



Maggie Osceola Turns 90
COMMUNITY ♦ A3

Red Ribbon Week Festivities
COMMUNITY ♦ A12-13



Native American Arts & Crafts Workshop
EDUCATION ♦ B1

The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered



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Three Time Grammy Award Winning Singer Robin Thicke and Hollywood/Fort Pierce Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. pose for the camera at the Grand Opening of The Hard Rock Café on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles, Oct. 21.

Hollywood's Newest Star on the Walk of Fame Is the Hard Rock Cafe in LA

BY BRIANA D'ANDREA
Contributing Reporter

LOS ANGELES — The red carpet was rolled out and the bright lights set, as Hollywood welcomed on Oct. 21 one of the biggest stars to hit the legendary Walk of Fame: the new Hard Rock Café.

With Sunset Strip only a few blocks away, the place where some of the biggest names in rock 'n' roll got their start, it was only fitting for its neighbor, the famous Hollywood Boulevard, to welcome the Hard Rock Café to the "City of Angels."

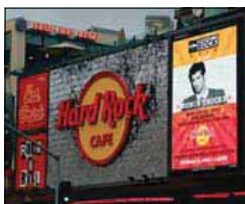
Just a few steps from the Kodak and Grauman's Chinese Theatre, the Seminole Tribe is now the shining star on one of the busiest streets in the world, as proud owners of the rockin' brand.

"The Seminole is associated with Hard Rock and we want to get our names out there to be accepted in music, in the movies and in acting," said Spencer Battiest, 20, an aspiring Seminole singer from the Hollywood Reservation who walked the red carpet. "L.A., of course, is the city of entertainment. So, now that we have a very prime location next to where the Os-

cars are held, our name is definitely going to get out there and I'm just happy to be apart of that."

In true rocker fashion, George Lopez from "Lopez Tonight," three-time Grammy Award Winning Singer Robin Thicke and Michael Jackson's guitarist "Orianthe," to name a few, joined Hollywood Council

♦ Please see **HARD ROCK** on page 2A



The new Hard Rock Cafe on Hollywood Boulevard welcomes customers with a shiny sign.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Has New Exhibit: 'From Surviving to Thriving: An Everglades Economy'

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum opened its newest exhibit Oct. 30 with a behind the scenes tour for members at 12:30 p.m. and a public grand opening from 2 to 4 p.m.

"From Surviving to Thriving: An Ever-



Stranahan House Executive Director Barbara Keith, left, and Marlene Schotanus check out the reproduction of the Stranahan & Co. Trading Post.

glades Economy" explores the concepts of the Seminole employment of the ecological and natural resources of the South Florida subtropical wetland known as the Everglades, from the early 1800s to present.

A year and a half went into the creation of the exhibit, which drew an impressive audience for its initial viewing. Special guests included board members from the historical Stranahan House Trading Post on the East Coast. President of the Board Joe Smith, his wife Alice, Executive Director Barbara Keith and Marlene Schotanus gave raving reviews of the in-depth study of the subject and presentation highlights.

Curator of Exhibitions Saul Drake, Exhibits Manager Greg Palumbo and Exhibits Coordinator Jessica Baber drew upon the vast resources of the Museum and its exceptional staff to create a comprehensive plan that would allow the exhibit to educate a diverse group of all ages.

The Museum's exciting new exhibit focuses upon the changes that have impacted the natural economy, from indigenous game and plants, to trading posts, white settlers, developers, tourism, water control, agriculture and current restoration and preservation plans.

A reproduction of the Stranahan Trading Post & Co.'s front porch invites the spectators to peer through its doorway and view the interior of the post as it would have looked to Seminoles coming to trade more than

♦ Please see **EXHIBIT** on page 2A

Seminole Tribe Among Honorees at Native American Rights Fund's 40th Anniversary Celebration

BY NAJJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

THACKERVILLE, Okla. — The Native American Rights Fund recognized

scores of Tribes throughout the United States for their stand on justice at the organization's 40th Anniversary Celebration on Oct. 29.

Held at the WinStar World Hotel and Casino, the Seminole Tribe of Florida was among the many U.S. Tribes honored for their consistent support of the NARF.

President Richard Bowers Jr., a keynote speaker at the NARF's "40 for 40" Awards Ceremony, accepted two major awards for the Tribe: a specially-made Pendleton blanket and a star quilt.

President Bowers talked about the Tribe's struggle to gain sovereignty from the U.S. government and how the Seminoles have used

their freedom to become a financially viable entity.

"Back in the day, the Seminole Tribe had no money and was living off the lands with no reservations," President Bowers said in his moving speech. "Back in 1939, the government actually established a reservation for Seminole Indians. But they didn't give us any money; they just wanted to control Seminole Indians to make them stay on one land. It was totally against our way of life."

In 1957 the Seminole Tribe was deemed by the U.S. government as a federally recognized Tribe.

"Before that, we were slated to be terminated by the federal government," President Bowers said. "But our leaders and visionaries back then drew up a rodeo arena and took some of our Seminole Indian bulls to help us survive."

The Tribal Board President delved into how the Tribal leaders back then hosted rodeos for the public, using their proceeds

♦ Please see **NARF** on page 2A

Respected War Veteran Dan Bowers Honored at 23rd Annual Veterans Day Celebration

BY NAJJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Scores of individuals paid tribute to United States military soldiers at the 23rd annual Big Cypress Veterans Day Celebration on Nov. 9.

This year, the Tribe gave special recognition to Tribal citizen Dan Bowers, a War Veteran who served two tours in the Vietnam War for the U.S. Marine Corps.

With many Tribal citizens, war veterans and their families witnessing the occasion, it turned out to be a shining moment for Bowers and his family.

Tribal Liaison of Veteran Affairs Stephen D. Bowers spoke of the impact that Tribal citizens, past and present, have had on wars the U.S. military engaged in throughout the course of history.

"We have many Native American veterans who have served in the military for our country," Stephen Bowers said. "Many Native Americans have received congressional medals of honor, brown stars and Purple Hearts. Native Americans have been giving their lives, even before we fought the British in World War I."

A recipient of the Vietnam Campaign, the National Defense Service, the Vietnamese Service and Good Counsel Medals, Dan Bowers enlisted in the U.S. Marines on Oct. 5, 1964 at the Marine Corps Service Center in Kansas City, Mo. After transferring to Camp Pendleton, California Marine Corps Base, Dan Bowers gained experience in a variety of arenas such as basic wire communications, basic combat operations, Marine Rifle Squad tactics, land mine warfare and visual communications, among others.

"The Marine Corps is one of the finest military branches we have here in the country," Stephen Bowers said of his cousin. "They produce the best and Dan is an example of that."

Tribal Board President Richard Bowers

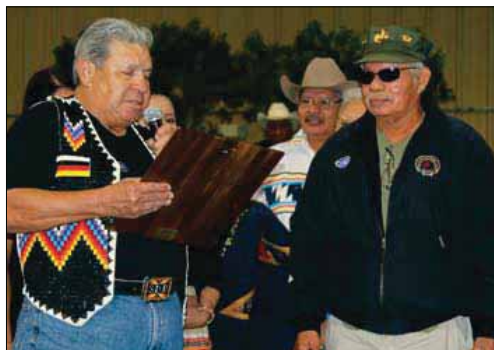


Photo above, Seminole veteran Steven Bowers offers a recognition plaque to Marine veteran Dan Bowers. Right photo, Mike Tige, a Seminole veteran, bows his head in prayer at the beginning of the Veteran's Day Celebration.

Jr. spoke on the honoree's behalf just minutes before his older brother would receive his Veterans Day special award.

"I was only 9 years old when he [Dan Bowers] was in the Vietnam War," President Bowers recalled. "I remember our family praying everyday for him to come back and he did. I thank God for that."

President Bowers spoke of the impact Dan Bowers has had on his life when growing up on the Brighton Reservation years

♦ Please see **VETERANS** on page 9A



Seminole Tribe of Florida Presents Southeastern Circuit Finals Rodeo



Tribal officials are recognized for their support of the Southeastern Circuit Rodeo, organized Nov. 4, 5 and 6 at Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in Davie. The rodeo is one of the top circuits in the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association throughout the United States.

♦ See more photos on page 11A

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◆ EXHIBIT

From page A1

80 years ago.

An array of Seminole goods are displayed throughout the exhibit and enhance the literary data that tells the compelling story of the factors that have impacted the Everglades in both positive and negative ways during the era of the Seminole inhabitation.

A massive watershed that comprises nearly one half of the southern tip of the Florida peninsula, the Everglades is a slow moving river that has its origins with the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee. Shaped by natural forces, this limestone basin allows the water to flow slowly southward for 100 miles into the Florida Bay and creates a natural bounty unique to the region.

Ancestors of the Seminole Tribe began to move southward following the First Seminole War and sought refuge in the sometimes hostile but rich environment of the Everglades. For almost 200 years the Seminoles have sustained themselves on its natural resources, adapting when necessary to changes that have impacted the ecology and economy of the region.

Transforming with the reshaping of their economy, the Seminole Tribe have gone from being hunter gatherers and fishermen to farmers and cattle ranchers, but always remained mindful of the need for protection and preservation of their homeland.

Seminole Tribe of Florida Water Resource Director Craig Tepper

gave an introductory presentation of the natural phenomenon that comprises the Everglades. He addressed expansion and development of Tribal issues surrounding the Everglades Restoration Project, water quality concerns, challenges of Global Warming, government regulations, recharging of the aquifers, waste water treatment, agricultural irrigation and ecosystem protection.

Following the opening, guests enjoyed a traditional Seminole menu of fry bread, sofkee, swamp cabbage, beef tips and gravy.



Large panels of educational data throughout the exhibit explore the factors that have impacted the Everglades and Seminole economy over the past two centuries.



Seminole Tribe of Florida Water Resource Director Craig Tepper provides an insightful presentation on the Everglades ecology and Tribal partnership in protection of water resources and environment.



Diana Stone offers Stranahan House Board President Joe Smith and his wife, Alice, an opportunity to examine an otter pelt under the watchful eye of his guide dog, Brad.

THANKSGIVING WISHES



Although it seems like yesterday many days have come and gone since our last Thanksgiving Day Celebration.

I pray that our appreciation of the many blessings we have received has not diminished and remains a part of our daily lives.

While we are fortunate enough to share Thanksgiving dinner with our loved ones, I humbly ask that you keep our troops, fellow tribal members and especially our elders in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season.

Let us all celebrate the season of Thanksgiving with gratitude for the many blessings that we have received.

Happy Thanksgiving and God Bless!
Mitchell Cypress, Chairman

Mitchell Cypress



To all Tribal members, employees, and friends,

As the Thanksgiving holiday is approaching, let us take a moment and think about what is really important to us and how we are blessed with our families and friends.

As we gather amongst our families to give thanks, let us not forget the men and women that are serving our country who cannot be with their families during this holiday season.

We need to take time and speak to our elders about our past and show our young children of the Seminole Tribe the appreciation that we have for them, and the trust that we instill in them, as they will be the future of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

GOD BLESS THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA!

SHO-NAA-BISH-SHA
President Richard Bowers Jr.

◆ HARD ROCK

From page A1

Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. in smashing 21 Gibson guitars in front of the 20,000-square-foot rock Mecca to inaugurate the café.

"Everything is just a dream, because when we started, we didn't have anything," Rep. Osceola said. "Today we're building our empire and so it's a way to provide for our future and it's a way to enjoy the American rock n' roll. Rock on!"

Whether you're into the cheeseburgers, the fries, the music or the memorabilia, everyone has their favorite at the Hard Rock Café.

"It's really, the historical nature. That when you go to the Hard Rock, you get to see all the memorabilia and the pieces of all the greatest artists of all time. So, to be included in any part of that is a true honor," said Thicke. After being introduced by the bubbly Lopez, Thicke graced the stage, singing his hit "Magic."

And it was definitely a magical night for everyone.

"We're just happy that we have something so incredible and so awesome to call our very own," said Paula Bowers Sanchez, Seminole singer from the Immokalee Reservation.

Proceeds from the event went to the Downtown Women's Center, an organization dedicated to ending homelessness for women. In addition, the Hard Rock donated the same amount of guitars smashed to a local music program to keep the music alive.



Brianna D'Andrea

From left, Michael Jackson's niece Genevieve Jackson and Tribal Members Spencer Battiest, Allison Osceola, Paula Bowers-Sanchez, Hollywood/Fort Pierce Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Melissa DeMayo and Marge Osceola walk the red carpet for the Grand Opening of The Hard Rock Café on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles.



Brianna D'Andrea

◆ NARF

From page A1

from that to travel to Washington, D.C. in their fight for freedom.

"That's why we have a cattle program today," President Bowers continued. "We put on rodeos as part of our heritage. That's what saved us from termination as the Seminole Tribe of Florida."

The Seminole Tribe was later able to position itself as an international organization. The Tribe, which owns almost 150 Hard Rock Café facilities throughout the world, now gives back to the NARF and less fortunate tribes.

"We are blessed to be in this position because of the foundation that was laid for us to move on," President Bowers said. "And this is why we're here today; to give to people that will fight for our freedom, our rights, our lands and our heritage. The only organization I could think of that does this is the Native American Rights Fund."

President Bowers took the time to thank the NARF and Native leaders such as John Echohawk and for their efforts in the preservation of freedom for Native Americans.

"If you think for a moment that there was no Indian Rights Fund, no John Echohawk, it would've been bad days for us," President Bowers said. "But today, we do have them. They have fought to make this Indian world we live in a better place."

President Bowers, who noted the Shinnecock Indian Tribe of Long Island, N.Y., as being the latest federally recognized Tribe, had a special message for them, as well as other Tribes nationwide.

"We're the same people; we're cut from the same cloth," President Bowers said. "We challenge all the Tribes to give back. It will make things better for us. May God bless the Native American Rights Fund."

Other Tribes recognized by the NARF include the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho and the Muckleshoot Tribe of Washington, among many other 40 for 40 honorees.

Shinnecock Indian Nation Senior Trustee Lance A. Gumes said he was grateful for President Bowers' acknowledgement of their Tribe, which was federally recognized just this past month. Gumes called that an "embracing" moment, as he remembers a time in which the Seminole Tribe reached out to his New York-

based Tribe.

"The Seminole Tribe acknowledged us when we weren't recognized by the federal government," Gumes said. "Even though it took the federal government 32 and a half years to recognize us, the Seminole Tribe has supported us much, much before that. I appreciate the Seminole Tribe's support and understanding of who we are."

Gumes recalled a time in which the Seminole Tribe sent its color guard to travel to Long Island in support of the Shinnecock Indian Nation's Pow-Wow celebration on Labor Day Weekend years ago.

"It was an honor for them to participate with us," Gumes said. "A lot of Tribes didn't want to celebrate with us because we weren't recognized. But the Seminole Tribe accepted us as Indians in their own way. I will never forget that."

Echohawk, executive director of the NARF, talked about the significance of the "40 for 40" awards ceremony as far as Native American Tribes and individuals are concerned.

"Over the past 40 years, Tribes have got on their feet and have gotten more self-sufficient," Echohawk said. "They been able to go into philanthropy and the Seminole Tribe was one of those first Tribes to reach that level. With their success in gaming, they look to give back to the Native American Rights Fund. The Seminoles recognize our need for funding to help out Tribes that are less fortunate. We appreciate their financial support over the years."

Echohawk offered his take on President Bowers' speech.

"I think he knows all the difficulties the Shinnecock Nation faced to get recognized by the federal government," Echohawk said. "The Seminole Tribe had similar problems in its history. They stood with the Shinnecoaks in their whole process. And that's one way the Seminole Tribe reaches out to us in support of our cause in helping Native American Tribes throughout the country."

The NARF was founded in 1970 as an organization primarily based on devoting its efforts to the promotion and preservation of Native American rights. The entity has gone on to represent more than 250 Tribes nationwide in arenas such as protection of Indian lands, federal recognition and hunting rights.

For more information on the Native American Rights Fund, visit www.narf.org.



Naji Tobias

Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr. was the keynote speaker at the NARF's "40 for 40" awards ceremony.



Naji Tobias

Native American Rights Fund executive director John Echohawk.



Naji Tobias

From left, Native American Rights Fund Board Members Barbara Smith and Mike Beasley Denson, Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr., Wayne Ross and Nancy Stirling Ross. The group was recognized as platinum sponsors of the NARF, and received Pendleton Blankets and Sioux Star Quilts for their generous donations to the human rights organization.

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Community

A

The Late Hope Tommie Wilcox Continues to Bring Families Together

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

FORT PIERCE — When Margaret Wilcox recalls Aug. 15 tears come to her eyes. Not because her community is celebrating the groundbreaking for a major addition, but because of the great honor the Seminole Tribe has bestowed upon her and her family by naming the soon-to-be Fort Pierce Community Center after her late mother, Hope Tommie Wilcox.

"It's not a feeling you can actually express in words," Wilcox said. "It was overbearing emotionally."

Hope Tommie Wilcox was one of 13 children of the original Fort Pierce Tribal residents Sallie Chupco Tommie and Frank Tommie. She was born July 10, 1936 and grew up on an old campsite off of Midway Road in Fort Pierce.

"Their lifestyle was beautiful and natural," Wilcox said. "They did a lot of hunting and different things for survival, [such as] cutting palms and gopher hunting."

When Hope was just a young child she left her campsite to help her family survive by working in the tomato fields. Hope would work in the fields picking the tomatoes and then finish her day's work at the canning plant to preserve the tomatoes.

It was in those fields when she was only 13 years old that she met and eventually fell in love with Damon Wilcox.

Hope and Damon married in 1957 and spent almost 42 years together.

"He was the love of her life," Wilcox said. "Where you saw one you saw the other."

Hope and Damon shared a lifetime and a family of five children together, Jenny, Danny, Margaret,

Leon and Patricia. Hope centered everything around the family, helping to develop the Fort Pierce Community. She tried to make sure that whatever they were doing they were doing as a family. She always put her family first Wilcox recalled.

One way Hope brought her family together was



Hope Tommie Wilcox.

Tribune Archives

through the love of sports. She was always very active and enjoyed playing basketball and bowling.

Bowling became a deep passion and began working at a bowling alley in the early 70s as maintenance employee. She worked there for 32 years.

"We were raised in a bowling alley," Wilcox joked. "So it was bowling, bowling, bowling."

Hope always had a dream that one day her Tribal family would find a way to incorporate sports into their lives as a way to come together and enjoy each other.

Wilcox recalled a lunch she had with cousin and now Fort Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie back in 1989 before the Fort Pierce reservation Chupco's Landing was even built. At the lunch Wilcox mentioned to Tommie about how her mother constantly talked about having something for the Tribal community that would bring them together.

"I went back to the time where my mom said, 'I'll be dead and gone when everything if anything ever comes about with this, but I'll be remembered gracefully,'" Wilcox said.

Eleven years after her passing Hope's dream got a step closer to becoming a reality with the groundbreaking of the Fort Pierce Community Center, and as she predicted, she was remembered.

Wilcox said that her mother was always the one to gather up the family and recruit the cousins.

"She was always trying to pull them together, pull all of us together," Wilcox said.

Today the woman who is remembered for her happy-go-lucky personality and permanent smile is still bringing her family together. The community center that she dreamt about will gather her entire Seminole Tribe to learn and share fellowship.

"This is what she enjoyed," Wilcox said, "bringing family and happiness together."

Tribal Council Convenes in Big Cypress for Monthly Meeting

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Tribal Council met on Oct. 21 at the Big Cypress Community Center for its monthly council meeting. They passed a total of 29 resolutions, including the following:

Resolution 20: Third amendment to the 23rd annual Work Plan submitted to the South Florida Water Management District by the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Resolution 21: Appointment of five commissioners to the Seminole Water Commission in accordance with the Tribal Water Code.

Resolution 24: Approval of Balfourt Finnfold Architecture, Inc. service agreement for housing services.

Resolution 25: Approval of service agreement between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Zyscovich, Inc. for the Brighton Public Safety and Administration Building.

Resolution 26: Approval of agreement with Abney & Abney, Inc. D/B/A Abney & Abney Green Solutions for the Brighton Public Safety and Administration Building Complex in the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation.

Resolution 27: Approval of agreement with R2T, Inc. for the Hollywood Security Access Project, ratification of execution.

Resolution 28: Approval of agreement with Redman Builders, Inc. for the construction of 18 new home sites in the Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation.

Resolution 29: U.S. Department of Homeland Security — Fiscal Year 2010 staffing for adequate fire and emergency response application; ratification.

Resolution 35: Resolution rescinding Seminole Tribe of Florida resolution No. C-070-09, approved Nov. 20, 2008, which resolution approved a lease between the Seminole Tribe of Florida (tenant) for the development and construction of an ecotourist hotel resort on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation.

Resolution 36: Amendment No. XXII to Constitution and By-laws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida; to amend Article X.

Sixth Annual Florida Gaming Summit Generates Discussion on Gaming Operations

Seminole Gaming Chief Executive Officer James Allen speaks in front of invited industry leaders and guests at the sixth annual Florida Gaming Summit organized at the Seminole Hard Rock Oct. 18-19. The summit provided a forum to more than some 70 companies and numerous gaming operators from all segments of the industry to discuss current events in Tribal and commercial operations and their impact on the future of gaming in the state of Florida.



Chris C. Jenkins

Seminole Ambassador Addresses Greater Naples Leadership

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

EVERGLADES CITY — As an ambassador of the Seminole Tribe, Mary Jene Koenes wowed an audience of 75 participants in the Greater Naples Leadership history day class on the afternoon of Oct. 20. The group gathered at the old Collier County Court House in Everglades City for a glance at the Native American influence on South Florida and the impact of Seminole history on the region.

In its 15th year, GNL provides group sessions to acquaint men and women who are interested in volunteering for nonprofit organizations, with a basic knowledge of the community in which they plan to do service. Hoping they will apply their leadership skills and experience to assist programs in Collier County, GNL focuses on history, culture, communication, healthcare, education, environment, growth, human services, government and law.

The history day itinerary included a tour of Old Naples, Collier County Museum, Collier Seminole State Park, Smallwood's Store on Chokoluskee and then cul-

minated at the Everglades City Court House for the Seminole presentation.

Koenes immediately captivated her audience by speaking in Mikasuki and then



Judy Weeks

Mary Jene Koenes tells the Greater Naples Leadership participants about the three Seminole Wars and the eventual occupation of the Florida Everglades.

provided a history of the Tribe that covered the past 150 years and highlighted the region that they had just toured.

The majority of the group was surprised to learn that South Florida had remained an untamed frontier of natural resources inhabited almost exclusively by Seminoles until the past 85 years. With the arrival of speculators and developers, the area has been transformed forever.

Koenes explored the transition of the Seminole economy and gradual evolution of the Tribal government with its sovereign status and constitution. Koenes also emphasized the agricultural ventures, cattle industry, citrus and Hard Rock enterprises.

During a question and answer period, inquiries included education, healthcare, citizenship, environmental concerns and natural resources. The participants learned that the Tribal citizens are self sufficient, pay income tax and are proud Veterans and supporters of the U. S. Military.

Since the group of retirees expressed a keen interest in learning more about the Seminoles, Koenes invited them to visit the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Billie Swamp Safari.

Tribal Outreach Specialist Makes Guest Appearance on National Public Radio



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Outreach Specialist Everett Osceola, right, is interviewed by National Public Radio's Ed Bell on his weekly talk show "South Florida Arts Beat" at the WLRN studios in Miami on Oct. 29. The two discussed topics such as the 13th annual American Indian Arts Festival, as well as the many facets and functions of the Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum, Dorian Lange, Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum development officer and interview coordinator said, "This was a great opportunity for us to present more of the rich culture and tradition of the Seminole Tribe."

Seminole Moments Visits Fort Pierce with New Wood Carving Topic



Rachel Buxton

Museum Outreach Coordinator Everett Osceola speaks to Fort Pierce Tribal citizens and employees on traditional wood carving Nov. 3. The talk was part of the Seminole Moments series put on by the Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum and was held in the Chupco Ranch cabin. Osceola held up examples of Seminole stick ball sticks. The sticks happened to be the first pair Osceola attempted to make out of cypress wood.



Judy Weeks

Students of the Greater Naples Leadership history day class gather for a group photo with Seminole Tribal Citizen Mary Jene Koenes following her presentation on Tribal history.

Elder Maggie Osceola Is a Role Model for Younger Generations

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

FORT LAUDERDALE — Family gathered to celebrate the 90th birthday of Hollywood Tribal Elder Maggie Osceola, one of the community's eldest and most treasured members.

Catfish Dewey's seafood restaurant was the setting for generations of loved ones on hand from brothers and sisters to nephews and great-grandchildren to reminisce on Nov. 1 on the life of the Bird Clan member.

"It is a celebration of togetherness and family," nephew and Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. said of the special eve-

ning. "This is what it is all about, a wealth of family. It was all about the family unit before televisions and all the technology now; we were together. It was a fun time, I always say we were not rich and did not have a lot of money, but we were rich in love."

Maggie Osceola's exact date of birth is unknown and was estimated, because she was born in the Everglades at a time when birth record keeping for camp-based Seminole families was not practiced.

"It is great to see her still around; she has been such a big part of my life," grandson Eric Osceola said. "The best part to me was that I could just go to her house as a kid and relax. These younger kids nowadays need to go see their grandparents more often."

As one of the oldest living Seminoles among all the reservations, her life can be appreciated as one filled with a wealth of knowledge and experience for future generations.

"It makes me feel so good that she has been around still to see all of her grandchildren grow up," said daughter Mabel Dotor.

Maggie is one of nine siblings born to parents Bill Osceola and Mary Motlow-Osceola. Her father was a one-time Tribal



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., left, and Tribal Board Rep. Marcus Osceola Jr. celebrate Maggie Osceola's 90th birthday.

Board President and a Seminole government co-founder, mother Mary Motlow-Osceola is said to have lived well over the age of 100.

Among only a handful of Tribal citizens still alive to speak fluent and exclusive Mikasuki, her native language, younger sibling Betty Osceola interpreted her older sister's thoughts on the evening, her longevity in age and the Tribe's progression as a major player in the business world.

"I liked the party, it was happy to see and good having the young ones come to celebrate," Maggie Osceola said.

"I never really thought a lot of living to my age; I have just taken it one day at a time. I have been happy to see things progress [with the Tribe]," she added. "I had nothing growing up back then but God has blessed me and watched over me to have something now. He has taken care of us all."

Betty said Maggie's faith and obedience have also been keys to living such a long life.

"She has lived as long as she has also because she has followed the belief of listening to and doing what her elders told her to do," Betty said.

The mother of eight was also married over 50 years to the late Jack Osceola.

She has remained very active over the years and is among a few Seminole elder women still practicing the art of doll and dress making along with basket weaving and sewing. Although she has never received any formal schooling, she learned to spell and write her name, and to drive a car, something she continues to do.

Hollywood Trading Post Marks Four-Year Anniversary

The Hollywood Trading Post, run by the Tribal Board of Directors, marked four years of operation on Oct. 18. The Trading Post is open 24 hours a day and features a deluxe car wash and an on-site cigarette store.



Chris C. Jenkins



Tribal citizens Amos Frank, left, and Barbara Billie await customers with free hotdogs inside the Hollywood Trading Post as part of the store's four-year anniversary celebration on Oct. 18. Raffles, give-aways and vouchers were also highlighted throughout the day to customers.

Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

Seminole in Recovery members, community supporters and other guests gathered for a group photo at the second annual Seminole in Recovery Fish Fry fundraiser at the Trail Independent Baptist Church, on Oct. 16. The day featured guest speakers, including Tribal citizens Frank Billie Jr. and Charlie Tiger Jr., as well as raffle drawings, music, youth bounce houses, popcorn and snow cones. All the proceeds benefit the Florida Native American Recovery Convention to be held in March 2011.

Seminole in Recovery Hosts Annual Fish Fry



Chris C. Jenkins

Seminole in Recovery member Andy Buster gives announcements throughout the day.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal youth enjoy popcorn and snow cones at the event.

Corey Billie Introduces Tourists to the Wonders of the Everglades

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Raised in a Seminole Camp in Ochopee, Fla., Corey Justin Billie's lifestyle has fluctuated between traditional and modern. A member of the Panther clan, he grew up under the watchful eye of his mother, Rosa Billie and his grandmother, Addie Billie.

Times were hard and by an early age, his family began teaching him about his heritage and the necessary skills of survival. They instilled in him a love of the Everglades wilderness that had been the homeland of his ancestors.

Fishing and gigging in the Glades, he was always at home on the water and had a great

fondness for the airboats operated in Miccosukee and the tourist attractions along the Tamiami Trail.

Billie attended school in Everglades City, picked vegetables in the fields and then moved up to working the crab boats and construction. The years passed and he became a family man with four children to raise, but always held onto his hope of operating his own airboat.

Recently, he was able to realize his lifelong dream when he purchased a 200 acre private piece of the Everglades on the Tamiami Trail just below Royal Palm Hammock.

Billie reconstructed a large chickee on the premises for a boat landing and headquarters, and put two airboats in the water aiming at serving the tourist trade.

Visitors also have an opportunity to hold a baby alligator, learn about the local wildlife and shop for Seminole arts and crafts in the gift shop.

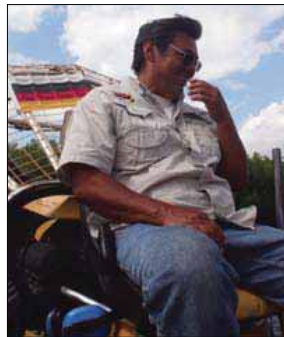
"My land is like a hole in a donut," said Billie. "I am surrounded by three natural habitat parks: Picayune State Panther Preserve, 10,000 Islands National Wildlife Preserve and Collier Seminole State Park. When I go to work each day, it is a labor of love as I glide across the waters that my ancestors once traveled in their dugout canoes."

Billie said Corey Billie's Airboat Rides is named in memory of his late son.

"I had always hoped that we would experience history together and have an opportunity to live among the birds and wildlife that have survived here for thousands of years," he said. "I am very fortunate to have my youngest son, Matthew, working here beside me and learning about his heritage."

As a Native American, Billie said he believes he belongs to the land, rather than the land belonging to him.

"I consider it a privilege to be able to share the unique ecology of the Everglades and its estuaries, while preserving their pristine beauty."



Judy Weeks

Corey Billie is in his element as he tells a boat load of tourists about the Florida Everglades.



Judy Weeks

Corey Billie treated Naples Seminole Community members to an airboat ride as a victory celebration during Red Ribbon Week. Below left photo, from right, three generations of the Billie family, Corey, Rosa and Matthew, greet visitors to Corey Billie's Airboat Rides. Below right photo, Don Hopkins prepares to allow Naples Community children, Marissa Osceola, Nicole Slavik, Martin Slavik, Joseph and Dominic Osceola-Lugo, to hold a baby alligator at Corey Billie's Airboat Rides.



Paula Bowers-Sanchez Performs at WHY Hunger Event in Los Angeles



Richard Melendez

Tribal citizen Paula Bowers-Sanchez was among a few of the entertainers at the WHY Hunger event organized at the new Hard Rock Café on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles. The event featured Ringo Starr, and raised money to feed 10,000 families. Micki Free was also part of the group of entertainers for the evening.

Record Turnout for Big Cypress Birthday Luncheon



Naji Tobias

In what turned out to be the Big Cypress Human Resource Department's largest luncheon of the year so far, lines were relatively long as Tribal citizens and employees waited patiently to enjoy a full-course lunch on Oct. 27. Held at the Big Cypress Community Center, about 200 people took part in the community-wide function. Left photo, Big Cypress Education Advisor Carine Eugene, left, serves Seminole Tribe Environmental Scientist David Bishop a hearty lunch. Right photo, Before heading back to work, a group of Tribal employees from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and the Tribal Historical Preservation Office enjoy their lunch on Oct. 27.



Cherokee/Choctaw Nation's Martha Redbone, from Brooklyn, N.Y., provided a soulful touch to her slew of performances at the AIAC Festival.



From left, Native American War Veterans Clarence Johnson, Roland Johnson, David Fanman, Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Thomas Billie were all honored for their fighting efforts during the presentation of colors portion of the AIAC Festival on Nov. 6. The childhood friends, who graduated from Chilocco Boarding School in northern Oklahoma in the 1960s, spent the weekend together as they watched a slew of Native American performances in art and musical forms.



Immokalee's Victor Billie was one of the AIAC Festival's headliners, performing an alligator show for the crowd on Nov. 6 in Big Cypress.



Lakota Indian Nation Pow-Pow Senior David Brush performs an honor song for the Seminole Tribe at the AIAC Festival on Nov. 6.



With his sunset colors, 11-year-old Talon Duncan of the Apache Tribe of Mesa, Ariz., performs a war dance to honor of all warriors and veterans of war.

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, left, receives an honorary plaque for the Tribe from Everglades Trail Association President Marvin Cook. Founded in 2003, the Everglades Trail Association has erected 21 scenic sites throughout South Florida, with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress being the latest addition.



Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Hosts 13th Annual AIAC Festival in Big Cypress



Students from the Ahfachkee School and the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School pat the baby alligator, with the supervision of Billie Swamp Safari Animal Training Assistant Yosdday Martinez.



Billie Swamp Safari Animal trainer Rey Beceria shows off a red tail hawk during the critter show segment of the 13th annual AIAC Festival.



The final Apache Indian Nation performance was the round dance, with all the audience members participating in the five-minute function. The round dance represents unity and friendship, according to Apache Nation's Sky Duncan. "We can all get along with each other, no matter what race or gender we are," he said. "The Seminole Tribe represents unity and strength. I'm grateful for them because they're very generous to everyone."

Tribe and Native Groups Meet to Discuss Conservation

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS AND NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporters

HOLLYWOOD/BIG CYPRESS — The topic of conservation brought members of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Natives from all over the southeast together for a meet and greet on two of the Tribe's reservations for a four-day event.

In a first-time gathering on Seminole Tribal lands Oct. 24-27, the Tribe welcomed groups from the NRCS and Southeastern American Indian Work Group to discuss current and further conservation strategies and solutions on Indian lands. It is the seventh overall meeting among the groups.

"What we wanted to achieve is have a conversation between Tribes and the NRCS, get to know each other better. And this will all help us provide more assistance to help each other," said Carlos Suarez, Florida NRCS State Conservationist. "We want to strengthen our partnerships through conservation and understand the real issues in a government-to-government relationship."

Presentations and sessions officially kicked things off Oct. 25 at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino on Hollywood, with acknowledgements from Tribal Board of Directors President Richard Bowers Jr., the Tribal Color Guard, Tribal elders and members of NRCS. Later in the evening, a hospitality dinner at the Native Village featured Tribal entertainment including storytelling and music from Tribal citizens Joe Frank, Ollie Wareham and Ted Nelson Sr.

"We now have the facilities to host this type of gathering and it is a place where we could get on an even playing ground for future funding," said President Bowers. "It all serves as a liaison between the govern-

ment and the Tribes." "We [as a Tribe] have always conserved before any government interference. This type of thing is only to improve the lands we have. It enhances the reservations," he continued.

On Oct. 26, NRCS visitors took a trip to the Big Cypress Reservation and toured the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Billie Swamp Safari. About 50 guests were on board, with airboat and swamp buggy rides at the Safari as the primary highlights of the trip.

Organizer Barbara Billie, President Bowers and Big Cypress Tribal Board Representative Paul Bowers Sr. were among those in attendance.

"One of the most interesting things we have found is that you can have bad economic times and yet still make something of it," said Timothy Oakes, NRCS Tribal Liaison Officer for the Choctaw Indians of Mississippi. "You would not normally think of the wetlands as a source of economic survival, but the Seminoles were forced into the wetlands and made something of it. Even in this day, the Seminoles not only make an economic dollar from the wetlands, but take pride in having conservation in their minds and protection of the wetlands. They are not only surviving in the wetlands, but thriving in it as well."

Oakes said he was awed with the trip around Big Cypress.

"It was exhilarating to see a lot of wildlife on the airboat and swamp buggy rides. We received a rich history lesson of the Seminole Tribe of Florida on our museum and safari visits. I believe all of us can say we had a fulfilling experience on the trip."

Oct. 27 consisted of a general session, presentations and closing comments.

As an agency, the NRCS assists Indi-



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr. welcomes guests from the Southeastern American Indian Work group and members of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, and to South Florida, as part of their annual gathering on conservation practices and the environment.

an Tribes by establishing offices in Indian country through Congress, the President's Office and USDA/NRCS standards, according to its website at www.nrcs.usda.gov.

NRCS works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems.

Created in 1996, the Southeastern American Indian Work Group consists of nine neighboring Indian states including: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. All have collaborated to network, share information, organize, recruit and develop activities and interests for conservation of natural resources.



Naji Tobias

For the NRCS guests the visit to Big Cypress concluded with an hour-long ride on the Billie Swamp Safari's swamp buggy.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior Joe Frank discusses the history of cattle ranching among guests at the Native Village evening gathering.



Chris C. Jenkins

Jerry Wolfe of the Cherokee Tribe of North Carolina story tells and sings the traditional version of the classic hymn "Amazing Grace."



Naji Tobias

About 50 people from the Natural Resources Conservation Service took the charter bus ride to Big Cypress on Oct. 26, with a special visit to the reservation's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Eastern Indian Rodeo Association Banquet Features Awards Ceremony

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BRIGHTON — Members of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association gathered at the Brighton Veterans Building on Oct. 16 for the 2010 Year End Banquet and Awards ceremony.

During welcoming remarks, EIRA President Josh Jumper gave thanks on behalf of the EIRA members to the Tribal Council, family members and friends for their support throughout the year.

Following the invocation, Moses Jumper, Jr. said, "The EIRA is in its 13th year and continuing to grow. Our youth, non-sanctioned events have increased and are providing a teaching experience and feeder system for the next generation of rodeo contenders. In addition, the Indian National Finals Rodeo has added a new legends division."

The auditorium filled with laughter and cheers as the audience viewed a 20-minute pilot known as "Big's Bloopers," which included blunders and wrecks that occurred in the arena during the rodeos. The entertainment concluded with the reading of "Indian Rodeo," a poem written by Moses Jumper Jr.

President Richard Bowers Jr. congratulated everyone on a job well done.

"It is my privilege to support rodeos and Seminole youth. Rodeo has become a part of our heritage. The sport was born out of the cattle industry and our people have always looked forward to testing their skills in the arena," President Bowers said. "As a youngster I remember watching the men working the cattle in the pens and then competing against each other at the end of the round up. Good luck at South Pointe in Las Vegas."

Hendry County Commissioner Karson Turner and Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. talked about highlights of the past rodeo season and congratulated the 2010 Champions and Reserve Champions. Sr. Miss Rodeo Jewel Buck and Jr. Miss Rodeo Mailani Perez made short presentations and then assisted in handing out the awards. Directors for each event came forward to award saddles to the Champions and buckles to the Reserve Champions.

Over the past several years, EIRA membership has grown to encompass a large portion of North America. Contestants travel long distances to compete in their rodeos in the hopes of earning sufficient points to qualify for the INFR that is being held this year on Nov. 12, 13 and 14 in Las Vegas.

Because of the great distance and expense of travel, several of the contestants receiving awards were unable to attend the banquet. They will receive their saddles and buckles when they arrive at the INFR.

The EIRA sponsors rodeo scholarships for deserving young people to attend college. This year's scholarship recipient is Shelby Osceola, who is attending Troy University.

Following the presentation of awards, officers and directors were elected for the new year of 2011. A barbecue banquet preceded the awards ceremony.

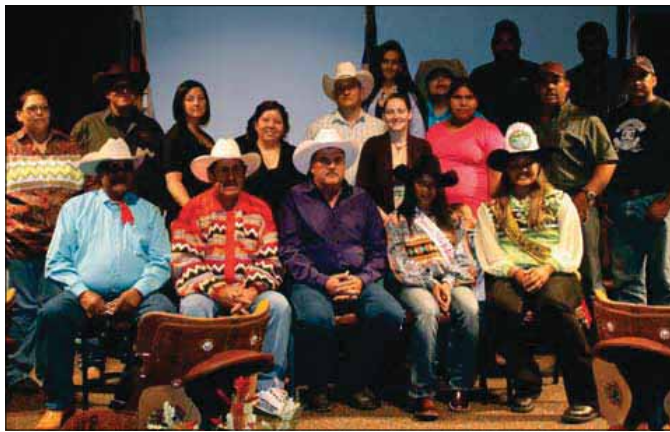


Judy Weeks
Kalgary Johns was awarded Champion All Around Cowgirl of the Year for 2011.



Jr. Miss Rodeo Mailani Perez, left, and Sr. Miss Rodeo Jewel Buck, right, join Barrel Racing Director Toi Andrews, second from right, in presenting a saddle to Barrel Racing Champion Loretta Peterson.

Judy Weeks



Judy Weeks

Past and newly elected EIRA Rodeo Event Directors gather to commemorate another season.

2010 EASTERN INDIAN RODEO ASSN. AWARDS

EIRA CHAMPIONS: Bareback Riding: Freddy WarBonnet, Saddle Bronc Riding: Tyler Humble, Steer Wrestling: Quinn Campbell, Calf Roping: Preston Williams, Lady's Breakaway Roping: Mindy Fish, Team Roper Header: Josh Jumper, Team Roper Heeler: Preston Williams, Barrel Racing: Loretta Peterson, Bull Riding: Koty Brugh.

MEN'S ALL AROUND CHAMPION: Preston Williams

LADY'S ALL AROUND CHAMPION: Leanna Billie

BOY'S ALL AROUND CHAMPION: Jobe Johns

GIRL'S ALL AROUND CHAMPION: Kalgary Johns

EIRA RESERVE CHAMPIONS: Bareback Riding: Jacoby Johns, Steer Wrestling: Ivan BruisedHead, Calf Roping: Naha Jumper, Lady's Breakaway: Ayze Henry, Team Roping Header: Marvin Bowers, Team Roping Heeler: Naha Jumper, Barrel Racing: Mackenzie Bowers.

INFR 2010 QUALIFIERS: Bareback Riding: Jacoby Johns, Saddle Bronc Riding: Tyler Humble, Steer Wrestling: Ivan BruisedHead & Warren Rubio, Calf Roping: Ivan BruisedHead & Al Tigertail, Lady's Breakaway: Mindy Fish & Boggie Jumper, Team Roping: Josh Jumper & Preston Williams, Marvin Bowers & Ivan BruisedHead, Lady's Barrel Racing: Loretta Peterson, Carrera Gopher.

NON-SANCTIONED CHAMPIONS: Mutton Busting: Justin Gopher, Jr. Pony Riding: Jobe Johns, Calf Riding: Mark Holmes, Steer Riding: Rayven Smith, Jr. Bull Riding: Andre Jumper, 4-8 Barrels: Brighton Bauman, 9-12 Barrels: Kal-

gary Johns, 13-17 Barrels: Reagon Tigertail, Jr. Breakaway Roping: Andre Jumper, Chute Doggin: Ernie Courson, Jr. Steer Undecorating: Kelton Smedley, Jr. Steer Undecorating: Chebon Gooden, Jr. Bareback Riding: William Bearden, 50 & Over Breakaway Roping: Paul Bowers, Jr., 50 & Over Barrel Racing: Anna Bowers.

NON-SANCTIONED RESERVES: Mutton Busting: Dwayne Billie Jr., Pony Riding: Tripp Edgar, Calf Riding: Myron Billie, Steer Riding: Tripp Edgar, Jr. Bull Riding Co-Champions: Ernie Courson & Kelton Smedley, 4-8 Barrels Champion: Jace Jumper, 9-12 Barrels Champion: Harley Maggard, 13-17 Barrel Champion: Nauthkee Henry, Jr. Breakaway Roping Co-Champion: Dalton Boney & Jobe Johns, Chute Doggin Champion: Josh Johns, Jr. Steer Undecorating Champion: Jobe Johns, Sr. Steer Undecorating Champion: Dalton Boney, Jr. Bareback Riding Champion: Andrew Holmes, 50 & Over Breakaway Roping: Norman Johns.

REGIONAL FINALS CHAMPIONS: Bareback Riding: Freddy WarBonnet, Saddle Bronc: Tyler Humble, Steer Wrestling Champion: Quinn Campbell, Calf Roping Champion: Preston Williams, Lady's Breakaway Champion: Mindy Fish, Team Roping Header Champion: Josh Jumper, Team Roping Heeler Champion: Preston Williams, Barrel Racing Champion: Carrera Gopher, Bull Riding Champion: Warren Rubio.

INFR JR. 7 SR. EVENT WINNERS: Jr. Steer Riding: Andre Jumper, Kelton Smedley, Jobe Johns, Jr. Barrel Racing: Budda Jumper, Kalgary Johns, Annie Jumper, Melonie Perez, Jr. Breakaway Roping: Andre Jumper, Blevins Jumper, Jobe Johns, Kalgary Johns, Sr. Breakaway Roping: paul Bowers, Sr., Norman Johns, Joe L. John, Sr. Team Roping: Joe L. John & Paul Bowers, Sr., Parker Jones & Norman Johns.

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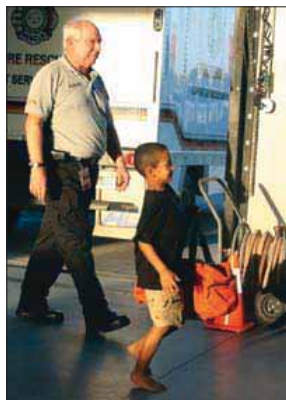
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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



Seminole Fire-Rescue Deputy Fire Marshal Bob Brown guides Nicholas Andrews II during Fire Prevention Week activities in Big Cypress.



In Brighton, Chloe Chalfant, left, and Tyler Howard ride shotgun in Fire Engine 7.



In Brighton, kids line up with anticipation to get a chance to turn the sirens on.



Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., far right, along with members of the Tribe's Fire Rescue Department watch Tribal youth complete a structural collapse crawl maze as part of Fire Rescue Week activities held at the Hollywood Recreation Gym on Oct. 18.



About 30 Tribal and community youth from the Big Cypress Reservation participated in the Fire Prevention Week Demo activities on Oct. 25 at the Jimmy Cypress Public Safety Complex Building. They spend some quality time with the Seminole Fire-Rescue team and Sparky the Dog at the conclusion of the demo.



Seminole Fire Rescue Firefighter Steven Eller assists Lellani Gopher, 9, with a hose pull, during the agility test in Big Cypress.



Captain Ricardo Fong narrates as firefighters demonstrate rescue procedures to a group of Immokalee youngsters.

Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue Celebrates Fire Prevention Week on Reservations

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Tribe's Fire Rescue Department held its third annual Fire Prevention Week series of demonstrations at the Hollywood, Fort Pierce, Brighton, Big Cypress and Immokalee Reservations from Oct. 18-26.

The Seminole Fire Rescue crews used a vast array of activities to gauge the Tribal and community youngsters' interests in efforts to promote fire prevention. This year's theme was Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With.

The Fire Prevention Week demonstrations kicked off at the Hollywood Seminole Recreation Gym hosted a series of practical, in-depth exercises and drills for the youth to engage in.

Those fire prevention-related activities included a search-and-rescue operation, a crawl maze, a cone knockdown, a physical activity training course, a smoke room and an appearance from Sparky, the Seminole Fire Rescue's fire dog.

"We have had a tradition here with the Tribe for the last three years and it continues to be an opportunity for the kids to see how our firefighters operate," said Robert Brown, Hollywood's Tribal Fire Rescue Deputy Fire Marshal. "This is also another nice way to introduce firefighters to the young children so they are not frightened if they come across one in the event of a fire."

Hollywood Tribal mother Glory Diaz had six of her kids participating in the activities.

"I think it was awesome and the best thing they could have done was actually have

ing a hands-on set up. It was good. I liked it and the kids did also," Diaz said. "They learned a lot in seeing what firefighters actually do and probably even more about safety. Safety is the key and I think that is the thing they really took from it all the most."

Meanwhile, the Brighton Reservation held a similar demonstration on Oct. 22 at the gymnasium. As the Brighton community's youth, adults and employees gathered around the facility for a barbecue-themed lunch, Seminole Fire Rescue crews took a group of interested youngsters on a tour of the fire rescue's Engine 7 and Rescue 7 vehicles.

In Engine 7, the kids took turns in the driver's seat, pressing buttons and turning the sirens on and off. A rescue training activity followed after lunch was served.

To conclude Brighton's demo, a special visit was made by Sparky and Smoky the Bear.

At the Big Cypress Reservation, about 40 Tribal and community children took part in the Fire Rescue's demo on Oct. 25. The youth were visibly thrilled to take part in the physical activity course, also known by the Fire Rescue as the agility test.

A key component in the evaluation of a potential firefighter, the youngsters started the agility test with each of them running with a medical bag carry-on, which was followed by a hose pull and a ladder raising device. The five-phase test concluded with a window smasher and the stretcher roll, which allowed the kids to run with the device.

At the reservation's Public Safety Complex, the Big Cypress youth participants participated in the same activities, as the youngsters from other reservations.

For 10-year-old Dayra Koenes, the crawl maze was her favorite part of the fire rescue demo presentation.

"With the maze, you have to crawl through it to see what it's like to be in a fire," Koenes said. "We want to keep ourselves safe so we don't get caught in a fire. The whole thing was fun. We want them [the Seminole Fire Rescue] to do one again soon."

Fire Prevention Week made its way to the Immokalee Reservation on Oct. 26, with the youth there learning about wild land fire fighting, emergency and prevention techniques, evacuation procedures and fire equipment operations.

Seminole Emergency, Fire and Rescue officers make frequent presentations in Immokalee to instruct the younger generation in fire prevention, safety skills and rescue procedures. The information taught during these seminars has had a major impact on the students, who are beginning to develop reflex reactions to adverse situations.

Raymond James Mora, 9, said he has been interacting with the firemen since his preschool days and has a keen interest in fire prevention, which is typical of his classmates.

"When I was little I learned to drop and roll if I am on fire," Mora said. "Now I have grown up and I know how to get out of a smoky house, use the fire extinguisher and hide in a fire tent in the woods."

Seminole Fire Rescue Chief David Logan said the Fire Prevention Week demonstrations were geared toward educating the Tribe's youngsters on how to protect themselves during the upcoming dry season, which begins on Dec. 1 and runs through May 31, 2011.

With October being Fire Prevention Month across the United States, Logan and his staff wanted to make sure the "whole gamut of fire protection" was covered.

"Our main objective was to make sure the children learn about fire safety and how to use safe practices in case a fire happens in their home," Seminole Fire Rescue Inspector Bruce Britton said. "With the demo, we wanted to make sure they got to check out all of the operations we have here. It was good for them to get to know us up close and personal."

The Fort Pierce Reservation held its Fire Prevention Week demonstration on Oct. 21. Seminole Fire Rescue officials said. The Tampa Reservation, meanwhile, did not have a demo this year.

According to the National Fire Protection Association's website, Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than



Leo Onco, 8, uses a fire hose to knock down a cone with the help of Seminole Fire-Rescue Support Staff Member Zachary Bashir during the Oct. 25 Fire Prevention Week Demo function in Big Cypress.

2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, with the majority of its damage taking place on October 9, 1871.

For more information on Fire Prevention Week, visit www.nfpa.org.

Seminole Tribune Staff Writers Chris C. Jenkins, Rachel Buxton and Judy Weeks contributed to this story.



Lucas Osceola, from Brighton, sits in the back of Fire Engine 7 after he gets a tour of the vehicle.



Tribal youth from Hollywood greet special guest Sparky, the fire dog.



Emergency medical technicians provide Immokalee children with a tour of the ambulance and its life saving facilities.



Tribal youngsters try out a crawl maze, as part of various exercises set up by Fire Rescue staff in Big Cypress.



Wild Land Fire Fighters allow Raymond James Mora, Aaliyah Mora and Jack Aguilar, from Immokalee, to inspect the safety helmets.



Tribal youngster John Osceola, from Hollywood, finishes a tour of Fire Rescues custom fire truck.



Billy Bailey, left, and Donovan Harris, both from Brighton, give special guest Sparky, the Fire Dog, a big hug good bye.

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Chrysler 300 Lambo | White_300_12 Passenger



Tribal Edition | White_H2_22 Passenger



Bentley Edition | Silver & Black_300_12 Passengers

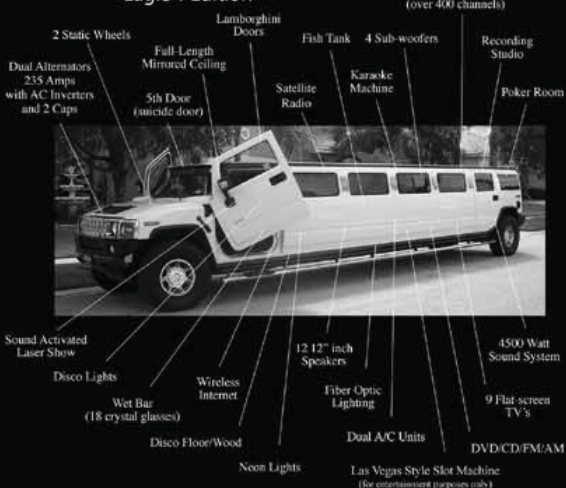


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Big Cypress Seminole 4-H October News

BY CRYSTAL BURKETT-WILCOX
Big Cypress Florida Cooperative
Extension Asst. Coordinator

Well, the month of October was a great month for all our 4-H clubs.

We had our monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 6. Also, the photo club B.C. swamp snappers had a meeting the same day after the monthly meeting. In the meeting we went over different techniques in using their cameras. We planned a trip to the Safari for the 17th for our first photo shoot. The swamp snappers needed photos of marine and aquatic photography because they had a photo contest coming up. The photography contest was held Nov. 6 at the MME in Kissimmee, Fla., at the Osceola County extension office.

The 4-H leaders went to Tampa on Nov. 8-11, to the Florida state fair grounds for ethics training. All 4-H leaders are now trained to host our own ethics training for our kids to be able to show at all state fairs. On the 12th we had our high spirits horse club, the members got to have free riding time in the warm up pen at the rodeo grounds.

Now, we are into the middle of the month, and it's time for us leaders to start getting ready for our members to purchase their market project animals for the South Florida Fair.

So, we are cleaning up all the barns, getting ready for the new swine. On Oct. 17 the steer club had the second weigh-in; all members are doing a great job getting their projects ready for the show and sale. All steers are gaining weight like they should be and all members were able to walk their projects pretty good. On the 26th we had the BC 4-H arts/crafts and cooking club.

First, we started out with cooking up some Halloween cupcakes for the member to take to their school parties. (No need to cook cupcakes mom, I've got it all taken care of). While we let the cupcakes bake, the members started make potholders.

Now it is the end of the month, and the members who have a swine for South Florida Fair have ear tag in on the 30th in West Palm Beach.

Big Cypress 4H has four members that are showing for the South Florida Fair.

Well, this is all for October. Talk to you next month.



Crystal Burkett-Wilcox

Dalton Koenes loads up his steer to get its hooves trimmed.



Photo above, Valholy Frank rides in the warm up pen. Photo above right, Big Cypress swamp snappers on their safari photo shoot. Right photo, Crafty Cooking Club makes some cool pot holder.

Photos by Crystal Burkett-Wilcox



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VETERANS DAY CELEBRATIONS

Brighton Honors Veterans at Second Annual Veterans Day Celebration

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter



Tribal citizen and Army Veteran Stephen Bowers leads the Color Guard carrying the American flag.

BRIGHTON — Past and present veterans were remembered and honored Nov. 5 at Brighton's second annual Veterans' Day celebration.

The celebration was held at the Brighton Veterans' Building and included the entire community as well as the Brighton Preschool and Brighton Charter School.

"This is part of our culture," said Stephen Bowers about the veterans. "They [the students] need to be exposed to the fact that certain members of their family may be a veteran."

Florida Seminole Veterans President John Wayne Huff Sr. was the emcee for the ceremony and welcomed everyone for coming and celebrating a day that is very dear to him, having served in the United States Army during the Vietnam War.

"We wanted to have this early so our veterans can go to others and see the other guys," Huff said in regards to holding their celebration a week early.

United States Army Veteran Wonder Johns gave the invocation before Army Veteran Stephen Bowers led the Seminole Tribe Color Guard.

The Brighton Preschool took the stage for the pledge of allegiance leading the audience first in English and then in their Native Creek language.

Brighton Tribal member and Seminole Start Search winner Salina Dorgan sang the National Anthem bringing the entire auditorium into applause.

Prior to the ceremony Penayety Ema-hak's middle school students in language arts classes participated in an essay contest on topics pertaining to veterans. The winners from each grade took to the podium to read their essays.

Sixth grade winner Trevor Thomas spoke on how students can honor veterans. Thomas encouraged people through his essay to take the time to send letters and

supplies to soldiers overseas just to let them know that we, as Americans, are thankful for all that they are doing for us.

In seventh grade there was tie between Kailin Brown and Boyd Brown. Their essay topic was on whether veterans should be respected.

Kailin Brown spoke about her two grandfathers who both served in the military.

"They are and forever will be my heroes," she said.

Eighth grade winner Tatiana Herrera spoke on what could happen if no one were willing to serve in our military. Herrera left the audience with two very important words, "What if?"

Dignitaries and royalty were welcomed to the stage to thank the veterans for their hard work and their gift of freedom. Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Richard Bowers Jr. came to Brighton to show their appreciation.

Brighton invited guest speaker Ben L. Humphries to speak. Humphries is the first vice president of Viet-

nam Veterans of America Florida State Council and is a U.S. Army Veteran.

"I feel honored to be here among the unconquered heroes," Humphries said.

Humphries told a very powerful story about an old Army Veteran who was down and out when he returned back from war injured and homeless. He spoke of how this particular soldier lost the will to live and turned to drugs and alcohol.

Humphries went on to share how the soldier eventually got help and went into a treatment center and the VA granted him 100 percent disability, giving him hope once again.

"That story I just told you was about me," Humphries shared. "One homeless veteran is too many."

Tribal citizen and Director of Education Emma Johns conducted the roll call of present veterans and then naming the deceased veterans in remembrance.

Taps was played followed by Pastor Matthew Tiger giving the final prayer concluding the ceremony.



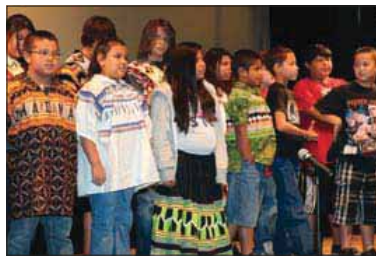
Seminole Tribe Veterans take a moment to remember how they fought for their country's freedom.



Brighton Preschoolers lead the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance first in English then in their native Creek language.



Seventh grader Kailin Brown speaks about her grandfathers, one being Tribal, serving in the military.



The Charter School sings "This Land is Your Land" in Creek.



The entire auditorium in the Brighton Veterans' Building stands in honor of all past, present and future veterans.

VETERANS

From page 1A

ago. He recalled a time that Dan Bowers, shortly after returning from the Vietnam War, put him through two weeks of boot camp.

President Bowers talked about one instance in which he had to get up at 4 in the morning, make up his bed, run for a



Photojournalist Steven Cleaver of the Osage Tribe was guest speaker at the Veterans Day Celebrations.



Seminole War Veteran Dan Bowers, center, is presented with a specially-made U.S. Marine Corps blanket at the 23rd Annual Veterans Day Celebration in Big Cypress on Nov. 9.



Left photo, Vietnam Veterans of America Florida State Council President Jerry Klein, left, presents an award to Chairman Mitchell Cypress. Right photo, Ah-fachkee School students Dayra Koenes, left, Elijah Billie, center, and Bradin Jim, right, each read aloud essays they wrote in honor of the 23rd annual Veterans Day Celebration in Big Cypress.



brother to me."

Almost immediately after President Bowers' words, Dan Bowers came up to speak, with his family accompanying him. "I feel humbled about this whole situation," Dan Bowers said. "I'm thankful to Stephen and all of the veterans here, they're like family to me. I'm just so happy to be here."

Dan Bowers talked about how he entered the U.S. Marines and the challenges that came with it.

"When you get in the service, everybody gets a job to do," Dan Bowers said. "You either make it or don't make it. I wasn't prepared for communications because my worst subject in school was English. But they trained me so hard. Being a wireman in radio, it was never a dull moment."

Following Dan Bowers' acceptance speech, he received a Veteran's Day plaque and a U.S. Marines blanket.

Danette Bowers, the daughter of Dan Bowers, spoke of her father's honor and what the significance of it was.

"I think my dad's extremely honored

that he was acknowledged for his services," Danette Bowers said. "He sacrificed his health to fight for our country. It was really touching for me to hear the stories of his brothers and how he touched their lives



Seminole Tribe Liaison of Veteran Affairs Stephen D. Bowers, left, and Veteran Honoree Dan Bowers greet the Veterans Day Celebration attendees.

when they were young." Danette Bowers describes the honor as a shining moment not only for her father, but for the Tribe as a whole.

"My father's like a living archive," Danette Bowers said of him. "He's a memento of our time."

Memories Abound in Veterans Day Remembrance Walk

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The clear and brisk morning of Nov. 9 gave way to a group of walkers taking time out of their day to participate in the Veterans Day Remembrance Walk.

As part of the Seminole Pathways second walking season, participants took to the Big Cypress Fitness Trail and walked three laps in honor of the living and deceased war veterans.

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, who took part in the walk, spent much of his early morning reminiscing on the life and times of the late Seminole war veteran Herbert Cypress.

Tiger said he also walked on the fitness trail for his half-brother, Raymond Gonzalez, who served in the Vietnam War's tank division.

"I have the utmost respect for any war vet that has fought for my freedom and livelihood," Tiger said. "A lot of us Tribal kids grew up back in the day with military leadership. Our leaders taught us to be respectable

and resilient. They encouraged us to be proud of who we are as Seminoles."

Tiger recalled of a time in his younger days when Herbert Cypress, a World War II veteran, went overseas to fight for the United States in Germany. According to Tiger, Herbert Cypress stopped at a lemon tree one day to pick up a lemon for the Councilman's family.

Herbert Cypress's lemon, which originally came from Germany, is now a sprawling lemon tree in Tiger's family yard.

"That meant so much to our family back then and it still does now," Tiger said. "The lemon tree keeps growing strong. For that and much more, Herbert's still in my heart today."

Big Cypress Wellness Coordinator Edna McDuffie said the morning exercise function was part of the Seminole Pathways weekly walking series and the 23rd annual Big Cypress Veterans Day Celebration, which took place a few hours after the walk.

McDuffie added that she was pleased with the turnout, as individuals from the Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee Reservations took part in the Veterans Day Walk.

"It's good to see the whole Tribe supporting us," McDuffie said. "I'm glad people came out to enjoy the walk. We want to remember the ones that fought for us and those that are still there for us today. We love our freedom and our military guys."



The Veteran's Day Remembrance Walk participants begin their first of three laps around the Big Cypress Fitness Trail.

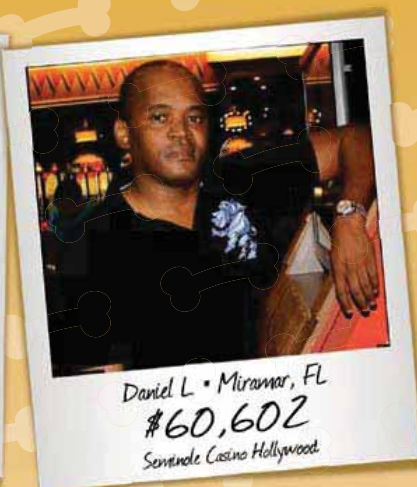
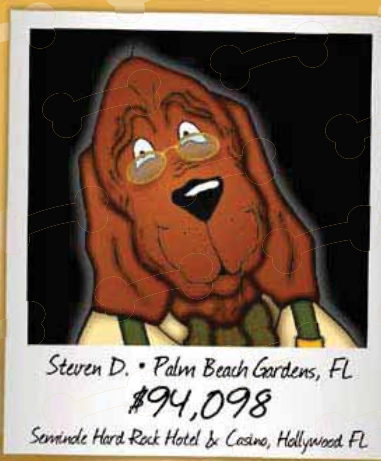
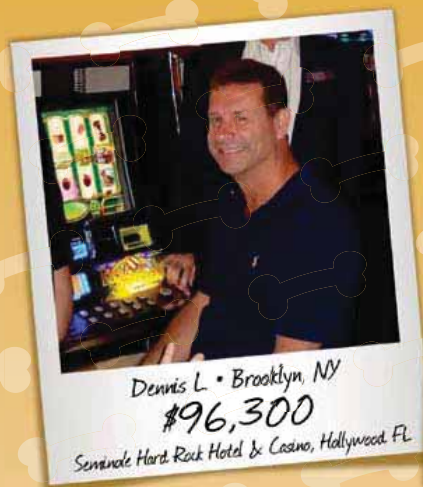


The Nov. 9 Veterans Day Remembrance Walk featured a group gathering of all the participants who took time out of their morning to observe the Seminole Veterans Wall at the Big Cypress Fitness Trail.



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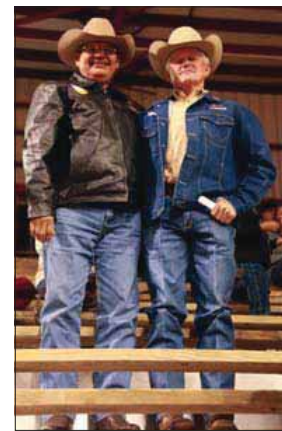
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◆ More photos from the Southeastern Circuit Finals Rodeo in Davie



Adina Loockhart

Left photo, Tribal citizen and Army Veteran Stephen Bowers, second from left, leads the Color Guard, joined by Miss Rodeo Jewel Buck and Jr. Miss Rodeo Mallani Perez. Photo above, President Richard Bowers Jr. rides the horse carriage next to Bobby Frank.



Adina Loockhart

President Richard Bowers Jr. watches the rodeo next to John Davis, Director of Member Relations for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Davis came from his home state Oregon to attend the event.



Adina Loockhart

The Southeastern Circuit Rodeo, organized Nov. 4, 5 and 6 at Bergeron Rodeo Grounds in Davie, opens with flag ceremonies.



Adina Loockhart

Shelli Tiger sings the National Anthem at the opening of the Southeastern Circuit Rodeo.

Breast Cancer Awareness Testimonies Are Part of Employees' Birthday Luncheon



Chris C. Jenkins

Above photo, Allied Health Department Program Manager Suzanne Davis discusses breast cancer precautions as part of birthday luncheon festivities and Breast Cancer Awareness Month, held at the Tribal headquarters in Hollywood Oct. 27. The Health Department provided free literature, raffles and prizes, as well as encouraged testimonies from breast cancer survivors. Right photo, Dianna Brantley talks about her breast cancer scare in front of fellow Tribal employees and friends.



Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

Ron Ward, left, and Steve Young, of the Hollywood Recreation Department, work in the garden.



Adina Loockhart

Former Florida State University football star William Floyd helps out in the vegetable garden, as part of the Recreation 4-H harvest program.

Hollywood Recreation Department and 4-H Begin Harvest Program for Youth

Tribal citizen Richard Osceola, left, of the Hollywood Recreation Department, and former football pro William Floyd begin the harvesting process in a designated space on the Hollywood Reservation. The two are part of an ongoing Recreation/4-H agriculture program aimed at teaching Tribal youth how to grow and farm crops, as well as re-establish the traditions and culture of Seminole harvesting and production.



Adult Vocational Program Brings Positive Changes

BY MARIE DUFOUR
STOF Adult Vocational Administrator

The Adult Vocational Program has had many positive changes in 2010, but none greater than the increased number of tribal members participating and passing the GED. As of Oct. 31, the program has helped 12 Tribal members achieve this academic milestone.

The General Education Diploma can be a very intimidating obstacle for those who have dropped out of school or for those who are attempting to find work. Fortunately, with new tutors, new preparation books, and dedicated students the Seminole GED program has had much success this year.

"We saw a need to change direction and find new ways to prepare and motivate students at the same time. I am very proud of my students and staff," said Marie Dufour, the Adult Vocational Administrator.

The program implemented changes in January and expects at least six more graduates by the end of the year.

Considering the GED as the beginning of their

new lives, many of the students are grateful for the chance to have a one on one tutor.

Deandra Tiger, who took her test last month, said the overall experience was a lot easier than she thought it was going to be. "The tutors are very cool people, they text you, they call you, and they always stay in contact. They were really nice," she said.

With more than 132 people preparing for their GED tribe wide, Seminole AVP staff commends the tutors for all of their hard work.

Dalia Marvin, a GED tutor in Hollywood said, "It is really gratifying to see our efforts turn into actual diplomas and lead to brighter futures for the Seminole Tribe."

Dufour said, "As a staff, we are continuing to push every tribal member in need of a GED to take the test before 2012, the test plans to change its standards, ultimately becoming harder."

Currently the program offers flexible tutoring hours and incentives for studying. Any Tribal member interested in getting their GED is urged to contact the Seminole Education department for more details.



Submitted photo

Tribal citizens take advantage of the benefits offered by the Adult Vocational Program.

RED RIBBON WEEK



Naji Tobias

From left, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Wovoka Tommie, Jr., Miss Seminole Princess Lorelei Tommie, Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger and Alice M. Billie.



Naji Tobias

The Big Cypress Recreation Department's float stands out among the several entries in the Red Ribbon Week Parade.



Allan Hoffman

The Ahfachkee School participated in an aerial shoot as part of the Red Ribbon Week series of activities on Oct. 21. The aerial shoot was coordinated by Ahfachkee School Principal Walter Swan and Ahfachkee School Teacher Dominique Troade.

Big Cypress Community Celebrates Red Ribbon Week with Parade, Bike Race and Essay Contest



Naji Tobias

The Big Cypress seniors show off their athletic skills riding their tricycles at the Red Ribbon Week Parade on Oct. 22.

RED RIBBON WEEK RESULTS

Billboard Poster Display Contest – Oct. 19

1. Big Cypress Councilman's Office, 2. Big Cypress Education Department, 3. Big Cypress/Willie E. Frank Library Department.

Amazing Youth and Teen Race – Oct. 20

Youth Race: 1. Team Red - Talia Billie, Charlie Osceola, Leilani Gopher, Eyanna Billie, Les Gopher and Carlee Billie; 2. Team Bruple (brown & purple) - Elijah Cook, Destiny Cypress, Dayra Koenes, Trinity Williams, Edie Robbins, Evanne Pratt and Harmony Cypress; 3. Team Black - Athena Bert, Lauren Doctor, Liberty Robbins, Kylen Jumper, Janessa Jones and Alyssa Osceola.

Teen Race: 1. Team Green - Leandra Rodriguez, Rheannon Robbins, Oshanne Cypress and Natalia Martinez; 2. Team Yellow - Sabre Billie, Susie Jim and Caitlin Cypress; 3. Team Orange - Leauna Billie, Savannah Tiger, Reagan Whitecloud and Tyrus Billie.

Poster and Essay Contest – Oct. 21

Posters: 1. Chynna Villarreal, 2. Alyssa Osceola, 3. Mazzy Robbins.

Essays: 1. Savannah Tiger, 2. Ashley Escobar, 3. Ryan Cypress.

Red Ribbon Week Parade Float Contest – Oct. 22

1. Housing Department, 2. Big Cypress Preschool, 3. Big Cypress Councilman's Office, 4. Big Cypress Community Center, 5. Rock Mining Department.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal elder Claudia Doctor was one of the three judges for the Red Ribbon Week's Poster and Essay Contest on Oct. 21 at the Family Investment Center's Learning Resource Room.



Naji Tobias

The Big Cypress community came together for a group shot outside the Family Investment Center in honor of Red Ribbon Week on Oct. 18.

Tribal Citizen's Confession in an Encouragement Towards a Drug-Free Life

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

The first part of Seminole Tribal Citizen Geraldine Osceola's life closely resembles that of many other people who have made some bad choices that adversely affected their health and family relations.

However, during the last 12 years the Immokalee resident has successfully turned her life around and she wants everybody to know that it is possible.

"My life was fairly average until I reached my early 20s



Judy Weeks

Geraldine Osceola with two of her five daughters, Charlie and Jordan, who have given her purpose and the will power to take control of her life.

and some of my friends turned to an abusive lifestyle," Geraldine said. "It wasn't long before I succumbed to peer-pressure and sampled a little crack cocaine. When someone tells you that it won't hurt to just try some, they are lying. Addiction is just around the corner."

Geraldine said that before she knew it, she was hooked on drugs. "It was so bad that I used right up until the day before

one of my daughters were born and stopped just one week before a second birth. I didn't really want to do it, but I just couldn't stop. It was hard on the rez and temptation was all around me."

Her children made her want to take the first steps toward sobriety, she said.

"They say that you have to be clean for yourself, but that came later for me. My kids were my motivation and I entered myself in a rehab," she said. "They gave me the tools there, but I didn't use them and before seven months, I had relapsed."

The second time Geraldine tried to quit was even harder, she said.

"I had all the excuses down pat. It didn't help that my husband was a user also. I was a co-dependent, fighting my addiction everyday. I felt like I had tension and pressure coming at me from all sides. The only time I was able to mellow out was when I was nursing my babies and that gave me inner peace."

Wanting to fulfill her lifelong dream to get an education, Geraldine enrolled in school.

"Somehow the pressure was more than I could handle and I finally decided to relocate to my husband's home state of Maryland," she said she thought leaving would change everything, but it didn't because she took all the problems with her.

"It was so hard! I was studying for a degree in chemical dependency counseling and I had my girls to raise. My husband was still using and we finally split up for a year, because I couldn't take it anymore and I had become an enabler for his addiction."

Driven and motivated, Geraldine buried herself in her studies and managed to make the dean's list every semester.

"My husband got help, we reconciled and I got my degree. But my life was still not complete. I was lonely and there's no place like home."

Geraldine and her husband moved back to Florida where she is dedicating her life to their five children and helping others with chemical dependencies.

"I am 12 years sober, but I am not going to fool you. I am an addict and I still seek help when I need it. I recognize the signs and symptoms and know when I need my therapist to clean the skeletons out of my closet," she said.

One of the most important pieces of advice from Geraldine is to believe in a power greater and to set goals one day at a time.

"I am a counselor, but I still receive counseling from Family Services. If you make the right choice, tomorrow could be the first day of the rest of your life and you won't regret it. Do it for yourself!"



Judy Weeks

A close knit family atmosphere prevails within the Naples Community. The Juanita Osceola Center provides culture, education and recreational programs throughout the year to build defenses against abuse. In commemoration of Red Ribbon Week, community members took a field trip to Corey Osceola's Airboat Camp.

Naples Marks Red Ribbon Week as a Family



Judy Weeks

Karie Jo Osceola and her daughter don ear protection before embarking upon an airboat ride.



Judy Weeks

Naples Cultural Specialist Jessica Osceola and her sister Marissa interact welcome tourists who visit the Youth Craft Booth.

RED RIBBON WEEK

Hollywood Tribal Citizens Come Together in the Fight Against Addictions



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal youth, members of Family Services and the Seminole Police Department gathered as part of Red Ribbon Week festivities for a Drug Free March around the Hollywood Reservation Oct. 25.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal youth Ozzie Holdiness paints a pot before using it to plant his flower, as part of Plant a Promise Red Ribbon Week festivities.



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood preschool staff, youth and special guest McGruff, the Crime Dog, participate in a community march around the reservation in celebration of annual Red Ribbon Week festivities.



Chris C. Jenkins

From left, Griffin Billie, Jay Bowers, Mariah Bowers, David Descheene and Sarah Descheene show off their art work to kick off annual Red Ribbon festivities on the Hollywood Reservation on Oct. 12. A winning poster is chosen each year and T-shirts are created on the reservations. The event is in collaboration with the national Red Ribbon Week celebration. This year's national theme was "I am Drug Free."



Chris C. Jenkins

Alexus Jumper, left, and Sarah Descheene put the finishing touches on decorating their pots, as part of Plant a Promise Red Ribbon Week festivities.



Adina Leachkarrt

Michael Tiger plays the drums, while Anissa Osceola has fun on the guitar, both accompanied by Family Services employee Eric Bricker, left, and Boys & Girls Club Music Coordinator James Payne, as part of Red Ribbon Week activities at the Hollywood Auditorium on Oct. 28.



Chris C. Jenkins

Mariah Bowers, left, and Family Services Prevention Specialist K. C. Culins put the finishing touches on her Red Ribbon Week poster.



Chris C. Jenkins

Mary Gay Osceola shows off the paper flowers and decorated pot from grandsons Tavian and Neo Osceola.



Adina Leachkarrt

Ollie Wareham plays the "Tigers Song," before enchanting the audience with a new story, "The Skeleton Lady."

Fort Pierce Promotes a Drug-Free Community



Rachel Buxton

Photo above, SPD's Crime Prevention Officer Michele Daza speaks to the Fort Pierce community on Internet safety and how to avoid sexual predators on the web. Right photo, Fletcher Sanders is announced as the winner of the T-shirt decorating contest.



FORT PIERCE — Fort Pierce celebrated Red Ribbon Week with a variety of Drug Free festivities beginning Oct. 11 at the Chupeco Ranch with Tribal youth participating in the annual Red Ribbon T-shirt design competition, while the adults decorated their front doors competing for first place. The Fort Pierce Community welcomed speakers Misty Rummage from the Drug Abuse Treatment Association and the Seminole Police Department's own Crime Prevention Officer Michele Daza speaking on drug-related topics. — Rachel Buxton

United They Stand: Tampa Office Supports Red Ribbon Week



Ryan Watson

Tampa Field Office Employees wearing their Red T-shirts on Oct. 4, in support of Red Ribbon Week.



Tom Riser

Young and old came out in the streets enjoying a sunny day and a drug-free community.

Brighton Community Takes A Stand Against Drugs



Tom Riser

Brighton community marches to promote a drug-free environment.



Rachel Buxton

Gage Riddle decorates not only his Red Ribbon poster but also his face with paint.



BRIGHTON —The Brighton community kicked off their Red Ribbon Week and stand against drugs with their traditional march throughout the community October 18. Throughout the week competitions were held and nightly events and speakers were put on for Tribal youngsters and adults who were interested in participating. Left photo, Canadian speaker Kevin Brooks shares with the youth his very powerful story of how his decision to drive drunk changed his life forever by becoming paralyzed and having to spend the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

—Rachel Buxton

Red Ribbon Week Activities in Immokalee Educate and Entertain



Judy Weeks

Family Services constructed their Red Ribbon float with the assistance of Immokalee youth, who based the theme on families having fun together.



Judy Weeks

Box car driver Eva Nunez takes to the track at the Red Ribbon 500 at the Immokalee Casino while her pitcrew wait to trade places with her in the race.



Judy Weeks

A shaving cream battle eventually ended up under the fire hose for a rinse at the Immokalee Ball Field.



Judy Weeks

The winning float in the Immokalee Red Ribbon parade was constructed by the Seminole Youth Ranch and the Immokalee Council. Representing choice encounters, they depicted death, jail or a drug free lifestyle.

HALLOWEEN BRINGS FUN ON ALL RESERVATIONS

Young and Old Go Trick-or-Treating in Big Cypress



Janice Osceola

Tribal citizen Shylah Walker, 1, is on her horse with a Cinderella costume as her father, Billy Walker accompanies her to the reservation's Trick-or-Treat function on Oct. 30.



Janice Osceola

Mara Osceola-Turtile, 4, dresses up as Wonder Woman.



Janice Osceola

Big Cypress youngsters Even Cypress, left, dresses as a bumblebee, while RickyJoe Alumbaugh wears a skeleton costume at the reservation's Trick-or-Treat festivities.



Janice Osceola

Nia Cypress, 12, left, spends some Halloween time with Lanel Osceola-Turtle, 2, as she dresses her younger cousin up for the Oct. 30 Halloween Trick-or-Treat festivities in Big Cypress. Lanel Osceola-Turtle wears an Iron Man costume, ready to travel house-to-house with his cousin.

Big Cypress Community Celebrates Halloween



Matt Snowberger

The Big Cypress Seniors Division line up for competition during the Halloween Carnival on Oct. 29 at the Big Cypress Softball Field.



Matt Snowberger

The Big Cypress Education's booth was one of the standouts at the Halloween Carnival on Oct. 29.



Matt Snowberger

Big Cypress Tribal youngster GraySun Billie wore an Iron Man costume at the Halloween Carnival on Oct. 29.

BIG CYPRESS HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL - RESULTS

Costume Contest

Scariest

Ages 0-2: 1. Clayton Green, 2. Silas Billie, 3. Curtis Motlow; **Ages 3-5:** 1. Jose Puente, 2. Lazzlow Billie, 3. Layla Billie; **Ages 6-8:** 1. Andrew Bowers Jr., 2. Charlie Osceola, 3. Elyse Alvarado; **Ages 9-11:** 1. Cameron Osceola, 2. Alyssa Osceola, 3. Janessa Jones; **Ages 12-14:** 1. Julian Billie, 2. Caitlin Cypress, 3. Joel Arroyo; **Ages 15-18:** 1. Stevie Billie, 2. RickyJo Alumbaugh, 3. Rowdey Osceola; **Ages 19-49:** 1. Johnnie Jimmie, 2. Marion Tommie, 3. Lee Jumper; **Ages 50 and up:** 1. Ronnie Billie Sr., 2. Lucille Jumper, 3. Violet Jim.

Original

Ages 0-2: 1. King Calisse, 2. Clinton Billie, 3. Major Anderson; **Ages 3-5:** 1. Cashis Jumper, 2. Luce Cypress, 3. Madasyn Osceola; **Ages 6-8:** 1. Ko'Oskee Henry, 2. Ricardo Rodriguez, 3. Willie Smith Jr.; **Ages 9-11:** 1. Eliza Billie, 2. Alonzo Wargolet, 3. John Robbins; **Ages 12-14:** 1. Sarah Osceola, 2. Cypress Billie, 3. Kiana Bell; **Ages 15-18:** 1. Jason Melton, 2. Kahna Jumper, 3. Jean Capricien; **Ages 19-49:** 1. Paul Buster Jr., 2. Byron Billie, 3. Samantha Hisler; **Ages 50 and up:** 1. Rudy Osceola, 2. Janice Osceola, 3. Esther Buster.

Prettiest

Ages 0-2: 1. Cassidi Motlow, 2. Miah Osceola, 3. Kai Tommie; **Ages 3-5:** 1. Johnnie Sue Russell, 2. AbbieGale Green, 3. Aaliyah Billie; **Ages 6-8:** 1. Illiana Robbins, 2. Arissa Cypress, 3. Brandi Osceola; **Ages 9-11:** 1. Zoey Puente, 2. Thomlynn Billie, 3. Mariah Smith; **Ages 12-14:** 1. Sierra Bowers, 2. Mallani Perez, 3. Rheannon Robbins; **Ages 15-18:** 1. Kristen Billie, 2. Chassidy Harjochee, 3. Nauthkee Henry; **Ages 19-49:** 1. JuanaLup Nina Frias, 2. Tasha Osceola, 3. JoJo Osceola; **Ages 50 and up:** 1. Louise Osceola, 2. Stephen Jim, 3. Delores Jumper.

Family

Virginia Garcia-Sanders, 2. Melissa Billie, 2. Ervina Capricien.

King

1. Delores Jumper.

Arm Wrestling Contest

Men's Heavyweight Division - 200 lbs. and up: 1. Charlie Cypress; **Women's Middleweight Division - 151-199 lbs.:** 1. Terinna Cypress; **Women's Lightweight Division - 150 lbs. and below:** 1. JuanaLup Nina Frias.

Egg Toss Contest

Ages 17 and under: 1. Kristen Billie/Danni Tommie, 2. Cypress Billie/Reagan WhiteCloud, 3. Alyssa Osceola/Kaitlin Osceola; **Ages 18 and older:** 1. Melissa Billie/Charlie Osceola, 2. Janice Osceola/Beverly Alumbaugh, 3. Bobbie Billie/Kaylynn Pewo.

Pumpkin Painting Contest

Ages 0-5: 1. Borylas Blaze Sirota, 2. Jaylee Cypress; **Ages 6-10:** 1. Alyssa Osceola, 2. Shana Balentine, 3. Janessa Jones; **Ages 11-17:** 1. Kaitlin Osceola, 2. Uriah Waggeby, 3. Tyrus Billie.

Big Cypress Seniors Enjoy Halloween Party

Allen Hoffman

The Big Cypress Seniors celebrated their Halloween Party on Oct. 28 at the reservation's Senior Center. Highlighted at the senior function was a costume in which the Big Cypress Elders participated in. From left: Louise Osceola, dressed as a devil, Carol Cypress, wearing a motorcycle lady costume and Janice Osceola, who stands out as a wolf in her Halloween costume.



Halloween Party Results

Pumpkin Contest
Mabel Jim, 2. Stephen Jim, 3. Alice Tigertail, 4. Edna McDuffie, 5. Lottie Jim.
Costume Contest - Funniest
Violet Jim, 2. Louise Osceola, 3. Minnie Tigertail.
Costume Contest - Most Original
Minnie Tigertail, 2. Alice Tigertail, 3. Carol Cypress.
Costume Contest - Scariest
1. Rudy Osceola, 2. Esther Buster, 3. Janice Osceola.

Big Cypress Youth Decorate Pumpkin Paintings



Naji Tobias

Harmony Cypress, 6, paints a white pumpkin with blue eyes etched in the decoration. Her pumpkin was one of 75 that appeared at the Oct. 28 Halloween Pumpkin Decorating Contest. The pumpkins were donated by Sanchez Farms in Immokalee.



Naji Tobias

Sierra Bowers, left, and Shana Balentine brainstorm on how they are going to decorate their pumpkin paintings.



Naji Tobias

Sierra Bowers, left, and Valholy Frank go head to head in the Halloween Pumpkin Decorating Contest on Oct. 28.



Naji Tobias

Sierra Bowers shows her painting decoration skills on a Halloween pumpkin.

Brighton Gets Festive with Many Halloween Parties

BRIGHTON — Brighton kept the Halloween festivities going all week beginning Oct. 27 with the preschool trick or treating held in the gym. Different departments from the Brighton Reservation participated handing out candy to the little ones.



Rachel Buxton

Keenan Jones throws a pie in the face of 4-H members at their fundraising booth.



Rachel Buxton

Jennie Snow is dressed and ready to go for Bingo.

nia filled the softball field Oct. 30 for the annual Brighton Halloween Carnival set up with a variety of booths of activities to participate in including a dunk tank, cake auction, football punt, basketball toss, wall climb and much more. A costume contest was also held for all age groups to add to the fun emceed by former Chairman James Billie.

-Rachel Buxton



Rachel Buxton

Even the Tribal adults partake in the fun and dress to compete.



Rachel Buxton

Preschoolers show no fear as they tour the haunted section of the gym decorated with coffins, skeletons and other scary beings.

Big Cypress Library Celebrates Halloween with Colorful Pumpkin Painting Contest



Allen Hoffman

Brianna Bowers puts the finishing touches on her award-winning pumpkin design.



Allen Hoffman

Tanoke Billie holds up his pumpkin decoration.

Halloween Pumpkin Painting Contest Results

year olds: 1. Andrea Rylen, 2. Tanoke Billie, 3. Phoenix Kimble; **7-9 year olds:** 1. Brianna Bowers, 2. Shana Balentine, 3. Janessa Jones; **10-12 year olds:** 1. Sierra Bowers, 2. Justin Roff.



Allen Hoffman

Shana Balentine places second in the 7-9-year-old category of the Big Cypress Library's Pumpkin Painting Contest on Oct. 27.



Allen Hoffman

Janessa Jones paints a ghostly image for her original decoration that won a prize medal.

Hollywood Seniors Celebrate Halloween with Entertaining Contests



Chris C. Jenkins

The senior male winners of the pumpkin decorating contest, from left, Wilmeth DeHass, Sam Nelson and Paul Buster.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior Wilmeth DeHass is all smiles finishing first in the pie eating contest.



Chris C. Jenkins

Nettie Stewart is hard at work in the senior women's pie eating contest.

Pumpkin Decorating Contest Results:

Senior women- 1. Lawanna Osceola-Niles, 2. Laura Clay, 3. Cornelia Osceola
Senior Men- 1. Sam Nelson, 2. Wilmeth De Hass, 3. Paul Buster

Pie Eating Contest Results:

Senior women- Nettie Stewart
Senior Men- Wilmeth DeHass



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior Joe Paul Billie gets in the Halloween spirit dressed as a clown, while playing Bingo.



Chris C. Jenkins

From left, Lawanna Osceola-Niles, and Cornelia Osceola are the senior female pumpkin decorating contest winners.

HALLOWEEN BRINGS FUN ON ALL RESERVATIONS

Fort Pierce Celebrates Halloween with Fall Festival

FORT PIERCE — Photo below, Fort Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie kicked off the Fort Pierce Fall Festival Oct. 30 at the Chupco Ranch by competing in the sack races. She found out that it wasn't as easy as she remembered it being as a child. The festival included many other activities for the youth and adults including a bounce house, food stands, costume contest, hayrides, haunted house and a dunk tank to raise money to ward breast cancer research.

—Rachel Buxton



Rachel Buxton
Shamariya Tommie, 6, finds her prize in the needle in a haystack fun station.



Rachel Buxton
Shamy Tommie proves that face painting isn't just for kids.



Rachel Buxton
Harmony Tommie, 2, is ready to win the costume judges over.



Rachel Buxton
Shaky Tommie, 3, takes center stage during the youth costume contest.

Big Cypress Preschoolers Go Trick-or-Treating at Halloween Party



Naji Tobias
Louie Billie, 3, stands out in his dinosaur costume at the preschool's Trick-or-Treat Halloween party on Oct. 28.



Naji Tobias
The infants dress in Halloween style as they compete in the costume contest.



Naji Tobias
The Big Cypress Preschool's 2-year-old show up to their Trick-or-Treat Halloween Party all decked out in costumes.



Naji Tobias
Darwin Brooks, 3, makes a scare at the preschool's Trick-or-Treat Halloween party with his werewolf costume.

Costume Contest Results

Infants: 1. Bryson Billie, 2. David Joe, 3. Mohaya Billie;
1-year-olds: 1. Tatum Billie, 2. David Joe, 3. Silas Billie;
2-year-olds: 1. Kyngston Sanders, 2. Tia Billie, 3. Savannah Cypress;
3-year-olds: 1. Solomon Cypress, 2. Darwin Brooks, 3. Emma Dicarilo.



Naji Tobias
In conclusion of the Oct. 28 Trick-or-Treat Halloween party, the Big Cypress preschoolers make a rush to the floor as they find out that an allotment of candy falls out of the pumpkin piñata, which turns upside down.

Hollywood Preschoolers Celebrate Halloween



Chris C. Jenkins
Tribal tot Phillip Joel Sampson Frank as an adorable dinosaur with Grandmother Dora Tiger.



Chris C. Jenkins
Patricia Stirrup, far right, Recreation Youth Center Counselor, gives out candy to Tribal preschool youth in the haunted hallway as part of Halloween festivities Oct. 29 at the Hollywood Recreation Center. Members of Seminole Police Department, Fire Rescue, Education and the Senior Center also participated in the event.

Naples' Halloween Features Creative Costumes



Judy Weeks
Homer Simpson congratulates Margo, a.k.a. Connie Slavik, for winning the Most Original Costume Contest at the Naples Halloween Party.



Judy Weeks
Nicole Slavik contemplates her next pool shot during the Naples Halloween activities.

NAPLES HALLOWEEN CONTEST

BABIES: 1. Amelia Zepeda, 2. Ewanteke Roberts, 3. Thanohke Roberts.
YOUNGER CHILDREN: 1. Kaley Zepeda, 2. Samantha Frank, 3. Nicole Slavik, 4. Justin Walden, 5. Lola Veliz
OLDER CHILDREN: 1. Mari Veliz, 2. Alexis Slavik, 3. Samantha Veliz.
COUPLES: 1. Jessica Osceola & Ben Velasco, 2. Lenore Roberts & Nelson Macelroy.
PRETTIEST: Karie Jo Osceola.
SCARIEST: Naomi Walden.
MOST ORIGINAL: Connie Slavik.



Judy Weeks
Vikings Jessica Osceola and Ben Velasco were unanimously awarded first place in the Naples Couples competition.



Judy Weeks
Lenora Roberts and Nelson Macelroy appear to have walked straight out of a Dr. Seuss fairy tale with their children, Thanohke and Ewanteke.

Annual Fall Harvest Festival Celebrates Halloween



Chris C. Jenkins
Tribal citizen Larry Tiger as the infamous Dracula.



Chris C. Jenkins
Eighteen-to-49-year-old contestants show off their costumes for the judges during the 32nd annual Fall Harvest Festival held at the Hollywood softball fields Oct. 30. The event featured foods, games, kids bounce houses, a haunted house, costume contest and pumpkin carving contest.



Chris C. Jenkins
Matthew Osceola Jr. shows off zombie costume as the winner of the 8-9-year-old scariest costume winner.



Chris C. Jenkins
Tribal senior Charlene Hunsinger as the cross-dress king winner.

IMMOKALEE HALLOWEEN CONTEST RESULTS

PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST:
0 to 5: 1. Jalia Yzaguirre, 2. Rain Cypress, 3. Leiland Billie, 6-12: 1. K. J. Davis, 2. Damien Escobar, 3. Alycia Mora, 13-17: 1. Vanessa Billie, 2. Selena Perez, 3. Marissa Sanchez, 18 & Up: 1. Esmeralda Billie, 2. Ralph Escobar, 3. Randy Osceola.
CAKE DECORATING CONTEST:
1. Susan Davis
HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST: CUTEST
0-1: 1. Isis Rodriguez, 2. Manuel Garza, 3. Blake Osceola-Billie, 2-4: 1. Remy Rodriguez, 2. Natani Jackson-Billie-Giovana, 3. Angelina Yzaguirre, 5-8: 1. Miah Davis, 2. Madison Martinez, 3. Makayla Mata, 9-12: 1. Cartaya Billie, 2. Destinee Jimmie, 3. Rande Osceola, 13-17: 1. Jade Tapia, 2. Vanessa Billie, 3. Alexis Jimmie, 18-35: 1. Esmeralda Billie, 2. Kimberly Alvarado, 3. Cassandra Jimmie, 36-54: 1. Geraldine Osceola, 2. Sylvia Marrero, 3. Susan Davis. Seniors: 1. Ruth Osceola, 2. Nancy Motlow.
FUNNIEST:
0-1: 1. Isis Rodriguez, 2. Aubrey Rodriguez, 3. Elijah Yzaguirre, 2-4: 1. Frederico Martinez, 2. Angelina Yzaguirre, 3. Denise Gonzalez, 5-8: 1. K.J. Davis, 2. Spenser Aguilar, 3. Priscilla Alvarado, 9-12: 1. Kenny Joe Davis, Jr., 2. Edward Aguilar, 3. Destinee Jimmie, 13-17: 1. Alexis Jimmie, 2. Vanessa Billie, 3. Ashley Faz, 18-35: 1. Krystal Garza, 2. Cassandra Jimmie, 3. Esmeralda Billie, 36-54: 1. Gale Boone, Seniors: 1. Nancy Motlow.
SCARIEST:
0-1: 1. Kazmir Joiner, 2. Frederico Martinez, 3. Denise Gonzalez, 5-8: 1. K.J. Davis, 2. Madison Martinez, 3. Marina Garcia, 9-12: 1. Jon Jimmie, 2. Zephaniah Roberts, 3. Damien Escobar, 13-17: 1. Alexis Jimmie, 2. Ashley Faz, 18-35: 1. Cassandra Jimmie, 2. Allen Michael Venzor, 3. Juanita Martinez, 36-54: 1. Gale Boone, 2. Geraldine Osceola, Seniors: 1. Nancy Motlow.
MOST CREATIVE:
0-1: 1. Aubrey Rodriguez, 2. Elijah Yzaguirre, 2-4: 1. Kazmir Joiner, 2. P.J. Rodriguez, 3. Remy Rodriguez, 5-8: 1. K.J. Davis, 2. Madison Martinez, 9-12: 1. Kenny Joe Davis, Jr., 2. Edward Aguilar, 3. Jon Jimmie, 13-17: 1. Alexis Jimmie, 2. Ashley Faz, 18-35: 1. Cassandra Jimmie, 2. Edward Aguilar, 36-54: 1. Pete Aguilar, 2. Geraldine Osceola, Seniors: 1. Nancy Motlow.
BEST OF ALL:
0-1: 1. Elijah Yzaguirre, 2-4: 1. Remy Rodriguez, 2. Angelina Yzaguirre, 3. Frederico Martinez, 5-8: 1. Curtis Billie, 2. Rande Osceola, 3. Jalia Yzaguirre, 9-12: 1. Kenny Joe Davis, Jr., 2. Edward Aguilar, Jr., 3. Destinee Jimmie, 13-17: 1. Alexis Jimmie, 2. Ashley Faz, 3. Vanessa Billie, 18-35: 1. Esmeralda Billie, 2. Randy Osceola, 3. Cassandra Jimmie, 36-54: 1. Gale Boone, 2. Geraldine Osceola, Seniors: 1. Nancy Motlow.

Immokalee Marks Halloween with Various and Fun Contests



Judy Weeks
Ralph Escobar's pumpkin chickee took second place in the carving contest for originality.



Judy Weeks
First place winner in the 2-to-4-year-old category for cutest, Remy Rodriguez said, "A lady bug is good luck!"



Judy Weeks
Susan Davis' artistic talents earned her a first place in the Halloween Cake Decorating Contest in Immokalee.



Judy Weeks
From right, Miss Florida Seminole Cassandra Jimmie's outstanding pirate costume competed with a beautiful devil, Hortencia Yzaguirre.

Tampa Community Embraces Halloween Fun



Miranda Motlow
First place winner of Tampa's Halloween House Decorations Contest is Maggie Garcia's home.



Miranda Motlow
Eric Cypress loads up on healthy souvenirs at the Tampa Health Fair, organized Nov. 1 at the Marriot Waterside Hotel.



Miranda Motlow
Girls participate in a Costume Contest for ages 7 to 10.



Miranda Motlow
Joanie Henry poses with her Rock The Cure Pumpkin creation during the Tampa Halloween Celebration on Oct. 23.

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Education

B



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Library Assistant Melissa Silva, left, watches Harmony Cypress, center, and Willie Smith, showing off their Tribal rainsticks, made out of brown craft paper, feathers, beads, jute, pipe cleaners, cardboard tubes and cardboard circles, all glued and taped together. Hosted by Big Cypress Library Assistant Melissa Silva, the Nov. 3 Native American Arts and Crafts workshop served as the kickoff to Native American Heritage Month, which falls on the month of November. The workshop was held at the Willie E. Frank Library in Big Cypress.



Naji Tobias

Phoenix Kimble, who just finished building a Tribal rainstick, waves it, trying to make a rain sound.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Library Assistant Melissa Silva assists Phoenix Kimble, 4, in the creation of a Tribal rainstick as she measures the craft paper to make sure the work is made properly.



Naji Tobias

Elijah Cook is twisting a set of pipe cleaners as he prepares to place them in his cardboard tube.

Big Cypress Library Staff Hosts Native American Arts and Crafts Workshop



Naji Tobias

Willie Smith glues on the rainstick top so he could place the cardboard circle.



Naji Tobias

Elijah Cook, 6, and Big Cypress Library Director Barbara Oeffner are gluing a Tribal rainstick as they get set to wrap it in place.



Naji Tobias

From left, Willie Smith, 7, Janessa Jones, 9, and Harmony Cypress, 6, are holding up a Native American Tribal rainstick.

Tribal Students Attend College Fair



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Education Department staff and Tribal senior students representing several of the reservations, get together for the 2010 National College Fair Exposition, held at the Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center on Nov. 4. The event had dozens of college recruiters and staff on hand targeting grades seventh through 12th from Broward and Dade counties, and also had a college and career planning center specializing in programs for college prep, ACT, SAT and student aide.



Chris C. Jenkins

College Fair student and staff attendees from the Ahfachkee School of the Big Cypress Reservation.



Chris C. Jenkins

Victoria Lacey, center, of Hollywood, and Quenton Cypress, right, of Big Cypress, discuss with a recruiter from Iona College of New York.



Rachel Buxton

BRIGHTON — Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School held their end-of-the-nine-weeks award ceremony Oct. 29 in the Breezeway of the school. Students in each grade level received awards for their culture class achievements along with awards for their academic achievement in their regular scheduled classes. Some students got festive and dressed up for Halloween resembling an array of characters. Pictured above are first grade Effort Award recipients for culture class.



Rachel Buxton

Middle school culture class Effort Award recipients.



Rachel Buxton

Middle school students who received straight As for the first nine weeks.

Brighton's Charter School Awards Students for First Nine Weeks Achievement



Rachel Buxton

First grade Citizenship Award recipients.

♦ See recipients' names on B2

Ahfachkee School Honors Students at End-of-First-Nine-Weeks Awards Ceremony



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee School Pre-Kindergarten Teacher Miss Kristin Stouts, left, and Principal Mr. Walter Swan, celebrate with the pre-K Councilman's and President's Honor Roll Recipients at the End-of-First-Nine-Weeks Awards Ceremony in the cafeteria on Nov. 8.



Naji Tobias

Fifth grade students from the Ahfachkee School were presented certificates in the Councilman's and President's Honor Roll Categories. The students celebrate their accomplishments with Principal Mr. Walter Swan, top left, Teacher Ms. Barbara Clarke, top center, and Instructional Aide Ms. Hope Baker.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee's sixth grade teacher Barbara Klammer, left, Instructional Aide Miss Jonelle Pollard, third from left, and Principal Mr. Walter Swan, right, announce the group of sixth-grade students that earned first quarter honors.



Naji Tobias

The Ahfachkee School's fourth-graders were recognized for their academic achievements accompanied by fourth grade teacher Miss Jessica Schmidt, top left, Instructional Aide Tricia Rele, top center, and Principal Walter Swan, top right.

END-OF-FIRST-NINE-WEEKS STUDENT HONOREES

Note: All award winners are listed in alphabetical order

Traditional Preservation Awards

Pre-Kindergarten: 1. Casey Ball, 2. Aaliyah Billie, 3. Ezekiel Billie, 4. Jody Cabral, Jr., 5. Peggy Sue Cypress, 6. Phoenix Kimble, 7. Dyami Koenes, 8. Adam MacElroy, 9. Madasyn Osceola, 10. Tristen Osceola, 11. Kassiah Robbins, 12. Sarah Robbins, 13. Johnnie Sue Russell, 14. Tony "TTC" Sanchez, 15. Micah Stockton, 16. Kaley Zepeda.

Kindergarten: 1. Anthony Avalos, 2. Cyiah Avila, 3. Dayne Billie, 4. Keaton Billie, 5. Lazzlow Billie, 6. Tanoke Billie, 7. Alisa Brooks, 8. Evol Buck, 9. Akira Cabral, 10. Ja'vian Cypress, 11. Jaylee Cypress, 12. Barbara Jimmie, 13. Keithana Onco, 14. Miguel Reynosa, 15. Dylan Robbins, 16. Grace Robbins, 17. Illiana Robbins, 18. Andrea Ryland, 19. Xzavier Solano, 20. Kassim Stockton Jr., 21. Jalee Wilcox.

1st Grade: 1. Athena Bert, 2. Sontino Billie, 3. Leviticus Buster, 4. Harmony Cypress, 5. Ko'Oshee Henry, 6. Ramona Jimmie, 7. Daylon Osceola, 8. Edie Robbins.

2nd Grade: 1. Dillon Ball, 2. Elijah Cook, 3. Precious Jimmie, 4. Charlie Osceola, 5. Leo Osceola-Onco, 6. Gregorio Reynosa, 7. Liberty Robbins, 8. Amaya Solano.

3rd Grade: 1. Carlee Billie, 2. RedHeart Billie, 3. Elise Brown, 4. Ricky Garza, 5. Craig Huckabee, 6. Alena Stockton.

4th Grade: 1. Isaiha Alvarado, 2. Eliza Billie, 3. Jazmine Billie, 4. Thomlynn Billie, 5. Destiny Cypress, 6. Mya Cypress, 7. Myron Cypress, 8. Crystal Garcia, 9. Leslie Gopher, 10. Katrina Huggins, 11. Bradin Jim, 12. Janessa Jones, 13. Chaska Osceola, 14. Evan Pratt, 15. Mazzy Robbins, 16. Carlos Romero, 17. Mariah Smith, 18. Chynna Villarreal.

5th Grade: 1. Eliah Billie, 2. Troy Cantu, 3. Dayra Koenes, 4. Ryanne Pratt, 5. Alyssa Osceola.

6th Grade: 1. Jonah Alvarado, 2. Roderick Bert, 3.

Corbin Billie, 4. Nashoba Gonzalez, 5. Uriah Wagerby.

Councilman's Honor Roll (3.00 - 3.49 GPA) - ALL GRADES

1. RickyJoe Alumbaugh, 2. Roderick Bert, 3. Carlee Billie, 4. Corbin Billie, 5. Eliah Billie, 6. Elyana Billie, 7. GraySun Billie, 8. Sabre' Billie, 9. Jaycia Billie-Valdez, 10. Troy Cantu, 11. Lauren Doctor, 12. Crystal Garcia, 13. Marina Garcia, 14. Leilani Gopher, 15. Leslie Gopher, 16. Nauthkee Henry, 17. Alison Herrera, 18. Janessa Jones, 19. Haden Littlebear, 20. Rosalinda "Mika" Lopez, 21. Cale Osceola, 22. Chaska Osceola, 23. Dallen Osceola, 24. Gregorio Reynosa, 25. John Robbins, 26. Mariah Smith, 27. Willie Smith, 28. Chynna Villarreal, 29. Uriah Wagerby, 30. Reagan Whitecloud, 31. Trinity Williams.

Presidents Honor Roll (3.5 - 3.99 GPA) - ALL GRADES

1. Jonah Alvarado, 2. Nicholas Andrews, 3. Ethan Balentine, 4. Athena Bert, 5. Lesaura Billie, 6. Sontino Billie, 7. Thomlynn Billie, 8. Elise Brown, 9. Leviticus Buster, 10. Elijah Cook, 11. Destiny Cypress, 12. Harmony Cypress, 13. Nashoba Gonzalez, 14. Ko'Oshee Henry, 15. Ramona Jimmie, 16. K'ahna Jumper, 17. Dayra Koenes, 18. Alyssa Osceola, 19. Brandi Osceola, 20. Charlie Osceola, 21. Daylon Osceola, 22. Kaitlin Osceola, 24. Leo Osceola-Onco, 25. Tia Osborne, 26. Evanne Pratt, 27. Ryanne Pratt, 28. Edie Robbins, 29. Amaya Solano, 30. Savannah Tiger, 31. Tequesta Tiger, 32. Chylir Villarreal, 33. Annabelle Whiteshield.

Perfect Attendance - ALL GRADES
1. Jonah Alvarado, 2. Ethan Balentine, 3. Corbin Billie, 4. Sontino Billie, 5. Elise Brown, 6. Nashoba Gonzalez, 7. Annabelle Whiteshield.

Noteworthy Attendance - ALL GRADES

1. Jalen Cypress, 2. Bradley Osceola, 3. Kaitlin Osceola, 4. Savannah Tiger.

Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School Awards Students for First Nine Weeks Achievements

Kindergarten Effort
Terald Garner
Jayko Billie
Lupe Mora-Lara
Pearcetin Trammell
Mariana Mora-Lara
Iann Jimmie
Austin Thomas
Dakota Fish
Caitlyn Olivarez

Kindergarten Citizenship
Mayka King
Melina Steve
Derrick Smith
Gabe Williams
Leviticus Roberts
Giselle Micco
Lillian Garcia
Javaris Johnson
Jace Brown
Ysla Meras

Kindergarten Improvement
Dwayne Billie
David King
Deagen Osceola
Tanier Gore
Jason Haydon
Shylynn Testerman
Sir Marcus Osceola
Creek Gopher
Valentine Martinez
Dylan Johns

Accelerated Reader Level 1
Dwayne Billie
David King
Lupe Mora-Lara
Deagen Osceola
Derrick Smith
Melina Steve
Pearcetin Trammell

Kindergarten Creek Class
Lorene Gopher's Class
Most Improved - Pearcetin Trammell
Best Writing Skills - Derrick Smith
Effort - Guadalupe Mora-Lara
Best Creek Speaker - Deagen Osceola

KG Jenny Shore's Class
Most Improved - Shylynn Testerman
Best Writing Skills - Austin Thomas
Effort - Lillian Garcia
Best Creek Speaker - Javaris Johnson

Kindergarten Arts and Crafts Class
Most Improved - Guadalupe Mora-Lara
Craftsmanship - Melina Steve
Effort - Gabe Williams

First Grade Effort
Dathen Garcia
Caleb Burton
Alanis Baker
Pherian Baker
Tayla Burns
Klova Garcia
Tehya Howard
Tammy Martinez
Joss Youngblood
Ajua Williams
Elie Thomas
Leilani Burton
Jahcole Arnold

First Grade Citizenship
LaShae King
Kyra Tones
Mariah Billie
Melinda Gentry
Justin Gopher
Norman Osceola
Morgan Yates

Karlyne Urbina
Diego Meras
Jayron Baker
Alice Osceola

First Grade Improvement
Tadan Santiago
Jason Webber
Ta-iv Harris
Jayton Baker
Pherian Baker
Lija Gore
Tammy Martinez
Angelle Melton
Tehya Howard
Corey Jumper
Valek Martinez
Ryanna Osceola
Kobe Jimmie

First Grade Creek Class
Lorene Gopher's Class
Most Improved - LaShae King
Best Writing Skills - Dathen Garcia
Effort - Kyandra Harris
Best Creek Speaker - Tehya Harris

First Grade Arts and Crafts Class
Most Improved - Jayton Baker
Craftsmanship - LaShae King
Effort - Dathen Garcia

First Grade History Class
Most Improved - Jaime Smith & Kiowa Garcia
Alanis Baker & Caleb Burton
Ryanna Osceola & Jayron Baker
Effort - Tayla Burns & Lija Gore
Kyra Tones & Jason Webber
Jahcole Arnold & Kobe Jimmie
Achievement - Joss Youngblood & Kayven Osceola
LaShae King & Dathen Garcia
Elie Thomas & Diego Meras

Second Grade Effort
Dance Carrillo
Laila Bennett
Destiny Elliott
Caylie Huff
Billy Bailey
Davin Carrillo
Jagger Gaucin
Ruby Osceola
Todd Pierce
Jahbahn Arnold
Alyssa Gonzalez
Jaylen Baker
Heith Lawrence
Jessie Webber
Nyatt Pearce
Daven Buck

Second Grade Citizenship
Ramone Baker
John Beck
Hunter Howard
Rudy Osceola
Todd Pierce
Tanner Shore
Aubee Billie
Haylie Huff

Second Grade Creek Class
Lorene Gopher's Class

Most Improved - Davin Carrillo
Best Writing Skills - Ruby Osceola
Effort - Caylie Huff
Best Creek Speaker - Jagger Gaucin

Second Grade Creek Class
Ginger Jones' Class
Most Improved - Aleah Turtle
Best Writing Skills - Melinda Gentry
Effort - Billy Bailey
Best Creek Speaker - Justin Gopher

Second Grade Jenny Shore's Class
Most Improved - Jessie Webber
Best Writing Skills - Daven Buck
Effort - Aubee Billie
Best Creek Speaker - Heith Lawrence

Second Grade Arts and Crafts Class
Most Improved - Ramone Baker
Craftsmanship - Todd Pierce
Effort - Jessie Webber

Second Grade History Class
Most Improved - Morgan Yates & Jaylen Baker
Craftsmanship - Todd Pierce
Effort - Jessie Webber

Second Grade Arts and Crafts Class
Most Improved - Jayton Baker
Craftsmanship - LaShae King
Effort - Dathen Garcia

Third Grade Effort
Blake Baker
Robert Harris
Burgundy Pierce
Silas Madrigal
Kamani Smith
Jenna Brown
Myron Billie
Tucker Johns
Sheldon Garcia
Aleah Turtle
Caillou Smith
Aubrey Pearce
Dante Thomas
Eecho Billie
Donovan Harris

Third Grade Citizenship
Robert Harris
Araya Youngblood
Jathan Tommie
Brianna Brockman
Nyah Davidson
Lance Howard
Myron Billie
Jarrett Bert
Kaleb Doctor
Mallorie Thomas
Kai Osceola
Waylynn Bennett
Jace Jumper
Anthony Gentry

Third Grade Bronze Award (3.0-3.4)
Edward Gaucin
John Gore
Malcolm Jones
Drake Lawrence
Sage Mottow
Kaleb Doctor
Waylynn Bennett
Justina Martinez
Jason Sampson

Ozzy Osceola
Luzana Venzor
Brianna Brockman
Nyah Davidson
Tucker Johns
Silas Madrigal
Burgundy Pierce
Mallorie Thomas

Third Grade Gold Award (4.0)
Katie Beck
Jenna Brown
Kamani Smith
Eecho Billie
Aubrey Pearce
Dante Thomas

Third Grade Creek Class
Lorene Gopher's Class
Most Improved - Donovan Harris
Best Writing Skills - Katie Beck
Effort - Shyla Gopher
Best Creek Speaker - Dante Thomas

Third Grade Creek Class
Ginger Jones' Class
Most Improved - Jenna Brown
Best Writing Skills - Kaleb Doctor
Effort - Alex Valdes
Best Creek Speaker - Drake Lawrence

Third Grade Jenny Shore's Class
Most Improved - Tucker Johns
Best Writing Skills - Silas Madrigal
Effort - Brianna Brockman
Best Creek Speaker - Ozzy Osceola

Third Grade Arts and Crafts Class
Most Improved - Jenna Brown
Craftsmanship - Nyah Davidson
Effort - Kamani Smith

Third Grade History Class
Most Improved - Brianna Brockman & Lance Howard
Sage Mottow & John Gore
Waylynn Bennett & Anthony Gentry
Effort - Nyah Davidson & Jathan Tommie
Katie Beck & Alex Valdes
Justina Martinez & Kai Osceola
Achievement - Burgundy Pierce & Tucker Johns
Madison Osceola & Ozzy Osceola
Aubrey Pearce & Dante Thomas

Fourth Grade Effort
Aleina Micco
Krysta Burton
Conner Thomas
Alicia Fudge

Fourth Grade Citizenship
Kano Puente
Aleina Micco
Krysta Burton
Keely Billie
Oscar Yates

Fourth Grade Accelerated Reader (Met AR goal w/ 85% accuracy)
Alyke Baker
Lucas Osceola
Kano Puente

Fourth Grade Bronze Award (3.0-3.4)
Alyke Baker
Krysta Burton
JJ Tones
Billy Yates
Andrew Fish
Conner Thomas
Aidan Tommie

Fourth Grade Silver Award (3.5-3.9)
Kano Puente
Alicia Fudge

Gage Riddle
Deven Tedders

Fourth Grade Gold Award (Straight A's - 4.0)
Aleina Micco
Raeley Matthews

Fourth Grade Creek Class
Lorene Gopher's Class
Most Improved - Lucas Osceola
Best Writing Skills - Aleina Micco
Effort - Kano Puente
Best Creek Speaker - Krysta Burton

Fourth Grade Creek Class
Ginger Jones' Class
Effort - Logan Ortiz
Best Creek Speaker - Rylee Smith

Fourth Grade Jenny Shore's Class
Most Improved - Aldan Tommie
Best Writing Skills - Gage Riddle
Effort - Andrew Fish
Best Creek Speaker - Alicia Fudge

Fourth Grade Arts and Crafts Class
Most Improved - Tyler Howard
Craftsmanship - Aleina Micco
Effort - Connor Thomas

Fourth Grade History Class
Most Improved - Cady Osceola & Andrew Fish

Fourth Grade Effort
Brian Bishop
Chloe Chalfant
Bly Davidson
Marquis Fudge
Brooke Thornton
Sunni Bearden
Richard Harris
Dyami Nelson
Rylee Smith
Camryn Thomas

Fifth Grade Citizenship
Morgan King
Layne Thomas
Brooke Thornton
Logan Ortiz
Rudy Buster
Jalynn Jones

Fifth Grade Bronze Award (3.0-3.4)
Cheyenne Fish
Morgan King
Brady Rhodes
Cyrus Smedley
Brooke Thornton
Ivess Baker
Sunni Bearden
Pernell Bert
Krystal Tones

Fifth Grade Silver Award (3.5-3.9)
Chloe Chalfant
Bly Davidson
Layne Thomas
Jalynn Jones
Rudy Juez

Middle School Gold Award (Straight A's)
Andrew Dobbs
Trevor Thomas
Boyd Brown

Isaac Osceola
Chandler Pearce
Alyana Tommie
Joseph Osceola

Fifth Grade Creek Class
Lorene Gopher's Class
Most Improved - Marquis Fudge
Best Writing Skills - Alyana Tommie
Effort - Chandler Pearce
Best Creek Speaker - Layne Thomas

Fifth Grade Creek Class
Ginger Jones' Class
Most Improved - Brooke Thornton
Best Writing Skills - Ruby Buster
Effort - Logan Ortiz
Best Creek Speaker - Rylee Smith

Fifth Grade Jenny Shore's Class
Most Improved - Camryn Thomas
Best Writing Skills - Jaylynn Jones
Effort - Dyami Nelson
Best Creek Speaker - Joseph Osceola

Fifth Grade Arts and Crafts Class
Most Improved - Rylee Smith
Craftsmanship - Camryn Thomas
Effort - Morgan King

Fifth Grade History Class
Most Improved - Ruby Buster & Pernell Bert
Cheyenne Fish & Isaac Osceola
Effort - Camryn Thomas & Ivess Baker
Chloe Chalfant & Cyrus Smedley
Achievement - Jalynn Jones & Rudy Juez
Alyana Tommie & Layne Thomas

Middle School Effort
Lanie Sedatol
Robert Fudge
Kalgary Johns
Rayven Smith
Breanna Billie

Middle School Citizenship
Jermaine Bennett
Diamond Shore
Thomas Bearden
Lahna Sedatol
Myrick Puente

Middle School Bronze Award (3.0-3.4)
Odessa King
Sean Osceola
Dylan Sheffield
Ruben Burgess
Sydney Cypress
Raylen Eagle
Shae Pierce
Crysten Smith
Chastity Harmon
Brydgett Kountz
Keyana Nelson
Lindsey Sampson
Lahna Sedatol
Michael Garcia
Zeke Matthews
Bracton King

Middle School Silver Award (3.5-3.9)
Jaden Puente
Jaron Johns
Darjah Cypress
Tatiana Herrera

Middle School Gold Award (Straight A's)
Andrew Dobbs
Trevor Thomas
Boyd Brown

Middle School Silver Award (3.5-3.9)
Jaden Puente
Jaron Johns
Darjah Cypress
Tatiana Herrera

Middle School Gold Award (Straight A's)
Andrew Dobbs
Trevor Thomas
Boyd Brown

Kailin Brown
Elijah Finney
Zachary Hudson
Rumor Juarez
Melany Williams
Layton Thomas

Sixth Grade Creek Class
Lorene Gopher's Class
Most Improved - Jaden Puente
Best Writing Skills - Andrew Dobbs
Effort - Jermaine Bennett
Best Creek Speaker - Sean Osceola

Sixth Grade Creek Class
Ginger Jones' Class
Most Improved - Sydney Cypress
Best Writing Skills - Lanie Sedatol
Effort - Demetrius Clark
Best Creek Speaker - Drayton Billie

Sixth Grade Jenny Shore's Class
Most Improved - Raylen Eagle
Best Writing Skills - Crysten Smith
Effort - Deliah Carrillo
Best Creek Speaker - Ruben Burgess

Sixth Grade Arts and Crafts Class
Most Improved - Dylan Sheffield
Craftsmanship - Andrew Dobbs
Effort - Ruben Burgess

Sixth Grade History Class
Most Improved - Ruben Herrera & Kelton Smedley
Bethany Billie & Drayton Billie
Effort - Shae Pierce & Spawn Loudmilk
Odessa King & Jaden Puente
Achievement - Crysten Smith & Robert Fudge
Diamond Shore & Trevor Thomas

Seventh Grade Creek Class
Lorene Gopher's Class
Most Improved - CW Ortiz
Best Writing Skills - Kalgary Johns
Effort - Tyra Baker
Best Creek Speaker - Chastity Harmon

Seventh/Eighth Grade Creek Class
Ginger Jones' Class
Most Improved - Elijah Finney
Best Writing Skills - Breanna Billie
Effort - Keyana Nelson
Best Creek Speaker - Layton Thomas

Seventh/Eighth Grade Jenny Shore's Class
Most Improved - Boyd Brown
Best Writing Skills - Rumor Juarez
Effort - Bracton King
Best Creek Speaker - Kailin Brown

Seventh/Eighth Grade Arts and Crafts Class
Most Improved - Kailin Brown
Craftsmanship - Rayven Smith
Effort - Jaron Johns

Seventh Grade History Class
Most Improved - Justice Baker & Rayven Smith
Effort - Breanna Billie & Elijah Finney
Achievement - Melany Williams & Zachary Hudson

Seventh Grade History Class
Most Improved - Justice Baker & Rayven Smith
Effort - Breanna Billie & Elijah Finney
Achievement - Melany Williams & Zachary Hudson

Seventh Grade History Class
Most Improved - Justice Baker & Rayven Smith
Effort - Breanna Billie & Elijah Finney
Achievement - Melany Williams & Zachary Hudson

Health

Immokalee Community Strives for a Healthier Lifestyle

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Residents of the Immokalee Community are striving to build



Judy Weeks

Families like Johnnie Jimmie's were inspired to form teams to compete in the Immokalee Red Ribbon Scavenger Hunt that took participants all over the reservation hunting for clues.

a healthier, happier lifestyle one day at a time. The elders used to say that it takes a village to raise a child and Immokalee is basing their redevelopment upon that theory. Leadership, Tribal citizens, descendants, spouses, administrative departments and law enforcement have mobilized to fight the war on drugs, alcohol, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, illiteracy and abusive behavior.

Immokalee Red Ribbon 2010 wasn't a one-time event or the beginning of change; it was an example of what happens when people band together to build a better lifestyle. Placing the focus on community rather than individuals, the Red Ribbon concept has become a year round state of mind in Immokalee.

"Fitness can be defined by learning to cope with the many aspects of physical, men-

tal and spiritual challenges that are encountered during our daily living," said Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar. "During the past couple of years the Immokalee Reservation has been taking on a whole new appearance and attitude which is raising community spirit to new levels and promoting fitness."

Liaison Aguilar attributed many of the advances to programs that include new and improved housing, safer streets with side walks and lighting, expanded preschool facilities, a senior center, health and dental services, a church, a library, after school tutoring, diversified recreation and fitness, improved cultural training and enhancement of all service departments. However, she was quick to point out that none of this would make a difference without the cooperation, participation and creativity of the community members working together like one big family.

"You might say that this year's Red Ribbon celebration was like a job fair with an overwhelming response," said Immo-



Judy Weeks

Immokalee's Culture Department teaches more than Seminole arts and crafts. Their mission is to pass the rich Seminole heritage on to the next generation and create a cultural bond within the community that they serve.

kalee Family Services Site Supervisor Billie Napper-Bodway. "There was a job for everyone and all positions were immediately filled by volunteers. Our incentives didn't include cash awards, door prizes or raffles. The promise of a better lifestyle through family togetherness and a good time drew crowds to each activity."

Community participation exceeded 80 percent with adults, children and employees creating floats, posters box cars, a scavenger

hunt and group activities. Families, neighbors and friends formed a coalition to enhance personal fitness and fight abuse at its source. The Immokalee High School marching band, pep squad and a football team joined in the parade.

Immokalee Seminole Casino contributed a cookout and offered the use of the Casino Entertainment Pavilion for the Red Ribbon banquet and Boxcar 500 Race.

Hollywood Preschool Participates in Get Fit Field Day



Chris G. Jenkins

Fitness staff, preschool youth and staff warm up in stretching techniques before exercising during the Preschool Get Fit Field Day, Oct. 15 on the Hollywood softball fields. Photo below left, Charlee Osceola has some fun on the parallel bars. Photo below right, fitness trainer Billy Marks, far left, works on soccer agility drills with the preschoolers.



'We Do Recover'

BY CHRISTOPHER BILLIE

If you take a close look at one of the Tribally owned smoke shops you might see a group working on one of the buildings. Christopher Billie, Norman Bowers, Robert Cypress, Amos Frank, Brett Green and Charlie Tiger make up the 'We Do Recover' field crew. Kimberly Willie works as a receptionist in the President's office, rounding out the employees in the new 'We Do Recover' program. In March a meeting in Clewiston, Fla., at the Second Annual Native American Recovery Conference with Seminole Tribe of Florida, President Richard Bowers Jr. set things in motion. A handful of Seminoles in recovery approached President Bowers about obtaining work within the tribe. The thought being that Seminoles coming out of a residential treatment program can have a gainful job allowing them to

practice some of the tools they learned in treatment. Work started in May maintaining tribal smoke shops. Funding was made available through the Education Department under Marie Dufour. According to Virginia Osceola, Chief of Staff/Executive Administrative Assistant to President Bowers, they will be allowed to attend AA, NA meetings to further their education during the course of their work if need be. This program really benefits Seminoles in recovery that are in need of that type of structure. Stop and say hello



Submitted photo

Back, Amos Frank; front, from left, Robert Cypress, Charlie Tiger, Brett Green, Norman Bowers and Christopher Billie.

to them if you happen to see them for they are truly giving back to their community in a sober, healthy, helpful way.

Tribal Women Attend Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon



Naji Tobias

Nineteen Big Cypress Tribal women paid attention to the variety of speakers at the Oct. 12 Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon, held at the Big Cypress Family Investment Center's Learning Resources Conference Room.



Naji Tobias

Dr. Angeleke Saridakis, the Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon's keynote speaker, shows how to check for breast lumps.



Naji Tobias

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Big Cypress Tribal citizens and employees at the Oct. 12 Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon came together in the fight against breast cancer.

Team Seminole Walks to Fight Diabetes and to Support the American Diabetes Association



Chris G. Jenkins

Tribal citizens from all the reservations came together as part of Team Seminole to participate and support the American Diabetes Association's annual signature 2.5-mile fundraising walk, Step Out: Walk to Fight Diabetes held Oct. 23 at the Bank Atlantic Center in Sunrise. The gathering is strongly endorsed by the business and private community, including sponsorship and corporate teams and almost 75 percent of the total annual expenses go towards research, information and advocacy and public awareness activities for a cure of the disease.

Brighton Employees Have Fun While Supporting a Good Cause



Rachel Buxton

Adding a little bit of fun for a good cause the Brighton Health Department handed out wigs for employees to wear to the monthly luncheon Oct. 29 held at the Brighton field office. Women donned pink fluorescent wigs supporting breast cancer awareness, while the men wore blue wigs in support of prostate cancer awareness.

Tampa Health Department Presents Health Fair



Miranda Motlow

Kaylin Henry enrolls her 6-month-old son Anthony Holmes into the Child ID Program at Tampa's Health fair organized by the Tampa Seminole Health Department on Nov. 1 at the Marriott Waterside Hotel. Vendors from all over Hillsborough County came to the event, which featured HIV testing, flu shots, lifestyle pamphlets with information on breast cancer, diabetes, heart disease and more.

Questions and Answers about Drug Addiction

FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Q: Are There Effective Treatments for Drug Addiction?

A: Yes, although there is no cure for drug addiction yet. Addiction is a treatable, but often chronic disease. And just as with other chronic diseases, such as diabetes or heart disease, people learn to manage their condition, sometimes with the help of medications. People addicted to drugs can do the same. Drug addiction can be effectively treated with behavioral-based therapies in which people learn to change their behavior; and, for addiction to some drugs, such as tobacco, alcohol, heroin, or other opiate drugs, medications can help. Treatment will vary for each person, depending on the type of drug(s) being abused and the individual's specific circumstances. For many people with drug addictions, multiple courses of treatment may be needed to achieve success.

Q: Shouldn't Treatment for Drug Addiction Be a One-Shot Deal?

A: No—it's like treating a broken bone. Like diabetes and even asthma, drug addiction typically is a chronic disorder. Some people can quit drug use "cold turkey," or they can quit after receiving treatment just one time at a rehabilitation facility. But most that have become addicted to drugs need longer term treatment and, in many instances, repeated treatments—much like a person who has developed asthma needs to constantly monitor changes in medication and exercise. The important point is that even when someone relapses, they should not give up hope. Rather they need to go back to treatment or modify their current treatment. In fact, set-

backs are likely. Even people with diabetes may go off their diet or miss an insulin injection, and their symptoms will recur—that's a cue to get back on track, not to view treatment as a failure.

Q: How Do I Know if Someone Has a Drug Problem?

A: There are questions people can ask to assess whether or not a person has a drug problem. These do not necessarily indicate that someone is addicted, but answering yes to any of these questions may suggest a developing problem, which could require follow-up with a professional drug treatment specialist. These include:

1. Have you ever ridden in a car driven by someone (including yourself) who had been using alcohol or drugs?
2. Do you ever use alcohol or drugs to relax, to feel better about yourself, or to fit in?
3. Do you ever use alcohol or drugs when you are alone?
4. Do you ever forget things you did while using alcohol or drugs?
5. Does family or friends ever tell you to cut down on your use of alcohol or drugs?
6. Have you ever gotten into trouble while you were using alcohol or drugs?

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

—Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (2010)



Big Cypress Community Gathers for Wear Pink Day

Photo above, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Tribal citizens and employees from the Big Cypress Reservation got together outside the Family Investment Center to show off their pink shirts and take a stand against breast cancer, and to mark Wear Pink Day on Oct. 26. The color pink and pink ribbon, according to Allied Health's Lance Vaz, is considered the international sign for breast cancer awareness. Photo right, Health Educator Lance Vaz, RD, wears a pink shirt to show his support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Vaz said the purpose for Wear Pink Day is to honor those who have died and survived from breast cancer. "It is the Health Department's goal for community members to recognize people wearing pink. So, hopefully, they will be reminded to practice breast health," Vaz said. "You could do that by taking self-exams of your breasts and mammograms." — Naji Tobias



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Legal Notice

If You Are a Native American Who Tried to Get a Farm Loan or Loan Servicing from the USDA,

You Could Receive Benefits from a \$760 Million Class Action Settlement.

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

Am I included?

The Class includes all Native American farmers and ranchers who:

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

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

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

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

What does the Settlement provide?

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

What can I get from the Settlement?

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

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

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

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

How do I get benefits?

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

What are my other rights?

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

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

Sports

C



Bikers start their motorcycles as they prepare to leave Port Mayaca en route to Okeechobee.

Motorcycle Riders Pay Tribute to Jerry Micco Sr. with Bike Ride around Lake Okeechobee

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

Ready, Set, Go.
The sirens from the Seminole Police Department's police escorts went off as motorcycle riders prepared to take off from Holiday Park in the Everglades on Oct. 23.

In honor of the late Jerry Micco Sr., about 40 riders spent the clear and relatively brisk day with the Micco family as they rode their bikes around Lake Okeechobee.

The eighth annual Jerry Micco Sr. Memorial Bike Ride, sponsored by Chairman Mitchell Cypress, proved to be a triumphant experience. With past memories of the late Tribal citizen etched into their hearts and bikes, the group took in the open air as they rode in peace, harmony and joy.

Vincent Micco, the oldest child of Jerry Micco Sr., led the group with a prayer for safety before heading out on the open road.

"Bike riding is a big thing right now," Vincent Micco said. "A lot of people love getting out there. It feels like a type of freedom for all of us riders."

The sentiment hits home for Alicia Cabal, Vincent Micco's sister. Free to ride on a motorcycle without assistance, Cabal saw the experience as a sense of triumph and relief—something she couldn't quite say a few years back.

In 2001, the year of Micco Sr.'s passing, Cabal suffered injuries from a car accident, which later lead her to participate in the Jerry Micco Sr.'s first memorial bike ride from a handicapped van.

"Back then, I was on a stretcher," Cabal



The Micco Family holds up a T-shirt-designed photo of their father, the late Jerry Micco Sr.

said. "I really wanted to be on my bike with everyone else. That was a bittersweet time for me. But now, I'm on my own motorcycle and I'm just thrilled to death. It's a very emotional day for me to be able to be back on a motorcycle and not as a passenger."

Happy to see his sister to be among this year's riders, Vincent Micco said his family got to love motorcycles from Vincent's late father, whose hobby was to ride motorcycles in his heyday.

"My dad taught me and my siblings

♦ Please see MICCO on page C2

Meredith Bullard Skates Her Way into Tribal Sports History as First Roller Derby Participant

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

FORT MYERS — As Big Cypress Tribal citizen Meredith Bullard and her Gold Coast Derby Grrls (Fort Lauderdale) roller derby team took center stage at the Bamboozles Skating Rink on Oct. 24, one thing stood out. It was the incarnation of a Tribal member living out one of her dreams and making history. Bullard is the Tribe's first-ever roller derby participant in the organized sport.

Bullard's brother-in-law, Stevie Billie, said he was proud to see the action unfold right before his eyes.

"It's a first for everything," Billie said of his sister-in-law. "As long as you set out to do what you want to do and stay drug free, you can get there."

Billie, along with his older brother and Bullard's husband, Issiah Billie, witnessed the Derby Grrls team muscle its way past the Fort Myers Misdemeanors, 195-117, in what proved to be a spirited and fun-filled bout.

Derby Grrls Bench Coach Barely Hu-

man attributed his team's win to the concept of teamwork.

"The thing that definitely worked for the girls is that they jelled and worked together," Barely Human said. "Everybody looked out for each other and worked to make sure there were no weak spots."

With those efforts from Pow Pow Panther and her Derby Grrls, the road team coasted to a 117-62 halftime lead. The Derby Grrls would only add to that margin in the second half, as they used an exhilarating combination of jamming and blocking to put the Misdemeanors away.

"The key to victory for us is working together," said Derby Grrls jammer/blocker Stone Bitch Blues. "It's important for us to keep our walls tight and together. We have to make sure we watch our jammer. It's tough because you have to make sure you're helping another jammer at the same time. We've worked on switching our mindset and doing two things done at once."

Stone Bitch Blues was complimentary of Pow Pow Panther's efforts on the roller rink.

"Meredith is a really positive person and does what she can to get the work out," the Derby Grrls jammer/blocker said of her teammate. "She's really evolved as a blocker and has come so far since she first started out. Meredith is going to up her and get better as she clicks more with our team."

Bullard offered her take on how the bout turned out.

"I think we were trying to do everything we can to stop their jam," Bullard (Pow Pow Panther) said. "I think we were effective in doing that. The hardest part of our bout was

♦ Please see DERBY on page C2



Meredith Bullard, center, powers her way toward the front of the pack as helps her Derby Grrls team jam the Fort Myers Misdemeanors, 195-117, in a decisive bout win on Oct. 24 in Fort Myers.

Best in Billiards Make Annual Trek for Mizerak Championships

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In the grand finale of the 2010 Seminole Professional Billiards Tour, the Hard Rock Live played host once more to the best in the world of the sport competing for fun and a \$20,000 prize.

In the Tribal-sponsored fourth annual Steve Mizerak 10-ball Championships Nov. 4-7, 71 of the top national and international male players partook in a double elimination tournament.

In a new tradition, the inaugural Celebrity Rack 'N' Roll 8 Ball Challenge started off the festivities Nov. 3 with proceeds from a silent and live auction including sports memorabilia, tickets to the Daytona 500, a multi-night stay at the Hard Rock Hotel, and a weekend rental of a 2011 Lamborghini Gallardo, all benefitting the Cliff Floyd Foundation founded by former Major League Baseball outfielder Cliff Floyd.

"Tonight is an indication of how important it is to keep giving back, no matter how much you have done in the past," Floyd said about the upstart foundation. "By me starting this foundation it is going to allow me to really feel like I have given something back because I have been blessed my whole career of 18 years of playing professional baseball."

Floyd's nonprofit organization was formed in July of this year to assist children in achieving their athletic aspirations by helping them reach their goals of performing at a high level both on and off the field of competition.

Floyd was chosen as a first round draft pick of the Montreal Expos as the 14th pick of the 1991 MLB Draft and went on to win a World Series championship with the Florida Marlins in 1997.

Tribal Council Chairman Mitchell Cypress was also on hand to enjoy the event.

"Every year I do my best to support these types of events because it all helps out the younger people," the Chairman said. "This is a time to come out every year especially during the fall and enjoy yourself and see some great pool."

Other celebrity sports guests included: Keith Byers, former National Football League player; William Floyd, former Florida State University player and National Champion, Charles Johnson, 4-time Golden Glove Winner and Florida Marlins World Series Champion and Floyd teammate as well as top ranked billiards stars Corey "The Prince of Pool" Deuel and Rodney "The Rocket" Morris.

An excited Earl Strickland celebrates winning the 2010 Steve Mizerak 10-ball championship held at the Hard Rock Live, Nov. 4-7. Strickland won 11-6 over Shawn Putnam in a race to 11 for the championship.

Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

Cliff Floyd Foundation founder Cliff Floyd welcomes guests to the inaugural Celebrity Rack 'N' Roll 8 Ball Challenge held in Seminole Paradise Live which featured a silent and live auction to benefit his foundation.

♦ Please see MIZERAK on page C2

Tribe Hosts Inaugural Golf Classic to Benefit Boys & Girls Clubs

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD/PLANTATION —

The Tribe's Boys & Girls Clubs received some much-anticipated support from Tribal Board and Council in the inaugural Seminole Tribe of Florida Amateur Golf Classic.

In a three-day event running Oct. 14-16, more than 50 donated money to the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. was on hand among guests and sponsors at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino's VIP Plum Lounge for a welcome reception to kick off the festivities.

"This benefits our youth directly, so it was a no-brainer to want to give something back to such a good cause," said Board Rep. Osceola. "I want to have these clubs be self-sufficient beyond the support of our Board and Council."

Florida Team Golf also co-sponsored

the event. Vice President Jason Venger said building awareness was one of the major goals in the planning of the weekend events.

"They [Tribal Board and Council] wanted to do something unique and that the people could enjoy," Venger said. "The goal was also to build something that showcased the Tribe, the Hard Rock and the South Florida community."

Osceola said it is an idea he has wanted to pursue with Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. since taking office last year.

"We wanted to keep hopes and expectations realistic. We reached our goal to some level because we got it all off the ground," Board Rep. Osceola said. "We also wanted them [the guests and sponsors] to walk away with a really good experience so they will come back next year."

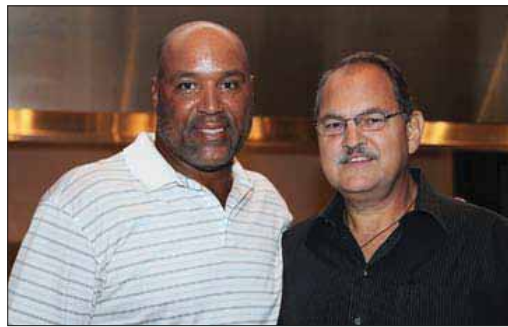
A two-man scramble, shot-gun tourna-

♦ Please see GOLF on page C2



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. tries to chip over the sand trap during scramble play action at the Plantation Preserve Golf Club on Oct. 15.



Chris C. Jenkins

National Football League legend Cornelius Bennett, left, and Boys & Girls Club Director Robert North participate in the awards ceremony.

GOLF

From page C1

ment at the Plantation Preserve Golf Club highlighted day two and three.

Silent/live auction and an awards ceremony at the Hard Rock's exclusive Chef's Table concluded the festivities on the evening of day three with several noteworthy items up for bid including: Miami Heat courtside tickets, a Cabo San Lucas vacation package, a custom Yagi watch, custom-beaded Seminole stemware and a Miami Dolphins game package.

The Tribe currently has two Tribal-based, affiliated Boys & Girls Clubs on the Hollywood and Big Cypress Reservations, which opened in 2005 and 2009 respectively, with plans for a Brighton branch this year.

According to the website at www.seminolebge.org, the mission of the Tribal Boys & Girls Club is to assist Seminole youth in the areas of self-confidence, self-esteem, native culture skills and the ability to grow into productive, responsible contributors to society.

The club's core elements are to provide a safe positive environment, supportive relationships, fun, opportunities and expectations, and recognition. Its core activities are also to interact with other Tribal departments with youth initiatives such as Culture/Language, Health, Family Services, Recreation,

Golf Results: Team play- 1. Earl Rubley and John Routh (117.5), 2. Frank Marrero and Richard Grant (118.75), 3. Dale Hendricks and Don Carson (119.25)

Education, Seminole Police Department and other entities.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Council Rep. Max Osceola Jr. tries to put onto the green.

MIZERAK

From page C1

Also highlighting the evening were hosts of radio sports talk Jorge Sedano's morning show "790 The Ticket" and "The Dan LeBatard" afternoon show battling for bragging rights in a best two of three series team match-up.

As tournament play got underway, a race to nine format had all eyes on several players of interest including: Tribal citizen Tony Billie, the Tribal-sponsored Deuel, recently crowned U.S. Open 9-Ball Champion winner and odds-on tournament favorite Darren "Dynamite" Appleton, as well as the number one and two ranked players Morris and the Mizerak tournament defending champion and Hall of Famer Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer.

Billie would go out in round two to Ron Park 9-4.

Deuel would fair better staying in line and maintaining position play, but was eliminated by the tournament runner-up Shaun Putnam finishing in the fifth-sixth slot. He also took home "player of the year" honors.

Morris and Archer would bow out early in their match-ups short of the cash rounds.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal-sponsored billiards player Corey Deuel with his 2010 player of the year award. Deuel finished in sixth place at the annual Mizerak tournament.

The finals would pit favorite Shawn "Big Bubba" Putnam against the fiery and unfettered Earl "the Pearl" Strickland in a race to 11 match-up.

On good breaks Putnam would gain the early advantage going up 2-0. Strickland would keep it close throughout in a back-and-forth battle while staying within a game of Putnam before finally tying up the games at 4-4. Two other times the two would be knotted up. At the 6-6 mark Strickland took advantage of a Putnam miscue taking his first lead of the contest going up 7-6. He would maintain momentum going into game 10 winning the match on another Putnam mistake before winning the final game and the title 11-6.

"I started off really shaky at first. I missed some breaks early but I struggled early and knew I would. He [Putnam] did also but that is what helped keep me in the matches," Strickland said afterward. "The table played very well this week and this is a great venue [the Hard Rock] for pool. It was a nice tournament with beautiful tables."

For more information on the Cliff Floyd Foundation, visit www.cff30.com.

MICCO

From page C1

how to ride bikes when we were younger," Vincent Micco said. "We learned a lot from him growing up. We started out with a dirt bike, but when I got older, I moved on to a street bike. The passion for it has not left ever since."

Cabal vividly remembered how her late father was when it came to his hobby. In a sense, it translated to the group of riders as they traveled the bike memorial ride's first leg for about 50 miles on U.S. Highway 27.

"I was pretty young when my dad used to ride motorcycles," Cabal said. "He was kind of quiet and to himself. He had a dry humor about himself. He was fun and easy-going. And when he rode his motorcycle, it was just for pure enjoyment because he loved to ride."

After making a pit stop at a gas station in South Bay, the group headed east and then north through the southeastern Lake Okeechobee communities of Belle Glade, Pahokee, Canal Point and Port Mayaca.

Following the group's second stop at Port Mayaca for a group photo shoot, the Tribe's Chairman spoke of a harrowing experience he had a few years ago.

"Well, the ride this year has been smooth to me compared to 2004, when I got into a terrible motorcycle accident," Chairman Cypress said. "It laid me out for about three months, but then I bounced back a couple of years later."

Chairman Cypress, who suffered the accident during 2004's Jerry Micco Sr. annual bike ride, has been part of the group every year since 2006.

"It's in the blood," Chairman Cypress said. "You can't get rid of it, no matter how many times you've been in a wreck. It's just like that, you get back up on it and enjoy the ride."

The motorcycle group headed for yet another pit stop at an Okeechobee gas station before making its way to the Brighton Reservation, where the Micco family grew up at.



Naji Tobias

The husband/wife tandem of Vincent and Loretta Micco leads the way on U.S. 27 during the Eighth Annual Jerry Micco Sr. Memorial Bike Ride on Oct. 23.



Naji Tobias

The Fort Myers Misdemeanors, in green, and the Gold Coast (Fort Lauderdale) Derby Grrls, in red, share some time together shortly after their high-energy bout concluded.



Naji Tobias

Meredith Bullard, also known as "Pow-Pow Panther," is a blocker for the Gold Coast (Fort Lauderdale) Derby Grrls roller derby team.

DERBY

From page C1

getting trapped in the back. I got trapped twice and it made me exhausted. But I think after the first couple of jams, I learned to stay in the front and work better with my team."

While Bullard represents the Tribe in roller derby, she said she hopes that more Tribal women will join her in competition one day. She said it's something that would make her really proud.

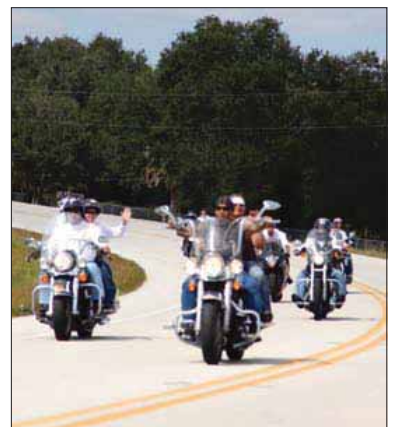
"Pow-Pow Panther is extremely inspiring to all the other girls," Barely Human said. "Meredith is a motivator and is definitely on the upswing as she works on improving her game. With her work ethic and desire to be a positive contributor to our team, we will better because of it. You can't ask for anything better in a team sport general."

For more information on Bullard's roller derby team, visit www.goldcoasterderbygrrls.com.



Naji Tobias

Chairman Mitchell Cypress has a special moment with the Micco family at Port Mayaca.



Naji Tobias

Riders hit a curve on Glades County Road 721 at the Brighton Reservation, where the late Jerry Micco Sr. and his family are from.

After going through Brighton, they headed for the Ortona Cemetery, where the late Jerry Micco Sr. was laid to rest. On this stop, the group paid a special tribute to the honoree, whose favorite song was "Where the Corn Don't Grow."

The ride's final two stops were at a gas station in Moore Haven and an end-of-ride dinner/gathering at the Billie Swamp Safari in Big Cypress.

Following the ride, Chairman Cypress said he hopes there will be another ride next year, with even more participants involved.

"The late Jerry Micco Sr. was a well-respected man," Chairman Cypress said. "It was an honor to start it [the memorial ride] several years ago. I thank the Micco family for inviting each and every one of us on this ride. I appreciate the family for what they're doing for Mr. Jerry Micco Sr."



Naji Tobias

Meredith Bullard and the Gold Coast Derby Grrls skate around the Bamboozles roller rink in their grand march on Oct. 24.



Naji Tobias

The Jerry Micco Sr. Memorial Bike Ride ends at the Big Cypress Reservation, where the bikers enjoy an end-of-ride meal at the Billie Swamp Safari Café.

Brighton Reservation Takes Home Top Honors Again in Annual Senior Trike Fest

BY NAJIB TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS – Tribal elders from five reservations squared off in a series of course challenges and contests at this year's Senior Trike Fest on Nov. 4.

Held at the Big Cypress Aviation Hangar, 57 seniors from the Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood, Immokalee and Tampa Reservations participated in the sixth annual event.

With the scores of tricycles in full swing, all five teams were vying for one thing: a year's worth of bragging rights as the Trike Fest champions.

Team Brighton, last year's overall winner, put this year's title on the line as Team Big Cypress, Team Hollywood, Team Immokalee and Team Tampa applied the pressure in five different course events.

When the dust settled, however, it was Team Brighton that took the top prize for the fourth consecutive year. After the scores were tallied in the ball toss, cone weave, maze, puzzle challenge and team relay categories, the five-time Trike Fest champions

finished with 97 overall points. Team Big Cypress finished second with 80 points.

"It feels great that we did it again," Brighton's Donna Turtle said. "They [Team Brighton] practiced and exercised a lot. You could tell that they [the Brighton seniors] worked really hard as a group and put a lot of heart into it."

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, who won four individual course challenges, said he was hoping Big Cypress would stop Brighton's three-year reign on top. Nonetheless, Chairman Cypress was complimentary of what Brighton pulled off in this year's fitness competition.

"Well, Brighton is traditionally competitive in sports," the Tribal Chairman said. "When they start practicing, they're really into it. Brighton has a great trainer, who helped them out a lot. I'm very happy for them."

As for Big Cypress's second-place finish? "I think we did a fantastic job," Chairman Cypress said. "You never know, Big Cypress might end up taking first place next time."

Hollywood and Tampa placed third and

fourth, respectively. Immokalee brought up the rear with a fifth-place overall team finish.

Tampa's Bobby Henry had perhaps the most interesting moment of this year's Trike Fest, as he zoomed his way to the finish line in the cone weave.

Though it looked like he fell off his tri-cycle and got hurt, Henry shot right back up on his trike and scooted his way to safety as if nothing happened.

"It went too fast," Henry said of his cone weave finish. "I thought if I just stopped, it would go slide in the water. I turned it a little bit and it just flipped on me. But I didn't get any scratches, so I'm really happy about that."

Though Henry's team didn't win the overall prize, it took home Best Decorated Trike and the Team Traveling Trophy. Tampa had the highest percent of seniors participating in this year's Trike Fest.

As of next year's Trike Fest, Chairman Cypress said, "The pressure is on Brighton to keep their trophy." "The other reservations are going to work really hard to win it next year."



Najib Tobias

Once again, Brighton's seniors prove to be the Tribe's most athletically fit bunch, taking home the top overall prize at the sixth annual Senior Trike Fest on Nov. 4. They won the top team trophy with 97 total points, a comfortable 17 points ahead of runner-up Big Cypress (80 points)



Najib Tobias

Tampa's seniors also won the category for Best Decorated Trike. The Tampa tricycle design was inspired by the 1956 Ford Fairlane vehicle, a theme that went well with the judging panel.



Najib Tobias

The Tampa Reservation won a special Senior Trike Fest award as they took home a trophy for most participants by percentage. Tampa had 50 percent of its seniors participate in the Trike Fest.



Najib Tobias

In the Trike Fest's Ball Toss course event, four Golden Senior winners emerged from the scores of competitors. The top four places, from left, were Minnie Tigertail (Big Cypress), Daisy Jumper Buster (Big Cypress), Maggie Garcia (Tampa) and Lawanna Osceola Niles (Hollywood). Here, the seniors celebrate their accomplishment with Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, second from left, and Chairman Mitchell Cypress, right.



The Diamond Seniors (ages 69 and up) stood out in the Puzzle Challenge at the Trike Fest on Nov. 4. The course event's top winners, from left, were Wonder Johns (Brighton), Jimmie Osceola (Hollywood) and Bobby Henry (Tampa). Standing between Johns and Osceola, second from right, is Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress (Big Cypress), left, took home four first-place prizes in the Trike Fest, including wins in the following categories for the Golden Senior men: Puzzle Challenge, The Maze and Cone Weave. With Big Cypress Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, second from left, celebrating, Rudy Osceola (Big Cypress), second from right and Jack Smith (Brighton), right, placed second and third place in each respective category.



Najib Tobias

The Big Cypress Reservation's seniors snagged the third-place trophy in the Best Decorated Trike Category.



Najib Tobias

Brighton's Jenny Johns, center, took the runner-up slot in the Best Dressed Triker category, as she celebrates with Chairman Mitchell Cypress, left and Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, right.

SIXTH ANNUAL SENIOR TRIKE FEST RESULTS

Reservation with Most Points in Course Events

1. Brighton Reservation – 97 points, 2. Big Cypress Reservation – 80 points, 3. Hollywood Reservation – 55 points, 4. Tampa Reservation – 19 points, 5. Immokalee Reservation – 0 points.

Reservation with Most Participants by Percentage

1. Tampa Reservation – 50 percent, 2. Brighton Reservation – 18 percent, 3. Hollywood Reservation – 16 percent, 4. Big Cypress Reservation – 14 percent, 5. Immokalee Reservation – 6 percent.

Best Decorated Trike

1. Tampa Reservation – 59 points, 2. Brighton Reservation – 57 points, 3. Big Cypress Reservation – 53 points, 4. Immokalee Reservation – 47 points.

Best Dressed Triker

1. Nancy Frank (Tampa Reservation) – 55 points, 2. Jennie Johns (Brighton Reservation) 54 points, 3. Lawanna Osceola Niles (Hollywood Reservation) – 52 points.

Most Practices – Senior Women

Big Cypress Reservation: 1. Minnie Tigertail

Brighton Reservation: Mable Haught and Onnie Osceola

Hollywood Reservation: Mary Gay Osceola

Tampa Reservation: Nancy Frank

Most Practices – Senior Men

Big Cypress Reservation: Rudy Osceola

Brighton Reservation: Wonder Johns

Hollywood Reservation: Joe Paul Billie

Ball Toss Course Event

Female Super Seniors – 55-61 years old: 1. Molly Shore (Brighton Reservation), 2. Wanda Bowers (Hollywood Reservation), 3. Dora Tiger (Hollywood Reservation), 4. Susie Doctor (Tampa Reservation); **Male Super Seniors – 55-61 years old:** 1. Elbert Snow (Brighton), 2. Steven Bowers (Hollywood), 3. Joe Osceola Jr. (Hollywood), 4. Jonah Cypress (Big Cypress); **Female Golden Seniors – 62-68 years old:** 1. Minnie Tigertail (Big Cypress), 2. Daisy Jumper (Big Cypress), 3. Maggie Garcia (Tampa), 4. Lawanna Osceola (Hollywood); **Male Golden Seniors – 62-68 years old:** 1. Mitchell Cypress (Big Cypress), 2. Jack Smith (Brighton), 3. Rudy Osceola (Big Cypress); **Female Diamond Seniors – 69 years old and up:** 1. Onnie Osceola (Brighton), 2. Mable Haught (Brighton), 3. Louise Billie (Big Cypress), 4. Mary Gay Osceola (Hollywood); **Male Diamond Seniors – 69 years old and up:** 1. Bobby Henry (Tampa), 2. Jimmie H. Osceola Jr. (Hollywood), 3. Wonder Johns (Brighton).

Cone Weave Course Event

Female Super Seniors: 1. Wanda Bowers (Hollywood), 2. Jenny Johns (Brighton), 3. Patty Waldron (Brighton), 4. Molly Shore (Brighton); **Male Super Seniors:** 1. Jonah Cypress (Big Cypress), 2. Roger Smith (Brighton), 3. Elbert Snow (Brighton), 4. Steven Bowers (Hollywood); **Female Golden Seniors:** 1. Minnie Tigertail (Big Cypress), 2. Alice Sweet (Brighton), 3. Louise Osceola (Big Cypress), 4. Daisy Jumper (Big Cypress); **Male Golden Seniors:** 1. Mitchell Cypress (Big Cypress), 2. Rudy Osceola (Big Cypress), 3. Jack Smith (Brighton); **Female Diamond Seniors:** 1. Edna McDuffie (Big Cypress), 2. Mary Gay Osceola (Hollywood), 3. Onnie Osceola (Brighton), 4. Mable Haught (Brighton); **Male Diamond Seniors:** 1. Wonder Johns (Brighton), 2. Jimmie H. Osceola Jr. (Hollywood), 3. Bobby Henry (Tampa).

Puzzle Challenge Course Event

Female Super Seniors: 1. Jenny Johns (Brighton), 2. Patty Waldron (Brighton), 3. Dora Tiger (Hollywood), 4. Wanda Bowers (Hollywood); **Male Super Seniors:** 1. Elbert Snow (Brighton), 2. Roger Smith (Brighton), 3. Jonah Cypress (Big Cypress), 4. Mike Tiger (Hollywood); **Female Golden Seniors:** 1. Minnie Tigertail (Big Cypress), 2. Lawanna Osceola (Hollywood), 3. Connie Whidden (Brighton), 4. Cornelia Osceola (Hollywood); **Male Golden Seniors:** 1. Mitchell Cypress (Big Cypress), 2. Rudy Osceola (Big Cypress), 3. Jack Smith (Brighton); **Female Diamond Seniors:** 1. Edna McDuffie (Big Cypress), 2. Mary Gay Osceola (Hollywood), 3. Onnie Osceola (Brighton), 4. Louise Billie (Big Cypress); **Male Diamond Seniors:** 1. Wonder Johns (Brighton), 2. Jimmie H. Osceola Jr. (Hollywood), 3. Bobby Henry (Tampa).

The Maze Course Event

Female Super Seniors: 1. Wanda Bowers (Hollywood), 2. Jenny Johns (Brighton), 3. Patty Waldron (Brighton), 4. Nancy Frank (Tampa); **Male Super Seniors:** 1. Roger Smith (Brighton), 2. Elbert Snow (Brighton), 3. Joe Osceola Jr. (Hollywood), 4. Jonah Cypress (Big Cypress); **Female Golden Seniors:** 1. Minnie Tigertail (Big Cypress), 2. Louise Osceola (Big Cypress), 3. Connie Whidden (Brighton), 4. Cornelia Osceola (Hollywood); **Male Golden Seniors:** 1. Mitchell Cypress (Big Cypress), 2. Rudy Osceola (Big Cypress), 3. Jack Smith (Brighton); **Female Diamond Seniors:** 1. Edna McDuffie (Big Cypress), 2. Mary Gay Osceola (Hollywood), 3. Onnie Osceola (Brighton), 4. Louise Billie (Big Cypress); **Male Diamond Seniors:** 1. Wonder Johns (Brighton), 2. Jimmie H. Osceola Jr. (Hollywood), 3. Bobby Henry (Tampa).

Team Relay Course Event

1. Team Brighton, 2. Team Big Cypress, 3. Team Hollywood, 4. Team Tampa, 5. Team Immokalee.

Competitors Improve at Brighton's Annual Recreation Triathlon

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Four Tribal citizens, four seniors and four adults bundled up and braved the 45-degree weather for Brighton Recreation's fourth annual mini-triathlon Nov. 6.

The triathlon, organized by Brighton Recreation's Event Coordinator Kai Setty, took place on the Brighton reservation, beginning and ending at the pool.



Howard Jimmie keeps a steady pace during his run.

The seniors kicked things off with a 1-mile walk/run followed by a 2-mile bike ride and finished the competition up with a 105-yard swim.

In the seniors 55-65 women's division Patty Waldron finished first place with an amazing time of 27:49.

The Seminole Tribe's own Health Director Connie Whidden competed for the first time and finished first in her age category of 66-75. Mable Tichenor followed right behind her with a time of 40:14 shaving a whole nine minutes from her last year's time.

Willie Johns took the first place title for the senior male category being the only male competing.

"I challenge my community to come out and compete against me," Johns said.

The adult division competition took place after the seniors division with four determined individuals.

The adults had a bit more of a challenge with a 1-mile run followed by a 5-mile bike ride and ending with a 200-yard swim.

Carla Gopher took an early lead in the female 26-35 age division. Gopher maintained a steady pace and finished with at 44:40, 4:02 faster than her time last year. Reina Micco wasn't far behind and closed the gap a little during the bike portion of the race.



Elton Shore, in the lead, grabs his bike to begin the second leg of the race.

division it was a head-to-head competition between Elton Shore and Howard Jimmie.

"Bringing the greatest intensity to this event was the 26-35 male division with two very strong and confident competitors," Setty said.

Shore barely broke a sweat coming in first at 35:12. Jimmie remained on Shore's heels the entire race and tapped the edge of the pool for a time of 36:03, 14:29 off from his time last year. All the competitors did an amazing and impressive job all improving their times and health.

"What strong and competitive athletes they are becoming," Setty said.

Setty said she would like to thank the Seminole Police Department, Fire Rescue, the Brighton Recreation staff, Fitness staff, Health Department staff and Brighton Recreation Director Richard Osceola for all their help and support.

In the adult male



Willie Johns is all smiles as he comes riding in after his two mile bike ride.



Carla Gopher turns the corner making her way to the pool for the last leg.



Mable Tichenor goes full force in the pool.



Connie Whidden paces herself during her six laps in the pool.

First Annual Red Ribbon Classic Golf Tournament Raises Funds for Florida Native American Recovery Convention

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Seminoles in Recovery sponsored a benefit golf tournament on Oct. 23 in conjunction with Red Ribbon Week at the Arrowhead Golf Course in Naples.

Tribal Members and affiliates participated in the first annual Red Ribbon Classic with 26 players forming seven teams for the Scramble. Following a complimentary continental breakfast and opening remarks by Family Services Director Helene Buster, the competition got under way with a shot gun start at 9 a.m.

All players were invited to attend a campfire cook-out the previous evening at Lakeside in Immokalee and join in a round table discussion that included members of the community.

While the golfers made their way around the 18 holes, Chef Ray King fired up the grill in anticipation of their return for an awards banquet on the veranda of the club house.

All proceeds from the first annual Red Ribbon Classic will be used to help finance the third annual Florida Native American Recovery Convention, which will be held March 3 through 6, 2011, at the John Boy Auditorium in Clewiston, Florida.

"Seminoles in Recovery have been working very hard to raise the necessary funds to make the FNARC self-sufficient," said Helene Buster. "We have orchestrated numerous fund raisers on each of the reservations

in an effort to achieve our goal of \$15,000 and thanks to the support of our families, neighbors and friends, the dollars are beginning to add up."

"Recovery is a full-time commitment," concluded Buster. "Following the 12 steps helps us take control of our lives and acquire the self respect that is necessary to achieve a healthy lifestyle. There is strength in numbers. Working together and supporting each other we can build a positive future."



From left, Family Services Director Helene Buster, Lawrence Osceola, Andy Buster and Raymond Garza express their gratitude to the supporters of the Seminoles in Recovery.

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Osceola, middle, keeps the serve alive on the return during game two action versus Chaminade-Madonna.

Brooke Osceola and University School Finish Runner-ups in District Volleyball



Tribal volleyballer Brooke Osceola, middle, with her University School teammates show off their class 3A district championship runner-up trophy on Oct 28. The Suns lost at Chaminade-Madonna in a best three of five tournament series. The eighth grader was also named to the first team Miami Herald and Broward County All-Freshmen Varsity Team.

Tribal Youth Shows Off Volleyball Skills in Volleyball Regionals



Adina Loockhart

Brooke Osceola's family and friends came to support her and the University School Suns team in the girls' volleyball regionals, on Nov. 3, at Ransom Everglades Upper School in Coral Gables. The University School Suns put up a good fight, but lost to Ransom Everglades Raiders.



Adina Loockhart

Brooke Osceola, in yellow shirt, goes for the return serve along with teammates, vs. Ransom Everglades.

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Big Town, Lady Warriors Win Titles in Annual Tigertail Brothers Basketball Tournament



Naji Tobias

The Lady Warriors take home the 2010 women's title in the Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament with an undefeated 3-0 record.



Naji Tobias

Big Town easily wins the men's championship in the Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament, as they finish with an unblemished 3-0 record, including an 89-55 blowout victory over the Warriors.

4th Annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament Results

Duane Tigertail Legends Basketball Tournament
— October 14

Women: 1. Real Legends (3-0), 2. Big Cypress Legends (1-2), 3. Geraldine's Team (0-2); **Men:** 1. Post Prime (3-0), 2. Big Cypress Men (1-2), 3. Still Got Game (0-2).

Malcolm Tigertail Adult Basketball Tournament
— October 15-16

Women: 1. Lady Warriors (3-0), 2. Lady Ballers (3-2), 3. Fully Loaded (1-2), 4. Da Cum Backs (1-2), 5. Miccosukee/Seminole (0-2); **Men:** 1. Big Town (3-0), 2. Warriors (2-2), 3. The Other Guys (1-2), 4. Big Cypress (0-2).



Naji Tobias

The Other Guys' Wilson Bowers, no. 3, left, eludes Amos Moses Billie of the Warriors, no. 13, as he drives past his defender in the second half of the men's semifinals game of the Tigertail Brothers Basketball Tournament.



Naji Tobias

The Lady Ballers finish as the women's runner-up.



Naji Tobias

The Warriors finish as the men's runner-up in the fourth annual Tigertail Brothers Basketball Tournament, played at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress on Oct. 16.



Naji Tobias

Justine George of the Lady Warriors, right, dribbles past Tate Means of the Lady Ballers as she drives down the court for a layup with 1:13 left in the second half of the Tigertail Brothers women's title game. George's eventual layup would put the Lady Warriors up 59-56 and would prove as the most pivotal shot of the women's tournament.



Naji Tobias

Brighton's Jordan Jones of the Warriors scores 7 points in the men's title game against Big Town.



Naji Tobias

Big Town's Amos Huggins, no. 21, drives his way in for a hard-earned layup and earns a trip to the free throw line with 2:34 left in the first half of the men's title game against the Warriors. At this point, Big Town is up 44-35.



Naji Tobias

Big Town's Jerome Davis makes this easy dunk in the first half of a preliminary game against Warriors.

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American Heritage-Plantation Faces Westminster



Chris C. Jenkins

Devin Bowers prepares to block on kick-off return coverage.



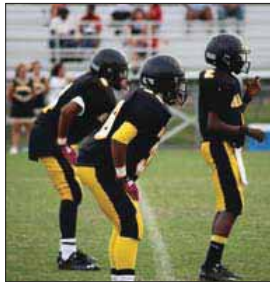
Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Patriots player Andre Landin stands in the backfield ready for his team's next offensive play.



Chris C. Jenkins

American Heritage-Plantation Cheerleaders root for the players as they prepare to take the field for week six action versus Westminster Christian School at home Oct. 19. The Patriots lost the contest 28-0.



Chris C. Jenkins

Neko Osceola, near right, and Andre Landin, far left, form a split back formation as quarterback Makalex Sarette prepares to run their offense.



Chris C. Jenkins

Defensive back Blevyns Jumper squares off with an offensive player from Westminster in third quarter action.

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WoodsHaven Prep Seniors Win Final Home Game

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

DAVIE — WoodsHaven Preparatory Tribal athlete Catlen Tommie and his gridiron teammates experienced the bitter sweet emotion most seniors face at the end of their high school careers, but on the winning end.

In front of dozens of supportive family and friends, the three sport letterman and four others (including De-

neareus Davis, Marquis Brantley, Geonvay Burns and Dwain Oliver) played their final home game as seniors at Bamford Park in a last second 36-28 comeback win versus St. Joseph's Academy of St. Augustine on Oct. 22.

The whirlwind game was decided inside of 30 seconds of the fourth quarter, as the Warriors mounted a drive ending in a one-yard touchdown connection from sophomore quarterback Roderick Carter to junior receiver Brian Gissendanner, as time ran out in the contest.

First year WoodsHaven Head Coach Tim Miller said it was a great game against a very disciplined Flashes team.

"It was a good and exciting game and came down to the wire," Miller said. "It was the kind of game where you need to leave everything on the field and the kids never gave up."

Miller said the team's game-winning efforts and their season have all been a reflection of the leadership shown by Co-captain Tommie and the other seniors.

"They stepped up to the challenge," he said. "I told [the seniors] before the game that it was their night and that I needed to know who was going to step up and stand out."

Tommie said working hard has been part of his and the team's approach all season.

"We just took charge and did what we had to do," he

said. "I have enjoyed playing with everyone and watching the younger players get better all year." "I just feel like it has all went by so fast. It is hard to even believe I am a senior," he added.

As a star outfielder and catcher in baseball, point guard in basketball, as well being a 3.0-plus grade point average student, proud father Danny Tommie said it has been nice to see his son's growth as he looks toward college considering: the University of Alabama, Samford University, Purdue and Troy University on a short list of schools.

"He has been able to make adjustments and play well and all the while maintain his grades, which is the most important thing," father Tommie explained. "I have tried not to think about it all ending for him, but I also knew in the game I was getting my last memories of him. It was precious but sad."

The former Belle Glades High School transfer said although he has been the only Tribal athlete for the Warriors over the last two seasons, the transition to the start-up WoodsHaven squad has been a smooth one.

"I know I am one of only a few Tribal members that even play varsity high school football, but it has also motivated me to represent my people," Tommie said.

Throughout the season Tommie has played on both sides of the ball playing multiple positions including fullback, runningback, linebacker and strong-safety.

Miller said he has been impressed with the 17-year-old's mental toughness on the field and his work ethic in the classroom.

"He has been a very hard worker and on the next level he should do very well. I wish I had another year with him," Miller said. "He has grown a lot this year and is definitely a leader. He does not like to lose either; that is what you would expect from a senior."



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior football player Catlen Tommie, ninth from the left, is joined by supportive and excited family members for WoodsHaven Prep football senior night festivities Oct. 22 at Bamford Park in Davie.

Immokalee Preschool Entertains Youngsters at First Get Fit Day

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Oct. 27 marked the beginning of a new era for the Immokalee Preschool fitness program. Due to the increased student enrollment and coordinated efforts of the school staff, Fitness and Recreation Departments, the Immokalee Preschool held its first Get Fit Day on their home playing field.

During previous years the students took an annual fitness excursion by bus for inclusion in the Big Cypress event. This involved a long journey for the little tykes and many of them were exhausted before reaching their destination.

"Holding our 2010 Get Fit Day in our own gymnasium has many advantages," said Immokalee Preschool Site Manager Michelle Ford. "It provides an opportunity for parents, grandparents and community members to observe the activities, cheer for the athletes and share in their enthusiasm."

The Immokalee Gym was divided into six separate courses to accommodate a broad range of athletic activities that included obstacle courses, foot paths, relays and agility exercises. Working by age groups, the youngsters rotated around the building from one course to another. Smiles and laughter followed them everywhere they went.

Twenty students took part in the ball toss, zigzag path, roller board, ring toss, tunnel crawl and relay races with bean bags, balls, cones, paddles and light sticks.

"Although the children are young, it is never too early to acquaint them with physical awareness and give



Judy Weeks

P.J. Rodriguez yells "It's a ringer!" during the Preschool Ring Toss.

them a chance to meet our fitness and recreation staff," said Fitness Specialist Liz Pickering. "Today's activities were designed to promote agility, hand to eye coordination, exercise and develop basic motor skills. They've had a wonderful time while taking their first steps on the road to a healthy lifestyle."



Judy Weeks

Students and teaching staff agree that the Immokalee 2010 Preschool Get Fit Field Day was awesome.



Naji Tobias

The Tigertail family comes together for a few moments at the fourth annual Tigertail Brothers Basketball Tournament in Big Cypress.

Duane and Malcolm Tigertail Remembered at Tigertail Brothers Basketball Tournament

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Moments before the fourth annual Tigertail Brothers Basketball Tournament began on Oct. 14, a special tribute was paid to the late Duane and Malcolm Tigertail.

Tribal citizen Richard Osceola, who played on the Past Prime Legends basketball team, presented a blow-up poster of Duane Tigertail and a specialized plaque to his mother, Minnie Tigertail.

It was a showing of Duane Tigertail's MVP performance in the 1999 Micosukee All-Indian Basketball Tournament, when Richard Osceola and Duane Tigertail were teammates on the Showtime Seminoles.

"It humbles me to say that I was a part of Duane's life," Richard Osceola said. "It's just something that I've been cherishing over the years. The memories that Duane leaves behind are overwhelming. He played with such a passion on the court and had a lot of heart. To the Tigertail family, I thank you for allowing me to share that time with him."

Richard Osceola talked about what it meant for him to suit up for this year's Legends competition.

"It's a real honor to be here," Richard Osceola said. "Duane was a good man on this court. He was a champion in his heart."

Geraldine Osceola, who starred for Geraldine's Team in the Legends tournament on Oct. 14, recalls watching Duane and Malcolm Tigertail play basketball often. Geraldine Osceola said basketball was like a hobby for the two brothers.

"Duane was an awesome player. He was unstoppable," Geraldine Osceola said. "Malcolm was also a good player. I loved watching them play because they had mad skills. They were quiet, they were always in the crowd and they were al-

ways here at the Herman L. Osceola Gym."

Minnie Tigertail, who raised both of the young men before they passed away years ago, remembers her sons.

"Malcolm was eager to play basketball in the Legends," Minnie Tigertail said. "He wanted to play college basketball at FAU, but he never got a chance to. Both Malcolm and Duane would play in basketball tournaments every chance they got."

The annual Tigertail Brothers Basketball Tournaments began back in 2007 as a tribute to the lives of Duane and Malcolm Tigertail, who passed away within seven years of each other. Malcolm Tigertail died in 2000 and Duane Tigertail in June 2007.

Tribal basketball players from Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee choose to remember the brothers by playing in these annual gatherings. Minnie Tigertail said she's grateful for the outpour of support shown for the family on a yearly basis.

"I appreciate it every year," Minnie Tigertail said. "I enjoy watching them come out and play their hearts out. There are different teams each year, but it's always enjoyable. I like it a lot."



Naji Tobias

Past Prime wins the Men's Division of the Duane Tigertail Legends Basketball Tournament on Oct. 14.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, left, and Past Prime's Richard Osceola, right, present a special plaque to Minnie Tigertail, on behalf of the Tigertail family in a tribute ceremony on Oct. 14 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.



Naji Tobias

Real Legends beat three other teams to earn the Women's Division championship of the Duane Tigertail Legends Tournament.

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Announcements D

LETTERS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy belated birthday to Syllas Billie, born on Aug. 4, 2008.
Love,
Your parents
Markell and Melinda Billie

WELCOME

Welcome to this crazy world, Nahki Santana Billie, born June 10, 2010.
Love,
Your parents
Markell and Melinda Billie



To: Chatachake Burt
From: Your Youngest Bro Ike

Everyday I ask the Creator to continue to bless you, everyday I thank the Creator for blessing me with an older brother as you. Tachake I have always looked up to you and our other tachake Lyle. That has not and will not change. If I could, I would take the fall for you both without a second thought. I just want to see you both enjoying life with family and those chosen friends. Pitfalls, obstacles and temptation will always show its face. Put all your trust and faith in your Guiding Spirit. It will amaze you how simple it becomes to side step pitfalls, leap obstacles and slap down temptation. I'm sure you know about this already and have mastered utilizing your Guiding Spirit since you are now another



year older than me. I don't forget those that mean the world to me. Happy Birthday, Bro!!! Until I breathe my last I will always put you all first in my life. Shonaabisha for giving me lil Burt to love and care for, our bro Lyle gave me lil Lyle too. You're the greatest brothers, warriors that always stand your ground. When we ride on our enemies you two are all I care to have on my team. Unity, loyalty and respect. Happy Birthday Bro!!! Much love and much respect.

Warrior 4 life,

Waache says
Happy Birthday and she loves you.

Sholoopahthi
Bolchunchahga

Ike T. Harjo
Koowaathi

To: Chaaye Paula
From: Your Lil Bro Ike

Big Sis it's been four years now since you went to the Spirit World. Though you are always with me in spirit, it's been a struggle at times living without you in this world. But at the same time Chaaye it's in my blood to be greater than any struggle. Waache and you raised this fierce warrior, I can smile at what makes most cry. I will always remember the great times we had in this world. Though where we was living off the rez wasn't good at all. We made the best of it and gave it pure hell. I still have that photo of that flag you



sent to me years ago that says, "You are not forgotten." Big Sis you always kept my memory alive, it goes without saying until I breathe my last I will do the same for you. Just so you know, you can be very proud of your Son Jr. He has morals, he has respect, he has loyalty, he loves and cares for family. Jr. makes time for waache often, he's a great young man. Waache loves and misses you Big Sis, she also says Happy Birthday!

Smile Chaaye, I love you too and I'll be missing you. Chehechalanecoolt-holekuul.

Warrior 4 life,
Happy Birthday!!!

Sholoopahthi
Bolchunchahga
Ike T. Harjo
Koowaathi

Happy Birthday to Terrijo D. Nelson on Dec. 12.

Hey Mom, I want to wish you a happy birthday, and let you know how much I love and respect you. You have been there for me and your grandson Ricky, especially Ricky. We are lucky to have you as part of our lives. I am so proud of you and proud to be your daughter. Thank you for having my back and for that, I owe you the world.

I love you, mom, you're the greatest ever. Words can't explain how much gratitude I have.

Thank you mom, like you say, 'we're family, enough said.'

I love you; have a great birthday and a wonderful Christmas and an even better New Year!

Love always,
Carolee J. Anderson

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy 2nd birthday Joleyn Rain Nunez on November 14, 2010. We love you baby girl.

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



Happy 13th birthday to our princess Cheyenne Nunez on November 14, 2010. We are very proud of you for your hard work this year receiving A's and B's all year and perfect attendance. Keep up the good work.

Love always,
Mom, Dad, Courtney, Daniel, Joleyn and Daliyah

CONGRATS



Congratulations Cheyenne on becoming this year's Vice President for Yearling Middle School for 2010-2011 school year.

Love,
Mom and Dad



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May The Bounty of the Season Fill Your Heart and Home

Message from Chief William R. Latchford
Office of Police

Thanksgiving is a special time of year wherein we are reminded to give thanks. As we embark on this holiday and begin our preparations, let us consider the many reasons we can be thankful this year including some of the following:

A special thanks to God for our blessings. Let us be thankful for the family and friends we have in our lives. Having good health each day is something to be thankful for.

Gratitude for our country's troops keeping us safe here on the home front.

To all of the employees within the Seminole Tribe of Florida, let us give thanks for being the chosen ones to work within such a fantastic and successful Tribe.

Whether we celebrate with a large family gathering; or we choose to celebrate in a smaller setting, wherever you are during this special time of year, take a moment to reflect on each of your blessings and be thankful.

I am blessed to have a wonderful family supporting me as your Chief of Seminole Police Department as I continue to ascertain my daily goal of ensuring to keep each of you safe.

With sincere wishes from Seminole Police Department, Happy Thanksgiving.

Will

Food For Thought:

There are more than 300 million turkeys raised each year, and only one is chosen to be sent to the White House. That turkey is granted clemency from death and receives a pardon from the President. This turkey is then sent to a farm where it remains to live out the rest of its life in peace, free from being the centerpiece at a Thanksgiving Dinner.



The Board of Directors is actively seeking bids for a lunch to be served at the Shareholders meeting scheduled to be held on January 8th, 2011.

Tribal member bids will be preferred

The deadline for submission of bids for this luncheon has been extended to December 17th, 2010 at 12:00pm

To get itemized menu please contact:

Virginia Osceola, Ext: 11042 or (954) 444-7551
Amie Osceola, Ext: 13240 or (863) 227-4113
Mornin Osceola, Ext: 13363 or (863) 228-5297
Natasha Ramdat, Ext: 11317 or (954) 610-5717

NEW KID



Terrance David Robbins born into Panther Clan family on August 31, 2010 at 9 lbs and 10 oz. Parents are Tara Robbins and Orrin Arnold. Grandmother is Mary Jane Robbins. Brother is Jonathan and sisters are Mariah, Lauren and Sarah.

CONGRATULATIONS



We congratulate Devin Osceola for a great football season with the West Kendall Dolphins! We are so proud of you. You have put so much effort into your passion for football and maintained good grades in school.

Your efforts into everything you do don't go unnoticed and I am proud to call you my son.

Love, Marcella
Grandpa Joe and Grandma Joan

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 this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and lease of a home for tribal member Cecil Jumper on trust property within the Big Cypress Reservation of the Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida. New home construction is intended to help alleviate the current housing shortage for Tribal members. Endangered species impacts and wetland impacts will be fully mitigated through the conditions stipulated in an Army Corps of Engineers permit. The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated August 2010, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Environmental Assessment, Cecil Jumper Home Site Lease, Seminole Indian Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County, Florida". This EA has been adopted and FONSI issued for the approval of 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. Superintendent, Seminole Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs
September 10, 2010

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POEMS

Before Your Time

Before your time Papa was a rolling stone,
It didn't just start when your mom brought you home.

I have tried to set the record straight over a period of time,
But you been molded and manipulated to a certain frame of mind.

But I will not give up on pulling the wool from your eyes so you can see,
That since Day One I have loved you and will until my family bury me.

True I was a player that jacked and raised so much hell,
When you was a baby until my last ride I made time to see you even when Ahaakome was hot on my trail.

It's amazing after they realized I was gone they gained courage and heart,
Only then they took advantage of my first seed and kept us apart.

When I was there no one stood in my way at all,
I could come and see you anytime I wanted because they feared this Panther claw.

I even had you days at a time, but you don't remember this,
Throughout all these years I've been gone, these are the only memories I have of you to reminisce.

If you want to verify my side just talk to your grandma in Hollywood,
She loves you with all her heart too and will give you the honest truth better than anyone else could.

You probably been feeling all alone after what took place,
But you have to realize you're not,
Because you have my whole family waiting for you to embrace.

It hurts me to my heart all that you been through,
Just so you know that fool is on borrowed time that's written in blood too.

That wrong will be righted, it's just a matter of time,
I have patience and once I handle that I'm hoping it frees your mind.

You're my first seed and I love you just as my last,
This love will always be stronger than any shotgun blast.

There is so much lost time and memories that I want to make up for,
But I will not push you to accept me, only you can open up that door.

True, back in the day I was no damn good,
But I always showed love for my blood and for you all tall I stood.

Before your time I have become a better man since then,
Happy birthday Susie, I love you
This is in the wind.

Ike T. Harjo
Sholoopathi Bolchunchahga
Koowaathi

Richard L. Osceola
Son of the Unconquered Sons

Let me live in a chickee by the side of the road
Where the race of men go by.

The men who are good and the men who are bad
As good and as bad as I.

I would not sit in the scorum's seat
Or hurl the cynic's ban.

Let me live in a chickee by the side of the road
And be a friend to man.

I see from the chickee by the side of the road.
By the side of the highway of life.
The men who press with the brook of hope,
The men who are feint with the strife.

But I turn not away from their smiles, nor their tears.
But parts of an infinite plan.

Let me live in a chickee by the side of the road,
And be a friend to man.

Blac. Hollywood

You'll be the lonely one
When all your fun is through.

For I won't sit at home alone
Sweetheart and wait for you.
You'll be the one to blame
When your heart breaks in two.

Remember that I told you so,
Be careful what you do.

The rules of life are easy,
You break them, you must pay.

And when your eyes are filled with tears
Just remember what I say.
You'll be the lonely one.

When all your cheatings are thru,
You'll want someone to love you!

Be careful what you do.

Blac. Hollywood
Too Long

I miss you darling,
My days are so long
Being away from you
I've been away, way too long.

I dream of you each night
And then wake up so blue.
My heart aches thru-thru
I've been away too long.

Another blue day is ending.
The sun almost gone,
And I know that it's so wrong
to stay away, away too long.

The lonesome shadows creep
Around me honey, kills my soul,
Knowing we are growing old
Just staying away til your love grows cold.

Another blue day is ending,
The sun almost gone,
And I know that it's so wrong.

Words from da future

You can't teach this or reach this
Not one pastor has preached this
Deeper than the ocean.
My water is beatchless.
I speak and leave em speechless.
Miccosukee fluent speaking
Half-breed son of a gun
You love to hate pistol

On my side
Decide you own fate
Knocking on heavens door.
I hold the keys to the gate.
Hell has arrived.
Prepare the soil for my crate.
Burry me a G
In a White Tee and bathing Apes.

Markell Billie

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