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U.S. Capitol**
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Louise Motlow**
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The Seminole

Voice of the Unconquered



Tribune

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Tribal senior inducted into Florida Track and Field Hall of Fame

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior David Jumper receives his plaque as one of the new inductees into the Florida Track and Field Hall of Fame on Jan. 6.

DAYTONA BEACH — Even though Tribal senior David Jumper, 65, has not ran competitively in more than 40 years, he managed to pace himself all the way into the Florida Track and Field Hall of Fame.

As a cross-country phenomenon on the high school and college level, Jumper joined five other deserving athletes for induction ceremonies as part of the 2012 Florida Athletic Coaches Association Track and Field Clinic held at the Daytona Beach Hilton Hotel on Jan. 6 with family and friends on hand for support.

In his distinguished career, Jumper competed in many events including the half-mile, mile and sprint medley (1 mile), and his bevy of awards include two cross-country state championships on the McArthur High School track team, All-American status at Haskell Indian Nations University (formerly known as Haskell University), and he had several first place finishes at county- and state-level meets. And all through one special, unorthodox ritual he followed – running barefoot!

“I wasn’t really used to wearing shoes, so it felt good to just go without,” Jumper said of the practice he gained while playing and growing up on the reservations.

The Hollywood native and son of Harry and Tommie Jumper said it all began for him in junior high while attending Driftwood, where he tried out for football but was deemed too small to play. But coaches in his physical education class noticed his talent running and doing other exercise activities. The rest is history.

At the ceremony, Jumper spoke highly of former McArthur Track and Field Coach Bill Gilmartin. Although Gilmartin could not attend the ceremony for health reasons, Jumper gave him special recognition for influencing his career and for his Hall nomination, which persevered through more than four years spent on the ballot.

“He took a little boy (me) off the reservation, helped me attend school and, even though I was shy, he put me up in his arms and just told me to go out there on the track and just run,” Jumper told attendees. “I didn’t know what that all really meant then, but I just went and did what he said. I was successful at what I was doing, so he just continued to teach me different practice methods... He helped me and made me who I am today.”

Jumper was one of the first Seminoles to win in any sport at McArthur and followed a simple philosophy on the track: “I just did what I was told to do.”

“As a Seminole Tribal member, it was very hard to compete living on a reservation because we lived in a very remote area,” Jumper said. “He (Gilmartin) knew my situation on the reservation and knew we didn’t have a lot to do as far as activities.”

Jumper said the honor is definitely one of the top accomplishments of his life. He said he appreciates the support of Tribal Council Chairman James E. Billie and family.

“I wanted him (the Chairman) there for support. He’s always been involved in sports, although he played football at the time,” Jumper said.

Jumper’s proud grandson Arek Jumper said, “I was happy for him. He has made me want to do something like this someday.”

Lifelong friends, Billie attended elementary through high school with Jumper and played in the band. Jumper also credits Billie with introducing the rhythm of music to his approach while running.

“David had a body build that makes you think of a runner, with long legs, and his upper portion reminded you of a cheetah,” Chairman Billie said. “He is an unsung hero and is very quiet, but when you give him the opportunity to show you what he can do, he is not bashful about it. So when I heard he got nominated, I wasn’t surprised but I was really glad he did because he deserved it,” Billie said. “He fit right in with his own style.”

Jumper said he is proof that hard work and dedication can be recognized beyond the reservation.

“I want people to realize that the challenge is not on the reservation but outside of it. This is where you get recognized. I want our Tribal members to know and understand this.”

Travel Channel visits Seminole Tribe of Florida



© Photo courtesy of the Travel Channel

Andrew Zimmern of Travel Channel's *Bizarre Foods* samples Seminole foods with Norman Bowers.

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

BRIGHTON — The Travel Channel’s Andrew Zimmern journeys across the globe searching for unique cultures and foods to showcase on his television show *Bizarre Foods*, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida made the cut.

From Dec. 7-8, Zimmern traveled to the Brighton Reservation to experience the traditional Seminole way of life and to sample authentic Seminole foods. The menu for his visit included swamp cabbage, turtle soup, frybread and guava sofkee.

“Watching traditional hunting, fishing, trapping, and most importantly, cooking frybread and turtle with the women was one of the most beautiful and fulfilling days of my life and something I wish all Americans could see, so I am grateful to be able to tell that story in my show,” Zimmern said in an e-mail.

Norman Bowers, Chairman James E. Billie’s special assistant, helped organize the activities for the television show, took Zimmern on an air boat ride to catch mudfish

and garfish, which they slow-cooked over the grill for hours with their “guts and everything.” Despite their unappealing look, if prepared properly, he said, the fish taste great.

Bowers enlisted the help of mother, Lorene Gopher; aunt Martha Jones; sister Charlotte Gopher; and friend Diane Smith to prepare the food in a traditional cooking hut on the reservation.

“If you watch the show, this guy travels the world,” Bowers said. “For the Tribe to have the opportunity to show its traditional foods and show the world, you can’t pass on it.”

This season of *Bizarre Foods* focuses on discovering some of the strangest foods and most colorful characters in America rather than from around the world, according to the Travel Channel’s website.

“The Seminole experience in America is shockingly underrepresented,” Zimmern said. “The Seminole, like many of our native Tribal peoples, are the first and only true Americans in the strictest sense. Their

♦ See BIZARRE FOODS on page 8A

President Barack Obama signs order to improve Native American education

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Freelance Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama announced his signing of an executive order to improve education for American Indians at the third White House Tribal Nations Conference on Dec. 2.

When announced, Obama received praise and massive applause from the hundreds of Tribal leaders in attendance.

“We’re going to find ways to reduce the dropout rate,” Obama said in his speech. “We’re going to help students who’ve already dropped out re-enter the education system. And we’re going to strengthen our tribal colleges and universities. They are cornerstones of their community and they deserve our support.”

The order, titled “Improving American Indian and Alaska Native Education Opportunities and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities,” aims to improve educational opportunities and performance through funding and various programs for Native American and Alaska Native students from early education through college.

It has been a constant uphill battle for Native Americans to secure recognition and help when it comes to education. The Seminole Tribe’s own Director of Education Emma Johns has been a part of the fight, making trips to Washington, D.C., among other cities, to voice her opinion along with the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s concerns.

“For many years, we have seen candidates and president elects use our communities as part of their political platforms and fall short on the follow through,” Johns said. “Though it has not been an easy battle, it is one that our Native brothers and sisters have refused to give up. Each year Native Americans gather together in Washington, D.C. during Native American Impact week to fight...I have been a part of this lobbying effort many times and see first hand what other tribes deal with from 60-mile dirt road bus roads to minimal, if any, modern infrastructure in

their communities.”

Recent studies have shown that American Indians and Alaskan Natives are dropping out of school at an alarming rate.

The executive order signed by the president states: “It is the policy of my Administration to support activities that will strengthen the Nation by expanding educational opportunities and improving educational outcomes for all AI/AN (American Indian and Alaska Native) students in order to fulfill our commitment to furthering tribal self-determination and to help ensure that AI/AN students have an opportunity to learn their Native languages and histories and receive complete and competitive educations that prepare them for college, careers, and productive and satisfying lives.”

Johns expressed strong support for the order; she has high hopes for what it could do for the Tribe.

“For our students and any Native that attends a Tribal College, my hope is that this will only provide them with higher quality facilities, academics, extracurricular programs and cultural relevant activities,” Johns said. “It is about time that Native Americans and their educational needs are being addressed.”

The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education Arne Duncan and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior Kenneth L. Salazar will co-chair the initiative.

“It is comforting to see the current administration finally taking this initiative,” Johns said. “Any initiative taken towards promoting and funding educational excellence in Indian Country is a blessing.”

The administration is determined to put a strong focus on secondary education, including Tribal colleges, universities and technical schools. Their goal is to keep Native Indians and Alaska Natives in school to further their education and prepare for their future, no matter what social or economic background they come from.

“TCUs (Tribal Colleges and Universities) maintain,

♦ See OBAMA on page 2A

Smallwood judge orders FGG to fix Mamie Street

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

NAPLES — Put the road back. And pave it.

Read Judge Lauren Brodie’s lips: Put. The. Road. Back.

Not the lousy, pothole infested, unpaved, mosquito-watered, shell-shocked hiking path unfit for cars, coon or man that contemptuous Highlands County developers Florida Georgia Grove LLC (FGG) built a few months ago in Chokoloskee.

No, the Judge is talking about historic Mamie Street. That’s what FGG was told last summer after a tense hearing before Judge Hugh Hayes: “Put the road back the way it was” – a paved thoroughfare that, for almost a century, crossed the heart of Chokoloskee Island and led thousands of visitors annually to the historic Smallwood Store and Museum at the water’s edge.

The developers chopped up and removed the road under cover of darkness last April 14. However, cutting off access to the Museum, in a show of force to bolster a property dispute – the surprise action was deemed inappropriate last summer by Judge Hayes who ordered the road restored “the way it was” before being torn up.

Hayes’ order was further supported on Dec. 29 by Judge Brodie, who viewed slides of the restored “road,” found FGG in contempt and gave the developers 45 days to fully restore the County two-lane road,

which transverses their property. This time, the Judge said, “pave it” and make it right or else penalties (to be determined later) will be assessed.

The Judge’s decision was a surprise to FGG, whose project director, Gary Blackman leapt to his feet, backed up and began waving for the Judge’s attention as bailiffs neared. Blackman had earlier described the “restored road” as “one of the finest shell-rock roads you can find anywhere.”

Smallwood Museum executive director Lynn McMillin, however, testified that tour buses and vans were “either afraid to try or unable to make it up that road, it was so messed up.” She said, “Every time it rained, more and more potholes appeared. For months, until the word got out, we were seeing the tour buses come to the Mamie Street turn off Chokoloskee Road, take one look at the ‘road’ and turn around.”

The Ted Smallwood Trust, the nonprofit that owns the store, was joined in the court battle by Collier County; the road was officially designated a County road when Judge Hayes declared a prescriptive easement existed. (Hayes later recused himself from the case when FGG accused him of favoring the County’s position.)

A hearing took place on Jan. 25 for the two sides to argue a motion by FGG that the current \$10,000 bond (required of Smallwood/Collier County) should be raised significantly to cover the cost of paving the road.

♦ See SMALLWOOD on page 2A

INSIDE:

COMMUNITY: A

SPORTS: C

EDUCATION: B

YEAR IN REVIEW: D

**Happy New Year
from
The Seminole Tribune**

Tribal seniors enjoy time together at inaugural Senior Gathering



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior Rita Micco shows off the 4-in-1 grill she won among the raffle prizes as part of the first Senior Gathering.

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — A relaxing day of reminiscing, holiday cheer and banter filled the Hard Rock Ballrooms for what many Tribal seniors hope will become a tradition.

At what has been dubbed the “first Senior Gathering,” dozens across all reservations including the Miccosukee elders joined together for festive music, tasty food, winning bingo numbers and a showcase of authentic Seminole/Miccosukee attire and clothing for sale on Dec. 22.

The gathering was sponsored and spearheaded by the Tribal Council and Board offices. It successfully reunited elders long parted.

“It was a good opportunity to get all the seniors together before the holidays and allow everyone to say their hellos,” said Hollywood Tribal Board of Directors Rep. Chris Osceola. “Not all of the time do we get a chance to get all the seniors together. It’s something we have just started and something we would like to see now year after year.”

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said the event was crucial to maintaining relationships.



Chris C. Jenkins

Fitness Department's Kenny Bayon shows stretching moves to seniors.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal seniors enjoy games of bingo during the Dec. 22 Senior Gathering at the Hard Rock Ballrooms.

“There just wasn’t enough interaction between the seniors among all the reservations, so we thought we would have one event to help bring them all together and they all loved it,” said Rep. Osceola. “They really seemed to enjoy the interaction and see each other, and it was priceless.”

Trail Reservation Liaison Norman Huggins said the idea for the Tribalwide gathering came from a similar event held in the neighboring Miccosukee area months prior.

“It was something I wanted to see with all our seniors,” Huggins said. “They did a good job. It was a good time.”

Hollywood senior Judy-Bill Osceola said the event was a big hit and long overdue.

“I felt very good about it because I got to see my relatives from all over as well as friends,” she said. “A lot of us can’t get around like we used to or get in the car and just go.” She said, “It had a lot of purpose to it.”

Senior David Jumper agreed. “It’s good that they are going to have it as an on-going thing. They (the organizers) didn’t anticipate the turnout so it was even better than expected.”

Huggins said planning for the next gathering is underway. “The packed house was great because it’s only going to continue to get bigger and better,” he said.

Message from the Editor in Chief

For as long as I can remember, I have picked up *The Seminole Tribune* to read about the latest Tribal news and to maintain a connection to my Tribal communities. As the new Editor in Chief, I now have the privilege and opportunity to continue with the traditions of the newspaper established by my predecessors and also to take *The Tribune* in new directions.

This year, we would like to continue to highlight the accomplishments of the Tribe and its Tribal members. We would also like to emphasize more news. Therefore, I encourage all readers to submit their ideas for stories and to give me feedback

as to what articles you would like to read in the paper. *The Tribune*, after all, is your newspaper. We would like to reach out to the Tribal youth as well, to encourage them to keep in regular contact with the Tribe and its events; we hope to accomplish this through our newly created website, Facebook page and Twitter account. These are exciting times for the Seminole Tribe, and we at *The Tribune* look forward to documenting it.

Have a blessed and prosperous 2012.

Camellia Osceola
Editor in Chief

Council convenes in Brighton

BY CAMELLIA OSCEOLA
Editor in Chief

BRIGHTON — The Tribal Council and Board convened at the Brighton Reservation Veteran’s Building for a special session on Dec. 16 and passed several resolutions on its agenda including:

Resolution 9: Issuance of Tribal Revocable Permit between Seminole Tribe of Florida (Permitter) and Florida Trail Association, Inc. (Permittee) – Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation: an annual renewal which gives hikers the right to travel though the Big Cypress Reservation traveling along Josie Billie Highway around to the old Florida Trails. All hikers are required to sign a waiver.

Resolution 25: Engagement Letter with RSM McGladrey, Inc. for Tax Return Work for Tribal Members for the Year Ending Dec. 31, 2011: RSM McGladrey Inc. charges the Tribe to do Tribal citizens’ returns by the hour, with the average being \$150 an hour. Beginning Feb. 1, they will be set up in the Hollywood office and will start setting up appointments for the field office locations. McGladrey sets up appointments preferably on weekdays but have accommodated citizens with weekend appointments also. Approximately 550 returns were done with them last year.

Resolution 39: Occupancy and Use Of Land By The Forestry and Wildland Program for an Office and Work Center for Forestry and Wildland Management Purposes – Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation.

Resolution 40: Occupancy and Use of Land By The Forestry and Wildland Program for an Office and Work Center for Forestry and Wildland Management Purposes – Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation.

Resolution 41: Termination of Business Lease L-1508 between Seminole Tribe of Florida (Lessor) and Raleigh

Osceola (Lessee) for the Use and Operation of a Convenience Store, Restaurant Tobacco and Fuel Sales - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation.

Resolution 42: Approval of Business Lease Between The Seminole Tribe of Florida (Lessor) and Frankie’s, LLC (Lessee) for Convenience Store, Fast Food Style Restaurant, Car Wash and Detailing with Approval For Tobacco And Fuel Sales - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation: Grand Opening has since commenced on Jan. 17.

Resolution 43: Approval of the Housing Department’s Authority of First Priority to Withdraw Funds from Tribal Member Monthly Per Capita Payments: This resolution gives the Housing Department first priority to withdraw funds from the Tribal member mid-month per capita payments for collection of all Housing and Housing-related expenses including, but not limited to, rental payments.

Resolution 45: Seminole Tribe of Florida and Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Plan Document and Summary Plan Description and Optumhealth Behavioral Solutions Administrative Services Agreement

Announcements made by Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr.:

Acknowledgement of Emma Johns on acquiring her master’s degree in Public Administration from Ashford University. Johns is the Director of Education and a resident of Brighton.

Acknowledgment of the hiring of Derrick Smith, who originates from Brighton, as the new Assistant Housing Director for Brighton.

Acknowledgement of John Wayne Huff Sr. for his dedication, service and new job title change as Superintendent of Public Works.

OBAMA

From page 1A

preserve, and restore Native languages and cultural traditions; offer a high-quality college education; provide career and technical education, job training and other career-building programs; and often serve as anchors in some of the country’s poorest and most remote areas.”

There are more than 30 Tribal colleges and universities with more than 30,000 students representing more than 250 Tribes from across the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

Most Tribal schools are located on Indian reservations where Native culture is infused in the curriculum. Most Tribal colleges receive no Indian casino revenue, making an executive order such as this one all that more important and

beneficial.

“As stated before, it has been a fight to hold on to funding for all Native programs from head start to the collegiate level,” Johns said. “This order impacts us directly, as Native people are all one people and must continue to work in a unified effort to demand equal opportunity for the education of our students from head start to the post graduate level.”

“This executive order is proof that perseverance is key in all that we do,” Johns said. “This is due to the Indian activists that persevered and wouldn’t accept the status quo for our Native children.”

Assuring the Tribal leaders and other American Indians and Alaskan Natives present, President Obama concluded with “you have a president that’s got your back.”

SMALLWOOD

From page 1A

(To find out what happened at the Jan. 25 hearing, check out The Seminole Tribune Facebook page.)

“They know we can’t afford to put any more money up. The Store has been closed, for all practical purposes for the past nine months,” McMillin said. County governments are not required to put up bonds in such cases; County attorney Steve Williams, however, refused to comment on “pending litigation.” “I’d like to, but I can’t,” he said.

Prior to the Dec. 29 court proceeding, Florida folk musicians and Florida preservation supporters, including Seminole Tribal citizen Richard Osceola,

gathered on the Court House steps to play music, wave signs and address a gathered crowd and passers-by.

“We just want the Judge and the Collier County officials to know there are a lot of people who love the Smallwood Store,” Marco Island fiddler J. Robert said. “We won’t stand for any more attacks on our precious Florida landmarks.”

Many who heard the Judge’s ruling had a similar question, also voiced by Robert: “If John Q. Citizen or J. Robert goes out here and disobeys a Circuit Judge’s order and are found in contempt, you can bet we would go to jail and get a big fine. But these big developers seem to get a second chance. Why?”

Judge Brodie can’t say. Collier County Circuit Court Judges do not discuss details of ongoing cases.

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LAW OFFICE OF
DANIEL A. CALLAHAN, P.A.
TRIAL ATTORNEY

Tel: (954) 524-2877 | Fax: (954) 524-7666
320 SE 9th Street | Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316
Email: CallahansLaw@gmail.com | www.Callahanslaw.com

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Fax: 954-965-2937
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Publisher: James E. Billie
Editor in Chief: Camellia Osceola
camelliaosceola@semtribe.com
Senior Editor: Brett Daly
brettdaly@semtribe.com

Copy Editor: Kathryn Stolarz
kathrynstolarz@semtribe.com

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

Contributors:
Judy Weeks, Rachel Buxton, Donna Mason

If you would like to request a reporter or would like to submit an article, birthday wish or poem, please contact Senior Editor Brett Daly at 954-985-5702, ext. 10725 Or by fax at 954-965-2937

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Community

A

Senior Profile: Louise Motlow

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

IMMOKALEE — The passage of time may have taken its physical toll on Louise Motlow, but she cherishes vivid memories that span more than three-quarters of a century. She was born sometime prior to 1932 in a region often referred to as “Florida’s last frontier,” while her family worked in a Miami tourist village.

Her parents, Jack and Lena Billie Motlow, followed the trend of the Seminole lifestyle during the first half of the 20th century in South Florida. This included dividing their time between campsites in the Everglades and the tourist villages in Miami for the sake of economy. Seasonal tourism provided a market for their arts and crafts during the winter months; the remainder of the year was spent in the family’s Panther Camp near Ochopee.

Working beside her mother, Louise helped tend the garden and learned to prepare the meals, sew, bead and make baskets in the tradition of her ancestors. Her father was an avid hunter who provided meat for their meals and traded alligator, otter, deer and raccoon hides for necessary supplies.

Louise never dreamed that Immokalee would become her permanent home. Her first recollection of Immokalee centered upon Roberts’ General Store. This trading post was the hub of the small frontier community and a favorite gathering place for Seminoles and local farmers and ranchers. Jack Motlow brought his family here every few months while trading hides.

When Louise turned 14, she became old enough to join her family in the tomato fields near Ochopee. Up before daylight, the farm workers would ride in Cory Osceola’s old truck to a back-breaking job in the fields and then regroup for the long ride home at the end of the day.

Within a short time, the Motlows became one of the founding families of the Immokalee encampment on the curve of Route 29. The farming community was growing, and they needed to live close to the jobs in the fields during the growing season and schools for their children. In the off months, they migrated to the Dania Reservation in Hollywood to supplement their income.

“Seventeen was one of the most important years in my life,” Louise said. “I became the wife of John Osceola and gave birth to our first child, Grace. While visiting Hollywood, I attended Rev. Crenshaw’s 1st Baptist Church and became a Christian. A short time later, I was baptized by missionary Sam Tommie. God has been an important part of my life ever since.”

“I was living on the curve when my first three children were born, and then we moved down to Hollywood,” Louise said. “After a while, John and I separated, and I returned home to Immokalee as a single mother with a large family to support. I found work in the fields, did sewing and beadwork and took odd jobs whenever possible. For a while, I worked in Hollywood on an assembly line making electrical parts for telephones.”

Forced to follow work availability, Louise fluctuated between Hollywood and Immokalee for several years, but she always returned to her family camp whenever possible. When her youngest daughter, Gale, was in the fifth grade, she was determined to make Immokalee their permanent home.

The first piece of land on Stockade Road that would eventually



Judy Weeks

Louise Motlow, born to Jack and Lena Billie Motlow prior to 1932, shares memories that span three-quarters of a century.

become the Immokalee Reservation had been acquired, and Louise joined her parents and sisters with their families in creating the growing Seminole community. She joined the staff of the Arts & Crafts Department founded by the Florida Governor’s Council, and she supported her family by creating Seminole designs, baskets, dolls and beadwork.

Four of her children graduated from Immokalee High School and two have sought higher educational opportunities. Grace was the first Immokalee Harvest Festival Queen; Gale attended Haskell University and is the site manager of the Immokalee Senior Center; Norita has worked in education, served as the Immokalee Board Representative and is head of the Immokalee Building and Grounds Department; Benny was an Immokalee Council liaison and is a local businessman.

Three of her eight children have passed on, and the remaining five with their children are a close-knit family. At present, she has more than 20 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

“My mother has led a very full life, but it hasn’t always been easy,” Gale Motlow Boone said. “Her children and God have always been her first priority.”

◆ Please see MOTLOW on page 6A

Naples float wins award



Judy Weeks

Community Outreach specialist Sandra Osceola and Traditional Arts specialist Christina Billie of the Juanita Osceola Center display their City of Naples Christmas Parade awards.

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

NAPLES — Members of the Naples Seminole Community were recognized for their outstanding contribution to the annual City of Naples Christmas Parade that took place on Dec. 6.

Representing the Juanita Osceola Center, Community Outreach specialist Sandra Osceola and Traditional Arts specialist Christina Billie attended the City of Naples Council Meeting on the morning of Dec. 14 for the awards ceremony.

After reviewing 231 entries in the Christmas Parade, a panel of judges acting on behalf of the Naples Merchants Association selected the Juanita Osceola Center as the winner of the 2011 Heritage Award recipient. In addition to a crystal trophy, Merchant’s representative Barbara Sturgis presented Christina Billie with a signed copy of the “Visions of Beauty-Ft. Myers, Sanibel & Beyond” photographic art collection and the “Garden of Dreams” watercolor print.

The Heritage category was initiated in

2009 as a result of the participation of the Seminole Tribe in this annual Christmas event that has taken place for more than 50 years. The City of Naples considers the Seminole Tribe an integral part of the history of Collier County and appreciates the participation of the Tribal members. The category carries a broad spectrum of heritage themes covering 150 years of local history.

Developing a new theme each year, the Seminole Tribe of Florida has earned the recognition for their enthusiasm and creativity in the construction of their float three years in a row.

The 2011 submission featured Christmas in a Seminole Camp. The float carried a cypress tree decorated for Christmas with Spanish moss and colored lights. Beneath the tree a Seminole woman was grinding corn in a log for sofkee while the children played Christmas carols on their musical instruments around the campfire. Also, wearing traditional Seminole attire, Tribal members walked behind the float, distributing candy and treats to the spectators.

Brighton establishes preserve to protect endangered panther

Only 100-160 adult panthers remain in South Florida

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

BRIGHTON — Brighton recently established a 1,000-acre panther preserve in the southwest corner of the reservation to help protect the Florida panther.

The establishment of the preserve was one of 32 resolutions that the Tribal Council voted into effect on Nov. 14 during a regular session at the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters auditorium. The Tribal Council voted 5-0 to pass the resolution.

“We haven’t seen a lot of these (preserves),” said Real Estate Director Joe Martin in regard to the Tribe’s dealings with panther preserves. Big Cypress is the only other Seminole reservation with one, although they are scattered throughout Florida, said Environmental Resource Management Director Craig Tepper.

The Tribe’s Environmental Resource Management Department will monitor the project, while the Tribal Real Estate Services and Community Planning departments will oversee the administrative side.

The Brighton preserve will not only help protect the panther, but it will also help earn the reservation permits for “future development projects which may potentially impact the Florida panther,” establishing land development credits at an estimated value of up to \$3 million.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Water Act states that loss of panther habitat may affect future development projects on the reservation, which is federal land, meaning the government can refuse permits if they believe building development takes away too much land from the panthers’ habitat. Therefore, establishing the preserve helps the Tribe secure land credits from the U.S. government for future development permits, such as housing developments or commercial business developments, on the reservation’s remaining.

“Leases would have been delayed if we didn’t do this (preserve),” Tepper said.

The preserve is comprised of land not currently used by the Tribe since the resolution states that the preserve “will not impact cattle grazing uses, cultural uses, rangeland grazing, gathering of forest products, Tribal hunting and other uses that the Tribe and its members are currently enjoying.”

“The main focus is that the habitat needs to stay as it is for their (the panthers’) use,” Tepper said. “The greatest problem is the loss of their habitat due to development.”

The resolution follows the Florida Panther Habitat Preservation Plan, which states, “Habitat preservation is critical to maintaining a self-sustaining population of panthers in South Florida.”

Because development forces panthers into smaller living spaces, it causes “increased intra-specific aggression, which is the



Seminole Media Productions archive photo

Although plenty of panthers once roamed most of the southeastern U.S., only about 100-160 adult panthers remain, all in south Florida, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

leading cause of panther mortality,” according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Already this year in Brighton, a panther has been killed due to interspecies competition; and another was killed by a vehicle, which also causes a significant amount of panther deaths.

Although plenty of panthers once roamed most of the southeastern U.S., only about 100-160 adult panthers remain, all in South Florida, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

The Florida panther has been considered an endangered species since 1967, and there’s good reason that the U.S. government and the Tribe have fought to save the panther.

“People care about wildlife species for their aesthetic beauty and the thrill of seeing them,” states the Florida Panther Habitat Preservation Plan. “People care about wildlife for scientific and educational purposes and for their ecological, historical and cultural values. Preserving natural habitats in South Florida will benefit the panther, other wildlife and humankind.”

Tribal member shares inspiring story



Christine McCall in December 2010.



Christine McCall in December 2011.

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINE MCCALL
Contributor

HOLLYWOOD — A lot of you may know me by name; some may know me as Wanda’s daughter. If you didn’t know who I was by these two things, you sure did remember me for one thing: I was big. I had let my relationship with food become dangerous. McDonald’s Dollar Menu was my favorite thing to go eat and I could never get enough. If a birthday or special holiday was coming up, I would get excited with the thoughts of all the food I would get to eat. Many believe that people are addicted to food the same way people can become addicted to alcohol or drugs. I did not have an addiction to food though. So why was I eating so much of it? Because it was there. My family has gone through a lot of hard times through the past couple years, and food always made me happy. The taste of chocolate instantly triggered happy memories, but I never realized that my weight was hurting me. I knew I was not the healthiest person, but I could not possibly be the unhealthiest person, could I?

After a roller derby injury left me in so much pain that I had to go to the

emergency room, the hard, painful reality of my weight met me face on. Doctors told me I had elevated blood pressure. I had high blood pressure at 24 years old. It was in that moment that for the first time I was scared. I knew my eating habits and my denial had caused my high blood pressure. I was slowly killing myself.

I knew I needed to do something about my weight, but I did not know where to begin. After failed attempt after failed attempt, I thought the only way to be healthy and to lose weight was to give up all the things I loved to eat. Then I discovered the miracle: Weight Watchers. After seeing singer Jennifer Hudson lose weight with the program I thought, “Why not?” On Dec. 30, 2010, I decided I wanted to become a healthy person.

After all the holidays and visiting home in Hollywood, I went back to Las Vegas, Nev. to go back to school for photography. Jan. 16, 2011. I will always remember this day as the day I finally took control of my life. I signed up for Weight Watchers and never looked back. At 324 pounds I had a long way to go, but I knew I could do it if I kept reminding myself why I wanted to lose weight. I wanted to live. I

◆ Please see CHRISTINE on page 6A

John Wayne Huff Sr. appointed as Tribe's Public Works superintendent

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

roadways.

"It benefits our Tribal citizens here in Brighton quite a bit because a lot of people were clustered in one particular area years ago," Huff said. "Now, Tribal citizens want to have their homes built at a convenient distance from one another so we can get water closer to their residences."

Huff said he appreciates the support he's received from his employees in the continued efforts to improve the quality of life for Brighton's Tribal citizens. The Tribal senior has about 15 Brighton employees currently under his direct supervision.

"My employees do a really good job," Huff said. "They can relate to each other and they've been trained by the Tribe. I wanted the employees to have an opportunity to gain knowledge in a variety of trades within our Public Works Department. We have certified electricians, certified welders, septic tank and pump truck operators. It saves a lot of money for the Tribe and ensures that we have a quality staff serving the Tribe and its people."

Huff said that despite the promotion, business will go on as usual for him.

"To me, nothing has really changed," Huff said. "I meet with each of my staff members in Public Works once a month. If they have any concerns on how we can improve our production, I make myself available to help them along the way."

Prior to his employment with the Tribe's Public Works Department, Huff spent seven years working in the Brighton Reservation's Food Bank as an agriculture land operator, where he learned how to grow a variety of crops such as watermelon and cantaloupe. Huff also learned how to raise hogs on the Brighton Reservation.

With all the experience he has had working for the Tribe, Huff said he has had a wonderful time.

"I enjoy working for the Tribe very much," he said. "I always wanted to have a permanent job working for my people. It feels great to represent the Tribe in the capacity that I serve."

Tribal citizens share successful recovery stories at Gratitude Dinner



Naji Tobias

Annette Jones, right, and Angela Tiger attend the Dec. 13 Gratitude Dinner.



Naji Tobias

The Andy Buster Band closes out the Gratitude Dinner by entertaining guests.

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

CLEWISTON — Jordan Billie and Annette Jones showed lots of courage during the Dec. 13, 2011 Gratitude Dinner at Clewiston's John Boy Auditorium.

Though somewhat hesitant about sharing their stories to a group of fellow Tribal citizens, both captivated attendees through their honesty and willingness to move forward in life.

Billie, who hails from the Hollywood Reservation, spoke of how he overcame years of addiction to drugs and alcohol.

"It has been an amazing experience for me," Billie said. "When I was younger, I didn't care about myself, even if it meant hurting somebody else."

Billie, 27, talked about a tough experience he had years ago, when his sister, Amber, passed away.

"I felt like a part of me was gone," Billie said. "I lost my rock. I felt detached from myself. I wanted to die. I thought living was like punishment."

Billie eventually discovered for himself that life is worth living, thanks in great part to Seminoles in Recovery.

"When you're getting help, it's good to have someone that's exactly like you," Billie said. "Having people around who care about you is a wonderful thing."

Billie said he wants to become a certified drug and alcohol counselor for the Seminole Tribe's Family Services Department one day with an emphasis on serving the Tribal youth.

"I want to work with the youth because I want to see them succeed in life," Billie said. "I want to help people and listen to them. When I listen, it helps in picking me up when I'm down."

Billie said he's grateful to Seminoles in Recovery's Helene Buster and a host of other individuals for helping him along the way.

"I feel like a brand new person," Billie said. "I'm

glad to have my family back. Because of all the help I have received, I have a lot to look forward to in my life."

Meanwhile, Jones opened up on how she overcame her individual struggles with drugs and alcohol.

The Okeechobee Tribal citizen spoke of a personal tragedy that hit home with a lot of the attendees at the Gratitude Dinner. Jones, who spent many of her younger days living on the Big Cypress and Hollywood reservations, lost her husband to brain damage after he suffered a tragic fall several years ago.

"I broke down and cried," Jones said. "It was really hard to take."

Not long after the tragedy, Jones said she got into a car accident, among some of the setbacks she experienced in her road to recovery.

One day, however, Jones sought help from the Seminole Tribe's Family Services Department. From there, the recovery process took place in her life.

"I learned that I could have a good time without drinking," Jones said. "I'm grateful for the program that I'm in right now. I'm also thankful to everybody who has worked with me in getting better. With the help of a higher power and my sober friends, I can say that I love myself now."

Immokalee Tribal citizen Johnnie Jimmie said that both speakers touched him in a special way.

"It gives me inspiration that one of our young people is taking control of his life," Jimmie said. "It also gives me great joy to hear Annette's story. We're all clean and we're all trying to live a good life."

Buster, who helped spearhead the eighth annual Gratitude Dinner, spoke on how Seminoles in Recovery has been a positive outlet for many Tribal citizens in the program.

"We've gone through a lot in our lives, and we're reaping the harvest of the seed that was planted in us," Buster said. "This program has worked a lot for us."

Tribal Board of Directors convene for special session

BY CAMELLIA OSCEOLA
Editor in Chief

HOLLYWOOD — The Tribal Board of Directors convened at the Hollywood Reservation Headquarters auditorium on Dec. 21 and passed several resolutions on its agenda including:

Resolution 6: Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. and Seminole Tribe of Florida, Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Plan document and summary plan description and Optumhealth behavioral solutions administrative services agreement: EAP stated the purpose is to enhance individual employees well-being and the overall productivity of the STOF and STOF Inc.'s work force by providing confidential counseling, consultation, information, education and referral services to provide assistance early before problems affect an employee's work performance.

Resolution 7: Approval of non-binding letter of intent between Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

and Mobile Mike Promotions Inc.: This is a joint venture with Mobile Mike Productions Inc. and the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. for the purpose of providing promotional activities to Tribal entities and events as well as parties not affiliated with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

Resolution 8: Approval of non-binding letter of intent construction of recycling facility between Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. and Native American Investments LLC: This is a solid waste recycling transfer and environmental services facility. Limited to solid waste and recycling collections, transfer and disposal services and such other items the parties mutually agree on. This facility's site location would be on the Hollywood Reservation. Chris Osceola, Hollywood Board Rep., wanted a provision inserted in the agreement to first have an approval from the members of the Hollywood community.

Little Mr. & Miss. Seminole 2012

at the 41st Annual
Seminole Tribal Fair

who will be next?



--- *tear along line for registration

2012 SEMINOLE TRIBAL FAIR
Little Mr. & Miss. Seminole Contest
Hard Rock LIVE

Friday, February 10, 2012
at 6:00 p.m.

Contestant # _____

Little Miss. Seminole _____ Little Mr. Seminole _____ (check one)

Date: _____ Reservation: _____

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Enrollment #: _____ Date of Birth _____

Tribal Member Parent or Legal (circle one) _____ Print Name _____
Guardian Signature _____

Contestants must be an enrolled tribal member, between the ages of 5 – 7 years old by February 9, 2012 and reside in the state of Florida. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Registration deadline is Monday, February 6, 2012 at 5:00pm. All contestants must be preregistered. There will be no applications taken on the day of contest.

Confirm that your applications have been received by fax, Committee member, or walk-in's to the Secretary's office. Call Wanda Bowers at (954) 444-9827, Charlotte Burgess at (863) 634-8924 or Alice Billie (863) 902-3200 ext. 13314.

CONTACTS:

- Hollywood – Wanda Bowers, (954) 444-9827
- Brighton – Charlotte Burgess, (863) 634-8924
- Brighton – Carla Gopher, 1-(813) 299-4071
- Ft. Pierce – Mary Stomboli, (772) 467-2454
- Big Cypress – Alice Billie, (954) 790-0237
- Trail Seminoles – Michael Cantu, (305) 553-8245 ext. 18702
- Immokalee – Crystal Salinas, (239) 867-5300
- Tampa – Vicky or April Simmons, (813) 246-3100

Save the Dates

Feb. 2: Coconut Creek grand re-opening

The grand opening festivities for the All-New Seminole Casino Coconut Creek Casino's \$150 million expansion on Feb. 2 will feature a noon "move that bus" celebratory reveal by Ty Pennington, the charismatic star of ABC television's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* show.

And at 8 p.m., the mega classic hit group, Foreigner, will perform a concert in The Pavilion. Tickets for the concert start at \$45 and are available at www.ticketmaster.com.

The grand opening ceremonies will begin at 11:30 a.m. in the new valet parking porte cochere.

At approximately noon, Chairman James E. Billie, CEO Jim Allen, General Manager Steve Bonner and Ty Pennington will present a check to SOS Children's Village. Then, with champagne in hand, Pennington will reveal the new casino entranceway just like he does on his award-winning TV show.

Visit [The Seminole Tribune's](http://TheSeminoleTribune.com) website for more information.

Feb. 6: Deadline for College Horizons

College Horizons, a pre-college program for Native American high school students who are sophomores and juniors, is accepting applications for summer 2012. Each summer students work with college counselors and college admissions officers in a five-day "crash course." The individualized program helps students select colleges suitable for them to apply to, get admitted to and receive adequate financial aid. At each site, expert college counselors and college admissions officers help students select 10 suitable colleges to apply to; write memorable essays and create a resume; complete winning applications including The Common Application; receive test taking strategies, resources and information on the ACT & SAT; and attend Informational Sessions and a College Fair consisting of more than 40 colleges.

This year's workshops will be held at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio from June 10-15, and the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia from June 24-29.

Complete applications must be postmarked by Feb. 6. Late applications are accepted on a space available basis and are placed behind applicants who applied on time. The application consists of the Student Application and Essay, Teacher Recommendation, Counselor Recommendation and Transcripts. American Indian (enrolled), Alaska Native (proof of status) or Native Hawaiian (proof of heritage) with a 3.0 GPA (in academic courses) are eligible.

Visit www.collegehorizons.org for more information.

Feb. 10-12: Tribal Fair

The Seminole Tribe of Florida will hold its 41st annual Tribal Fair from Feb. 10-12. Attendees can expect deep-water alligator shows, Native American dance troupes, blues performances and plenty more. Chairman James E. Billie is even rumored to take the stage and perform.

Opening ceremonies will take place on Feb. 10 at 10 a.m. at Hard Rock Live. Gates open at 9 a.m. Musical performances by the Dave Shelley Band, the Derek Miller Band and the Osceola Brothers (Cameron, Tyson and Sheldon) will take place throughout the three-day event. Also, 20 dance performers, including the Three Feathers Dance Troupe, will entertain guests.

James and Clinton Holt will tackle alligators in a deep-water alligator show at Okalee Village each day of the Tribal Fair, and up to 75 vendors will offer a wide array of traditional jewelry, fabric, baskets, crafts and food that showcase Seminole culture.

"Everyone should come out and take part because this gives us the chance to educate the public about the Seminole Tribe," said Hollywood Board Rep. Chris Osceola.

In addition, on opening night at 6 p.m., the Little Mr. and Ms. Seminole Contest will take place at the Paradise Theater, where Tribal youth will compete for the chance to wear the coveted Tribal crowns and represent the Seminole Tribe for the next year.

"Everybody likes to come and see all the little ones dressed up to the nines," said Wanda Bowers, a Tribal Fair committee member and the chairwoman of the Princess Pageant. "All the Tribal members are always happy to come out and see each other."

The event is free and open to the public. For more information about the Tribal Fair, call Priscilla Sayen at 954-966-6300.

Feb. 16-19: Brighton Field Day

The Brighton Reservation is vamping up for its 74th annual Field Day, which will take place from Feb. 16-19 and will include new additions to its schedule of events.

Norman Bowers, Chairman's special assistant, said this year will include a special appearance by FSU mascots Chief Osceola and Renegade throughout the four-day event. In addition, Brighton's Field Day will include pow-wow dancers, Aztec dancers and Indian hoop dancers, as well as performances by the cast of National Geographic's Swamp Men and, of course,

rodeos and extreme bull riding. The extreme bull riding will be televised nationwide, Bowers said.

About 200 vendors will also display various Seminole arts, crafts and foods.

"We want (Field Day) to showcase our culture and bring the Tribe together," Bowers said.

The event takes place at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, off Highway 721 between Highway 70 and 78. Gates open at 5 p.m. on Feb. 16 and 17; 9 a.m. on Feb. 18; and 10 a.m. on Feb. 19. For more information, visit www.rezrodeo.com or call 863-467-6039.

Fifth annual Seminoles in Recovery Fish Fry another success

"This type of event shows that there are people recovering in communities and allows everyone to see each other," said Helene Buster, director of Family Services.



Chris C. Jenkins

Director of Family Services Helene Buster welcomes Tribal citizens to the fifth annual Seminoles in Recovery Fish Fry held at Markham Park on Jan. 7.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen and special guest speaker Angela Tiger courageously gives her personal testimony on the impact of drugs and alcohol on her life during the Fish Fry.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Vincent Motlow plays a game of horseshoes.



Chris C. Jenkins

James Billie II tosses the football. The Tribalwide gathering raised funds for the Florida Native Recovery Convention taking place from March 1-4.

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680601	2006	DODGE	GRAND CARAVAN	\$3,414 TO \$5,304
177440	2006	FORD	TAURUS	\$4,459 TO \$6,109
134098	2005	CHEVY	ASTRO CARGO VAN	\$3,900 TO \$5,925
141534	2004	FORD	TAURUS	\$2,291 TO \$3,716
360207	2003	CHRYSLER	TOWN & COUNTRY LX	\$6,441 TO \$8,216
208000	2000	FORD	TAURUS	\$1,534 TO \$2,364

For more information please contact Richard Chin 954-966-6300 ext.11216



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2012: A great year for getting in shape

• Paula Bowers-Sanchez

Happy New Year, everyone!
 With every new year comes inspiration to improve our lives in one way or another. I read in one of my fitness mags that losing weight or getting in shape was among the top five resolutions made every year. It's that time of year when the gyms are flooded with new members, classes are full and there's a 20-minute wait for machines. Whether your resolution is to lose weight, develop better eating habits or make a commitment to exercise more, I have some tips to help you achieve your goals.

First, let's talk about weight loss. For me, losing weight has become more difficult as I've gotten older. After 40, a woman's metabolism slows dramatically. Therefore, I have to work very hard and at a much higher intensity than I did in my 20s and 30s to get similar results. In order for my body to change, it is imperative that my heart rate go into what I consider my "uncomfortable" zone, which is usually between 150 and 165 beats per minute.

So, if your resolution is weight loss, be sure you go into it with knowledge of what works and doesn't for you. Your age will have a lot to do with it, as well as your fitness level. Try out new fitness classes or a walking program (just make sure you're not strolling like you're in the mall). Make all your workouts count! There are fitness facilities on each reservation with qualified individuals to help you with all your fitness goals.

Secondly, some of you may have resolved to clean up your eating habits. This is sometimes the hardest habit to break because we are all accustomed to eating a certain way. I don't like to diet because that always sounds to me like I'm going to have to deprive myself of food, so I simply "modify" my caloric intake (i.e. cut back on portion sizes).

One thing that always helps me is keeping a weight-loss

journal, listing meal times, food choices and workouts. A friend of mine introduced me to a nifty little app called "Lose It!" and I have to say it's been very helpful. There's a version of this app for just about every device. Check it out! It really is quite amazing because it's your electronic weight-loss journal! Now, get going!

Now, my favorite part of weight loss: exercise! My philosophy is simple: Take care of your body because it's the only one you're ever gonna get! It's just like brushing your teeth every day! I do some kind of workout at least five days a week. Make a commitment to get your body moving for at least 30 minutes, at least three or four days a week. It may be hard at first, but as the weeks progress it will get better! Some days you may feel like you can't go on, but just tell yourself, "I can do this!" and before you know it, you've done 10 more minutes!

Be sure to break a sweat because you should get your heart rate into a "fat-burning" zone if you want to make physical changes. There are charts that show your optimal heart rate according to age, but I go by perceived exertion. If I'm on the spin bike and I can carry on a conversation, then I am NOT working hard enough!

So, remember...Working out is not a chore, it's your way of taking control of how your body looks and performs! Good luck with all your fitness goals! And may you have a healthy, prosperous new year!



♦ **MOTLOW** From page 3A



Photo courtesy of Collier County Museum

As a child, Louise Motlow accompanied her father, Jack Motlow, to Roberts' General Store in Immokalee to trade hides for supplies.

"She made many sacrifices on our behalf, and I can never repay her for all the love and compassion that she has given us," Boone said. "No matter how tired she was, she always saw to it that we had clean clothes and food on the table. She would make the impossible happen. Knowing how much it meant to me to be like the other kids in school, she somehow performed a miracle and surprised me with a pair of designer jeans."

"I know that God has taken care of me, and I talk to him each day," said Louise. "God began to make a difference from the first day that He entered my life. I have watched Him be a part of our community as it has grown. Years ago, the missionaries used to come to visit our camp, and then we held church in the chickee behind Lucy John's house and the gym. We prayed for a church and finally, last year our prayers were answered, and we opened the doors of our house of God."

"Now I pray that our young people will come to the church, talk to God and ask for guidance," Motlow said. "With God's help, all things are possible. We come from strong people who have survived much hardship. With God's help, we will carry on our heritage."



Photo courtesy of Mary Osceola Moore

When Louise Motlow turned 14 years old, she began traveling with her family in Cory Osceola's truck to work in the tomato fields in Ochopee.

♦ **CHRISTINE**

From page 3A



Regina Thinn

Christine McCall, right, smiles with mother, Wanda Bowers.

started counting my "points" for everything I ate. I started going grocery shopping on a weekly basis. Reading nutritional value became routine. Slowly, the healthy habits started forming.

I think the hardest thing about weight loss is changing the way you think about food. Instead of living to eat, I started eating to live. Slowly the weight came off, pound by pound. In the beginning, it was tough. Everyone around me could eat whatever they wanted, but I had to moderate what I ate. I had to keep reminding myself that it would get easier. And it did.

This month, I weighed in for my 48th week on Weight Watchers, and I am officially down 125.4 pounds. Many people still tell me they can't believe I lost that much weight because they didn't even realize I was that big. I was that big though. For the first time in my life, I feel like I have a purpose. I want to inspire all Native and non-Native people that weight loss is NOT impossible. That you can do it if you just believe you can. I had accepted I was going to be fat my entire life, but then I realized that if I was strong enough to carry around 324 pounds, then I was strong enough to lose it.

I know a lot of people are reading this and thinking there's no way I could have done it on my own. "She had to have gastric bypass." I did consider weight loss surgery, but after hearing all the scary stories associated with it, I knew I wanted to control what I ate. I did this 100 percent with watching what I ate with the help of Weight Watchers, being active and having the never-ending support from my family and friends.

I hope with my story I am able to encourage more people in our Tribe to change their lives. Weight loss is possible. Changing your life is possible. Coming from a person who never knew what she looked like smaller is now smiling instead and out came my new cheek bones that I never knew existed under my chubby cheeks. I am the happiest I have ever been and can't wait to see what the future holds.

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Hand-to-hand combat against colds and the flu

SUBMITTED BY PATRICK PECK
Health Department



get the flu recover completely. However, some people, especially the elderly and those with chronic health problems, can develop serious complications. These include pneumonia and aggravation of pre-existing medical conditions such as congestive heart failure, asthma or diabetes. Influenza viruses mainly are spread from person to person through droplets produced while coughing or sneezing. Droplets of an infected person are propelled by coughing and sneezing into the air and are deposited on the mouth or nose of people nearby. This droplet transmission of the flu is a kind of contact transmission. Flu viruses can also be transmitted by indirect contact by touching a contaminated object or surface and then touching your own mouth, eyes or nose before washing your hands. Viruses can survive on surfaces for up to eight hours longer on hard, impermeable surfaces than on porous surfaces. Influenza can be prevented by annual vaccination. However, for colds as well as influenza, the best way to prevent the transmission of influenza is to use the following hygiene practices:

- Wash hands properly and frequently.
- Wipe nose using disposable tissues in a way that secretions are contained by the tissue without contaminating the hands.
- Avoid rubbing eyes with dirty hands.
- Avoid nail biting (especially important for infections that are transmitted orally).
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- Use tissues to contain respiratory droplets.
- Wash hands after contact with respiratory droplets and contaminated objects.

Frequent hand washing with soap is always a good idea. Thorough hand washing helps protect you, your family and others from illness. Washing your hands for at least 20 seconds helps remove bacteria. It's especially important to wash your hands before and after preparing food, before eating, after using the bathroom, blowing your nose or handling pets, diapers, garbage or raw food. Wash your hands more frequently when you or someone in your home is ill. Here is an effective way to wash your hands:

- Wet your hands with very warm water. Apply liquid soap or use clean bar soap. Both antimicrobial and plain soap are effective.
- Rub your hands together vigorously for 20 seconds and be careful to clean all surfaces including finger tips, around nails and under rings. The combination of soap, warm water and scrubbing action helps remove the dirt and bacteria.
- Dry your hands with an air dryer or a clean towel.

For more information on hand washing, please contact the Seminole Tribe of Florida Health Department at 954-985-2330.

Improve the air quality in your home

SUBMITTED BY KATHRYN COLBERT
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 provides technical support to the Seminole Water Commission (SWC) which was created in 1989 by the Tribal Council. ERMD assists other Tribal departments such as Housing, Real Estate, Construction Management, Public Works, Community Planning and Development and works with the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. in the development and management of Tribal natural resources.

To continue our mission to educate and disseminate information regarding environmental compliance, ERMD will publish a series of articles. We will inform and educate the Seminole community and citizens in general about common activities that can potentially harm our environment and alternative best management practices that can minimize or prevent the adverse impacts to your health and the environment.

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

The air quality in your home is dependent on many factors, including but not limited to: the materials used to construct your home; household cleaner use; sanitary conditions; chemicals associated with materials used in the construction of your home such as paints or adhesives; furniture; how cold or warm you set your thermostat; the type and presence or absence of carpeting/rugs; the amount of people who live in your home; how often and for how long you open windows; the amount and type of items (new things brought indoors) in your home; the size and maintenance of the air conditioning system; and so on.

Some common misconceptions regarding indoor air quality are:

1. **Setting my thermostat low (cold) keeps mold from growing in my home:** A low thermostat setting can create more moisture in your home. Moisture is one of the things that mold needs to grow. Keeping your thermostat between 72 and 78 degrees Fahrenheit will help keep the humidity low in your home.
2. **Opening the windows helps to "air-out" my home:** During the winter months when the temperatures are lower and there is less humidity in the air, this may be true. However, during the spring, summer and fall,

for the most part in South Florida, the humidity in the air outside is very high. Opening the windows allows the high humidity to enter your home. High humidity is moisture and moisture is one of the things that mold needs to grow.

3. **All black mold is toxic:** There are tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of different types of mold and only a handful of molds are believed to be "toxic." Although mold can come in every color in the rainbow, there are a lot of different types of mold that are black that are not toxic. Just because you see black mold does not make it toxic, but it means mold is accumulating indoors and the reason for this should be investigated.

4. **If I put in a bigger air conditioning unit, I can keep my house cooler:** With a bigger unit in your home it takes less time to cool your home, which seems like it would be a good thing, but it is not. Your air conditioner has two purposes: to cool your home but also to dehumidify. When the air conditioner is too large and doesn't run for a sufficient amount of time, it cannot dehumidify the air in your home. A unit too large for your home causes your house to be more humid, which creates moisture. As we know, moisture is one of the things that mold needs to grow.

Some good, quick and easy ways to help improve the indoor air quality in your home are:

1. Seal all openings in your walls, both external and internal.
2. Regularly change air conditioning filters (monthly), and keep windows and doors closed during humid months.
3. Clean up water spills or leaks promptly and get all materials dry within 48 to 72 hours of wetting.
4. Be conscious of the cleaning products you use in your home and try to use more natural materials. Vinegar and water is a great alternative to a lot of chemical household cleaners.
5. Keep the temperature of your home between 72 and 78 degrees.
6. Inspect the duct system yearly.

There is a lot of information floating around on the Internet and in the media regarding indoor air quality and mold. You have to be very careful about what information you trust. The EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have published some information regarding mold and indoor air quality at: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/> and <http://www.cdc.gov/mold/faqs.htm>. These websites can provide good and reliable information on mold and the indoor environment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Environmental Resource Management Department.



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



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

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

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the lease with associated expansion plans of the Big Cypress Cemetery. The Tribal Facility will be constructed on a parcel located at 34351 West Boundary Road within the Seminole Tribe's Big Cypress Reservation in Hendry County, Florida (Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Section 11). The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated December 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Cemetery Proposed Expansion Lease." This EA has been adopted and a FONSI issued for the approval of the lease of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

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

APPEALS: "Any person who may be adversely affected by this decision may appeal the decision to: Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Region, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville TN 37214 in accordance with the regulations set forth at 25 CFR Part 2. The notice of appeal must be signed and mailed within thirty days of the date of this decision. The notice should clearly identify the decision being appealed, and a copy of the decision should be attached to the notice of appeal. Copies of the notice must be sent to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, MS 4140-MIB, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20240, as well as to my office and to all other interested parties known to the person appealing the decision. The notice of appeal to the Regional Director must also certify that the appealing party sent copies to each of these parties. The Regional Director will notify an appealing party of further appeal procedures. If no appeal is timely filed, this decision will become final for the Department of the Interior."

For further information please contact Chet McGhee, Environmental Protection Specialist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Eastern Regional Office, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville, TN 37214, telephone (615) 564-6830.

Kathryn Colbert
Superintendent, Seminole Agency
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Date: 1/31/2012



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



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

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

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and leases of homes on trust property for Seminole Tribal member leases received in December 2011. The BIA has approved and adopted the following Environmental Assessments (EAs), dated December 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department:

- Clifton Huggins Proposed Home Site, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County
- The Young Family Proposed Home Site Leases, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County
- Wilma Gore Proposed Lease, Brighton Reservation, Glades County
- Davey Lee Snow Proposed Lease, Brighton Reservation, Glades County
- Bryan Arledge Proposed Home Site, Brighton Reservation, Glades County
- Richard Osceola and Sunshine Frank Proposed Homesites, Brighton Reservation, Glades County
- Janine Cypress Proposed Home Site, Brighton Reservation, Glades County
- Rachael Justine Billie Home Site, Brighton Reservation, Glades County
- Ian Billy Proposed Lease, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County

The EAs above have been adopted and a FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and leases of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

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

APPEALS: "Any person who may be adversely affected by this decision may appeal the decision to: Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Region, 545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700, Nashville TN 37214 in accordance with the regulations set forth at 25 CFR Part 2. The notice of appeal must be signed and mailed within thirty days of the date of this decision. The notice should clearly identify the decision being appealed, and a copy of the decision should be attached to the notice of appeal. Copies of the notice must be sent to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, MS 4140-MIB, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20240, as well as to my office and to all other interested parties

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What is drugged driving?

SUBMITTED BY DEBRA RAY
Family Services Department

“Have one [drink] for the road” was once a commonly used phrase in American culture. Only within the past 25 years have we as a Nation begun to recognize the dangers associated with drunk driving. And through a multipronged and concerted effort involving many stakeholders – including educators, media, legislators, law enforcement and community organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving – the Nation has seen a decline in the number of people killed or injured as a result of drunk driving. But it is now time that we recognize and address the similar dangers that can occur with drugged driving.

The principal concern regarding drugged driving is that driving under the influence of any drug that acts on the brain could impair one’s motor skills, reaction time and judgment. Drugged driving is a public health concern because it puts not only the driver at risk but also passengers and others who share the road.

Why is drugged driving hazardous?

Drugs acting on the brain can alter perception, cognition, attention, balance, coordination, reaction time and other faculties required for safe driving. The effects of specific drugs of abuse differ depending on their mechanisms of action, the amount consumed, the history of the user and other factors.

Marijuana affects areas of the brain that control the body’s movements, balance, coordination, memory and judgment, as well as sensations. Because these effects are multifaceted, more

research is required to understand marijuana’s impact on the ability of drivers to react to complex and unpredictable situations.

Prescription drugs (for example, benzodiazepines and opiate analgesics) act on systems in the brain that could impair driving ability. In fact, many prescription drugs come with warnings against the operation of machinery –including motor vehicles – for a specified period after use. When people take prescription drugs without medical supervision (for example, when abused), impaired driving and other harmful reactions can also result. In short, drugged driving puts everyone at risk.

How many people take drugs and drive?

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) 2007 National Roadside Survey, more than 16 percent of weekend, nighttime drivers tested positive for illegal, prescription or over-the-counter medications. More than 11 percent tested positive for illicit drugs. Another NHTSA study found that in 2009, among fatally injured drivers, 18 percent tested positive for at least one drug (such as illicit, prescription or over-the-counter), an increase from 13 percent in 2005. Together, these indicators show that continued substance abuse education, prevention and law enforcement efforts are critical to public health and safety.

Should you wish to learn more about the dangers of drugged driving, please feel free to schedule a confidential meeting with a Family Services Counselor on your respective reservation.

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (2010).

Deaths in the line of duty

SUBMITTED BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD
Police Chief

An alarming statistic: Florida, leads the nation for having the most law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2011. Police fatalities in the United States are up 13 percent for 2011 at 173 fatalities. The year before, there were 153 fatalities. In 2011, 68 federal, state and local officers were killed by gunfire. This is a 15 percent jump from the year prior when 59 were killed.

This is an unacceptable and devastating trend. The deaths suffered by these officers were due to gunfire at the hands of criminals, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. While it is disheartening, it is a painful reality that accompanies this profession. As you can imagine, every day, officers prepare to go to work and protect those within their communities, recognizing there is a likelihood of being killed. Regardless, the officers of Seminole Police Department who have chosen this profession continue to protect and serve our Tribal Members and their communities with great pride and tenacity.

Thankfully, Seminole Police Department as well as District 6 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs did not have any law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2011. My staff and I are fully committed to continuing to provide our officers with the most up-to-date training to keep them educated and safe from harm.

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



◆ BIZARRE FOODS

From page 1A

language, food and culture is American language, food and culture. For me it was the whole reason to make a show in Central Florida.”

The episode featuring the Seminole Tribe will air in mid-July, and word has spread quickly.

“People can’t wait to watch it,” Bowers said.

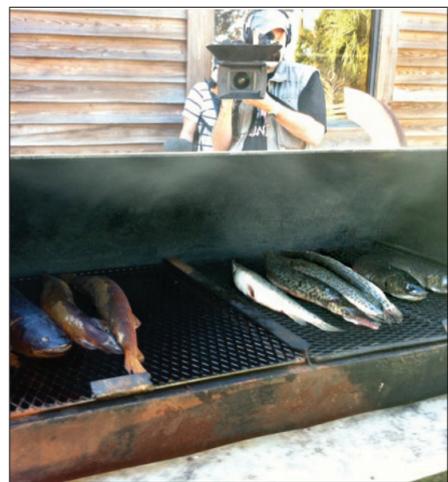


Photo courtesy of Andrew Zimmer

Seminole style gar and mudfish cooks while a Travel Channel videographer captures the moment.



Photo courtesy of Andrew Zimmer

Tribal member Martha Jones checks the turtle.



Photo courtesy of Andrew Zimmer

Pumpkin frybread is a hit under the chickee.



Photo courtesy of Andrew Zimmer

Tribal member Lewis Gopher shows *Bizarre Foods*' Andrew Zimmer how to make fresh palm hearts, Seminole style.

SEMINOLE

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954-966-6300 x11461

Schedule contact Leoma Poore:
954-966-6300 x11403

General info contact Jennifer Osceola:
954-797-5582

Announcements

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to Mrs. Devin Mindy Cypress-Kimble on Jan. 15

I can't believe it's almost been four years since you've been gone. I just wanted you to know you're NEVER forgotten. I wish you were here. You were taken from us too soon. I'm just glad you're in a better place and have no more pain. I will never forget all the things that you taught me; nor will I never forget all the love you gave me either. Thanks for always standing by my side no matter what, even when our family told you not to.

I will miss you till the day I die. I love you.
LOVE your cousin, Carolee Anderson
FOOSHE 4-life

“DEVIN MINDY CYPRESS-KIMBLE”

I still sit in disbelief
I can't believe you're really gone.
Life hasn't been quite the same
I'm still learning on how to deal with the pain.
I HATE the fact that you're gone
I lost my one true family and you did nothing wrong.
I know you showed me loyalty and so much love
I give anything now just to get a hug.
You're always in my heart and in mind
It still hurts and I still break down and cry.
I miss you so much, words cannot describe
A part of me has died...
You're always in my thoughts and in my prayers
I miss you cuz I'll do best to hang in there.
I LOVE YOU DEV!!!
LOVE, Carolee Anderson FOOSHE 4-life

Nehtakehetho Waache

Nehtakehetho Waache enjoy it the best you can, Ahhayake and stay strong representing the panther clan.

It's your birthday and you deserve to have fun, Waache Happy Birthday! From your youngest warrior son.

You know I speak my mind and what's in my heart, I write that way too. Waache you're my world and I'm grateful for you.

Since day one of my birth you have showed love and care unconditionally, throughout all these years and through it all you continue to do for me.

In return I give you my last breath to show you my appreciation, Waache this warrior lives to die with dedication.

I am blessed to have you as Aawaache you're second to none, Great hearted member of the unconquered ones.

Many give their word and make promises they can't fulfill, When I am laughing they wonder. Why? I just know upfront they can't keep it real.

Waache you don't talk about all you are going to do and expect something in return, You just make it happen and that's a lesson in "keeping it real" those silly fools should learn.

As I am writing this I'm thinking about us going to

Swap Shop and the movies we seen, eating Paleshte Shokaamolke you made and sipping Yeethooch Okthi with a smile that gleams.

I cherish those childhood memories they were the greatest of times, though it was a struggle you always provided and made everything fine.

Waache how can I not be dedicated to you for all that you've done, no one can break this bond between Waache and her youngest warrior son.

Hechaahomechka when I touch back down, a warrior that's wiser, determined and focused and sharper all around.

Waache until you bury me a G I will continue to do all that I can, as long as you are alright that's what matters because strong I stand.

There is just not enough words to express how I feel, one thing and two for sure your youngest warrior son always keeps it real.

Nehtakehetho Waache today and always, enjoy your many, many, many, many more Happy Birthdays!

Ike T. Harjo
Sholooapathi Bolchunchaha
Koowaathi

IN MEMORY



Malachi Brandon Baker
Aug. 9, 1994 – Jan. 1, 2010
Missing you, and always in my heart.
From Grandma Patsy West
Otter Clan

POEMS

“Have a Happy New Year”

I am thankful for the things that I have
The New Year I am grateful for
The good life is what I know...

Just being normal is the way
So I will give thanks each and every day.

Goodness is all around,
Remember there are no frowns.

Again I say, I give thanks for
The New Year on this day,

Happiness is the key to being a winner
So we are all champions.

Success is what we earned all year long,
Now it's time to move on....

Thanks for the New Year, and to all have a
happy New Year.

– Gator

“Strong ‘till the end”

When we find ourselves in trouble,
We feel stuck in place.

We can work and try to fix it,
But still, there's no smile on our face.

It'll seem like things are going good,
Then it all messes up.

We can work hard to the finish,
But there's still no golden cup.

So why do we keep going,
When things are so bad.

Because I'm Seminole by blood,
And it's not what the elders would've had.

So this little half breed will keep going,
Even though my cultures blend.

I will fight hard to the finish,
And will always stay strong 'till the end.

– Matt DeHass
Dec. 19, 2011



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CONGRATULATIONS



We would like to congratulate daughter, sister and new mother Brittany Smith on achieving another successful educational milestone. On Dec. 15, 2011, Brittany R. Dyan Smith graduated with her Associates of Arts Degree in Architecture from Indian River State College. Brittany is currently continuing her education at Nova Southeastern University where she will be majoring in Business Administration with a minor in International Business. In addition to striving for her educational goals, she currently holds the chairperson position with the newly established Tribal Youth Council for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Brittany is the youngest daughter of Roger and Diane Smith of Brighton. New mother to the late Janel Billie's youngest daughter Jayla Billie, she continues to further her education. We would just like to express how proud we are for Brittany with her recent achievements and setting a positive role model for the youth in the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

“If you believe it, you can achieve it.”
Congratulations Britt.
Love Mom & Dad

Editorial

Attorney General's vigilance protects Compact

• James E. Billie and Tony Sanchez Jr.

We would like to say a hearty "Sho-naabish" (Thank you) to Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi for the strong opinion she delivered Jan. 12 denying the legality of slot machine gaming referendums across Florida. Given the highly charged, extremely complicated atmosphere surrounding the so-called "destination resorts" casino legislation now creeping through the Florida legislature, it is refreshing that one Florida leader has boldly stepped forward to bring a sense of fair play to this ever-growing, shadowy situation.

Attorney General Bondi is correct in her opinion

that individual county referendums OK'ing slot machines at existing pari-mutuel facilities violates the Florida Constitution. Bondi directed that the state Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) should not approve slot machine licenses based on upcoming votes. The law is clear, Bondi found, that such referendums are valid only if preauthorized by the Legislature or the State Constitution.

Her words, delivered Jan. 12, brought a strong dose of "shock'n y'all" to fast-track gaming interests in two rural Florida counties barely two weeks from conducting the special referenda. (In addition to Gadsden and Washington counties in the Florida panhandle, Hamilton and Palm Beach counties are gearing up for similar referenda later in the year.)

We applaud Attorney General Bondi for her courage in standing up to slot machine advocates who use faux loopholes in existing Florida laws to gain local support for gaming expansion that is clearly illegal. We also praise DBPR Secretary Ken Lawson, who requested Bondi's opinion and promised his agency would follow her directive.

From the beginning, when we first heard about the current legislation to significantly expand gaming in Florida, the Seminole Tribe of Florida has stood squarely in support of the Gaming Compact the Tribe signed with the State of Florida in 2010. We have called upon Gov. Rick Scott, his Cabinet and the Florida Legislature to protect this agreement, signed in good faith, against all attacks against its integrity.

The Attorney General is right. We hope she will stand firm when the arrows start to fly from those who thought they could sneak in under her radar. The terms of this Compact clearly preclude slot machines at facilities outside of Broward and Dade counties and make no provisions for special referenda without Legislative/Constitutional approval. The people of Florida are well served by Attorney General Bondi and her vigilance for the protection of the letter of the law.

James E. Billie is Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Tony Sanchez Jr. is President of Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

A tribute to Betty Mae Jumper



Seminole Media Productions archive photo

A portrait of Betty Mae Jumper.

• Moses Jumper Jr.

Jan. 14 is a very special day for me because it has been one year since the passing of my mother into the spirit world. As I sit and write, I think back to the years growing up under the mentorship of this extraordinary woman. I think of the achievements, goals, and awards she attained in her 87 years of living on this earth. I guess, as her son, I

got the opportunity to see her almost every day. I saw how she faced situations in this life as a political figure, a wife, a mother, and a native female leader. In the male-dominated political world of our society, she persevered through not only gender but racism as well. It seems like every time I would complain about where the Tribe was headed she would remind me of where the Tribe has been. She would remind me of the early days, the organization of the Tribe, the heated discussions, the meetings, the budget supported by the donations of rodeos and other fundraisers that would enable our early leaders to travel, usually by car, to Washington to lobby and stand up for our Native rights to be recognized as a Tribe. Along with vocal women such as her cousin Charlotte Osceola and her sister-in-law Laura Mae Osceola, these women were pioneers in women's rights and outspoken leaders of our early Tribal government. Then, in the '60s, it was unheard of for a Native woman to run for the Chief or Tribal Chairman of a Native Tribe. I was so proud of her when she was elected the highest position in our Tribe. She always stressed education to me, and for me there was no skipping school or dropping out. And if my grades were not kept up, I had to face the consequences!

As a wife, she was married to my father, Moses Jumper Sr. I was proud of my dad being one of the first Seminoles to enlist in the armed services during World War II, but my father had a lot of problems attributed to his alcohol addictions. This addiction brought a lot of stress into the

family. It was hard on us as children and probably twice as hard for my mother trying to keep the family together as well as working to maintain her position in the Tribe. I believe my mother kept us one step ahead of poverty because she always knew how to make a dollar by selling arts and crafts at the tourist boats or pedaling them at the local craft shops. Sometimes we would pick the huckleberries along Stirling Road to sell. Many times she would literally steal the money out of my fathers' pockets when he passed out from drinking too much. My dad always had money from wrestling alligators. I never knew anyone who could make a dollar go so far as my mother could. Today they call this concoction Indian food, but they were really an inexpensive mixture of meals that was cheap and could fill you up. She made so many things out of spam and rice, tomatoes, ground beef, chicken necks and backs. She made mixtures of all kinds of canned goods that I'm sure today she could have started her own cooking show. My mother never backed off for her responsibilities to her family. She took care of her mother, her husband, and her four children. One of the children was my sister, Rebecca, who I'm sure many people never knew because she had cerebral palsy from birth and needed constant care every day and night. Because of all these responsibilities, I used to ask my mother why she stayed with my father all those years. She said she was a Christian and that's what God called her to do. At the time, I didn't understand what that meant, but today I see how her faith and trust in

God brought her through the years.

In a day when so much emphasis is put on our bloodlines, I realize that leaders are not born because of bloodlines. They are made by what's in their heart. My mother was half Indian and half white. Growing up she took a lot of abuse from both sides, yet she never wavered from loving and respecting all people. If there was one thing she strongly emphasized to me it was that you never ever show disrespect to a person because of the color of their skin. She demanded that respect from all people toward her. She told so many stories of the prejudices she faced while growing up and when she was in office as Tribal Chairperson. Being a leader did not come easy for her. She worked hard to be a leader. No one made her go to school, no one told her to take up nursing and no one told her to write a book or paper about her people. My mother was my friend and a person I looked up to. She was not the hugging, kissing, and telling me she loved me every day type of person, although for some there's nothing wrong with that, but she demanded my respect and I knew when to amuse her with my humor and I knew when that look of hers was serious. She didn't have to tell me every day that she loved me. I could see the sacrifices she made for her family. I knew she was proud of us because we were proud of her. She also showed me God is real and that trust and faith in Him will carry you through anything this life may bring against you. She told me I would see her again, my mother never lied to me.

A Mother's Love

By Moses Jumper Jr.

I wish there was something, perhaps a gift, a deed or something I could say
To express why I feel this way...
I know there has got to be something to show my gratitude for all you've done
To show this world, compared to you there is no other one.
Money could not pay for the hours you have spent with me
And I know there is no amount of words to describe the lady I would want others to see
You have always stood with me, both day and night
It did not matter if I was wrong or right!
Your voice brought encouragement even through my highs and low
And as time passes your love for me would continue to grow.
Perhaps with this picture is becoming clear...
Of why we hold one another so very dear.
You are part of me and I am a part of you
And with this together we grew!
You have kept the family together throughout the years
Brought us through our laughter trials and fears.
No! there is no word, gift or deed for the answer is known only from the Great Spirit above!
Of why He gave to you to give to me...
A Mother's Love!

NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS

Study focuses on American Indian youth drinking

GAINESVILLE — The National Institutes of Health has awarded a \$4.7 million grant to The University of Florida Institute for Child Health Policy (ICHP) in partnership with Cherokee Nation Behavioral Health Services to study ways to prevent underage drinking among American Indian and other youth living in rural, high-risk and underserved communities. The focus on American Indians, a group often underrepresented in clinical and community research, makes this project unique.

Although the five-year study will occur in an impoverished area of Oklahoma suffering substantial health disparities, study leader Kelli Komro, associate director of ICHP and a professor of health outcomes and policy in the UF College of Medicine, says: "The goal of our collaboration is to prevent the negative consequences of alcohol and drug use among teens. If we attain such success, we are optimistic that the project will be a model for other communities around the country."

— UF News and Communications

Quileute Nation Wolf Exhibit opens at Smithsonian

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sponsored by the Quileute Nation and the Seattle Art Museum, the popular exhibit "Behind the Scenes: The Real Story of the Quileute Wolves" opened Jan. 13 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. The six-month display presents rare Quileute art works in counterpoint to supernatural storylines portrayed in the popular *Twilight* books and movies.

The exhibition showcases elaborate wolf headdresses, rattles, basket, a whale-bone dance club, as well as historic (1905-1908) drawings created by Quileute Day School teens depicting wolf ritual dances, shamanistic performances, and a whaling scene where the giant sea mammal is hunted on the open ocean from 35-foot dugout canoes.

The exhibition also includes an exploration of Quileute ritual life, the five secret societies (including the Wolf society for warriors), a map of Quileute language place names, a timeline of Quileute history and a 12-minute looped video illuminating history, oral and cultural traditions through interviews with tribal members and teens who describe the phenomenon of the *Twilight* films in their own words.

Replicas of items used in the *Twilight* films include a paddle necklace worn by the character Emily, a traditional Quileute hand drum that hangs in Emily's house, and the dream catcher that Jacob gives to Bella as a gift.

— Smithsonian

USDA Creates Board for Native American Farmers

SIOUX FALLS — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has created a special advisory board to help enable Native Americans to participate in and benefit from USDA programs. The Council for Native American Farming and Ranching will help Native governments, businesses and farmers partner with the USDA to create jobs and strengthen communities. The Council will work closely with the Office of Tribal Relations, Farm Service Agency and other USDA agencies to help Native farmers achieve profitability in their business.

According to the National Congress of American Indians, agriculture is the second-largest employer in Indian Country.

— Associated Press

Utah will keep Ute Mascot... For now

SALT LAKE CITY — The New Year began with the University of Utah's stunning comeback victory over Georgia Tech in the Sun Bowl (New Year's Eve) and a fresh batch of rumors that the University would drop its controversial Ute nickname and drum and feathers logo. In fact, over that weekend, after close to 5,000 online signatures on a "Keep the Drum and Feather" petition were gathered, the University released the following statement: "The University of Utah and its athletics department periodically review the use of the circle and feather logo out of sensitivity for native tribes across the country as well as Utah fans. At this time, the athletics department will continue to use both the circle and feather and the block U logos."

Utah's athletic teams have been known as the "Utes" since 1971 when the term "Redskins" was dropped. In an arrangement similar to the Seminole Tribe of Florida's pat with Florida State University, The University has approval from the Ute Tribal Council to use the name "Utes."

— Deseret News

BIA puts Tejon Indian Tribe back on list

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Due to an administrative error, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) failed for eight years to place the Tejon Indian Tribe of California on the list of federally recognized tribes that the BIA is required to publish annually. Tejon requests (since 2006) to correct the error finally made it through BIA bureaucracy to Assistant Secretary — Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk's desk.

Echo Hawk was swift to correct the error: "Upon review of the facts and history of this matter, including prior Assistant Secretaries' decisions, I herby reaffirm the federal relationship between the United States and the Tejon Indian Tribe, thus concluding the long and unfortunate omission of the Tejon Indian Tribe from the list of federally recognized tribes."

— Native American Times

\$1 million winner at Seminole Casino Immokalee

IMMOKALEE — A local resident (who wishes to remain anonymous) started the New Year off by winning won \$1,047,165.14 playing a \$5 Wheel of Fortune progressive slot machine at the Seminole Casino. The lucky spin came at 9:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 3. Seminole Casinos are part of a progressive gaming network that includes more than 300 casinos nationwide. Each time a coin is played in a machine on the network, the amount accumulates until a lucky winner hits the top jackpot award.

— Naples Daily News

New York Indian cigarette tax scheme not working

ALBANY — A scheme by the New York legislature to increase state income by forcing Indian nations to collect taxes on reservation cigarette sales has gone up in smoke. The state had projected \$130 million in extra taxes — and included that amount as revenue in the current budget — but the money didn't show up. (New York has tried for decades to force sovereign Indian nations to collect taxes on the cigarettes they sell to non-Native customers, but Indians refuse to be tax collectors for the state.)

In the latest plan, the N.Y. Dept. of Taxation and Finance amended the state's cigarette tax law to require wholesalers and distributors pay the \$4.35-a-pack tax upfront on all cigarettes sold to reservations — forcing Indian tobacco businesses to collect the taxes on all the cigarettes they sold and then apply for a refund for cigarettes sold to Indians. The new law also included a quota system limiting the number of tax-exempt cigarettes a nation could buy based on the number of enrolled members. The Seneca Nation of Indians challenged the law and lost. Both Seneca and the Oneida Indian declared they would manufacture and sell only their own brands.

Wholesalers report sales down by 20-30 percent; an 80 percent reduction in the illegal cigarette investigation force (budget cut-back) prevents real enforcement of state tax laws. Thus, despite the projected \$130 million increase, cigarette sales at the end of last year were the same as the year before.

— IndianCountryTodayMediaNetwork.com

Free train rides for American Indians and veterans

FORT WORTH — The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) will offer special rides in its vintage business cars for American Indians (July, August 2012) and military veterans (December 2012) to mark BNSF's participation in New Mexico's Statehood Centennial commemoration. The BNSF Railway is one of seven North American Class I railroads, the second-largest freight railroad network in North America, (second only to the Union Pacific Railroad), and hauls enough coal to generate roughly 10 percent of the electricity produced in the United States. The company's three transcontinental routes provide a high-speed link between the western and eastern United States "We are pleased to work with BNSF to honor the children, native peoples and veterans of the state of New Mexico at this unique moment in our state's history," said Stephen L. Elliott, New Mexico Centennial Foundation president.

— Wall Street Journal

Shakespeare, Native American authors banned

TUCSON — As part of its compliance with a state ban on ethnic studies, the Tucson Unified School District has banned its Mexican American Studies program and a number of books including *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare and *Rethinking Columbus: The Next 500 Years*, which includes pieces by various Native American authors including Suzan Shown Harjo, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Joseph Bruchac, Leslie Marmon Silko and Winona LaDuke.

Arizona's state ban on ethnic studies took effect Jan. 1, with orders that no classes can be taught that "promote the overthrow of the United States government; promote resentment toward a race or class of people; are designed primarily for pupils of a particular ethnic group; advocate ethnic solidarity instead of the treatment of pupils as individuals." The Arizona Department of Education can withhold 10 percent of a district's state funding if it is found in violation.

— Indian Country Today



Cultural items return to the Catawba and Cherokee



The Catawba Cultural Center staff meet with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Registrar, from left: Wenonah Haire, Billie Anne McKellar, Beckee Garris, Tara Backhouse and Ronnie Beck.

SUBMITTED BY TARA BACKHOUSE
Registrar

Last month, several historic objects from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum found new homes as they were delivered to the southeastern Native American Tribes who originally produced them.

Museum staff members Tara Backhouse and James Powell traveled to the Catawba Cultural Center and the Museum of the Cherokee Indian to return these objects to their cultural homes.

This pioneering effort reflected the Museum's intention to re-unite objects with the descendants of their makers, as well as to ensure the Museum's ability to collect and preserve its culture.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's goal is to collect, preserve and interpret Seminole history and culture. In order to do this, we need to make sure our collection clearly reflects the Seminole culture.

If we collect too many objects from non-Seminole cultures, then the Museum's ability to represent Seminole culture could be compromised. Valuable resources would be used to preserve non-Seminole culture, and fewer resources would be available with which to preserve Seminole Tribe.

Recently, these concerns led us to identify several non-Seminole objects in our collection. The objects were part of the Speck Collection. Frank G. Speck was an anthropology professor at the University of Pennsylvania who collected objects from many Native American Tribes in the early 1900s (University of Pennsylvania University Archives and Records Center 2011). The Museum acquired this collection for the Seminole and Creek artifacts, but we also acquired many non-Seminole objects in the process.

Last month, we found new homes for 33 of the Speck Collection objects that originally came from both the Cherokee and Catawba peoples. They were collected from these two Tribes in the 1920s and 1930s by Mr. Speck.



Model of a grain mill made in 1936 by a Cherokee artist. The original mill was on the Eastern Band of Cherokee reservation in North Carolina.

After obtaining Tribal Council approval, these objects were permanently removed from the Museum's collection so that they could be transferred to their rightful homes.

Removing an object permanently from a museum's collection is called de-accessioning, and it is not something that is done lightly. We only take this step when we feel it is in the best interest of the Museum, the Museum's community, and the object(s) in question. In these cases, it was an easy decision.

We first delivered 26 of the objects to the Catawba Cultural Center, near Rock Hill, S.C. The objects included

one carved wooden bullroarer; 20 blow and spring gun darts; and five ceramic vessels.

The Catawba Indian Nation is a federally recognized Tribe of more than 2,500 people. They consider themselves "survivors" and have a long history of withstanding adversity and fighting back.

One of their most recent fights was for federal recognition. After the Tribe's status was terminated in 1960, they fought long and hard for recognition and finally regained it in 1993.

The Catawba people are known for their pottery. The beautiful earth-toned pieces are still made in the traditional pit-fired way, and the clay is still acquired



Catawba ceramic vessel made in 1938 by Sally Brown Gordon, reportedly the last female speaker of the Catawba language.

from the same riverbed locations that their ancestors used (Heinemann-Priest 1999).

The director and staff members of the Catawba Cultural Center were gracious hosts, and they gave us a tour of their exhibits and educational space. They were also extremely happy to receive these objects. The artifacts date from 1920-1936, and they did not have many other things in their collection from that period. They had even found historic documents that recorded the visits of Frank Speck to their community.

This was an amazing connection to uncover. They were planning on getting the news about the donation out to the community as soon as possible. They knew their artists would want to study the pottery in particular, and they assured me that the next time I visited, I would see elements of the historic pottery in the modern pottery made by Tribal members today.

We also transferred seven historic objects to the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, in Cherokee, N.C. These objects included five buffalo fur masks, one bag of punk (decayed tree matter used to make fire) and one wooden model.

The museum of the Cherokee Indian has a state-of-the-art collection storage facility, and they are always interested in adding to their collection. The director of the Museum, Ken Blankenship, was kind enough to give us a tour of the facilities, including their new educational wing. He was very interested in the unique buffalo masks we brought, and he also thought he remembered the original mill on which the mill model was based.

The Museum truly feels that these 33 objects will serve the Cherokee and Catawba Tribes and allow them to interpret and share their culture with their members. Not only are they with the cultures that produced them, but their absence from our Museum means that we have more space and resources to focus on Seminole objects.

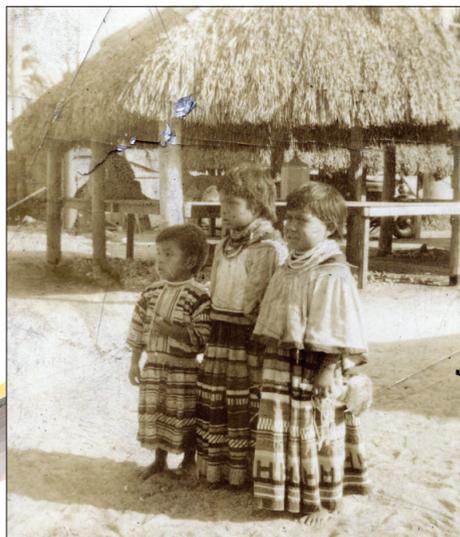
We are happy to have helped these objects find their way home, and we hope to continue to have productive, professional relationships with both the Catawba Cultural Center and the Museum of the Cherokee Indian.

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

Identifying the Pas



Sign cautions, "Do Not Feed or Tease the Animals"



Unidentified Seminole children in December 1934.

SUBMITTED BY JAMES POWELL
Associate Registrar

Shown above are two photographs from one of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's larger photography collections, the General Reference Photography Collection. The Museum established this collection primarily from photographs taken by the Museum's staff and informal donations of snapshots taken by friends of the Museum. The photographs document a wide range of topics and activities including, but not limited to, the building of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, activities held at or sponsored by the Museum, visits to Billie Swamp Safari, pow-wows and national and international outreach activities.

The purpose of this collection is to provide a ready resource of visual materials to Tribal members, Museum staff, Native American researchers and users of the Museum's library and archive. The collection contains approximately 15,000 images. The collection consists of photographs, negatives and slides of various

types and sizes, including a limited number of historic snapshots. As we continue to organize and house this collection, we discover these historic snapshots like the two above. When completed, the collection will be housed in binders and organized by subject in an effort to make it as easy as possible for visitors to the library to find the images they need.

Both of the photographs above appear to have been taken at the same location, and both are dated December 1934.

The snapshot on the left shows three Seminole children standing side by side with a chickee in the background and a partial view of a vintage automobile. The girl on the far right holds what appears to be a toy consisting of a cone handle with fringe and semi-circular base.

The snapshot on the right shows a group of Seminole children sitting on a bench beneath a palm tree. A sign in the background reads "Do Not Feed or Tease the Animals." The photographs were once part of a scrapbook and are still adhered to the scrapbook's black paper pages. As we process the collection, we will consult with



Unidentified Seminole children in December 1934. Please contact the Museum if you know whether the boy in the middle is Buffalo Tiger.

the Museum's Conservator on how to best treat and preserve these photographs and all the materials in the collection.

In order to fully catalog these photographs, we seek the assistance of *Tribune* readers. Does anyone recognize the children, the toy or the location where the photographs were taken? Museum staff members have suggested the middle boy in the photo on the right may be Buffalo Tiger or a relative and the location may be Musa Isle. Any further information will help us to better catalog these individual snapshots, and it will also allow us to better complete a larger picture of the history and culture of the Seminole Tribe of Florida during this pivotal year of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

Please contact the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum at 877-902-1113 or visit our website at www.ahtahthiki.com to share your knowledge about these photographs. If you would like to view these photographs in person, the General Reference Photography Collection or any Museum materials, please phone or visit the Museum's website to make an appointment. Thank you.

HAH-TUNG-KE

JOHN ANDERSON

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

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER
Special Projects Reporter

In 1991, John Anderson's career had stalled, and the country music singer found himself hanging out on the remote Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation. He left his mountaintop home of 30 years in Smithville, Tenn. and settled in — you might say — with the ghost of Osceola, the alligator and the gar.

Born in Orlando and raised in Apopka, country music's most well-known Floridian had seen his 20-year string of hit records vanish after he parted ways with Warner Bros. in 1986.

"I didn't know it at the time, but I guess I was searching for something," he said, describing his weeks of hunting, fishing, exploring and strumming his guitar by the cook fire with his Seminole friends.

From the 1977 release of his first single, *I've Got a Feelin' (Somebody's Been Stealin')* through more than 40 charted songs, including all-time favorites *Swingin', I'm Just An Old Chunk of Coal (But I'll Be A Diamond Some Day), Would You Catch a Falling Star?* and *Black Sheep* to his *Honky Tonk Nights* hit in 1986 Anderson was an American country music mainstay.

"Then, just like that, it was over," he snapped his fingers. The 58-year-old singer and songwriter often credits Seminole Chief Jim Billie with helping "reawaken" his career. Many hours spent playing music with Billie and listening to the charismatic leader's stories and legends left indelible marks on Anderson's songwriting craft.

"I owe a lot to Chief Billie and the Seminole people," he said at the Big Cypress party celebrating Billie's 2010 election as Chairman. "I learned a lot about myself and this world from them. They give me strength every time I come down to visit."

In particular, Anderson enjoyed Billie's signature song, *Huhlpa-te-chobee*, or *Big Alligator*, a tune about growing up and learning to survive in the dangerous Florida swamps. While in Florida, Anderson also learned about the dying Everglades and shrinking wilderness surrounding the Seminoles' historic home.

Anderson's experiences with the Seminoles were poured into the songs on his spectacular Feb. 10, 1992 BNA label release, *Seminole Wind*, which went double Platinum and remains Anderson's highest certified album. The album produced four bonafide Top Ten hits: *Straight Tequila Night*, *When it Comes to You*, *Let Go of the Stone* and the title track, *Seminole Wind*.

Billboard Magazine's Deborah Evans Price called the *Seminole Wind* single a "vividly imagistic song (that) conveys feelings of urgency and great loss without being self-righteous or preachy." *Seminole Wind* was recorded by James Taylor on his 2008 *Covers* album. Ironically, the song was knocked from its perch atop the Top Ten list by another Florida singer, Billy Dean of Quincy, with his tune *If There Hadn't Been You*; both Anderson and Dean appeared last year at the Florida Folk Festival in White Springs.

And just like that. Snap! Anderson's career took off again. The next year, in 1993, Anderson was awarded the Academy of Country Music Career Achievement Award. In 1994, his album *Country Till I Die* was awarded the CMA Album of the Year. During the next several years, Anderson also charted with singles *Money in the Bank*, *I've Got it Made*, *I Wish I Could Have Been There*, *Bend it Until It Breaks* and *Mississippi Moon*.



Country music singer and songwriter John Anderson performs.

Seminole Wind

Ever since the days of old,
Men would search for wealth untold.
They'd dig for silver and for gold,
And leave the empty holes.
Way down south in the Everglades,
Where the black water rolls and the saw grass waves.
The eagles fly and the otters play,
In the land of the Seminole.

So blow, blow Seminole wind,
Blow like you're never gonna blow again.
I'm calling to you like a long lost friend,
But I know who you are.
And blow, blow from the Okeechobee,
All the way up to Micanopy,
Blow across the home of the Seminole,
The alligator and the gar.

Progress came and took its toll,
And in the name of flood control,
They made their plans and they drained the land,
Now the 'glades are going dry.
The last time I walked in the swamp,
I sat upon a Cypress stump,
I listened close and I heard the ghost,
Of Osceola cry.

So blow, blow Seminole wind,
Blow like you're never gonna blow again.
I'm calling to you like a long lost friend
But I know who you are.
And blow, blow from the Okeechobee,
All the way up to Micanopy,
Blow across the home of the Seminole,
The alligator and the gar.

— John Anderson



McGladrey

2011 Tax Preparation Service

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has again arranged for McGladrey & Pullen, LLP to assist Tribal Members in the preparation of their 2011 Individual Income Tax Returns. The tax accountants will be at each location per the following schedule providing same day preparation with electronic filing for most returns:

Big Cypress	9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	February 1 st , February 22 nd , March 20 th
Brighton	9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	February 1 st , February 21 st , March 20 th
Fort Pierce	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	February 3 rd , March 27 th
Hollywood	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	February 1 st , February 2 nd , February 3 rd February 6 th – April 16 th Monday's, Wednesday's, and Friday's April 17 th
Immokalee	9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	February 2 nd , March 21 st
John's Place	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	February 8 th , March 28 th
Naples	9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	February 3 rd , March 22 nd
Tamiami	9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	February 2 nd , March 19 th
Tampa	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	February 6 th & 7 th , March 21 st & 22 nd

Please bring the following information that pertains to your tax return with you when you meet with the accountant:

- A copy of your 2010 tax return (Form 1040) if we were not the preparer.
- Any Internal Revenue Service (IRS) notices received regarding tax issues.
- Form W-2 from all employers.
- Form W-2G for gambling winnings and related receipts for losses.
- List of children (dependents) with their birth dates and social security numbers.
- Any Form 1099-Misc showing income and benefits received during 2011 from the Seminole Tribe of Florida.
- Form 1099R from a pension plan or retirement account.
- Name, address, and tax identification number of the person or company to which you paid child care expenses.
- Form 1098 showing the amount of interest you paid to a bank or mortgage company as well as property tax bills.
- Social security statement, if you are drawing social security.
- List of charitable contributions.
- Any other documentation you feel is pertinent to the preparation of your return.

Facts Regarding Proper Reporting:

Tribal Per Capita Distributions reported on Form 1099-Misc from the Seminole Tribe of Florida should be reported as "Other Income" on Form 1040 and not as a 1099-Div. The income from per capita distribution and the taxable benefits received are not subject to self-employment tax but is subject to "Kiddie Tax".

If you have any questions or need any additional information you can contact Frank Lucas of McGladrey & Pullen, LLP at: (561) 712-4808.

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Education

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Tribal middle school students see monumental sights in Washington, D.C.

BY KATHRYN STOLARZ
Copy Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sixty-two middle school students got an up-close look at Washington, D.C.'s famous monuments and memorials during an exciting and educational trip from Dec. 4-8.

"It's a trip we offer all middle school kids to go experience D.C. and learn about their government," said Becky Bowers, Brighton Education adviser.

Students from Brighton, Immokalee, Big Cypress and Hollywood attended, as well as 26 adults that included parent chaperones, Education Department staff and Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School staff. In addition to sightseeing in D.C., students toured Williamsburg and Jamestown, Va.

This is the third year middle school students took the trip to the famous Capitol city, but in order to attend, students needed to have at least a 2.0 GPA and needed to have good attendance in school.

"They see it in the text books and history books and pictures," said chaperone Laverne Thomas. "I think they should see it and experience that."

Seventh-grader Deliah Carrillo saw the famous district for the first time on the trip. Carrillo attends Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School and couldn't believe she had the opportunity to sit on the steps of the prestigious buildings she often saw on TV. Students visited plenty of tourist attractions, including Capitol Hill, the White House, the National Mall, Union Station and Arlington National Cemetery.

They wandered through war memorials, including the Korean, Vietnam and World War II war memorials; they gawked at memorials of historic greats, including Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln; and, this year, students received an extra treat: They visited the new Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, which was dedicated in October 2011.

They also made their way through museums galore: Smithsonian museums, including the National Museum of Natural History, American History and Air and Space, and the Native American Museum.

Layne Thomas, a Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School sixth-grader, said the Native



Photo courtesy of Becky Bowers

Middle school students tour Washington, D.C. from Dec. 4-8 as part of Close Up Washington.

American Museum gave him a broader perspective on Tribal culture because he learned about the different Tribes around the nation.

The group had lucky timing upon arriving at the Supreme Court because they got to sit in on a Supreme Court hearing that happened to be in session. They also visited the Library of Congress.

"I like looking at all the monuments and all the memorials there," Layne Thomas said. "It helps us learn about the history of the U.S.A. It helps us learn more about what our presidents and important people did for us."

After making a 3-hour drive from D.C., the group explored two of America's most historic and well-preserved examples of Colonial government and culture: Jamestown and Williamsburg.

In Jamestown, they learned about the founders and the Virginia Indians they encountered.

"When we went to Jamestown, they talked about that Native Americans were here and have been here and did help the settlers," Laverne Thomas said.

Her son, Layne Thomas, said he learned that the Native Americans taught the settlers how to grow fruit and make skin for war and how they helped settlers build shelters out of clay.

In Williamsburg, one of America's oldest cities, the group treaded through historic homes, gardens and marketplaces, as well as the Colonial courthouse, the blacksmith shop and the old Capitol.

Each day, students met with teachers from the Close Up program, the nonprofit educational organization that organized the trip itinerary. Close Up instructors reviewed the history of the monuments that students visited, complimenting the students' knowledge from their history classes.

Carrillo's mom, Joyce Piz, also got to experience D.C. for the first time as a chaperone on the trip. Piz said it gave her a lot to talk about with her daughter and said it's important for youth to know about their government's history and current affairs.

"It was very educational," she said. "I enjoyed it as much as my daughter did. It was a blessing to go."

Charter School honors instructors with Teacher of the Year awards



Rachel Buxton

Renea Finney's teaching style in science earns her the 2012 Teacher of the Year honor.

BY BRETT DALY
Senior Editor

BRIGHTON — Since her days of playing school in her childhood home with her sisters, Renea Finney has known she wanted to teach for a living. She wanted to inspire youth to achieve their dreams. Now, as a science teacher at Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School (PECS), Finney has received recognition for doing just that.

Faculty and staff at the school chose Finney as their 2012 Teacher of the Year. Each academic year, the Florida Department of Education holds a Teacher of the Year recognition program. The program honors the contributions of outstanding classroom teachers who have demonstrated a superior capacity to inspire a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities, according to the department's website.

"Mrs. Finney has been with the PECS team from our beginning," said Michele Thomas, Tribal member and Charter School administrative assistant. "She is a wonderful teacher and team player. She truly makes the students excited about learning science. We are very lucky to have her here."

Finney began her teaching career 21 years ago in the Okeechobee District teaching middle school science, but she made the transition to Pemaaytv Emahakv without hesitation. She said the resources available to her, the great parent involvement and the supportive staff make her job at the Charter School both fun and rewarding.

"When I found out the school was opening, I thought it was a great opportunity," Finney said. "It's a dream job here. We're almost like a little family."

Finney's peers at the Charter School nominated her for the Teacher of the Year award, which makes it even more special, she said. It's nice to know my peers respect me, she said.

♦ See TEACHERS OF THE YEAR on page 3B

Pemaaytv Emahakv students take field trip to historic Tribal landmark

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — Students of Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School took a culture field trip to see the oldest standing building on the Brighton Reservation. Students in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades visited the famous Red Barn on Jan. 10 and saw where many of their grandfathers and great grandfathers got their start in the cattle business.

Willie Johns, a Tribal historian who spent much of his childhood at the Red Barn, talked to the students about the impact the Red Barn had on the Seminole Tribe and the Brighton Reservation.

"It became the focal point of the reservation," Johns said. "The cattle industry was the way Seminoles made their money."

Johns spoke about the great Charlie Micco, who was the head of the cattle crew at the Red Barn since it was built in 1941. He named other well-known Tribal men, such as the late Frank Shore, Howard Micco, Norman Johns, Amos Tiger and many others that put a surprising look on some of the students' faces as they heard their relatives' names called, tying them personally to the historical significance of the Red Barn.

"This is your history," Johns said. "And you should be proud. I would want to know if my grandfather was a part of this."

The students learned about the Seminole Tribe's involvement with cattle. Johns explained how the Tribe has worked with cattle since the 1700s and has become the fourth-largest cattle operation in the nation with more than 60,000 head of cattle.

"We don't sell to the Hard Rock," Johns said. "By the time the meat is ready, it's already sold out. We can't meet their demand."

Following Johns, Carrie Dilley, an architectural historian for the Seminole Tribe's Preservation Office in Hollywood, talked to the students about the historical importance of the Red Barn.

Dilley told students how the Tribal Preservation Office has worked hard during the past several years to preserve the Tribe's historical icon and to help make it become the first Seminole building to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places is America's official list of cultural buildings and resources worthy of preservation. The



Rachel Buxton

Willie Johns talks to Charter School students about the history of the Red Barn.

70-something-year-old Tribal building made the list in December 2008, after being nominated for its connection to the cattle industry.

"We definitely want to preserve it and keep it from deteriorating," Dilley said. "It's good for the Tribe, not just on a local level but by being recognized on a national level."

Dilley also explained to students that following the Red Barn's National Register listing, structural engineers conducted a laser scan out of Jacksonville to create 3-D images and models of the barn in case anything happens to the building and needs to be reconstructed or built.

"What do you think we should do with the barn?" Dilley asked students.

Many students said to preserve it just as it once was, while others responded to just let it be.

"Once it's gone, it's gone," Dilley said. "Those pieces will be gone forever."

Johns believes anything and everything should be done to preserve the barn.

"It should remain here and be a

reminder to our people that this is our past, this is where we came from, and not just be a place to come and play, but a place to be remembered," Johns said.

Students got a tour inside the barn and got to see the stables that once housed the horses that herded cattle. Johns pointed out the loft and reminisced of his youthful days spent in the barn. He told stories of how he and his friends jumped from the rafters.

Unfortunately, the restoration process has been on hold because of arsenic found inside the barn. Before moving forward, the arsenic must be removed by the Environmental Resources Management, the leading global provider of environmental, health and safety, risk and social consulting services. The Tribal Preservation Office hopes to have the removal done during the summer so the preservation project can continue.

Before climbing back into the buses, students gathered in front of the Red Barn for a group photo, preserving their visit to the historical Tribal landmark.

♦ See more RED BARN photos on page 3B

Charter School students show creativity at annual Science Fair



Rachel Buxton

Judge Heather Dobbs asks Zeke Matthews to explain his science project's procedure.

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — Pemaaytv Emahakv Charter School middle school students stood poised, confident and ready to answer questions on Jan. 12 at the school's annual Science Fair held in the school cafeteria.

While only the advanced science students are required to participate in the Science Fair with their projects counting toward their grade, science teachers Kelly Bass and Renea Finney encourage others.

"We like them to participate even if they aren't required," said Bass, the middle school science teacher. "The kids are encouraged to participate. It is a lot of work but it is worth it because what they are doing is they are actually learning the scientific method hands on."

For students the Science Fair project began way back in August at the start of the school year.

"The first week school they get a dateline and a timeline and a guideline and on that they have a date of when everything is due," Bass said. "Most of these kids have already done a Science Fair project before. We actually start them in the fifth grade, so they have an idea; it's more of a kit type thing where Mrs. Finney actually kind of holds their hand and they go through every step, so when they get to me it actually should be pretty second nature."

Over the five months leading up to the actual judging, students started thinking of ideas and eventually picked their topics to begin the scientific method for their project.

Eighth-grader Melany Williams stumbled upon her topic even before school started.

♦ See SCIENCE FAIR on page 2B

Charter School students complete second year of cooking and carving



Rachel Buxton

The girls work together under the cooking chickee to prepare a traditional meal on Jan. 12.



Rachel Buxton

The boys practice carving cypress wood to make spoons and knives during their last cooking and carving class.

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — Cooking and carving have been traditional trades for the Seminole Tribe since the beginning of their existence, and it's a tradition Pemaaytvm Emahakv Charter School continues to teach its students.

The Culture Department wrapped up their second year of cooking and carving classes on Jan. 12 as the middle school girls prepared and served Indian tacos under the chickees.

"They are supposed to take lead and do the full meal by themselves with us just supervising with no help," Arts and Crafts teacher Janelle Robinson said.

Last year, the Culture Department added traditional cooking and carving to the upper classmen's arts and crafts curriculum. The younger grades continue to focus on beading and patchwork, making necklaces and pillows, while the older students get a chance to take it outdoors to an open fire.

"I think it's a great opportunity," Principal Brian Greseth said. "By having the culture classes, the students are really allowed to realize what their background is, where their roots come from, what their ancestors did before them. They have an understanding of who they are and where they come from. I think in the society today that's kind of been lost."

Leading up to the last day, the girls practiced making flatbread, frybread and pumpkin bread. Instructors taught the girls how to properly mix the ingredients and to place the dough in oil over the fire.

Meanwhile, the boys learned to carve canoes, knives and spoons out of cypress wood. Instructors taught them how to slowly carve and shave the wood to perfection.

"When we first started at the school, we didn't have carving and cooking but as the school progressed, we started having more activities," seventh-grader Trevor Thomas said. "I like it better than sitting in the classroom. I want to learn more about the culture and where we came from."

Thomas has one more year to hone his carving skills, but for

eighth-graders Michael Garcia and Kalgary Johns, this was their final year learning their culture in a classroom setting; Next year, they'll head to high school, where Seminole arts and crafts will not be part of their everyday schooling.

Although Garcia and Kalgary said they are sad that the classes are coming to an end, they said they will take their skills with them and they're optimistic about continuing to practice what they've learned.

"I'll continue to make necklaces and bracelets," he said.

Johns said she will continue learning her culture and language by participating in the classes the reservation offers high-school students.

"I will take everything I've learned over the years so we can have it in the future and it doesn't die out," Johns said.

Robinson said she loves to hear about her students going home and wanting to attempt to make something they've learned in class. She wants the students to take as much as they possibly can with them, even if it is just a small piece, because it can be one more piece carried down.

Robinson said she heard that one of her students went home after a flatbread lesson and tried to make it during the following weekend. Although the student was upset because it didn't come out well, Robinson was still proud that the student tried.

"They moan and they complain, but back at that age I probably did the same thing and I just remind them that they will appreciate it later," Robinson said looking around at her students. "I'm looking right here at the boys and you might see your next master carver or you may have your next best frybread maker."

The school hopes to achieve just that.

At the closing of the final class, the boys lined up and the students said the blessing in their native Creek language.

The girls then served the boys as they spooned the saucy meat over frybread and topped it off with lettuce, tomatoes and cheese, completing their first traditional meal on their own.

"I hope that they carry [on] what they've learned," Principal Greseth said.

SCIENCE FAIR

From page 1B



Rachel Buxton

Science teacher Kelly Bass reviews data with Sean Osceola on his project about soda deteriorating beef.

"I heard it on television and thought it would be interesting to see if it actually worked," Williams said.

Williams's project titled *Does it Pay to be Beautiful* studied the concept of facial symmetry. She looked at facial symmetry in waitresses to see if their individual facial symmetry actually coincided with how much money they made. Williams took headshots of waitresses and uploaded their photos into a computer program that automatically measures their facial symmetry. She then plugged in what each waitress made across a four-day span using one set of data.

"There's not a lot of data to it but the project itself is a wonderful idea," Bass said. "And it was something she came up with all by herself."

Williams' hypothesis was correct: the greater the facial symmetry, the more tips earned.

"Usually beauty is an opinion but facial symmetry is a fact and I just found it really interesting," Williams said.

The judges were just as impressed with Williams' topic, along with many others that focused on sports and music.

Finney, fifth-grade science teacher and science fair judge, said she was really intrigued with the ideas the students came up with this year.

"They are not all consumer projects this year," she said. "A lot of the students thought out of the box and picked something of interest to them such as sports."

Zach Hudson used his love of golf as a topic for his Science Fair project, *Driving Range*. Hudson's project focused on whether the price of the golf ball truly

made a difference when it came to driving distance. Hudson and his father are huge golf enthusiasts, so Hudson figured he might save some money by conducting a project on the topic.

"I've always been a golfer and I've spent a lot of money over the years on golf balls, so I wanted to see which ball gave you a bigger bang for your buck," Hudson said.

Hudson's trials discovered that the most expensive golf balls did not get the most yardage but that the medium-grade balls finished with the longest driving distance. Along with saving money from what he learned, Hudson found a way to enjoy his project.

"I enjoyed it a lot," Hudson said. "It was exactly what I was looking for. In years past I used to hate doing Science Fair but this year it was fun."

Brothers Michael and Erik Garcia, both interested in music, decided to do projects relating to their hobby. Michael focused on the guitar to see if sound waves of a high note on the instrument were longer than a low note. Brother Erik incorporated the science of botany into music to see what genre helped plants grow the fastest.

Judges scored students on presentation, background research, hypothesis, variables, materials, procedure, data, analysis and conclusion. Students who place first or second will go onto districts held in Glades County at the Doyle Conner Building in Moore Have on Jan. 26.

"We have had some really good projects," Bass said. "Each year they progressively get better and more difficult and get more creative."

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◆ **TEACHERS OF THE YEAR** from page 1B

"This is an awesome place to come every day," Finney said. "This is where I want to be."

In addition to the Teacher of the Year award, Florida public schools also recognize a Non-instructional Employee of the Year – a recognition that went to Diana Greenbaum for her contributions to Pemaayev Emahakv.

Greenbaum also began working at the school from the get-go, having taught the second and third grades in addition to middle school science in that time. Her passion for teaching comes from being able to inspire the imaginations of the youth.

"I like to get myself involved and get kids up out of their chairs," she said of her teaching style. "Being hands-on helps pull them in."

Greenbaum, for example, brought her students through walk-in refrigerators and walk-in freezers and then walked them outside in the Florida heat to demonstrate hot versus cold temperatures. Experiments like this earned Greenbaum the prestigious recognition.

"Mrs. Greenbaum is one of the hardest working people I know," Thomas said. "She puts 100 percent into anything she does and is very helpful to not only the students but also any staff member in need of her creative talent."

Because the teachers at the school are so talented, Greenbaum said the recognition feels especially rewarding.

"There's a great bunch of people who work here," she said. "I thank everyone I work with. For them to nominate me is just wonderful."



Brett Daly

Non-instructional Employee of the Year Diana Greenbaum received recognition from her peers for her creative teaching styles.

The Charter School will recognize both women for their achievements and their dedication to Pemaayev Emahakv during a banquet coinciding with Teacher Appreciation Week in May.

◆ **More RED BARN** photos from page 1B



Rachel Buxton

Students and teachers take a tour inside the barn with Willie Johns and see the stalls where the horses were kept.



Rachel Buxton

Willie Johns shares a story about his childhood days at the Red Barn with Ruben Burgess.



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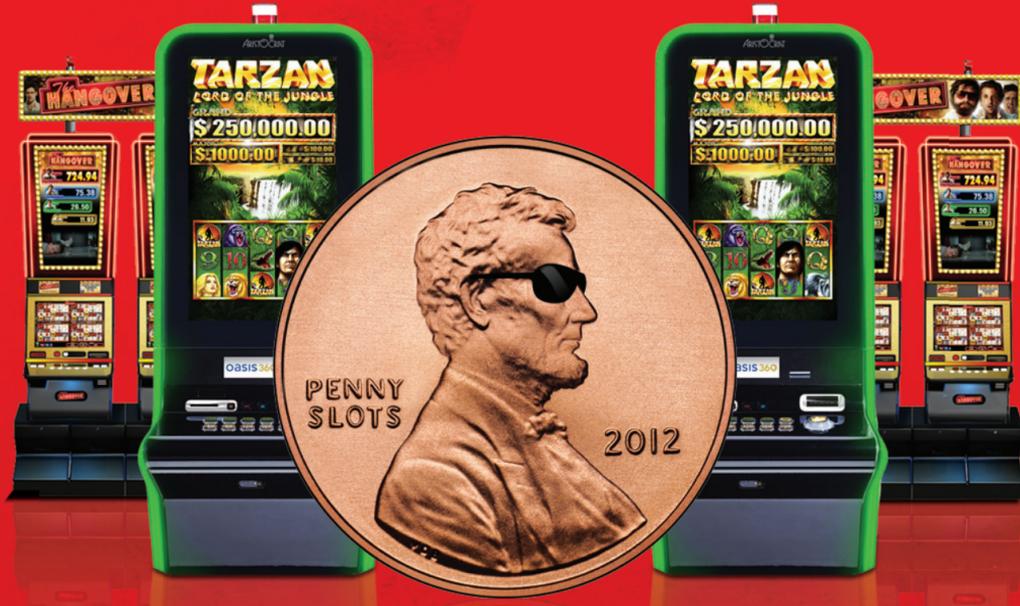
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Sports

C

New Year's Basketball Tournament culminates with wild finish in Big Cypress

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Let the fresh start begin!

The first-ever Big Cypress New Year's Basketball Tournament was held from Jan. 6-7 at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium, and it ended with a bang.

The two-day competition featured seven men's teams and four women's teams.

The men's teams were: Brighton, Big Cypress Men, Fearless Fly G'z (Immokalee), "G" (Hollywood), Hustle Hard and Nothing Fancy; the women's teams were: Hollywood Seminole, Lady Ballers, You Don't Want It and Young Legends.

Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood, Immokalee and Trail all had teams represented at the tournament.

"I'm glad to be here," said Geraldine Osceola, an Immokalee Tribal citizen who played for the Young Legends women's team. "We have a lot of family and friends from all the other reservations, so when we get together like this, it makes for a very enjoyable event. It's a good get-together for all of us."

Big Cypress Recreation Coordinator Kelvin Robinson, the mastermind behind the event, said he created the tournament to kick off the New Year.

"We want to have this tournament every year around this time from now on," he said. "There are a lot of good players and a lot of good teams that came out to play. It's a fresh start and it's only going to (get) better from here."

Frantic finish in men's final

Nothing fancy, huh?

The men's final between "G" and Nothing Fancy went down to the last seconds of the second half of play as Nothing Fancy's Amos Huggins hit a mid-range fadeaway jumper over "G's" Drexley Tango with 1.2 seconds left for a 45-44 lead.

After a timeout by "G," the plan was to try for a game-winner on a catch-and-shoot play.

Unfortunately for "G," time ran out on the tournament favorite as Nothing Fancy (5-1 final record) held on to take home the inaugural men's title.

"There was no time left," Amos Huggins said of his tournament-winning shot. "I just happened to be in position to hit the fadeaway and I'm happy it went in."

However, early on in the men's final, it looked as if "G" (3-1 final record) was going to run away with this one.

Nothing Fancy found themselves down seven points twice in the first half (16-9 with 11:14 left in the first frame; and 18-11 with 7:50 left), but their patience on defense and their knack for taking care of the ball paid off in a big way as the Trail-based team clawed its way back with a 12-4 scoring run to take a 23-22 halftime lead.

"It wasn't easy," Huggins said. "We knew we had to grind it out if we were going to have a chance to win the championship."

Nothing Fancy extended their lead to 26-22 with 13:49 left in the second half, thanks to a 3-pointer made by Jerome Huggins, who scored 13 points in the final.

A 5-0 scoring run by "G" gave the lead back to the tournament favorite, 27-26, as the momentum shifted at 12:35 left in the second half, highlighted by a towering floater from "G's" Dovante McCallam.

But the play of the entire tournament came on Nothing Fancy's next offensive series as Charlie Osceola — a 13-year-old who stands at 4 feet, 10 inches — dribbled his way toward the baseline to convert on a reverse layup shot over "G's" McCallam, who stands at 6 feet, 7 inches.

The tournament's top highlight put Nothing Fancy up 28-27 with 12:04 left.

"I didn't want to foul him (Charlie Osceola), so I just let him hit it," McCallam said.

The play, highlighted by Charlie Osceola's speed and nifty footwork, mitigated a strong scoring stretch by "G," who used an 8-4 run to tie the game up at 30-30 with 10:00 left in the second half.

Charlie Osceola, who finished with 11 points in the final, added another highlight for himself as he connected on an open 3-pointer — one of his three treys in the final — to put his Nothing Fancy team back on top, 33-30, with 9:46 left.

An 11-4 scoring burst by "G" later turned into a 41-37 lead for the tournament favorite with 6:08 left, thanks in large part to three timely layups from McCallam, who led all scorers with 18 points in the title game.

Not to be deterred, Nothing Fancy showed its hustle and discipline on the defensive end, as the Trail-based team clogged up the passing lanes and clamped up "G's" playmakers for the rest of the second half, forcing "G" into multiple missed shots and turnovers.

With 3:08 left in the game, after Nothing Fancy beat "G" to the boards for a key rebound, Amos Huggins zoomed way past "G's" Doug Sanders (eight points overall in the final) to allow Nothing Fancy to tie the game up at 41-41.

A costly travel committed by "G's" Troy Little (four points in the final) gave the ball back to Nothing Fancy with 1:17 left. Just five seconds later, Amos Huggins beat all the "G" defenders to the bucket for a driving lay-in, giving Nothing Fancy a 43-41 lead.

Nothing Fancy lost to Brighton in the preliminary round before going on a four-game winning streak in the loser's bracket en route to the final. Nothing Fancy's improbable run to the title seemed to fall just short after "G's" Sanders hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key to give the favorites a 44-43 lead with just 8.8 seconds left.



Naji Tobias

Taylor Osceola, who played for "G" in the Big Cypress New Year's Basketball Tournament, uses his dribbling skills to get past a Big Cypress Men defender as he helps his team to a preliminary game win on Jan. 7.

But the fadeaway shot from Amos Huggins ended up as the play that decided the championship for both teams, as Nothing Fancy celebrated on the court after the buzzer.

"We focused on defense toward the end of the game," Amos Huggins said. "We wanted to limit the three-pointers and the layups and once we found a way to do that, I felt that we would take the title home."

Nothing Fancy found a way to get past Big Cypress Men (0-2 final record), Hustle Hard (0-2 final record), Fearless (1-2 final record) and Fly G'z (2-2 final record) before the Trail team played the final of six possible teams in the tournament.

Meanwhile, "G" cruised through its first three games, with easy wins over Fearless (Immokalee), Big Cypress Men and Fly G'z en route to the final. "G" was the only team to avoid the loser's bracket.

It makes Nothing Fancy's title run that much more special.

Ladies in action

The women's final, meanwhile, pitted Lady Ballers against You Don't Want It — the two best ladies teams on the court.

Lady Ballers (3-0 final record) won the women's title game, 28-23, thanks to a spirited comeback from a 21-17 halftime deficit to You Don't Want It.

Lady Ballers playmakers Annie Osceola (7 total points in the final, including 3 second-half points), Rae Ann West (7 points overall, including two second-half points), Ana Van Stippen (4 points — all in the second half) and Elizabeth Huggins (2 points overall — all in the second half) combined for 11 points in the second half of play.

Lady Ballers limited You Don't Want It to 2 points in the second half.

"It felt great to pull it off," Van Stippen said. "We just knew we had to stick together and hustle hard."

♦ See NEW YEAR'S on page 3C

Team Roping unites Tribal mother and her family

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

LAKE CITY — It can be very rough and tumble in the world of Rodeo Team Roping, but Tribal athlete and mother Tara Courson and her family have embraced its challenges.

Although a late bloomer to the sport, the 36-year-old of the Panther Clan has made up for lost time while claiming her first championship last July as the Eastern Regional Finals Cruel Girl Jeans champion.

She followed up the win in late October with a feature story in the national insider magazine *Super Looper*, the official publication of the United States Team Roping Championships. All in just four years of competing.

"It's something I have always wanted to do," Courson said.

Husband and semi-professional roper Jerry Wayne Courson introduced Tara and son Blaine, 17, to the team event known as the only event of its type in rodeo.

"I've always been there for her and the kids (Blaine and Jara Ann, 14) and I've always said if they want to learn, I'm there for them," Jerry Wayne Courson said. "I stay on her to continue to work her way up in the system. If a person has any competitive bones in their bodies then they want to be good."

As a former four-sport high school star athlete, she has plenty of competitive experiences to draw from but admits to needing to improve on her mental approach and handicap in the sport. She currently ranks No. 4 on the 1-10 scale in measuring skill and performance.

"The ability to perform under pressure has been the toughest part for me," she said. "Getting over the intimidation of being a novice rider has also been tough."

Younger brother and Tribal Deputy Treasurer Pete Osceola-Hahn is not surprised at her early success. He said her work ethic helped motivate him to succeed as he developed into a high school letterman in football, baseball and wrestling.

"Traveling and watching her from tournament to tournament made it an easy transition into sports for me," Osceola-Hahn said. "I liked her focus and drive and she was dedicated to whatever she was involved in; she also had skills you just couldn't teach — all of those extra little things."

Tara said her husband, horse of two years Kaw-liga and other veteran riders and role models, such as fellow roper Beverly Robbins, continue to help motivate her to improve.

"How successful you are is also a part of the teaching you have," she said, crediting Jerry Wayne, currently a No. 8 handicap. "Kaw-liga has also helped take my roping to the next level."

Courson said her husband's support has meant the world to her, and his persistence in competing in spite of recent health issues has drawn the family even closer. After Courson's husband was diagnosed with end-stage renal disease and dialysis in 2008, Courson gave him a kidney in late 2009.

"While he was sick I thought, 'If he loves this sport so much and it is what keeps him going, it's something we all should do as a family,'" she said. "I thought, 'If it can continue to motivate him, what a great sport it is.'" She and their teens have not looked back, and both children show promising potential.

Blaine, although an aspiring baseball athlete, is doing well. He recently won the South Georgia Team Roping Championships in Perry, Ga., and he finished 21st in the country in the National High School Rodeo Finals as a healer for the 2010-11 season. Jara Ann continues to learn the ropes while competing as a freshman on the rodeo/roping team.

With more than \$20,000 in career earnings to date, Courson will look to build on that and claim her second title in the National Team Ropers League Championships in Jacksonville, Fla. from Jan. 26-29 with \$5,000 at stake in cash and saddle prizes. She will compete in the No. 13 to No. 8 categories.



Chris C. Jenkins

Courson tends to her competition horse, Kaw-liga.

Two Brighton Tribal youths show extra promise on basketball court



Naji Tobias

Brighton Tribal athlete Phillip Jones, center, shows off his passing skills in the Okeechobee Brahman's game against the Moore Haven Terriers — an 80-58 win in Moore Haven.

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Brighton Tribal youths Phillip Jones and Trewston Pierce have had an exciting start to the basketball season.

The two Brighton athletes play high school varsity ball for the Okeechobee Brahman's boys' team, and they have shown off their skills on the court in a big way. Just recall Okeechobee's 80-58 blowout win over the Moore Haven Terriers on Jan. 4.

In the game — played at Moore Haven High School — Pierce led the Brahman's with 16 points, including a one-handed dunk in the third quarter that sent fans from both Okeechobee and Moore Haven into a frenzy.

"Trewston's dunk in the Moore Haven game really got our team going," Jones said. "From that point, we never looked back."

Meanwhile, Jones added 13 points in the victory, which moved Okeechobee to 6-5 for the season as of Jan. 4.

"From the first day of the season, Phillip has been our leader," Okeechobee Brahman's head coach Shawn Hays said of his junior point guard. "He's been the guy that takes care of our offense. He gets us in our sets when we have the ball."

Jones' skills, however, are not limited to the offensive side of the ball. "He's the toughest and quickest guy we have on defense," Hays said of Jones, who typically guards an opponent's best player on the floor. "He gets the toughest assignments and handles that very well."

During the course of 11 games, Jones has averaged close to 10 points per game, five assists per game, two rebounds per game and two steals per game — a well-rounded stat line for a point guard.

"It's good to be representing my Tribe for Okeechobee," Jones said. "It means a lot to me. When I'm playing on the court, I'm always thinking about my people. It's important for me to make the Tribe look good in whatever I do. That's what I'm all about."

Jones, who was born in Hollywood, has played basketball ever since moving to Brighton at the age of 5.

"On every reservation, all we usually do is play basketball in the gym," Jones said. "It's where I learned my craft in the game. I met a lot of my friends on the basketball court."

That includes Pierce, who, as a freshman for the Okeechobee Brahman's, has grown into a key player on the varsity boys' team.

"Trewston's a little bit younger than me, but we've always hung out together," Jones said. "He's getting better every day as a player."

♦ See BASKETBALL on page 3C

Haskell men's basketball players make appearance at Charter School

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — The Seminole Tribe strongly advocates education. Through various programs and events, the Tribe has emphasized the importance of college to its youth. One way the Tribe has encouraged secondary education is through athletics.

The students at Pemaeytv Emahakv Charter School have had many athletic role models and visitors during the past several years, including current pro NFL Tennessee Titans player Myron Rolle and current Florida State University football player Lonnie Pryor, originally from Okeechobee.

Today, Brighton has some of their very own Tribal hometown young adults to look up to, including Deuelle Gore, a member of the Haskell Indian Nations University men's basketball team.

The men's basketball team from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan. stopped by for a visit at Pemaeytv Emahakv on Jan. 6, while in Florida for two basketball games in surrounding cities. Gore, however, was unable to make the trip to his home reservation with his team.

Gore's teammates toured the Charter School and spoke to the middle school students about the importance of academics.

"Any opportunity students have to address a panel, whether it be a Tribal college or not, is an opportunity for them to gain more knowledge about the collegiate experience and expectations," said Emma Johns, Seminole Tribe Director of Education. "I feel that the more exposure to higher education institutions, the more well-rounded our children will be in terms of making choices beyond high school. There is a 'fit' for everyone. For some it may be a Tribal college, and for some it may be Harvard or anywhere in between."

Charlotte Burgess, a Haskell University alumna, organized the visit for the Haskell athletic team.

"I wanted the students to know that playing sports doesn't have to end at the high school level," she said.

While speaking to the older Charter School students, the basketball players told them that sports can help put you through college, but you must keep your grades up.

"I do feel the visit to Pemaeytv Emahakv Charter School was beneficial because we want our students thinking 'college,'" Pemaeytv Emahakv Charter School administrative assistant Michele Thomas said. "This was an opportunity for them to see young Tribal men in college still involved with athletics."

On the tour of the school, the players were impressed with the technology that is available to the students of Pemaeytv Emahakv.

"I believe that it is important for other Tribes to see what emphasis is put on education," Burgess said. "As a parent, I am very proud of our school and what is available to the students."

At the end of the team's visit, the Charter School's Parent Teacher Student Organization presented them with a \$1,000 donation.

"We do feel it's nice to support other Tribal schools and other Tribes in general because we are in a position to do so," Thomas said.

Many other Seminole Tribal members have attended Haskell through the years. Miss Florida Seminole Princess and Brighton's own Jewel Buck currently attends Haskell and plays on the



Rodney Riser

The Haskell Basketball Team stops by the Charter School on Jan. 4 to encourage students to continue on with their education and consider playing sports in college.



Rodney Riser

Haskell Basketball Team players give advice to Charter School students.

women's basketball team.

Burgess said she visits Haskell University at least once a year to maintain connections and to help foster the concept of college.

"I have included my son, Ruben, on these trips lately," Burgess said. "He enjoys visiting the college that I attended, and he talks of when he will attend college."

Boxing legend visits Hollywood Reservation



Chris C. Jenkins

Former undisputed heavyweight boxing champion and Hall of Famer Lennox Lewis, far right, is joined by Tribal citizen Chris Hunter, second from left, and members of the Hollywood Recreation staff on the Hollywood Reservation on Jan. 9.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Chris Hunter, left, works on punching techniques with boxing champion Lennox Lewis. Lewis answered questions and gave boxing tips.

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Big Cypress holds second Roy Nash Osceola Pool Tournament



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal senior Ruby Osceola, center, celebrates with scotch doubles winners Joe Junior Billie and Caroline Osceola at the conclusion of the second annual Roy Nash Osceola Pool Tournament on Jan. 5.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress senior Louise Billie plays her way to a top finish in the women's Super Seniors 8-Ball category.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal senior Daniel Gopher places second in the men's Diamond Seniors 8-Ball category.

NEW YEAR'S

From page 1C

Our defense was the key.” You Don't Want It's Courtney Osceola, who scored 2 points in the women's final, said she thought her team was going to win it all. “We weren't crashing the boards enough,” she said. “They (Lady Ballers) were getting wide open layups in the second half and we didn't get the stops. That's how we lost the game.”

Lady Ballers, who defeated Young Legends (0-2 final record; fourth place overall) and You Don't Want It (2-2 final record; tournament runners-up) in the preliminary rounds, was down by as much as 6 points in the first half, when You Don't Want It's Pearl Kelewood (13 points total – all in the first half) sank one of her two 3-pointers to give You Don't Want It an 8-2 lead with 9:57 left.

You Don't Want It, who defeated Hollywood Seminole (1-2 final record; third place overall), seemed to be well on its way to avenging its preliminary round loss to Lady Ballers, thanks to an array of shots made by Kristen Billie (3 points – all in the first half) and Sadie In The Woods (4 points – all in the first half).

Robinson offered his take on how both the women's and men's final – plus all the games prior to that – turned out.

“It was very exciting down to the last second – literally,” Robinson said. “It was a really good one. We're definitely going to have another one this time next year. Let's make it happen for them.”



Naji Tobias

The Lady Ballers claimed the New Year's Tournament ladies championship thanks to a 28-23 comeback over You Don't Want It.



Naji Tobias

Nothing Fancy completed its improbable run to the men's title in the first-ever Big Cypress New Year's Basketball Tournament on Jan. 7.

BASKETBALL

From page 1C

Pierce, who has averaged 16 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks per game, said he loves playing with Jones for Okeechobee. “It feels good to be playing with him,” Pierce said. “We grew up together since we were little. Not too many are still around.”

Hays spoke highly of Pierce as a ball player. “Trewston, for being a freshman, is far more mature than most kids in his grade,” Hays said of Pierce, who would like to play college basketball for Duke University. “He's very athletic and he has a dominating presence on the court. A lot of nights, he is our best player on the court.”

Pierce, who was recently named MaxPreps.com's Player of the Week, said he wants to become the best player in his district by the time he's a senior.

Jones, meanwhile, hopes his efforts on the court can eventually land him an opportunity to play college basketball for Florida State University.

Both Pierce and Jones said they are happy with their development as basketball players. “It's good to see both of them playing together,” said Claudia Gore, Pierce's mother. “I was really excited for Trewston and Phillip in the Moore Haven game. If they continue to leave it all out on the court, then they'll have a chance at playing college basketball. I would love to see that happen for them.”



Naji Tobias

Brighton Tribal athlete Trewston Pierce leads the Okeechobee Brahman's varsity basketball team with 16 points per game for the season, as of the Jan. 4 game against Moore Haven.

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Looking Back on 2011 D



Photo courtesy of Allison O'Brien Photography

Seminole Tribe of Florida President Tony Sanchez Jr. meets with U.S. President Barack Obama during a fundraising dinner in August in Washington, D.C.



Rachel Buxton

Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr., left, and former Pemaaytv Emahakv principal Russell Brown do the honors of throwing the first ball at the Charter School's Lady Seminoles' inaugural season home softball game against Glades Day, held on the Brighton Reservation Feb. 22.



Brett Daly

The 3-year-old class performs their Reindeer Dance for family members at the Hollywood Preschool Christmas Play on Dec. 15.



Chris C. Jenkins

Chairman James E. Billie celebrates with Junior Miss Florida Seminole Jaryaca Baker, left, and Miss Florida Seminole Jewel Buck at the Miss Florida Seminole Princess Pageant.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress' Daisy Jumper celebrates her win in the ladder toss competition at the Senior Trike Fest on Nov. 3. Big Cypress won its first-ever Trike Fest crown.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal officials from the Council and Board gather with Florida Gov. Rick Scott in the Tribal Headquarters lobby in Hollywood on May 18. Gov. Scott visited the Hollywood Reservation on a guided tour of several Tribal facilities led by Max B. Osceola Jr.



Naji Tobias

From left: Elders Mary Robbins, Virginia Mitchell and Violet Jim celebrate their wins at the Big Cypress Seniors Easter Bonnet Contest on April 13.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee preschoolers are assisted by Tribal leaders during the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at their new school. The Immokalee Community achieved one of its most important goals on Sept. 12 with the Grand Opening of its long-awaited Preschool and Community Center.



Rachel Buxton

Larry Howard stands by his son, Takoda Howard, during the clothing contest at the 73rd annual Brighton Field Day and Rodeo in February.



Chris C. Jenkins

Newly elected Chairman James E. Billie and Board and Council Representatives gather at the 2011 Tribal Inauguration on June 6 after being sworn in to their new positions with the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



Chris C. Jenkins

First place medal winners Hope-Tommie Fly Girls are all smiles after winning the Pass the Apple competition at the second annual Family Fun Day/Family Olympics held on the Fort Pierce Reservation on March 26 at the Chupco Youth Ranch.



Chris C. Jenkins

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



Rachel Buxton

A member of the Haskell PowWow Dance group performs a traditional stomp dance for the crowd at the 73rd annual Brighton Field Day and Rodeo in February.



Naji Tobias

The 11th annual Rez Rally starts out with foggy conditions, with scores of participants ready to run the 5K course down Seminole Crossing Trail in Immokalee on Feb. 5.



Chris C. Jenkins

Newly elected Trail Reservation Liaison Norman Huggins, second from right, is with family members and supporters as part of the Huggins appreciation dinner in celebration of his first term as an elected official on the Huggins camp grounds on the Trail Reservation Aug. 11.



Brett Daly

Tribal youngsters Zaiden Frank and Levi Phillips participate in the clothing contest for Trail's first Indian Day celebration in September.



Chris C. Jenkins

Asian small-clawed baby male and female sibling otters make their home at Okalee Indian Village on May 25. Wildlife supervisor Giselle Hosein released them into their new habitat.



Rachel Buxton

James Holt performs one of the many alligator tricks for the audience at 73rd annual Brighton Field Day and Rodeo, which shared culture with Seminoles and tourists in February.



Judy Weeks

At Big Cypress' First Baptist Church Licensing Service, from left, Pastor Bruce Pratt presents new preachers Fred Phillips, Josh Jumper and Alphonso Tigertail with the literary tools that will assist them in spreading the Gospel on Jan. 30. A packed house witnessed the service.



Rachel Buxton

Tawni Cypress proudly salutes, showing off her three medals for the vault, floor and all-around. For the first time, the Seminole Pride gymnastics team competed in the Gasparilla Classic on March 27 at Tropicana Fields in St. Petersburg.



Judy Weeks

From left, Marissa Osceola participates in the Music Beat Jam Session, listening as George Colyer picks out a melody on his guitar to accompany Gabriel "Gabe the Babe" Mejia on the didgeridoo in the Juanita Osceola Center's new music room. The new, larger music room was opened on Feb. 7 to accommodate an increase in music participation.



Naji Tobias

Native Premonitions fishing group compete against a large field of angling teams in the Yamaha Pro Tour on April 29-30 in Sarasota. From left, James Stecki; captain Leon Wilcox; James 'Big Chief' Hammonds; and Alan McPherson are docked at Sara Bay Marina. Team sponsors were the Seminole Tribe, Seminole Media Productions and Best Buy.



Naji Tobias

About 40 Natives from across the United States, including Oklahoma, New York, Georgia and Alaska, and Japan spend March 11-13 at Big Cypress' Billie Swamp Safari for the 12th annual Flute Retreat. Participants enjoyed peace and tranquility playing their instruments.



Chris C. Jenkins

Keynote guest speaker and former FSU football great William Floyd, second from right, joins Seminole Sports Hall of Fame inductees, from left, Rudy Osceola, Howard Tommie and Andrew J. Bowers Jr. as part of induction ceremonies held at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium on May 23. The late Jack Mason Osceola, former football star, was also inducted.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal musical duo Zach and Spencer Battiest celebrate the release of their debut music single *The Storm* with a packed house at the Listening Party at Hollywood's Seminole Star Search Theater on March 10. They went on to win Best Music Video of 2011 at the 36th annual American Indian Film Festival.



Chris C. Jenkins

Eddie Caminero takes a swing against opponent Denis Grachev in early round action of their title bout. Tribal-owned Panther Promotions Boxing was developed by Tribal citizen Elliot Alvarado and partner Benny Collins. Panther Promotions made its debut at Hard Rock Live on July 9.



Courtesy of QuickShotPhoto.com

Leanna Billie won two golf buckles in the Ladies Breakaway Roping at the 2011 Indian National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas on Nov. 8-12.



Naji Tobias

Members of the Ahfachkee Warriors athletic program, the Tribe's first-ever athletic entity, get a standing ovation from a crowd of more than 80,000 people during first half of Florida State University-Charleston Southern football game. FSU mascots Osceola and horse Renegade accompanied them on the field at Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee on Sept. 10.



Rachel Buxton

Tribal Council along with Styx's Tommy Shaw, far left, and *NSYNC's Joey Fatone, far right, line up for the infamous Hard Rock guitar smashing at the Tampa Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Jan. 12. The Seminole Tribe, celebrity guests and Hard Rock enthusiasts opened the doors to the new Hard Rock Café for its Grand Opening.



Chris C. Jenkins

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Hollywood Reservation on June 28, the oldest surviving member of the Big Town Clan, Tribal elder Minnie Doctor, shares her memories on the Hollywood Reservation.



Chris C. Jenkins

American Heritage running back Neko Osceola helps lead his junior varsity high school football team to a 20-9 comeback win in a home game against Miami's Columbus Patriots on Oct. 12.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal Education staff and Youth Council gather for the inaugural, all-reservations Youth Council Workshop held April 20-21. The new Unity Native American Youth Council was organized through the Tribal Education Department for ages 15-24 to promote leadership and future leaders within the Tribe through community and socially-sponsored activities.



Chris C. Jenkins

Patrons stand in line at one of 20 varieties of food trucks during the Miami Food Truck Rally/Movie Night at the Hard Rock Seminole Paradise valet parking lot on June 16. The new tradition in entertainment has been a hit since it was introduced by Tribal citizen Jimmie 'Jimbo' Osceola.



Naji Tobias

Hollywood Tribal citizen Ollie Tiger displays her Harley Davidson Track UltraClassic motorcycle at the inaugural Swamp Screamers Motorcycle Ride/Bike Show. The event was held on Nov. 12 and raised money to protect the endangered Florida panther.



Chris C. Jenkins

Miss Florida Seminole Princess Cassandra Jimmie, center, competes in Miss Indian World 2011, a five-day competition in Albuquerque, N.M., as part of the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow in late April.