



The **Seminole Tribune** *Voice of the Unconquered* **Tribune** *www.seminoletribe.com • 50¢*
Volume XXXII • Number 5 May 27, 2011



2011 Election Results

58.4%



James E. Billie
Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman

Mitchell Cypress 26.1%
Holly Tiger 15.4%

39.0%



Tony Sanchez, Jr.
STOF, Inc. President

Moses B. Osceola 27.3%
Richard Bowers, Jr. 21.7%
Amy Johns 12.0%

64.8%



Manuel M. Tiger
Big Cypress Council Representative

David R. Cypress 35.2%

64.1%



Andrew J. Bowers, Jr.
Brighton Council Representative

Roger Smith 35.8%

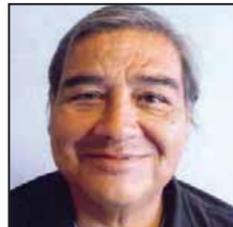
54.6%



Marcellus W. Osceola, Jr.
Hollywood Council Representative

Max B. Osceola 25.5%
Gordon O. Wareham 16.3%
William Johns 3.6%

43.3%



Joe Frank
Big Cypress Board Representative

Paul Bowers, Sr. 39.5%
Clifton L. Billie 17.1%

Tie Vote



Brighton Board Representative

46.0%



Christopher Osceola
Hollywood Board Representative

Jason Don Billie 21.4%
Joe Dan Osceola 20.0%
James Holt 12.7%

Naples Celebrates Mother's Day at Marco Beach Resort



Judy Weeks

Jessica and Marissa Osceola give their mother, Sandy, a hug before encouraging her to join them for a dance to the live band at the Naples Mother's Day Celebration. Tribal mothers of the Naples Community were given a choice of a facial, massage or wrap in the spa at the Marco Beach Ocean Resort, prior to sharing a family banquet with live entertainment and then joining their children on the beach on the afternoon of May 8.

□ Please see Mother's Day section on page 1D

Miss Florida Seminole Competes in Miss Indian World 2011

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Reporter

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — And your new 2011-2012 Miss Indian World is....

These are words Cassandra Jimmie, the reigning 2010-11 Miss Florida Seminole Princess and 25 other bright, ambitious young women anxiously waited to hear center stage as the annual competition came to a close.

Representing 35 Tribes across 12 states and Canada, Jimmie participated in the event with hopes of winning the crown.

In the end however, Marjorie Tahbone of the Inupiaq/Kiowa Tribe of Nome, Alaska captured the title of the new Miss Indian World in front of thousands and received a ceremonial honor song to welcome her.

The once in a lifetime honor was part of the prestigious Gathering of Nations PowWow in its 28th year taking place at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Albuquerque and the University of New Mexico's "The Pit" running April 28-30.

Jimmie, an Immokalee Reservation native and current Orlando college student, said although she was unable to bring home the crown and it remains elusive for a Florida Seminole Tribal citizen, it was great to be a part of the experience.

"It was an honor just being there to represent the Tribe. It took some courage to go out there to speak and just be out there and have knowledge about your Tribe and represent them to the best of your ability,"

Jimmie said. "It was also a great experience because not only was I there to represent the Tribe, but I walked away having new friends I met and learned more about other Tribes."

In a jam-packed week of activities, Jimmie and her fellow contestants were judged in the areas of Tribal knowledge (or traditional talent), dance ability, public speaking and personality assessment.

"I think this experience taught her to converse with other people about things that are of interest to them and brought her out of her shell," said Wanda Bowers, Princess Committee chairwoman. "I was really proud of her."

Beulah Sunrise-Rau, 15-year Miss Indian World Committee member and co-announcing veteran said an event such as this strengthened Tribal unity among Jimmie and the other females.

"Native women are the backbone of our Tribes and this type of venue was a perfect opportunity for them to grow and strengthen our Native people," Sunrise-Rau said.

The concept for Miss Indian World originated in 1983 in Albuquerque, N.M., allowing indigenous, young women from all over North America to compete for the prestigious crown. The crown is selected by acquiring points in a variety of categories, and the contestant must be knowledgeable about her Tribe and its traditions. At the end of a five day competition, the contestant with the highest accumulated points will

□ Please see INDIAN WORLD on page 6A



Chris C. Jenkins

Reigning Miss Florida Seminole Princess Cassandra Jimmie, center, on stage with her fellow contestants of the new Miss Indian World and Gathering of Nations PowWow festivities held on the University of New Mexico's campus April 28-30.

Generations Reflect on Hollywood Reservation 100th Anniversary

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The historic 100th anniversary of the Hollywood Reservation has spanned generations with progress from dirt roads and chickee camps, to present day gaming and entertainment.

As the June 28, 1911 milestone approaches next month, three generations of Seminoles reminisced on its significance, impact and the future.

As the oldest surviving member of the Big Town Clan, Tribal elder Minnie Doctor was born on the Hollywood Reservation to a family known for its practice of medicine or more appropriately known among Tribal citizens as medicine-men/women, hence the last name of Doctor. She remembers a simpler time free of outside influences with a dedication

toward family.

"I like the old way of living better. We could go out and just hunt for what we needed," Doctor said speaking exclusively in her native tongue of Mikasuki with the help of niece and interpreter, Dora Tiger. "I remember the men would go out and hunt for frogs and we (the wives) would stay home. We never had to go out to the store."

"Back then there were also a lot of Indians, but there does not seem to be very many now," the 84-year-old continued.

As one of the faces of the Tribe for over two decades, former 13-time Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. also spoke of days past growing up without the luxuries of today while at one time living in a one room house with his entire family.

□ Please see ANNIVERSARY on page 2A

Museum's Seminole Heritage Day Highlights Tribe's Culture

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Reporter



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee School sophomore Tequesta Tiger, left, and Ahfachkee School instructional aide Celesta Osceola, right, are taking a deep look at the Seminole chickee exhibit of the Clewiston Museum during Seminole Heritage Day on April 28.

CLEWISTON — It was all about the Tribe at the Clewiston Museum for Seminole Heritage Day on April 28.

To kick off what was Clewiston's 25th annual Sugar Festival, members of both the Big Cypress Tribal community and the city of Clewiston, along with students from the Ahfachkee School and a variety of schools in the Clewiston area, witnessed the historic occasion as a slew of speakers talked about the importance of having such an event at the Sugar Festival.

Seminole Heritage Day began outside of the Clewiston Museum with a special welcome from Clewiston Museum Chairperson/master of ceremonies Brenda Lopez, who noted that the city's museum was "very happy" to be hosting this inaugural event.

An invocation from Clewiston Museum's Butch Wilson followed, as the historian highlighted the prayer with best wishes for a long-standing relationship between the Tribe, the Clewiston Museum and the city of Clewiston.

Later on in the 30-minute long ceremony, Hendry County Commissioner Karson Turner and Clewiston Mayor Richard Miller

□ Please see HERITAGE on page 4A

ANNIVERSARY
From page 1A

"I like the traditional way we once lived but I also like the convenience of the modern way too, you can live in both," Osceola said.

He has helped organize several planned celebrations for the centennial in the coming months.

"I have seen us (as Seminoles) in my lifetime go from where other people had to buy us clothes and shoes, to where now we can give back to the community. We have gone from dependent to where we are now independent. We rely on ourselves now," Osceola said.

He said he is part of a dream his elders envisioned in 1957 when the Tribe established itself as a viable, sovereign government/nation with the United States government.

"The children of my generation are now fulfilling the dream and vision the Tribal elders originally had," he said. "I feel that in our hearts and in our minds we can still remember the past and keep our culture."

Osceola and Tribal citizen Virgil Doctor, son of elder Minnie Doctor, feel that beyond the multi-faceted innovation and success the Tribe maintains in business and financial ventures remains a long standing determination and perseverance many of the younger generation must uphold.

"What you do in life does not make who you are,"

Osceola said. "Just because we are in business now does not mean we are not still Seminoles. Just because we are successful in one thing does not mean we can not be successful in our culture, as well."

"It is the responsibility of our elders to teach our youth about the past," he continued.

Virgil Doctor feels there must be a balance of self-sufficiency and pride among the youth of today, tribal-wide.

"Respect who you are and respect your clan. Now-a-days the younger generation does not even know our language. Depend on yourself; do not depend on the white man," Virgil Doctor said. "When I grew up we did not have all of this we have now. Most of the time I went to school without shoes and would wear the same clothes two to three times in a row."

Generation-Y Seminole and aspiring hip-hop artist Stephen Billie is trying to use the advice of Virgil Doctor and others overcoming substance abuse, tragedy and other obstacles in his young life.

The 25-year-old married father of two has produced over six CDs in his career. He continues to redirect his life in a positive way receiving his GED in 2007 and is currently a management trainee in the Tribal Headquarters Chief Operations Office.

"The kids need to invest in the Tribe," Billie said. "I am a prime example of change and it has been a blessing to be a part of the (100th anniversary) process."



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Council Rep. Osceola gives an in-depth perspective with members of Seminole Media Productions under the famed Council Oak Tree on the meager lifestyle of Tribal citizens on the reservation in the 1950s and 1960s.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen Virgil Doctor talks about growing up on the Hollywood Reservation in the 1960s.



Left photo, Tribal citizen Stephen Billie and Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. talk about preserving the Seminole culture in modern times as part of the 100th anniversary of the Hollywood Reservation, which was established in June of 1911.

Right photo, Tribal elder Minnie Doctor, left, speaks about times past on the Hollywood Reservation in her native tongue of Mikasuki with the help of her niece and interpreter, Dora Tiger.

Chris C. Jenkins





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Community

A

Tribal Council Convenes for Special Session in Fort Pierce

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

FORT PIERCE — Tribal Council met on the Fort Pierce Reservation for a special meeting passing 12 resolutions and ordinances on its April 26 agenda including:

- Seventh Amendment to the Twenty-Third Annual Work Plan submitted to the South Florida Water Management District by the Seminole Tribe of Florida
- United States Environmental Protection Agency grant application for funding of the fiscal year 2012 Seminole Tribe of Florida Watershed Management Base Program for all Seminole Indian Reservations
- Policy and Procedure for the use of Tribal aircraft; rescission of Resolution No.C-154-02
- U.S Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, monitoring, apprehending, registering and tracking (smart) fiscal year 2011 support for Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program application for the Seminole Police Department; ratification
- Megabingo, Inc. Master Gaming Device Lease and License Agreement; ratification
- Seminole Tribal Court Ordinance
- Seminole Tribal Court Judicial Commission Ordinance
- Approval of agreement between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and SL Williams Consulting Corp. for the Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation Water/Sewer/Blend Water extension-directional bore; limited waiver of sovereign immunity if required

Tribe Plays Integral Role in Immokalee Harvest Festival 2011

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

IMMOKALEE — It has been 51 years since the small agricultural community in Collier County known as Immokalee organized its first Harvest Festival. The Seminoles were an integral part of the first celebration in 1960 and played an important role in the coordination of Immokalee Harvest Festival 2011 on April 15-17.

"Our Seminole ancestors were the first people to harvest crops in the Everglades region that eventually became Immokalee, and they continue to be a part of the agricultural chain today," said Immokalee Seminole Culture Coordinator Geraldine Osceola. "Their farming techniques varied dramatically from today's methods but the final goal was the same. Crops are planted, nourished and harvested as a food source and everyone looks forward to a successful harvest."

Tribal Citizen Grace Osceola Holdiness was the first Seminole graduate from Immokalee High School and the first Immokalee Harvest Festival Queen in 1965. There have been no other Seminole contenders in the queen competition until this year when Lauren Posada and Randee Osceola competed for Junior Miss Harvest Festival with three other entrants.

The 2011 Harvest Queen pageant took place on the evening of April 15 at the Entertainment Pavilion of the Seminole Casino Immokalee.

Veteran Pageant Director Joanne Loukonen coordinated the event, which included interviews, talent and modeling competition.

Working on a point system, the judges rated Randee Osceola with the highest score on the interview questions and she sang "Sawgrass Flower" by James Billie for her talent review. Lauren Posada recited poetry and received creativity recognition that resulted in her being selected as the First Runner Up for Junior Miss Harvest Festival.

Immokalee Seminole Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis orchestrated the construction of a chickee with a garden and campfire on a trailer for the Cultural Department to decorate and enter in the Festival Parade on the morning of the 16th. Community members playing the role of their ancestors completed the image of a traditional Seminole campsite on the award-winning float.

Making its way down the main street of Immokalee, the procession traveled through the Seminole Ranch and ended in the rear parking lot of the Seminole Casino Immokalee, which had been converted into the Harvest Festival Marketplace.

Mountains of fresh produce, Seminole arts and crafts, homemade preserves, woodwork, jewelry and souvenirs representing multiple cultures awaited the participants. Traditional Seminole cooking, Jamaican Jerk, Mexican,



Judy Weeks

From left, Miss Florida Seminole Cassandra Jimmie, Nancy Motlow, Amy Yzaguirre and Larissa Delarosa represent Seminole heritage in the Immokalee Harvest Festival 2011 parade on April 15.

□ Please see HARVEST on page 10A

2011 Tribal Election Results Announced



Chris C. Jenkins

Priscilla Sayen Secretary of Tribal Council and Corporate Board of Directors stands outside of the Tribal Headquarters Auditorium on the Hollywood Reservation in the early hours of May 10 to announce the much anticipated voting results for Tribal Council and Board positions in front of anxious Tribal citizens and candidates.

Clewiston Sugar Festival Celebrates Its 25th Anniversary

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

CLEWISTON — As the nation's largest raw and refined sugar producer, the South Florida sugar industry has made Clewiston "America's Sweetest Town." To show community appreciation, the City of Clewiston and the Seminole Tribe of Florida united in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Clewiston Sugar Festival during the week of April 23 through 30.

The history of Hendry County and the town of Clewiston is closely entwined with the history of the Seminoles, who established campsites in the northern region of the Everglades that borders on the southern shores of Lake Okeechobee.

Dating back to the 1930s, the Florida sugar industry began to impact the economy of the agricultural growth in the area. It created jobs, contributed to the local income and participated in the

establishment of public services, schools and programs to meet the needs of its employees and the surrounding community of which the Seminoles were a part.

The Sugar Festival has become a means to show appreciation to the sugar industry, which is responsible for approximately 25 percent of the sugar produced in the United States. Dating back more than 80 years, the event coincided with the end of the annual sugarcane harvest. By 1986 the festival was established to showcase the community and unite family, friends and neighbors.

Welcoming community members and visitors to the Silver Anniversary of the Sugar Festival, Big Cypress Council Rep. Mondo Tiger said, "The Seminole Tribe is thrilled to be sponsoring an event with such history and tradition. Many of the activities taking place this year will include Tribal participation and hopefully will create many lasting memories."

Nineteen local young women took part in the Miss Sugar 2011 Pageant that kicked off the celebration on the evening of April 23 at the John Boy Auditorium. Following talent and history presentations, 18-year-old Tonie Tolar was awarded the crown and began her reign over the activities of the Festival.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida commissioned a large chickee to be constructed by Tribal citizen Jeremiah Hall at the corner of the City of Clewiston Youth Center. Strategically placed for year round use, the structure was dedicated during a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on the

afternoon of April 29.

Representing the Big Cypress Community on behalf of Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, Cicero Osceola gave a brief presentation regarding the construction of the chickee and its multiple functions. He said, "This is not only a shelter, but a symbol of the unity of our communities. Together we are building a future for the next generation who will continue the tradition."

City of Clewiston Mayor Richard Miller said, "Through the sponsorship of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, this year's Silver Anniversary is proving to be the biggest festival in our history. We are extremely grateful for their ongoing friendship and partnership, which has become a part of our heritage. A bronze plaque commemorating this occasion is being affixed to the chickee for future generations to share our relationship."

Tribal citizens Cicero Osceola, Ricky Doctor, Billy Walker and Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum representatives were joined by Clewiston Mayor Richard Miller, Vice Mayor James Pitman, City Commissioner Joseph Miller, City Manager Steve McKown, Hendry County Commissioner Al Perry and Miss Sugar 2011 Tonie Tolar to officiate at the Chickee Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

Immediately following the slicing of the ribbon, Friday Fest with the Seminole Tribe of Florida Star Search winners got underway at Sugar Festival Park. Fourteen-year-old Shelli Tiger provided an opening performance with songs of faith and love that had an immense impact upon her audience.

Leading off with her first single, "My Hero", Tori Osceola caught the attention of all age groups with her four selections of popular musical hits. Both young ladies were surrounded by fans seeking autographs and an opportunity to talk with the young professionals as they descended from the stage.

Star Search grand prize winner David

□ Please see SUGAR FESTIVAL on page 9A

Second Annual Music and Arts Festival Returns to Big Cypress



Chris C. Jenkins

From left, Tribal musicians Zach and Spencer Battiest perform their song 'The Storm,' a North American Indigenous Image Award nominee, on stage for guests as part of the second annual Music and Arts Festival and Car Show at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Grounds on the Big Cypress Reservation. The weekend featured Tribal musical performances, carnival rides, art, a clothing contest and other entertainment, including a custom car show with prizes and raffles held April 15-16.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal youth Lauren Doctor enjoys a coaster ride at the carnival.



Chris C. Jenkins

Alligator wrestler Billy Walker performs a popular and traditional trick called the 'Everglades Kiss' during his demonstration.

□ See more photos on page 10A



Judy Weeks

Miss Sugar 2011 Tonie Tolar visited the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum booth to learn about Seminole heritage at the 25th Anniversary of the Sugar Festival in Clewiston during the week of April 23.

SUBWAY Spokesman James Billie Visits Diabetic Research Institute



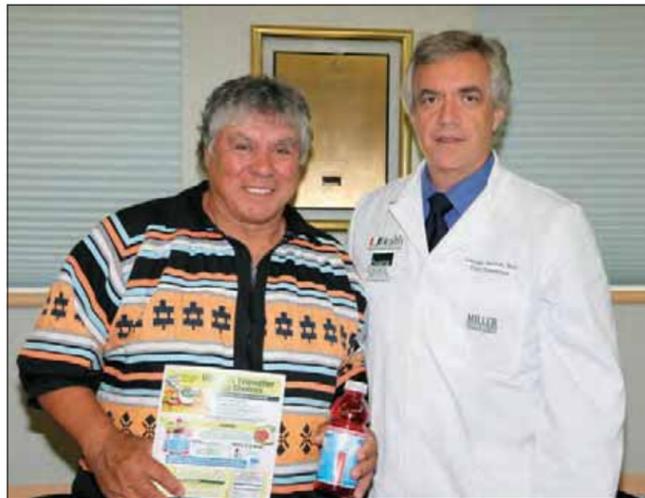
Chris C. Jenkins

Suzanne Davis, manager of the Tribe's Allied Health Program, talks to Diabetic Research Institute specialists about the effects of the diabetes epidemic among the Tribe.



Chris C. Jenkins

Billie, second from left, along with special guests receive a personal tour of the Diabetic Research Institute facilities in Miami April 20 from President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Pearlman, far right, as part of establishing a future partnership with the Tribe.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen and SUBWAY diabetic menu spokesman James Billie, left, together with Camillo Ricordi, professor and cell specialist with the Diabetic Research Institute.

"Our current Chairman (Mitchell Cypress) has been an inspiration (as a diabetic) in my involvement in being a part of the DRI tour and SUBWAY work. If he can be taken and made strong again, I thought it was a great idea to get more involved," Billie said.

HERITAGE

From page 1A

read out written letters by Fla. Gov. Rick Scott and the City of Clewiston, respectively, as both letters of proclamations highlighted the recognition of Seminole Heritage Day from the state's highest elected official.

Tribal citizen Everett Osceola, who stood in for Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, shared some words of appreciation for the Clewiston Museum's recognition of the Tribe.

"I'm glad to share a lot of our world with yours," Everett Osceola said. "When you become an open cup, you can fill everything you can within that cup. If you go inside the museum, you'll see that we've always been here and have our fingerprints throughout Florida."

Not long after Everett Osceola's brief words, attendants of Seminole Heritage Day were afforded the opportunity to take a tour of the Clewiston Museum, which features a Seminole-themed exhibit.

"I know of a lot of people who have never been to the Big Cypress Reservation but would come to learn about our Seminole history at the Clewiston Museum," Celesta Osceola said. "People around here can get some knowledge about the Seminoles."

Students from all of the Clewiston-area schools and the Ahfachkee School, including Ahfachkee sophomore Tequesta Tiger, were among the attendees who showed a considerable interest in the Seminole exhibit at the Clewiston Museum.

As Tiger took a detailed look at the Seminole clothing designs of the past, she took the time to reflect on the significance of the Tribe's historical influence in the area.

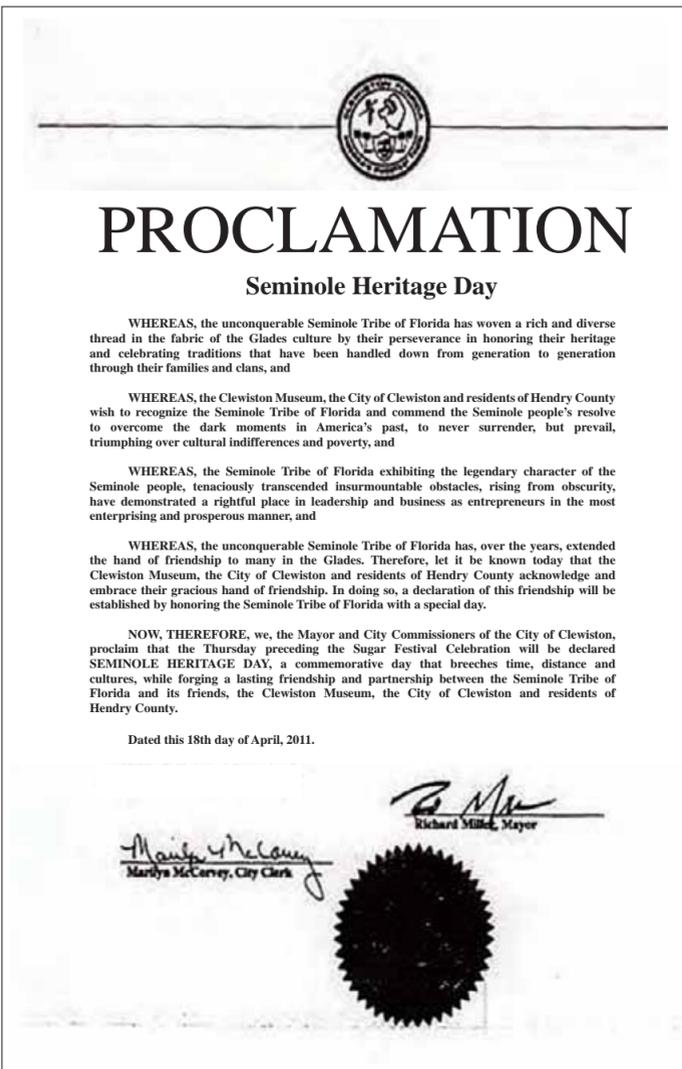
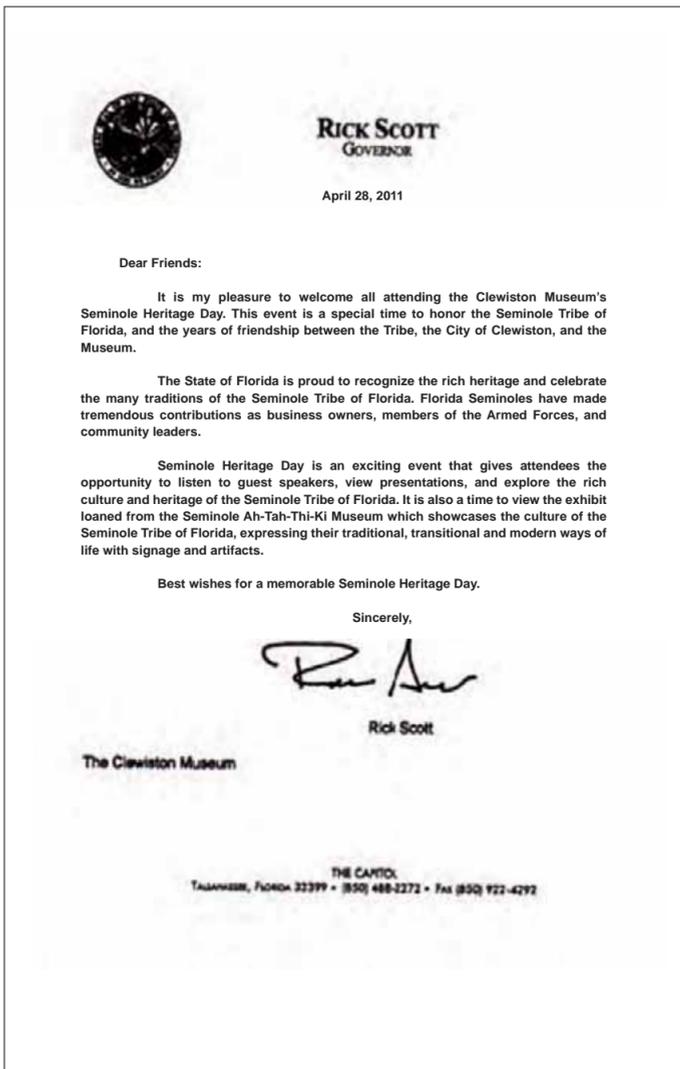
"We have gone through so much over the past generations and we have such a wonderful culture here," Tequesta Tiger said. "The more that people know about our history, the more well-known we will be as Seminoles."

Seminole Heritage Day reached its climax in an evening presentation by Brighton Tribal citizen/Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum historian Willie Johns, who gave a poignant and detailed description on how life was as a Seminole many years ago.

While the hour-long evening session concluded Seminole Heritage Day at the Clewiston Museum, it won't be the only time the city of Clewiston will be having an event of this magnitude.

It was recently announced by the Tribe and the city of Clewiston that from now on, Seminole Heritage Day will take place on the Thursday of each future Sugar Festival.

"It's a very good day to be bridging the gap between the city of Clewiston and the Big Cypress Reservation," Big Cypress Tribal senior Jeannette Cypress said. "Both communities have always been here, so I hope we could continue building on what we've started here with Seminole Heritage Day."



Naji Tobias

From left, Big Cypress Senior Center Director Cecilia Guzman and Big Cypress Tribal seniors Virginia Tommie and Theresa Jumper discuss the Seminole Medicine Man attire at the Clewiston Museum's Seminole Heritage Day event.



Naji Tobias

As one of several scheduled speakers at the first-ever Seminole Heritage Day, Hollywood Tribal citizen/Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Tribal employee Everett Osceola talks about the importance of having a function like this in Clewiston.



Naji Tobias

Immokalee Tribal citizen/Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Tribal employee Lorraine Posada, left, gives a presentation on the creation of Seminole sweetgrass baskets to a group of onlookers.

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

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

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

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and lease of a home on trust property for Gregory Jamael Thomas. The approximately 1.48 acre lot is located at 31201 Farmer Road at Township 48 South, Range 33 East, Section 14, Hendry County, Florida, which is located on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Big Cypress Reservation. The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated April 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Gregory Jamael Thomas Proposed Lease, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County, Florida". This EA has been adopted and FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and lease of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

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

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

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

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

Date: 5/3/11

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Future Tribal Leaders Form Youth Council



Chris C. Jenkins
Tribal Education staff and Youth Council together for the inaugural all reservations Youth Council Workshop held April 20-21.

Chris C. Jenkins
Tribal Education Director Emma Johns gives final instructions before students begin voting for the new Seminole Tribe Youth Council.

Chris C. Jenkins
The newly elected Seminole Tribe Youth Council together on April 21. From left, Kirsten Doney Treasurer, Secretary-Alexis Aguilar, Vice-President-Trent McInturff and Brittany Smith-President. Each were chosen as part of the new Unity Native American Youth Council organized through the Tribal Education Department for ages 15-24 to promote leadership and future leaders within the Tribe through community and socially-sponsored activities.

Family Investment Center in Big Cypress Renamed Frank Billie Field Office

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony highlighted by unveiling of LED Sign at the Big Cypress Tribal Building



Photo above, Tribal leaders and family members of the late Tribal pioneer Frank Billie gather for the ribbon-cutting ceremony held in his honor. Left photo, Here's a look at the recently unveiled LED sign at the renamed Frank Billie Tribal Field Office in Big Cypress.



Photo above, attendees of the Frank Billie LED sign and Tribal Field Office ribbon-cutting ceremony stand together in unity and support of the May 4 event in Big Cypress. Left photo, Big Cypress Tribal elder Joe Junior Billie holds up the ribbon sign that all of the Tribal attendees signed to commemorate the Frank Billie LED/Field Office ribbon-cutting ceremony

Naji Tobias
Chairman Mitchell Cypress talks about how the late Frank Billie played a role in the makeup of how the Tribe has evolved over the years at the May 4 ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new LED sign at the Frank Billie Tribal Field Office.

Naji Tobias

Naji Tobias

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Naji Tobias
Big Cypress Tribal elder Lucille Jumper signs the Tribal ribbon that commemorates the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Frank Billie LED/Field Office.

Naji Tobias
Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger gives opening remarks about the significance of renaming the Family Investment Center to the Frank Billie Tribal Field Office.



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INDIAN WORLD

From page 1A

be crowned to reign for one year and will represent all Native and indigenous people as a cultural goodwill ambassador.

The Gathering of Nations is known throughout the United States and the world as the largest Native American PowWow celebrating Native culture and traditions across North America through dancing, singing, art and trading among all Tribal affiliations and customs. It also features a Grand Entry involving thousands of Natives celebrating together in unity.

For more information log onto www.gatheringofnations.com.

The new Ms. Indian World Marjorie Tahbone of the Inupiaq/Kiowa Tribe of Nome, Alaska.

Chris C. Jenkins



Photo above, Jimmie, right, on stage with Tribal citizen and prop model Tina Osceola, left, during the traditional talent presentation night. Jimmie explains the intricate design involved in the patchwork to the audience. Hundreds of Native Tribes engaged in the University of New Mexico's 'The Pit' during Grand Entry festivities.

Chris C. Jenkins

Youth Media Workshop Gears Up for Fifth Year

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Learning the ins and outs of the broadcast/journalism business is the focus of the annual Youth Media Production Workshop held by Seminole Media Productions.

Beginning its fifth year and running July 10-16, the event offers an in-depth introduction to several key aspects of the business such as the use, operation and care of television industry equipment including cameras and audio, as well as script writing, interviewing and editing techniques. The basics of writing from Seminole Tribune staff will also be an emphasis, now entering its third year within the workshop.

"Every year it gets better, because I myself learn more and have the opportunity to teach the students everything I know, so that they can someday be a vital part of SMP and capture the Seminole Tribe of Florida's monumental moments," said Briana D'Andrea SMP broadcast reporter and workshop instructor.

Six days of activities will be scheduled in and around Broward/Dade County and will feature a new screening and recruiting process seeking out 12 enthusiastic, ambitious Tribal teens and young adults ages 14-21.

"The new formula really sets the bar higher for both SMP and the students. We want young adults that really want to be here and want to be successful," D'Andrea said. "There are so many students that are aspiring to be in the media industry, and it is vital for them to be around their peers that want to succeed just as much as they do, if not more. It helps us to bring out the best of the best."

Once again, SMP Office Supervisor Ariella Lewis will coordinate the week, along with Tribal citizen and SMP recruiter Stephen Billie heading up the search for qualified

participants. Tribal citizens on all reservations are welcomed to apply.

"The thing I enjoy most about being involved in the workshop is being able to get to teach the kids the craft," said SMP Tampa Videographer and technical instructor Ryan Watson. "The most challenging aspect is trying to cram all the knowledge that you have amassed in this business into a week-long time span."

One other new idea for the 2011 clinic will be the enlisting of young Tribal talent. Tribal brothers and North American Indigenous Image Award nominees Zach "Doc" and Spencer Battiest will offer their expertise of the music industry helping to produce a music video for one of the two workshop groups.

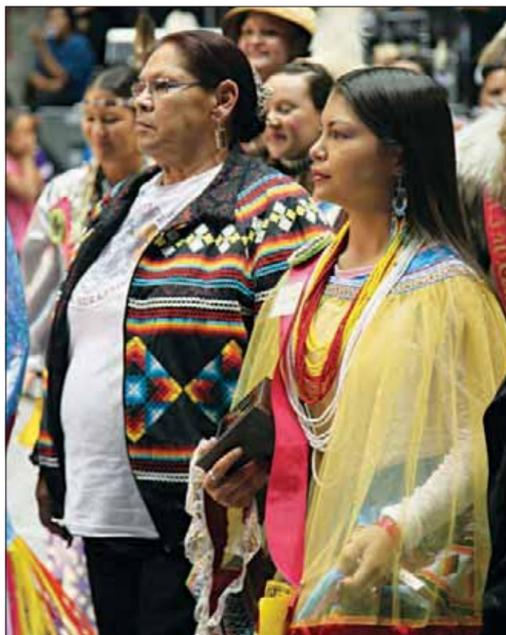
"Anytime the Tribe asks us to show up, speak, perform, etc., we jump at it," said younger sibling Spencer Battiest. They were there for us in pursuing our dreams. We always make it a point to put it in our schedule and show up."

"We are ecstatic about doing this. The more Tribal members can learn to perform or be in different industries, the more it helps us as a Tribe," Battiest added.

The other group will be given the opportunity to step in the shoes of D'Andrea and Tribal co-host Everett Osceola as co-hosts of their long-standing WSBC Seminole Channel show currently airing bi-weekly on DIRECTV channel 575.

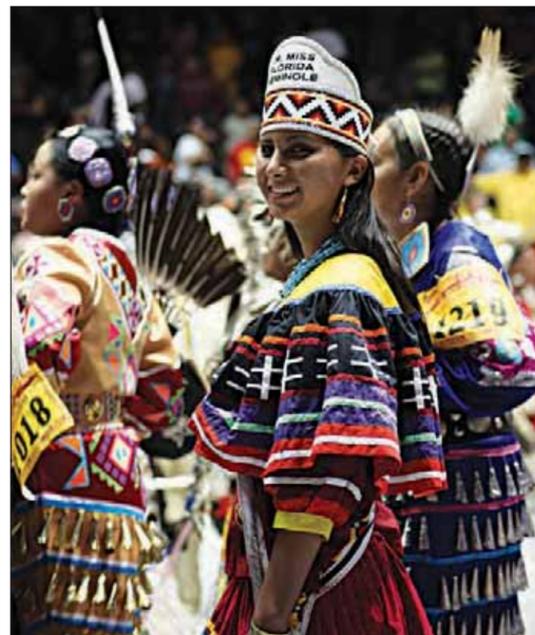
Both team projects will air in their entirety on the final day of the workshop (July 16) for parents, supporters and invited guests, as well as air in the future on the Seminole Channel. Each group will also take the time to write a full-length 500 word story to be published in the August edition of the Tribune over their projects and experiences.

For more information call 954-985-5702 ext. 10700.



Chris C. Jenkins

Reigning Miss Florida Seminole Princess Cassandra Jimmie, right, with Princess Committee Chairwoman Wanda Bowers during the crowning of the new Miss Indian World and Gathering of Nations PowWow festivities.



Chris C. Jenkins

Junior Miss Florida Seminole Lorelei Tommie gives a quick smile while participating in the Grand Entry.

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Fleet Week Port Everglades 2011 Stops at Hard Rock



Photo courtesy of Tom Craig

Members of the Tribal Color Guard march during Fleet Week Port Everglades 2011 festivities at the Hard Rock on April 25. The annual South Florida gathering celebrated its 21st year with thousands of sailors aboard multiple ships docking in the Port Everglades. The week-long series of community service projects and special events is sponsored by area Navy Leagues and the Broward Navy Days, Inc.



Rachel Buxton

Mary Jo Micco, left, and Joanne Osceola begin preparing sofkee to serve during lunch.



Rachel Buxton

Judy Jones, left, helps Nicki Osceola begin making a traditional doll.

Brighton Holds Culture Camp to Help Preserve Seminole History



Photo above, Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr., right, shows Kai Osceola that even men can sew at the Brighton culture camp on April 28 held at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena. Left photo, Shule Jones shows how to properly use cardboard to create the head of the Seminole doll during the culture camp.

Rachel Buxton

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Brighton community continued its efforts to keep the Seminole culture alive by teaching Tribal youth different aspects of their heritage during a culture camp held at the Fred Smith Rodeo Arena, April 28.

As part of the spring break activities, Brighton took a break from the water parks and spent the day outside under chickees cooking, sewing, carving and telling stories.

The women started the day off under the cooking chickee preparing breakfast for all. Feasting on frybread, egg and Spam sandwiches, participants gathered around beloved elder Happy Jones to listen to stories.

Jones told stories about life growing up and about how her great-grandmother, Sally Parker, survived during the Removal Act. Jones also told stories about how she grew up on a campsite out in the open.

“We lived and ate off the land,” Jones said. Jones spoke mainly in her native Creek language while event organizer Jenny Johns translated. Jones stressed the need for her Seminole people to get together and to visit and share stories to keep their culture alive.

“You need to keep reminding yourself where you came from,” Jenny Johns said to the youth present. “There’s still some of us that get together and learn from each other and teach our grandchildren.”

Following storytelling the ladies went back to cooking to prepare lunch.

“When you hang around the cooking chickee that’s how you learn to cook,” Joanne Osceola said.

While lunch was being prepared a doll-making demonstration was put on by mother and daughter, Shule and Judy Jones. Even Brighton Board Rep. Johnnie Jones Sr. took to a sewing machine to help demonstrate using an old hand crank sewing machine.

After lunch the women demonstrated the use of shakers while the men showed off their carving skills.

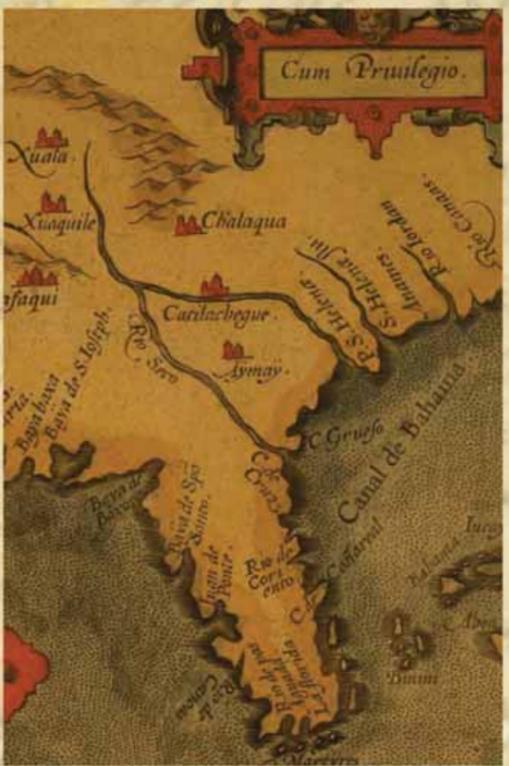
The Brighton community plans to hold regular culture camps in hopes of drawing more of an interest from the youth.

“We need to stay connected,” Jenny Johns said.



Rachel Buxton

Joanne Osceola shows Kai Osceola, left, and Kayven Osceola Emley how to thread an old hand crank sewing machine.

In 1821 the United States bought Florida from Spain. According to Osceola, you can't sell something that doesn't belong to you.

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Pistol used during the First Seminole War

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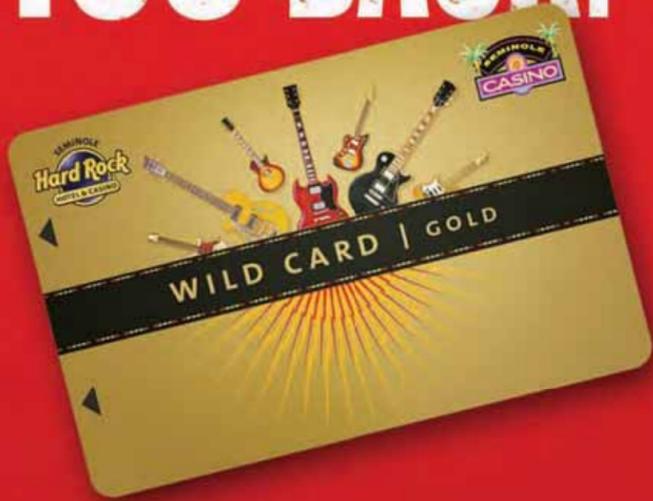
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Take Your Kids to Work Day Comes to Big Cypress

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

BIG CYPRESS — An informative and exciting day greeted Big Cypress employees and their children on April 28 when they took advantage of an opportunity to participate in Take Your Kids to Work Day.

The Human Resources Department greeted the participants with a welcoming breakfast at the Big Cypress Community Center. Stressing the importance of meeting each day with a positive attitude, they reminded their audience that a healthy breakfast provides the fuel for a productive day at work and school.

"Regardless of the career that you seek, there is one factor that never changes," said Big Cypress Council Rep. Mondo Tiger. "Education is everything. You are learning today to become tomorrow's leaders and this is a responsibility that you shouldn't take lightly. Stay in school, determine your strong points and use them to map a road to a career where you can benefit yourself and others."

"Working for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, your parents represent an important link in the chain that serves and governs this community," continued Rep. Tiger. "Remember that whether you are going to school or work, you are committing yourself to an obligation. The strength of your commitment determines the benefits for you, your co-workers and the people you serve."

Coordinating the presentations, Cicero Osceola asked each of the parents to introduce themselves and provide a brief job description and encouragement for the young people present. Administrative personnel, janitors, teachers, police officers, fire and rescue, utilities, health, museum, newspaper, environmental and service workers shared the important role they play in the daily operations of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Turning the tables on the younger generation, they were asked to review their goals and share their current career choices with the assembly. Their response was very rewarding and displayed a great deal of enthusiasm.

Excitement filled the room with the arrival of "Smokey the Bear." A 70 year symbol of wild land fire and environmental issues, his presence opened the forum for a discussion about natural resource management, fire

prevention and the benefits afforded by controlled burns. Wildlife habitat, protection of personal property, arson, wild fires, water quality and removal of exotics provided the topics introduced by the Environmental Resource representatives.

The Seminole Police Department presentation on bullying and hazing hit home with an issue that is currently plaguing children and adults at home, school, in the work place and in cyber space. Officer Michele Short used visual aids and statistics to build awareness, relate to age appropriate situations and suggest proper methods for seeking solutions.

Water safety is a year round objective but intensifies during the summer months. Seminole Fire and Rescue approached the topic from numerous directions and used youngsters from the audience to demonstrate a drowning victim scenario, step-by-step analysis of a rescue, life jacket demo, CPR, panic, exhaustion, pool rules and learning to swim.

A tour of a fire truck and ambulance created a vast number of inquiries regarding equipment, rescue methods and cross training opportunities for paramedics and firefighters. First aid, safety precautions and adult supervision highlighted the instruction.

Upon returning to the auditorium, the events of the day took a major change of pace. Wildlife education professional Rey Becerra from Billie Swamp Safari introduced the group to a red-tailed hawk named Cassidy, who has been his companion for nearly 20 years. An in depth discussion involved wildlife conservation, breeding and usefulness of all species to the environment.

Inviting the boys and girls to come forward, Becerra shared the background and natural habits of several native species of birds, reptiles and animals. The group marveled at a 6-year-old alligator snapping turtle and then took turns holding a young alligator, which proved to be the highlight of the morning's presentations. Safari gift bags were distributed as souvenirs.

Following an employee birthday luncheon prepared by Human Resources, the children returned with their parents to work. It provided an opportunity for the boys and girls to experience a first hand perspective of the job that their parents do on a daily schedule.



Employees, their children and department representatives gathered at the Big Cypress Community Center on April 28 for Take Your Kids to Work Day.



Photo above, employees and their children get an up close and personal inspection of a Seminole Fire and Rescue truck. Right photo, Mahayla Billie-Osceola, Blake Williamson and Christian Canton participated in a life jacket demo with the Fire and Rescue officers.



Judy Weeks



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizens relax in the lounge area of the new Sober House facility.

Hollywood Sober House Holds Grand Opening



Family Services Aftercare Counselor Ray Yzaguirre Jr. thanks those on hand for the grand opening of the Hollywood Reservation Seminoles in Recovery Sober House held May 2 at the Taft Street Native Learning Center. The Tribal-based facility is located in Suite 2006 and offers meeting space and a support base for recovering alcoholics and former drug users. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information call (954) 985-2325 ext. 10643 or (863) 697-0226.

Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. talks about the importance of support.

SUGAR FESTIVAL

From page 3A

Billy coordinated the event and then took center stage with a medley of his favorite musical selections. He provided background information on each of the performers and shared the history of Seminole Star Search with the audience.

Paul "Cowbone" Buster was a featured event at the Friday Fest and then returned for the Saturday entertainment session. Beginning with one of his Hank Williams' favorites, Buster discussed topics of 1800s-1900s Seminole life, traditions, Christian beliefs, contemporary education, recreation and health interspersed with his musical repertoire.

It was no surprise when an enormous crowd surrounded Billy Walker's alligator wrestling performance for two days in a row. The bleachers were full with standing room only as the spectators

declared his exhibition the most popular event of the entire festival. In addition to wrestling the gator, Walker shared his vast knowledge of the reptiles, wildlife and his Everglades experiences to the delight of his listeners.

Summoning Miss Sugar 2011 Tonie Tolar into the arena during Friday's presentation, Walker coaxed her into sitting astride the alligator. Extremely apprehensive, it took several tries before she overcame her fear to the delight of the audience.

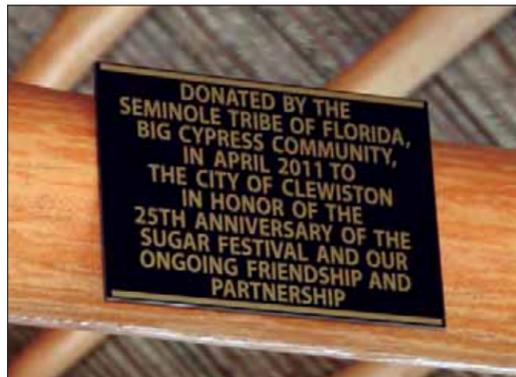
Sugar Festival activities included tournaments of golf, tennis, basketball and horseshoes, as well as a barbeque, car show, dance and a live concert by Gloriana and Ricochet. An abundance of street vendors lined the Sugar Festival Park with food, souvenirs, art and crafts. Tribal representatives participated in Seminole Heritage Day, the Sugar Festival 5K Run/Walk, Raising Cane Ranch Rodeo and the Arts and Crafts Festival.



Photo above, from left, City Commissioner Joseph D. Miller, Vice Mayor James Pitman, City Manager Steve McKown, Ricky Doctor, Cicero Osceola, City of Clewiston Mayor Richard Miller and Hendry County Commissioner Al Perry officiate in the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the chickee donated by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation in honor of the 25th Anniversary of the Sugar Festival.

Left photo, a bronze plaque is being affixed to the chickee donated by the Seminole Tribe of Florida to the City of Clewiston as a token of their ongoing friendship and partnership.

Judy Weeks



Judy Weeks

Seminole Star Search Ambassador Tori Osceola sang her first single, "My Hero" in Clewiston's Sugar Festival Park.



Judy Weeks

Paul "Cowbone" Buster entertains at the Friday Fest with the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



Photo courtesy of Derek Pierce
 Davin and Dalance Carrillo sing into the microphone during a Boys & Girls Club music production class.

Seminole Boys & Girls Clubs Offer Music Production Classes

BY DEREK PIERCE
 Brighton BGC Manager

The Boys & Girls Clubs are proud to offer fun-filled, challenging and educational programs in music production for youth ages 5-18. Located at the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School on the Brighton Reservation and the Ahfachkee School on the Big Cypress Reservation, this youth-driven class is yet another structured activity that the Clubs offer.

The classes enable youth to gain a broad knowledge of music production, boost their self confidence and promote their ability to work with technology. These classes further provide opportunities for youth to experience the unique pride that comes with creating original, expressive art.

Big Cypress parent Janie Valdez's interest in the music production classes is paramount.

She stated, "...we really need this (music production classes) here. The kids love it; it will keep them busy and out of trouble."

Some of the skills students will master include multi-track recording, beat matching, DJ skills, voice dubbing, performance skills, media literacy and music marketing. This structured learning opportunity can enhance academic skills and open the door to future career options.

Twelve-year-old Richard Harris, of Brighton, shared his excitement about the classes recently.

"I did not know the Boys & Girls Clubs could do this (music production classes)...I want to learn everything about the studio," he said.

Each structured session lasts an hour and a half, which includes teaching the proper use of music production equipment. Within each class setting, there is a strong emphasis on group responsibility, cooperation and time management skills. Students work together as a team to produce music media cooperatively, with each having a turn at every aspect of production process.

Eyanna Billie, of Big Cypress, has high aspirations in music production.

She stated, "This (music production classes) is so much fun, I never thought we could do this here (Big Cypress Boys & Girls Club)...now that I am good at this, I want to go to college for music production."

For more information on the Boys & Girls Clubs music production classes, please contact Brighton BGC Manager Derek Pierce at (954) 347-9204, or by e-mail at derekpierce@semtribe.com. To learn more about ongoing activities of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, visit our website at www.seminoleclub.org.

Take Your Kids to Work Day in Hollywood Has Overwhelming Response

BY AIMEE HOYT
 Copy Editor

HOLLYWOOD — About 70 kids got a glimpse into the vast array of career fields offered by the Seminole Tribe of Florida at Take Your Kids to Work Day on April 28 in Hollywood.

Held at Tribal Headquarters in the auditorium lobby, employees and their children were treated to a welcome breakfast and presentations by four departments before being special guests at the Employee Birthday Luncheon.

Seminole Police Department kicked off the presentations with a special segment on cyber bullying, bullying and hazing, led by Officer Darryl Allen. Next up, Seminole Fire Rescue Lieutenant Bruce Britton showed water rescue and water safety videos to the crowd, stressing the importance of adult supervision and children wearing life jackets. Seminole Fire Rescue Lieutenant MacKinley Pratt wowed the kids with his rescue diver gear before answering questions about his experience with rescue diving in Big Cypress.

Protection Specialist Stacy Myers, of Environmental Resources, taught kids about wetland conservation and identifying threatened and endangered species. His presentation was a successful precursor to a close-up Florida wildlife show-and-tell by John Jones, wildlife manager at Okalee Indian Village.

Human Resources staff, who coordinated and hosted the event now in its third year, handed out certificates and gift bags for each child in attendance. Children spent the remainder of the day with their parents learning about their respective departments.



Aimee Hoyt
 Impressing the crowd with a crocodile, Okalee Indian Village Wildlife Manager John Jones educates and entertains the children and their parents with a wildlife presentation, which included a tortoise, an alligator and snakes.



Aimee Hoyt
 Seminole Fire Rescue Lieutenant MacKinley Pratt, who is a water rescue diver, answers questions from the crowd about his experiences after showing the kids some of his rescue gear at Take Your Kids to Work Day on April 28 in the Tribal Headquarters auditorium lobby.

More photos from the Big Cypress Music and Car Festival



Chris C. Jenkins
 Proud grandfather Sandy Billie Jr. with granddaughter Dyani Billie-Kayda in the old-style traditional 0- to 1-year-old category.



Chris C. Jenkins
 From left, clothing contest participants Jimmy Smith and Ronnie Billie Sr. join the 55-year-old and up old-style category.



Chris C. Jenkins
 Tribal citizen Norman 'Skeeter' Bowers beside his 2007 Toyota Tundra during the stock truck competition.

HARVEST

From page 3A

Guatemalan, Colombian and Southern specialties tantalized their appetites.

Tribal members took part in a Seminole Clothing Fashion Show that demonstrated the various styles that have evolved over the past 150 years. A captivated audience listened intently to the historical presentation that accompanied the review.

Local bands took turns providing a blend of cultural music to entertain the festival goes throughout the two-day Harvest Festival.



Judy Weeks
 Lenora Roberts exhibits a traditional Seminole skirt during the fashion show sponsored by the Immokalee Seminole Culture Dept.



Judy Weeks
 Top photo, Ruth Osceola and Hortencia Yzaguirre were among the vendors that represented numerous cultures at the Immokalee Harvest Festival. Left photo, Larissa Delarosa, left, Madison Martinez, center, and Amy Yzaguirre model Seminole clothing at the Immokalee Harvest Festival Fashion Show.



Judy Weeks
 Miss Florida Seminole Cassandra Jimmie, center, offers encouragement to Lauren Posada and Randee Osceola who participated in the Junior Miss Harvest Festival competition.



Judy Weeks

The Immokalee community employees participated in a fun-filled day of activities on April 21 organized in appreciation of their efforts to serve during the entire year.

Immokalee Acknowledges Appreciation of Employees With Day of Competitive Games

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

IMMOKALEE — The fourth annual Immokalee Employee Appreciation Day kicked off on April 21 at the gym for a full day of activities.

Donning T-shirts to commemorate the occasion, the group participated in a fitness walk that transported them to the ball field for organized physical events. The participants divided into teams for competitive games of kickball, tug-of-war, an obstacle course and a water balloon toss.

Winding up a morning of strenuous play, a case of shaving cream miraculously materialized for an impromptu shaving cream fight that left the group lathered and laughing during the return walk to the

gym.

"It takes a lot of hands, minds and dedication to the job to meet the daily needs of our community and you are the men and women that provide this service," said Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar. "We are gathered here to show our appreciation to all of the employees who make the Immokalee Reservation a success."

Each of the employees received a gym bag, director's chair and compact blanket/bleacher pad in recognition of their service. A catered barbeque buffet really hit the spot with the players who had worked up a considerable appetite on the playing field.

Organized sports continued throughout the afternoon in the gym and included dodge ball, volley ball and a rousing game of Minute to Win It.



Judy Weeks

Immokalee employees receive appreciation gifts that included gym bags, T-shirts, director's chairs and compact bleacher/blanket pads.



Judy Weeks

From left, Angela Gamez of Senior Hot Meals and Raymond Perez from Utilities mix it up during a shaving cream fight on Employee Appreciation Day in Immokalee.

Home Car Washing: Facts and Measures that Protect the Environment

BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

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

To continue our mission for education and dissemination of information to accomplish environmental compliance with Tribal law, ERMD will publish a series of articles that inform and educate the Seminole community and citizens in general. The articles will discuss common practices that can potentially harm our Tribal natural and water resources and propose alternative practices that can minimize or prevent the adverse impacts to our health and the environment.

We welcome your suggestions, comments and questions. Please send them to isidroquique@semitrbe.com or contact us at (954) 965-4380.

We will begin the series of articles with the following article about home car washing.

Home car washing wastes water and leads to water pollution. Most people who wash their cars at home don't realize where the water goes or how much water

is wasted. Home car washing produces contaminated water that goes directly into the soil or into storm drains that are intended for rainwater. The waste water that runs off a car when it is washed contains substances such as soaps, detergents, mud, rubber and grease causing pollution in our wetlands, rivers, canals and lakes. These substances poison the aquatic life and weaken the ecosystem. It should also be noted that home car washing can use 10 or more gallons of water per minute compared to washing your car at a self-serve car wash using only 11 gallons of water for the wash.

If you must wash your car at home, ERMD offers the following tips that will minimize the impact to the environment:

1) Choose a biodegradable soap formulated for automotive parts. Or make your own biodegradable car wash by mixing ½ cup of liquid dishwashing detergent and ¼ cup of powdered laundry detergent (chlorine- and phosphate-free and non-petroleum based) with two gallons of water. This concentrate can be used sparingly with water.

2) Try to wash your car on a grassy area (good for your grass as soaps aid grass root systems to absorb nutrients from the soil!) to minimize the runoff or wash your car in the driveway if it drains onto a lawn or garden area, but avoid using the driveway if the water runs into a street or drain.

3) Always ensure the area where you wash your car does not drain into the storm water system including the drains in the street or road.

4) Use a spray release nozzle for your hose or even better, a bucket to reduce water use.

5) Dispose of water and left over soap onto a garden or lawn.

6) Disperse the sudsy puddles that remain after you're done as they contain toxic residues and can tempt thirsty animals.

Parents, Stay Involved With Kids During Summer

BY THE OFFICE OF YOUR POLICE CHIEF,
WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD

Summer is quickly coming upon us. Children are looking forward to enjoying time off from school for a few months. However, it is incumbent upon all parents to be responsible and make sure children are not involved in any criminal activities. There are a multitude of things kids can do all summer ranging from summer camps, day trips, spending time with families, church and community activities, swimming, relaxing and what most kids enjoy the most, spending time with their friends. However, sometimes if kids are not partaking in structured activities they have a tendency to become bored and start looking for ways to occupy the time. This can result in criminal activities taking place.

Peer pressure is all around our children and can be overwhelming. This can make them more susceptible to getting into trouble. Parents, take time with your children to reiterate to them to be leaders,

not followers. Discuss with them what peer pressure entails, and how to avoid falling prey to it and criminal activities. Even discussing acts such as shoplifting and vandalism, which seem minimal to some children, are in fact, criminal activities and can be devastating to the future of our children. Revisit discussing the downside of drugs with your kids. In any fashion, drugs are something terrible that can destruct a child's life. Summertime can be a scary time for parents worrying about their kids becoming involved in criminal activities and sometimes, even becoming involved in gang activities.

While kids need down time during the summer, keeping them involved in structured activities in a safe environment will not only help them grow and prosper, but will also reduce the worry parents go through. Being engaged in our children's lives is a positive vital component we can offer to help them grow up into fine young men and women.

Have a great summer.

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ATTENTION ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS

The **Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum** is pleased to announce it is forming a **Museum Advisory Council (MAC)**. We would like to invite interested Tribal members to become actively involved in the Museum by becoming members of the **MAC**.

We are looking for Tribal members, 18 years and older, who would be willing to join Museum staff in the planning of exhibits, events and the future of the Museum collections acquisitions.

The Museum relies closely on Tribal member input for cultural, historical relevance and accuracy and we are excited to invite you to join the **MAC**.

If you have any questions about the **MAC** or are interested in joining, please contact Anne McCudden at (863) 902-1113 or amccudden@semtribe.com.



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Hollywood Preschoolers Celebrate Week of the Young Child with Family Fun-Day



Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. relaxes with son Bill as part of the Hollywood Preschool Family Fun-Day held at Topeekeegee Yugnee Park on April 15. The event featured face painting, snow cones, bounce houses, cotton candy, a fire truck demonstration, and games in celebration of the annual Week of the Young Child activities.

Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

Father Pete Ramirez spends time with daughter Adrianna Ramirez after she had her face painted as a happy cat.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal youngster Samuel Josh concentrates on knocking over the cone during the fire hose demonstration.

Fort Pierce Youth Visit Billie Swamp Safari as Part of Spring Break Fun

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Fort Pierce youth headed to Big Cypress April 28 to enjoy an outdoor adventure at Billie Swamp Safari as part of their spring break weekly activities.

Several youth from the community boarded a charter bus in the early morning eager to see the wildlife housed at the safari.

"We figured it was a great outdoor field trip where the kids got to learn about a lot of animals native to Florida and to their culture," Fort Pierce Executive Assistant Diana Albarran said.

At the safari the youth enjoyed a venomous snake show that sent a few adults hiding and inching farther and farther up the bleachers. The youth learned about the most common poisonous snakes found in Florida including the coral snake, diamondback rattlesnake and water moccasin.

Following the snake show the Fort Pierce gang headed to a critter show where they learned about birds, reptiles and other Florida critters. After the show the

bravest of the youth got a chance to get up close and personal with a 3-year-old alligator and hold it for a photo op.

"It was so slimy," said one of the brave, Serinity Smith.

Due to the extreme drought the youth were unable to take an airboat ride, but they did experience true wildlife on the safari buggy ride.

"They got to see a lot in the safari about where their roots come from and what Native Americans did back then," Albarran said.

The trip to Billie Swamp Safari was just one day of excitement that was planned for the kids. The youth enjoyed a week filled with activities including a culture day where they learned how to carve, a trip to Super Play where they bowled and played arcade games, a movie day at Chupco Ranch and a water fun day to wrap up the week.

"It just gets the kids out of the house, no more video games, more outdoor activities," Albarran said. "They loved it. I can't wait to start planning summer for them."

See more photos on page 4B



Rachel Buxton

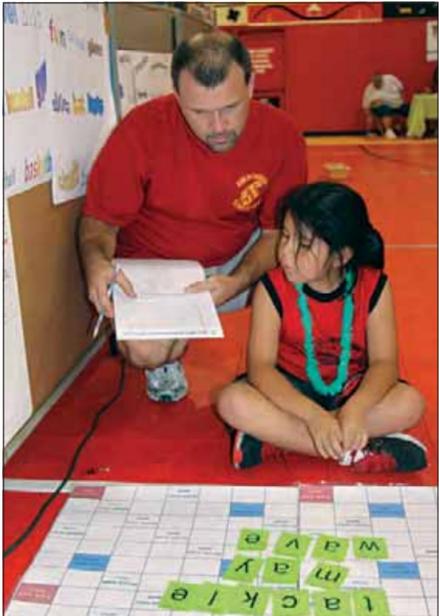
The Fort Pierce youth enjoy a day at Billie Swamp Safari as part of their spring break week of activities.

Ahfachkee School Hosts Literacy Fair at Herman L. Osceola Gymnasium for its Students



Naji Tobias

Mikieyla Cypress, 8, and her mother, Angela Cypress, are sharing a wholesome bonding moment at the Ahfachkee Literacy Fair's bookstore as they look to buy some books at the May 5 event.



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee School's Student Activities Coordinator Randall Cleckler adds up the point total that Quentin Chargingcloud, right, scores in the educational Physical Education Scrabble game.



A group of students from the Ahfachkee School went on the Accelerated Reader Field Trip to Books-A-Million and the Rainforest Café at Sawgrass Mills in Sunrise on May 6 – a day after the May 5 Literacy Fair. These students were recipients of a variety of Accelerated Reader awards, as announced by Ahfachkee Media/Reading Specialist Gary Chaffin at the Literacy Fair. Back row: Kylan Jumper, Issiah Alvarado, Richard Billie, Sontino Billie and Graysun Billie. Middle row: Jonah Alvarado, Janessa Jones, Thomlynn Billie, Nicholas Andrews and Amaya Solano. Front row: Mariah Smith, Destiny Cypress, Charlie Osceola, Harmony Cypress and Evanne Pratt. Not pictured are: Leviticus Buster, Gregorio Reynosa and Leo Osceola-Onco.

Photo courtesy of Gary Chaffin

See more photos on page 4B

Tribal Youth Collective Gains Inspiration from FSU College Tour Experience

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

TALLAHASSEE — A group of 16 Tribal youth from five of the Tribe's six reservations took an extensive tour of Florida State University via charter bus from April 28-30.

Sponsored by the Tribe's Education Department, the vast majority of the college tour experience took place on April 29 – the one full day the Tribal youth got to step foot on the FSU campus in Tallahassee.

According to Higher Education Advisor Linda Iley, the primary purpose for this trip was to give the Tribal participants an opportunity to gain exposure on how a university looks in terms of the actual campus design, the variety of available facilities and the plethora of academic programs at FSU.

"It (the FSU college tour) allows them to widen their options as they plan to enter higher education in the future," Iley said of the Tribal youth. "They get a chance to see how Florida State has a special relationship to the Tribe and its culture."

According to Iley, the Tribal collective, consisting of youth from the Hollywood, Big Cypress, Immokalee, Brighton and Tampa reservations, came away impressed with some of the FSU features on campus, including a statue of the "Unconquered Heroes" and the fact that the university uses a Seminole as its mascot. The group also got a chance to meet with FSU President Dr. Eric J. Barron.

Hollywood Tribal youngster Renee Stivers, a 17-year-old junior who attends Sheridan Hills High School, expressed her observations of the FSU atmosphere, which she described as "vibrant" and

"interesting." Stivers, who said she was "very proud of FSU's history," also disclosed that she would consider attending FSU as a business major after graduating high school.

Meanwhile, Brighton's Susannah Sauls-Fairclough, a 23-year-old Tribal citizen who has received her GED, noticed the way that FSU goes out of its way to treat the Seminole culture and its history, as approved by the Tribe.

The FSU experience, Fairclough said, allowed her to focus in on the academic field she would like to pursue in the near future. She, like Stivers, wants to go to college for business and succeed in that area of study.

"Before coming on this trip, I wasn't sure about what I wanted to do," Fairclough said. "But visiting the school has made me aware of the opportunities I have. If you have a goal, then go for it. No excuses."

Immokalee's Salena Perez, a 16-year-old freshman who currently attends Immokalee High School, said the experience motivated her to be a more organized individual and take a greater interest in education. And Big Cypress Reservation's Karlito Wargolet, a 16-year-old junior who attends American Heritage (Plantation) High School, said that he gained an interest in the field of marketing at FSU.

"I like the program, but I want to visit other colleges before I decide which one to attend," Wargolet said after being asked about his prospects of studying at FSU.

Big Cypress/Immokalee Higher Education Recruiter Luis Yeguez stressed the importance of taking a tour of an education institution, adding that it

Please see FSU on page 4B



Photo courtesy of Carine Eugene

Just outside FSU's Doak Campbell Stadium, the location of where FSU's college football team plays its home games, the Tribal youth are taking pride in the fact they have a collegiate athletic program named after them. During the April 29 group gathering, some of the high school Tribal youth expressed interest in the possibility of playing football on the college level.

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Big Cypress Library Hosts Final Two Weeks of Family Reading Night Series



The Family Reading Night group on April 19 share a special moment just as the "Amazing Grace" discussion comes to a close.



Left photo, Big Cypress Library Director Barbara Oeffner, left, and Big Cypress Library assistants Melissa Silva, center, and Victoria Hernandez read a version of a book entitled "The Three Little Pigs" at the four-part series finale of Family Reading Night on April 26 at the Learning Resource Center's conference room in Big Cypress.



Naji Tobias



Naji Tobias

Shana Balentine is eager to answer a question about the book "Amazing Grace" at the April 19 Family Reading night session led by Storyteller Carol Lubetkin and Big Cypress Library Director Barbara Oeffner, offering her support as discussion leader.

With his eyes closed and his mind focused on the April 26 Family Reading Night event, Roderick Bert uses his imagination to visualize the story of the week, entitled "The Three Little Pigs." The book was read in two different versions at the hour-long function.

Big Cypress Preschool Hosts Week of the Young Child



Naji Tobias

Left photo, on April 13 at the Big Cypress Preschool, the father-son tandem of Nick Andrews, left, and Lane Andrews, 2, share a bonding moment over breakfast at the breakfast buffet portion of the Week of the Young Child series in Big Cypress. The Week of the Young Child was held at the Big Cypress Preschool from April 11-15. Photo above, Big Cypress Tribal mother Mariann Billie, right, is with her son, Rylin Billie-Osceola, 4, as they share some quality time with each other.



Allen Hoffman

The Big Cypress Preschoolers participated in a special painting workshop on April 11 to kick off the Week of the Young Child series, which also occurred at the Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee Tribal Preschools from April 11-15.

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Big Cypress Preschool Holds Get Fit Day

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

BIG CYPRESS — Sixteen students from the Big Cypress Preschool participated in Get Fit Day at the Herman Osceola Gym on April 15. Arriving from their school at 9:15 a.m., the boys and girls participated in a warm-up session in preparation for the course of activities.

Gymnastic and Fitness Coordinator Gina Allardyce and her staff of Cathy Cypress and Mike Iglesias work with the youngsters on a regular basis and have developed a program that is fun for the children and instrumental in promoting the foundation for a lifetime of physical fitness.

Following the example of their instructors, the kids formed a circle and performed basic stretch and warm-up exercises prior to being divided into teams. The gym was divided into six individual courses to

accommodate a broad range of athletic activities that included obstacle courses, foot paths, relays and agility exercises.

Alternating events, the teams worked their way through the program taking part in a tunnel crawl, roller pads, Hula-hoops, zigzag path, elusive egg relay and their favorite sport of rolling the big inflated ball around the gym. Laughter and smiles followed them everywhere they went.

"Although the children are young, it is never too early to acquaint them with physical awareness and give them a chance to meet our fitness and recreation staff," said Allardyce. "Today's activities were designed to promote agility, hand to eye coordination, exercise and develop basic motor skills. Each time we meet with the children, we have a wonderful experience as we guide their first steps down the road to a healthy lifestyle."

FSU From page 1B

can expand one's horizon when it comes to what he/she may think of such an experience.

"It's one thing to look at schools on the Internet or a magazine, but it's a different experience when you get to see them in person," Yeguez said. "When you get to do that, it will motivate you and allow you to look at things from a different perspective."

Big Cypress/Immokalee Education Advisor Carine Eugene talked about the sheer importance of the Tribal students taking their education seriously.

"Not all colleges will take a student with a 2.0 grade point average," Eugene said. "If they want to attend a college of their choice, they need to see what it takes academically to qualify and take advantage of everything the Education Department and the Tribe have to offer them."

Yeguez summed up the general vibe of how the Tribal youth felt about the FSU College Tour.

"They really see this school (Florida State) as an option and they found it a fun experience," Yeguez said. "I hope that some of them apply to the university."

The Education Department's next college tour, which will focus on visits to seven colleges in the states of Georgia and South Carolina, is slated to take place from June 26-July 2. Tribal students must have at least a 2.0 GPA and a truancy-free record to qualify for the trip.

For more information on this tour and others, contact Iley at (954) 989-6840, ext. 10540 or 10551.



Photo courtesy of Lisa Motlow

Right in front of the "Unconquered" at the FSU University Center are the Tribal youth who came away impressed with the treatment they received at the Florida State University College Tour on April 29 in Tallahassee. "FSU is a really nice campus," Tampa's Jessica Motlow said. "It is so spread out. I definitely would like to apply to FSU, but I need to study harder to make good grades."



Photo courtesy of Carine Eugene

Brighton's Susannah Fairclough, Higher Education Advisor Linda Iley and Brighton's Janet Smith are in front of the "Seminole Family in Bronze" at the University Center on April 29. The group took the trek up to FSU from April 28-30 to learn more about the school's programs, faculty, facilities, campus, dorms, and admission requirements.

More photos from Ahfachkee School's Literacy Fair



Naji Tobias

Ahfachkee School's upper grades teacher Antonio Wright, center, works with a group of students on discovering context clues of unfamiliar words.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal citizen and Sagmont School second-grader Mahala Billie works on a crossword puzzle entitled "Vegetables."

More photos from Fort Pierce youth's Billie Swamp Safari field trip



Rachel Buxton

Rey Becerra, right, of the Billie Swamp Safari critter show hands Tavarria Moss one of his many animals on show.



Rachel Buxton

Serinity Smith shows no fear as she holds the scaly alligator at the critter show.

Brighton Tribal Preschoolers Dress Up to Celebrate Week of the Young Child



Chris C. Jenkins

The 3-year-old Brighton Reservation preschool youth and staff are all smiles dressed in some of their favorite costumes during costume day as part of their annual Week of the Young Child festivities on April 14. The national celebration is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The purpose is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

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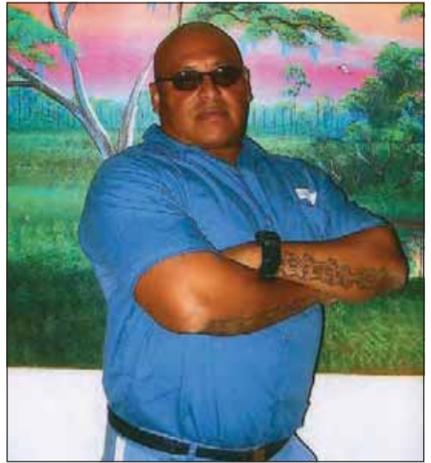
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POEMS



"Why Do I Love My Seminole Girls"

Sometimes at night, when I look to the sky,
 I start thinking of you and then ask myself, why?
 Why do I love my Seminole girls? I think and smile,
 Because I know the list could run on for miles.

The whisper of your voice, the warmth or your touch,
 So many little things that make me love my Seminole girls so much.

The way you support me, and help with my emotions,
 The way that you care and show such devotion.

The way that you kiss, fills me with desire,
 And how you hold me with the warmth of a blazing fire.

The way your eyes shine when you look at me,
 Lost with you forever is where I want to be.

The way that I feel when you're by my side,
 A sense of completion and overflowing pride.

The dreams that I dream, that all involve you,
 The possibilities I see and the things we can do.

How you finish the puzzle that lies inside my heart,
 How that deep in my soul, you are the most important part.

I could go on for days, telling of what I feel,
 But all you really must know is my love for my Seminole girls is real.

East Coast Warrior
 Alex Tucker
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"Someone"

Someone in my heart beyond all my pride,
 Holds a secret desire so intense deep inside.
 Imprisoned with all my passion and love,
 Unknown to anyone but the lord up above.
 A desire for someone to cherish and hold,
 The need for love to call my own.

Someone who keeps me shining day and night,
 Someone to kiss and make up with after a fight.
 Someone who appreciates and respects all I can be,
 Someone who's strong enough to commit and love only me.
 Someone who will be there to kiss away my tears,
 Secure my doubts and release my fears.
 Someone who can restore my faith in love once again.
 This love is like a dream that has yet to become true,
 Or to believed until I found you...

Hot Pursuit
 Alex Tucker
 Hollywood/Rez
 Otter Clan

CONGRATULATIONS

Miss Kelin Bert = Koy = A proud member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida who resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico and is attending Menaul Middle School and is a member of the Menaul Middle School girls basketball team.

The team is composed of 6th through 8th graders; Kelin was one of two 6th graders on the team. A total of 11 girls on the team. The coach is Mrs. Monahan and Kelin is No. 32.

This was Kelin's first season ever playing basketball. Her height gave her an advantage over the other players as she stands at 5'6" and she is 12 years old. Kelin was 11 when she started.

Kelin started the first three games, she is the team's center. Her parents say she picked up the game really quick for a first timer. The team was led by point guard Elena DuBois and forward Ashdyn Monahan.

They came up short of the playoffs but still had a very productive season. Kelin is continuing to work on her skills in her off time to refine her game for next season. Kelin's proud parent is Davina Motlow.

Good job Koy,
 We all love you.



"My Truth"

I remember when I was young, I was good.
 But, as I got older, life became difficult for me.
 I learned of the world, so I went out into the world and tried to live. I almost lost myself...

I am Indian
 And I know it,

I was raised to be nice to all people
 The people of the world.

When I was wandering the earth I found myself,
 so remember be yourself and in life make the right choice.

Remember don't forget it's a choice that's all it is,
 so choose right. It's easy.

Respectfully,
 Gator Doctor

"My First Impression"

Here I am again, since the last time I wrote these iron walls here have gotten thin.

All my thanks and respects go out to you, my friends.

Now here is knowledge

As I live I see my future, it is freedom.

Life is beautiful and I know it, when I get home I can not wait to show it.

I will shine on like the sun in the sky.
 Peace is the way, always remember...

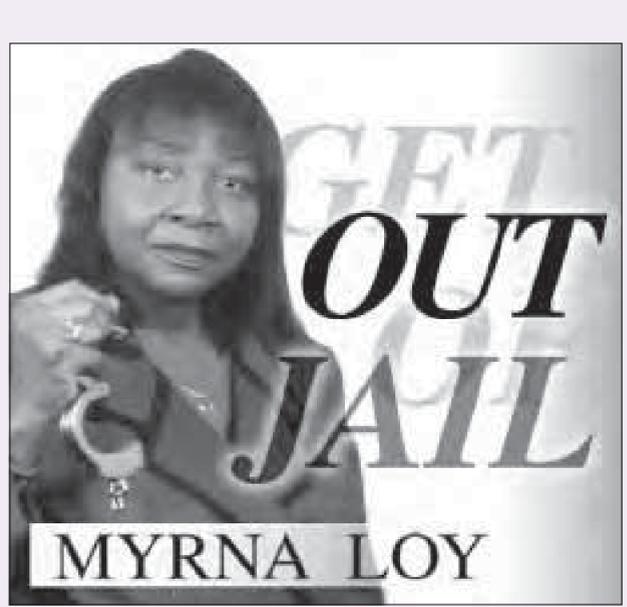
My name is gator I can not believe I was giving an opportunity to introduce myself to you...

So I want you to know, I am honest and true. No matter how I did it, or where I was a when I did it, I got through. To some of you, maybe all of you...

My first impression, hope it was a good one!

Thanks,
 Gator

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 When we go out I see alot of dudes do throw shade.
 Its all good though,
 Cause this young stallion they will never faze.
 Your love and loyalty are so real.
 Please marry me,
 You penetrated a heart that I thought was made of solid steel.
 I know you love to dance.
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 Better yet lets stay home and enjoy the romance.
 You know you so sexy riding in that chrysler sitting on 22's
 Salena you got me feinin,
 But I'm a soldier Ima ride for you baby boo.
 I love you baby you will see.
 Your heart matches mine,
 We are soulmates you feel me.
 I'm dat true "G" not some ol' square.
 But when it comes to you,
 Man I'm just a big ol' teddy bear.
 Thank you for a love so true.
 My most beloved,
 I know God took alittle bit more time when he made you.

Love,
 Myron Cypress
 Seminole

"My blessing"

Just when my nights were getting cold and lonely there you were
 A ray of sun shine peeking through the clouds,
 God sent me a blessing that I am sure.
 They say the eyes are windows to the soul.
 When I look into yours Salena,
 My love craves to take its toll.
 Your sexy, you know it to
 Small waist, thick thighs,
 Theres no one else in the world but you.
 Love and loyalty is all that counts
 Beauty is one thing,
 But its a bonus to have a booty so round.
 You will always be my baby who I call cheese.
 Every thug needs a lady,
 Don't hate on me cause I have a dime piece
 I woud give you the world if I had access to it.
 Baby you are a goddess,
 Salena you and I are a perfect fit.
 My life is fulfilled now that I have you.
 Thank you for your love,
 My search is over baby I finally found a love so true.
 Love, joy and happiness its all one in the same.
 I love you baby,
 Salena Cypress the one who bares the sweetest name.

The one and only,
 Myron Cypress



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Sports

C

Brighton's Fourth Annual Spring Break Triathlon Brings On Competition

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The fourth annual Brighton Spring Break Triathlon was a success April 29-30 bringing out more teams than ever competing for the fastest time.

Sponsored by Brighton Recreation, the youth kicked off the competition on April 29 with three teams racing against the clock.

The race began in the pool with three youth swimming 200 yards.

"When we started having a triathlon race we found out that there were participants that didn't like swimming, so we came up with a three-man team," event organizer Kai Setty said. "It's worked out pretty well."

Lahna Sedatol-Baker, Jaryaka Baker and Layton Thomas didn't shy away from the swim. Swimming a total of six laps back and forth, the three youth touched off sending their teammates on a five-mile bike ride.

Dyami Nelson was first to hit the bike trail followed by Calgary Johns and Erena Billie. After reaching the water station the youth made their way back to the pool where they sent their final teammate on the last leg of the race, a two-mile run.

Trevor Thomas, Kayla Nelson and Keyana Nelson all finished strong within a minute of each other. Each team took first place for their age division.

The competition was on as the seniors and

adults took on the fitness challenge April 30.

"At least 70 percent of the participants train for the event," Setty said.

The seniors got an early start hitting the pool for their 105-yard swim at 8 a.m. Although in separate divisions, the always competitive seniors and cousins Connie Whidden and Willie Johns swam back and forth while still keeping an eye on the other.

Willie Johns was the first competitor out of the pool, sending teammate Wonder Johns on his two-mile bike ride. Following right behind, Whidden sent her team member Patty Waldron off. Onnie Osceola also joined in the bike portion with her team's swimmer not showing up.

Waldron proved strong as she blew past all competitors and slapped hands with runner Martha Jones. Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. and Mable Tichenor followed behind in the one-mile run, with all finishing with impressive times.

The competition got even more heated when the adults took to the pool, with two men's teams and two women's teams competing against each other.

Norman Bowers, Richard Osceola and Elton Shore challenged Howard Jimmie, Adrian Baker and Ignacio Orozco.

Swimming 200 yards in less than six minutes Jimmie gave his team a huge lead. However, once Bowers touched off and sent Osceola on the five-mile bike ride, the gap was closed and Osceola

□ Please see TRIATHLON on page 2C



Wonder Johns enjoys his part of the race on his trike.



Rachel Buxton

Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. crosses the finish line taking first place in the senior men's category of the fourth annual Brighton Spring Break Triathlon on April 29-30.



Chris C. Jenkins

Deforest Carter of Native Flight intensely stares down his opponent in the championship game of the annual Native American Youth Organization basketball tournament held April 22-23.

Native Premonitions Fishing Team Competes in Yamaha Pro Tour

BY NAJI TOBIAS
Staff Reporter

SARASOTA — It's just after 5 a.m. at the dock of Sarasota's Sara Bay Marina on April 30.

Rising up early on the clearly dark and crisp Saturday morning, Hollywood Tribal citizen Leon Wilcox and his Native Premonitions fishing team got prepared to take a day-long trek out in the Gulf of Mexico's waters with one goal in mind.

In what was the first leg of the 2011 season's Yamaha Professional Kingfish Tour — the fishing tournament took place from April 29-30 — Native Premonitions was one of about 150 teams from all over the Southeast vying for the coveted win to start the year off right.

The Native Premonitions team of Leon Wilcox, James "Big Chief" Hammonds, Alan McPherson and James Stecki planned to travel as far out as necessary to achieve their main goal of catching the largest kingfish in this Southern Kingfish Association tournament.

Still relatively dark outside, Native Premonitions — with Wilcox as the fishing team's captain and boat operator — was all aboard on the watercraft en route to the boating dock of downtown Sarasota for the purpose of picking up bait.

Once the Native Premonitions collective reached downtown, they

saw a slew of fellow competing teams out there to get the same thing. By then, the sun had finally risen. They knew it was time to go to work.

Egmont Channel's 90 Foot Hole Experience

Gliding through the relatively calm waters near Tampa Bay, the Native Premonitions foursome came to a stop at Egmont Channel's 90 Foot Hole. At about 20 miles offshore from the Sara Bay Marina, Hammonds discussed how this spot would be the best one to snag a kingfish.

"There's a drop from 50 to 90 feet of water," the Lumbee (North Carolina) Tribal citizen said of the Egmont Channel's 90 Foot Hole. "The kingfish could hide themselves in this deep water, so that's why we came out here to catch them."

The offshore conditions, as Hammonds described, were near-perfect during the day, with calm waters, a relatively light wind, sunny skies and warm temperatures.

Hammonds recapped how the morning hours turned out for Native Premonitions.

"We had a small bite in the morning at about 9:00, but it's over right now," Hammond said at the time. "The kingfish we caught was close to 10 pounds, but we need to catch at least a 50 pound one to compete. It's midday out here, so we're hoping for a major bite later on in the evening. The best bite is usually either in the morning or late evening, so you want to get that in as early as you can."

It was a different story a day earlier, Hammonds said, as choppy winds and scattered rain showers put a damper on what was planned to be a big one for Team Premonitions. Even though the angling team traveled as far as 30 miles offshore, the best they managed to catch was an 8.9 pound kingfish, according to the weigh-in results later in that afternoon.

"The conditions were just too rough out there, so that kind of set us back," Hammonds said. "At this point, we're not in the running to win this tournament."

Native Premonitions spent most of the day not far from the 90 Foot Hole. If not for motor issues, the team may have traveled as far south as Key West in their quest to catch a big kingfish this time out.

"We're just grinding it out right now," Hammonds said. "We got a lot of grass out here today, but we're just trying to be patient enough to get that one big kingfish we need."

And that they did, as they spent the afternoon hours navigating the Gulf of Mexico in hopes of making that huge catch. Toward the end of the run — all angling had until 5 p.m. to return to Sara Bay Marina for the kingfish weigh-in — Native Premonitions stopped at just a mile offshore at Sarasota Beach.

Wilcox, who had been manning the boat the entire way, offered a recap on his team's strategy throughout the two-day tournament.

"It was tough to ride out with just two engines on the

□ Please see PRO TOUR on page 2C



Naji Tobias

Sponsored by the partnership of Seminole Tribe, Seminole Media Productions and Best Buy, Native Premonitions competed against a large field of angling teams in the first leg of the Yamaha Pro Tour from April 29-30 in Sarasota. From left, James Stecki, Hollywood Tribal citizen/native Premonitions captain Leon Wilcox, James 'Big Chief' Hammonds and Alan McPherson are out on the dock of Sara Bay Marina in Sarasota in the late afternoon hours of April 30 as the tournament draws to its conclusion.

N.A.Y.O Basketball Tournament Returns to South Florida

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD/DAVIE — After two years, the Native American Youth Organization (N.A.Y.O) basketball tournament returned to the Hollywood Reservation and surrounding areas with close to 40 teams and numerous states vying for championships and bragging rights in men's and women's action.

Known as the biggest basketball tournament east of the Mississippi, three locations hosted the event held April 22-23 in a double-elimination format with the winners taking home trophies and sweatshirts.

"It is always a great turnout for the kids and was once again a great tournament for everyone," said Tim Smith, N.A.Y.O president and North Carolina Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal citizen. "The kids love coming to Florida because there is so much to do and it is a great destination to come to."

"It was all smooth sailing once again, and we are continuing to get more and more Natives show their talents and had a few D-1 players out there also this year," Smith continued.

Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr. said the tournament brought back fond memories of past playing days.

"I used to play in it (NAYO tournament) when I was a kid, and I enjoy coming out and watching the kids play. It is an opportunity for these kids to get away from home and have a good time," Rep. Osceola said.

Second year tournament Head Coach Duck Lossiah of the girls Eastern Band Cherokee Indian (EBCI) Wolfpack team said the annual event brings out the best in players competitively.

"This is about domination; this is about bragging rights and good, old wholesome ball. In a function like this it is good for our youth. This is what it is all about," Lossiah said.

The women's and men's championship games were held at the Hollywood Seminole Recreation Gym to a standing room capacity and saw dominating performances from the undefeated Hollywood-dominated women of Unconquered All-Stars and the men of Native Flight.

Featuring several Tribal citizens, the ladies title game saw Unconquered All-Stars and co-head coaches Carlos Adamson and Tribal citizen Byron Billie control the tempo, winning in a 48-27 blowout over Peaches & Cream of Cherokee, N.C. Hollywood Christian ladies star Aariah Osceola led the All-Stars in scoring with 18 points.

□ Please see NAYO on page 2C



Chris C. Jenkins

N.A.Y.O. President Tim Smith stands center at the Hollywood's Seminole Recreation Gym and thanks the many supporters of N.A.Y.O.

PECS Lady Seminoles Conclude Awesome 9-1 Inaugural Season

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — The Pemayetv Emahakv Lady Seminoles softball team set the bar high when they closed with a 9-1 inaugural season for 2011. Playing their final game away from home against the Glades Day Gators on April 6, they stomped their opponents with a 28-4 win.

The Lady Seminoles played their season opener on February 22 on their home field against Glades Day Gators and came away with a 6-5 loss. Rising to the challenge during their seasonal finale in Gator territory, they turned the tables around.

"What a way to avenge a loss," said head coach Darryl Allen. "To go on the road and score 28 runs against Glades Day is not what I expected. I felt confident that we would win, but I figured on a tough seven inning game. That's what we prepared to do. In the first game we were very timid, but we developed aggression as the season progressed. We were definitely not the team they had played back in February."

"From the beginning of the game, we were extremely focused," continued Allen. "It seemed like we turned on our switch early and never turned it off. We've played well all season, but this was without a doubt the best game that we've played all year in all phases of the game. We hit the ball extremely well and defensively made plays."

Breanna Billie pitched a complete game, giving up three hits and no walks, while recording 11 strike outs in five innings of work. The final game brought her pitching record to 6-0 for the season.

In the final analysis of the game, each of the nine players on the field made decisive contributions to the final score as follows: No. 3 Lahna Sedatol 2-2, an inside park homerun, three walks, three stolen bases with five runs scored. No. 67 Shae Pierce 2-4, one double, one single, one walk, one stolen base and four runs scored. No. 4 Sydnee Cypress 1-2, 1 double, 2 walks, 1 stolen base and 3 runs scored. No. 2 Breanna Billie 1-2, an inside park homerun, three walks, two stolen bases and four runs scored. No. 5 Darlah Cypress 3-5, one single, one double, an inside park homerun, two stolen bases and four runs scored. No. 33 Calgary Johns 2-4, two singles, one walk, four stolen bases and two runs scored. No. 00

Justice Baker 1-3, one single, three stolen bases and one run scored. No. 13 Diamond Shore 2-2, two singles and two runs scored. Jennifer Tommie 1-3, one triple and two runs scored.

Head coach Darryl Allen and assistant coaches Harry Tewksberry and Wildcat Naha Jumper congratulated the Lady Seminoles on a successful first season and look forward to working with them in the future.

"We are very proud to have the Lady Seminoles softball team join our athletic program at the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School," said PECS Administrative Assistant Michele Thomas. "This is yet another first for our school and community support throughout the inaugural season has been overwhelming."



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

The Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Lady Seminoles and their coaches shared a 9-1 inaugural softball season for 2011.

□ See more photos on page 5C

NAYO
From page 1C

"The girls finally woke up (in the second game). We were trying to instill in them from the beginning that they were the team to look up to," Billie said. "I was proud of each one of them. This type of team and moment does not come along very often."

On the men's side, Native Flight were led by former Montverde Academy Tribal hoops star Deforest Carter. In their first year in N.A.Y.O competition, Native Flight led the entire game versus an undermanned and over-matched Choctaw Tropics squad winning 73-43 in a Mercy-Ruling. In the process the Tropics sent one of its players (Keith Riggins) to the hospital for a checkup due to severe dehydration. Carter led his team with 22 points.

"I knew we would win the game but I hoped they (Choctaw Tropics) would have stopped earlier based on them starting to cramp up (due to fatigue)," said Native Flight head coach Bronson Hill of the Tropics team. "As far as the tournament, I was surprised we dominated early on because there were so many good teams that played this year."

N.A.Y.O 2012 will be held in Poarch Creek, Ala.



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Marcellus W. Osceola Jr., near right, enjoys first round tournament action.

PRO TOUR
From page 1C

first day," Wilcox said. "We were down one engine, but we were still hoping we could get a big kingfish out there. It just didn't pan out for us."

Wilcox continued his analysis on the tournament, as he made it his point to place the experience in perspective.

"I have a bunch of great guys on my team," the longtime Tribal fisherman said of his teammates. "Some of them flew in from North and South Carolina. We all discussed our overall game plan together, and they're right behind me 100 percent. My crew is the best."

Native Premonitions and Best Buy's Partnership

Native Premonitions was not in the running to win the first leg of this year's Yamaha Pro Tour, as they were unable to catch the minimum 10 pounds of kingfish on both days.

Nevertheless, it's not always just about winning and losing. Competing in the Yamaha Pro Tour is also about forging and maintaining relationships with fellow anglers and sponsors.

And that's what Wilcox has forged with primary sponsor Best Buy and its marine division's business manager, Ben Wells.

"They have done a lot for me and I really appreciate it," Wilcox said. "In this business, you need somebody like Ben to help you out. We have something in common and I'm looking for a long-term relationship here."

Wells, a Best Buy-Marine Division businessman who represents about 250 stores nationwide, touched on how the Native Premonitions-Best Buy business relationship came about.

"From an advertising perspective, obviously you want visibility and awareness," Wells said of the partnership. "The SKA (Southern Kingfish Association) is a great organization that has multiple tournaments going on throughout the season. We knew it was a great opportunity to reach the community and our core customers. It's a perfect match for us."

Wilcox's strong cultural alignment



Photo courtesy of Angler Magazine

In the 14th Annual Key West Harbor's King Mackerel Tournament, held from Jan. 21-23 in Key West, Team Premonitions placed second overall in Division 10 of the Southern Kingfish Association, as they caught a kingfish that weighed in at 60.70 pounds. From left, Native Premonitions angling teammates Alan McPherson, James Stecki and Hollywood Tribal citizen Leon Wilcox.

with the Tribe played a significant role in how Best Buy saw Native Premonitions as a viable team to partner with.

"We wanted to sponsor a team that was high in energy and very well-respected," Wells said. "Obviously we want to win tournaments, but it's more important for us to have a team that has fun and can show how wonderful the angling hobby can be."

The partnership took off in February, with Stecki introducing Wilcox to Wells in a meeting last fall that ultimately paved the way for this union.

"We wanted to make sure Leon felt good about what we had to offer," Wells said. "After having a few meetings with him, it proved to be a magical fit. We have strong value systems that are in alignment with each other. We couldn't be more pleased with the team."

Moving Ahead

Wells described the Southern Kingfish Association's season as a marathon and not a sprint. So it's important, he said, to not get caught up in what transpired in the Sarasota leg of the Yamaha Pro Tour.

After all, Wilcox's Native Premonitions team came into this tournament ranked second in their SKA division, according to Wells. In a fishing tournament down in Key West this past February, Native Premonitions placed second overall as they caught a 60 pound kingfish.

"You can't look at one off weekend as defining one season or a career," Wells said. "I'm not worried at all. History will tell you that Leon and his team will perform well. He's had a record of strong performances year after year. Deep down, we'll have some wonderful weekends as the season goes on. Leon will be back on top in no time."

Native Premonitions finished fifth overall in the second leg of the Yamaha Pro Tour, held in Jensen Beach from May 12-14, as the team caught kingfish of 38 and 31 pounds, respectively.

The next two legs of the Yamaha Pro Tour consist of stops in Fourchon, La. (June 2-4) and Little River, S.C. (Oct. 6-8).

The season finale, also known as the Yamaha Pro Championships, is slated to occur from Nov. 7-9 in Biloxi, Miss.



Chris C. Jenkins

2011 N.A.Y.O. ladies' champion Unconquered All-Stars



Chris C. Jenkins

2011 N.A.Y.O. men's champion Native Flight



Naji Tobias

Hollywood Tribal citizen/Native Premonitions captain Leon Wilcox mans the Seminole Media Productions and Best Buy-sponsored boat out on Egmont Channel.



Naji Tobias

With a Sonatrach oil ship in the background, Native Premonitions teammates James 'Big Chief' Hammonds and Leon Wilcox relax for a moment together on Egmont Key in the late morning hours of April 30.



Rachel Buxton

Laverne Thomas crosses the finish line after her two-mile run.

TRIATHLON
From page 1C

pulled in front.

Coming down to Shore and Orozco in the two-mile run spectators made their predictions. Shore kept the lead with Orozco crossing the finish line right behind.

The women's competition was just as intense with Nancy Jimmie, Reina Micco and Carla Gopher competing against Michele Thomas, Andrea Holata and Laverne Thomas.

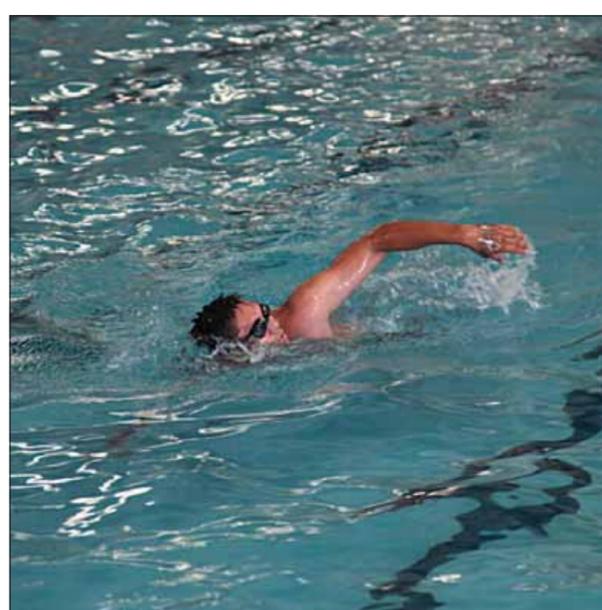
Nancy Jimmie and Michele Thomas went head-to-head in the pool followed by Micco and Holata on the bike. Micco and Holata finished their ride sending Gopher and Laverne Thomas on the final leg of the race. Gopher's team maintained the lead snagging the first place finish.

"We try to get events and games to increase their health awareness," Setty said. "Overall health and fitness is our goal."



Rachel Buxton

Erena Billie tags Kayla Nelson to begin the last leg of the race.



Rachel Buxton

Howard Jimmie swims his laps with great ease.

The fourth annual Brighton Spring Break Triathlon Results:

Youth
Boys 11-13
1. Layton Thomas, Dyami Nelson, Trever Thomas = 57:46

Girls 11-13
1. Lahna Sedatol-Baker, Kalgary Johns, Keyana Nelson = 59:46

Girls 16-17
1. Jaryaka Baker, Kayla Nelson, Erena Billie = 58:52

Seniors
Men
1. Willie Johns, Wonder Johns, Br. Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. = 47:36

Women
1. Connie Whidden, Patty Waldron, Martha Jones = 35:23
2. Onnie Osceola, Mable Tichenor = 51:46

Adults
Men
1. Norman Bowers, Richard Osceola, Elton Shore = 43:54
2. Howard Jimmie, Adrian Baker, Ignacio Orozco = 48:12

Women
1. Nancy Jimmie, Reina Micco, Carla Gopher = 51:00
2. Michele Thomas, Andrea Holata, Laverne Thomas = 1:02:36



Rachel Buxton

Lahna Sedatol-Baker kicks off the edge of the pool for her last lap.



Rachel Buxton

Mable Tichenor, left, tags Onnie Osceola to begin her one-mile walk.

Chaka's Stars Foundation Holds Third Annual Golf Tournament



Elrod Bowers



Elrod Bowers



Elrod Bowers

FSU running back Lonnie Pryor keeps his eyes on the ball at the 3rd Annual Chaka's Stars Foundation Golf Tournament.

FSU running back Lonnie Pryor, second from left, and Miami Dolphins linebacker Channing Crowder, center right, with the Seminole Tribe team. Crowder attended the University of Florida, which will host FSU this year on November 26.

Jacory Harris tries out a new sport at the Chaka Stars Golf Tournament. Harris is the frontrunner for the quarterback position at the University of Miami.



Elrod Bowers



Elrod Bowers

Channing Crowder of the Miami Dolphins on the tee box at the 3rd Annual Chaka's Stars Foundation Golf Tournament.

Chaka and special guests. From left, Channing Crowder, Miami Dolphins; Travis Benjamin, UM Hurricanes; Lonnie Pryor, FSU; Chaka Smith; Randy Philips, Detroit Lions; Jacory Harris, UM Hurricanes. Smith is the co-founder of the Chaka's Stars Foundation, which provides a variety of programs and services to Okeechobee area youth. "Many people have seen it to be effective and we've seen an increase in sponsorship, which increases the amount of kids it helps," Smith said.



Elrod Bowers

The Seminole Tribe team pose with FSU running back Lonnie Pryor, far left, and Miami Dolphins linebacker Channing Crowder, second from right.

Miss Florida Seminole Sponsors Local Little League

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

IMMOKALEE — Miss Florida Seminole Cassandra Jimmie knows first hand the benefits of youth participating in sports programs and is doing her part to encourage youth to make healthy lifestyle choices.

"My parents enrolled me in the Immokalee Little League as soon as I was old enough to join a team and I have been playing sports ever since," Jimmie said. "Interacting with friends, learning about teamwork, exercise, sportsmanship, development of work ethics and channeling your competitive drive are valuable lessons that children can begin to learn at an early age."

Relating to her own experiences, Cassandra recalled how she and her friends were too busy having fun in a healthy, productive atmosphere to get involved with the wrong element in the community and take to playing in the streets. Focusing on the positive, she enjoyed going to school and achieving small goals that she set for herself, which eventually helped her generate the courage to reach for bigger goals.

Participating in sports throughout her elementary, middle school and high school years opened doors for her to pursue higher education. Graduating from high school with above average grades, she is now attending college and mapping a road to a bright future.

As an Immokalee Little Leaguer, Jimmie noticed how difficult it was for some families to afford the necessary uniforms, equipment and transportation funds to participate in the program. Recognizing that no child should be left behind, she decided to do her part to make a difference.

"My first memories of playing ball are the Little League Field at the Tony Rosbaugh Park in Immokalee. It didn't take much effort for me to decide that I wanted to help the next group of children to reach for their dreams on my old playing field," Jimmie said. "By using a small portion of my dividend to sponsor two teams, I am hoping to support the next generation in the same way that others helped me."

Cassandra Jimmie has donated her full support to two teams of 10, 11 and 12 year olds for the current Little League Season. The girls' "Wolf Pack" and the boys' "Jimmie's Crew" have 11 players each, and she is hoping that helping them will encourage them to want to help someone else. Two of her siblings, Destinee and Jon Jimmie play on her teams along with another Tribal member Jillian Rodriguez.

"I am grateful to the Seminole Tribe of Florida for giving me the opportunity to represent them as Miss Florida Seminole. They have placed their faith in me, and I feel that part of my responsibilities as their ambassador is to encourage all youth to stay in school and strive for an education that will insure a future for themselves, their families and communities."



Judy Weeks

Miss Florida Seminole Cassandra Jimmie sponsors "Jimmie's Crew" for the current Immokalee Little League program.



Sponsoring Immokalee Little League's "Wolf Pack" is a project close to the heart of Miss Florida Seminole Cassandra Jimmie.

Judy Weeks

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PECS Takes on Lady Seminole Legends on Eighth Grade Parent Night

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Writer

BRIGHTON — Celebrating a triumphant 9-1 inaugural season, the Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School Lady Seminoles were challenged to an exhibition game by the Lady Seminole Legends on April 8 at the Ollie Jones Memorial Park for Eighth Grade Parent Night.

Gathering for a team photo, the Lady Seminole Legends gave a brief history of their team. They call themselves the Originals since their mothers made up the Lady Skins, which technically would be considered the Legends. Their team has been around for approximately 25 years with the majority of the teammates having played together since they were 8 or 9 years old. A close knit group, they still take to the field whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Members of the Brighton community filled the stands to lend their support to both teams and congratulate the PECS Lady Seminoles on their successful season. Brighton Board Rep. Johnny Jones Sr. was on hand to share in the celebration and reminisce about the days when he and his brother Parker were the original Lady Seminole coaches.

Head coach Darryl Allen and assistant coaches Harry Tewksberry and Wildcat Naha Jumper coordinated the opening ceremony in recognition of the eighth-grade players, who will be moving up to attend high school next year.

Breanna Billie, Darlah Cypress, Justice Baker, Jennifer Tommie and Titiana Herrera were given flowers and then escorted by their parents in a procession beneath the arch of bats formed by their teammates.

A 2011 Softball Program Yearbook highlighted the 16 PECS Lady Seminole team members and their coaches.

"We are very proud of our 2011 team, which has shown dedication and outstanding sportsmanship throughout the season," Allen said. "Believe in each other, believe in what you were taught and believe in yourself. You have triumphed over your peers and tonight you will meet the challenge of playing with an older, more experienced generation. The tradition continues."

Taking to the field, both teams proved to be formidable opponents with no runs being scored until the fourth inning. The PECS Lady Seminoles took the lead with two runs in the first half of the fourth and then the Legends scored one run in the second half.

It was the second half of the sixth inning before the Legends made two runs to take the lead, but not for long. With the bases loaded Kalgary Johns made it home to tie up the game at 3-3 during the first half of the seventh.

The tie continued until the Legends took the lead during the final four minutes of the game and held it for a 4-3 win over the PECS Lady Seminoles. The crowd applauded both teams, which represent their school and community with pride.



Photo courtesy of Michele Thomas

The Original Lady Seminole Legends join the PECS Lady Seminoles in representing the Brighton Community on the softball field on April 8.



Judy Weeks

PECS Lady Seminoles complete their inaugural season with a Ceremony of Recognition for their eighth grade teammates and parents.



Judy Weeks

Members of the original legendary Brighton Lady Seminoles convene to challenge the new generation of PECS Lady Seminoles.

More photos from PECS Lady Seminoles inaugural 9-1 season



Judy Weeks

PECS Lady Seminoles defeated the Glades Day Gators with a 28-4 season finale game on April 6.



Judy Weeks

Twelve-year-old Syndee Cypress protects home plate from her position as catcher.



Judy Weeks

Shae Pierce hits a bunt ball that places her on first base and brings in a runner from third while playing the Legends.



Judy Weeks

Pitcher Breanna Billie improved her record to 6-0 for the inaugural season.

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

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA)

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for approving the construction and lease of a home on trust property for Allen Mark Billie. The approximately 1.5 acre lot is located on Southwest Canal Street at the northwest corner of the L-28 Interceptor and the West Feeder Canal in Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation, Hendry County, (Township 48 South, Range 34 East, Section 19). The BIA has approved and adopted the Environmental Assessment (EA), dated January 2011, prepared by the Seminole Tribe of Florida Environmental Resource Management Department and entitled "Allen Mark Billie Home Site Lease, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Big Cypress Reservation, Hendry County, Florida". This EA has been adopted and FONSI issued for the approval of the home construction and lease of trust lands in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

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

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

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

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

Date: 1-20-11

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Youth Seminole Softball Team Qualifies for Championship



Chris C. Jenkins

The Hollywood Seminole girls' softball team and head coach Moses Jumper, far left, together before game time on the Hollywood Reservation softball fields for their spring softball league playoff game versus the Fletcher Park Blue Angels of West Hollywood on April 19. The two faced off for the fourth time during the season, this time in a single elimination game with the winner playing for the league championship. The Seminole came back from five runs down and won 7-6.



Chris C. Jenkins

Seminole player Annie Jumper rounds third base for home plate in first inning action.



Chris C. Jenkins

Kiauna Martin, of the Seminole, attempts a bunt to create some offense for her team.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal citizen and Fletcher Park pitcher Sarah Deesheene throws for a strike.

WoodsHaven Academy Hosts Second Annual Celebrity Golf Classic



Chris C. Jenkins

WoodsHaven Academy proprietor Danny Tommie, second from left, joins foursome members Ricky Doctor, Destiny Whitney and Allen Huff together on one of the greens of the second annual WoodsHaven Celebrity Golf Classic held at the Inverrary Country Club on May 7. The four-person scramble event featured local sports celebrities with proceeds benefitting the school academic scholarship program for deserving young applicants.



Chris C. Jenkins

Tribal senior Lawrence Osceola concentrates on his approach on hole one.



Chris C. Jenkins

Former Miami Dolphins star Lorenzo Hampton tees off from the sixth hole.

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Elrod Bowers



Elrod Bowers



Elrod Bowers

The teams after a hard fought tournament on April 30. Over 170 pounds of fish were caught at the 31st Annual Seminole Recreation Fishing Tournament.

Philmon Bowers methodically works the L-28 canal.

From left, tournament winners Mario Posada and Frank Marrero won the overall tournament, the gar and mudfish categories and the Josiah Johns Memorial Big Bass Award.

Team Marrero, Posada Dominate at Seminole Recreation Fishing Tournament in Big Cypress

BY ELROD BOWERS
Freelance Photographer

BIG CYPRESS — Anchored by a 9.44 pound bass, the team of Frank Marrero and Mario Posada swept most of the categories of the 31st annual Seminole Recreation Fishing Tournament, the second leg of the Seminole Bass Fishing Triple Crown Series.

It was clear at the weigh-in that the April 30 tournament was a standout performance by all of the competitors. “We had over 150 pounds of fish caught today,” said Seminole Recreation Director Moses “Big Shot” Jumper.

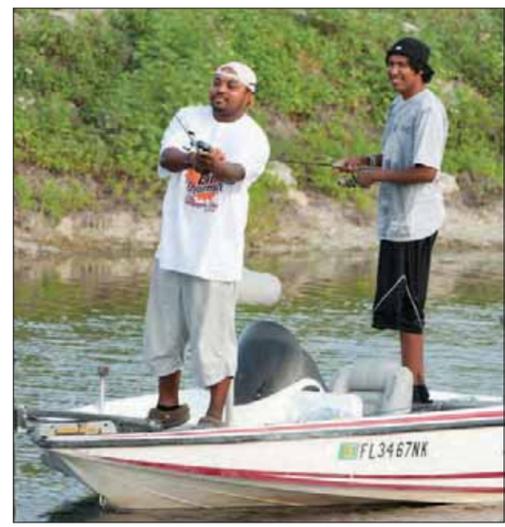
The fishing was so good that although the second place team of Kassim Stockton and Ryan Washington brought in over 22 pounds, equal to the winners of the Howard Tiger Fishing Tournament, they still finished 5.5 pounds behind Marrero and Posada.

According to Posada, the team used everything in the tackle box. “We threw a little bit of everything,” said Posada. “Topwaters, worms, crankbaits. We actually missed landing a 7-pounder when we were at four fish, but then we got the 9-pounder after that.”

Posada attributed the torrid bite to the weather, which was milder than at the Howard Tiger Memorial last month. “There was lots of coverage today. Last tournament, we caught most of the fish early in the morning,” said Posada. “This time we caught them throughout the day.”

In addition to their 9-pound bass, which brought them the Josiah Johns Memorial Big Bass Award, Marrero and Posada also won the Gar and Mudfish categories. However, it was not a complete shutout as the team of Mike and Ernie Tiger won the Crappie category.

The teams now will prepare for the final leg of the Triple Crown Series, the Bass Buster Fishing Tournament on May 28. Up for grabs are the Sonny DiCarlo Trophy and the Clyde Tiger Big Bass Award.



Elrod Bowers

Kassim Stockton and Ryan Washington troll the L-28 canal. Stockton and Washington placed second in the tournament.



Elrod Bowers

Fred and Marie Phillips prepare to begin their day on the L-28 canal, site of the 31st Annual Seminole Recreation fishing Tournament.



Elrod Bowers

Tony Tommie empties the livewell for the weigh-in. Tommie, with teammate Howard Tommie, brought in a total catch of 13.21 pounds.

31st Annual Seminole Recreation Fishing Tournament Tournament Results – Second Leg of Triple Crown Series

Bass

1. Frank Marrero/Mario Posada - 27.85 pounds
2. Kassim Stockton/Ryan Washington – 22.16 pounds
3. Mike Tiger/Ernie Tiger – 20.55 pounds
4. Josh Jumper/Blevyns Jumper – 19.21 pounds
5. Chuck Osceola/Fred Habermann – 16.07 pounds
6. Fred Phillips/Marie Phillips – 15.87 pounds
7. Sam Nelson/Jim Agnew – 14.97 pounds
8. Howard Tommie/Tony Tommie – 13.21 pounds
9. Naha Jumper/Justin Gopher – 10.91 pounds
10. Philmon Bowers/J.D. Bowers – 9.15 pounds
11. Amos Tiger/Marvin Hines – 7.23 pounds

Josiah Johns Memorial Big Bass Award- Frank Marrero/Mario Posada

- Biggest Gar- Frank Marrero/Mario Posada
- Biggest Mudfish – Frank Marrero/Mario Posada
- Biggest Crappie – Mike Tiger/Ernie Tiger

Note: Results from this Competition are counted toward team placement in the overall Seminole Bass Fishing Triple Crown Series.



Elrod Bowers

J.D. Bowers prepares for an early morning boat launch. J.D. and teammate Philmon Bowers brought in a total catch of 9.15 pounds.

Seminole T-Ball Team Faces Off Against Sunshine Family Medicine in Clewiston



Naji Tobias

Keithana Onco, 6, front, and Timmy Tigertail, 7, rear, are both running toward home plate.



Naji Tobias

Group shot of the Seminole T-Ball team after their April 21 T-Ball game against Sunshine Family Medicine in Clewiston.



Naji Tobias

Nashie Billie, 5, goes for a hit in his T-Ball at-bat.



Naji Tobias

Seminole T-Ball player Leighton Jim, 5, throws the ball in the infield.



Naji Tobias

Madasy Osceola runs from third base to home plate.

*NOTES: All T-Ball games are played for one hour, as no scores are posted due to the fact no team wins or loses in these contests, according to league rules.
All T-Ball participants bat in each inning within the designated one-hour time period.*

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Mother's Day

D

Brighton Celebrates Mother's Day with Mini Marathon

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The first annual Mother's Day Mini Marathon had an impressive turnout May 7 with more than 16 participants coming out to walk/run in the 7.7-mile race on the Brighton Reservation.

Organized and put on by the Brighton Recreation Department race organizer Kai Setty said the idea to have a mini marathon came out of a suggestion by a community member to have a half marathon equaling 13.1 miles.

"I shied away from the idea because I didn't think we were quite ready for that," Setty said. "I figured a mini marathon would be a great next step."

Setty admitted she was impressed with everyone's times and said they may be ready for that half marathon.

Participants began the race at the end of Harney Pond Road in the early morning and finished at the reservation's south entrance. Every participant finished in less than two hours. Some individuals who were not even qualified to participate, ran in the race just in support of the others competing.

"I didn't expect this kind of turnout," Setty said. "It is overwhelming. I hope this is the first of many."

See more photos on page 3D



Rachel Buxton

Runners and walkers take off for their 7.7-mile challenge during the May 7 Mother's Day Mini Marathon organized by the Brighton Recreation Department.



Rachel Buxton

Carla Gopher, left, is accompanied by her trainer Megan Nelson as she pushes herself to finish first in the female category.

Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library Hosts Poetry Workshop for Mother's Day



Photo courtesy of Cris Marrero

Elgin Jumper, right, helps sisters Jordan, center, and Randeana Osceola write poems for card presentation on Mother's Day.



Photo above, Karie Jo Osceola beams upon receiving a handmade Mother's Day card and flower from her son, Joseph Osceola-Lugo, on poetry reading night. Left photo, Immokalee/Naples Tribal Youth Council members from left Selena Perez, Alexis Aguilar, Marissa Sanchez and Marissa Osceola coordinated the dinner for the Mother's Day poetry reading at the Diane Yzaguirre Memorial Library in Immokalee on the evening of May 4.

Photos courtesy of Jessica Osceola



Judy Weeks

Immokalee families celebrated Mother's Day with a dinner, raffle and entertainment.

Mothers Honored at Immokalee Celebration



Judy Weeks

Grandma Cris Marrero holds up her grandson, Kaleb, for his great-aunt to tease him into a Mother's Day smile on May 5 as members of the Immokalee community gathered at the Gym to honor their mothers, grandmothers and aunts for their important role. Immokalee Council Liaison Elaine Aguilar recounted the importance of family relationships before everyone joined in prayer.



Judy Weeks

Denise Gonzales gives her mom, Susan Davis, a big Mother's Day kiss at the Immokalee celebration.



Hollywood Holds Game Day Celebration for Mother's Day



Chris C. Jenkins

From left, mothers Mary Osceola-Moore, Holly Tiger and Cornelia Osceola look for the winning hand in a game of blackjack during the Hollywood Reservation Mother's Day game day celebration held at the Seminole Recreation Gym May 7. The event featured blackjack and roulette games and included a live band, lunch, raffle drawings and Mother's Day checks and was sponsored by the Hollywood Tribal Council and Board offices.



Chris C. Jenkins

Sunshine Frank and son Phillip Sampson Frank enjoy a hand of blackjack.



Chris C. Jenkins

Mother and grandmother Sharon Osceola, center, and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr., left, talk strategy in a game of roulette.



Chris C. Jenkins

Mother Marge Osceola, center, with daughter Meaghan Osceola, left, and son Max Osceola III.

Big Cypress Community Celebrate Mother's Day with Special Luncheon



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal seniors Mable Jim, left, and Violet Jim — both loving sisters — take time to celebrate each other at the special Mother's Day Luncheon Celebration on May 5, courtesy of the Big Cypress Councilman's Office.



Naji Tobias

Tribal mother Sheila Aguilar, left, receives a Tigerpaw trinket charm with the Tribal colors for Mother's Day, courtesy of Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, right. All of the Big Cypress Tribal mothers received this special gift.

See more photos on page 3D

Tampa Community Dines Out for Mother's Day



Ryan Watson

Tampa community mothers celebrate Mother's Day with a dinner at the Boizao Steakhouse in Tampa on May 8th.

Big Cypress Preschoolers Shower Their Mothers with Gifts at Luncheon



Left photo, Big Cypress Preschool students Darwin Brooks, left, Rylin Osceola, second from right, and Zechariah Stockton, right, gather around Ryllin's mother, Mariann Billie, as they celebrate the special Mother's Day Luncheon on May 6.

Naji Tobias



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal father Steve Hannahs, left, gives his daughter, Kalaney Hannahs, center, a kiss on the cheek as they celebrate Mother's Day at the Preschool with Tribal mother Tiffany Billie.



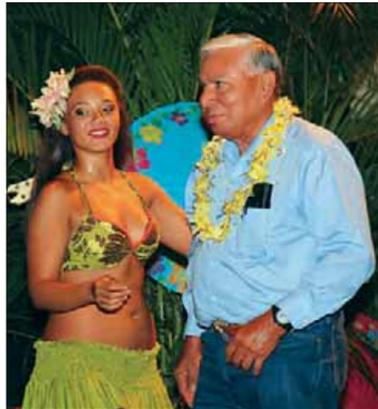
Naji Tobias

Photo above, Big Cypress Preschool sisters Tahnia Billie, 3, left, and Mohayla Billie, 1, right, shower their mother, Alice M. Billie, with a specially made Mother's Day collage. Right photo, Big Cypress preschooler Teena Maree Covarrubias, 3, left, presents her Tribal mother, Marlin Miller, with a hand-made tissue paper flower as a special gift at the Preschool's Mother's Day Luncheon.



Rachel Buxton

Agnes Bert gets decorated with a colorful lei as she enters the Polynesian-themed Mother's Day brunch held in Brighton May 6 at the Veterans' Building. The brunch included a tropical buffet and topped off with the traditional Mai-Kai dance performances.



Rachel Buxton

Brighton Council Rep. Andrew J. Bowers Jr. was one of the lucky men selected to dance with the Polynesian dancers from the Mai-Kai restaurant, which catered the Brighton Mother's Day Brunch.

Brighton Gets Tropical for Mother's Day



Left photo, the Brighton community enjoyed one of Mai-Kai restaurant's signature Polynesian dance performances at their Mother's Day brunch. The brunch included a buffet, a Polynesian-themed set for photo opportunities and two separate dance performances.

Rachel Buxton



Rachel Buxton

Addie Osceola enjoys a tropical pineapple drink at the Polynesian-themed brunch.



Rachel Buxton

From left, Jaryaca, Preslynn and Kiylier Baker give their mom, Mona, a big hug at the Brighton Mother's Day celebration.



Rachel Buxton

Chastity Harmon, left, enjoys mother-daughter time with mother Edna, at the brunch.



Rachel Buxton

Danielle Howard, center, is surrounded by her children as they wait in line for a pineapple drink.

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Mother's Day Walk/Run Brings Big Cypress Tribal Families Together in Healthy Style

Right photo, Tara Robbins pushes her stroller with her 8-month-old son, Terrance Robbins, in the device, as her daughter, 5-year-old Sarah Robbins, walks alongside them in the May 7 Mother's Day Walk/Run. Far right photo, Big Cypress Tribal citizen Virginia Garcia-Sanders signs up for the Mother's Day Walk/Run event.



Naji Tobias



The Mother's Day Walk/Run participants share a group moment just before they work out for the 2.5 mile trek.

Naji Tobias



Naji Tobias

Louise Billie represents the Big Cypress seniors and her family as she takes a walk on Canal Bank Road.



Naji Tobias

Candy Cypress, in front, leads Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, in back, as they hit the stretch run of the 2.5 mile-long Mother's Day Walk/Run down Canal Bank Road in Big Cypress.

The Big Cypress Reservation's Tribal mothers celebrate a special moment with President Richard Bowers Jr., Big Cypress Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. and Chairman Mitchell Cypress on Mother's Day morning (May 8) to conclude breakfast at the Big Cypress Cattle and Range Building. The special Mother's Day Breakfast was sponsored by Chairman Cypress, President Richard Bowers Jr., Big Cypress Tribal Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr., their respective Tribal offices and the Big Cypress Cattle and Range Tribal Department.

Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Enjoys Special Mother's Day Breakfast



Naji Tobias

Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Amy Adame share a poignant moment with their 6-month-old daughter, Nichele Brandy Cypress, at the May 8 special function.



Naji Tobias

A grandmother-to-grandson embrace takes place between Big Cypress Tribal senior Claudia Doctor and Sontino Billie at the Mother's Day breakfast.



Naji Tobias

Performing love and gospel songs for all of the Big Cypress mothers in attendance are mother-and-son tandem Daisy Buster and Paul "Chunky" Buster Jr.



Naji Tobias

During the Mother's Day Breakfast, held at the Big Cypress Cattle and Range Building, Big Cypress Tribal citizens Janice Osceola, left, and Beverly Alumbaugh, right, give out a harmonious kiss to their father, Big Cypress Tribal senior Joe Osceola Sr.

More photos from Mother's Day in Naples



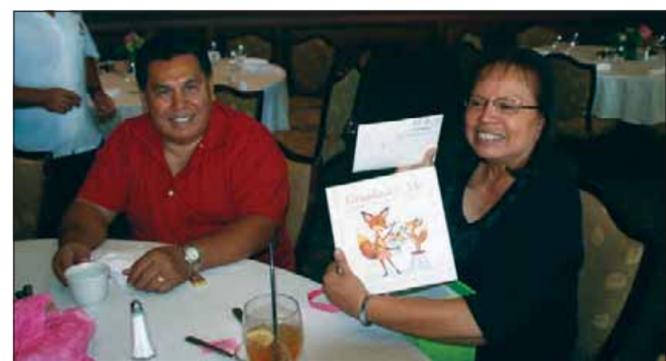
Judy Weeks

Naomi Walden, center, rubs cheeks with her children, Logan and Alexus, following a Mother's Day facial at the Marco Beach Ocean Resort.



Judy Weeks

From left, the Zepeda family, Wanda, Doug, Coleena, Lee, Amelia and Pedro, gather around their newest edition, 1-month-old Kyle, as they celebrate Mother's Day.



Judy Weeks

Wanda Osceola Zepeda, right, shows her husband, Lee, her Mother's Day gift at the Naples Community celebration.

More photos from Brighton's Mother's Day Mini Marathon



Rachel Buxton

Norman Bowers kept the lead throughout the entire race finishing in 59:00.



Rachel Buxton

Loretta Peterson paces herself to make an impressive finish as the third female to cross the finish line.



Rachel Buxton

Michele Thomas rounds the corner of Harney Pond Road for the home stretch.



Rachel Buxton

Linda Tommie power walked her way to the finish line during the May 7 Mother's Day Mini Marathon.

More photos from the Mother's Day Luncheon in Big Cypress



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal senior Claudia Doctor is enjoying her time at the May 5 Mother's Day Luncheon Celebration.



Naji Tobias

Chairman Mitchell Cypress speaks to the Big Cypress Community at the special celebration as he encourages all to cherish their mothers as often as they possibly can and to spend the Mother's Day holiday with family. Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. Mondo Tiger, Big Cypress Tribal Board Rep. Paul Bowers Sr. and Tribal Board President Richard Bowers Jr. were among the other speakers at the special luncheon.



Naji Tobias

Big Cypress Tribal seniors Ellen Tecumseh, left, and President Richard Bowers Jr. share a bonding moment at the Mother's Day Luncheon Celebration in Big Cypress.



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