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# Big Cypress Casino Grand Opening



Peter B. Gallagher

From left, new Big Cypress Casino manager Neil Baxley, Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger and Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening of the reservation's new casino. ♦ See CASINO on page 4A

## Miss Florida Seminole competes in Miss Indian World 2012



Christine McCall

Miss Florida Seminole Jewel Buck, right, celebrates with Miss Indian World 2012 winner Jessa Rae Growing Thunder.

**BY CHRISTINE MCCALL**  
 Contributing Writer

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** — With pow-wow season in full swing, thousands of dancers and vendors descended upon Albuquerque, N.M. for the annual Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow. Happening alongside the Gathering was the Miss Indian World 2012 competition.

Miss Florida Seminole Jewel Buck made the trip to Albuquerque on April 24 for the three-day competition and competed against 26 young women from April 26-28 for the title of Miss Indian World. The winner represents Indigenous people all around

the world.

The competition consists of an interview, a traditional talent exhibition, a dance competition and a personal essay.

"It's not about the competition anymore," Buck said. "It's about making new, lifelong friends."

For the talent portion, Buck sang a traditional Creek hymn and proceeded to translate the hymn for the audience. Several Tribal members attended the talent competition and said Buck represented the Tribe with dignity and honor. Buck's stage presence and personality made a lasting impression on all those in attendance.

On the last night of the Gathering, all 27 contestants circled "The Pit" at the University of New Mexico to hear the final results of Miss Indian World 2012. Nikki Santos, representing the Coeur d'Alene/Taino Tribes of Marrayville, Wa., was announced as second runner-up, and Joanne Morales-Gonzales, representing the Taino people of Puerto Rico, was announced as first runner-up. Morales-Gonzales is the first woman of her Tribe to compete for the Miss Indian World title. Finally, the new Miss Indian World crown was given to 22-year-old Jessa Rae Growing Thunder, representing the Fort Peck Assiniboine/Sioux Tribes of Poplar, Mont.

After the crowning, the new Miss Indian World and fellow honorees were escorted to meet the press, and Buck congratulated the winner.

"I got to know Jessa Rae very well," Buck said. "My advice to her is to treat every experience like your last because one year goes by fast."

The two friends will get to see each other once again at the annual Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant, as Miss Indian World will be an official judge selecting the new Miss Florida Seminole and Junior Miss Florida Seminole this summer.

Buck represented the Seminole Tribe of Florida proudly and left the competition with a great experience and new friends among the strong Native woman throughout Indian Country.

"I would not change a single thing," Buck said of her experience. "Walking into Grand Entry was like walking into a football stadium. As we were walking through the thousands of people and they kept cheering us on, we all walked with such pride in our own cultures."

♦ See more MISS INDIAN WORLD photos on page 6A



Brett Daly

Clinton Holt wrestles a 200-pound gator on May 9.

## Clinton Holt kicks off Okalee Village Pow-Wow with gator wrestling

**BY BRETT DALY**  
 Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — Tribal member Clinton Holt once again tempted fate on May 9 by performing an alligator wrestling trick that nearly killed him in 2011.

It was the first time Holt performed the head trick since an alligator named Houdini clamped down on his skull more than a year ago, and he did it all to kick off the second annual Okalee Village Pow-Wow's Freestyle Alligator Wrestling Competitions (FAWC).

In 2009, Holt and his brother James, along with David Weathers and Ian Tyson, founded FAWC to promote alligator wrestling as a sport.

During the kick-off demonstration, Holt jumped

into a 6-foot-deep pool — complete with two alligators, a snapping turtle and only 6 inches of visibility — to wrestle the gator out of the water and onto land. It weighs more than 200 pounds, is 8 ½ feet long and has 80 razor-sharp teeth. Gators' jaws can bite down with 2,000 pounds of pressure.

"I was pretty nervous," Holt said. "My adrenaline was going."

Once he got the gator on land, he performed a series of tricks, saving the head trick for the grand finale. The last time he performed the move, he was stuck in Houdini's jaws for 90 seconds and left with a fractured skull and deep puncture wounds, he said.

♦ See GATOR on page 5A

See Mother's and Father's Day coverage in the next Issue of The Tribune

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Tribal seniors gather in Trail page 3A

# Editorial

## Youth, what can we do for you?

• **Tony Sanchez Jr.**

We need to approach our young people and ask them what we can do for them. We need to ask our youth what they think we can provide on the reservation that will enhance their quality of life and keep them out of harm's way. We must find out what they feel needs to be done to stop the substance abuse and lessen the pressures that are threatening the very lives of those who are the future of our Seminole Tribe.

You and I, all of us adults, may have ideas of what might work, but we are basing our solutions on how it was when we grew up. We must realize that the Seminole child of today is much different than the child of yesterday. When we grew up, life was so much simpler. Both moms and dads were still working. The elders made sure we got fed and kept us near the camp when the sun went down. We laughed and played and went to school with none of the pressures on us that today's Seminole youth have.

Our kids are targets everywhere they go, especially as they approach the age when they come into their money. All of our boys and girls can tell us disturbing experiences they have had dealing with their peers outside the reservation, targeting our children as a means of gaining what they perceive as an easy way of life. I cannot believe some of the stories my own daughter has told me, the cruel words so many of our Seminole kids have heard. Such pressure prevents our kids from being the kids we used to be. Instead of exploring the possibilities of the future, they worry about the money, what their peers think and making decisions they are not prepared to make. No other young people in Florida suffer this pressure.

I have heard Seminole leaders speak many times about how "the youth are our future." Well, it is time to make sure they

have a future. We have to ask the youth, starting with the best and brightest, what we can do. Every reservation will be different. What works in Hollywood may not work in Big Cypress. Access to everything, good and bad, is different on each reservation. Programs must be styled on each reservation with this in mind. Above all, we need to talk to youth on every reservation.

This is something that will take all of us – Tribal leaders, Tribal members, all of us. We must recognize that there is a need for action, and we must step forward. Accepting the fact that there is a need comes first. With all the departments and skillful minds we have – and with input from the youth, themselves – I'm very confident we can start developing and creating solutions.

No, it won't happen overnight. This is a marathon, not a sprint, and it is going to take the entire Tribe to heal the Tribe now.

We have to recognize, especially, that the youth will need help in learning how to deal with the sudden wealth they come into. We need an extensive financial literacy program to be established. Going through a one-day program like they do now does not work. The focus is not on learning; it's, "I got to finish this thing to get my money."

The type of program I would envision encompasses a much longer period and produces sustainable results. Call it "Financial Skills 101" if you want to. Yes, you get a certain amount every month, but you have to manage it. Understand what it means to buy a car, a house. Learn to balance a checkbook, how to make sure bills are paid every month. Understand fully what credit is all about. Become adept at the standard components of survival in pursuit of sustainable prosperity.

Beware of the dangers, the culture of con men and crooks that lie in wait for our Seminole youth when they are most vulnerable. The buzzards are flying around everywhere they go. We must give our youth the knowledge, the courage and the life skills to withstand such pressure. They

must learn, even at a young age, how to do real business in the real business world, how to negotiate, how not to be taken advantage of, how to barter, compromise and, above all, protect – not squander – their assets.

Take a look at the famous. How many stories about wealthy entertainment artists and athletes going broke have we heard? World-famous men and women who became targets, just like our youth. The big entourage that surround such people, the uncontrolled spending, the eye on a party somewhere and not on the checkbook. Toni Braxton, M.C. Hammer, Mike Tyson, the list goes on and on and on – individuals with a tremendous amount of wealth, now struggling, forced to take jobs they don't really want to take, all with huge IRS issues. Our youth have to learn how to deal with the IRS. The IRS can take anybody down and they will do it.

I think about Edgerrin James, who I personally know. High school football hero from Immokalee, went to the University of Miami, drafted by the Colts in the first round, got a big check and all of a sudden, long-lost cousins, uncles and aunts he never knew came out of the woodwork like he was their favorite nephew or cousin. It occurred to me that our youth are just like Edgerrin James. The minute they get their money, everyone comes out of the woodwork.

Suddenly, the most important thing Edgerrin had to do in life wasn't to play football; it was to safeguard his money – a full time job! He had financial advisers, attorneys, agents, contracts but he still had to be personally conscious of where his funds were going because, after all, he is the one taking the beating.

The NFL provides all of its players with an intensive orientation program that takes athletes through the pitfalls of sudden wealth. We need to be doing the same thing.

But how can we bring the youth to the table? How can we go about asking them for their opinions? We have to sit down with them, convene focus groups. We start

by asking them point-blank, "What are we doing well?" Then, "What can we improve upon?"

We must make it clear that we are seeking brutal honesty. I am President of the Tribe, and I admit I have no idea what they are going to say – no one does. But we need to know, "Youth, what can we do for you? How can we make this work?"

Then, we need to take action. If we truly believe that our youth are the future, then we can't give it lip service.

Let's find out. Let's not guess. We can do it, especially with the resources we have today. The Tribe could have never done this when we were young. The Tribe and all its members were busy trying to survive, get established. Things are different today. We are established, and so, too, are our problems.

I don't know how long the Man upstairs will let me be around. When you are in a role of leadership, you have to protect everything and everyone, and right now, one of the problems we have not done a good job of addressing is helping our youth when they come into their money. When should the teaching begin? Third grade? Middle school? I really believe something needs to start at least two or three years before they come of age to receive their funds. It needs to be creative, intensive and they need to learn, not just "finish."

We go to funerals, and when it is a young person, many of their friends and peers are there. You have to believe this experience seriously affects a young man or woman, but we have to remember that after the friends leave the funeral, they still have the pressure. It's still there, maybe even worse now. I believe they are trying to function in the best way they know how. We need to help them through. Our leadership cannot give up on the youth. We must be prepared to listen and move to meet the expectations and desires of the youth. We must guide them and listen.

I am aware that this is a topic that will

hit some nerves, but I have always spoken of making decisions today that will ensure that the Tribe will be around, healthy and well for years and years, all the way until whenever that final day is. I believe in my heart that the leadership of today is ready and willing to address this sensitive issue. We are all tired of burying the youth.

I welcome all suggestions. Any youth with any ideas should contact my office. I will personally come talk with you at the earliest convenience, or, if you would prefer, contact your reservation's Council or Board Representative. You know them; you see them all the time. Just walk up and talk to them. We have to start somewhere. Tell us what you want. Tell us what we can do for you. We want to talk to you. Come talk to us.

My hope is that this dialogue will start the ball rolling and ensure that our Tribal leadership does a much better job in developing appropriate, effective programs that can help our youth have a long and prosperous future.

May God be with all of the family and friends of those we have lost recently. Since the month of May signifies Mother's Day, a great thank you to all of our moms. Sho-naa-bish!

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

*Note: Chairman James E. Billie's editorial will resume in the next issue of The Seminole Tribune.*



## Native groups seek to end violence against women

BY GALE COUREY TOENSING  
Indian Country Today

While congressional lawmakers in Washington are trying to strip the Violence Against Women Act of its protections for Indigenous women, Indigenous delegations at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York are calling for an end to violence against Indigenous women and girls.

The Republican-led U.S. House Judiciary Committee voted 17-15 on May 8 to remove the protections for Native American women from the VAWA reauthorization legislation that passed the U.S. Senate in late April, with only Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, crossing party lines to join the Democrats to vote against it.

A substitute amendment from Ranking Member John Conyers, D-Mich., that would have protected Tribal sections of the Senate bill was denied consideration by the committee's majority.

Other amendments meant to strengthen the legislation were also defeated. During the hearing, Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., stood up in support of Native women's rights and offered an amendment that would have restored the critical Tribal criminal jurisdiction provisions in the bipartisan Senate bill but was forced to withdraw due to threats from party members.

Meanwhile, at the Permanent Forum, which took place May 7-18, multiple nongovernmental organizations and delegations called for further study of the Doctrine of Discovery (DoD), particularly as its inherent themes of racist and religious superiority have resulted in dominance and dehumanization of Indigenous women.

The Doctrine of Discovery – the special theme of this year's Permanent Forum – developed from 15th century papal bulls and royal charters of European monarchs that gave European Christians the right to invade, claim and colonize the lands and their resources "discovered" by their explorers if no Christians lived on the lands. If the "pagan" inhabitant converted to Christianity, they might be allowed to

live; otherwise, they could be killed or enslaved. The Doctrine morphed into an interpretative framework of dominance that became embedded and institutionalized in law and policy both in the United States and internationally.

On the same day, the congressional finance committee stripped the protective provisions from VAWA. Global Indigenous Women's Caucus (GIWC), which had held a planning session May 4, prior to the opening of the Permanent Forum, presented its statement calling on the international body to further study of the Doctrine, focusing on the way its inherent endorsement of dominance and dehumanization continues to impact Indigenous women today.

The statement urges the Permanent Forum to adopt recommendations in the Conference Room Paper on the Doctrine of Discovery presented by the Haudenosaunee, the American Indian Law Alliance and the Indigenous Law Institute and "to particularly use gender analysis" in further international study of the DoD focusing on:

- Its impacts on dominance and dehumanization of Indigenous peoples based on legal principles and doctrines.
- Its effects on Indigenous people's health; human and collective rights; and titles to lands, resources and medicines.
- Its effects on the displacement of Indigenous women from leadership and decision-making roles through the imposition of patriarchal norms and expectations that replaced traditional forms of self-governance.
- The relationship between the DoD and violence against Indigenous women and children; the removal of children from their families by States; environmental violence; reproductive health; and higher rates of youth suicide.
- Its continued impacts on global economic arrangements and policies and how they relate to migration/border issues and result in the separation of families and the violation of individual human and collective Indigenous rights.

Read the full article at [www.IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com](http://www.IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com).



Peter B. Gallagher

## Unofficial Big Cypress Survival Guide, Part One

BY JARRID SMITH  
Contributing Writer

It's been almost a year since my family and I moved onto the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation. I've had the privilege of being raised on the Hollywood Seminole Reservation and the Brighton Seminole Reservation, spending roughly half of my formative years on each. Together, these three reservations comprise the bulk of the Seminole Tribe's reservation land and hold a majority of its people.

There are many similarities between each of the reservations: Most prominent is the shared history and culture that make up the Tribe's citizens. However, there are also some differences that are worth noting – especially in regards to the Big Cypress Reservation – and I'm combining these differences into this Unofficial Big Cypress Survival Guide.

Before I get to the guide, allow me to share a few of my experiences with Big Cypress, all prior to me moving out to Big Cypress.

I've gotten involved in many different sports over the years: bowling, skating, football, baseball, track and field, basketball and rodeo. Some of these sports are individual and some are team, but all taught me different life lessons. These lessons include teamwork, dedication and – most prominent – perseverance.

Over the years, the teams I was a part

of ended the season on the lower side of the winning spectrum...In other words, we stunk! Perseverance, for me, was learned in the heart of those poor seasons when I stuck it out and decided to improve. Of course, sticking it out in bowling is a lot easier than sticking it out in rodeo, especially since I was a bull rider.

Rodeo is big on the Brighton Reservation, stemming from the history of cattle raising that began in the early part of the 20th century. Rodeo has always been in my life. I count the movie *8 Seconds* as one of my all-time favorites.

The most influential person of my life, my grandfather Fred Smith, loved rodeo. I recall countless trips to the Brighton Rodeo Arena to watch the cowboys and cowgirls perform; I loved getting behind the scenes and looking up close at the livestock. The Brighton Rodeo Arena now bears the name of my grandfather, a tribute to his love of rodeo and his dedication to the community.

The best part of being at the Brighton Rodeo Arena was the people. I have great memories of folks both young and old; the people at the concession stand cooked some amazing food.

Given all that history I have with rodeo, getting involved in the sport came naturally. Had my grandfather been alive, I may have chosen calf roping or bull dogging; he had a great appreciation for the skill and precision it takes to do what those cowboys do. In his absence, I chose

bull riding and thus began my mom's panic attacks...OK, I'm kidding about the panic attacks, but she did stress each time I climbed onto the back of a bull – rightfully so; if you've ever seen a cowboy tied up on the back of a bull, then you know why EMS staff are always located arena side. I wore a protective vest each time I rode, and it definitely saved me from serious injury a few times. My legs, however, went unprotected except for the chaps I wore, but they aren't much relief when 2,000 pounds of live beef come crashing down.

Like Brighton, Big Cypress has a foundation in cattle and rodeo. Several times, I found myself behind the chutes at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena nervously preparing for my next ride. If you find yourself passing by the arena with the arena lights on and rows of horse trailers parked out back, then stop in. You're guaranteed a good show and a full stomach. At various times, there are rodeos that are bigger than others with more participants and higher payouts, but no matter the time of year, the first part of your survival in Big Cypress should be to understand the history and people of rodeo.

*This article originally appeared on Jarrid Smith's blog on May 10 and was reprinted here with his permission.*

*Look for Part Two of the Unofficial Big Cypress Survival Guide soon on Smith's blog at [www.JarridSmith.com](http://www.JarridSmith.com).*

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# Community

A

## Tribal seniors gather in Trail for action-packed day of fun



Kathryn Stolarz

Tribal seniors and employees from Immokalee, Big Cypress and Trail get ready to take an airboat ride through the Everglades on May 9.

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ  
Copy Editor

**TRAIL**—About 15 Tribal seniors from Immokalee, Big Cypress and Trail gathered at the Miccosukee Indian Village on May 9 for fellowship and fun. Many hadn't visited Trail in years, and old memories surfaced.

"They don't really get a chance to come to our neck of the woods," Trail Liaison Norman Huggins said. "You get a chance to catch up."

A Village staff member gave the seniors a tour of the Village, starting with an explanation of Miccosukee family traditions at the model cooking and eating chickees. Then, they walked down a row of chickees where the seniors saw demonstrations of traditional beading, wood carving and sewing. The path led to the Miccosukee Museum, where they viewed old photographs and watched a video about the importance of Miccosukee culture.

While there, Liaison Huggins pointed out black-and-white photos of his Independent grandfather and uncles from the mid-1900s. He said one thing that makes Trail unique from other reservations is the mix of Independents, Seminoles and Miccosukees; he, like many, has family members in all three categories.

The Village tour ended with a live alligator show, where seniors winced and gasped as the alligator wrestler pulled out all the big tricks. Immokalee Tribal senior Mary Sanchez walked away reminiscing about her days in the pit.

"No one believes me," President Tony Sanchez Jr.'s mother said, "but I used to wrestle alligators."

She said she performed at the Native Village in Daytona when she was about 18, although a storm that flooded her chickee years ago destroyed the photographs that proved it.

After the show, seniors bused down the road and took a mid-day airboat ride through the Everglades. The predicted storms kept at bay, and clear skies and sunshine made for a pleasant ride.

"Once upon a time, we used to live out here on these hammocks," Huggins said as he looked out into the sawgrass-filled abyss. "It's like coming full circle."

Immokalee's Joseph Billie recalled fishing and hunting turtles in those waters maybe 40-50 years ago, and this trip was his first time back since then.

The day wrapped up with a traditional lunch at the Huggins Camp, where Billie enjoyed visiting with his brother Tommie from Clewiston.

For Big Cypress senior Carol Cypress, the meal was a highlight of the gathering. She said she especially enjoyed the boiled squash and bananas. Also on the menu were fried garfish, fried chicken, spam and rice, frybread and sofkee.

President Sanchez visited and offered his greetings, wishing everyone a happy Mother's Day.

"Sometimes we all get so busy that we take our moms for granted, but on that one day, we really need to take the time to really tell them how much you appreciate them," he said. "No matter how old you get, you're always going to be their little son or daughter, and for me, my mom is very special."

♦ See more TRAIL photos on page 6A

## Tribal members fight to preserve piece of Seminole history



Brett Daly

Everett Osceola, left, and Pedro Zepeda rally to save Fort Lauderdale's Colee Station Post Office.

BY BRETT DALY  
Senior Editor

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — Tribal members Everett Osceola and Pedro Zepeda paddled a traditional Seminole canoe down the New River Canal on May 5. With two mail bags onboard, they made their way toward the Post Office in the same way their ancestors traveled in the early 1900s.

The symbolic sendoff of mail was part

of a rally to save the Colee Station Post Office on Las Olas Boulevard, which has been a Fort Lauderdale staple for more than 65 years. Downsizing of the United States Post Offices threatens to close it down along with thousands of others around the country.

"We don't want to lose what's valuable in our community," said Robin Merrill, the organizer of the rally. "[The Post Office] is

part of our community. You go in there and people know you by name."

The rally began at the Stranahan House, a site closely associated with the founding of Fort Lauderdale and its economic and social development. Built as a trading post for settlers and Seminole Indians in 1901 by Frank Stranahan, it evolved into the city's post office, community center and town hall.

It was this connection with the Seminoles that drew Osceola and Zepeda to the rally.

"Who better to call than the unconquered Seminoles when you're taking on the U.S. government?" Merrill said. "I needed help."

During the rally, the two Tribal members transported mail from the Stranahan House to the All Saints Episcopal Church. There, the Fort Lauderdale mounted police, acting as the Pony Express, took the mail from the Seminole messengers and rode it to the Colee Station. Supporters followed on foot behind them.

"Seminoles have always helped the Stranahan House," Osceola said, adding that Chairman James E. Billie has actively tried to ensure that the historical house doesn't close down. "We should give something back."

April Kirk, director of the Stranahan House, said the event offered them a way to share the rich history between the House and the Seminole Tribe.

"The story between the Seminole Tribe and the Stranahan House is very important," she said. "We want to share that bond. It's the history of the Stranahan House; it's the history of the Seminole Tribe; it's the history of Fort Lauderdale."

♦ See POST OFFICE on page 11A



Peter B. Gallagher

Dorothy Gardiner paints Brighton's Red Barn to help raise funds for its eventual renovations.

## Noted artist paints Red Barn

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Her name is Dorothy Gardiner.

She is a famous artist, and she is painting the old Red Barn.

Well, not exactly. The old classic structure really hasn't had a good coat of paint since it was first built around 1941 by the Civilian Conservation Corps as a stable for the first Seminole cowboys.

Gardiner is painting the Red Barn on canvas using the pastels and dreamy style that makes her one of the nation's top "en plein air" artists. A French expression, "en plein air" means "in the open air" and describes the act of painting outdoors using

available light.

Travelers on the Brighton Reservation may have seen her standing for hours behind an elaborate easel, walking about the possibly 71-year-old barn located just west of the Harney Pond Canal.

"I really appreciate the chance to paint this wonderful structure," said Gardiner, whose work is sold at prominent galleries in New York and San Francisco.

"Working outside like this is very inspirational to me," she said. "When your childhood is spent hiking mountains, exploring caves, ghost towns, border towns and working on a ranch, it is not much of a leap to work 'en plein air.'"

♦ See RED BARN on page 6A

## Seminole Tribe takes first place in Immokalee Harvest Festival Parade



Photo courtesy of Christine McCall

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's royalty and Tribal members participate in the 2012 Immokalee Harvest Festival Parade on April 14.



Photo courtesy of Christine McCall

Little Mr. and Miss Florida Seminole wave to the crowd during the Immokalee Harvest Festival.



Photo courtesy of Christine McCall

Tribal members enjoy riding on the float during the Immokalee Harvest Festival Parade. The Seminole Tribe won first place for their float.

# Q-and-A with Tribal member Carol Cypress

BY JUDY WEEKS  
Freelance Writer

**BIG CYPRESS** — William L. “Billy” Cypress was the executive director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum from 1989 until his passing in 2004 and was instrumental in the establishment of the Big Cypress facility. His wife, Carol, was his lifelong companion, and together they raised three children. Champions of education, they both recognized the important role that the Museum would play in the preservation of their Seminole culture and the education of future generations.

A member of the Panther Clan, Carol was introduced to the traditional Seminole crafts at an early age and has developed her skills into a fine art. She is known for her extraordinary bead work, storytelling, oral histories, appliqué and embroidered bandolier bags. Sharing her knowledge and creations provides an important contribution to the preservation of Seminole heritage.

**Q.** Your husband, William L. “Billy” Cypress, was a founder of the Ah-Tah-Thi-

Ki Museum program and facility. How exactly did the Museum come to be? Take us back in time a bit.

**A.** Actually, Billy was not one of the Museum founders. Chairman James E. Billie established the first branch of the Museum in the early 1980s at the Tampa Reservation as Cootanchobee, and the Hollywood branch opened a few years later. During that time, Billy was a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Superintendent of Education for the Southeastern Tribes. We lived in Virginia for many years to be close to his government offices.

Following his retirement from the BIA in 1989, he took a position as a youth director for a summer program in Hollywood for a few weeks. Then he applied for a director’s position with the Museum. Billy had promoted education his whole life and looked forward to the historical and educational opportunities that the Museum could provide for future generations.

**Q.** The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress will celebrate its 15th anniversary in August. Can you tell us what transpired in the years leading up to the grand opening

in 1997?

**A.** The children and I returned to Hollywood in the year preceding Billy’s retirement. My father, Willie Frank, was in poor health, and I wanted to help take care of him. Shortly after my arrival, I was asked to be a commissioner on the Museum Board. Museum director David Blackard was developing an expansion of programs with his staff and the commissioners. Plans for a main facility in Big Cypress were on the table.

Billy accepted the position of executive director and was deeply involved in the overall plan for the initial building, its contents and programs. He visited and explored many other museums during the planning and employed consultants from Native American museums in the design process. Originally, the curators wanted a theme based on the Stranahan Trading Post, but a consultant pointed out that the focus should be on the Seminole people, not one aspect of their history.

**Q.** What, in your words, is the mission of the Museum?

**A.** Its mission is the preservation of our culture, and that includes collections, displays, exhibits, oral histories, photo archives, historical documents, libraries, preservation of artifacts and documenting traditional art, crafts and historical sites. Billy felt that the Museum was a keeper of treasures, and he took a special interest in their preservation.

**Q.** Tell us how the name Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki was settled on and what it means to you?

**A.** Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki means “to learn,” and that is what the Museum was created to do. It is a place to hold, preserve and educate so that the present and future generations will not lose their culture. The original logo for the Museum was patchwork, and I felt that it better represented our Tribe than the current one. I hope that someday they will consider returning to the original.

**Q.** How was the location decided upon for the Big Cypress facility?

**A.** The Chairman, James Billie, had a home site and camp in the heart of Big Cypress that he made available. It was an ideal location because it was in the center of the community, on the main road and backed up to an undisturbed cypress dome with a lot of potential for cultural use. Medicine Man Sonny Billie gave his blessing to the project at the ground breaking. Joe and Martha Osceola agreed to trade their house next door for a new home further down the road so there would be enough land for expansion. There was a very large chickee on the property that was originally planned for the first Museum structure, but termites made it necessary to tear it down. This was done to make room for the current building and the annex with the offices, preservation lab and vault followed sometime later.

**Q.** Starting a museum from the ground up is a difficult task. Meticulous care has gone into the creation of the permanent displays with regard to period clothing, hairstyles, ornamentation and traditional aspects of the culture. Who designed and orchestrated these detailed representations?

**A.** Director David Blackard did extensive research and planning that included several people in the final joint

*“Our culture as a people depends upon the maintenance and perpetuation of our traditions and our life ways.”*

effort. Tribal elders, historical documents and archive photos were consulted regarding details. Billy was determined that every aspect be authentic and consulted with other Native American museums regarding sources for the construction materials and layout of design to create a realistic atmosphere. The depiction of the water in the dugout canoe scene is one example of the focus on detail.

One of the main problems was the fact that the manikins available had Caucasian features. This problem was addressed by sending photographs of Seminole people for the preparation of the molds after first obtaining their permission. Among the models were two of my children, William and Sonya, several Seminoles and a few Creeks from the Brighton Reservation.

I did the leggings and a good bit of the beadwork. This project gave me an opportunity to study and learn more about the techniques of creating the bandolier bags, their historical significance and traditional construction and spiritual guidelines. I also worked as a technical adviser for the storytelling and participated in its development.

**Q.** Was the boardwalk and cultural village Billy’s inspiration?

**A.** I’m not sure who came up with that or if it was envisioned from the beginning. George Billie was in charge of the village, and despite his age, he continues to stay involved in its maintenance and operation. At first they talked about putting in a dirt walk to the village, but that wasn’t possible. Huge amounts of fill would have been required and culverts to allow the water to flow freely among the trees in the rainy season. Bringing in the dirt and construction equipment would have destroyed the swamp. The boardwalk was, of course, the better way to go, and it protected the environment.

**Q.** The Museum facility in Big Cypress is coming on its 15th anniversary in August and has accomplished many things, including being the first-ever Tribally governed museum to be fully accredited. Having been involved in the planning and creation, is it satisfying to see the early goals and vision come to pass?

**A.** Of course. Not only is Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki a place of learning for others, it has meant a lot to my gathering of knowledge. While I worked on various projects, I did research regarding the traditional arts and gained considerable insight into techniques that have been passed down from one generation to another. My beadwork and

the storytelling of my ancestors was an important part of my younger years, and I have enjoyed the opportunity of helping to preserve this for the future.

I was involved in the original oral history program and called upon to translate for some of the elders. This is an important resource of the Museum, and I gained a lot of personal information during the interviews.

**Q.** The Museum has in recent years staged a number of rotating exhibits in addition to the permanent exhibits first established and designed. This is done in part to actively involve Tribal members, stimulate and educate visiting audiences and feature items from the extensive and amazing Museum collection. What have been some of your favorites over the last years? What would you like to see in the way of exhibits in the future?

**A.** I enjoyed being part of the Seminole artwork exhibit and the opportunity it provided for local talent to express themselves. I also found the postcard review to be outstanding. This created an opportunity for Tribal members to see some of their extended families from recent generations and catch a glimpse of their lifestyle. It brought back memories of their youth for some of the elders and increased the Museum’s knowledge by identification of many of the participants.

Possible future exhibits could focus on dolls and patchwork. The Museum holds some very special pieces in its collections, and the history of these arts and crafts are an integral part of our heritage. This would also create an opportunity to display some of the current accomplishments of both our Tribal elders and the upcoming young artists. It might stimulate their creativity because soon it will be their responsibility to pass this art along to the next generation.

**Q.** The Museum has carried forward the early, significant relationship with the Smithsonian and in 2009 became one of the designated Smithsonian affiliates nationwide. How valuable was that partnership in forming the Museum? What do you feel is the value in it today?

**A.** Billy was involved with several Smithsonian committees, and consultants were an important part of the initial groundwork and planning that revolved around the creation of the Museum. Being designated an affiliate is an indication that many of the original goals of the Museum have been met, and by following the necessary guidelines, the Museum will continue to grow, protect and preserve our culture.

**Q.** What would you like to see the Museum accomplish in the next 15 years?

**A.** I would like to see more Seminole workers and our young people being educated to eventually fill the roles of the positions necessary for the operation of a successful museum. An extended outreach program within all the communities would be an important asset for the Museum and the Seminole people. This would be a positive reinforcement of our culture.

*This article originally appeared in the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki’s AQ in Issue 1: Volume 3. It was reprinted with permission from the Museum.*



Seminole Media Productions archive photo

Tribal member Carol Cypress has played an active role in the development of the Seminole Tribe’s Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum along with her husband, William L. Cypress.

## CASINO from page 1A

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — For Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger, April 26 was “a long, long time coming” and “a dream come true.”

It was the Grand Opening of the new Seminole Casino on the Big Cypress Reservation.

The parking area of Billie Swamp Safari, the Seminole’s outback tourist enterprise, was filled with cars, trucks and guests, including Tribal, local and county officials. Nearby, food was being prepared for a grand buffet. Seminole women in bright Native garb were busy making frybread and demonstrating patchwork sewing while Seminole men in patchwork shirts were carving canoes and knives.

The roaring airboats were soaring in the distance. Even some of the stars from *Swamp Men*, on a break from reality TV, were on hand with a bear, a panther and a skunk.

“For a long time out in BC, it’s been kind of fragmented,” Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank said. “But it won’t be that way anymore.”

Thirty-seven Las Vegas-style slot machines were installed inside the back section of the Swamp Water Café, the Safari’s restaurant with the commanding view of the reservation’s Kissimmee Billy Strand. They replaced the old Big Cypress Casino, which suffered under a nearby tent near the 2,000-acre, watery complex.

“The first thing we had to do was get out of that tent,” said Seminole Gaming CEO Jim Allen, who credited Councilman Tiger’s diligence in making it happen. “This is the first step.”

Allen pointed to large display boards depicting a six-phase project designed to transform both 19-year-old Billie Swamp Safari and Tribal gaming activities on the 900,000-acre Big Cypress Reservation.

“I am committed 100 percent to this project,” he said.

Phase One – moving the existing casino into the restaurant at Billie Swamp Safari – is complete.

Phase Two, now in operation, involves minimal landscaping and the replacement of existing concrete pathways and sidewalks with loose materials, decomposed stone

materials, crushed shell or stone. Future phases include construction of a new, 8,665-square-foot reception center near the Billie Swamp Safari entrance off West Boundary Road. The center will house a 90-seat restaurant and a 50-slot casino connected to Native Village Park by water taxi or electric shuttle.

Tribal planners intend to dredge, fill and remove edge spoils on channels; install a pumping station and other modifications to accommodate the water taxi; renovate the existing campground; and construct six new, 400-square-foot, furnished chickee hut rooms with Internet and phones.

The final phase will complete the renovation of the village, including restrooms, conversion of the gift shop to a herpetarium/animal park and renovations to the existing theater, picnic shelters, chickees and support buildings. The current swamp buggy and airboat areas will be relocated, and a horticultural garden will be established.

“Whether you build a 1,000- or a 100-room hotel, whether you got 4,000 machines or 40, you got to go through the same process,” said Neil Baxley, the new casino’s manager.

Baxley, Councilman Tiger and Rep. Frank shared the ribbon-cutting duties.

Chairman James E. Billie also attended the festivities, reminiscing about the many swamp buggy, airboat and canoe trips he took while mapping and designing the original Safari during his fourth term in the early ‘90s.

Big Cypress resident and former Chairman Mitchell Cypress stopped by to say hello and posed with Chairman Billie for a photograph.

“They been talking about a decent casino out here for years,” Cypress said. “I’m glad it finally happened.”

Inside, the bells rang, buzzers buzzed, music played and coins clanked on slot machines like Deal or No Deal, Sparkling Diamonds, Survivor and John Wayne. The first big winner, Tribal member Lydia Cypress, took in a \$1,200 jackpot from one of the Stinkin’ Rich machines.

“Now, no one will play that machine any more today,” laughed former Councilman David Cypress.

The Seminole Casino Big Cypress is open seven days a week. Visit [www.seminolebigcypresscasino.com](http://www.seminolebigcypresscasino.com) for more information.



Peter B. Gallagher

A crowd of more than 200 people gather early for the Grand Opening ceremonies just outside the alligator pit on April 26.



Peter B. Gallagher

Amanda Cypress from the Community Culture Department demonstrates Seminole patchwork sewing in the village area of Billie Swamp Safari.



Peter B. Gallagher

Tribal citizens are the first to try out the new machines at the Seminole Casino Big Cypress.



Peter B. Gallagher

Former Chairman Mitchell Cypress, left, and Chairman James E. Billie support the casino.

# Second annual Okalee Village Pow-Wow held in Hollywood



Kathryn Stolarz

Drummers keep the beat going at the Okalee Village Pow-Wow on May 12, while Stephen Bowers' Color Guard leads President Tony Sanchez Jr. and Seminole royalty in for the Grand Entry.

**BY KATHRYN STOLARZ**  
Copy Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Okalee Indian Village hosted their second annual Pow-Wow from May 11-13 in Hollywood. The three-day event included wildlife shows, alligator wrestling, pow-wow dance contests and vendors from around the nation.

"It was a great time for everyone to learn other Native American cultures," Okalee Village general manager Jennifer

"Ebo" Osceola said.

Grand Entry opened each day with an invocation at Hard Rock Live. Then, Seminole Tribal member Stephen Bowers led the Color Guard, and the dignitaries, dancers and royalty from across the country followed.

For the pow-wow dance contest, Native American Tribes including the Seminoles, Cherokee, Cree, Lakota, Oneida, Chippewa, Comanche and Kiowa competed. Men were judged in Traditional, Grass and Fancy categories, and women were judged in Traditional, Jingle and Fancy Shawl

categories. Southern Drums from Rose Hill and Northern Drums from Mandaree gave the dancers their beats.

Osceola said she was happy to see more dancers come out to compete than last year. Also, about 35 vendors set up booths to sell their handmade crafts.

"When you do something, it gets bigger and better every year," she said.

The Osceola Brothers Band also performed, adding their talent and rock-'n'-roll tunes to the mix.

Bringing nail-biting excitement to the weekend was the second-ever Freestyle Alligator Wrestling Competitions (FAWC) show, held at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday at the Okalee Indian Village amphitheater.

FAWC was founded by veteran alligator wrestlers James Holt, David Weathers, Ian Tyson and Clinton Holt to promote alligator wrestling on a professional level, according to their website.

At the media event previewing the show, Clinton Holt attempted the head trick for the first time since February 2011, when his head got caught in alligator Houdini's teeth while performing the trick during a show in Brighton.

After combining the scores for both nights of competition, this year's winners were as follows: first place – Chris Gillette; second place – Marco Zeno; third place – Paul Bedard. Gillette and Bedard star on the Animal Planet TV show *Gator Boys*.

"The turnout was really, really good and the show was spectacular," James Holt said. "The sport is growing by leaps and bounds every time we put on a competition."

About 500 people attended the show on Friday and about 750 came on Saturday, he said.



Brett Daly

Clinton Holt performs a trick during a media day preview of the Freestyle Wrestling Alligator Competitions held at Okalee Village from May 11-12.

## ♦ GATOR From page 1A

"Anything can make that jaw snap shut," he said, adding that after watching footage from his Brighton performance, he saw that his ear grazed Houdini's jaw, making it clamp down.

This time around, he successfully did what he said he is known best for: getting his head deep into the alligator's mouth.

"The biggest pleasure I get is the adrenaline rush, and I love the feeling after the show is done and you're not bit," he said.

The FAWC show was open to both Tribal and non-Tribal members who had experience handling alligators and

took place on the evenings of May 11-12 during the Okalee Village Pow-Wow, a three-day event that showcased the history of the Seminole Tribe through pow-wow dancing, wildlife and snake shows and a Native American crafts marketplace, among others.

Each alligator wrestler competed in eight-minute sessions and was judged in five different categories: aggressiveness of the gator, difficulty of the stunts, land wrangling, water wrangling and showmanship. The winner, Chris Gillette, from the TV show *Gator Boys*, took home a \$3,000 prize.

"[Alligator wrestling] is no longer going to be a sideshow act," Holt said. "We're going to make it a more legit sport."



Kathryn Stolarz

Seminole vendor Connie Gowen waits for customers to buy her crafts on May 12 inside the Hard Rock Live.



Kathryn Stolarz

Seminole Okalee wildlife manager John Jones shows the crowd a baby alligator. Alligators are much more common than crocodiles, he said.



Kathryn Stolarz

During an Okalee Village wildlife show on May 12, alligator wrestler Daniel Beck gives the audience a taste of the Freestyle Alligator Wrestling Competitions that went on that evening.



Kathryn Stolarz

Even children get decked out in their Tribe's apparel for the second annual Okalee Village Pow-Wow from May 11-13.



Kathryn Stolarz

Immokalee Tribal members Fredona Fria, left, Delores Jumper and baby Bebeyanna Quinones watch the Grand Entry on May 12.



Kathryn Stolarz

Male pow-wow dancers are judged in Traditional, Grass and Fancy categories, and female dancers are judged in Traditional, Jingle and Fancy Shawl categories.



Kathryn Stolarz

Native American Tribes including the Seminoles, Cherokee, Cree, Lakota, Oneida, Chippewa, Comanche and Kiowa compete in the three-day pow-wow competition held inside Hollywood's Hard Rock Live.



Kathryn Stolarz

Jr. Miss Florida Seminole Alexis Aguilar, left, and Little Miss Florida Seminole Jordan Osceola smile near a Seminole crafts booth at Okalee Village on May 12.

# Hollywood Hard Rock employees bring hope to neighbor

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Freelance Writer

**HOLLYWOOD** — On April 19, eight Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino employees pulled into Nancy Lacter's driveway, ready to fulfill one of her dreams. Moments later, Lacter, of Hollywood, opened her front door with tears in her eyes.

Lacter, a single mother, had been on the waiting list for the City of Hollywood's Adopt-A-House project for more than two years.

Adopt-A-House is a housing renovation project where volunteers do practical and feasible restorations on one-story, single-family homes such as painting or cleaning up the yard. The City of Hollywood's Volunteer Hollywood program is flooded with applications for the project.

"I saw the ad in a newspaper and applied," Lacter said. "I didn't hear anything back, so I kept calling and calling, and now it is finally happening."

The Hard Rock reached out to their employees in their monthly newsletter asking for volunteers for the community service project.

"We try to do a couple of community projects a month," director of hotel operations Chris Cano said. "We have also participated in beach cleanups. It is just a good way for the Seminole Tribe to give back and to help their neighbors and community."

Dawn Miller, employee relations coordinator for the Hard Rock, helped organize the volunteers and contacted the City of Hollywood to get the ball moving. She said it shows people that the Seminole Tribe of Florida are more than just casinos; they are caring individuals.

After much waiting, Lacter received the call from the City of Hollywood's



Rachel Buxton

Employees of the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino give hope to Nancy Lacter, wearing green, by participating in the Adopt-A-House project.

Department of Community & Economic Development saying she had been selected for the renovation project. An employee visited Lacter so she could pick out paint colors and get ready for the big day. However, the biggest surprise didn't happen until she met her crew.

"I had no idea employees from the Hard Rock were the ones coming," she said. "I was so excited to find out. I love the Hard Rock. I go there all the time. The Seminole Tribe are just great people."

Cano and Miller, along with their

coworkers, spent the day painting the exterior of Lacter's house.

"It is good to help," Hard Rock employee Theova Milfort said. "Everyone needs help."

Lacter thanked the Seminole Tribe and the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino employees for their generosity and said she is proud of her house.

"I can't thank them enough; it really means a lot," she said. "They have given me hope."



Peter B. Gallagher

Brighton's Red Barn was the first Seminole property to make the National Historic Register.

## RED BARN

From page 3A

She will donate the finished painting and a limited-edition set of fine art prints to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum to help raise funds for an eventual renovation of the Red Barn, the Seminole Tribe's only structure on the National Register of Historic Places.

"You can feel the spirits of the old cowboys out here," she said while taking a break from her painting. "I feel very honored to be part of this wonderful project."

Gardiner, who earned bachelor's degrees in communications and theater from Temple University, originally sculpted the human form. Working in stone, wood, wire, wax and clay, she presented exhibitions across the East Coast before switching to pastels and working on location. She has studied with Deborah Paris, Ken McIndoe, Lorenzo Chavez, Albert Handell and Doug Dawson — some of the best landscape

painters in the country.

A founding member of Adirondack Mountain School Painters, she is also a member of the National Academy of Professional Plein Air Painters and Professional Association of Visual Artists, as well as the Plein Air arts associations in Florida, New Mexico, Tampa Bay and Colorado. She was one of 10 artists whom the Chinese government invited to participate in a cultural exchange where she painted alongside Chinese artists and displayed her work in an exhibit there.

Gardiner's painting and prints will be available for purchase at the Red Barn Dance, which the Tribal Historic Preservation Office and the Seminole Cattleman's Association have tentatively scheduled for October. The event will include the unveiling of both an official National Historic Register bronze plaque for the side of the barn and a historic roadside marker a few miles away on SR 721.

## More TRAIL photos from page 3A



Kathryn Stolarz

Tribal seniors from Trail, Big Cypress and Immokalee smile with Trail Liaison Norman Huggins during a stop on their Everglades airboat ride.



Kathryn Stolarz

Marlin Miller, Joseph Billy and Virginia Mitchell enjoy the airboat ride on May 9.



Kathryn Stolarz

Immokalee senior Joseph Billie eats a traditional meal with his brother Tommie, from Clewiston.



Kathryn Stolarz

President Tony Sanchez Jr. smiles with his mother, Mary Sanchez, at the Huggins Camp in Trail.

# Billie Bowlegs historical marker found

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**MOORE HAVEN** — The mystery is solved. The Billie Bowlegs III road sign has been found.

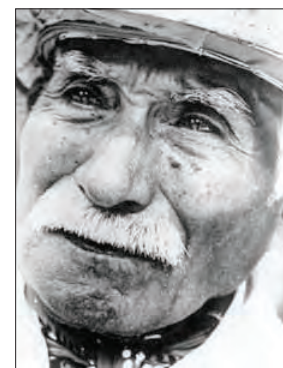
The Glades County landmark has been safely stored in Hendry County at the LaBelle office of the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) waiting for the completion of construction improvements at the intersection of West State Road 78 and US 27, where a historical marker honoring the great Seminole leader has stood since 1965.

Reports that the sign may have been stolen or lost alarmed Myrtice Young with the Polk County Historical Commission, the organization which partnered with the Seminole Tribe of Florida in erecting the current sign in 2008. It replaced the original, which had rusted out and had been damaged in several accidents since it was erected in 1965, not long after Bowlegs' death. The original sign was sponsored by the now-defunct Peace River Valley Historical Society.

"People don't realize the abuse that those historical signs go through. They get knocked down and beat up all the time," Young said. "That sign is very important to us. Billie Bowlegs was a great friend and historical figure to many people in Polk County and throughout the Peace River Valley."

Fun-loving and gregarious, Billie Bowlegs III was one of the most familiar Seminole Indians in Florida history and an

early proponent of outreach and cultural preservation. A maternal grandson of Osceola and member of the Snake Clan, his name was originally Billy Fewell; as an adult, he renamed himself after Billy Bowlegs (Holata Micco), a prominent Seminole Wars leader whom he greatly admired. He spent most of his life on land that became the Brighton Reservation, playing a significant role as a principal



Florida Memory Project photo  
Billy Bowlegs III

Tribal representative during the original government negotiations regarding the establishment of Indian reservations in Florida.

State historical markers, through the years, have been projects for local historical commissions and agencies. When Bowlegs III died at the age of 103, Glades County had not yet formed any historical commission, "so Peace River and, later, Polk County, stepped in to honor his memory."

A DOT spokesperson said the marker will be replaced soon, right where it was before, on the right roadside heading south on SR 78 from US 27 at 26° 49.967' N, 81° 11.217' W.

The marker contains the following words:

BILLIE BOWLEGS (III)  
chufi hajo  
1862 – 1965

In the Ortona cemetery, eight miles west of here, lie the remains of a noble citizen of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, a faithful representative of his people and a true friend of the white man.

Erected by the Polk County Historical Commission and the Seminole Tribe 2008.

## More MISS INDIAN WORLD photos from page 1A



Christine McCall

Miss Florida Seminole Jewel Buck makes her grand entry during the Miss Indian World 2012 Pageant along with the other contestants.



Christine McCall

Jewel Buck salutes the crowd during the finals of the Miss Indian World Pageant.



Christine McCall

Jewel Buck performs in the talent portion of the competition.

# Family and friends remember the late Mike Allen Smith



Rachel Buxton

From left, Jenny Johns, Jimmie Smith and Alice Sweat remember their late nephew.

**BY RACHEL BUXTON**  
Freelance Writer

**BIG CYPRESS** — Family man, good friend, inspiration and hard worker were all words used to describe the late Mike Allen Smith on April 28 as family and friends gathered for a memorial horseshoe tournament in his honor.

Tribal members from Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood joined together at Oneva Smith's house on the Big Cypress Reservation to remember and celebrate Smith's life.

"He is gone but not forgotten," Smith's aunt Alice Sweat said.

As guests arrived, family rushed to bring out the food at the scheduled time.

"Mike always liked to be on time," said former President Richard Bowers, a good friend to the late Smith. "Everyone was freaking out because the food didn't arrive on time."

Sweat and her sister Jenny Johns, both of the Brighton Reservation, sang

*Amazing Grace* in English and then in Creek before Mike Tiger, pastor of the First Indian Baptist Church in Brighton, said a blessing.

In the end, lunch went off without a hitch and family and friends enjoyed a hearty meal and fellowship. People mingled and looked at photo collages on display of Smith's life.

"The pictures remind me of all the memories we had," Bowers said. "He was a do-er, a hard worker and a cattleman."

Following lunch, friends and Tribal officials shared their memories of Smith.

"All the things we did were funny," Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger said. "He had visions."

Councilman Tiger shared how Smith had the idea of making a modern home in the design of a traditional Seminole chickee.

"I wish he would have finished it," Councilman Tiger said.

Even though Smith battled addiction, he strove to show his daughter, Julia

Smith, that it was never too late to make a change. His daughter was his inspiration. Smith enrolled in rehabilitation and took it seriously, even helping out around the rehab refuge. He put his Seminole skills to use building a chickee on the grounds.

Family friend Daniel Tommie read letters from Smith's therapist, who praised his hard work and dedication to live a better life.

"He wanted to help save his Tribe from the silent killer," Tommie read. "He was so much more than he realized."

Smith's niece Danyelle Boromei sang *I Can Only Imagine* for her late uncle and said she wants people not to remember the man who partied, but the man who cared so much for others and who always put a smile on everyone's faces.

"People forget how you fall; they remember how you pick yourself up," Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank said. "It was a privilege to know Mike and be around him."



Rachel Buxton

Julia Smith and Richard Bowers recall good times they shared with Mike Allen Smith.

# Tribe breaks record at annual cattle sale and auction

## Seminole Tribe pulls in around \$4 million in cattle sales

**BY BRETT DALY**  
Senior Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — Seminole cattle owners gathered at the Big Cypress Youth Center on April 20 to gauge prices at the annual cattle sale, and they were not disappointed.

During the live, hour-long video auction, Seminole calves sold for an average of \$835 a head, said Alex Johns, assistant director of the Natural Resource Department. The Tribe pulled in about \$4 million in sales this year — the Tribe's most profitable year in its 29-year history selling cattle through live video auctions.

One of the Tribe's 26 lots sold as high as \$1.94 a pound.

"The calves sold higher than we've ever sold them," Johns said. "We sold them at \$100 more a head this year. I'm happy with the turnout."

Johns said he attributes the success to supply and demand, as well as to repeat customers who like the quality of Seminole cattle. About four years ago, the cattle department made the decision

to produce all-natural beef; they no longer use hormones or antibiotics, and they raise their cattle on an open range. Seminole beef currently stands at Choice quality-grade USDA beef.

The result, Johns said, is better quality meat that will sell for more money on the market.

The live video auction, used by the Tribe for cattle sales since 1983, has also played a significant part in the success of its agricultural business, Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank said. That year the Tribe made Native American history as the first to air its cattle on television, making it possible for buyers nationwide to view the Tribe's cattle up for sale.

Fourth-generation Big Cypress cattle owner Moses Jumper Jr. said getting good prices makes the work worthwhile.

"We raise some of the best cattle in the State of Florida," he said. "It's one of our first industries. Cattle has been a pretty established tradition in my family. I see it as part of who I am."

Rep. Frank said the event served as a way for cattle owners from each

reservation to meet. For first-time attendee Immokalee Board Liaison Dorothy Scheffler, it also served as a learning experience.

In addition, the event provided an opportunity for the late Roger Smith's daughters — Trisha Osceola, Amanda Smith, Dana Osceola and Brittany Smith — to commemorate their father. The women gave out camouflage T-shirts and hats that they designed with Roger Smith's brand.

"We wanted to donate shirts and caps to all the cattle owners because we wanted to give back in his memory," Trisha said. "We know our dad really loved to tend to his cattle. We always teased him because he tended to them so much."

Each Brighton cattle owner's brand was also represented on the shirt, and the women said they hope to incorporate every Seminole cattle owner's brand into the shirt design next year. In the meantime, they will work to carry on their father's legacy.

"We know we have big shoes to fill," Trisha said. "But it don't hurt to try."



Kathryn Stolarz

From left, Trail Liaison Norman Huggins, Trail senior Linda Cypress and President Tony Sanchez Jr. get ready to enter Cypress' house for the first time, just moments after Cypress was handed the keys to her new home.

# Trail senior gets keys to new home

**BY KATHRYN STOLARZ**  
Copy Editor

**TRAIL** — The keys to Linda Cypress' new home finally fell into her hands on May 9.

Construction on the Trail senior's house had been interrupted by the changing of contractors and waiting for permits, but her wait is now over. Trail Construction Crew employees completed the job started by another contractor in 2010.

"I'm just happy to get my home done," she said.

The four-bedroom, two-bathroom home is 1,900-square-feet and features porcelain tile floors, wood cabinets, granite kitchen countertops, a 15-foot-high ceiling and a chickee-thatched roof made with about 10,000 fans, carpenter Ivan Diaz said.

"It feels good just to have her in here after so long," said Diaz, one of four

carpenters to complete the house.

Trail Liaison Norman Huggins and President Tony Sanchez Jr. stood at the doors of her new home and handed over the keys.

"There's nothing like that feeling of owning your own place," President Sanchez said.

Cypress' home is the third one on the newest camp in Trail and the first one to be completed during Liaison Huggins' administration. There are eight camps in Trail.

Liaison Huggins said Cypress' house will eventually be joined by two or three others for her family, as well as cooking and eating chickees. The next home to be finished in the camp began construction last year and is estimated to be completed by the end of this year.

"I want to thank the President and Chairman for helping us to complete these houses," Liaison Huggins said.



Kathryn Stolarz

Linda Cypress' new home is the third one to be completed on the newest camp in Trail.

# Native American lacrosse movie hits theaters nationwide

**BY ATILANO NUNEZ**  
Broadcasting Department

**SYRACUSE, N.Y.** — Seminole Media Productions (SMP) attended the premiere of *Crooked Arrows*, a feature film about a Native American lacrosse team. The premiere was shown at the Oncenter Crouse Hinds Theater in Syracuse, N.Y.

At the premiere, SMP Broadcasting Manager Sunshine Frank and Seminole Tribune Editor in Chief Camellia Osceola spoke with the film's producers and actors to find out what it meant to them to spotlight Native America on such a large scale.

"We enjoyed going to the premiere and seeing a united Native America," Frank said. "I was very happy to see that we are being represented in the motion picture world in a positive, feel-good light and that a Native Tribe like the Onondaga Nation took the risk and produced a film to raise awareness and teach Native culture to mainstream America."

The film tells the story of mixed-blood Native American Joe Logan who is tasked by his father with coaching the reservation's high school lacrosse team.

In the movie, Logan (played by Brandon Routh of *Superman Returns*) inspires the Native American boys and teaches them the true meaning of Tribal pride. Ignited by their

heritage and believing in their new-found potential, the coach and team climb an uphill battle to the state championship finals.

The game of lacrosse originated with the Six Nations Tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy: the Oneida, Mohawk, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca and Tuscarora. *Crooked Arrows* will be the first film ever to showcase the game of these Tribes.

Neal Powless, one of the film's co-producers and a member of the Eel Clan of the Onondaga Nation, said he wanted the film to showcase Native America's role in the creation of lacrosse. Powless was a three-time All-American lacrosse player at Nazareth College before being drafted by the Rochester Knighthawks, leading to a seven-year career in the National Lacrosse League.

"Just like any good movie, it takes you on a journey," he said. "*Crooked Arrows* takes you to the rez and then brings you back home."

The film also features popular Native American actor Gil Birmingham, who enjoyed having the opportunity to play in a Native film.

"We are very proud that we have the Native storyline," he said. "We hope that it's entertaining as well as educational and that the youth connect with the greatness of the Creator, which is where the game came from."



Atilano Nunez

Native American actor Gil Birmingham, star of the movie *Crooked Arrows*, takes a moment to speak with Seminole Media Productions during the movie premiere in Syracuse, N.Y.

Osceola said she enjoyed the experience. "I think it's always a good thing to support our fellow Native Americans and to educate the non-native world," she said.

*Crooked Arrows* hits theaters June 1.



Atilano Nunez

From left, Seminole Tribune Editor in Chief Camellia Osceola, *Crooked Arrows* actress Charlotte Logan and Broadcasting Manager Sunshine Frank spend the day in Syracuse, N.Y., for the premiere of the Native American lacrosse movie *Crooked Arrows*.

# Newest Seminole Police officer graduates from Police Academy



Brett Daly

From left, new Officer Clifford Turnquest celebrates his Police Academy graduation with Police Chief William Latchford and Lt. John Bissett.



Brett Daly

New Officer Clifford Turnquest, back row, far right, and his graduating class recite the Pledge of Allegiance during their April 18 ceremony. Officer Turnquest began his career with the Seminole Tribe as a service aide.

**BY BRETT DALY**  
Senior Editor

**DAVIE** — The Seminole Police Department welcomed one more officer into their ranks on April 18.

New officer Clifford Turnquest graduated from the Broward College Institute of Public Safety's Police Academy among 14 other Broward County cadets in his class, earning a special recognition in the process.

Officer Turnquest received the Officer Frankie Shivers Memorial Award, an honor presented to one cadet who shows "true heart and the attitude of a true leader," presenter Deputy Ian Hunt said. Officer Shivers was a first-year Hollywood Police Officer who was shot and killed by a suicidal person whom she was trying to rescue from a burning car.

"The award represents everything the Tribe is about: leadership and overcoming

adversity," Seminole Police Chief William Latchford said. "Officer Turnquest is a great employee. He's an employee that loves working for the Tribe, and he's a role model for the service aides and police officers."

Officer Turnquest began his career as a service aide for the Seminole Tribe in February 2010. He mainly worked the gates on the Hollywood Reservation until fellow service aides inspired him to apply to the Police Academy later that year. He

attended his first class last year on Nov. 7 — his birthday.

"It was a great birthday gift," he said.

For 25 weeks, he and his classmates went through rigorous physical and academic training to prepare for the line of duty.

"It was definitely very challenging, but that was something I was looking forward to," he said. "The Police Academy was a once-in-a-lifetime thing. It made me a much

better person."

After graduation, he completed the required State Officer Certification Exam and began his new job as an officer for the Seminole Tribe.

"I'm looking forward to working with the fellow officers and the fellow service aides and looking forward to learning from a police officer perspective," he said. "I just want to be the best I can and learn my niche."

## Fire Department gets two new ambulances

**BY VINCE CINQUE**  
Fire Rescue Support Services Manager

Last year, the Tribal Council approved the purchase of two Fire Rescue ambulances to replace 12-year-old units. Both were built by Horton in Grove City, Ohio (near Columbus), following an extensive bid process.

The first of the two new rescue units for Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue was recently delivered. The new rescues feature the lower half of the vehicle painted red and the top half white. The current rescues are all white, as opposed to the fire apparatuses, which are primarily red.

"Although we are all one department, firefighters are emergency medical technicians and paramedics and operate both the fire suppression equipment and medical rescue units. There still frequently is confusion that the functions are done by separate agencies, and we wanted to show more uniformity," Fire Rescue Chief Donald DiPetrillo said.

Before Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue was formed, medical rescue service was provided by local emergency medical services that did not always support the community and its unique needs.

Besides having a new paint scheme, the new rescues have a number of occupant safety features not found in the current rescue units.

The Horton Occupant Protection System protects the patients and the crew with better structural integrity, a system



Photo courtesy of Deputy Chief Dave Casey

The Brighton Reservation will get two new rescue units like the one pictured above.

of air bags and three-point seatbelts. The patient compartment is equipped with air curtains in case of an accident.

The units are designed to allow for the reuse of the patient compartment body on a new chassis in future years.

Both trucks will be assigned to the Brighton Reservation, with their current 12- and eight-year-old rescues being kept as reserve trucks.

## Academy graduate receives prestigious award

**BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD**  
Seminole Tribe Police Chief

It is with great pride that the Seminole Police Department recognizes Academy cadet graduate Clifford Turnquest, who recently attended the Broward County Police Academy Basic Recruit Certificate Program held at Broward College. He graduated on April 18 with the distinct honor of receiving the prestigious Frankie Shivers Memorial Award. This is presented to an Academy cadet for exemplary conduct, as well as for offering continuous assistance to other Academy cadets throughout the program. This award came to fruition and was dedicated in memory of Frankie Shivers, a City of Hollywood Police officer killed in the line of duty. It acknowledges a cadet's demonstration of honor, service to others and an unselfishness toward other cadets. The recipient is chosen by Academy instructors, staff and fellow cadets.

Clifford Turnquest began his career with the Seminole Police Department and the Seminole Tribe of Florida as a community service aide. However, he decided to embark on the next phase of his career and undertake the task of becoming an officer. He attended the Police Academy under a sponsorship program implemented by myself to encourage employees to strive to excel. Clifford Turnquest has truly proven his desire to excel, and he will be a strong addition as an officer serving our



Brett Daly

During his Police Academy graduation, new Officer Clifford Turnquest receives an award for leadership.

communities within the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

I thank you for allowing me to be the Police Chief in this noble profession, protecting and serving those within the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

## Seminole Tribe sponsors South East Police Motorcycle Rodeo



Brett Daly

Participants line up for the Seminole Fire Department's demonstration. Kids put out real fires with a fire extinguisher.



Brett Daly

Seminole Police Department (SPD) staff show off their police vehicles during the South East Police Motorcycle Rodeo and Safety Expo. SPD recently added new Dodge Chargers to their line of vehicles.

**BY BRETT DALY**  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Police and Fire departments had a strong presence at the South East Police Motorcycle Rodeo and Public Safety Expo, which took place on May 5 at the Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel & Casino.

Four SPD officers competed in the Motorcycle Rodeo along with about

100 riders from more than 20 local law enforcement agencies throughout Florida and the East Coast. The riders maneuvered through a variety of challenging courses to help raise money for Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.), a national organization dedicated to helping children and families who have lost loved ones in the line of duty.

Hollywood Sergeant Mitch Van Sant placed second in the Division 1/Harley Davidson with a Fairing and placed first in the Over Age 50 Division. Hollywood

Officer James Boudreaux, Hollywood Officer Joseph Companion and Big Cypress Officer Sal Gebbia also competed.

In addition, both departments participated in the Public Safety Expo coordinated by Broward Crime Stoppers. The expo showcased crime prevention vehicles and offered safety demonstrations.

"It shows the general public that the Seminole Tribe of Florida is prepared for anything that comes up," Seminole Police Chief William Latchford said. "We're

showing that we're a leading department in the country."

SPD distributed information about identity theft and handed out gun locks, as well as displayed their helicopter, TerraHawk surveillance vehicle and new Dodge Charger vehicles.

The Seminole Fire Department showcased their fire engines and equipment and gave kids the opportunity to put out a real fire with a fire extinguisher during a demonstration.

"We're trying to create excitement and interest in the Fire Department," Seminole firefighter Mark LaMadeleine said. "These kids had a blast out here."

Hollywood Tribal member Gwen Bowers-Kennedy attended the event and said she enjoyed seeing SPD's capabilities.

"I know how my police department is," she said. "They're good. I know almost every one of them, and they're doing a great job."



# Hah-Tung-Ke: Darrell Clanton

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

Darrell Clanton is the professional stage name for well-known Pinellas County beach singer, songwriter and guitarist Darrell Puckett. Born in Indianapolis on Aug. 10, 1956, and raised in South Pasadena, Fla., Darrell began playing professional music while attending Boca Ciega High School.

From the stage of local Tampa Bay nightclubs at the age of 15, he developed into a full-time performer, traveling daily with his guitar across the central West Coast of Florida before moving to Nashville in 1978 at 22.

A talented songsmith, Darrell immediately gained a five-year staff writing contract with Window Music Publishing Co. There, songs he penned were recorded by B.J. Thomas, Bobby Vinton, Jean Shepard, The Wilburn Brothers and Country Music legend Charlie Louvin.

Veteran country singer Justin Tubbs heard Darrell's own demo record and encouraged the young man to pursue a career as a recording artist. After signing with Warner Bros. Records, label executives suggested he change his surname to something less common than Puckett; they suggested Clanton, after the town of Clanton, Ala.

"(The) heart of the heart of Dixie," he told the *Tampa Bay Times* for an article published in May 2007. "At that point I wanted to be signed to Warner Bros. so bad I would have let them call me Rumpelstiltskin."

Darrell released his debut single, a cover version of Hawkshaw Hawkins' *Lonesome 7-7203* written by Justin Tubbs, in

late 1983. By early 1984, Darrell's version reached No. 1 on the Australian and New Zealand charts and entered the Top 20 on the U.S. Billboard country singles charts.

The same year, he was nominated for New Male Vocalist of the Year at the Academy of Country Music Awards; charted his second single, *I'll Take as Much of You as I Can Get*, which peaked at No. 75; performed three times at the Grand Ole Opry; and opened shows for Hank Williams Jr. and Lynn Anderson.

Then, it all went away. Mothers Against Drunk Driving led a boycott against his label when his next song charted. *I Forgot That I Don't Live Here Anymore*, a tune about drunken amnesia, peaked at No. 56 before Warner Bros. dropped him.

In the 1990s, he worked first as a film and video producer before going back to staff songwriting with rock/pop artist Sting's Global Music Co.

He eventually returned to Florida in 2003 and resumed playing music at local venues in the Tampa Bay area, calling himself "The Dune Doctor."

"The one-hit-wonder thing is hard," he said in the *Tampa Bay Times*. "You didn't die, but you aren't famous anymore."

Then, along came the BP oil spill on April 20, 2010. Fear and frustration filled the air along the Pinellas beaches, exposed – at the whim of the winds and tides – to thousands of gallons of non-biodegradable, beach-ruining oil. As he performed music along the beaches, one image kept coming to his mind: "I kept thinking of that 1970s commercial about littering; it featured the Indian (Iron Eyes Cody) with the tear in his eye."

"I thought to myself, 'We're in Florida. Who is the main Indian around here?'" I



Photo courtesy of Splattermouth Music Inc.  
Darrell Clanton performs at the Thunderbird Hotel on Treasure Island Beach in April 2011.

grew up as a youth along these beaches, and I learned about Osceola, the great Seminole warrior. Osceola's crying! It came to me just like that."

The rest of the lyrics came quickly to the professional songwriter after that revelation, and then the video, directed by Dan Mashburn and produced by Alix Redmonde. Creek Indian Gregg Hall provided footage of oil-soaked Pensacola Beach, and the song performance was filmed June 24, 2010 on Treasure Island behind the Thunderbird Beach Resort, where Darrell plays several times each week. You can watch the video on YouTube by searching "Osceola's Crying."

## Osceola's Crying Song lyrics by Darrell Clanton

The ghost of Osceola's here, and I'm quite sure he knows  
What's happ'nin' in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico  
It's like he's standin' in this beach, and watchin' as it's dyin'  
And I swear that I can hear the ghost of Osceola cryin'

Osceola's cryin' and the ocean's turnin' black  
All the greed and profit will not ever buy it back  
The politicians point their fingers, We all know they're lyin'  
And I swear that I can hear the ghost of Osceola cryin'

The Red Man tried to warn us...200 years ago  
The Earth, she is your Mother, and you should treat her so  
The lust for worldwide money... controls the human race  
If I were Osceola, I'd be laughin' in our faces

Osceola's cryin' cause the ocean's turnin' black  
All the greed and profit cannot ever buy it back  
And as the politicians point their fingers, we all know they're lyin'  
And I swear that I can hear the ghost of Osceola cryin'

Osceola's cryin' and the ocean's turnin' black  
All the greed and profit will not ever buy it back  
And as the politicians point their fingers, we all know they're lyin'  
And I could swear that I can hear the ghost of Osceola cryin'

I swear that I can hear the ghost of Osceola cryin'  
Standin' here I hear the ghost of Osceola cryin'  
Osceola cryin'...Osceola cryin'

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA  
AH-TAH-THI-KI  
MUSEUM  
A PLACE TO LEARN, A PLACE TO REMEMBER.



## How would you like to use the Museum's collections?

BY JONATHAN MCMAHON  
Research Coordinator

You may have noticed recently that we have been making a concerted effort in the Collections Office to engage readers in conversations that will benefit us and, we hope, make it easier for us to record the Tribe's history. This time, we are in need of some advice from all Tribal members.

Fifteen years ago, Billy L. Cypress opened the Museum in Big Cypress for the unconquered Seminole Tribe of Florida. This Museum became the only one to feature the Florida Seminole voice above all others.

As the Tribe's fortunes have shifted in an era when political and public opinion is shaped by biased sensationalism, it continues to be of the utmost importance for the Tribe to tell their own story and be involved in their Museum.

Lately, we have been working on a project that will hopefully establish a more meaningful relationship between the Collections Office of the Museum and the diverse Seminole communities we serve. We have thousands of objects, documents and pictures in our vaults that aren't on display, and we would love for people to come in and see them more often.

We are trying to establish a sustainable conversation with Tribal members to gather opinions and suggestions on how they would like to utilize our collections. In other words, we are trying to find ways of making our collections more open to the Tribe, which is challenging considering the distances between all the reservations. Currently, we offer use of our research library, free Elaponke dictionaries, behind-the-scenes tours and image requests to all Tribal members, but we know we can always do better.

Behind-the-scenes tours are one offering that benefits the communities and the Collections Office.

We've received some good feedback from other museums and cultural centers in the field, and we already deal with broader museum- and community-related topics by other internal means. For example, we have recently formed a Museum Advisory Council (MAC) composed of Tribal



Photo courtesy of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

Behind-the-scenes tours are one offering that benefits the communities and the Collections Office.

members of varying backgrounds and ages who we ask for advice on a number of cultural and ethical issues.

Eventually, our goal is to create a group similar to the MAC but whose focus will be on advising us strictly on collection matters. We would really like to know what you want from us and how the Museum's collections can help you. Any volunteers?

If you or anyone you know would like to collaborate with your Museum's collections division in any context, please let us know. In our ongoing mission of serving you, we are always looking for new ideas and thoughts from our readers. If you would like to volunteer or have anything to say, please chime in by emailing Jonathan McMahon at JonathanMcMahon@semtribe.com or by calling us at 863-902-1113.

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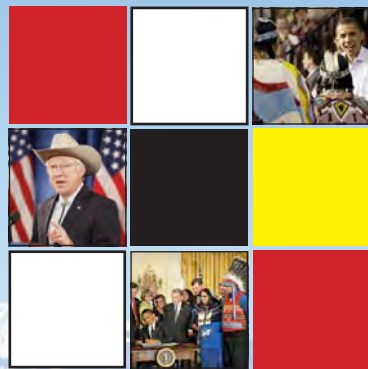
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# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



## Hard Rock moves into Mexico

**ORLANDO** — The Seminole Tribe of Florida is launching three Hard Rock hotels in Mexico. Hard Rock is licensing its name and remodeling existing facilities in Cancun and Puerto Vallarta this year and on the Riviera Maya south of Cancun next year, according to Michael Shindler, executive vice president of Hard Rock hotels and casinos. All three are Palace Resorts properties. Hard Rock and Palace opened a 1,790-room hotel/casino at Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic last year.

From Hard Rock International headquarters in Orlando, the company also announced it now has a consultant in China, one in India and a third focused on the Middle East and Europe. The Hard Rock brand had a half-dozen hotels open under license when the Seminoles bought the brand, including resorts in Indonesia and Thailand and at Universal Studios in Orlando. Plans now call for adding up to half a dozen hotels per year, including one large casino/hotel, said Shindler.

— Sun Sentinel

## FSU adds new mascot: Cimarron

**TALLAHASSEE** — The Florida State University (FSU) Athletics Promotions and Marketing Office unveiled a new mascot recently — a “family friendly” alternative to controversial football “symbols” Osceola and Renegade.

A goofy, smiling pony named Cimarron will be present at a variety of Seminole athletic and non-athletic events on uniforms, logos and in the form of a life-size mascot costume, as well as serve as official mascot for the FSU Kid’s Club.



“[Cimarron] is the Spanish word for ‘Seminole,’” associate athletic director Rob Wilson told CBS Tampa. “We consulted the [Seminole] Tribe when we named it.”

As for Renegade and Chief Osceola, two iconic figures in the school’s culture, they will stay on as fixtures of FSU’s celebrated football team.

“We consider them to be symbols, as opposed to mascots, and have used their likenesses because of our affiliation with the Seminole Tribe of Florida,” associate sports information director Bob Thomas told CBS Tampa. “We have agreed that they will [continue to be] our long-standing symbols in pre-game football.”

Thomas specifically talked about community service events and school appearances as examples of events where Cimarron will be more appropriate than Renegade and Chief Osceola.

“We’re not replacing anything,” he concluded. “[Cimarron will act in] almost a completely different realm.”

— CBS Tampa

## Lummi Nation donates \$900,000

**FERNDALE, Wash.** — The Lummi Nation recently poured \$900,000 in charitable donations into the local and greater Washington economy. On May 1, the Tribe hosted a reception at its Silver Reef Casino, Hotel and Spa where the Lummi Indian Business Council (LIBC) presented 38 organizations across Whatcom County with the donations in recognition of their work within the community.

Since 2002, the Lummi Nation has given more than \$5 million dollars in community contributions to surrounding community and organizations. Tribal Chairman Clifford Cultee noted that every Tribal gaming dollar earned is invested in public purposes: to improve people’s lives, Indian and non-Indian alike, in the local community and in communities throughout the state: “This revenue also supports our healthcare, transportation, housing, education, natural resource programs and public safety.”

Among organizations awarded money were four Fire Districts, Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Alternative Humane Society, American Indian Health Commission, Arthritis Foundation, Bellingham Food Bank, Forward Veterans Group, Interfaith Coalition of Whatcom County, NWIC Pow Wow Committee, NWIC Space Center, Northwest Wildlife Rehab Center, Washington State Coalition against Domestic Violence, Whatcom Symphony Orchestra, Winward High School Boosters, World Temperate Rainforest Network and many more.

— Indian Country Today

## Sioux fighting for ‘Fighting Sioux’

**FARGO, N.D.** — On June 12, North Dakota voters will go to the polls to decide whether the University of North Dakota should defy the powerful NCAA and keep its “Fighting Sioux” nickname or go along with the powerful University of North Dakota Alumni Association and remove the eight-decades-old moniker — the culmination, perhaps, of a heated, seven-year battle.

The fight began when the NCAA threatened 19 schools with penalties if they did not get rid

of American Indian nicknames. Some received permission from namesake Tribes and were allowed to keep the nickname. UND received approval from the Spirit Lake Sioux, but the Standing Rock Sioux refused to consider the issue. The North Dakota Legislature took on the NCAA by passing a bill in early 2011 “requiring” UND to use the nickname and Indian head logo. The law was repealed eight months later, spurring a grassroots petition drive that made the June ballot.

Meanwhile, U.S. District Judge Ralph Erickson, a graduate of the UND law school, threw out a lawsuit by members of the two Sioux Tribes asking for at least \$10 million and a reversal of the 2005 NCAA policy banning the use of American Indian imagery.

Despite siding with the NCAA, Judge Erickson wondered why the athletics agency required approval from only one Seminole Tribe for Florida State to keep its nickname and from only one Chippewa Tribe for Central Michigan to keep its moniker, when there are several bands of both Tribes. The judge indicated the requirement for UND to get written approval from two Tribes discounts the Spirit Lake Tribe.

“Aren’t they Sioux enough?” the judge asked. The NCAA attorney did not respond.

— BismarckTribune.com

## New Keri Road panther speed limit

**FELDA, Fla.** — You have to slow down for panthers on Keri Road now. Or risk a major ticket.

Recently, Hendry County put into effect a new, slow-speed, nighttime panther zone on a 5.25-mile stretch of CR 832/Keri Road, a rural road that bisects the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest just north of Immokalee. The road’s posted speed limit will now drop from 55 to 45 mph at night, when panthers are most active and visibility for motorists is low.

Keri Road is a documented danger zone for panthers and other wildlife. Nine panthers are known to have been killed by vehicles on CR 832, six of which were within the state forest. When the Hendry County Engineering Department recorded vehicle speeds on the road in August 2011, they found that 85 percent of motorists drove 65-70 mph, despite the legal speed limit of 55 mph.

Collision with vehicles is one of the leading causes of death for endangered Florida panthers.

During a four-day period in April, nine game officers wrote 84 citations and issued 46 warnings on SR 29 and US 41 panther speed zones in Collier County. Most of the citations were written to motorists driving more than 20 mph above the posted speed limit.

Violators often receive fines exceeding \$200 for their first offense; any violation of more than 29 mph over the posted limit will result in a mandatory court appearance.

— Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

## NFL to allow limited casino ads

**NEW YORK** — The NFL will allow teams to accept advertisements for casinos and other state-licensed, gambling-related establishments during the next two seasons.

The ads, however, can appear only in game programs, on local radio broadcasts and in the upper bowl and inner concourses of stadiums. No TV. No players or coaches involved. No Seminole Hard Rock Stadiums.

“We remain steadfast in our opposition to the proliferation of gambling on NFL games,” NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said. “There is a distinction between accepting advertising in a limited fashion and gambling on the outcome of our games.”

No employees of the NFL and its teams, including players and coaches, can endorse or appear in any advertisements for any form of gambling.

Previously, teams have been permitted to accept advertising for horse and dog racing tracks, for municipal lotteries and off-track betting organizations, provided they offer no betting schemes based on actual sporting events; to enter into sponsorship agreements with municipal lotteries, provided the lottery offers no games based on actual sporting events; and to accept advertising for the city of Las Vegas, provided such advertisements contain no references to or depictions of gambling or casinos.

Under the change, any entity being advertised can’t have a sports book or accept or promote gambling of actual sporting events other than horse or dog racing. All advertisements must include a responsible gambling message. The advertisers must agree to contribute funds to the league’s gambling education and other related programs. No naming rights or programming sponsorships can be sold to casinos or gambling-related entities.

— Associated Press

## Cherokee citizenship rolls skewed

**TALHEQUAH, Okla.** — As of April 10, there were 315,698 citizens enrolled in the Cherokee Nation (CN), making it the largest American Indian Tribe. However, CN officials admit the number is skewed because of deceased citizens still considered active on the rolls.

CN registration manager Justin Godwin said there is also no way of knowing how badly the citizenship number is skewed: “I’m sure we have citizens that are deceased on our rolls, but we have no way of knowing unless family or friends notify us of their passing.”

Cherokee Phoenix staff members found 13 names of deceased citizens still considered active

citizens. The list included former Principal Chiefs W.W. Keeler and Wilma Mankiller, as well as former Deputy Chiefs John Ketcher and Hastings Shade. Keeler died in 1987. Mankiller died in 2010. Ketcher died in 2011, and Shade died in 2010.

CN Registration does not have a policy stating that a citizen who is known to be deceased will be removed after a certain time.

“Out of respect for the family, we give them time to come in and bring the death certificate. I think it would be inappropriate to immediately remove them from the rolls,” Godwin said, adding that CN Registration receives 1,200 citizenship applications per month compared to about 50 removal applications. CN officials have established a task force to examine Tribal database systems.

Last August, the Cherokee Nation removed the Tribal citizenship of some 3,000 Freedmen.

— CherokeePhoenix.org

## First Tribal national park to be established



**BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK, S.D.** — In a historic move, the U.S. Department of the Interior recommended the establishment of the nation’s first Tribal national park recently. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and National Park Service director Jon Jarvis released the final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the South Unit of Badlands National Park, recommending the Tribal national park.

The South Unit of Badlands National Park is entirely within the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in southwestern South Dakota. The Park Service and the Tribe have worked together to manage the South Unit’s 133,000 acres for almost 40 years. When the Tribal national park is officially enabled by Congress, the Oglala Sioux people will establish a new Lakota Heritage and Education Center to promote an understanding of Oglala Sioux history, culture and land-management principles through education and interpretation.

In 2010, Badlands National Park welcomed nearly 1 million visitors who spent \$23 million in the park and surrounding communities, supporting more than 375 area jobs. With expanded future opportunities for recreation and education in the South Unit, a Tribal national park is an exciting prospect for South Dakota.

During World War II, the War Department established the Pine Ridge Aerial Gunnery Range from lands within the reservation. In 1968, the Gunnery Range was declared excess, and Congress conveyed most of the lands to the Tribe with the provision that the South Unit be administered by the National Park Service.

In 2003, the Tribe formally requested government-to-government negotiations regarding management control of the South Unit. The Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Tribe agreed to use the general management plan process to explore options for greater involvement in the South Unit.

— Rapid City Journal

## Did you know...

The first casino opened in the United States in 1931. Last year, the nearly 1,500 U.S. casinos generated a total of \$34.6 billion in gross gaming revenue. Of the 50 states, only Hawaii and Utah can claim to be wager free. All other states offer at least a lottery, card room, racetrack or riverboat, if not a fully functioning, land-based casino. There are 425 Indian gaming facilities operated by 233 Tribes in 28 states. Tribes receive \$4 of every \$10 that Americans wager at casinos. Indian gaming provides 628,000 jobs nationwide (both direct and indirect jobs). Indian gaming paid \$9.4 billion in federal taxes in 2009. Indian casinos earned \$26.5 billion in 2009 gross revenues. Another \$3.2 billion was earned in restaurants, hotels and entertainment services.

— 500nations.com, cardplayer.com

## Council formed to guide Native American mentoring

**PHILADELPHIA** — In order to expand its services to help Native American children succeed in school, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America has established a high-level Native American Advisory Council.

The council, which will meet quarterly, met for the first time in Philadelphia in April. The group will support the organization and give advice on cultural matters as it expands to serve more Native American children.

“The Big Brothers Big Sisters Native American Advisory Council is extremely important as we support our affiliates in their work to provide one-to-one, staff-supported mentoring services to more rural and urban Native American families and communities,” said Big Brothers Big Sisters of America Director of Native American Mentoring Ivy Wright-Bryan, a member of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe in Nevada. “Longstanding studies, complemented by our real-time Youth Outcomes Survey data, illustrate

the effectiveness of these services in helping youth overcome adversity to succeed in school, avoid risky behaviors and have higher self-esteem and aspirations. To hold ourselves accountable for these outcomes, we need support from experts such as those who have agreed to serve on the Native American Advisory Council.”

Council members include:

- Margo Gray-Proctor, Osage, President, Horizon Engineering Service Company
- Ernest Stevens Jr., Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, Chairman, National Indian Gaming Association

- Lucille Echo Hawk, Pawnee, former strategic adviser for Indian Child Welfare programs, Casey Family programs and founder of Native Americans in Philanthropy
- Andrea Maril Fisher, chief executive officer, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northern New Mexico
- Juana Majel-Dixon, Pauma, first vice-president, National Congress of American Indians
- Jared Ivins-Massey, White Mountain Apache, Co-president, national U.N.I.T.Y. Council
- Josie Raphaelito, Navajo, program coordinator, Center for Native American Youth
- Quintin Lopez, Tohono O’odham, Co-president, National Congress of American Indians Youth Commission

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Native American Tribal Community Initiative, established in 2008, serves more than 4,197 Native children, 42 percent of whom are matched with Native mentors. Local Big Brothers Big Sisters programs serve 25 Tribal communities and 10 pueblos, where Native staff work with elders to match youth with mentors.

“Our program is already resulting in measurable positive outcomes, most notably improved attitudes toward antisocial behavior; stronger parental and peer relationships; better school attendance and scholastic competence; and higher educational expectations, social competencies and school attendance,” Wright-Bryan said in a release. “Ultimately, these mentoring services will help improve overall wellness, including the avoidance of substance abuse and suicide.”

— Indian Country Today

## White Earth Nation loses out on Vikings Stadium bid

**MINNESOTA** —The Minnesota Senate approved the final version of a bill for a new Vikings Stadium on May 9, likely knocking the White Earth Nation’s MinnesotaWins proposal out of the running.

Under the Tribe’s proposal called MinnesotaWins, revenues from a casino operated by White Earth Nation would be split 50-50 between the Tribe and the State, and would fund the entire public share of a new Vikings stadium and other critical state priorities for years to come.

While the bill received some support from policymakers, it never got a hearing. Dr. Erna Vizenor, chairwoman of the White Earth Nation, told Indian Country Today Media Network. “We had sponsors for bills in the State legislature. We knew it was a long shot,” she said, adding that the Tribe attached amendments to its casino bid.

The Metrodome’s 30-year-old lease expired this past year. If the new bill is authorized, the deal guarantees the Vikings a new home for the next three decades. The stadium will be built on the site of the Metrodome near downtown Minneapolis.

Gov. Mark Dayton has said he’ll approve the measure, reported the Associated Press. Once Dayton signs the bill, it only requires the Minneapolis City Council’s agreement.

“Nothing is over until the last encore...but I’m sure it will go through and it will pass,” Vizenor said. Unlike MinnesotaWins, the bill relies heavily on public financing. The revised bill raises the team’s contribution by \$50 million above the amount it initially said it would pay to \$477 million, 49 percent of the total \$975 million construction costs.

The terms of the bill require the State to cover \$348 million of construction costs, and the City of Minneapolis, \$150 million. The State’s share is supposed to come through expanded gaming at the stadium, including electronic pull tabs, which are touch screen devices that mimic the traditional paper pull tab games found in bars around the state.

According to Vizenor, the video terminals at the stadium will not have any impact on the White Earth Nation’s business at its 20-year-old Shooting Star Casino in Mahanomen or other area gaming Tribes.

Vizenor also noted that the Tribe’s pursuit of a casino in the Minnesota-St. Paul area was not in vain. “We worked hard, and it wasn’t all for not because we laid the foundation and created the opportunity for us to educate State leaders and also the media on the severe economic challenges we face here on the reservation,” Vizenor said. “Our foundation that we have laid will be good for ongoing discussions on how the White Earth Nation and the State can work together to make Minnesota a better state for our nation, all Tribes and all Minnesotans.”

Due to White Earth’s unprecedented proposed revenue sharing model with the State of Minnesota, the Nation has faced Tribal opposition.

“It was never our intention to have conflict with Tribes; we only wanted to better the economic conditions of our people,” Vizenor said, highlighting that White Earth is the largest Tribe in Minnesota, accounting for 40 percent of the American Indian population, and is located in the poorest area of the state.

The new bill, she said, has its flaws. “The pull-tabs proposal — all the experts around know that that is not a viable financial proposal,” Vizenor said. “In another year, the state will be a billion dollars in debt. It’s not solving its financial problems. Of course, we’ll still be here with our needs.”

But Vizenor rests assured that the Tribe will one day see its plans for a Twin Cities casino materialize. “I’m still optimistic,” Vizenor said. “There will come another time.”

— Indian Country Today

# Health

## Don't nag...Motivate

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez

Recently, I read an article on diabetes which stated that cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death among people with diabetes.

And studies have shown that the diabetes death rate for American Indians is estimated to be three times the rate for non-Hispanic whites. Studies have also shown that individuals with Type 2 diabetes who take medication to control blood sugar levels would benefit from lifestyle changes such as regular exercise, heart-healthy eating, limiting alcohol consumption and not smoking.

This all sounds kind of "easier said than done," right? Well, the first step is to make the decision that this disease is not going to control your life, but rather you are going to take back control and start living a healthier way. Don't let it drag on because if you do, the damage to your organs may be irreparable.

After having said that, sometimes I feel like I'm nagging someone about living a healthier lifestyle, rather than motivating them. There's a fine line between the two: As a mother, wife, friend, relative, I feel that may be the biggest challenge when it comes to maintaining the health of people I care about. But when in doubt, I remember "honesty is the best policy" and remind my loved ones that my motivation is my concern for their well-being. I voice my fears for their quality of life and ask for suggestions as to how I can be more helpful.

Here are some ways to feel more like a motivator than a nag:

• **Be a good role model:** It's a great idea to "model" good, healthy eating habits and make physical activity a priority. They are watching you. Then, all you have to do is make a friendly invitation to join you. It may take some time, but don't give up.

• **Create a motivating environment:** Look to see if changes can be made in that individual's surroundings that may help motivate them.

• **Listen:** Sometimes all they need to get on the right track is a good listener to hear their concerns, their fears, their expectations.

• **Have fun:** Don't view physical activity as a chore. Make it a fun time. And try not to talk about food as good or bad. I usually refer to food choices as healthy and nutritious. I often ask my son if he thinks something is what his heart needs to be healthy.

The bottom line is we get one body with one heart, so let's take care and make the most of our life here on Earth. Get out there and motivate!



## Why food safety training is important

SUBMITTED BY NICHOLAS PERSAUD  
Health Department

Food safety affects hundreds of millions of people who suffer from diseases caused by contaminated food worldwide. The World Health Organization calls it "one of the most widespread health problems and an important cause of reduced economic productivity." The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate annual medical costs and productivity losses from \$6.6 billion to \$37.1 billion because of the major foodborne pathogens.

Although a nutritious and adequate food supply is vital to survival, it can also pose a health risk from foodborne illnesses. As consumers continue to raise more questions about food safety standards, it becomes essential and mandatory for all employees to receive food safety classes to reduce health risks from foodborne illnesses.

Food safety compliance is a licensing requirement that all Seminole Tribe of Florida food establishments have to meet. If food establishments do not meet this important compliance guideline, they will not be issued a food service facility license or permit by the Seminole Tribe Health Department.

Environmental Health food safety training programs have been designed to help food establishments and individuals meet the food safety guidelines. The food safety classes are offered to all permanent food facilities and to temporary events including Tribal fairs and pow-wows. Food safety training can help prevent foodborne illnesses in the following ways:

• **Personal hygiene:** Most food

contamination happens during the handling and preparation of food. Food handlers are required to maintain a high degree of personal hygiene; therefore, food safety training can help them learn the right way to handle food items.

• **Prevention of cross-contamination:** Food safety training courses will teach people several steps to prevent cross-contamination. It will touch on how to store food items in the safest way and explain the difference between cleaning and sanitizing food preparation areas and equipment.

• **Preparation of food:** Cooks are trained to cook foods in a safe manner. The food safety training courses will help people learn the ways they can prepare food items while avoiding adulteration.

• **Time and temperature:** This is a major cause of food spoilage. It occurs when food is prepared too far in advance, not stored at required temperatures or not thawed, cooked or cooled properly. Microorganisms multiply rapidly with time and temperature, so it's essential that cooks remember to keep the food out of the danger zone (41-135 degrees Fahrenheit) to help reduce the risk of food poisoning.

• **Pest control and waste disposal:** Pest control is an essential part of the food industry. It is important to maintain a pest-free environment in and around the facility. At the food safety class, participants will learn the most effective methods of pest control and waste disposal.

Food safety is a mandatory requirement for Seminole Tribe vendors. Please contact the Seminole Tribe Health Department for food safety class information at 954-985-2330.

## Automotive repair: Protect the environment by using Best Management Practices

SUBMITTED BY LAURA JICKA  
Environmental Resource Management Department

The Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) was created in 1987 by the Tribal Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida to protect and evaluate the Tribe's land and water resources.

ERMD is overseen by the Seminole Water Commission, which was created in 1989 by the Tribal Council. The Commission, with technical assistance from ERMD, has developed rules to protect the quality of surface water within the boundaries of the Tribe's reservations.

ERMD assists other Tribal departments, such as Housing, Real Estate and Community Planning and Development, and works with Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. in the development and management of Tribal natural resources.

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

We welcome your suggestions, comments and questions. Please send them to IsidroDuque@semtribe.com or contact us at 954-965-4380.

This month's article will feature automotive repair Best Management Practices (BMPs).

### Automotive repair

It is no secret that common practices and materials associated with automotive repair activities pose an environmental concern because of the potential impact to soil, air and water. Waste streams resulting from vehicle repair can have an adverse impact on human health and the environment.

Commonly used automotive repair products such as antifreeze have contaminants including heavy metals that are toxic to humans, pets, fish and wildlife. Oil and lubricants commonly utilized in vehicle maintenance have the potential to contaminate the soil and groundwater.

The Big Cypress and Brighton reservations both have used oil tanks for recycling at the waste transfer stations, and all Tribal members are encouraged to use those facilities for proper disposal.

Disposing of automotive waste products directly into sinks,

storm drains, canals or on open ground should never be an option. Unfortunately, the improper disposal of hazardous waste like used oil or antifreeze are known sources of contaminated soil and groundwater on the reservations. Information regarding disposal methods and a list of contacts can be obtained by searching "Automotive Repair Facilities Guidebook" on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website, www.epa.gov.

To prevent contamination of the soil and groundwater when conducting vehicle repair activities, Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be utilized. Following the BMPs below will assist you in your efforts to continue repair operations with minimal impacts to the environment:

• **Maintain proper fluid management practices.** Chemicals must have proper containment and should be stored on concrete surfaces and not open ground. Ensure there are no leaks by performing regular inspections even in your own garage.

• **Have granule absorbent (cat litter) or absorbent pads on site to address small, manageable spills.** Call the ERMD if you have a spill to prevent any harm to the environment.

• **Avoid hosing down the repair area to prevent the mixing of contaminants with wash water.**

• **Maintain good housekeeping practices** such as utilizing a drip pan, properly disposing of hazardous materials and not mixing wastes. Hazardous materials are not limited to waste automotive fluids alone; they also include used filters and rags.

• **Minimize the use of solvents if possible.** Common solvents like mineral spirits are often used to clean parts. These products contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and contribute to pollution. Use aqueous (water soluble) parts cleaner when possible to minimize contaminants.

• **If an oil/water separator exists at the repair location, it should be properly maintained.** If there is free-standing oil on the surface, make sure it is disposed of in an appropriate amount of time and by a licensed disposal facility.

• **Make sure waste streams do not drain toward storm drains or bodies of water like canals.**

• **Keep a clean work area, and if possible, apply a sealant to the floor.** Sealants can prevent contaminants from reaching the soil or groundwater through cracks or holes.

Prevention is the best way to protect the environment from contamination. However, accidents happen. To be prepared for accidental spills, familiarize yourself with cleanup and/or emergency procedures. In the event that you do have a spill or need assistance in maintaining safe vehicle repair practices, do not hesitate to contact the Environmental Resource Management Department.

## Alcohol and drug addiction can happen to the best families

SUBMITTED BY DEBRA RAY  
Family Services Department

### Alcohol and drug abuse hurts everyone in the family

Dependence on alcohol and drugs is a serious national public health problem. It is prevalent among rich and poor, in all regions of the country and all ethnic and social groups. Millions of Americans misuse or depend on alcohol or drugs, and most of them have families who suffer the consequences, often serious, of living with this illness. If alcohol or drug dependence exists in your family, remember you are not alone.

Most individuals who abuse alcohol or drugs have jobs and are productive members of society, creating a false hope in the family that it's not that bad. The problem is that addiction worsens over time, hurting both the addicted person and all the family members. It especially hurts young children and adolescents. People with this illness really may believe that they drink normally or that everyone takes drugs. These false beliefs are called denial, a part of the illness.

### It doesn't have to be that way

Drug or alcohol dependence disorders are medical conditions that can be effectively treated. Millions of Americans and their families are in healthy recovery from this disease. If someone close to you misuses alcohol or drugs, the first step is to be honest about the problem and to seek help for yourself, your family and your loved one. Treatment can occur in a

variety of settings, in many different forms and for different lengths of time. Stopping the alcohol or drug use is the first step to recovery, and most people need help to stop. Often a person with alcohol or drug dependence will need treatment provided by professionals, just as with other diseases.

### Family intervention can start the healing

Getting a loved one to agree to accept help and finding support services for all family members are the first steps toward healing for the addicted person and the entire family. When an addicted person is reluctant to seek help, sometimes family members, friends and associates come together out of concern and love in order to confront the addicted person. They strongly urge the person to enter treatment and list the serious consequences of not doing so, such as family breakup or job loss. This is called an intervention. When carefully prepared and done with the guidance of a competent, trained specialist, the family, friends and associates normally convince their loved one – in a firm and loving manner – that the only choice is to accept help and begin the road to recovery. People with alcohol or drug dependences can and do recover. Intervention is often the first step.

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

- Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2012

## POST OFFICE from page 3A



Brett Daly

Tribal members Everett Osceola, far right, and Pedro Zepeda participate in a rally to save the Colee Station Post Office.

For Zepeda, the event also offered a way to keep the tradition of canoes alive within the Tribe while supporting a good cause.

"We're supporting the surrounding communities around the Tribe," he said.

After delivering the mail, participants headed back to All Saints Church where Zepeda led everyone in a friendship dance. Native Village also set up a tent with alligators and turtles for spectators to acquire another insight into Seminole culture.

"I thought it was a very touching way to preserve our history," said attendee and Fort Lauderdale resident Marie Bristol. "I thought it was very heartening that so many came out."

A decision is expected to have been made by mid-May as to whether they will close the Post Office, which ranked in \$597,000 of profit last year alone and is a walkable, convenient location for downtown residents, tourists and local businesses.



Brett Daly

Everett Osceola, left, and Pedro Zepeda participate in a symbolic sendoff of mail in an effort to save the Fort Lauderdale Post Office.



Brett Daly

Pedro Zepeda leads a friendship dance during the rally.

## Seminole Media hits the West Coast



Photo courtesy of Heather Seely

From left, Business Marketing's Claudette Pierre, Tiffany Marquez and Heather Seely represent Seminole Media Productions in San Diego.

**SAN DIEGO** — In an effort to expand its operations, Seminole Media Productions' Business Marketing Department traveled to San Diego for the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) Tradeshow. Established in 1985, NIGA is a nonprofit organization of 184 Indian Nations that represents organizations, Tribes and businesses engaged

in Tribal gaming enterprises from around the country. More than 5,500 people registered for the tradeshow, which offers a venue for Indian gaming industry professionals to discuss ways to better serve their communities and customers. SMP was one of 450 exhibits on display.

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# Education

# B



Martha Jones shows Leilani Burton how to properly fold frybread dough at Pemayevt Emahakv Charter School's annual culture camp. Rachel Buxton

## Charter School students participate in annual culture camp

**BY RACHEL BUXTON**  
Freelance Writer

**BRIGHTON** — A mix of old and new activities were on the schedule for Pemayevt Emahakv Charter School's annual culture camp from May 2-3. Students in kindergarten through eighth grade headed to the culture camp at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena to participate in activities highlighting Seminole culture. The culture camp offers hands-on learning opportunities for students. The younger students kicked off the fourth annual event with cooking, carving, games and legends. The young girls made frybread while the boys carved soap into objects ranging from sharks to cameras. "Girls have to do a lot of work," kindergartner Lexi Thomas said as she mixed her dough. "They have to do all the cooking and cleaning while the boys just carve."

New games were introduced this year. Culture teacher Amber Riddle played Simon Says with students, giving commands in Creek to test their knowledge of verbs and nouns. The board game Candy Land tested students on their knowledge of colors in Creek using laminated flash cards and a giant fabric Candy Land maze. "Within those games, they are still teaching them," Culture director Lorene Gopher said. "I do that with my kindergarten kids because they learn quicker that way. They hear it and they know what to do. That's how they learn." Gopher also invited Ollie Wareham, of Hollywood, to participate in the culture event this year as the storyteller. Wareham told animated versions of the two hunters and the rabbit and the lion. He also played his flute. "I hope they do this on every reservation; this is a great experience," Wareham said. "You need to know what

are your roots, what will you be doing. It's very important that they learn from my generation. It's part of being Seminole." The second day of the culture camp brought several firsts for middle school students. In the past, students learned how to butcher a hog and cook it. This year though, fish, chicken and swamp cabbage were added to the menu. Students took turns rotating to different stations where they learned how to scale a fish using just a fork; how to properly cut up a chicken; and how to peel and cut cabbage palm for swamp cabbage. The older girls also took time to prepare frybread, pumpkin bread and biscuits — tasks they have honed during the past four years. "I really just like coming out here and making frybread," seventh-grade student Odessa King said.

♦ See CULTURE CAMP on page 6B

## Education Department hosts College Admissions Panel

**BY BRETT DALY**  
Senior Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — Tribal students arrived by the busload for the Education Department's College Admissions Panel on May 2. Eighth-grade students and high school students met at the Big Cypress Community Center for a Q-and-A session with representatives from seven Florida universities: Florida International University, Johnson & Wales University, Full Sail University, Florida Gulf Coast University, University of Miami, Edison State College and Florida Atlantic University. "We do this to get kids engaged in questions and answers with the universities," Education director Emma Johns said. "We recognized that we need to target them younger to begin to expose them to the application process, and we have different colleges here because there are different interests." The College Panel consisted of two-year colleges, four-year colleges and trade schools. Representatives spoke on issues like the importance of internships and networking; how to compose admissions essays; and the need to work hard throughout college to ensure that students land jobs after graduation. "College is not like high school," said Alain Darang, assistant director of admission for the University of Miami. "In high school, everything is planned out for you. In college, the responsibility falls on you to not only go to class but to reach out to the resources available to you." Throughout the event, students took

turns asking representatives their individual questions. "It was helpful because the colleges gave me information about dual majors," Ahfachkee senior Jonathan Robbins said. "They told me how to go about finding a career path after graduation." For eighth-grade Charter School student Jaron Johns, the event exposed him to what's to come when he begins high school. "It's never too early to start," he said. "I learned there is a lot of importance in going to college and trying your best in school." The representatives also touched on diversity in colleges. Florida International University, for example, is a 60-percent minority campus. They encouraged Tribal students to celebrate their heritage and to find ways to get involved on campus in minority programs and clubs. "All students deserve the privilege and the right to know what kind of opportunities are out there for them," said Anthony Hyatt, coordinator for undergraduate relations at Florida Gulf Coast University. "It's important for universities to give them that information." Education's Emma Johns encouraged students to utilize every resource the Tribe offers them for higher education and told students about other upcoming education events, including a three-day boot camp in August that will help students write their admissions essays and complete their college applications. "It starts now. It starts today," she told them. "We're here to let you know what it takes to get into college. The sky is the limit for you."



College representatives answer Tribal students' questions during a Q-and-A session on May 2. Brett Daly

## Native Learning Center to host fourth annual Summer Conference

**BY KATHRYN STOLARZ**  
Copy Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — Registration is open for the Native Learning Center's (NLC) fourth annual Summer Conference, which will be held at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood for the first time. From June 5-7, participants can enjoy an array of courses on culture and language, financial wellness, grants education, housing strategies and Tribal government. Registration for the conference is free for Native Americans and anyone working with Indian Country. "We think this is an excellent opportunity for anyone involved in Indian Country to learn what the most up-to-date, hot topics are in Indian Country; to stay aware of what's going on in the community; to meet people from around the country and different Tribes; and (to) network with specialist Jared Forman said. "The NLC is a Seminole Tribe of Florida program dedicated to developing cultural and quality-of-life skills for all Native and Indigenous people. This will be the first time they host an event on reservation property. "One thing that we're excited about [for] this event is that it's going to be on the rez," NLC marketing coordinator Christina Gonzalez said. "We hope that Tribal members in the area will really take advantage of it being that it's so close to home." Hollywood Tribal member Samantha Frank already registered for what will be her first NLC event. "There was just issues in there that I wanted to learn about as far as the Tribal government and the housing stuff," Frank said. "I was just interested in learning new things." Attendees can also visit a variety of cultural vendors from around the nation.

On June 6, the Seminole Tribe's up-and-coming Osceola Brothers Band will put on a concert during lunch.

**Classes**  
Each day, classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., following 8 a.m. breakfast. Forman said he anticipates heightened interest in the course *Indian Loan Guaranty Program*. Instructor Shannon Loeve of the U.S. Department of the Interior Indian Affairs will offer her advice on funding sources for businesses. "That's going to be certainly an interesting and helpful class for those people starting their own business," Forman said. Another course generating a lot of buzz is *Basics of the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Formula*. The course should help people in Indian Country working toward the block grant who aren't aware of recent changes, Forman said. "The formula has changed, and we're trying to provide training so that Tribes have the most up-to-date knowledge of what needs to be done in order to be successful in obtaining their block grant," he said. Mindi D'Angelo of FirstPic and Peggy Cuciti of the University of Colorado will teach the class. Other sessions include *Essential Skills of Grant Writing; Tribal Constitutions, Bylaws and Ordinances; Developing and Rewriting Your Documents; How to Form and Grow a Non-Profit Tribal Language Institute; and Introduction to the Native Community Development Financial Institution Development Services Program*. "These are things that are very important right now in Indian Country and ones that are really valued," Gonzalez said. While some classes are NLC staples, there will be plenty of new courses, too. For example, *Tribal Food Safety; Generational Differences in the Workplace; and History*



and *Success of Boys and Girls Clubs in Indian Country* will make their debuts at the conference. "We want to keep it fresh for attendees that may have attended previous events of ours," Forman said. Instructors will come from several Tribes, including the Muscogee Creek Nation, Cherokee Nation, Northern Arapaho Tribe, White Earth Nation and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. **Vendors**  
A variety of vendors will showcase their unique works of art, such as bronze sculptures, traditional apparel and beaded, shell and turquoise jewelry. Seminole-branded merchandise will also be for sale. In addition, other vendors will promote their causes. The Native Relief Foundation will sell shirts, bags and bracelets to raise funds while the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs will promote their Florida Indian Youth Program. The Seminole Tribe's Stephen Bowers will represent the Native American Veteran Memorial Initiative, and the Tribe's Human Resources representatives will have the latest job postings and application forms available. "The vendors that we've selected have been phenomenal — some from Navajo Country and many from our own Seminole Tribe of Florida," Gonzalez said. To register for the Summer Conference, visit [www.NativeLearningCenter.com/SummerConference](http://www.NativeLearningCenter.com/SummerConference).

## Big Cypress Preschool holds Trike-a-thon



Landell Turtle races to the finish at the Big Cypress Preschool Trike-a-thon on April 27. Omar Rodriguez

♦ See more photos on page 5B

# HAVE YOU SEEN US ONLINE?



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Andrea Holata

PECS teachers and staff receive pins for working with the school for five years.

# Charter School salutes teachers and staff with red carpet event

BY ANDREA HOLATA  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School (PECS) celebrated their outstanding teachers and staff on May 9 with a red carpet affair during teacher appreciation week.

The appreciation banquet resembled Hollywood's Oscar night, complete with a red carpet walk of fame, Oscar-inspired trophies, and centerpieces with movie film and balloons.

To start the evening, teachers, staff and guests were greeted with dinner and a slideshow of the past year's activities. Throughout the night, students recited heartfelt poems that thanked the teachers for their hard work.

"I am happy that you're my teacher," student Elle Thomas said. "Thanks for all you do. You make learning easy, and the lessons are fun, too."

Eighth-grade student Michael Garcia also delighted the audience with a fitting song he sang and played on the guitar, *Time of Your Life* by Green Day.

Principal Brian Greseth started off the awards portion of the evening.

"I appreciate everything that you do," he said. "I have been a principal at five different schools and never have I been at an all-around stronger school than I have been at PECS."

The Charter School continued to show their gratitude to the teachers and staff by

giving them each a sweater with the school's logo. All employees who have given their time since the school opened also received a five-year pin.

In addition, a special gift was presented to one generous volunteer, Norman "Skeeter" Bowers, the Chairman's special assistant.

"I can call him anytime...He's always there to assist," Charter School administrative assistant Michele Thomas said. "There are many times that you need a lifeline to make things happen and he is that."

Finally, it was time for the superstars of the night to be recognized for their dedication to and achievements at the Charter School.

First and foremost, nominated by her peers, Renea Finney was awarded the 2012 Teacher of the Year award for her dedication to the Charter School.

"Renea is the type of person that comes to school and does her job to the best of her ability," principal Greseth said. "She does whatever needs to be done every day. Even though you may be humbled for being Teacher of the Year at PECS, you definitely deserve this. You're a great representative."

Finney offered her words of gratitude toward everyone at the Charter School who made it possible for her to achieve such an award.

"Thank you all for the honor that you bestowed upon me when you chose me to represent you all as Teacher of the Year at

PECS...I am truly blessed to work at a place that doesn't even feel like work," she said.

The next prestigious award, 2012 Non-Instructional Employee of the Year, went to Diana Greenbaum.

"I truly don't believe that we have teachers and teachers' aides; we have teachers and other teachers," principal Greseth said.

He continued by thanking her for her dedication and for making the Charter School a happier place to be.

"She is a go-er - very, very cheerful and willing to chip in in everything around the school," he said.

This year, the Charter School added a first-time Culture Teacher of the Year Award, which Denise Welborn received.

The lead Culture teacher, Janelle Robinson, spoke of how Welborn's assistance in the classroom has helped over the years.

"I never have to worry about my classroom being ready to start with or without me," Robinson said.

For all their commitment to the Charter School, all three ladies received a handmade Seminole skirt and/or shirt made by parents of students who attend the school.

"We are a group that shares and because of that our students are successful," he said. "Our teachers are successful, and we are very blessed to have wonderful staff like you to be working with our children."

# 'Mark Twain' visits Big Cypress Library



Reinaldo Becerra

From left, Dave Ehlert (dressed as Mark Twain) poses with Big Cypress Tribal members Glynnis Bowers and Shana Balentine at the Willie Frank Library for the Mark Twain 100 Years Later event on April 26.



Reinaldo Becerra

From left, librarian Gretchen DeBree smiles with Dave Ehlert (dressed as Mark Twain) and Library assistant Melissa Silva at the Mark Twain 100 Years Later event at the Big Cypress Reservation's Willie Frank Library on April 26.

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# BC Library and Wellness Center host youth nutrition workshop

BY NAJI TOBIAS  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — To further enhance the Tribe's health initiative, the Big Cypress Library and the Wellness Center collaborated on a youth nutrition workshop on April 17.

Students from the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club engaged in a series of yoga exercises led by health specialist Amy Kimberlain

and nutritionist Ashley Wilson at the Frank Billie Tribal Field Office's Learning Resource Center. They also learned about healthy foods that they can eat on a daily basis.

Students then took their knowledge to the kitchen to prepare healthy snacks, including smoothies, carrots, celery, apples, grapes, raisins, low-fat cheese and ranch dressing dip. Thirteen students attended the workshop.



Naji Tobias

Youth Allied Health specialist Amy Kimberlain happily serves up some Groovy Green Goddess Smoothies to the Big Cypress Tribal youth.



Naji Tobias

Kylen Jumper drinks a Groovy Green Goddess Smoothie and gives a thumbs-up in approval.

# Charter School April Students of the Month



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

Congratulations to the Charter School's April Students of the Month: Pictured: Carriss Johns, CeCe Thomas, Lucius Billie, Jaime Smith, Jrayko Billie, Ryanna Osceola, Justin Gopher, Mariah Billie, Caylie Huff, Ramone Baker, Luzana Venzor, Malcolm Jones, Conner Thomas, Raeley Matthews, Morgan King, Jaden Puente and Aleah Turtle. Not pictured: Jahdee Arnold, Dante Thomas and Melany Williams.

# Applications available for Summer Youth Work Experience Program

BY BRETT DALY  
Senior Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Education Department will once again offer Tribal youth the opportunity to obtain real-world work experience this summer.

The 2012 Summer Youth Work Experience Program, which takes place from June 11 through Aug. 10, is a paid internship opportunity for students ages 14-24. Participants can choose from many departments within the Tribe to learn about and experience how each department works.

"It gives them an opportunity

to earn cash for the summer, but more importantly to learn what each department offers," adult vocational administrator Marie Dufour said. "It gives them connections with employees and they gain experience."

Dufour encourages every Tribal department to participate in order to provide as many opportunities for students as possible.

Students on every reservation may apply and can pick up an application at any Seminole Education location. Applicants will take a career assessment test to explain their interests, and the Education Department will match

the students with the appropriate department. The deadline to apply is June 1.

"This is a way of connecting the students to the community and (for) the departments to help them find a career path," Dufour said.

For more information, contact Marie Dufour at 954-989-6840 ext. 10557 for Hollywood, Trail and Fort Pierce applicants; Susan Kuipers at 863-763-3572 ext. 14604 for Brighton and Tampa applicants; and Luis Yeguez at 239-867-5303 ext. 13129 for Big Cypress, Immokalee and Naples applicants.

# Youth invited to Big Cypress Summer Reading Program

BY GRETCHEN DEBREE  
Big Cypress Librarian

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Willie Frank Library on the Big Cypress Reservation will host a summer reading program this year with the theme "Dream Big - Read!" The program will be held in June and July.

Every Tuesday, there will be a Native American storytime session related to the nighttime;

on Wednesdays, there will be a craft; and on Thursdays, there will be a movie. The craft and movie are related to the storytime session.

"Dream Big - Read!" kicks off the first week of June with a reading of *How the Bat Came to Be*. That week's craft will be making Amazon Rainforest Bats, and the movie will be *Bats at Night*.

As always, computers and

a great selection of books will be available for the kids. New board games for the summer include *Find It: Starry Night*; *Monopoly: Night Sky Edition*; *Chutes and Ladders*; and *Pictionary Junior*. Children can bring their board games from home, and other library children or staff will play the games with them. The library will also be decorated in a nighttime theme.



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# Big Cypress preschoolers get rolling at Trike-a-thon



Omar Rodriguez

Tahniah Billie, left, and Tia Billie lead the pack at the Trike-a-thon on April 27 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.



Omar Rodriguez

Zayden Cypress gets ready to roll at the Trike-a-thon.



Omar Rodriguez

AbbieGale Green sports her Barbie helmet and bag.



Omar Rodriguez

Savannah Cypress has fun pedaling her tricycle.



Omar Rodriguez

Hazel Osceola gets a hand.



Omar Rodriguez

Audrina Turtle rides a Buzz Lightyear car with style.



Omar Rodriguez

Thelma Tigertail takes a break from all the action.



Omar Rodriguez

Tribal employees prepare a healthy snack for the preschoolers during the Trike-a-thon.



Omar Rodriguez

Tribal youth participate in the Trike-a-thon at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on April 27.

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# CULTURE CAMP

From page 1B

"When I get older and have kids, I want to be able to teach my kids all the things I've learned."  
Once all the meat was cleaned and chopped, the girls went to work cooking the food while the boys busied themselves with wood carving. The girls were allotted two hours to prepare the food with little help and supervision.  
"We just think that we've expanded our program, and we like to think that we taught them enough that they can do this," Gopher said. "And they are doing a good job now."  
Teachers, parents and members of the community were invited to the culture grounds to enjoy the traditional Seminole meal prepared by the Seminole youth. Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard was one of the many guests for the occasion.  
"You guys did a great job," Rep. Howard said. "You all are the future role models for the next ones coming up."



Rachel Buxton  
Lexi Thomas shows how messy making frybread can be.



Rachel Buxton  
Ruben Burgess cuts up cabbage palm in preparation for the swamp cabbage.



Rachel Buxton  
Gage Riddle, left, and Aidan Tommie work diligently on sanding and carving wood.



Rachel Buxton  
Middle school girls serve Brighton Board Rep. Larry Howard at the culture camp lunch.



Rachel Buxton  
Culture teacher Myra Gopher assists Joss Youngblood in putting the frybread in the oil.



Rachel Buxton  
Norman "Skeeter" Bowers gives the middle school boys a lesson on scaling fish.



Rachel Buxton  
Middle school boys work on wood carvings while the girls cook lunch.



Rachel Buxton  
First-grade students practice their Creek by playing Candy Land.



Rachel Buxton  
Alice Osceola prepares some frybread dough.

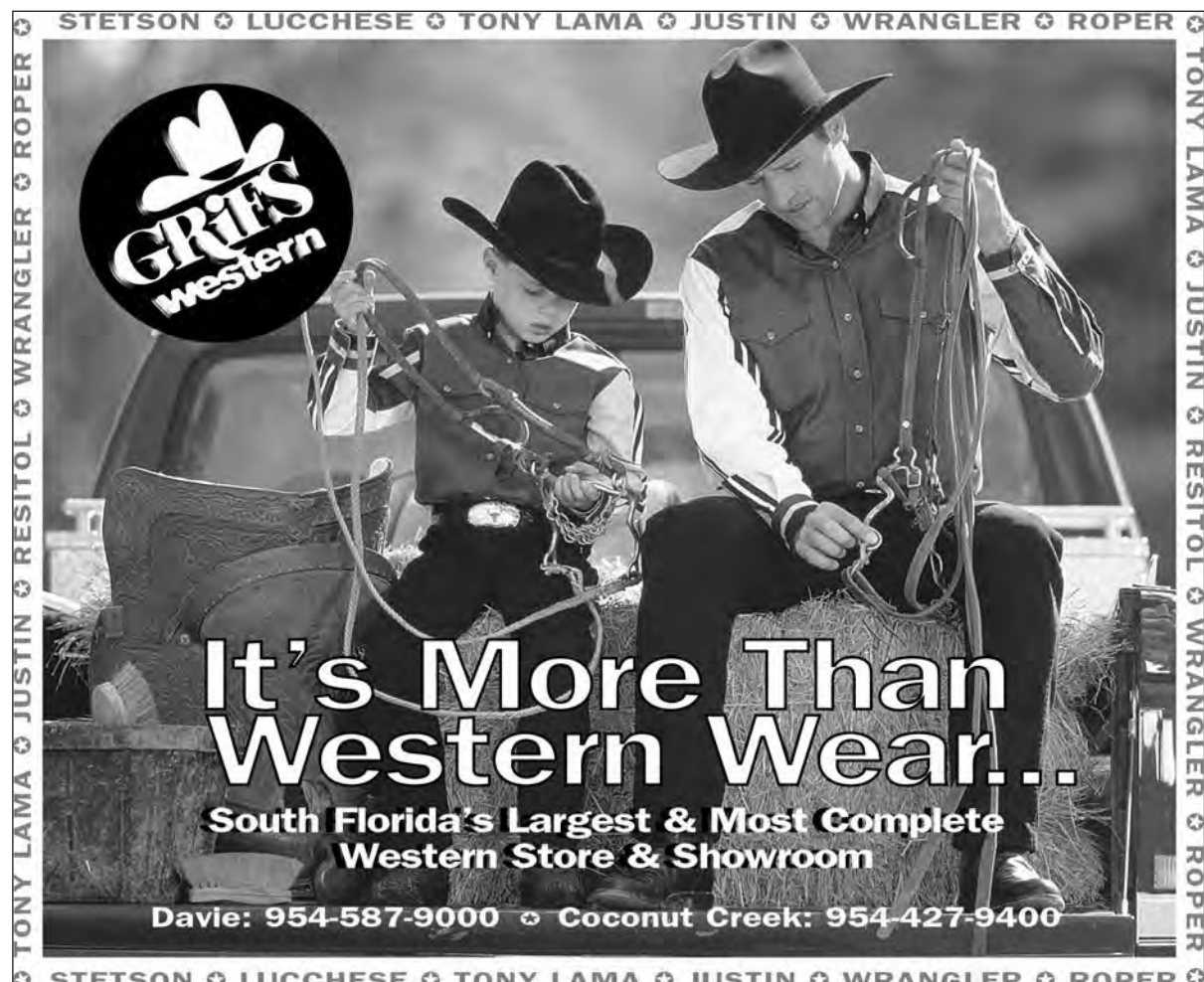


Rachel Buxton  
Pedro Zepeda helps Jason Webber with his soap carving.



Rachel Buxton  
Caroline Sweat, left, makes frybread with her grandma Alice Sweat.

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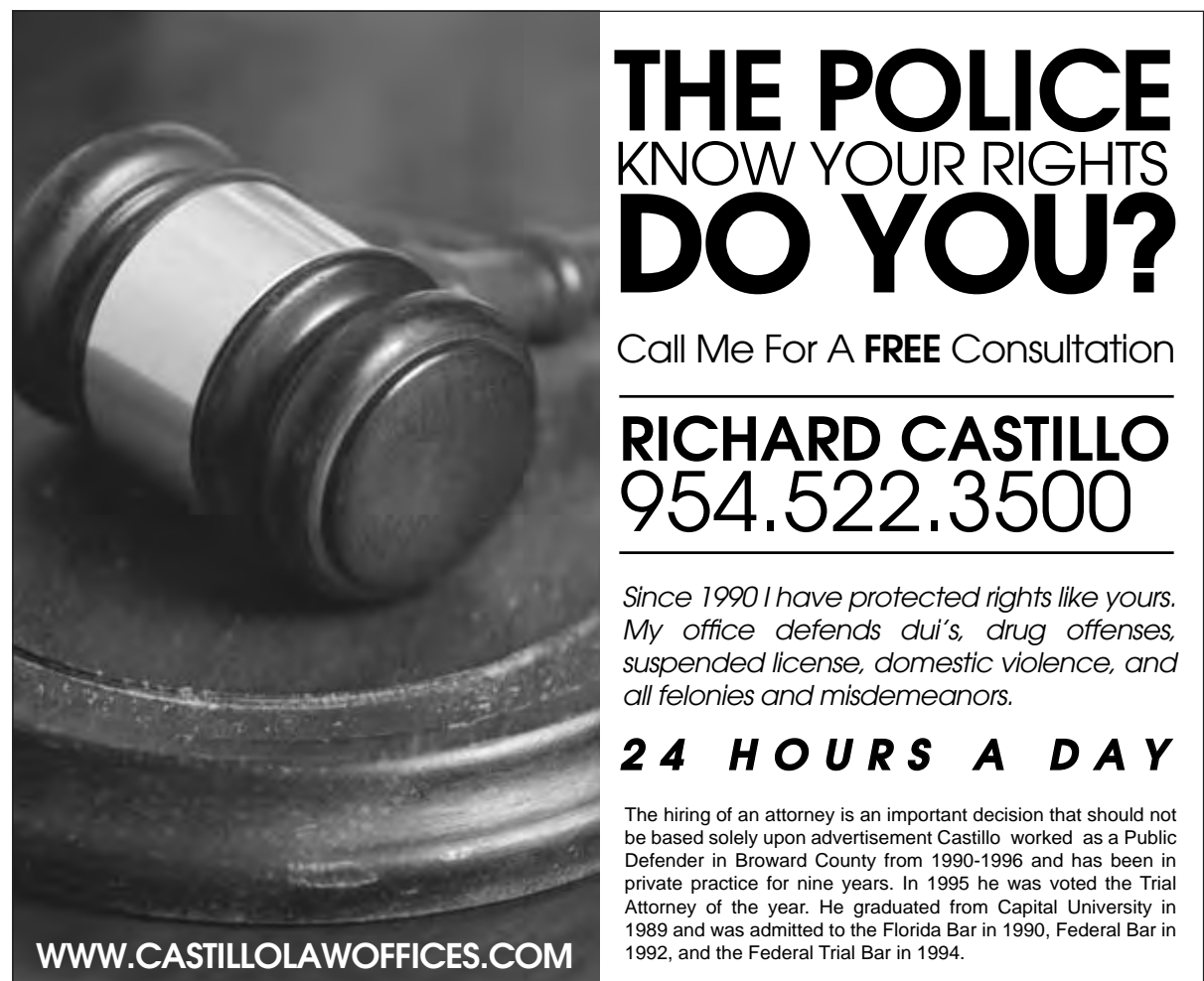
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The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisement. Castillo worked as a Public Defender in Broward County from 1990-1996 and has been in private practice for nine years. In 1995 he was voted the Trial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

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# Announcements

## Congratulations



### Glynnis Bowers

In appreciation of your nine years of dedicated service, devotion and commitment to our organization.  
Seminole Media Productions

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our daughter, Lois Justine Billie, who will be graduating on June 11, 2012 from Okeechobee High School. You have brought us happiness, love and respect. And, may you have a bright future ahead of you!



Love, Dad and Mom  
(Sandy Billie Jr. and Betty Billie)

## Thank you

To: families, friends, pool shooters of Candy Osceola  
From: Juanita Osceola – mother of late Candy Osceola  
Re: letter of thank you

This is a letter of deep, sincere appreciation of your support of this annual All-Indian Pool Tournament held on or near her birthday on May 18 annually, which this year would have been the 15th annual.

But before I get into thanking all of the supporters, I would like to address the Council, Committee or whatever department had the task of picking or choosing which tournament would be held. I talked with Mr. Danny Wilcox and was told that there would be no funds for my tournament. I wanted to know why I was told there were no funds, and I was told that if a tournament was held, it would be for someone of importance, Veterans or a long-running tournament.

My daughter was important – she was important to me, her kids and family. She was well-liked, but all my people within the Tribe are important to someone;

they are all family. When we get into a meeting, we are always one Tribe here; we are a family.

I can understand the reasons of no funds or that we are having too many memorials, but let's be fair – memorials or no memorials. Veterans – my brother is a Vet. We can't do enough for them. They deserve so much more, but they do have their own one special day. On that note, thank you and I love all you Vets.

As to the tournament, I would like to thank the Tribal Council of before the current officials – Mitchell Cypress, Max Osceola Jr., David Cypress, Paula Bowers-Sanchez and Tony Sanchez, the Recreation Department, Adrian Fox and his assistants.

To all my family, son, daughter, grandkids, great-grandkids, loving relatives, friends and all loyal shooters for coming out and supporting us. I am writing this with deep emotions, as there will be no Candy Osceola All-Indian Pool Tournament this year.

With deepest, sincere thank you to all that was in value to make this annual tournament a great success that it was.

-Juanita Osceola

## Classifieds



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## Birthdays



Belated happy 12th birthday and congratulations on 6th grade graduation to Claireese Avila Billie. And a knockout softball player, too! We are proud of your good accomplishments. Continue in good health.

Love and happiness,  
Mom, Dad and Family  
(Parents: Peggy and Aaron Billie)

Happy Birthday to Stephanie, May 1, and Jarrid, May 18.

Love, Mom  
(Camellia Osceola)



### Happy 11th Birthday, Madisyn Raye Osceola

May 23, 2011 you were given to us by God. Everyone said you looked like a porcelain doll, and now, 11 years later, you still do. We love you so much, and I hope you keep working hard towards your goals. You're the baby of the bunch and get spoiled a lot, or that's what your sisters and brothers claim, but you're tuff. I love you so very much.

-Mommy

(Parents: Lisa and Rodney Osceola)

## Poems

### "Press Play"

There's no reset button on this game...  
A man apart, I'm not the same.  
Unlike the critics along the way, I gave my all to make my name.  
One chance I've got to get this right, no backing down.  
I came to fight.  
On myself I can rely, my own hero, my dark night.  
No reset button on this game, this is my shot...  
I play for keeps.  
Early mornings and late nights, I chase my dream while the world sleeps.  
No reset button on this game, this is the time, dawn of my day.  
Pushing forward on my terms, fighting my own fight, winning my own way.  
No reset button on this game.  
No time to rest.  
No chance I'll quit.  
No stop.  
No pause.  
Step up.  
Press Play.

"Always bet on red."  
Alex Tucker  
Hollywood Rez  
Otter Clan

### "Shipwreck"

Tears that were became those never to be  
As the message in the bottle was left to simply drift among the sea  
Stranded on an island...a lonely soul  
Captive to thoughts...both friend and foe  
Deep blue remain the waters with no end in sight  
The roar of these waves echo along the shore in its display of might  
A beach of sorrow found beneath every grain  
So true the loss that exists within those sands of pain  
With each sunrise and in every sunset  
The sails will raise...but the winds haven't come yet

Leslie J. Gopher  
"Within these walls exist a vessel only a fool chooses to captain"  
Nov. 26, 2011

### "Make Sure It's Poppin Homie"

Make sure it's poppin homie when I get to the other side,  
You know how we always do true warriors that ride.  
When I first got word I said another homie in the wind,  
It hurts me to my heart and that pain I'm releasing it through this ink my childhood friend.  
Twenty-one gun salute for the warrior that kept it real,  
Tell the homies in that spot Sholooapathi Bolchunchaha is standing strong and always will.  
I had wrote this just days after you went to the other side,  
But I had to reword it to have it printed in the newspaper of my Tribe.

But you already know I won't forget you homie that loyalty is second to none,  
With utmost respect for the warrior of the unconquered ones.

I sincerely apologize for the delay of these lines, Homie you know how I live in reality speaking what's in my heart and mind.

The original poem I will have printed on T-shirts and passed around, Our friendship will always be strong with my dog rope staked to the ground.

It's written in blood homie I will do all that I can, Because all these years you didn't forget me when many forgot this man.

I remember when you first

told me you were getting married and I said I hope she knows she gets a player for life,  
Homie you made a great choice in making Melinda your wife.

From what I hear she has been there for all your kids and you too,  
Homie you were blessed to find what's rare love that's true.

She will always have my utmost respect for riding with you 'til the end,  
Also for being a great step-mom to Deila as well as a friend.

I comforted my niece the best I could with what words I could find,  
I'm sure she will be alright because she comes from two very strong families, yours and mine.

She's my favorite and I am proud of her for many reasons like her will to succeed,  
One day it will be Tribal Chairwoman Deila Harjo because she has that natural ability to lead.

Homie I will keep your memory alive as life goes on,  
I'm sure you was smiling as the home team played all your songs.

Make sure it's poppin homie when I get there my time will come,  
Ride on Markell Eli Billie much love and much respect from this warrior of the unconquered ones.

Ike T. Harjo  
Sholooapathi  
Bolchunchaha  
Koowaathi

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# Sports

# C

## Tampa Tribal youth competes in State track competition



Photo courtesy of Justin Motlow

Tampa Tribal youth Justin Motlow competes in track.

**BY ANDREA HOLATA**  
Staff Reporter

**TAMPA** — Tribal youth Justin Motlow, 16, of Tampa Catholic High School, has made treads in track, competing with the top runners in the Class 2A Division.

Only two years into running track, he has a determination that has brought him contending with the best. Although running wasn't his preferred sport in the beginning, he strived hard and raced well.

"I decided to run track after my first year of football," he said. "My teammates and coaches suggested that for conditioning and to stay in shape."

Motlow began his journey by qualifying for the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) 2A District 9 Championships, which were held on April 12 at Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa.

With more than 100 students competing in several events, Motlow and his teammates finished strong, receiving first place in the 4x100 relay (43.85 seconds), second place in the 4x400 relay (3:32.85) and second place in the 400-meter dash.

"My favorite race is the 4x100 because I enjoy the speed and seeing all the relay teams," he said.

With his personal best time of 50.13 in the 400-meter dash at Districts — an improvement from his previous year's time of 51.83 — it was more than enough to advance him to the next level.

Just a week later, on April 19, he participated in the FHSAA Class 2A Region 3 Championship, a State qualifier. Again, Motlow and his teammates did an outstanding job, placing in the top four in the 400-meter dash and the 4x100 relay.

To end the season, Motlow's final stop was the FHSAA State Championship, where he had the opportunity to compete with the best of the best. Overall, he finished in a respectable 11th place in the 400-meter dash.

Not only does he work hard on the track, but he also strives hard in the classroom. With all the grueling practices and competitions, he still manages to maintain an "A" average.

"Always work hard at whatever you want to do," he said. "Don't ever let anybody tell you that you can't do it, and always, school work comes first."

Motlow's future plans for running track are still open for now, but he hopes to one day attend Florida State University.

When asked how he felt about representing his Tribe, he said, "Very proud to be representing for my Tribe and school."



Rachel Buxton

From left, Trevor Thomas and Zeke Matthews compete against students from around the region in the 800-meter run at the HERSHEY'S Track & Field Games on April 27.

## Students run, jump and throw in Charter School track and field meet

**BY RACHEL BUXTON**  
Freelance Writer

**OKEECHOBEE** — School spirit and pride prevailed on April 27 as students from Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School cheered on their fellow classmates at the HERSHEY'S Track & Field Games.

Charter School students loaded the bus in the early morning and headed to Okeechobee in hopes of snagging one of the top two places in their respective track or field events in order to advance to the State finals.

"A lot of the elementary and middle schools have come together for the past few years to compete in the track meet," said Darryl Allen, Charter School resource officer and Lady Seminoles softball coach. "We are just excited to be here amongst everybody else."

In the month and a half leading up to the HERSHEY'S Games, students worked to improve their running times and to further their throwing or jumping distances.

"I like to exercise a lot," sixth-grade student Sunni Bearden said. "I would run every day on the treadmill. I would run a mile so it would increase my speed and make me stronger."

Fifth-grade student Alicia Fudge, who competed in the 200-meter dash and softball throw, also practiced to improve her chances of advancing to the State finals.

"Me and my dad would go out to our basketball court and do suicides (a running exercise)," she said. "And I would throw with my brothers."

For Bearden and Fudge, their hard work paid off,

as both girls placed and will compete at the State finals on June 16 in Altamonte Springs, Fla. Bearden placed first in all three of her events: the 100-meter dash, softball throw and 4x100-meter relay. Fudge placed second behind Bearden in the softball throw.

"We have a lot of athletes at our school, so anytime we compete we are going to be right in the middle of the hunt with everybody else," Officer Allen said. "Just as with anything else, I hope that they take the mentality that no matter what we do, we compete to win. So far, so good."

Twenty-two Charter School students qualified to advance on to the State finals: Ramone Baker, Donovan Harris, Julia Smith, Malorie Thomas, Aubrey Pearce, Jenna Brown, Brianna Brockman, Janessa Nunez, Chandler Pearce, Silas Madrigal, Sunni Bearden, Raeley Matthews, Alicia Fudge, Caroline Sweat, Luzana Venzor, Zeke Matthews, Drayton Billie, Odessa King, Lahna Sedatol, Chastity Harmon, Shae Pierce and Lanie Sedatol.

"We know there is life outside of the reservation, for as beautiful as our neighborhood is on the reservation and in our school and everything else, outside communication is extremely important," Officer Allen said. "And for us to be able to compete, we want the world to understand what this hidden diamond is, which is Pemayetv Emahakv, and the children and our staff that work there. So every chance we get to come out and show that hidden diamond, we want to take it."

♦ See more HERSHEY'S photos on page 3C

## Ahfachkee Warriors' spring sports season ends with awards ceremony



Naji Tobias

Coach John Gallegos gives Sabre Billie and Danni Jae Tommie the Co-MVP awards for softball.

**BY NAJI TOBIAS**  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — A chapter has officially closed for the Ahfachkee Warriors' athletic program.

On April 24 at the Big Cypress Community Center, the Tribal school's spring seasons of baseball and softball — and second full year of operation in athletics — reached its climax with a special awards ceremony for its athletes in the two sports.

To highlight the Ahfachkee Warriors' spring action, the following honors were handed out at the awards ceremony:

**Most Hit by a Pitcher** — Alyssa Osceola; **Cheerleader of the Year** — Nashoba Gonzalez; **Most Dependable Player** — Chelsey Alvarado; **Rising Star Award** — Dayra Koenes; **Rising Star Award** — Ryanne Pratt; **Most Improved Player** — Katie Bert; **Defensive Player of the Year** — Savannah Tiger; **Offensive Player of the Year** — Taylor Fulton; **Most Valuable Player** — Sabre Billie and Dannie Jae Tommie.

*Ahfachkee Warriors baseball awards*

**Quote of the Year** — Dalton Koenes: "Alright, baseball;" **Rookie of the Year** — Ethan Balentine; **Most Improved Player** — Quenton Cypress; **Most Valuable Player** — Stevie Billie.

♦ See more AWARDS photos on page 3C

*Ahfachkee Lady Warriors softball awards*  
**Biggest Smile at Plate** — Trinity Williams; **Player**

## Firefighters bring home gold from Firefighter Games



Photo courtesy of Deputy Fire Chief Dave Casey

Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue softball team members show off their gold medals from the Florida Firefighter Games.

**SUBMITTED BY LT. JORGE VALDES**  
Seminole Fire Department

**DAYTONA BEACH** — The Seminole Tribe Fire Rescue (STFR) softball team recently competed in the Florida Firefighter Games in Daytona Beach. The tournament consisted of more than 30 fire departments from across Florida.

STFR had a tournament record of 7-1, fighting back after their first loss to reach the final championship game. They beat Pasco County Fire Department twice to bring home the gold medal to the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The firefighters and paramedics prepared for the event on their off-duty time and covered their own expenses. The team consisted of District 7 Chief Bryan Stokes, Capt. David Lugo, Capt. Robert Curtis, Drew

Layne, Lt. Jesus Lizarraga, OJ Price, Lt. Jorge Valdes, Jason Camardese, Bryan Russo, Frank Montenegro, Stephen Luongo and Kevin Pinkerton.

Other STFR members competed in different events: Mike Dolnick won gold in pull-ups, Jonathan Gluck won gold in bench press and Steve Missett won gold in racquetball.

Fire Rescue Chief Donald DiPetrillo explained that since firefighting is such a physically demanding job, activities such as the Firefighter Games provide good motivation and a positive outcome toward their efforts to keep in shape.

*Deputy Fire Chief Dave Casey contributed to this article.*

# 2012 EIRA Cinco de Mayo Rodeo held in Immokalee



Omar Rodriguez

EIRA Senior Seminole Rodeo Queen Erena Billie rides in for the Grand Entry at the John Jimmie Memorial Arena.



Omar Rodriguez

Reagan WhiteCloud competes in the Barrels event for ages 13-17.



Omar Rodriguez

Jr. Seminole Rodeo Queen Kalgary Johns waves to the crowd during the Grand Entry.



Omar Rodriguez

Quinn Campbell competes in the Steer Wrestling event.



Omar Rodriguez

Happy Jumper competes in the Calf Roping event.



Omar Rodriguez

From left, Andre Jumper, Josh Jumper and Paul Bowers Sr. steer rider-less horses in memory of the recent losses among the EIRA family.



Omar Rodriguez

Jacoby Johns competes in the Bareback event at the John Jimmie Memorial Arena on May 5 in Immokalee.



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# Big Cypress Reservation hosts Employee Fun Day



Omar Rodriguez

Big Cypress employees enjoy a softball game at Employee Fun Day.

## HERSHEY'S from page 1C



Rachel Buxton

Donovan Harris represents PECS with a first-place finish for a 122-foot-3-inch softball throw.



Rachel Buxton

Luzana Venzor, left, pushes strong in the 100-meter dash at the HERSHEY'S Track & Field Games.



Omar Rodriguez

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger makes contact with the ball.



Omar Rodriguez

Immokalee Liaison Kenny Joe Davis Sr. throws a pitch during the softball game.

## AWARDS from page 1C



Naji Tobias

Coach John Gallegos gives Trinity Williams the Biggest Smile at the Plate award.



Naji Tobias

Coach Randall Cleckler gives Dalton Koenes the Quote of the Year award at the Ahfachkee Warriors' spring sports banquet.

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177439	2006	FORD	TAURUS	97,766	\$4,000 - \$5,650
129498	2004	FORD	TAURUS	161,986	\$1,263 - \$2,625

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