



Seminole Sports Hall of Fame Inducts Four Citizens
SPORTS □ 1C

Ronnie Billie Sr. Shares His Story
COMMUNITY □ 3A



PECS Students Recognized at Board of Trustees Meeting
EDUCATION □ 1B

Tribal Inauguration Ceremonies Welcome New Leadership



The newly elected Tribal Council and Board officials together under the famed Council Oak tree after Inauguration swear-in ceremonies June 6.

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — A new era in leadership took their place among the Tribe as hundreds of Tribal citizens, special guests and media gathered at the site of the famed Council Oak tree for Inauguration ceremonies.

In a stir of unprecedented changes in the Tribal Council and Board offices, the June 6 event introduced some new faces and reintroduced former leaders.

For many, the day marked the much anticipated return of the outspoken, trendsetting and controversial icon James E. Billie making his comeback as Chairman/Vice-President.

With great anticipation and excitement Chairman Billie gave recognition to the individual clans on hand and thanked some of his supporters individually.

"The Seminole Tribe has been blessed with many opportunities, hopefully we (the new administration) can maintain that now," said Chairman Billie. "My purpose is to make revenue for this Tribe."

"I have always felt I was a leader, I am back now and I can continue what the Tribe started, no hard feelings involved," he continued.

The election of Tony Sanchez Jr. as the new Board President/Vice-Chairman was another major move. Prior to his candidacy for president, he served as the former general manager of the Immokalee Reservation Casino for the past 11 years.

"I am very excited with a lot of butterflies," President Sanchez said before the ceremony. "I do not have

enough words to describe how good and grateful I feel."

"I always felt like I had more to offer and I am glad I am getting the chance now," Sanchez added.

Other newly elected Tribal Council officials included: Manuel (Mondo) Tiger (incumbent), Big Cypress Representative; Andrew J. Bowers Jr. (incumbent), Brighton Representative, and Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., Hollywood Representative.

The Tribal Board of Directors also welcomed in the following newly elected officials: Joe Frank, Big Cypress Representative; Larry Howard, Brighton Representative; and Christopher Osceola, Hollywood Representative.

Other Tribal citizens weighed in on the new administration and the Tribe's direction with high hopes and praise.

"A lot of changes need to be made in the Tribe," said Tribal elder Elsie Bowers of the Hollywood Reservation. "We (the Tribe) need to start saving our money."

"This is a big event, especially having James (Billie) back in office. It is a special day for me and the Seminole Tribe of Florida," said Sandy Billie Jr. of the Brighton Reservation. "I would like to see the best interests of the Tribe kept."

"Mr. Billie (the Chairman) brings honesty and respect back to the Tribe," Sandy Billie added.

Rep. Tiger said he has big plans in store for his community and remains grateful for the opportunity to serve the Tribe being reelected.

□ Please see INAUGURATION on page 4A

Big Cypress Community Celebrates 115th Anniversary

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress Community celebrated its 115th anniversary on June 3 and 4 at the Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex with a clothing contest, All Seminole Ranch Rodeo and live concert by country singer Trace Adkins.

At one time the Seminole people called the entire Florida peninsula their home, but after fighting three Seminole Wars, they were forced to seek the seclusion of the Everglades swampland of South Florida in order to prevent relocation to the Indian Territory in Oklahoma.

During the latter half of the 19th century, white settlers again began to encroach upon their region, making it increasingly difficult for them to live off the land and plant their gardens.

The Federal Government under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs attempted to establish agencies, prepare a census of the remaining native population and acquire lands for Tribal occupation. Not wishing to have their freedom curtailed, the Seminoles resisted all efforts by the government to establish reservations and continued to inhabit remote campsites within the heart of the Everglades for several decades.

"According to public records, the Bureau of Indian Affairs purchased a tract of 160 acres of land in 1889 and another piece in 1896," said Big Cypress Council Rep. Mondo Tiger. "This acreage was located in the southwestern portion of what now comprises the Big Cypress Reservation. This property became the nucleus for future land acquisitions that would eventually be dedicated as the Big Cypress Reservation in 1936."

Big Cypress 115th Anniversary Clothing Contest

All Seminole Tribal members were invited to participate in a clothing contest in conjunction with the Big Cypress 115th Anniversary Celebration. Gathering at the Junior Cypress Entertainment Complex on June 4, the contestants competed in two youth and

three adult categories.

Rules dictated that all clothing items were required to be made by either Seminole or Miccosukee Tribal members and could only be entered one time throughout the presentation.

Miccosukee Tribal Administration Coordinator Betty Osceola said, "These clothing contests are a valuable tool in continuing our traditions. They provide inspiration and encouragement to Tribal artisans and supply an opportunity for them to study the work of others."

"I look forward to attending the clothing contests because they are a wonderful opportunity to socialize," said Alice Billie of the Big Cypress Council Office. "Our ancestors used to travel from camp to camp sharing and teaching our heritage to the next generation. It is important that we do not become so involved in our daily activities that we forget the importance of passing along our traditions."

Big Cypress 115th Anniversary Ranch Rodeo

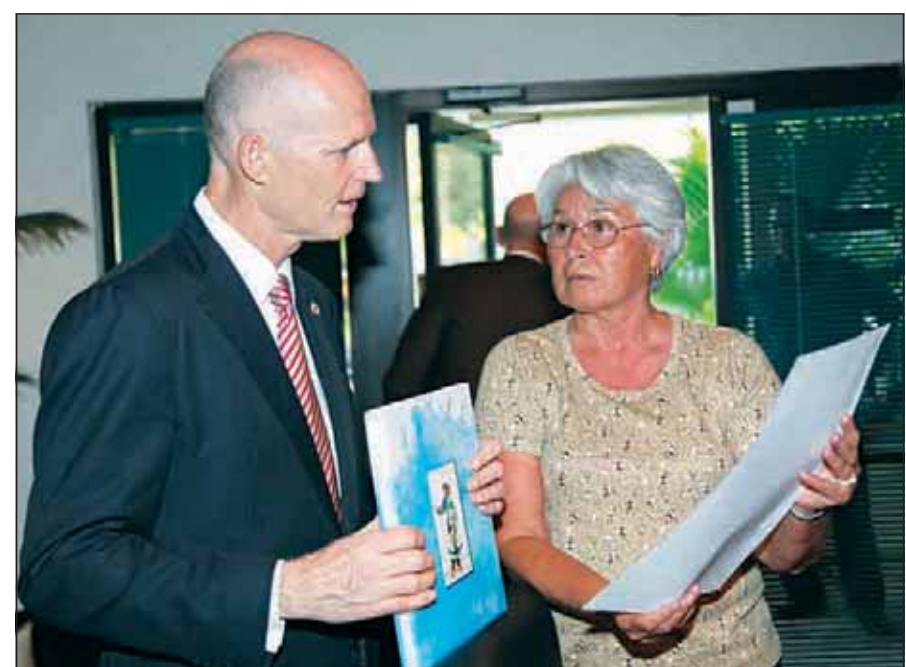
As Seminole families began to migrate toward the Big Cypress Reservation in the early 1930s, cattle ranching became a part of their economy. Many of the men took jobs as day workers on near by ranches being developed by white settlers.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs recognized the need to establish some form of economic development to encourage the Tribal members to make the Reservation their permanent home. They arranged for the purchase of a cattle herd from the Southwestern U.S. and had it delivered to the railroad landing north of Lake Okeechobee.

The Seminoles drove the cattle across country to their homes in Brighton and Big Cypress. From these herds, the Seminole Cattle Industry evolved and to this day constitutes a portion of the basic economy. Working cowboys and cowgirls became a part of the Seminole heritage. By participating in the 115th Anniversary Ranch Rodeo, they continue the tradition of their ancestors.

□ Please see ANNIVERSARY on page 2A

Florida Governor Rick Scott Makes Visit to Hollywood Reservation



Connie Whidden, right, director of the Tribal Health Department, gives Governor Rick Scott materials and literature as part of a sit down meeting in the Tribal Headquarters in Hollywood May 18. Scott visited the Hollywood Reservation on a guided tour of several Tribal facilities led by Max B. Osceola Jr.

□ See more photos on page 2A

Tampa Community Celebrates Father's Day



Tampa Reservation fathers share a group moment outside of the Boizao Steakhouse at the Tampa Community Father's Day Dinner in West Tampa on June 17.

□ Please see Father's Day Section on page 1D



Special Runoff Election Results

Brighton Board Representative

51.6%



Larry Howard
Brighton
Board Representative

Johnnie Jones 48.4%

Happy Father's Day. May we all be the kind of Fathers that our children need and want us to be.

James E. Billie
Chairman,
Seminole Tribe of Florida



A man never stands as tall as when he kneels to help a child.
-Knights of Pythagoras

We celebrate Father's Day to honor all of our fathers and father figures. It is the day when children thank their dads for the part played in their lives. No other person in the world can replace or substitute the presence of your father in your life. As a child, I know this to be true. As a father, I am blessed to have children and to be a significant part of their lives. Our role as fathers includes an abundance of love and joy and an equal amount of responsibility. As we raise our children with this in mind, we secure our future, and the future for generations to come. I wish each and every father and father figure a blessed day, this day and for those to come.

Tony Sanchez, Jr.
President, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.



ANNIVERSARY

From page 1A

In addition to the standard rodeo events, the all Seminole ranch rodeo incorporated challenging opportunities for the competitors to test their skills and entertain the spectators.

A team event, Wild Cow Decorating brought laughter and applause from the crowd as the antics in the arena unfolded. The contestants were thrown to the ground by the steers, dragged on the end of a rope and went skiing down the arena on the end of a cow's tail.

With All-Around Cowboy and Cowgirl Saddles as trophies, both men and women participated in nearly all of the events. It was every rider for his or herself and the livestock showed no mercy. The wild horse riders risked life and limb to garner their precious points, and the steers nearly made a clean sweep of the Lady's Breakaway.

Champion bull rider Justin Gopher came out of retirement for the special occasion and came away with an outstanding 75 point score that put him over the top as the All-Around Cowboy. Ayze Henry threw her hat into nearly every event and even rode the wild broncs in order to earn the All-Around Cowgirl title.

Goat tying was added to the Junior Rodeo event roster in an effort to teach the youngsters the art necessary for calf roping. Putting their experience to work, Cicero Osceola, Josh Jumper and Justin Gopher volunteered as judges for the junior events.

"I grew up in rodeo with the adults guiding my way," said Gopher. "We looked up to our elders and they taught us everything they knew. Now it is our turn to fill their shoes and help the younger generation."

First place champions in each event received buckles commemorating the Big Cypress 115th Anniversary.



Judy Weeks

Louise Osceola took first place in her division bearing a traditional long skirt and cape.



Judy Weeks

Dyani Justine Billie/Rayda sparkled in her contemporary attire.



Judy Weeks

Charlie Osceola, Hehchoo-Ye Jumper and Jacee Jumper were excellent examples of traditional attire at the 115th Anniversary Clothing Contest.



Judy Weeks

Jobe Johns, Rayven Billie and Drayton Billie displayed outfits that were meticulous in detail for their era.

115TH RANCH RODEO RESULTS

All Around Cowboy: Justin Gopher

All Around Cowgirl: Ayze Henry

Wild Cow Decorating: 1. Jason Baker & Adrian Baker, 2. Justin Gopher & Hilliard Gopher.

Calf Roping: 1. Josh Jumper, 2. Jobe Johns, 3. Justin Gopher.

Lady's Breakaway: 1. Shelby Osceola.

50 & Over Breakaway Roping: 1. Norman Johns

Wild Horse Riding: 1. Justin T. Osceola, 2. Hilliard Gopher, 3. Ayze Henry.

Team Roping: 1. Alfonso Tigertail & Moses Happy Jumper, 2. Josh Jumper & Wildcat Naha Jumper,

3. Hilliard Gopher & Moses Happy Jumper.

Lady's Barrel Racing: 1. Jo Jumper, 2. Ayze Henry, 3. Breanna Billie.

Bull Riding: 1. Justin Gopher, 2. Andre Jumper, 3. Adrian Baker.

JUNIOR RODEO RESULTS

Sheep Riding 7 & Under: 1. Emerson J. Billie, 2. Creek Gopher, 3. Bryce Baker.

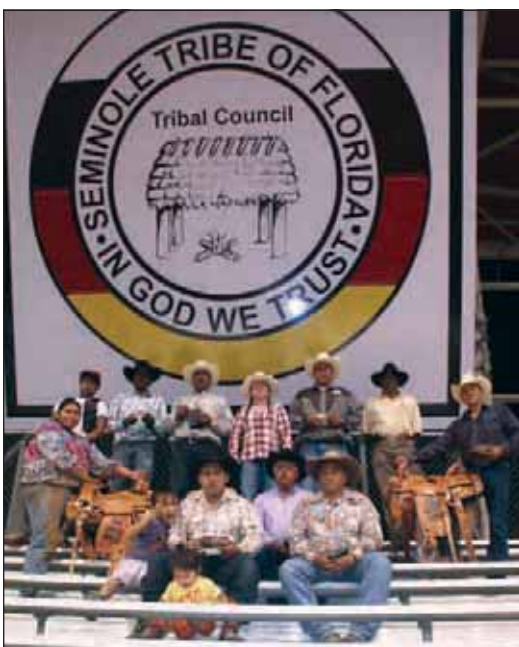
Steer Riding 12 & Under: 1. Jobe Johns, 2. Drayton Billie, 3. Tameron Wilcox.

Bull Riding 16 & Under: 1. Kelton Smedley, 2. Andre Jumper.

Goat Tying: 1. Jobe Johns, 2. Andre Jumper, Blevyns Jumper.

Steer Undecorating: 1. Andre Jumper, 2. Jobe Johns, Tyler Tigertail.

Breakaway Roping: 1. Blevyns Jumper, 2. Jobe Johns, 3. Andre Jumper.



Judy Weeks

Big Cypress Council Rep. Mondo Tiger congratulates the Big Cypress 115th Anniversary Rodeo Champions.



Judy Weeks

Jaylen Baker attempts to tie his first goat.



Judy Weeks

Ayze Henry rode her first wild horse all the way to the All-Around Cowgirl Saddle.

More photos from Governor Scott's visit to the Hollywood Reservation



Photo above, Governor Scott samples a piece of authentic fry bread while visiting the culture department facilities.

Top right photo, Tribal officials from Council and Board with Florida Governor Rick Scott, center, in the Tribal Headquarters lobby in Hollywood May 18.

Bottom right photo, Governor Scott, fourth from the left, with Tribal seniors at the Senior Center.

Chris C. Jenkins



Left photo, Big Cypress Council Rep. Mondo Tiger and Josh Jumper award the Big Cypress 115th Anniversary All-Around Cowboy Saddle to Justin Gopher.

Judy Weeks

Photo below, Junior Rodeo Winners receive their Championship Buckles from Big Cypress Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, Cicero Osceola and Josh Jumper.



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Community

A

Tribal Board of Directors Holds Special Session in Hollywood

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Board of Directors held a special meeting at the Hollywood Headquarters discussing and passing six resolutions on the May 18 agenda including:

- Approval and ratification of the January 1, 2011 amendment and restatement Seminole Tribe of Florida and Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc. premium Only Plan (Plan No. 501)
- Approval of settlement agreement and letter of intent with Endava (UK Ltd.)
- Approval of certifying special run-off election - May 24, 2011
- Approval of election Board members for May 24, 2011 special run-off election due to the tie result of May 9, 2011 general election
- Approval of voting list for May 24, 2011 special run-off election due to the tie result of May 9, 2011 general election

Tribal Board of Directors Holds Special Meeting at Hard Rock

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Board of Directors had a special meeting on the Hollywood Reservation at the Hard Rock passing one resolution on its agenda June 1 including:

- Election result challenge by Johnnie Jones Sr. for the May 24th, 2011 special runoff election.

Tribal Council Holds Monthly Meeting in Big Cypress

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Tribal Council held a special meeting at the Big Cypress Reservation's Emergency Operation Center Conference Room on May 31. They passed a total of 51 agenda items, including the following:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency grant application for funding of the fiscal year 2012 Seminole Tribe of Florida General Assistance Program for all Seminole Indian reservations
- United States Environmental Protection Agency grant application for funding of the fiscal year 2012 Seminole Tribe of Florida Water Pollution Control Program for all Seminole Indian reservations
- Approval of continued phased construction of Segment 3 of the Snake Road (Josie Billie Highway) Project
- Approval of consolidation of all construction of roads on Seminole Tribe of Florida trust lands and reservations under the Seminole Tribe of Florida Roads Maintenance Department Transportation program director when funded entirely or in part by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Proclamation by the Seminole Tribe of Florida of Emergency Medical Services Week
- Ratification of the Seminole Tribe of Florida filming permission letter granting Spectrum Field Productions, LLC, permission to film a television show on the Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee and Hollywood Seminole Indian reservations.
- Approval of Dream Cuts Lawn Service Corp. service agreement for housing services
- Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Properties, Inc. agreement for the presenting sponsorship of the 2011 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo telecast



Photo above, Ronnie Billie Sr. says he finds the strength to stay young because he is blessed with a wonderful family, great hobbies and a good life.
Left photo, Ronnie Billie Sr. works out with weights everyday and uses his work and hobbies to focus on a healthy lifestyle.

Judy Weeks

Ronnie Billie Sr. Strives to Inspire Others by Sharing His Philosophies and Advice

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

BIG CYPRESS — In his 56 years Ronnie Bobby Billie Sr. lives life to the fullest and knows what it means to make tough choices. By sharing his experiences he hopes to help others choose a straighter and less rocky road as they make their journey on earth.

"One of the best pieces of advice that I can give anyone would be that you must know and love yourself before you can hope to care for others," said Billie. "We get only one life and one body, and it is important that we take care of both. Believe me, it is a difficult job but worth the effort. When we are gone, our children will be our legacy and they will have to be prepared to carry on our heritage."

"I was born a member of the Wind Clan in 1954 and know what it was like to grow up without a dad," said Billie. "My mother, Alice Billie, worked very hard and made many sacrifices to raise me. Times were difficult. There were very few jobs and we did not have the advantage of dividends. I have always regretted that I started school late and then quit early."

Recalling his short childhood, Billie thought that he had become a man by the time he was a teenager. He began living on the wild side at a very early age and his choices weren't always the best ones. It could be said that he has been to the edge and back many times and then forced to face the hard, cold reality that survival depends upon changes in your lifestyle.

"I started with cigarettes and then moved on to alcohol and drugs. I guess that you could say that I stopped using my brain and went crazy until I was in my thirties," continued Billie. "The best thing that I ever did was starting to lift weights when I was about 14. It protected my body from the abuse and gave me the strength to recover."

Learning to play drums in the '60s, he got into music with Paul Buster Sr. and Solomon Cypress and they put together a band. He even joined a Trail blues band from Miccosukee and had big hopes for a career that slowly died because of his substance abuse.

He lost his opportunity but he still has his drums.

His marital relationships took a hard hit and when he woke up one day he realized that he had the responsibility of several children and a mother who loved him more than he loved himself.

"I saw a lot of other people following my lifestyle and they were dying young," said Billie. "I didn't want my mother to have to bury me and my children to grow up without a father. I had to slow down before it was too late. I lost many things in divorce, but I always kept my weights and love for my children."

The cigarettes were the first to go because they were choking him to death and he began working out with his weights. They helped him work the drugs out of his system and keep them gone. Unfortunately, it took several tries before he finally killed the lure of alcohol. His old drinking buddies were a strong temptation but his will to live was stronger.

"In December I will have been sober for 20 wonderful years," said Billie. "Many of my friends are gone now because of the bad choices that we made, but it is never too late to start making changes for the better. A wise man said that idle hands are the work of the devil. My family calls me a workaholic but it gives me strength."

Billie builds chickees, operates a lawn service, does catering, collects and restores cars, trucks and motorcycles and works out with his weights every day. He believes that when you wake up each morning it is a gift and we should all strive to use time wisely. After all, his children and grandchildren are depending upon him.

Sharing his philosophy with others, Billie said, "Our young people need to use their brains. Stay in school, take care of their bodies, learn job skills and develop hobbies that keep them focused. We can not live our children's lives for them, but we can offer them guidance and the love necessary to succeed. If your children start to follow the wrong road, never turn your back on them, but do not enable them. Sometimes it takes tough love to show them the way. When they make positive change, welcome them back with open arms and help them find the strength to go on."

Country Artist Trace Adkins Performs for Big Cypress 115th Anniversary



Photo above, country music star Trace Adkins performs his 90-minute long set at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena on June 3 to commemorate the Big Cypress Reservation's 115th Anniversary Celebration.
Left photo, As a special token of appreciation for his appearance and performance, Adkins, left, is presented with a Hard Rock guitar by Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger.

Naji Tobias



Big Cypress Tribal citizens Lucille Jumper, left, Patsy Billie, center, and Brian Billie, right, are all soaking up the moment and enjoying themselves in laughter at the Trace Adkins country music concert in Big Cypress.

Naji Tobias

See more photos on page 10A

Tribal Citizen Paula Bowers-Sanchez Releases Her Debut Album 'Shima Fula'

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

STUDIO CITY, Calif. — Multi-talented Tribal citizen Paula Bowers-Sanchez can now add the release of her debut album entitled "Shima Fula" to her growing list of accomplishments in the entertainment industry.

The 12 song collection was released in March and comes after a year in the making and includes collaborations with other Native American artists such as Keith Secola and Martha Redbone and is currently available on CD Baby and iTunes.

"I am very excited about the CD finally being released," Bowers-Sanchez said. "Most of the songs we (members of the band) wrote. We have just been way too busy to have an actual CD release party."

Increased buzz for the CD (which also doubles as her Indian name meaning "to throw") began at the American Indian Film Festival last year for her first music video from the CD called, "I Got What You Want" an original song she wrote.

"I want to be seen as a Native artist but not in the stereotypical sense where you just hear flutes and drums in my music," said the Snake Clan member whose musical influences include classic rock, country and gospel.

"Studios often times have a stereotypical view of what they expect and see, so when they see me they are pleasantly surprised," she said.

The Seminole Tribal community and beyond took even more notice of Bowers-Sanchez singing talents as the grand prize winner of the first Seminole Star Search in 2008.

"Instead of just writing Native American songs on the CD she also chose songs that inspired her as well," said Marilyn McEuen, longtime manager and business partner.

McEuen said the talents and personality of Bowers-Sanchez make her a prime example of inspiration for the Seminole and Native community.

"I want her to become the Native American Oprah someday," McEuen said. "She is an amazing

person and just does not stop with one thing."

The non-stop approach of the married mother of five also extends into the acting genre.

Pursuing an acting career in Hollywood Calif., she has had the opportunity to act in several films such as Bad Boys II and The Fast and the Furious, as well as numerous TV shows including: JAG, ER, and Without A Trace.

"I love performing and making people feel and experience things they never would before," said the Florida and California resident. "When you are playing a part you go to a different place for a few hours and I enjoy that a lot."

McEuen said views of her Nov. 2010 personalized Public Service Announcement (PSA) "Seminole Secret" have reached over 27,000 to date on YouTube. It details her life growing up on the reservation overcoming some of the temptations of alcohol and drugs many Tribal youth and teens face daily.

In addition to her work musically and in front of the camera, she also partners with McEuen in their own production company called Corn Dance Productions specializing in films, TV shows, children's books, and Seminole inspired merchandise including a line of clothing and other accessories.

One passionate project in development for the company is the story of the great Seminole warrior Osceola in what hopes to become a full-length motion picture. She said a script has been written with the working title of "Unconquered" for the film and is comparable to the box-office smash "Brave Heart" starring Mel Gibson. Both said the project will hopefully be shot in Florida within the next two to three years once investing is in place.

For more information log onto www. Paulabowersanchez.com or email mlpragency@aol.com.



Photo courtesy of Marilyn McEuen

Paula Bowers-Sanchez



Rachel Buxton
 Keith Neves Superintendent Bureau of Indian Affairs, far right, conducts swear-in ceremonies for Tribal Council officials on stage.



Chris C. Jenkins
 Inauguration Master of Ceremonies Moses Jumper welcomes Tribal citizens and special guests.



Rachel Buxton
 Miss Florida Seminole Princess Cassandra Jimmie, right, presents newly elected President Tony Sanchez Jr. with an engraved pen.



Rachel Buxton
 Brighton's newly sworn in Board Representative Larry Howard shares a moment with his sister, Ft. Pierce resident, Sally Tommie.

INAUGURATION

From page 1A

“I thought we (my administration) had done a very good job. I was not sure though until the people of the Tribe spoke up and brought us back,” Tiger said, maintaining his position in office for his first full term after replacing popular long-time former representative David Cypress last year.

In another major move toward new leadership, former Hollywood Board Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. replaced the popular former 13-time representative Max B. Osceola Jr. as the new Hollywood Tribal Council Representative. As the youngest official on the Council and Board he said it is a challenge he gladly and thankfully accepts.

“It is a good day for the Tribe. It is a new generation and younger generation that has spoken,” he said.

“I want to bring us back together. I want to work on completing the agenda the others had and fix some things for the future and for my grandchildren,” he added.

Brighton Rep. Larry Howard makes his first appearance as an elected official after a close run-off edging eight year veteran Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr.

“I want to be able to bring more things to the community,” said Howard. “I am the people’s voice.”

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman/President positions will serve four year terms while Council and Board representative will serve two year terms.



Chris C. Jenkins
 Tribal Board of Directors Big Cypress Rep. Joe Frank is interviewed by Seminole Broadcasting.



Rachel Buxton
 Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School's Student Council along with their seventh graders got a chance to experience history June 6 as they attended the 2011 Tribal Inauguration where their fellow Brighton resident James E. Billie was sworn in as Chairman once again.



Rachel Buxton
 Tribal elders traveled from all over to witness the Tribal Inauguration June 6 as James E. Billie was sworn in as Chairman.



Rachel Buxton
 New Hollywood Board Rep. Christopher Osceola, right, with Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Lorelei Tommie.



Chris C. Jenkins
 Tribal music duo Zach, left, and Spencer Battiest, far right, are joined on stage by Little Miss Florida Seminole Brooke Yescas and Miss Florida Seminole Princess Cassandra Jimmie singing their hit song ‘The Storm’ for guests at the Inauguration luncheon.



Rachel Buxton
 The newly elected Tribal officials bow their heads for a moment of prayer.



Rachel Buxton
 Chairman James E. Billie has a good laugh with longtime friend Joe Osceola Sr. after the Inauguration ceremony.

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United States Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Indian Affairs
 Seminole Agency
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 Hollywood, Florida 33024
 (954) 983 1537
 (954) 983 3018 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 Donna Frank. The approximately 1 acre lot is located at Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Section 12, 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 April 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Donna Frank New 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 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.

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

Date: 7/26/11

New Baby Otters Make Home at Okalee



Photo above, Okalee Village Wildlife Supervisor Giselle Hosein with the newest additions to the Okalee Indian Village. She is joined by two Asian small-clawed baby male and female sibling otters in the otter habitat as part of their unveiling at the Okalee Indian Village on May 25. The two otters were named Motlow and Cypress as part of a public naming contest announced on June 17. Left photo, SMP Reporter Benno Schmidt interviews Okalee Village Wildlife Supervisor Giselle Hosein, left, in the new otter habitat.

Chris C. Jenkins

Fire Rescue Recommends Residents Not Use Fireworks

BY DAVID LOGAN
Fire Marshal Chief

The Fourth of July is celebrated with traditional American festivities, which are typically highlighted by fireworks. However, a downside concerning our beloved holiday celebration is that every year it is also associated with causing many serious injuries and fires from mishandled fireworks.

SERIOUS INJURIES – According to federal law, fireworks are manufactured and intended for agricultural use only. However, millions of fireworks are sold illegally to citizens each year. The most recent statistics reveal that fireworks accounted for 9,000 emergency room visits, 1,036 fires and two deaths. Although, most of the injuries are non-life threatening, victims are often times left with permanent injuries and disfigurement. This may include burns to the face and hands, which sometimes lead to skin graft surgeries and finger amputations.

Each year, young male adults and small children are at the highest risk for injuries from fireworks. As a result, adult

supervision is recommended to ensure that children do not handle fireworks. Even sparklers can reach a temperature of 2,000 Fahrenheit degrees, easily igniting children's clothing and causing burns to their faces and hands.

DANGEROUS BRUSHFIRES – Brushfires account for 75 percent of total fire loss each year. This year, the state of Florida is experiencing the worst drought season since 1998. That same year, many of the Florida counties experienced brushfires that destroyed hundreds of homes and thousands of acres. Right now, our communities such as Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee are three times drier and more at risk than the counties were in 1998. Currently, the Fire Index is very high, meaning that extremely dry vegetation and grass can become easily ignited and develop rapidly into a major brushfire.

Brushfires are far more dangerous than other types of fires because during dry conditions they have the potential to destroy multiple homes in a short amount of time. For example, during the month of May 2011, the Wildland fire in Collier County burned for one week and scorched 12,000 acres of the Big Cypress Park Preserve before it eventually became contained. Although, there were no homes within the burned areas, its path of destruction was located near the west side of the Big Cypress reservation.

The threat of brushfires is extremely high right now to the homes and wildland area in our Reservations. This is due to the drought that we have been experiencing and the high amount of dry vegetation. If a major wildfire were to occur, it may become necessary to evacuate portions of or the entire reservation.

Therefore, Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue recommends that fireworks not be used by residents during this year's Independence Day celebrations. Instead, we encourage residents to attend a local professional fireworks show, which is much safer and far more exciting.

Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue would like to wish everyone a safe Fourth of July celebration and summer holiday. Remember, we recommend that you don't use fireworks this year because of the extreme danger of fire and injury.



Photo courtesy of Fire Marshal Chief David Logan

One of the many Flagler County residences that were destroyed by a brushfire in 1998.

Tribal Seniors Display Traditional Elegance at 115th Big Cypress Anniversary's Clothing Contest



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal senior Louise Billie struts along the podium at the reservation's 115th Anniversary Traditional Clothing Contest, as her presentation garnered a win on the Senior Women's side at the May 17 competition.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal senior men Rudy Osceola, left, Jonah Cypress, center, and Ricky Doctor face off against each other in the men's category. In the end, it was Jonah Cypress who came out on top.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal senior Virginia Tommie is one of six Tribal elder women who appeared in the reservation's 115th Anniversary Traditional Clothing Contest.



Naji Tobias

The Big Cypress seniors, with Chairman James E. Billie and Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, share a group moment as they all show off their Seminole traditional outfits one last time for the judges at the Big Cypress Reservation's 115th Anniversary Seniors Traditional Clothing Contest on May 17.

BIG CYPRESS 115TH ANNIVERSARY SENIORS TRADITIONAL CLTHING CONTEST – RESULTS

Senior Men: Jonah Cypress
Senior Women: Louise Billie

NOTE: Due to their clothing contest victories, the two Big Cypress seniors were selected as the reservation's Grand Marshals for the 115th Anniversary's Concert and Rodeo, held from June 3-4 at the Big Cypress Rodeo Grounds.



Naji Tobias

From left, Big Cypress Tribal seniors Louise Billie, Louise Osceola, Carol Cypress, Nancy Billie and Edna McDuffie are five of the six Tribal elders who square off against each other in the women's category. Of the six seniors in competition – Virginia Tommie not pictured – it was Louise Billie who came out on top.

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Seminole Star Search Music Camp Gears Up



Chris C. Jenkins

The new instructors of the Seminole Star Search Music Camp introduce themselves on stage: from left Raul Rivera (Composition and Writing), Michelle Aneerally (Vocals) and David Ribada (Acting).



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal youth including 2010 Seminole Star Search Youth grand prize co-winner Shelli Tiger, far right, listen attentively at the latest 2011 Seminole Star Search Music Camp held at the Seminole Okalee Village at the Hard Rock June 4. The camp allowed Tribal talent to be evaluated by instructors in the music and entertainment industry. For more information log on to www.seminolestarsearch.com or www.facebook.com/seminolestarsearch.



Chris C. Jenkins

Seminole Star Search Music Camp participant Wendi Riley sings karaoke to popular singing artist Adele on stage.



Chris C. Jenkins

David Billy, Seminole Star Search Music Camp acting director, welcomes the performers and instructors to the latest music camp.

Ricky Doctor Teaches Beading Techniques



Judy Weeks

From left, Nancy Motlow and Delores Jumper watch to see how Immokalee Culture Coordinator Geraldine Osceola starts a bead design for a necklace.



Judy Weeks

Young Immokalee adult Josh Garza has admired Ricky Doctor's bead work for several years and was happy for the opportunity to have Doctor oversee his project.



From left, Nancy Motlow and Cheyenne McInturff pay close attention as professional beader Ricky Doctor demonstrates how to start an initial row of beading on a large loom at an Immokalee Culture workshop on May 26. "We have many talented people within our Tribe and I consider it a pledge to help them get started in the wonderful world of beading artwork," said Doctor.

Judy Weeks



Judy Weeks

Larissa DeLaRosa completes stringing an extended loom in anticipation of starting a beading project at the Immokalee Culture Department.



Judy Weeks

Beading Professional Ricky Doctor displays an intricate hat band design that he created. He is well known for his bead work used for the Seminole Princess pageants, ranging from tiaras to sashes and extraordinary artwork on pool cues, carrying cases, purses, lamps, canes and a multitude of jewelry articles.

Tribal Citizen Mitchell Osceola and Ownership Group Acquire Golf Course

MITCH OSCEOLA & CHRIS C. JENKINS
Tribal Citizen & Staff Reporter

TAMPA — Seminole Tribal citizen Mitchell Osceola has worked hard in the golf industry for many years.

Through his hard work he and his group have achieved a lifelong dream. They and his company are now golf course owners. Osceola's company, MJS Golf Group LLC, closed on the purchase of the Plantation Palms Golf Club in Land O' Lakes, Fla., April 23rd, taking over ownership of the 10-year-old property.

"With the help from the former Tribal council for ratifying the loan through the C.O.O. office and private businesses, MJS was able to get the job done," Osceola said. "We had to scrape, borrow, negotiate and present all the facts and numbers to all the key players in the deal, and thankfully the people had faith in our business capabilities."

The 100 percent Native American owned company consists of business partners Mitchell Osceola, Seminole Tribe of Florida; Jayson Ray, Klamath Tribe of Oregon; and Steve McDonald, Prairie Band Potawatomi of Kansas. Collectively, the group has over 50 yrs experience in the golfing profession. Together they formed MJS Golf Group LLC and went to work on the Plantation Palms golf course once it became available and identified as a favorable investment.

Osceola said the capital for the purchase was successfully acquired through hard work, persistence and sheer grit to stay focused on their dream by utilizing the U.S. Department of the Interior's Indian Affairs Division of Capital Investment to work up the capital for the purchase from the Native American Bank, NA (NAB). Also through the help of a business loan program from the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Osceola and the group secured a line of credit for the operating costs of the business.

The course is in a gated community with a par 72 and is 6,824 yards from the tips and is on

approximately 168 acres of land.

Osceola said the course was designed along with the community in mind from the start and is surrounded by homes, scenic views and elevation changes throughout, making it a unique Florida golfing experience.

"Golf is not an easy business to be in right now especially during these trying economic times, but we had a great opportunity that we could not pass up. I am not saying now that we own the course we will automatically be successful; that is up to my company's effort to ensure that failure is not in the equation," Osceola explained.



Picture courtesy of Mitchell Osceola

Plantation Palms co-owner Mitch Osceola on-site at the newly owned par 72 course in Land O Lakes, Fl.

Native preference in employment is also another part of the plans for MJS led by Paul Hooser, Plantation Palms Golf Club General manager and Oklahoma Choctaw Tribal member.

"We know there are natives that have an interest in the golf business, and we want to be an employer that knows where we came from and is willing to give employment opportunities to all natives," Osceola said.

Osceola gave special thanks to all of the people and departments that supported him in the land acquisition including: STOF 2008-2011 Tribal Council, STOF Chief Operating Office, NAB, Redman Builders, Luu Marine and the Division of Capital Investment.

The group said they are also dedicated to offering discounts to all tribal golfers.

Pro-shop and driving range hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. The facility also offers a dinner, bar and a full kitchen and is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. with special hours on Fridays nights for happy hour.

For more information on tournament outings and tee time availability log onto www.plantationpalms.net or call 813-996-7122.



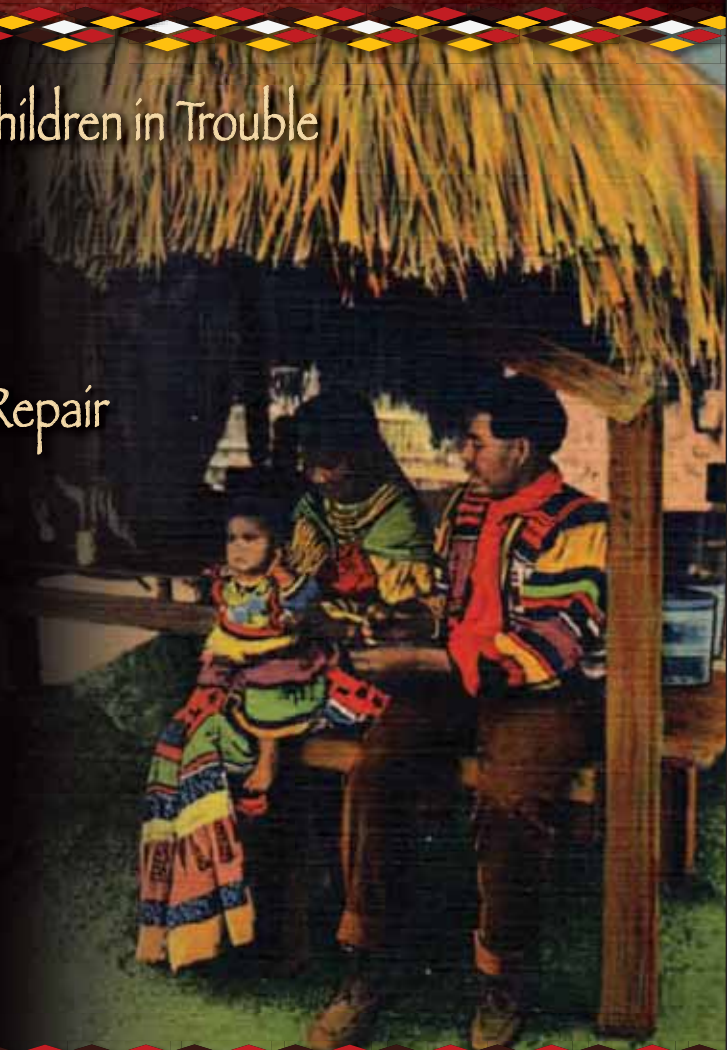
Picture courtesy of Mitchell Osceola

The front entrance to Plantation Palms golf course.

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Big Cypress Tribal Youth Council Participate in Community Outreach Cleanup



Naji Tobias

A total of an estimated 27 Tribal youngsters from the Big Cypress Reservation, fresh off of eating a hearty breakfast, are all decked out for the Tribal Youth Council's Community Outreach Cleanup on June 11 outside the Frank Billie Field Office as they wait for instructions on where they'll be picking up garbage and trimming shrubbery at various locations throughout the reservation.



Naji Tobias

Tribal youngsters, with employees from the Seminole Fire-Rescue and SPD, reflect on the work they did at the June 11 Tribal Youth Council's Community Outreach Cleanup as they take a breather near Dusti's Convenience Store in Big Cypress. Several Tribal departments collaborated in the weekend initiative, including SPD, Seminole Fire-Rescue, Boys & Girls Club, Buildings and Grounds, Education and Family Services. The event's purpose was for the Tribal youth to be engaged in the cleanup and maintenance of properties around the Big Cypress Reservation.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal youngsters Symphony Osceola, left, and Savannah Tiger, right – both 14 years old – pick up garbage near the Osceola's Pizza facility during the June 11 Tribal Youth Council's Community Outreach Cleanup.

Boys & Girls Club Hosts Concert Night



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Christopher Osceola praises the musical performers on stage.



Chris C. Jenkins

Cameron Osceola performs a song as part of the Boys & Girls Club movie night youth concert.



Photo above, Hollywood Boys & Girls Club teen musicians on stage as part of their movie night youth concert held at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium June 10. Each performed a variety of cover songs on a range of instruments including: piano, drums, bass and guitar for family and supporters and included raffle prizes. From left, Aaron Osceola, Annisa Osceola, Kiana Bell, Adrienne Bell, Natamah Robbins, Colton Vasquez, Kyler Bell, Rebecca Vasquez, Ashley Osceola and Cameron Osceola. Left photo, Thommy Doud, Hollywood Boys & Girls Club manager and evening emcee, welcomes the families on hand to the most recent Boys & Girls Club concert event.

Chris C. Jenkins



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Seminole Moments Focuses on Oral Histories



Naji Tobias

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Elizabeth Lowman conducts a May 11 Seminole Moments presentation on the importance of building trust and rapport with the Seminole Tribal constituency in regards to recording oral histories. In the 30-minute long lunchtime segment, Lowman played a clip on the Big Cypress Community Center's projector screen, highlighting an interview she had with former University of Florida anthropology professor Jerry Milanich. The interview was about an early 1900s trip that a New York based group, the Dimucks, took to Southwest Florida in their quest to learn about Seminole Tribal history.

Understanding Drug Abuse and Addiction

Family Services Department

Many people do not understand why or how other people become addicted to drugs. It can be wrongfully assumed that drug abusers lack moral principles or willpower and that they could stop using drugs simply by choosing to change their behavior. In reality, drug addiction is a complex disease, and quitting takes more than good intentions. In fact, because drugs change the brain in ways that foster compulsive drug abuse, quitting is difficult, even for those who are ready to do so. Through scientific advances, we know more about how drugs work in the brain than ever, and we also know that drug addiction can be successfully treated to help people stop abusing drugs and lead productive lives.

Drug abuse and addiction have negative consequences for individuals and for society. Estimates of the total overall costs of substance abuse in the United States, including productivity and health- and crime-related costs, exceed \$600 billion annually. This includes approximately \$181 billion for illicit drugs, \$193 billion for tobacco, and \$235 billion for alcohol. As staggering as these numbers are, they do not fully describe the breadth of destructive public health and safety implications of drug abuse and addiction, such as family disintegration, loss of employment, failure in school, domestic violence, and child abuse.

Fortunately, treatments are available to help people counter addiction's powerful disruptive effects. Research shows that combining addiction treatment medications

with behavioral therapy is the best way to ensure success for most patients. Treatment approaches that are tailored to each patient's drug abuse patterns and any co-occurring medical, psychiatric, and social problems can lead to sustained recovery and a life without drug abuse.

Similar to other chronic, relapsing diseases, such as diabetes, asthma, or heart disease, drug addiction can be managed successfully. And as with other chronic diseases, it is not uncommon for a person to relapse and begin abusing drugs again. Relapse, however, does not signal treatment failure—rather, it indicates that treatment should be reinstated, adjusted, or that an alternative treatment is needed to help the individual regain control and recover.

Drug addiction is a preventable disease. Research has shown that prevention programs involving families, schools, communities, and the media are effective in reducing drug abuse. Although many events and cultural factors affect drug abuse trends, when youths perceive drug abuse as harmful, they reduce their drug taking. Thus, education and outreach are key in helping youth and the general public understand the risks of drug abuse. Teachers, parents, medical and public health professionals must keep sending the message that drug addiction can be prevented if one never abuses drugs.

Should you wish to learn more about addiction or prevention, please feel free to schedule a confidential meeting with a Family Services Counselor on your respective Reservation.

Source: NIDA 2011

Car Warz 2011 Returns to Hard Rock for Third Year



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Ted Nelson Sr. performs on stage.



Chris C. Jenkins

Car Warz emcee Prince Markie Dee of 99.1 Jamz FM radio introduces the next musical group to perform as part of the annual Car Warz 2011 held at the Hard Rock RV park area May 22, featuring hundreds of exotic custom cars, trucks, motorbikes and SUVs on display and first through third place cash prizes.



Chris C. Jenkins

Photo above, James McHugh of Acrylics Concepts next to a custom designed scooter equipped with two monitors and several speakers. Right photo, Tribal citizen Virgil Doctor next to his custom painted 2007 Dodge Mega Cab truck.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal employee Carlos Cruz of the Tribal Building and Grounds Department inside his customized Chevy Impala.



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Veterans	6 pm Okalee Village End
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Tribal Members Graduate From the FBI Citizens' Police Academy

Congratulations to Ms. Diane Buster, Ms. Cornelia Osceola and Ms. Josephine North

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

Seminole Police Department is proud to announce the graduation of three Tribal members, Ms. Diane Buster, Ms. Cornelia Osceola and Ms. Josephine North from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Citizens' Academy. The academy encompasses eight weekly sessions taught by Special Agents in Charge covering fascinating topics ranging from:

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Requirements to attend include:

- A background check.
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- Must be willing to complete 6 of 8 sessions.
- Be a recognized business, religious, civic, or community leader here in South Florida.

There will be an upcoming session in Fall 2011, and it is offered in Tampa and Miami. Please reach my office directly if you have an interest in attending.

Seminole Police Department would like to offer all Tribal members to attend our Seminole Police Department Citizen's Academy as well.

I look forward to sending our next group.

More photos from the Big Cypress 115th Anniversary Concert Featuring Trace Adkins



Naji Tobias

Country music artist Trace Adkins, left, and Big Cypress Tribal senior Virginia Tommie, right, are all smiles in their brief meet-and-greet session, held prior to the June 3 concert show at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress.



Naji Tobias

Trace Adkins and Immokalee's Nancy Motlow at the meet-and-greet.



Naji Tobias

Trace Adkins and Big Cypress Tribal citizen Toi Andrews are smiling together at the meet-and-greet segment of the concert.

Big Cypress Seniors Participate in Culture Day Games and Competitions



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Senior Center Assistant Nadine Bowers rolls out the numbers to be called during the bingo segment of Big Cypress Seniors Culture Day on May 31.



Naji Tobias

The Big Cypress seniors play bingo games as one of their Seminole traditions during the May 31 Culture Day festivities under the Frank Billie Field Office's Culture Camp chickee hut.

HORESHOE AND LOUNGER BALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

- HOSES**
1. Louise Osceola
 2. Janice Osceola
 3. Jonah Cypress
- LOUNGER BALL**
1. Joe Junior Billie
 2. Louise Billie
 3. Teresa Jumper



Janice Osceola

Big Cypress Tribal senior Jonah Cypress aims for his shot in the horseshoes competition at Culture Day on May 31, placing third overall.

Seminole Classic Casino and Hard Rock Showcase Talent in Semi-Finals



Chris C. Jenkins

Veronica Natal of the Seminole Classic Casino and Beverage staff is all smiles on stage as the first place winner.



Chris C. Jenkins

A surprised Lola Lavay of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino staff holds her first place winning check of \$2000 as the winner of the semi-finals of the talent show.



Chris C. Jenkins

American Idol tribute artist judges, from left, Randy Jackson, Paula Abdul and Simon Cowell give their judging expertise during performances for the seventh annual team member Talent Show for the Seminole Classic Casino and Hard Rock Hotel & Casino held at the Paradise Live Theater in Hollywood June 13. The finals for the seventh annual Seminole Superstar competition will be held in Hard Rock Live July 25.



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Local and National Fire-Rescue Teams Compete at Seminole Hard Rock



Chris C. Jenkins

Benno Schmidt, SMP Special Projects Coordinator, interviews members of the Broward County Sheriff Fire-Rescue about their experiences after completing the mock response demonstration.



Chris C. Jenkins

Members of the Margate Fire-Rescue unit gather to discuss last minute details before competition.

Members of the Broward County Sheriff Fire-Rescue Department participate in a mock emergency response scenario held inside the Seminole Hard Rock ballrooms. The group was among 18 local and national teams competing to test their life saving skills in the second annual James Malcolm ALS Competition as part of the 15th annual 'First There First Care' Emergency Medical Services Conference May 26-27.

Chris C. Jenkins



'Robosaurus' Part of Seminole Classic Casino Latest Promotion



The famous hydraulic, electrically engineered 40-foot tall fire-breathing steel dinosaur 'Robosaurus' destroys a junk car in the parking lot of the Seminole Classic Casino on June 1 in one of two shows free to the public as part of its latest \$15,000 casino promotion "Carpocalypse Cash Giveaway".

Chris C. Jenkins

Household Chemical Storage: 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 isidroduque@semtribe.com or contact us at (954) 965-4380

The following article about household chemical storage is the second article in our series.

We often do not consider the hazards associated with household chemicals and cleaning supplies in relation to the potential affects they may have on the health of adults, children and the environment. You may be surprised to learn that potentially dangerous hazardous wastes may be lurking in your cabinets. Some hazardous wastes that may be stored in your home include: cleaning products for drains, ovens, and jewelry; stain and spot removers; detergents and

bleach; oil-based paints, varnishes, stains and dyes; and solvents and strippers. If these products are not stored and disposed of correctly they have the potential to adversely affect the health of your family and the environment. Follow the directions of disposal on the label of the product. Never dispose of leftover household products by pouring them down the drain, on the ground, or in the storm sewers. If household chemicals are disposed of improperly they may infiltrate into the soils and groundwater, wetlands, rivers, canals and lakes polluting water used for both irrigation and human consumption. The pollution of our water supplies will affect both the health of the ecosystem and surrounding populations. If you have any questions or concerns on the storage or disposal of household chemicals please feel free to contact our office. In order to protect the health of your family and the environment ERMD offers several precautionary steps that should be followed, including:

1.) Always store household chemicals in the original storage containers so that you can read the labels. Never store chemicals in old food containers and never mix chemicals to conserve space.

2.) Follow the storage and disposal instructions on the product label.

3.) Store products out of reach of children and pets. Keep all harmful household products locked in a utility area with ample ventilation and away from sources of heat.

4.) Check on household chemical products every few months to ensure containers are not leaking or changing shape. Expanding containers could indicate that you're storing your products in an area without enough ventilation or too hot.

5.) Store flammable products outside of your living area and far away from places that could catch fire.

6.) Never store household chemicals in places where food or medicine is kept for people or animals.

To Mulch or Not to Mulch?

BY KIRK TRENCHFIELD
Environmental Health Department

Wood mulch used for landscaping is intended to protect soil, conserve moisture, moderate soil temperature, limit weed growth, as well as to beautify the landscape of your property. However, since mold spores are designed in nature to break down wood material, the use of mulching around your home may not be such a good idea. Placing mulch up against the wall of your property may add beauty but can also cause unintended problems in a few ways.

First, mulch stinks! Especially new mulch and this odor can be offensive to certain individuals. Secondly, mulch placed up against the wall of a property does not allow moisture to properly drain away from the wall. The moisture can then migrate into the porous concrete over time, causing mold growth behind the interior

drywalls. This can take several years to occur and discover but may cause health effects in the mean time. Finally, since mold loves wood, pets or kids playing outside that come in contact with the mulch can track mold spores into the home where it can have adverse health effects on sensitive, allergic-type individuals.

The solution: use decorative rocks instead. Mold doesn't feed on rocks. Decorative rocks also offer better water drainage away from the home and don't smell bad as mulch often does. Decorative rocks come in many different colors and sizes and can add just as much beauty to your landscaping without all of the potential negative effects. Rocks may cost more but can save you money and health issues in the long run. So, as you head out this summer to do some yard work, leave the much alone and choose decorative rocks instead.

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EducationB

Ahfachkee School Students Take Trip to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum for Seminole Archaeology Day

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and the Tribal Historical Preservation Office forged a collaborative effort in hosting the Tribe's first-ever Seminole Archaeology Day function on May 10.

Held at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, the educational event's purpose was for the Ahfachkee School's fourth, fifth and sixth graders to learn about what archaeologists and museum officials do to protect their Tribal lands on the reservation.

To begin the six-station tour of the Museum for Seminole Archaeology Day, the Tribal school's students from the three aforementioned grades engaged in an orientation presentation at the Museum's theatre, which focused primarily on the use of mental maps.

As some of the students were called up by THPO Chief Data Analyst Juan Cancel to draw a mock mental map, they learned that the first person to draw such a map was actually a Seminole Indian named Catsa-chopko. According to Museum and THPO officials, it is not known exactly when and how the discovery came about, though Cancel did say the mental map creation may have occurred sometime in the 19th century.

Cancel talked about the spike in interest the Ahfachkee students had in the mental maps once they found out about the Seminole connection to it.

"Most people don't have an idea of a lot of things going on

in their culture," Cancel said. "It was great to see their eyes light up after they knew about it. You would be surprised about all the history that the Tribe has. We're here to provide the Tribe knowledge of their history and it's only right to give it back to our Tribal citizens through the kids."

It was revealed that through the use of mental maps, Seminoles were able to naturally navigate their way through a variety of places in the Everglades and other locations in South Florida and beyond many years ago.

"Before there was GPS, people had to write things down based on what they perceived," Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Educational Coordinator Diana Stone said. "So what the kids did with their mental maps was give themselves an opportunity to see where they were at spatially."

After the Ahfachkee School's fourth, fifth and sixth graders learned how to draw and use a mental map, they took a walk to a Seminole chickee station, also known as Station No. 2.

At this station, the students gathered information on how archaeologists and architects build the Seminole chickee huts from the ground up.

Archaeologists from THPO and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum typically track the traditional chickee structures via the use of a chickee survey. While they're at it, they check for proper measurements of the Seminole structural buildings in question, as well as the solidity of the chickee huts and the total amount that



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee fifth-graders Alyssa Osceola, left, Eyanna Billie, second from left, Dayra Koenes, second from right and Rynne Pratt, right, are digging up artifacts in the sand at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Excavation station during Seminole Archaeology Day on May 10.

Please see **ARCHAEOLOGY** on page 2B

Students Recognized for Academics at Board of Trustees Meeting

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Pemaetv Emahakv Charter School held their Board of Trustees meeting May 31 in Big Cypress where they recognized several students and teachers for various achievements.

P.E.C.S. Board of Trustees is comprised of the Tribal Council Chairman, President and representatives.

Students recognized included the Charter School student council and safety patrol.

"It's something I think we all should be proud of," Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. said. "The Charter School is valuable to the whole Tribe and we've made a lot of strides along the way."

Creek spelling bee winners Gage Riddle, Kailin Brown and Heith Lawrence were also recognized along with the regular spelling bee winners Andrew Dobbs and Raeley Matthews.

Tropicana Speech Contest winners were introduced to the Tribal Council which included Andrew Dobbs, Odessa King, Deven Tedders, Raeley Matthews, Chloe Chalfant and Aiyana Tommie.

"When the Charter School was first beginning we had a vision to educate both the Indians and non-Indians in the same educational entity," former Tribal President Richard Bowers Jr. said. "We're happy to see our students well-rounded in math, culture and all other areas in academics."

Boyd Brown, Elijah Finney, Zachary Hudson, Zeke Matthews, Jennifer Tommie, Melany Williams, Kailin Brown, Andrew Dobbs and Layton Thomas were recognized for their achievements in science being district science fair winners.

Tribal middle school students from Okeechobee, Kirsten Doney and McKayla Snow were also recognized for their science fair achievements, making it all the way to State.

"It's pretty overwhelming to see so many of our Tribal students and community members excel in the Our Way School, as they've gone on to compete in academic competitions statewide," Director of Education Emma Johns said.

Third-grade teacher Sarah Williams was acknowledged as the school teacher of the year along with winning district teacher of the year Shelley Brantley was introduced to Council as the non-instructional employee of the year while Mindy Wells was recognized for Florida Excellence in Education.

"We can't help but to support the school and the education of our children," Rep. Bowers said. -Naji Tobias contributed to this article.



Naji Tobias

Pemaetv Emahakv district science fair winners get recognized to Council at the P.E.C.S. Board of Trustees meeting May 31 in Big Cypress.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

The Charter School's Safety Patrol took a visit to Big Cypress to meet Tribal Council.

See more photos on page 2B

Please see **OPEN HOUSE** on page 2B

Culture Open House Proves Seminole Culture Lives On

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Students raced to their arts and crafts shadow box displays to show off their hard work to their parents May 26 at the Charter School's annual Culture Open House held at the school.

Students from kindergarten through eighth grade displayed their arts and crafts projects that were completed throughout the school year in culture class.

Pieces ranged from beaded key chains, bracelets, necklaces, medallions, baskets, Seminole dolls and wood carvings.

"You start off with something simple and as the year goes on you work on something harder and harder," head arts and crafts teacher Janelle Robinson said. "Since we brought the older groups in we had to bring in more difficult stuff."

Culture Open House began with students demonstrating their Creek language abilities in their Creek class and then crossing over into the arts and crafts classroom to show off their craftsmanship followed by refreshments and a slideshow of the students working during the year.

Parents were encouraged to visit to see what their students have accomplished.

"The parents aren't here everyday to see what we're doing so it allows us to put it all together so they can see what our culture side is doing," culture teacher Reina Micco said. "It's like work, work, work, and the end result they're (the students) proud to see and show their parents."

Rachel Buxton

Mariana Mora-Lara looks at her fellow classmate's arts and crafts May 26 at the Charter School's annual Culture Open House held at the school.

Seminole Police Department Officers Honored by Big Cypress Community for Police Week

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal citizens and community members of Big Cypress paid a week-long salute to the reservation's Seminole Police Department officers through a variety of Police Week functions from May 15-20.

Honoring the services provided by SPD, a special Sunday morning church service was held on May 15 at the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church to start out Police Week on the Tribe's largest reservation.

The worship service at the Tribal sanctuary was highlighted by a special prayer for the nation's fallen law enforcement officers and for all of SPD's law enforcement personnel.

It was one of two special occasions for the week, as the other special Tribal worship service took place on May 18 at the Big Cypress First Baptist Church, hosted by Rev. Bruce Pratt, Josh Jumper and Alfonso Tigertail.

Followed by an awareness clinic on Police Week (May 16 at the Big Cypress Reservation's Frank Billie Field Office) and a safety presentation for the Big Cypress Tribal seniors (May 17 at the Big Cypress Senior Center), SPD's Police Week kicked into high gear when it made its way to the Ahfachkee School on May 18.

The Ahfachkee School's lower grades were in high spirits as they showed their appreciation for SPD with a special door decorating contest in their honor. And the upper grades at the Ahfachkee School poured their hearts out in essay form, as

they chronicled the impact that SPD has had on their lives.

In a letter to SPD, Ahfachkee School fifth-grader Troy Cantu opened up on the efforts that the Tribal law enforcement department makes in order to protect and serve the Big Cypress community.

"Thank you for all the hard work you all do. I hope you have fun doing your job," Cantu wrote to SPD in his grade-winning essay entry. "You keep the bad guys away from us and make things safe. You help us and we help you sometimes...You make our reservation safe for the little kids when they grow up. When you find people going fast, you stop them from going fast. When people are in trouble, they will all count on you. Thank you for all you do."

Ahfachkee School sophomore Tequesta Tiger, also a Police Week essay winner, wrote her entry about a time when her mother, Cara Tiger, asked SPD to check out her family's pasture and see if there were any problems there.

In the Tiger family's case, the call turned out to be a timely one, as it was discovered that an unidentified individual dumped some horses on their pasture and released some of their cattle from the area — a major concern for the Big Cypress Tribal family.

"It's great to have them (SPD) around whenever help is needed to keep you and your family safe," Tequesta Tiger said. "They (the SPD officers) should be appreciated for all the hard work they do. They have been a big help to me and

Please see **POLICE WEEK** on page 2B



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee fifth-grader Troy Cantu, right, reads his essay-winning entry as SPD Officer Michele Short, left, looks on at the SPD Police Week Awards Ceremony on May 20.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee's Mika Lopez, left, looks on as SPD Sergeant Lisa Bennis, right, reads her essay-winning entry at the SPD Police Week Awards Ceremony.

Ahfachkee School Tests Preschoolers, Pre-K Students at Ninth Annual Readiness Roundup



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee Pre-K student Nayanashee Billie, 4, left, counts up the number of blocks at his disposal at the ninth annual Readiness Roundup on May 13, with the help of Ahfachkee ESE teacher Billie McDonald.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee Pre-K student Madasyn Osceola, left, answers a set of questions in the areas of articulation and expressive/receptive language skills from Seminole Health Speech Language Pathologist Allison Mason.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee Pre-K student Phoenix Kimble, 4, left, takes instructions from occupational therapist Amee Cohen as he works on a drill that encompasses standing and hopping at the motor area station.

POLICE WEEK

From page 1B

my family over the years.”

For Ahfachkee School seventh-grader and Police Week essay winner Rheannon Robbins, SPD’s presence in the Big Cypress has had on profound impact on her life.

Citing SPD’s officers as role models in her young life, Robbins said that she would ultimately like to become an SPD officer when she grows up. The seventh-grader went into some detail in her essay on how it’s important to help out others in the line of duty.

“SPD, y’all have set an example for us young children. Well, at least you did to me,” Robbins said in her grade-winning entry. “One thing you taught me how to do is make something

out of myself. I’m very excited to be a police officer one day. But until then, I am going to try to get good grades and go to college, so that way I can become an officer. I want to thank you all for coming out here every day to do the best you can. I appreciate you.”

A total of eight Ahfachkee School students from fifth through 11th grades were selected as Police Week essay winners, while Miss Yvonne Caldwell’s second grade class was named Best Door Decoration in the pre-k through second grades category and Mrs. Sue Tiger’s third grade class was honored as the third through sixth grade category’s Best Door Decoration entry.

All door decorating and essay winners were recognized on May 20 at the Ahfachkee School’s cafeteria – the final day of Police Week in Big Cypress.

POLICE WEEK ESSAY AND DOOR DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

Essays

5th Grade: Troy Cantu and Dayra Koenes
6th Grade: Graysun Billie and Nashoba Gonzalez

7th-8th Grades: Mika Lopez and Rheannon Robbins

9th-12th Grades: Taylor Pratt and Tequesta Tiger

Door Decorations

Pre-K through 2nd Grades: Miss Yvonne Caldwell’s 2nd Grade Class

3rd through 6th Grades: Mrs. Sue Tiger’s 3rd Grade Class



Rachel Buxton

Left photo, David King and his mom Jodi, look at his finished product from Culture class. Photo above, Ian Tommie shows his parents what he’s been working on in his Creek language class.

OPEN HOUSE

From page 1B

The Culture Department added new activities to their curriculum this year to continue to teach the Seminole culture. Older students worked outside with the girls cooking traditional food and the boys carving Seminole pieces.

“It can be more than a hobby,” Micco said. “They’re always going to remember this even if they’re Tribal or not, it is something they will be able to take with them.”

Head teacher Robinson admits that she didn’t learn Seminole arts and crafts when she was young and that it wasn’t until she started at the Charter School four years ago that she truly started to learn things.

“It’s intimidating, you look at it and it looks hard,” Robinson said. “I’m still learning. They need to learn so it’s never lost. It’s something they can pass on.”



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee fifth graders Trinity Williams, left, and Elijah Billie, center, screen the soil to properly identify artifacts and any other cultural material with the help of Tribal Historical and Preservation Office Field Assistant Ryan Hess.

ARCHAEOLOGY

From page 1B

exists on a given reservation.

There are a total of approximately 479 chickee huts on the Big Cypress Reservation, according to THPO officials.

“Everyone who visits the museum needs to know about the chickee,” said Tribal Historical and Preservation Office Architectural Historian Carrie Dille. “It represents the evolution of the Seminole Tribe and the significance of their history. It’s important for the kids to get a hands-on feel for math as far as Seminole structures are concerned.”

The third station for Seminole Archaeology Day focused mainly on the use of a compass, where the students learned how to read one on a map and how to navigate with it. Meanwhile, Station No. 4, which had a total of four parts, placed its focus on the concept of ceremonial grounds.

The first part of the ceremonial grounds station allowed the students the opportunity to dig up a set of artifacts through a sift pile, which proved to be a fun yet challenging experience for them. The next and final three parts of the stop included a site survey of the artifacts they found, an artifacts analysis and a reconstruction that would serve as the conclusion of the four-part station.

“A lot of times, when you’re digging up an artifact from the ground, it doesn’t come out to be a solid piece,” Stone said. “So what they had to do was reconstruct them back to the way it

was originally supposed to be.”

The fifth of six total stations, dubbed the “clan pavilion”, gave the students a chance to see for themselves an area that the Museum labels as “traditional cultural properties.” According to Museum and THPO officials, those lands in question have significant meaning in a cultural and traditional sense to Seminole Tribal citizens.

The station visit reached its climax when the students were afforded the opportunity to play a game that focused on the importance of the preservation of the Museum’s traditional cultural properties. The students learned about the steps that archaeologists take to protect these Tribal lands from potential development.

To conclude the Seminole Archaeology Day experience, all three grades huddled together under a fire pit chickee just outside the front entrance of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum for a debriefing on all that transpired. In addition, students showed the Museum and THPO officials how they were able to complete their mental map drawings.

“The kids already had an idea of what it is that we do here at the museum,” THPO Chief Data Analyst Juan Cancel said. “Going through it, they got to see a lot of details of how things are actually done here. There’s a lot that goes into learning about history here with the Tribe.”

For more information about Seminole archaeology and the Tribe’s history, call the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at 863-902-1113.



Naji Tobias

With the assistance of Tribal Historical and Preservation Office’s Juan Cancel, left, Ahfachkee School fourth grader Janessa Jones draws where the Tribal school would be located on a “mental map.”

Photo extra from PECS Board of Trustees meeting in Big Cypress



Naji Tobias

McKayla Snow, left, and Kirsten Doney are recognized for making it all the way to the state level for their science fair projects.



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Elgin Jumper and Big Cypress Library’s Gretchen DeBree Partner Up in Zines Workshop Series



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Library Curator Gretchen DeBree, left, assists Alyssa Osceola, 10, right with the creation of her comic book drawing, entitled “Super Kitty.”



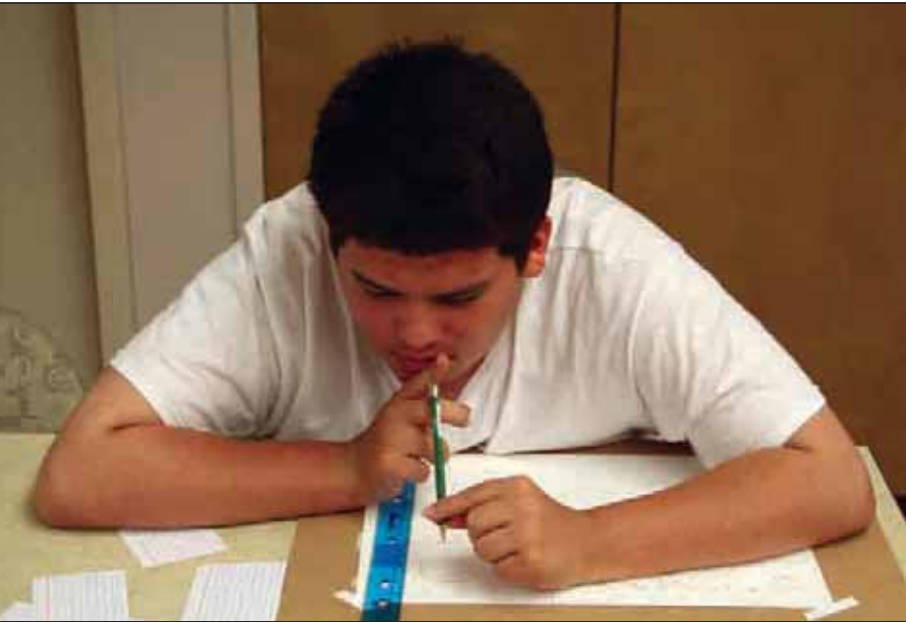
Naji Tobias

Photo above, Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club students Mariah Smith, 11, left, and Evanne Pratt, 10, team up to work on a Superman comic book drawing. Right photo, Thomlynn Billie, 10, makes graphic boxes as part of a comic book drawing panel.



Naji Tobias

Tribal artist/painter Elgin Jumper, who collaborated with Big Cypress Library’s Gretchen DeBree in the formation of the May 24-26 Zines Workshop Series, shows off an example of his comic story book creation, “The Villain,” to Leilani Gopher, 9.



Naji Tobias

Derek McInturff, 16, brainstorms on what kind of comic book drawing he plans to assemble at the Zines Workshop Series on May 26. The three-day series was held from May 24-26 at the Frank Billie Field Office’s Learning Resource Conference Room.



Naji Tobias

Tribal artist/painter Elgin Jumper shows off his comic book creation of “The Seminole” and “The Villain” comic book strips.

Pemayetv Emahakv’s Best of the Best Inducted into National Honor Society

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv inducted their top students into the National Honor Society during banquets held in the school cafeteria May 24 and 31.

To be eligible for National Honor Society students must have a cumulative grade point average of a 3.0 or higher. Students must also demonstrate four very important traits: service, leadership, character and citizenship.

“It is the students and parents that make the school what it is,” Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. said. “I bragged to Gov. [Rick] Scott about the school and I think it is something he needs to see. We are putting our resources to good use.”

The elementary students were first to be honored, holding their banquet May 24. Following a dinner prepared by the school’s lunch staff, 26 students were inducted into the National Elementary Honor Society, receiving a plaque and pin for their academic and character achievements.

“We are so proud of our students,” National Honor Society sponsor and Guidance Counselor Jeanine Gran said. “They are the best of the best.”

In a joint ceremony May 31, the middle school students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society as well as recognized for their athletic accomplishments.

Students, family and faculty enjoyed a steak dinner prepared by John Huff Jr. prior to the start of the banquet. Principal Russell Brown welcomed everyone and congratulated the students on their hard work.

“This is a chance for our school and community to honor these students,” Principal Brown said. “It’s great to see hard work pay off.”

Sixth-grade through eighth-grade students received their plaques as well as pins, becoming inductees of the National Junior Honor Society.

Following the academic portion of the banquet, Sports Director Chris Goodwin took to the podium and began the sports segment by recognizing all of Pemayetv Emahakv’s team coaches.

“Coaches never get enough credit for all they put in,” Goodwin said.

Confirming that statement and touching on a few other important topics was guest speaker Maurice Belser, Moore Haven High School’s head football coach.

Belser spoke to the students about developing good habits and being dedicated to whatever they partake in.

“Make sure you establish really good habits, that’s what life is about,” said Belser. “A desire of excellence will carry you further in life. It’s important to be dedicated in what you do.”

Coaches from the different sports teams at Pemayetv Emahakv recognized team members and spoke on their individual skills and overall team accomplishments. Some coaches even got a little creative when handing out individual awards. Boys basketball coaches Ryan Tedders, Kenny Doney and Harry Tewksbury characterized each player using a brand of cereal and awarded them with a box of that cereal with their picture on it. Girls basketball coach Pam Matthews awarded each player with a trading card of a professional basketball player who reminded her of them.

The girls volleyball and softball teams were also recognized and awarded for their athletic success.

“You hear a lot of ‘if it wasn’t for sports I wouldn’t have made it through school,’” said Rep. Bowers. “They kind of go hand-in-hand. Two four letter words, ‘hard work,’ overcomes anything.”



Rachel Buxton

Left photo, Layton Thomas, left, and Braceton King represent the eighth-grade honor society. Photo above, Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. shows off his personalized jersey and congratulates Bridgette Koontz for her softball achievement.

Sixth-grade members of National Junior Honor Society receive their plaques.

Rachel Buxton



Seventh-grade members of National Junior Honor Society receive their plaques at the National Honor Society banquets held in the school cafeteria May 31.

Rachel Buxton



Rachel Buxton

Members of the National Elementary Honor Society show off their plaques.



Rachel Buxton

Pemayetv Emahakv athletes proudly sport their letters.

Pemayetv Emahakv Eighth Graders Get a Warm Goodbye

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Teachers and staff of Pemayetv Emahakv held an entertaining and heartwarming celebration for the Charter School's eighth graders June 8 in the school's cafeteria. With the cafeteria doors donned with Justin Bieber VIP posters, the eighth graders entered and took their seats for their very own private performance. The students were soon in hysterics as Principal Russell Brown took center stage dressed as the music superstar, complete with a wig and all and began singing and dancing Bieber style. Following the entertainment portion of the celebration, the eighth-grade teachers spoke briefly on their experience working

at the school with the students. "It has been a year of many firsts," eighth-grade English teacher Mrs. Drake said. "I even finally learned how to pronounce the name of the school." Mrs. Drake congratulated the students on their FCAT achievements, announcing that every eighth grader received a three or higher. She read district and state statistics stating that Pemayetv Emahakv came in second out of nine schools for their math FCAT scores. Math teacher Mr. Finney prepared a letter addressed to the students that Mrs. Drake read aloud and gave a copy to each student. In the letter Mr. Finney told the students, "Your abilities have no limits." History teacher Mr. Pritchard spoke to the students about how much he enjoyed on having them as a class. "Teaching is a lot about having fun," Pritchard said. "I don't think I've ever had more laughs with a group." Mr. Pritchard on behalf of all the eighth-grade teachers, Mrs. Drake, Mr. Finney and Mrs. Bass, presented each student with a personalized certificate and gift filled with candy that fitted each student the best based on their personality. Completing the celebration students, staff and guests enjoyed a slideshow with pictures representing a school year filled with fun, laughter and friendship.



Rachel Buxton

Eighth graders enjoy their private performance by Justin Bieber aka Principal Brown.



Rachel Buxton

Mr. Pritchard presents Ty Pierce with his award and eighth-grade present.



Rachel Buxton

Principal Russell Brown performs as Justin Bieber for the eighth-grade celebration.

Tribal Members Eli and Levi Harmon Excel at St. John's Military School

DONNA HARMON

Tribal members Eli and Levi Harmon have successfully completed their freshman high school year at St. John's Military School in Salina, Kan. The boys are the sons of Donna and Edward Harmon of Flagstaff, Ariz., and grandsons of Gladys Bowers Bratcher of Nashville, Tenn. The boys excelled academically, athletically, and honed their leadership skills. They were on the Dean's Honor Roll all year long. They each finished off the year with straight A's earning a 4.0 GPA. At the end of the year they had both earned themselves two \$2000 scholarships, totaling \$4000 in scholarships each. The scholarships they earned were the Kansas Computerized Assessment Scholarship for students who score an exemplary on all areas of the test and the Browning Achievement Award for students who demonstrate the potential to contribute to the goals and objectives of St. John's. Levi also earned the Blue Beret, which is awarded to students with the top three GPA's within the school. The boys have been very active at St. John's participating on the soccer team, futsal, and tennis. On the soccer team, as freshman they were starting players for all 14 games and earned their varsity letter. When the soccer season ended they played

futsal during the winter months. This spring Eli played on the tennis team. They participated in the first ever Robotics team at the school, the Rangers, and traveled to Kansas City to compete against other teams in the region. The boys were involved with the color guard, cadet patrol, chapel council and JROTC academic team. They were also chosen to be on a student panel that would be asked questions for the accreditation of the school. From the military aspect of the school, the boys have gone from being privates to staff sergeants. During the school's JROTC Annual Formal Inspection (AFI), which is done by the JROTC Regional Commander, the school scored a 999 out of 1000. This is the highest score in the nation awarded to a military school. Eli states, "The thing I like the most about St. John's is the amazing faculty who give us so many opportunities for academic success." The staff at St. John's has enjoyed getting to know Eli and Levi this year. Academic Dean Ginger Wooten stated, "In addition to their excellent grades and effort in school, Eli and Levi are trustworthy, respectful and honorable." In August, the boys will return to St. John's for their sophomore year. We wish them all the best for the upcoming school year and for a bright future.



Photo courtesy of Donna Harmon

Anna Harmon, Levi Harmon, Major George Stelljes (Commandant of St. John's), Eli Harmon and Jessi Harmon.



Naji Tobias

Xavier Solano, left, is blindfolded as he attempts to locate a boarded deer with the assistance of Reagan Whitecloud at the Ahfachkee School's Spring Cultural Festival on May 19.

Seminole Culture is on Vivid Display at Ahfachkee School's Spring Festival





Naji Tobias

In a wood carving exercise Ahfachkee School Physical Education Assistant Erik Sangabriel, left, watches Ahfachkee freshman Levi Billie, center, carve out a cypress wood knife. Traditional Preservation's Crafts Instructor Shane Cypress, right, shows Levi the proper way of designing the Seminole-derived sculpture.



Naji Tobias

Photo above, Ahfachkee School senior-to-be Rowdey Osceola is sanding down his cypress wood knife under a chickee at the May 19 Spring Cultural Festival. Photo left, Ahfachkee School kindergarten student Alisa Brooks plays a game of bingo in the E-la-pon-ke language at the May 19 Spring Cultural Festival.



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 Miguel Cantu. The approximately 1.5 acre lot is located at Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Sections 1 & 2, 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 April 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Miguel Cantu 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 Taff 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: 4/26/11

Keith Nason
Superintendent, Seminole Agency
Bureau of Indian Affairs



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Students, Parents and Teachers Show Off Creek Language Skills at Spelling Bee



Rachel Buxton

Grade-level winners get ready for the third annual school-wide Creek Spelling Bee May 16 held in the Charter School cafeteria. During the weeks leading up to the final spelling bee students studied their Creek words and practiced spelling them using the Creek alphabet, A,C,E. Students showed off going several rounds without any misspelled words.



Rachel Buxton

Gage Riddle shows off his winning trophy May 16 after spelling the final word during the third annual Creek Spelling Bee held at the Charter School.



Rachel Buxton

Amber Buck, left, mother of Gage Riddle, follows in her son's footsteps snagging the first place trophy in the Parent Creek Spelling Bee held May 16 at the Charter School. Buck receives her winning trophy from teacher Jade Braswell, right.



Rachel Buxton

For the third straight year in a row, Heather Dobbs wins the Teacher Creek Spelling Bee May 16 held in the Charter School cafeteria.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee freshmen Anthony Cypress, left, and Korliss Jumper, center, receive assistance from Ahfachkee Physical Education Assistant Coach Erik Sangabriel in filling out their applications for the fifth annual Youth Media Production Workshop at the Warrior Lunch Bunch series finale on May 17.

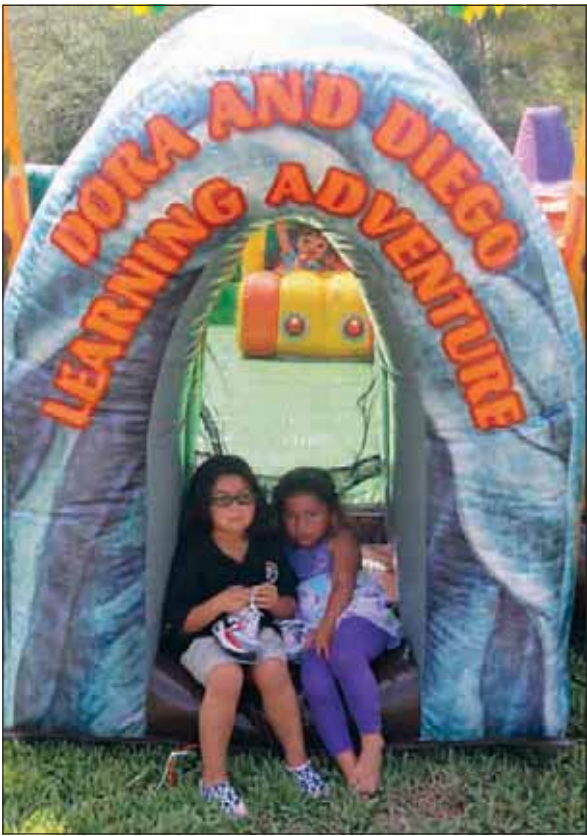
SMP's Youth Media Production Workshop Presentation Highlights Warrior Lunch Bunch Series Finale



Naji Tobias

Tribal citizen Stephen Billie, the May 17 Warrior Lunch Bunch series finale keynote speaker, encourages the Ahfachkee School's upper grades students to sign up for the fifth annual Youth Media Production Workshop, to be held from July 10-16 in Hollywood. Two movies were shown to the Ahfachkee students at the lunch bunch series finale, including one about alligator wrestling. Both were created, filmed and edited by last year's Tribal participants of the Youth Media Production Workshop series.

Big Cypress Preschoolers Enjoy Rides and Magic Show at Fun Day



Naji Tobias

During the morning hours of the Fun Day, Johnnie Sue Russell, 5, left, and Teena Marie Covarrubias, 3, right, are cooling out at the Dora and Diego Learning Adventure's bounce house on the Big Cypress Community Center field.



Naji Tobias

From left, Amirani Brooks, 3, Teena Marie Covarrubias, 3, and Logan Covarrubias, 2, get their feet wet in a Duckee water bin at the Big Cypress Preschool's Fun Day festivities on May 20.



In a magic show performed by Richard Adler, also known as "The Amazing Mr. A.," the magician is holding on to a ball of a light, transferring it from one hand to another, as the Big Cypress preschoolers and the Ahfachkee School's pre-kindergarten/ kindergarten students look on in amazement.

Naji Tobias

Even a fish wouldn't get caught if it kept it's mouth shut

Protect yourself from making a mistake. Practice these simple phrases!

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"No, you can't search my home."
"No, I don't want to talk with you."
"Call my lawyer!"

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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should be based solely upon advertisement. Guy J. Seligman worked as a Certified Legal Intern in both the State Attorney and Public Defenders offices in Dade and Broward County; he has been in private practice for 16 years. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1987, and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988.



Naji Tobias

The second-grade students in Mrs. Wanda Billie's culture class are among the lower grades recognized for their efforts in learning the E-la-pon-ke language at the June 1 End-of-Year Awards Ceremony.



Naji Tobias

Here's a snapshot of the Ahfachkee School's eighth-grade students who received certificates of promotion and gifts at the End-of-Year Awards Ceremony on June 2, with Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger and Ahfachkee School Principal Grant Richardson.



Naji Tobias

Mrs. Renee Barry's pre-kindergarten class is recognized for their continued educational progress at the Lower Grades End-of-Year Awards Ceremony on June 1, located inside the Ahfachkee School's cafeteria.

Fourth Quarter Awards Ceremonies Mark Ahfachkee's Final School Activities in 2010-11 Academic Year

AHFACHKEE SCHOOL'S END-OF-YEAR ACADEMIC HONORS

Progress Awards – Pre-Kindergarten

Casey Ball
Aaliyah Billie
Ezekiel Billie
Naya Nashee Billie
Jody Cabral
Peggy Sue Cypress
Phoenix Kimble
Dyami Koenes
Adam MacElroy, Jr.
Madasyn Osceola
Niya Osceola
Sarah Osceola
Tristen Osceola
Johnnie Sue Russell
Tony "TC" Sanchez
Micah Stockton
Kadin Tommie
Kaley Zepeda

Progress Awards – Kindergarten

Anthony Avalos
Mauro Avalos
Cyiah Avila
Dayne Billie
Keaton Billie
Lazzlow Billie
Tanoke Billie
Alisa Brooks
Evol Buck
Akira Cabral
Ja'vian Cypress
Jaylee Cypress
Channon Frye
Keithana Onco
Miguel Reynosa
Grace Robbins
Andrea Ryland
Xzavier Solano
Kassim Stockton
Jalee Wilcox

GRADES 1-3

Fourth Quarter Councilman's Awards - 3.0-3.49 GPA

Dillion Ball
Talia Billie
Lauren Doctor
Brandi Osceola
Cale Osceola
Daleen Osceola
Leo Osceola-Onco
Jose Perez

Liberty Robbins

2010-2011 School Year Academic Awards - 3.0 or higher GPA maintained

Dillion Ball
Brandi Osceola
Cale Osceola
Daleen Osceola
Leo Osceola-Onco

Fourth Quarter President's Awards - 3.5-3.99 GPA

Nicholus Andrews
Caleb Billie
Sontino Billie
Elise Brown
Leviticus Buster
Hermione Calderon
Quentin Charging Cloud
Elijah Cook
Mikiyela Cypress
Ko'Oshee Henry
Daylon Osceola
Amaya Solano
Gregorio Reynosa

2010-2011 School Year Academic Awards - 3.5 or higher GPA maintained

Nicholus Andrews
Athena Bert
Sontino Billie
Elise Brown
Leviticus Buster
Elijah Cook
Harmony Cypress
Ko'Oshee Henry
Charlie Osceola
Daylon Osceola
Amaya Solano

Fourth Quarter Chairman's Awards – 4.0 GPA

Harmony Cypress
Charlie Osceola

Perfect Attendance – Fourth Quarter

Nicholus Andrews
Dillion Ball
Quentin Charging Cloud
Craig Huckabee
Brandi Osceola
Charlie Osceola
Amaya Solano

Perfect Attendance – 2010-2011 School Year

Dillion Ball
Amaya Solano

GRADES 4-6

Fourth Quarter Councilman's Awards - 3.0-3.49 GPA

Thomlynn Billie
Nashoba Gonzalez
Janessa Jones
Dayra Koenes
Mazzy Robbins
Mariah Smith

2010-2011 School Year Academic Awards - 3.0 or higher GPA maintained

Eyanna Billie
Thomlynn Billie
Janessa Jones
John Robbins

Fourth Quarter President's Awards - 3.5 - 3.9 GPA

Jonah Alvarado
GraySun Billie
Eyanna Billie
Dasani Cypress
Destiny Cypress
Alyssa Osceola
Evanne Pratt
Ryanne Pratt
John Robbins
AnnaBelle WhiteShield

2010-2011 School Year Academic Awards - 3.5 or higher GPA maintained

Jonah Alvarado
GraySun Billie
Destiny Cypress
Alyssa Osceola
Evanne Pratt
Ryanne Pratt
AnnaBelle WhiteShield

Perfect Attendance – Fourth Quarter

Elisah Billie
GraySun Billie
Roderick Bert
Alyssa Osceola

Perfect Attendance – 2010-2011 School Year

Elisah Billie

GRADES 7-12

Fourth Quarter Councilman's Awards - 3.0 - 3.49 GPA

RickyJoe Alumbaugh
Leauna Billie

Taylor Fulton
K'ahna Jumper
Janet Mata
Tia Osborne
Kaitlin Osceola
Savannah Tiger

2010-2011 School Year Academic Awards - 3.0 or higher GPA maintained

Sabre' Billie
Leauna Billie
Janet Mata
Kaitlin Osceola
Savannah Tiger

Fourth Quarter President's Awards – 3.5 - 3.99 GPA

Terri Baker
Sabre' Billie
Chelsey Alvarado

Perfect Attendance - Fourth Quarter

Bradley Osceola

Perfect Attendance – 2010-2011 School Year

Bradley Osceola

FOURTH QUARTER CULTURE AWARDS – ALL GRADES

Pre-K

Casey Ball
Aaliyah Billie
Ezekiel Billie
Jayana Billie
Jody Cabral
Peggy Cypress
Phoenix Kimble
Dyami Koenes
Adam McElroy Jr.
Madasyn Osceola
Niya Osceola
Tristen Osceola
Sarah Robbins
Johnnie Russell
Tony Sanchez
Micah Stockton
Kadin Tommie
Kaley Zapeda

Kindergarten

Anthony Avalos
Mauro Avalos
Cyiah Avila
Dayne Billie
Keaton Billie
Lazzlow Billie

Ohitika Billie
Alisa Brooks
Evol Buck
Akira Cabral
Ja'vian Cypress
Jaylee Cypress
Chanon Frye
Keithana Onco
Miguel Reynosa
Grace Robbins
Andrea Ryland
Xzavier Solano
Kassim Stockton
Jalee Wilcox

First Grade

Nicholus Andrews
Athena Bert
Caleb Billie
Sontino Billie
Talia Billie
Leviticus Buster
Quentin Charging Cloud
Harmony Cypress
Lauren Doctor
Marina Garcia
Ko'Oshee Henry
Barbara Jimmie
Romona Jimmie
Angelie Melton
Cale Osceola
Dacia Osceola
Daleen Osceola
Daylon Osceola
Anthony Wells

Second Grade

Dillion Ball
Hermione Calderone
Elijah Cook
Precious Jimmie
Brandi Osceola
Charlie Osceola
Leo Osceola-Onco
Jose Perez
Gregorio Reynosa
Liberty Robbins
Willie Smith
Amaya Solano

Third Grade

Carlee Billie
RedHeart Billie
Richard Billie
Jalycia Billie-Valdez
Brianna Bowers
Elise Brown
Mikiyela Cypress
Charli Frye
Geneva Garcia
Ricardo Garcia

Leilani Gopher
Craig Huckabee
Kysten Jumper
Reginald Ling
Thoya Robbins
Alena Stockton
Nigel Wells

Fourth Grade

Issiah Alvarado
Destiny Cypress
Chaska Osceola
Emmitt Osceola
Mazzy Robbins
Carlos Romero

Fifth Grade

Elisah Billie
Eyanna Billie
Alyssa Burnett-Osceola
Troy Cantu
Dayra Koenes
Ryanne Pratt
Annabelle Whiteshield

Sixth Grade

Jonah Alvarado
Corbin Billie
GraySun Billie
Dasani Cypress
John Robbins
Uriah Waggerby

Tribal Arts

Taylor Fulton
Danni Jae Tommie

E-la-pon-ke I

Qenton Cypress
William K. Jumper
Savannah Tiger

E-la-pon-ke II

RickyJoe Alumbaugh
Taylor Fulton
Bradley Osceola
Tequesta Tiger
Danni Jae Tommie

TOP OVERALL ATHLETES - AHFACHKEE WARRIORS

Female Athlete of the Year

Terri Baker

Male Athlete of the Year

Stevie Billie

Scholar Athlete of the Year

Taylor Pratt



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee Principal Grant Richardson, center, presents Charlie Osceola, left, and Harmony Cypress, right, with the Chairman's Honor Roll awards at the Lower Grades End-of-Year Awards Ceremony on June 1.



Naji Tobias

The final awards for the 2010-2011 school year were for the Ahfachkee School's first-ever Female, Male and Scholar Athletes of the Year, as Ahfachkee Warriors freshman Terri Baker, left, was selected as the Female Athlete of the Year, while Ahfachkee Warriors junior Stevie Billie, right, was named the Male Athlete of the Year at the June 2 End-of-Year Awards Ceremony inside the school's cafeteria.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee School Dean of Students Pete Cade, center, with Perfect Attendance honorees Xzavier Solano, left, and Casey Ball as the kindergarten and pre-kindergarten tandem, respectively, are recognized for achieving that feat at the Lower Grades End-of-Year Awards Ceremony on June 1.



Naji Tobias

Former Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr., left, shares a celebratory moment with Ahfachkee student Bradley Osceola, right, as he earns a special award for achieving perfect attendance throughout the 2010-2011 academic year at the Upper Grades End-of-Year Awards Ceremony on June 2.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Students Excel at End-of-the-Year Awards Ceremony

PEMAYETV EMAHAKV CHARTER SCHOOL'S END-OF-YEAR ACADEMIC HONORS

Kindergarten Effort

Dakota Fish
Jace Brown
Ysla Meras
Tanier Gore
Guadalupe Mora-Lara
Deagen Osceola
Melina Osceola
Lucius Billie
Illiana Robbins
Gabe Williams
Mariana Mora-Lara
Giselle Micco
Shylynn Testerman
Leviticus Roberts
Victor Parrilla
Vincenzo Osceola

Kindergarten Citizenship

Lillian Garcia
Cheyenne Lara
Valentine Martinez
Iann Jimmie
Dwayne Billie
Makya King
Derrick Smith
Gabe Williams
Leviticus Roberts
Mariana Mora-Lara
Shylynn Testerman
Jason Haydon

Kindergarten Improvement

Dylan Johns
Javaris Johnson
Austin Thomas
Caitlyn Olivarez
Jrayko Billie
Terald Garner
David King
Creek Gopher
Victor Parrilla
SirMarcus Osceola
Shylynn Testerman
Jason Haydon
Vincenzo Osceola
Perfect Attendance
Jace Brown

Student Council

Representative

Jrayko Billie

Citizenship Award for the Year-

students who consistently are ready to help others, always play fair, and treat everyone with respect.
Dwayne Billie – Mrs. Webber’s class
Cheyenne Lara – Mrs. Duncan’s class
Shylynn Testerman – Mrs. Tom’s class

First Grade Effort

Pherian Baker
Tehya Howard
Chyler Villarreal
Tammy Martinez
Jamie Smith
Kenai Billie
Mariah Garner
Leilani Burton
Jaytron Baker
Jahcole Arnold

First Grade Citizenship

Joss Youngblood
Tayla Burns
Kayven Emley
Lija Gore
LaShae King
Kyra Toneges
Jayton Baker
Edie Robbins
Jason Webber
Dathen Urbina
Karlyne Urbina
Elle Thomas
Kobe Jimmie
Diego Meras
Alice Osceola

First Grade Improvement

Kiowa Garcia
Kalyn Hammil
Caleb Burton
Tadan Santiago
Ta-fv Harris
Corey Jumper

First Grade Bronze Award (3.0-3.4) – 2nd semester

Lija Gore
Kalyn Hammil
Tehya Howard
Tammy Martinez
Kenai Billie
Ta-fv Harris
Jahcole Arnold
Jaytron Baker

First Grade Silver Award (3.5-3.9) – 2nd semester

Joss Youngblood
Tayla Burns
Jaytron Baker
Edie Robbins
Jason Webber
Leilani Burton
Diego Meras

First Grade Gold Award (4.0) – 2nd semester

Kayven Emley
Kyra Toneges
LaShae King
Elle Thomas

Perfect Attendance

Leilani Burton

Straight A’s all year

Kyra Toneges
Kayven Emley
LaShae King

Citizenship Award for the Year

– students who consistently are ready to help others, always play fair, and treat everyone with respect
Miss Rucks’ class- Joss Youngblood
Mrs. Johns’ class- Kyra Toneges
Mrs. Ringstaff’s class- Elle Thomas

Student Council Representative

Elle Thomas

Second Grade Effort

Davin Carrillo
Billy Bailey
Jahbahn Arnold
Todd Pierce

Melinda Gentry
Ivory Herrera
Ramone Baker
Hunter Howard
Aubee Billie
Norman Osceola
Hyatt Pearce
Tanner Shore
Jessie Webber

Second Grade Citizenship

Mariah Billie
Ruby Osceola
Alyssa Gonzalez
Melinda Gentry
Caylie Huff
Ivory Herrera
Laila Bennett
Aubee Billie
Haylie Huff
Tanner Shore
Morgan Yates

Second Grade Improvement

Billy Bailey
Davin Carrillo
Todd Pierce
Jagger Gaucin
Hunter Howard
Laila Bennett
Destiny Elliott
Norman Osceola
Jessie Webber
Morgan Yates

Second Grade Bronze Award (3.0-3.4) – 2nd semester

Ruby Osceola
Todd Pierce
Ramone Baker
Hyatt Pearce
Jaylen Baker

Second Grade Silver Award (3.5-3.9) – 2nd semester

Jagger Gaucin
John Beck
Destiny Elliott
Caylie Huff
Daven Buck
Heith Lawrence
Norman Osceola
Tanner Shore
Morgan Yates

Second Grade Gold Award (4.0) – 2nd Semester

Aubee Billie
Haylie Huff
Jessie Webber

Perfect Attendance

Aubee Billie
Dalence Carrillo

Citizenship of the Year Award-

students who consistently are ready to help others, always play fair, and treat everyone with respect
Mrs. Ball’s class- John Beck
Mrs. Clement’s class- Alyssa Gonzalez
Mrs. Paige’s class- Morgan Yates

Student Council Representative

Destiny Elliott

Third Grade Effort

Sheldon Garcia
Aleah Turtle
Katie Beck
Edward Gaucin
Shyla Gopher
Robert Harris
Malcolm Jones
Drake Lawrence
Alex Valdes
Tavis Jumper
Nyah Davidson
Tucker Johns
Jathan Tommie
Araya Youngblood
Eecho Billie
Kaleb Doctor
Aubrey Pearce
Caillou Smith
Dante Thomas
Mallorie Thomas

Third Grade Citizenship

Jarrett Bert
John Gore
Blake Baker
Sage Motlow
Madisyn Osceola
Ozzy Osceola
Luzana Venzor
Jathan Tommie
Burgundy Pierce
Brienna Brockman
Araya Youngblood
Donovan Harris
Waylynn Bennett
Justina Martinez
Kai Osceola

Third Grade Bronze Award (3.0-3.4)

Drake Lawrence
Madisyn Osceola
Alex Valdes
Tavis Jumper
Waylynn Bannett
Jacee Jumper
Kai Osceola
Caillou Smith

Third Grade Silver Award (3.5.-3.9)

John Gore
Malcolm Jones
Sage Motlow
Luzana Venzor
Brienna Brockman
Lance Howard
Tucker Johns
Silas Madrigal
Burgundy Pierce
Jathan Tommie
Araya Youngblood
Justina Martinez

Third Grade Gold Award (4.0)

Katie Beck
Edward Gaucin
Shyla Gopher
Jenna Brown
Nyah Davidson
Kamani Smith
Eecho Billie
Kaleb Doctor
Aubrey Pearce
Dante Thomas
Mallorie Thomas

Straight A’s all year

Aubrey Pearce

Jenna Brown

Perfect Attendance

Kaleb Doctor
Robert Harris
Lance Howard
Tavis Jumper
Kamani Smith

Third Grade Student Council Representative

Madisyn Osceola

Citizenship of the Year Award-

students who consistently are ready to help others, always play fair, and treat everyone with respect
Kaleb Doctor- Mrs. Brown’s class
Sage Motlow- Mrs. William’s class
Jathan Tommie- Mrs. Pryor’s Class

Fourth Grade Effort

Danyelle Boromei
Aleina Micco
Chynna Villarreal
Cady Osceola
Andrew Fish
Deven Tedders

Fourth Grade Citizenship

Aleina Micco
Krysta Burton
Kano Puente
Chynna Villarreal

Fourth Grade Bronze Award (3.0-3.4)

Krysta Burton
Danyelle Boromei
Chynna Villarreal
Andrew Fish
Alicia Fish
Cady Osceola
Gage Riddle
Conner Thomas

Fourth Grade Gold Award (Straight A’s -4.0)

Deven Tedders

Straight A’s All Year

Perfect Attendance

Aiden Tommie

President’s Education Awards Outstanding Academic Achievement 3.0-3.4

Alyke Baker
Danyelle Boromei
Alicia Fudge
Gage Riddle
Aiden Tommie
Conner Thomas
Billy Yates

Outstanding Academics Excellence 3.5-4.0

*Raeley Matthews
Aleina Micco
Kano Puente
Deven Tedders
*Top grade point average

Fourth Grade Student Council Representative

Conner Thomas

Citizenship of the Year Award-

students who consistently are ready to help others, always plays fair, and treat everyone with respect
Mrs. Pearce’s class- Oscar Yates
Mrs. Well’s Class- Aleina Micco

Safety Patrol

Ofc. Alicia Fudge
Ofc. Aiden Tommie
Ofc. Deven Tedders
Ofc. Kano Puente
Ofc. Aleina Micco
Ofc. Krysta Burton

Fifth Grade Effort

Brian Bishop
Chloe Chalfant
Bly Davidson
Marquis Fudge
Cheyenne Fish
Morgan King
Isaac Osceola
Chandler Pearce
Brady Rhodes
Cyrus Smedley
Layne Thomas
Brooke Thorton
Aiyana Tommie
Pernell Bert
Ruby Buster
Richard Harris
Jalynn Jones
Rudy Juarez
Dyami Nelson
Joseph Osceola
Rylee Smith
Camryn Thomas

Fifth Grade Citizenship

Logan Ortiz
Brian Bishop
Bly Davidson
Morgan King
Chandler Pearce
Brady Rogers
Cyrus Smedley
Layne Thomas
Brooke Thorton
Aiyana Tommie
Jalynn Jones
Rudy Juarez
Camryn Thomas
Krystal Toneges
Joseph Osceola

Fifth Grade Bronze Award (3.0-3.4)

Chloe Chalfant
Bly Davidson
Cheyenne Fish
Morgan King
Issac Osceola
Brady Osceola
Cyrus Smedley
Brooke Thorton
Sunni Bearden
Pernell Bert
Ruby Buster
Camryn Thomas
Krystal Toneges

Fifth Grade Silver Award (3.5-3.9)

Brian Bishop
Jalynn Jones
Dyami Nelson
Joseph Osceola

Please see AWARDS on page 8B



Rachel Buxton

Caitlyn Olivarez is awarded a certificate for accelerated reading June 9 at the Charter School end-of-the-year awards ceremony.



Rachel Buxton

Students third through fifth grade receive certificates for their craftsmanship and improvement in their Seminole culture class at Pemayetv Emahakv’s end-of-the-year awards ceremony June 9 held in the breezeway of the school.



Rachel Buxton

Students show that hard work pays off June 9 at the Charter School's end-of-the-year awards as they are awarded with the Gold award for having straight A's for the fourth nine weeks.

Kindergartners Celebrate Completion of Their First Year at Pemayetv Emahakv



Rachel Buxton

The entire kindergarten class says the Creek Pledge of Allegiance June 8 at the Brighton Veterans' Building during their special celebration.

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School held a special kindergarten celebration June 8 at the Brighton Veterans' Building to congratulate their youngsters for making it through their first year of big school.

Family and friends joined the students in the beach-themed auditorium for a little entertainment and announcement of awards, recognizing the students for their academic accomplishments.

"I have so much to be proud of them for," Principal Russell Brown said. "We've seen such a growth throughout the school year."

The students began the ceremony by saying the Creek Pledge of Allegiance followed by the American pledge.

The children then used the letters of the alphabet to recite a poem with each letter representing something they got out of the kindergarten school year.

Mrs. Pam Hudson recognized students for their academic achievements including citizenship, effort and improvement.

The youngsters then put on a show for the crowd by performing the song and dance Tony Chestnut.

Wrapping up the ceremony, teachers Mrs. Webber and Mrs. Duncan handed out kindergarten completion certificates to each student in their classes, along with

students from Mrs. Tom's class, as she was unfortunately unable to attend.

Principal Brown congratulated the students for their successful school year and stated that this year's kindergartners were the fastest group of learners out of all kindergarten classes since the start of the school four years ago.

"Their performance was tremendous," Brown said. "They gave teachers their best efforts."



Rachel Buxton

Jrayko Billie receives Citizenship of the Year award for Mrs. Webber's class.



Rachel Buxton

Victor Parrilla, left, and Vincenzo Osceola say what the letter L stands for in the kindergarten poem.

Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Students Survive FCAT Testing and Celebrate at Dance



Rachel Buxton

Rumor Juarez participates in the obstacle course competition held at the FCAT survival dance May 23 in the Charter School cafeteria.



Rachel Buxton

Pemayetv Emahakv girls sing and dance during the FCAT dance competition. Students enjoyed a sports-themed dance for surviving the FCAT tests.



Rachel Buxton

Morgan King picks out a cupcake to enjoy at the FCAT dance May 23 held in the school cafeteria. Students were treated to a dance with cupcakes, chips, punch and lots of competition.



Rachel Buxton

Demetrius Clark gives teacher Jade Braswell a big hug after being named King of the FCAT Dance for winning the dance competition.

AWARDS

From page 7B

Fifth Grade Gold Award (Straight A's- 4.0)

Chandler Pearce
Layne Thomas
Aiyana Tommie
Rudy Juarez

Fifth Grade Straight A's All Year

Aiyana Tommie

Fifth Grade Perfect Attendance

Dyami Nelson
Layne Thomas
Aiyana Tommie

Fifth Grade Student Council-

Chloe Chalfant

Citizenship Award for the Year-

students who consistently are ready to help others, always play fair, and treat everyone with respect

Mrs. Dobbs' class- Rudy Juarez

Mrs. Smith's class- Layne Thomas

Safety Patrol

Sgt. Brady Rhodes
Sgt. Aiyana Tommie
Sgt. Jalynn Jones
Sgt. Camryn Thomas

President's Education Awards Outstanding Academic Acheivments 3.0-3.4

Ivess Baker
Pernell Bert
Brian Bishop
Chloe Chalfant
Bly Davidson
Jalynn Jones
Morgan King
Isaac Osceola
Brady Rhodes
Krystal Toneges

Outstanding Academic Excellence 3.5-4.0

Rudy Juarez
Dyami Nelson
Joseph Osceola
Chandler Pearce
Camryn Thomas
Layne Nelson
*Aiyana Tommie
* Top grade point average

Middle School Effort

Crysten Smith
Rumor Juarez

Ruben Burgess
Elijah Finney

Middle School Citizenship

Shae Pearce
Diamond Shore
Boyd Brown
Zachary Hudson

Middle School Bronze Award (3.0-3.4)

Jermaine Bennett
Raylon Eagle
Erik Garcia
Odessa King
Shae Pierce
Jaden Puente
Ruben Burgess
Robert Fudge
Martina Herrera
Kaylen Buster
Brydgett Koontz
Keyana Nelson
Zeke Matthews
Sydnee Cypress
Kalgary Johns
Braceton King

Middle School Silver Award (3.5-3.9)

Sean Osceola
Boyd Brown
Kailin Brown
Elijah Finney

Jaron Johns
Melany Williams
Tatiana Herrera
Layton Thomas

Middle School Gold Award (Straight A's- 4.0)

Andrew Dobbs
Dylan Sheffield
Trevor Thomas
Crysten Smith
Zachary Hudson
Rumor Juarez

Middle School Straight A's All Year

Trevor Thomas
Andrew Dobbs
Zachary Hudson

Sixth Grade Student Council-

Trevor Thomas

Seventh Grade Student Council-

Tyra Baker

Eighth Grade Student Council-

Braceton King
Chairman- Layton Thomas

Perfect Attendance

Deliah Carrillo
Jaron Johns
Brydgett Koontz
Keyana Nelson
Layton Thomas
Trevor Thomas

Citizenship Award for the Year- students who consistently are ready to help others, always play fair, and treat everyone with respect

Crysten Smith- 6th Grade
Rumor Juarez- 7th Grade
Myrick Puente- 8th Grade

Safety Patrol

Cpt. Trevor Thomas
Cpt. Crysten Smith
Lt. Diamond Shore
Lt. Andrew Dobbs
Sgt. Sean Osceola
Sgt. Jaden Puente

National Council of Young Writers- Breanna Billie has been awarded a certificate of recognition for her writing that was submitted to the Young Writers Program.

Outstanding Academic Achielvments 3.0-3.4

6th Grade- Odessa King

Diamond Shore
Robert Fudge

Shae Pierce
Martina Herrera
Crysten Smith
Ruben Burgess
Raylon Eagle
7th Grade- Keyana Nelson
Michael Garcia
Zeke Matthews
Brydgett Koontz
8th Grade- Darlah Cypress

Outstanding Academic Excellence 3.5-4.0

6th Grade- Dylan Sheffield
Erik Garcia
Jaden Puente
Sean Osceola
Trevor Thomas
*Andrew Dobbs
7th Grade- Rumor Juarez
Boyd Brown
Jaron Johns
Elijah Finney
Kailin Brown
Melany Williams
*Zachary Hudson
8th Grade- Tatiana Herrera
Bracton King
*Layton Thomas



Rachel Buxton

From left, Aiyana Tommie, Jenna Brown and Aubrey Pearce receive trophies for having straight A's all year at Pemayetv Emahakv's end-of-the-year awards.



Rachel Buxton

Third grader Shyla Gopher receives the Gold award for having straight A's for the fourth nine weeks during Pemayetv Emahakv's awards ceremony.



Rachel Buxton

Students receive the silver award for having an A/B average during the fourth nine weeks at the Charter School's awards ceremony June 9 in the breezeway of the school.

Graduations

Chelsea Storm Graduates from Florida Air Academy

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

IMMOKALEE — Chelsea May Storm passed another milestone in her life's journey when she received her high school diploma from the Florida Air Academy in Melbourne on the evening of May 13, 2011.

The daughter of Thomas Storm Sr. and Carey Bradford and the granddaughter of Mary Jane Storm, Chelsea has been a student at the military boarding school for the past five years.

One of 59 diploma recipients in the graduating class of 2011, Chelsea was recognized with a Most Artistic Award. While completing her standard high school courses and military curriculum, she focused on math and drafting programs in preparation for her chosen career of architecture.

This 18-year-old sees the sky as the limit and has plans to attend the Brevard Community College, where she will major in architecture while continuing to study her first love, which is art. Chelsea enjoys all forms of art but excels in painting and has a special interest in portraits.

"Upon getting my architectural degree, I would like to use my talents to help shape the future of the Seminole Tribe and act as a mentor for the younger generation," said Chelsea. "During my short lifetime, the Tribe's development has been enormous, and I feel that its future strength will depend upon Tribal participation."



Photo courtesy of Victoria Soto

Following the commencement ceremonies at Florida Air Academy, Chelsea Storm is congratulated by her mother, Carey Bradford.



Chris C. Jenkins

Agnes Billie-Motlow with her graduate diploma from Barry University.

Tribal Citizen Agnes Billie-Motlow Graduates Magna Cum Laude

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal citizen Agnes Billie-Motlow (Bear Clan) is a shining example of the proof positive impact of education.

Joining 40 other classmates as a recent Barry University graduate with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies, it is only part of the journey for the wife, mother, grandmother and role model.

"I am very proud of the fact that I completed it (my degree). Now that the door is open I am looking forward to the next step," said Billie-Motlow.

In a pursuit most would have written off long ago, she stayed focused over an incredible 30-year span, resuming as a full-time student in 2008. She finished Magna Cum Laude with a 3.78 GPA and member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society. Now 60, she said she began taking classes on and off in her 20s at Stetson University.

As the daughter of George Billie and the late Ruby Jumper Billie, she said her inspiration has come from three special men in her life: her late brother Billy Cypress Jr. and uncle Sonny Billie, as well as husband David Motlow.

"My brother used to say to me, 'Just because you do not finish now does not mean the door is not open to finish later,'" she said. "My uncle used to say, 'You

can not take the easy way out, once you start something, then finish it,' and my husband told me before I started school again, 'This is a good time to finish your dream.'"

Tribal Education Advisor Linda Iley said Billie-Motlow is an inspiration to all.

"It is amazing and uplifting not only to us in the Education Department but the Tribe as a whole. This says you are never too old to get your education. It is possible to do it," Iley said.

In accomplishing such a feat, Billie-Motlow said she remains conscious of her status as a role model in the Hollywood community and among her family.

"Some females have told me what I have done is an inspiration. I tell them time is not a factor. Educated Tribal woman are one of the foundations for the future," she said. "If they (the grandchildren) see granny do it (finish school) they know they can to," Billie-Motlow said.

Still not satisfied, her future plans involve furthering her education even more by attending graduate school this fall for a master's degree in public administration at Barry. She said further down the line she will aim for another master's in Native American/anthropology studies with the hopes of preserving the Tribes' language and culture.

Five Ahfachkee Students Graduate from High School

AHFACHKEE
SCHOOL'S
CLASS OF 2011
HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATES

Jorge 'Chebon'
Gooden-Harden
K'Ahna Jumper
Janet Mata
Tia Osborne
Jessica Osceola



The five Ahfachkee high school graduates are all smiles with Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger and former Big Cypress Tribal Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. as they have officially completed their grade school journey at the May 31 graduation ceremony.

Naji Tobias

See more photos on page 11B

University School's Courtney Osceola Graduates



Chris C. Jenkins

Family members and supporters of Osceola in the audience.



Chris C. Jenkins

Courtney Osceola anxiously waits for her name to be called during the commencement ceremony.

Brighton Youth Graduate with Honors and Goals for the Future

BY RACHEL BUXTON AND KIRSTEN DONEY, SWEP PARTICIPANT

BRIGHTON — The Brighton youth continue to excel in academics. Six Tribal youth from Brighton graduated high school this year and are ready to take their next step in their academic future.

Ty Huff, the son of John Huff Jr., graduated from Okeechobee High School June 9. Huff is a member of Seminole 4-H and was the 2011 Steer Grand Champion. He has plans to attend Indian River State College. Huff's advice to the Tribal youth of today is "stay focused."

Ashton Baxley, known as Crash to her family and friends is the daughter of Scotty Baxley and the late Abby Osceola. Baxley received her diploma June 9, marking the end of her time at Okeechobee High School. Baxley has been a member of 4-H since she was nine and also participates in rodeo. She plans to take a semester off and then attend Indian River State College to study agriculture. "It's important to get your education," Baxley said. "Because at the end of the day you'll always have it."

Eric Robinson, the son of Jeff and Janelle Robinson, graduated from Okeechobee High School June 9. Robinson is unsure of what his future holds but hopes to further his education by attending college.

Ali Nunez, the daughter of David and Anita Nunez, graduated from Okeechobee High School June 9. Nunez was voted "Most Unforgettable" by her senior class and was a four-year letterman for flag football. She was also the secretary of the drama club. Nunez plans to attend Florida State University.

Janae Braswell, the daughter of Jay and Kay Braswell, finished her high school years June 9 as she graduated from Okeechobee High School. Braswell was a member of the High School Rodeo team in barrel racing and also competed in Indian Rodeo. She was involved in S.A.D.D, Students Against Destructive Decisions as well as H.O.S.A., Health Occupation Students of America. Braswell was named Ms. Brahman for her school and received a certificate for career and

technical education for completing three consecutive courses in nursing assistant while in school. Braswell will continue her education at Indian River State College to become a registered nurse (RN) and plans to join the Peace Corps following. She advises the youth to, "never give up and to dream big."

Kristina Osceola, the daughter of Reno and Kelli Osceola, graduated from Okeechobee High School June 9. Osceola plans to attend Indian River State College for two years and then transfer to the University of Florida to study medicine. She hopes to become either a pediatrician or a veterinarian.



Ashton Baxley with father Scotty Baxley



Chris C. Jenkins

Osceola onstage receiving her high school graduation diploma from the University School during the 38th commencement ceremony of University School of Nova Southeastern University held at the arena at the Don Taft University Center on May 27. Osceola will be attending Georgetown College of Kentucky to play basketball.



Janae Braswell



Ty Huff



Ali Nunez with mom Anita Nunez

Allison Garza Receives Bachelor's in Legal Studies

BY JUDY WEEKS
 Freelance Writer

IMMOKALEE — Immokalee Tribal citizen Allison Garza set the bar high for herself and proved that individuals shape their own lifestyles through the choices that they make. Completing four years of education at Hodges University, Garza received a Bachelor of Science in legal studies during Commencement Exercises on June 5th at the Germain Arena in Estero.

In its 22 years of learning, Hodges University is a rapidly growing Southwest Florida institution of learning with highly accredited faculty. The academic procession for the Hodges University class of 2011 included 603 graduates in 33 categories. Garza was one of 18 who received a Bachelor of Science in legal studies.

Garza is the daughter of Raymond Garza Sr. and the granddaughter of Nancy Garza of the Immokalee Reservation.

The president and publisher of The News-Press Media Group, Mei-Mei Chan delivered an awe inspiring commencement address that recounted her journey from

childhood in Communist China to corporate and literary success in the United States. Garza's story also deserves recognition as it relates to current trends among today's youth.

"When I was in the ninth grade, I succumbed to peer pressure and quickly discovered that I was on the wrong road," said Garza. "I was skipping school, lying and getting in with a very bad crowd. I used the excuse that I had no choice."

"While on a trip, I met an attorney who had started out the same way and eventually spent the better part of his childhood in prison," continued Garza. "He fought hard to turn his life around, finished high school behind bars and then earned a law degree. He was my inspiration and I am indebted to him for the encouragement that he provided. He showed me that we are all masters of our own destiny."

A highly motivated 22 year old, Garza is expecting her first child in August. In addition to motherhood, she plans to enroll at Ave Maria University to earn her master's degree in constitutional law and eventually use her education to benefit the Tribe.



Judy Weeks

Allison Garza earned her Bachelor of Science in legal studies from Hodges University.



Judy Weeks

Allison Garza plans for a legal career with the Seminole Tribe after she earns her master's degree.

Kindergarteners Graduate at the Ahfachkee School



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee's kindergarten graduates sing out "I Am a Promise" at the May 25 commencement ceremony.



Naji Tobias

Former Tribal Chairman Mitchell Cypress speaks to the Ahfachkee School's kindergarten graduates.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger served as the commencement speaker at the Ahfachkee School's Kindergarten Graduation.



Naji Tobias

Here's a group gathering of the Ahfachkee School's Class of 2011 kindergarten graduates with former Tribal Council Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger at the May 25 commencement function.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee School's Dean of Students Pete Cade, left, hands out a rolled-up certificate to Evol Buck toward the conclusion of the commencement exercises.

AHFACHKEE SCHOOL'S CLASS OF 2011 KINDERGARTEN GRADUATES LIST

Teacher: Mrs. Statora Huckabee
 Instructional Aide: Ms. Amy Whiteshield

Students
 Cyiah Avila
 Tanoke Ohitika Billie
 Keaton Billie
 Alisa Brooks
 Evol Buck
 Jaylee Cypress
 Keithana Onco

Miguel Reynosa
 Andrea Ryland
 Grace Robbins

Teacher: Mrs. Vicki Rudolph
 Instructional Aide: Ms. Michele Walker

Students
 Anthony Avalos
 Dayne Billie
 Lazzlow Billie
 Akira Cabral
 Ja'vian Cypress
 Chanon Frye
 Xzavier Solano
 Kassim Stockton, Jr.
 Jalee Wilcox

Miccosukee Indian School Has Graduation Ceremonies in Trail



Chris C. Jenkins

From left, proud seniors Yancy Cypress, Raven Osceola and Krysten Willie of the Miccosukee Indian School on stage together during class graduations at the Tribal auditorium in Trail on May 10. The event featured over 40 students recognized from Head Start through senior level.



Chris C. Jenkins

Miccosukee Tribal Chairman Colley Billie, far right, with graduating students from the fifth-grade class.



Chris C. Jenkins

Second-grade youth of the Miccosukee Indian School recite the Miccosukee Pledge of Allegiance before the graduation ceremonies begin.

Jessica Elaine Lopez Graduates from Palmetto Ridge High School

BY JUDY WEEKS
 Freelance Writer

IMMOKALEE — Graduation was a celebration of years of hard work and good times for Jessica Elaine Lopez when she marched down the aisle at Palmetto Ridge High School to receive her diploma on the evening of June 3. She was one of 376 graduates recognized for their achievements during the commencement proceedings in the gymnasium before a capacity audience.

A 17-year-old resident of the Immokalee community, Lopez is the daughter of Sheila Aguilar and the granddaughter of Elaine and Pedro Aguilar Sr.

Knowledge is one thing that you build on the way to graduation, but character is another. Very proud of her Seminole ancestry, Lopez learned everything she could from her Grandmother Elaine and Great-Grandmother Lucy in an effort to preserve her Seminole heritage.

A member of the Otter clan, Lopez began her formal education in the public school system in Immokalee. She transferred to Ahfachkee in Big Cypress during her middle school years because the curriculum offered a cultural education and opportunity to become better acquainted with her Tribal relatives. She enjoyed her Ahfachkee years very much.

"Realizing that I would need a career, I had to make a very tough decision at the beginning of my junior year in high school," said Lopez. "I wanted to enter the medical field and that would require courses that were only offered in a larger school. I also decided that if I was going on to college, I would have to learn how to survive in a much larger atmosphere."

Transferring to Palmetto Ridge High School in Naples, Lopez began to prepare for a future as an ultrasound technician. "People associate ultrasounds with unborn babies," said Lopez. "They are also a vital tool in diagnosing problems with internal organs and can mean the difference between life and death during critical situations when the results are immediately necessary. I saw how an ultrasound helped my mother's gall

bladder problems, and more recently, my Uncle Edward's pancreas."

She will begin her studies to become an ultrasound technician at Keyser University in Fort Myers in the fall. "I want to thank my family for encouraging and pushing me to strive for my goals. They always recognize what I am capable of long before I do and they believe in me, when I don't believe in myself," concluded Lopez.



Photo courtesy of Vanessa Aguilar

Jessica Lopez graduates from Palmetto Ridge High School Class of 2011.



Judy Weeks

Chairman James E. Billie serenades the Immokalee Preschoolers with one of their favorite songs and they join him in the chorus.



Judy Weeks

The Immokalee Seminole Preschool Graduating Class of 2011 leads the commencement ceremonies with the Pledge of Allegiance.



Judy Weeks

Angelo Colon responds in Mikasuki to questions being asked by Immokalee Culture Coordinator Geraldine Osceola.



Judy Weeks

Future chef Jaylee Jimmie gave the audience a chuckle as she told Preschool Manager Michelle Ford about making cupcakes and cookies for her family.



Judy Weeks

Angelo Colon tells Immokalee Preschool Manager Michelle Ford that he would like to become a mailman, while artist Kenna Martinez awaits her opportunity to discuss career choices.

Immokalee Seminole Preschoolers Attend Special Graduation Program

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

IMMOKALEE — The graduating class of 2011 at the Immokalee Seminole Preschool broke previous records with the most students to complete their curriculum in the history of the school. Commencement ceremonies were held for six young scholars at the Immokalee Gym on the morning of May 17.

Angelo Colon, Shaniah Correa, Jaylee Jimmie, Kenna Martinez, Makayla Mata and Samara Yzaguirre made a grand entry in their red caps and gowns adorned with Seminole patchwork in medicine colors. Ascending the stage, they opened the presentation by leading in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Manteele for their family members and friends.

"It has been 20 years since I first started at the Immokalee Preschool," said Site Manager Michelle Ford. "Most of these youngsters come to us as babies and over the years we feel as though they have become our own. It is always an emotional farewell to the graduates, but the hole that they create by leaving is quickly filled by the new students that join us each year."

During the past year the Immokalee Culture Department has taken a very active role in the curriculum of the school and the results have been outstanding. The children have quickly adapted to the "one word a day language program" and they demonstrated their proficiency in Mikasuki during an individual question and answer presentation with Cultural Coordinator Geraldine Osceola.

The 3-year-old students joined the graduates for a medley of native songs and then concluded with a performance of "I'm a Little Graduate."

A short biography of each graduate was followed by the presentation of a Fire & Safety Award that had been prepared by Lieutenant Bruce Britton, who held frequent workshops with the youngsters.

Teacher Frances Fregoso's farewell speech gave insight into the personalities of each graduate and highlighted their years of attending the Preschool.

Special memories by Michelle Ford with the poem "Whose Child is This?" accompanied a Power Point presentation of photos depicting the children's progression from toddlers to graduation.

"I've had four years of continuous joy seeing my little friends and talking with them about respect, responsibility, family values and personal conduct," said Family Services Prevention Coordinator Fred Mullins. "Sometimes they make me wonder who the teacher really is as I continue to learn from them. I see a lot of potential on today's platform and challenge myself and you to support these youngsters as they continue to grow."

The audience was filled with smiles and laughter as teacher Maria Castro orchestrated a special program in which the graduates gave short presentations depicting their career choices while dressed in appropriate costumes. With inflatable guitars the young musicians mimed a "Break It Down" performance.

Seminole Preschool Director Leoma Williams, Immokalee Preschool Manager Michelle Ford and Health/Nutrition Coordinator Michelle Harris Ferrell distributed the diplomas and graduation gifts to the Class of 2011.

Special Guest Chairman James E. Billie picked up a guitar and joined the Preschool student body on the platform for a presentation of one of their favorite songs that he had written. "The Love Song" was followed by a short medley with his little chorus.

"This was a beautiful program and I was particularly impressed with the importance of the cultural aspects," said Director Leoma Williams. "It will be 21 years in November since I started with the preschools and I have grown along with the program from volunteer, kitchen, teacher's aide, acting director to director. Through the combined effort of our staff, I have seen the program evolve to meet the needs of our communities. Immokalee is a good example of the enormous progress that continues to take place. It is important to remember that our future will some day be in the hands of our babies."



Judy Weeks

Shaniah Correa and Makayla Mata grab guitars and mime a "Break It Down" performance.



Judy Weeks

Samara Yzaguirre was very impressed with the blast off of the space shuttle and wants to become an astronaut.

Legal Notice

If you are a Native American Farmer

or the heir of one who was denied a

USDA farm loan or loan servicing

between 1981 and late 1999,

You can get up to \$50,000 or more from a \$760 million class action settlement.

To receive a payment you must file a claim by December 27, 2011.

For more information about the Keepseagle Settlement and how to file a claim:

call 1-888-233-5506

or visit

www.IndianFarmClass.com.

More photos from the Ahfachkee School's High School Graduation



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee's Tia Osborne, walking down the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, is one of five high school graduates who received diplomas on May 31 at the commencement exercises.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee high school graduate K'Ahna Jumper, left, is with Ahfachkee School Principal Grant Richardson as she receives her diploma.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal citizen/Human Resources Department Director Candy Cypress was the keynote speaker at the Ahfachkee School's high school graduation.



Naji Tobias

Former Big Cypress Tribal Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. congratulates the high school graduates.

Brighton Preschoolers Take Next Step Academically During Graduation

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Twenty-two preschoolers walked across the stage at the Brighton Veterans' Building May 19, as they took the next step in their academic career. As family and friends ushered themselves into the auditorium for the 2011 preschool graduation, emcee Larry Howard welcomed everyone and brought Tribal elder Wonder Johns on stage to give the invocation. Following Johns' prayer the preschoolers took to the stage for the Pledge of Allegiance and to provide a little entertainment. In their native Creek language the little ones sang "Jesus Loves Me" and their ABC's. One by one the students introduced themselves in Creek saying their name and who their parents are.

"These are the future leaders of our Tribe," said Howard. "This is just the start." The guests enjoyed a slideshow prepared with pictures of all the graduating preschoolers. There were baby pictures, family pictures and other miscellaneous pictures of the students from their short-lived lives so far. The students lined up in the back as their parents lined up in the front of the auditorium. As each student was called they walked down, dressed in cap and gowns, and presented their parents with a rose and then continued their walk across the stage where Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. presented them with their preschool diploma. "I hope to see you again in 13 years walking across another stage," Rep. Bowers said to the young graduates.



Rachel Buxton

Students say the Pledge of Allegiance to start off the ceremony.



Rachel Buxton

Keenan Jones wants to work with his dad when he grows up.



Rachel Buxton

The Brighton Preschool class of 2011 is ready for big kid school after their graduation at the Brighton Veterans' Building May 19.



Rachel Buxton

Cariss Chilson receives his diploma from Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr.



Rachel Buxton

Nena Youngblood says she wants to have the perfect job when she grows up.



Chris C. Jenkins

The Hollywood Preschool youth recite the Manteee Pledge of Allegiance on stage for parents and family members at the Hollywood Seminole Preschool Graduations held at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium May 26. The event featured 18 graduating youth.

Eighteen Hollywood Seminole Preschoolers Graduate



Chris C. Jenkins

Desirae Stewart plays the character of Goldilocks in the preschool version of the classic story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'.



Chris C. Jenkins

The Preschool youth sing the Kindergarten Song, from left, Draven Osceola-Hahn, Alyssa Bowers, Rainbow Jackson, Saylor Gowen, Lania Bert and Burton Harjo Jr.



Chris C. Jenkins

Gregory Thomas entertains the audience as the spider in the classic nursery rhyme of 'Little Miss Muffet'.



Chris C. Jenkins

Emcee Jo Motlow welcomes parents and guests to the graduation.

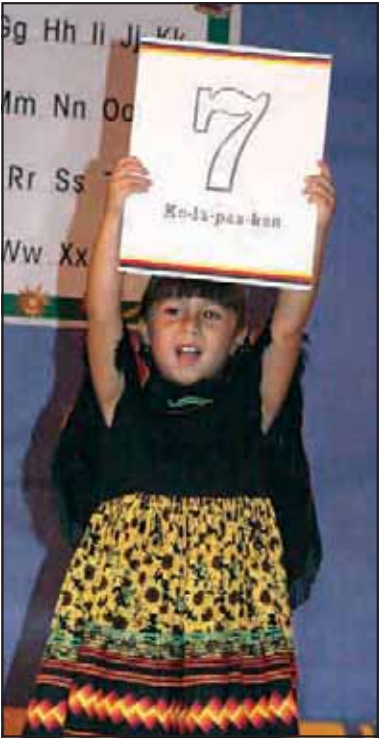
2011 HOLLYWOOD PRESCHOOL GRADUATES

- Lania Bert
- Wren Bankston
- Alyssa Bowers
- Simeon Cypress
- Burton Harjo Jr.
- Saylor Gowen
- Rainbow Jackson
- Lucky Johns-Carney
- Breanna Olgin
- Sebastian Motlow
- Draven Osceola-Hahn
- Marcela Osceola
- Franklin Primeaux
- Neo Osceola
- Desirae Stewart
- Gregory Thomas
- Uriah Tommie
- Eanjay Young



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Preschool graduate Darwin Brooks waves the Seminole flag during the May 25 graduation ceremony at the Big Cypress Community Center.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Preschool graduate Janah Lee Cypress holds up a No. 7 sign and speaks that number in the E-la-pon-ke language.

2011 BIG CYPRESS PRESCHOOL GRADUATES

- Louis Colt Billie
- Justin Colt Billie, Jr.
- Lavin Nathan Lee Billie
- Darwin Brooks, Jr.
- Teena Maree Covarrubias
- Solomon Stanley Cypress
- Janah Lee Cypress
- Emma Jean Dicarolo
- Rylin Billie Osceola
- Zechariah Isaiah Stockton

Big Cypress Preschoolers Graduate in Ceremonial Style



Naji Tobias

All of the 10 Big Cypress Preschool graduates are seated as they wait to be called up for their certificates at the celebration.



Naji Tobias

Tribal Chairman James E. Billie, right, sings an impromptu "Numbers" song with the Big Cypress Preschool graduates during the May 25 celebration.



Naji Tobias

Seminole Tribe Preschool Director and Graduation Program MC Leona Tommie-Williams, left, asks Big Cypress Preschool graduate Rylin Billie Osceola, center, what his favorite color is and what he wants to be when he grows up while Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger looks on.

Health



Rachel Buxton

Reina Micco gets her blood pressure checked at the IRSC booth May 25 at the bi-annual Brighton Health and Wellness Fair held at the Brighton Veterans' Building.

Tribal Members and Employees Get Educated on Health Topics at Wellness Fair

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Community members and Tribal employees got educated on an array of health topics May 25 at the bi-annual Brighton Health and Wellness Fair held at the Brighton Veterans' Building.

Nearly 40 booths were set up in the Veterans' Building auditorium with vendors from different Tribal departments including the Seminole Health Department, Seminole Police Department, Fire Rescue, Fitness, Recreation, Family Services, Environmental Health and several others. Community vendors included organizations such as the American Heart Association, Martha's House, American Cancer Society, Okeechobee County Health Department, HEARx, Martin Memorial Health Systems, March of Dimes and the American Diabetes Association.

"Hosting a health fair is a great way to educate the Tribal community on ways to live a healthier lifestyle," organizer Barbara Boling said. "The information at the health fair is presented in a fun and casual atmosphere so participants are able to visit with one another while still learning."

Upon entering the health fair participants were given a Health Passport with each vendor listed with brief descriptions. Participants were required to visit all booths in order to be entered into the door prize raffles. Vendors signed participants' Health Passports after they completed their brief presentation.

The bi-annual health fair was a huge success with 379 total participants, 247 being Tribal members.

❑ Please see WELLNESS FAIR on page 14B



Rachel Buxton

Heith Lawrence checks out bugs under the microscope at the Environmental Health booth.

2011 Immokalee Health Expo Draws Record Turnout

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

IMMOKALEE — A record turnout attended the Seminole Allied Health Department sponsored 2011 Immokalee Health Expo on May 19 in the gym for the benefit of the residents and employees of the Immokalee Community. Participants were invited to take a close look at the numerous opportunities available to combat common health issues that confront various segments of society during their lifetime.

Immokalee Nutrition and Health Educator Charlotte Porcaro said, "Often people recognize that they have problems but remain reluctant to acknowledge them and seek counseling or medical assistance. Even worse, many people do not realize that the symptoms they are feeling are not unique to them alone and with proper guidance they can identify the source, find possible relief or prevent physical or mental deterioration. Our goal is to provide you with a key that will open the door to better health."

Lining the gym were booths with informational materials and qualified attendants ready to address prevention and treatment methods that can make a difference in the quality of a healthy lifestyle. Various departments of the Seminole Tribe participated in the expo with qualified health personnel from local governmental agencies and medical facilities.

"Knowledge brings power," said Health Specialist Suzanne Davis. "Learning what we can do to promote a healthy lifestyle for ourselves and our families can help us meet the challenges that we encounter during the normal aging process. We want to help you take control when

possible, but when this is not an option, it is imperative that you obtain the proper treatment."

Medical, social and recreational employees of the Seminole Tribe addressed diabetes, obesity, addiction, detoxification, environmental health programs, fitness, cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart disease and mental health. The Seminole Police Department and Animal/Wildlife Officers used child friendly approaches to serious topics that captivated the younger audience.

Representatives from the American Cancer Society, Alzheimer's Association, American Heart Association and the Collier County Health Department were joined by a dentist and eye specialist to discuss prevention, detection and treatment options for a multitude of medical conditions.

The Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library and Department of Education used reading material and treatment programs to help broaden the scope of knowledge on health issues.

Seminole Walk Coordinator Edna McDuffie called attention to the fact that several of the participating organizations sponsor organized walks throughout the year as fund raisers and encouragement in advocating a healthy lifestyle through regular exercise. Team Seminole welcomes new members to participate in these programs.

A shoot out, tree climbing apparatus, dunk tank, card magician and youth nutritional specialist drew a large crowd of youngsters. While visiting the booths, each participant received a stamp in their passport, which entitled them to raffle tickets for the door prizes in addition to the distribution of individual gifts.



Judy Weeks

The Seminole Allied Health Department's card magician captivated young audiences throughout the day while she talked about healthy lifestyle choices at the 2011 Immokalee Health Expo on May 19 in the gym.



Judy Weeks

Seminole Police Officer Doug VanOrman announces Alycia Mora as a winner in the poster contest.



Judy Weeks

Raymond James Mora surprises Youth Health Specialist Amy Kimberlain with his knowledge of the adverse effects of fast food and junk food while he tries the weight vest experience.



Judy Weeks

From left, Amy Yzaguirre and Juanita Martinez talk about mosquito control and pet health options with Animal/Wildlife Officer Donna Williamson.

Big Cypress Community Gains Awareness in Health and Diabetes Fair

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — It was all about the concept of awareness in regards to hosting the Big Cypress Community's Health and Diabetes Fair on May 12.

Held at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, this year's fair was assembled by a collaborative effort between a plethora of Tribal departments and some local health entities, with all striving to provide as much health information to the reservation's Tribal citizens and community members as possible.

Attendees received a "health passport" upon arrival at the fair, which

consisted of a lot of available features that each department had at their viewing station. With a primary focus on health, each departmental booth provided health benefits and choices for the Tribal community to be engaged in.

For example, the Seminole Fire-Rescue's booth offered participants an opportunity to take their blood pressure. After going through the proper procedures, attendees were able to fill in their blood pressure rating in the Fire-Rescue's part of their health passports, giving them a sense of knowledge of where they stand health-wise.

Big Cypress Tribal citizen/Family Services outreach worker Tara Robbins, who received her blood sugar and blood pressure readings at the health fair, was among those who were happy about what transpired overall.

"It's good to keep my health up because I want to enjoy my kids," Robbins said. "I'm glad that I'm informed of how my health is. It's good to be working out and exercising on a daily basis. And with all the information we have available to us, it can only be a good thing."

Robbins, who has five children, said she makes it her point to let them know about the dangers of having diabetes. Though Robbins doesn't have the disease, she said that she had to help her children's father cope with it by giving him insulin shots.

"I became aware of diabetes that way," Robbins said. "It's great for me to inform my kids of how important it is for us to eat healthy and exercise as a part of our lives."

The health passport also featured a section in which one could fill out his/her body mass index, which is an indicator of how healthy the individual is as far as their weight. In addition, there was a section in the Big Cypress Medical Clinic's part of the health passport that gave an educational level on blood sugar and featured a portion in which an individual could take down his/her blood sugar reading after testing is completed.

"We're putting a lot of emphasis on diabetes prevention at this fair," said Allied Health Program Manager Suzanne Davis said. "The precursors of the disease can start 10 years before one is diagnosed with it. So that's why we're trying to catch people early in our efforts to make them fully aware of the effects of diabetes. We just want to see where everyone is at and what we could do to help them out."

Davis talked about the variety of health stations that were inside and outside the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, which

included inside exhibits from the Tribe's Medical Social Work Program and the Tribe's Fitness Department, to name just two areas. Outside exhibits were highlighted by stations such as the "Dunk Diabetes" water tank, the "Let's Move" obstacle course and a rock climbing station entitled "In Between a Rock and a Heart Place."

All of the health station varieties were set up to give the attendees a choice of interactive and informative health options they can take part in.

"Nobody likes to be told boldfaced what to do about anything," Davis said. "We're just here to inform the people of the options they have so they can make their own decisions for themselves. The most important thing for us to know is that each person is an individual. All we need to do is empower the people, present them the facts and let them decide from there."



Naji Tobias

At the "Dunk Diabetes" station, John Robbins, left, throws a softball at the dunk target, with Family Services Prevention Counselor Arthur Malone, right, in the water tank outside the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium during the May 12 Health and Diabetes Awareness Fair in Big Cypress.



Naji Tobias

Tribal youngsters Barbara Jimmie, left, and Ramona Jimmie, right, are working on their jumping jacks with a fat vest that weighs a total of 10 extra pounds at the Health and Diabetes Awareness fair.

❑ See more photos on page 14B

WELLNESS FAIR

From page 13B

For the first time the Tribal youth were included in the health fair. Every grade from the Charter School attended, as well as the 4-year-old Preschool class.

“The Health Department is always looking for ways to include the youth in our programs,” Boling said. “The staff at the Charter School, especially Michele Thomas, have worked very hard to coordinate the effort.”

Helping to keep things fun and creative the Health Department had a dunk tank referred to as “Dunk Diabetes.” The “Dunk Diabetes” dunk

tank was used to raise awareness of a disease that continues to plague the Seminole Tribe.

A rock wall was also set up in effort to educate on the leading cause of death in the U.S., heart disease.

Participants were able to get their blood pressure and blood sugar level checked. They learned about the Body Mass Index to find out if they are considered overweight for their height. Memory tests were given by the Alzheimer’s Association to help reduce the risk of dementia through promoting brain health.

“We were fortunate to bring in some new vendors this year,” Boling said. “That always adds more interest to the mix.”



Mallorie Thomas tries on the beer goggles at the Family Services table May 25 at the bi-annual Brighton Health and Wellness Fair held at the Brighton Veterans’ Building

Rachel Buxton

More photos from the Big Cypress Health and Diabetes Awareness Fair



Ko’Oshee Henry, 9, left, gets his height and weight (body mass index) measured by Allied Health’s Jillian Gurski.

Naji Tobias



Allied Health’s Suzanne Davis, left, takes a blood sugar level reading from Big Cypress senior Violet Jim at the Health and Diabetes Awareness Fair on May 12.

Naji Tobias



Talena Holata visits Brighton Health Department’s nutritionist Valari Fauntleroy at her fresh market set up.

Rachel Buxton



Donna Turtle learns about Brighton’s new Boys & Girls Club chapter.

Rachel Buxton



Kai Setty from the Recreation Department gives out information to Rita McCabe.

Rachel Buxton



Collaborative to Conquer Cancer

Southwest Cancer Control Collaborative Quarterly Meeting

When: August 17th, from 9:00 until 11:00 a.m.
Dial-in number: (888) 808-6959
Dial-in code: 7480747#

Florida’s Southwest Cancer Control Collaborative (SWCCC) brings together partners who have an interest in advancing the effort to control and prevent cancer through education, advocacy, and research. Your involvement is the key to creating change in the community. To RSVP, call: (941) 714-7197 or for information on the [Florida Cancer Plan](#), visit: www.doh.state.fl.us/family/cancer.

www.swflccc.com

The following educational information is provided to you on behalf of the SWCCC.

Prevent Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in the United States and it is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths. It is estimated that at least 50% to 60% of colorectal cancer deaths could be prevented if all men and women, aged 50 years or older, were screened routinely. Colorectal cancer screening can find and remove precancerous polyps, and early-stage cancer. When polyps are removed, cancer is prevented. When colorectal cancer is found early, treatment can be more effective.

Reduce Your Risk

Get screened: National guidelines recommend that screening for colorectal cancer begin at age 50 years and continuing until age 75 years. Screening for colorectal cancer can detect polyps early, improve treatment options, and prevent colorectal cancer deaths. If you are age 50 or older you should ask your doctor about colorectal cancer screening to determine what test is right for you. Personal medical history or family history are important risk factors which increase a person’s chance of developing colorectal cancer. If you, your father, mother, sister or brother has had colorectal cancer or a history of polyps, then you are at an increased risk for colorectal cancer and should consult you doctor to see if screening at an earlier age is recommended.

Increase physical activity: Many studies have found that adults who increase their physical activity, either exercising longer or more often, can reduce their risk of developing colon cancer by 30 to 40 percent. Maintaining a healthy weight and exercising most days of the week can also reduce your risk.

Eat fruits and vegetables: Research shows that people who eat foods that are high in fiber and lower in fat can reduce the risk for colorectal cancer. Ways to improve your diet and reduce your risk include increasing your consumption of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains and limiting your intake of fried or high fat foods. Additionally, eating foods from plant sources, such as beans and legumes in place of red meat several times per week can also reduce your risk.

Limit alcohol consumption: Drinking alcoholic beverages may increase the risk of colorectal cancer.

Avoid tobacco: Use of tobacco products also increases the risk of colorectal cancer, therefore it is best to not use tobacco products, quit if you use tobacco products, and avoid being around others who are smoking. The Florida Quitline offers free, confidential, comprehensive telephone counseling to help you quit smoking or chewing tobacco. Call the Florida Quit-For-Life Line at 1-877-U-CAN-NOW (1-877-822-6669).

Announcements

CONGRATULATIONS



Ryan Watson

Annie and Bobby Henry celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary on May 12, 2011 in Ignacio, Colorado with the Southern Ute Tribe.

BIRTHDAY WISHES



Ryan Watson

Asah Lamar Jumper and his mother Morningstar Jumper. Asah celebrated his 2nd Birthday June 7, 2011.

CONGRATULATIONS



Lorri Delaine Osceola, daughter of Curtis Osceola Sr. and Tara Tartsah graduated May 2011. Her family is very proud of her and her accomplishments and wish her the best of luck on her journey in life. We love her very much.

Good Job!

IN MEMORIAM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PAMMY AND TIFFANY,
MY LOVING NIECES.
WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BLOW OUT YOUR CANDLES
WITH YOU PAMMY & TIFFANY ON YOUR BIRTHDAYS,
BUT KNOW CANDLES OF LOVE
ALWAYS BURNS IN OUR HEARTS.!!!

DEARLY MISSED ~ DEARLY LOVED
ALWAYS LOVE AUNT PAM & FAMILY



Lucky

When I get out in 2018 I'll be by to pay my respects and tell a few jokes hold in a few tears until then rest in peace much love to your family

Shonobish
Billie Garcia



JOB POSTING

The Seminole Tribune

Freelance Writer: Responsible for covering Tampa community events, writing articles, headlines and cutlines and taking photographs. Excellent English written and verbal communication skills. Excellent computer skills utilizing Windows/MS Office. Ability to travel and work a flexible schedule. For more information, please contact Editor-in-Chief Ciara Billie-Guerue at 954-985-5701 ext. 10725 or Copy Editor Aimee Hoyt at 954-985-5701 ext. 10727

CONGRATULATIONS



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SPECIAL SUMMER COURSE FINANCIAL LITERACY SEMINARS

Youth Program

Hollywood Tribal Office Auditorium Lobby

Thursday, July 21, 2011 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (modules 1-3)

Friday, July 22, 2011 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (modules 4-6)

Saturday, July 23, 2011 8:00 am - 5:00 pm (modules 7-8)

All minor Seminole Tribal Members who will be 18 years of age by December 31, 2011 are strongly encouraged to attend. This series of classes will fulfill your Grantor's Trust Financial Literacy Requirement. All modules must be completed in order to earn your Certificate of Completion. If you miss a class it can be completed during the next series of classes which will begin in October.

Adult Program

Hollywood Tribal Office Auditorium Lobby

Thursday, July 21, 2011 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Friday, July 22, 2011 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday, July 23, 2011 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

This class is new to our financial literacy program. It is open to all adult Seminole Tribal Members and will run in conjunction with the youth financial literacy program. Parents are encouraged to attend. If you miss a class it can be completed during the next series of classes which will begin in October.

For more information or to sign up for either program please contact
Rita McCabe - Brighton Executive Administrative Office 863-763-4128 ext. 15403
Office of Trust Management 954-966-6300 ext. 11432

Tribal Citizens, Adult Children and Grandchildren of Tribal Citizens (descendants)

You may be eligible for Employment and
Training services through
the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs, Inc.

Programs include GED or
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Technical Training or College.

Veterans receive the highest priority.

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Sports

C

EIRA Sports Festival Rodeo Comes to Big Cypress

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

BIG CYPRESS — The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) presented a Sports Festival Rodeo at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena in Big Cypress on May 14 and 15 for both Sanctioned and Kids Rodeo events.

Native Americans have participated in numerous forms of sporting activities for thousands of years. Games and competitions were developed not only as a means of recreation and entertainment, but more importantly, they taught sportsmanship, responsibility, agility, team work, healthy exercise and a sense of community spirit. Youngsters learned work, hunting and war skills by participating in the events.

Times may have changed, but the importance and ethics of sports remain the same. The basic rules of fair play and physical endurance still apply and sporting activities prepare each generation for a responsible healthy lifestyle.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida sponsors a wide variety of recreation and sporting activities appropriate for all age groups throughout the year. The annual Sports Festival recognizes the importance of remaining active both physically and mentally.

Rodeo is a time honored sport born out of the cattle industry and gives its competitors an opportunity to work and train their horses and bodies for the arduous tasks that await them on their ranches. The EIRA offers its members a chance to perform locally and qualify for national competition.



Judy Weeks

William Beardon looks for a soft place to dismount after taking first place in the Junior Bareback event.



Judy Weeks

Theresa Bowers 4.5 second run in the Breakaway Roping was tied with Trina Bowers for third place.



Judy Weeks

Steer wrestler GrayWolf Herrera took first place with a 6.5 second run.

▮ See more photos and results on page 2C



Judy Weeks

Seminole Tribal citizens surround FSU Defensive Coordinator Coach Mark Stoops during a meet and greet session at the first Jimbo Fisher Naples Golf Tournament on May 13 at the Pelican Marsh Country Club.

FSU Seminole Club of Naples Raises Scholarship Money at Golf Tournament

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

NAPLES — Florida State University (FSU) fans took over the Pelican Marsh Country Club in Naples on May 13 for the first Jimbo Fisher Naples Golf Tournament presented by the Seminole Boosters and the FSU Seminole Club of Naples. Coining a phrase fashioned from the university colors, the Big Cypress Council of the Seminole Tribe was named the Garnet & Gold Sponsor.

Tournament play with a scramble format got under way, allowing sufficient time for a reception, meet and greet session, luncheon, guest speakers and a silent auction of memorabilia. Hole in One, Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive and Putting Contests enhanced the day's activities. Proceeds of the event are designated to benefit an FSU Scholarship Fund.

The FSU Seminole Club of Naples is a non-profit organization and a relatively new chapter of the Seminole Boosters. It has only been in existence for the past eight and a half months. The golf tournament comprised their first major fund raiser and drew a crowd of approximately 132 families with 250 individual memberships. Nine Seminole Tribal members participated in the

competition with their guests.

"We have been holding golf tournaments around the state for several years, but this is the first time that we have held one in Naples," said Seminole Booster Executive Director Charlie Barnes. "I am frequently asked 'Why golf?' and the answer is simple. Golf is great exercise for the mind and body when we get too old to participate in more strenuous play, and it is a challenge for the younger generation as well."

Tribal citizen and founding member of the Naples Booster Club Douglas Zepeda earned his degree from FSU and played trumpet in the band at their games.

"I have only missed three home games since 1997 and one bowl game since 1998," said Zepeda. "During that same length of time, my parents, Lee and Wanda Zepeda, have attended 90 percent of the games."

Seminole Tribal members and their guests participated in a personal meet and greet session with Coach Mark Stoops and joined him for a group photo in the Club House.

"Educational opportunities are a primary goal of the Seminole Tribe of Florida," said Big Cypress Council Rep. Mondo Tiger. "It is a privilege to join the FSU Boosters in

▮ Please see FSU on page 2C



Naji Tobias

From left, Lady Warriors softball assistant coach Celesta Osceola, Lady Warriors MVP Danni Jae Tommie and Lady Warriors softball head coach John Gallegos at the inaugural Softball Awards Banquet inside the Big Cypress Community Center on May 17.

Ahfachkee Warriors Athletic Program Completes Inaugural Season With Softball Awards Ceremony

Lady Warriors' Danni Jae Tommie wins MVP honors

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — It's a wrap!

In what has been a year of historic firsts, the Ahfachkee Warriors athletic program officially completed its first season of operation with its Lady Warriors Softball Awards Ceremony on May 17.

Held at the Big Cypress Community Center, the final athletic awards banquet focused squarely on the accomplishments the Lady Warriors made in their four-game season.

A video montage of the Lady Warriors softball season depicted the highlights of the girls' achievements on the field, setting the stage for what would be a presentation of the year's top individual and team awards.

But before those plaques were handed out, Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger briefly touched on the impact the Lady Warriors have had on him as a fan.

"I've seen some awesome softball players this season and I think we have lots of potential here," the Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. said. "I hate to see that this year ended so soon. I'm already looking forward to next season. I hope that we could win a state championship with our softball program one day."

Ahfachkee Lady Warriors softball head coach John Gallegos marveled at the steady progression that the girls made over the course of their inaugural season.

"There were certain goals we had in mind to begin this season," Gallegos said. "We were determined to have a team and field one that could compete against any team we play out there. And I think we accomplished that."

Almost immediately after saying that, Gallegos called each of the Lady Warriors softball players up to receive their participation plaques. As the girls came up, Gallegos talked a little bit more about their dedication to progress and growth as a collective.

"The girls learned, over time, to put aside whatever differences they had and be together for one common goal," Gallegos said while the girls each received their team awards. "That's a huge part of playing ball."

▮ Please see WARRIORS on page 2C

Seminole Sports Hall of Fame Inducts Four Tribal Citizens

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Four more well deserving Tribal citizens received the ultimate compliment in sports entering the Seminole Sports Hall of Fame in front of family and friends.

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr., former Tribal Chairman Howard Tommie, rodeo rider Rudy Osceola and the late Jack Mason Osceola former football star were all honored May 23 in ceremonies at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium.

Longtime Seminole Recreation Gym Director Moses Jumper emceed the event with a special guest speaking appearance by William Floyd, former Florida State University football great and San Francisco 49er.

"I think the younger generation has to have a standard or someone that has gone before them as a bridge builder, so they (the youth) can look back and say, they (the elders) accomplished that, so can I. I think it is huge that the time was taken to recognize the great athletes (of the Tribe)," Floyd said.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and former Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr. also made special appearances.

"These types of moments we should hold on to for our youth," said Rep. Osceola on the impact of the evening.

Rep. Bowers, Snake Clan, excelled in multiple sports at Okeechobee High School. Beginning on the little league level through the high school ranks, he was also a distance runner in track and field specializing in the 880-meter run. He also played football, as an ironman at defensive-back and kicker/running back. He went on to play on the college level at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan.

"I don't know that it is deserving, but I really appreciate what the committee has done and the group that works with the Hall of Fame," said Rep. Bowers. "One of the most important things I learned participating in sports was competition. Nothing is handed to you and you have to go out there and work for it."

Panther Clan member Rudy "the legend" Osceola lettered in track and field as a runner in the 1600-meters (or mile) and played basketball as a varsity player at Clewiston High School. Many know him best however as a rodeo rider, horse trainer, and roper. He currently rides as part of the Indian rodeo senior circuit with a career spanning over 40 years.

"It was all so many years ago, but it felt good to be acknowledged," Osceola said.

Tommie was also an ironman on the gridiron playing several positions on defense and offense while attending Broward High School and Chilocco Indian School in Oklahoma. He is also an avid hunter and fisherman.

He is still known as a political pioneer for the Tribe as one of its former Chairman and is co-founder of USET (United South and Eastern Tribes).

Jack Mason Osceola, better known as "Bull" among teammates, family and the community, received an honorary induction after passing away in March. Although an all-around athlete, he was best known as

a pigskin star at Choctaw Central High School in Mississippi where he was a two-year letterman, all-conference player and conference champion for the Warriors football team.

"A lot of people do not know him as the athlete he really was," said nephew Eric Osceola. "I was always at the gym around him and he was always encouraging and gave me pointers on how to improve."

Also recognized were the 2008-09 Hall of Fame honorees. Each received long-awaited rings and included: Leon Wilcox, Cicero Osceola and Dan Bowers. Former President Richard Bowers accepted on brother Dan's behalf.

Hollywood Christian Academy basketball star Arian Osceola was also named the Outstanding Seminole Athlete Award winner in helping lead her team to the Class 1-A state championship on the hardwood in February.



Chris C. Jenkins

Seminole Recreation Gym Director Moses Jumper, left, presents Eric Osceola (nephew of Jack Mason Osceola) with an honorary Hall of Fame inductee plaque for high school football great Jack Mason Osceola.



Chris C. Jenkins

Keynote guest speaker William Floyd, third from left, joined by Seminole Sports Hall of Fame inductees, from left, Rudy Osceola, Howard Tommie and Andrew J. Bowers Jr. as part of induction ceremonies held at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium May 23.

▮ See more photos on page 2C

Tribal-wide Participation Exists in Inaugural Amoe Billy Brown Bowling/Golf Tournaments

Weekend set of Tribal sporting events essentially replaces long-running Sports Festival series



Naji Tobias

Immokalee's Raymond Garza tees off on the Bonaventure Golf Course's fifth hole.



Naji Tobias

Immokalee's Raynaldo Yzaquirre, right, lines up a birdie putt on the fifth hole of the Bonaventure Golf Course, as Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, Charlie Cypress and Raymond Garza look on.



Naji Tobias

Participants of the Amoe Billy Brown Golf Tournament on May 21 are all smiles as the inaugural competition, named after Big Cypress Tribal citizen Amos Billie, comes to a close at the Bonaventure Golf Course and Country Club in Weston.



Naji Tobias

Trail's Carla Cypress aims for a strike as she sets her bowling ball into play.



Naji Tobias

Hollywood's Lawrence Osceola gets ready to hit a fairway shot on his first shot of the seventh hole.



Naji Tobias

Immokalee's Ray Motlow aims for his first shot on Hole No. 6 of the Bonaventure Golf Course.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger focuses in on a birdie putt.



Naji Tobias

Fort Pierce's Willie Ervin gets on the move as he aims for a strike in tournament play at the Amoe Billy Brown Bowling Competition on May 21.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal citizen Amos Billie, also known by his nicknames as Amoe Billy Brown and Roy Munson, sets up for a strike attempt in the May 21 inaugural bowling tournament named after him at the Sparez Bowling Alley in Davie.

INAUGURAL AMOE BILLY BROWN GOLF AND BOWLING TOURNAMENT RESULTS

GOLF PLAY- TEAMS

1. Charlie Cypress/Raymond Garza/Mondo Tiger/ Ray Yzaquirre – 64
2. Ray Motlow/Kevin Osceola/Steve Osceola/ Jackie Thompson-Osceola – 65
3. Kevin Hanks/Ted Nelson Sr./Cicero Osceola/ Abe Rockwell – 65
4. Sam Nelson/Lawrence Osceola/ Shannon Rhodes – 71

NOTE: The tiebreaker between the second and third place teams was decided on a handicap playoff hole, won by the team of Ray Motlow/Kevin Osceola/Steve Osceola/ Jackie Thompson-Osceola

GOLF PLAY

LONGEST DRIVE - HOLE #4

Men: Abe Rockwell
Women: Jackie Thompson-Osceola
Senior Men: Ray Yzaquirre

LONGEST DRIVE - HOLE #6

Senior Men: Mondo Tiger

LONGEST DRIVE - HOLE #10

Men: Kevin Osceola
Women: Shannon Rhodes
Senior Men: Ray Yzaquirre

CLOSEST TO THE PIN - HOLE #3

Men: Charlie Cypress
Women: Jackie Thompson-Osceola
Senior Men: Mondo Tiger

CLOSEST TO THE PIN - HOLE #12

Men: Abe Rockwell

Women: Jackie Thompson-Osceola

CLOSEST TO THE PIN – HOLE #17

Senior Men: Sam Nelson

LOWEST SCORE ON PAR 5

Charlie Cypress/Raymond Garza/Mondo Tiger/
Ray Yzaquirre

BOWLING PLAY REGULAR – ADULTS

1. Ashley Wilcox/Leon Wilcox Sr. (373)
2. Patricia Wilcox & Jerome Davis (367)
3. Kevin Tommie & Beverly Tommie (363)

3-6-9 – ADULTS

1. Moses Billie/Adriana Huggins (396)
2. Ashley Wilcox/Leon Wilcox Sr. (391)
3. Bobby Frank Jr./Terri Frank (384)

NO TAP

1. Patricia Wilcox/Jerome Davis (465)
2. Ashley Wilcox/Leon Wilcox Sr. (441)
3. Kevin Tommie/Beverly Tommie (438)

SCOTCH DOUBLES

1. Jackie Thompson-Osceola /Elton Shore (200)
2. Ashley Wilcox/Leon Wilcox Sr. (188)
3. Kevin Tommie/Beverly Tommie (170)

HIGHEST SCORES – MEN

1. Kevin Tommie (714)
2. Leon Wilcox Sr. (701)
3. Ollie Wareham (675)

HIGHEST SCORES - WOMEN

1. Patricia Wilcox (593)
2. Sheree Sneed (558)
3. Alfreda Muskett (538)






Naji Tobias

Hollywood's Patricia Wilcox displays a sheer focus on her chance to record a strike on this go-round at the May 21 Amoe Billy Brown Bowling Tournament in Davie.



Naji Tobias

Hollywood's Leon Wilcox gets focused squarely on his top goal to score as many strikes as he can in order to come on top in the Tribal competition.

	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 Johnny Hall Sr. The approximately 1.5 acre lot is located at Township 48 South, Range 34 East, Sections 23, 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 April 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Johnny Hall Sr. New Homesite 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 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.		
	Supervident, Seminole Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs	Date: 7/26/11

Team Marrero, Posada Capture Triple Crown with Win at Bass Busters Fishing Tournament

BY ELROD BOWERS
Freelance Photographer

BIG CYPRESS – Under harsh conditions, the team of Frank Marrero and Mario Posada captured the Triple Crown with a first place finish at the May 28 Bass Busters Fishing Tournament.

“You’re the diehards, today was a hot day,” said Seminole Recreation Director Moses “Big Shot” Jumper to the small crowd assembled at the final weigh-in. Many of the teams came in well before the 2 p.m. weigh-in after spending the day baking in the hot sun.

Although the conditions resulted in smaller catches, the team of Marrero and Posada captured first place again with a bag of 18.23 pounds. The team of Kassim Stockton and Ryan Washington finished second with a catch of 14.05 pounds.

The team of Mike Tiger and Ernie Tiger finished third with a catch of 12.64 pounds. The Tiger team also captured the Clyde Tiger Memorial Big Bass Award with a 4.9 pound bass.

The win capped off a string of strong performances in the Seminole Bass Fishing Triple Crown Series for the team of Marrero and Posada. They captured the Sonny DiCarlo Trophy in the season ending standings a full 15 pounds ahead of the team of Kassim Stockton and Ryan Washington.

Bass Buster Fishing Tournament Results – Final Leg of Triple Crown Series

Note: Results from this Competition are counted toward team placement in the overall Seminole Bass Fishing Triple Crown Series.

1. Frank Marrero/Mario Posada – 18.23 pounds
2. Kassim Stockton/Ryan Washington – 14.05 pounds
3. Mike Tiger/Ernie Tiger – 12.64 pounds
4. Chuck Osceola/Fred Habermann – 10.35 pounds
5. Ted Nelson/Hank Nelson – 8.46 pounds
6. Howard Tommie/Tony Tommie – 8.13 pounds

7. Naha Jumper/Tombo Riley – 7.65 pounds
8. Marie Phillips/Fred Phillips – 4.23 pounds
9. Josh Jumper/Blevins Jumper – 3.65 pounds
10. Sam Nelson/Jim Agnew

Clyde Tiger Memorial Big Bass Award- Mike Tiger/Ernie Tiger

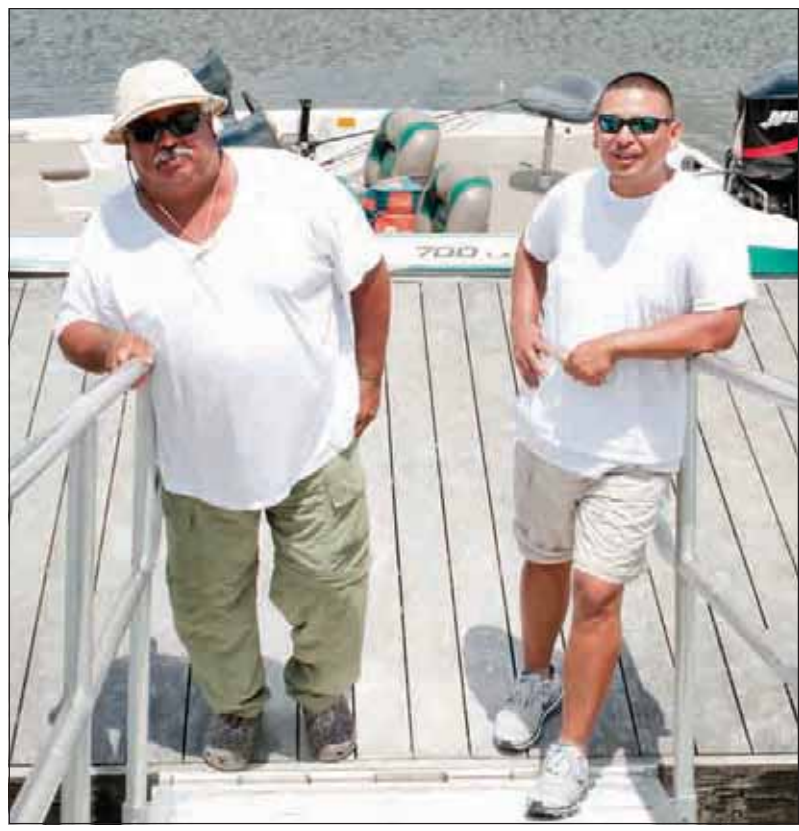
Seminole Bass Fishing Triple Crown Series Final Results

1. Frank Marrero/Mario Posada – 67.89 pounds
2. Kassim Stockton/Ryan Washington – 52.66 pounds
3. Chuck Osceola/Fred Habermann – 49.66 pounds



Elrod Bowers

Mario Posada works a lure slowly along the banks of the L-28. Posada and teammate Frank Marrero finished first in the Bass Busters Tournament on May 28 in Big Cypress.



Elrod Bowers

The team of Frank Marrero and Mario Posada finished first with a catch of 18.23 pounds. The win assured them of the Sonny DiCarlo Trophy as champions of the Seminole Bass Fishing Triple Crown Series with 67.89 pounds of bass caught throughout the series.



Far left photo, Ernie Tiger casts down the banks of the L-28 canal. Ernie and Mike Tiger captured the Clyde Tiger Memorial Big Bass Award. Center photo, Chuck Osceola fills up the weigh-in bag. Osceola and teammate Fred Habermann finished fourth with a catch of 10.35 pounds. Left photo, Ted Nelson shows off a Big Bass hopeful. Ted and Hank Nelson finished fifth with a catch of 8.46 pounds.

Elrod Bowers



Elrod Bowers

Conservation-minded young Tribal members release the fish caught by the competitors. All of the tournament participants practiced catch-and-release throughout the Triple Crown Series.



Elrod Bowers

The Clyde Tiger Memorial Big Bass Award was won by the team of Mike and Ernie Tiger with a 4.9 pound bass. “He used to fish this tournament quite a bit with us,” said Seminole Recreation Director Moses Jumper of the award’s namesake.



Elrod Bowers

Photo above, Mike Tiger on the L-28 canal. Mike and Ernie Tiger finished third in the May 28 Bass Busters Tournament. Right photo, Kassim Stockton reels in a keeper.



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Hope Tommie-Wilcox Memorial Bowling Tourney Brings Family Together Again for 12th Year



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Tomi Motlow winds up to bowl in regular play action. The day featured cash prizes in regular, 3-6-9 and no-tap bowling play celebrating the life of the mother and semi-professional bowler and sports enthusiast.



Chris C. Jenkins

Family members of Tommie-Wilcox together as part of the 12th annual Hope Tommie-Wilcox Memorial Bowling Tournament held at the Superplay USA Bowling Alley May 14 in Port St. Lucie. "She was a wonderful person. She was my friend and wife," said Damon Wilcox about late wife Hope Tommie-Wilcox.



Chris C. Jenkins

From left, Tommie-Wilcox sister Betsy Wilcox and niece Crystal Sneed.



Chris C. Jenkins

Daughter Mary Wilcox holds up a custom-made T-shirt of her late mother Hope Tommie-Wilcox in celebration of her life and legacy.

Three Champs Crowned in Indigenous Games Invitational in Hollywood



Chris C. Jenkins

Trewston Pierce goes coast-to-coast on the fast break for his team in the championship game of the 16-and-under game.



Chris C. Jenkins

J.J. John of the Boys' 16-and-under Team Florida's squad launches a jump shot over two defenders in their game one match up versus the Lauderdale Panthers.



Chris C. Jenkins

Team Florida Boys' 16-and-under championship team together lead by Head Coach Jay Garland, top left, at the Hollywood Christian Academy Gymnasium after winning their division of the Indigenous Games Invitational Basketball Tournament June 3-4. The winning teams received trophies and were two of three Tribal teams crowned in other divisions participating in preparation for the upcoming Native Indigenous Games to be held in Milwaukee, Wis., July 10-14.



Photo courtesy of Carlos Adamson

Team Florida Women's 19-and-under girls' championship team

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Winners of the Brighton Spring Classic
1st place – John Madrigal and Marcellus Osceola with a score of 69
2nd place – Charlie Cypress and Cicero Osceola with a score of 71
3rd place – Jason Tommie and James Tommie with a score of 74

Closest to the Pin
Marcellus Osceola – Holes 6 and 15
Charlie Cypress – Hole 12
Josh Smith – Hole 17

Longest Drive
Women's – Leoda Poole
Men's – John Smith
Senior's – John Madrigal

Six Teams Compete in First Brighton Spring Classic in Sebring

BY KAI SETTY
Recreation Department

BRIGHTON — We are pleased to announce that the first annual Brighton Spring Classic Golf Tournament was a memorable event for all. With six teams comprised of 12 contestants, there were 11 men, and one token woman. The contestants were paired off in the following teams: Josh Smith and Leoda Poole, Raymond Garza Jr. and Mike Micco, Lawrence Osceola and Jahna Smith, Charlie Cypress and Cicero Osceola, John Madrigal and Marcellus Osceola and James and Jason Tommie.

On Friday, May 6 at the Country Club of Sebring, the tournament began with a call for registration at 8 a.m. With near perfect conditions and a slight breeze out of the East at about 10-15 mph, the teams teed-off at 9 a.m. With an occasional detour through the sand trap the teams putted and drove their way along manicured greens and well kept fairways to complete the 18-hole course. With the last team completing their final strokes just around 1 p.m., they raced the clock to finish before the afternoon thunderstorm came roaring through.

In the club room the contestants enjoyed a cheeseburger buffet along with their choice of beverage. At this time Jason Tommie, the event coordinator took the time to thank all participants as well as announce awards and give door prizes for drawings, which included golf bags, golf clubs, training tools, umbrellas and hats. Each

member also received a commemorative golf shirt embroidered with the event's title.

On behalf of Brighton Recreation we would like to thank all who participated as well as the staff of the Country Club of Sebring for making this event a success. We hope to see you next year.



Photo courtesy of Kai Setty
Cicero Osceola sets up and tries to avoid the sand trap during the classic.



Photo courtesy of Kai Setty
John Madrigal, left, and Hollywood Council Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. show off their first place trophies.

Hollywood Youth Council Sponsors 2-on-2 Tournament



Chris C. Jenkins
Robert Caruso, center, Hollywood education advisor and tournament coordinator, gives some last minute instructions to the participating tournament teams.



Chris C. Jenkins
Maleah Isaac looks to make her move in second round play.



Chris C. Jenkins
Tournament champions Tyler Baker, left, and Yane 'Tutoi' Nemeroff with their trophy after winning the Hollywood Youth Council 2-on 2 Parent Appreciation Basketball Tournament, May 15 at the Seminole Recreation Gym. The Tribal Youth Council and Education Department sponsored event featured over a dozen parents and teen teams competing in tournament style play supporting comradery, sportsmanship and parent-child bonding with participants also receiving medals.

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Hand crafted doll

Tribal citizens Join Former Dolphins Player in Don Stock Diabetes Golf Classic



Chris C. Jenkins

From left, foursome players Allen Huff, Lawrence Osceola, Raymond Garza Jr. and Ken Campbell on the ninth hole at the Miccosukee Golf and Country Club.



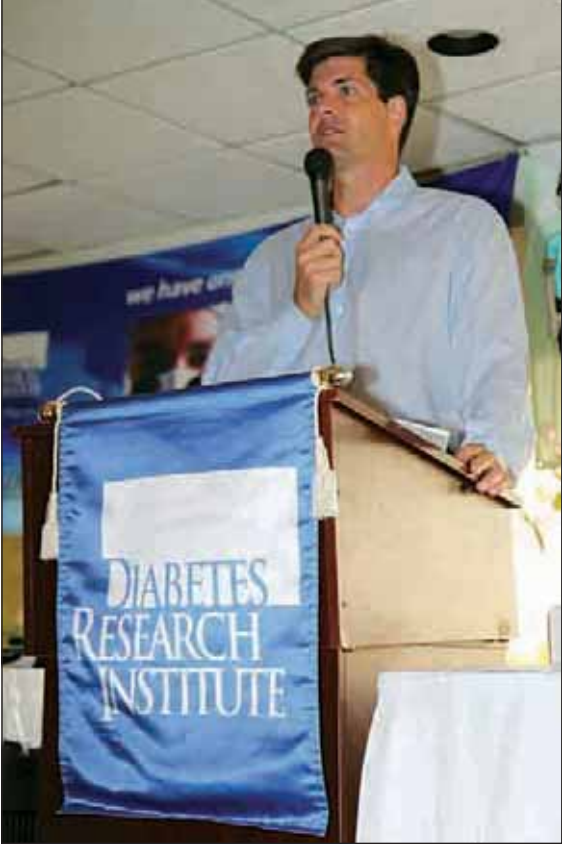
Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen and golfer Allen Huff, second from left, is joined by former Miami Dolphins player Don Strock, center, and fellow supporters and sponsors for the 28th annual Don Strock Diabetes Golf Classic held at the Miccosukee Golf and Country Club in Miami on May 12. Proceeds from the four-some event benefitted the Diabetes Research Institute for the prevention and cure of diabetes.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior Lawrence Osceola putts on the green to make par.



Chris C. Jenkins

Benno Schmidt, SMP special projects coordinator, speaks about his struggles and triumphs as a Type 1 diabetic to special guests and tournament participants.



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SEMINOLE POLICE EXPLORERS VISIT WASHINGTON, D.C. FOR FALLEN OFFICERS WEEK

By SPD Officer Tom Apsey



Washington, D.C. - The Seminole Police Department, along with the help of several other community members and donations, sponsored a trip to our nation's capital for the Seminole Police Explorers. The trip was designed to reward all the Explorers involved in the program, as well as help them understand the ultimate sacrifice so many officers have given "in the line of duty" over the years.

Every year in Washington, D.C. Law Enforcement Agencies from throughout the United States, Canada and other countries come together to pay tribute to "Fallen Officers" and their families during National Police Week, this year observed May 12th - May 17th.

A group of 38 Police Explorers, 2 Seminole Fire Rescue Paramedics and 20 Seminole Police Personnel from Service Aides to the Chief of Police made the trip from all the Reservations. Several parents also accompanied their Explorers and were able to enjoy the activities and sightseeing.

After a long 16+ hour bus ride, the group stopped for the evening in Rocky Mount, NC to get a good night's sleep before driving into DC the following day.

The first day was spent checking into our hotel and heading out to see some of the sights in and around Washington. The Explorers then joined hundreds of other Law Enforcement Agencies at the "Fallen Officers Memorial" where they saw all the names of Fallen Officers, both past and present. The Explorers were shown the name of the only Seminole Police Officer to lose his life in the line of duty, Lt. John King Healy, February 15, 1986, who was killed in an automobile accident/drowning. Several Explorers were eager to pencil his name on the Memorial wall, which reads, "May these walls never be filled." The evening concluded with a very emotional "Candlelight Vigil" for the Fallen Officers and their families.

Saturday was a "free day" to check out some of the tourist destinations, which included Arlington National Cemetery where the Explorers were able to observe the famous "changing of the guard" at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They were then treated to lunch at the famous Hard Rock Café in Washington DC. After lunch, they watched an Honor Guard Parade and spent the day around the Police Memorial Wall. While at the Memorial, the Explorers were given an "unexpected treat".

The Explorers were observing some of the tributes and ceremonies at the Memorial while John Walsh from Fox's "America's Most Wanted" was concluding an interview.

One of the Explorers from the Tampa Reservation, Kimberlee Awonohopay, wanted to give Mr. Walsh a "Challenge Coin" that had been given to her and all the Explorers present on the trip by Seminole Police Chief Will Latchford. These challenge coins are carried by Officers from different Law Enforcement Agencies and are often traded or given as a token of appreciation. Seminole Police personnel were able to arrange a meeting with Walsh and he was given the challenge coin on behalf of the Seminole Police Explorers and the Police Department. Mr. Walsh accepted the coin and advised the Explorers to "stay strong, be leaders, and keep up the great work they do in their communities."

The Explorers last day in DC was spent visiting the Smithsonian Museum and the National Museum of the American Indian, where they had the opportunity to shop for gifts and souvenirs. After dinner at Rampart's Restaurant, they loaded up on the bus and took a beautiful night tour of all the Monuments.

In the end, all the Explorers expressed they had a great time, enjoying the sightseeing, the food, and all the history Washington DC had to offer. They all represented the Seminole Tribe and the Seminole Police Explorers extremely well and the trip was a wonderful success. Many of the young Explorer's were already asking about next year's trip.

The Seminole Police Explorers meet every other week on all the Reservations. They participate in several different fun filled events including campouts, canoe trips, and quarterly field days to compete against other Explorer Groups on each Reservation.

All the Explorers participate in a variety of Police related training activities from traffic stops, fingerprinting, crime scene investigations, physical agility tests, gun and fire safety classes and much more. If you have a child between the ages of 6 and 19 and are interested in them joining in all the fun, please contact your respected Reservation today!

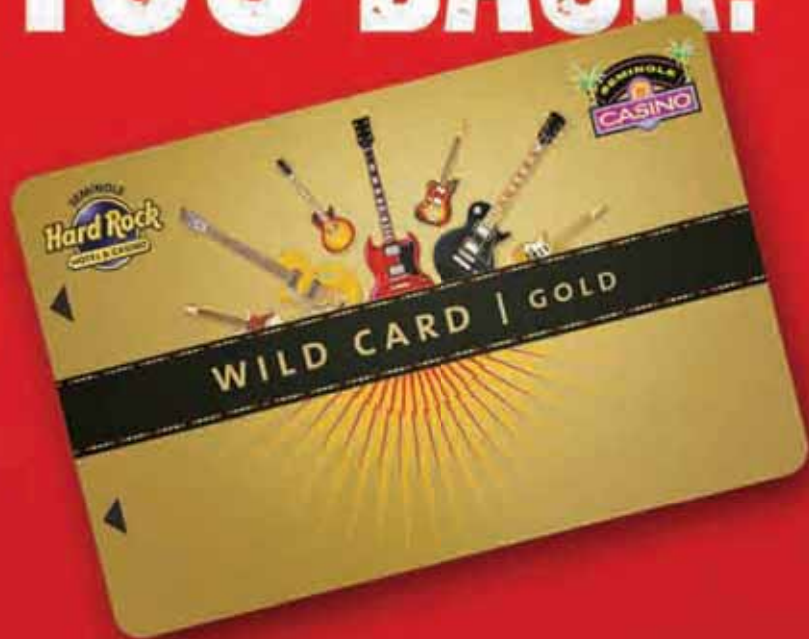


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Father's Day

Fort Pierce Celebrates Father's Day with Live Belly Dancing



Rachel Buxton

The Tommie family celebrates with Aunt Bessie at the Fort Pierce Father's Day dinner June 16 held in Port St. Lucie at Norris's Famous Place for Ribs.



Rachel Buxton

Shamy Tommie enjoys the Father's Day belly dancing entertainment at the dinner.

See more photos on page 2D

Big Cypress Community Gets Together at Herman L. Osceola Gym for Father's Day Luncheon

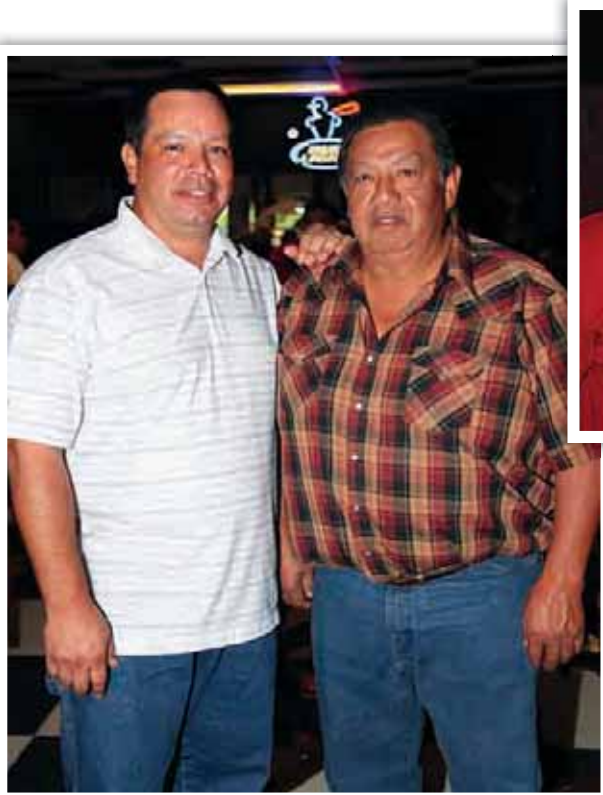


Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal youngster Justin Roff, 15, left, and his father, Big Cypress Tribal Board Rep. Joe Frank, right, have a bonding moment with each other during the June 17 Big Cypress Community Father's Day Luncheon at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

See more photos on page 2D

X-treme Karting and Father's Day Pair for Fun in Hollywood



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. and father Marcellus Osceola Sr. together at the Hollywood/Fort Pierce Non-resident Father's Day celebration.



Chris C. Jenkins

The Osceola family together with father Jimmie Hank Osceola, third from left.



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Chris Osceola, center, leads the pack showing off his trophy as the first place winner of the Fathers-only kart race. From left, Sam Benvenuto and Dan Osceola Jr.



Chris C. Jenkins

A masked Kevin Osceola Non-resident Liaison awaits his turn on the race track as part of the X-Treme Kart Racing Father's Day event held June 17. The gathering featured dinner, games and karting to celebrate the holiday.



Left photo, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. stands next to a specially made replica birthday cake of himself in celebration of his 39th birthday on June 18.

Chris C. Jenkins

Brighton Goes Tropical for Father's Day



Photo courtesy of Kirsten Doney/SWEP

Corey, left, and Tavis, right, give their father, Matt a big hug June 17 at the beached-themed Brighton Father's Day luncheon held at the Veterans' Building.



Photo courtesy of Kirsten Doney/SWEP

John Huff Jr. celebrates Father's Day with son, Frank, at the Brighton Father's Day luncheon catered by Hooters.

See more photos on page 2D

Fathers in Immokalee Enjoy Raffles and Dinner at Their Special Celebration



Judy Weeks

From left, Edward Aguilar Sr.'s release from the hospital following a critical illness was the greatest gift any father or son could wish for on Father's Day according to his sons, Edward Jr. and Spencer, and his dad, Pete Aguilar Sr.



Judy Weeks

Danny Billie can now start planning a shopping spree with the Blocker's Furniture Store voucher that he received.



Judy Weeks

Allen Michael Venzor is all smiles after winning a PS3 in the Immokalee Father's Day raffle.



Judy Weeks

It will be Father's Day all year long as Timesia Jimmie watches his favorite programs on the 46 inch television that he won in the Immokalee raffle.

Big Cypress Seniors Grab Their Hooks at Rock Pit for Father's Day Fishing Tournament and Luncheon



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal senior Ricky Doctor catches one of his two fish during the Father's Day Fishing Tournament.



Naji Tobias

Immokalee's Raymond Garza searches for a fish at the bank of the Big Cypress Rock Pit's waters during the June 16 Big Cypress seniors Father's Day Fishing Tournament.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal senior Rudy Osceola shows off his display of humor after catching a bass fish during the fishing tournament.

BIG CYPRESS SENIORS FISHING TOURNAMENT RESULTS – FATHER'S DAY EDITION

Most Fish: Violet Jim (3)
Biggest Fish: Ricky Doctor

BLONGO LADDER BALL GAME - RESULTS

1. Teresa Jumper
2. Joe B. Osceola
3. Tommie Billie

Right photo, the Big Cypress senior women participated in the tournament as well, with Violet Jim taking top honors for catching a total of three fish in the three-hour long morning competition. Far right photo, with Big Cypress Senior Center assistant and Tribal citizen Nadine Bowers, left, and Big Cypress Senior Center Director Cecilia Guzman, center, looking on, Big Cypress Tribal senior Thomas W. Billie makes a concentrated effort to shoot for his target in lounge ball, which took place at the Big Cypress Senior Center, not long after the Big Cypress Seniors Fishing Tournament concluded.

Naji Tobias



Brighton Seniors Celebrate Mother's and Father's Day in Joint Bowling Trip



Photo above, Mable Tichenor gets assisted by Valerie Munroe, left, and SPD's Teresa Bass at the Brighton Department of Elder's Mother and Father's Day joint bowling celebration May 31 held at Lucky Lanes in Okeechobee. Left photo, Sammie Gopher bowled a 149 regular game at the joint bowling celebration.

Photos courtesy of Donna Turtle

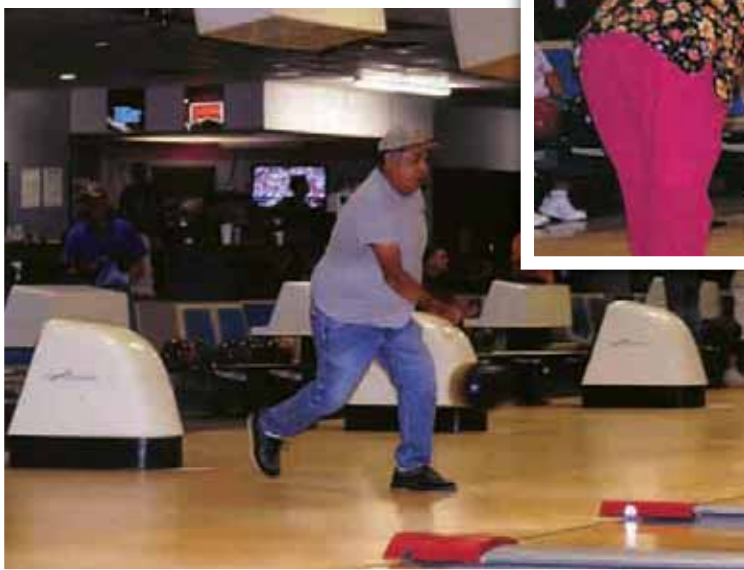


Photo courtesy of Donna Turtle

Sarah Sampson gets a little help at Lucky Lanes for the Brighton Department of Elder's joint celebration for Mother and Father's Day.

RESULTS Women 55-64

1. Jenny Johns 553
2. Julie John 427
3. Beulah Gopher 409

Men 55-64

1. Elbert Snow 615
2. Gary Sampson 476
3. Jack Smith Jr. 430

Women 65+

1. Onnie Osceola 430
2. Addie Osceola 329

Men 65+

1. Billy Micco 507
2. Joe L. John 467
3. Wonder Johns 446

Handicap

1. Shirley Sampson 342
2. Happy Jones 338
3. Mable Tichenor

More photos from Big Cypress' Father's Day Luncheon

Right photo, Big Cypress Tribal fathers Ingram Billie Jr., left, and Ronnie Billie Sr. celebrate each other at the June 17 Big Cypress Father's Day Community Luncheon.

Naji Tobias



Naji Tobias

From left, Tribal citizens Shannon Cypress, Angela Cypress, Esther Gopher and John Billie Jr. are sharing a moment together in harmony at the luncheon.



Naji Tobias

From left, 11-month-old Julia Gonzalez, Abbie Gonzalez, Timmy Cypress, Hilda Campbell, Frank J. Billie and Ivana Gonzalez celebrate as Frank J. Billie spends some time with his son, Timmy Cypress, and his grandchildren.

More photos from Brighton's Tropical Father's Day



Photo courtesy of Everett Youngblood/SWEP

Billie Micco gets escorted into the Seminole Surf Shack by a Hooters server. The Veterans' auditorium was turned into a tropical paradise with a live Reggae band and a lunch catered and served by Hooters.



Photo courtesy of Kirsten Doney/SWEP

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard enjoys himself as he enters paradise at the Brighton Father's Day lunch June 17 held at the Veterans' Building.

More photos from Father's Day in Fort Pierce



Rachel Buxton

Even Hollywood Council Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. joined in the fun at the Fort Pierce Father's Day dinner.



Rachel Buxton

Alex Tommie joins a belly dancer during the dinner June 16 at Norris's in Port St. Lucie.



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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.

