



The **Seminole Tribune**
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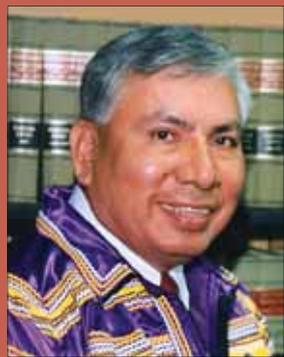


2009 Tribal Election Results



David Cypress

Big Cypress/Immokalee
David Cypress: 162
Manuel M. Tiger: 71
Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr.: 28
Wovoka Tommie: 26



Andrew J. Bowers

Tribal Council Representatives

Brighton/Tampa
Andrew J. Bowers: 102
Roger Smith: 101
James Tommie: 40



Max B. Osceola Jr.

Hollywood/Ft. Pierce
Max B. Osceola Jr.: 185
Moses B. Osceola Jr.: 86
Mark Billie: 29



Paul Bowers Sr.

Big Cypress/Immokalee
Paul Bowers Sr.: 145
Cicero Osceola: 138



Johnnie Jones Sr.

Board of Directors Representatives

Brighton/Tampa
Johnnie Jones Sr.: 225



Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.

Hollywood/Ft. Pierce
Marcellus W. Osceola Jr.: 91
Christopher Osceola: 84
Gloria Wilson: 67
Milo Osceola: 29
Franklin Moore Jr.: 19
David DeHass: 9

Easter Bunny Springs His Way to Naples

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — The residents of the Naples community congregated at the home of Doug and Sandy Osceola on the afternoon of April 11 in anticipation of catching a glimpse of the fabled Easter Bunny.

Much to their delight, both adults and children did not have long to wait. Their furry, white friend had a large floppy pink ears peeked out from behind a large oak tree and then hopped across the lawn to greet them. Wearing a Seminole patchwork vest and a big smile, he distributed hugs and hand shakes to everyone.

As many know, the Easter Bunny can't talk. However he did a terrific job of delivering his message with appropriate gestures. It wasn't long before he had a large group dancing and hopping with him around the bushes and trees. Mimicking his actions, the youngsters giggled and laughed while attempting to duplicate the shake of his fluffy white tail.

The Easter Bunny's helpers hid eggs in the bushes, flowers beds, on the lawn and even up in the trees. Forming a line behind their favorite rabbit, the children did the bunny hop onto the grass and then broke into a run to gather as many eggs as possible. Even Grandma Tahama Osceola collected her share and encouraged the little ones in their hunt.

While having their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny, each of the boys and girls received



(L-R) Pedro Zepeda joins the Easter Bunny in wishing his grandmother, Tahama Osceola, a Happy Easter.

Mother's Day Festivities Abound in Big Cypress

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Big Cypress community commemorated Mother's Day with various activities during the week of May 7-12.

The festivities commenced on the evening of May 7 when the seniors traveled to the Coconut Creek Casino with Senior Center Site Manager Cecilia Guzman. More than two dozen attendees enjoyed a special dinner along with President Richard Bowers Jr., who presented gifts to the mothers as a token for Mother's Day.

Most of the seniors stayed at the casino for the time allotted. Others took a detour and went shopping nearby.

On May 8 the community gathered at the Big Cypress Gymnasium for a luncheon, sponsored by the Tribal Council and Board of Directors' offices.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress attended the festivities with the employees, community members and Tribal citizens. Paul "Cowbone" Buster and the Cowbone Band provided entertainment for the afternoon event. Families took home flower arrangements and dozens of Mother's Day balloons.



Mya Cypress shows her Hula technique during the Hula dance presentation at the Community Center Mother's Day dinner.

□ Please see **MOTHERS** on page 2A

Tribal Citizens Swim, Bike, Run in Triathlon

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton reservation was turned into a battleground on May 2 as Tribal community members teamed up to test their physical limits at the second annual Triathlon Relay Race, sponsored by the Brighton Recreation Dept.

"We are really excited because we are trying to get these people out here living healthier and more active lifestyles," said Fitness Program Director Natasha Kesoglou-Perez.

The triathlon was divided into three divisions: youth, adult and senior. Competitors swam, biked and ran, vying for top honors and bragging rights.

Youth, ages 13-17, had to swim 200 yards, bike 3.1 miles and run 1 mile. The adults had a 300 yard swim, 3.1 mile bike ride and a 2 mile run, whereas the seniors, ages 55 and older, swam 137 yards, biked 3.1 miles and walked or ran 1 mile.

Teams consisted of three individual competitors with the teams further divided into male and female categories.

Some seniors weren't even sure they would make the event. But this age group ended up with the most teams participating.

"I didn't know if I was going to



Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. crosses the finish line to take first place.

□ Please see **TRIATHLON** on page 2A

Tribal Council Holds Special Meeting

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Assistant Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribal Council convened at the Hollywood Headquarters for a special meeting on April 21. They unanimously passed 18 items from the consent agenda and 11 from the regular agenda.

The consent agenda items were as follows:

Resolution 7: Issuance of a homesteat lease to Anthony Lee Osceola — Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 10: Issuance of a homesteat lease to Wanda Faye Bowers (FKA Wanda Faye Bowers McCall) — Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 11: Release of interest in a homesteat from Sarah Marrero McDonald — Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 12: Issuance of a homesteat lease to Ricardo Fortino Hernandez — Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 13: Service line agreement (1,244' X 5') between Embark and the Seminole Tribe of Florida for location of a telephone line to the homesteat of Jacob Osceola Jr. — Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

□ Please see **COUNCIL** on page 2A



The children watch as the Easter Bunny mimes instructions for the egg hunt.

EASTER

From page 1A

a beautiful basket loaded with treats and age appropriate toys. Young at heart, the adults quickly took their turns for family and group photos.

A traditional Seminole dinner had been prepared over the fire and included such favorites as venison, chicken, squash, cabbage, rice with tomato gravy, sweet potatoes and fried bananas. Served with an abundance of fruits, vegetables and dessert items, the meal left the adults content to spend a leisurely afternoon relaxing under the chickadees.

The boys and girls entertained themselves playing Water Tag, Laser Battle and enjoying the assorted swings hanging from the oak trees.



(L-R) The Osceola-Lugo children, Dominic, Angelina and Joseph, give the Easter Bunny a big hug.



Jessica Osceola samples the tomato gravy at the Easter luncheon.

COUNCIL

From page 1A

Resolution 14: Fourth amendment to Annual Work Plan 21, submitted to the Florida Water Management District by the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 15: Contract application to the United States Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs for P.L. 93-638 funds to conduct the Bowlegs Road Project - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 16: Contract application to the United States Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs for P.L. 93-638 funds to conduct the Osprey Road Project - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 17: Contract application to the United States Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs for P.L. 93-638 funds to conduct the South Bowlegs Road Project - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 18: Contract application to the United States Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs for P.L. 93-638 funds to conduct the South Bowlegs Road Project - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 19: Brighton Village Phase II subdivision plat, as amended - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 20: Approval of agreement with Kraft Construction Co., Inc., for improvements and additions to the Seminole Indian Casino - Coconut Creek;

Resolution 21: Approval of agreement with Kraft Construction Co., Inc., for improvements and additions to the Seminole Indian Casino - Immoakales;

Resolution 22: Charlotte Burgess application for a loan to build a home on the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation; Ratification of pre-approval of the loan;

Resolution 23: Standard form of agreement between owner and contractor where the basis of payment is a stipulated sum of \$626,030 between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Oak Creek Builders, Inc., for the new construction of Charlotte Burgess's single family home - Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 24: IGT second amendment to master lease agreement and execution of customer orders; Ratification;

Resolution 25: Bally Gaming, Inc., first amendment to master lease agreement and execution of orders; Ratification;

Resolution 26: Appointment of the chief Human Resources executive officer as the plan administrator for the former 403(b) Plan of the Seminole Tribe of Florida; and,

Resolution 28: Approval of agreement with Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino - Hollywood for the Seminole Princess Pageant.

The regular agenda were as follows:

Resolution 29: Grant of easement for right of way for BIA Road 281 (AKA Josie Billie Highway) - Seminole Tribe of Florida (grantor), Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Roads (grantee) - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 30: Renewal of revocable permit between Jacob Osceola (snowball) and Matthew McKaig DBA (The Snitball Man (permittee) - Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation);

Resolution 31: Third addendum to office/warehouse lease agreement between

Davie Too, LLC, (lessor) and Seminole Tribe of Florida (lessee);

Resolution 32: Approval of first amendment of business lease between Seminole Tribe of Florida (lessor) and Alice Snow (lessee) for assumption by Salina Nora Dorgan and Elbert Snow- Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 33: Approval of second amendment to commercial lease between Seminole Tribe of Florida (tenant) and CMB Development of Naples, Inc., (landlord) for the Naples Liaison offices;

Resolution 34: Approval of business lease between Seminole Tribe of Florida (lessor) and Cecelia Tigertail DBA Sweet Tooth (lessee) for the construction and development of a restaurant - Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation;

Resolution 35: Business lease between the Seminole Tribe of Florida (lessor) and Pinnacle Towers, LLC, (for relocation, construction and operation of a communications facility - Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation);

Resolution 36: Bank of America card services for Seminole Gaming;

Resolution 37: Seminole Tribe of Florida photo permission letter granting use of selected still photo images from The Seminole Tribe/Seminole Tribe of Florida photo archives to Harry A. Kersey Jr.;

Resolution 38: Approval of agreement between John's Place, Inc., and the Seminole Tribe of Florida; and,

Resolution 39: Approval of maintenance and support agreement with Unicitric, Inc.

TRIATHLON

From page 1A

make it because it is Saturday and you do what you want to do," said Tribal senior Mable Haught. "But I'm here to support the group and do things for myself and my health."

First place in the male senior division went to teammates Willie Johns, Parker Jones and Jack Smith Jr. They finished with an amazing time of 33:44.

The senior males had nothing on the first place female senior team, however. Team members Connie Whidden, Patty Waldron and Edna McDuffie, all representing the Seminole Tribe barely breaking a sweat in a time of 28:28.

Members Louise Gopher, Onnie Osceola and Sable Hauts followed soon after at 35:30.

The first place youth male team was comprised of Isaac Bettelyoun, CW Ortiz and Royce Osceola, with a finishing time of 22:59. The first place youth female team finished just 7 seconds behind the males in a time of 23:06. Members included Jessi Osceola, Alissa Dorgan and Kristina Osceola.

The adults had a bit of an extra chal-



Michele Thomas paces herself in the swimming event.

lenge but both male and female teams finished with impressive times.

Brighton Board Rep. Eleanne Jones Sr., Reno Osceola and Robert Youngblood snagged the first place finish for the adult male division with a time of 1:03:12. The first place adult female team of Michele Thomas, Amy Johns and Kelly Braswell were right on the male's heels coming in at 1:11:58.

"The overall camaraderie, team spirit and genuine support for each other during this event was a heartfelt experience," said triathlon organizer and Fitness specialist Kai Setty. "It has opened the door to new possibilities for this event in the future."



Parker Jones (R) hands off the bracelet to teammate Jack Smith Jr. (L) to begin his one mile walk as Willie Johns (C) watches.



(L-R) Louise Osceola and Virginia Tommie make time for small talk at the Mother's Day luncheon.

MOTHERS

From page 1A

Members of the community next attended a Mother's Day Hawaiian-themed dinner, held May 12 in the Big Cypress Community Center. The Luau dinner united the families for a night of Hula dancing, umbrella-topped beverages and more. The children, ranging

from ages 5-15, either performed a special dance or helped with serving the community their meals.

Assistant Director of the Community Center Arellys Valdes said it took more than two weeks to set up the center and practice the dances and routine with the children.

"The entire department helped out in this production," Valdes said.

Thank You Letter to Voters from Marcellus Osceola Jr.

I am honored that the voters of Hollywood and Ft. Pierce expressed their confidence in me by electing me to the Board of Directors. I would like to offer my thanks and gratitude to all of the people who supported me in this campaign. I look forward to representing all of the good people of the Hollywood and Ft. Pierce communities, no matter whose campaign they supported.

I also want to applaud the other candidates who fought long and hard in their campaign for this position. With candidates like these, we are never going to have a shortage of great ideas and energy for our Tribe's future. One thing is for sure, we all have an equal amount of love for our Tribe and we all want a better outcome for your Board's profitability.

Thank you to Gloria Wilson for her service to the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. I am not here to throw away her hard work, her ideas, or her vision. My staff and I will be taking a close look at all of those ideas and projects to determine what would work toward our goals. If it is viable, then let's keep it and see if we can make it better. If it is not working, we're going to see if it can be fixed. If there is no hope and it is wasting our dollars, then it will be dissolved.

I ran for this position because I felt my business experience and my determination is what is going to take to help put this Board on the map. I bring in new ideas with new strategies to make our dollars work for us. I am dedicated to this job and will fight for your Corporation to show a profitable bottom line.

Thank you,
Marcellus Osceola Jr.
Marcellus Osceola Jr.



Paul Bowers Sr. Appreciation Letter

I want to thank all of the Big Cypress and Immoakales Tribal citizens who gave me their vote of confidence in my election for Big Cypress Board Representative.

Living and raising my family in Big Cypress, I share the same problems and concerns as my friends and neighbors. I will be drawing on my experience of a lifetime in the cattle industry and my eight years as a past representative to meet the challenges of my job.

I believe in you and look forward to doing my part to help shape the future of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Thank you,
Paul Bowers Sr.
Paul Bowers Sr.



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Deadline: August 12, 2009

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Community

A



Chris C. Jenkins

Chairman Mitchell Cypress shows off a copy of the American Association of Museum's letter of official accreditation for the Tribal Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Accreditation Celebrated at Reception

Gov. Charlie Crist Signs Proclamation Naming April 21 as Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Day

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Members of the Tribal Council, Tribal citizens, employees and special guests celebrated the historic Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum accreditation on April 21 at the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters Auditorium with a reception.

After the April 1 accreditation announcement of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum by the American Association of Museums, the Seminole Tribe now operates the only Tribally-owned, accredited museum in the country.

"Once again the Seminole Tribe of Florida achieved something special and have broken down more barriers," said Chief Historic Resources Officer Tina M. Osceola.

"Never before has the Seminole Tribe of Florida been in a position to walk through the door and say 'We are here,'" Osceola added. "It has always been someone else telling our story; we are in charge of it now."

Members of the Tribal Council also weighed in with their thoughts, giving perspectives on yet another milestone in the Tribe's rich history. Each was also presented with framed, stamped copies of the official Accreditation Commission Certification.

"I really never thought I would be here to see this process completed," Chairman Mitchell Cypress said.

President Richard Bowers Jr. expressed the importance of having a Tribal museum to preserve the Seminole Tribe's history.

"When you think about museums, you usually think of how boring they are, but every time I go in [the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum] I learn something," President Bowers said. "It defines who we are and where we come from."

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Anne McCudden presents Tribal citizen Carol Cypress with a special award for her longtime support of the museum.

Osceola Jr. also pointed out that only four percent of all national museums have attained accreditation status.

"Working together, this is a true reflection of the Seminole Tribe of Florida," Rep. Osceola said.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Anne McCudden echoed Rep. Osceola's sentiment and offered her own insight into the four-year long, but now completed, journey to accreditation.

"The accreditation process is anything but

easy, but it also should not be," McCudden said.

Governor Charlie Crist sent a written letter congratulating the Tribe and signed a proclamation naming April 21 as Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Day.

The museum also had the additional honor of receiving accreditation at the same time as the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC. It opened its doors in 2004 and is the largest national museum completely celebrating native people and preserving their legacy.

The facility is the 16th museum of the Smithsonian Institution and was established by an act of Congress in 1989. It is comprised of three facilities; each was designed following consultations between museum staff and Native peoples and working in collaboration with Native peoples from the Western Hemisphere.

Legendary Professional Golf Association golfer Greg "The Shark" Norman also attended the reception to offer congratulations.

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is located 17 miles north of Alligator Alley off of Interstate 75 between Ft. Lauderdale and Naples on the Big Cypress Reservation.

A second gallery museum is also a part of the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino complex on the Hollywood Reservation open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., excluding weekends.

For more information please call (863) 902-1112, (954) 797-5570, or log on to the museum's website, www.ahthahiki.com.



Erica Price/www.EricaLynnPhotography.com

(L-R) Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Seminole Star Search grand prize winners Hank Nelson Jr., Paula Bowers-Sanchez and David Billy, and Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Dept. Director Micki Free at the listening party.

Star Search Winners CD Released at Party

Billy, Nelson, Bowers-Sanchez Celebrate Debut CD

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Assistant Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The top three winners from the Seminole Star Search talent contest joined friends, family members, invited guests and Tribal employees at the Hard Rock Café on April 9 to listen to a few tracks from the "Seminole Star Search Grand Prize Winners, Volume 1" CD.

The nine-track CD features three songs from each winner, David Billy, Hank Nelson Jr. and Paula Bowers-Sanchez. At the listening party, the crowd heard Billy's "Suspicious," "The Ride" from Nelson and Bowers-Sanchez's song "Keep Away."

The "Seminole Star Search Grand Prize Winners, Volume 1" CD will be available for purchase at Seminole Hard Rock facilities throughout the world at a later date.

Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Dept. Director Micki Free emceed the event. Free, a Grammy®-Award and Grammy®-Award winning musician and music industry insider, and his department were instrumental in the formation of both the Seminole Star Search talent contest and the CD release.

"This is the Seminole version of 'American Idol' without a doubt," he said.

Free, along with Chief Historic Resources Officer Tina M. Osceola, acknowledged the Tribal Council's integral role in Seminole Star Search.

"This is something our Tribal Council, as leaders, has done that has never been done before," Osceola said.

Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie, a co-emcee at the Seminole Star Search finale contest that took place in Hollywood on May 2, 2008, also spoke at the CD release party.

She congratulated the winners and said that music has always played a vital role of Seminole culture.

"Music has been a part of our past, it's certainly a part of our present, and with Star Search, it's also going to be a part of our future," Liaison Tommie said.

The three Seminole Star Search winners all sing country music, which led Free to enlist the help of some of Nashville's finest musicians, including George Tutko on bass, when it came time to record the album.

"Working with this project was so easy because the talent was there," Tutko said.

Cherokee musician Shea sang backing vocals on the "Seminole Star Search Grand Prize Winners, Volume 1" CD.

"As a native woman, it was an honor to be a part of this CD... the first native music project of its kind," Shea said.

She, along with musicians Matt Kramer, former lead singer of the band Saigon Kick, and John Brant, former bass player for the band Cheap Trick, judged the Seminole Star Search contest.

Star Search winner Bowers-Sanchez shared her song, "Keep Away," with the audience first. She said she was "proud to be Seminole today" and admitted recording music for a CD has been a lifelong dream of hers.

"I've been singing probably since I learned to walk," she said.

Next, the audience heard "Suspicious" from Billy. He admitted he was unsure about entering the Star Search competition, but after seeing Bowers-Sanchez's audition, decided he would give it a try.

The final musician featured on the "Seminole Star Search Grand Prize Winners, Volume 1" CD, Nelson, played his song "The Ride" for the audience. He credited his father, Ted Sr., with sparking his interest in classic country musicians like Hank Williams Sr., which he admits helped shape his own musical style.

Nelson said he hopes to continue successfully making country music.

"Star Search is just the beginning for me," he said. "I'm going to take this all the way and I hope to be on the radio one day."

In addition to the songs heard by the three Star Search winners, Victorio "Tor" Osceola, a 2008 Star Search competitor, performed a song to open the program. The 10-year-old daughter of Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. entertained the audience with her rendition the hit song "Mercy" by Grammy®-Award winning Welsh musician Duffy.

Complete Track Listing for Seminole Star Search Grand Prize Winners, Volume 1 CD

David Billy
Suspicious
Love Don't Live Here Anymore
More Than A Memory

Hank Nelson Jr.
That Lonesome Song
Man of Steel
The Ride

Paula Bowers-Sanchez
Hurts So Good
This Could Take A Little Time
Keep Away



Chris C. Jenkins

Members of the Tribal Council with Professional Golf Association legendary golfer Greg "The Shark" Norman (C) at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Accreditation Reception, held in the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters Auditorium on April 21.

HOLLYWOOD

Family Roots Run Deep for Jimmie Hank Osceola Jr.

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal senior Jimmie Hank Osceola Jr. and family help define the true essence of Seminole legacy, tradition and spirit.

With one of the most famous and pride-laden last names within the Tribe, this simple man has managed to maintain one of its most important cornerstones — family.

Born in the deep woods and wetlands of the Florida Everglades, Osceola said he thinks he was born in 1936. He said he is unsure of the exact date because there were no official documents or paperwork to verify that at the time.

"We lived there a very long time in a chickee, but I do not remember how long," he explained.

Jimmie C. Osceola and Mary Motlow are his parents. Both were born in south Florida, just like their son. As a sibling of 13, only five including himself, remain alive today; they are Betty, Maggie, Annie and Joe. His brother, Dan, was the most recent to pass away two years ago.

"Everything we did was done together," he said of his late brother. "We had a love and togetherness. We ate together, told stories by fire and we just listened and learned."

In spite of that closeness, he remembers hard times and tragedy also.

He recalls his father, Jimmie, as the leader and provider of his family and a jack of all trades. He had no education and spoke very little English. Whether hunting food, growing vegetables or working odd jobs along the way selling bird feathers and skinning and making alligator skins, Osceola said his father tried to do the best of times.

"He was always doing things and he never stopped," Osceola said. "He could make money out of just about anything."

Osceola, however, lost his father at the age of 10.

"After my father was gone my brothers tried to fill in," he reflected.

Osceola eventually went on to attend a boarding school in Cherokee, N.C., graduated from high school in Oklahoma, and eventually returned to Florida where



Jimmie Osceola Jr., with his wife of nearly 49 years, Marie.

he attended trade school to become a barber.

He is no stranger to having his life's journey under study. He said in the 1970s he spent time with Wheaton College professors as part of studies on the Tribe. During that time he traveled to New York. He said it was one of the best times in his life.

Another unforgettable time came just last month in April as family members gathered for a retreat and get away in Tennessee.

"It was a wonderful time and reminds me of old times when everyone was together," he reminisced.

Now with five children of his own, two girls and three boys, and approaching his 49th year anniversary of marriage to wife, Marie, this June, Osceola constantly pays homage to those memories, while embracing the new situations life presents.



(L-R) Winterfest Incoming Chair Paul Anderson, Winterfest Chairman of the Board Max B. Osceola Jr., Winterfest Immediate Past Chair Gary Correll and Winterfest President Lisa Scott-Founds get ready to smash the inaugural guitar, a Hard Rock tradition.

Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. Named Winterfest Chairman

BY BRIANA ABITIAN
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Sparks flew and guitars smashed in honor of a new captain on deck for this year's Winterfest Boat Parade.

Former Winterfest Chairman Gary Correll passed down the anchor to newly-elected Max B. Osceola Jr., Hollywood's Tribal Council representative, poolside at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on April 13.

Correll said after his two year tenure with a board of 50 people, he is proud to now pass on the title to Osceola.

"I know Winterfest is in very capable hands with the passing of the gavel to the new chairman of Winterfest, Max Osceola," Correll said.

Rep. Osceola was recognized as chairman for his vision and commitment to South Florida traditions, through the development of eco heritage tourism; accomplishments worthy of the title.

"I know Max will be an outstanding chairman because he's very familiar with the boat parade [and] he's very familiar with our organization," Lisa Scott-Founds,

president of Winterfest Inc., said.

Rep. Osceola and Seminole Tribal citizens of years past are indeed no strangers to the Intracoastal waterways. Years ago, Seminoles paddled down the New River along the quaint and crystal waters of Fort Lauderdale, known as "The Venice of America."

The Seminole Tribe and Rep. Osceola have been tied to the parade for more than 14 years, and most recently signed another five year contract as Winterfest's title sponsor.

"Lisa [Scott-Founds] asked us to be in the Winterfest boat parade and we didn't have a boat, so she had someone donate a 21 footer," Rep. Osceola said. "We decorated it, participated, and today we have a 115 footer and it's a fun time."

Rep. Osceola however, added that it is not he alone who received this honor.

"It's not me, it's we," he said. "The Seminole Tribe has entrusted me to represent and I thank them for that."

The 38th annual Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade will cruise its way through Ft. Lauderdale waters on Dec. 12. For more information please visit winterfestparade.com.

BIG CYPRESS



The Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church Fellowship Hall is dedicated to the memory of Eddie Cypress Billie. (Judy Weeks)

Eddie Cypress Billie Honored at Fellowship Hall Dedication

Fellowship Hall Located at BC's New Testament Baptist Church

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The late Eddie Billie, daughter of Charlie Cypress, was born in 1924 at a remote campsite deep in the heart of the Everglades in an area currently located in southeastern Collier County. She was a member of the Panther Clan, raised in a traditional

manager, who dedicated her life to serving others.

Migrating with her family to the newly-established Big Cypress Reservation in the late 1930s, Billie converted to Christianity. She became a member of the New Testament Baptist Church during its formation in 1966. As the wife of its founding pastor, Rev. Frank Billie, she was one of the church's most active members.

Billie made it her life's mission to spread the gospel of her Lord and administer fellowship to everyone she encountered, whether in her own backyard or traveling the trade routes during her early years with her family. While traveling she developed a multitude of lifetime friendships all across south Florida, northward to the Okeechobee encampments and on missionary trips to Oklahoma.

Some of Billie's friends and those whose lives she touched joined Seminole Tribe of Florida representatives and community members to celebrate Billie's life on April 19. On this day, the Eddie Cypress Billie Fellowship Hall officially opened in the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church to honor her memory and legacy within the church.

The dedication ceremony began with one of Billie's favorite activities, singing, and the assembled crowd sang her favorite Creek song, "Helenuyah Yvhiikares," which roughly translates into English as "I Will Sing Hallelujah." Event emcee and active church member Keeno King reminisced about Billie, who he said everyone knew as "Grandma."

"Grandma loved to sing and learned as many hymns as possible in Mikasuki and Creek," King said. "When she visited us in Oklahoma, she had us teaching her the songs. On our next visit to Big Cypress, she led the congregation in singing to us in our own words."

ties. Designed by Balfourt Finnvoid Architecture, Inc., it was constructed by Seminole Design-Build, Inc., and completed in February 2009.

Billie passed away in March 2008, but attendees of the dedication ceremony emphasized that her love of her fellow man will be remembered as future generations enjoy the use of the Eddie Cypress Billie Fellowship Hall.



Tabitha Shomo supervises Micah Cypress in the new nursery at the Eddie Cypress Billie Fellowship Hall. (Judy Weeks)

"We dedicate this building in her memory," said President Richard Bowers Jr. "I know that she smiles down and offers her guidance. To see the children running around here, generation after generation will be her reward."

Though many of Billie's friends and family members attended the event, one was notably absent, her widower, Rev. Frank Billie, 96.

Due to the infirmities that come with age, he was unable to attend, however, indicated his gratitude for the honor bestowed upon his late wife and pastor. In his many years as pastor of the church, she was always at his side doing God's work and administering to everyone who crossed their paths.

"Frank Billie could not be present, but he joins us in spirit and rejoices in the growth of the church that he and his wife worked so hard to build," said Chairman Cypress.

Upon Frank Billie's retirement as pastor at the Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church, the late Johnny Shomo took over as pastor. His widow, Venita, brought her family from Oklahoma to participate in the dedication ceremony.

"When my husband and I brought our family here to help fill the vacancy left by Frank Billie's retirement, Eddie made us feel as though we had come home," she said. "God has a plan and uses us to make it work."

Several of Billie's family members also recalled the life of their late relative at the dedication ceremony. Billie's nephew, Charlie Cypress, recalled Buster, Billie's granddaughter, and Erin Pustel, Billie's granddaughter about the woman many viewed as one of God's chosen messengers, while Betty Cypress King shared stories with the audience about her Aunt Eddie.

"Grandma raised me and she was my teacher," said King. "She was very strict and unrelenting in her quest to separate right from wrong, but at the same time had a never ending capacity for love and compassion."

Deacon Joe Osceola Sr., the oldest congregation member still attending and active in the church, offered Biblical words of wisdom during the speeches.

"There is a passage in the Bible that says that the children of the Lord cried out to him for help and he delivered," Osceola said. "We prayed and he heard our prayers. We thank God for the wonderful place to teach our children and share his blessings."



Young Eddie Cypress Billie chose a lifestyle of fellowship and love for all mankind. (Submitted by Judy Weeks)

According to Chairman Mitchell Cypress, "This was Eddie's dream and I know that she sees that it has come true."

The Big Cypress New Testament Baptist Church began in a chickee and eventually moved to a permanent structure built with volunteer labor during the early 1970s. However, time took its toll on the adjacent cove chickee and this structure had to be demolished a few years ago. This is now the home of the Eddie Cypress Billie Fellowship Hall.

On Sept. 7, 2007, Billie witnessed the realization of her dream at the groundbreaking ceremony for a 4,791 sq. ft. Fellowship Hall to be comprised of a lobby, kitchen, dining room, three classrooms and restroom facilities.

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BIG CYPRESS

Navajo 'Code Talker' Participates in Museum Event Opening

Event Coincides with 'Native Words, Native Warriors' Exhibit

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Native Americans have been fighting to protect and defend their homeland since prehistoric times. Therefore, it was no surprise when 400 Navajo warriors, known as Code Talkers, answered the call to participate in a top secret military operation that would eventually save the lives of thousands of their military comrades and tens of thousands of civilians.

Their words played a significant role in shaping the outcome of World War II and the ultimate destiny of the U.S. for decades to come.

On the afternoon of April 24, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress hosted an opening reception for the "Native Words, Native Warriors" exhibit, which will be on display in the West Gallery through July 25. The exhibit chronicles the story of these Navajo warriors.

A remarkable tale of the Indian soldiers who used their Native languages in service to the U.S. military, the exhibit was developed by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The support of Elizabeth Hunter Solomon, of the Smithsonian Women's Committee, has made it possible for future generations of Americans to share in the experiences of their forefathers.

"The 'Native Words, Native Warriors' exhibit is a comprehensive study through facts and photos that will prove that sometimes the call to arms is best answered with words," said Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Anne McCudden.

One of the former Navajo Code Talkers, Bill Toledo, sang the "Marine's Hymn," known as the organization's official song, in both Navajo and English, at the opening of the exhibit.

Of the 420 Code Talkers, less than 100 remain alive today, with even fewer able to travel in their advanced years.

Toledo, 85, discussed the origins of the Code Talkers, opening a window into his own culture and personal history, which in some ways paralleled many Native Americans of his era.

Born in a Hogan, a very remote area of the Navajo Reservation, Toledo lost his parents at an early age and was raised by his grandparents. He said they depended upon their flock of sheep and "dry land farming" for their livelihood.

Reservation agents began transporting Toledo to day school at age 6 as part of an assimilation program.



(L-R) Seminole Vietnam War veteran Russell Osceola Sr. shares personal experiences with fellow veteran Bill Toledo.

only consolation was the close companionship of his cousins, who shared his circumstances.

"By the time I turned 18, the United States was deeply involved in World War II and the Japanese were breaking our military codes as fast as they could be created," Toledo said.

Toledo explained that the son of a Presbyterian missionary, Philip Johnston, who had been raised on the Navajo Reservation and was fluent in their language suggested developing a code in the Navajo language that would be impossible for the enemy to break.

Toledo continued: "Out of this, what we call the 'First 29 Code Talkers,' came into existence. These Navajo established the code with 211 names and the alphabet."

He then shared a few words that made up the code, such as the Navajo for "turtle," meaning "armored tank."

Toledo explained that one of the First 29 came to his school recruiting a short time later. When he left, he took five volunteers with him. They were Toledo, his cousin and uncle, Preston and Frank Toledo, featured on the Museum's poster promoting the event and the Morgan brothers.

"It was funny because they were now asking us to speak our language," Toledo said. "The one thing that he didn't tell us about was boot camp. We might not have been warriors when we left school, but we were Marines when we left San Diego nine weeks later."

Toledo became a member of the 3rd Marine Division and traveled to the British Solomon Islands, the Marianna's and Iwo Jima. In 1943 he arrived at the command in Bougainville, the largest island in the Solomon Islands. Within three days, the command had scrapped their old procedure for messages and were using the Code Talkers.

"It was our job from that point forward," Toledo said. "We were training to land on the Japanese mainland when President Truman ordered the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, bringing an end to the war."

The Code Talkers were sworn to secrecy upon joining and were instructed to tell no one about the code when they were discharged. Finally on August 4, 1982, President Reagan declared Navajo Code Talkers Day and declassified their role in the military service.

Following his discharge, Toledo completed his high school education in Lawrence, Kan. He married, had three children and retired after 30 years of processing uranium for the mining industry in New Mexico.

He is quick to say the peace time uses of uranium for atomic energy and medical research vastly outweigh its wartime purposes. The use of the atomic bomb to end the war with the Japanese saved more lives than it took, Toledo said.



(L-R) The Smithsonian's Alma Douglas, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Anne McCudden and former Code Talker Bill Toledo make opening remarks at the new exhibit.

However, his education and knowledge of English were curtailed by long absences due to his responsibilities to his family and the sheep.

Unable to speak English, Toledo was removed to boarding school when he reached 10. Suffering from culture shock, his world was turned upside down overnight. Forbidden to speak his own language, the young Navajo had to learn to communicate all over again. His

Seven-Year Veteran Employee Bids Farewell

Ruby Osceola Retires From Job at BC Senior Center

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Ruby Ann Osceola has spent much of her life being of service to others. However, on April 29, she retired from the Big Cypress Senior Center during a ceremony that provided an opportunity for her fellow seniors and co-workers to acknowledge the seven years that she had worked there.



Ruby Osceola receives a large floral arrangement and plaque at her retirement party from the Big Cypress Senior Center.

Center Manager Cecilia Solano presented her with a plaque in recognition of all her hard hours of work and dedication to her job.

"It has been a pleasure working beside Ruby each day, but now it is time for the tables to turn," Solano said. "When most people retire, you rarely ever see them again. We hope that she will frequent the center so that we can have an opportunity to wait on her the way that she has taken care of others."

A large floral arrangement signified the love and respect that Osceola was earned during her years of service to the center and her community.

Both Big Cypress representatives, Tribal Board Rep. Cicero Osceola and Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, also attended the ceremony.

"Ruby has always given more of herself than she has taken," Rep. Cypress said. "Married to Seminole veteran Roy Nash Osceola, she raised three sons and two daughters here in Big Cypress with little money, lots of hard work and plenty of love."

Rep. Cypress then recalled a sadder time for Osceola.

"Ruby Osceola suffered the greatest sacrifice that any mother can make, when she lost her son, Herman, in a helicopter crash in Korea while he was serving his country in the military," he said. "Calling upon the strength of her ancestors, she endured the loss of this young Seminole warrior and continued to serve her fellow man."

Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola recalled times he spent with Osceola in years past.

"My fondest memories of Ruby go back to when she had the store here at the rez and nobody could beat her sandwiches," Rep. Osceola said. "She used to make the biggest, tastiest burgers in the whole world and I could never get enough of them. Her store may be gone, but the memory of it will linger with us forever."

Retirement will mean just a slight change of pace for Osceola, who said she believes in living life to the fullest. She also said she is looking forward to spending more time with her sister, three remaining children, and four grandchildren.



Preston Osceola plays the guitar while vocalist Matt Kramer improvises a song about the wildfire on Alligator Alley.

Music Industry Insiders Offer Advice to Tribal Citizens

Star Search Music Camp Inspires Seminole Talent

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The second Seminole Star Search Music Camp held on April 25 in the Herman L. Osceola Gym, featured a daylong session with booths set up highlighting various aspects of music including image, stage presence, vocal instruction and song writing.

Director of Seminole Heritage Events and Promotions Micki Free emceed the event. Free, a multi-award winning musician, told the music camp attendees that "we are here to give constructive criticism and help you build confidence."

"Have faith in yourself and determination," he added. "If you plan to succeed, you have to want it and be willing to make sacrifices along the way."

In addition to Free, other music industry veterans and insiders participated in the camp to offer guidance to the budding Seminole talent. Matt Kramer, former lead singer of the band Saigon Kick, and Prince Markie Dee, a music producer and one of the original members of the hip-hop group the Fat Boys, offered guidance to

I can't read music either, but I won a Grammy®, and neither could Jimi Hendrix."

Continuing Free said: "I see that you have a new acoustic guitar and have broadened your range of chords. You have indicated that you don't sing because you feel that you have limited range with your voice. Today we are going to show you that this is not true.

By removing Osceola's capo, a clamp that goes on a guitar to change the pitch, and changing his key, the instructors helped him find a whole new range.

"Singing is a personal thing and we limit ourselves," said Kramer. "Project more of your body into the song and improvise. Build and navigate a track to follow by going low and then high, but chill out with the basic melody."

Asking Osceola to put together a melody with his chords, Kramer pulled some words out of the air and within a few moments they had created a song about the wildfires raging along Alligator Alley. Quickly adapting, Osceola followed the lead with his guitar and then joined in the chorus.

"Today we have witnessed natural ability and helped someone discover that he has excellent pitch," complimented Free. "Don't be afraid to enter into uncharted waters. We have come here to help you grow."

Kramer echoed Free's sentiment. "Being versatile and having vocal abilities gives you power," he said. "It is much easier to find a good musician than a decent singer. If you play an instrument, you are a part of the band, but if you are also a vocalist, the band can be built around you. Discipline yourself and diversify your talents."

Instructor Prince Markie Dee also brought invaluable knowledge to the class. He advised the camp attendees to follow their own path and not succumb to the pressures of others.

"The music business is a tough place," he said. "Always follow your dreams. If you don't win, give it some more and after you have given everything you have, dig deep and find some more."

"Judges will critique your style," Dee continued. "Don't be afraid to improvise because the stage is yours. Above all, be natural and don't try to look a certain way. Be comfortable and be yourself."

All music camp attendees received a copy of the "Seminole Star Search Grand Prize Winners, Volume 1" CD from Free which features three songs each from the 2008 Star Search winners David Billy, Hank Nelson Jr. and Paula Bowers-Sanchez. Free then encouraged each person at the music camp to try-out for Seminole Star Search 2009.

"Tryouts for 2009 will take place in June and you could be in the lineup of contestants striving for a spot on our next winners' release," he said.



Hip-hop artist and producer Prince Markie Dee (L) and vocal instructor Matt Kramer (R) work with Deven Osceola (C) on the electric keyboard.

those in attendance wanting to know more about making it in the music industry.

Tribal citizen Preston Osceola returned for the second Seminole Star Search Music Camp, and Free invited him to participate in an evaluation.

"This is a workshop, not a test," began Free. "Last time you were here, you were playing an electric guitar and for someone who is self-taught and doesn't read music, you really caught my eye. For your information,

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IMMOKALEE

Tribal Friend Mildred Roberts Sherrod Celebrates 90th Birthday

Chairman, Immokalee Council Liaison, Tribal Citizens, More Attend Party

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — A Florida cattlewoman and icon of the Roberts family of Immokalee, Grace Mildred Roberts Sherrod, celebrated her 90th birthday on April 18.

The festivities took place in the old, one-room wooden church located on the site of her family's original homestead in Immokalee. More than 300 people attended the event to offer their best wishes and reminisce about the early frontier days of South Florida.

Surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Sherrod was joined by her last remaining brother, Bobby, as they relived nearly a century of memories created at the Roberts' Ranch on one of Florida's last frontiers.

Friends from all across the state shared refreshments and waited patiently for their opportunity to congratulate her on her milestone birthday and join in the conversation. Chairman Mitchell Cypress also attended the party to honor Sherrod. He also recalled old memories of her and her family.

"My grandfather, Whitney Cypress,

traveled all day with my father, Jimmie, and his brothers and sisters to visit the Roberts' store and then camp out near by," Chairman Cypress said. "This was an important meeting place for our people and they knew that they could trust the Roberts for a fair trade. A Seminole camp was eventually established on the curve not far from their property and existed there for many years."

"Our people did not own the land for this village or have running water or electricity," continued Chairman Cypress. "Mildred Sherrod recognized their need for a permanent home and was instrumental in arranging for the first parcel of land on Stockade Road to be set aside for them. This was the beginning of what would become the Immokalee Reservation."

Giving Sherrod a big hug, Tribal citizen Joe Frank also recalled memories of the Roberts family and the birthday party guest of honor.

"That original camp was my home for a long time and I will always remember the kindness of the Roberts," Frank said. "Food was not easy to come by in those days and the Roberts would let us pick up some of the fruit from their citrus trees and sometimes bring baskets of basic food staples to share with us."

Sherrod replied: "My mother used to say 'Lots of fruit falls and it would be a sin not to share with those in need.' Friends always help

each other and it has been my pleasure to be able to call the Seminole my friends."

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar recalled Sherrod's connection to her late mother.

"I will always remember Mildred Sherrod for her random acts of kindness," Liaison Aguilar said. "She was my mother, Lucy John's, dear friend for many years. She would stop by frequently to give her a ride to church or just check to see how she was doing. They first met as youngsters and over the years they always kept in touch."

Sherrod responded to Liaison Aguilar's story, saying she has "a beautiful picture of Lucy John [that] hangs on my living room wall."

Coming all the way from Indiantown, Fla. to participate in the celebration, another Florida cattlewoman and lifelong friend, Iris Wall, reminisced about knowing Sherrod throughout the years.

"I will never forget how happy we were for the Seminoles when they signed their Constitution and received government recognition," Wall said. "It was a highlight in our lives when Mildred and I were able to join you recently in celebrating your 50th anniversary."

The Roberts family purchased the Allen Place on Gopher Ridge in Immokalee in 1914. Driving their herd of cattle south from Ona, Fla. and Wachula, Fla., they became one of the first permanent families in the region and established the Red Cattle Co.



(L-R) Mildred Roberts Sherrod, her son, Phil, and close friend, Iris Wall, share memories of the Roberts' Ranch, Red Cattle Co. and Seminole Tribe.

Their two youngest children, Grace Mildred and R.A. "Bobby," were born in the log house located just a few feet from the birthday party.

Shortly after their arrival in South Florida, the Roberts developed a lifelong friendship with the Seminole people. Many of the Tribal elders came day workers for the Red Cattle Co. and helped with building fences and cattle roundups.

The Roberts' eldest son, Dittus, operated the Roberts General Store in Immokalee and provided a service for the Seminole families who traveled all the way from the Big Cypress Swamp and the Everglades/Deep Lake regions. Trading alligator hides, skins, meat and produce with the Roberts', a trust was formed with the Indians and the store frequently served as a bank for them.

"Uncle Bobby," as the head of the Roberts' family was known, accompanied the Seminoles to the

opening of the Tamiami Trail, helped promote the arrival of the railroad, served on the first Collier County Commission and was instrumental in the building of the first school, church and bank in Immokalee. One of the original founders of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, he became very familiar with the newly established cattle industry at Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations.

Growing up in this frontier community, Mildred Roberts played with the Seminole children and fondly recalled traveling out to Big Cypress to attend the newly founded Baptist Church and participate in the annual Christmas celebrations.

Following her marriage to William Sherrod, Mildred raised three children, but continued to remain active in the family cattle business like so many of the Seminole cattlemen of today. In 1980 the Red Cattle Co. was divided up among the Roberts' offspring and Mildred Roberts Sherrod took over sole management of her own herd just north of Immokalee in Felda, Fla.

She has served as secretary and honorary director of the Florida Cattlemen's Association and continues to be an active member today.



(L-R) Mildred Roberts Sherrod and her brother, Robert "Bobby" Roberts, have spent nearly a century watching Immokalee grow from a frontier homestead into a thriving agricultural community.



(L-R) Mildred Roberts Sherrod, Tribal citizen Joe Frank and Iris Wall are lifelong friends and members of the Florida Cattlemen's Association.

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Employees from every Immokalee department participated in the musical chairs competition.

Employees Honored on Appreciation Day

Event Themed 'Take This Job and Love It'

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The theme for the 2nd annual Immokalee Employee Appreciation Day, cleverly-themed "Take This Job and Love It," was co-sponsored by Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar and the Immokalee Recreation Dept.

Immokalee's Tribal employees gathered at the gym at 8 a.m. on May 6 to participate in the daylong event that featured sports activities, an awards ceremony and more.

An invigorating walk from the gym to the ball field and back got the employees' blood pumping and energized the group for the scheduled activities. Kenny Joe Davis Sr., Cecilia Pequeno and Alicia Gamez crossed the finish line first.

Following a light breakfast, the group separated into two teams for three games of dodge ball. With five balls circulating at a time, the players were armed and dangerous. Playing with reckless abandon, they attacked each other mercilessly until there was just one last man standing. Then they reversed sides and went for the best two out of three games.

A kick ball tournament found 15 players for each team representative of both sexes and all departments. It quickly appeared the pitchers held the most dangerous position on the team as they took one hard shot after another. It wasn't easy to make a home run, but Abel Ramos of Building and Grounds managed to pull it off with the bases loaded and brought his team to victory.

Contrary to popular belief, it is not impossible to strike out in kickball. Two Immokalee employees managed this infamous feat while their teammates and opponents roared with good natured laughter.

Slowed down the pace a bit, a game of musical chairs made it possible for everyone to participate. As the number of players dwindled, the participants began to sitther from one seat to another and were even known to attempt taking their chair with them. During the final countdown, Juan Tapia from the Maintenance Dept. took first and Angella Dixon of the Human Resources Dept. placed second.

Following lunch, the awards ceremony took place. Each employee received a ballot to vote on various su-

perlativ categories to describe the 2009 Employees of the Year.

Trophies went to: Aide on Looking: Dennis Gonzales, Recreation Dept.; Best Performance: Dennis Gonzales, Recreation Dept.; Best Looking Male: Kenny Joe Davis Sr., Immokalee Ranch director; Best Personality: Dennis Gonzales, Most Friendly: Alicia Gamez, Housing Dept. service coordinator; Best Motivator: Elaine Aguilar, Tribal Council liaison; Most Dependable: Dennis Gonzales, Most Professional: Angella Dixon, Human Resources Dept. program specialist; Employee of the Year: Kenny Joe Davis Sr., and Loudest Employee: Susan Davis, Recreation Dept. aide.

Volleyball by the day's activities were two rounds of volleyball. Playful banter between the spectators and players livened up the games.

All the employees received a tote bag containing a commemorative T-shirt, sports bottle, towel and pennant embellished with the slogan for the day.



(L-R) Immokalee Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis Sr., Cecilia Pequeno of the Recreation Dept. and Alicia Gamez of the Housing Dept. cross the finish line first at the walk.

TAMPA



Submitted by Valerie Marone

Ruby Thomas watches the cattle grazing on the 750-acre Lakeland property where Tampa youth participated in a weekend camping trip on April 25-26.

Tampa Youngsters Attend Weekend Camping Trip

BY VALERIE MARONE
Family Services Dept.

LAKELAND, Fla. — Tampa's Culture, Recreation and Family Services/Prevention Departments joined together with the youth of the Tampa Community on April 25-26 for their first Kid's Weekend Camping Trip. The camp out was held at the Lakeland property and is the first of many more to follow. The location consists of more than 750 acres of wetlands and will be the future location of more than 200 homes for Tampa Tribal citizens.



Submitted by Valerie Marone

Miguel Dillon concentrates on his carving.



Submitted by Valerie Marone

Herbert Jim from the Culture Dept. demonstrates woodcarving techniques.

Herbert Jim of the Tribal Culture Dept. said the reason for the camping trips is "to give the Tampa youth more opportunities to learn about their culture by experiencing it firsthand." Jim taught the youth woodcarving techniques and shared stories about Seminole culture while Barbara Cypress taught beading. Lawrence Jacobs from the Recreation Dept. provided activities such as a hayride and archery while Marilyn Stillwell, Tim Leverone and Valerie Marone from the Family Services/Prevention Dept. played "wacky baseball" and refereed a Tug-of-War challenge between the youngsters.

Tampa Community Attends Culture Gathering

Nancy Frank Hosts First-Ever Event at Her Home

BY LOLA JUAREZ
Tampa Dept. of Elder Affairs

LAKELAND, Fla. — Members of the Tampa Community gathered at Nancy Frank's home in Lakeland, Fla. to attend the first annual culture gathering, sponsored by the Tampa Culture Dept.

The day's events included cooking, storytelling, games, a luncheon and birthday cake, for community member Bobby Henry who celebrated his 72nd birthday and his daughter, Joanie, who turned 48.

As the men worked and ran back and forth arranging the tent and the tables, the ladies got the fire going and gathered the food they would cook over a traditional fire under the cooking chickee. Some of the specialties included Seminole staples like sofkee and frybread.

Coordinator Herbert Jim gave the introduction with an opening prayer and Bobby Henry, Bobby Billie and Danny Billie served as guest speakers.

While the elder ladies, guests and grandchildren prepared the food the guest speakers and Jim spoke to the youth and other Tribal citizens and guests about the importance of the traditional ways and the language. Jim translated, as Mikasuki was the only language spoken.



Submitted by Lola Juarez

(L-R) Annie Henry stirs the food while Nancy Frank keeps the fire going.

Jim began with his storytelling. He also observed that having the gathering at Nancy Frank's cooking chickee embodied the essence of Seminole spirituality, culture and experiences for the community.

Each guest speaker shared life experiences and lessons taught added to the overall experience.



Submitted by Lola Juarez

(L-R) Barbara Cypress, her daughter, Amanda Cisneros, and Susie Henry check their Bingo cards as Joanie Henry, Tampa Culture Dept. assistant, calls out the numbers in the game.

BRIGHTON

Youth Clean Red Barn for Renovations

Red Barn Recently Listed in Historic Places Register

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Members of the S.W.A.M.P. which stands for Seminoles Without Addictions Make Progress, and Recreation Dept. teamed up April 1 to help clean up the historic Red Barn on the Brighton Reservation to prepare for a complete restoration.

In November 2008 the Red Barn was nominated for the National Registry and on Dec. 23, 2008, became the first Seminole building property to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The clean up of the barn was only the beginning of the preservation process of the Red Barn. A laser scan of the building will be done to get exact measurements so drawings and 3D models can be made. From the models, the barn will begin to be restored to its original rendering from 70 years ago.

Tribal youth helped rake, sweep and carry out remnants and debris that was left in the Red Barn.

"They are working their hearts out," said Valerie Marone, S.W.A.M.P. coordinator. "And they know they are giving back to their community."

S.W.A.M.P. has coordinated community service into their many activities.

"We are trying to do more community service projects," said Marone. "It's very important to do that because it helps build self esteem in the children."



Rachel Buxton

Daniel Nunez Jr. rakes out a stall once occupied by Tribal horses.



Rachel Buxton

Myrick Puente wheels out leftover debris from inside the Red Barn.

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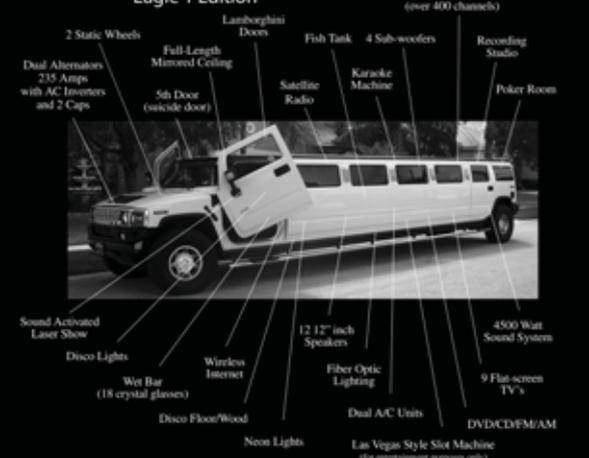


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Osceola Honored as Outstanding Broward County Woman

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

DAVIE, Fla. — Marge Osceola, wife of Holywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., had some of her most generous and accomplished endeavors celebrated May 7 at the Signature Grand banquet hall.

The program, 100 Outstanding Women of Broward County, celebrated how far women have come in leadership roles in business, community and philanthropic fields throughout the county.

"I was brought up that you do things out of your heart and not for the recognition," Osceola said. "It is a great honor to be recognized though."

Osceola's honoring came in part because of her continued support for the Ann Storck Center through the last several years. The organization is a nationally accredited, non-profit human service organization which serves the needs of individuals with severe and multiple developmental disabilities including epilepsy, cerebral palsy, autism and mental retardation according to its website at www.annstorckcenter.org.

Her husband and current Holywood Council Rep. Max Osceola Jr. also serves on the committee board.

She said her initial interest in helping the Ann Storck Center stemmed from a friend's daughter who is currently enrolled at the center.

"When I first went to visit it I did not come out the same," she said. "It just tugged at my heart. The kids are taken care of above and beyond what any word normally be."

"They really make a difference in the lives of kids," Osceola added.

Her son, Max III, commended his mother's hard work with the Ann Storck Center.

"I am proud of her; she is very caring and loving and is willing to be there for people," he said. "It is great that she helps give these people a voice."

The South Florida-based Ann Storck Center opened the first residence for children with mental and physical challenges in the county. Ann Storck's philosophy has been to provide to children with disabilities that are often medically fragile with a special environment to nurture their potential. The center now serves more than 300 children and adults on its campus and in group homes in neighboring towns.

Channel 10 News Co-Anchor Kristi Krueger was the mistress of ceremonies for the affair, which featured silent and live auctions, as well as a fashion show presented by Stylistic PR. All proceeds from the event benefited the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County and the Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center in Pembroke Pines, Fla.



Marge Osceola with son and supporter, Max III.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County is a non-profit 501(c)(3) private agency dedicated to helping young people improve their lives by building self-esteem and developing value and skills. It serves more than 13,000 at-risk youth, ages 7-18, each year from its 13 Broward County-area clubs. Its purpose is to inspire and enable children to realize their full potential as responsible caring citizens.

The Tribe established Boys & Girls Clubs on the Hollywood Reservation in 2004 and on the Big Cypress Reservation this year, becoming the first Native American Boys & Girls Clubs in the state of Florida.

The mission is to assist Seminole youth in the development of self-confidence, self-esteem and native culture skills growth for the betterment of themselves and the community. It offers a schedule of daily activities, community workshops, field trips, wilderness adventures and annual youth conferences.

The Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center remains the only residential treatment program in Broward County to house mothers with their children and provide them intensive services to stop family dysfunction and substance addiction. The center also addresses special issues women deal with while in recovery from the diseases of substance addiction. It also keeps families together and out of the foster care system.

Tribal Citizens Shine at Film School Screenings

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

FT. LAUDERDALE — The Miami Film School had some of its best new talent in movie making on display April 20 at the Cinema Paradiso Theater.

As part of 11 short films screened for course graduations, Tribal citizens, writers and artists Elgin Jumper and Sam Tommie put their filmmaking skills to the test, presenting their first creative works.

Jumper's 20 minute "Portrait of a Fading Henchman" explored the trials of Native American henchman and part time portrait painter Michael Heron. Jumper wrote, directed and edited the film, as well as narrated some of his original poetry writings in the piece.

"I enjoyed everything about it. It was one of the most memorable experiences and I will never forget it," Jumper expressed. "Growing up I knew a lot of Seminoles who were into movies. I had always wanted to do it."

Jumper said his transition into filmmaking has also been inspired by popular American writer Syd Field. The screenwriting guru has written several books on the subject of screenwriting, and holds workshops to aid aspiring screenwriters to produce screenplays for the movie industry.

"The movie turned out great and far exceeded my expectations," Jumper pointed out. "I am always trying to grow and take my writing further."

Tommie presented "Fire Spirit," the story of a news reporter wanting to save his community. The film starred Tommie along with daughter, Jerica Sanders. He also had help behind the scenes on camera from daughter, Lorelei.

He said the project took more than 100 hours of editing for him to complete, with pre-production and script writing done in just nine days.

"I hope it makes sense because I spent so much time on it," Tommie said. "It was important to pick up something subject wise that I knew. I was also able to channel my frustrations out."

"I went to [the Miami Film School] to kind of fine tune all my gears," he added.

The longtime occasional actor said his plans are to do more writing and directing in documentary work in the future.

Miami Film School Director and Founder Jim York explained that his concept to reality approach at the school prepares students as a part of a four stage movie making process, studying, shooting, directing and editing.



Elgin Jumper recognizes friends and family members in a speech during the screening.

"Our school is a magnet for creative people who fit right in," York said about his students, which include Jumper and Tommie. "The two of them have almost been making a film their whole lives so far."

"They have depth and a message and know how to develop their characters," York added. "They brought a lot of their life experiences to their stories."

The Miami Film School is located in Hollywood, Fla., and offers hands-on training teaching students of all ages how to write, shoot, direct and edit their own short films. Projects range from character dramas and comedies, to horror films in 8 or 16 week sessions.

Students shoot on high definition cameras and edit on Final Cut Pro in state-of-the-art facilities. The latest in lighting and sound gear are also provided. Each student makes his or her own film and the film is then screened at a South Florida movie theater. New classes begin this June.

For more information about day or evening classes call (954) 989-2737 or log on to miamifilm.school.net.



(L-R) Sam Tommie receives his graduation certificate from Miami Film School Director Jim York.

Princess Competes for Miss Indian World Title at Gathering of Nations

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

ALBUQUERQUE — Miss Florida Seminole Princess D'Anna Osceola's first trip to Albuquerque, N.M. and the 26th annual Gathering of Nations Powwow, held April 23-25, is not one that she will soon forget.

While at the powwow, one of the largest to take place in the country annually, Osceola competed for the title of Miss Indian World. Although she did not walk away with the title, which went to Miss Indian World Brooke Grant (Hupa/Yurok/Karuk/Chippewa) of Hupa, Calif., Osceola brought home many memories and new acquaintances from throughout Indian Country.

The contestants had a long week of activities planned, beginning on April 22. They checked in and received their schedules for the events leading up to the crowning.

The talent portion of the event was held at the Albuquerque Convention Center. During this competition, the contestants came out one by one and portrayed a talent meaningful to their Tribe or traditions.

From making jingles for jingle dresses to storytelling, singing and sharing facts about what makes each contestant's respective Tribe stand out, they enlightened the crowd while performing their talents.

Osceola shared her ancestor's lineage with the audience as she told the story of Tribal matriarch Polly Parker (Mateloye), her great-great-great-great grandmother.

"I am a direct descendant of this strong Seminole woman who fought to survive," said Osceola. "Without her and other strong Seminoles, neither I nor the Tribe would be here today."

Osceola's direct lineage to Parker begins with her mother, Janelle Osceola Robinson. Her grandmother is

Dorothy Tommie Osceola, great-grandmother is Mildred Bowers Tommie, great-great-grandmother is Lena Bowers Morgan, whose mother was Lucy Tiger, who was the daughter of Parker.

During her presentation, Osceola also shared the struggles and challenges Parker endured as a Seminole woman. According to Osceola, Parker escaped after being deported because the U.S. government didn't want Indians living in Florida. She added that with strength and perseverance Parker returned to her native homeland near Lake Okeechobee, where some of her family still resides to this day.

Osceola also explained that storytelling has been and continues to be a way for parents and grandparents to pass down information from generation to generation. She stressed that this is the way history can live on.

The competition went on and the ladies then appeared again at the Grand Entry, which took place in the main area for the entire powwow known as The Pit. The contestants followed in the eagle staff and various Color Guards from many parts of Indian Country. They were escorted to their seating area as more than 3,000 dancers filled the arena floor of The Pit during each Grand Entry.

During the powwow many Tribes and Tribal citizens sponsored different dance presentations to showcase their finest dancers. The Head Young Lady Dance was sponsored by Wakeash Bread and family and they called upon Seminole Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers and presented her with an honorary Pendleton blanket and homemade bread. Bowers said she was honored to receive the gift.

On the final evening of the powwow, April 25, the Seminole Tribe of Florida was presented the honorary head eagle staff. Sonny Nevaquaya accepted the gift on behalf of the Seminole Color Guard veterans.



More than 1,900 veterans, dancers and royalty gather in the center of the Denver Coliseum during the Grand Entry.

Seminole Princess Attends Annual Denver March Powwow

Princess Chairwoman Meets Up with Old Friends at Event

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

DENVER — Miss Florida Seminole Princess D'Anna Osceola, along with Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers, visited the annual Denver March Powwow at the Denver Coliseum March 20-22.

The Denver March Powwow celebrated its 35th year of the Native powwow tradition with song, dance and storytelling all featured at the event.

Powwow Co-Emcee Lawrence Baker introduced Osceola to the crowd as the furthest Indian Country princess to make the trip to the powwow during the royalty introductions. She then made her rounds throughout the Coliseum floor and waved to all the attendees.

Osceola also participated in Grand Entry and intertribal dancing during the weekend's festivities. More than 1,900 dancers, color guards and royalty gathered for two grand entries held each day of the powwow.

"I have never seen a Grand Entry like that," Osceola said. Each year, Miss Florida Seminole has the chance to visit annual powwows throughout the U.S. While visiting various functions she has the opportunity to reconnect with old acquaintances as well as make new ones. Osceola said she enjoyed her time and all that hospitality she received throughout the powwow.

"I feel very blessed to hold the title of Miss Florida Seminole Princess," she said. Osceola said she was grateful and honored to represent the Seminole Tribe of Florida and is also thankful for her ancestors and elders who fought for what the Tribe has today.

Longtime friends of Seminole Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers, Ronald and Lillian Gooddeagle, also attended the annual powwow. The two both work at the Flandreau Indian School in Flandreau, S.D.; Ronald Gooddeagle is the cultural coordinator and Lillian the school banker and culture teacher.

Bowers said meeting up during the annual powwow is almost like a tradition for these old friends.

For years now Bowers has sent donations of clothing, school supplies and other needed materials to the Flandreau Indian School. She has also visited the school a few times.

The Flandreau Indian School houses students from 45 Tribes in the U.S. The Gooddeagles are among the instructors who currently teach approximately 300 ninth-12th graders during the nine month school year.

Anyone interested in donating items to the Flandreau Indian School should please contact Wanda Bowers (954) 966-6300, Ext. 11468.



Miss Florida Seminole Princess D'Anna Osceola (R) lines up with the rest of the royalty prior to the Grand Entry.



The Miss Indian World contestants, including Miss Florida Seminole D'Anna Osceola (Second Row, Center).

Seminole Tribe's Cattle History Included in Folklife Exhibit

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — The Seminole Tribe of Florida has branded their name in the state of Florida and will soon be known around the country as part of a new exhibit in Tallahassee at the Museum of Florida History titled "Florida Cattle Ranching: Five Centuries of Tradition" that runs March 11-Aug. 9.

The exhibit tells the story of one of Florida's oldest cultural activities through artifacts, photographs and interactive components. "Florida Cattle Ranching: Five Centuries of Tradition" follows cattle ranching from the beginning with the Spanish explorers down to the hands of the Seminole Indians, Crackers and other Floridians.

"The Seminole Indians have been so important in history," said Florida Folklife Outreach Coordinator Bob Stone. "We had to include them in the exhibit."

The idea for the exhibit originated three years ago when the Western Folklife Center in Elko, Nev. contacted the Florida Folklife Program with the desire to feature Florida.

"When we heard about what the Western Folklife Center wanted to do we thought, 'We have to bring an exhibit besides just bringing people,'" said Stone.

Stone, who is also the co-curator of the exhibit, began research and field documentation. He contacted the Seminole Tribe and with the help of Tribal citizens and old ranchers he was able to obtain archival photographs and artifacts such as a facsimile of a letter from Seminole Chief Cowkeeper, dating back to the 18th Century.

Stone developed a close working relationship with Tribal citizens Alex Johns, Willie Johns, Norman Johns and Stanlo Johns.

"They were just great," Stone said. "They were always accommodating and even put us out on horseback."

Stone made several trips to the Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations to witness first hand the Seminole Tribe's cattle ranching in the 21st Century.

The ranching exhibit is 2,400 square feet and 310 linear feet. There are more than 100 images on display with artifacts including old spurs and stirrups that came off a shipwreck centuries ago. From the Seminole Tribe an old nylon rope, branding irons from the 1940s and a beaded rodeo queen crown are on display. The exhibit includes two audio listening stations and a flat screen television that runs continuously during exhibit hours.

The Tribe has had an excellent relationship with the Folklife Program, according to Stone. "I got to meet a lot of good people. Alex Johns bent over backwards and went out of his way to help us," he said.

Brighton Tribal citizen Justin Gopher has become almost like the poster boy for the exhibit and the Seminole Tribe's involvement. "Bob called me up about two weeks before the



The Florida Cattle Ranching exhibit occupies more than 2,400 feet and spans five centuries.

event and told me he had taken a picture of my husband working cows and would like to use it for an exhibit he was putting together," said Gopher's wife, Carera.

A 16.5 X 15 foot banner with a picture of Gopher taken by Stone on the Big Cypress Reservation more than a year ago while Gopher was working with a cattle crew is on display in front of the museum.

Gopher and his family were invited to the opening that was held on March 11 where he saw the banner for the first time.

"When we pulled up to the museum we didn't know what to expect and we saw it hanging," said wife, Carera. "Justin was really surprised, he didn't know it was going to be that big."

Postcards have also been made up with the picture of Justin Gopher on them and are sold in the gift shop of the museum.

"I didn't think people would recognize him since in the picture he had a cowboy hat and sunglasses on," said Carera Gopher. "But as we were standing there a lady looked at the picture, looked at Justin and then looked at me and asked 'Is it him?' It's been a really cool experience."

The opening had more than 400 people in attendance and the feedback continues to be positive.

"The museum said that this is the most excitement they have had in a long time," said Stone.

The "Florida Cattle Ranching: Five Centuries of Tradition" exhibit along with Gopher's banner will eventually return back to Florida to be on display in Miami. "From the very beginning the Seminole Tribe has been involved," said Stone. "Seminoles figure very largely in our state's ranching history and are a vibrant part of contemporary cattle culture. We want to bring other cultures to the public."

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SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Meet SPD Sgt. William 'Cody' McClelland

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Seminole Police Department (SPD) Sgt. William "Cody" McClelland is a well-known officer in the Big Cypress community worth meeting.

The resident of Immokalee was born there and has been a nine year veteran to the police since 2000. He got some of his inspiration with law enforcement from an unlikely and rare source, his mother, Inez Marie.



Chris C. Jenkins
Sgt. William "Cody" McClelland

McClelland explained about his mother.

After attending the Southwest Florida Public Service Academy in Fort Myers, Fla. in 2000, he soon moved on coming aboard with the SPD.

"It is a different world and unlike any other place you will work for" he said. "[Officers] have the time to do other things that most other departments do not. We can really get more involved."

McClelland's hard work and dedication landed him a promotion to sergeant three years ago, which he said was one of several highlights in his career thus far.

"It was a big thing for me at the time," he mentioned. "I really could not pinpoint anything else though because there have been so many things happen over the years."

He said he takes the work with the bad regarding the job and embraces it.

"I like being able to feel like I am doing something good for the community," said McClelland. "The challenges I like because it gives you a purpose and is something to be proud of."

The engaged father of four has two boys and two girls, Bobby, 13, Dustin, 11, Cheyenne, 8, and Lily, 6 months. He said he loves outdoor activities including hunting, fishing and camping.

"I love the peacefulness," McClelland said. "You can do your own thing and do not have anything else to worry about."

Meet SPD Officer/Training Specialist David Lee

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Seminole Police Dept. Training Specialist and Officer David Lee, 41, has been with the Tribe three years holding a unique role. He has the responsibility of providing annual and specialized training to officers on all reservations.

Lee's training sessions throughout the years have included firearms, tactical, chemical agents, tasers, and human diversity. His work places him in front of an array of officers and the community, which he said he enjoys.



Chris C. Jenkins
SPD Officer and Training Specialist David Lee

"I like researching and getting the most up-to-date training out to my brothers and it also gives me a sense of accomplishment," Lee explained. "In law enforcement, you often times do not get to feel a sense of completion, even though you actually are."

The family man and outdoorsman from Moore Haven, Fla. has been training in some form for close to 20 years. He said his family military background also helped prepare him for law enforcement as well.

Lee said he got his start and training through the Southwest Florida Public Service Academy and South Florida Community College. He worked with the Moore Haven Correctional Facility before joining SPD to experience the road patrol aspect of the job.

"I like that you get to know the people because it is a smaller community and you get to know the folks you help," Lee said.

When away from the job, the father of three has one granddaughter and spends time fishing, hunting, as well

as woodworking and making furniture and cabinetry. He has been married to high school sweetheart and wife, Tammie, for 22 years.

Despite the rigors of his profession he said there are a few ways the two have succeeded.

"Both parties need to be willing to sacrifice and be comfortable with the family atmosphere," Lee said.



Officers practice drawing, firing and loading their weapons during the Active Shooter Training Course on April 28.

Officers Attend Active Shooter Training Course

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Members of the Seminole Police Department (SPD) held an Active Shooter Training Course in Big Cypress on April 28 so officers will be prepared to handle themselves in a situation with an active shooter or unknown assailant.

Director of the program, Lieutenant Jim Polen, conducted the course with four training specialists and two active duty assistants. Fifteen officers completed eight hours of intense training within the classroom, on the weapons range and participating in real life scenarios.

Intruding and the purpose of the training program, Polen talked about the sudden rash of active shooter situations that have taken place in the past few years across the country.

"There is nothing to indicate that we can expect something like this to happen in our jurisdiction," he said. "However, there is no reason to believe that it can't happen here and we need to be prepared. Basic fundamental law enforcement skills need to be enhanced along with development of rapid response guidelines and policies. Our mind set is when, not if, it happens."

During the first three hours of the course, held at the Big Cypress SPD Headquarters, Polen used camera surveillance tapes from the Columbine High School shootings, real life accounts of the Red Lake Senior High School massacre, and actual photographs of numerous other incidents; with 90 percent of the incidents ending with the shooters committing suicide.

The class practiced weapon response techniques, rapid fire loading and use of firearms under duress. Weapons were loaded with FX rounds, which are bullets with plastic casings and soap projectiles that travel at a rate of 450 feet per second, to simulate real time situations and responses for the maneuvers in the final phase of the course.

Completing the training session, the group studied search and rescue procedures, team communication and fundamental police tactics. Officers used the classrooms, corridors and hallways of the school to practice techniques for an active shooter operation.

"Focus and use real time intelligence," Polen said. "Do your job. Mistakes in training become a learning experience. Mistakes in life become a tragedy."

Using training specialists for perpetrators, traps were set and the officers practiced real-life scenarios in preparation for the time when these tactics could mean the difference between life and death.

Lieutenant Jim Polen awarded a special commendation to Officer Jack Nash in the presence of the assembled officers in recognition of his exemplary service.

While traveling home in Palm Beach County on March 8, Nash encountered an automobile accident with three victims injured. He placed himself at risk while rescuing two victims from a vehicle that burst into flames, stabilized the crash scene and arranged for emergency response. His fellow officers responded with applause and congratulatory remarks in acknowledgement of his efforts.



SPD officers practice the proper technique for apprehending an armed suspect.

The training emphasized the fact that the shooter is not going to wait for the SWAT Team, and the only hope for saving lives rests in the hands of the officers on scene and their ability to respond rapidly.

Polen reiterated: "Lack of preparation is a failure of our responsibilities. Having no plan is the same as planning to fail. Analyze your facts and recognize real time intelligence. Assess various situations and practice, practice, practice."

Moving to the Ahfachkee School campus, the officers received a crash course in the handling of weapons frequently used by perpetrators in the commission of crimes, conducted by Specialist and Weapons Training Armorer Jack Nash of the SPD. Each of the participants received hands-on instruction with an AK47 and became familiar with various weapons and types of ammunition.

SPD Holds Spring Break Camp for Tribal Youngsters

Group Tours Coast Guard Base, Air Station, School, More

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

Service Aide Deitra Turing, Officer Bobby Betz and Officer Michele Daza of the Hollywood Seminole Police Dept. Youth and Elderly Welfare Unit, took a group of about a dozen Tribal youngsters to various sites of interest throughout South Florida during a Spring Break Camp, held April 6-9.

Daza said the activities were planned for the Seminole youth to view firsthand and explore career options for their future.

Day one took place at the U.S. Coast Guard Miami Beach Base. The students and chaperones toured the numerous vessels; seeing some larger boats that measured up to 87 feet in length.

Coast Guard Lieutenant Junior Grade Stacey Lemmon took the group through the facility and explained how each boat played a different part in a coast guard's job. Lemmon explained that some patrol boats go out to sea on hourly runs, while others stay at sea for up to four weeks.

"The coast guards save lives every day and they are always making a difference," Lemmon said.

She also informed the group that females can do any job or hold any title that a male can in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Following the tour the attendees joined other coast guards for lunch at the Gully. The Gully is the name of the lunch area where the residents and Coast Guard members on the base convene for their meals.

The participants then finished off their day with a stop at the Coast Guard station's gift shop. Students were able to purchase replicas of ships and other Coast Guard souvenirs.

During the week of the camp, the Seminole youth visited the Broward Sheriff's Office Joseph V. Conte Jail facility in Pompano Beach, Broward College's Criminal Justice Institute Policy Academy in Davie, and the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station in Miami.



The group at the end of their tour of the Miami Beach U.S. Coast Guard base. About a dozen Tribal youth visited the facility on April 6.

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Preschoolers Hop to Benefit MDA Charity

Event Raises \$997 for Muscular Dystrophy Programs

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Students at the Seminole Preschool in Immokalee are learning at an early age what it means to be charitable.

They participated in a Hop-A-Thon to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association's (MDA) Disability Awareness Program at the Immokalee Gym on April 17.

"Small kids have a limited attention span and physical capabilities, but they love to hop and put all their effort into showing off for their parents," said Immokalee Preschool Manager Michelle Ford. "Stressing that less fortunate children need their help, we organized a Hop-A-Thon to raise funds. Our parents were very supportive in their effort to build awareness for the project and solicited sponsorships for the children."

Arriving at the gym, the boys and girls formed a circle surrounded by monitors who tabulated the number of hops per child. Familiar preschool songs and a disc jockey motivated the group, while parents and family members shouted encouragement as they graduated from the Tribal Career Development Upward Mobility Candidate Program in a ceremony held April 23 at the Hard Rock.

"I have enjoyed the fact that you are given so many great opportunities to get out there," said Hageman. "It has all been a give and take relationship because as much as I have given of myself to a department I am also able to take their knowledge with me."

Hageman was recently appointed as the Tampa Hard Rock advertising brand manager after completing five years in the program.

The Tribal Career Development Upward Mobility Candidate Program is an intensive, hands-on program that focuses on training and developing tribal citizens for middle management in the Seminole gaming and hospitality industry. Betty J. Goosens heads up the program, and said after students complete it, she is confident they have the necessary knowledge to succeed



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Trail Liaison William Osceola, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., program graduates Chasity Hageman and Ella DeHass, first-ever program graduate Marlon Tommie, program grad Helena Henry, Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith, Betty J. Goosens, head of the tribal Career Development Program, and President Richard Bowers Jr. at the ceremony.

Tribal Citizens Celebrated at Program Graduation

Three Complete Tribal Career Development Program

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Chasity Hageman, Helena Henry and Ella DeHass made career moves toward a future in the Tribe's gaming operations as they graduated from the Tribal Career Development Upward Mobility Candidate Program in a ceremony held April 23 at the Hard Rock.

"I have enjoyed the fact that you are given so many great opportunities to get out there," said Hageman. "It has all been a give and take relationship because as much as I have given of myself to a department I am also able to take their knowledge with me."

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The Tribal Career Development Upward Mobility Candidate Program is an intensive, hands-on program that focuses on training and developing tribal citizens for middle management in the Seminole gaming and hospitality industry. Betty J. Goosens heads up the program, and said after students complete it, she is confident they have the necessary knowledge to succeed

within the industry.

"The most important thing to me throughout all of this is that they actually gained the knowledge they need of this business," Goosens explained. "I wanted to make them learn good work ethics also."

In 2006 Tribal citizen Marlon Tommie became the first person to graduate from the program, now in its sixth year. He now works in Gaming Operations and has duties that include scheduling, ordering and inventory control. He also helps manage the Big Cypress Casino facilities.

"I never thought I would be in the position I am; so why not take it to the top and be the best?" said Tommie. "Being in the program helped me to be more open and social with people. It all got me on the right track."

While still in the program, participants can expect a blend of on-the-job technical training, specialized classroom training, seminars and workshops taught from the ground up to help prepare them for their professional future.

Trainees are involved with the business aspect of casino and hotel operations during their time in the program. Participants work under the guidance of a manager and within specialized areas to complete their as-

signments and get an understanding of the many facets of running a gaming and hospitality facility.

Tribal Council and Board of Directors members were on hand to give words of encouragement and special gifts to the grads.

"We used to hunt for deer, now we are hunting deals," said Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. "We now have folks who will be capable of running this company."

Others in attendance included President Richard Bowers Jr., Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith, Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson and Trail Liaison William Osceola.

To qualify for the Tribal Career Development Upward Mobility Candidate Program, applicants must be 18 years of age, a Seminole Tribal citizen, have a high school diploma or GED and prior work experience. Placement is at one of six locations including the Brighton Casino, Coconut Creek Casino, Hollywood Classic Casino, Immokalee Casino, or one of the two Hard Rock facilities.

For more information please contact Program Director Betty J. Goosens at betty.goosens@seminole-hardrock.com.



Chris C. Jenkins

Gabrielle Billie waits patiently for the completion of her butterfly at the face painting station.

Preschool Commemorates Annual Week of the Young Child

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — In a weeklong celebration full of festivities, the annual Week of the Young Child allowed Tribal citizens valuable time to bond and focus on daily toddler and youth activities during the week of April 20-24.

Breakfast and an ice cream party, hand and face painting, fundraising and parent tribute readings were just a few of the functions held throughout the week.

"We wanted to make it all bigger and add a little more for the kids," said Hollywood Preschool Education Coordinator Amber Hyatt. "They deserve to have it."

She said the week-ending Fun Day, held April 24 at the Hollywood ball field, was a big success.

"It is totally different and something new for the kids, especially with the little ones, because it has been hard to find activities for them with the bigger kids," pointed out Tribal citizen Yvette Jumper, mother of Rainbow and Waddie Yvette.

The Fun Day featured a train ride, a face painting station, pony rides, a petting zoo, two bouncy house water slides, the Soggy Short Toss and the Silly Sippy Object Find games, to name a few. Activities for the annual Week of the Young Child continue to gain in popularity and growth each year.

The Hollywood Boys & Girls Club and Preschool Program sponsored the event; a first time collaboration between the two groups.

"They seemed to really enjoy it all," said Thelma Bowers of the Boys & Girls Club regarding the parents and kids. "They laughed and had a good time."

The Week of the Young Child is a nationally sponsored program by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in an effort "to celebrate children and raise awareness of their needs," according to the organization's website, www.naeyc.org. It is also a time to recognize youth's importance and parent's responsibilities.

NAEYC remains the world's largest childhood education association. In 2010 the event will be celebrated April 10-17.

Charter School Gets Ready to 'Top Off' Cafeteria

New Addition to School Will Accommodate up to 150 Students

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter



Rachel Buxton

Little Miss Seminole Aubee Susie Susie (R) welcomes the crowd and represents the students of Pemayetv Emahaky with Principal Russell Brown (L).

BRIGHTON — The Brighton community gathered at the future home of the Charter School's new cafeteria May 8 for a "Top Off Party."

Located directly next to the Charter School, the new cafeteria will have the capacity for up to 150 students. It will include a covered walkway from the school, a student dining room, two serving lines, separate restrooms for students and teachers and a dining area for faculty.

"We had more students than expected when the school opened," said Principal Russell Brown. "We are using the old cafeteria adequately, but are looking forward to moving into this new beautiful cafeteria."

President Richard Bowers Jr., Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith and Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. were all in attendance and spoke on the importance of education.

"We need more people to realize how important education is," said President Bowers. "Education touches everybody."

After the first school year at the Pemayetv Emahaky Charter School, Principal Brown met with Tribal officials and community members to see how the school could accommodate the abundance of students. Rep. Jones let him know "as the kids grow, we have to grow."

"It's good to have the education world changing," said Rep. Smith. "I hope this [cafeteria] will benefit everything they want to do."

The new cafeteria will not only be an eating facility for the children but will also be a meeting place for school activities and functions such as awards assemblies. "Although it is not an instructional

facility, it will be very beneficial for us," said Brown. "It's just an added bonus."

The Charter School and Brighton community have hopes of possibly expanding the school to include grades six through 12 one day.

"We did think that through," said cafeteria architect Greg Hall. "It was designed for twice the room to accommodate growth."

The cafeteria will be ready for the next school year beginning in August.

"My goal is to provide the best education," said Brown, "and with the support of the Seminole Tribe we are doing that. It's been a team effort."



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith thanks Principal Russell Brown for his dedication to the children of the Brighton community.

Heather Peterson Receives Associate's Degree

Tribal Citizen Graduates With Honors, 3.5 GPA

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRANDON, Fla. — Heather Peterson, daughter of Robert and Loretta Peterson of the Brighton Reservation, graduated from Hillsborough Community College in Brandon, Fla. on May 2.

Peterson received her associate's degree in business administration from the college. She graduated with honors, earning a 3.5 GPA.

In addition to her studies, she is a member of the academic honor society Phi Beta Kappa for undergraduates, and also found time to do volunteer work.

During her time at Hillsborough Community College, Peterson volunteered at Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay (RTTB), a non-profit organization located in nearby Tampa that helps to improve living conditions for low income families. At RTTB, Peterson got hands-on experience in the business world as an office assistant for the organization.

Now that Peterson has completed her studies at Hillsborough Community College she said she will return to Okeechobee and plans to buy a house and attend Indian River State College in the fall to earn a degree in animal science.

"I like veterinary science," said Peterson. "That's where my heart is."

While still in high school Peterson worked at the Okeechobee Veterinary Hospital where she discovered she had a passion for animals and the animal science field.

"It was just supposed to be a summer thing, but then turned into a two year job," Peterson said.

On July 1 Peterson will re-join the team at Okeechobee Veterinary Hospital as she furthers her career path to become a veterinary technician.

"Education increases your production," Peterson said. "I would like to see more Seminoles graduating and moving forward."

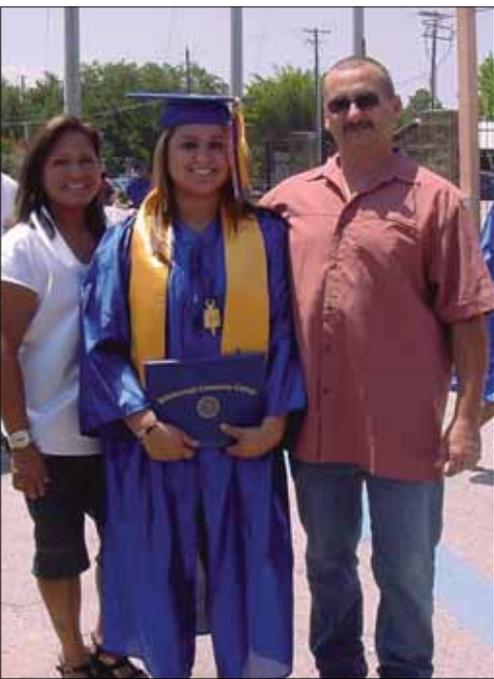


Photo Submitted by Heather Peterson
Heather Peterson (C) at her graduation ceremony with mother, Loretta, and father, Robert, present to celebrate her accomplishment.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) FSU President T.K. Wetherell with Christine McCall as she recites the Pledge of Allegiance at the ceremony.

Christine McCall Graduates from FSU

Grad Receives Bachelor's Degree in Social Work

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — After four years of higher education, Christine McCall can now call herself a college graduate.

On May 1 McCall attended a quaint and unofficial commencement ceremony from the Florida State University's (FSU) College of Social Work. This gathering took place in addition to her full commencement ceremony held the following day.

May 2 marked another day in history for the Seminole Tribe of Florida as McCall was confirmed to be the fifth member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida to graduate with a degree from FSU since 1993. The other Tribal FSU grads were Carla Gopher, Douglas Zepeda, Emily Osceola-Branch and Kyle Doney.

McCall also had the honor of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at her commencement ceremony. In front of her, the Seminole Tribe of Florida Color Guard, consisting of members Stephen Bowers, McCall's uncle, and Paul Bowers Sr., and for the first time, Seminole Police Dept. Honor Guard Sgt. Jarret Kamanello, posted the colors.

McCall then remained on stage with past student alumni, teachers and FSU President T.K. Wetherell. Following the pledge of allegiance, Wetherell acknowledged the presence of Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. Osceola stood and waved to the crowd of thousands of graduates and their families.

McCall then proceeded to receive a handshake and a hug from Wetherell. She was the first member of her graduating class to walk across the stage.

In addition to Rep. Osceola, Linda Bowers and Christine and Sonny Nevaquaya also attended the commencement ceremony. Rep. Osceola recalled memories of McCall as the 2005-2006 Miss Florida Seminole Princess.

"Reflection of the title has to do with poise, strength and courage; these are all the elements that she used to achieve this goal," he said. "The education that she received is life lasting and it will make her strong, her family strong and in the end, it makes the Tribe strong."

McCall said her favorite part of the college experience was meeting new people, doing new things and also experiencing FSU.

"FSU is very proud of their school spirit," she said.

She said she remembers asking herself if college was the right thing for her. However, now admits she was glad she stayed in Tallahassee and experienced college life.

McCall said that without the support of her mother, Wanda Bowers, her family, the Tribal Council and Board of Directors, it may have been more difficult of a task to achieve.

"Council has always supported me and I am very grateful for the support they have given me," McCall said.

She said the Tribal Council cites her as an example for other Tribal citizens to pursue higher education.

She said having a strong support team in place plays a very big part in college life. McCall remembers having the support of her community, even in her high school years. She said it's important to have someone available on bad days to offer support.

McCall said joining a sorority offered that support when she began attending FSU. She became a member of Delta Nu Zeta and attained the position of vice president in her senior year.

Throughout her college career she stayed active in volunteering for various functions including dance marathons benefiting the Children's Miracle Network and Relay for Life, which helps support the American Cancer Society.

She said she participated in these fundraisers for three years straight and sometimes even took her mother along to help out. During her third year assisting the dance marathon she volunteered for 32 hours straight.

The big finale to McCall's graduation was her graduation celebration party called "The Circus." The theme was centered on Britney Spears' current circus-themed concert tour and took nearly six months to plan.

Family, friends and Tribal representatives attended and shared fond memories of McCall.

Mom Wanda Bowers said her daughter, like Britney Spears, is strong-minded and independent.

"I am very proud of her," said Bowers.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., grad Christine McCall, mom Wanda Bowers, and guests Christine and Sonny Nevaquaya.

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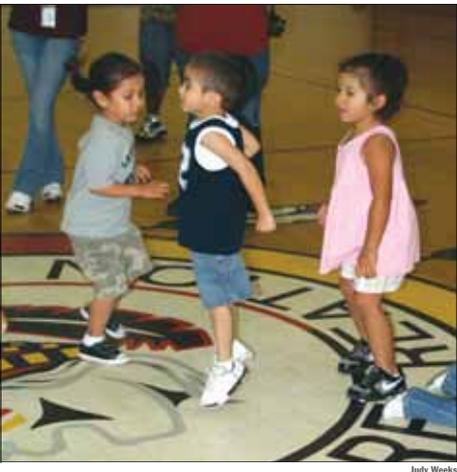
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MDA
From page 1B

After tabulating the scores, the total number of hops came to an unbelievable 2,332 with sponsorships and donations reaching \$997. All monies will be donated to the MDA, an organization that "supports research on neuromuscular diseases," according to their official website, www.mda.org.

Preschooler Brandon Posada held the top position with 607 hops.

"A basic concept of preschool programs is teaching young children how to communicate, share and interact with others," said Ford. "We are preparing them to receive the most they can get out of their educational experience and in the process, they are taught to respect others and realize that everyone has responsibilities to their family and community."



(L-R) Brandon Posada, Angelo Colon Jr. and Amara Martinez hop away as monitors behind them tabulate how many times they hop at the MDA fundraiser.

Seminole Ranch Doubles as Classroom for RCMA Students

EIRA Participants Perform Rodeo Demo at Educational Event

BY JUDY WEEKS
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — Education took on a new meaning on April 21 for the preschoolers who attend the Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA) Charter School in Immokalee.

Their classroom was extended to include the Immokalee Seminole Ranch, where they learned about Seminole cowboys, cowgirls and a brief history of rodeo.

ing from 4-6 years of age. As a green haired, funnily dressed Spanish cowboy/cowgirl, he provided a performance that quickly enthralled the group. The teachers clapped when Marshall Dan asked the students to raise their hands and deputized them to be good cowboys and cowgirls who always obey their teachers.

Encouraging audience participation, Marshall Dan invited two young students, Damian DeLeon and Manuel Estrada, to hold hoops while their teacher, Fernando Gutierrez, crawled on the ground impersonating a bull. The children roared with laughter at the clown's antics and listened intently to his running commentary as he announced the day's activities.

Cowboy hats were distributed to each child while Seminole Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis explained the importance of livestock and ranch life, which was instrumental in the creation of rodeo. Davis also enlisted the services of Eastern Indian Rodeo Association participants.

A team roping demonstration by the Immokalee Ranch employees kicked off the events. Jessica Osceola and Savannah Joiner gave pointers in horsemanship during the barrel racing, prior to a show of bull riding and steer wrestling by some Brighton athletes.

Following the lead of Marshall Dan, the preschoolers interacted with the bull riders by yelling for "Mighty Mouse" to be sent to McDonalds when he chased Billy Folley after his eight second triumph.

Booing "King Louie" when Justin Aldridge's hand became entangled in the rigging, they applauded when he safely dismounted in the arena. Screams of delight signified that their favorite was Ernie "Daredevil" Courson when he exited the chute riding backwards on his bull and waving to his audience.



Locking his legs under the horns of a bucking steer, Ernie "Daredevil" Courson makes a smashing entrance into the arena.

The RCMA Charter School provides a curriculum for preschool through sixth grade and is similar to the Collier County Public School System.

In addition, they offer a dual language program through third grade to assist children coming from Spanish-only households so they can learn English. Migrant children often find it necessary to change schools during the agricultural seasons and RCMA programs help them to adjust in meeting educational requirements before entering middle school.

"Marshall Dan," AKA Fred Mullins of the Seminole Family Services Dept., greeted the busload of youngsters rang-



(L-R) RCMA students Damian DeLeon and Manuel Estrada hold hoops for their teacher, Fernando Gutierrez, as he impersonates a bull with encouragement from "Marshall Dan," AKA Fred Mullins of the Seminole Family Services Dept.

Education Staff Honored on Administrative Holiday



Education Dept. Director Emma Johns invited the administrative staff from all reservations to the Hollywood Education Dept. to celebrate Administrative Professionals Day on April 23. During this time, she expressed her gratitude and appreciation to all of them for their hard work and dedication to the Seminole Tribe of Florida Education Dept. (L-R, Front Row) Maria Garza, Big Cypress education aide and Immokalee bus driver, Michelle Woods, Tribal-wide Adult Vocation Program assistant, Raysa DeLaPaz Tribal-wide administrative assistant, Regina Hernandez, Hollywood receptionist, (L-R, Back Row) Aurora Umpierre, Hollywood office clerk, Dee Ivey, Big Cypress office coordinator, Angie Hurt Big Cypress education advisor assistant, Rebecca Buckner, Brighton education advisor assistant, Victoria Soto, Immokalee education advisor assistant, Christina Krzeminiski, Tribal-wide higher education advisor assistant, and Darline Primeaux, Hollywood education advisor assistant. Naomi Escobar, Immokalee receptionist, is not pictured.

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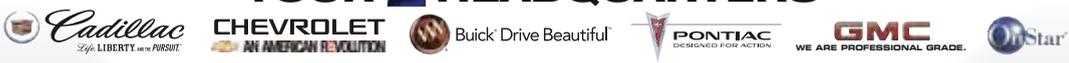
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Ahfachkee School Students Participate in Spring Culture Festival

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter



Marisol Gonzalez

Curriculum Specialist Mary Jene Koenes places the corresponding ball on the Seminole Bingo game board.

BIG CYPRESS — For several years, the students at the Ahfachkee School have participated in the Spring Culture Festival. This year, students from all grades participated in the events, which took place on May 7. The events act as sort of a warm up to all the culture-based events that take place for Indian Day, held annually in September.

Curriculum specialist Mary Jene Koenes said this event helps build on the students' team-working abilities and teaches them how to cooperate and work well with others. She said she strives to instill culture and language into each student she encounters.

"Don't lose your language and never forget your culture or where you came from," Koenes stated.

At the event, the pre-kindergarteners all the way up to the high school students came out by grade and recited the Pledge of Allegiance in Mikasuki, followed by the alphabet.

Prior to reciting it in front of the audience, they practiced the spelling and pronunciation of each letter. However, the students also practice culturally-relevant lessons on a daily basis to

help preserve the history and the culture of the Tribe.

The children participated in everything from cooking, carving, corn shucking, beading, log peeling and even the skillet toss. However, no culture festival would be complete without some games of stickball. The students played various games including hit the pole and the stickball team game of throw and catch.

Student Sabré Billie, 11, who participated in this year's event, said she remembers winning the corn shucking competition last year.

"My grandmother taught me when I was younger," Billie said.

The Ahfachkee high school students competed in the log peeling and skillet toss events, while the younger students played "Pin the Tale on the Ee-Che." According to Assistant Director of Culture Danielle Jumper-Frye, this game uses a poster of a deer instead of a donkey.

Results from the contests were: Stickball Throw: 1. Ronnie Billie Jr. Jose Cisneros, 2. Marc Flores/Derrick Tiger, 3. Rashaun Jim/Rick-yjoe Alumbaugh; Hit the Pole: 1. Tequesta Tiger, 2. Nauthka Henry, 3. Lariah Balentine; Log Peel: 1. Mario Osceola, 2. Rowdy Osceola, 3. Stevie Billie; Skillet Toss: 1. Chauncy Ocoela, 2. Nauthka Henry, 3. Jessica Lopez.



Marisol Gonzalez

Ahfachkee Teacher Yeni Flores (R) stands with her class and Curriculum Specialist Mary Jene Koenes (L) as the children recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the alphabet.



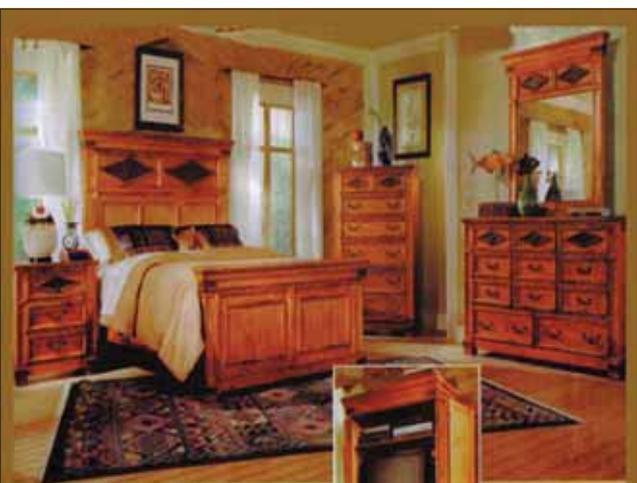
Marisol Gonzalez

Lariah Balentine (C) participates in the skillet toss competition. Although she did not place in this event, she did place third in the hit the pole contest.



Marisol Gonzalez

(L-R) Giovanni Aramendiz, known to many as Mr. Gio, and Ronnie Billie Jr. prepare the stick for the stickball competition. Billie placed first in the stickball throwing competition with his teammate, Jose Cisneros.



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Health

Students Learn Healthy Cooking Alternatives

Health Dept. Holds Class for Tribal Citizens

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Citizens of the Big Cypress community attended the Health Department's What's Cooking Class at the Wellness Center on May 5.

Participants included Barbara Billie, Beverly Alumbaugh, Janice Osceola, Sara Osceola and Nutritionist Sue Fundingsland.

According to Fundingsland, the Health Dept. wanted to offer the class so students could learn how to find quick and healthy ways to make their favorite foods.

"In some recipes you can often substi-

tute applesauce for the sugar and oil," she said.

The students also learned how to cook healthier alternatives to everyday meals and desserts. They made a vegetable casserole two different ways; first with frozen vegetables and then with fresh vegetables.

Billie agreed that the ideas presented would make cooking less time consuming. During the class, participants also prepared panko-crusted chicken breast strips and a healthy version of cinnamon bread pudding. Panko, a type of breadcrumb typically found in Asian cuisine, is made from bread without crust, it makes foods crispier and airier than traditional breadcrumb.



Marisol Gonzalez

Tribal Nutritionist Sue Fundingsland (R) shares recipes with students Beverly Alumbaugh (L) and Janice Osceola (C).

Environmental Health Program Hires New Employee Kirk Trenchfield

Dept. Welcomes Tribal Indoor Air Quality Specialist

BY PATRICK PECK
Environmental Health Program

The Tribal Environmental Health Program recently welcomed Kirk Trenchfield as the newest member of the team. He is a certified mold remediator, certified indoor environmentalist and certified radon measurement specialist. Trenchfield has a college degree in microbiology and has worked as a lab analyst, microbiologist and environmental/building scientist.

He brings many years of practical and field experience to his new position. Since the start of his employment on April 20, Trenchfield has hit the ground running, and in less than a month's time, has followed up on close to a dozen indoor quality assessments.

Public concerns about indoor air quality have increased drastically during the last 20 years. Many have all heard about "sick building syndrome" as it relates to the workplace.

However, in the 1970s when energy conservation measures were instituted in office buildings, it minimized the introduction of outside air thus contributing to the buildup of indoor air contaminants.

Yet, homes still present the greatest hazard of all. Not only does the average person spend more time at home than at work, but home is where family members, including the very young and old, and sometimes the sickly, often spend. Hence, people are more at risk of being sensitized by indoor contaminants at home than where they are at work.

For five years, the Seminole Tribe's Health Dept. has sought to routinely assess the indoor air quality of Tribal homes and buildings. With great success, the department has worked in conjunction with the Tribal Housing Dept., to address some immediate health concerns.

Trenchfield will assist in providing Tribal-wide indoor air quality services to Tribal citizens. Overall, his mission is to minimize and reduce the incidences of medical respiratory conditions as it relates to indoor allergens/contaminants in the homes and Tribal facilities.

For many years, mold has been the

hot button issue, as mold can cause serious health effects in hyper-sensitized and immunocompromised individuals. Unfortunately, it is quite prevalent in Tribal homes and may be the source of many medical complications such as asthma. Other indoor contaminants include smoke, pet dander, lead, asbestos, household chemicals, formaldehyde, dust and other allergens.

The new emerging topic is the potential health hazard associated with imported Chinese dry wall. Thankfully, this material was used in limited quantities between 2003 and 2007, thus not representing a pervasive problem on Tribal reservations.

Due to improvements in technology and detection limits for indoor measurements, trained professionals can now recognize how much indoor air quality plays a role in the health and safety of individuals.

Whether it is a carbon monoxide leak from a stove, natural radon gas buildup under the house, foundation or mold growing as result of the leaking of water, the quality of the air people breathe inside their home can have a great impact on overall health. It is important to note that indoor air pollution may be more hazardous to health than outdoor air pollution.

As people cannot always smell, see or taste many indoor air pollutants, it is recommended that an indoor air specialist assess the living environment. Some common complaints about indoor air quality range from simple complaints, such as the air smelling odd, to more the complex, where the air quality causes illness.

It may not be easy to identify a single reason for indoor air quality complaints because of the number and variety of possible sources, causes and varying individual sensitivities. These sources may be biological, chemically or even organically based. This is where the expertise of the new Tribal indoor air quality specialist comes in.

Those with concerns about their indoor environment, please contact the Environmental Health Program office at (954) 965-1300, Ext 10325.



Photo Submitted by Environmental Health Program
New employee Kirk Trenchfield



Charlotte Porcario

Team Seminole helps combat the fight against cystic fibrosis at the Lakes Regional Park walk on April 25.

Team Seminole Ranks First at Cystic Fibrosis Walk

Tribal Fundraising Efforts Bring in \$3,850 for Charity

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Team Seminole united with hundreds of other caring individuals at Lakes Regional Park on April 25 to walk in support of Tribal descendant Shyanna Escobar, 7, and the tens of thousands of children and young adults also afflicted with cystic fibrosis.

Dubbed "Shy's Team," this is the fourth Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF) fundraiser in which Team Seminole has participated. Thanks to donations from Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar, family, friends and community members, Team Seminole placed first in the fundraising efforts with a total of \$3,850 collected.

All monies benefited the CFF's Great Strides campaign, the organization's largest national fundraising event, which features similar walks throughout the country.

In acknowledgement for raising the most money, Team Seminole received a Certificate of Recognition and a medallion, which Shyanna displayed around her neck throughout the walk.

Shyanna is the daughter of Ralph and Noemi Escobar, and granddaughter of Becky Yzaguirre Martinez, of the Immokalee Reservation. Suffering with chronic respiratory problems

since birth, Shyanna was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis following a near-fatal episode in 2003.

According to the official CFF website, www.cff.org, "Cystic fibrosis is

a life-threatening genetic disease that causes mucus to build up and clog some of the organs in the body, particularly the lungs and pancreas. When mucus clogs the lungs, it can make breathing very difficult."

Shyanna's physician, Dr. Oscar A. Alea, said up until the last few years, life expectancy for a cystic fibrosis patient was 0-8 years, with many fatally succumbing to respiratory failure.

Currently, medical research is making advances in finding a cure thanks to donations to the CFF from concerned individuals and philanthropic organizations. Today, more than 40 percent of the cystic fibrosis population is older than 18 years of age and able to live an ordinary life.

As a result, life expectancy has been pushed back to nearly a 30 year average.

Shyanna is one of CFF's walking miracles. Despite a permanent port in her stomach for a feeding tube, and necessary enzymes and antibiotics she must take, she presents the outward appearance of a healthy, young child. A very artistic and talented young lady, she attends public school and participates in numerous extracurricular activities.

Leading Team Seminole, along with fellow members Walk Coordinator Edna McDuffie and Immokalee Nutritionist Charlotte Porcario, Shyanna walked the entire course at Lakes Regional Park.



Charlotte Porcario

(L-R) Immokalee Health Nutritionist Charlotte Porcario, Becky Martinez and Shyanna's mom, Noemi Escobar, join Shyanna Escobar (C) in congratulating Team Seminole on taking first place in the fundraising event for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

THE HEALTHY SENIOR BY FRED CICETTI

[Editor's Note: Fred Cicetti is a syndicated columnist who writes about issues concerning senior citizens' health. If you would like to ask a question, please write to fred@healthyseer.com. All Rights Reserved ©2009 by Fred Cicetti.]

Q: What's the difference between a CAT scan and an MRI?

A: The CAT scan, MRI and others are known as diagnostic-imaging tests. Let's go over the common ones.

X-ray

One of the oldest forms of medical imaging, an X-ray examination uses electromagnetic radiation to make pictures. An X-ray machine passes a beam through the body and records an image digitally or on film. Body tissues produce different results, showing up in shades of gray. Bones look white. Lungs that contain air appear dark.

Sometimes patients will take a contrasting medium, such as barium and iodine, to outline an area of the body so it will show up. This medium may be injected, swallowed or taken as an enema. The contrast medium appears opaque on X-ray film, providing clear images of structures such as the digestive tract or blood vessels.

CAT Scan

Computed tomography, known as a CT scan or CAT scan, uses X-rays and computers to produce precise images of cross-sections of the body. It is much more revealing than a conventional X-ray.

A CAT scan employs a doughnut-shaped machine called a gantry. The patient lies on a table inside the gantry while an X-ray tube rotates around the patient's body

emitting radiation through it. Detectors measure the exiting radiation and convert it into electrical signals.

A computer gathers the electrical signals and assigns them a color based upon signal intensity. The computer then assembles the images and displays them on a computer monitor. Some CAT scans require a contrast medium.

MRI

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) uses a magnetic field and radio waves, instead of X-rays, to create pictures of cross-sections. In many cases, MRI gives more information than a CAT scan or other types of diagnostic imaging. Contrast agents are sometimes used to enhance the images.

Most MRI machines are large cylinders. Inside the machine, the human body produces very faint signals in response to radio waves. These signals are detected by the MRI machine. A computer then interprets the signals and produces a three-dimensional representation of your body. Any cross-section can be extracted from this representation.

Some MRI machines are open on all sides. These newer, open MRI scanning systems are useful for the claustrophobic, obese or anyone who feels uncomfortable about lying inside a cylinder.

The MRI often helps with the diagnosis of central nervous system disorders such as multiple sclerosis, because it produces such high-resolution images of the brain and spinal cord.

Nuclear Imaging

Nuclear imaging detects radiation from the body after a radiopharmaceutical agent or tracer is either injected or taken orally.

The images are recorded on computer and film.

While other imaging methods assess how the organs look, nuclear imaging shows how organs work. For example, nuclear imaging can analyze blood flow to and from the heart.

Nuclear imaging provides information that other imaging techniques cannot produce.

Positron emission tomography, also called PET imaging or a PET scan, is a type of nuclear-medicine imaging.

When undergoing a nuclear-imaging exam, the patient lies on a table under a special camera that takes a series of pictures. A computer connected to the camera detects the radiation coming from the body organ being examined and makes a series of images.

Ultrasound

Ultrasound examination, also called diagnostic medical sonography, uses high-frequency sound waves beyond the range of the human ear to produce precise images of structures within your body.

Ultrasound imaging is based on the principles of sound used by ships to detect underwater objects and by bats to track flying insects.

During an ultrasound, a sonographer presses a handheld transducer against the patient's skin. The transducer generates and then receives reflected, high frequency sound waves from the body. However, some ultrasounds are done inside the body.

Information about the body is then sent from the transducer to a computer. The computer will compose images based on this data.

Preschool Playground Transforms into 'Safety City'

Youngsters Learn About Street Signs, Safe Havens

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Using cutout models of a hospital, Seminole Police Dept. station, firehouse and a school building, the preschoolers learned what safe havens look like on April 14.

Members of the Seminole Police and Emergency Services Departments joined forces to create "Safety City" on the Hollywood Preschool playground in an effort to teach the youngsters what buildings to look for should they ever need to find a safe place in the event of an emergency.

Lt. Robert Brown, Officer Michele Daza, Service Aide Deitra Turing and Inspector Bruce Britton were among those present during the event.

"This is setup for the students to have

fun while they are learning," said Britton. "It helps the safe tips sink in, and prepares them to be safer."

Seminole Police Dept. Lt. Brown said he and other co-workers have visited several elementary schools with the same presentation, and attests to its success. He said Safety City is similar to Wannado City™ in the Sawgrass Mills Mall in Sunrise, Fla., where children can try their hands at various career possibilities in a fun, but educational setting.

In addition to learning about safe havens, the children also rode their tricycles through an obstacle course set up to help them learn the meanings behind some common street signs. They watched a slide show presentation that depicted these signs, including those for stop, walk and hospital, and learned their meanings prior to visiting Safety City on the playground.



(L-R) SPD Officer Michele Daza shows Joey Puentes Jr. the stop sign on the obstacle course.



Photo Submitted by Lola Juarez

The Tampa community's seniors also participated in the Safety City demonstrations on April 28. According to Lt. Robert Brown of the Tribe's Fire Dept., the elders enjoy seeing what the Tribal children are learning. (L-R) Chief David Logan, Tampa Dept. of Elder Affairs Project Coordinator Lola Juarez, Chief Donald DiPietro, Linda Henry, Linda Storm, Fire Inspector Lt. Robert Brown, Risk Management Dept. Director Quinton Turner, Annie Henry, Maggie Garcia, Nancy Frank and Asst. Project Coordinator Angelica Estrada outside of Safety City.



(L-R) Emergency Services Dept. Lt. Josh Eveleth quizzes student Corey Jumper on the Railroad Crossing sign.

Preschoolers Learn Bike, Pedestrian Safety

Seminole Fire Rescue Educates Youngsters

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The children at Brighton's preschool learned a very important lesson April 15 when the Seminole Fire Rescue and Police Dept. stopped by to speak to them about bike and pedestrian safety.

"If we prevent one injury we are ahead of the game," said Lt. Robert Brown. "If we prevent one death we are way ahead of the game."

Students listened as Inspector Bruce Britton showed them examples of street signs and explained what those signs indicate. They also learned about different safe places they can go to if they are ever in trouble. Safe places include police stations, fire stations, hospitals, schools and libraries.

After the brief discussion, the children headed outside to Safety City, a mock city with all the safe places that children can visit. The wooden buildings in Safety City were built and put together by Fire Rescue.

Members of Fire Rescue and the Seminole Police Dept. lead

the children around the city on tricycles, stopping at street signs and the different safe places. At each building and sign, the children received a brief recap of the meaning and importance of each.

Along with Inspector Britton and Lt. Brown, Lt. Josh Eveleth and Firefighter Gustavo Ajuz represented Fire Rescue Dept., and from the Seminole Police Dept., Police Officer Shane Alton and Police Service Aide Teresa Bass were on hand to help out.

The lesson on bike and pedestrian safety is just one part of the national prevention program Risk Watch, developed by the National Fire Protection Association. Risk Watch is a school-based curriculum that helps teach teachers, students and parents the skills to create a safer home and community.

Along with bike and pedestrian safety, Risk Watch has lessons on motor vehicle safety, fire and burn prevention, choking, suffocation and strangulation prevention, poisoning prevention, fall prevention, firearms injury prevention and water safety.



Mariah Garner (R) visits Firefighter Gustavo Ajuz (L) at the Safety City Fire Station he helped build.

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 - CIRQUE DU SOLEIL
 - SALTIMBANDO
 - AN EVENING WITH IL DIVO
 - THOMAS THE TRAIN 2
 - SEUSSICAL JR.

Sports

C



(L-R) Father and son team, Blevins and Josh Jumper, cruise up to the dock on the L-28 Canal for the tournament weigh-in.

Judy Weeks

Bass Busters Decides Triple Crown Fishing Series Bello Solano Takes First Place in Three-Part Tournament

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Perseverance, skill and luck played an important role in determining the winner of the Seminole Pro Bass Annual Triple Crown Tournament.

The Bass Busters Fishing Tournament, held May 2 in the L-28 Canal, completed the third and final leg of the series. Bello Solano took top honors in the 2009 Triple Crown Series. He turned his second, fourth and third place weigh-ins in all three tournaments into a grand championship total of 27.52 pounds of bass caught throughout the series.

"I not only love fishing, but I really look forward to spending time out on the water with my partners," said Solano. "Circumstances created a change of fishing mate during each tournament, but I couldn't have won this without Rashaun Jim, Bronson Hill and my brother, Jose Solano. We've had a blast reeling them in together."

Solano said he will use the gift card award he won at Bass Pro Shop to stock up on supplies for his favorite sport.

Brush fires along Alligator Alley created a road closure that inconvenienced some of the Bass Busters Tournament contenders. However, avid anglers always find a way to reach their destination. Signing in at 6:30 a.m., the competition got underway with the usual fishing catastrophes.

A valuable pole and favorite hat have



Jose Solano (R) congratulates his brother, Bello (L), on winning the Seminole Pro Bass Triple Crown Series.

Judy Weeks

joined the ranks of equipment that will probably never be seen again. The losses didn't stop there. Two big clunkers were on the line and headed for the boat, but proved to be escape artists along the way. Someone should have told the fish that they had nothing to fear, as this was a catch and release tournament.

This rule, along with Solano's good sportsmanship nearly cost him his win when he released his largest catch of the day. The fish swallowed the hook deep in its throat and it risked survival if not immediately released. Before the day was out, Solano replaced it with another that just missed capturing him the Clyde Tiger Sr. Bass trophy by only 3 ounces.

Tom Koenes Jr. reeled in a 3.79 pound beauty that took home the Clyde Tiger Big Bass Trophy and contributed to his first place win in the Bass Busters Tournament.

"This baby goes on my mantel," said Koenes, clutching his prize in his hand. "I've waited a long time for it."

"The best part was having my son, T.J., with me when I reeled it in," he added. "As we get older, busy schedules sometimes make it hard for families to spend time together. It's always a winning day when I get to spend it fishing with my son."

Bass Buster Tournament winners were: 1. Tom Koenes Sr./T.J. Koenes Jr., 2. Josh Jumper/Blevins Jumper, 3. Bello Solano/Jose Solano, 4. Arlen Payne/Phillip Turtle, 5. Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr./Chebon Gooden.

Mary Huff Named to First Team All-Conference

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Star pitcher Mary Huff was named to the Florida Community College Activities Association (FCCA) Suncoast 1st Team All-Conference for her performance as a member of the St. Petersburg College Lady Titans softball team.

She also received the honor of being named to the FCCAA 2nd Team All-State.

Huff, the daughter of John and Vickie Huff Sr. of Brighton, said she didn't know what the title meant but was excited with all the hype she received because "everyone kept saying it was a big deal."

She is currently a freshman at St. Petersburg College and has been playing softball for more than nine years. She said she owes her game to her father, John Huff, who taught her how to play.

"I found out he played in high school so I asked him to teach me all he could," Huff said.

With a grueling schedule, Huff has had to learn how to juggle sports and academics. Most mornings start off with a 6 a.m. workout. She said she then hits the books in the classroom from 8 a.m. to noon. After class it's off to softball practice that begins at 1 p.m. and can last to 4 p.m. Weight training follows practice on select days, leaving very little time for anything else.

It might seem like a lot, but Huff said it has become second nature. She said her hard work and effort pays off every time she steps out on the field.

"I like having the pressure," she said. "I'm very competitive. I know what I have to do and I do it."

Huff will be returning to Brighton for the summer where she will take on the role and title of coach for a traveling ball team in Okeechobee, Fla. called Fire 6 Team comprised of players 14 years of age and younger.

As for her future, Huff said softball is in her future.

"I want to play for as long as I can," she said.



Tribune Archive Photo
Mary Huff

Josh Jumper Recognized at Team Roping Event

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Everyone only turns 30 once, and Andrea Jumper couldn't think of a better way to commemorate her husband's birthday than to establish an event based on his favorite sport.

With this thought in mind, the first annual Josh Jumper Team Roping event took place on April 11 at the J-Cross Arena.

As a Three Head Open, participants could enter up to eight times in an effort to win one of the tooled championship saddles awarded to the top header and top heeler at the event.

During opening remarks, Josh Jumper led off with a prayer and offered some comments.

"I love roping and really appreciate all the hard work Andrea has put into pulling this together for me," Jumper said. "All I did was gather up a few cows, but she has been hard at it for days. Coordinating the roping, dinner, bookkeeping, prizes and help is no easy task and I am very grateful."

□ Please see ROPING on page 5C

Skate Park Opens Its Doors to BC Community Rally at the Ramps Park Opening Features Skate Demo

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal youth, teen and adult skaters came to the Junior Cypress Rodeo and Entertainment Arena on April 13 with their best moves for the grand opening of the Rally at the Ramps Indoor Skate Park.

The Tribal-wide event, held during Spring Break, marked the completion of a project that had been in the works since January, according to Family Services Dept. Counselor Fred Mullins.

"We want to be one of the best skate parks in South Florida," Mullins explained. "The skater nation out there has a warrior culture, which of course ties in with the Tribe."

The event was sponsored by the BC Tribal Council and Board offices, in partnership with the Family Services and BC Recreation Departments.

The entertainment featured rail grinding, fun box fakes, kick-flips and other tricks, and also included a "SickOn" skating clinic, a demonstration by the Brotherhood Skaters, gift raffles and a performance by skater band, The Gladesians.

"I like it because of the smooth ground," said Tribal citizen Tyrus Billie. "It was fun to get out there." Clevelston resident Jay McGilivray, 22, said he heard of the opening from friends and said he is glad to have a location close to his home where he can skate.

"I think it is a good set up and good environment," said McGilivray. "I wish they had more of them in this area. Skateboarding has become a very popular sport and I have been searching for a place to do this."

Current plans for the new facility are to have a recreation staffer and instructor available six days a week; everyday except Wednesdays. The park will open after school gets out until 9 p.m., with expanded hours during the summer.

According to McGilivray, the park is just one of a handful of indoor facilities located between Miami and Tampa.

"I am excited and just want to pass on any knowledge I have," said six year boarder and instructor Ryan Washington. "I have a lot of flip tricks in my bag of tricks so I can teach them if they want to learn."

For more information please call (863) 983-9659.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizens and community guests take a breather in between action.

Charter School Students Compete in Track & Field Contest

Thirteen Competitors Advance to State-Level Meet in June

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — Students from the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School made their way to Okeechobee in the early morning hours of May 1 to compete in the Hershey's® Track and Field Local Meet, held at Okeechobee High School.

The Charter School students competed against students from all other Okeechobee County schools at the meet.

Students were divided into age groups all fighting for a chance to go on to the state competition, which will be held on June 27 at Lake Brantley High School in Altamonte Springs, Fla. The top two finishers in each event advance on to the next level.

Pemayetv Emahakv was well represented with 13 students, Sean Osceola, Kelton Smedley, C.W. Ortiz, Trista Osceola, Demetrius Clark, Cheyenne Nunez, Lahna Sedat, Kailin Brown, Zachary Hudson, Imilakyo Osceola, Zeke Matthews, Odessa King and Tamea Allen, advancing to the state level of competition.

Pemayetv Emahakv had their own cheering section in the stands where tents were set up and parents, students and teachers cheered on their participating athletes.

□ Please see TRACK on page 6C



Billy Yates (L), Ridge Bailey (R) and Kyle Palmisano (C) race to finish the 100 meter event.

Rachel Buxton

Charter School Students Compete in Track Meet

Several Qualify to Vie for Spots in Next Level Competition

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The students at Pemayetv Emahavk raced to the finish line on April 24 as they competed in the school-wide track meet held at the Brighton softball field.

The track meet consisted of eight events: broad jump, softball throw, 4 X 100 meter relay race, and 50-, 100-, 200-, 400- and 800-meter races.

Ribbons were handed out to students who placed first, second or third in their respective events during an awards ceremony held after the race in the breezeway of the Charter School.

"I want to say what a wonderful job you did on your sportsmanship and effort," said Physical Education teacher Chris Goodwin to the students.

In the weeks leading up to the meet students practiced the different events during their scheduled physical education class. The students then picked the events they wanted to compete in. Kindergarten, first and second graders were allowed to choose up to two events, and third, fourth and fifth graders chose a maximum of three events to compete in.

Students in third, fourth and fifth grade competed to secure a first or second place finish in their events, which then qualified them in the Hershey's® Track Meet that took place in Okeechobee, Fla. on May 1.

Parents, teachers and fellow classmates cheered the competing students on as they raced, jumped and threw softballs in the brutal heat. Seminole Fire Rescue Dept. employees were also on hand to assist with the day's activities.



Ruben Burgess gives his all in the softball throw.

Rachel Buxton

Pemayetv Emahavk Charter School Track Meet Event Results

Broad Jump

Kindergarten: Girls: 1. Shaela French, 2. Mariah Billie, Boys: 1. John Beck, 2. Hyatt Brugh, 3. Norman Johns. First Grade: Girls: 1. Araya Youngblood, 2. Alissa Gonzalez, 3. Nyah Davidson; Boys: 1. Edward Gauin, 2. Jabbarh Arnold. 9-10 Year Olds: Girls: 1. Raylen Eagle, 2. Bailey Tadders, 3. Rylee Osceola; Boys: 1. Brian Bishop, 2. Michael Girtman, 3. Elijah Billie. 11-12 Year Olds: Girls: 1. Tyra Baker, 2. Keyana Nelson, 3. Crysten Smith; Boys: 1. Demetrius Clark, 2. Im Osceola, 3. Royce Osceola.

Softball Throw

Kindergarten: Girls: 1. Tava Harris, 2. Destiny Elliott, 3. Mariah Billie; Boys: 1. Jayton Baker, 2. Billy Bailey, 3. Kanyon Billie. First Grade: Girls: 1. Alexis Gore, 2. Laila Bennett, 3. Waylynn Bennett; Boys: 1. Robert Harris, 2. Donovan Harris, 3. Redheart Billie. Second Grade: Girls: 1. Raely Mathews, 2. Aleina Micco, 3. Krysta Burton; Boys: 1. Andrew Fish, 2. Ridge Bailey, 3. Lucas Osceola. 9-10 Year Olds: Girls: 1. Sunni Bearden, 2. Chloe Chalfant, 3. Cady Osceola; Boys: 1. Sean Osceola, 2. Marquise Fudge, 3. Dyami Nelson. 11-12 Year Olds: Girls: 1. Trista Osceola, 2. Lahna Sedatol, 3. Cheyenne Nunez; Boys: 1. CW Ortiz, 2. Kelton Smedley, 3. Im Osceola.

50 Meter Race

Kindergarten: Girls: 1. Shaela French, 2. Mariah Billie, 3. Abby Billie; Boys: 1. Ramone Baker, 2. Justin Gopher, 3. Dathen Garcia. First Grade: Girls: 1. Katie Beck, 2. Bevyn Billie, 3. Aniya Gore; Boys: 1. Silas Madrigal, 2. Malcolm Jones, 3. Myron Fudge. Second Grade: Girls: 1. Alicia Fudge, 2. Satic Rico; Boys: 1. Alyke Baker, 2. Conner Thomas. 9-10 Year Olds: Girls: 1. Sunni Bearden, 2. Chloe Chalfant, 3. Cady Osceola; Boys: 1. Trevor Thomas, 2. Morgan King, 3. Cyrus Smedley.

100 Meter Race

Kindergarten: Girls: 1. Shaela French, 2. Mariah Billie, 3. Tayla Burns; Boys: 1. Dathen Garcia, 2. Jayton Baker. First Grade: Girls: 1. Mallorie Thomas, 2. Katie Beck, 3. Marcie Osceola; Boys: 1. Silas Madrigal, 2. Echo Billie, 3. Jaylen Baker. Second Grade: Girls: 1. Alicia Fudge, 2. Keely Billie, 3. Luzana Venzor; Boys: 1. Kyle Palmisano, 2. Oscar Yates, 3. Billy Yates. 9-10 Year Olds: Girls: 1. Chloe Chalfant; Boys: 1. Brian Bishop, 2. Trevor Thomas, 3. Dyami Nelson. 11-12 Year Olds: Girls: 1. Tamea Allen, 2. Harley Johns, 3.

Bethany Billie; Boys: 1. Kelton Smedley, 2. Demetrius Clark, 3. CW Ortiz. 13-14 Year Olds: Boys: 1. Desmond Shore.

200 Meter Race

Kindergarten: Girls: 1. Shaela French, 2. Tava Harris; Boys: 1. Justin Gopher, 2. Billy Bailey, 3. Ramone Baker. First Grade: Girls: 1. Madisyn Osceola, 2. Bevyn Billie, 3. Keira French; Boys: 1. Jaylen Baker, Delonce Carrillo, 2. Eecho Billy, Donovan Harris, 3. Ozzy Osceola, Caillou Smith. Second Grade: Girls: 1. Satic Rico, 2. Krysta Burton; Boys: 1. Blake Baker, 2. Kyle Palmisano, 3. Lance Howard. 9-10 Year Olds: Girls: 1. Sunni Bearden, 2. Cady Osceola, 3. Suni Bearden, 2. Layne Thomas. 11-12 Year Olds: Girls: 1. Odessa King, 2. Cheyenne Nunez; Boys: 1. Royce Osceola, 2. Josh Madrigal.

400 Meter Race

9-10 Year Olds: Girls: 1. Rylee Osceola, 2. Jaden Puente, 2. Sean Osceola, 3. Marquise Fudge. 11-12 Year Olds: Girls: 1. Lahna Sedatol, 2. Bethany Billie; Boys: 1. Josh Greenbaum, 2. Richard Harris.

800 Meter Race

11-12 Year Olds: Girls: 1. Kailin Brown; Boys: 1. Kelton Smedley, 2. Zeke Matthews, 3. Ravyn Smith.

4 X 100 Meter Relay Race

Kindergarten: 1. Abby Billie, Destiny Elliott, Tayla Burns, Alonnie Gire, 2. Norman Johns, Canyon Billie, Kobe Jimmie, Davin Carrillo. First Grade: 1. Malcolm Jones, Tanner Shore, Robert Harris, Delonce Carrillo, 2. Mallorie Thomas, Madisyn Osceola, Sage Motlow, Ruby Osceola. Second Grade: 1. Tyler Howard, Blake Baker, Andrew Fish, Lucas Osceola, 2. Aleina Micco, Raely Mathews, Luzana Venzor, Keely Billie, 3. Alyke Baker, Aiden Tommie, Lance Howard, Ridge Bailey. 9-10 Year Olds: Boys: 1. Dyami Nelson, Moss Thomas, Brian Bishop, Eason Lyons, 2. Morgan King, Cyrus Smedley, Marquise Fudge, Elijah Billie, 3. Isaac Osceola, Michael Girtman, Daniel Girtman, Joseph Osceola. 11-12 Year Olds: Girls: 1. Cheyenne Nunez, Tamea Allen, Lahna Sedatol, Odessa King, 2. Kailin Brown, Harley Johns, Trista Osceola, Kelya Johnson, 3. Tyra Baker, Bethany Billie, Kalgray Johns, Diamond Shore; Boys: 1. Zach Hudson, Zeke Matthews, Im Osceola, Demetrius Clark, 2. Ravyn Smith, Royce Osceola, Yo Osceola, Thomas Bearden.

Seminole Preschoolers Attend Annual Field Day Competition

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The students from the Hollywood Preschool kept active for the 8th annual Field Day event, held March 25 on the ball field.

Students, teachers and members of the Fitness Dept., including Youth Fitness Coordinator Gina Allardyce, all contributed to this year's event. Along with the students, parents showed support and continued to relay the importance of staying fit and active in their daily lives.

Parent Involvement Coordinator Davna Bell said the children look forward to this event all year long. She added that they start practicing for Field Days every other month, so the children know what to do when Field Day arrives." Bell said.

Bell said her favorite part about the annual Field Day event is that it serves as a reminder to parents to keep their children living an active day-to-day life. She said the preschoolers will also participate in Field Day next year.

"We will keep our Field Day going for as long as we can in the coming years," Bell said.

The students received a light snack and stayed hydrated throughout the event. Concluding the Field Day activities, the preschoolers each received medals for participation.



Marisol Gonzalez

Ja'Kailee Stewart crawls through the fitness tube as she completes the obstacle course.



Marisol Gonzalez

Arianna Judybil Osceola goes through the Hula hoops during the Field Day event.



Marisol Gonzalez

Youth Fitness Coordinator Gina Allardyce demonstrates various stretching techniques with the children and teachers.



Marisol Gonzalez

All the children got the opportunity to push around the giant ball at their annual Field Day event on March 25.

Genesis Osceola Honored at Memorial Pool Tournament

Seniors, Youth, Adult Divisions at 'G-Man's' Event

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Genesis Osceola All-Indian Pool Tournament took place at the Big Cypress Gymnasium, April 10-11.

Hosting the event, family members have designated this as the first of an annual tradition.

Tournament play for the Senior and Youth Divisions took place on the first evening, and then resumed the next day at noon for the adults. Since the seniors also qualify for adult competition, many of these participants registered for a second opportunity and looked forward to adding 9-Ball to their game plan.

A group of more than 15 immediate family members remained on hand throughout the tournament to participate in the competition and bring the memories of Genesis Osceola to life again. Nancy Garza and her sons, Raymond, Roy Jr. and Manuel distributed awards to the lucky winners.

The Garza brothers also recalled fond memories of their Uncle Genesis at the tournament.

Indicating his mother, Nancy Osceola Garza, Raymond Garza said: "Genesis Osceola was my mother's [Nancy

Osceola Garza] younger brother. In the Seminole culture, whether by blood or clan, play a very important role. It is their responsibility to discipline and teach the next generation.

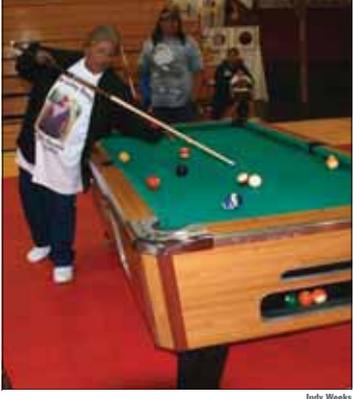
"Even though he was only 13 years older, my Uncle Genesis took his job seriously," Raymond added. "He was always there for me as a friend, confidant and teacher."

"Everybody called my Uncle Genesis, the 'G-Man,' but he gave himself the handle of 'Dirt Man,' since he moved earth for a living," said Manuel Garza. "He was always there for us and being close to our age,

I felt like he understood me better than most adults. He was one of the best hunters in Big Cypress and you couldn't get him lost in the woods."

With the mention of hunting, family and friends shared several colorful stories about the G-Man's adventures and exploits.

"Pool was the G-Man's game and he really loved to play. That's why we chose this way to remember him," remarked Roy Garza Jr. "Everybody that has played here the last two days, played pool with him at sometime or another and we all have great memories. Look at how many members of our family play pool and he started us all at the tables."



Judy Weeks

Esther Buster gets into position to make her shot.



Photo Credit

Russell Osceola lines up his shot during tournament play in the 8th annual Seniors Pool Tournament on April 29.

Seniors Compete in Annual Pool Tourney

Men's, Women's and Scotch Doubles Events Held

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Wildfires, road closures, unfortunate cancellations and travel schedules may have delayed, but could not cancel, the 8th annual Seniors Pool Tournament.

ed out the top spots. Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, an avid fan of the sport, made opening remarks and then sat down to keep an eye on the games.

"Pool is my thing and I really enjoy watching the seniors play," Rep. Cypress said. "Life's experiences have taught them to smile rather than frown. They have such a great sense of humor and I can't think of anywhere else that you can go and find competitors routing for each other."

President Richard Bowers Jr. echoed Rep. Cypress's remarks on the seniors' remarkable spirits.

"Life hasn't dulled their enthusiasm; it has sharpened their wits," added President Bowers. "They are the jewels in our crown and their strength and determination have brought us to where we are today."

Laughing and poking fun at each other, the players got down to serious business as teams were eliminated and the winners' circle began to grow smaller. Games took longer as the players took ample time to scope out their next shot and determine its destination.

In the last game of the Scotch Doubles, the undefeated team of Jane Freeman and Keeno King lost to Juanita Osceola and her brother, Russell, resulting in a playoff. Everyone gathered around to share unsolicited advice and watch the final outcome. Applause acknowledged the champions as Juanita and Russell Osceola.

Door prize winners were Lydia Cypress, Betty Osceola, Rudy Osceola, Esther Buster, David Bowers, Janice Cypress, Paul Bowers Sr., Joe Osceola Sr., Russell Osceola and Laura Clay.



Judy Weeks

Laura Clay contemplates the shot that won her first place in the women's division of the pool tournament.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) The Garza brothers, Raymond, Roy Jr. and Manuel, share fond memories of their uncle, Genesis Osceola.

Results of the First Annual Genesis Osceola Pool Tournament

Senior 8-Ball: Women: 1. Diana OnlyAChief, 2. Rena Blissett, 3. Jane Freeman, 4. Juanita Osceola, 5. Louise Billie. **Men:** 1. Gary Clay, 2. Joe Billie, 3. Daniel Gopher, 4. Abel Salgado, 5. Roy Snow.

Adult 9-Ball: Women: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Theresa Nunez, 3. Connie Williams, 4. Laura Clay, 5. Diana OnlyAChief. **Men:** 1. Josh Garza, 2. David Cypress, 3. Tony Billie, 4. Roy Garza Jr., 5. Roy Snow.

Youth 8-Ball: Girls: 1. Demi Garza, 2. Amber Alvarado, 3. Michaela Cypress. **Boys:** 1. Joshua Boromei, 2. Rowdy Osceola, 3. Tim Bearden, 4. Myron Cypress.

Senior Scotch Doubles: 1. David Cypress and Laura Clay, 2. Jimmie Bert and Jane Freeman, 3. Daniel Gopher and Linda Billie, 4. George Grasshopper and Dale Grasshopper, 5. Lonnie Billie and Louise Osceola.

Adult 8-Ball: Women: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Virginia Billie, 3. Theresa Nunez, 4. Juanita Osceola, 5. Louise Jim. **Men:** 1. Tony Billie, 2. Leon Micco, 3. Josh Garza, 4. Roy Garza Sr., 5. Nick Tiger.

Adult Scotch Doubles: 1. Roy Snow and Theresa Nunez, 2. Billy Brown and Esther Buster, 3. Tony Billie and Phalyn Osceola, 4. Noe Artega and Lorena Artega, 5. Gary Clay and Diana OnlyAChief.



Judy Weeks

Louise Billie lines the ball up before she makes a tricky shot.



Judy Weeks

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress checks out the lay of the table before shooting.

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NFL Athletes, Tribal Citizens Compete in Chaka's Stars Golf Tourney

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — The Tribal community, other surrounding communities, and even a few celebrity athletes teamed up for a round of golf and some friendly competition in support of the 1st annual Chaka's Stars Golf Tournament, held May 9 at the Okeechobee Golf and Country Club in Okeechobee, Fla.

The Golf and Country Club was at its full capacity and then some for the tournament. The course is able to accommodate a total of 30 teams of four players each. But with the help of Gilbert Chevrolet of Okeechobee and their donation of extra golf carts, the tournament was able to raise their participation to 36 teams taking a total of 144 players.

"There's been an overwhelming response," said Chaka's Stars Cofounder Chaka Smith. "It is so fulfilling to find out that so many people care about the cause."

The Chaka's Stars foundation was started in 2007 with the mission to empower and enrich the youth in the community.

"We started it because there was a need for the program," said Smith. "Things have grown and flourished beyond any of our beliefs and we hope to continue to grow and move further."

Members from all Tribal reservations participated in the benefit with some Tribal departments and officials even sponsoring a few holes.



(L-R) Santana Moss, Chaka Smith and Channing Crowder take a moment off the tee box to support a good a cause.

"It's important to get involved with surrounding communities in the aspect with the Seminole Tribe," said Tribal citizen John Madrigal. "Anything the Tribe can do to benefit others needs also helps our needs."

Along with the golf scramble Chaka's Stars held a silent auction that included sports memorabilia signed by an assortment of athletes from Tim Tebow, Larry Fitzgerald, Greg Norman and many more. Financial firm Morgan Stanley also donated a financial plan package valued at \$2,500.

A few professional athletes stopped by to show their support for Chaka's Stars. Santana Moss of the Washington Redskins raced over to Okeechobee to sign autographs and mingle with players.

"I just want to try to give back," said Moss. "Just trying to show our kids and community another outlet and show them that if they have positive people in their lives like Chaka they can feed off of it and live positive lives."

In addition to Moss, the Detroit Lions' new signee D.J. Boldin, brother of Arizona Cardinals' player Anquan Boldin, and Miami Dolphins linebacker Channing Crowder showed their support by playing in the golf scramble. The golf tournament was spiced up a bit with a hole-in-one challenge for a chance to win a new Toyota Tundra. At various holes, drive competitions took place as well as chances to win gift certificates to Beef 'O' Brady's and Jersey Mike's Subs, supported by owner Greg Giles, who played in the tournament.

Smith's wife, Tribal citizen Suraiya Hope, also a co-founder of Chaka's Stars, said that they hope in 10 years the foundation will be as large as a local chapter of the Boys & Girls Club.

Chaka's Stars puts on a six week summer program that includes workshops on bullying and etiquette. The foundation also helps local community students pay for SAT and ACT tests and helps support other children in need.

"The money stays right here in Okeechobee," said Chaka Smith. "We want to see the children through school so we can hopefully see them come back and be a productive member of our community."



Conchade Osceola, 6, the youngest player at the tournament, drives the ball down the fairway.

Hoopsters Compete in Annual NAYO Tourney

Rez Birds, NDN Express Claim Top Spots

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

The Tribe played host once more to some of the best Native teams on the hardwood in the annual Native American Youth Organization (NAYO) basketball tournament, held April 10-11.

The Sheridan Hills Recreation Gym, along with the Holywood Christian School and the Davie Police Athletic League, were all sites for the double elimination tournament. More than 30 men's and women's teams competed.

Teams from Mississippi to North Carolina made the trip with trophies, T-shirts, jackets and bragging rights on the line.



The 2009 defending NAYO Men's champions, NDN Express from Mississippi, narrowly defeated the Native All-Stars.

At the tournament's end, the Rez Birds of Cherokee, N.C. came out as champions for the women, coasting to a 5-0 mark along the way in a 58-38 win against All-Nations. Felicia Johnson led the way with 19 points.

"Our size and our ability to control the backboards allowed us to control the tempo of the game," second year NAYO Head Coach Buddy Johnson said.

He explained that good recruiting also played a key role in their success with three Seminole women players joining the team.

"We have been able to get some great exposure for all of these girls to maybe go on to the college level," Johnson said.

On the men's side, Lee McMillan led in scoring for NDN Express from Mississippi to pick up their second straight NAYO title against the Native All-Stars, 56-54. McMillan picked up his third championship in the last four years in the tourney.

"The key for us was penetrating and shooting," McMillan said. "I was surprised when they got back in the game. We put our second unit in and had to substitute toward the end to get the lead and momentum back."

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Recreation Dept. Director and NAYO Co-Founder Barry Jim said he really enjoyed this year's success.

"We have come a long way with this organization. I have tried to use Jim to really continue to promote the Tribes," Jim expressed. "This year has been the best since I have been involved. Things were on a level playing field without any politics."

Perennial participants, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, brought several teams to play. Head Coach Buncsey Crow brought his squad for the fourth year into the tourney. He and his Young Legends made the 14 hour drive this year finishing in third place in 2008.

Crow said his NAYO has to qualify each year for team. He added that one big part of the tourney's appeal, and his team's reason for playing, involves representing their particular Tribe as one of the best.

"For my kids it is about being the champ of all it is tribes," Crow explained.

Six year Brighton Seminoles Head Coach Tim Thomas said his kids enjoy playing against the best in head to head competition.

"It is a good experience for these kids; they get to match their skills against other natives," Thomas said. "They like the competition to see how they can match up."

The 2010 NAYO games will be held in Choctaw, Miss.



The NAYO Women's champions, the Rez Birds from Cherokee, N.C.

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Hope Tommie-Wilcox Bowling Tourney Celebrates Decade of Success

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Just in time for Mother's Day, friends and family celebrated the life and legacy of Tribal citizen and mother, Hope Tommie-Wilcox on May 9 at the 10th annual Tommie-Wilcox Memorial Bowling Tournament.

The partner's play tourney, which took place at Superplay USA Bowling Center, is now in its 10th year, largely due to Tommie-Wilcox's deep love for the sport.

"She was one of the first Tribal members to start bowling and I got her started," her widower, Damon Wilcox, explained. "She loved the competition and loved to play against the men in particular and many times kicked their butts."

Wilcox said although a late starter in her playing career, Tommie-Wilcox had professional potential and lead the county with the highest average for close to a decade in the mid 1980s through early 1990s.

"If it had to do with bowling she was interested in it," Wilcox said.

The Bird Clan member was the daughter of Sally and Jack Tommie, and granddaughter of Polly Parker. Many of her family members, including her eldest daughter, Mary Wilcox, and her nephew, Dean Stokes, attended the tournament. Stokes recalled a kind-hearted, cheerful person who "never had too many worries."

Family friend Moses Osceola, a perennial tournament participant, also attended and offered kind words about Tommie-Wilcox.

"Hope was a great mother and I will always remember what she was able to accomplish as a mom," Osceola said.



Damon Wilcox tries for a strike down the alley.

Chris C. Jenkins

Results from the Tournament

Game 1: 1. Mary Jo Micco/Kevin Tommie, 2. Mary Jo Micco/George Micco, 3. Wendi Snow/Elbert Snow, 4. Trisha Osceola/Marcy Osceola, 5. Terri Frank/Marcy Osceola; Game 2: 1. Marilyn Doney/Kyle Doney, 2. Patty Entry/Bobby Frank, 3. Grace Kooztz/Dwayne Bille, 4. Wendi Snow/Mike Micco, 5. Marty Tommie/Joni Johnson; Game 3: 1. Patty Entry/Kyle Doney, 2. Wendi Snow/Moses Osceola, 3. Sherree Sneed/Kyle Doney, 4. Marilyn Doney/Mya Stockton, 5. Grace Kooztz/George Micco; Game 4: 1. Michelle Osceola/Kenny Doney, 2. Amanda Smith/Dwayne Bille, 3. Patty Entry/Gabriel Stockton, 4. Mary Jo Micco/Kyle Doney, 5. Grace Kooztz/Moses Osceola.



Judy Weeks

Josh Jumper (Background, Far Right) watches his son, Andre, (R) compete in Junior Dummy Roping.

ROPING

From page 1C

Following the buffet dinner, the younger generation participated in a dummy roping. Beginning with a warm-up, the ropers spun their lariats and had some very impressive catches on the steer's head attached to a bale of hay.

Julian Juvet won a Razor® kick scooter with two perfect throws back to back. Andre Jumper and Jose Torres each caught one horn and returned for a tie breaker, which resulted in a duplicate score. After a quick consultation, they decided to split their winnings.

The adults were faced with a far more difficult task when the dummy was replaced with a large set of longhorns. The rules also were altered to no head catches and slick horns only. One third of the 12 contestants received a no time during the first round resulting in elimination. Half of the remainder caught only one horn on their second throw, narrowing the field to four contenders.

Figure 8's, line encroachment and one horns cleared the roster for Blaine Courson to take first place.

Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr. officiated as flagman and judge for the Three Head Open. A very impressive lineup of contestants included many of the top ropers in South Florida. The steers were fast and consistent, creating the formula for a perfect evening for roping enthusiasts.

When the dust had cleared and the times were tabulated Derrick Davis and Shane Hestor took home the championship heading and heeling saddles.

However, the event was not only about rodeo. According to the event's name sake Josh Jumper, his family recently explained that his 21-month-old nephew, Landon Joshua Jumper, "recently went to be with our Lord."

"His loss has been hard to bear and we are very grateful to the many wonderful people who gave so much of their time, knowledge and skill in an effort to give him a quality of life that we all take for granted," Jumper said. "In his memory, we are donating the proceeds from this roping to the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital."

Jumper's mother, Laquita, also remembered Landon, and thanked those who helped care for him.

"Speaking on behalf of my family, we are extremely grateful to all the wonderful doctors, nurses, teachers and friends who worked so hard on behalf of my grandson, Landon," she said. "Born with physical disabilities, life was a challenge for him, but he was eager to learn and a joy to all of us."

"Through the help of the wonderful

people at Early Steps and Joe DiMaggio, Landon far surpassed the expectations of the professionals and before long it seemed as though the student had become the teacher," added Jumper. "It is our hope that through their work with Landon, they will have gained further knowledge to help others who pass their way."



Judy Weeks

Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr., officiates as judge at the first annual Josh Jumper Team Roping event.



Judy Weeks

Julian Juvet wins a Razor® Kick Scooter for first place in the Junior Dummy Roping event.



The Tommie-Wilcox family, (L-R) Patricia, Mary, Damon and Bessie (C).

Chris C. Jenkins

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Hershey's® Track and Field Competition Results of the Students Advancing to the State Level



Rachel Buxton

Sunni Bearden represents Pemayetv Emahakv in the softball throw event.

TRACK From page 1C

Softball Throw
9-10 Year Olds: Boys: Sean Osceola, 121'6"; 11-12 Year Olds: Boys: Kelton Smedley, 155'2", C.W. Ortiz, 152'3"; Girls: Trista Osceola, 117'1".

Standing Long Jump
Demetrius Clark, 7'0"

100 Meter Dash
Kelton Smedley, 14.55

200 Meter Dash
Cheyenne Nunez, 32.07

400 Meter Run
Lahna Sedatol, 1:16:92

800 Meter Run
11-12 Year Olds: Boys: Kelton Smedley, 2:48:6; Girls: Kailin Brown, 3:20:1

4 X 100 Meter Relay
11-12 Year Olds: Boys: Zachary Hudson, Imillakiyo Osceola, Zeke Matthews, Demetrius Clark, 1:02:89; Girls: Cheyenne Nunez, Lahna Sedatol, Tamea Allen, Odessa King, 1:03:41.



Rachel Buxton

Cheyenne Nunez runs the final leg in the 4 X 100 meter relay, securing her team's spot in the state competition which will take place June 27 at Lake Brantley High School in Altamonte Springs, Fla.



Rachel Buxton

Brian Bishop (R) and Trevor Thomas (C) compete in the 100 meter dash against a member of an opposing team (L).



Rachel Buxton

Kel ton Smedley finishes first in the 800 meter run with a more than 10 second lead.

SEEKING ORAL HISTORIES FOR MUSEUM COLLECTION AND VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BUILDING EXHIBIT

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is seeking to conduct oral history interviews with Seminole veterans and family members of veterans. The interviews will become a part of the existing oral history collection of the Tribal Museum. In the interview, you may choose what you would like to speak about. If you give permission, the interview might be considered for use in the exhibits to be created within the new Veteran's Memorial Building in Brighton. We hope that Seminole veterans will share stories for the benefit of current and future generations, as we look to honor your dedication and service.



To participate contact:

Elizabeth Lowman
Oral History Coordinator
Phone: 863-903-1113 ext. 12210
elizabethlowman@semtribe.com

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Announcements

BIRTHDAYS

To **Cha Halke**,
Deana H. H. Joyner, who grows more beautiful each year, happy birthday from your husband, Carlton, and your son, Kazmin L. Joyner.
We love you very much and want you home so you can bring that sunshine back.
Keep praying, keep your head up and let no one see you down. Stay Equched.
Eeh-che-poo-te-chach-cha-le-wa, and, Ee-chingotchumele cha halke! Waache of Achochee.



Ee-chino-gotchu-me,
Carlton and
Kazmin L. Joyner



Happy birthday to **Burton Lee Harjo Jr.** from your Dad!

Happy birthday to **William K. Osceola** on May 4. Welcome home and stay strong in all your endeavors!

From,
Martha in Utah

Happy birthday to my beautiful precious niece, **Julia Christina Smith!** You've grown so much. I still remember when you were just born how tiny you were. I was standing beside your dad with tears of joy, thinking if only your grandma was still here, how happy she would be standing here with us. I know she's up above in heaven watching over you. She'd be so proud of you.

Keep up the good work in school and with softball.
I love you so much,
Aunt Oneva

I want to wish a happy birthday to my baby girl, **Julia Christina Smith**. You are so special to me. I thank God for you everyday. I can't believe you're going to be 7 years old now. You've grown so much but you'll always be daddy's little girl.

We wish you a happy birthday from all your Panther family. We love you to the moon and back; to the stars and beyond.

Love,
Daddy (Mike Smith)

I just wanted to wish **Mike Smith** a happy birthday and to let you know how proud we are of you for focusing on your sobriety. I know you can make it; just remember the decisions you've chosen for yourself recently.

It's not always going to be easy. Stay strong and don't let anyone say anything to bring you down.
Remember what mom always told us love and take care of each other as family. Mom would be proud of you today.
No matter what I'll always be here for you!

Love,
Your Sister Blessa You,
Your God Bless You,
Mia, Maekon, Gia, Khloe and Mommy



Happy birthday to our big baby boy, **Maximus!** We love you sooooo much! My, how time flies by. You know daddy is so proud of you! Hope you had fun at your birthday party.
We love you infinitely times infinity times ... we win!

Love,
Mia, Maekon, Gia, Khloe and Mommy



NEW BABY

Big brown eyes and an adorable smile
Now **Lizina** and **Glen Lamb**
Have a baby girl who makes life worthwhile!



Kitana LySaunch Lamb
Joined us on Feb. 10 at 10:17 p.m.
Weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces, and measuring 19.75 inches long
Proud parents are
Lizina Bowers Lamb and **Glen "Scooter" Lamb**
Panther Clan
Grandmother **Sandra Osceola**
Great-Grandmother **Polly Osceola Hayes**

MOTHER'S DAY

Happy Mother's Day **Aunt Alice!** We know that we love you very much. We'd like to thank you for always being there for us.

When others thought we'd fail you'd always remind us what mom wanted for us. You never judge us. You always encourage us with words of wisdom that kept us going. You believed in us and loved us no matter what. You mean the world to us. Thank you!

Love your niece and nephews,
Oneva, Mike and Tracey



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POEMS

Famous Capes

My theory is that Julius Caesar's attire greatly assisted him whenever he was on campaign. Like when he was in Iberia dreamin' Vincingetorix at the great promontory and the massive Galic relief army was Alesia encirclin' nearby, he had him a favorite red cape — I kid you not — and he'd bring this red cape out every now and again, just to let his legions catch sight of it, so they could fight and holler like madmen all the live-long day. Scholars write volumes freighted with Caesars glories, and it is true that he was quite an extraordinary man, like when he was in Iberia dreamin' of Alexander the Great's great cape or Hannibal—the son of the lightning bolt's cloak. That Caesar was always up to something, I'll tell you what. But I think he had that red cape ever since his teen-aged years, purchased in Iberia maybe, however, it may've been a tad too small by the time of the Conquest of Gaul, that is. But he needed it now that his men had taken a fancy to it, cause they just fought and hollered every time he had it on. And who knows, he may've had him another red cape in yet another man of miniature interpretation, as if to assist him that when he was studying to be the foremost man of all the world. And I'll even wager that that's why Pablo Neruda in Santiago, Chile had him one but in a black poet's version, yep.

— Elgin Jumper
April 10, 2009

She Used To Be My Girl

She used to be my girl, I know her well,
She would stay by my side even though I was raising hell.
She didn't ask questions, she just enjoyed the ride.
Beautiful Seminole girl showing her pride.
She preferred to speak to our language, laughing and having fun,
Some would ask her, why you with that dangerous one?
She would say I love him and accept his ways.
Because we have far many more good times than bad days.
She knew she had a warrior that was always on the run,
She always to enjoy what time we had together, but my freedom was just about done.
She did her best to help me maintain,
But still every now and then I'd return to the jack game.
She would be upset and worried if I left on my own,
Because anything can happen in a war zone.
I'd always tell her worrying about me will give you gray hair,
I mastered the jack game, I'll see you when I get there.
We've known each other since we were 7 or 8,
But for some reason, we didn't hit it off until late.
My trip, after all these years, those memories are still alive.
What can I say, I refuse to let great memories slip my mind,
I simply want her to know, she is one of a kind.
I know time changes if people there, but they are still the same,
I was wondering if down there she still wears my name.
The only time I saw her this was written for,
She knows the last time I saw her I told her she would see me no more.
Since that day I been gone, going on 11 calendar years,
Like Pac said, life goes one and I only shed tattooed tears.
She used to be my girl, but now she belongs to you.
Take care of that beautiful, Seminole girl I call my true.

— Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan

The Moment

Morning rain — first rain — with love, with happiness. The price to pay and everyday lightning and thunder along the river — Magical experience. Between spectator and performer — marble overtones of poems — million — hued tranquility beautiful — street, rain that falls and falls. Almost to destroy — to crash — mercurial momentous — the moment, in other words, flying in philosophy — use it is early dawn — musical lexicons — finest pain withers away. Lightning, in plain sight, you immerse yourself in thought. The idea — The idea — the Sun! — the Sun! is the power source essential. I kept it memory — in other words — yes, there — the overture — finest friends — and years spent — through ruined mazes — was allowed to exhaust noise and night — marble city — the wound hurts. I am morning — voice — sound — the transparent poem — and morning rains moments more and more.

— Elgin Jumper
April 10, 2009

The Other Side of Loving Green

On a curb, near blades of saw-grass, in the Everglades is a tiny mural — a work in progress — that a little warrior is painting. From time to time, the little warrior pulls back from the piece to see the bigger picture, and then it's back to work, he goes on all the minute details. It is the mural of the Everglades! The panoric, poetic that falls from his tears and attach themselves like gold dust to the concrete in reflections. The little warrior believes he can pass through the mirror of the mural and then on to the other side of morning.

— Elgin Jumper
April 10, 2009

Back In the Day

Back in the day when we were poverty stricken; where were you then? The Kooivaathe, Fooshaathee, Oshaanaathee, Faplechaathee, Eehaathee, Chentaathee, Okle Hootaathee and Nokoshaathee were our only friends.
There was a few white missionaries that came to save souls.
Much respect to them, but many of us heathen loved our Green Corn Dance.
As far as I can remember, they were the only non-Indians to show some love.
But at the same time I wouldn't trade my ancestor's beliefs for pearlly gates, streets of gold and a mansion above.
Other than those few white missionaries, I don't remember seeing another color of people on our land.
That is until generations, now you see every color living to man.
It's a shame the younger descendants can't really experience living amongst our own kind.
Though we didn't have the wealth you enjoy today, we had each other.
And I wouldn't chance my upbringing for the highest pay.
Because we were taught to survive without money in our hand,
Doing the best we can living off the sand.
Most of us made it right and very few of us took a fall.
But one thing and two for sure, we are all Unconquered Seminoles, with spirits to brawl.
Times have changed with non-Indians filing lawsuits against Tribal members shouldn't be.
But if you continue to let them come to our residential areas more suits you will see.
They are not friends, they are possessed by greed,
The truth hurts doesn't it?
But that's the reality of it, don't turn a blind eye; take a damn heed.
Friends are the ones that were there when we didn't have a damn thing.
These others are only around for the dividing huddle.
There isn't anything wrong with being humble.
Just don't let yourself be hoodwinked and gullible.
Back in the day was great; living amongst our own kind,
Hats off to Charlie "Chazz" Tiger and Burton "Breeze" Harjo our Seminole women in those times.

— Ike T. Harjo
Panther Clan

CASINO NEWS



Chris C. Jenkins

Fleet Week attendees salute the flags during the "All Hands on Deck" kick off party at Seminole Paradise on April 27.

Fleet Week Kicks Off at Seminole Paradise Festivities Honor Navy, Coast Guard Members

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Members of the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, as well as international service personnel, made their way to Seminole Paradise for the "All Hands on Deck" welcoming party to kick off the annual Fleet Week festivities on April 27.

During Fleet Week, held throughout the Ft. Lauderdale area on April 27-May 2, the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard members took part in a series of community service projects, special events and much more.

This year's theme celebrated diversity, as well as the service and role of Native American's have played in the armed forces.

Seminole Color Guard members Paul Bowers Sr. and Stephen Bowers presented the American and Seminole Tribe of Florida flags at the event. Several Seminole armed service veterans, including former U.S. infantrymen Larry-Mike Osceola who served from 1985-1991, also attended.

"You can not really realize how good it felt," explained Osceola. "What we bring to these people and our own as a Tribe just feels so good."

"I am glad that through the community, Fort Lauderdale and the Tribe, we could be here to celebrate them," Osceola added.

Broward County Navy Days, the Navy League's Broward County Council, and other advisory leagues, helped sponsor the event, with Humana Military Healthcare Services as the title supporter.

"This is a warm and receiving area because it is a

good time for our armed servicemen and it gives us a chance to show our appreciation for serving our country," said Captain G. William Weiler, president of the Navy League's Broward County Council. "We are very proud to be able to sustain this in the Fort Lauderdale area."

Sailors and servicemen and women from far away as Virginia, Connecticut, New Hampshire, North Carolina and even Canada were all on hand for the event. Newly crowned Miss Latina International Esther Dollar made an appearance as well.

"It was a big deal to be a part of it and anytime we can give them that on the back for all that they do, it is a very good thing," Dollar said. "It is always a good thing also to see a man in uniform."

In 2001, Broward County Navy Days merged with the Fleet Week celebration with the McDonald's Air & Sea Show; a partnership that lasted seven years. It was then known as Fleet Week USA. Last year, it returned to being officially known as Fleet Week: Port Everglades.

South Florida and New York remain the only two major cities which host the Fleet Week festivities each year.

Besides the welcoming party, Fleet Week also featured the Fleet Week Golf Classic, held at the Fort Lauderdale Country Club, and Navy displays and flight simulators at the Galleria Mall in Ft. Lauderdale during each day of the weeklong celebration.

For more information please visit www.browardnavydaysinc.org or www.bcnavyleague.org.



Chris C. Jenkins

Color Guard members (L-R) Stephen Bowers and Paul Bowers Sr. present the colors.

South Florida and New York remain the only two major cities which host the Fleet Week festivities each year.

Hard Rock Celebrates Fifth Anniversary

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal Council, citizens, patrons and media gathered May 11 at the Hard Rock to celebrate five successful years.

It stands as one of South Florida's premiere hot spots for big money winning, Florida, entertainment and more.

With the backdrop of the largest cash display in history, five million dollars, along with showcase models, custom guitars and cake, a crowd was on hand to witness the event.

"It seems like a very short period that we have been here," President Richard Bowers Jr. said.

"We are fulfilling the vision of our Tribal Seniors," Hollywood Council Rep. Max Osceola Jr. explained.

President Bowers, Rep. Osceola and Rep. David Cypress all received custom guitars in celebration of the event.

Hard Rock International Chairman and Chief Operations Officer for Seminole Gaming James Allen reflected on the early opposition and obstacles.

"When this project was announced there were so many nay-sayers," Allen said. "Make no mistake though, we are here because of the sovereignty and perseverance of the Tribe."

As a part of the day of festivities, the hotel received a special gift of five guitars from some of the music industry's legendary artists including: Eric

Clapton, Bon Jovi, Van Halen, Elvis Presley and Bruce Springsteen.

Hollywood resident and perennial patron John Barret said the atmosphere and entertainment of the venue, the Tribe's hospitality and Warrior spirit and reputation has kept him returning day after day.

"The spirit of the Seminole Nation from day one of their existence is something I definitely admire," Barret acknowledged. "They are the best citizen entity in Broward County. They have overcome every obstacle thrown in front of them with class and dignity to be here now."

The \$250 million operation is rated AAA Four Diamond with over 140,000 square feet of gaming space. It has 500 luxury rooms and suites in a 12-story tower. As Florida's largest casino it also includes table games for Blackjack, Baccarat, Mini-Baccarat, Pai Gow Poker, and three card poker.

Seminole Paradise is adjacent to the hotel and casino with 300,000 square feet of space featuring 22 retail shops, 17 restaurants and 11 bars and lounges.

Its success has been just a small part of the Tribe. In March of 2007 the landmark move to purchase the entire Hard Rock International franchise helped establish the Tribe on an international scale.

With 125 Cafes and nine hotels and casinos in 49 countries, Hard Rock International remains the standard in music and entertainment franchises. As the owner of the world's best collection of music memorabilia, the authentic items are displayed at locations around the globe.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., Rep. David Cypress and President Richard Bowers Jr. hold up their Fifth Anniversary guitars.



Armored Truck Drop Part of Hollywood Casino \$40K Promotion

Photo by Chris C. Jenkins

At Left: As part of April's Seminole Stimulus Month, promotions at the Seminole Classic Casino Hollywood included dropping an armored truck front-first to the pavement. The truck was displayed outside the casino for more than a week dangling from a crane as part of the \$40,000 "Crash for Cash" giveaway on April 30.

Smithsonian Institution

Developed by the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service with generous support from Elizabeth Hunter Solomon, the Smithsonian Women's Committee, and the AMB Foundation

NATIVE WORDS NATIVE WARRIORS

A remarkable story of Indian soldiers who used their Native languages in service to the U.S. military



Top: Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, National Archives / Bottom: Navajo code talkers, 1943, National Archives

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TRAVEL NEWS



U.S. Government Makes Changes to International Travel Laws

BY NERY MEJICANO
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: Nery Mejicano is the Big Cypress special projects coordinator. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write to nmejicano@seminoletribe.com.]

As of June 1, the U.S. government will implement all the requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. This will require most U.S. citizens entering the U.S. from sea, land and air, to have a valid U.S. Passport.

There are two kinds of passports, the Passport Card and the Passport Book.

The U.S. Passport Card is only valid for re-entry into the U.S. at land border crossings from Canada and Mexico, or by sea from the Caribbean region and Bermuda.

The U.S. Passport Book is good for re-entry into the U.S. from land, sea or air.

We are recommending that you apply and obtain the U.S. Passport Book, since with it you can travel and return from most countries in the world and to obtain it you have to meet the same requirements.

All U.S. citizens can apply for a U.S. passport with very few exceptions, such as an outstanding warrant or overdue child support. The process of obtaining a passport is quite easy.

Applicants who have never had a Passport must have an original birth certificate and a completed Passport Application Form DS-11. This can be obtained at the Tribal Secretary's Office in Hollywood or via the internet at www.travel.state.gov/passport.

For those wishing to renew their Passport, please complete Renewal Form DS-82, have one form of I.D. such as a driver's license or Tribal ID CDIB card (CDIB), two recent passport photographs which can be obtained at a local Walgreen's or CVS Pharmacy. The cost is \$160 dollars for applicants age 17 and older and \$145 for applicants 16 and under. The Passport Agency accepts checks, credit cards, money orders or bank drafts.

If you need a passport within one or two weeks of travel you have to call the Miami Passport Agency at (877) 487-2778 to get an appointment. You should bring your confirmed airline tickets showing your travel plans.

All applicants, including children, have to be present in person at the time of the application. Children need to be accompanied by both parents or to have a statement of consent by the absent parent and Form DS 3053 filled out.

The Miami Passport Agency will be moving to a new location, we will inform you of this address, once this is finalized.

There may be some Seminole Tribal citizens, especially elders, who do not have their birth certificates. For those individuals you need to contact me directly so that I can assist in obtaining the proper documentation so you can obtain a passport at (954) 232-5714 or speak with my assistant, Denise Freund, at (863) 902-3200, Ext. 13322.

I will be able to assist Tribal citizens with travel to the Miami Passport Agency the first Tuesday of each month. I need to know no later than the 25th of the month if you plan to go so I can make the appointments.

Foreign Travel: How to Make it Safe and Enjoyable

BY NERY MEJICANO
Contributing Writer

[Editor's Note: Nery Mejicano is the Big Cypress special projects coordinator. The opinions he expresses are his own. If you would like to ask a question, please write to nmejicano@seminoletribe.com.]

This is a big and wonderful world. Travel will give you the opportunity to experience new cultures, taste exotic and delicious foods, to meet interesting people, and to visit those places you have seen and admire in pictures or on TV.

Travel is without a doubt one of the best educations. It does not matter how old you are, travel will open new horizons and will enrich your life.

There are a few things that you have to do to make your travel experience safer and more enjoyable. Following are a few tips that I hope are useful.

Documents: Make sure that you have a valid U.S. Passport and if required, a visa for entering the countries you plan to visit. Most countries, however, do not require a visa for U.S. citizens.

Make sure that you have another identity such as a driver's license or CDIB card. Make two copies of your passport, leave one with someone at home and keep the other copy with you. Upon arrival, place your passport in a safe or other secure place.

Packing: Make sure you check the weather at your destination so you can dress comfortably. Most people usually pack too much clothing. The lighter you pack, the less you have to carry around.

Make sure that your valuables are in your carry-on luggage not in your checked luggage. If you lock your checked luggage, make sure you use a TSA-approved lock. You can buy these locks at Wal-Mart or any travel or luggage store.

Money: Prior to leaving, check the Internet on the exchange rate so you have an idea as to how much things cost. You can find this information on the Internet at XE-Currency Conversions www.xe.com/ucc. One of the things that I find useful is to carry a small card in my wallet with the equivalent of \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, and \$100 dollars written in the local currency.

If you exchange dollars, do it at a bank or through your ATM card; that way you get the best exchange rates. Never exchange money with street money changers and never carry more money with you than you plan to spend that day.

I always carry a money belt that I have around my waist under my pants, and I also carry a fake wallet in my back pocket with a few dollars and some useless documents. I put my real money in a small wallet in my front pocket.

Credit Cards: Most countries accept credit cards from most large American companies such as Visa, MasterCard and American Express. In some of the smallest towns, you may have difficulty paying with your card, but that is the exception.

It is very important that you call your credit card company — the number is on the back of the card — and tell them that you are traveling out of the country. They will ask you for arrival and departure date. If you fail to do this, like I once did, your card may not work and I was stuck at a Paris hotel at 3 a.m. with a taxi waiting without being able to pay my bill.

Airports: After Sept. 11 security at airports was tightened. Expect some delays in clearing security. To make things easier do not have too much metal on you such as heavy belts, jewelry and heavy rings since they will trigger the metal detector.

Also make sure you wear slip on shoes, so that putting them back on is easier.

Do not take any food or more than 3 ounces of liquids or security will take them away. If you have a laptop, take it out of the carrying case and place it in a bin by itself.

Airplanes: If it is a long trip, take something to read and to entertain yourself. On a long trip, stretch and move your legs. Curl your toes to prevent blood clots, a rare condition that can be dangerous.

Safety: Any city, large or small, has its bad places that you do not want to venture to by yourself. If you take a taxi, make sure that it is a "marked" or official taxi. Many countries have what is called "pirate" taxis, in which anyone with a car can stop and offer you a ride for money. Do not ride in other than an official

cab.

It is always best to get a map of the city that you are visiting in case you get lost. In addition, if English is not spoken, learn a few useful phrases and words such as "Where is the bathroom?" as well as the words for restaurant, hotel, please, thank you, open and closed.

You may not be able to carry on a conversation, but the locals will appreciate your effort. Most big cities have English speakers, but you can always get a pocket dictionary to help you.

Do not venture out at night if you are by yourself and are not familiar with the city or place. If you want to venture away from the tourist areas, you may be able to hire a guide through your hotel. Keep your valuables such as your passport, money and jewelry in a safe.

Health: Check the U.S. State Department web site for information on the country you are traveling to. Some countries may require that you get vaccinated for certain diseases such as malaria, yellow fever, influenza, etc. You can find this information at <http://travel.state.gov>.

Drink only bottled water even if you are told that the water is safe. Make sure if you are on medication you have enough to last you through the trip. Also make sure the medication is in its proper package, and if prescribed, make sure the prescription bottle has your name on it.

You can buy travel health insurance through a travel agency or the Internet. This will cover you in case of an accident or illness while overseas.

But most of all, enjoy your trip, be safe and be adventurous. Try new foods; do not go to Rome, Paris or Moscow and eat at their local McDonalds or Pizza Hut.

Try to meet people and do not hesitate to ask questions. Most people are proud of their country and will be more than happy to help you.

Buy a guide to the country you are visiting from a local book store prior to your trip. Guides provide you with a lot of important information that can save you a lot of time and money.



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EASTER



(L-R) Cristina Tinajero and Alissa Dorgan stop by the library to decorate Easter eggs.

Rachel Buxton



Chris C. Jenkins

The Easter Bunny welcomes the Big Cypress seniors to the egg hunt.

Seniors Celebrate Easter in Big Cypress

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal seniors and guests enjoyed a day of fun and games while celebrating the Easter holiday April 8, at the Big Cypress Senior Center.

B.C. Council and Board Reps. David Cyprien and Cicero Guezo also made appearances and enjoyed the activities along with guests from Hollywood and Trail.

The day began with an egg hunt at the B.C. softball fields, followed by bingo, lunch (including two flat screen televisions), the jar guessing game, and a hat decorating contest.

Community leader and Reverend Arlen J. Payne of the New Testament Baptist Church also spoke briefly. In spite of a busy schedule he said he enjoyed spending the time and having the chance to discuss the meaning of Easter.

"I appreciated the opportunity to come by and encourage the folks. I always will," Payne said. "I just wanted to emphasize to everyone about the resurrection Christ and how it applies to our lives now."

Brighton Gets Special Visit from Easter Bunny

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton community celebrated the Easter holiday with a few visits from the Easter Bunny himself that included fun to be had by all.

Preschool Easter

The Easter Bunny hopped over to the Brighton Preschool April 2 to pay a special visit to the children.

The preschool classes took turns searching the grounds for colorful Easter eggs. The children ran and laughed as they searched high and low filling their baskets to the brim.

Community Easter

The Tribal youth and adults took part in the Easter festivities April 8 with egg hunts sponsored by the Brighton Council office.

The kids kicked the fun off in the morning searching for prized eggs at the Brighton Gym. Little ones took off looking on the slide, around the slide and as far as the softball fields for those winning eggs.

Everyone enjoyed a bagged-lunch as the adults got ready for their dash for eggs. After lunch the adults gathered at the Culture Village at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena to enjoy being a kid again. The adults raced each other looking for the brightly colored eggs.

Senior Easter

The seniors gathered at the Senior Center April 9 to celebrate the holiday with family and friends.

The Senior Center was decorated with spring colors and tables were adorned with pink and yellow tulips.

The seniors began the holiday party with a friendly Easter basket decorating contest. Baskets were judged by members of the Seminole Fire Rescue Dept.

For the women's division first place and



Mable Haught shows off her winning Easter basket.

Rachel Buxton

most original went to Mable Haught. Alice Sweat took second place and most prettiest while Agnes Bert claimed third place and cutest basket. In the men's contest Wonder Johns had an easy win taking all places and categories being the only male to enter the competition.

Baskets were passed out to seniors as they made their way outside to enjoy the much an-

tipicated egg hunt. Seniors searched the grounds looking in trees and getting assistance for the hard to reach eggs.

Dan Bowers was the big winner of the Easter egg hunt snagging the first prized egg.

The seniors cooled off after the hunt with a few games of Bingo and a hearty lunch.



Chris C. Jenkins

Lydia L. Cypres closes in on an egg during the egg hunt on the BC ball field.



Rachel Buxton

Tribal citizen Alice Sweat fills her basket to the top.



Rachel Buxton

Lexi Thomas, 2, searches for Easter eggs.



Chris C. Jenkins

Louise Billie looks at her winning raffle prize, a necklace and earring set, courtesy of President Richard Bowers Jr.

EASTER

Happy Easter from Immokalee

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — A variety of Easter activities designed to encompass all age groups took place during the traditional spring holiday season. Immokalee Council Rep. Elaine Aguilera, the Recreation Dept., Immokalee Seminole Ranch, the Senior Dept. and Family Services coordinated their efforts in celebration of Easter during the second week of April.

Senior Celebration

Using a wide assortment of materials, the Immokalee Seniors put their creative talents to work designing and assembling hats and baskets for entries in the Easter competitions that were judged at the party held at the Senior Center on April 8. Each project developed its own theme and displayed individual ingenuity, as well as color coordination and a generous amount of humor.

Rachel Billie took first place in the Seniors' Best Dressed, Hat and Basket contests.



Rachel Billie takes first place in the Seniors' Best Dressed, Hat and Basket contests.

Everyone tried their hand at dyeing and decorating eggs. Making skillful use of paint, stencils, glitter, decals and accessories, Elizabeth Oleo and Nancy Motlow excelled as the Easter Bunny's helpers.

The lawn beside the Immokalee Administration Building was scattered with eggs for the Senior Hunt. It took only three minutes for more than 350 eggs to disappear. Following the scramble, everyone received a prize based upon the number of eggs collected. Awards of gift cards went to Elizabeth Oleo with two gold eggs, and Louise Motlow and Rachel Billie found one silver egg apiece.

Returning to the Senior Center, Rachel Billie won the first game of Bingo. Splitting a tie, Linda Frank and Elaine Aguilera took top honors during the second game. The Easter luncheon was topped off with festive holiday desserts.

Easter Break Youth Party

The Immokalee Seminole Ranch hosted a fun filled day of activities for the boys and girls of the Seminole community on April 9. The Easter break event included a water park, slide, bounce houses and a series of organized games.



Judy Weeks

This is the first year that Gage Osceola has been able to pick up his own eggs.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilera, Mary Sanchez, Linda Frank and Nancy Motlow compete in a tie breaker for first and second place team standings in the Egg Toss.

Easter Competition Results

Egg Hunt: Seniors: 1. Elaine Aguilera, 2. Nancy Motlow, 3. Linda Frank, 4. Louise Motlow, 0-1: 1. Denise Gonzales, 2. Angelina Yzaguirre, 3. Allie Rae McInturff. 2-4: 1. Madison Martinez, 2. T.C. Sanchez, 3. Rosalinda Jimmie. 5-7: 1. K. J. Davis, 2. Ayanna Gonzales, 3. Kaden Grimaldo. 8-11: 1. Kenny Joe Davis, Jr., 2. Ashley Faz, 3. Dennis Gonzales. 12-17: 1. Billy Fewell, 2. Christopher Briscoll, 3. Eliza Mora. 18-54: 1. Kenny Joe Davis, Sr., 2. Erica Mata, 3. Peter Martinez. **Egg Toss:** 5-7: 1. K. J. Davis / Kaden Grimaldo, 2. Cameron Garza / Jaliyah Artega, 3. Curtis Motlow / Marina Garcia. 8-11: 1. Jon Jimmie / Jonah Alvarado, 2. Makayla Gonzales / Alicia Mora, 3. Kenny Joe Davis, Jr. / Ashley Faz. 12-17: 1. Deidra Hall / Demi Garza, 2. Jade Tapia / Eliza Mora, 3. Kenny Joe Davis, Jr. / Troy Boone. 18-36: 1. Michael Alvarez / Ashley Billie, 2. Juanita Martinez / Peter Martinez, 3. Lorena Artega / Noe Martinez. 37-54: 1. Gayle Boone / Virginia Nancy, 2. Jonnie Jimmie / Ronnie Jimmie, 3. Sylvia Marrero / Juan Tapia. Seniors: 1. Mary Sanchez / Gayle Boone, 2. Nancy Motlow / Deidra Hall, 3. Linda Frank / Cheyenne McInturff.



Marisol Gonzalez

The 3-year-old class finds as many Easter eggs as possible with the help of the Easter Bunny.

Hollywood Preschoolers Hunt for Eggs

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Hollywood preschool gathered on the ball field in search of Easter treats on April 2.

All ages were present for the annual festivities, parents and children also greeted the special visitor Mr. Easter Bunny.

Mr. Bunny shook his tail and shared his Easter eggs with the children from his basket.

Each class took turns in running out on the field and grabbed the colorful candy filled eggs.

The preschool teachers assisted filling and hiding the eggs for the children. They ended the day with group pictures with the Easter Bunny himself.



Marisol Gonzalez

The 4-year-old class joins in the Easter festivities on the Hollywood ball field on April 2.



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Sontino Billie and Kaleb Dector with the Easter Bunny.

BC Community Celebrates Easter

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Tribal community, employees and guests gathered for a celebration in faith and sponsorship on April 9.

Sponsored by the Big Cypress Tribal Council office, the annual Big Cypress Community Easter Luncheon had pictures, Easter baskets and an appearance by the Easter Bunny for all to enjoy.

Tribal citizen Paul "Cowbone" Buster entertained with musical and also offered words of wisdom on the meaning of the Easter holiday.

"Sometimes we worry about our mortgage, our car and other things like that which are of this world," Buster said. "But what about our souls? Jesus paid for that." Chairman Mitchell Cypress and BC Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress stopped by the event to share in the festivities, while community clergymen offering greetings and their perspective on the meaning of the day. "Everyday we have is a blessing from the Lord," Pastor Bruce Pratt expressed. "The wonderful gift God gave us was his son Jesus Christ. The greatest weapon the enemy has, Jesus broke and he came back."

"Because of Jesus' victory and His coming back, it was a blessing," Pratt added.

Each year, the Easter holiday celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead three days after his crucifixion, according to the Christian faith and scripture. Many Christian denominations also celebrate the day when it was known as Easter Sunday, held two days after Good Friday.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Paul "Cowbone" Buster entertains the guests with his spiritual song selections.

MOTHER'S DAY

Naples Community Takes Moms Out to Dinner

President Bowers Joins in for Community Event

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — Families from the Naples community congregated at the Capital Grille for a gourmet dinner in celebration of Mother's Day on the evening of May 6 at an event titled "For Being You and All that You Do."

Cultural Outreach Specialist Sandy Osceola organized the event and provided a bud vase and flowers for the youngsters to present as a tribute to each of their mothers. President Richard Bowers Jr. and his wife, Anna, pinned floral corsages on each of the mothers, while distributing gifts of traditional beaded jewelry.

"While many people touch our lives and make it a worthwhile journey through time, no one can be compared to our mothers," President Bowers said. "Without them

we would not be here. It is important that we think about them all year long, not just on this one special occasion."

Asking all of the men in the room to join him, President Bowers lifted his glass for a toast.

"This is in tribute to all of the wonderful mothers here in this evening, those who have gone on before us, and those who are about to produce the next generation."

Laughing, President Bowers said: "Chairman Mitchell Cypress is here with us this evening in spirit even though he appears invisible to you. Unfortunately, none of us can be in two places at once, so he went to Fort Pierce and I came here. He sends his best wishes for a Happy Mother's Day."

Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. sent a special greeting via a written letter. "The world is full of people of many colors, cultures and diverse opinions, but we all share one thing in common, our mothers," his letter said. "They are the most important women in our lives and everyday should be Mother's Day."

All of the mothers were gathered together for special recognition and a group photograph was taken in remembrance of the occasion.



Judy Weeks

President Richard Bowers Jr. proposes a toast for Mother's Day.



Judy Weeks

All of the mothers of the Naples community join President Richard Bowers, Jr. and his wife, Anna, (C) for a commemorative photo.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) Anna Bowers, Tamara Osceola and President Richard Bowers Jr. celebrate Mother's Day with the Naples community.



Judy Weeks

The children of the Naples community present each mother with a vase and flowers.



Judy Weeks

Melinda Guerie gives her mom, Ciara Billie-Guerie, a flower for Mother's Day.

Seniors Celebrate Mother's Day with Bowling Tournament

Participants Play Regular, No Tap, 3-6-9 Games at Competition

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

LAKE PLACID, Fla. — The seniors gathered at Lake Placid Royal Palms bowling lanes in Lake Placid, Fla. May 7 to honor mothers, grandmothers, aunts and special ladies, and to remember late friends.

The Mother's Day bowling tournament was in remembrance of late seniors Lottie Baxley, Jack Micco, Jimmy Scott Osceola, Jack Smith Sr., Alice Snow, Elsie Smith and Rosie Billie. To remember their dear friends and family, a table was decorated with photos of each.

Pastor Wonder Johns started the day off with a prayer thanking the Lord for friends and family.

The friendly competition then kicked off with a three-game format with one Regular Game, one 3-6-9 Game and one No Tap Game.

Seniors cheered fellow friends on as they rolled their balls down the lanes. Happy Jones rubbed her ball for good luck before sending it down the long narrow alley. Mable Haught held her bright pink ball high aiming for the center.

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith gave his fellow seniors high-fives, smiles and nods as they cleared their pins.

Following bowling, seniors joined together again at the Golden Corral in Lake Placid to enjoy a hearty meal and fellowship with friends.



Rachel Buxton

Mable Haught concentrates hard on making her shot.



Rachel Buxton

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith (R) visits Happy Jones at the tournament.



Rachel Buxton

Gary Sampson (R) high-fives Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith for picking up his spare.



Rachel Buxton

Director of Elder Services Leah Minnick takes part in the Mother's Day festivities.



Rachel Buxton

Agnes Jumper would let anything keep her from competing.

MOTHER'S DAY

Seniors Celebrate Mother's Day During Outing

Stops Made at Long Key Nature Center and Natural Area Park, More

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

DAVIE, Fla. — Hollywood's Tribal seniors gathered together a few days shy of Mother's Day on May 8 with a full slate of activities.

The day began with a visit to the Long Key Nature Center and Natural Area Park where the seniors learned about one more county facility dedicated to telling the story of the Tribe.

"This year we decided to go to a place to reconnect and go back in time a little," said Hollywood Senior Center Site Manager Patricia Ferreira. "They liked all of it and a lot of them had no idea it was even there."

"Mother's Day is one of those special days of the year of course because that is where we came from," Ferreira added. "Mom is the backbone of the family and that is what I was always taught."

At more than 2,300 square feet in size, the center touches on the history of the Seminoles and the Tequesta Native Americans on Long Key.

Many of the seniors, including Jimmie Osceola, remember the site of the park, formally the Kapok Tree Restaurant.

He explained that he remembers the good times of Mother's Day with his late mother, Mary Motlow, filled with many dinners and gifts.

"We had some exciting times for Mother's Day," said Osceola. "It was always good to spend time with her. She was quiet, but she made things in life exciting for us."

The day also included lunch at the Olive Garden restaurant and shopping at Wal-Mart.

Last year, the group visited the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, Fla. during their Mother's Day outing.



Chris C. Jenkins

Dorothy Tucker in front of a life sized Florida wetlands poster at the Long Key Nature Center and Natural Area Park.



Chris C. Jenkins

The Osceola family (L-R) Maggie, Betty and Jimmie, next to a picture of their grandmother.



Chris C. Jenkins

David Jumper takes a look at the Everglades model display that depicts the settlement and draining of the area.

Mother's Day ... The Most Important Day of the Year

Our mothers have been our inspiration throughout our life. We should be celebrating our mom's everyday. They have looked after us, taught us our culture, been there to wipe our tears when we are down and cheered for us when things were going right.

I am grateful that my mother, Mary Frances Cypress, is here for me because she is my rock and my strength. Just knowing that my mom is around gives me the extra courage to continue to strive for the best for my people.

Please give your mom a kiss on the cheek and thank her for all she has sacrificed for you. Cherish the time you have with her and let her know she is loved.

Mitchell Cypress

Mitchell Cypress
Chairman, Seminole Tribe of Florida



Seminoles Mother's Day Tribute Waa Cha The – en Neh ta Ke

My most vivid memories about my mother are that everyone was greeted with a hand-shake and during church she enjoyed singing her favorite hymns. After church, she would make sure all the people had something to eat. This is a small tribute to my mother, the late Marion Cypress Bowers.

Just looking back I felt the need to share this with you because if your mother is still with us, I encourage all of you to share your life with her. This will make her most happy to laugh with her and show her respect, not only on Mother's Day, but every day because of all the things she has shared with you.

Father, I thank you for our Godly Seminole mothers. Thank you for family, Thank you for children and grandchildren. Show us ways to demonstrate that we love and appreciate all our Mothers. As we humbly give our thanks on Mother's Day.

Sho Naa Bish,

Richard Bowers Jr.

Richard Bowers Jr.
President, Board of Directors



Community Honors Moms at Casino Dinner

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee community celebrated Mother's Day in the lavishly-decorated Special Events Room at the Seminole Casino-Immokalee on the evening of May 8.

At the event, a three course gourmet dinner, President Richard Bowers Jr. handed out gifts of appreciation to all of the Tribal mothers.

"Hold your mother in your arms as she once held you," President Bowers said. "The day will come when she will be gone and you will only be able to hold her in your heart. We owe so much to our mothers that every day should be Mother's Day."

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar also offered words to the audience about the importance of mothers.

"Looking around the room, I see some families represented by four generations this evening," Liaison Aguilar said. "You are so fortunate to have your mother, grandmother and great-grandmother to share this wonderful celebration."

Continuing Aguilar said: "I read something the other day that I want to

share with you. "When we are 4 years old, mommy can do anything. When we reach 12, she doesn't know nearly as much and by 18, we can't understand how she manages to be so out of touch with reality." "At 25 we notice that mom's growing smarter all the time and by 35 we look forward to her opinion." From that point forward we are very lucky to still have our mothers to share our lives."

"Don't take her for granted," she added. "Love her and cherish your time with her before you are left with her memories to carry in your heart."

Each of the Immokalee mothers received a monogrammed tote bag, bath robe, lotion and perfume. In addition, raffle tickets were drawn for the prizes including three Seminole jackets and four patchwork aprons. Each of the seniors received a large festive floral centerpiece.

Grand prize winners were Nannette Cypress, Demi Garza, and Ruth Osceola. Gift cards were awarded to Mary Lou Alvarado for the best traditional outfit, and Cecilia Pequeno for best non-traditional outfit.

To give young mothers a night off, a children's entertainment area provided games, arts and crafts. A professional photographer supplied family portraits throughout the evening.



Judy Weeks

President Richard Bowers Jr. with Louise Motlow at the Mother's Day dinner.



Judy Weeks

Little Denise Gonzales gives her mom, Susan Davis, a big hug for Mother's Day.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee mothers gather around President Richard Bowers Jr. and his wife, Anna, (C) at the Mother's Day celebration.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee Tribal Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar talks about the importance of mothers.



Judy Weeks

Virginia Billie models the Seminole patchwork jacket she won in the Mother's Day raffle.

Tribal Citizens Attend 5th Annual Watermelon Festival

Car Show, Rib Cook-Off, More Round Out Activities at Festival

BY **MARISOL GONZALEZ**
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Members of the Big Cypress community attended the 5th annual Watermelon Festival on the ball field of the Big Cypress Reservation on May 9. The event featured fun-filled competi-



Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola prepares his winning ribs which earned him first place in the Rib Cook-Off.



Harmory Cypress tries to eat as much of the watermelon as possible. She placed third in the Watermelon Eating Competition.

tions, and of course plenty of watermelons. From watermelon eating contests to seed spitting, the only edible part left of the watermelon after the competitors were done was the rind.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress took top honors in the seed spitting competition as he managed to get a seed more than 19' 5" from the starting point. Kennedy Huggins of the 9-12 age group came close with 18' 10" launch.

Attendees also competed in the watermelon eating competition in which they had between 30 and 60 seconds to eat as much of the watermelon as they could. Kadin Tommie, Mya Cypress, Darius Friday, Levi Billie, Victor Morales and Dolly Tecumseh placed first in their respective age categories.

Children of all ages attended the event, which also included games of horseshoes, a car show for participants to show off their wheels, and a cooking competition for them to show off their appetites.

The Rib Cook-Off gave attendees a chance to sample some of their community members' culinary creations and also voted for a people's choice award to decide whose tasted the best. Competitors marinated the ribs onsite with everything from salt and pepper to soda.



Dayra Koenes fills in mid air on one of many activities available for the children during the festival.

Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola took first place in the cook-off. This was his first time competing in a cooking competition and he said his ribs had secret ingredients which he could not reveal.

Third place rib cook-off winner Michael Onco Jr. said he wished there was more competition this year. Onco also entered and placed in the car show competition.

Bungee jumping, water slides and even basketball booths were set up for the children and parents to enjoy.

The event was sponsored by the Big Cypress Tribal Council and Board offices, with additional assistance from the Big Cypress Recreation Dept. Recreation Dept. Manager Stan Frischman emceed the event with the help of the Recreation Dept. staff members including Brenda Castro and Sherry King.

"Thank you to everyone that came out and participated in this year's festival," Frischman said.

He added that he was happy to see the large crowd, departments, employees and community members unite despite the high temperatures.

Contributing departments including Utilities, Health, Broadcasting, Seminole Police and Fitness had educational and game booths set up at the event for attendees to partake in. Some booths had a carnival theme with games and prizes, while employees at others distributed information pertaining to their department and answered questions from Tribal citizens.

The Glades Men band provided live, musical entertainment at the festival and performed requests from the audience.

5th Annual Watermelon Festival Results

Watermelon Eating
Ages 3-5: 1. Kadin Tommie, 2. Anthony Avalos, 3. Harmony Cypress; Ages 6-8: 1. Mya Cypress, 2. Katesa Kirkland, 3. Gregorio Reynosa; Ages 9-12: 1. Darius Friday, 2. Sierra Kirkland, 3. Caitlin Cypress; Ages 13-17: 1. Levi Billie, 2. Marc Kirkland, 3. Taylor Pratt; Ages 18-54: 1. Victor Morales, 2. Neal Bowers, 3. Jennifer Chadwick; Ages 55 and Older: 1. Dolly Tecumseh, 2. Janice Osceola, 3. Earl Kirkland.

Seed Spitting
Ages 3-5: 1. Mya Cypress, 2. Harmony Cypress, Ages 6-8: 1. Romeo Garcia, 2. Valliolly Frank, 3. Lindsey Posada; Ages 9-12: 1. Kennedy Huggins, 2. Gregorio Reynosa, 3. Caitlin Cypress; Ages 13-17: No Winners; Ages 18-54: 1. Cicero Osceola, 2. Dominique Fletcher, 3. Tasha Davidson; Ages 55 and Older: 1. Mitchell Cypress, 2. Keeno King, 3. Ronnie Billie.

Horseshoes
Seniors: Men's Singles: 1. Bruce Pringle, 2. Walt Swan, 3. Frank Wells; Women's Singles: 1. Sarah Kirkland, 2. Bess Bowlegs, 3. Louise Osceola.
Singles: Women's Division: 1. Renee Tigertail, 2. Beverly Alumbaugh, 3. Kelli Tigertail; Men's Division: 1. Joe B. Osceola, 2. Keeno King, 3. Billy Johns.
Co-Ed Doubles: 1. Billy Johns/Daisy Jumper, 2. Joe Billie/Renee Tigertail, 3. Cicero Osceola/Cariene Dicarlo.

Rib Cook-Off
Tribal: 1. Cicero Osceola, 2. Joe Herrera, 3. Michael Onco; Non-Tribal: 1. Rick Alumbaugh, 2. No Winner; 3. Carter Clough.

Car Show
Carmers
Classic: 1. Moses "Big" Jumper Jr., 2. Pedro Aguilar; Custom Classic: 1. Eric Osceola, 2. Ronnie Billie Jr., 3. Eric Osceola; Classic Muscle: 1. Klaressa Jr., 2. Dion Sanders, 3. Eric D. Sanders Jr.; Tuner: 1. Victor Becerra, 2. Jamie Onco, 3. Michael Onco, Luxury: 1. Lorraine Posada, 2. Mario Posada III, 3. Jennifer Chadwick; Medium: 1. Sonny Billie, 2. Chris Betancourt, 3. Travis Gomez.

Jeeps: 1. Moses "Big" Jumper Jr., 2. George Grasshopper, 3. Pete Osceola Jr., Classic, 1. Mariann Billie, 2. Ronnie Billie, 3. George Grasshopper; 2-Door, 1. Jay Mullis, 2. Jonathan Bhagwandin, 3. Bill Bevenue; Full Size 4 X 4: 1. Sandy Billie Jr., 2. Mariann Billie, 3. Jamie Onco; SUV: 1. Sara Osceola, 2. Jadrine Antuna; 4 X 4 Off-Road: 1. Julius I. Billie, 2. Arica Osceola, 3. Joe Junior Billie.

Motorcycles
Street Bikes: 1. Dylayee Solano, 2. Tim Marlin, 3. Michael Onco Jr.; Hogs: 1. Nathan Marlin.

Other Vehicles
Rez Ride: 1. Ronnie Billie, 2. Ronnie Billie, 3. Ronnie Billie; Golf Cart: 1. Julius I. Billie, 2. Talisha Leach, 3. Lu Billie; Side X Side: 1. Kei-Ya-Lv Osceola; Bicycle: 1. Presleigh Osceola-Hahn, 2. Draven Osceola-Hahn, 3. Ronnie Billie; ATV 4 X 4: 1. Eric Osceola; ATV: 1. Justin Osceola; ATV-Race: 1. Eric Osceola; Side X Side: 1. Julius I. Billie.

General Categories
Best Interior: 1. Justin Osceola; Best Sound: 1. Justin Osceola, 2. Toi Andrews, 3. Levi Billie; Best At Show: 1. Sonny Billie.



(L-R) Draven and Presleigh Osceola-Hahn take first and second place in the bicycle category of the Car Show.

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Ronnie Billie wipes down each of his 10 entries during the Car Show held in conjunction with the Watermelon Festival.



Chairman Mitchell Cypress beat out his competition to place first in the Seed Spitting Competition.



Presleigh Osceola-Hahn enjoys her watermelon before leaving the festival.