



Coconut Creek Casino announces casino expansion and job fair



Tribal officials, elders and citizens along with construction workers and other special guests join together to celebrate the \$150-million Seminole Coconut Creek Casino expansion and job fair announcement at the casino facilities on Oct. 5.

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

COCONUT CREEK — Tribal officials, elders and citizens along with construction workers and other special guests joined together to celebrate the \$150-million Seminole Coconut Creek Casino expansion and job fair announcement at the casino facilities in Coconut Creek on Oct. 5. The Nov. 2 job fair will look to hire 800 new Tribal employees. The facility is slated to open in February 2012.

“The expansion is going to increase revenue for us (the Seminole Tribe) and the money will stay in the state of Florida,” Chairman James E. Billie said at the press conference. Tribal Council Reps. Mondo Tiger of the Big Cypress Reservation and Andrew J. Bowers Jr. of the Brighton Reservation also attend the event.

“We want you to come and join the greatest group of team managers in the state of Florida,” said Steve Bonner, Seminole Coconut Creek Casino general manager, about the job fair “It is a great day when everything you read now days is negative.”

Chris C. Jenkins

Richard Henry elected Tampa Liaison

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

TAMPA — Among today’s Tribal officials, which Seminole Tribal government leader has been in office the longest?

That’s easy.
Richard Henry, who is now in his 17th straight year as the Tampa Liaison to the Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Council. And, thanks to the community’s first Liaison election in October, he’s got four more years of service to go.

“I am very privileged to have earned so much trust that the people of Tampa brought me back to office,” said Liaison Henry from his office in the tiny Tribal headquarters building northwest of the original Tampa Seminole Reservation. “I must have done something right.”

Liaison Henry was elected by a 43-17 vote in his race against fellow Tribal citizen Keith Mitchell Simmons. Prior to the October vote, he had received appointments from Chairman James E. Billie and former Chairman Mitchell Cypress. When Chairman Billie returned to office in June, he felt an election was in order for the now 170-member Tampa community. The Tampa roll includes 80 registered voters.

Liaison Henry was one of the original 18 Seminoles – the Ruby Tiger Osceola family – who left “the flower and tomato fields of Manatee County,” he said, and moved onto the new Tampa Reservation in 1979. The expansion of Tribal gaming into the Seminole Hard Rock Casino on the site, however, caused residents to move in 2003.

“We are scattered today all over the place, from Howey-in-the-Hills to Brandon, to Plant City, three-four counties, you name it, we’re there,” he laughed, admitting that bringing his family and community back together is his biggest challenge. “We try



Peter B. Gallagher

Richard Henry will serve as Tampa Community Liaison for four more years after getting elected in a 43-17 vote in October.

to get together for fun and camaraderie as much as we can out at the new property. But everyone really wants to live together again.”

In 2006, the Tribe purchased 752 acres of pasture and woodland north of Lakeland, just off I-4. Forty more acres were added later. Plans exist to build some 150 (1 acre) single-family homes to accommodate the community. “It’s all waiting for the government to get its ducks all in a row,” he said, referring to the Tribe’s request for federal trust status on the property. “There’s a lot of paperwork, studies going on. I guess it could happen any time. Before we moved here, we were all dependent on each other for everything. Now, that we are apart, we are totally dependent on the Tribe. We have lost our independence. We can’t wait to become a real community again.”

♦ Please see LIAISON on page 8A

Tribal College Career Fair continues traditions and grows in sixth year

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — For the sixth year running, the Tribal College Career Fair brought the ambitious and curious to the Hard Rock.

All interested Tribal citizens in grades 9-12 and adults had another golden opportunity to meet representatives from 85 colleges, universities, Tribal departments, specialty or trade schools for information and one-on-one sessions on Oct. 14.

“Year after year we (in the Education Department) want them (Tribal students) to have access to a quality education. We want them to know that their Tribe has invested in them,” said Tribal Director of Education Emma Johns. “This is not your average fair. We want them to know we believe in them.”

Johns said between 80 and 100 Tribal students pre-enrolled for the fair and included several Florida-based schools, as well as schools from the Midwest, South and Eastern areas of the U.S.

“We know exposure is the key,” Johns said. “It is the key to the successful paths they will take.”

Two new changes this year featured the creation of a new partnership between the Education Department and the Boys & Girls Clubs in Broward County with an estimated 300 additional students attending the fair, as well as the time frame moved up from January to October.

The increase in size comes on the heels of the Tribe and the Education Department continuing its relentless pursuit toward improving education with the Florida, Southern and Eastern college tours, as well as boasting 12 college graduates, 27 high school graduates and 48 General Education Diploma (GED) graduates (the highest number ever by the Tribe to date) this year.

American-Heritage Academy standout Tribal students Tucomah Robbins and Neyom Osceola both approved of the ever-growing event.

“This type of event is beneficial to those who want it to be,” said Robbins, a future Psychology and Political Science major. “I wanted to see if there were new materials and ideas on what to do as a potential student. I want colleges that want me to be myself and that will give me a lot of options.”

“I wanted to see what they (college/university representatives) expect from a future applicant,” Osceola said. “It (the fair) has increased in colleges and universities and adding Ivy League schools made it more interesting, and it seems that it has also gotten broader.” The gifted writer hopes to attend Columbia University in 2014.

Tribal citizen Allison Osceola, mother to daughter Kaylan, a Hollywood Christian sophomore, was also impressed with the fair.

“I thought it was a great thing,” she said. “There was a diverse crowd and representatives.”

One school heavily invested in the fair was first-time attendee University of North Carolina at

♦ Please see FAIR on page 7A



Chris C. Jenkins

All interested Tribal citizens in grades 9-12 and adults had another golden opportunity to meet representatives from 85 colleges, universities, Tribal departments, specialty or trade schools for information and one-on-one sessions during the Oct. 14 College Fair.

INSIDE:

COMMUNITY: A

EDUCATION: B

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 7B

SPORTS: C

**See photos
from FSU vs.
Oklahoma game
on page 1C**

Rudy Osceola retires after 38 years of employment with Seminole Tribe

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Rudy “The Legend” Osceola decided to put his work aside in retirement.

With 38 years of service to his people – mostly in the Big Cypress Cattle and Range Department – the longtime rancher/herdsmen/cattle operator had a lasting impact on many people within the Tribe.

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, who said he worked for the retiree when he was 12 years old, recalled a time when Osceola operated a bull project on the Big Cypress Reservation in the 1970s and 1980s.

“Rudy used to raise a whole bunch of bulls,” Rep. Tiger said. “He has taught a lot of us younger guys how to rope and ride on cattle. He has a whole lot of influence on all of us. We go way back.”

Rep. Tiger said he considers Osceola a role model among the scores of Tribal individuals he has dealt with over the course of his life.

“A lot of us copied guys like Rudy and Jonah Cypress in how we live our lives,” Rep. Tiger said. “Those two are the best of friends that ever was. To me, it’s very sad to see Rudy retire, but when you come to the end of your road, you know it’s your time.”

Fellow Tribal citizen Moses “Big Shot” Jumper, who recited a poem in honor of Osceola, talked about some of the moments he has shared with the retiree.

“A lot of people don’t know this, but Rudy has a very good sports background,” Jumper said of the 2011 Seminole Tribe Sports Hall of Fame inductee. “He wasn’t just good in basketball and track. He was also known for being a great rodeo competitor. As far back I can remember, we used to get together on our horses and tend to our cattle a lot. We have a lot of history together.”

Aside from Jumper and Rep. Tiger, speakers at the retirement luncheon included Paul “Cowbone” Buster Sr., Raymond Garza Sr. and the retiree’s son, Cicero Osceola.

“Rudy’s not going to stop,” Buster said. “He’s going to keep on going.”

The longtime cattleman confirmed that notion, as he stated that he plans to do some side work with the Big Cypress Councilman’s Office in the near future. In his spare time, Osceola said he will spend more time with his wife, Lisa, his grandchildren and all his friends.

“I’m not going nowhere,” Osceola said.



Naji Tobias
Rudy Osceola, left and Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, right, are all smiles as they share a special moment together at the Tribal senior’s Sept. 16 retirement luncheon.



Naji Tobias
Rudy Osceola speaks about his 38 years of employment with the Tribe on Sept. 16.

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Publisher: James E. Billie

Senior Editor: Brett Daly
brettdaly@semtribe.com

Staff Reporters:
Chris C. Jenkins, Rachel Buxton,
Naji Tobias, Peter Gallagher

Contributors:
Judy Weeks, Elrod Bowers, Donna Mason

If you need a reporter or you would like to
submit an article, birthday wish or poem to
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Senior Editor Brett Daly at
954-985-5702, ext. 10725
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Community

A

Senior Profile: Mary Motlow Sanchez

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

IMMOKALEE — In her 74 years, Mary Motlow Sanchez has seen the gradual transition of the Seminole people from the isolated lifestyle of their ancestors in the Everglades wilderness into the 21st century. She said that the ability to adapt and change is an important part of survival but stressed that it is equally important to remember where you came from and to preserve your heritage.

A member of the Panther Clan, Mary was born in an Everglades camp in southeastern Collier County in 1937 to Jack Motlow and his wife, Lena Billie Motlow. Her father was a hunter and helped her mother raise a garden near their main village to feed their growing family.

“When I was little, I remember that we used to set up small camps as we followed my father on his hunting trips,” Mary said. “Sometimes we would go to visit other families or trade in Everglades City or Smallwood’s Store in Chokoloskee.”

“The Silver Springs attraction near Ocala used to invite Seminole families to spend the season living in their camp to draw tourists. It provided a place for them to sell their arts and crafts,” Mary continued. “We stayed there for a short time with Charlie and Lee Cypress. I was very young, but I remember the fun we had swimming in the spring after the attraction closed for the night. The tourists would sometimes give us candy.”

The Tamiami Trail brought tourists, settlers, farmers and logging companies into the Everglades by the 1930s and 40s. As a young girl, Mary witnessed the Seminole lifestyle and economy undergoing many changes and before long she was

accompanying her parents to work in the vegetable fields picking the harvest.

In search of a steady income Jack Motlow took his family to the tourist camps in Miami, and they settled at the Dania Reservation. Mary was in her early teens but had never attended school. They met William and Edith Boehmer, who had established the school in Brighton and were visiting the Seminole communities encouraging the parents to educate their children.

Lena Motlow’s father, Billy Conapatchee (a.k.a. Billy Corn Patch or Little Billy), had been South Florida’s first educated Seminole in the late 1800s. He was born near Fisheating Creek around 1856 at the conclusion of the Third Seminole War. As a boy, Little Billy lived with Capt. Francis A. Hendry at Fort Thompson (LaBelle) and Fort Myers where he attended school. He worked as an interpreter for Dr. Clay MacCauly when he made his census report on the Seminoles to the Secretary of Indian Affairs in 1880.

Unfortunately, Mary’s grandfather lived at a time when his elders had vivid memories of the Seminole Wars and distrusted the white man’s interference in their lives. He was threatened with death or expulsion from the Tribe if he did not quit school and return to his people. Little Billy married Nancy Osceola (a.k.a Little Nancy) and their children included future Tribal leaders Josie and Ingraham Billie.

Her father may have been ahead of his time, but Lena Motlow recognized the fact that her children would need an education to survive in their changing environment. Mary was



Judy Weeks
Mary Motlow Sanchez and her husband, Tony Sr., have been married 54 years and look forward to a bright future for their descendents.

♦ Please see **MARY** on page 5A

Mr. Versatility: O.B. Osceola Jr.

Vodka, Insurance, NASCAR, Construction

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

NAPLES — Like his grandfather and father before him, everyone seems to know Seminole entrepreneur O.B. Osceola Jr. From the pool players at the Flamingo Pool Hall in St. Petersburg who can’t wait for his next visit and the impromptu 9-ball tourney that always ensues, to the folks at the Daytona International Speedway who brought O.B.’s 13-year-old daughter Tori on stage to sing the National Anthem at the last Daytona 500, to Washington, D.C. where he heads a construction project two blocks from the Capitol, to Hard Rock Casinos and ABC Liquor Stores everywhere that stock their shelves with his own personal vodka. Yes, everyone knows O.B. Osceola Jr.

In some circles he is known as an insurance executive, specializing in Native American indemnity. In other circles he is known as NASCAR’s first Native American stock car owner. He has been known as president of Pro Investment Group International and as Chief Executive Officer of Pro Games LLC. A former Tribal leader and Mr. Seminole, this pool player, proud father, big contract construction manager, spirits capitalist, national insurance man, gaming mogul and professional racecar magnate is a veritable Seminole Mr. Versatility.

“It’s all just business,” laughed the perpetually smiling, 43-year-old Naples native. “It might seem like a really diverse portfolio, but they are all businesses. They require vision, creativity, planning and hard work. That’s been around me all my life. I grew up in a family of entrepreneurs and hard workers.”

His grandfather, the late Corey Osceola, was a well-known Tribal leader of the 30s-50s, whose missing arm (alligator) made him a familiar icon to millions of Americans enthralled with his stubborn refusals to cooperate with the U.S. government and his considerable entrepreneurial spirit. As an interpreter for Mikasuki speakers who could not speak English, he assisted many Seminole people in business startups and ran his own tourist villages in several parts of Florida.



Peter B. Gallagher
O.B. Osceola Jr. works in the vodka, insurance, NASCAR and construction industries and shows no signs of slowing down.

♦ Please see **VERSATILITY** on page 8A

Tribal citizen helps memorialize Reggae legend Dennis Brown



Chris C. Jenkins
Tribal citizen Doris Osceola, middle, is joined by exhibit co-organizer Debbie Allen, far right; Sandra Grant-Griffiths, consol general for the Consulate General of Jamaica, far left; and Marlon Farquharson, second from left, cousin to legendary Reggae musician Dennis Emmanuel Brown also known as “The Crown Prince of Reggae.” All are in front of a permanent exhibit at the Hard Rock featuring authentic clothing and a signed picture of Brown in his honor Oct. 10. Brown died in 1999.

Seminole royalty attend Okeechobee Labor Day Parade



OKEECHOBEE — Miss Florida Seminole 2011-2012 Jewel Buck from the Brighton Reservation has already started her appearances at the request of Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. in her first parade during Okeechobee Labor Day where she rode on the back of a black convertible. Joining her was Junior Miss Seminole Jaryaca Baker, Little Miss Seminole Brooke Yescas and last but not least Little Mister Seminole Caleb Burton. Wanda Bowers also attended as the chaperone.

At the end of the parade Jewel Buck, along with all the other royalties who attended the parade, came up at the park in the town’s center and introduced themselves. It was a beautiful day to celebrate Labor Day with the entire crowd looking on at all the other entries in the parade from fire engines to horses.

– Stories and photos submitted by Wanda Bowers



Julian A. Dimmock

Mary Sanchez' mother, Lena Billie Motlow, is second from left in this 1910 archive photo taken in the Everglades Panther Clan camp.

When Mary was 17, the boarding school closed. She rejoined her family who had moved to the old camp on the curve in Immokalee, so they would be close to farm work and the local school that started accepting Seminole students.

“I worked in the fields with Tony while our children were young and sometimes took them with me,” Mary said. “Back then whole families worked together. Picking was hard work for the kids, but it taught them to be responsible and helped them to realize that they needed an education if they wanted to get a better job. For many years, I would stay in Immokalee with our children while Tony had to follow the crops up north to support us. Finally he was able to get a job in construction and worked on a dredge.”

Mary said all parents need to encourage their children to stay in school and try to get a career they can rely upon. The children of today are the leaders of tomorrow. All of her children went to school and some have attended college and vocational training schools.

“It is very important to remember that we are all God’s children,” Mary said. “When I was little and living at Dania, the Rev. Stanley Smith came from Oklahoma for revivals. This is when I was first saved and I was later baptized out at Big Cypress. My uncles Josie Billie and Ingraham Billie both found the Lord and followed his path as ministers and leaders.”

“You need to bring your children to the church and teach them to follow the ways of our Lord,” Mary said. “Pray for our Tribal leaders that they may have guidance and the strength to make decisions that will ensure our future and preserve our heritage.”

Tribal member Everett Osceola elected to American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association board



Photo courtesy of Shammes El-Hout

Tribal member Everett Osceola was elected to the board of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association.

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Tribal member Everett Osceola was elected to the board of the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association, a nonprofit association of Native American tribes and tribal businesses organized in 1999 to advance Indian Country tourism. The purpose of the Association is to serve as the voice and the resource for its constituents in advancing tourism; to assist tribes in creating infrastructure and capacity; and to provide technical assistance, training and educational resources to Tribes, Tribal organizations and Tribal members, according to its website. Osceola represented the Eastern Region on Sept. 14 during the 13th annual American Indian Tourism Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz.

– Submitted by Shammes El-Hout

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Native Music Awards elude Battiest brothers . . . this time



Peter B. Gallagher

Zach “Doc” Battiest, left, *The Storm* music video director Steven Paul Judd, center, and Spencer Battiest.

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. — The 13th annual Native American Music Awards took place Friday, Oct. 7 at the Seneca Niagara Casino and Hotel, celebrating the best in music from members of the First Nations. Carrying three 2011 nominations, with a legion of Florida fans following their every move on Twitter and Facebook, performing artists Spencer and Doc Battiest traveled north hoping to be the first Seminoles since James E. Billie (1999) to win at least one of the Native music industry’s highest awards. Unfortunately, a Mohawk named Bear Fox won the Best Debut Artist, Northern Cheyennes Joseph Firecrow, Thomasina Levy and others shared the Song Single of the Year and Nake Nula Waun, from Rosebud Sioux, took home the Best Hip Hop Song NAMMY. *The Storm*, a hip hop tribute to the Seminole Tribe, struck out. But the Battiest Brothers are unfazed. “The experience was just great even though we didn’t win,” said an upbeat (no pun intended) Doc (Zach) Battiest. “I couldn’t believe how people recognized us. We had no idea anyone would know us. It really opened our eyes to the many genres of music where Native artists excel – classical guitar, there was even an opera singer. And they were great.” “It was a fabulous experience. One of the Councilmen for Seneca told me he had changed his

schedule around, during budget week, to attend just so he could meet Doc and me,” said Spencer, who said the highlight of their trip was taking the main stage to present 13-year-old Montaukett sensation Dylan Janet Collins, who won the Best Pop Recording NAMMY. “She blew everybody away!” Because it finished production after the NAMMY deadline, the video version of *The Storm* was not eligible for this year’s awards. But it will be up for consideration next year. “We’ve got high hopes. We had an overwhelming response to that video out there at the NAMMYS. It really made us feel good to know our names are already out there with the best in the country!” Spencer said. Doc is more to the point: “I know we’re gonna win. I feel it so strong in my heart. When you work so hard at something, when it’s your own brain child, you just can’t believe no other way!” The Brothers will attend a prestigious screening of the video – even perform the song live – at the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco, Nov. 11-12 at the 970-seat Palace Theatre. The Native American Music Awards was created as a method to provide Native music and its artists proper respect on a national level and prove that there is a viable and professional mainstream industry. It was also created to give Native youth on reservations the needed inspiration and opportunities to pursue a professional career and garner greater exposure.

National Indian Child Welfare Association training sessions come to Hollywood

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The National Indian Child Welfare Association (or NICWA) brought child welfare workers, social work students and instructors, and mental health professionals together to discuss issues of Native child welfare on Oct. 4-6. More than 70 enrollees participated in specialized training sessions focused on two classes: Positive Indian Parenting and Indian Child Welfare Association (ICWA) basic training and policy at the Hard Rock over the three-day event. “I am really proud we were able to bring this here to the Seminole reservation,” said Ted Nelson Sr., Tribal citizen and seven-year NICWA Board of Directors Vice President. “Tribal Council has always been a big supporter of this organization. It is also the first time this (NICWA training) has been brought to the southeastern U.S.” Nadeen Jimmy, a social service worker and session participant from the Nooksack Indian Tribe, said she was glad she and daughter Joal Galindo made the more than 3,300 mile trek to Seminole country from Deming, Wash. “This was important because we (as Nooksack Tribal citizens) have a lot of young parents and they do not have the tools to be a parent,” Jimmy said. “It is our job to teach them. We have a lot of parents that

have lost their children also, and this is good in trying to help them.” NICWA, an extension of the Indian Child Welfare Act (or ICWA) of 1978, aims to keep American Indian children with their birth families. According to NICWA’s website, the private, nonprofit organization based out of Portland, Ore. works to address the issues of child abuse and neglect through training, research, public policy and grassroots community development. Members include tribes and individuals of Native and non-Native origin and private organizations from around the United States. It receives its funding from those memberships, as well as individual and corporate donations, fundraising events, program contracts and fees for service, curriculum sales, foundation and federal grants. The organization also improves the lives of Native children and families by helping tribes and other service providers implement services that are culturally competent, community-based and focused on strengths and assets of families including: collaborating with tribal and urban Indian child welfare programs to increase their service capacity, enhancing tribal-state relationships, and providing training, technical assistance, information services and alliance building. The 2012 NICWA national conference will be held April 22-25, 2012 in Scottsdale, Ariz.



Chris C. Jenkins

Waiter Carter, center, preservation coordinator of the Family Services Department in Hollywood, works on a group activity with fellow Positive Indian Parenting training class participants.



Chris C. Jenkins

Mark Billie, Family Services Tribal Outreach worker, takes notes during day three of a National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) training course held at the Hard Rock on Oct. 4-6.

Seminole Moments introduces Christianity to discussion topics



Rachel Buxton

Willie Johns talks about how Christianity was introduced to the Seminole Tribe during Seminole Moments on Oct. 12 at the Brighton Cattle and Range. Johns explains that Christianity didn’t develop in Seminole Country until after the Third Seminole War when Southern Baptist missionaries from Oklahoma visited Seminole campsites to spread the word.

Tribal Board of Directors convene for special meeting

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Board of Directors met on the Hollywood Reservation at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium for a special meeting and passed seven new resolutions on the Sept. 28 agenda including: Resolution 8: Retention of Seminole Energy Unlimited to develop under a joint venture relationship with Winners Energy Group, a strategic solar energy business plan Resolution 9: Retention of Blue Stone Strategy Group as consultant for the assessment of convenience stores and RV Park Resolution 10: Adoption of safety manual for use by Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc. employees Resolution 11: Approval of fiscal year 2012 budget

Meet the Public Works Department



The Public Works Department provides system-wide service on all activities involving tribally owned and operated facilities, utilities, transfer stations and roads and contains facilities on the Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee Reservations. With a staff of 59 full-time employees, the Department administers and manages the construction, operation and maintenance of the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s infrastructure for water, wastewater and distribution collection systems, facilities, sanitation services, and road maintenance to meet existing and future needs of the Tribal Council and community, offering the following services to Tribal residents: ·Wastewater collection maintenance and repairs ·Wastewater treatment facilities ·Water distribution maintenance and repairs ·Water treatment facilities ·Waste collection and disposal ·Recycling collection and disposal ·Road maintenance In addition, the Public Works Department consists of the following divisions: Administration, Maintenance & Operations, Solid Waste Disposal, Road Maintenance and Construction and Utilities – including Water, Wastewater & Distribution/Collection Systems. A breakdown of each division follows. **Administration:** The Administration Division functions as the Department’s coordinator and provides leadership to the Department as a whole. Administration also serves as the support division for the entire Department.

Maintenance & Operations: The Maintenance & Operations Division consists of field staff and project managers who service a variety of needs and supplies for the Department ranging from fleet ordination to equipment function and from day-to-day operation and construction services to new construction and electrical support. **Solid Waste Disposal:** The Solid Waste Disposal Division handles the disposal of all residential household waste, including bulk trash and recycled goods. **Road Maintenance and Construction:** The Road Maintenance Division services a variety of technical installations and repairs for the Department. **Utilities:** This Division contains three divisions. *Water:* The Utilities Division oversees the production of ground water to the residential property for consumption and use. *Wastewater:* This Division oversees the treatment of sewage water with high quality effluent for reuse. And *Distribution/Collection:* This Division supplies potable and irrigation water (where applicable) and collection of sewer water as well as upkeep of water mains and lift stations. The Department makes it its mission to provide reliable, efficient and effective infrastructure and utility services to the Tribe’s members, residences and Tribal facilities by utilizing cost-effective measures and innovative industry initiatives to succeed in task in the hopes of obtaining recognition as a leader in the delivery of public services. Therefore, in an attempt to keep citizens informed of important updates and facts, the Public Works Department will feature a new issue or project each month in *The Tribune*. For more information about Public Works, call Emran Rahaman at 954-894-1060 x10923. For questions about drinking water call, 1-866-625-5376.



Photo courtesy of the Public Works Department

The Brighton Water Treatment Plant is one of several facilities operated by the Public Works Department to ensure Tribal citizens have safe, clean water for consumption and use.

★ **FAIR**
From page 1A

at Pembroke, a public, co-educational, historically Native American liberal arts university.

Morgan Warriax, UNC Pembroke Recruiter and Assistant Director for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions said UNC Pembroke specifically targets Natives.

“This school was founded to educate Native Americans; why would a potential student want to go to any other school?” said Warriax, a 2006 graduate from the university. “We want to create a second home, a home away from home to help make students feel more connected.”

She said UNC Pembroke currently has a Native population of 18-20 percent and according to *U.S. News & World Report* ranks first in the South for student body diversity.

Stephanie Hall, Tribal citizen and current Nova Southeastern legal studies student, as well as Gyasi Ross, Native attorney and author, also made special guest speaking appearances to the students and representatives on hand.

“I encourage you to go far and throw yourself into the college experience,” Hall said. “It is all preparation for life afterwards.”



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal teen Andre Jumper asks questions from the Tribal Human Resources staff during the Oct. 14 College Fair.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal student Sabre Billie of the Big Cypress Reservation receives materials from a representative of Syracuse University in New York.

Keeping homes, property, valuables and vehicles safe takes responsibility

BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD
Police Chief

There is no absolute way to protect our home, property, valuables and vehicles. However, through taking responsibility and being vigilant we can increase the odds of being successful in our endeavors. Safety and security is everyone’s business. Here are some suggestions we can all implement:

Home Security

- Get to know your neighbors. They are more inclined to pay attention to the surroundings and alert you if something does not seem safe if they know who you are.
- Vary your daily routine as much as possible.
- When away from your residence for an extended period remember to have the mail and newspapers stopped. Leaving them is a telltale sign you may not be home.
- The installation of a monitored alarm system would be a great deterrent.
- Do not tell people you do not trust you will be away from your home.
- Always let officers with Seminole Police Department know you are leaving, so a House Watch may be implemented.
- Various door alarms are available to install on an ordinary door.
- Cylinder deadlocks provide extra protection when used in addition to a regular lock.
- Indoor lights on timers to simulate someone is home is a great device for safety.
- Secure valuables such as jewelry and important documents in a safe or safe deposit box.
- Be sure all windows and doors are locked before you leave your home.
- The old “stick in the track” does effectively keep a window from being slid open.

- Never post on the Internet or social media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, etc. when you are leaving home or away from home.

Yard Security

- Placing a gate with a good lock around your yard is a deterrent.
- Lights on timers improve home security. This will allow for your yard to be lit up allowing for others to think there are occupants in the dwelling, even if you are not home.
- Spotlights and floodlights enhance security around the yard.
- A dog can be an asset in scaring thieves away from your property.
- If you are going to be away for an extended period, please remember to have the yard taken care of as if you are home so thieves will not suspect you are gone.

Vehicle Security

- Most vehicles come with a few security measures already installed. Use some of these and you will be on your way to preventing a theft of the vehicle.
- Lock your vehicle, and remove the keys. A great majority of vehicles are stolen because they were left unlocked.
- Park in well-lit areas, and always place valuables in the trunk as opposed to the inside of the vehicle.
- Close your windows, and do not place spare keys on the vehicle. Leave your spare key with a loved one.
- Vehicle alarms along with stickers proclaiming the car is protected by an alarm are great deterrents.
- Lock bars, steering wheel collars and tire locks are also effective forms of protecting your vehicle from being stolen.

We all take pride in our homes, property, valuables and vehicles. We need to be vigilant and protect our assets. Implementing these safety tips is a great start in protecting our belongings.

What is Compulsive Gambling?

SUBMITTED BY THE FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Gambling addiction is a mental-health problem that is understood to be one of many kinds of impulse-control problems a person may suffer from. The types of gambling that people with this disorder might engage in are as variable as the games available. Betting on sports, buying lotto tickets, playing poker, slot machines or roulette are only a few of the activities in which compulsive gamblers engage. The venue of choice for individuals with gambling addiction varies as well. While many prefer gambling in a casino, the rate of online/Internet gambling addiction continues to increase with increased use of the Internet. Gambling addiction is also called compulsive gambling or pathological gambling.

Estimates of the number of people who gamble socially qualify for being diagnosed with a gambling addiction range from 2 to 5 percent, thereby affecting millions of people in the United States alone. Although more men than women are thought to suffer from pathological gambling, women are developing this disorder at higher rates, now making up as much as 25 percent of individuals with pathological gambling. Other facts about compulsive gambling are that men tend to develop this disorder during their early teenage years while women tend to develop it later. However, the disorder in women then tends to get worse at a much faster rate than in men. Other apparently gender-based differences in gambling addiction include the tendencies for men to become addicted to more interpersonal forms of gaming like blackjack, craps or poker, whereas women tend to engage in less interpersonally based betting like slot machines or bingo. Men with pathological gambling tend to receive counseling about issues other than gambling less often than their female counterparts.

Compulsive gambling involves persistent and recurring problem gambling that includes several of the following symptoms and are not the result of another mental-health problem:

- A preoccupation with gambling, either by reliving past gambling, planning for future gambling experiences and/or thinking of ways to secure money to finance gambling
- Needing more and more money for gambling in order to achieve the desired level of gambling enjoyment
- Repeated unsuccessful attempts to stop or reduce betting behaviors
- Becoming uneasy or easily irritated when trying to reduce or stop gambling
- Gambling for the purpose of escaping problems or to relieve sadness or anxiety
- Returning to gambling after losing money in an effort to recoup losses
- Lying to family or other loved ones, mental-health professionals or others in an effort to hide the extent of the gambling behavior
- Committing crimes (for example, stealing, fraud or forgery) in an effort to finance gambling
- Risking important relationships, employment or other opportunities because of gambling

Should you wish to learn more about compulsive gambling abuse, please feel free to schedule a confidential meeting with a Family Services Counselor on your respective reservation.

Source: http://www.medicinenet.com/gambling_addiction

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Smallwood Store reopens but road remains an issue

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
 Special Projects Reporter

CHOKOLOSKEE — Mamie Street is back. Sort of.

A thin gray stretch of mud, pothole, standing water and stone now provide access to the Ted Smallwood Store and Museum at the extreme southwestern tip of Florida. The access — more of a path than a road — was provided by Florida Georgia Grove LLC (FGG), the Highland County development outfit that removed the road six months ago in a failed attempt to strongarm state, federal and Collier County agencies.

Judge Hugh Hayes ordered the road replaced after a hearing in which he declared Mamie Street — the only access road to the historic 116-year-old Store — existed as a “prescriptive easement,” maintained by the county for public use and not a private road owned by the developers.

The current “access” was finished right on Oct. 15 — the deadline set by Judge Hayes. “What they have created is unacceptable,” said attorney Rachael Loukenon, who filed a motion asking Judge Hayes to intervene. “The Judge told them to put the road back the way it was when they took it out. This is nothing like the former Mamie Street.”

Mamie Street, named for Collier pioneer and Store founder Ted Smallwood’s wife, is the oldest road on the island, the largest in the Ten Thousand Islands chain. “Mamie Street was paved. This is not. You could fit two cars, side by side on the old Mamie Street. This one barely fits one. It’s a joke,” said a beleaguered Lynn Smallwood-McMillin, who manages her grandfather’s old Store. “Tour buses can’t make it to the Store. We have a lot of people drive up, take one look at the road and they turn around. People are afraid to take their cars on it.”

FGG surprised county officials earlier in October by filing a motion demanding Judge Hayes remove himself from the case, accusing him of acting partial



Peter B. Gallagher

“Mamie Street is in worse shape today than it was 100 years ago.” — Lynn Smallwood-McMillin

to county issues since the Collier Courthouse Annex building is named for him. Collier County partnered with the Smallwood Store in demanding the access be restored. At press time, the Judge had not yet ruled on FGG’s motion.

For further updates on the Smallwood Store issue, check out The Seminole Tribune’s Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/The-Seminole-Tribune/214507311940029>.

♦ LIAISON

From page 1A

Liaison Henry said he hopes he can contribute to the formation of the new community, which he said will have facilities for youth recreation and elders similar to other Tribal reservations: “But, I want to point out that we are only going to develop a fraction of this land. I want the folks in Polk County to know we really want to keep it natural.”

“My grandmother was so looking forward to it happening. She was there the day we purchased the land, but passed away without knowing if it would go into trust,” said Liaison Henry, who said county, city and state officials have been agreeable to the Seminoles’ plans. “We’ve always made a point of getting along with our neighbors.”

Once, during a severe 1985 drought in west central Florida, Bobby Henry, a Tampa Seminole resident known as the rainmaker, was called to the steps of city hall by exasperated municipal officials worried about the area’s dwindling water supply and fires. Immediately following a ceremony, the skies darkened, shocking area weathermen.

“Oh yeah, it rained gooood,” laughed Liaison Henry. “We will do anything we can for our neighbors!”



Photo courtesy of Germain-Osceola Racing

If the Seminole Tribe of Florida sponsors the NASCAR Germain-Osceola No. 13 Toyota, it would look similar to this mock-up design.



Photo courtesy of John Harrington

Tribal member O.B. Osceola Jr. engages in conversation with Kevin Gover, director of the National Museum of the American Indian, at the July 26 Congressional Native American Caucus reception on the National Mall.

Tribal Community Police Training returns to Hard Rock



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizens and members of the Seminole Police Department discuss community issues as part of the Tribal Community and Police Problem Solving Teams Training (TTEAMS) held at the Hard Rock on Oct. 5-6. The two-day, annual event was held to help strengthen relationships between law enforcement, Tribal agencies and Tribal communities.



Chris C. Jenkins

Michele Daza, Seminole Police Department crime prevention officer, writes down community team goals.



Chris C. Jenkins

Seminole Police Department service Aaide Terry Tartsah Sr., right, asks for input during a group activity.

♦ VERSATILITY

From page 3A

Corey’s son, O.B. Osceola Sr., 77, is a prominent Naples community resident and, for 50 years, has maintained a world-renowned chickee-building crew whose palmetto-thatched structures cover Florida, the Southeast and the Caribbean.

“I was raised right here in Naples, went to Catholic school and had a lot of good mentors,” said O.B. Jr., whose family were independent Seminoles until joining the Tribe in 1984. “I listened to my grandfather. I watched my dad. I saw how he made his living working with his hands AND his mind. You have to have a good mind when you are in construction. It was great motivation to see my father operate his business. Watching and working with him, that’s how I learned business. One thing I really admired is, all those years, my dad had the same crew. He took care of his good workers.”

For seven years, O.B. Jr. served as Tribal liaison to the Naples community. “I really learned a lot as liaison. Essentially, I learned how the Tribe works,” he recalled. “Then I started to see opportunity. I started learning how to take an idea to fruition. I’ve always liked a challenge. That’s what business does for me. It’s a challenge.”

“I just didn’t want to be one direction. I wanted to break new ground. Like (Tribal Chairman) James Billie. He used to tell me how exciting it was to go where no one else has been. He inspired me. I feel as if I am breaking new ground in the footsteps he first laid out.”

When South Florida entrepreneur Bob Germain joined forces with O.B. Jr. earlier this year, creating Germain-Osceola Racing, new NASCAR ground was broken. The pair worked out a deal to share sponsorship with GEICO and handle the full sponsorship of 10 races in the 2012 season. The first race for the No. 13 Sprint Cup Toyota, under the Germain-Osceola banner, will be next February at the Daytona 500. “We have the driver — Casey Mears — and are working on the sponsorships now,” said O.B. Jr., who plans to sell sponsorships to American Indian Tribes, particularly gaming tribes. “A lot of Tribes are interested, including the Chickasaws in Oklahoma. Nike is also interested.”

“I have a big vision for our Tribes,” O.B. Jr. told *Naples News*, last month. “I wanted to be somewhat of a pioneer. The opportunity came where I realized there was no Native American owners in NASCAR, so that became a goal of mine. It inspired me to get involved with Bob.”

Prominent racing site CatchFence.com reported that O. B. Osceola Jr. has been “instrumental in constructing and managing a number of large-scale projects for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, including fundraising and construction for Florida’s Immokalee Casino and overseeing the Tribe’s ownership of the Hard Rock and Hollywood Hotel/Casino franchises.”

O.B.’s vodka idea, however, caught the interest of Seminole Hard Rock Gaming CEO Jim Allen. “I’ve always wanted to get into the spirits business. It seemed to me there was a lot of opportunity there,” O.B. Jr. said, holding up a new bottle of Hard Rock Vodka with the distinctive Hard Rock guitar brand etched into the glass. “I

was there when the Tribe bought the Hard Rock brand. I watched it all transpire. I thought, this is a lifestyle brand. Even my grandfather knew about Elvis; he knew it was rock and roll. It was a lifestyle brand, transgenerational. I thought, ‘Why not create a spirit for this?’”

“I made it through the Hard Rock intellectual design battle — they are very particular about how they represent the brand,” said O.B. Jr., who signed up Southern Wine and Spirits to handle the distribution. “They are the New York Yankees of spirits distribution.”

The vodka, itself, is imported from England, bottled by LiDestri Spirits of Rochester, N.Y. and “available right now all over Florida. By year one, we will be in 15 states; in year two, we’ll pick up 25 more; and by year three, we will be everywhere,” added the young entrepreneur, who had a star-studded grand launching of the product in September at Bongos at the Hard Rock Paradise.

A chance meeting on an airplane (flying to a NASCAR race) with insurance executive Carl Pittman last year also led to the creation of what is now called Osceola Group Insurance Inc. “He leaned over and asked me if I was Seminole. We started to talk about insurance,” O.B. Jr. said. “I don’t like to talk too long, though. I like to do it.”

Only a few weeks later, O.B. Jr. found himself as the overseer and manager of the new company’s acquisition and expansion of business underwriting services throughout North America, marshalling a staff of agents and management licensed in all 50 states. “Nowadays, there is a strong Native-to-Native business initiative out there. We plan to take advantage of that,” said O.B. Jr., who points out that the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) has officially endorsed Osceola Group Insurance Inc. as a preferred carrier for American Indian Tribes. “Every tribe needs insurance,” he said. “Whatever they need, we can handle it.”

Speaking of NIGA, the countrywide Indian gaming clearinghouse needed an expansion of its Washington, D.C. headquarters and put out a Request for Bids. Guess who came in with the low bid and high marks for quality assurance?

Talako Construction LLC, a Native American owned general contractor and construction management firm located in Naples. “We got in with the NIGA officials. They want to promote Native businesses. We bid and came in lower. So we are going to add an auditorium, conference center, garden area and redo the NIGA parking lot,” said O.B. Jr., who joined with the existing Cleveland Construction Inc. to form Talako in 2010. “We just signed a \$1.5 million Lincoln-Mercury renovation right here in Naples, and we bid on a casino project in Baltimore. We are on target to bring in \$25 million in projects over the next year, looking for a lot of them right here in Indian Country.”

Now that’s business.

“Every business model I’ve done was specifically designed NOT to just run to the Tribe,” said Seminole’s Mr. Versatility. “I didn’t want to be a burden to my own Tribe. I wanted to do what I could independently. I wanted to break new ground.”

Vodka, Insurance, NASCAR, Construction. What’s next?

O.B. Osceola smiled: “Stay tuned.”

Health

Native Americans are at risk for breast cancer and should be aware of the facts

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

Every three minutes a woman in the U.S. is diagnosed with breast cancer. Every 13 minutes a woman in the U.S. dies from breast cancer. Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer death in women, after lung cancer.

Cancer alone has become a growing concern in Native Americans. Unfortunately, cancer data on Native Americans is limited because of low clinical trial participation, unidentified information on health forms and communities not on cancer registries.

With breast cancer rates continuing to rise, it is estimated that one in eight women will develop invasive breast cancer at some point in their lives. Native Americans fortunately have the lowest risk of developing breast cancer among ethnic groups. However, if diagnosed, they have a higher rate of mortality.

The reason for this alarming statistic rests with the fact that Native Americans tend to find out about having breast cancer at a later stage when it is far more advanced and harder to treat. Few Native women get their annual breast cancer screening, which causes late diagnoses, but regular screening help with early detection.

No guaranteed prevention exists, but women can reduce their risk by limiting their intake of alcohol and maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle.

Numerous studies have proven a clear link between the use of alcohol and an increased risk of developing breast cancer. The risk increases with the more alcohol consumed. The American Cancer Society recommends that women limit their alcohol use to one alcoholic drink a day.

Maintaining a healthy weight has also proven to reduce the risk of breast cancer. Overweight women battle higher blood insulin levels, and high insulin levels affect the risk of breast cancer. After menopause, weight becomes a more important issue because of estrogen levels.

Balancing diet and physical activity can reduce a woman's risk by 18 percent, according to a study from the Women's Health Initiative. As little as 1.25 to 2.5 hours per week of brisk walking can help reduce the risk of breast cancer.

It is recommended for early breast cancer detection that women ages 40 and older receive a mammogram every year, and old age should not be a reason to stop having annual mammograms. As long as a woman is in good health and is able to receive treatment, she should continue to receive her screening.

In addition, women in their 20s and 30s should have a clinical breast exam (CBE) every year as part of their regular health exam. Breast self-exams should also be conducted to notice any breast changes in between exams.

Breast cancer is hereditary. Having a first-degree relative – such as a mother, sister or daughter – with breast cancer doubles a woman's risk. Knowing family history helps with early detection.

While breast cancer is normally associated with women, men too can develop breast cancer and should also be aware and speak to their physicians.



Rachel Buxton

The Mobile Mammo bus visits Brighton on Oct. 12, giving Tribal members an opportunity to get their annual mammogram to help with early detection and to raise awareness toward the deadly cancer.

There is hope for those diagnosed with breast cancer. In 2010, more than 2.5 million people affected by breast cancer in the U.S. survived.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Health Department is readily available to answer any questions or concerns regarding breast cancer. In honor of October being Breast Cancer Awareness month, the mobile mammogram bus will make visits to the different reservations offering free mammogram screenings to Tribal members.

Also, the Health Department offers programs, such as the Pathways walking program and individual nutritional counseling, to help Tribal members stay healthy and active, all helping to reduce the risk of breast cancer.

For more on what's readily available, contact your local reservation's Health Department.

Brighton aims for better health with new Pathways program

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Brighton's Health Department kicked off its annual Pathways program Sept. 14 with learning, walking and food.

This is the third year the Pathways walking program has been offered to the Tribal communities. During the previous two years, the programs included walks that earned participants points over the season, but this year the Health Department has added some new elements to help raise the interest level.

"The program was expanded to include a nutrition/wellness lesson," said Barbara Boling of the Brighton Health Department. "The health lesson helps to reinforce that nutrition and exercise are both necessary for overall wellness."

Every Wednesday participants meet in the Brighton field office where they begin with the nutrition lesson. Lessons touch on subjects such as saturated fat and cholesterol.

After a short lesson on the nutritional topic for the week, participants take to the community for their Pathways walk where they compete against others in their age category. Each member wears a pedometer to calculate his or her steps. After the designated time limit, steps are recorded and winners receive a small trophy that they keep for the week. Each week the trophies go back up for grabs.

"I think they like the challenge of getting the most steps on their pedometer each week," Boling said. "We have a really competitive group."

Following the walking portion, the department puts on a short trivia contest pertaining to the lesson topic. "The contest is thought provoking," Boling said. "But at the same time it is fun."

Each session concludes with a healthy bagged lunch provided by the Health Department.

Boling said that they also ask each participant to make a goal at the start of the program and that the Health Department through the Pathways program helps the group reach their health goals one at a time.

"Everyone in this group is at a different fitness level," she said. "It doesn't matter if you can run the mile in eight minutes or your walking that mile takes 20 minutes. Your goal is to move more, so anything we can do to help you reach that goal is a success."



Rachel Buxton

Barbara Boling gives a quick lesson on how to cut down your daily sodium intake.

Small changes can make a big difference

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez

Hello Everyone! It's Paula. For those of you not familiar with me, I'm a member of the Snake Clan and daughter of the late Mildred Bowers. I have lived on the Hollywood Reservation for most of my life. I will be writing a monthly column to share my opinions, suggestions and ideas, as well as answer questions about health/fitness, wellness and education. I am very passionate about bringing awareness to the prevalence of diabetes, heart disease and what living a healthy lifestyle with regular exercise and small changes in eating habits can do for you and your loved ones.

My mother passed away almost a year ago from complications brought on by different medical problems. She was an insulin-dependent diabetic, and her physical challenges made it difficult for her to have an active life. Sometimes I think I could have done more in the way of helping her live a healthier lifestyle, but if you knew Mildred, you know she was not one to follow orders!

Now, however, I have a chance to encourage others to make small changes that can make a big difference. Now, I don't want to just sit back and watch. Now, I want to get involved and help in any way I can. Although I have not struggled with a major weight problem, I do have issues with the cycle of gaining and losing weight, pushing myself to exercise and trying to eat right. It's a challenge, but I ask myself every day, "What do I want my son to learn from me today; what do I want to accomplish today?"

Another area I'd like to discuss is education. A

healthy mind is just as important as a healthy body. But, we have quite a large number of students who do not make it all the way to graduation, and I want to help figure out a way to get all of you up on that stage to receive your diploma. And for those of you contemplating going back to get your GED – do it! Set your goals and go for it: no limits! You are in control of your destiny; no one puts limits on you but you.

My childhood years were not picture perfect. I was surrounded by alcoholism and substance abuse, but I decided that I did not want to go down that path. So, I graduated high school and went on to college where I received both my bachelor's and my master's degrees. We all come from similar backgrounds, so if I can do it, then so can you!

Watch for my next column, and please, if you have any comments or questions about health/fitness, wellness and education, please send them to me at plbowers1@aol.com.

Paula Bowers-Sanchez is a Seminole Tribal citizen, an accomplished actress (film, television, theater) and vocalist who is a lifelong fitness enthusiast.



Infection control in the home

SUBMITTED BY PATRICK PECK
Environmental Health Program Manager

Infection Prevention Week this year was October 16-22. This is a time when the health care industry makes a great effort to promote safe, hygienic hospital practices. However, infection control is not just a thing for hospitals, clinics and medical offices. Infection Control Week is an annual opportunity to acknowledge the important work of cleaning and disinfecting all high-surface contact areas deemed as sources for contamination and infections.

We would like to offer you with some thoughts about how you might celebrate Infection Control Week by minimizing the spread of germs and infection around your home.

Tips on how to maintain effective infection control in the home are as follows:

It's something we all know. Germs, bacteria and viruses are everywhere. If you looked on your body, clothes and everyday household items and appliances with a microscope, it would scare you stiff. Now I'm not saying that we all should walk around wearing masks and gloves, but a few simple lifestyle changes can greatly reduce the spread of germs and bacteria. Many of them may seem common sense, but many of them we don't think about at all when we SHOULD.

• **Your Body:** Daily bathing is essential. Don't just assume that as long as you're not stinking, that you don't need to bathe. Take showers, NOT BATHS. As warm and soothing as a bath is, you are literally lying in your own filth. If you truly desire a bath, take a shower first to get your body clean. That will minimize the muck left in the water during a bath. A clean body promotes infection control.

• **Your Clothes:** Wear clean and dry clothes. A clean body means nothing if your clothes are ridden with bacteria and germs. Clean, fresh clothes promote infection control.

• **Your Home:** Two rooms in particular are your bathroom and kitchen surfaces. The bathroom for obvious reasons and the kitchen simply because you prepare food for consumption. Use bleach-based toilet, bathroom and kitchen cleaners. Bleach KILLS bacteria! Get rid of any wood cutting boards you may have in your kitchen. You can scrub them but they will still have bacteria embedded in them. A synthetic

vinyl or plastic one is easier to clean, and it will not just LOOK clean; it will BE clean.

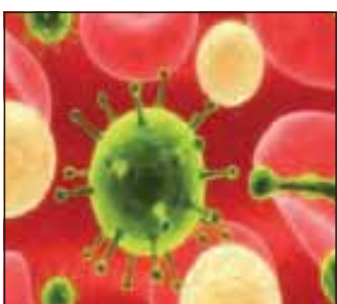
• **Household Surfaces:** Sure this is part of your home but it's very important. I'm sure you clean your kitchen table, coffee

table and night stands but what about your computer keyboard, door knobs, the toilet flush handle, the television remote or the microwave control panel? These are commonly touched things in your house. Some of them are touched more than others or are touched by far more different people than others, but they all contain germs and some of them you've likely SELDOM or NEVER cleaned before. Clean those surfaces with bleach-based cleaner and/or spray them with Lysol. Lysol kills bacteria too and promotes infection control.

• **Wash Your Hands:** Wash your hands! Wash your hands! Wash your hands! I can't say it enough. The No. 1 cause of the spread of bacteria and other germs is lack of frequent and/or proper hand washing. How long should I wash my hands? A good exercise in determining the proper time element is to sing a verse of the song, *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*. In the health care profession, workers are trained to wash their hands before and after assisting each patient. It is said that a busy CNA or nurse's hands and finger tips should look pruned like they just got out of the pool or washed the dishes. Good and frequent hand washing promotes infection control.

The spread of germs and bacteria is inevitable. You can't avoid it, but following these simple rules and making these changes can make a considerable impact on your and your family's health and enable you to help reduce the spread of germs and bacteria (Excerpts credited from 2006 Yahoo! Contributor Network.)

For more information on this subject, call the Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Department at 954-985-2330.



Walgreens may be dropped as a prescription provider

BY CONNIE WHIDDEN
Health Director

The Seminole Tribe of Florida uses Express Scripts as the company to manage your prescription drug benefit. Express Scripts has indicated that it is attempting to control costs, and therefore to keep your prescription drugs affordable to the Tribe and accessible to you.

Express Scripts has told us that because of proposed price increases by Walgreens, Express Scripts and Walgreens appear to be unable to reach an agreement to retain Walgreens as a participating provider in our prescription drug network in 2012. So while you may continue to use Walgreens as a preferred provider without interruption until Dec. 31, 2011, unless Walgreens and Express Scripts reach an agreement before year end, it appears that Walgreens will stop participating as a provider in the Express Scripts pharmacy network, starting on Jan. 1, 2012. This means that if you choose to use Walgreens (or any other non-participating pharmacy) to fill a prescription in 2012, payment of the full (undiscounted) price for the prescription will be your responsibility.

Fortunately, Express Scripts has analyzed other pharmacy options for you, and they have told us that on average, there is another pharmacy within half a mile of a Walgreens pharmacy that will still be considered "in network" on and after Jan. 1, 2012, and can fill prescriptions. Of course, we encourage

you to consider utilizing our "in house" pharmacy (Seminole Pharmacy).

If you wish to switch pharmacies for 2012 or at any other time, you can do any one of the following things:

1. Take your prescription bottle to the Seminole Pharmacy or other participating retailer; they will contact your old pharmacy to transfer your prescription.

2. Call the Seminole Pharmacy at 1-866-961-7210 or other participating retail pharmacy and ask them to contact your old pharmacy to transfer your prescription.

3. Ask your doctor to call the Seminole Pharmacy or other participating retail pharmacy with your prescription information.

You can find a complete list of local participating pharmacies by signing in to www.express-scripts.com and clicking on "Find a Pharmacy."

We appreciate your patience and understanding as Express Scripts implements this change. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Express Scripts at 1-877-508-1379, Seminole Pharmacy at 1-866-961-7210, or you may contact one of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Clinics.

This notice describes an upcoming administrative change that will impact you only if you currently use Walgreens pharmacies to fill your prescription drugs. Any prescriptions that you currently fill at other pharmacies will not be impacted at all by this change.

Editorial

New casinos, Tribal budget

• James E. Billie

As you may know already, there are strong indications that the State of Florida may allow other casinos to be built and operated in Florida. If this does happen, we will have to become involved because as you know, Seminole Tribe of Florida maintains the largest gaming operation in Florida, and the state has allowed us to operate gaming for several years.

I'm proud to say that the money brought in to Florida by the Seminole Tribe through its Hard Rock and other casinos stays here in Florida. It does not go out of the country or even out of the state. But, as I am sure you understand, the impact to the Tribe from such a move by the state, is unknown at this time. The messages flowing in and out of Tallahassee are very complicated and political; everyone involved is either predicting or wondering just what the effect will be on their own part of the state.

We do have our people out there and their ears are to the ground, trying to figure out which direction this is all going to go. As soon as I find out and get the feel of what is going on, I will have community meetings to bring Tribal members up to date.

You will be seeing us on the three largest reservations concerning our budget, to involve community members in our discussions prior to voting to pass the budget. If there

is a program that has been cut and you feel it should be kept, that it was contributing to your community, I hope you will attend

and give us your advice in support or opposition to our budget cuts.

Our budget cuts are not done to hurt anybody in the Tribe but rather to protect our financial situation and allow us to maintain the reserve we need to have. I'm sure there are many of you with questions, and I and the Council will be there to listen to your opinions and advice.

Recently, the Council went to New York to meet with the people who rate bonds and I found out, to my amazement, that Hard Rock is one of the best, in fact the top-rated business, in the world. And that is due to our excellent management team headed by Mr. Jim Allen.

I never dreamed that Seminole people would be working with such high-standard people. I would like to express my thanks to Jim Allen and his team. I'm hoping we will continue to develop other Hard Rock Casinos around the world. Thank you guys at the Hard Rock! Sho naa bisha!

James E. Billie is Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



So much work, so little time to talk

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

As President, one of the concerns I struggle with, almost on a daily basis, relates directly to the great number of issues we are addressing on the Board. There is a lot going on these days, and we are committed to look closely at everything. The concern I am referring to, however, is not about work. It's about time and how there seems to be less and less of this precious commodity available every day. We are examining all our many current enterprises to see how we can make them more efficient and more profitable and, at the same time, we are evaluating a number of brand new ideas, watching presentations and making daily decisions on how much time and money we want to spend, if any, on these new pursuits.

It seems as if all my time is spent (either at the office or traveling) dealing with Tribal business. This is both exiting and frustrating because a key issue of my campaign is to return transparency to the Seminole government. I really want everyone to know what we are doing, so they will have confidence that every member of this Board is busy examining, evaluating and making decisions. I want Tribal members to take comfort that we are all working; none of us are just sitting back and waiting to see what happens.

I am very proud of this Board and how we have all have stepped up to the challenges that faced us when we first came into office. But, transferring all of this information to our communities is proving very difficult. Obviously, it is not practical to have a community meeting at each reservation, every single night. For me to comment like this about all the issues we are working on would take up the whole *Tribune*. And that would only be one day!

I worry every day that we are not imparting enough information to Tribal members. But we can't have constant community meetings. Why just yesterday, after

a full day at the office, I had to catch a helicopter in Hollywood at 5:45 to make it to a meeting in Brighton at 6:30 and then come back later for yet another meeting. There was just not enough time to sit down with everyone and say, "Here is what we did today!"

It's all made even more complicated by the fact Seminole Tribe has so many non-contiguous reservations and Tribal communities, some separated by wide distances. Most Tribes do not have this issue. Full transparency is also complicated by the fact that some of our Tribal business information is sensitive and must remain private to protect our business. Still from Tampa all the way down to Trail, I know people want to know what is going on. I don't blame any of you. Knowledge is important.

Your individual Representatives, Councilmen and Liaisons will help greatly in relaying important government information. You will continue to see us Board members at as many community events at all Tribal areas as possible. But, I feel we just have to do more and I can assure you I am trying to find a solution.

So what do you think we should do? What do we have to create that will let everyone 1) know what is going on and 2) be able to comment? If you have any ideas, let me know! The last thing I want is for people to get their information from rumors or from unauthorized websites or through social media. I have only been President for a couple months and this is, perhaps, the most frustrating part of my job: not being able to communicate the way I want to with all the Tribal members.

Tony Sanchez Jr. is President of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc.



INDIAN COUNTRY ROUNDUP

First Native American TV channel launched

FNX (First Nation's Experience) Television became the first American Indian TV channel, Sept. 25, when the 24/7 high-definition, multiplatform digital media vehicle was launched near San Bernardino in Southern California. Created through a partnership between the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and PBS member station KVCR, FNX is the first multimedia venture in the United States created to accurately educate the general public about Native American realities.

According to Larry Cicalone, CEO of KVCR/FNX, "we will launch the channel nationally next year," producing authentic First Nations storytelling, documentaries, sports, feature films, drama series, news and comedy via the Internet and over the air, satellite and cable broadcast systems. San Manuel Vice Chairwoman Lynn Valbuena said, "Today, Indian Country can take pride in this first major step toward establishing a communications institution to secure a national and international presence utilizing the television medium – a communications medium that all Native and indigenous people can utilize to tell our stories about our cultures and history."

The inaugural program lineup included "Apache 8," the compelling story of an all-female White Mountain Apache firefighting crew, and "Good Meat," an engaging documentary about one man's journey to improve his health by returning to a traditional Lakota diet. Within a year, the channel will have 24-hour, all-Native programs and will be available to Indian Country via Internet streaming.

– Newspaper Rock

Removing Klamath River dams boon to Tribes and Salmon

A plan to remove four dams on the Klamath River in Oregon and California could be a great start for the recovery of both decimated salmon runs in the Northwest and Tribal economies built on the spectacular fish. Since time immemorial, salmon in the Klamath River basin were the basis of Tribal diets, their trade and barter systems; religious ceremonies; and communities — the very lives of the Salmon

People: the Yurok, Karuk, Klamath, Quartz Valley, Hoopa and Resighini. Dams for hydropower and irrigation, along with other insults to the ecosystem, have gutted the multiple yearly salmon runs. Now, fishermen must rely on only the fall Chinook run.

Over the past century, the number of salmon in the run has dwindled from millions of fish to less than 100,000 in most years. Taking out the dams will allow the fish to return to the cold water mountain streams where they spawned for thousands of years and potentially survive even in the face of climate change. Tribal members hope that dam removal will also give them a brighter future, that it will also open the door for a resurgence of the once-strong Tribal economies that relied on salmon. Drug and alcohol abuse, health issues and the exodus of youth are all linked, Tribal leaders say, to the lack of salmon.

– sfgate.com

Salazar reiterates Obama commitment to Indian Country



Interior Secretary Ken Salazar reaffirmed the Obama administration's commitment to Indian Country recently, saying one of the president's "highest priorities" is that the Interior work on behalf of American Indian interests and "make

sure that they get their rightful place at the table." Salazar's comments came in Lower Elwha Klallam, Wash., during a celebration to mark the beginning of the demolition of two hydroelectric dams on the Elwha River, which have inundated Klallam village sites, resource sites, and fishing and hunting areas since 1912, cutting endangered salmon off from 70 miles of their historical upriver habitat.

"When he brought me in to be secretary of the Interior there were a number of priorities that we agreed upon," Salazar said of President Obama. "One of those priorities was to make sure that we were standing up for Tribal issues, which had been so long

neglected in these United States, for over four centuries. Another priority was for us to move forward with a new conservation agenda for the 21st century . . . We all know that the First Americans were here long before we came. They were here since time immemorial. Some of us here may ask ourselves, 'Well, how long have you lived here in this country,' and you can say a generation or two or three or four. In my case and in my daughter Melinda's case, we can say about 400 years. But that's nothing. That's nothing in comparison to the time that Native Americans have inhabited these lands we call the United States of America. And yet for four centuries this country looked the other way, if not in persecution and in oppression, they never recognized the treaty rights and other rights that were inherent in all those treaties for Native Americans . . . So Barack Obama, who has the title, the honorary name of Black Eagle from the Crow Tribe in Montana, said to me, 'One of my highest priorities is that you work on behalf of Native American interests and make sure that they get their rightful place at the table.'"

– Pechanga.net

Man sentenced for paintball on sacred petroglyphs

David Smith of Bullhead City, Ariz., will spend 15 months in prison, pay \$9,995 in restitution, perform 50 hours of community service and remain on probation for one year for splattering sacred petroglyphs – some more than 800 years old – in the Grapevine Canyon sector of Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada with a paintball gun back in March 2010. He could have been fined \$100,000 and charged for the cost of the cleanup (\$5,000) for this grievous violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

– Indian Country Today

Navajos and Utes must protect endangered minnow

The multimillion-dollar water settlement with the Navajo and Ute Nations and others in the Colorado River system include mandates for the well-being of an endangered fish once treasured by American Indians: the 3-million-year-old Colorado pikeminnow, formerly known by the derogatory name "Colorado squawminnow." Once known to grow up to six feet, but today only reaching about half that size, the pikeminnow is the largest minnow in the world, with a taste compared to salmon. It joins the razorback sucker, and the humpback and ponytail chubs in the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program.

– Indian Country Today

Treasury awards \$11.85 million to benefit low-income Native communities

Nearly a month after a historical \$142 million was disbursed for distressed communities nationwide, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) awarded 35 organizations an additional \$11.85 million. The organizations, mostly in rural areas, serve low-income and distressed Native communities in 17 states.

"The awards announced today clearly demonstrate the successful growth of the Native

CDFI movement across the country," said CDFI Fund Director Donna J. Gambrell at the National Native Hawaiian Convention, where Hawaii received seven awards, the most of any state this year.

– cdfifund.gov



Sell five papers, buy an RC Cola

• Moses Jumper Jr.

I want to thank *The Seminole Tribune* for the opportunity to write this column. I'm sure many of you know that my mother, Betty Mae Jumper, was the editor of *The Tribune* and that she had a little portion of that paper in which she wrote articles consisting of her thoughts, her faith and many times, stories and memories she shared with her readers. I hope to keep this tradition going as I share things I hope you will enjoy reading.

As Thanksgiving comes upon us, we as Seminole Tribal members can be thankful for many, many things. I, for one, am thankful for the lessons my mother showed me while growing up. As a youngster she had us peddling the first newspaper the Tribe had in the early 60s. It was called *The Seminole News*. She would drop us off at some stores along 441 where people would shop, and she would tell us to sell the papers for a dime or whatever they gave you for it. For each paper we sold, we would get 2 cents. Sell five papers and we could buy an RC Cola! This was a lesson in working, saving, buying and budgeting your money. Today, I am thankful for the money we have among our people, but it is those same principles we must instill in our lives and

the lives of our young people.

In the 70s, the name of the Tribe's second newspaper was *The Alligator Times*. This paper lasted a few years and I inherited the Editorship. When I say "inherited," I mean the paper went through a few Editors and no one really wanted the nonpaying job of being the Editor. So, I picked up the box of old newspapers, some articles, some cameras and junk and proceeded to take on the challenge as Editor. Believe me, it was quite an experience. It gave me an opportunity to write.

This is one of the first poems I put into that paper.

Remember Thanksgiving and most of all be Thankful to God every day.

Moses "Big Shot" Jumper Jr. is director of Hollywood Recreation for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



Thanksgiving

Today is a day is a day of giving
Thanks to you.
For which many of us have given so few
We never stop to realize all you've done.
Earth's creation, man, and the giving of your son.

We go on in life taking everything for granted in time.
Till we realize we lost some thing for which we search to find.

We search the heavens and the earth below
Seeking to find what's troubling our soul.

In our hectic pace we've never stopped for just a minute or two
To let ourselves realize that it's all because of you

You created everything in great design
But in our selfishness we have tore it down in time.

And to think of the disappointments my life has brought to you
Yet you love me even in spite of what I must have

put you thru.
Father forgive me, for if I only knew
The pain and suffering Jesus went thru

Perhaps in time I'll realize all you've done
The stars, the earth, heavens, moon and sun.

Lord, now I see I'm an important part of your revolving plan,
And I thank you for that nail-scarred hand.

Thank you for my family, friends and home.
Thank you for helping me realize I'm never alone.

And I thank you Lord each day for the opportunity I have to pray

I thank you for this country where a man can be free
To worship and pray to thee.

And Father thank you most of all for delivering me from this world of sin.
Helping me realize I'll never have to go back to where I've been.
— Moses Jumper Jr.



Photo 1: This sign used to stand on the Brighton Reservation. It is now housed by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Photo 3: In this photograph, blue and orange lines enhance the portions of the map that remain on the sign. Now the outline of the Brighton Reservation can be clearly seen.



Photo 2: This ariel map shows the boundaries of the Brighton Reservation. Map courtesy of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

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

Museum seeks information on historic road sign

BY JAMES POWELL
Associate Registrar

In addition to books, manuscripts and artworks, the Museum houses a wide variety of artifacts related to the history of the Seminole Tribe. Many of these artifacts are large and require special processing, handling and storage. Pictured above are two sections of what was once a much larger outdoor sign made up of several boards. Carved into the sign, and once painted in white, are the words, "Reservation" and "Established June 13, 1935." Additional lines carved on the left side, some painted in yellow or green, may have formed a basic map. Each board measures approximately 9 feet by 4 inches long and 10 inches wide. Recently, the Museum processed this sign into the permanent collection. The sign was placed in the Museum's permanent storage area located in Big Cypress. While most of the Museum's permanent collections are made of smaller to mid-sized items related to Seminole history and culture – for example dolls, baskets and beaded items – the

Museum also has some larger historic items that need protection for future generations to enjoy. These larger objects can be a challenge to permanently store because of their size, but since it is part of our mission to collect and preserve the Tribe's history, we store signs such as this and they, in turn, help us fulfill our mission.

In addition to storage concerns, processing this large, historic wooden sign into the Museum's permanent collection also presented a challenge to conservation. The two boards of the sign are severely weathered and have been greatly damaged by insect activity. The Museum's conservator searched for, but did not discover, any evidence of living insects in the wood. Before placing it in permanent storage, each board was brushed and vacuumed to remove any loose dirt, insect remains and surface growths. Loose splinters of wood were reattached to the sign with adhesive. The boards were then covered in a protective housing to best preserve the sign and protect all items in storage.

Museum staff has limited information

on the history of this sign. However, the Tribal Historic Preservation Office assisted us by determining that the map on the sign represents the Brighton Reservation. They were able to overlay an aerial map of the reservation onto the sign boards and match the reservation boundaries. The above pictures show how this process revealed the true nature of the map. Technological collaboration like this really increases the Museum's ability to preserve Seminole history!

We hope *Tribune* readers can provide further information about this sign. Does anyone recall where exactly on the Brighton Reservation the sign was located or what the complete sign looked like? Also, does anyone have a photograph showing the sign in place on the reservation? If you have any information on this sign, please call the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at 877-902-1113 or visit the Museum's website at www.ahthathiki.com to share your knowledge. Thank you!

— Juan Cancel, THPO – Chief Data Analyst, also contributed to this article.

HAH-TUNG-KE

Editor's note: *Hah-tung-ke* is a feature in which *The Tribune* profiles a Seminole artist and his or her work. This month features the Battiest Brothers and includes the lyrics to one of their songs. *Hah-tung-ke* means music in Mikasuki.

For an audio recording of the song, visit <http://seminoletribune.org/hah-tung-ke/>

That's right. One night. Spencer's brother, performance artist Doc (Zach) Battiest, was in their home recording studio arranging different musics, sounds, rhythms and melodies together – "building a track," it is called. As a child, Doc traveled with his family's gospel tour all over the country, developing an early ear for music and a precocious eye for dramatic styling. At 16, he began serious arranging, writing and performing hip hop and rap. A gifted musician, Doc plays drums, bass and piano; but writing and arranging are his focus.

Spencer said he walked in on Doc building the song and listened hard.

Spencer, 21, knows the music he likes. A performer since 4, he is a gifted R&B singer and actor, opening shows for Aerosmith, Sting, Bruce Springsteen and the Police at Hard Rock Calling festivals in Hyde Park, London. He has performed live on ESPN, HBO and Showtime and has been mentioned in Rolling Stone.

Instincts told Spencer that Doc had something really great going on: "I thought maybe this is it. So we pulled out our history. Everything we could remember, all the stories we heard growing up. And we had it completely done in 24 hours."

Soon as it was finished, the brothers, both Seminole Tribal citizens, dropped off copies at several elders' homes, including their grandma. And they brought a copy to Chairman James E. Billie. "I listened to it, over and over, trying to find something wrong, somewhere they messed up, and I couldn't find it," said Billie. "I told them it was wonderful, a credit to our Tribe."

Composed as a tribute to the Seminole Tribe, *The Storm* features the rhythmic rap of "Doc" Battiest blended with the soulful blues melodies of brother Spencer. The song's lyrics capture the Tribe's compelling early history, leaving the listener emotional, defiant, sad and triumphant. Strong lyrics describe the cruelty of warfare with encroaching U.S. Armies, silent mothers suffocating crying babies with mud as marauding soldiers creep by, even the great warrior Osceola's dramatic declaration of non-surrender. Key lines refute the clichéd current public caricatures of the Seminoles and assert power and unity.

Powerful images suggested by the lyrics led the Brothers to famous Director Steven Paul Judd (Kiowa-Choctaw), who produced a stunning music video of *The Storm* filmed entirely on Seminole land and in historic Tribal locations. Both song and video paid homage to the Battiests' parents, grandparents and Tribal leaders, incorporating a love of the ancestry, Tribal culture and personal insight of the Battiests' upbringing.

Relayed from the point of view of a modern-day Seminole, the



The Battiests debuted *The Storm* music video on Sept. 17 at Paradise Live.

Peter B. Gallagher

video opens with the Battiest brothers pulling up in a Bentley, later cutting to emotional images of the duo performing in a recreated traditional Tribal campsite on the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation. Black and white, still and moving, images of prominent historical Seminoles and their families are featured throughout the production.

Chairman Billie's voice begins the video speaking in Mikasuki, recorded at Doc's same home Midnight Studios.

In addition to the video premiering in several film festivals, including the prestigious ImagineNATIVE Film Fest in Canada, the song was nominated for Song Single of the Year, Best Hip Hop Recording and was used to propel the Battiest Brothers into the Best Debut Artist category at the Native American Music Awards held Oct. 8 at the Seneca Casino in Niagara Falls, N.Y. (See NAMMY story on page 6A.)

"The most memorable music is music with a purpose," Spencer said. "We've listened to the stories and songs of our Tribe since we were 4 or 5 years old. Our music and this video pays reverence to the unconquered spirit they represent, and we wanted to pass these cultural treasures along. We owe a debt of love to many."

— Peter B. Gallagher

THE BATTIEST BROTHERS

The Storm

By Doc featuring Spencer Battiest

Years ago, my people were hunted because of where they lived
They were driven out of where they had been established for many years
One day terrorists came from overseas, they raped and pillaged my people
The only options we had been left with was fight, surrender, or die.
We ain't gonna surrender.
We weathered the storm and through the rain, Came out of the darkness into the day.
Left all my tears Hope still they don't fade away Never forget how they were coming for me
We weathered the storm and through the rain, stab of the knife meant we're here to stay.
No fear of the fight that would be headed our way, Always remember what our people gave.
Before the cars before the jays on my feet, before the Rez before the rock before we had our money.
We once was warriors farm keepers of the land, No weapon formed against us could ever withstand.
They thought they Had our number when they tried to wipe us out.
Driven us south thinking on what watches was talking about.
A full camp that was hiding in the swamp could hear the soldiers getting closer dead on the hunt,
And then a little baby started crying aloud, poor mama had to put mud inside the baby's mouth,
Quietly the soldiers walked on by, Mama checked on baby and silently cried. Little baby had already suffocated and died.
The ultimate sacrifice to save the camp's life, Today I live with grandma's words in my mind,
That's why I scream Seminole till the day that I die
They called us wild ones and also runaways, The U.S. Government tried to Annihilate, But let's get something straight,
My people turned and fought, We used the ground around us from there we couldn't be stopped, no
Kept sending bands and militias out to kill us American terrorists put us number one on the hit list,
Since they couldn't take us way now here we stay. Standing strong with out heads up the Seminole way.
Tradition flows like the blood in our veins, we'll never forget from where we came, Unconquered even today,
And u can tell by the smile on my face That I'm a warrior up holdin' the mic, Giving you a little history so you can get it right,
Yeah, With an army of three thousand strong, We'll forever be together it don't matter the storm. No
We've got no way of knowing
Whose next of where we are going,
So we fight to stay alive,
Now I stand up with my life,
Yeah
Yeah yeah,
Check it,
I weathered the storm

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Education

B

Charter School students take oath of office for Student Council



Rachel Buxton

Michael Garcia is sworn in as Chairman by Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr.

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Students raised their right hands on Sept. 22 and took an oath to represent their school the best they could at the Charter School student council inauguration held at the Brighton Veterans' Building.

Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. swore in 10 students, nine as elected Student Council representatives and one leading Chairman for Pemayetv Emahakv.

"When you raise that right hand, it has to mean something," Council Rep. Bowers said. "If you say you're going to do something, you do it."

Elected representatives came forward one at a time, took their oath and then addressed the crowd, giving an acceptance

speech in their native Creek language.

Pemayetv Emahakv conducts its Student Council in the form of a mock Tribal Council, giving the students a hands-on feel of what the Tribal government might be like.

"It's very important to involve the students in the government process because they have to know where and how we came to be," said Student Council organizer Jade Braswell.

Prior to the inauguration, students had to get a petition and get 10 signatures just like Tribal Council representatives have to do. They then had to give a speech in front of their student body saying why they deserved the position.

Jalynn Jones told students that if elected, she would do all she could to get an art room for the Charter School.

"I decided to run for student council because I knew it would be fun," Kalgary Johns said. "I didn't come up with differences; I just told them whatever they thought needed to be changed, that they could come to me and tell me."

Trevor Thomas, who has been a representative twice before, said he spoke to his classmates during lunch and recess and told them what he could do for them.

"I just feel that I made many changes at our school for the better before, so I thought I could do the same this year," Thomas said.

Chairman James E. Billie and

Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard also attended the inauguration ceremony, watching students complete the election process.

"This really finalized that whole piece that actually showed them the road that someone would take to be elected," said principal Brian Greseth. "They knew what they were doing was important and a responsibility and they accepted that responsibility."

Students elected into Student Council include: Sydney Matthews, Draco Billie, Elle Thomas, Jaylen Baker, Brienna Brockman, Alyke Baker, Jalynn Jones, Trevor Thomas, Kalgary Johns and Michael Garcia.

◆ Please see more photos on page 2B

Tribal students tour Immokalee Technical Center, learn about possible career opportunities



Judy Weeks

Ahfachkee students check out the tools in the I-Tech Automotive Workshop.

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

IMMOKALEE — An open field of opportunities was presented to the students of the Ahfachkee School when they toured the Immokalee Technical Center (I-Tech) on Oct. 5. An accredited institute of higher education, the teaching facility is in its fourth year of operation and serves a broad spectrum of individuals.

"I-Tech's mission is to provide rigorous and relevant real-world educational experiences using both traditional and distance learning models in order to qualify students for employment and career advancement," said administrative staffer Gerald Williams. "Our college accepts students with a minimum age of 16 through adulthood and requires a High School Diploma or General Education Diploma (GED) for entry in our technology programs. The Literacy Department offers assistance in obtaining a GED."

"Our major focus is student welfare, which means that we want you to derive the most benefit possible from the time that you spend with us," said Administration Director Dr. Kirkland. "Throughout your life, you will spend a lot of time at work and it is important that you enjoy what you are doing."

Representing the Seminole Tribe's Education Department, Higher Education recruiter Luis Yeguez, K-12 adviser Carine Eugene and science instructional aide Vicki Pratt assisted the Ahfachkee students throughout their tour of the facility and introduced them to some of the adult Tribal members currently attending I-Tech.

"Don't underestimate your potential! Higher education is

challenging and offers fulfillment," Yeguez said. "During the 2011 school year, we had nine GED graduates from this area that recognized the need to get an education. The Tribe currently has six I-Tech students seeking certification in a variety of vocations: Megan Otero Perez - Licensed Practical Nurse; Randy Osceola - Automotive Mechanic; Bobbie Billie - Medical Records Technician; Mornin Osceola - Cosmetology; Mary Ann Doctor and Lennie Jim - Heavy Equipment Mechanics."

The students had an opportunity to visit classrooms, workshops and laboratories where classes were currently in session and received detailed information from the instructors in each department regarding the multitude of technologies. However, they all agreed that the most rewarding part of the tour came from talking to the adult Tribal members about their new careers and reasons for going back to school.

In the Medical Administrative Specialist Computer Lab, Reagan Whitecloud observed her mother, Bobbie Billie, learning the ins and outs of business technology programs. "I am 41 years old and working on getting a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration someday," Billie said. "It's been several years since I started working on my degree and then took time off to have a family. My children are the joy of my life, but I have always wanted to finish the education that I started. Education is the key to being self-reliant and opens the door to a world of opportunities. I plan to be a positive example for my children and have set a goal for each of them to finish college before leaving home."

◆ Please see I-TECH on page 4B

Ahfachkee students gain reading interest at Literacy and Book Fair



Naji Tobias

Third-graders from Sue Tiger's class recite a poem entitled *Reading is Fun* during the dinner show segment of the fourth annual Ahfachkee School's Literacy and Book Fair on Sept. 29 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress.

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — As Ahfachkee School senior Rowdey Osceola scanned the pages of a book entitled *Hunger Games*, he noticed a vibe that flowed throughout the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on Sept. 29.

Osceola — just one of dozens of students, staff and community members at the Tribal school's fourth annual Literacy and Book Fair — talked about how proud he felt to have participated in the academic function.

"Reading will help us learn more in school," Osceola said. "It will prepare us for the outside world, and it allows us to keep our grades up."

Osceola, who ended up taking the *Hunger Games* book home with him, discussed briefly how the literary work captured his interest as a student.

"What I like about the book is that it reflects on the Roman way of life back in the day," Osceola said. "It almost looks like a survival of romance novel."

Though the *Hunger Games* theme didn't exactly represent the school event, it did serve as a popular read with other students and staff members, as Osceola and others discussed the book together at one of the Literacy Fair's booths. The Literacy and Book Fair's theme was called "Reading Takes You Places."

The fair contained more than 10 booths geared toward improving the literacy of the entire Ahfachkee School student body — something that drew much satisfaction from new Ahfachkee principal Lucy Dafoe. In addition to the display booths, the fair also had a costume parade in which all lower-grade Ahfachkee students dressed in a variety of costumes to show their pride at the Literacy Fair. The costume parade was followed by a dinner show, which featured a host of poetry segments, stories and songs performed by many of the Ahfachkee

students.

"When Ahfachkee sponsors an event, we need to have our students directly involved," Dafoe said. "Students practiced poems, stories, songs all to promote literacy and the importance and value of reading. The costume parade allowed students to dress as a favorite character or book and it was fun. It was a chance for the students to showcase student accomplishments."

Big Cypress Tribal senior Minnie Tigertail, who is the grandmother of 8-year-old Athena Bert, said she was pleased with the turnout and how the event transpired.

"There were a whole lot of books available," Tigertail said. "You could read anything from science to literature to math. With all the booths at the fair, it seemed like you were going around the world here."

Tigertail said Bert has made many academic strides in reading.

"The teachers and tutors have been a great help to my granddaughter," Tigertail said. "Athena really likes to read now and she has a lot of books at home. It is showing in her work at school. She's been improving a lot."

As the 2011-2012 academic year progresses, Dafoe would like to see the steady improvement continue in reading with Bert and all of her schoolmates. But for now, the Ahfachkee principal has been happy with the fusion of energy that has taken place in her short time at the Tribal school. In addition, Ahfachkee School officials said they also plan to host an event like this next year for the purpose of literacy enhancement within its student body.

"This was a nice community and school collaborative event," Dafoe said. "The staff worked hard to make sure the booths, performances and dinner was all ready for the Literacy Fair. I enjoyed seeing the many levels of interaction; family with students, staff with parents, staff with students, family to family. It was an interactive gathering with something for everyone."



Naji Tobias

Peggy Sue Cypress, 5, wears a Belle costume inspired by the *Beauty and the Beast* movie during the Ahfachkee School's Literacy and Book Fair on Sept. 29.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee School students Nushee Billie, 4, left, and Destiny Cypress, 10, right, read some fictional books during the fourth annual Literacy and Book Fair.

Ahfachkee's art class pays visit to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum



Naji Tobias

On Oct. 4, Ahfachkee School art teacher Ivette Lopez, center, and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum exhibit manager Greg Palumbo, left, instruct the Ahfachkee School's kindergarten through second-grade art students as they create special works of art that will be displayed on the Museum's wall exhibit this fall.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee School second-grader Harmony Cypress, 7, holds her frog portrait on display at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Oct. 4.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee School first-grader Kassim Stockton Jr., 6, shows off his art portrait of a turtle at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on Oct. 4.

◆ More photos from Charter School Student Council on page 1B



Rachel Buxton

Charter School students shake hands with newly elected Student Council representatives in the traditional receiving line.



Rachel Buxton

The 2011-2012 Charter School Student Council poses with Tribal officials.



Rachel Buxton

Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. congratulates Jaylen Baker as the third-grade representative.



Rachel Buxton

Kindergarten representative Sydney Matthews repeats the oath after Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr.



Rachel Buxton

Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. gives Trevor Thomas, left, and Michael Garcia, right, advice on how to be the best representatives they can be.



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Seminole Agency

6100 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 206

Hollywood, Florida 33024

(954) 983 1537

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

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA)

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and lease of a home on trust property for Fred Hall. The approximately 0.34 acre lot, adjacent to his existing 1.07 acre home site lot, is located at 30805 Wind Clan Road at Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Section 11, Hendry County, Florida, which is located on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Reservation. The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated September 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Fred Hall Proposed Lease Addition, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County, Florida". This EA has been adopted and FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and lease of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability (NOA), that the EA and FONSI for the Federal action of approving the proposed home construction and lease of trust property are available for public review. The BIA has approved and adopted the above referenced EA which addressed this proposal. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information in the EA. Based on the EA, it has been determined that the action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. You may obtain a copy of the EA and FONSI from the BIA Eastern Regional Office or the Environmental Resources Management Department of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 6365 Taft Street, Suite 3008, Hollywood, FL 33024, telephone (954) 965-4380.

APPEALS: "This FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed with an action, therefore cannot be appealed. 25 C.F.R. Part 2.7 requires a 30 day appeal period after the decision to proceed with the action is made before the action may be implemented. Appeal information will be made publicly available when the decision to proceed is made."

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



Superintendent, Seminole Agency

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: 9/13/11



United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Seminole Agency

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

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA)

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and lease of a home on trust property for Ekanella Jumper Frye. The approximately 1.5 acre lot is located south of Boundary Road at Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Sections 09, Hendry County, Florida, which is located on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Reservation. The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated August 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Ekanella Jumper Frye Proposed Lease, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County, Florida". This EA has been adopted and FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and lease of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

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Superintendent, Seminole Agency

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: 9/11/2011

Tribal youth learn the soap carving craft



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal youngster Willie Smith, 7, crafts a turtle out of soap at the Sept. 20 event.



Naji Tobias

Event host Victor Billie of Big Cypress Culture shows Tribal youngster Nicholas Andrews how to carve items with his knife out of soap.



Naji Tobias

From left: Mikiyela Cypress, Shana Balentine, Alena Stockton and Osianna Crespo carve out soap designs of turtles and canoes during a Sept. 20 event at the Big Cypress Library hosted by Big Cypress Culture's Victor Billie and the Big Cypress Library staff.

Big Cypress hosts Gig Making Class



Naii Tobias

During the Sept. 14 Gig Making Class at the Big Cypress Culture Camp, Tribal youngsters Chaska Onco, left, and Elisha Billie, center, watch Tribal citizen Pedro Zeneda as he nails the gig head onto a pole point and secures it in the process.



Naji Tojas

Big Cypress Tribal youngster Willie Smith, 7, learns the proper formation of gig throwing from Big Cypress Culture's Victor Billie during the Sept. 14 Gig Making Class at the Big Cypress Culture Camp.



Naji Tojas

Hollywood Culture's Bobby Frank secures the pole, so it won't splint or move while the gig making process goes on during the Sept. 14 Seminole culture-inspired event.

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◆ **I-TECH**
From page 1B

The instructor in the Heavy Equipment Technology Department has 25 years of experience in his field and believes that a desire to learn is the most valuable tool that students can take to any classroom. When Mary Ann Doctor enrolled in the course, he feared that she wasn't strong enough and probably wouldn't complete her certification. However, she fooled everyone when she received the highest score they had ever had on the mechanical aptitude test and she dives into her work each day with enthusiasm. As his star pupil, she is learning to rebuild diesel engines, transmissions and hydraulics.

"I have enjoyed working in secretarial and office jobs within the Tribe for a number of years but feel that it is time to acquire a career in a new field," said Mornin Osceola as she shampooed a head in the Cosmetology Lab. "I want to encourage all of you to get an education that will provide you with a rewarding career and ensure your independence. The economy is undergoing difficult times, and you should provide yourself with survival skills through job training."

The Ahfachkee students witnessed a field of opportunities with no limitations as they traveled throughout the I-Tech facilities from Child Care, Culinary Arts, Nurses Training, Computer & Business Technology, Mechanics, Diversified Construction Courses to Architecture and Multimedia Design.

"Education hasn't always been within reach for our people who survived off the land as they had done for thousands of years prior to the attempted domination by the European cultures," said Chairman James E. Billie. "Around the 1850s a concentrated effort was made to assimilate Native Americans into the white society through enforced education, which was followed by



Judy Weeks

Steve Billie and Taylor Pratt examine an anatomy model in the Nursing Lab at I-Tech.

a period of denied educational rights and segregation. When our leaders organized under their Constitution in 1957, they set a priority for education for our children and recognized it as an important survival skill. That priority hasn't changed, and the Tribe is currently striving to identify potential and encourage our young people to enter educational fields to benefit their individual needs. Education will provide the tools to ensure that we will never be left behind."

It's Hammer Time

SUBMITTED BY THOMMY DOUD
Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club Manager

BIG CYPRESS — If you were at the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club on Sept. 16, you would have thought you had entered an active construction zone by mistake. The sounds of hammers pounding; sand paper scratching; and voices shouting, "I need more nails" or "Can I borrow your hammer" filled the thick, humid, late summer Florida air.

But this was no ordinary work site and the voices and laughter that rang out did not come from construction workers finishing a job. Members of the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club actually did the work as they participated in the first of many projects planned and facilitated by the Big Cypress 4-H Department. The 4-H Department presented a woodworking project that entailed building a keepsake box out of lumber and other materials. The youth and staff worked diligently on their projects, lining up wood and nailing it into place, all while having fun and sharing time together.

"I had a lot of fun making the keepsake boxes" said Caleb Billie, a Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club member.

Approximately 20 Club members and staff from both the Big Cypress 4-H Department and the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club labored for two days on the project and when finished, it yielded beautiful, handmade keepsake boxes, excited youth and a new partnership geared toward building positive activities for the youth of the Big Cypress Reservation.

"I would like to say thanks to all of the youth at Boys & Girls Club," said Toi Andrews, director of the Big Cypress 4-H Department. "I had a great time. It was exciting to get out into the community and work with the kids. All the kids did such a phenomenal job on their keepsake boxes."

The Big Cypress 4-H Department and the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club will provide weekly 4-H activities at the Club located at the Ahfachkee School. For more information about the Big Cypress 4-H programs, contact Toi Andrews at 863-983-3436.



Thommy Doud

Caleb Billie happily participates in the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club/4-H event.



Judy Weeks

Mornin Osceola talks education with Sydnee Cypress, Reagan Whitecloud and Sabre Billie as she works on her Cosmetology Certification course at I-Tech.






Thommy Doud

Alissa Brooks and Jalycia Billie concentrate as they work on their keepsake boxes during the Sept. 16 event.



Thommy Doud

Mikiyela Cypress works hard on her keepsake box.



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Charter School students dress in traditional attire for clothing contest



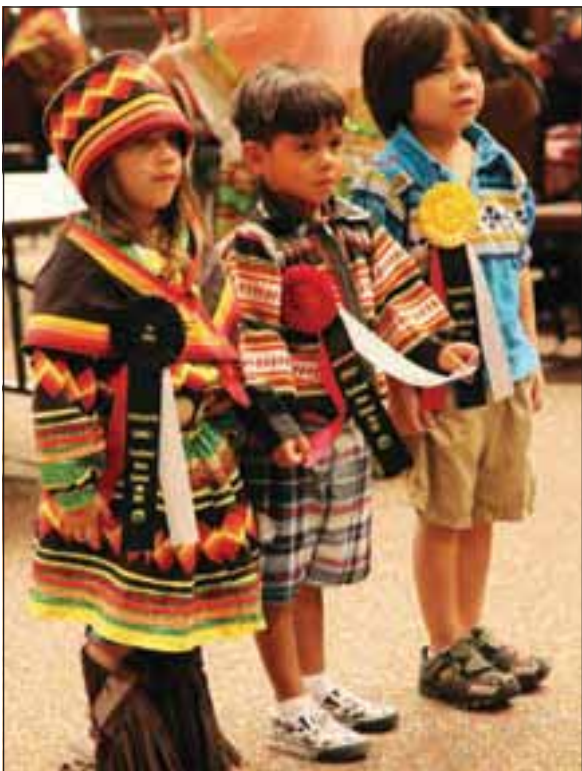
Left to right: Alyke Baker, Conner Thomas and Aidan Tommie take first, second and third place, respectively, in the fifth-grade division of the Charter School's traditional dress competition Sept. 22 at the Brighton Veterans' Building.



Second-grade boys line up for the judges during the Charter School's traditional dress competition Sept. 22 held at the Brighton Veterans' Building.



Fourth-grade girls don their traditional patchwork clothing Sept. 22 at the Charter School's traditional competition at the Brighton Veterans' Building.



Kindergarten winners stand proud in their traditional attire during the traditional dress competition on Sept. 22.



Michele Thomas awards Makya King with first place in the Charter School's first-grade traditional dress competition.



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

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

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and lease of a home on trust property for Michelle L. Osceola. The approximately 1.5 acre lot is located off of Cats Claw Lane at Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Section 01, Hendry County, Florida, which is located on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Reservation. The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated August 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Michelle L. Osceola Proposed Lease, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County, Florida". This EA has been adopted and FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and lease of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability (NOA), that the EA and FONSI for the Federal action of approving the proposed home construction and lease of trust property are available for public review. The BIA has approved and adopted the above referenced EA which addressed this proposal. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information in the EA. Based on the EA, it has been determined that the action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. You may obtain a copy of the EA and FONSI from the BIA Eastern Regional Office or the Environmental Resource Management Department of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 6365 Telf Street, Suite 3008, Hollywood, FL 33024, telephone (954) 963-4380.

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, 345 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 364-6832.

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

Date: 8/30/2011



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Bureau of Indian Affairs
Seminole Agency
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Hollywood, Florida 33024
(954) 983 1537
(954) 983 5018 fax

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

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

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and lease of a home on trust property for David Billy. The approximately 1.28 acre lot is located off of Cats Claw Lane at Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Section 01, Hendry County, Florida, which is located on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Reservation. The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated August 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "David Billy Proposed Lease, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County, Florida". This EA has been adopted and FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and lease of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability (NOA), that the EA and FONSI for the Federal action of approving the proposed home construction and lease of trust property are available for public review. The BIA has approved and adopted the above referenced EA which addressed this proposal. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information in the EA. Based on the EA, it has been determined that the action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. You may obtain a copy of the EA and FONSI from the BIA Eastern Regional Office or the Environmental Resource Management Department of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 6365 Telf Street, Suite 3008, Hollywood, FL 33024, telephone (954) 963-4380.

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Keith Haver
Superintendent, Seminole Agency
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: 9/13/11



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Charter School students visit a piece of history on the Brighton Reservation



Rachel Buxton

Students from Pemayetv Emahakv sit around a campfire at the old Billy Bowlegs campsite during their first history field trip Oct. 13 on the Brighton Reservation. Martha Jones and Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr., grandchildren of the late Billy Bowlegs III, share memories of their late grandfather and time spent on the campsite.



Rachel Buxton

Three generations of relatives of the late Billy Bowlegs, left to right, great grandson Lewis Gopher, grandson Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr., great-great grandson Reuben Burgess, granddaughter Martha Jones and granddaughter Lorene Gopher visit the old campsite Oct. 13 during Pemayetv Emahakv's first history field trip on the Brighton Reservation.

Parting words from Rachel Buxton



Dear My Brighton Family,

I say family because you all have definitely become my second family. As most of you know by now I have left Seminole Media Productions and the Seminole Tribe.

When I first started, everyone kept telling me how Brighton was the difficult community, so beware. They warned me that it would take awhile for you all to let me in. So, I started, I met quite a few community members, I covered my first events...and I'm thinking..."WHA T?! Difficult? These are the nicest and most laid back people. They must have said the wrong reservation by mistake because Brighton is definitely not difficult."

I have no complaints when it comes to the Brighton community. Only very fond memories. You are one big family and I love that, and I thank you for allowing me to be a part of it for three years.

It was a difficult decision to leave because of that very reason. I can't fathom not seeing Billie and Ms. Mary Jo, Michele Thomas, Ms. Connie, Grandpa Howard, Mr. Norman, Willie Johns, Amos Tiger, Ms. Addie or Ms. Alice on a regular basis and trust me I could keep listing names.

You all have become so dear to my heart. Especially the Tribal youth. It amazes me how much they've grown up in just three years. There's so much potential in the youth coming up. I have seen the future Tribal leaders of tomorrow and am confident the Tribe will only become even more successful with them as leaders.

Kirsten and Everett, it was the highlight of my summer having you two work with me. You helped put a smile on my face during a difficult time. Neither one of you will ever know what you did for me this past summer.

So, to the entire community, I thank you for teaching me your culture. Thank you for letting me become part of your family and thank you for a great three years.

You all will be dearly missed. I know there are no good-byes in Seminole, so Tehecvkvres.

Mvto,
Rachel Buxton

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Announcements

THANK YOU



The President's Office would like to thank (from right to left in photo) Sandy, Bush, Jackie, Kahan, Norman and Charlie for doing a great job cooking at the Vice Chairman Big Cypress Community Event at Billie Swamp Safari.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Seminole Princess Committee recently had an election at the Clewiston Inn in Clewiston, Fla. to elect new officers. The final results are Chairwoman: Wanda F. Bowers; Vice-Chairwoman: Charlotte Burgess; and Secretary: Christine E. McCall.

I am glad to announce my new Vice-Chairwoman Charlotte Burgess. I have worked with her as a regular committee member for more than five years, and she was also in charge of the personal interview section of the Princess Pageant in those past years. I know she will be a great asset to the Princess Committee.

As for my Princess Committee Secretary, she is also newly elected but not new to hard work. Christine McCall has also been on the Princess Committee for several years as the Stage Coordinator. She works very closely with all the contestants, has done volunteer work on the Princess Program booklet, processes princess applications for approval and performs other clerical work.

I am glad to say I hope to have a good working relationship with both of the two new officers along with the working committee. I want to say that every past princess has a voice – out of 46 past princesses, 33 cast their ballot.

We thank you very much for your confidence and support in us.



Bowers

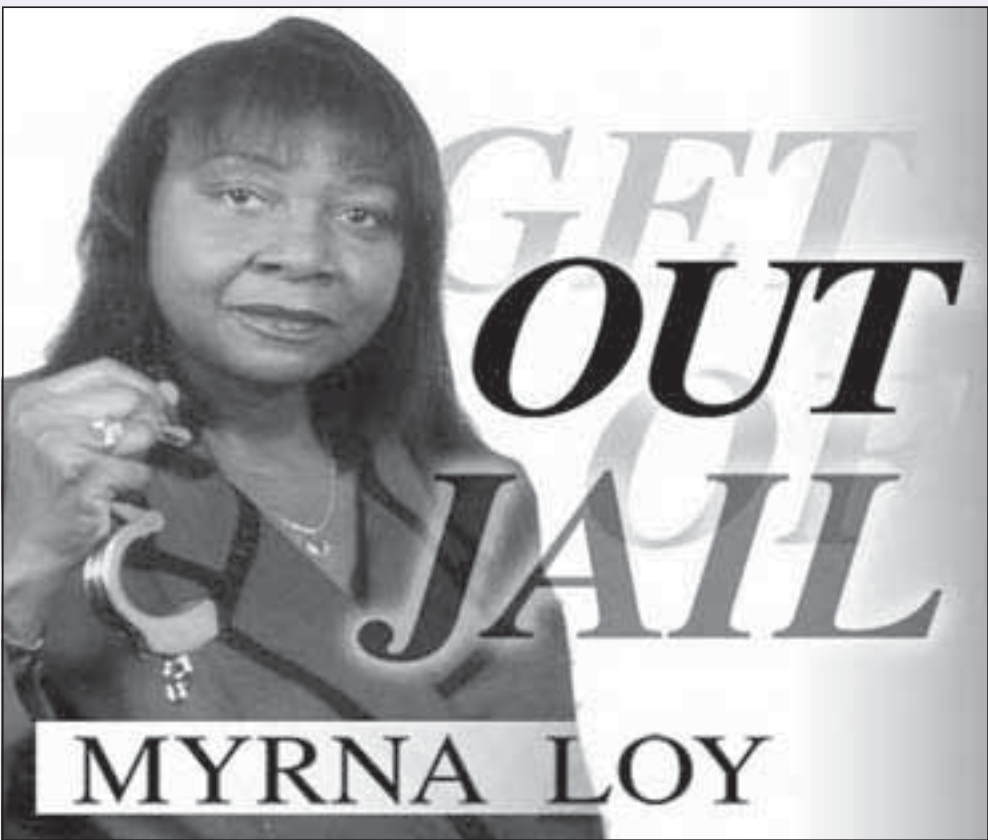


Burgess



McCall

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POEMS

Corn

The swamp is where I live, I am Seminole, but the Miccosukee way teaches me to put the Seminole way and Miccosukee way together. So, when it is combined it is the strongest.

Unconquered is the way we become.

The old way is what I am told, we are strong and can never ever be bought with gold.

So, remember what I say, Florida is home where the unconquered will stay.

The old time was a good time we must always remember this.

Sometimes it is hard for some us to understand where we are today,

The way the world is confuses us, but somehow we know who we are.

I will tell you what I know, it is the corn that helps us grow.

Don't ever forget it, With it we will always be free, unconquered is what we be.

So the world is not misunderstood, because the old people taught us the way, so with our corn we are here to stay.

Strength is what we will come to learn and know, tru courage I will always show.

Wisdom and knowledge will always grow.....

So, all together we are together. Remember it, don't ever fail and in the world we will always prevail.

We will succeed everytime, our path will be made clear because of who we are.

We will shine like the bright morning star.

The old people is where we have to go to learn, so we can know how to be all the way,

So in life we will see everything clear as day.

There will be no confusion about who we are, we will know that the corn will always grow.

When we are unconquered fear is not apart of us.

Remember your corn is the key. Seminole and Miccosukee is the way for me.

So be good to all is what we know to do. Remember, this is tru.

Corn is everlasting, we will never ever go away.

Strength is forever, and here to stay.

Gator Doctor

Man in the Mirror

the man in the mirror, all he could do was stare, stand there and ponder, on how he got there, face full of hair and no food to spare, out of sight, out of mind, shows you the ones who really do care,

for the man in the mirror his day will come, when he can break on thru to the streets, and finally have him some fun.

Aaron Cypress
Age 19
WARRIORS
WxAxWx
Acee

Written in Blood

Written in blood I live, I ride and I will die for you'll, 100% native of this land that will always stand tall.

No matter what tribe or nation we're as one, always be proud of that native blood and refuse to be brainwashed as some.

Always remember our ancestors they went through so much for what little we claim, against all odds they fought and refused to be caged, shackled and chained.

They were always on the move with barbarian pale face on their heels, but they kept fighting for us and many were killed.

Think about them when you think you have it rough, if you're proud of that native blood you're supposed to be tough.

No so-called hard times in modern day life should get you down, if it does trust this our ancestors are looking with a frown.

In every aspect of life we are a strong race, the barbarian pale face tried to conduct genocide on our unique ways but our strong structure is still in place.

Osceola, Geronimo, Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull thank you, this warrior will always honor you with pride my words fly true.

Shonaabisha to warriors Hank Adams, Janet McCloud and Richard Oaks as well, N.Y. I.C. and A.I.M. just so you know I appreciate how you raised hell.

Barbarian pale face don't want anyone to have common sense or stand their ground, damn L. Meeds and S. Gorton two silly clowns.

That government of hate will always think as their ancestors too, it doesn't matter though because we will continue to rise because we're greater than you.

Continue to go to college and return to our tribes, lead and preserve the old ways with great pride.

They hate we can live in two worlds yet refuse to be on their team, we don't want to rule the world we just want to live our ancestors dream.

Apples and uncle tomahawks must be kept in their place, because they will deceive and betray just as barbarian pale face.

Written in blood native brothers and sisters stay true to your kind, stand strong for our native elders and youth all the time.

Ike T. Harjo
S h o l o p a h t h i
bolchunchaga
koowaathi



Indian

To be tru, is to be you.

Life is real always remember.

I write poems to you

From a distance,

I want you to know, what I write

Is real. So you can remember how I

Feel.

I can tell you about prison all the time,

But why would I want to.

All it is, is a life of

Crime.

Today I know who I am, and I

Am grateful.

I am Indian.

The unconquered way is what I know, Seminole and Miccosukee is the way I am taught grow.

So, if you see my writing I want you to know,

Gator is my name and in me there is no shame.

Peaceful is how I am now. My yesterdays is forgotten only the bad stuff, all my good memories I keep intact.

So remember, Indian is where it's at.

Gator



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SportsC

Lady Ballers and Plainszmen take home titles in Tigertail Brothers Basketball Tournament

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — During the fifth annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament, one thing stood out above all others: expansion from an all-Indian format to an open one, changing the landscape of how this year’s competition played out. Held from Sept. 15-17 at the Big Cypress Reservation’s Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, a new champion from the men’s side emerged as Plainszmen – a team without any Seminole Tribal citizens – outlasted perennial favorite and last year’s champ Big Town, 50-45, in the title game.

Meanwhile, on the women’s side – both the male and female tournaments started on Sept. 16 and concluded on Sept. 17 – the Lady Ballers won the tournament yet again as they defeated Cold Play, 48-43, in the final.

In Legends play, held on Sept. 15, Trail Women outlasted Big Cypress Women and Young Legends. Trail Women defeated Young Legends, 22-21, in the women’s final.

As for the Legends men’s competition, only one team was available, which means there was no competition in the male category.

According to Minnie Tigertail, the tournament’s organizer and Tribal mother of the late Duane and Malcolm Tigertail, a total of 18 teams from the adult female, adult male, Legends female and Legends male categories competed in this year’s competition. The inclusion of more teams and non-Seminole Tribal players, Tigertail said, allowed for more participation and more variety.

“It turned out good,” Tigertail said. “That’s the way I wanted

it. We had a team from Oklahoma here, one from Miami, one from Orlando and one from Hollywood that’s non-Tribal. We wanted more people from all over the United States to participate.”

Big Cypress Tribal citizen Byron Billie, who played for the Hustle Hard adult male team, said he was excited to see the addition of new teams to the annual competition.

“It has become very competitive,” Billie said. “Some people may see it one way, but I look at it as all fun. It’s brought out a lot of really good competition here.”

Growing up as a Tribal youngster, Billie talked about the impact that both Duane and Malcolm had on his life.

Billie said in his teenage years, he played basketball on a regular basis with Duane. Meanwhile, Malcolm encouraged Billie to come out to the gym and play the sport on a regular basis, he said.

“I’m real big on home pride,” Billie said. “They played very important roles in my life. It brings back all the good memories I had with them when I was a kid. I had a lot of interaction with both of them. I really looked up to them; they were good people.”

Tigertail talked about the importance of keeping the Tigertail Brothers Tournament alive in honor of her two late sons.

“They (Malcolm and Duane) were both Warriors,” Tigertail said. “They were always out there on the court. Basketball was their favorite sport. So with this tournament, it seems as if they’re not gone. They’re physically not here, but this brings them back in spirit. I miss them daily. They’ll always be in my heart forever.”



Naji Tobias

The Big Cypress Women were one of three female teams to play in the Legends edition of the fifth annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament on Sept. 15.

♦ See more photos on page 7C

Team Phoenix creates a name for itself on the Indian rodeo circuit



Photo courtesy of Keith Lovejoy

Native Tribes come together to make Team Phoenix. Back row, left to right: Trina Bowers, Blaine Wheeler, Freddy Warbonnet, Cort Herrera and Marvin Bowers. Front Row, left to right: GrayWolf Herrera, Taylor Everano, Jonetta Everano and Lucy Bowers.

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Seminole Tribal members along with members of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have become known as Team Phoenix on the Native Indian rodeo circuit.

Jonetta Everano, a member of the Umatilla Indian Tribe and resident of Pendleton, Ore., created Team Phoenix.

Everano started her sponsorship with her brother Freddy Warbonnet to help him travel the circuit.

“I know what it’s like to go down the road and follow your dream,” Everano said. “It’s just fun to help support a positive sport.”

Other members from the team began to meet on the rodeo circuit and Team Phoenix eventually formed.

“It all started when my brother (Marvin Bowers) met Jo’s brother Cort while rodeoing out West,” said Lucy Bowers, a huge proponent of the team.

Everano then began sponsoring Marvin and her other brother

Cort Herrera for rodeos and slowly other family members joined from both Tribes.

“It went to helping them out, to buying shirts with logos,” Bowers said.

Other members of the team include Marvin’s daughter, Trina Bowers; Herrera’s son, GrayWolf Herrera; and Blaine Wheeler.

The name Phoenix originated from Everano’s 12-year-old son with the same name. She also named her business after him. Everano owns Phoenix Enterprises, a Native-American-woman-owned, small, disadvantaged business that specializes in remediation services.

Bowers said that the team just happened. “We just started calling them Team Phoenix and it stuck.”

Bowers has made it her job to follow her brother and Team Phoenix and document all their rodeos and competitions.

“My brother just decided to focus on his rodeo career after he had neck surgery last year,” Bowers said. “So I told him I’d follow him and video and take pictures.”

♦ Please see RODEO on page 5C



Photo courtesy of Keith Lovejoy

Team roping partners Marvin Bowers, front, and Cort Herrera compete at an EIRA rodeo in Big Cypress.

Richard Osceola participates in coin toss at FSU vs. Oklahoma game



Matt Snowberger

Recreation Liaison Richard Osceola tosses the coin during the Sept. 17 FSU vs. Oklahoma game on behalf of Chairman James E. Billie. The game was Florida State’s biggest game of the year.



Matt Snowberger

Left to right: Hollywood Board Rep. Chris Osceola, Moses Jumper Jr., Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Hollywood Council Rep. Marcellus Osceola Jr. with FSU mascot Chief Osceola and Renegade.



Matt Snowberger

Tribal member Moses Jumper Jr. presents a pair of authentic moccasins to Renegade caretaker Allen Durham for FSU’s mascot Chief Osceola while attending the university’s game verses Oklahoma.

Ahfachkee Warriors golf season comes to an end



Naji Tobias

From left: Ahfachkee Warriors golf assistant coach Cookie Mazzant, senior Taylor Pratt, sixth-grader Ryanne Pratt, senior Jonathan Robbins, sophomore Quenton Cypress, senior Stevie Billie and golf head coach Amos Mazzant. Not pictured: Ahfachkee Warriors senior Ryan Cypress.

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

CLEWISTON — What a finish! The Ahfachkee Warriors golf season — its second year of operation — ended on Oct. 13 in emphatic fashion as the team of six golfers putted its way to a 236-255 win over Heartland Christian (Sebring) at the Clewiston Golf Course.

The Tribal golf team finished its year with a 7-6 overall record — the program’s first winning season in school history, making it that more special.

“To play golf, it takes a lot of hard work, discipline and persistence,” Ahfachkee Warriors golf coach Amos Mazzant said. “Our kids were pushed beyond anything they had ever done before, but they accepted the challenge and did their very best. What they accomplished in this short season of time was nothing short of incredible.”

In the golf program’s second season, two first-time golfers — Ahfachkee senior Jonathan Robbins and sixth-grader Ryanne Pratt (first female golfer in the Tribal program’s history) — joined the program.

The team’s roster from this season, aside from Robbins and Ryanne Pratt, included Ahfachkee seniors Stevie Billie, Ryan Cypress and Taylor Pratt, as well as sophomore Quenton Cypress — all of whom comprised of the program’s first-ever Tribal golf squad.

“We put a lot of hard work into our season and it paid off,” Taylor Pratt said. “Our team came together on and off the course. We all built a better golf game and friendship. All of that helped our golf team improve our scores throughout the season. The way our season finale went down is just how we would have wanted it

to end.”

Perhaps the top highlight of the season, which began on Sept. 1 at the Clewiston Golf Course, was when Ahfachkee finished second out of four teams in the Sept. 27 Hendry/Glades County Golf Championship: the first-ever of its kind in Hendry/Glades County history.

Ahfachkee (2-1 at the Sept. 27 quad championship meet) beat the Clewiston Tigers — one of the odds-on favorites — in the key match. The Warriors also defeated the Moore Haven Terriers, but fell short overall as the LaBelle Cowboys took home the championship hardware.

Here are your final scores from the Sept. 27 Hendry County Golf Championship:

First: LaBelle - 203; Second: Ahfachkee - 235; Third: Clewiston - 240; Fourth: Moore Haven 258.

“Even though we didn’t win the championship, I was really happy we placed second,” Taylor Pratt said. “We beat Clewiston, which we weren’t able to do at all last season. I remember telling Stevie about how we defeated Clewiston and he gave a little scream, which I’ll never forget. We were just so excited about beating them.”

Mazzant offered some parting thoughts on how the season went down.

“This has been a very stressful season for all of us, but it was the most rewarding in that we excelled beyond our expectations,” Mazzant said. “We are extremely proud to be part of this program. It’s an honor to have the opportunity to represent the Seminole Tribe in our efforts to achieve the greatest level of sportsmanship, ability and pride.”



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee senior Ryan Cypress focuses on converting a successful hole with a chip shot attempt during the Sept. 27 Hendry/Glades County Golf Championship match.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee senior Jonathan Robbins completes the final shot of his first and only season at the Oct. 13 match against Heartland Christian (Sebring) in Clewiston.



Naji Tobias

Ryanne Pratt hits her final shot of the season in the Oct. 13 season-finale match at the Clewiston Golf Course.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee Warriors senior golfer Stevie Billie completes his final hole of his high school career as he helps his team defeat Heartland Christian (Sebring).

Tampa celebrates Indian Day with annual Golf Tournament



Ryan Watson

From left to right: Ronnie Doctor, Jimmy Osceola, Allan Huff and Tampa Liaison Richard Henry together for a team photo before putting. The Tampa Indian Day Golf Tournament was also held on the same day as the Tampa Liaison Election.



Ryan Watson

From left to right: Debbie and Colleen Henry enjoy a round of golf at the Indian Day Golf Tournament held at the Plantation Palms Golf Club on Sept. 19.

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Tribal teens go head-to-head on the gridiron



Chris C. Jenkins
American-Heritage (Plantation) running back Devan Bowers, right, tackles a University School player.



Chris C. Jenkins
Bowers evades a defender in second-quarter action.



Chris C. Jenkins
Wide receiver Ethan Cypress of the University School streaks past an American Heritage defender for a first down in their seventh- to eighth-grade game.



Chris C. Jenkins
Ethan Cypress breaks free for a touchdown in the fourth quarter. Cypress also scored a two-point conversion for his team in a 38-12 win over American-Heritage (Plantation).

Warriors take on Pahokee with home-team advantage



Rachel Buxton
John Cox tucks the ball as Pahokee tries to tackle him. The Warriors took to the field Oct. 8 on the Brighton Reservation to go head-to-head against Pahokee.



Rachel Buxton
Lowell Roberts runs the ball for a first down against Pahokee on Oct. 8 on the Brighton Reservation.



Rachel Buxton
John Cox outruns Pahokee earning a touchdown for the Warriors.

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Tribal football player performs well in win



Chris C. Jenkins
American-Heritage (Plantation) Tribal youth Neko Osceola evades defenders as he sprints to the nearside of the field for his second touchdown in ninth-grade football action.



Chris C. Jenkins
American-Heritage (Plantation) Tribal youth footballer Neko Osceola receives the hand-off from his teammate in a 40-0 win over visiting Chaminade on Sept. 14.



Chris C. Jenkins
American-Heritage (Plantation) cheerleaders celebrate the latest score by the football team together with pushups on the sidelines during third-quarter action.

Lady Warriors make positive strides



Naji Tobias

Dayra Koenes of the Ahfachkee Lady Warriors volleyball team hits a shot over the net against the Cape Coral Lady Crusaders in the Oct. 3 season home opener.

BY NAJI TOBIAS
 Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Ahfachkee Warriors fledgling athletic program has added another sport this fall season.

The Tribal school’s volleyball team, coached in its first season of operation by Bernadette Schyvinch, is the athletic entity’s fourth sport. The Lady Warriors girls volleyball team joins boys golf (fall), girls/boys basketball (winter) and softball (spring) in the Ahfachkee Warriors sports stable.

For one thing, it has provided a much-welcomed spark to the Big Cypress community. The Lady Warriors played three scheduled home games this season in front of its fans at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium in Big Cypress – a 19-25, 22-25 home opening loss to Cape Coral Christian (Cape Coral) on Oct. 3; an inspiring 25-17, 10-25, 15-10 win over King’s Academy (Clewiston) on Oct. 4; and a 18-25, 6-25 loss to King’s Academy (Clewiston) in the Oct. 10 home finale.

“I don’t know much about volleyball, but I do know about our fans,” Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger said just after the Oct. 3 home opener concluded. “Look at the gym. It was almost full. The main thing for us here is to let them know we support them. The girls have a lot of talent in them, and we want to be there for them every step of the way.”

Cape Coral Christian Lady Crusaders head coach Christy Curtis talked briefly about how that Oct. 3 game turned out.

“It was a fun game for us,” Curtis said. “It was good to see both of our teams growing more comfortable out there on the court. I see a good future for the Ahfachkee program.”

The second game, played on the next day, proved to be an inspiring three-set victory over King’s Academy. Ahfachkee seventh-grader Sydnee Cypress hit the

team’s game-winning shot in the game, propelling the Lady Warriors to its first win in program history.

“I just wanted to hit the shot over the net,” Cypress said. “It felt good for our team to pull the win out.”

Meanwhile, fellow teammate, junior Danni Jae Tommie, briefly discussed what could have been done differently in her team’s Oct. 10 home season finale loss to King’s Academy.

“I think we should have communicated with each other better,” Tommie said. “But I think we’re starting off good as a team. If we improve our attitudes and play together more, then we should win our last two games of the season.”

The Lady Warriors volleyball team (2-4 overall as of Oct. 21) — the girls opened its season on the road on Sept. 26 in a 11-25, 25-1, 4-15 three-set loss to Hialeah Education Academy and a Sept. 29 three-set road loss to Moore Haven, 21-25, 25-18, 19-25 – finished its inaugural campaign with a three-set road win against Moore Haven (24-26, 25-20, 15-3) on Oct. 20 and the season ender on Oct. 21 against Cape Coral Christian.

“If Ahfachkee sticks together, I think they’ll be a great team down the line,” King’s Academy volleyball head coach Kathy McReynolds said. “They play hard and they’re strong. They have a great school and a great community. I can’t wait to see them next year.”

Schyvinch said it’s been a work in progress for the upstart team, who first came together on Aug. 23. Overall, she’s confident the girls will make continuous improvements in their team game as the 2012 season rolls around next fall.

“It’s a stepping stone; I look at it as that,” Schyvinch said. “The girls are learning as they go along. They’re building in their game as a team and they’ve been working hard together. It will take some time, but everything will come together for them down the line.”

A season-ending banquet, which will recap all the specific highlights of the program’s first season, is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 10.

Lady Seminoles defeat Yearling Middle



Rachel Buxton

The Lady Seminoles are all smiles as they defeat Yearling Middle School on Sept. 19 (30-28, 25-23) at a home game in Brighton.




Rachel Buxton

Tribal member Cheyenne Nunez of Yearling Middle School comes home to Brighton to play against the Charter School's Lady Seminoles on Sept. 19.



Rachel Buxton

Kalgary Johns serves for the Lady Seminoles to help defeat Yearling Middle School on Sept. 19 at a home match in Brighton.




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Together we'll go far

Tribal youth Aubee Billie proves girls can play ball too



Rachel Buxton

Aubee Billie, No. 12, blends right in with the rest of her team.

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Eight-year-old Aubee Billie is crossing the gender boundaries and proving girls can do anything.

Many know Billie as the former 2009-2010 Little Miss Seminole donning beautiful dresses and riding in parades. But today, Billie has traded in her crown and patchwork for a helmet and pads.

Weighing in at 68 pounds, Billie is the lone girl on the 75 and under Brighton Warriors pee wee football team. And tackle football at that.

"I wanted to show them how tough I am," Billie said.

Billie, a student at Pemayetv Emahakv, is known to her family and friends as a girly girl, so when she asked to play football it came as quite a shock.

Billie said that when she went to her parents, Chairman James E. Billie and Maria, for permission to play, they didn't know where it was coming from.

Her brother Eecho recalled how Billie attempted to play soccer but quit after only the second game.

"She's not a sport-like person," Eecho said. "She quit soccer because no one would give her the ball."

But Billie said she wanted to try something new. Cheerleading: she's done it and it wasn't for her.

With her helmet on, Billie fits right in and looks disguised as one of the boys. Billie has even fooled some of her friends on the team.

"Ramone didn't even know I was a girl until I took my helmet off," Billie laughed.

Although the Warriors pee wee league is full-contact tackle football, Billie said she doesn't feel scared about getting tackled: "You just have to push them out of the way."

Billie may spend her afternoons and weekends on the football field with the boys, but she is still a girl at heart.

"I wear pink; I wear nail polish," Billie said. "I just want people to know that girls can do anything a boy can."

The Brighton community created and sponsors four different age divisions in the pee wee football league. Youth from surrounding counties including Okeechobee and Glades County join Tribal youth to make up the Warriors teams. The Warriors host games on the Brighton Reservation, as well as travel to nearby towns to compete.

Tribal member Airianna Nunez excels as a volleyball player

JUPITER — The Jupiter High School volleyball team has a new sensation on campus this year: Seminole Tribal volleyball player Airianna Nunez. Nunez began her volleyball career in the second grade. Her potential to be a great player showed immediately because of her careless and reckless enthusiasm to do whatever necessary to help her team.

Nunez played with the travel team Big Lake Juniors but really began to hone her skills under the mentorship of Bruce Conrad at Yearling Middle School in Okeechobee. During her reign with the Yearlings, the team went undefeated for three years in a row. That's 57 victories straight against Okeechobee's surrounding competition.

Now relocated to the Jupiter area, Nunez played with the travel team 16's "Jupiter Chill" at the age of 14. She received training from both former Florida State University and University of Florida volleyball players. Together, the highlight was winning the Gold Division at the Fort Lauderdale Convention Center along with other numerous first-place victories.

She competed with 70 other volleyball players to vie for a spot on the Jupiter High School team. Now a member of the Warrior program, they have 10 straight victories along with a first-place tournament win. At the tournament in Park Vista, Nunez received the MVP Award for her outstanding play throughout the two-day tournament. Jupiter Varsity High School Coach Betts said, "She has one of the best vertical leaps I've seen, and she's crushing that ball."

— Submitted by David Nunez



Photo courtesy of David Nunez

Nunez received the MVP Award at a Park Vista tournament.

◆ RODEO

From page 1C

Her plan is to put together a DVD at the end of the rodeo season to give to all the members showcasing all their hard work.

The team has become one big family. And they even reside at Bowers' house while in Brighton.

"We call my house Team Phoenix Headquarters," Bowers laughed. "It's a lot of fun and I miss them all the time."

Members of Team Phoenix are headed to the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) in Las Vegas Nov. 8-12 in hopes of taking the grand title in their respective events.

Marvin and partner Cort will compete in the team roping event. Warbonnet qualified for the tour and will compete in bareback riding, while GrayWolf and Wheeler will compete in steer wrestling.

"We're all just really excited," Bowers said about the team members making it to the finals.

She admits that rodeo is not her thing and that she lives vicariously through Team Phoenix.

"I'm more like the marketing person," Bowers laughed. "I'm going to make Team Phoenix a house name."



Photo courtesy of Lucy Bowers

Phoenix Everano, the inspiration for Team Phoenix.



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Chairman James E. Billie on hand for Don King boxing event



Chris C. Jenkins

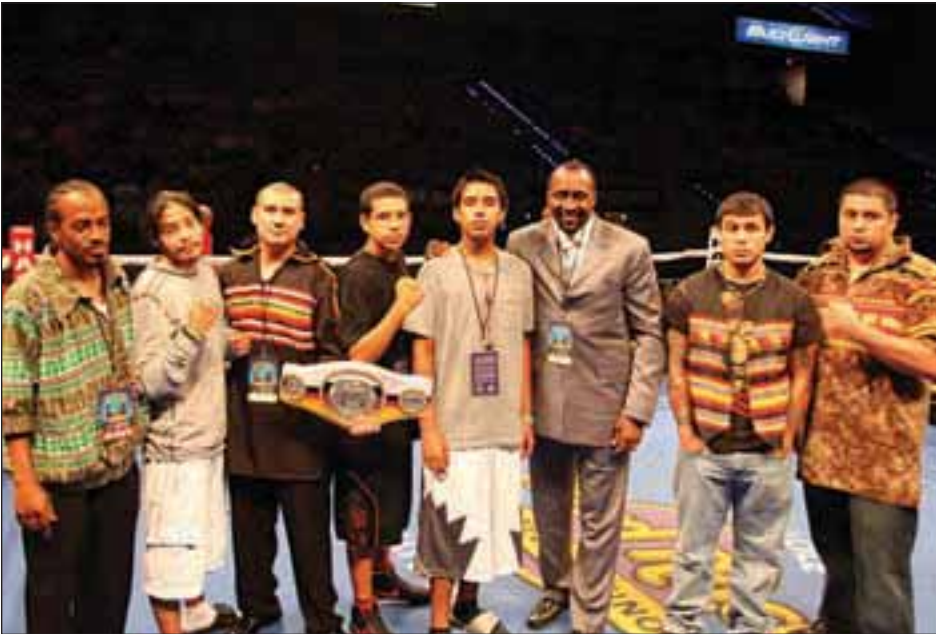
Chairman James E. Billie, fifth from left, was the special guest of legendary professional boxing promoter Don King, fourth from left, and other fighters at the Hard Rock on Oct. 5. King held a press conference for his Nov. 5 cruiserweight world championship fight card “Viva Don King!” at the Hard Rock Live.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Tina DeVito, right, director of the Help Others Foundation, joins Hall of Fame promoter Don King after his press conference promoting his Nov. 5 event at the Hard Rock Live.

Panther Promotions partners with DreamWorks for second event



Chris C. Jenkins

Panther Promotions Boxing promoters Elliot Alvarado, second from left, and Benny Collins, far left, are joined inside the ring with Tribal boxing hopefuls, from left, Julius Billie, Kyle Alvarado, Aaron Alvarado, Aaron Cypress and Nelson MacElroy as part of the second Panther Promotions Boxing event held at the Hard Rock Live on Sept. 23.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Stephen Billie of Seminole Media Productions, right, interviews Panther Promotions Boxing co-promoter Benny Collins ringside.



Chris C. Jenkins

Panther Promotions Boxing staff join eight-time world title boxing great Thomas “Hitman” Hearns, second from right, at the pre-fight press conference at Bongos Cuban Café at Seminole Paradise on Sept. 21. The company partnered with DreamWorks in promotion of the event, which featured seven bouts and promoted the film *Real Steel* starring Hugh Jackman.

2011 Native Women & Youth in Ag Annual Writing Competition

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Winners & Prizes: Three (3) finalists will be announced the second week of November 2011 & provided an all-expense paid trip (including one (1) chaperone) to the 2011 Intertribal Agriculture Council annual meeting in Las Vegas, NV December 5-9, 2011. Finalists will be awarded several other special prizes presented at the Awards Luncheon & will serve as Ag Ambassadors in 2011/2012. Each finalist is required to read a short introduction and their original essay at the Awards Luncheon.

Guidelines:

- 3-6 pages in length
- 3-5 sentences about yourself
- Typed
- One-inch margins
- Double spaced
- 12-point font
- 3-5 sources

Judging Criteria:

- ✓ Creativity
- ✓ Quality of Sources
- ✓ Quality of Grammar
- ✓ Spelling & Punctuation
- ✓ Organization of information
- ✓ Length of entry
- ✓ Documentation of Sources (3-5 sources required)
- ✓ Appropriate information for the topic: solution driven (researched criteria) NOT issue driven information

All entries **MUST BE ACCOMPANIED** by a separate sheet containing the student’s name, address, telephone number, email (if available), school attending & Tribal affiliation.

Send Essay Submission to:
Native Women & Youth in Ag
c/o Vicki Hebb, Executive Director
PO Box 217
Cherry Creek, SD 57622
Email: vicki.hebb@indianaglink.com

Phone: 605.964.4342
Note: all entries will be used in future publications & for PR purposes

Entries may be mailed (postmarked 11/04/2011) or emailed (re: NWYIA ESSAY CONTEST)

2010 Essay Finalists posing with 2010 INFR All-Around Champion, Joe Wilson, former INFR World Champion Saddle Borne Rider, Mary Hebb, 4-time INFR qualifier, Derrick Bogy & 2008, 2009, 2010 INFR Ambassador of the year, Roy Champ at the Awards Luncheon photo-op.

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Seminole Agency
6100 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 206
Hollywood, Florida 33024
(954) 983-1337
(954) 983-5018 fax

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

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

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and lease of a home on trust property for Reuben Billie Jr. The approximately 1.49 acre lot is located off of Eagles Pass at Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Section 12, Hendry County, Florida, which is located on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Reservation. The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated August 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Reuben Billie Jr. Proposed Lease, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County, Florida". This EA has been adopted and FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and lease of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability (NOA), that the EA and FONSI for the Federal action of approving the proposed home construction and lease of trust property are available for public review. The BIA has approved and adopted the above referenced EA which addressed this proposal. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information in the EA. Based on the EA, it has been determined that the action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. You may obtain a copy of the EA and FONSI from the BIA Eastern Regional Office or the Environmental Resources Management Department of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, 6365 Taff Street, Suite 3008, Hollywood, FL 33024; telephone (954) 983-4380.

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 Marrett Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214; telephone (615) 564-6832.

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

Date: 9/13/11

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Second annual Sprint/Stroll for Recovery is another success



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizens and employees race to action as part of the second annual Seminoles in Recovery 5K Sprint/Stroll for Recovery held at Topeekeegee Yugnee Park in Hollywood on Sept. 17. The 3.1-mile race featured adults and seniors in running and walking categories with proceeds benefitting the fourth annual Florida Native American Recovery Convention.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Family Services director Helene Buster sprints toward the finish in the senior runner category.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Steve Osceola crosses the finish line with grandson Tyler Jenkins in the senior walker division.



Chris C. Jenkins

Information Technology Department employee Michael Miller shows off his first-place trophy in the adult runner division.

♦ More photos from Tigertail Basketball Tournament on page 1C



Naji Tobias

You Don't Want It's Haley Garcia, left, grabs a loose ball to give her team the offensive possession as Cold Play's Jayne Lomakema, right, tries to defend in a Sept. 17 adult women's preliminary game.



Naji Tobias

Balls Deep's Tyler Harjoe drives for the layup during an adult men's preliminary game against the Flight defense at the fifth annual Tigertail Brothers Memorial Basketball Tournament on Sept. 17.



Naji Tobias

Josie Balentine of Balls Deep dribbles his way past Flight's Keith Bradley in his team's preliminary game during the adult men's edition of the Tigertail Brothers Basketball Tournament on Sept. 17.



United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Seminole Agency
6100 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 206
Hollywood, Florida 33024
(954) 983-1537
(954) 983-3418 fax



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

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

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and lease of a home on trust property for Anthony Lee Osceola. The approximately 1.49 acre lot is located off of Cuts Claw Lane at Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Section 01, Hendry County, Florida, which is located on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Reservation. The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated August 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Anthony Lee Osceola Proposed Lease, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County, Florida". This EA has been adopted and FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and lease of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability (NOA), that the EA and FONSI for the Federal action of approving the proposed home construction and lease of trust property are available for public review. The BIA has approved and adopted the above referenced EA which addressed this proposal. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information in the EA. Based on the EA, it has been determined that the action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. You may obtain a copy of the EA and FONSI from the BIA Eastern Regional Office or the Environmental Resource 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, 345 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 364-6832.



Superintendent, Seminole Agency
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: 9/26/2011



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(954) 983-1537
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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and lease of a home on trust property for Martin Miller. The approximately 0.42 acre lot is located at 30710 Wind Clan Road at Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Section 11, Hendry County, Florida, which is located on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Reservation. The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated September 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Martin Miller Proposed Lease, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County, Florida". This EA has been adopted and FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and lease of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

NOTICE: This is a Notice of Availability (NOA), that the EA and FONSI for the Federal action of approving the proposed home construction and lease of trust property are available for public review. The BIA has approved and adopted the above referenced EA which addressed this proposal. The FONSI determination was based on review and analysis of the information in the EA. Based on the EA, it has been determined that the action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. You may obtain a copy of the EA and FONSI from the BIA Eastern Regional Office or the Environmental Resource 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, 345 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 364-6832.



Superintendent, Seminole Agency
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date: 9/23/11

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