.M.P.W. students how to operate a Broadcast DV Camera.

## Tribal Youth Take Over Seminole Channel?!

BY JULIAN BILLIE, DEIDRA HALL, VICTORIA LACEY, KAYLAN OSCEOLA, TORI OSCEOLA AND TALON YOUNGMAN  
Y.M.P.W. Participants

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Native Productions group got a chance to have fun learning and experiencing what it takes to create a news broadcast, replacing the original Seminole Channel hosts Briana D'Andrea and Everett Osceola.

During the week of July 10-16, Julian Billie, Deidra Hall, Victoria Lacey, Kaylan Osceola, Tori Osceola and Talon Youngman had a chance to receive a crash course in broadcasting at SMP's Youth Media Production Workshop.

Filed in the Hollywood Headquarters auditorium, instructors taught the fundamentals of filming a news segment.

"The making of the show itself was a great opportunity to become comfortable and calm during filming," said Tori, who became a co-host along with Julian.

Instructor Everett Osceola said he felt relieved to have the participants take over his job as it showed that the youth are interested in the media field.

While some participants found their niche in

the industry, others were just glad to share in the experience with one another.

"The one thing I liked the most out of the whole experience was how interested everyone was in the whole workshop. I enjoyed helping film, as well as editing what we filmed and making it a whole news segment. I admit, editing the reels was my favorite part of the whole workshop. I hope to see the same groups and more come and participate next year," said Victoria Lacey.

Special features of the workshop this year were an exclusive visit and tour of NBC6 in Miramar and a surprise visit from former Miami Heat player Alonzo Mourning. Mourning spoke about his struggles and successes, and also how no matter what someone says, you should always keep your head up and do what it is you're best at.

"I really liked how they kept us busy — if that meant viewing the cameras, listening to the audio or watching the setups — everyone was always involved," said participant Deidra.

Their jam-packed week also included bowling at SpareZ, playing games at Dave & Buster's, indoor carting at Xtreme Karting and attending a Rihanna concert at the Bank Atlantic Center.

## Alpha Reds Produce Music Video for Battiest Brothers' Hit Single 'The Storm'

BY TURQUOISE BATTIEST, ALISIA BILLIE, TATIANA HERRERA, LE'ANDREA MORA AND PRESTON OSCEOLA  
Y.M.P.W. Participants

**HOLLYWOOD** — Five lucky Tribal youth participated in SMP's Youth Media Production Workshop during July 10-16 to learn the ins and outs of the journalism and media industries, all while producing a music video for Spencer and Zachary "Doc" Battiest.

Comprised of Alisia Billie, Turquoise Battiest, Tatiana Herrera, Le'Andrea Mora and Preston Osceola, the Alpha Reds joined a team of instructors for their week-long assignment showcasing the Tribal musical duo's single, "The Storm."

"I came to learn about what it takes to make a music video," said Preston.

Other group members attended in hopes of pursuing a career in the media industry.

"I just want to be a camera operator because it's really fun," Turquoise said about her possible future career.

Aside from learning how to operate cameras supplied by SMP and work the Red One camera, the students learned the importance of building a working relationship with the directors and the cast. Students even played the role of wardrobe designers for the brothers.

Director of photography Clint Childers said he enjoyed using all of the different setups, which included filming on the Big Cypress Reservation, under the famed Council Oak tree and at Paradise Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood.

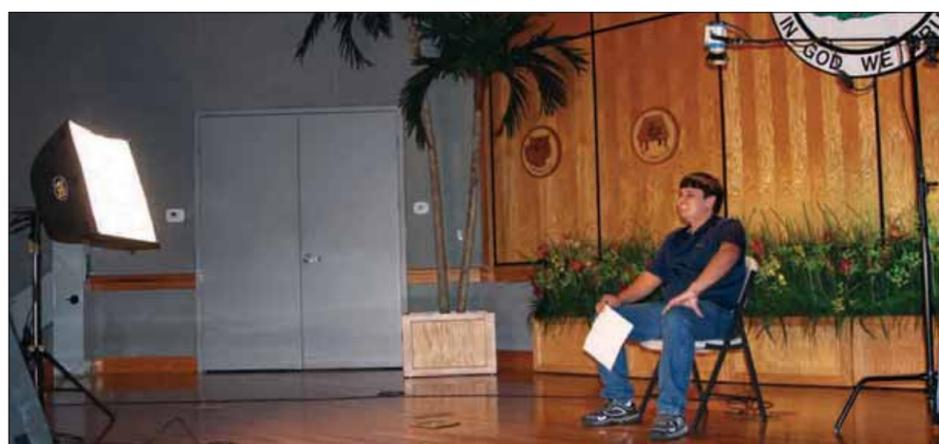
After two days of filming, the Alpha Reds and instructors came to SMP to learn how to edit. While the group found editing to be challenging, they worked together with their instructors to create a successful music video.

The young entrepreneurs presented their completed video to family and friends at the Tribal Headquarters auditorium on the final day of the workshop.



Chris C. Jenkins

The week kicked off with a behind-the-scenes tour of the operations and live taping at The NBC-6 Studio in Miramar, Fla.



Chris C. Jenkins

Talon Youngman delivers sports & travel in The Seminole Channel 'Takeover' Show.



Chris C. Jenkins

Co-Anchors Briana D'Andrea and Everett Osceola mentor participants for The 2011 Youth Media Production Workshop.

**SMP™**  
SEMINOLE MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

**THANK YOU!!!**

Seminole Media Productions would like to cordially thank everyone for making The Youth Media Production Workshop a continued success. A special thank you goes out to The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Council and Board for their continued support. We appreciate all of the help and dedication to The SMP staff, parents and guest speakers. Thanks to you, The Seminole Tribal Youth will have the promise of a better tomorrow.

**Ympw**  
Youth Media Production Workshop

## Coconut Creek Casino Hosts 100th Celebration Demos



Chris C. Jenkins

Victoria Lacey works on a custom bracelet as part of several craft demonstrations.



Chris C. Jenkins

James Holt of the Okalee Village, left, talks with a patron outside of the Sunset Grill restaurant celebrating the Hollywood 100th anniversary at the Coconut Creek Casino on June 28.

## Hard Rock Beer-B-Que Festival is a Hit



Chris C. Jenkins

Long-time popular rock band Seven Mary Three (or 7M3) performs on stage for guests as part of the inaugural Beer-B-Que festival held at the Hard Rock valet parking lot July 3. The event welcomed hundreds of Broward and Dade county patrons for beer and alcohol sampling, food, music and a fireworks demonstration during the Independence Day weekend.

# WHY AREN'T WE HERE



• **Stephen D. Bowers**

Let's cut to the chase. Where is the American Indian soldier in artist Frederick Hart's heroic "Three Servicemen" sculpture? Along with the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall and the Vietnam Women's Memorial, Hart's monument of three bronze combat soldiers – Caucasian, African-American and Hispanic-American – is seen by more than 3 million people per year, making it the most visited national memorial along the famous 146-acre Washington, D.C. National Mall.

The answer? Nobody knows. The American Indian soldier is simply not there. There is no evidence Hart, nor the many reviewers and committees that evaluated his design, ever considered depicting a Native in the dramatic scene. History tells us he apparently chose his subjects based on sheer numbers of combatants per ethnic group serving during the 20-year Vietnam conflict. Hart's bronze figurative sculpture was dedicated in November 1984.

But, per capita, American Indians served that War in much greater numbers than other ethnic groups. And, in an era where youth were drafted, regardless of their desire to join, over 90 percent of Indians who served were volunteers: enlisted men and women. A disproportional number served in combat positions such as infantry regiments, tank battalions, airborne and artillery batteries. Traditionally assigned front line duty, we were point men, lone snipers and patrol leaders. Thirty-seven percent of our Indian soldiers suffered war wounds. We were called "Chief" and they all thought we had a secret sixth sense!

Stories of American Indian valor and bravery are legend in Vietnam lore, an impressive record of achievement all the more compelling considering our recent history as combatants against the very U.S. Military we continue to proudly serve today. It is rare for any special event, meeting or festival to commence, anywhere in American Indian Country, without the appearance of a native Color Guard, comprised mostly of Vietnam Vets.

Leaving out the American Indian soldier from the most famous Vietnam monument in the world, is an astounding oversight, and one

that several attempts to address have failed to correct over the past 30 years. I am sure I am not alone in experiencing the emotional feelings of sadness, nostalgia and pride whenever I go to Washington, D.C. and visit the Vietnam Memorial; but why should I feel the personal anger and confusion over the obvious missing Native soldier symbol?

Those who control the official goings-on at the Mall have not been very receptive to correcting the oversight. They don't seem to consider it an oversight! As you can see, in the news story that begins on the Tribune's front page, a recent inquiry to the National Park Service by a student reporter was met with a harsh reality.

"The National Mall is a finished completed work of civic art," said William "Bill" Line. "It's done. It's finished."

We called to make sure Line wasn't just having a bad day. But he said the same thing. "It's over. You need to find somewhere else," said Line, who points out that two large veteran's projects were built since 2003 elsewhere, "and there was no heartburn or gnashing of teeth!"

An Air Force Memorial was put up at the Pentagon and the U.S. Marine Museum was constructed at Quantico, Va., 40 miles south of D.C., reported Line, who warned: "Nobody is gonna stroll onto the Mall and put up anything without going through a verrrrry complicated process. It can't be done."

But, Mr. Line, it HAS been done. A year after the Reserve Act of 2003, which supposedly closed the Mall, a carved plaque of black granite was somehow placed on the northwest corner of the Three Soldiers plaza to honor veterans who died after the war as a direct result of injuries suffered in Vietnam.

We don't want a brand new monument, sir – we just want to add one soldier to the monument that is already there!

Alas, various self-serving agendas, which have plagued various aspects of the controversial Vietnam Veteran's Memorial since the beginning, continue to prevent united American Indian support. A man of considerable influence around the Mall, Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund Director Jan Scruggs has a plan to honor Native vets nearby and

underground. The Museum of the American Indian is said to have reserved a courtyard of space for a Native veteran's display. When the issue was broached with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) last year, it got a cold reception.

Underground? They've been trying to put us Natives underground ever since Ponce de Leon!

"A lot of Vietnam Vets consider the Memorial to be on hallowed ground and no one should ever change that," said Tribal lobbyist Larry Rosenthal. "Indians and non-Indians alike."

The issue, however, has not been properly presented, said Rosenthal: "There may be a perception that 'Here we go with this issue again,' when, in fact, it has really not been fully thought out and presented effectively."

Through this confusion, the Seminole Tribe has stepped in to take the lead. With an initiative first developed by myself, a Vietnam vet, and former Chairman Mitchell Cypress, a Vietnam-era vet, and with the full support of current Chairman James E. Billie, a Vietnam vet, I am challenging all Veterans organizations, American Indian tribes and tribal organizations and individual Native veterans to march in step with us.

We need your resolution, your letters of support, your donations to our non-profit Native American Veterans Memorial Initiative fund. Contact me at sbowers@semtribe.com or call me at 954-966-6300, Ext. 11480 and I'll tell you how to do it.

Now is the time to repair the oversight. There is no group of people who have put more of their lives on the line, for America and Americans, than Natives. This statue would reinforce that.

- Stephen Bowers is Seminole Liaison to the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs

## Chairman's Message: Now is the Time for Tribal Court System

• **James E. Billie**

A tremendous change benefitting the entire Tribal economy has evolved in Seminole Country during the past 10 years. But, as with any government, there may still be a few flaws in our system. I can assure all Tribal constituents, these issues are being addressed each day as we go forward.

The establishment Hard Rock facilities throughout the state of Florida was a concept on paper, ready for development, when I left. As we all know, the concept has come to reality! I believe the folks involved in the development of the Hard Rock concept have done a tremendous job. All of our Seminole people are enjoying the great benefits of this boost to the Seminole Tribal economy.

I foresee other business developments, throughout the world, coming our way to further stabilize and strengthen our personal Tribal economies. I welcome new ideas, new business ventures or partnerships — from our Tribal citizens, as well as from trusted persons around the globe.

It was good to see some of the old staff when I returned to office, recently. And I welcome the many new employees who are helping keep our Tribe heading in the right direction. I am very intent on restoring Tribal citizens' direct involvement in our government.

Be assured, your voice will be heard and not ignored.

To this end, in an extraordinary administrative move designed to further



protect and insure your Tribal rights, I am supporting a change to our Seminole Constitution, which will smooth the progress of an official Tribal Court System. In fact, I am seeking your direct support on August 16, during an all-day special Tribal-wide "Secretarial Election," to certify just that – to amend our Constitution to facilitate a Court system. All Tribal citizens are urged to take this opportunity, this responsibility, to vote. Please let us know if you approve a change and which change – Exhibit A or Exhibit B – you feel we should make.

Personally, I will be voting "Yes" to change our Seminole Tribal Constitution. Then I plan to vote for Exhibit B, which changes the requirements for judges originally set in our 1957 Constitution. I will continue to support and encourage Tribal constituents to seek the honor of serving as judges in the new Court. It is my belief that a strong, unbiased

Tribal Court System enhances our ability as a federally recognized American Indian tribe to more fully exercise our sovereignty.

For the past 54 years, the Tribal Council has acted as a court system, though sometimes it has appeared to be self-serving . . . particularly in recent times: Tribal citizens were denied their rights, their voices and opinions were ignored, their political grievances were set aside – all because the same people on the Council who directed limitations on Tribal citizen involvement, also made the final decisions on the outcome of any matter.

With a court system, we will be able to significantly bolster the process, which guarantees and protects individual Tribal rights. We will, of course, start with Civil matters; then, as we mature in the development of a Court System, the Criminal aspect will be added.

I wish to take this opportunity to say sho naa bisha for your confidence in me to serve again as your Chairman. Those who know me, know that during the years I was out of office, I went back to my traditional Tribal ways and started building chickees again, as I had done prior to 1979, when I first was elected Chairman.

I am thankful that my mother, grandmother and grandfather were Seminole and that the outside world accepted my expertise in chickee construction, as taught to me by my Seminole elders.

Until the next issue of our *Seminole Tribune*, sho naa bisha.



United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Seminole Agency  
6100 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 206  
Hollywood, Florida 33024  
(954) 983 1537  
(954) 983 5018 fax



**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)  
ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA)

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and lease of a home on trust property for Nathan Billie. The approximately 1.5 acre lot is located on the south west corner of Wind Clan Road and Farmer Road in Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Section 14, Hendry County, Florida, which is located on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Reservation. The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated January 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Nathan Billie Home Site Lease, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County, Florida". This EA has been adopted and FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and lease of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

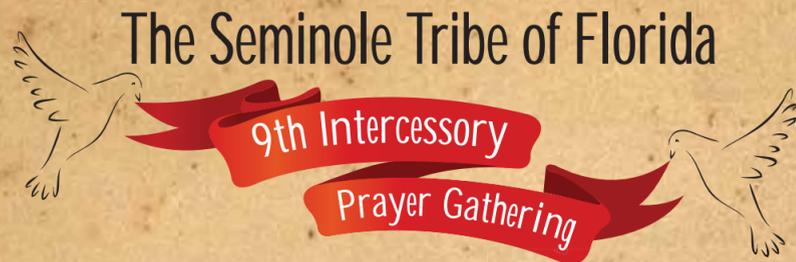
**NOTICE:** This is a Notice of Availability (NOA), that the EA and FONSI for the Federal action of approving the proposed home construction and lease of trust property are available for public review. The BIA has approved and adopted the above referenced EA which addressed this proposal. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information 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. You may obtain a copy of the EA and FONSI from the BIA, Eastern Regional Office of the Environmental Resources Management Department of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 6365 Tall Street, Suite 3008, Hollywood, FL 33024, telephone (954) 965-4380.

**APPEALS:** "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 is made."

For further information please contact Kurt G. Chandler, Regional Environmental Scientist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6832.

*Kurt G. Chandler*  
Superintendent, Seminole Agency  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: 5/19/11



### Calling All Prayer Warriors!



Saturday  
**October 22, 2011**  
Big Cypress

**VIETNAM**

From page 1A

simplicity and austerity of the design by Maya Ying Lin; second, to create a work which interacts with the wall to form a unified totality; and finally to create a sculpture which is in itself a moving evocation of the experience and service of the Vietnam veteran," the late sculptor wrote, at the time.

Native Americans have a 200-year history of fighting for this country in every military conflict, including the Indian wars. From the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 to the Civil War to Iwo Jima, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Gulf War and current conflicts, American Indians served with distinction. According to the Oracle Education Foundation, Native Americans have the highest record of service per capita of all ethnic groups in America. More than 42,000 (one of every eight Indians) served in Vietnam.

Although Bowers believes Native vets should be included in the monument, a spokesperson for the Memorial Fund says they already are. "One is black, one is white, and the other one is supposed to be representative of all the minority groups. Hispanic, Asian, and Native American," said Jan Scruggs, president and founder of the Fund, in a phone interview.

Bowers disagrees, pointing out that African Americans did receive their own represented soldier: "Everything I read on the Internet says the third soldier represents Hispanic vets. They don't say anything about the third being a composite." U.S. senator Jim Webb of Virginia led the initiative to have an African American vet in the monument, said Scruggs.

It remains unclear as to why African Americans had their own statue of representation; in all of Hart's writings about the famous artwork, the sculptor never addresses the issue; it is presumed that he was representing the three groups with the highest number of servicemen during the 20-year War.

Bowers' quest is not going to be as easy. National Park Service spokesperson William "Bill" Line points out that both Houses of Congress and former president George W. Bush put an end to new construction on the Mall via the Reserve Act of 2003. It is now the official law of the land, says Line "that the National Mall is a finished completed work of civic art."

To which Bowers replies: "Well, Congress makes laws and they can also change laws. Besides, a year after Bush signed the law, they somehow added a plaque for vets who died after the war was over from injuries suffered in Vietnam. We want to do the same thing. We don't want a brand new monument - we just want to add one soldier to the monument that is already there!"

Scruggs, however, believes he may have a more "perfect place" to honor Native vets.

"We're building an underground Education Center at the Vietnam Memorial," said Scruggs, who says 200,000 artifacts that were left behind by family and friends at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, will be placed in the education center as well. "This is the perfect place to highlight the contributions of Native American veterans and we'd like to do that."

Bowers is aghast at the suggestion: "Underground! They've been trying to put us Natives underground ever since Ponce de Leon!"

Space is also available, off the Mall, at the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian, for a Native American vets display. These other projects have contributed to a fragmented support, says Bowers: "American Indians are not all on the same page and that hurts us. That's the most important thing we can do - educate people and get support for a single cause."

Stephen Bowers hopes that cause will be the simple addition of a fourth bronze soldier, an American Indian, to the "Three Servicemen" memorial. "That wouldn't be building anything new," says Bowers. "That would simply be adding to, enhancing what is already there." It would also catapult the theme Bowers is promoting: Each year, the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial is the single largest visited monument or memorial in Washington D. C.

Underground? An added soldier? How do these proposals fit in with the Reserve Act of 2003, which finalized the Mall's design? The National Park Service's Line shakes his head: "The mall is completed. I'm saying it to you like this on purpose so you get the point. Nothing more can be added. It's done. It's finished."

Bowers indicated funding for the NAVMI will come from Native veterans and their tribes. The initiative is not seeking government monetary contributions. "All we need from the government is permission," says Bowers, who hands out monument photographs that include a silhouette of the fourth soldier. "I don't want a preconceived look of what the veteran would look like. But, it will look like a Native American Soldier," said Bowers, who believes NAVMI organizers will host a future contest for American Indian artists to provide the soldier's image.

In the meantime, Bowers' immediate plans are to seek support from large American Indian organizations such as the 36-member Oklahoma Coalition of Tribes. (He recently received a resolution of support from the United South and Eastern Tribes) and from Capitol Hill before returning to the National Congress of American Indians, which shelved the issue when it was brought up last year.

- Ramona Marozas is a citizen of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians and a student reporter working with the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA)



Identifying the Pas



Photograph (1999.40.15) of unidentified signing event

If you have additional information on this photograph including participants and the occasion for this event, please contact the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at 877-902-1113 to share your knowledge.

**Snapshots Recall Key Players of 1940s Cattle Program**

BY JAMES POWELL  
Associate Registrar

Here at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum we are honored to have been asked to contribute to a monthly column in the Tribune. We think this will be an excellent outlet for us to announce museum programs, ask questions of Tribal members, showcase new collection pieces and highlight our programming. The staff at the Museum are looking forward to introducing themselves and what they do to the readers. For our inaugural column, we thought we would start with a topic that we will also be covering in our Fall issue of the "AQ", the early cattle programs of the Tribe. The business of cattle always has been and will continue to be integral to Tribal members and we have are excited to share what your Museum has in its collections!

One of the great pleasures of working at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is rediscovering small treasures held in the permanent collections. Recently, while processing a portion of the Archival Collection photographs, I rediscovered a small group of photographs. These 21 sized snapshots show general scenes of daily life of the Seminole cattle operations and key figures related to the Tribe's cattle program. Some of the key figures in these photos are: James Benjamin "J. B." Thomas, Fred Montsdeoca, Josie Billie, and Kenneth A. Marmon. James Benjamin "J. B." Thomas' son Bobby Ray Thomas generously donated these photographs to the Museum in 1999.

Of special interest is a photograph of an unidentified signing event. Museum staff believe this photograph is related to the Tribe's cattle program and was taken

on Big Cypress in the mid to late 1940s. Big Cypress Agricultural and Livestock Enterprise trustees Morgan Smith and Jimmy Cypress are shown seated at a table. Joe Bowers, Fred Montsdeoca, and others stand encircling table.

These small treasures, preserved at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, enable the viewer to uniquely and directly connect to many of the figures who played key roles in re-establishing and building a successful Tribal cattle program. The Museum is proud to be able to protect these mementos of such an important business venture. Again, we thank Bobby Ray Thomas, and all donors, for their generous donations. Here at the Museum, we strive to collect, preserve, and make available for research a wide range of items related to the history of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

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**More photos from Fort Pierce's Fourth of July Celebration**



Rachel Buxton

Echo Billie slams the bug into the frog's mouth at the "Froggy Fly Fling" game during the Fort Pierce Fourth of July celebration July 2 held at the Chupco Ranch.



Rachel Buxton

Zachary Brown ties in the cow milking competition with his sister at the Fort Pierce Fourth of July celebration.



Rachel Buxton

The Fort Pierce youth are all giggles on the carnival rides.



Rachel Buxton

Dean Stokes shows off perfect form during the horseshoes competition.



Left photo, Tyione Scott shows off his surfing skills at the Fort Pierce Fourth of July celebration. The day included lots of food, games, fellowship, entertainment and fireworks. Right photo, Harmony Tommie enjoys a refreshing snow cone as she gets her arm painted.

Rachel Buxton

# Seminole Moments Explores the Infamous Indian Removal Act

**BRIGHTON** — Van Samuels educated close to 40 Tribal members and employees during a Seminole Moments session dedicated to the Indian Removal Act of 1830, June 22 held at the Cattle and Range building. Samuels told listeners how the "Trail of Tears" came to be and how the Act itself was passed by only a few votes.  
-Rachel Buxton



## Community Service Aide Lawrence Hamilton Retires From Seminole Police Department

BY THE OFFICE OF YOUR POLICE CHIEF,  
William R. Latchford

On behalf of Seminole Police Department and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, I would like to announce the retirement of Community Service Aide Lawrence (Larry) Hamilton, effective August 1, 2011.

His commendable 11-year tenure with us has been accompanied by great dedication and desire to be a part of this organization.

Larry spent most of his time working in the lobby of the Hollywood Tribal Offices and met so many wonderful people along his journey. He has expressed his gratitude to the Seminole Tribe of Florida for the opportunity to serve this culture, and to have met so many wonderful Tribal Members throughout his tenure. We have enjoyed working with him throughout the years.

Our wishes for Larry are to enjoy leisurely days, meaningful conversations and the retirement he has envisioned during his working years.

Please join me in wishing him all the best in his retirement.

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# Education

# B

## Youth Tour Southern Schools on Higher Education College Tour

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Staff Reporter

**ATLANTA** — Thirteen Tribal high school students from most reservations got an inside look into higher education as they took to the air and embarked on the 2011 Southern College Tour. Students began their journey June 26 as they flew into Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

The Education Department's Higher Education Tour is usually held during spring break; however, this past school year all the schools' spring breaks fell on different weeks making it impossible to schedule. Forced to be scheduled during the summer, the college tour didn't bring as many students forward as usual, but the youth it did attract were just as eager as always.

"I wanted to see everything firsthand," said Alexis Jumper. "Get to look at it rather than see it on a website."

In just four days, June 27-30, students visited seven colleges and universities spanning across Georgia and South Carolina.

"We try to visit schools that are all different types from large to small, private and public," said Seminole Tribe Higher Education Recruiter Susan Kuipers. "We want to give them that exposure."

The youth kicked off their tour at the largest university on their list, the University of Georgia located in Athens. The University of Georgia covers more than 4,308 acres and has an enrollment of 34,885 students.

Most of the Tribal students thought the University of Georgia was a little too big for their liking, preferring the second school on their tour Augusta State University located in Augusta, Ga.

"It (Augusta State University) wasn't as big as the University of

Georgia and it's not as small as the Art Institute," said Kasandra Baker. "It has a big variety in animal science, too."

Baker, who has grown up around horses, hopes to study veterinary science and said her visit to the different colleges especially Augusta State University taught her how it is in the real world.

"The city definitely looks different than the country," said Baker.

Following Augusta the students hopped on the road and traveled across the state line and into South Carolina to visit a few colleges in the state including the University of South Carolina at Columbia, and the South Carolina Military Academy or better known as The Citadel located in Charleston, S.C.

The Citadel gave the students a look at what life may be like in the military and how not all schools are the same.

Also in Charleston the youth were able to tour The Art Institute, highly concentrated on fashion, culinary arts, graphic, interior and web design and photography.

Jumper, interested in photography, was drawn to the trendy art school, which sits on a peninsula that juts out into the Charleston Harbor and surrounded by numerous populated restaurants, cafes and boutiques.

"It was really cool," said Jumper. "Just the location, it's around pretty much everything and the school offers almost everything I'm looking for."

Back to Georgia the students went following Charleston, this time to historic Savannah to visit yet another concentrated art school SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design).

SCAD operates a little differently than most schools, running on a

▢ Please see COLLEGE TOUR on page 2B

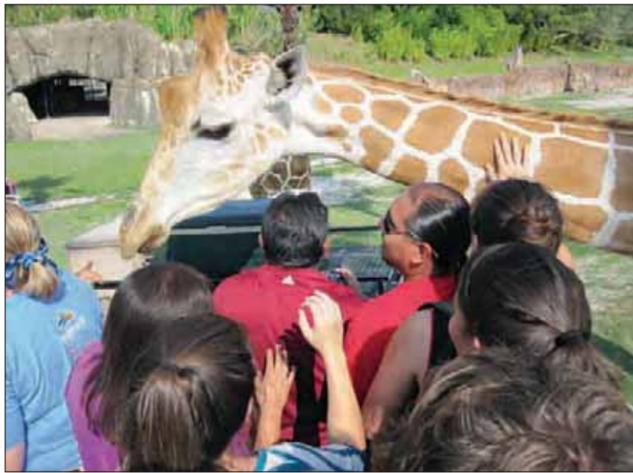


Photo courtesy of Jessica Osceola

Making personal contact with a giraffe highlighted the Serengeti Tour for all ages during their education incentive trip to Busch Gardens in Tampa from June 3-5.

## Naples Students Rewarded with Incentive Trip to Busch Gardens

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Writer

**NAPLES** — At the conclusion of a successful school year, Naples residents moved their children from the classroom to Busch Gardens in Tampa June 3 through 5. The Seminole Education Department helped sponsor the event by providing a day's admission to the world class zoological park and entertainment center as a part of its incentive program.

"In order for children to achieve the greatest benefit from their schooling, family support plays an important role," said Education Advisor Victoria Soto. "Parents who provide a healthy breakfast and get their kids to school on time establish a routine that sets the pace for the rest of the day. Homework assistance, tutoring, conduct, sports and extra curricular activities require family cooperation and enhance the experience. The final results are evident when the report cards arrive, and our Naples families are receiving very high marks for the past year."

The parents, grandparents and children shared two nights at the Embassy Suites and a community dinner at the Gwazi Pavilion where the youngsters were recognized for their accomplishments.

Following an early start on June 4, the group spent the entire day attending the park's numerous exhibits, entertainment activities and daring roller coaster rides.

The day concluded with an awesome behind the scenes Serengeti Safari Tour. An up close and personal view of the animals accompanied by a well-informed guide transformed the park into an outdoor classroom that enthralled all ages. Petting a giraffe, which is one of nature's tallest and gentlest creatures, was the highlight of the excursion.

▢ See more photos on page 2B



Rachel Buxton

Photo above, the students get a close look at an old fighter jet on the grounds of The Citadel. Right photo, Dakota Josh tests out the sleeping pod at SCAD where students take power naps in between classes.



Victoria Lacey/SWEP

Author Sanita Virdee reads to Hollywood Preschool's 3- and 4-year-old class July 11 at the Dorothy S. Osceola Library. Her book, "Doctor Nyenyai Monyay and His Amazing Koala Bag," aims to reduce children's fear of going to the doctor's.

## Local Author Teaches Hollywood Tribal Preschoolers Not to Fear Doctors

BY AIMEE HOYT AND VICTORIA LACEY,  
SWEP PARTICIPANT

**HOLLYWOOD** — First-time author Sanita Virdee entertained preschoolers at the Dorothy S. Osceola Library in Hollywood on July 11 as she read her book, "Doctor Nyenyai Monyay and His Amazing Koala Bag."

A resident of Coral Springs and a residential interior designer, Virdee was inspired by her husband — an English pediatrician — and his antique doctor's bag, which she brought to carry medical instruments from the book.

Set in Australia, the short book taught the 2- to 4-year-old preschoolers the names of each common tool in Doctor Nyenyai's bag and explained their functions. Virdee said the book was designed to teach children that it's not that frightening to go to the doctor's.

As well as introducing the children to the tools, the doctor and his friends taught readers about different countries, cultures and languages at an early age. Some of the preschoolers excitedly told Virdee about the languages they speak and shared their experiences about going to the doctor's. After the reading, they enjoyed playing with the medical instruments, which allowed them to actually see and touch what the book was pointing out.

Illustrations by Scotsman Joseph Gormley portrayed each instrument with a different personality and animal characteristic. Virdee said

she was glad to find someone who was able to read her story and create pictures to make her words stand out.



Aimee Hoyt

Virdee shows the curious 2-year-old preschool class the characters in her book.

## Big Cypress Education Department Offers Summer Work Experience Program for Tribal Youngsters

BY NAJI TOBIAS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Big Cypress Education Department has offered a summer work experience opportunity for the Tribal youth to participate in.

Assembled by Big Cypress Education's Carine Eugene and Luis Yeguez, the Tribal youth participants were given the choice to work in any of the reservation's plethora of Tribal departments — a key to maximizing the work experience.

The Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP), according to Eugene, is geared toward giving the Tribal youth a chance to see the inner workings of how the Tribal departments operate on the reservation. The experience has been set up to afford them the opportunity to work closely and hands-on with the Big Cypress Tribal employees.

Ultimately, it can give the Tribal youth participants a special insight and an inside track of the potential to someday work in, or even become a supervisor of, their Tribal department of expertise and/or choice.

"They're given a chance to see what they can do to better their people in the future," Eugene said. "This will give them a sense of growth, maturity and work ethic. They'll be able to take pride in their community and gain

the desire to take care of their own people."

The Tribal youth participants are treated just like regular Tribal employees, according to Yeguez. They are expected to show up to work on time, dress in the proper attire (in accordance to departmental rules) and complete a variety of assignments, as instructed by their respective department supervisors.

Each participant, who was screened by the Human Resources department prior to their start, works a total of 37.5 hours per week and is paid on a weekly basis.

"We figured this would be the best time to offer the program to our kids," Yeguez said. "They are out of school now and with the time off from school, they have the chance to give the time that's necessary to the program."

Bradley Osceola, a soon-to-be junior student from the Ahfachkee School, is working this summer as a mechanic assistant at the Big Cypress Reservation's ARI Land Use Shop.

Yeguez received some positive comments from ARI Land Use Supervisor Victor Rivera regarding Osceola's work ethic and overall effort.

"He hasn't missed a day of work," Yeguez said of Osceola, who is joined by Jon Ross Billie as ARI Land Use employees for the summer. "Both Bradley and Jon Ross seem to be having a great time working together out there."

▢ Please see SWEP on page 2B



Najji Tobias

In preparation for the upcoming Big Cypress Incentive Awards — to be held on August 19 at the Big Cypress Rodeo Grounds — Reagan Whitecloud, who is working this summer with the Education Department, draws up a sign on July 7.



Najji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal youngsters and Summer Youth Work Experience participants Jon Ross Billie, left, and Bradley Osceola, right, assist ARI Land Use Mechanic Felipe Rodriguez, center, with the changing of 24 total lifters in an SPD work truck on July 7. The lifters, according to Rodriguez, needed to be changed due to the fact the Ford F-150 truck made some loud tapping noises, which could lead to engine failure.

**More photos from Naples students trip to Busch Gardens**



Photo courtesy of Jessica Osceola

Naples Community members go on safari at the Serengeti Park at Busch Gardens in Tampa.



Photo courtesy of Jessica Osceola

Naples students and their families share a community dinner at the Gwazi pavilion as an Education Incentive.

**COLLEGE TOUR**

From page 1B

10-week long quarter system. Students were able to tour the different design buildings including a dark room where students develop their own film.

John McInturff signed up for the trip to find a university that satisfies his interests in art and photography. He said SCAD may be an option.

"It's not a crowded work space," said McInturff. "I'm still thinking about it, but it gives me an idea of what's out there and places that specialize in my interest."

The last stop on the tour was to a smaller state university, Savannah State, with an enrollment of just 3,820 students.

The youth toured the campus of the school that holds the distinction as the oldest public historically black university in Georgia.

"We're not asking the students to choose one of the schools we visit," said Kuipers. "We want the young ones to get that idea of going to college in their head before their senior year, and we want to help the older ones start narrowing down their choices."

Before heading back home the youth and staff had to visit the famous The Lady & Sons Restaurant owned by celebrity chef Paula Deen, for some good old Southern food.

"We hope this trip gives the students an idea what it's like being away from home because it can be overwhelming at first and this trip is just great exposure," said Kuipers.



The students visit the barracks at The Citadel and see that students really do live similar to those in the military.

Rachel Buxton



Students visit the gymnasium where the Savannah State University Tigers play.

Rachel Buxton



Photo courtesy of Linda Iley

Students get a personal tour of one of their favorite colleges, Augusta State University.



Rachel Buxton

Students visit a design building on the SCAD campus and look at art work designed by current students.



Photo courtesy of Linda Iley

Jason Melton feels right at home at the University of South Carolina as they visit the Melton Observatory.



Rachel Buxton

John McInturff looks at some of the projects designed and created by SCAD students.



Rachel Buxton

Students pose for a group shot at The Art Institute in Charleston while they wait for their small intimate group tours.



Rachel Buxton

Left to right, Jason Melton, Dakota Josh and Coleman Josh have a little fun with the Savannah State University mascot.

**SWEP**

From page 1B

Osceola, who said that he wants to go to college and become an auto mechanic major, considers the summer work experience as an opportunity to jumpstart a potential career in the field.

Osceola hopes to run a Tribally-owned auto mechanic business someday – one of his ultimate dreams in life to this point.

"It gets me ready to see what kind of work mechanics do from day-to-day," Osceola said of his experience as an auto mechanic assistant. "Basically, what we do here at ARI is change tires, change suspensions and give oil changes on vehicles. I learned how to change a tire already, but I haven't got a chance to change oil on a car yet."

For now, Osceola is just focusing on the basics of being a mechanic – a good start for him, he said.

"This means a lot to me," Osceola said. "I have family who works on cars. They all have inspired me to become interested in what I'm doing."

Meanwhile, Reagan Whitecloud, a soon-to-be seventh grader



Naji Tobias

ARI land Use Shop Mechanic Keith Davis, left, helps out Big Cypress Tribal youngster/Summer Youth Work Experience participant Bradley Osceola, right, with a hub assembly operation on a feed trailer as Osceola disassembles the hub bearing of a rear axle on July 7.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Broadcasting Station Editor Allen Hoffman, left, teaches Big Cypress Tribal citizen/Summer Youth Work Experience participant Jason Melton, right, about the nuances and art of editing a video production on July 5. They work together on the Big Cypress Fourth of July's natural sound package.

at the Ahfachkee School, is enjoying her time as an assistant with the Education Department. Though she takes care of data entry and files papers as her regular assignments, Whitecloud particularly enjoys her role in the preparation for next month's Big Cypress Incentive Awards.

Whitecloud was recently seen designing some signs that pertain to the Big Cypress Incentive Awards, which are scheduled to be held on August 19 at the Big Cypress Rodeo Grounds.

Eugene, who works closely with Whitecloud, commented on her work ethic and overall achievement in the program at this juncture.

"Reagan has been working really hard so far," Eugene said. "She's been doing a lot of behind-the-scenes work as we prepare for the Incentive Awards. She's very punctual and it's just a pleasure to have her here with us."

The Summer Youth Experience Program, which began on June 13, is scheduled to conclude on August 12.

**SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS**

NOTE: All participants will be listed in alphabetical order.

**Big Cypress Reservation**  
 Ricky Joe Alumbaugh  
 Jon Ross Billie  
 Alanis Emile Bowers  
 Darlah Cypress  
 Taylor Fulton  
 Stephanie Hall  
 Alison Herrera  
 Desiree Jumper  
 Jason Melton II  
 Jesse Mitchell  
 Bradley Osceola  
 Jonathan Robbins  
 Catlen Tommie  
 Reagan Whitecloud

Jonathan Frank  
 Justin Frank  
 Toby Gopher  
 Konrad Jones  
 Cheyenne Kippingier  
 Victoria Lacey  
 Aaron Osceola  
 Anissa Osceola  
 Elden Osceola  
 Neko Osceola  
 Neyom Osceola  
 Trevor Osceola  
 Donte' Osceola-Tiger  
 Malaini Perez  
 Renee Stivers  
 Kelli Tigertail  
 Tristen Wilcox  
 Echo Wolf  
 Silver Wolf  
 Krystle Young

**Brighton Reservation**

Jaryaca Baker  
 Kiylier Baker  
 Breanna Billie  
 Erena Billie  
 Joshua Boromei  
 Larissa Cortez  
 Kirsten Doney  
 Jennie Eagle  
 Khoit Gopher  
 Frank Huff  
 Ty Huff  
 Deveon Jones  
 Jaide Micco  
 Daniel Nunez Jr.  
 Brooke Osceola  
 Delaney Osceola  
 Jessi Osceola  
 Raina Robinson  
 Janet Smith  
 Rayven Smith  
 Jennifer Tommie  
 Acealyn Youngblood  
 Everett Youngblood  
 Stormin Youngblood

**Immokalee Reservation**

Alphonso Alvarado  
 Bonnie Davis  
 Eliza Mora  
 Leandra Mora  
 Jade Tapia

**Tampa Reservation**

Jessica Motlow  
 Jacob Santiago  
 Jamie Walkingstick

**Education Staff Involved in SWEP**

Marie Dufour – Adult Vocational Program Administrator- Tribalwide  
 Michelle Woods – Adult Vocational Program Administrative Assistant- Tribalwide  
 Susan Kuipers – Higher Education/ Adult Vocational Recruiter for Brighton, Fort Pierce and Tampa  
 Luis Yeguez – Higher Education/ Adult Vocational Recruiter for Big Cypress, Immokalee and Naples

# Memory of Dawn Marie Snow Fertitta Lives On Through Scholarship

**OKEECHOBEE** — McKayla Snow, center, honored her late mother once again May 26 as she presented the sixth annual Dawn Marie Snow Fertitta Memorial Nursing Scholarship to two graduating Okeechobee High School students during the school's annual scholarship night. Seniors, Amanda Harris, left, and Savannah Asmussen, right, were each given a \$1,000 scholarship and a beaded stethoscope to help further their education as they attend Indian River State College in Fort Pierce to study nursing.

-Rachel Buxton



# Tribal Citizen Phelicia Hughes Graduates Summa Cum Laude

BY LINDA ILEY  
Higher Education Advisor



Phelicia Hughes

It is always the pride and honor of the Seminole Tribe of Florida when its citizens graduate college. But how do you describe the feelings when someone completes a four-year degree in criminology in two and a half years and graduates with the highest honor? It is almost unbelievable until Phelicia Hughes proved that it is possible.

She graduated from South University in South Carolina and has always been on the Dean's List. She explained that she was the first in the family to graduate college and was determined to make her mark in this world. Having a baby didn't even slow her down...it just made the urge stronger.

"I take on the view that school is boring, like most, so to keep me interested, I made it challenging by taking bigger class loads (like 28 credits per semester!) and see how I could score in it," said Hughes.

Criminology is a tough program but she chose it because she loves puzzles that have to be solved. She enjoys trying to understand the criminal mind and finding ways to deter people from committing crimes. For her it is a challenging career because life is always beset with crimes; it is part of life and "makes up most of the economy and jobs." Asked who helped her through her rigorous classes, she referred to her professor and department head as her best support system.

For this strongly motivated young lady, it does not stop at graduation. She looks forward to raising her baby and plans to get a local law enforcement job. But she is also debating between law school and a master's in criminology and ultimately a doctorate in criminal profiling. If she does pursue law school, she will choose to study Tribal Law, and work for the Tribe, and fight for the rights and needs of her people.

She said, "We all have a voice, and it must be used and heard. For every voice not heard, another is louder, and they have more power because we allow them to. Higher education is important because knowledge is power that no one can take away from you."

## Congratulations to all 2010-2011 High School Graduates

BY LINDA ILEY  
Higher Education Advisor

Student Name – School Name – College/Vocational School Plans

### HOLLYWOOD

- Kendra Osceola – American Heritage – Broward College, then university to Major in Psychology
- Marissa Osceola – American Heritage – Broward College, plans to major in Education
- Courtney Osceola – University School of NSU – Georgetown College, Major in Early Childhood Education
- Kristen Billie – American Heritage – Broward College, undecided major
- Eagle Billie – Paladin Academy – Johnson and Wales University, Major in Restaurant, Food & Beverage Management
- Ari Perlmutter – North Broward Prep School – Wants to join the marines
- Zachary Perlmutter – North Broward Prep School – Automotive engineering
- Lorri Osceola – Anadarko High School – Special Education

### BRIGHTON

- Ty Huff – Okeechobee High School – Indian River State College, undecided major
- Ashton Baxley – Okeechobee High School – Indian River State College, Major in Architecture
- Eric Robinson – Okeechobee High School – Undecided
- Alicia Nunez – Okeechobee High School – Palm Beach Community College
- Janae Braswell – Okeechobee High School – Indian River State College, Major in Nursing
- Kristina Osceola – Okeechobee High School – Indian River State College then UF, Medicine program

### BIG CYPRESS

- Thalia S. Pacheco – Pueblo South High School – Colorado State University, Major in Business
- DeForest L. Carter – Montverde Academy Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Major: interdisciplinary studies
- K'ahna Jumper – Ahfachkee School – Undecided
- Jessica Osceola – Ahfachkee School – Undecided

- Darwin Cypress – American Heritage – Metropolitan State College of Denver, Major in Modern Languages

- Ian Cypress – American Heritage – Major in Environmental Studies, school undecided
- Alfred Billie – Riverside Indian School – Undecided
- Rubi Ann Alexander – San Marcos Academy – one year leave
- Catlen Tommie – Glades Day School – Troy University, Major in Environmental Science or Agriculture

### IMMOKALEE

- Chelsea Storm – Florida Air Academy Brevard Community College, then to university to major in Architecture
- Janet Mata – Ahfachkee School – Has several in mind: Culinary Arts, Business, Psychology, Personal Trainer
- Jessica Lopez – Palmetto Ridge High School – Keiser University, Ultrasound Technology

### TAMPA

- Caitlyn Garcia – Valencia Community College, major in Business Marketing



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# Health

## Hollywood Community Celebrates Fourth of July with Walk/Run



Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. hydrates prior to race time.

Seminole Police Department and the Health Department staff along with Tribal citizens join together to show their Fourth of July spirit at the Hollywood community Firecracker Walk/Run event sponsored by the Health Department. The morning featured plaques and beaded necklaces to the winners in youth and adult walk/run categories July 2 at the Seminole Recreation Gym.

From left, Robin Osceola and Melissa DeMayo finish in the walk category of the event.

## Big Cypress Tribal Community Participates in Firecracker Walk/Run for Independence Day



Naji Tobias



Naji Tobias



Naji Tobias



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal citizens Aileen Cypress, left, and Reagan Osceola pace themselves in the June 30 Firecracker Walk/Run.

Tribal youngster Avery Bowers finishes the Firecracker walk.

Immokalee/Big Cypress Tribal citizen Raymond Garza stretches his legs in preparation for the walk.

Big Cypress Tribal senior Rudy Osceola, left, receives a watermelon from Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger as a surprise gift after completing the walk/run.

Far right photo, the Firecracker walking participants begin their 3.1 mile trek down the south end of the Big Cypress L-28 Canal Bank Walkway. Right photo, all of the Big Cypress Tribal participants of the June 30 Firecracker Walk/Run share a special moment to recap what transpired to conclude the early morning function. All Tribal participants received watermelons for their participation in the holiday health function.

Naji Tobias



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# Announcements

## CONGRATULATIONS



After more than 20 wonderful years together, **Linda Frank and Abel Salgado** chose May 23, 2011, to make their union official. With their friends and neighbors gathered around them, they exchanged wedding vows at the Immokalee Senior Center followed by a reception where they shared a beautiful cake to commemorate the occasion.



## POEM



### Lonely Ole Chapel

As I ride down ole 41 just about a mile or two from the county line I look to my left and there she sit the lonely ole chapel. As I go around the ben sippin on some gin feeling the emptiness inside like the lonely old chapel that sit to the left as I ride down ole 41 from the east to west lonely at sunrise emptiness at sunset like the lonely ole chapel that sit to left on ole 41

-Blac. Hollywood

## POEMS

### The Seminole/Miccosukee Unconquered

What I know is the old way, what the old people say  
 About how we came to be....  
 Free.  
 We originate from the brave heart, unconquered  
 Is what we be....  
 Everlasting life is all I will see.

Togetheress is the way we will grow,  
 Strength is all I will show.

So the unconquered way is what I was told.  
 Knowledge and wisdom will never ever  
 Be sold.

Understanding is what I learned to know, it comes  
 From the old way, that's what the old people say.

So as I travel on, I will stand strong and  
 Live long.

Myself is who I am, and to know who you are is  
 The old way,  
 Remember, that's what the old people say,  
 Stand free, unconquered....

Before I say goodbye, I will not lie.

Gator

### "Where I am (Right Now)"

I am a prisoner A-L34561, I am doing time at Santa Rosa Correctional. I have less than 2 years left on my sentence. Milton, Fla. is where I am in the panhandle, close to Alabama.

I want you to know the place where I am is not the place to be, with hope in my heart, I hope you can remember me.

It's not too far for me to see the swamp is  
 What is best for me....  
 I never ever meant any harm it's just the  
 Life that I chose.  
 If you want to know I will tell you. Crime  
 Doesn't pay, so in this iron and steel  
 Cage I will stay.

The Seminole and Miccosukee style is what I  
 Know, freedom and honor is right down  
 The road...  
 Deer meat is what I long for and taste  
 Grandma remember save me a place.

The chain gang is where I am memory's carry  
 Me threw, I remember, corn is what  
 I knew.  
 From then on that's when I grew, but don't  
 Worry one more chance I have. Another stomp  
 Dance I will reap and sow.....  
 I can not wait, freedom is all I will know.

Prisoner A-L34561  
 Gator Doctor

## CLASSIFIEDS

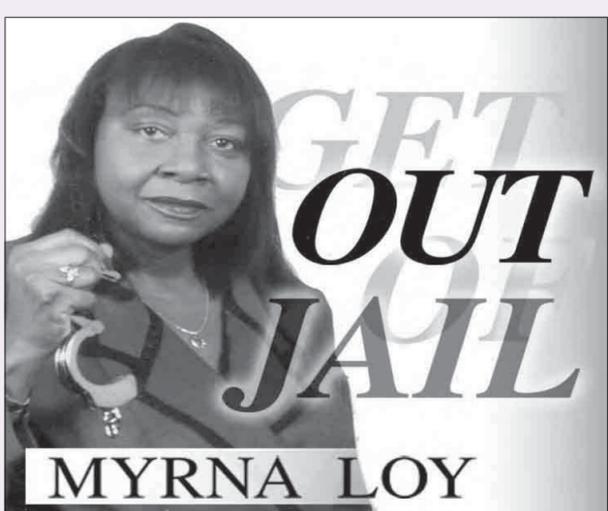


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# Sports

# C

## Late Robbie Chalfant Remembered at Josiah Johns Memorial



Rachel Buxton

Miss Florida Seminole Cassandra Jimmie was honored with an unveiling of her bronze statue July 9 during the Josiah Johns Memorial held at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena. Brad Cooley Jr., right, talks about the detail of the statue that he and his father Brad Cooley Sr., center, created together.



Rachel Buxton

Rodeo friends of the late Robbie Chalfant tip their hat at the Josiah Johns Memorial held July 9 at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in remembrance of the cowboy who recently passed. Friends, family and spectators rose and listened as a song dedicated to the late Chalfant played as his horse was led wearing his saddle around the arena one last time.



Rachel Buxton

Wife, Kim, center, and children Dylan, left, and Chloe, right, stand in the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena as husband and father, the late Robbie Chalfant is remembered during the Josiah Johns Memorial Rodeo held in Brighton July 9. It was only fitting that the late Chalfant was remembered during the Josiah Johns Memorial as he always credited Johns to getting him involved in rodeo. The late Chalfant respected him as a man and Native American cowboy.

## 2-on-2 Hoops Tournament Part of Fourth of July Celebration



Chris C. Jenkins

Taylor Battiest, left, tries to drive to the basket on a defending Tristen Wilcox, right, in first round action of the Fourth of July 2-on-2 basketball tournament held at the Hollywood Recreation Gym on July 2 featuring several different divisions and cash prizes given to the winners.



Chris C. Jenkins

Devon Jumper looks to pass to a teammate.



Judy Weeks

Big Cypress Council Rep. Mondo Tiger sinks a putt at the Seminole Country Club.



Judy Weeks

Family Services Director Helene Buster points out that the Firecracker Golf Classic benefits the Florida Native American Recovery Convention.

## Firecracker Golf Classic is Worthy Cause for Seminoles in Recovery

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Writer

**LEHIGH ACRES** — Seminoles in Recovery hosted the Firecracker Golf Classic on July 2 as a fund-raiser at the Copperhead Golf and Country Club. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Fourth Annual Florida Native American Recovery Convention (FNARC) to be held in Clewiston.

"Seminoles in Recovery began approximately 24 years ago to help its membership combat drug and alcohol addiction," said Family Services Director Helene Buster. "We provide inspirational and motivation support to empower Native Americans striving to remain in recovery. Our goal is to keep meetings going in every one of our communities and provide the hope necessary to find and keep sobriety."

Buster explained that one of the basic concepts of recovery is self-sufficiency. Seminoles in Recovery organize and coordinate a wide variety of events throughout the year as fund-raisers and sober activities. Some of their upcoming benefits include a fish fry in Tampa and their Second Annual 5K Sprint/Stroll at Topeekeegee Yugnee Park in Hollywood on September 17.

"I believe strongly in this program," said Big Cypress Council Rep. Mondo Tiger. "If this had been around in the '80s, we wouldn't have lost so many of our loved ones. You don't have to be in recovery to support the opportunities that it provides."

"I've enjoyed playing golf for nearly 20 years but playing for a worthy cause like this makes it even better," said Richard Buster. "Recovery affects all of us in one way or another. Everyone playing here today is a winner."

Members of the 11 teams that registered for the 4-Man Scramble shared a continental breakfast and then took to the links

at 8 a.m. in an effort to get a head start on the predicted rain storm.

They successfully completed the first part of their game before the rain sent them to the club house for a lunch prepared by Seminoles in Recovery and served straight off the grill. Eventually the clouds parted and play resumed.



Judy Weeks

Richard Buster looks forward to playing golf for a worthy cause that affects everyone in one way or another.

## Hollywood Reservation Celebrates 100th Anniversary with Golf Tournament in Pembroke Pines



Chris C. Jenkins

Tournament participant Ronnie Doctor concentrates on his stroke from the first hole.



Chris C. Jenkins

Organizer of the Hollywood Reservation 100 Year Anniversary Golf Tournament Elliot Young, second from left, and wife Jessica along with foursome members Loretta Micco and Ted Nelson Sr. on hole three as part of the four person scramble, cash prize tournament held at the Grand Palms Resort and Golf in Pembroke Pines on June 24.



Chris C. Jenkins

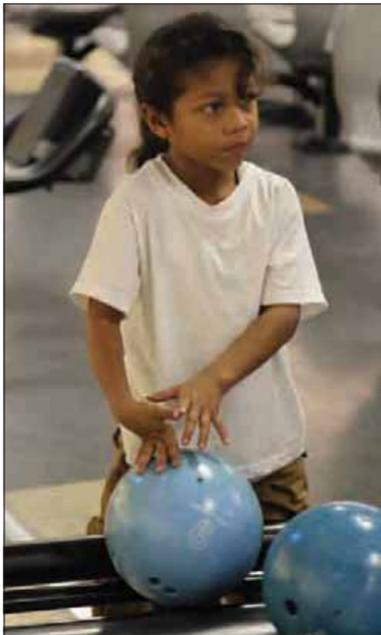
Tribal senior Lawrence Osceola tries to putt for par on the green. The event also featured a longest drive and closest to the pin contest, all in celebration of the centennial and included participation and appearances by Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger and Non-resident Liaison Kevin Osceola.

# Bowling Action Part of Fourth of July Weekend Festivities



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Philmon Bowers concentrates on throwing his next strike in regular play of men's bowling action at the Fourth of July Bowling Tournament held at Sparez Bowling Center in Davie on July 4th. The day featured regular, 3-6-9 and no-tap games with youth, and adult male and female categories and lunch with cash prizes given to the winners.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal youth Gregory Thomas looks for the right ball to use before bowling in the youth division.



Chris C. Jenkins

Ollie Wareham gets set for his throw in a close race in no tap men's play.

## PANTHER

From page 1A

"We have a lot to offer in the years to come," Weston said at the promotional press conference held at the Seminole Paradise Live Theater prior to Saturday's action. "The boxing fans are out there, you just have to provide the right fights for the people to come and see. We will have people that want to fight, that is a big key."

"All those haters that think Panther Promotions is not going to make it, we will see because we know boxing and we want to bring back the days of developing the next Sugar Ray Robinsons and Muhammad Alis," he continued.

The main bout of the night highlighted two relative unknowns in the light heavyweight division as replacements Eddie "Thunder" Caminero (7-4-1, 7KOs) faced an undefeated Denis Grachev at (10-0-1).

Both got an unexpected shot at the World Boxing Council 175-pound Intercontinental championship with the absence of Blake Prevost and Azea Augustama due to injuries.

A delighted Caminero said the opportunity was a dream come true beforehand at the pre-fight presser.

"I really just got lucky in it all. I am happy I got the opportunity," said Caminero. Notice of his showdown versus Grachev came just weeks prior to their Saturday evening match-up.

He would come up short in third round TKO to Grachev.

Collins explained that stories and opportunities like Caminero's, although shortened, serve as defining moments for Panther Promotions, by giving the underdogs their due.

One incentive used by the promotion duo included a \$1000 split prize going to the best bout of the evening.

A special appearance by legendary heavyweight International Boxing Hall of Fame and World Boxing Hall of Fame great "Smokin' Joe Frazier as well as the support of Tribal Chairman James E. Billie in attendance ringside also completed the night.

Panther Promotions next scheduled event will be in late August. For more information contact: pantherpromotions@gmail.com or call Harold Weston at (347) 421-5399.

# Hollywood Tribal Community Celebrates Independence Day on the Links



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal golfer Elliot Young completes his swing from the tee on the 10th hole of the Fourth of July Golf Tournament held at Emerald Hills Golf and Country Club in Hollywood on July 4. The four-person scramble tournament featured 18 holes and cash prizes to the winners.



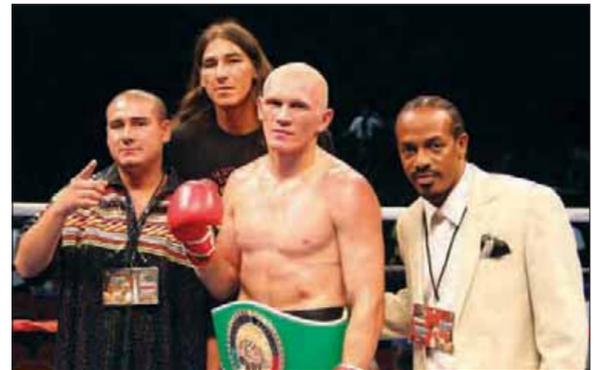
Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. concentrates on a nice tee off in back nine action.



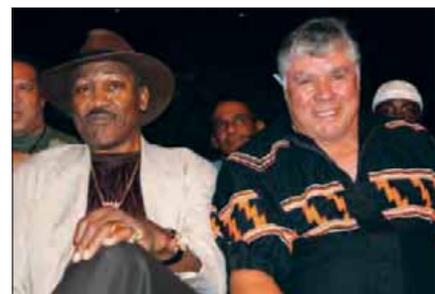
Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal employee Destiny Whitney tries to finesse her shot toward the green.



Chris C. Jenkins

Panther Promotions promotion staff Elliot Alvarado, left, and partner Benny Collins, far right, along with the new World Boxing Council 175-pound Intercontinental champion Denis Grachev.



Legendary Boxing great 'Smokin' Joe Frazier, left, enjoys the fights ringside by Tribal Council Chairman James E. Billie.

Chris C. Jenkins

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## ATTENTION ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS

The **Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum** is pleased to announce it is forming a **Museum Advisory Council (MAC)**. We would like to invite interested Tribal members to become actively involved in the Museum by becoming members of the **MAC**.

We are looking for Tribal members, 18 years and older, who would be willing to join Museum staff in the planning of exhibits, events and the future of the Museum collections acquisitions.

The Museum relies closely on Tribal member input for cultural, historical relevance and accuracy and we are excited to invite you to join the **MAC**.

If you have any questions about the **MAC** or are interested in joining, please contact Anne McCudden at (863) 902-1113 or [amccudden@semtribe.com](mailto:amccudden@semtribe.com).



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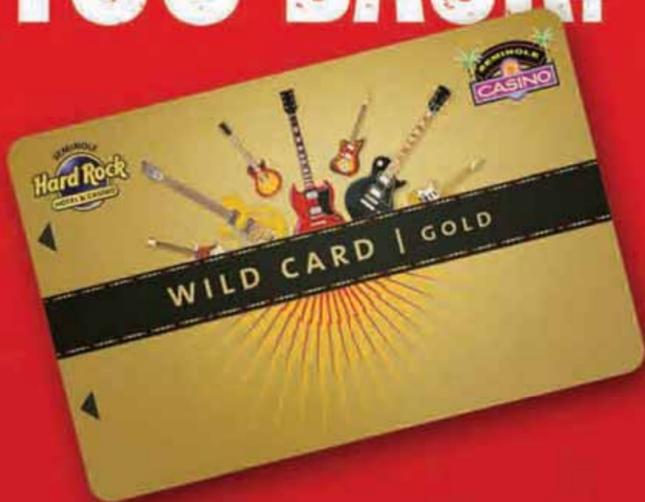
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