



# The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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## Fort Pierce community center to rise

### Residents gather to launch long-awaited construction

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**FORT PIERCE** — Three years ago Tribe officials put shovels in the dirt at Chupco Landing and broke ground on the proposed Fort Pierce Community Hope Center. After 35 months of near inactivity, “hope” was restored when a bulldozer ceremoniously roared onto the job site to officially launch construction.

About 30 residents and Tribal leaders gathered for the Sept. 20 event dubbed Chupco Landing “Moving Forward.” Construction on the 17,000-square-foot building will likely begin in four to six weeks.

Sally Tommie, a mover and shaker in 2008 when she served as the Fort Pierce Liaison, said leaders on each reservation were then directed to come up with a list of “needs and wants.” At Fort Pierce, the most obvious need was a community center because meetings and functions were being held in tents or in the ballrooms of local hotels.

Plans for a two-story, environmentally friendly, LEED-certified facility to house Tribal departments and a second-floor gymnasium were first stalled because of cost concerns. Later, after a 2010 groundbreaking at the lakeside site, the plan was again placed on the back burner in the midst of administrative turnover.

Hollywood Council special assistant Alexander Tommie, who lives primarily in the Fort Pierce community, said the time to get the job done has finally arrived.

“We’ve been waiting and waiting and now it’s coming to pass. It’s actually pretty awesome,” Alexander Tommie said.

Sally Tommie credits Hollywood Councilman Chris Osceola, who also represents Fort Pierce, for getting the project moving again.

“When I was elected, my goal was to have the building done by the time my term is over,” Councilman Osceola said at the “Moving Forward” ceremony. “I’m lucky as a Councilman to have walked in when the stars were aligned and be able to hit the ground running.”



Tribe officials and relatives of the late Jack Tommie and Sallie Chupco, whose family members make up most of the residents of the Fort Pierce community, stand proud Sept. 20 during a celebration at the site that will soon house the reservation’s long-awaited community center.

Project manager David Lowery, who heads Seminole-Stiles Development and Construction, said the facility will be completed by September 2014 – just in time to host Indian Day festivities. The building was designed by Mario Cartaya, of Cartaya & Associates Architects.

Though plans have been scaled down to a one-story, non-LEED building, the community center is still environmentally

friendly, Cartaya said. Every room, including the gymnasium, will feature windows to allow plenty of natural light. The partially screened swimming pool will be heated by the sun.

The facility will house a clinic, fitness center, gym with basketball and volleyball courts and retractable bleachers, as well as department offices and classrooms for Family Services, Administration, Police,

Housing, Culture and Education.

Also included are two conference rooms, a full kitchen, concessions and dining areas.

“Right now we have a lot of our services out of different locations and have to travel around from place to place,” Alexander Tommie said.

♦ See FORT PIERCE on page 4A

## It’s grow time on Big Cypress Reservation

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Heavy equipment and men in hard hats will be part of the scenery on the Big Cypress Reservation during the next several years as the community blooms under major construction projects.

“We are improving . . . at the same time we’re protecting the wildlife and our way of life,” said Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger.

Already underway are enhancements to the hunting and wildlife recreation area that includes a new restroom building, a shade pavilion and an outdoor shooting range built to National Rifle Association requirements. And just wrapping up is a monumental makeover at Billie Johns Sr. Ball Field, \$1.3 million for a new social services emergency shelter and \$3.6 million for townhomes.

At the Sept. 13 Council meeting, Tribe officials approved funding for a handful of other Big Cypress construction projects: \$558,000 for a golf practice range, \$1.5 million for renovations to Billie Johns Sr. Ball Field, \$1.3 million for a new social services emergency shelter and \$3.6 million for townhomes.

♦ See CONSTRUCTION on page 4A

## Florida bans texting while driving

BY RACHEL BUXTON  
Freelance Writer

Starting Oct. 1 texting while driving will be illegal for the more than 14 million licensed drivers in Florida thanks to a new state law.

“This law will save lives,” said Seminole Police Department Police Chief William Latchford. “Banning texting will force drivers to stay focused on the road.”

Florida lawmakers tried for nearly five years to ban texting but were continuously blocked by Republican House leaders. It wasn’t until new House Speaker Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) showed his support this year that the bill (SB 52) finally made its way to Gov. Rick Scott’s desk.

Scott signed the bill into law May 28 in Miami, making Florida the 41st state to ban text messaging while driving.

Each year more than 200,000 crashes nationwide involve drivers who are texting, according to the National Safety Council. In Florida alone, texting contributed to at least 189 collisions in 2012. However, many text-related crashes go unreported.

♦ See TEXTING on page 4A

## Seminole Color Guard opens job fair for vets

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**PLANTATION** — A job fair to help military veterans get back on their feet offered an uplifting beat to a solemn day in American history. The Putting America Back to Work career fair, held in Plantation on Sept. 11, was officially opened with the

presentation of the colors by the Seminole Tribe Color Guard. It honored American veterans and showcased the Seminole Color Guard.

Comprised entirely of military veterans, the Seminole Color Guard formed in the late 1980s so the Tribe would have its own group leading grand entries at annual Tribal Fairs and pow-wows. Nearly three

decades later, the group is sought out to present the colors at Tribal and non-Tribal events throughout the country, including a Memorial Day event at Arlington National Cemetery in 2012.

The color guard is always made up of military veterans; the first group included Tribal members Mitchell Cypress, Paul Bowers Sr., David Billy and Stephen

Bowers. Today, the group consists of Stephen Bowers, Theodore Nelson Sr., David Nunez, Patrick Dunne, Abraham Sternberg and Curtis Motlow.

“Our mission is to demonstrate that the Seminole Tribe of Florida had service men in all branches of the U.S. armed forces,” said founding member Stephen Bowers. “We have veterans who have served their country and seen combat. We are the Unconquered, but at the same time we’ve sent our men overseas to preserve the American and Indian way of life.”

When the men of the color guard enter a room, they are dressed in uniforms of camouflage fabric shirts adorned with strips of Seminole red, yellow, black and white, beaded vests, black fatigues, boots, berets and colorful medicine sashes tied to their utility belts. After they march the flags to the front of a room, they stand at attention and hold the Seminole Tribe of Florida, U.S., state of Florida and the POW/MIA flags high. When the U.S. national anthem plays, the state flag is dipped out of respect, but the Tribe’s flag is held upright.

“We hold it high because we are a nation, too,” Bowers explained. “It demonstrates our sovereignty. Presenting the colors means we are alive and proud of our heritage.”

Motlow, the latest addition to the color guard, grew up in Oklahoma far from his Seminole roots. His mother is Seminole; his father, Choctaw. He moved back to Hollywood in October 2012 and has been getting to know the Tribe and its culture.

“I’ve learned we are a very self-sufficient people and are deep into our culture,” Motlow said. “That was missing in my life; I didn’t know where I was from. This has given me a chance to get to know my Tribe. Being part of the color guard has been an uplifting experience.”

Motlow served in the Navy for three years in Italy, France and Cuba during peacetime in the 1990s. His father, Joseph Roberts, was a Navy man, so he joined, too.

♦ See COLOR GUARD on page 4A

## Senate Gaming Committee study to be discussed

Four public workshops will be hosted this fall by the Florida Senate Gaming Committee to update citizens and gather responses about findings of the recently published gaming study commissioned by the Florida State Legislature.

The report is available to the public at [www.leg.state.fl.us/GamingStudy/](http://www.leg.state.fl.us/GamingStudy/).

In a statement to the press released by the Senate President Office on Sept. 6, Sen. Garrett Richter (R-Naples), who chairs the committee, said the two-part gaming study gives a factual foundation for accessing the economic and social impacts of potential changes in Florida’s gaming environment.

“The public hearings will provide a valuable opportunity for committee members to hear local and personal perspectives,” Richter said in the release.

The first report, 1A, consists of general existing data and research summaries about gambling nationally and as it pertains to Florida. For instance, in 2012 Florida’s gaming establishments directly filled 15,748 jobs and supported another 10,063 jobs.

♦ See GAMING on page 2A



Beverly Bidney

The Seminole Color Guard opens the Putting America Back to Work career fair at the Sheraton in Plantation on Sept. 11. From left are Curtis Motlow, Stephen Bowers, Vietnam veteran Abraham Sternberg and Seminole Police Department Sgt. Carl LeBlanc.



# Editorial

## Budget: A pain in the hookchee

• James E. Billie

Tribal Council is now going through its yearly budgeting process. It's a pain in the hookchee but it is necessary for our government operations.

The humor of it all is when an individual Tribal member overhears an in-house discussion or a debate on some program that we should get rid of or keep. The Tribal member will go spread the wrong information and cause confusion in our community.

If these people could wait until the final outcome, it would probably give the Councilmen less headaches. Of course, if the person has political aspirations driving them to cause this ruckus, I say, "Have at it!"

It only gives Tribal officials a little more challenge in performing our duties.

While other governments and businesses may be having some difficulty going through this recession, up to now, we are doing very well.

I believe this year our Council and Board are going to bring in new business onto our reservations which will increase our revenues even more.

We have gone through all types of obstacles. And we have prevailed to become one of the most respected Tribes.

*Sho-naa-bish.*

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



## You can bank on this bank

• Tony Sanchez Jr.

These are exciting days around the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. We just signed a letter of intent to acquire and wholly own a bank – not just having our name on it, but wholly owning our own Seminole Tribal bank. The portfolio of the Tribe will be more diversified with this venture and we are right now in the process of engaging a CPA firm to perform due diligence. We hope to have everything completed by late December. Though, with the holidays, that may stretch out shortly past the beginning of the year.

This national charter bank is called Valley Bank. You've probably seen one. There are four branches around South Florida, including the main branch in Tamarac, and others in Fort Lauderdale, Davie and Hollywood. We are excited about that.

People may ask: "Why are we acquiring a bank?"

Well, when you take a look at the needs of not only the Tribe but the Tribal members and the rates they are paying to outside banks, it is easy to understand. Even though those loans are guaranteed by their per capita dividends, they are charged outrageous interest rates. We hope to attract Tribal members to bring their loans to our bank, which will operate under a Board umbrella that will look much more favorable on Tribal member financial matters. We hope this bank can be the institution, the mechanism that processes all those loans, as well as handle other Tribal financial needs.

Tribal members will have a trusted resource immediately available to them whether they want to build a house, buy a car, take a vacation, whatever, but will be extended favorable terms. Again, this is kind of what I've been saying all along: If you are going to pay anybody, pay yourself. If you take a look at the banking fees these banks collect, well, yeah, they really like doing business with us.

And there is another reason they like Seminole business. We pay our bills.

We will operate like any other bank. We will do business with non-Tribal persons, will be FDIC insured, will abide by all banking regulations. We are looking at everything, including the advantages we have at our disposal. Believe me, we are not going to acquire a bank and then break the regulations. We will follow the Bank Secrecy Act, the Homeland Security Act and the Patriot Act regulations, cognizant of the great changes to global financial systems since 9/11.

With this great enterprise under our wings, we will not only do business with ourselves but take it beyond that, opening more branches across the country; we are going after a federally chartered bank. Our unique status as a sovereign entity owning a bank will position us as not only the lending institution for all Seminole Tribe projects but also for Tribal projects and the support of Tribal enterprise across the country.

If Miccosukee (or any other Tribe) wants to build a school, water treatment center, road, bridge, whatever, they have to go out and obtain loans from some institution. We want to be that institution. We want to take advantage of Bureau of Indian Affairs guaranteed loans, the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Section 184 Indian Home Loan Guarantee Program and all the initiatives established for Indian people and businesses.

We've been told there are but 21 banks in all of Indian Country; a number of them are joint ventures with partners. But our bank will be wholly owned and operated by the Seminole Tribe. We have talked to representatives of banking Tribes, and they have given us very positive feedback, fully recommending we go forward and acquire a bank.

So we are excited about the possibilities. Again, it's leveraging our

sovereignty, leveraging our tax-exempt status and positioning this business venture to conduct business coast to coast. We have been dealing with Wells Fargo and a few other institutions, but Tribal members will now have the opportunity to deal with, basically, themselves. This way, if we are successful with this venture – and I know we will be – it is going to benefit everyone.

Some folks sought services from various local banks, like Indiantown Bank. Others didn't have the credit to go anywhere. A lot of people have been just getting loans from the Council for some time. They were basically signing their life away.

When this bank comes onto the scene, we hope Council will want to get out of the loan business. In the time I've been on Council I've seen all sorts of business loans and home loans and you know what? That affects the cash flow, the projects the Tribal Council wants to fund. It gets in the way. Council is not a bank.

Hopefully, business loans currently given out by the Tribe are for sound economic principles and not political considerations. With the new bank, that possibility is taken right off the table. It limits the favoritism and politics. There may be lots of loans that go out right before an election. Now people who want to go into business and want to put a little more thought into it will create an actual business plan. It will enable Tribal members to become better business people because they will know what to expect other than, "Every two years I'm going to get an extra loan out of the Rep. right before the election."

When the Tribe started overhauling the cattle program a couple years ago, Big Cypress Rep. Joe Frank said we took this position: "The government has kept Seminoles in the cattle business for 60 or 70 years trying to teach us to be cattle raisers and they did a great job. We have one of the best herds in the country. But they never spent any time teaching Tribal members how to become businessmen."

So for the last two years, that's what we have been trying to do. We got some help from Council to slowly evolve to where the cattle owners are going to be businessmen operating their herds as a business within a couple years. Hopefully this bank will give us the opportunity to work with Tribal members who have sound business plans to enable them, and maybe to shave some of the politics out of it.

Individuals must, however, understand how to reduce their taxes at the end of the year by being structured as a business. Because when you add per capita and cattle sales checks together, you find yourself in a different tax bracket. Business expenses – to write off against your cattle check – help a lot. Our new bank will continue that education, making the cattle program, or any Tribal enterprise, stronger.

Now a bank is not just about processing loans; it is also about being in a strategic position to implement financial literacy that can and will help individuals, not only just the seasoned entrepreneur but also those individuals seeking to build their first home. Understand, don't overextend yourself and that will be part of that financial literacy education.

We are talking about educating our young people right off the bat, trying to prevent – you know when they turn 18 and run right out to the Lexus dealer or the Cadillac dealer or Corvette dealer and then can't get a home loan after that because they are so young and their car payments are probably \$3,000 a month and their insurance is certainly that much or more with a car like that.

Now we will tell them, you turn 18, you come with us – to "your" bank – and we will structure you something. We want to take on that portion of financial literacy where the education process is much longer and not, "Hey look, you are about to turn 18 and you got to spend, what is it, three

days or a weekend to satisfy the financial literacy requirement." That's not enough. We want to start the process much earlier so that when they do become 18, they will be in a much better position to deal with their money.

We'll have to have two programs: One for those who are still in school, and another for those who are out. Even though you are 18 or 19 years old, it is still not too late to get yourself educated about money. But we definitely want to start teaching much, much sooner.

That has been the thought process here. Helping Tribal members help themselves.

Can you imagine the things we could teach kids in grade school: You are part owner of this bank. This is how a bank operates. This is how a checkbook works. This is how to use balance sheets to balance that check book.

Truthfully, when we started talking about a bank, it wasn't just all financial. It was also to help Tribal members become more knowledgeable by being financially independent. We had a Tribal system that for years taught us not to be financially independent. In fact, it became an enabling system.

We can sit here all day long and talk about what we didn't teach or we didn't do. Well you know what? No more talking. We are going to move forward and achieve this business venture.

People may say, "Why is the Tribe trying this again? It didn't work the first time."

We have never tried it before. The venture in the mid-1980s was only using our name. The bank was owned by outside interests. This is a common misbelief; it should not be used to judge our current venture.

I realize change always has an element of fear to it. It's just a new procedure that has to be learned. We want Tribal members to have a level of comfort. You can go do business with Chase, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, any bank out there, and you will find our bank will operate the same way. Your deposits will be FDIC insured.

It will change our Tribal infrastructure. Existing Tribal programs that are in the lending business will be incorporated into this. I like the idea of small branch offices being opened on Big Cypress and Brighton where check cashing is relatively non-existent. I am sure the business owners in those communities would like to see that. It will mean more money staying right there, circulating right on the reservation, supporting the economy.

When I was at the Immokalee Casino I was always ready for the influx from the first of the month through the 15th. People cashing their checks. But where else were they going to go? All sorts of situations would come up that would not work in a conventional bank. Son and daughter would bring grandma's check in because she was confined to the house. I'd get a call and have to come down to vouch for them.

We're excited about bringing that sort of personalized service to the organized, regulated financial services of a real bank. This will expand the Tribal portfolio and assist Seminole Tribal members in their financial security. That is the most exciting part for me as an elected public official – we are recognizing that there is an individual Tribal need and bringing in a mechanism that will allow us to address those needs.

*Sho-naa-bish.*

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



## Coconut Creek Casino a good neighbor

• Jim Shore

Recent news reports have referenced expansion plans for the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek, with some in the community fearful of potential negative impacts.

This is much ado about nothing. The casino doubled in size a little more than a year ago as part of a \$150-million expansion that also included a new entertainment venue, multiple restaurants and lounges, retail shops, a new poker room and a 2,400-space parking garage, all set within an updated exterior design that is part of the property's ongoing beautification program.

While the casino is experiencing good growth and strong customer response, the Seminole Tribe has no plans to move ahead with more construction. It will take time for the market to catch up with the latest expansion and the economy is only slowly gaining ground.

The growth plans in the news date to 2006, when at the request of the city of Coconut Creek and other governments, the Seminole Tribe began putting together a master plan for the largest possible development of the site. City planners asked, "What could you do?" not "What will you do?" Big difference.

Their motives were to ensure a respectful design and to front-load all necessary mitigation to accommodate the ultimate development of the property. As a result, the Seminole Tribe has paid for the construction of millions of dollars of traffic improvements, including the six-lane widening of Sample Road between Florida's Turnpike and U.S. 441, construction of a westbound thru lane at U.S. 441 and Wiles Road, as well as the installation of new traffic signals.

As part of that master plan review process, major project approvals have already been obtained from the city of Coconut Creek, Broward County and the state of Florida. Local and federal governments have also undertaken comprehensive reviews of the project's potential environmental impact, detailed in a lengthy environmental impact statement.

At the federal level, the Seminole Tribe has petitioned the U.S. Department of the Interior to take 47 acres of Coconut Creek land that the Tribe already owns into trust. The additional land is adjacent to the Tribe's existing trust land, where the Tribe operates a casino. Part of that additional land contains the parking garage and other

surface parking lots, which would also be available for use by future nearby retail developments in Coconut Creek.

Like existing Seminole reservations, the land will be held in trust for use by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The Tribe wants to manage all of its Coconut Creek property as one unit. It also seeks the sovereign right to economic independence and the self-governing of its land. This is not about expanding the casino. In fact, no gaming will take place on any of the additional trust land.

Although the Tribe's land to trust application has been subjected to a rigorous multiyear review process, some in Palm Beach County are pushing for yet another review of the Seminole Tribe's trust application. They are pointing to the threat of increased traffic, despite the fact the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek is more than 4 miles from the border of Palm Beach County and traffic studies indicate that vehicles heading to and from the casino account for less than 1 percent of the traffic capacity of any Palm Beach County roadway.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is proud of its positive relationship with the city of Coconut Creek, where the casino complex serves as an anchor for additional upscale commercial real estate development. And where it has generated nearly 800 new jobs over the past two years, boosting the economies of Coconut Creek and other communities that surround the casino. More than 1,700 people work at the Seminole Casino Coconut Creek, part of the 10,000-plus people who work at Seminole casinos around the state and continue to grow our economy.

The Seminole Tribe is responsible for billions of dollars in economic impact to Florida. Further, since 2008, the Tribe has paid the state of Florida more than \$842 million in return for the state limiting the further expansion of gaming.

The Seminoles have been part of Florida for centuries and share its history. Our history working with the city of Coconut Creek is much more recent, but we have already made major contributions to improving infrastructure, have built a solid track record of cooperating with local government and have pledged to always be good neighbors.

Jim Shore is General Counsel of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. This column originally appeared in the Sun-Sentinel.

### ♦ GAMING From page 1A

When factoring in lottery ticket sales, the industry was responsible for 55,648 jobs, 14,269 indirect jobs and 19,025 ancillary jobs.

In Florida, there are eight Indian casinos (seven Seminole and one Miccosukee), one state lottery which is

the nation's second largest, 27 pari-mutuel facilities and many locally regulated bingo halls. Last year, according to the report, Seminole Gaming generated \$1.96 billion in gross gambling revenue (GGR).

Part 1B describes potential changes and economic effects.

The second part of the report explains the statistical relationships between gaming and communities as it exists in Florida now, including Indian casinos.

A detailed table of contents allows readers to easily navigate the report.

Senate President Don Gaetz (R-Niceville) said Seminole Casinos, the Florida Lottery and gaming at licensed pari-mutuel facilities contribute greatly to the economy but gaming regulations have only been "amended piecemeal over decades."

"The Gaming Committee is charged with conducting a thorough review and

recommending a comprehensive policy on how gaming fits into the broader Florida economy," Gaetz said in the press release.

Public meeting schedule:  
• Oct. 23, 4 to 7 p.m., Broward College, North Campus, OMNI Auditorium, 1000 Coconut Creek Blvd., Coconut Creek  
• Oct. 30, 3 to 6 p.m., George Jenkins High School, 6000 Lakeland Highlands

Rd., Lakeland  
• Nov. 14, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., WSRE-TV, Jean & Paul Amos Performing Studio, 1000 College Blvd., Pensacola  
• Nov. 15, 2 to 5 p.m., Florida State College at Jacksonville Downtown Campus, Advanced Technology Center, 101 W. State St., Jacksonville.

– Staff Report

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# Community

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Beverly Bidney

The Tribe films a promotional video for the Seminole Unconquered electronic cigarette vending machines, which shows smoking e-cigarettes is allowed anywhere.

## Seminole electronic cigarettes sales heat up

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

The Seminole Unconquered electronic cigarette business is continuing to expand thanks to its online presence, placement in local stores, marketing campaign and new director. Since Thomasine Motlow was appointed e-cigarette director in January, sales have increased consistently every month.

"Summer is the slowest time for retail, but our sales have been steady," said Motlow, former general manager of the Hollywood Trading Post and Smoke Shops Tribalwide. "Sales have gone from \$12,000 to \$37,000 (per month) and we get more and more every month."

The Seminole Unconquered brand is in the midst of online growth, with an increasing amount of orders placed on its website every day. Orders come from all over the U.S. and abroad, including Hawaii, California, New York, Texas, Maine and military bases in Europe. Motlow usually throws in free samples for orders from troops.

The orders are filled at the brand's warehouse on the Hollywood Reservation.

The Seminole e-cigarettes are also available in more than 100 convenience stores in Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties and will soon be available in vending machines at the Seminole Hard Rock Casinos throughout Florida.

The state-of-the-art machines, which made their debut at the Global Gaming Expo (G2E) in Las Vegas in late September, require customers to swipe an ID to verify their age before purchasing products. The machines include a video screen showing people using the e-cigarettes in

non-smoking locales, such as restaurants, casinos and shopping malls.

"It shows you can smoke these anywhere," Motlow said. "There's no smoke, only vapor."

The Board has been busy promoting the e-cigarettes at trade shows around the country and with national retailers and casinos.

Three Tribes, the Swinomish and Muckleshoot Tribes in Washington and the Ho-Chunk Nation in Nebraska, already sell the electronic cigarettes in stores on their reservations. The Shinnecock Nation in New York is lined up to be the next Tribe to order the product for their stores.

A marketing campaign – about to launch – will increase awareness of the brand. Ads will run on three South Florida radio stations, billboards throughout Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties and a fleet of trucks wrapped in the Seminole Unconquered logo.

"We need to market the product for people to get to know it," Motlow said. "The trucks are like moving billboards; we want the public to see the product everywhere."

Motlow knows their brand is competing with national brands armed with huge advertising budgets and celebrity spokesmen and spokeswomen. Blu Electronic Cigarettes, for example, spent \$12.4 million on marketing in the first quarter of 2013, according to the Kantar Media unit of WPP, a global marketing communication company.

"We would love to have commercials and full-page ads in top magazines," Motlow said. "If only Johnny Depp would just try them."

The industry is booming in part

because of the lack of federal regulation on e-cigarettes. Sales are expected to reach \$1 billion this year; about 250 startup brands and traditional tobacco companies are vying for the same customer.

But the boom times may come to an end in the future. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has indicated it will announce proposed regulations on e-cigarettes as a tobacco product in October. Possible rules could include a ban of online sales, limits on advertising outlets and enactment of a legal age limit to purchase the products. However, the FDA will likely consider public comments for 12 to 18 months before implementing any regulations, giving companies more time to grow a loyal customer base.

Seminole Unconquered is working to grow and has sales consultants in the field to attract more business locally, regionally and nationally. The Tribe is also in talks with Circle K stores and Costco. Motlow knows to get the business they need to talk to the right people. To that end, members of the Board and Motlow will be taking meetings in Los Angeles.

The next hurdle will be to conquer the international market and all its obstacles; Canada doesn't allow tobacco products to be shipped into the country, and European countries won't let batteries or liquids used to create the vapor past customs. South America may prove a little easier. Stores in Colombia and Venezuela want the e-cigarettes so the Tribe may have them sent directly from the manufacturing plant in China.

"We want our brand to be known," Motlow said. "When you see that logo, we want people to know it's Seminole Unconquered e-cigarettes."

## Oneva Baxley retires after 25 years

BY ANDREA HOLATA  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — After 25 years of working for the Tribe, Oneva Baxley retired from the Culture Department. To honor her dedication to the community, her

friends, family, co-workers and preschool class gathered on Aug. 26 at the Brighton Culture Center to say farewell.

The Pemahtevt Emahaky Charter School preschool students recited numbers in Creek to show their "grandma" how much they learned from her. Then, head

teacher Nicola Dixon, who worked closely with Baxley over the last few years, talked about the great impact she had on her.

"I am going to miss you," Dixon said. "I learned so much Creek working with you."

Baxley began working for the Tribe as a receptionist for the Cattle and Range Department and later performed several other jobs within the department.

A devoted family woman, she chose to quit her full-time job and take on a new role.

After 13 years of working with Cattle and Range, Baxley took a part-time job in the Culture program, working with preschoolers as a language instructor. She spent a couple years teaching Creek to 3-year-olds and ended her tenure with the 4-year-old class.

After 12 years of teaching preschoolers and a few life changing events, including becoming a first-time grandmother, Baxley decided it was time to move on to devote more time to her family.

Doting over her grandchild, Baxley showed pictures and talked about her retirement plans.

"I want to spend more time with (the) grandbaby," she said.

Baxley received several gifts at the event, including a Seminole dress made by the Culture staff and a photo album filled with pictures of her working with the preschoolers throughout the years.



Andrea Holata

Oneva Baxley, center, poses for a picture with her 4-year-old class one last time before retiring.

## Bigger, better stop 'n go

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**ALLIGATOR ALLEY** — You're hungry, you're thirsty, you need to stretch or you really "gotta go" on that long drive across Alligator Alley between Weston and Naples.

Be advised: There is one less place to make a pit stop.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is in the process of constructing a bigger and better rest stop at mile marker 63, with fresher picnic pavilions, an inviting air-conditioned indoor space with vending machines chock full of drinks and snacks, new and more restrooms and a staffed public safety facility.

"The amount of traffic has so increased over time that not only is there a need to increase the size and function of the facility, but we also need to increase the wastewater treatment plant, too," said Jennifer Dorning, a public information officer for the project under the direction of FDOT.

The entire facility will be bulldozed and a new, environment-friendly rest area will be built in its place. The project will be LEED certified, which designates that it meets eco standards of the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design according to the U.S. Green Building Council.

Dorning said the \$8.8-million project will likely be finished in fall 2014. Meanwhile, the rest stop 37 miles east of Naples and 43 miles west of the I-75 toll plaza near Weston is closed.

Coming from the east, travelers will have the first chance at roadside amenities at the mile marker 34 rest stop in Broward County, about 11 miles west of the Weston toll plaza. Restrooms, snacks, water fountains, pet exercise areas and picnic tables are available there.

At about mile marker 49, off Snake Road, the Miccosukee Service Plaza offers the chance for relief, but if travelers don't stop there, they will have to wait approximately 52 miles more for food, gas and restrooms.

The I-75/Alligator Alley rest area project at mile marker 63 in Collier County will increase the number of restrooms from its original 30 to 44 – including four family size restrooms. The public safety complex will house up to six emergency personnel, including firefighters and paramedics from Collier County Emergency Management and will feature a helicopter port to decrease response time to emergency situations. Office space will be available for Florida Highway Patrol and Collier County Sheriff's Office.

Recreation access will also be improved. The site will offer parking for up to 15 cars and 25 trucks or trailers and two new trail openings into Big Cypress National Preserve. About 25,000 vehicles travel Alligator Alley every day, Dorning said.

"(The project) meets the needs of everyone – tourists, commuters and people who live there in the rural communities," she said.



Courtesy of Jennifer Dorning

An artist's rendering depicts truck and car parking under construction at the I-75/Alligator Alley rest area at mile marker 63.

## SPD, Fire Rescue honor fallen heroes from 9/11

BY AMANDA MURPHY  
Copy Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — For all Americans, Sept. 11 is a solemn day of remembrance. Memorials take place across the country to commemorate the thousands lost in the tragic attacks, hundreds of whom were firefighters and police officers. The Seminole Police Department and Fire Rescue Department came together to commemorate those fallen heroes, as they have every year since the attacks.

"For us, it brings back the level of sacrifice they (commit to) every day," said Fire Chief Donald DiPetrillo. "I think it's important that we take a moment and commemorate that."

The group of firefighters and police officers took several moments of silence –

one for each plane crash. Lined up in front of fire rescue trucks and police cars with two sets of uniforms in the middle representing the fallen, they each bowed their heads as *Amazing Grace* sounded.

"It's not about us," Chief DiPetrillo said. "It's about them."

Police Chief William Latchford sent out an email blast asking the Tribal community to join him in commemorating those lost and appreciating those who continue to devote their lives to protecting the community.

"Join me in acknowledging the enduring contributions of service each Seminole Police Officer and Seminole Firefighter has contributed to the safety of the Seminole Tribe of Florida members, guests and facilities, and let's recognize their commitment which remains constant," he wrote.



Amanda Murphy

The Seminole Police and Fire Rescue Departments join together to commemorate those lost in the Sept. 11 attacks, represented by two sets of fire rescue uniforms.

# American Indian Arts Celebration set for Nov. 1-2

BY AMANDA MURPHY  
Copy Editor

**BIG CYPRESS** — The American Indian Arts Celebration (AIAC), scheduled for Nov. 1-2, has a specific goal this year: highlight Seminole culture and show Tribal members the many ways the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum works to celebrate, preserve and revitalize it.

For that reason, this year's theme comes with more Seminole influence than in past years. Museum staff members Tara Chadwick and Everett Osceola said AIAC has transformed from a culture exchange among many different Tribes and nations to simply a generic music festival, lost on Seminole identity. The staff is working hard to make sure the 2013 celebration digs back to the roots of the culture exchange with a strong focus on the Seminole tradition.

"We want to reform the identity (of AIAC) so that it is grounded in the values of the Seminole people," said Chadwick, manager of visitor services and development at the Museum, who is also organizing the event.

The two-day festival will host live performers from all over Indian Country, from stomp dancers to singers and musicians. An Okalee Village wildlife show will enthrall audiences with exotic creatures and alligator wrestling. New this year is a fine arts section to display not only Seminole crafts but also pieces

of fine art like sculptures and paintings. Native vendors will sell everything from patchwork, dolls and jewelry to Indian tacos, burgers and frybread.

The first day of the festival is geared toward, but not limited to, school groups. There will be a heavy focus on education, and shows and activities will cater to younger audiences. The second day will be more family friendly, with a special event in the evening.

For the first time at AIAC, Tribal members will have the opportunity to test their creative filmmaking skills in the Golden Palm Seminole Film Festival. All Tribal members are invited to submit 3- to 5-minute films following the theme "A Day in the Life." Winners will be awarded in a red carpet event from 5-8 p.m. The deadline for entries is Oct. 22.

The Museum has also invited some special guests from the Seminole community in Red Bays, Andros Island, Henry Wallace, a master woodcarver, and Girtrude Gibson, a master basket weaver, will attend and share their Seminole ancestry.

The event takes place at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 1 and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 2. Admission is free for all Tribal members.

For more information, contact the Museum at 863-902-1113. Details are subject to change.

# Seminoles to re-create Polly Parker 'trail'

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**EGMONT KEY** — On Nov. 3 a boatload of Seminole Indians will leave the historic island of Egmont Key at the mouth of Tampa Bay and begin motoring toward Saint Mark's, 20 hours away, in a remembrance of heroine Polly Parker's famous trip on the Seminole Trail of Tears.

The sendoff from Egmont Key is at 4 p.m. at the site of a fort and stockade where Seminoles captured during the Second Seminole War were held before being shipped by steamer across the Gulf and up the Mississippi River to new homes in Oklahoma. The Egmont Key Alliance will be holding a Discover Egmont Key celebration all weekend and the often deserted island will welcome hundreds of visitors to tour the lighthouse, fort remains and brick streets of the once busy landmark.

Forty Parker descendants will leave Egmont Key on the Florida Fisherman, a 72-foot double-decker catamaran captained

by Mark Hubbard of Madeira Beach. They will leave from the same spot Parker and about the same number of Seminoles left in 1858. On that trip, the steamer stopped in Saint Mark's to refuel, and while the soldiers were loading wood onto the boat, Parker escaped. Running and hiding from a posse sent to kill or capture her, the young woman made it back to the Okeechobee area. Her progeny has included many of the Seminoles' leaders.

"The Seminole Tribe would be a totally different group had Polly been captured or killed or sent to Oklahoma," said Chairman James E. Billie.

For the Chairman, an underlying reason for the trip is to bring attention to serious erosion threatening to wash Egmont Key into the Gulf. Congress and the Department of the Interior have turned a cold shoulder toward the island's plight. Chairman Billie sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell requesting the island, including Seminole gravesites, be protected.

The expedition has grabbed the attention of many state agencies.

"This is Florida history," said Florida Parks Service director Donald Forgiore. "I am honored for the Florida State Parks Service to be involved. We have always had a great relationship with Chief Billie and the Seminole Tribe."

The city of Saint Mark's will present a welcoming party for the Seminole travelers when they arrive on Nov. 4. Parker descendants unable to take the boat ride will be bused to Saint Mark's to join the others for the rest of the journey. The group will then travel by bus to Tallahassee for the night.

The next morning Rachel Porter, of Viva Florida 500, will join Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner and Museum of Florida History director Jeana Brunson in hosting a breakfast and tours of the museum and the Mission San Luis de Apalachee, which sports a new Council house made from palmetto leaves donated by the Seminole Tribe.

## ◆ FORT PIERCE From page 1A

With the new center, Tribal needs will be served under one roof — like a one-stop shop.

"We won't just have a pool and a gym. Administration and health services will be there. If you need to study for a GED, we'll have Education; if you want to do bead work or carve a canoe, we'll have Culture; if you want a (blood) sugar check, come to Health," Alexander Tommie said.

The name of the center has not been decided but it may be named for Sally Tommie's late aunt Hope Tommie Wilcox, who grew up one of 13 children born to Jack Tommie, of the Panther Clan, and Sallie Chupco, of the Bird Clan, in Fort Pierce. The community is made up of predominately Tommie/Chupco family members.

Sally Tommie said "Hope" is not only a virtuous name.

"Hope is at the heart of the center. The building is hope for all to come together as a family and arrive together at success. The building does not belong to Fort Pierce. It belongs to every Seminole on all reservations," Sally Tommie said.

Bessie Tommie, the only surviving Tommie/Chupco sibling, attended the celebration flanked by her son Kevin Tommie Sr. and daughter Jane Stockton, who is now serving as the Fort Pierce Liaison. All are thrilled that the building will finally rise.

Sally Tommie is also grateful that the wait is over.

"It's been like being pregnant, carrying the child and wanting to see the birth," Sally Tommie said.



Photo courtesy of Cartaya & Associates Architects

An artist's rendering of the long-awaited community center at Fort Pierce shows an elegant, environmentally friendly design for the 17,000-square-foot facility that will house a gymnasium, swimming pool, workout center, kitchen, conference rooms and many offices and classrooms for Tribal department services.



Eileen Soler

A gathering of Fort Pierce community residents, Tribe officials, shovels, hard hats and a bulldozer signify the re-launch of construction for the reservation's long-awaited community center.



Beverly Bidney

The Seminole Color Guard opens the Putting America Back to Work career fair at the Sheraton in Plantation on Sept. 11. From left are Seminole Police Department Sgt. Carl LeBlanc, Vietnam veteran Abraham Sternberg, Stephen Bowers and Curtis Motlow.

## ◆ COLOR GUARD From page 1A

"It was a great experience, I loved every day of it," Motlow said. "Serving my country was the best thing I ever did."

The color guard sometimes recruits veterans from the Vietnam Veterans of America to join the group. Sternberg is one such member; he met Bowers about five years ago at a chapter meeting in Fort Lauderdale and was happy to help out.

"We get to represent Vietnam veterans and the Tribe," Sternberg said. "When I joined, I didn't know much about Seminole history. I admire the amount of patriotism the Tribe has, especially when you take into account how Native Americans have been treated. I also admire the way they are keeping their Native traditions alive."

In a pinch, Bowers will also call the Seminole Police Department to fill in. SPD Sgt. Carl LeBlanc recently presented the colors with the group at the career fair at the Sheraton Suites hotel in Plantation on Sept. 11.

### Putting America back to work

The second annual Putting America Back to Work career fair featured more than 30 businesses from around South Florida, including Seminole Gaming, which had more than 100 positions to fill.

"About two years ago we made the commitment to hire veterans through our Hire a Hero initiative," said Michelle Coleman, director of talent and internal marketing for Seminole Gaming. "Since 2010 we've hired 648 veterans in our casinos. They served our country and we thought on Sept. 11, this was the right place to be."

Award-winning journalist and radio personality Geraldo Rivera broadcast his national talk show live from the event, which was sponsored by radio station 850 WFTL. Rivera has appeared at other career fairs in New York, Los Angeles and Dallas to help veterans find jobs. Although the career fair was open to the public, it focused on veterans.

"We go beyond giving lip service to veterans who need a job and try to be a helping hand to match employers with people looking for a job," Rivera said. "Veterans have the great skills and experience employers need — strength of character, discipline and management skills."

During the radio show, Rivera interviewed Bowers about his military service as a sergeant in the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam and about the Tribe.

"The Seminole Tribe is one of the biggest employers in Florida and we want to hire veterans," Bowers said. "We need to put them to work so they'll have a feeling of self-worth and self-esteem. They served our country and we need to give back to them."

The crowd gathered in the lobby gave a hearty round of applause.

Hundreds of job seekers, military and non-military alike, attended the career fair. Lines of applicants formed at the Seminole Gaming booth, all eager for a chance to work for the Tribe.

"These face-to-face events work for us," said Gregory Calvert, director of compensation and benefits for Seminole Gaming. "We get a chance to meet future team members. For every job, we usually see 25 to 100 people."

People dressed for success mingled with servicemen and women in uniform at booths of prospective employers, who had about 5,000 jobs to fill.

## ◆ CONSTRUCTION From page 1A

The townhome project, on three lots on the corner of Eloise Osceola Street and Cypress Lane, will consist of three multi-family buildings. Two of the structures will be two stories with three units each. The third building will be a one-story, two-townhome dwelling built to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Michael Shane Kelly, the Tribe's Construction Management assistant director, said construction will likely begin in the next month.

"The townhome project is hopefully the first of many others. As one gets done we can add more and more units," Kelly said. Landscaping and a small

playground are included in the plans.

The 5,500-square-foot emergency shelter will be built dormitory style to house women and children in need. It is supported by the Family Services Department.

Improvements at the ball field will be vast, Kelly said. Residents can expect an entirely rebuilt field that will allow better transitions for baseball, softball, soccer and football play.

Parking and walking paths will be made over and dugouts, restroom facilities and a concession booth will be added.

Councilman Tiger said the new golf driving range, on 22 acres off North Boundary Road, will serve to support the Ahfachkee School golf team which for years has made do with a makeshift driving course at the Junior Cypress

Rodeo Arena.

"I know I come here asking for money to do all these projects, but I just love my kids," Councilman Tiger said.

Tribal elders, community residents and guests of the Big Cypress RV Park will also use the driving range.

Council also approved nearly \$600,000 for a 3,500-square-foot joint Housing Department and Public Works Department building.

"We're combining two departments and getting more bang for our buck," Councilman Tiger said.

Two other major and long-awaited construction projects on Big Cypress are in the planning stages: Ahfachkee High School to be relocated on Josie Billie Highway on the north fringe of the reservation and a new two-story health clinic.

## ◆ TEXTING From page 1A

When drivers send or receive a text it takes their eyes off the road for an average of 4.6 seconds — the equivalent of driving the length of a football field blind at 55 mph.

Newly licensed driver, Brydgett Koontz, 16, said when it comes to texting, whatever it is can wait, and if it's that important, pull over.

A National Highway Traffic Safety Administration survey found that at any given moment 660,000 drivers are using their cell phones, whether it is for talking, texting, emailing or navigation.

"Right now it is out of control," Tribal member Laverne Thomas said in regards to electronic use while driving. "I hope the new law makes people see that texting and driving is a serious problem — serious enough to pass a law."

Texting when driving will be illegal and will come with a \$30 first-time fine, but the law has several exceptions.

Florida's texting while driving ban is a secondary offense, meaning the driver must first be pulled over for committing another

violation such as speeding or running a stop sign. If a driver is pulled over, law enforcement officials are not allowed to force him to hand over his phone for proof he was texting or emailing.

Furthermore, the ban does not apply to motorists at red lights or stuck in traffic. If the vehicle is stationary the driver can use a phone to text or email. Drivers can also text or email to report criminal activity and can use talk-to-text devices such as the iPhone's Siri.

Even with the loopholes Tribal member George Micco is a supporter of the new law.

"We are all guilty of driving and texting, whether you admit it or not," Micco said. "[The law] makes you at least think about not doing it. But like any law it will be broken, especially if it is not enforced."

He said as a parent, however, he will definitely enforce the law. Emma Johns, another parent and supporter of the law, said she will also enforce it with her daughter approaching the legal driving age.

"My daughter will sign a statement promising not to text and drive before she is handed the keys to her car," Johns said. "Though this may not prevent it, I know that she will have this promise on her conscience each time she may decide to

text while driving."

Parents are not the only ones who plan to enforce the no-texting law. Tribal members can expect SPD to crack down on the ban and not take it lightly.

"All drivers can expect to be stopped and handled accordingly with regard to the new texting while driving laws," Chief Latchford said. "We will educate the public to ensure they are well aware and positioned to ensure safety comes first while driving a vehicle on the roadways."

To help educate Tribal members on the new Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law, SPD will pass out fliers on the reservations.

They will also speak at community meetings in October, utilize message boards and provide information at upcoming PAC meetings.

Using a phone or any other portable device while driving increases the risk of getting into an accident by three times. Texting is the biggest distraction, taking the driver's hands off the wheel, their eyes off the road and their mind off driving.

"There are way too many drivers on the roads and even more distractions," Thomas said. "Maybe with some consequence we are less likely to text and drive."



Beverly Bidney

Stephen Bowers poses with Geraldo Rivera at the Putting America Back to Work career fair at the Sheraton in Plantation on Sept. 11.

## Tribal Council decides on more than 50 items

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Sept. 13 Tribal Council meeting in Hollywood resulted in decisions on more than 50 Tribal concerns including a unanimous vote to “bank” 881 acres of popular Brighton hunting land for wetland mitigation.

Per the federal Clean Water Act, wildlife habitat, natural streams or wetlands that are disrupted for community development must be replaced. The Council’s decision concerning the recreation area known as the FBI Tract stands to save the Tribe \$11 million in wetland replacement costs for future Brighton construction and infrastructure projects.

The issue came before the Council previously but was tabled to give Brighton Councilman Andrew J. Bowers Jr. a chance to discuss resident concerns at a community meeting.

Councilman Bowers said people questioned if the land would be fenced in or if vehicles would be restricted. In fact, the area will remain open and four-wheelers are welcome. No swamp buggies. “As the meeting went on more people understood why we have to do it,” Councilman Bowers said. “We don’t need to worry about facilities messing up our wetlands.”

Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger called the Council’s unanimous vote of approval “a no brainer.”

Council also voted to purchase two late model helicopters to replace two older, now discontinued models that have been out of commission for extended periods because replacement parts are hard to find. The helicopters are used for medical emergency transport, mosquito control and business transportation for Tribal officials.

One of the used helicopters will be purchased for \$2.7 million and the other will cost \$2.5 million. Because the spare parts market for 134 of the older now obsolete models still flying throughout the world is active, the Tribe stands to recoup nearly \$1.3 million from parts off the first helicopter alone.

“It’s a Model T,” said the Tribe’s Aviation director Clinton El-Ramey referring to the need for parts as an income source.

Also passed during the meeting: a \$600,000 student tutoring contract to Bright Minds Tutorials; construction of a golf practice field, emergency shelter, Housing/Public Works maintenance facility and ball field renovations on Big Cypress; construction of a Buildings and Grounds maintenance facility in Immokalee; and expansions and improvements to casinos in Hollywood, Tampa and Coconut Creek.



Beverly Bidney

The Osceola Brothers Band performs onstage at the Hard Rock Cafe in Hollywood. The boys were invited after the manager of the cafe saw their performance at the Burgers & Beer Festival at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood.

## Osceola brothers keep on playing

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Between school, Police Explorers, baseball and lacrosse, it’s a wonder the Osceola brothers can find time to play music together. But, they do manage to find plenty of time to perform for their fans. The Osceola Brothers Band, comprised of Cameron on guitar, Tyson on bass and Sheldon on drums, has played for crowds for two years and recently performed for the first time at the Hard Rock Cafe in Hollywood.

“Over the years our style has changed,” said Cameron, 16, an 11th-grader at University School. “We are maturing from a kid band to a professional band.”

With the easy camaraderie of brothers, one starts a thought and another finishes it. “No one’s serious in a kid’s band,” said Sheldon, 12, a seventh-grader at University School. “They are just messing around.”

“We take it serious,” added Tyson, 15, a 10th-grader at University School. “We’re a man’s band now.”

The Hollywood brothers used to practice frequently, but now they know each other well enough to read each other’s signals onstage. They use cues to create a strong set for their rock ‘n’ roll blues band.

In concert, they don’t use a pre-determined list of songs; Cameron assesses the audience and decides what songs to perform, with input from Sheldon and Tyson.

The sound of the band is old school rock ‘n’ roll with a strong smattering of blues thrown in for good measure. The boys started playing their style of music after their parents, Tammy Osceola and Terry Tartsah Sr., suggested it. They also write and perform original songs in the same style.

“The best part of being in the band is showing everyone our talent,” Sheldon said.

Each boy was influenced by different musicians, and they admire players of their own instruments.

Tyson, for example, is inspired by bassists Nikki Sixx, of Mötley Crüe; Flea, of the Red Hot Chili Peppers; and Tommy Shannon, of Double Trouble. Sheldon gets his inspiration from drummers Tommy Lee, of Mötley Crüe; Steven Adler, of Guns N’ Roses; Peter Criss, of Kiss; and Chris Layton, of Double Trouble, while Cameron aspires to the level of guitarists Jimi Hendrix; Stevie Rae Vaughan, of Double Trouble; Jimmy Page, of Led Zeppelin; Elvis Presley; and blues giants Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson and B.B. King.

During their gig at the Hard Rock Cafe

on Aug. 16, the boys played to a packed house, which included family, friends and regular cafe patrons.

As soon as the strains of Cameron’s lead guitar were heard outside the restaurant, a line formed at the door.

“The manager of the cafe saw them play at the Burgers & Beer Fest and asked them to play at the cafe,” said Tartsah, the band’s father, manager and roadie.

The band plays often on the rez, but the Osceola brothers have also performed at events locally and around the country. They have opened for the band Candlebox at Hard Rock Live and played at the Burgie Awards & Food Festival in Fort Lauderdale, Virginia Key Grassroots Festival, Florida Day of the Dead Celebration in Fort Lauderdale, conferences at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood and a Native American conference in San Antonio, Texas.

They hope to play at the Gathering of Nations PowWow in New Mexico and the Choctaw Indian Fair in Mississippi next year.

“Sharing music and connecting with others through music is spiritual to me,” Cameron said. “No matter what language you speak, it’s one way people connect. Music is a language of its own.”

## Tribe Board of Directors discusses five resolutions

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe of Florida Board of Directors met at the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium Sept. 18 and considered five resolutions.

The Board approved a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for a tax-exempt loan of \$1,575,000 from Pinnacle Bank to finance an expansion of the existing convenience store on the Hollywood Reservation.

This completed a course set in April authorizing the use of Tribal economic development bonds in the

sum of \$1,575,000 for that purpose.

The Board approved two cattle-related resolutions: the transfer of the BC25 cattle herd and the assignment of pasture land from Norman Tommie to Pauletta Bowers; and the transfer of Mary Jane Koenes’ former pasture on Big Cypress to Cory Wilcox.

The Board approved a resolution approving the use of 20-plus acres of the Brighton 4-H pasture for the expansion of Pemyetv Emahaky Charter School.

The Board tabled a resolution to approve the 2014 budget, “until we get a chance to discuss it in more detail,” said Big Cypress Board Rep. Joe Frank.

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# New dolls at Tampa Rainmaker shop

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**TAMPA**— For 20 years, Linda Rollins has made what she calls “love dolls,” depicting many different nationalities, styles and personalities.

“I never use a pattern. I just cut out the doll and sew. I don’t really know where I am going. But I do really pay close attention to detail,” she said. “I began making dolls for my friends and family members to uplift them. A doll makes people happy, people of all ages.”

It wasn’t until she met Bobby Henry that she got the idea to make American Indian dolls.

“Oh, I just had such a strong feeling wash over me when I saw that man’s photo. A very warm feeling I can’t really describe. Like the birth of a new idea,” said Rollins, who made arrangements to visit the Seminole Medicine Man at the Rainmaker gift shop at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

Rollins was overwhelmed at the bright colorful patchwork clothing hanging across the back wall. She marveled at the traditional Seminole dolls Henry showed her. But he only had a few, saying that there are only a handful of traditional doll makers still alive, including the matriarch of them all, Hollywood’s Minnie Doctor.

When Rollins thought of the idea to make her own version of the traditional craft, Henry agreed.

She had not made dolls for more than two years, spending most of her free time caring for her sick mother and two disabled children, one with sickle cell anemia and another with Prader-Willi syndrome, a



Bobby Henry and Linda Rollins discuss the sale of her dolls at the Rainmaker gift shop at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.

genetic disorder characterized by low muscle tone, cognitive disabilities and a chronic feeling of hunger.

Conditions in her neighborhood are not conducive for creativity either.

One night a bullet went through the window of her son’s room and now he is afraid to go in the room. And recently, a drive-by shooting peppered bullets all over the front of a neighbor’s house.

Through the turmoil, it took Rollins a couple weeks to make the dolls, but she found her groove. She could not find anything like Seminole patchwork in fabric stores, so she decided to make Indian dolls representing other Tribes. She dreamed of the day she could meet a real Seminole doll maker and worried her creations would not be up to her standards.

She put 10 dolls in a box and brought them to Henry’s store. Two were figures of Kokopelli, a fertility deity in some Native American cultures, and one was a male doll.

Henry was pleased to see a male doll because they sell well, he said. He immediately cleared a shelf and arranged them in a display. He asked Rollins if she would try making Seminole dolls in her style.

“Try it,” he said. “I’ll find you patchwork.”

That’s where Rollins is today – making dolls; dolls that make people happy.

They are all over her house, holding together the love she has for her children, her house and her community.

She has sold her dolls to people all over the world and gives portions of her proceeds to various charitable causes, including sickle cell anemia, Lupus, the homeless and African children’s funds. She gives each a name, number and signed certificate.

Dolls are Rollins’ salvation. Her dolls are on Facebook, eBay and at the Rainmaker gift shop at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa.



Linda Rollins creates one of her 'love dolls' at her home.

Peter B. Gallagher

# Artifacts discovered in BC

SUBMITTED BY KATE MACUEN  
Collections Manager

**BIG CYPRESS** — Tucked away in the central western portion of the Big Cypress Reservation is a hammock similar to many others found in the area. But a closer look uncovers a rare glimpse into life a thousand years ago.

Inhabited by cabbage palms and shady live oaks, this hammock also contains the site identified simply by the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) as Big Cypress No. 8. Through a recent archaeological survey – part of the permitting process – this site revealed its capability to help further understand life long ago because of the range of artifacts found.

More often than not, sites discovered in hammocks throughout Big Cypress contain dense areas of animal bone with some small shards of undecorated pottery. While these particular sites reveal the animals consumed by the previous occupants of the island, it is difficult to tell when, how long and how many lived on the island.

Big Cypress No. 8, on the other hand, tells a lot more.

In addition to finding extremely dense layers of animal bone, at least 14 different types of pottery have been identified. Tools made from deer bone, shark’s teeth and stone were found, as well as marine shell fragments. These artifacts provide a more definite timeline of when this site was used and suggests that the location was quite advantageous with its abundance of resources and prime location.

The featured images are examples of some of the unique artifacts uncovered. Two examples of pottery types found are what archaeologists have named Sanibel Incised and Fort Drum Incised.

Sanibel Incised pottery is defined by lines that create an inverted “V” underneath the rim, while Fort Drum Incised pottery has either vertical or diagonal lines along the lip or rim.

Although small in size, the decoration on these pieces of pottery helps date the artifacts: the Sanibel Incised was produced from A.D. 700-900 and Fort Drum Incised was produced from A.D. 500-700. Geographically, both are found in southern Florida with Sanibel Incised being found particularly in the southwestern portion of the state. Based on the overall collection of pottery found at the site, it was concluded that there was a continuous occupation from 2500 B.C. to A.D. 1700. The latter date was confirmed with radio-carbon testing that produced dates from A.D. 1220-1620.

Remarkably, multiple species of shark teeth (drilled and unmodified) were also found at Big Cypress No. 8. By inspecting the wear and polish found along the edges of the tooth, it was confirmed that one of the drilled shark teeth was used as a tool and not as a decorative bead, another common



Photos courtesy of THPO

Top: A Sanibel Incised Pottery shard almost 2,000 years old. Bottom: Drilled shark teeth and bone points discovered at Big Cypress No. 8.

usage. Presence of shark teeth so far inland suggests that either there was trade occurring with the coasts or, less likely, that groups roamed widely during hunting expeditions.

Another type of tool located at the site was bone points. Bone points are made from long bone fragments of medium to large mammals, typically deer. The bone points can either be bi-pointed (where they come to a point on either end) or single pointed. Bone points had multifunctional uses such as bone pins or projectile points.

The artifacts explain many things. Perhaps the most obvious characteristic is their demonstration of daily life: what people preferred to eat, how they hunted, their preferences to where they set up camps, the tools they used. They also help support evidence of the journeys made from inland to coast, highlighting the act of trade, both of information and objects.

More simply, these artifacts tell a story that has been told continuously over time – that people past and present take advantage of good real estate. While there is a lot of evidence that people returned to this same spot over hundreds, if not thousands of years, the location of good camp sites was also well known to mobile groups who would have transmitted such knowledge to later generations through word of mouth.

For more information, contact Collections Manager Kate Macuen at KateMacuen@semtribe.com.

Katy Gregory and Valerie O’Neal contributed to this article.

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# Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open a big winner

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — When the Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open was announced in April, organizers hoped 2,000 people would pay the \$5,300 entry fee to guarantee an unprecedented prize pool of \$10 million in the main event. But 2,384 players anted up for their share of the prize pool valued at \$11.92 million, nearly 20 percent higher than anticipated.

And that was only one of 33 events that kept players at the tables during the three-week tournament, held Aug. 8-29 at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood. Each event had different buy-in amounts that ranged from \$70 to \$100,000. Throughout the duration of the tournament, more than 18,000 people competed in Hollywood. An additional 4,760 played in the satellite tournaments held in poker rooms at Seminole Hard Rock Tampa, Seminole Casino Coconut Creek and Seminole Casino Immokalee.

"We structured the prize money to make sure we met what players were looking for," said Larry Mullin, Seminole Gaming Chief Operating Officer. "The feedback we got was unbelievable. Players are looking for quality and there aren't that many tournaments like this around the world. Once they see it's legitimate, the good news travels fast."

Mullin said another tournament will be held in the future, but he wouldn't commit to a date. He believes Hard Rock could handle at least two tournaments per year.

"It's an unknown question," he said. "The market hasn't had something of this scale to give a solid answer. We are really satisfied with what we did. It was a big tournament and a lot of work, but the great thing is our team doesn't mind working hard."

One highlight of the tournament was the first World Poker Tour Alpha8 super high roller event. The event, which will be televised on Fox Sports 1 in the spring, attracted 21 players who put up \$100,000 each just to sit at the table. Hard Rock Live was corralled for the event, which included a final table featured on a television set and dramatic lighting throughout.

Players from around the world competed for the win. Most had experience playing in similar high-stakes games and make their living playing poker.

Isaac Haxton, of Syracuse, N.Y., prefers high buy-in games and has played in eight so far this year, often with the same players.

"I know all these people; there is a lot of history here," Haxton said. "We know each other's games, which is more of a challenge. I have to carefully tailor my moves to the other players'. I'm never on autopilot."

Fort Lauderdale resident Jason Mercier, ranked No. 1 in the world by Global Poker

Index, plays in high roller events worldwide. He said he was happy to compete in one at home.

But some of the players were relatively new to the game. Steven Silverman, winner of the Alpha8 event, has only played for a year. He took home \$891,660 for this event and earlier this year won more than \$1 million as the winner of the PokerStars and Monte-Carlo Casino European Poker Tour Grand Final high roller event.

"I make a living," said Silverman, of Washington, D.C.

The final table of the main event, with its \$11.92-million prize pool, had a festive atmosphere. Held in Paradise Live, a boisterous gallery of players' family and friends cheered for their favorites after each winning hand. An announcer called the play-by-play, including the dollar amounts of each bet.

Near the table sat a clear Plexiglas box filled with about \$2 million in cash destined for the final two players and a guitar-shaped trophy for the winner.

Six players took their seats for a 10-hour final table battle. Despite the support of the audience, each player was on his own when it came to deciding how to play his hand. The first to be eliminated was Plantation resident Greg Lehn, an amateur player at his first final table who won \$378,138 for the sixth-place finish.

"It was an honor to play with people of this caliber," said Lehn, who has played at Hard Rock since the first day it opened. "I learned a lot and my game is better now that

I played here."

The chip leaders going into the finale were Blair Hinkle and Justin Bonomo.

During one hand, Hinkle bet \$500,000. Bonomo put his money down. Then, without batting an eye, Hinkle raised the bet to \$1.5 million. Bonomo paused for a moment and then raised the bet to \$4.7 million. At that point Bonomo became still and didn't move his eyes from the cards on the table. As Hinkle played with his chips, Bonomo remained motionless and never gave a clue whether he was bluffing or had the cards to win. After a few tension-filled minutes, Hinkle folded — Bonomo's stack of chips grew to nearly the size of Hinkle's.

During their 165-hand poker duel, the lead changed repeatedly between the two players, who ultimately were the final two players. The hard-fought finale went to Hinkle, who took home \$1,745,245 for his efforts. The sting of finishing second was eased by the \$1,163,500 prize Bonomo won.

Mullin said he was pleased the entire property was busy throughout the three-week tournament.

"The tournament was a lot of fun," he said. "When people spend money and have fun, you can't lose. That doesn't happen everywhere. Some places you spend money and don't feel good about it. At Hard Rock, poker is fun. We are definitely on the map with poker players around the world. People can go anywhere they like; we want them to know they can come here and they will have a good time."



Players at the World Poker Tour Alpha8 super high roller event compete under the glare of the media attention. The winner of the event was Steven Silverman, center left.

Beverly Bidney



Photo courtesy of Ralph Notaro, Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood

Blair Hinkle rocks his win with a guitar, trophy, chips and cash after winning the Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open Aug. 28.

## It's no bluff: Blair Hinkle wins \$10-million Poker Open tournament

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**HOLLYWOOD** — Lynn Hinkle insists her son Blair has a lucky charm: her.

Every time he has won a final table in a poker tournament, she has been in the audience.

"I was at his first World Series of Poker win in 2008 and when he won the second time this year," Lynn said.

The third time was also a charm; Blair won the Seminole Hard Rock Poker Open \$10-million guaranteed main event on Aug. 28 and took home \$1,745,245.

Lynn and other family members cheered Blair on from the gallery throughout the 10-hour finale — his biggest win to date.

"When he told me he made it to this final table last night after midnight, I booked a flight and came down here today," Lynn said.

The final game was challenging, as the lead kept changing from Blair to his opponent Justin Bonomo and back again. He didn't let the volatility of the lead affect his focus.

"It's a game of swings, of ups and downs," said Blair, 27, of Kansas City, Mo. "I play each hand without worrying about what happened before."

His brother Mason was in the gallery and with every victorious hand he belted, "Oh yeah," in support of his big brother.

"We had to keep the adrenaline pumping for him," said Mason, 23.

The Hinkle brothers, Blair, Mason

and Grant, learned to play poker from their grandma Sue Johnson, who brought out a jar of pennies and played go fish and gin rummy with her grandchildren regularly.

"She was ruthless and never let them win," Lynn said. "I think that's what made them more competitive."

Grandma Sue may be a card shark, but she takes great pride in her grandson.

"She left me a message at 7 a.m.," said Blair the day after his win. "She used to play her hardest even when she was playing against children who didn't know what was going on."

Blair and Grant play poker professionally; Mason plays for fun. The fun includes a Monday night poker game in which four of the five players have earned the prestigious World Series of Poker bracelets. The game consists of bracelet winners Blair, Grant, Jeff Tebben and James Mackey.

"It's the toughest home game in the world," Blair said.

Lynn was not pleased when Blair announced he was leaving college to play poker in 2008, but when he won his first tournament that same year, she learned to trust his poker instincts.

"He's always been a math genius," she said. "But he's also a very sensitive guy, pays close attention to things, focuses well and has a lot of patience. I think that's a good combination for poker."

Upcoming events for Blair include playing online poker in Vancouver, Canada and possibly the World Series of Poker Europe in Paris in October.

# Kids take a gigging trip

SUBMITTED BY PAUL BUSTER  
Cultural Language Instructor

On Aug. 8, Bobby Frank, of the Hollywood Culture Department, and Non-resident Liaison Kevin Osceola took a group of boys from the Hollywood Reservation on a garfish gigging trip (*Choocha-he faaye-ke*) to the heart of the Everglades. Tigertail Airboat Tours provided the transportation.

Guided by Frank, the boys learned the best way to gig gar like Seminoles in the olden days. Gigging is not fishing; it is hunting and spearing the fish with skillful use and handling of the gig — made from a 10-foot pole with a sharp prong spearhead at the end of it.

Garfish is cooked and prepared many different ways. Some are fried and some are broiled in the fish's own hard shell or roasted. Sometimes women stew the garfish and add wild mint to it. Regardless of how it is prepared, the fish is a delicacy. Seminoles have lived on foods like this for many centuries in the Everglades.



Boys from the Hollywood Reservation pose for a photo with their gigs.

Photo courtesy of Paul Buster



Photo courtesy of Paul Buster

Lance Howard, 12, of the Hollywood Reservation shows off the fish he speared with his gig.



Photo courtesy of Paul Buster

Hollywood youth take an airboat ride through the Everglades during a gigging trip on Aug. 8.

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# Great strides: The partnership between Vietnam Veterans of America and the Seminole Tribe

**SUBMITTED BY MARC MCCABE**  
VVA Veteran Online

About three years ago Vietnam Veterans of America's (VVA) Florida State Council undertook an effort to help the veterans of the Seminole Tribe and their families.

Who are these veterans? They have fought in every war in which Americans have been involved – sometimes with, sometimes against. In Vietnam they fought valiantly and participated in major battles, from the Ia Drang Valley to Khe Sanh to Dak To. The Seminoles have a long warrior tradition – a tradition that extends to the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Seminole people are descendants of the Creeks. The diversity of the Tribe is reflected in the fact that its members spoke seven languages – Muscogee, Hitchiti, Koasati, Alabama, Natchez, Yuchi and Shawnee.

The early history of the Creek people in Florida is not well understood. The Apalachee were a Hitchiti-speaking people who may have been related to the Creek, Tamathli or Apalachicola. The Apalachee, who lived along the Apalachicola River in the Florida Panhandle, were already in Florida at the time of Spanish contact.

At the beginning of the 16th century the Spanish attempted to set up a system of missions across northern Florida and southern Georgia. While these efforts failed in Creek country, some Creeks were drawn from Georgia down to the Spanish missions in Florida.

Around 1760 the first Creek-speaking people settled at Chocuchatee (Red House) near present day Brooksville, Fla. Drawn together by clans of early Creeks, they became the Seminole Indians. They were cattlemen. Soon the vast cattle herds of the growing Seminole Nation drew the attention of their white neighbors to the north. The conflicts occurring in Georgia began to spill into Florida due to an increased white hunger for land and cattle.

During the early 1800s the Seminole population in Florida remained fairly small – around 1,200 – compared to the main body of Creeks in Georgia and Alabama who numbered possibly 25,000. Then came the War of 1812 (1812-15), the Creek War (1813-14), the Creek Civil War (1813), the First Seminole War (1818-19), the Second Seminole War (1835-42), the Scare of 1849-50 and the Third Seminole War (1855-58).

These dates can be misleading. Some historians claim that the destruction of the British post on the Apalachicola River was the last battle of the War of 1812, while others call it the first battle of the First Seminole War. It is unlikely that anyone at the time saw the difference. In reality, all these conflicts added up to one long, half-century war against the Creeks.

By 1823 the Seminole population had increased three or fourfold with the arrival of newcomers – small bands of Creeks and Seminoles who became cattle farmers. This population of about 5,000 was thrown together and subjected to the Second Seminole War, the fiercest ever waged by the U.S. government against native peoples. By the end of the war there were only three hundred Seminoles left in the territory. Then, during the Third Seminole War, another 240 or so Seminoles died. In the protracted conflict nearly the entire Seminole population – men, women, and children – was slaughtered.

## Overcoming Mistrust

As VVA chief service officer, my office is located at the VA Regional Office in Saint Petersburg – some 165 miles from the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Brighton Reservation, which includes the Veteran's Building for Tribal members who served in the armed services. I have made this trek for close to three years; it's a trip of some six and a half hours – not counting the seven hours spent working with veterans. The

initial trips were physically, intellectually and emotionally exhausting.

My first visits also were very intimidating. I knew very little about Seminole culture or about the veterans themselves. They had an enormous mistrust of the U.S. government and of the VA in particular.

I continued to make trips to the reservation at Brighton to help veterans with their claims, but those early days were full of uncertainty and mistrust. Once a month I left my house at 4:30 a.m. to arrive at the reservation by 9 a.m. For the first several months I questioned why I made the trips, as it was clear I was perceived as an outsider and an ignorant interloper. In order to help these veterans (at first only Vietnam-era veterans), I knew I had to do my homework, so I went to the Florida State University libraries. I quickly learned why these warriors were both proud but apprehensive.

It took nearly 10 months to break the ice. Now there is very good communication among us veterans. We trust each other, and together we have enjoyed many successes. I am proud of the cooperation between VVA and the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Often the closure is as significant as the financial windfall. One success story developed from the plight of a Seminole veteran who was attempting to get his claim before the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) for type 2 diabetes and ischemic heart disease.

Joe Lester John had served in Vietnam with the U.S. Air Force as a survival team leader for air crew members. His claim recently had been denied, as had those of many other Tribal members before him. We researched and developed his claim, then asked for a reconsideration based on new and material evidence.

During this process, John asked me pointed questions about a subject that I knew was difficult for him to broach. His daughter was born with a birth defect that he felt he had caused. She was a victim of his exposure to Agent Orange and had been diagnosed with spina bifida at birth. When I explained that this is a compensable illness, John was leery because he already had been denied this benefit.

But by this point I had been accepted and the veterans treated me as one of their own, something that brings me great pride and satisfaction. When I asked John to trust me and develop the case again, his family once again was plunged into a whirl of anguish about John's 32-year-old daughter. We compiled the paperwork. Then, because she had already been denied, I traveled to the Regional Office in Denver to argue that this was a clear and unmistakable error by the VBA.

Armed with abundant evidence, I was able to present the case to the assistant service center case manager for children of Vietnam veterans.

Just prior to the decision, John died. Two weeks later, while his daughter was going through yet another surgery, I received a phone call from Denver explaining that, yes, the original determination was in error and the grant of level III spina bifida would be retroactive to 2010.

This case opened the gates not only to Seminole veterans of all eras but also to the veterans who are employed by the Seminole Tribe of Florida. We filed a notice of disagreement on the date of benefits. While we are pleased to get the grant, we feel it should be retroactive to the date that a claim for this child was filed in 2000. The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Health Plan will be reimbursed some \$1.34 million for the care they provided the daughter of this Vietnam veteran.

One other story became very personal for me and my support staff: that of Charlie Steel Gopher.

I didn't know Gopher, but I knew and served with people who could have been his twin. We all served in our own little hell in

the Republic of Vietnam. We are the faces and survivors of those horrific moments in life, the battles for Hoa Hoi, Khe Sanh, Hill 881, Kim Son and many others whose strange names live forever in our psyches.

Gopher was a Native American fighting for his country with the 1st Cavalry Division. However, he also fought the demons that came with those battles, compounded by the mixture of alcohol and race relations prevalent in the military during the '60s.

Almost 37 years ago Gopher took his life. The demons of war and the disrespect of his government that sent him to that faraway jungle to fight in an unpopular war finally got the best of him. That, however, wasn't the only loss that day: Gopher was abandoned by his government once again when his family applied for burial benefits.

The Veterans Administration (today the Department of Veterans Affairs) denied his family's request and said Gopher was a dishonorable veteran who rated no benefits from his country. His family did what most did in the '70s: They accepted it and moved on. They buried him. Gopher's legacy was left to be discovered by his daughter, Rita McCabe.

The story really began in 1965 in the Ia Drang Valley. Gopher had enlisted in the Army and decided he wanted to join the Army's elite Airborne. He enlisted for a three-year tour of duty. He went to Vietnam and served with valor in two of the fiercest battles of the war.

Gopher continued to serve with distinction, completed his tour in Vietnam and returned home. The Army asked that he immediately be discharged so he could re-enlist for six more years. This is where Gopher's tale gets lost and the government betrayed his honorable service.

The VA decided that because Gopher did not serve out his original enlistment of three years he should not have the honors of a military funeral. They took it one step further and said Gopher's service was dishonorable. While it is true that his second tour was considered other than honorable, it was not dishonorable. But Gopher had no one to speak for him in 1975.

The VA should have honored him with a full military funeral and a flag for his casket, a headstone and an honor guard. Now, after a request to reopen his case, the VA finally has granted his family the honors Gopher so rightfully deserved 37 years ago.

Last Veterans Day, after we won this case before the VBA, the Seminole Tribe of Florida once again celebrated the life of this brave warrior. The brigade commander from the 1st Battalion of the 12th Cavalry of the 1st Cavalry Air Mobile presented the family and the Tribal veterans the awards and honors Gopher never received during his brief life.

These and similar stories will be told for some time to come as the Seminole Tribe of Florida continues to see the toll of wars in far-off countries. Presently, young Seminoles serve in Afghanistan, Iraq and other areas of conflict with valor, distinction and honor.

With the help of VVA's Florida State Council, the Veterans Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Americans Serving Veterans Foundation, we have enrolled all veterans and the employees of the Seminole Tribe of Florida in the VBA system. To date we have recovered more than \$5 million (not including the \$1.34-million spina bifida award) for our Seminole brothers and sisters who fought in Vietnam.

VVA welcomes home all Seminole Tribal veterans of Florida. A strong and vibrant partnership has developed between VVA and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Great strides have been made in outreach.

*This article originally appeared in The VVA Veteran Online and was reprinted with permission from the publication at the request of Stephen Bowers, Liaison for Governor's Council on Indian Affairs.*

# Veterans: You can help

**SUBMITTED BY THOMAS C. HALL**  
VVA Veteran Online

Vietnam veterans came home under the cover of night. There were no parades; our return was not celebrated. We were unwelcome, unwanted cast-offs from a faraway war. No thought was given to the invisible wounds of war that would afflict so many of us. Mental health services were reserved only for those completely mentally and physically debilitated.

Those of us who made it most of the way home were lucky to have had peers and mentors who helped us navigate our struggles on the road from the "battlemind" (where we were locked and loaded in a band of brothers and sisters, ready for action at the slightest perceived provocation) to the radically different and relatively vague demands and individually competitive pace of civilian life.

In our last few reports we have discussed PTSD, substance abuse, military sexual trauma, suicide prevention and the importance of family therapy. Most of us agree that the invisible wounds of war are shared by too many freshly minted veterans from today's wars. Most of us, I think, will agree that veteran-to-veteran interaction can have a profound impact. Most of us should agree that mental health services must extend to all active duty personnel and to all veterans. We have worked toward this end, and we have achieved a huge change in VA policy: In the last year, the VA has authorized hiring 800 peer support specialists in the area of mental health.

There is a difference, however, between "authorized" and "achieved." At this time, only 250 peer specialists have been hired. The VA seems to be having a difficult time filling these positions. Consider this a challenge and opportunity. Either become a peer support specialist or encourage someone else to apply. As you can see in the job qualifications, many of us already qualify. This is an important program for all of us.

To find out more and to start the admittedly complex federal application process, go to USA Jobs

(www.USAJobs.gov), search for "Peer Support" and location (optional). When the list of jobs appears, verify that "Federal Employees" is selected on the left side of the form; this position is for veterans, who are considered federal employees for this position.

This is not a silver bullet. It is another way to serve veterans. Only another veteran can be a veteran to a veteran. And just maybe a veteran can show another veteran he or she is needed, taken seriously and will be heard.

## Basic Requirements for Peer Support Apprentices, GS-102-5

A. Citizenship: Citizen of the United States.

B. Physical and Medical Requirements: The applicant must be able to perform light and sedentary duties with occasionally moderate physical demands, exercise patience and control emotions, with reasonable accommodation if necessary, without endangering the health and safety of the applicant or others.

C. Statutory Requirements: Section 405 of Public Law 110-387, as codified in 38 U.S.C. 7402(b)(13), established that to be eligible to receive appointment to a peer specialist position, a person must:

(1) be a veteran who has recovered or is recovering from a mental health condition; and

(2) be certified by (a) a not-for-profit entity engaged in peer specialist training as having met such criteria as the Secretary shall establish for a peer specialist position; or (b) a state as having satisfied relevant state requirements for a peer specialist position.

D. Length of Experience as a Consumer of Mental Health Recovery Services: Veterans eligible under 38 U.S.C. 7402(b)(13) must have spent a minimum of one year in personal recovery from a mental health condition.

*This article originally appeared in The VVA Veteran Online and was reprinted with permission from the publication.*

# Art for the ages: Elgin Jumper at Senior Center



Eileen Soler

Seniors from the Big Cypress Reservation listen to and watch Seminole artist Elgin Jumper during an art demonstration and workshop Aug. 20 at the Senior Center on Big Cypress Reservation.

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

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# Seminole princesses make debuts at Labor Day parade

BY CHRISTINE MCCALL  
Freelance Writer

**OKEECHOBEE** — Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie and Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie made their first official public appearance Sept. 2 at the Okeechobee Labor Day parade celebration.

Dressed in full traditional attire, the princesses began the day with a parade through the streets of Okeechobee, waving and smiling to a cheering crowd.

Dance troops, local businesses, law enforcement and the Okeechobee High School marching band also participated in the parade.

"It was very fun. I enjoyed people reading my sign and pointing at me saying, 'Seminole!'" Brianna said. "They could identify us."

After the parade, and a quick stop at the shaved ice stand to cool off, the princesses made their way to the stage. Tia reminded everyone that Labor Day is a celebration of the hard working people around the country.

"[It was] very humbling but a very exciting experience to speak on behalf of the Tribe," Tia said of her first public appearance. "It felt very surreal to have everyone looking at me as the face of the Tribe."

During their reign, the sisters look forward to educating the public about the Seminole Tribe and ending stereotypes about Seminoles. Tia, for example, wants the public to know that the Tribe has a full-functioning government, while Brianna hopes to inform others about the importance of culture to the Tribe.



Miss Florida Seminole Tia Blais-Billie makes her princess debut during the Okeechobee Labor Day Parade on Sept. 2.

"Even though we are modern and thriving, our culture is still important. I want to preserve our traditions, as well as make an impact on the modern world," Brianna said.

The girls hope they are perceived in a certain way as well.

"I hope I am perceived as knowledgeable on a worldly level, that I have an understanding of foreign nations, as well as what is going on in our community," Tia said. "I hope that after meeting with people, my position is not a novelty but [is seen] as an official [position]."

# Bronze by Cooley begins Miss Seminole statuette

BY CHRISTINE MCCALL  
Freelance Writer

**TALLAHASSEE** — Since 2005, Miss Florida Seminole has received a special gift to cherish and remember her reign — a realistic bronze statuette of herself in the traditional outfit complete with beadwork, patchwork, crown and sash. This year's princess, Tia Blais-Billie, began the first phase in creating her statuette by visiting the artist at Bronze by Cooley in Lamont, Fla.

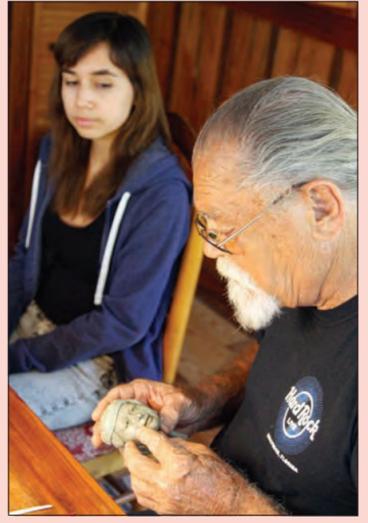
"It's very weird," Blais-Billie said of having a statue created in her likeness. "[It's] something I never thought would happen, but it is very cool to see him working on it and see him craft my face."

Bradley Cooley Sr. and Bradley Cooley Jr. have used their sculpting talents to create detailed life-size sculptures for the Tribe for more than 20 years. Their pieces are prominently displayed at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Hollywood Headquarters and the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium.

The Miss Seminole statuette is a fraction of the size of those sculptures, which makes the process more difficult and time consuming. Cooley Sr. uses precision tools to mold each Miss Seminole's unique features into the clay. Using photographs and live sittings, the clay mold takes about six months to complete.

"I have to get the face structure just right," Cooley Sr. said.

Blais-Billie will visit Tallahassee in November for the Florida State University Homecoming game to crown



Christine McCall

The head of Miss Seminole begins to take form as Bradley Cooley Sr. uses photographs as a reference.

the new Homecoming chief and princess. Because Bronze by Cooley is only a short distance away, she will have another opportunity to meet with Cooley Sr. and check the progress of her statuette.

Tribal Council will present the completed statuette to her at the next Miss Seminole Princess pageant, when she steps down and crowns another Miss Seminole.



Christine McCall

Little Miss Seminole Sarafina Billie introduces herself and wishes everyone a happy Labor Day while Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie stands by her side.



Christine McCall

Jr. Miss Seminole Brianna Blais-Billie waves to spectators during her princess debut at the Okeechobee Labor Day parade and celebration Sept. 2.



Christine McCall

The princesses take a break from their duties to enjoy some shaved ice on the hot day at the Okeechobee Labor Day event.

# Chupco Youth Ranch event



Andrea Holata

Leon Wilcox aims for a bull's-eye during the archery competition at Chupco Youth Ranch on Sept. 7.



Andrea Holata

Family Services community events coordinator Valerie Marone spends time with youth making beaded bracelets during the Chupco Youth Ranch event in Fort Pierce on Sept. 7.



Andrea Holata

Hope Sneed gets ready to see how far she can throw in the skillet throwing competition.



Andrea Holata

The Fort Pierce community gathers Sept. 7 for the second annual Chupco Youth Ranch event. The day included games and activities for Tribal members of all ages.



Andrea Holata

Handsome Fanning holds on tight while riding the mechanical bull.



Andrea Holata

Kathreen Martinez carts Tribal members Sheree Sneed, Mary Wilcox, little Jayveon Wyatt and Mary Jo Micco to the next event.



Peter B. Gallagher

Julius Robert Houghtaling, who goes by the stage name JRobert, performs with Chairman James E. Billie in 1995.

# Hah-Pong-Ke: JRobert

BY PETER B. GALLAGHER  
Special Projects Reporter

**MARCO ISLAND** — Julius Robert Houghtaling was born the son of a son of a Florida farmer in 1949 in Bradenton, Fla. He spent the first five years of his life in the farm field town of Immokalee while his father and grandfather cleared and planted for the well-known Tampa tomato packer J.C. “Blue Eyes Tomatoes” Valenti.

When the farm work was done, the family relaxed listening to classical, jazz, pop and country. “My dad was a genuine hi-fi buff who collected everything from Mozart, Bach, Gershwin and Stravinsky to Red Norvo, Dave Brubeck and early Miles Davis,” said Houghtaling, who took violin lessons in high school. “Mom always kept the radio going with pop and country.”

Although he certifies four generations of cracker heritage from both sides of the family, a wanderlust of travel took the young man across the country, touring the mountains, deserts and honky tonks of Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Montana.

He attended the University of Idaho, working summers with the U.S. Forest Service, learning bluegrass and old-time style music, eventually spending four years with the Tarwater Band, a Texas swing jazz and big band country style outfit touring the Northwest Club circuit opening shows for the likes of Charlie Daniels, Doug Kershaw, Hoyt Axton and Bonnie Raitt.

Somewhere along the way he shortened his name to the more marquee friendly JRobert.

In 1980, Houghtaling returned to Florida to settle down with his wife and two boys next door to an alligator farm in Wimauma to work as packing house manager for the family’s Ruskin citrus operation, Dooley Groves, and to pick up a few freelance music gigs. One day an agent from a Marco Island resort called looking for an entertainer.

“I only came down for one weekend to play Quinn’s on the Beach at Marriott’s Marco Island Resort. They asked me to finish the summer, and the rest is history,” he said, explaining his move from the farm to the beach. “Let’s see...drive tractor mowing groves all summer, or make music at a premier luxury Florida beach resort? Tough decision.”

By the end of the summer, Houghtaling and family moved to Marco Island for good. It was

1985 at the Marriott-hosted Florida Cattlemen’s Convention, during a show at Quinn’s on the Beach that he first met Chairman James E. Billie.

“One night, someone from the crowd shouted out ‘Let James sing a song.’ Soon the room erupted into applause and cheering for James Billie to take the stage, so I offered the Chief my guitar and picked up the fiddle,” he said. “I had no idea of who James was, but I like to keep my crowd happy. Boy, was I surprised. This guy had extremely rich Seminole traditional stories and original songs. I kept him on stage for hours prompting him for more.”

The Chairman, who performed around the world as Chief Jim Billie, and Fiddlin’ JRobert became fast friends, and, over the next 15 years, performed dozens of times together at venues from high-class resorts to swampy backyards.

“Once, James called me up to meet him at the Marco Island airport where he appeared in a little ‘stump jumper’ Piper Cub. He scooped me up with my guitar, fiddle and harmonica, and we landed somewhere out in the Glades to sing at a chickee full of Seminole children. I was thrilled,” Houghtaling said.

“Miss Seminole Pageants, Gathering of Nations Powwows, Opryland, folk festivals, shows for other Tribes – We were everywhere,” he said. “The adventure was non-stop.”

On one trip to Tallahassee in 1999, Houghtaling recalled landing just as the onset of Hurricane Floyd was announced.

“I began to wonder whether we would be safe to fly back that evening. And you know James has a way of giving a dramatic twist to a story to suit the situation.

“He began to speak, saying: ‘We Seminoles are people of the Earth, but in our oral traditions we don’t have flutes in our music. We believe that the flute produces a little wind which when let loose in the universe will cry out for its Mother . . . well, nobody wants to invite a hurricane home.’

“Needless to say there was no flute playing that night and we made it home safe and sound. Thrilling.”

That thrill and the sheer fun of jumping in airplanes and flying back and forth to musical performances led Houghtaling to write his popular *Jim Billie’s Airplane*, which he plans to include on his next CD, to be produced by his own company, Marco Music.

## ‘Jim Billie’s Airplane’

Some Great Day  
When we’re together  
God will gaze on the people below  
And there I’ll be, in all my feathers  
Dancin’ up a storm . . . puttin’ on a show

The skies will part  
Heavens will thunder  
A Great White Bird will swoop down and save my soul

Till then, take heart  
Look ‘round in wonder . . .  
Here comes Jim Billie  
Chief of Seminole Air Patrol

(Chorus)  
I wanna ride Jim Billie’s airplane  
I wanna play in Jim Billie’s band  
Sing our songs out on the airwaves  
And we’ll fly far, far away to our Promised Land

On the wings  
Of Osceola . . .  
On the dreams of Sam Jones and the Seminole  
C’mon James . . . you hit the Bingo!  
I’m all tired out . . . so Fire it up! And take us Home!

(Chorus)

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

Identifying the Past

# Update on General Reference Photography Collection

## Museum seeks community’s help identifying historic photographs

SUBMITTED BY JAMES H. POWELL  
Museum Registrar

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has made significant progress processing its General Reference Photography Collection.

This collection, held in the Archives at the Museum, consists of approximately 15,000 photographs of various types and sizes. The photos depict a wide range of places, events and people mostly from the 1980s, ’90s and early 2000s.

Because of the nature of the collection, the Museum is processing it as a reference collection. The photographs are sorted by broad subjects and then placed into binders to make the collection easier for visitors to use. So far, 28 binders have been filled.

One of the main subjects discovered in this group of photographs is the construction of the Museum. Many images show the site before, during and after construction of the Museum, boardwalk, village and Curatorial Building. Another large subject in the collection is one labeled “People.” These are snapshots of individuals, couples or small groups. Many of the people pictured have been identified, but an even larger number have not been identified.

In addition to these larger categories, there are many other smaller subject groups. One of these is labeled with the general term “Events,” which the Museum will subdivide into specific events once they are identified. These photographs show a variety of annual Tribal events and activities, including re-enactments, contests and pageants.

An additional small – but captivating – subject group is “Cattle and Rodeo.” Many of these photographs are dated in the 1970s and ’80s and show various entertainment and competitions held at rodeos.

Museum staff, visitors and *Seminole Tribune* readers are essential in identifying the subjects in the photographs. If you would like to view the collection or help identify the photographs, stop by the Museum or call 863-902-1113 to make an appointment.



Photo courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The General Reference Photography Collection is housed in Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum’s Archives.

And don’t forget about the Museum’s upcoming modern Seminole music exhibit in January. There are several music-related photographs in the General Reference Photography Collection that the Museum hopes to include in the exhibit.



Photo courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum needs help identifying this rodeo photograph.

### VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

LAST SIX OF VIN#	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	MILEAGE	CONDITION	STARTING BID PRICE
A94059	2007	FORD	E350	116,063	GOOD	\$8,475.00
182981	N/A	TITAN ELECTRIC GENERATOR	TG8500RC	N/A	GOOD	\$800.00
LIMITED QTY ON HAND	N/A	TITAN ELECTRIC GENERATOR	TG8500RC	N/A	POOR	\$400.00
C07760	2004	FORD	F150 XL (4WD)	255,800	POOR	\$2,179.00
C54715	1997	FORD	F150 XL (4WD)	215,938	POOR	\$2,400.00
B46994	1997	FORD	F250 HEAVY DUTY	104,341	POOR	\$2,339.36
168205	2006	CHEVROLET	UPLANDER LS	73,633	GOOD	\$2,275.00

Note - Previously advertised vehicles are not reflected on this advertisement, only newly received vehicles. For more information please contact Fixed Assets Dept. 954-966-6300 ext# 20034



Photo courtesy of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum

This photograph, stamped December 1981 on the back, is unidentified. The Museum needs more information about it.

# Health

## Seminoles walk toward recovery at fourth annual event



David Diaz

Participants stretch before the fourth annual Seminoles in Recovery 5K Run/Walk at T.Y. Park on Sept. 14. The Tribal community gathered to help raise funds for the Florida Native American Recovery Convention in February.



David Diaz

Participants of all ages take part in the event that promotes living healthy lifestyles.



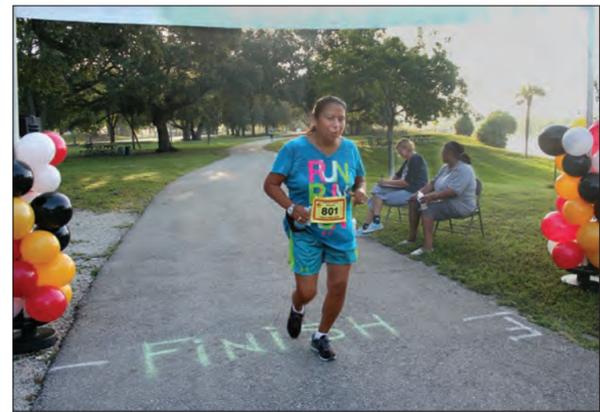
David Diaz

Even four-legged friends participate in the annual Seminoles in Recovery event, a fundraiser for the sixth annual Florida Native American Recovery Convention led by Helene and Andy Buster, founders of the Seminoles in Recovery program.



David Diaz

Feeling good, this participant celebrates his participation in the 5K run/walk at T.Y. Park.



David Diaz

Dressed for the occasion, Family Services Department director Helene Buster crosses the finish line after the 5K event.



David Diaz

Hollywood resident Eric Osceola continues his personal goal of living a healthy lifestyle by participating in the fourth annual Seminoles in Recovery 5K Run/Walk.



David Diaz

Runners and walkers line up at the starting line.



David Diaz

Employees show their support at the event.

## Pesticide Storage

**SUBMITTED BY ISIDRO DUQUE**  
Environmental Resource Management Department

The Environmental Resource Management Department (ERMD) was created in 1987 by the Tribal Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida to protect and evaluate the Tribe's land and water resources. ERMD is overseen by the Seminole Water Commission, created in 1989 by Tribal Council. The commission, with technical assistance from ERMD, has developed rules to protect the quality of surface water within the boundaries of the Tribe's reservations. ERMD assists other Tribal Departments such as Housing, Real Estate and Community Planning and Development and works with Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. in the development and management of Tribal natural resources.

To continue the department's mission for education and dissemination of information for environmental beneficial enhancement, ERMD will publish a series of articles that inform and educate the Seminole community about common practices that can potentially harm the environment and alternative practices that can minimize or prevent the adverse impacts to health and the environment.

ERMD welcomes suggestions, comments and questions. Please send them to [IsidroDuque@semtribe.com](mailto:IsidroDuque@semtribe.com) or call 954-965-4380.

The series continues with the following article about proper pesticide storage. People often use pesticides in their homes or yards to control a variety of pests such as insects, weeds and rodents. Pesticides are effective and beneficial but can also have the potential to hurt people if not properly stored. The following practices are helpful to minimize health and environmental risks.

Information for this article was provided and authorized for its publication by the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC).

### STORAGE OF PESTICIDES

Proper pesticide storage is important to protect

people, animals and the pesticide itself. Keep these tips in mind when storing pesticides:

#### The Container Matters

• Store pesticides in their original containers. The original container is designed to protect the product and is made of materials that will withstand the chemicals in the product.

• Store containers with their original labeling which includes application and disposal directions, ingredient names and emergency information.

• Make sure the original container also has the appropriate lid/cap to protect kids and pets.

#### Temperature Matters

• Understand that extremes in temperature can change the chemistry of some pesticides inside the container and that extremes in temperature can also damage containers.

• Always read the label for storage instructions. Pesticides are best stored between 40 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

#### Location Matters

• Designate a place for pesticide storage only.

• Pick a well-ventilated location that children and pets cannot access, preferably with a latch or lock.

• Keep pesticides away from food, feed and flames.

• Choose a location away from ponds, streams and drinking water wells.

#### Safety Matters

• Try to keep your pesticide inventory as low as possible. Buy only what you need this season; mix only what you need that day.

• Dispose of unwanted pesticides properly rather than storing them.

• Never store pesticides in food or drink containers.

• Consider storing bottles inside a larger container that could contain liquids in the event of a leak or spill.

If you have questions, call NPIC at 1-800-858-7378 (10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.) or email [npic@ace.orst.edu](mailto:npic@ace.orst.edu).

# SEMINOLE SCENES



Amanda Murphy

**CAMO CREATION:** Culture language instructor Donna Turtle works diligently on a creative camouflage skirt, in preparation for an upcoming Indian Day clothing contest.



Andrea Holata

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Shula Jones, center, celebrates her 84th birthday with family and friends on Aug. 4 in Brighton. Pictured from top left are Danny Jones, Johnnie Jones, Mary Jo Micco, Judy Jones, Shula Jones and Parker Jones.



Photo courtesy of Claudia Doctor

**MINNIE ME:** Some children dress as their favorite storybook characters at a five-day Scholastic Book Fair at Willie Frank Library in Big Cypress.



Andrea Holata

**ALL ABOUT ME:** Kieona Baker shows off her 'All About Me' project. To inspire parent involvement, Brighton preschoolers took art class home. They decorated paper plates to look like themselves and show off their own unique characteristics.



Beverly Bidney

**THE HOLE STORY:** After a 6-inch water line broke in the intersection of 441 and Stirling Roads on Sept. 12 in the city of Hollywood, repair crews quickly arrived on the scene to fix it and the massive traffic mess it caused. The break occurred during morning rush hour and took until the early evening to repair. Seminole Police Department and Hollywood Police redirected traffic as construction crews dug a huge hole in the pavement to get to the pipe and make all necessary repairs.



Beverly Bidney

**BATTER UP:** David Descheene, 11, is about to hit the ball out of the park during a recent Hollywood baseball clinic.



Peter B. Gallagher

**ANOTHER YEAR WISER:** Florida folk singer Frank Thomas enjoyed a surprise concert by Seminole Rita Youngman and painter Guy LaBree, as guests gathered for Thomas' 70th birthday in Lake Wales.



Photo courtesy of Claudia Doctor

**REPTILIAN RAVE:** Children from the Big Cypress Reservation get a reptilian treat Sept. 4 with a show about values and morals featuring 'Geddy the Gecko.'



Photo courtesy of Claudia Doctor

**ALOHA FROM BC:** Seniors on the Big Cypress Reservation said 'Aloha' to a lunchtime treat recently of Hawaiian fare, music and dance courtesy of the Aloha Islanders entertainment group based in Fort Lauderdale.



Amanda Murphy

**RAZZLE DAZZLE:** Christine McCall glues Swarovski crystals on the new Miss Florida Seminole sash. Tia Blais-Billie will get to keep this particular sash after her reign.



Beverly Bidney

**STRIKE THREE:** During a Hollywood baseball clinic, Kenneth Tommie Jr., 2, shows Kenneth Tommie Sr. the stuff future stars are made of as he pitches to his dad from behind the net.

# NATIONAL NATIVE NEWS



## Seminoles, four other Tribes back Pequot

**LEDYARD, Conn.** — The Seminole Tribe of Florida is one of five federally recognized American Indian Tribes actively supporting the Mashantucket Pequot's demand that a full 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reconsider a ruling that the Mashantuckets owe Ledyard, Conn. property taxes on non-Tribal leased slot machines.

A mini version of the court (three judges instead of the 13 active judges) reversed a U.S. District Court decision two months ago.

The Seminole were joined by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla Tribes) and the Coquille Indian Tribe to support the Pequot's petition for the rehearing. Precedent stemming from that decision has caused a stir throughout Indian Country gaming Tribes.

On one hand, Ledyard officials say the court ruling will enable the town to collect "in excess of \$100,000" in unpaid taxes levied on non-Tribally owned slot machines at the Mashantuckets' Foxwoods Resort Casino. On the other hand, the five Tribes contend that the appellate court erred by declaring that the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act ban on Indian gaming state taxation does not include slot machines.

— Source: *TheDay.com*

## Natives most affected by mercury contamination

**LIMA, Peru** — A research study released recently by the Carnegie Institution for Science detailed unacceptable mercury levels in 76.5 percent of all people living in the Madre de Dios region. Further, tests based on hair samples proved indigenous communities suffered five times higher levels than non-indigenous. The study pointed to rampant informal gold mining in Peru's Amazon region where indigenous people get their protein mostly from fish.

Project director Luis E. Fernandez told the Associated Press in a phone interview that indigenous children had three times more mercury — a potent neurotoxin that can cause brain and central nervous system damage — in their bodies than children from non-Native communities: "(Children) are 10 times more sensitive to the effects of mercury."

Fernandez presented the findings to Peru's Environment Ministry, pointing out that the study found 60 percent of fish species containing unacceptable levels of mercury.

Hair from 1,029 people in 24 communities was examined over the past year. A quarter of the subjects work in the area's wildcat alluvial gold mining industry, which uses an estimated 35 metric tons a year of mercury in the mining process, eventually burning off the heavy metal into the environment.

An August 2014 deadline has been established by Peruvian authorities for the estimated 40,000 miners in the region to formalize their claims or leave. Efforts to halt illegal mining have generated violent protests.

— Source: *Associated Press*

## South Dakota denying Indians a vote . . . again

**PINE RIDGE, S.D.** — South Dakota Secretary of State Jason Gant has stonewalled a request for standard early voting sites in three American Indian communities, despite everyone else in South Dakota having 46 early voting days.

The rules are different for American Indian voters living on reservations in the state.

Take Shannon County, home to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation that has a population of 92 percent American Indian. Officials there planned to offer only six days of early voting. For the other 40 days, the next nearest early voting location was three hours away — an obstacle for transportation challenged voters living in one of the poorest areas in the country (where more than half the residents live below the poverty line).

Federal law granted full citizenship to American Indians in 1924, but South Dakota barred American Indians from voting until the 1940s. Even though the law was repealed, the state still prohibited residents of Indian reservations from voting until the 1970s (Indians couldn't even hold county office until the 1980s).

There are dozens of other barriers: registration offices far from reservations; redistricting plans that undermine Native voting power; and intimidation by "unhelpful to hostile" poll workers.

After county residents sued over this disparity, Gant was forced to relent. Until 2019, federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds will be used to set up standard early voting locations within Shannon County.

But three other Tribes have the same

problem. The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe and the Oglala Sioux Tribe were turned down by Secretary Gant after asking for registration and early voting sites near where members actually live.

Gant refused to use the HAVA funds that he agreed to use in Shannon County. The counties where these reservations are located are predominantly American Indian with 30-40 percent of residents living in poverty (compared to 14 percent statewide).

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) sent a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder charging South Dakota with violating Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which prohibits policies with discriminatory impact on minority voters:

"Subjecting Indian voters to an inequitable system that is different from the one implemented in other counties in the state would be adverse to the public interest," wrote Laughlin McDonald of the ACLU Voting Rights Project. "We strongly urge you to advise the South Dakota Board of Elections and the South Dakota Secretary of State of their obligation to provide satellite in-person voter registration and absentee ballot locations in the American Indian communities of Wanbli on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Eagle Butte on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation and in Fort Thompson on the Crow Creek Indian Reservation.

"Their failure to do so would likely violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act."

— Source: *ACLU.org*

## Scourge of Indian Country: Native gangs

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.** — An informal survey showing dramatically prevalent gang activity throughout Indian Country was conducted recently by Lamar Associates, a Native-owned law enforcement and security consulting firm headed by Walter Lamar (Blackfeet Nation, Wichita Tribe of Oklahoma).

Culled from 3,450 contacts in national Tribal territories, the survey indicates that out of the 84.8 percent of respondents who lived or worked in a Tribal community, 76.1 percent indicated there was a presence of Native gangs in their area. Additionally, 48.1 percent cited presence of female gangs and 45.2 percent said they knew of a violent gang incident or incidents involving gang members, including drug sales, burglary, robbery and assault.

Raymond Perales (Arapaho), Lamar's director of juvenile justice services with more than 22 years experience dealing with public safety, Indian affairs, the U.S. Department of Justice and juvenile Native gangs, told *Indian Country Today*: "Gangs offer a sense of belonging or family. Where there is a lack of cultural identity or knowledge, gangs fill the role and offer everything from names, symbols, rituals, pride and language. But obviously in this instance, in a negative purpose."

In the same interview, Perales cited a lack of positive family structure for the increase of Indian reservation gangs: "Gangs are offering protection, accountability, discipline, food, clothing and a hierarchy of authority. There is a need for young people to form a sense of identity and a sense of family and a sense of support that in many cases is just not present at home.

"Native youth are fertile ground for gangs. Particularly because in this day and age of technology, many young people have come to believe that traditional values are irrelevant to their lives. Many of these youth have lost their language and culture. They are the product of 'multiple marginalization,' which means that when young people are pushed out to the margins of society, without ways to meaningfully participate in social life, and when they come from broken or dysfunctional families and communities, they tend to associate with gangs for several reasons — for income, recreation, protection, identity and most of all, to have the family they do not have at home."

Perales said that the first Native gangs took on names of established black or Latin gangs: "In the early 1990s, most Native youth identified with black or Latin gangs that were predominately presented in the media. They adopted names like the Insane Gangster Disciple Nation — adopted from the Gangster Disciples of Chicago, or Los Vatos Locos, a Latin gang in the Southwest and California," he told *Indian Country Today*. "In later years, as they evolved, you began to see more Native-oriented names appear, such as Native Gangster Bloods, Native Mob, Native Gangster Crips, Native Gangster Disciples, etc. Gang structures also formed with unique names, i.e., the Boyz, Odd Squad, Red Nation Klique, etc."

Incredibly, Perales said certain Tribal gang lifestyles might be similar to traditional Native culture, i.e. marking turf and trails or "jumping in," a sort of ritual to manhood in which new gang members are beaten to prove their toughness and

bravery.

"We have a generation of young people who have become emotionally disassociated from their family, clans and communities," Perales said, "and have become desensitized to violence and death. Parents and grandparents are no longer teaching the lessons needed to survive, and to negotiate the difficult path from childhood to adulthood."

Perales suggests developing "alternative activities for young people, particularly after school" and calls upon communities to upgrade their ways of dealing with gangs.

"The bottom line: The community has to send the message that this is not what we want. We will not tolerate it. If a gang places graffiti on a wall and you do not take it down, then you are telling the gang, 'We accept you,'" he said.

— Source: *Indian Country Today*

## Small town, big tax: Tuba City again pays nation's highest sales tax

**TUBA CITY, Ariz.** — Even after the Arizona state sales tax dropped this year, a recent report by the Tax Foundation and the Arizona Tax Research Association said Tuba City residents continue to pay the highest combined sales taxes in the nation.

The small town's nation-leading tax of 12.725 percent is comprised of a 5.6 percent state tax, 1.125 percent from Coconino County and a 6 percent tax levied by the To'Nanees'Dizi chapter of the Navajo Nation. This is the third straight year at the top of the tax heap for this Northern Arizona town, the Navajo Nation's largest community.

Tuba City held on to the top spot even though Arizona slipped from second-highest combined sales tax last year to ninth place in the Tax Foundation report released recently, as the state's sales tax rate dropped by a penny.

The state temporarily raised the sales tax rate from 5.6 percent to 6.6 percent in 2010 to help cope with recession-driven budget cuts.

The foundation report pegged Arizona's combined sales tax rate this year at 8.16 percent — the 5.6 percent state rate plus average combined county and city rates of 2.56 percent.

— Source: *TucsonSentinel.com*

## Red Lake to commemorate treaty signing

**RED LAKE RESERVATION, Minn.** — A Tribal holiday to recognize the Old Crossing Treaty Day has been established for Oct. 2 by the Red Lake Band of Chippewas.

The Red Lake Tribal Council recently voted to create the new holiday in commemoration of the only treaty between the U.S. and the Red Lake Nation, signed on Oct. 2, 1863, by the Pembina and Red Lake Bands. The 1,200-square-mile Red Lake Reservation is the only "closed reservation" in Minnesota. The Tribe claims the land by right of conquest and aboriginal title; not by a reassignment of the U.S. government.

The Red Lake Band of Chippewa also refused to join with six other bands in organizing as the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe in the mid-1930s, refusing an electoral government in favor of keeping their hereditary chiefs.

Tribal officials will travel to Huot, Minn., where there will be a ceremony at Old Crossing Treaty Memorial Park, including an address by Red Lake Chairman Floyd Jourdain and a ceremonial drum performance.

— Source: *BemidjiPioneer.com*

## 13-year-old 'anti-Bieber' will address U.N.

**BOULDER, Colo.** — You might call him the Renaissance Child.

Whatever you do, try to remember the 13-year-old's name.

An indigenous environmental activist, rapper, singer, songwriter, event organizer, Native dancer and public speaker named Xiuhtezcatl (pronounced "Shoe-Tez-Caht") Martinez, has been invited to speak at the United Nations. The youngest member of the President's Youth Council, he is known as the director of Earth Guardians, a youth-based environmental nonprofit committed to protecting the water, air, earth and atmosphere.

Xiuhtezcatl, who his fans often refer to as the "anti-Bieber" (referencing American singer Justin Bieber) is Aztec on his father's side and environmental activist on his mother's side.

"I have always grown up knowing that all life is sacred and should be protected," said Xiuhtezcatl to the *Huffington Post*. "In order to change the world, we have to change the way we think about Earth and others."

A deep connection with the natural Earth was his earliest inspiration, giving rise to his passion as a voice for the

Earth at a young age: he gave his first speech at a climate change rally when he was only 6. As the youth voice for the Earth Guardians, Xiuhtezcatl has been involved in helping organize a myriad of rallies, actions, events and City Council presentations. With his mother, Tamara, Xiuhtezcatl led the 2012 iMatter March in Denver, the largest youth led march in U.S. history.

Despite his youth, Xiuhtezcatl has led political and legal fights to remove pesticides out of parks, keep coal ash contained, establish a fee on plastic waste and inspire people to begin embracing renewable energy. He also started a performance group called Voice of Youth and is featured in Peter Gabriel's Witness environmental documentary. He filed a suit against the State of Colorado and the federal government for not protecting the atmosphere and endangering future generations.

In an interview on Native Trailblazers radio, he describes his hip hop and Earth Guardian careers.

"We have a performance group and we write positive rap songs with lyrics to educate and inspire kids," he said. "There is a huge hip-hop culture, including slam poetry and break dancing. There are all of these different branches off of hip-hop culture."

"The Earth Guardian movement is a gateway and a portal to act for people of any age," he continued. "No matter whom they are or where they are in the world. It doesn't matter what your status is in society — none of this matters; we can all be Earth Guardians. This movement is growing globally. People can see young people standing up in their communities and they are changing things that are not working, so that their world is a better place."

At the UN, he will speak about the global water crisis. "If you think about it, water is the most basic necessity of life," he said. "If we do not have access to clean sustainable water supply, we do not have life. This is a human rights issue."

To spread the word about water, the UN has invited young people and activists from all over the world, as well as the Pope and the Dalai Lama who will stream in to the conference.

"Ultimately we are all working together toward the same thing, to create a better future for the next generation. Whether it is working on the water crisis, hunger — we are working on creating a better world for people," he said.

— Source: *Indian Country Today*

## Lac du Flambeau crisis: pot, bath salts, gangs

**LAC DU FLAMBEAU, Wis.** — Depending on who you talk to, either not much has changed or it is getting better on the reservation in the five months since the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians declared a state of emergency on their reservation.

A 64 percent increase in violent crimes and related emergencies and out-of-control synthetic cannabis ("spice") and prescription drug trafficking led to the March 29 emergency declaration. Police Chief Bob Brandenburg told *Indian Country Today* the next battle may be with bath salts, which contain synthetic chemicals similar to amphetamine.

"A lot of our kids and adults doing synthetic drugs are acting similar to people in the '70s on PCP, they are aggressive, have psychosis and hallucinations that make them very dangerous," he said. "The problem is now extending down into the lower age groups and grade school kids. They are getting drugs from relatives — brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles."

Brandenburg, who estimates his overworked staff fields 5,000 calls per year on a reservation of 3,000, also reports two gangs now residing on the rez: Sovereign Nation Warriors and the Native Soldiers.

"They gain their money and influence by selling drugs, including synthetics, which are real prevalent in our Native Soldier gang members," he said.

Not everyone agrees: Community member Chris Fralick, 34, an admitted occasional synthetic drug user himself, told ICTMN, "We had some issues here but for the most part it was highly common to what other communities experience — the problem just kind of cured itself with a little help."

Fralick also disagrees with Brandenburg's gang observations.

"There are no real gangs on this reservation," he said. "Some of them might identify themselves by wearing different colors and stuff, but that's not uncommon in Indian cultures. They are just a group of friends that hang out and do their own thing. Just kids being kids — just because they are wearing different colored shirts it's being called a gang problem."

The suicide rate on Lac du Flambeau has increased and residential calls for ambulance service for kids and adults having seizures from taking synthetics has also increased.

"We had one adult who was about 28 that we had to hook up to our AED

machine and bring him back. They took him to the hospital and he lived, but a week later they were hauling him in again for the same thing," Brandenburg said. "It's really amazing how badly they want to get at this stuff."

According to Fralick, who estimates that between half to 85 percent of the people previously using synthetics on the reservation have stopped.

"This isn't a problem you can escape by leaving our town; synthetic marijuana and dangerous drugs are in every community," he said. "It may still be happening, but to such a small degree that it is barely noticeable."

— Source: *Indian Country Today*

## Four Tribes win \$17 million TIGER 2013 grants

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Four Tribal communities will receive a total of more than \$17 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) 2013 grant program, the largest dollar amount for projects on Native American lands in any TIGER round.

The native grants include:

- \$8.7 million to the Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota to pave 17.6 miles of existing loose gravel road on the Pine Ridge Reservation, providing an opportunity for the distressed community to grow economically by providing a safer route for accessing amenities and services much more quickly. It will also include the addition of a bicycle lane, providing residents with better connections to communities through a safe, efficient roadway that can be used by personal vehicle, public transit or bicycle.

- \$2.2 million to the Village of Alakanuk in Alaska for their Community Streets Improvement Project. TIGER funds will be used to resurface, realign and widen nearly 3 miles of roads made out of boards and gravel in the Village, enabling an economically distressed village on the north bank of the Yukon River to improve and maintain its road network, particularly critical during winter months. This project would connect residents to the primary economic hubs of the community, including the village store, Tribal and city offices and health clinic.

- \$3.29 million to the Taos Pueblo in New Mexico to improve approximately 2.2 miles of roadway (Veteran's Highway Project) that connects the Taos Pueblo to the town of Taos in northern New Mexico. The road serves as the main artery into Taos Pueblo lands and the only access route for more than 300 school children, the elderly, workers and thousands of visitors who visit the Taos Pueblo, a U.S. National Historic Landmark and North America's only Living World Heritage site.

- \$2.94 million to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe in Nevada to relocate an intersection and construct secondary access roads on land administered by the Tribe. This will facilitate use of the area, improving the local economy and economic growth for the Tribe.

— *IndianGaming.com*

## Spirit Lake Chairman loses reinstatement effort

**ABERDEEN, N.D.** — The Northern Plains Inter-Tribal Court of Appeals has stepped in to overturn the Spirit Lake Tribal Court's July 16 decision that had dismissed a recall petition against Tribal Chairman Roger Yankton Sr., ordering him reinstated.

The Appeals Court ended confusion about Yankton's job after he was first ceremoniously reinstated, then kicked out when Tribal Council members obtained a stay of that action, and finally banned from entering Tribal headquarters or having contact with Tribal officials by a Tribal Court restraining order. And Leander "Russ" McDonald, twice installed as Chairman to replace Yankton, moved into the Chairman's Office.

Yankton, meanwhile, has sought relief from the Tribal Court's restraining order, which he claims has made him a virtual prisoner on the reservation and unlawfully prevents him from conducting the Tribe's business as Chairman, in a lawsuit filed with the U.S. District Court.

Yankton's opponents asked that the lawsuit be dismissed, saying the federal court has no jurisdiction in a sovereign Tribal matter.

In an effort to bolster Spirit Lake's effort to address problems of sexual abuse, including the sexual abuse of children, the Council reversed a controversial decision by Yankton that removed a display case holding photographs of more than two dozen registered sex offenders living on the reservation.

District representatives ordered the display returned to the Tribe's central gathering place.

— Source: *CrookstonTimes.com*

Compiled by Special Projects Reporter Peter B. Gallagher.

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## Ahfachkee after-school fun, learning

*New program will bolster classroom studies through kid-friendly activities*

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — A new program at Ahfachkee School is sweetening everyday education with after-school icing on the cake.

On a recent Tuesday, starting at the last ring of the school bell, children relaxed for homework fun with instructional aide Kolisa Franklin, attended art class to create watercolor masterpieces with media specialist Gary Chaffin and got mathematics know-how by measuring cups filled with chocolaty goodness for a cooking class with kitchen manager Horacio Smith.

"We have a good time. Our homework gets done faster, then we eat a snack and then we get to do whatever fun there is," said student Nicholus Andrews.

Called the Warriors Achieving and Reaching their Potential (WARP) Zone, the after-school offering launched Sept. 9, provides academic enrichment and fun-focused activities that bolster classroom learning.

Principal Lucy Dafoe said WARP Zone achieves several goals.

"It gives kids a chance to see teachers in a different light and lets Tribal departments have a collaborative relationship with the community," Dafoe said. "With math, reading, FCAT preparation and homework help, it's all there."

WARP Zone is funded with a three-year 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) grant via the Bureau of Indian Affairs. According to the most recent U.S. Department of Education report on 21st CCLC, the national program awarded 52 grants in 2012 for a little more than \$1.1 billion.

Instructional aide Jonelle Pollard applied for the grant last school year. It was received in time to institute a fun, summertime curriculum dubbed Ahfachkee Jet-setter during which children "traveled" the world.

"Every week kids explored different countries — Mexico, Italy and China. We read about the countries, used the currency . . ." Pollard said. Every "visit" ended in a food feast — like a Mexican fiesta complete with rice, beans and plenty of salsa.

The after-school fall session is now featuring cooking, hip hop dance, watercolor painting and fitness sports. The spring session will bring as much excitement plus robotics and science fair preparation.

Dafoe said the grant also allows children a second, or first, chance at band, drama and other special classes that are limited to certain semesters and grade levels during the school day. For instance, if a student is not eligible for musical instruction in the classroom, he or she may get a chance to pick up an instrument after school.

Instructional aide Jarrid Smith said children and adults have been eager to participate.

"More people are getting involved all around at school and it's because of the grant," Smith said.

Various Tribal departments, including Seminole Police and Family Services, are already on board. Late summer back-to-school events, such as the first Ahfachkee Meet and Beat Your Teacher 5K Walk and Run, were supported heavily by the Tribe's Health, Recreation and Police Departments.

"It was fun for the kids to see teachers and other adults show up at school in shorts and sneakers," Dafoe said.

Participating parents and guardians will get to enjoy the fruit of the program when kids cook and serve a special meal prepared by their own hands to their adult loved ones.

"WARP Zone is not parent conference



Eileen Soler

Ahfachkee students now have access to new after-school programs thanks to a grant awarded to the school.

time or must come to the school for other reasons. It's about, 'Hey, come to school to see what great things your kids are doing,'" Dafoe said.

Pollard said more than 30 percent of the student body was signed up a week before the program started.

An enrollment surge was expected

because of recent cutbacks at the Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club and the temporary closure of Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium for improvement construction.

## Higher Education College Fair set for Oct. 4

BY AMANDA MURPHY  
Copy Editor

**HOLLYWOOD** — More than 60 colleges, universities and technical schools will convene at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood on Oct. 4 for the Higher Education College Fair.

Students of all levels from high school to graduate school are invited to attend to further their educational endeavors.

Prospective students can expect to meet school representatives and learn about the application process, academics, campus life, activities and other school programs.

The room will be organized by interest so students can go straight to the schools that offer what they want. The Education Department made a point to invite schools that already have Tribal members in attendance and requested that those schools bring along a Tribal student ambassador to set an example and connect with peers about college life at the fair.

Schools from across Florida will attend, as well as out of state schools including University of Massachusetts, University of California, Los Angeles and Vanderbilt University. The Ivy League school Dartmouth College will also be present.

"The fair presents such a great opportunity to bring universities of high caliber under one roof," said Shruti Elliott, Higher Education recruiter for the Education Department.

The Tribe's eighth fair will be staged in the Hard Rock Ballroom. The number of attendees increases every year, Elliott said.

In past years, the turnout has averaged 95 participants.

The Education Department has extended more than 500 invitations throughout all the reservations with a goal of having 175 to 200 Tribal members attend this year's event.

"The value for education extends beyond financial needs to personal growth," Elliott said. "The value of education is really what the fair embodies."

The first college fair was held in the Hollywood Gym with 67 students attending. The fair peaked in 2010 with 148 students. It was then moved from the Gym to the Hard Rock to accommodate growing student interest and the number of schools that wished to participate.

The Tribe has had 187 students graduate with associate's, bachelor's or master's degrees. Billy L. Cypress — who the Tribal scholarship is named for — was the first graduate in 1965 with a bachelor's from Stetson University.

Currently, Tribal students are enrolled at 74 schools throughout the country.

At the fair, Education will also raffle off three laptops to Tribal members. The event takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Lunch will be served.

If you have any questions about the event, contact Shruti Elliott at 954-989-6849 ext. 10591 or Leila Patterson at ext. 10550.

## Student profile: Billie Tiger

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter



Beverly Bidney

Billie Tiger is pursuing degrees in social work.

**LAKE WORTH** — Billie Tiger is all too familiar with the pain of addiction and wants to spend her life helping others who suffer from the same.

To reach her goal, she will soon earn an associate of science degree in human services at Palm Beach State College. Tiger plans to continue her education at Florida Atlantic University where she will work toward bachelor's and master's degrees in social work.

With degrees in hand, she hopes ultimately to become a therapist for the Tribe's Family Services Department.

"I want to be able to help other recovering Tribal members and the children who are affected by addiction," said Tiger, who has been in recovery for three and a half years.

"I can help them realize they don't

have to continue the pain and can experience life without alcohol and drugs," she said.

Tiger, 36, comes from a family afflicted with addiction and has personally dealt with it since she was 18.

"I know the struggle firsthand," she said. "I'll be able to relate to them personally and clinically. I can help people even more because of my perspective."

Social work seems to be a natural fit for Tiger. She enjoys her counseling classes and believes she will be an effective therapist because of her own experience. Knowing that healing is a long-term process will help her help others.

Tiger lives in Delray Beach, one of the top recovery communities in the country, according to *The New York Times*. She loves going to school, which is much easier for her now than it would have been when she was younger. She has fewer distractions, knows her goals and does

what it takes to reach them.

"My determination is there," she said. "I'm finally succeeding at something I started when I was 18. From struggling with addiction to completing an AS degree is just the best; there are no words."

Tiger credits her father, Amos Tiger, as the biggest influence in her life. But she works part time in the Family Services Department and appreciates director Helene Buster's confidence in her as well.

"Helene has a lot of years in recovery and she's always been one of those who pushes me and believes in me," Tiger said.

With continued determination, Tiger is confident she will meet her goals and enjoy a successful career.

"Never stop believing in yourself," she said. "I take the time to see where I've been and where I've come to. I see my life as still good. One big aspect of recovery is today; you can't live in tomorrow or yesterday."

**"My determination is there. I'm finally succeeding at something I started when I was 18. From struggling with addiction to completing an AS degree is just the best; there are no words."**

— Billie Tiger

# Charter School celebrates Grandparents Day



Andrea Holata

Granddaughters Ryanna Osceola and Kalya Hammil flank their grandfather Johnny Osceola Sept. 6 during a Grandparents Day lunch at Pemaevt Emahakv Charter School. Every year the school invites grandparents to lunch to recognize and honor them.



Andrea Holata

From left, Melina Steve, Deagen Osceola, grandmother Diane Smith, great-grandmother Jennie Snow, Anthony Gentry, grandmother Nadine Tommy-Bert and Austin Thomas gather for a festive noon meal for Grandparents Day.



Andrea Holata

Great-grandson Heath Lawrence, left, and grandson Steel Gopher Jr. cuddle for a picture with grandma Beulah Gopher during the Grandparents Day lunch.



Andrea Holata

Fourth-grader Tammy Martinez embraces her grandmother Onnie Osceola with a tender hug.

Andrea Holata

Leah Minnick and grandson Silas Madrigal share a happy moment during Grandparents Day.

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# Boys & Girls Club molds youth

BY AMANDA MURPHY  
Copy Editor

With the beginning of the school year comes a new schedule for kids to follow from the time they wake up until about 3 p.m. when the last school bell rings. To continue that structure after school and so kids stay healthy, creative and most importantly, out of trouble, the Boys & Girls Club provides afternoon activities every day.

"It's no mystery youth need to be engaged into something productive immediately after school," said Robert North, director of the Boys & Girls Club.

When students first arrive at the club, they complete their homework before participating in activities. Later in the afternoon, kids can play music, do art projects and enjoy physical activity.

Teens partake in more adult-oriented activities, like cooking, to encourage them to take on more mature responsibilities. The club also holds discussion groups that allow teens to express themselves in a positive way. All activities are carefully planned to help youth learn and practice what they don't always learn in school, such as social skills and team sports that help mold them into thriving adults.

Activities on this year's schedule include beadwork, tie-dyeing, make your own fake snot, building a medieval castle, sumo wrestling, ceramics and soap making. They will also play dodgeball, volleyball, basketball, ping pong and other sports for at



In a 'Minute to Win It' series of challenges, Boys & Girls Club youth balance chocolate treats on their foreheads during an open house held Sept. 4 in Hollywood. The event showcased children's artwork and cooking skills, while providing a night of fun activities.

Amanda Murphy

least one hour daily.

The Boys & Girls Club is a prevention program. North said most after-school program philosophies deal with youth after they already get into trouble. But the Boys

& Girls Club aims to preempt trouble by getting kids involved at younger ages when they are more impressionable.

"The earlier you can work with youth, the better," he said. "The two main things are encouraging them to become productive citizens so they can contribute back to society and preparing them for the workplace."

The club also encourages parents to get involved as much as possible. Events are held throughout the year to show parents what their children have learned.

At a Hollywood club open house Sept. 4, counselors engaged children in a "Minute to Win It" series of challenges. One challenge had youth balance a stack of four brownies on their foreheads for one minute. The youths' artwork and cooking skills were also displayed for parents.

The Boys & Girls Club participates in Red Ribbon Week activities, fall festivities and other community events throughout the year. They are currently preparing for the Boys & Girls Club staff music performance on Oct. 25 to promote the club's music program.

There are also Boys & Girls Clubs on Big Cypress and Brighton. All locations stay open until 7 p.m.

Buses are available to transport students from certain schools to the reservation locations.

To register your child at the Boys & Girls Club, call 954-964-5947.



Beverly Bidney

Aiyana Cartwright, 8, reads as her tutor Yesenia Mena listens. In the background, tutor Christopher Falzone helps Vennabella Sisto, 10, with her homework.

## Tutoring makes a world of difference

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

Understanding reading, writing and arithmetic isn't easy for every student, but tutoring can make all the difference in school and beyond.

For proof of its power, tutoring program manager Santarvis Brown wants to measure that difference with tangible data.

A former Miami-Dade county administrator with 11 years of experience, Brown is charged with managing six companies contracted with the Tribe that provide tutoring services to about 400 students Tribalwide.

"The goal is to provide quality supplemental education services to Tribal members," said Brown, who is also acting director of the Education Department. "I'm pushing for measurable accountability and data to show students' learning gains."

To collect that data, pre- and post-tutoring testing will be conducted by all tutors so each student's progress can be tracked through the school year. Because consistency is crucial to success, students will have the same tutors every session.

Brown will meet with the tutoring companies monthly and rate the tutors on a scorecard to ensure more accountability. He also plans to survey parents to keep

them involved in the process.

"It will allow us to keep the reins on the program and measure quality assurance," he said.

Recently in Hollywood, students met with tutors for individual lessons and homework assistance.

"I like coming here because sometimes I can't understand everything and I'm struggling," said Aiyana Cartwright, 8, a third-grader at Driftwood Elementary in Hollywood. "It helps me because I have a person sitting right here to help me."

Vennabella Sisto, 10, comes for homework help every day.

"My spelling grades have gone up since I started here," said Sisto, a Hollywood Christian School fifth-grader. "I haven't missed a day."

The busiest time in the tutoring rooms is usually after 4 p.m. when students get back to the reservation from schools around the county. Snacks and knowledge are served together, a winning combination for absorbing information.

Tutoring is available from 2:30 to 6 p.m. at the following locations: Big Cypress: Learning Resource Center; Brighton: Tutoring trailer; Hollywood: Education Department and Tutoring trailer; Immokalee: Library; Naples: Library; Tampa: Field Office; and Trail: Tutoring trailer.



Amanda Murphy

Teens get messy preparing chicken Sept. 4 for the Boys & Girls Club open house in Hollywood.

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# Teens cross the pond, explore European cultures

**BY EILEEN SOLER**  
Staff Reporter

Most people only fantasize about taking a whirlwind European tour. For a dozen Tribal members, seven summertime days recently spent discovering the art, culture and religions of Paris and Rome was a fantasy come to life.

"It was my first time out of the States, so it was awesome and overwhelming," said Alanis Emilee Bowers. "Yes, I want to go back."

Organized by Mariann Shaa-nutch Billie, the educational experience for high school students and parent chaperones featured tours of St. Agnes church, Vatican City, the Roman Forum, the Colosseum, Pompeii and the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Flower in Italy, as well as the Louvre, the Palace of Versailles and the Eiffel Tower in France.

"The idea behind the trip was to take our young adults to explore other cultures and religions," Billie said. "I feel many of the students also gained a greater appreciation for our own culture."

The adventure was paid for by each participant, but Billie hopes in the future to help fund annual educational excursions through the ABC Foundation. Still in its infancy, ABC was established last year in memory of avid skateboarder Alexander

Blaine Cypress who passed away of pneumonia in May 2012 at age 21.

Billie said the foundation was created to build and support skate parks throughout Indian Country and the United States and to provide college scholarships to Tribal and non-Tribal extreme sport athletes.

Former Miss Seminole Alexis Aguilar and her parents, Vanessa and Pete Aguilar Jr., had a collective blast as Native American tourists in Europe. Pete Aguilar, owner of Seminole Construction and Development, said his favorite site was the Colosseum in Rome.

"I was impressed with the ability to build something of that magnitude so long ago. The construction was amazing considering what they had to work with way back when," he said.

For Cypress Billie, the best part of the vacation gave him a physical workout.

"Visiting Florence and climbing the (Basilica of Saint Mary of the Flower) dome – all 426 stairs of it," he said.

Mariann Billie said the next educational road trip is already scheduled. In the summer of 2014, she will take another group to Costa Rica. Teens must be 16 or older, passing to the next grade and be in good standing in the school and community.

*Mariann Billie contributed to this article.*



Photo courtesy of Mariann Billie

Pictured is the interior of the Colosseum in Rome. Students toured the location during their trip to Europe.



Photo courtesy of Vanessa Aguilar

Tour guide Stefania Ball and high school students Alanis Emilee Bowers, Alexis Aguilar, Ragan Osceola, Cypress Billie, Jason Melton II and Jesse Mitchell pose at the Hard Rock Cafe in Paris.



Photo courtesy of Mariann Billie

Seminole students, parents and chaperones gather for a photo at the Colosseum in Rome.



Photo courtesy of Mariann Billie

Pictured is a view of the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Flower, also called the Duomo, in Florence, Italy.



Photo courtesy of Mariann Billie

The Eiffel Tower in Paris is one of dozens of stops along the high school tour of Europe.



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	HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD		

Address:	City, State:	Zip Code:	Day time phone #:	Email Address:
*Annual Household Income (see below) \$ _____		As per below description, indicate if you meet any priorities DO NOT LEAVE BLANK - indicate N/A if not applicable		

**\*ANNUAL INCOME:** Indicate the approximate TOTAL amount of all family's YEARLY gross (before taxes) income. Include all sources of income for all the family members who are 18 years of age or older. (Income includes: child support contribution, interest and dividends, wages, self employment, unemployment benefits, Social Security disability, workers comp., pension or retirement benefits, welfare income, veteran's income, alimony and any income sources not specifically excluded in 24 CFR Part 4.609)

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Signature of Head of Household \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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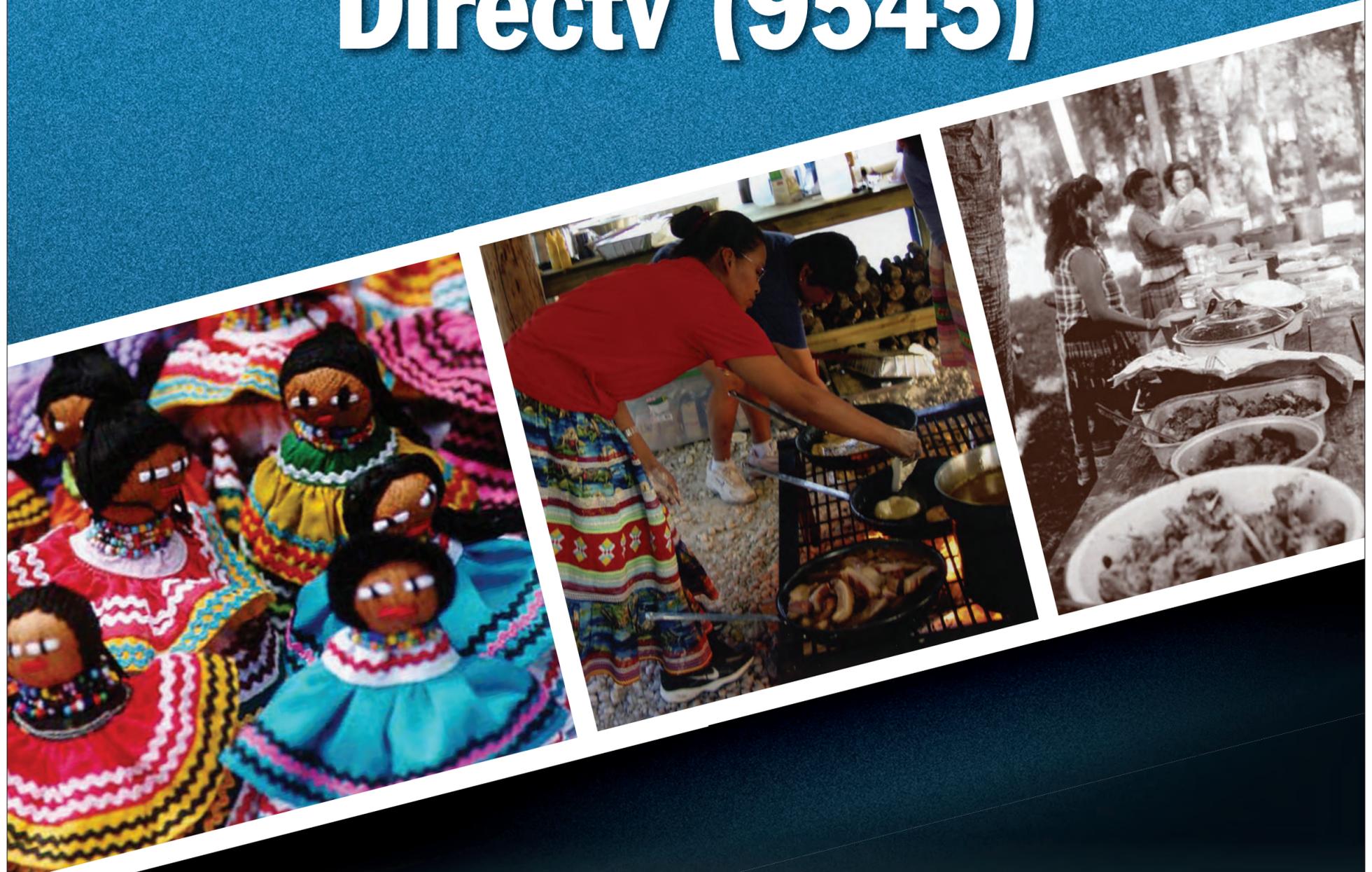
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# Sports

C



Eileen Soler

Sabre Billie charges the net for a tip during the Sept. 11 game against Glades Day School.

## Ahfachkee volleyball aims for team-building season

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Ahfachkee School's Lady Warriors volleyball program is off to a sure start when it comes to learning the game and building a competitive team.

With a 0-1 record for the middle school team and 0-2 for the varsity team as of Sept. 11, the girls charge the court with determination and school spirit.

But coach Dessie Thomas said the teams are up against some very established school teams — some that are also part of travel leagues, such as Glades Day School. Secondly, the Ahfachkee high school team consists also of middle school students.

Eighth-grader Dasani Cypress shows promise with powerhouse serves and consistent defensive returns. Eleventh-grader Sabre Billie is also a power server who, in a recent game against Glades Day, put out three consecutive serves for a series of point rallies, though the team lost the first three matches in a shutout.

The varsity team will have played a 14-game schedule for the 2013 season before the district playoffs set for Oct. 22 in Naples. Finals will be played Oct. 24 in Naples.

Competing high schools this year are: Labelle, Everglades, Seacrest, Marco Island



Eileen Soler

Dasani Cypress returns the ball against Glades Day School.

Academy, Community Christian Academy, Cape Coral and Moore Haven.

Six games make up the middle school schedule.

For now, the team is winning in attitude, outlook and camaraderie.

"I love when I see them out there on the court and smiling," Thomas said.

## New gym courts the future

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — The 27-year-old basketball court mural that decked the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium floor, long covered in heavy foam squares of protective mats, is history.

"We're on to big improvements," said Josh Jumper, Big Cypress site manager for the Recreation Department.

Jumper practically grew up in the gym having spent portions of nearly every year of his life engaged in some sort of athletic, school or community happening that took place on the concrete, painted gym floor.

Since Sept. 9, renovation crews have

been giving the gym an inside makeover. With bleachers removed, workers stripped the mats off the floor and revealed the time-worn graphics. By Sept. 11, the center of the gym was piled high with pallets of plywood and the same 2.25-inch high tech wood flooring used in NBA courts.

Recreation director Richard Blankenship said athletes will feel like they are "running on pillows" compared to the old floor.

"It won't make balls go into baskets, but it will improve wear and tear on the body," he said.

The stress-relieving floor is constructed with a moisture barrier, a thick layer of resilient pad, two layers of hardwood

subfloor and a maple parquet top layer. The "give" of the floor absorbs shock, reduces stress on joints and decreases the potential for injury.

Four sets of new bleachers — two on each side of the gym — wall padding, new basketball hoops and fresh coats of paint will complete the renovation.

The project is the second phase of a face-lift that began in early 2012, said Michael Shane Kelly, Construction Management assistant director. By Sept. 12, 2012, a new entry canopy was installed, a new roof crowned the building and a bronze statue of Lance Cpl. Herman L. Osceola — a Tribal member who was killed in 1984 during a U.S. Marine training mission in South Korea and for whom the gym is named — had been erected.

"The second phase may take a few months but the wait will be worth it," Kelly said.

Blankenship said the job will likely be finished by mid-November.

Ahfachkee School volleyball teams are now playing "home" games at rival schools but Jumper is hopeful the gym will reopen in time for basketball season. He's looking forward to returning home court advantage to Ahfachkee athletes and watching the school's Scream Team pep squad lead fans in spirited cheers on the home team side.

"The gym has always been a great home, but now we're giving the community something more to be proud of," Jumper said. "When you come out to cheer on the home team, you want to sit on the home side."



Eileen Soler

Tons of new high-tech floor materials are staged center court on top of graphics painted on concrete nearly three decades ago at the Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium on the Big Cypress Reservation.

## Golf pro is ace in hole

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BIG CYPRESS** — Two decades as a big sugar executive plus 13 years as Clewiston's municipal golf director is an ace in the hole for the Seminole Tribe with the recent hire of a new Big Cypress golf instructor, Adolfo Pena.

"I'm part of the bigger plan to bring a casino and hotel here and to bring golf to the entire community, Tribal members and outsiders," Pena said.

The "bigger plan" includes completing construction of a permanent, professional driving range on West Boundary Road not far from Billie Swamp Safari and moving forward with ideas to someday expand the range into a regulation PGA golf course. A golf repair and pro shop is also on the wish list.

Pena credited Big Cypress Councilman Mondo Tiger's vision for Big Cypress as a destination location. The hotel and casino, destined for construction near Billy Swamp Safari, will hopefully attract affluent visitors to the reservation's golf amenities.

Meanwhile, Pena is standing in for Ahfachkee School golf coach Amos Mazzant who is out because of medical reasons, and he will soon begin teaching the game to elders.

Pena said students learn how to play the game for competition while putting character-building lessons to work, such as patience, trust and teamwork. Elders benefit most from the low-impact physical movement that golf requires, such as walking hole to hole and swinging clubs.

"All Tribal members will have a place to enjoy a recreational activity that is ageless," he said.

Of Cuban descent, Pena moved with his family to Clewiston at age 2. After graduating from Florida Atlantic University, he worked for U.S. Sugar Corp. first in accounting then in real estate and public relations. Eventually, his enthusiasm for golf turned his head from the high-powered corporate world to a job opening for a golf director at Clewiston Golf Course.

"Because golf is my passion, I took the city (Clewiston) up on the job. That's how I met so many Seminole Tribe members," Pena said.

Relationships formed on the golf course with some of Big Cypress' notable residents who frequently use the municipal facility, including Councilman Tiger



Eileen Soler

Adolfo Pena gives Ahfachkee School student Troy Cantu a golf lesson.

and Regional Housing manager Cicero Osceola.

But the Tribe's vision for golf is not just about Big Cypress, Pena said. Part of his job entails creating a golf program that will also bring recognition to Seminole attractions in Brighton and Hollywood.

"And we hope to do it first class all the way," Pena said.

For now, focus is on building interest for golf inside Seminole communities. Ahfachkee School golfers and elders from all reservations make a good start. Pena is already familiar with some people from hosting clinics and fundraising tournaments at the Clewiston venue. His professional and personal contacts at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) enable him to schedule special training and motivational events with Tribal students and FGCU head golf coach Brent Jensen.

"We'd love to feed our teen golfers into FGCU. First they should enjoy the game — the score doesn't matter. But ultimately you want to be a good player, a competent player and someone who will go on the tour," Pena said. "For the Seminole kids, we just have to look back in history to warriors doing the best they can with all they are given."

Students must maintain a 2.5 GPA to participate. There are no requirements for elders.

## Mary Huff named head softball coach at Okeechobee High

BY ANDREA HOLATA  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — The Okeechobee High School (OHS) softball team has a new head coach with a resume to mold champions. Mary Huff, of Brighton, served as the junior varsity coach last season and was recently promoted to head coach for the Brahman's varsity team.

The journey to becoming head coach started when Huff was a student at OHS, playing for the Brahman's softball team, where she earned letters for all four years at the varsity level. She was a member of the team that made it to states in 2007; the team also won several district titles. She was named Most Valuable Player.

After graduating in 2008, Huff attended St. Petersburg College earning all-state and all-conference accolades. She then enrolled at Indian River State College where she played for the Lady Pioneers as second baseman and pitcher and completed her associate's degree in general studies. Huff enrolled at the University of Central Florida and planned to play for the Knights until her softball career was curtailed by a torn ACL. However, she completed her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies; health, social and behavioral sciences, and coaching.

As a softball lover and an OHS graduate, Huff hoped to one day coach for the Brahman's.

"I knew since I graduated that this is what I wanted," she said. "I wanted to come back to Okeechobee High School and coach there because it seemed like an awesome thing at the time."

Huff coached one year each for NAYO, the Brahman's junior varsity team, the Chobee Firestix traveling team and the Chobee Athletic Academy traveling team. With different levels of experience as a player and a coach, Huff knows what it takes to have a successful team. Most importantly, she



Andrea Holata

Mary Huff is the new head softball coach at Okeechobee High School.

wants to teach the Lady Brahman's to have a good work ethic and apply what they learn on the field to life in general.

"I played high school and at college levels, including division one," Huff said. "I know what it takes (to compete). I will ask a lot of them. I want to get the student athlete aspect back into it. I would like them to be better people and students, and of course, I would like to win."

Huff said she thinks her age is an advantage. She's 23.

"I feel the girls look at me as an older sister and we understand each other. I'm excited; I think I have a lot to offer," she said.

She also admits that nothing comes easy but, "If they do the little things right, winning will come."

Huff credits her success throughout her softball journey to the support she receives from the Okeechobee and Brighton communities, family, friends and OHS.

# Cowhands put careers to competition

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

**BRIGHTON** — Extraordinary cowboys and cowgirls from ranches throughout Florida put talent to the test at the two weekend-long Ranch Rodeo Shootout hosted by Tribal Council and the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Association.

"I've been all around the country from one professional rodeo to the next and sometimes it's just good to get back to your roots," said professional rodeo clown and emcee Clifton "Hollywood" Harris, of Micanopy.

Two dozen four-person teams of cattle hands, each comprised of at least one female, rode in the event that championed chores performed daily for weekly paychecks.

Categories included bronc riding, team branding, double mugging, team ranch sorting and cow decorating.

Ten teams launched the first night of competition Aug. 23 at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena. Ten more teams followed the next night at the Brighton arena for an audience of nearly 300 spectators.

On Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, 20 more teams battled at the Okeechobee Cattlemen's Arena. The top 10 teams then went head to head for a Labor Day afternoon showdown

and a share of \$30,000 in prize cash.

Seminole participants were Adam Turtle and Kerwin Miller on the Arrow G team; Alex Johns on the First American team; and Justin Gopher and Leanne Billie on the 7 SL team.

Harris called Turtle "tougher than a box of rocks."

"I've seen Adam Turtle on his feet, on his head and on his feet again. He can't be kept down," Harris said.

Jimmy Carter, a professional rodeo emcee based in Fort Meade, said all the cowboys and cowgirls deserved applause.

"Tonight they compete. Tomorrow they'll be in the saddle working again," Carter said. "A cowboy's work is never done."

### Winners of the Ranch Rodeo Shootout

1: Lazy JB, 280.5 points; 2: Fulford Cattle, 190 points; 3: Grace Ag, 185.5 points; 4: M & N Cattle, 180 points; 5: Harvey Ranch, 174.5 points; 6: Adams Ranch, 166.5 points; 7: Trinity Ranch, 165 points; 8: Stevens Land & Cattle, 159.5 points; 9: Stuart Cattle, 114.5 points; 10: M & H Cattle, 108.5 points.

Seminole Tribune reporter Andrea Holata contributed to this report.



Eileen Soler

Adam Turtle, of the Arrow G team, rides wild bronc Brown Bomber, in the bronc riding competition of the Ranch Rodeo Shootout Aug. 23 at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.



Eileen Soler

Seminole cowboy Kerwin Miller, of the Arrow G team, competes in the team ranch sorting competition.



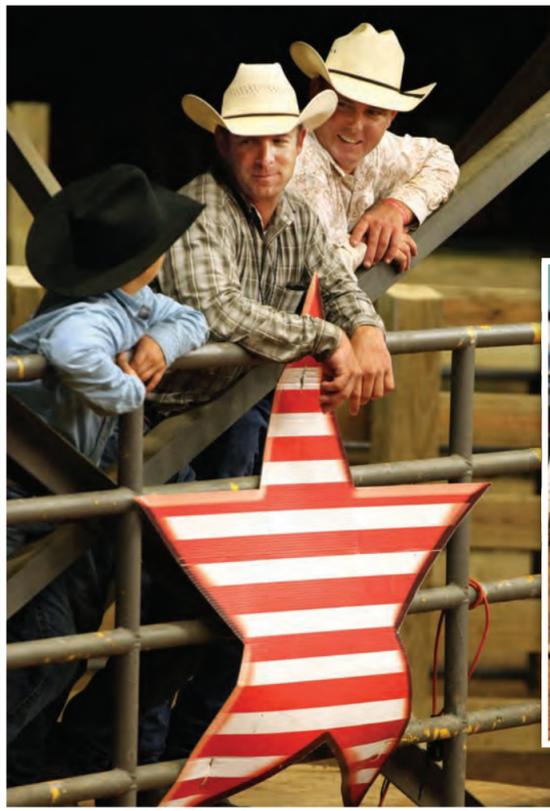
Eileen Soler

Amos Tiger, director of the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton, lines up beasts and cowboys for competition in the Ranch Rodeo Shootout Aug. 23.



Eileen Soler

Members of the Trinity Ranch team capture points in the double mugging competition.



Eileen Soler

Case Durrance, 11, Rafe Durrance and Wil Cronich, all of Okeechobee, watch competing teams from a platform during the event.



Eileen Soler

A member of the Brewer Cattle Co. shows his mettle in the bronc riding competition of the Ranch Rodeo Shootout Aug. 23 at Fred Smith Rodeo Arena in Brighton.

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# On your mark, get set, sign up for Indigenous Games 2014

BY EILEEN SOLER  
Staff Reporter

Don't let the dates for the 2014 North American Indigenous Games fool you.

According to Director of Recreation Richard Blankenship, the July 20-27, 2014 event, in Saskatchewan, Canada, is just around the corner.

"It's not a long time away at all," Blankenship said during a community meeting on the Big Cypress Reservation – not when you consider that most of the Tribe's sign-up deadlines are in October and the official event registration is in January.

The games, held every four years for Native youth ages 13 to 19 to showcase excellence in sports and culture, takes months of preparation.

Tryouts, qualifiers, drug screenings, passport applications and other requirements must all be completed before athletes are officially entered on a competition roster.

"The drug screening alone takes long to clear athletes for play," Blankenship said. Teams and individual competitors – about 5,000 athletes – from the 26 regions in North America's Indigenous communities will complete in 15 sports.

The time to get on board is now. Qualifiers in basketball and volleyball have already been held on the Hollywood and Brighton Reservations respectively.

Here's a list of games, qualifier dates and locations, and registration deadlines:

**Basketball:** Oct. 5, 11 a.m., Brighton

**Baseball:** Oct. 12, 11 a.m., Hollywood

**Softball:** Oct. 12, 11 a.m., Brighton

**Softball:** Oct. 26, 11 a.m., Hollywood

**Archery:** Nov. 2, 10 a.m., Brighton, register by 5 p.m. Oct. 24

**Track and Field:** Oct. 25, location and time TBA, register by 5 p.m. Oct. 18

**Canoeing/Kayaking:** Oct. 5, 10 a.m., Big Cypress, register by Oct. 1

**Golf:** Oct. 12, 11 a.m., Clewiston, register by Oct. 7

**Rifle shooting:** Oct. 5, 1 p.m., Big Cypress, registration ended Sept. 30

**Swimming:** Oct. 19, location and time TBA, register by Oct. 11

**Wrestling:** Oct. 19, location and time TBA, register by Oct. 11.

Things to do before the official 2014 North American Indigenous Games:

- Complete registration form
- Sign and notarize general release form
- Complete education release form
- Get drug tested
- Complete residency declaration form
- Complete age category exemption
- Sign athlete agreement
- Sign parent agreement

For more information about the Indigenous Games 2014, call Hollywood Recreation at 954-989-9457; Big Cypress Recreation at 863-983-9659; Immokalee Recreation at 239-657-4515; or Brighton Recreation at 863-763-3866.

# Two-time champion Kiauna Martin excels on the softball diamond

BY BEVERLY BIDNEY  
Staff Reporter

**PLANTATION** — Kiauna Martin knows how it feels to be a champion; at 14 years old, she has already been one twice.

Martin and her fastpitch softball team, the Gold Coast Hurricanes, won the Triple Crown Sports Summer National tournament, 14U division, in August at Myrtle Beach, S.C. The final game of the tournament was played against the South Carolina Lightning; the Hurricanes won 9-1. Based in Plantation, the team also won the championship title last year in the 12U division.

"I enjoy the sport and I have fun," said Martin, who plays multiple positions on the field. "Playing in the tournament was nerve-racking. I felt like I had to be perfect or I'd let the team down. I tried to calm down and then we all bonded together and stopped worrying. We just played how we played and we won."

A versatile player, Martin started playing T-ball at 5 and took to the sport. Although she has tried other sports, including volleyball, her passion resides with softball. She also plays for her school team at American Heritage School.

"Kiauna adds a lot of strength, power and quickness to the team," said Jorge Rodriguez, coach of the Gold Coast Hurricanes. "She can play anywhere in the field; her attitude and speed are major factors. She's very positive even when things are down – she overcomes issues and keeps her head up. I admire that about her."

Watching her mother, Sara Jumper, play softball inspired Martin to try the sport – it looked like fun to her. She tried it, liked it and excels at it now. Some players on the team have played together for a few years,

including playing on the Seminole travel team. Martin is the only Tribal member on the team now, but the relationships between the girls have grown strong.

"We're close and we have a good time on and off the field," said Martin, a ninth-grader. "If there's ever a problem, we just get together and work it out."

Martin also excels at school. Her favorite subjects are math and science. Between softball, homework and family life, she finds time to go to the Hollywood Gym where she is giving volleyball another try by playing in the Monday evening coed league.

Although it's unusual not to have a favorite position on the field, Martin is confident and athletic and plans to continue playing softball wherever she is needed on the field.



Kiauna Martin poses with some of her trophies at home. Beverly Bidney

# Youth take to the gridiron



Photo courtesy of Josh Jumper

Fifteen youth ages 7 to 10 make up the Big Cypress recreational football team for the 2013 season. Games take place each Saturday morning, with home games at the Big Cypress softball field.



DATE	H/A	OPPONENT	LOCATION	TIME
08/29/2013	Home	Clewiston HS	Clewiston	3:30pm
09/03/2013	Away	St. John Neumann	Naples	4:00pm
09/05/2013	Home	Moore Haven HS LaBelle HS	Clewiston	3:30pm
09/09/2013	Away	Immokalee HS	TBA	TBA
09/12/2013	Home	Moore Haven HS	Clewiston	3:30pm
09/19/2013	Away	Wellington Christian		
09/26/2013	Away	Boca Christian	Boynton Beach	4:00pm
10/01/2013	Away	Community Christian	Port Charlotte	3:30pm
10/08/2013	Away	LaBelle HS	LaBelle	3:30pm
10/10/2013	Away	Hendry County Championship	Clewiston	3:30pm
10/14-15	Away	District Tournament	TBA	TBA

Schedule subject to change

**HEAD COACH: AMOS MAZZANT**

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<b>Clewiston HS</b> Clewiston Golf Course 1201 San Luiz Ave. Clewiston, FL 33440	<b>St. John Neumann</b> Wyndemere CC 700 Wyndemere Way Naples, FL 34105	<b>Community Christian</b> 20035 Quesada Ave. Port Charlotte, FL 33952	<b>LaBelle HS</b> Glades Golf Course 1679 Indian Hills Dr. Moore Haven, FL 33471
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<b>Boca Christian</b> Delray Dunes 12005 Dunes Rd. Boynton Beach, FL 33436	<b>Immokalee HS</b> TBA
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"Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity."



Version6.13

## AHFACHKEE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL Schedule 2013

DATE	H/A	OPPONENT	LOCATION	V/MS	TIME
08/27/2013	Away	LABELLE HS	Labelle	V	4:30pm
09/03/2013	Away	EVERGLADES	Everglades City	MS	5:00pm
09/05/2013	Away	CLEWISTON MS	Clewiston	MS	5:00pm
09/09/2013	Away	*EVERGLADES HS	Everglades City	V	5:00pm
09/10/2013	Away	WEST GLADES	Labelle	MS	5:00pm
09/12/2013	Away	GLADES DAY	Belle Glade	V	5:00pm
09/16/2013	Away	*SEACREST	Naples	V	6:00pm
09/18/2013	Away	LABELLE HS	Labelle	V	4:00pm
09/20/2013	Away	*MARCO ISLAND ACAD.	Marco Island	V	6:00pm
09/23/2013	Away	COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN	Port Charlotte	V	6:00pm
09/24/2013	Away	CLEWISTON MS	Clewiston	MS	5:00pm
09/26/2013	Away	CAPE CORAL CHRISTIAN	Ft. Myers	V	5:00/6:00pm
10/01/2013	Away	EVERGLADES HS	Everglades City	V	5:00pm
10/03/2013	Away	MOORE HAVEN HS	Moore Haven	V	6:00pm
10/04/2013	Away	EVERGLADES	Everglades City	MS	5:00pm
10/07/2013	Away	COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN	Port Charlotte	V	6:00pm
10/10/2013	Away	EVERGLADES HS	Everglades	V	5:00pm
10/15/2013	Away	MOORE HAVEN HS	Moore Haven	V	6:00pm
10/17/2013	Away	GLADES DAY	Belle Glade	V	5:00pm
10/18/2013	Away	WEST GLADES	Labelle	MS	5:00pm
10/22/2013	Away	District Tourn. Semi-Final	Naples	V	5:00pm(#2vs3)
		(winners of Semi advance to Finals)			7:00pm(#1vs4)
10/24/2013	Away	District Tourn. Finals	Naples	V	7:00pm

\*Denotes district match; H=HOME; A=AWAY; MS= MIDDLE SCHOOL; V= VARSITY

**HEAD COACH: TONEITA BROWN**

<b>Clewiston MS</b> 601 W. Pasadena Ave. Clewiston, FL 33440	<b>Glades Day School</b> 400 Gator Blvd. Belle Glade, FL 33430	<b>Community Christian</b> 20035 Quesada Ave. Port Charlotte, FL 33952	<b>Moore Haven HS/MS</b> 700 Terrier Dr. Moore Haven, FL 33471
<b>Everglades</b>	<b>Seacrest Community Day</b> 7100 Davis Blvd. Naples, FL 34104	<b>Marco Island Academy</b> 1450 Winterberry Dr. Marco Island, FL 34145	<b>Cape Coral Christian</b> TBD

"Win with humility; lose with grace. Do both with dignity."

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EAGLES	THE BOOK OF MORMON
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# FALL REVIVAL

SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 2, 2013

Sunday—Wednesday

6:30 PM

JOIN US FOR

SPECIAL MUSIC, TESTOMONIES

REVIVAL SERVICES

DINNER: 5:30 PM NIGHTLY

EVANGELIST: SALAW HUMMINGBIRD



**Take a photo with Nascar's #30 Championship Germain-Osceola Racing Truck!**



## SENIOR TRIKE FEST 2013

9th Annual Senior Trike Fest  
**Thursday  
October 24, 2013**

**BIG CYPRESS  
AVIATION HANGER**

**Registration 8am - 9am**

**Start Your Engines!**

**Practice and get ready to compete for the title of Trike Fest Champion.**



9TH ANNUAL SENIOR TRIKEFEST - 9TH ANNUAL SENIOR TRIKEFEST - 9TH ANNUAL SENIOR TRIKEFEST - 9TH ANNUAL SENIOR TRIKEFEST

## SENIOR TRIKE FEST 2013



Team T-Shirts, Giveaways & Raffle Prizes for all Seniors!

Prizes and Awards for individual and team events!

The #30 Championship Germain-Osceola Racing Truck will be present!

Best Dressed Triker and Best Decorated Trike Contest!

Contact your local Health Department and Senior Center for more information. All participating Seniors must receive medical clearance to participate. We strongly suggest for all Seniors to practice.