

The Seminole Tribune

Voice of the Unconquered

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Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Becomes First Tribally-Owned, Accredited Museum

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal citizens, employees and special guests celebrated one of the Tribe's latest trailblazing moves on April 1 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki became the first Tribally-owned, Native American museum in the U.S. to be officially accredited by the American Association of Museums.

"This is a complete Seminole Tribe of Florida win," Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Chief Historic Resources Officer Tina Osceola said to all on hand for the gathering. "Accreditation is about the big picture and affects every one of us. This process has been about defining ourselves on our own terms."

The day came as part of two planned activities, one involving the museum and a more formal announcement which took place on April 21 with Tribal Council.

The official announcement came from Osceola in a Tribal-wide email on March 20 in which Osceola wrote: "Accreditation allows the Tribe to have standards that follow the industry's best practices for a sustainable program."

She also gave heavy praise to the early groundwork and accomplishments of the late Billy L. Cypress and former Museum Director David Blackard.

The tedious five-plus year process gained momentum in December 2007 when the museum earned interim status accreditation, joining a small and elite group of nationwide museums to achieve the same honor.

"This whole undertaking has been a huge, holistic process," Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Anne McCudden said.

A Museum Assessment Program Grant application was then submitted to the American Association of Museum's Accreditation

Commission. The form is designed to help museums assess their strengths and weaknesses, and plan for the future.

McCudden explained that in order to gain accreditation, institutions must meet certain criteria: the ownership of a physical collection, being educationally and interpretively trained, maintaining a professionally trained staff in place, having certain hours of operation, and remaining open to the public for at least a two year period.

Located 17 miles north of Alligator

▢ Please see MUSEUM on page 2A

Chris C. Jenkins
(L-R) Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Chief Historic Resources Officer Tina Osceola with Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Anne McCudden as she reads from the official letter signifying the accrediting of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum by the American Association of Museums.



(Center, L-R) President Richard Bowers Jr. and Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith head up the 13th annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive.

Cattle Drive Commemorates 13th Year Jacob Osceola Sr. Named Honorary Trail Boss

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — More than 400 people turned out with their horses, mules, buggies and wagons to participate in the 13th annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive on March 28. The event is sponsored annually by the Big Cypress Cattlemen's Association.

As in previous years, President Richard Bowers Jr., Moses "Big" Jumper Jr. and Paul Bowers Sr. organized and coordinated the activity. Jacob Osceola Sr. was designated Honorary Trail Boss for 2009.

Following registration and a hearty breakfast at the Billie Swamp Safari, the riders congregated at the end of the West Boundary Road at 10 a.m. in

anticipation of driving a herd of Long Horn cattle down the 10 mile stretch to the Junior Cypress Entertainment Center and Rodeo Grounds.

Standing on top of his swamp buggy, Moses "Big" Jumper Jr. offered opening remarks.

"This trail follows closely the route taken by many of the original Big Cypress cattle men during their semi-annual round up of the herds that 'free-ranged' the reservation," he said. "They spent weeks working their way through thick woods, swamps and cypress heads gathering up the cattle on their cracker horses. Driving the animals into the stock pens, long hours went into sorting, doctoring, branding and separating the ones to be sent to market."

Jumper added: "Fences and many improvements have made a difference during the years,

but the basic principles of raising cattle remain the same. A lot of hard work goes into the round-ups and like they say, 'A cowboy's day is never done.'"

Following the invocation by Rev. Bruce Pratt, Paul Bowers Sr. and President Richard Bowers Jr. provided a brief history of the cattle drive before discussing the safety precautions and ground rules for the day's activities.

"Agriculture and a clean water supply are the two basic ingredients in the survival of mankind," said President Bowers. "It is important that we protect and preserve the farmlands, ranches and waterways of our nation to insure a bright future for the next generations. Today we like to memorialize those first Seminole cowboys, who worked so hard to establish our cattle industry."

▢ Please see CATTLE on page 10A

Charter School Students Visit Billy Bowlegs' Camp

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Students at Pemayetv Emahakv Charter School experienced a piece of Seminole history March 31 when they visited the campsite of the late Billy Bowlegs on a field trip organized by the Culture Dept.

"We are visiting this site because we want to pass on information to our students regarding the places that their elders lived," said Shelly Walker, assistant director of Cultural Education.

The historical name Billy Bowlegs has become synonymous with Seminole culture. What most people don't know, however, is that there was more than one individual who went by the infamous name of Billy Bowlegs.

The third, fourth and fifth grade students learned the history and legend of Brighton's own historical figure known as the late Billy Bowlegs III.

Martha Jones, Bowlegs' granddaughter, spoke at the campsite and helped the children envision what the original campsite looked like.

Jones moved to the campsite when she was about 7-years-old, right after her mother passed away. Jones and her siblings were taken in by their grandmother and aunt on the camp.

Bowlegs had a large garden where he grew corn,

▢ Please see BOWLEGS on page 2A

Seminole Tribe Takes a Bite Out of the Big Apple

BY BRIANA ABITTAN
Seminole Broadcasting Reporter

NEW YORK CITY — The Seminole Tribe made a new mark in the Big Apple with the grand opening of the Hard Rock Café and NY Steak in the brand new, \$1.5 billion Yankee Stadium on April 2.

The two restaurants will be located in the 37,000 square foot Great Hall at the stadium.

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola said this is just one of many high profile ventures to come for the Tribe.

"When we acquired the company two years ago, I said 'Our ancestors sold Manhattan for trinkets and we were going to buy it back one hamburger at a time,'" Rep. Osceola said.

At the grand opening celebration, event organizers rolled out the blue carpet and Yankee great Bernie Williams sang his rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," before 27 guitars were smashed — a tradition at the opening of any Hard Rock.

With a design mirroring the original 1923 stadium and located directly across the street in the Bronx, the new stadium is designed for the next generation of Yankee fans, while managing to keep the team's legacy at the forefront.

New York Yankees

▢ Please see YANKEES on page 2A

Council Convenes in Immokalee for Regular Session

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Tribal Council convened for a regular meeting on the Immokalee Reservation on March 24. They passed 36 items on the agenda including:

Resolution 16: Third Amendment to annual Work Plan Twenty-one submitted to the South Florida Water Management District by the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 17: Contact application to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs for A.P.L. 93-638 contract to redesign and construct the Snake Road (Josie Billie Highway) and Bridge Project on the Big Cypress Reservation;

Resolution 18: Application under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funding to

redesign and construct the Snake Road (Josie Billie Highway) and Bridge Project on the Big Cypress Reservation;

Resolution 19: Florida Department of Transportation joint participation agreement for design of Snake Road on the Big Cypress Reservation;

Resolution 20: Florida Department of Transportation memorandum of agreement for design of Snake Road on the Big Cypress Reservation;

Resolution 21: Lawn Boyz, LLC service agreement for invasive exotic plant removal program work on water enhancement to Area 4 on the Big Cypress Reservation;

Resolution 22: Triennial review of water quality standards of the Seminole Tribe of Florida;

Resolution 23: Seminole Tribe of Florida Indian reservation roads inventory update of the Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton, Tampa and Immokalee Res-

ervations and the St. Lucie County trust land and update, amend and adopt the long-range transportation plan;

Resolution 31: Approval of agreement with Brad H. Friedmutter-FL, LLC for improvements and additions to Seminole Casino - Coconut Creek;

Resolution 32: Approval of agreement with Brad H. Friedmutter-FL, LLC for improvements and additions to Seminole Casino - Immokalee;

Resolution 36: Authorization of Tribal Council to open a new checking account for Native American Travel, LLC at Wachovia Bank;

Resolution 41: Approval of lease modification and option exercise agreement with Sunglass Hut Trading, LLC, on the Hollywood Reservation; and,

Resolution 42: Approval of settlement agreement with Perfume Center, Inc., on the Hollywood Reservation.



Tribal citizen and Seminole Heritage Events & Promotions Field Supervisor David Billy has fun on stage singing karaoke.

MUSEUM

From page 1A

Alley off of Interstate 75 between Ft. Lauderdale and Naples on the Big Cypress Reservation, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has been established as an educational tool for both Tribal citizens and the non-Seminole community.

Established in January 1993, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki translates to "a place to learn" in the Seminole language. The primary purpose of the institution remains to preserve and interpret the culture, language and customs of the Florida Seminoles. It features rare Seminole artifacts, including items on loan from the Smithsonian Institute.

The museum also features one of the world's best collections of southeastern beaded shoulder bags. Also on the site are two miles of nature trails with more than 60 different species of plants, ceremonial grounds, a Seminole "living village," where elders create traditional crafts, and an outdoor amphitheater for shows and storytelling.

The hours of operation are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Sunday. For more information please log on to seminoletribe.com/museum or call (863) 902-1113.



Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith speaks about the museum's accomplishments.



Martha Jones shows Jaden Puentre where the cane juicer used to be.

BOWLEGS

From page 1A

pumpkins, sweet potatoes and beans.

"I guess that's why we moved over there, so we could help him grow the big garden to eat on," said Jones.

Jones has many memories of being put to work on the farm.

"Most of the time we had to work," remembers Jones. "We had to chop the corn."

Prior to the field trip students were taught the history of the campsite as well as Bowlegs himself. They were given maps of the campsite showing how it looked years ago.

At the site, Jones referenced the map and pointed out where the different chieftains were located, where the pippen used to be and where the sugarcane field was. She also referenced many other places including the big old oak tree that her grandfather used to take a nap under every day.

The only remnants from the original campsite are a few orange trees and the water pump that was installed in 1955.

Jones talked about how she and her brothers and sisters used to swim in the canal and flooded areas.

"Swimming and having fun was my favorite pastime," reminisced Jones. "It was fun growing up out here although I know you don't think it would be."

Today the campsite has become overgrown with weeds. The home site was given to individuals to establish residency but no one has yet to build on the land. Jones said

she hopes one day the campsite will be preserved and restored to its original luster. "We didn't think about saving things back then, but now I wish we had," said Jones. "This is our identity; we like to keep our traditions so we will still be Seminoles 100 years from now."



Rumor Juarez looks at her map prepared by history teachers Jade Braswell and Amber Buck.



(L-R) Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith, New York Yankees Owner George Steinbrenner's daughter, Jennifer Steinbrenner-Swindal, Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. and President Richard Bowers Jr. get ready to smash 5 of 27 guitars representative of the Yankees' 26 career championships, plus one they hope to get this year.

YANKEES

From page 1A

Owner George Steinbrenner's daughter, Jennifer Steinbrenner-Swindal, said combining the two names makes for a home run.

"It's the two brands, you see the Hard Rock whenever you travel the whole world and you see Yankee hats whenever you travel the world, and it's so special to have them together," she said.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress echoed Steinbrenner-Swindal's sentiment, saying these two brands joining forces is sure to be a winning combination.

"You look at The Seminole Tribe and it has a culture history and the music as well, so the combination is going to do well," he said.

The Hard Rock Café in Yankee Stadium will boast an array of music memorabilia typical of any Hard Rock, but with a baseball flair. It can seat 210 patrons and will be a representation of music, sports and culture all under one roof.

"It brings something to the Bronx and the neighborhood that's been missing for many years and it's world renowned, as the Yankees are," said Lon Trost, chief operations officer of

the New York Yankees. "What better marriage than the Hard Rock and Yankees; music and sports."

NY Steak, located just one floor above the café, closely resembles the Council Oak Steakhouses in both Hollywood and Tampa Hard Rock Hotels. However, the walls of NY Steak also feature signatures from many Yankee legends.

The Hard Rock teamed with Yankee Global Enterprise Steakhouses to create this intimate 128-seat restaurant. They interviewed more than 50 chefs, but it was no competition for the Seminole Tribe.

The agreement permits both parties to venture into other locations in conjunction with Hard Rock Hotels.

Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie said a team effort made this business enterprise so successful.

"It just brings new meaning to teamwork and working together works, so we're happy to be able to do it for our Tribal members."

President Richard Bowers Jr. said the members of the Tribe should be pleased.

"I think it would give more exposure, something they can be proud of, to be aligning themselves with the New York Yankees."



Two of the nation's best known brands, the New York Yankees and the Hard Rock Café, join forces.



Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. holds a smashed guitar from the Hard Rock Café grand opening.



The Hard Rock Café, located just below NY Steak in the new Yankee Stadium, will cater to those who want to enjoy a game of baseball and a good old-fashioned burger.



Tribal citizens sample the cuisine at the 7,000 square foot restaurant located in the heart of the Bronx.

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Community

Big Cypress 4A
Brighton 6A
Immokalee 8A

A



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. (C) along with sister, Sharon (Second from Left), and brother, Lawrence (R), accept a plaque from Broward County Women's History Coalition President Patti Lynn (Second from Right) inducting their mother, Laura Mae Jumper-Osceola, into its Hall of Fame. Also pictured is Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Gloria Wilson (L), a past inductee.

Laura Mae Jumper-Osceola Inducted into Hall of Fame Broward County Women's Coalition Honors Tribal Pioneer

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The Broward County Women's History Coalition honored one of the Tribe's most spirited and dedicated citizens and advocates March 22 at the Seminole Okalee Indian Village.

Among seven other influential female figures, Tribal pioneer, mediator and activist Laura Mae Jumper-Osceola was honored posthumously in a ceremony among family and close friends.

The recognition ceremony took place in conjunction with National Women's History Month in March.

The late leader passed away several years ago and her son and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. accepted the nomination on her behalf. He also spoke highly of her legacy and the lessons he learned through her.

"My mother loved people," Rep. Osceola said. "She not only talked the talk, but she walked the walk. She came through a time where she was not only discriminated against because she was a woman but also because she was a Seminole."

Many consider Jumper-Osceola as one of the few major figures in the fight to preserve the Seminoles' existence. Upon completing her education under difficult circumstances in Cherokee, N.C. she took that knowledge back to her people.

Her contributions also cannot be understated in helping form the Tribe's current governmental system. Her knowledge of two Seminole languages as well as her command of English made her a formidable force. Her mediating, assisting and interpreting along communication lines within the Tribe and between the U.S. government and the Tribe proved vital. She also served as the Tribal secretary/treasurer from 1958-67.

Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Gloria Wilson, a 2008 Broward County Women's History Coalition Hall of Fame inductee, spoke about Osceola-Jumper's strength and character.

"She was one of the strongest women that you could look to," Rep. Wilson said. "She was always consulted for her opinions and that is one of the things I will remember the most."

"All she wanted was a better future



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. speaks to guests and audience members about his late mother, Laura Mae Jumper-Osceola, during the Hall of Fame ceremony.

for our people," she added.

Among her many other accomplishments, she can also be credited with helping to establish the savvy and well known business relationships the Tribe has developed throughout the years. She has also been credited with creating the Seminole Princess Pageant.

She joins a short list of other prominent Seminole women in the hall including Wilson and Betty Mae Tiger-Jumper inducted in 1995. The Broward County Women's History Coalition began inducting women into its group in 1992.

"Many women have achieved 'firsts' in Broward County," said Coalition President Patti Lynn in a written statement. "Many women in their paid professional careers, assist, promote and put women first. The Broward County Women's History Coalition seeks those women who do those things. We honor those women who

do more, those women who meet their employment obligations, yet still find the time to do more for Broward's women."

Other 2009 inductees included Dr. Celia Earle, president of the Lauderdale Lakes/West Sunrise Kiwanis Club, Barbara Effman, executive director of Planned Parenthood, Reverend Dr. Rosalind V. Osgood, minister and community activist, Judge Gisele Pollack of the Broward County Court, Rep. Elaine J. Schwartz, Florida House member, Barbara Bernard Shaw, director of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and Barbara Stuart, president of Stepping Stones, a mental health and substance abuse recovery organization.

For more information, please contact Broward County Women's History Coalition President Patti Lynn at (954) 532-0931 or (954) 722-8805.

Hard Rock Features Largest-Ever Cash Display

\$5 Million Display Set Up for Public Viewing



Chris C. Jenkins

Display models help to kick off the unveiling of the largest cash display ever publicly showcased in a casino with \$5 million on display at the Hollywood Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on March 18. This first-of-its-kind traveling display exhibit was created to stimulate the economy and the public's interest in gaming.

The display holds \$100 bills encased in a 1,300 pound, custom-designed \$90,000 bullet resistant Lexan™ showcase. It will be a part of a traveling road display of nearly 1,000 miles and run for 40 days through May 25, making stops at all Seminole gaming facilities.

Board of Directors Meet in Hollywood

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Assistant Editor

HOLLYWOOD — The Board of Directors held their regular session meeting in the Hollywood Headquarters Tribal Auditorium on April 7. They unanimously passed four items on the agenda:

Resolution 5: Adoption of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., Premium Only Plan (Plan No. 501);

Resolution 6: Approval of permit for Exquisite Touch Car Wash;

Resolution 7: Approval of revised lease

with Sempar, a Seminole company, LLC; and,

Resolution 8: Increase of maximum loan amount for the South Term Loan Program.

According to Robert Maza, credit and finance director for the Board, the amount will increase from \$5,000 to \$7,500. He said a lot of Tribal citizens have asked for the increase and advised the Board that "it is long overdue."

Maza said the last increase occurred in 2003, when the maximum short term loan amount increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000, where it has remained for the last six years.

Council, Board Convene for Joint Session

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal Council and the Board of Directors convened for a

special joint session March 18 on the Hollywood Reservation. They passed one item on the agenda; Resolution 5: Approval of election board for regular election — May 11, 2009.

HONORARY VISITORS



Stephen Gulla

Councilman Bruce Sunchild, Tribal citizen Donovan Stump, and Tribal elder and Cultural Advisor Vidal Stump of the Chippewa Cree Tribe of Montana visit Chariman Mitchell Cypress (Second from Right) in his Hollywood offices on April 8.



Elizabeth Leiba

(L-R) Robert B. Washington, chairman and CEO of Caribbean CAGE LLC, Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Bob Johnson, entrepreneur and former owner of Black Entertainment Television in the Chairman's Hollywood offices on April 13.



Chris C. Jenkins

Hollywood Tribal Board Rep. Gloria Wilson (Third from Left) is acknowledged along with other past Hall of Fame members present at the event.

BIG CYPRESS

Seniors Enjoy Day of Fishing at Bingo Lake

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The rain-soaked March 19 morning didn't dampen the spirits of the BC Tribal seniors who enjoyed a day of fishing and relaxation at Bingo Lake.

Seminole Police Department (SPD), along with the Big Cypress Recreation and Elder Affairs Departments, coordinated the day for the seniors.

Stockpiled with shell crackers, sand brim, bass and catfish, Elder Affairs Dept. Site Manager Cecilia Guzman said the event was almost cancelled because of the rainy conditions, but became a hit in the end.

"They wanted to come, rain or shine," Guzman said of the determined Tribal seniors. "This is the kind of thing they have missed."

More than 10 seniors joined in on the fun. BC Board Rep. Cicero Osceola, also participated in the day's events along with his mother, Louise.



Ruby Osceola brings in a fresh catch from the lake.

Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

(L-R) Violet Jim, with SPD Officer Jeffery Akin, shows off her catch.

It was a break out day for her. As a first time fisher, she snagged close to double digits in the amount of fish caught.

She said she originally planned to enjoy a book and watch the others fish, but eventually decided to give it a try. As the mother of Rep. Osceola, she said she often enjoyed watching him and others throughout the years but never tried her hand at it.

"I just said to myself, 'I may as well try it,'" Osceola said. "I never knew it could be fun."

BC Youth and Elder Unit Jeffery "Scott" Akin, eight-year veteran officer, said continuing to bridge the gap between Tribal citizens and the police department is one of SPD's goals.

"It was another activity we put together to help continue to build trust and relationships in the community," Akin said. "We try to keep their activities fun based on what they used to do as kids growing up."

"This is all a good time and it gives the elders someone they know that they can come to if they need us," he added.

Akin also said he has a personal connection with several of the seniors who attended high school at Clewiston High with his father, Tommy, in their youth.

"I really enjoy it all because they do it," he said of attending events with the Tribal seniors.



Chris C. Jenkins

Joe Benjamin Osceola at the Big Cypress Bingo Lake.

Elder Joe Benjamin Osceola Retires

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Big Cypress Reservation native Joe Benjamin Osceola is a Tribal senior to know and appreciate. He is a part of the living tradition and history of the Tribe.

In a time of continued prosperity he is a part of the Tribal legacy that remains from the past.

Born in 1949, the 60-year-old has seen a lot over the years, with some interesting things happening in that time as well. The first recorded case of snowfall took place in Los Angeles and the first sitcom, "The Goldbergs," aired on American television in his birth year.

He explained how he remembers a simple tale, being born in a camp in the area behind what is now the Big Cypress Senior Center.

"It is kind of weird sometimes now, it used to be a lot different then," Osceola said.

In a time of turmoil and survival for the Tribe, he was 8 years old before an established Tribal Constitution was put into place. In 1957 it was ratified by a 241-5 vote and allowed the Tribe to have federal recognition as the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The first Tribal Council was also elected that year.

"The old fashioned times are gone now and all kinds of new stuff has come in,"

Osceola said. "It is kind of funny to me."

He recalls learning one of his most enjoyable pastimes of car motor work and welding through his late Uncle Jesse Osceola beginning in his mid to late teens. Fixing and repairing Ford 289, 350 and 351 Mustang engines, has always remained a passion, he said.

As the son of Ida and Charlie Osceola, he had two brothers, one now deceased, and one sister. He has spent the last 35 years working for the Tribe.

In February, the former Tribal employee decided to call it quits. Prior to his retirement, he worked at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena, doing work as a mechanic assistant, land developer and foreman.

Tribal Council members, as well as friends, family and former co-workers, honored him at a special retirement luncheon at the Herman L. Osceola Gym in BC. He said he appreciated all the kind words they had to say about him.

"Everything they said brought back a lot of memories," he said. "There were some really good guys there. They also remembered a lot of things about me."

"I just want to take it easy now and do my own stuff though," Osceola added.

He said relaxing among longtime close friends such as Ruby Osceola, Violet Jim and others and continuing his work with motors, fishing and cattle upkeep are also a part of his plans.

Third Annual Aviation Day Takes Flight

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Students from Tribal schools, as well as community members and guests gathered at the Big Cypress Airfield to see some of the aviation industry's equipment during the 3rd annual Aviation Day on April 3.

Some of the items on display included two helicopters, a turbo prop-airplane, a Diamond 40 aircraft and Extra 300 props. In addition, members of the Tribal Aviation Dept. hosted an air show where they performed spot maneuvering, line drops and other air tricks.

Tribal Aviation Director Clint El-Ramey said establishing a new tradition and partnership with the Tribe's Education Dept., including a scholarship program, will hopefully continue to develop more of an interest in aviation among Tribal youth.

"We want the kids to get up close and allow them to know that getting into this industry is an attainable goal for them,"

El-Ramey said. "Each year the students get more involved. The Education Dept. has also continued to help create a healthy relationship."

Beginning this summer, the first-year scholarship program will offer two scholarships to students interested in aviation. Requirements include being a Seminole Tribal citizen, a junior in high school, at least 16 years of age and maintaining at least a 3.0 grade point average with good attendance.

"Clint [El-Ramey] wanted to let the students know what resources are available to them," Tribal Higher Education Advisor Linda Iley said.

"This also helps to open the students up to the idea of conquering their fears," she added.

Iley explained that such an opportunity will also instill confidence, and open minds and career doors. Ahfackee School Principal Walt Swan said he hopes Aviation Day piqued some of the students' interest in aviation.

"I think it all shows another industry our kids can do and another industry our kids can consider," Swan said. "This is

one more avenue to help prepare them after they finish up with school."

North Broward High School applicants Ari and Zachary Perlmutter have taken advantage of the opportunity. The 16-year-old brothers from Weston, Fla. said a visit from Hollywood Education Advisor Will Bacon to their school got their attention.

"I wanted to do it to enjoy the thrill of flying and to open up a new career for me because I love to travel," Zachary said.

His brother, Ari, said he attended the event because he might get his pilot's license one day, and also "because of the fun of it and pleasure as well."

El-Ramey said next year the Aviation Dept. hopes to continue to expand on the event by having military air craft such as an Apache or Blackhawk aircraft at the event. He added that overall interest in aviation has been beneficial to the department.

"In the community there is a lot of positive feedback, even outside in other areas," he said. "It has all allowed a better understanding of how our department really works."

For more information on the Aviation Dept. please call (863) 983-7677 or (954) 989-6840, Ext. 10540.



Chris C. Jenkins



Chris C. Jenkins

Janessa Jones relaxes on one of the private jet seats.



Chris C. Jenkins

Kaitlin Osceola takes a close up look inside the cockpit of a Bell 407 helicopter.



Chris C. Jenkins

Ahfackee students enjoy cotton candy during Aviation Day.

BC Board Rep. Cicero Osceola watches the air show.

BIG CYPRESS

Dove® Real Beauty Mother-Daughter Workshop Promotes Self-Esteem

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — In an effort to build and develop the self-esteem of Tribal females, the Big Cypress Community Center hosted the Dove® Real Beauty Mother-Daughter Workshop and dinner March 31.

With the theme, "True beauty is inner beauty," the event focused on promoting positive aspects of family relationships through activities and discussions.

most two-thirds of girls in the Fort Lauderdale/Miami area believe they are not good enough or do not measure up in some form. This belief includes their looks, performance in school and in their relationships with friends and family.

"When a girl does not feel good about themselves they are going to engage in all sorts of negative activities," Bennett pointed out.

She said one of the strongest sources of females' self-esteem remains their relationship with her

mother, mother-figure or female mentor.

"Her self-esteem and confidence are the most important things to me," Tribal citizen Judy Jim said regarding granddaughter, Trinity Williams.

The Self-Esteem National Report also explains that the turning point for self-esteem in many girls comes in the transition into teenage years resulting in a loss of trust and communication with adults. As a result, 49 percent of girls ages 13-17 turn to their mother as a resource when they feel bad about themselves compared to 92 percent of females ages 8-12.

"I want them to see that listening to everyone else is something they should not do," Tribal citizen Sheila Bevenue said regarding daughters, Sabre Billie and Trinity Williams. She said the evening also allowed her and Billie some extra time to bond together.

Signs of low self-esteem include not wanting to try new things, speaking negatively about themselves, giving up easily and waiting for others to assume authority, becoming overly critical of and easily disappointed in themselves and viewing temporary setbacks as permanent and intolerable conditions.

Youth with positive self-esteem tend to enjoy interacting with others. They are comfortable in social settings and enjoy group activities.



(L-R) Clea Billie-Herrera and daughter, Marley, work on self-esteem activities.

"We want to build up self-esteem and allow the daughters to turn to the mothers in times of crisis," said Family Services Intervention Specialist Julie Bennett. "Our self-esteem is learned and developed."

She said the term self-esteem involves beliefs or feelings which each person has learned about themselves, and also their self-perceptions. It also defines and influences motivations, attitudes and behaviors, and affects emotional adjustment.

Bennett said she hopes the event will be a tool in working on positive team interaction to fight against the forces taking control of young women in today's society. As a former model for more than a decade, she explained that self-esteem crises are prevalent among young females today.

According to the 2008 Dove® Self-Esteem National Report, al-



Grandmother Dale Grasshopper (R) enjoys the evening with granddaughter, Katie Bert (L).



(L-R) Sheila Bevenue and daughter, Sabre Billie at the workshop.

ties and independence. When challenges arise they also tend to find solutions and tend to know their strengths and weaknesses.

Fostering healthy positive self-esteem by parents can include choosing words carefully, being a positive role model, identifying and redirecting a child's inaccurate self-esteem beliefs, parents being spontaneous and affectionate with their children, giving them positive feedback, creating a safe home environment and helping the child to become more involved in constructive experiences.

The Dove® Campaign for Real Beauty is a global effort intended to serve as a starting point for societal change among women. For more information please log onto campaignforrealbeauty.com.



FTC Prevention Services President and consultant Marc Fomby speaks to parents and students about hip-hop music content.

Presentation Teaches Community About Hip-Hop Music Content

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal citizens, employees and community members got an eye-opening lesson on hip-hop music, its origins and content on April 2 in a seminar held in the Herman L. Osceola Gym.

FTC Prevention Services President, CEO and Consultant Marc Fomby lead a debate and discussion on the hot bed topic. His company, FTC Prevention, is based out of Pearl, Miss. and provides information to parents, educators and community members about the issues facing the youth of today through seminars and workshops.

"My job is to inform and educate the parents," he said. "We are selling out our young people by not informing and educating them."

Fomby said the meaning behind his lessons on hip-hop stem in part from having four children of his own, two boys and two girls. He said he has spent the last eight years traveling the country and speaking.

"The problem nowadays is that we [as parents and a society] are supporting this because there is a market for it," Fomby explained.

Fernandez agreed with his sentiment on the negative messages, however, admits she has found a middle ground.

"I listen to it," Fernandez said. "I just do not repeat what they do."

Fomby said he initially began his presentations discussing all types of music, but due to the overwhelming popularity and demand of hip-hop, requests to cover it exclusively have made it a full time requirement.

"The expressions on these parents' faces give me the motivation I need to keep doing this," Fomby said.

In what is now a billion dollar industry, where 90 percent of the music producers are African-American and 2/3 of those purchasing it are non-African-American, there remains a negative flow of images, content and perceptions directed toward youth, teens and young adults, according to Fomby.

He said many of the recording artists he has spoken with said they bear the responsibility to not produce unacceptable material. However, in today's culture some record companies demand the most

controversial product to help boost sales.

The former Alabama police officer, music disc jockey and eldest of five siblings spoke earlier in the day to students at the Ahfachkee School in a presentation called Take This to the Bank. The message centered on seizing the moment in life through hard work and diligence.

"Opportunities are there for you in life, but are you ready?" he asked rhetorically. "I want to encourage them to think."

The idea for Fomby's visit came at the suggestions of Crissie Carter of the Tribal Employee Assistance Program, Big Cypress Education Advisor Patrick McElroy and Big Cypress Board Assistant Lenny Jim.

"It was an incredible eye-opener for me," Carter said. "I also want our kids to have an awareness to open their eyes to what they are being exposed to."

For more information on FTC Prevention, please log onto marc-fomby.com, e-mail fombyconsulting@bellsouth.net or call (601) 939-0020.



During his presentation, Marc Fomby provides information on the popular music genre.

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

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BRIGHTON

4-H Youth Lead Animals in Annual Livestock Show, Sale

Demi Garza, Cartaya Billie Take Top Honors in Steer, Swine

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — The Seminole 4-H Chapter held their annual Livestock Show and Sale the nights of March 26-27 at the Brighton 4-H Barn.

Seminole youth from all reservations gathered in Brighton to show off the animals they worked so hard raising during the months leading up to the event.

The top winners of the night were Demi Garza from Immokalee, who received the Grand Champion title for her steer, and Cartaya Billie, also from Immokalee, who received the Grand Champion title for her swine.

The Reserve Grand Champion titles were awarded to Dalton Koenes of Big Cypress for his steer and Troy Cantu of Immokalee in the swine category.

Participants from all reservations stayed busy during the months leading up to the Show and Sale. Youth participants first had to off by selecting their animals. Following the selection, they then took part in caring for their animals individually along with participating in programs, clinics and weigh-ins.

"It's hard," said Skyler Burke, talking about taking care of her steer, Bubba Gump. "You have to wake up every morning and feed him, brush him and clean him." Chelsey Ford, a two-year veteran of 4-H and from the Immokalee Reservation said she learned a lot this year with the help of her cousins and clinic supervisors who worked with her on a regular basis. One tip she learned from her teacher was that it is better to use a whip with her swine rather than a cane, being that a cane is so rough and hard.

"You have to go every day and practice, exercise and clean out the pen," said Ford.

The day before the show the youth transported their animals to the Brighton 4-H Barn for the final weigh-in. During the last weigh-in the steers and swine were given sonograms to measure fat depth, rib eye area and marbling of the carcass; this was done for the first time ever

at this year's competition.

The ultrasounds of the steers were conducted by Donnie Robertson of Robertson Livestock from Centerville, Texas. Robertson was also the judge of the steer competition.

Robertson said the mandatory ultrasounds may help prevent the youth participants from overfeeding their animals in the future.

"It's more information for them to observe and know about," said Robertson of the results of the ultrasound.

After all the animals were weighed-in and placed in their respective weight categories, the youth exhibitors kept busy taking care of any last minute preparations for the show.

The Small Animal Show kicked things off on the night of March 26. The young children of 4-H and the arena with their chickens, rabbits, goats and calves.

The steers were next to enter the arena. Youth exhibitors lead their steers around the arena showing their command over the animals. Steers were observed and judged by Robertson.

"I like balance — a steer that is a well rounded package of depth and muscling," said Robertson.

He said he also looks for structural soundness and length of body in steers.

After the winning steers were selected the youth competed for showmanship in their respective level. For showmanship, the participants were judged on their handling techniques, how well their animals reacted to them, general presentation and eye contact with the judge.

Senior Showmanship went to Alexis Aguilar of Immokalee, while Brighton's Erena Billie and Skyler Burke were awarded Intermediate and Junior Showmanship, respectively.

Swine judge Rick Ahrens carefully inspected all nine weight classes of swine. As each class of exhibitors controlled their livestock around the arena Ahrens spoke with each competitor privately offering advice and suggestions on how to finish their swine.

Jaryaca Baker of Brighton, Immokalee didn't need any advice on handling their animals, winning Senior, Intermediate and Junior Showmanship, respectively. All showmanship winners received the honor as well as a commemorative silver belt buckle.

"I saw a lot of interest and enthusiasm for what they were doing," said Robertson about the exhibitors.

The youth participants did not just have the livestock show to prepare for, but also had the sale to get ready for. Prior to the auction letters were sent out to local businesses and community members asking individuals to bid on and purchase a specific animal.

Spencer Jock, whose swine took a first place finish, sent out a couple hundred letters introducing himself along with his photos. He included pictures of his animal and photos of him working with it.

The sale proved to be a success with many exhibitors bringing in large bids.

Tribal Council members and Tribal officials had friendly bidding wars on the top ranked animals.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress and President Richard Bowers Jr. sat across from each other and went back and forth bidding on the Reserve Grand Champion Steer. Chairman Cypress won out and left President Bowers nodding his head with a laugh.



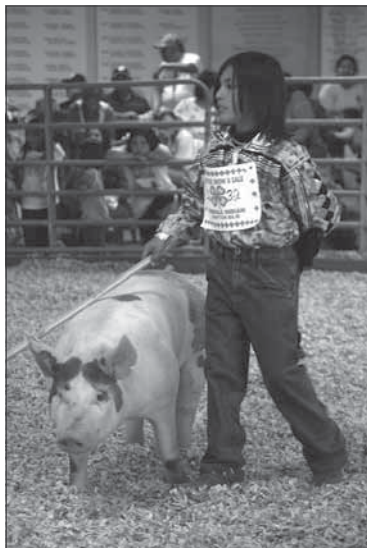
The Pee Wee exhibitors line up to show off their projects.

Rachel Buxton



Trinity Williams guides her 230 pound hog around the arena.

Rachel Buxton



Drayton Billie takes first place in his swine class.

Rachel Buxton

Steer Category
Grand Champion: Demi Garza, 1,159 pound steer
Reserve Grand Champion: Dalton Koenes, 1,247 pound steer
Senior Showmanship: Alexis Aguilar, 1,174 pound steer
Intermediate Showmanship: Erena Billie, 1,191 pound steer
Junior Showmanship: Skyler Burke, 1,300 pound steer
First Place, Blue Ribbon: Skyler Burke, Marshall Tommie, Jessica Lopez
Second Place, Blue Ribbon: Kalgary Johns, Nehemiah Roberts, Erena Billie, Kenny Davis Jr., Jacob Cotton
Third Place, Blue Ribbon: Rayven Smith, Andre Jumper, Kilton Smedley, Kristina Osceola
Fourth Place, Blue Ribbon: Zephariah Roberts
Fifth Place, Red Ribbon: Blake Baker, Aaron Alvarado
Sixth Place, Red Ribbon: Alexis Aguilar, Kiylier Baker
Seventh Place, Red Ribbon: Jonah Alvarado

Swine Category
Grand Champion: Cartaya Billie, 271 pound hog
Reserve Grand Champion: Troy Cantu, 260 pound hog
Senior Showmanship: Jaryaca Baker, 268 pound hog
Intermediate Showmanship: Mika Lopez, 257 pound hog
Junior Showmanship: Aiyana Tommie, 255 pound hog
First Place, Blue Ribbon: Spencer Jock, Chelsey Ford, Jon Jimmie, Drayton Billie, Kyle Alvarado, Levi Billie, Jonathan Bowers
Second Place, Blue Ribbon: Camryn Thomas, Cassandra Jimmie, Rosa Urbina, Edward Aguilar, Mika Lopez, Brianna Alvarez, Billy Yates, Quinton Smith, Issiah Nunez
Third Place, Blue Ribbon: Dayra Koenes, Callie Joe, Tylor Tigertail, Chaska Osceola, Christopher Briscall, Taylor Fulton, Jermaine Bennett Jr., Malican Perez, Alphonso Alvarado Jr.
Fourth Place, Blue Ribbon: Annie Jumper, Kenneth Deschenie, Rodni Mercer, Preston Smith, Destiny Nunez, Trevor Thomas, Dennis Gonzales Jr., Alexis Jimmie, Ethan Osceola
Fifth Place, Blue Ribbon: Ethan Aguilar, Catlen Tommie, Jaryaca Baker, Destinee Jimmie, Rorrey Osceola, Danni Jae Tommie, Nicholas Correa, Robert Fudge; Fifth Place, Red Ribbon: Damien Escobar
Sixth Place, Blue Ribbon: Abraham Tigertail, Ragan Osceola, Jade Tapia, Jenna McDuffie, Sarah Descheene, Sean Osceola, Lahna Sedatol
Seventh Place, Red Ribbon: Blevyens Jumper, Chelsey Alvarado
Eighth Place, Blue Ribbon: Cooper Rivers, Sabre Billie, Trinity Williams
Ninth Place, Red Ribbon: Justin Roff, Larissa Delarosa, Oscar Yates, Anthony Joe, Ivess Baker, Cyrus Smedley
Tenth Place, Blue Ribbon: Ashley Strickland, Ashton Beer, Rylee Smith, Dasani Fry, Myrick Puente, Brydgett Koonitz, Milla Osceola, Delia Harjo
Eleventh Place, Red Ribbon: Keniyah Yzaguirre, Amber Alvarado, Aiyana Tommie, Ravenne Osceola, Marquis Fudge, Chastity Harmon
Twelfth Place, Red Ribbon: Kathy Kippenberger, Elvise Joe, Brandley Osceola, Courtney Gore
Thirteenth Place, Red Ribbon: Ashton Buxley
Immokalee Club Swine: 255 pound hog
Big Cypress Club Hog: 298 pound hog

Pee Wee Exhibitors
Dante Thomas, Aleah Turtle, Alexis Gore, Heith Lawrence, Justin Gopher Jr., Marley Herrera, Caleb D. Billie, Leo Osceola, Canaan Jumper, Kanya Billie, Madyson Osceola, Alyssa Gonzales, Karlyne Urbina, Aniya Gore, John Gore 3rd, Jalee Wilcox, Nick Andrews, Harmony Cypress, Priscilla Alvarado, Jaliyah Arteaga.



Demi Garza leads the Grand Champion Steer into the ring.

Rachel Buxton



Jessica Lopez puts glitter on her steer, which Chairman Mitchell Cypress bought.

Rachel Buxton

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BRIGHTON



Valerie Marone

S.W.A.M.P. members and parent volunteer Tammy King (Back Row, Second from Right) get ready to enjoy some dinner.

S.W.A.M.P. Members Thank Parent Volunteers Tammy King, Ray King Recognized by Club Members

BY VALERIE MARONE
Contributing Writer

BRIGHTON — The youth from S.W.A.M.P., which stands for Seminoles Without Addictions Make Progress, would like to express their appreciation to parent volunteer Tammy King for providing the club members with a delicious meal at their March 5 meeting.

King is the mother of three S.W.A.M.P. members, Odessa, Morgan, and Bracton, who she said all love the S.W.A.M.P. She added that she feels it is important to have the S.W.A.M.P. as a drug-free zone where her children can go and have fun, learn about the dangers of drugs and participate in drug-free activities.

The youth from S.W.A.M.P. would also like to express their appreciation to parent volunteer Ray King for providing the S.W.A.M.P. members with delicious and nutritious meals on a weekly basis.

He works all day and then prepares a meal for the S.W.A.M.P. members after finishing at his job. King then delivers the meal to the gym where the club members gather for their Prevention Committee Meetings and to play drug-free, fun games in the S.W.A.M.P.



Valerie Marone

Daughter Aaryn and dad, Ray King.

Tribe Joins Okeechobee County Fair for Seminole Heritage Day Festival

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — The Seminole Tribe of Florida was given the honor of having March 14 be named Seminole Heritage Day at the 3rd annual Okeechobee County Fair.

On this day, members of the Tribe shared their heritage and culture with spectators and tourists alike at the Okeechobee Agri-Civic Center.

"We want people to know that the Seminoles are still around," said Norman "Skeeter" Bowers.

This was the first year that the Seminole Tribe participated in the Okeechobee County Fair.

"We wanted to include everyone in the area; people that mean something to Okeechobee," said Okeechobee County Fair Association President Linda Syfrett. "And certainly the Seminole Tribe means a lot to Okeechobee."

Willie Johns of Brighton agreed with Syfrett, saying "we consider Okeechobee home."

The Seminoles set their area of the fairgrounds up to replicate an authentic Indian campsite with different chickees spread out on the premises.

Tribal citizens sold traditional Seminole clothes and jewelry. Some included dolls and toys for sale. There was a food chickee that offered Seminole favorites including frybread and pumpkin bread.

The Seminole Okalee Village offered entertainment including an animal show and alligator wrestling with James Holt.

"Where else can you go to a county fair and see someone wrestle an alligator," said Syfrett. "It's lots of fun!"

Professional venomous snake handler and animal trainer David Weathers also known as "Cobra Kid" put on a show, wowing the crowd with some of the most dangerous snakes to be found.

"Now for some fun," Weathers grinned as he slowly enticed an Indian Cobra snake out of a box labeled "DANGER."

Weathers got on the ground and while eye level with the snake, moved his head along with the cobra's head.

Weathers became widely recognized in the business in 2002 when he had a near-fatal bite to the stomach



Rachel Buxton

James Holt walks around the alligator to get a feel for the animal's temperament.

from an Asian Monocled Cobra. He has appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Ripley's Believe it or Not and has been in features on the Discovery Channel and Animal Planet.

The Seminole Tribe has had a relationship with the Okeechobee community for years.

"It is a big asset," said Syfrett about the Seminole Tribe's participation in the county fair. "We would really like to have them for two Saturdays."



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith, Little Mr. Seminole Lance Howard, President Richard Bowers Jr., Brighton Jr. Miss Ayana Tommie, Brighton Miss Seminole Stevie Brantley and Jr. Miss Seminole Amber Craig get ready to make their grand entrance into the rodeo arena as special guests.

IMMOKALEE

Annual Agricultural Bus Tour Features Seminole Presentation

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

The University of Florida's Collier County Agricultural Extension Office hosted its annual agricultural bus tour of the Immokalee area on March 18.

The full day of activities began at the Collier County Agricultural Center in Naples and included visits to local farms, groves, packing houses, educational facilities and a luncheon at the historic Roberts' Ranch.

This year's sell-out tour accommodated approximately 400 people, divided into two separate groups, who signed up months in advance for an opportunity to learn more about the farming and ranching operations of South Florida.

The majority of the participants were comprised mostly of retired professional people with backgrounds in law, banking, real estate, insurance and corporate management.

For the third year in a row, the tour organizers invited the Seminole Tribe of Florida to make presentations to the group of visitors during their lunch break at Roberts' Ranch.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress discussed the importance of agriculture during his presentation.

"Thousands of years ago, Native Americans were the first farmers in what has become the state of Florida," the Chairman said. "In addition to hunting and fishing, farming became their main food supply. In the early-1500s, the Spanish brought cattle and pigs which increased our ancestors' ability to improve their economy and establish permanent settlements."

"Agriculture has had a similar effect on people everywhere," continued Chairman Cypress. "With today's growing world population it is more important than ever to protect our food sources and improve our agriculture to insure the survival of future generations. The Seminole Tribe of Florida is dedicated to investing in that future."

During the opening remarks of her presentation, Tribal citizen Mary Jene Koenes offered a brief history of the Seminole people, beginning with their ancestors' occupation of the lands that currently comprise the southeastern portion of the U.S.

Quickly covering the effect of encroachment by white settlers and the Seminole Wars, she guided her audience along the trail of development from the barter system to an economy that could sustain her people in the rapidly transforming world of the 20th century.

"Our livelihood became dependent upon the sale of arts and crafts to the tourist trade and employment in the farming and ranching industry," said Koenes. "Increasing development caused our grandparents and parents to seek permanent residences on the parcels of land being set aside for reservations. In order for survival, we again looked to the land to sustain us."

Beginning with the introduction of the first cattle programs during the 1940s and 50s, Koenes described the growth of the Seminole cattle industry.

She discussed the experimentation with breeds that could acclimate to Florida wetlands and native grasses, genetic improvements, breeding programs to insure quality, the electronic ID, or EID System, introduction of feedlot management and the new Pasture to the Plate project.

Koenes also discussed Seminole farming projects that provide quality production of vegetables, citrus and sugarcane for national consumption and the need to preserve our natural resources.

"Rapid development around the world is endangering our food supplies and creating drastic changes in our environment," she said. "It is imperative that we protect our agricultural interests."

In addition to agriculture, health and education programs were outlined in response to inquiries. Following her presentation, Koenes was surrounded by curious guests with a multitude of questions regarding culture, daily life in a Seminole village, language, school curriculum, governmental structure and shareholder distribution.

In response to questions regarding Seminole casinos and Tribal dividends, President Richard Bowers Jr. provides an observation that surprises most of his listeners.

"Communities surrounding our casinos and Hard



Agricultural tour participants (Back Row, L-R) Kris Kaye and Terry Hotchkiss thank Mary Jene Koenes (C) for her presentation.

Rock operations are benefiting substantially from the revenue that they pump into the local economy," President Bowers said. "They create jobs, opportunities for vendors to provide our supplies, an influx of tourist dollars and increased cash flow for local businesses."

"Our Tribal citizens and employees spend their income on housing, vehicles and utilities," he continued. "They support local merchants by purchasing essentials such as food, clothing, household goods and entertainment products. Their taxable income helps to supplement local, state and federal government expenses. We are doing our part to make a vital contribution to ease the effects of the current suppressed economy."

Seminole Storytellers Chronicle Oral History at Two Events

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum's Oral History and Outreach Program hosted two forums for Tribal citizens to listen and share legends and stories in an effort to chronicle the Seminole history and ensure its passage from one generation to the next.

The first event took place on April 3 at the Broward Community College Planetarium at 10 a. m., creating a meeting location easily accessible for the Hollywood and Ft. Pierce communities. Assembling on the ceremonial grounds at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress on the evening of April 4, the facilities provided ample room for a larger participation.

Oral History Coordinator Elizabeth Lowman said the event was only open to Tribal citizens due to the nature of what was said by the storytellers.

"The goal of our staff is the preservation of oral history without compromising spiritual beliefs or ethical values," Lowman said. "Participants can be assured that any information shared will be given the utmost care and they will have the opportunity to determine whether it will be recorded and when, or if, it can be released from the archives."

Following a blessing by Omie Orceola, the participants gathered on the ceremonial grounds of the museum and listened to stories contributed by various Tribal citizens.

Carol Cypress told a story she learned from her father, Willie Frank.

"The children are eager to learn and they ask many questions," said Cypress. "It is important that we teach them about their past and their clan history, whether it is the creation, how the stars got their names, the rules that mankind should live by or the experiences of our ancestors."

For a brief moment, the listeners were carried back in time as William Cypress, in traditional dress, played his flute and whistle to accompany his contribution to the evening.

Gordon Oliver Wareham gave animation to the stories that he related with sound effects, voice changes and body language as he transported his audience through the ages.

Everyone nodded in agreement as Lennie Jim introduced the significance of "spirit stories" and the dire consequences of failure to comply.

Stanley Johns, a senior from Brighton, said he almost didn't attend the event, but in the end, was happy he did.

"When I heard that a group of seniors was going from Brighton to Big Cypress this evening, I had no idea what was going to take place," Johns said. "I am very glad that I climbed aboard the bus."

"We are losing many of our seniors and they are taking vital information with them," he added. "This small gathering represents the majority of the storytellers left at Brighton. Listening to [the] speakers this evening has refreshed my memory."

Tribal citizen Happy Jones also said she was glad she attended the gathering, though she only listened to others' stories, rather than telling her own.

"Sitting outside in the woods with the fire burning and the bugs buzzing, it has been good to listen to the old stories," said Jones in response to requests for her to relate from her past. "Tonight I came to listen;

maybe next time I will be the storyteller."

Operations Manager with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Brian Zepeda expressed the importance of having such types of events.

"[A] problem that comes with oral storytelling and history is the confusion that derives from people inadvertently combining two stories as time clouds their memories," he said. "Getting together and relating what we know can track what things back on track."

Zepeda said the erosion of culture that is plaguing numerous Tribes needs to be addressed and remedied for the sake of future generations.

"During my 12 years with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, I have been repeatedly reminded about the gradual loss of our oral history during the past few generations," he said. "This tragedy is not limited to Seminoles, but is affecting Native Americans everywhere and action needs to be taken before it is too late."

"Several years ago, I was attending an assembly where the Bear Stearns Band of Cherokee was lamenting the rapid loss of his Tribe's stories," Zepeda added. "Immediately, a member of the Choctaw Nation responded that they were concerned about the loss of their language. Without language, stories and oral history, Native American cultures are in danger of extinction. I consider myself very fortunate that my grandmother and great-grandmother



The resonant tone of William Cypress' flute creates the perfect atmosphere for his story from the past.

shared their stories and traditions with me."

His brother, Pedro, traditional sports specialist with the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum echoed his brother's comments on the need for culture preservation.

"It is our hope that all Tribal members will want to share their knowledge and pass along the stories that recount our morals and history," he said. "In order to know where we are going, we must know our origins and past. We all have pieces of the stories and it is important that we gather them together to insure our future."

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SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Tribal Reps, Employees Attend Leadership Seminar

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Assistant Editor

HOLLYWOOD — About 30 Tribal citizens and representatives from various departments attended the five-day Total Leadership seminar at the Hard Rock, March 16-20.

Seminole Police Dept. Captain Kipper Connell led the seminar, which covered topics including effective communication, situational leadership, conflict resolution, empowerment and motivating employees.

He also held two other Total Leadership seminars in Hollywood, the first took place April 6-10 and the second, April 20-24.

Captain Connell said he asked attendees, including Ft. Pierce Liaison Sally Tommie, Tampa Liaison Richard Henry, Buildings and Grounds Dept. Director Ken Bonawitz, several Seminole Police Dept. employees and Assistant Director of Seminole Broadcasting Sunshine Frank, for actual examples of conflicts each has faced while on the job. He said this goes along with the goal of the seminar.

"I want to break management leadership down into simple, real word terms and explain how we can be more effective and correct the areas where we are less effective," Captain Connell said. "I don't spend a lot of time on theory; I use real world examples."



Shelley Marmor

Seminole Police Dept. Captain Kipper Connell speaks to the class about effective communication during the five-day Total Leadership seminar, held March 16-20 at the Hard Rock.

He said during the class, attendees watched videos, did group work, discussed case studies and listened to lectures to cover all the information. Attendee Sunshine Frank of the Broadcasting Dept. said "it was a very informative seminar and I think everyone in attendance will benefit greatly from it."

Captain Connell said he has taught the course to about 30,000 people across the U.S., including three presentations in Seminole County five years ago; one at the Tampa Hard Rock and two at the Hollywood Hard Rock. Seminole Police Dept. Chief William Latchford asked Captain Connell, to present the seminar, and also invited him to present the seminars five years ago, before he was the department's chief.

"He is a very dynamic instructor that instructs with a very passionate approach," said Chief Latchford. "Captain Connell's approach gives the student a common sense approach because he really believes [in what he's teaching] and is compassionate in his delivery. This program provides employees with tools to be better leaders."

According to Chief Latchford, "all Seminole Police Dept. employees will attend this training over time." However, he said he also will open future classes to other Tribal department employees as well, just as he did in this seminar.

"I believe everyone in my organization is a leader and this program will assist them with their future endeavors of members of the Seminole Police Dept.," he added. "We will always be open to providing whatever training we have to other Tribal programs. We may be separate departments but we are here to serve one common interest with excellence and that is the Seminole Tribe of Florida."

Captain Connell said when he developed the seminar about 12 years ago it was divided into two sections, In-Depth Leadership and Advanced In-Depth Leadership. He said he would teach each section over the course of three days, but said he combined the two into one larger five-day seminar for the first time during this presentation.

He has worked for the Seminole Police Dept. since October 2008. Prior to that he worked as a police commander in Pasco County, Fla. for 25 years and has worked in law enforcement for the last 26.

He said he has always had a knack for teaching, though he has only worked full time in law enforcement. In addition to the Total Leadership seminar, he has taught a Post Pursuit Tactics seminar, which garnered national media attention.

The Post Pursuit Tactics seminar was featured on the CBS Evening News with Dan Rather several years ago and Captain Connell said after that he received requests to teach seminars all across the country. Captain Connell said the goal of that seminar was to help law enforcement workers learn how to best handle themselves after a pursuit because "a pursuit can be scary ... it causes your emotions to go off the scale."

works of other departments.

"We are really fortunate out here to have a close relationship with the Tribal members," Tillman acknowledged. "If you like helping people and giving back to the community, then you could not ask for a better job."

Meet SPD Ag Officer Kenneth Tillman

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Seminole Police Dept. (SPD) Agriculture Officer Kenneth Tillman is a fixture in the Big Cypress community, and most have either seen him around or know him personally.

He has been with SPD just short of five years, though has earned quite a reputation for his service. In 2004, Tillman was named SPD officer of the year.

He said working among the Seminole people in the serene, relaxing environment of the BC Reservation allows him to exercise his two most fond duties as an officer — helping people in need and serving the community.

"In law enforcement work, you either like it or you do not," Tillman explained. "I like working for the SPD because it is more of a nice and laid back atmosphere."

Among his many day shift duties, Tillman said he patrols back roads and cattle pastures, provides motorist assistance and ATV patrol, enforces trespassing laws for hunting and fishing, covers many Tribal functions and



Chris C. Jenkins

Seminole Police Dept. Agriculture Officer Ken Tillman

Move Over and Make Way for Emergency Vehicles

BY WILLIAM R. LATCHFORD
Chief of Police

Perhaps you have looked in your rearview mirror and saw flashing lights behind you? Chances are that at some point, you have passed an emergency worker or a law enforcement officer pulled over on the roadway with his or her lights flashing.

You should be aware that Florida law states you are required to move over, make way and slow down when approaching all emergency and law enforcement vehicles stopped in the roadway. The law, known as the Move Over Act, is designed to protect law enforcement officers, firefighters and other emergency workers from needless, accidental tragedy.

Seminole Police Dept. Officers and Fire/Rescue personnel have learned that driving, especially when responding to calls for service, is the most hazardous duty performed in their profession. Across Florida, public safety personnel have been seriously injured due to drivers not paying attention. All these instances could have been avoided had the driver simply slowed down and moved over.

The Seminole Police Dept. will strictly enforce the Move Over Act to help keep you and all public safety professionals safe.

While on the roadway, please be alert, pay attention and remember the following:

If an emergency vehicle is approaching from be-

hind, put on your turn signal, yield to the right-of-way, slow down or pull over. Once the emergency vehicle has passed, use your turn signal to carefully re-enter the roadway.

On a two-lane roadway, you are required to slow to a speed that is 20 miles per hour less than the posted speed limit. If the speed limit is 20 miles per hour or less, you must slow down to five miles per hour.

If you are driving on an interstate or roadway with multiple lanes of travel in the same direction, and you approach an emergency or law enforcement vehicle parked along the roadway, you must vacate the lane closest to that vehicle as soon as it is safe to do so.

When arriving at an intersection where an emergency vehicle is approaching from the cross street, come to a complete stop and wait until all emergency vehicles have safely passed before continuing.

If you are a driver who violates the move over law, you can be charged with a moving violation, which results in a fine and points on your license. More importantly, by violating this most important law, you would be putting both yourself and a dedicated "first responder" public safety professional at risk.

On behalf of the men and women of the Seminole Tribe of Florida public safety departments, I urge you, help protect all those who are sworn to serve and protect you. Always remember to make way, slow down and move over when approaching an emergency or law enforcement vehicle.



Jerry Meisenheimer

SPD Captain Kipper Connell leads the class.

Seminole Police Dept. Prepare Strategic Plan

BY LT. JERRY MEISENHEIMER
Seminole Police Dept.

BIG CYPRESS — Members of the Seminole Police Department's (SPD) command staff met during the past several months to establish organizational goals and objectives for the next three years. The meetings took place at the Jimmy Cypress Public Safety Building on the Big Cypress Reservation.

Tribal citizen Tina Osceola, who is well-versed in strategic planning, facilitated the first two sessions. Osceola, the Chief Historic Resources Officer, helped the 15 SPD staff members identify the police department's three year plan to improve the quality of service it provides to all Seminole communities.

Once Osceola laid the groundwork, SPD Captain Kipper Connell continued the step-by-step analysis of the police department's current position, and projected where it should go in the future.

The committee also addressed issues that are anticipated to impact the Tribe with the expansion of gaming operations on the various reservations. Another factor of consideration is the planned development of property in Lakeland, Fla.

During the meetings, the group established their mission, values, goals, objectives and action plans. They also listed the police department's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

In addition, available resources, upcoming grants, and budgeting were considered. A key element to this plan is that all new incentives must be cost-effective in keeping with the current economy.

The SPD command staff consists of the majors, captains, and lieutenants from both the operations side

and the support services side of the police department. Chief of Police William Latchford and Director of Public Safety Jerry Wheeler guided their staff through the evaluation process.

As a result of the planning sessions, specific directives were laid out that detailed SPD's response to the challenges facing the agency now and in the near future. Many new incentives were proposed to successfully improve the quality of life of the Tribal communities and to create a safe environment for all who live, work, or visit Seminole properties.

Upon review, the Strategic Plan will be published.



Jerry Meisenheimer

Chief Historic Resources Officer Tina Osceola instructs members of SPD in strategic planning.

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(L-R) Virginia Billie listens as Raymond Garza talks about his uncle and Honorary Trail Boss Jacob Osceola Sr.

CATTLE

From page 1A

Chairman Mitchell Cypress also spoke about his relative and Cattle Drive namesake.

"This annual cattle drive was started in memory of my uncle, Junior Cypress," said Chairman Mitchell Cypress. "Cattle ranching was his business 24 hours a day. When I think of him, I see him on the back of a horse with his hat pulled down, sheltering his eyes from the sun or driving around the rez with a pickup truck load of kids, heading for the cow pens or the swimming hole. Men like him have made it possible for us to be here today."

Taking the point position, President Richard Bowers Jr. and Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith signaled for the release of the cattle and then led the way up the trail.

Each year new faces join the crowd, but the number of people who are making the cattle drive a tradition has increased dramatically. Participant Julio Catala said he and his family while hadn't missed a year on the trail, while Hendry County Commissioner Karson Turner was attending for the first time.

"This is my first cattle drive, but it won't be my last," stated Commissioner Turner. "I want to thank the Seminole Tribe for rolling out the Red Carpet for us today. This is an extraordinary experience that we couldn't enjoy anywhere else."

Jobe Johns is an athlete in the Eastern Indian Junior Rodeo and has followed the Junior Cypress Trail Drive since he was a toddler. Sharing a saddle with his parents, Billy Joe and Tara Johns, when he was 2, he rode his own pony every step of the way by the time he was 4. He now holds a position up front with the drovers pushing the cows.

Vivian "The Texas Tornado" Villarreal took time from a professional billiards tour she was participating in to attend the Trail Drive. Joining her among the VIPs this year was Native American singing star Shea Keck of the Eastern Band of Cherokees. Shea recently released her new blues ver-



Jacob Osceola Jr. talks about his dad, Jacob Sr., the honorary trail boss.



Raymond Garza, nephew of Honorary Trail Boss Jacob Osceola Sr., makes a presentation on his uncle's behalf.

sion of John Anderson's classic song "Seminole Wind."

Reaching the half way point, the riders guided the steers into the holding area in Mary Jene Koenes' pasture. Water troughs for the livestock and refreshments for the cowboys and cowgirls were waiting around a tent which had been set up for the occasion.

President Richard Bowers Jr. addressed the assembly.

"Our Honorary Trail Boss Jacob Osceola Sr. could not be here with us today, but he has joined us in spirit," President Bowers said.

Jacob had a bad accident a few years ago, while rounding up some of his cows with a 4-wheeler," he continued. "A broken neck has placed him in a wheelchair and prevented him from participating in this event. Once a partner of Chairman Mitchell Cypress, he still owns livestock at the Brighton Reservation from the estate of his father, Harjo Osceola."

Raymond Garza came forward on behalf of his uncle, Jacob Osceola Sr.

"My uncle was honored to have been selected as today's trail boss and regretted that he couldn't participate in the drive," he said. "However, in his absence, he has asked me deliver his thoughts to you."

Reading from a statement provided by Jacob Osceola Sr., Garza related the way that the cattle program provided an income for the Seminole people and accomplished land custodianship that made the Tribal citizens a part of the land like their forefathers.

In addition, the program has proven to be an important way to develop individual business enterprises on the reservation.

Joining Garza, Jacob Osceola Jr. said a few words about his father.

"My father wants us all to remember those first cattlemen like Morgan Smith, Junior Cypress, John Henry Gopher and Jack Smith, Sr., to mention a few," he said. "Those men had a vision and generations later the Seminole Cattle Industry is the result."

"My father wanted to thank the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and all the people who worked on the Cattlekeepers Exhibit," Osceola added.

"The Red Barn at the



Ko'Oshee Henry rode out his own blue hat for the Cattle Drive, and even rode by himself.

Brighton Reservation is being made into a historical landmark and is representative of the hardships endured by our cattlemen and women."

Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith acknowledged the words of Jacob Osceola Sr. and emphasized the importance of the Cattle Program for the Seminole Tribe and the residents of Florida.

"By keeping our lands in agriculture, we are producing for the present and preserving for the future," Rep. Smith said.

The cattle and riders returned to the Trail Drive for the second leg of their journey. Arriving at the Junior Cypress Arena, the livestock welcomed some down time and the riders were served a barbeque dinner. The conclusion to a day on the trail was the evening performance of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association.



Hendry County Commissioner Karson Turner from Clewiston, Fla. attends his first Cattle Drive.



President Richard Bowers Jr. provides historical background for the Cattle Drive.



Dennis DeVeogh drives his chuckwagon into the half way camp during the Cattle Drive.



(L-R) Native American singer Shea Keck, Chairman Mitchell Cypress and Vivian "The Texas Tornado" Villarreal get ready to head 'em up and move 'em out at the 13th annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive.



Joe Billie Sr. is mounted and ready to ride in the Cattle Drive.



(L-R) Laquita Jumper, Rev. Bruce Pratt, Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr., Paul Bowers Sr. and President Richard Bowers Jr. takes part in the opening ceremonies.



(L-R) Rev. Bruce Pratt listens while Moses "Bigg" Jumper Jr. makes opening remarks and Paul Bowers Sr. stands ready to take the microphone.

Naples Community Craft Center Honors Juanita Osceola

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

NAPLES — The Seminole residents of Naples celebrated the grand opening of their new Community and Craft Center, dedicated to the memory of Juanita Osceola, on the afternoon of March 20.

The facilities are located on Golden Gate Parkway, at the far end of the same complex as the Naples Tribal offices.

President Richard Bowers Jr., who co-chaired the event along with Juanita's grandson, Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr., welcomed everyone to the ribbon cutting ceremony and recalled memories of Juanita. "What we call arts and crafts, Juanita Osceola called her job," President Bowers said. "Everyone will agree that she was a skilled craftswoman and took great pride in the quality of her work. Not only did her family's livelihood depend upon it, but she valued her reputation and accepted her responsibility to pass on the traditions of her ancestors."

"Seminole has always sought gathering places, whether it was a camp, chickee or fire," he added just before cutting the ceremonial ribbon. "Beginning today, the Naples community will have their gathering place at the Juanita Osceola Center."

The facility features a large office for the Culture Dept. with a centrally located sewing area surrounded by supply shelving and individual craft tables. An entire wall of custom cabinets holds a multitude of con-

tainers with beads of all sizes and related materials. Samples of patchwork, sweetgrass and palmetto baskets, dolls, leather craft, wood carving and custom beadwork line the work counters. Scrap booking and art supplies are also available.

On the opposite end of the building, the Community Center contains computers, a pool table, large screen television and state-of-the-art nursery equipped to accommodate toddlers through third graders. A plate glass window between the nursery and sitting room permits visual supervision during play time.

The Seminole Tribe's Chief Human Resources Executive Officer Lee Zepeda will maintain a satellite office on the premises. Other centrally-located office spaces, a lobby, kitchen facilities, restrooms and a conference room complete the layout of the center.

Cultural Outreach Specialist Sandy Osceola will be directing a flexible program that will coordinate the teaching skills of Seminole craftsmanship and provide a curriculum satisfactory for several age groups. Future plans include a language program, courses in pottery making and weaving, in addition to other artistic endeavors. Community activities also will be administered from the facilities.

During the opening ceremony, Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. talked briefly about growing up in his grandparent's camp and then offered insight into the personality of his grandmother, Juanita.

"She grew up in the same traditional manner as her ancestors, hunting, fishing and growing their own food," Liaison Osceola said. "Most of the things that she needed she made with her own hands and her culture was very important to her. A fiercely independent woman, she was determined to instill



Three generations of descendants, (L-R) Son OB Osceola Sr., Daughter Mary Osceola Moore, Granddaughter Barbara Osceola-Butera and Great-Granddaughter Clara Billie-Guerre, surround the portrait of Juanita Osceola in the lobby of the new Community and Craft Center in Naples that bears her name.

her values in her descendants."

"Traditional by nature, my grandmother was suspicious of change, but open minded as she watched the transformation of the world around her," he added. "She recognized that survival for her people would depend upon education in order for them to claim their place in society. She moved her children to area s where they could attend school and encouraged her grandchildren to seek higher education but never forget where they originated."

A member of the Panther Clan, Juanita Osceola was the matriarch of the Naples community and an icon of the family and cultural traditions of the Seminole women of her era. She was born in the early 1900s in an isolated hammock at an area which currently lies along the eastern edge of Collier County, within the boundaries of what is now the Everglades National Park.

One of several children belonging to Futch and Ruby Cypress, she was raised in a traditional manner in a remote camp deep in the swamplands, accessible only by dug-out canoes in the rainy season or on foot during the drier months of the year. Her contact with the outside world was extremely limited until she became the wife of Cory Osceola and moved with him into a Seminole village in the Miami area.

Juanita had already started her family by the time that the Tamiami

Trail passed through her homeland, opening a new avenue of income to her people. Returning with her family to the Everglades, farming and logging jobs became a part of their new economy. Raising her seven children, Tahama, Curtis, OB Sr., Pete, Mary, Guy and Marie in villages along the Trail, she supplemented the family income by the sale of her crafts.

Examining an ornate piece of beadwork, Juanita's granddaughter, Barbara Osceola-Butera, recalled memories of growing up with her grandmother.

"My grandmother was a hard task master," said Osceola-Butera. "She was always striving for perfection, but at the same time, she was gentle and filled with never ending love. She wanted us to reach our potential while never forgetting who we are and where we came from."

Looking up at his mother's smiling portrait in the lobby of the new Juanita Osceola Center, OB Osceola Sr. laughed and said, "She's watching us ... this is a good thing."



Judy Weeks examining a piece of beadwork in the Juanita Osceola Craft Center.

"She taught her grandchildren and great-grand children and now they are going to come here and pass their culture and heritage on to the next generation," he said "That will keep a smile on her face."



Pedro Zepeda and Marissa Osceola organize bead supplies in the craft center.

Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. watches as President Richard Bowers Jr. officiates at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Juanita Osceola Center in Naples.



Connie Slavik examines a piece of beadwork in the Juanita Osceola Craft Center.



Cultural Outreach Specialist Sandy Osceola will coordinate the Cultural Enrichment Programs at the Juanita Osceola Center.

Seminole Tribe Hosts Renowned Native Artist Sam English

BY ROBERT C. NORTH SR.
Boys & Girls Club Director of Development

The Seminole Tribe of Florida was selected to host Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indian artist Sam English for one week, March 30-April 3.

Through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, approximately 10 schools or community programs serving American Indian students had the opportunity to host English, and the Seminole Tribe was select-

ed as one of these 10. The Tribal Boys & Girls Clubs coordinated several events for English to speak and work directly with the Tribal citizens.

At public events, English promotes positive expression in art with Native American youth across the U.S. to combat the incidents of alcohol, drug abuse and unhealthy lifestyles in Indian Country.

At a luncheon held at the Seminole Okalee Indian Village on March 30, and hosted by Hollywood Tribal Council Rep.

Max B. Osceola Jr. and Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson, English spoke before parents, grandparents and employees, and explained his way of thinking.

"If we can positively impact one Native Youth in the process of encouraging art expression, we have done a good job," he said. "That one youth that is impacted will have a positive impact on five more youth, and so on."

"We are in the middle of one of our worst battles as Indian people — trying to save our youth," English added. "I feel that through these Native Youth art workshops, we will obtain great success,

and participating youth will gain the confidence they need to strengthen their direction in life."

English worked with Seminole youth in Hollywood and Big Cypress through out the week, teaching participants initially in the medium of colored pastels and then graduating to acrylic paint on canvas. He encouraged the youth to keep their ideas and themes positive.

On the second day of the art workshop, participating youth were asked to produce a collaborative picture on a 2.5 foot by 3 foot canvas using acrylic paint.

For three Seminole youth, the workshops came at an opportune time.

Hollywood Tribal citizen and workshop attendee Rande McDonald has plans of pursuing an art degree at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, while Victor Osceola also a Hollywood Tribal citizen and workshop participant, has been accepted to Full Sail University in Orlando for studies in animation. Sabre Billie of the Big Cypress Reservation recently proved her artistic skills by winning an overall second place in a nationwide student art contest.

Hollywood Culture and Language Coordinator and Seminole artist Jo Motlow North said she was impressed with English's ability to relate with the youth.

"We thought Sam did a good job with the youth because he has a positive way of encouraging them to be bold and express themselves in a positive way," North said. "Mr. English talks about the mistakes he made and how he is now committed to helping Native youth to take full advantage of their time when they are still young."

At the community luncheons set up for English on the Hollywood and Big Cypress Reservations, Seminole Tribal citizens had the chance to win posters with English's art



Sam English (R) poses near the completed group acrylic composition with (L-R) Shelli Osceola, Victor Osceola, Deila Harjo, Austin Lewis and Shania Johns.

and the book, Sam English, The Life, Work & Times of an Artist, in a raffle. English also autographed the winning items.

Ainfaachie School Dean of Students Dominique Troadec praised English's ability to relate to Native youth.

"He had an uncanny, subtle way of reaching the Seminole youth that inspired self-expression through art," Troadec said. "He is a powerful Native American that I will always welcome with open arms."

English's work is recognizable by his

use of elongated figures to depict his people as well as the night sky, stars and nature. Sam has been honored with numerous awards from art shows around the country, including the prestigious 2009 Lifetime Achievement award from the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts. He is also known for his donation of artwork for posters for non-profit agencies and commissions from various tribal and governmental agencies.

English is further committed to the National Native American Recovery Movement and continues to support efforts in the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse



Big Cypress artist Sabre Billie (R) receives praise and direction from Sam English (L).



Up-and-coming artist Dacia Osceola roughs out designs on the open canvas.



(L-R) Christopher Joe, Callie Joe, Richard Billie Jr., and Sam English with the cooperative art project at the Ainfaachie School.



(L-R) Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. present Sam English with a Seminole shirt made by Donna Turtle.

amongst Native youth. The work of Sam English is also represented in private art collections around the world.

To learn more about Sam English, his art, his life and his recently published book, please log on to samenglishart.com.

For more information on the upcoming events of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Seminole Tribe of Florida please visit the website at seminolebcg.org.

Education

Native Book Review3B
Health5B

B

Ahfachkee Students Receive Academic Awards

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — With the completion of the third quarter of the 2008-2009 school year, the faculty and students of Ahfachkee gathered in the Herman L. Osceola Gym for an awards ceremony on March 27.

During the ceremony, each child received recognition for their accomplishments; they were recognized by grade level and achievement status.

The school's library also presented special awards for accelerated readers, goal achievers and high point scholars. Ricky Joe Alumbaugh was the most improved student for the quarter and Tyler Cypress brought his grades up in every subject. Eagle Billie earned the High School Accelerated Reader Award with 115 points to his credit.

In addition, sixth grader Sabre Billie received special recognition during the awards ceremony. She was one of 604 students from 30 states to enter the 2009 Native American Student Artist Competition. Open to all American Indian and Alaskan Native students, the entries related to the theme "Tradition is My Life, Education is My Future."

"Education Tree" by Sabre Billie took second place in the sixth through eighth grade category. As a winning artist, she will receive art supplies and a trip to Washington, DC in July. A framed copy of her art work is currently on display at the Ahfachkee School.

During opening remarks, Principal Walt Swann congratulated the students on their accomplishments and made announcements concerning the curriculum for the coming year.

□ Please see **AWARDS** on page 2B



(L-R) Second graders Evan Pratt and Thomlynn Billie are acknowledged for their accelerated reading accomplishments.

Judy Weeks



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Davin Carrillo watches closely as Pedro Zepeda, traditional arts coordinator of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, demonstrates the proper carving technique.

Culture Day Teaches Students Seminole Traditions

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Students from the Pemayetv Emahkv Charter School learned Seminole traditions April 2 as they made their way to the Cultural Village at the Fred Smith Rodeo Grounds for Culture Day, put on by the Culture Dept.

At Culture Day students learned life skills that have been part of the Seminole culture for centuries.

"It's important so they will know how to do things that we did way back when we were younger," said Lorene Gopher, director of Cultural Education. "We try to incorporate everything into the teachings we do at the Charter School."

Culture Day consisted of three very important traditions in Seminole culture: cooking and carving, legends and the Creek language that was incorporated through games.

The girls learned how to make Indian frybread while the boys learned another important skill, wood carving.

Each girl was given their own bowl and was assisted by members of the Culture Dept. as they worked the water into their flour to make the bread. They learned how to shape the dough and even had to place it in the oil over the burning flames by themselves. Martha Jones and Gopher helped the children fry the bread under the cooking chicken.

While the girls were busy cooking, the boys focused on carving. The younger boys learned how to carve using soap and a butter knife, while the

older students carved wood using a real carving knife.

"This is something that's been handed down, something that's been important for our people," said Pedro Zepeda, traditional arts coordinator of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. "Not just the skills themselves, but what those skills have allowed us to be able to do."

The students participated in a challenging scavenger hunt that also forced them to practice their Creek language skills.

History teacher Jade Braswell divided the students into groups as they competed for the top prize of candy. Students were given a clue and then made their way

around and around the rodeo grounds to find their next clue. Before the students were able to get the next clue they had to work together as a group to spell out words in their native Creek language.

The younger students also practiced their Creek by playing Duck, Duck Goose where they had to say the words in Creek as they went around the circle.

Herbert Jim of the Tampa Reservation captured the students' attention and curiosity as he told ancient Tribal legends.

"Legends are important because they give out secrets throughout the story," said Jim. "It's for the children to use their imagination and think of the questions in these stories and then they learn more by asking these questions."

Jim started off his legend about the eagle by handing out feathers to each student. He explained to the children how the feather represents life and death and that those feathers are only to be used to pray.

"This is your heritage; you are Seminoles," Jim told the students. "It's up to you to carry these stories in your prayers."

At the end of the day students and teachers enjoyed the frybread that the girls worked so hard making.

Culture Day helped educate students of their native heritage, something the Charter School with the help of the Culture Dept. has worked so hard to do.

"All these things we learn, none of them actually belong to us as an individual," said Zepeda. "It's something for us to pass on to everybody."



Rachel Buxton

(L-R) Morgan Yates and Destiny Elliott mix the water into the flour with their hands.

Pemayetv Emahkv Students Take Time Out for Fun Day

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Students at Pemayetv Emahkv took a break from their academics to enjoy a fun day outdoors that included friendly competition and physical activities at the softball field at the Brighton Gym on March 20.

"It's just a day for students to come out and have fun and blow off some steam at the end of the year," said Physical Education teacher Chris Goodwin.

The fun day consisted of eight stations set up with detailed instructions on how to perform each competition.



Rachel Buxton

Sunni Bearden rounds third base and gets ready to pass the baton.

Physical Education teacher Pam Matthews came up with the ideas for the stations. Both classes in each grade level stayed together and competed against each other at each station.

At station 1, "The Brighton 500," students had to make a scooter ship out of three scooters and a mat. They then had to push two designated classmates around a race track to cross the finish line to win.

At station 2, "Chariots of Fire," students had to pull a classmate sitting in a tire to the finish line and then drag the tire back and repeat until all students got a chance to be pulled in the tire chariot.

Station 3 was a rest point for children. Students relaxed and took a break enjoying ice pops and ice-cold water.

Students enjoyed a game of tug-of-war at station 4. Teams mixed up the competition with varying competitors to class against class, boys against girls, the three shortest students of each class against each other as well as the three smallest students competing against each other.

Base Run was the name of the game at Station 5. One team started at home plate while the other team started at second base. Students competed in a relay format where one member would run around the bases and would then pass the baton on to the next teammate. Students cheered their classmates on. "Run like the wind," teams yelled at the runners.

Students were challenged at Station 6, the "Corn Cob Throw." Students laid on their backs and attempted to throw a piece of corn over their head using nothing but their feet. This station posed a difficult challenge.

Laughs could be heard from Station 7, "Fill the Pans." One student on each team wore an extra large pair of sweatpants and attempted to catch balls thrown by their teammates inside their pants. The first student to catch 12 balls inside the pants was the winner.

Around and around students ran trying to steal clothespins from



Rachel Buxton

(Back Row, L-R) Brian Bishop and Isaac Osceola push Layne Thomas (Center, L-R) and Brady Rhodes on their self-made scooter spaceship.

their opponent's shirt sleeve. Station 8, the "Clothespin Tag," challenged students to be the last one standing with clothespins intact.

To wrap up the fun day, grade levels competed in the Quest Challenge in the breezeway of the Charter School.

For the Quest Challenge, students listened to a verbal challenge and the first grade to complete the challenge or answer the question correctly won points. Challenges included students racing to the center circle wearing two different shoes, students rolling their tongues and even teachers doing cartwheels. Students also had to correctly identify bones in the body and perform mathematical equations in their heads to earn points.

Fifth grade was the winning grade with fourth grade coming in right behind.



Alyssa Burnett-Osceola is a Goal Setter in the Reading Program at the Ahfachkee Library.



(L-R) Keeno King and Ahfachkee School Coordinator Eileen Hager display Sabre Billie's art work that won second place in the 2009 Native American Student Artist competition.

AWARDS

From page 1B

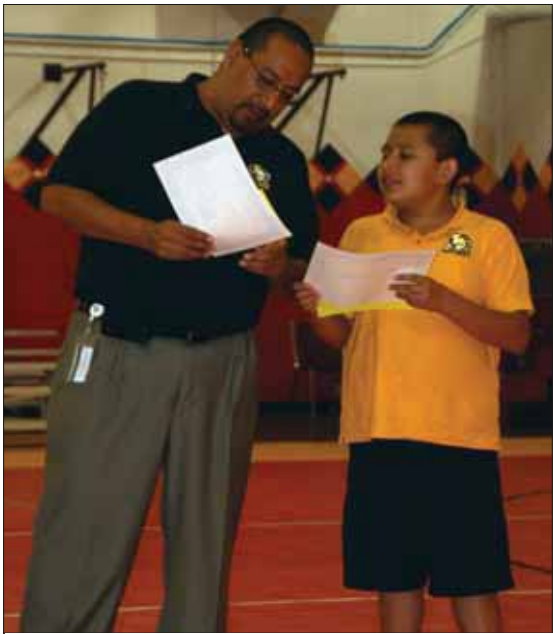
"Our school has undergone serious evaluation throughout the course of the year and the staff and children have stepped up to a higher level," said Swan. "Our high school has gone from 7 to 40 students and in order to meet the demands of higher education, grades six through 12 will begin changing classes in the fall."

"We will have departments for language arts, social studies, science and math, with new programs being initiated," he added. "The current model for our school was good, but the future demands that we increase our capacity for the benefit of the students and faculty."

Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress was on hand to congratulate the school's students, as well as the faculty and staff.

"The fact that our educational system is growing is a sign that we are doing something right," Rep. Cypress said. "We have been filling our expansion requirements with portables but before long we will have outgrown their capacity and will need to look at new options. Keeping up with our educational needs is a challenge that I am looking forward to meeting."

A large number of students had received excused absences to participate in the Seminole 4-H Show and Sale being held on the same day as the Ahfachkee Awards Ceremony. Their achievements were acknowledged and their certificates distributed after the event.



(L-R) Principal Walt Swan hands Graysun Billie his Perfect Attendance certificate.

Ahfachkee's Third Quarter Award Recipients

3.0-3.49 GPA - Ahfachkee Achievement

Athens Bert, Caniah Billie, Evol Buck, Leilani Gopher, Brianna Bowers, Katesa Kirkland, Carlos Romero, Edward Aguilar, Charles Alexander, Bradin Jim, Chaska Osceola, Mazzy Robbins, Cartaya Billie, Elisah Billie, Eyanna Billie, Bluesky Friday, Trinity Williams, Ethan Aguilar, Jonah Alvarado, Darius Friday, John Robbins, Ignacia Rodriguez, Jacob Cotton, Michaela Cypress, Chelsey Ford, Chloe Hendrickson, Natalia Martinez, Katherine Bert, Elyse Frank, Esya Frank, Haden Littlebear, Marco Flores, Susie Jim, Sarah Osceola, Juan Salazar, Savannah Tiger, Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, Chad Mottow, Tequesta Tiger, Bianca Fernandez, Tana Bear-Osceola, Steven Frank, Ragan Osceola, Jose Cisneros, Jessica Lopez.

3.5-3.99 GPA - Ahfachkee Honor

Cameron Alexander, Evan Cypress, Nicholas Andrews, Caleb Billie, Ivan Billie, Harmony Cypress, Gabriel Hendrickson-Porter, Barbara Jimmie, Dacia Osceola, Katrina Columbo, Hermione Calderon, Ramona Jimmie, Hehchoo-Ye Jumper, Adrian Mendoza, Liberty Robbins, Willie Smith, Amaya Solano, Carlee Billie, Tash-Sho-Tah-Che Jumper, Thoya Robbins, Thoya, Ezekiel Roberts, Richard Billie, Ricky Rodriguez, Jack Aguilar, Cassandra Alexander, Eliza Billie, Janessa Jones, Emmitt Osceola, Abraham Tigertail, Issian Alvarado, Thomlynn

Billie, Marley Billie-Herrera, Romeo Garcia, Evanne Pratt, Kevin Ivey, Brendon Otero, Ryanne Pratt, AnnaBelle WhiteShield, Sierra Kirkland, Christopher Alexander, Joelli Frank, Joelli, Leana Billie, Sabre Billie, Kaitlin Osceola, Destiny Robbins, Justin Roff, Taylor Tigertail, Alyssa Noah, Jon Ross Billie.

4.0 GPA - Ahfachkee Scholar

Tauni Cypress, Charlie Osceola, Timothy Tigertail, Elijah Cook, Spencer Aguilar, Kobe Billie, Kamari Ivey, Camaan Jumper, Brandi Osceola, Leo Osceola-Onco, Camden Rhymes, Valholy Frank, Elise Brown, Precious Jimmie, Alena Stockton, Shana Valentine, Jalycia Billie-Valdez, Brandon Frank, Kylen Jumper, Abigail Tigertail, Alyssa Burnett-Osceola, Bionca Acosta, Alexis Aguilar.

Perfect Attendance

Sontino Billie, Timothy Tigertail, Timothy, He-Choo-Ye Jumper, Elise Brown, Abigail Tigertail, Eyanna Billie, Jathaniel Brooks, Trinity Williams, GraySun Billie, Sabre Billie, Caitlin Cypress.

Ahfachkee Participation

Sontino Billie, Lauren Doctor, Cale Osceola, Daleen Osceola, Keaton Billie, Angelie Melton, Dontai Russell, Dontai, Anthony Wells.

NATIVE BOOK REVIEW BY RAMONA KIYOSHK

[Editor's Note: Ramona Kiyoskh is a freelance writer and member of the Ojibway First Nation of Walpole Island, Ontario. The opinions she expresses are her own. She can be reached at satin.moccasins@gmail.com.]

This collection of short stories by Chippewa super-writer Louise Erdrich contains 30 selections from three decades, handpicked by the author herself. Some have previously been published in magazines, and six are brand new.

These stories, arranged chronologically, follow Erdrich from her captivating early years into new realms that reflect a seasoned, mature writer honed by personal tragedy. She is everywoman victorious.

The first entry and title story, *The Red Convertible*, is about two brothers who come of age amid the Vietnam War. The siblings are on a recreational trip to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, when they become mesmerized by a car that appears to have a life of its own — “And of course it was a red, red, Olds.” They buy the car on the spot and begin a meandering road trip across America.

Erdrich's stories are often tragic, told in a style that bounces between hilarious and heart-breaking. *The Red Convertible* is no exception. There is the trademark baptism by fire, and the reader comes away purged, cleansed for rebirth.

Knives is the cheerless story of a middle-aged, unattractive butcher's assistant who seeks solace in romance magazines and novels until a handsome traveling salesman wanders into the shop one day at closing time. His advances make her aware of her repressed loneliness. She finally tires of him and sends him away, but their bumbling affair is only the beginning of startling changes for both.

The Bingo Van is about an anti-hero who stands at the edge of sin. Racism, violence, and poverty are a part of Native American life, on the reservation

and off. Erdrich paints them into the landscapes, using subtle brush strokes. It is this matter-of-fact understatement that gives brutality a wrecking ball impact, leaving the reader gasping and helpless.

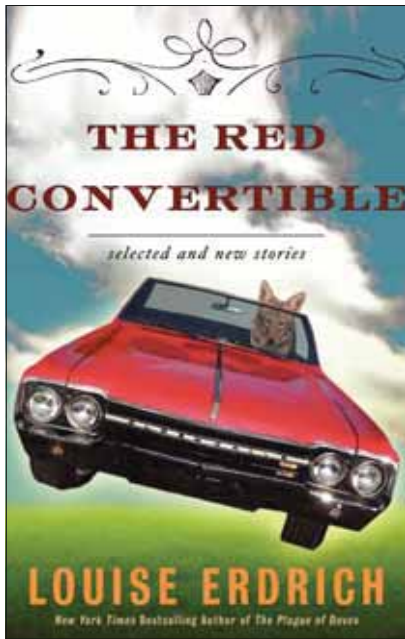
In *Father's Milk*, Erdrich uses mysticism, beauty and violence like fine-honed tools. In a relentless struggle for survival, even the most loyal face betrayal. A young Indian mother mourning her child lost in a massacre sets out to find the baby. A hardened soldier is transformed into a nurturing father by an act of desperation. A young wife dies after being ravaged by three days of labor before giving birth to a beautiful plump son. Native American spirituality, another instrument in Erdrich's repertory, brings this tale to a spectacular, mythic conclusion.

Erdrich fans will recognize characters from her novels, appearing here in chapters or episodes that were not included in the published books. Jack Mauser, the much-wed, macho land developer from *Tales of Burning Love* appears in *Crest*. The nun, Sister Leopolda, a mainstay in early novels, whose powerful manic personality is seared forever into the reader's psyche, is revisited in *Saint Marie*.

Usually with collections, the first story is the bait, exceptional and enticing. In this case, every entry is extraordinary. The reader becomes snared in the moment, spellbound in the current conflict, tragedy, or comic adventure.

Erdrich has received critical acclaim for her imagination, observation and sense of place. Her novels and poetry are a surprising mix of pathos, comedy, quirkiness and wonder. Her characters are authentic and unforgettable and her depiction of the Native American as icon is unique.

The Red Convertible is a treasure to be enjoyed by anyone wise enough to pick it up.



The Red Convertible
Selected and New Stories
By Louise Erdrich

Pages: 496
Released: January 2009
Hardcover, \$27.99



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(L-R) Principal Russell Brown presents Melany Williams with the first place medal.

Pemayetv Emahakv Students Compete in Tropicana Speech Contest at School Melany Williams, Erik Garcia Take Top Honors

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

BRIGHTON — Several Pemayetv Emahakv students competed in the Tropicana Speech Contest, held in the breezeway of the Charter School on April 2.

Select students from fourth and fifth grade vied to win a spot in the district competition that took place at the Doyle Conner Agricultural Center in Moore Haven, Fla. on April 21.

Leading up to the school competition, the students worked on individual speeches with their teachers and participated in a classroom competition. The top six students and speeches were selected to compete in the school competition.

Melany Williams and Erik Garcia took first place for their grades in the school competition.

Competing for fifth grade were: Michael Garcia, Joshua Greenbaum, Kailin Brown, Zachary Hudson, Elizabeth Johns and Melany Williams. Fourth grade competitors were: Demetrius Clark, Diamond Shore, Joshua Madrigal, Sean Osceola, Andrew Dobbs and Erik Garcia.

Members from the Glades County School Board Patricia Pearce, Janet Storey and Jeri Wilson judged both speech contests.

Williams won for her speech on the history of Chalo Nitka. She shared details about the early days of the Glades County festival with the crowd. Williams remained composed, showing her talent as a public speaker when she had technical difficulties with the microphone.

Snagging second place for fifth



Erik Garcia talks about his baby cousin born on March 20.

grade was Hudson who talked about his passion for the game of golf. He maintained eye contact with the audience while he talked about the history of golf and his dream to one day play in the ever-famous golf tournament, the Masters.

Brown won over the judges, taking third place in the fifth grade competition. Brown educated the audience on a historical moment in time, the assassination of the 16th president Abraham Lincoln.

Erik Garcia grabbed the attention of the judges winning first for fourth grade when he spoke about the birth of his cousin. Garcia made the crowd laugh when he got down on his hands and knees imitating when he had to beg to hold his baby cousin who was born on March 20.

Second place for fourth grade was awarded to Dobbs for his speech on "How to survive changing to a new school." In his speech, Dobbs gave instructions on how to handle a bully and love-struck girls.

Third place winner Osceola had the crowd in hysterics when he spoke on how to get out of trouble.

"I'm the master of getting out of trouble," Osceola exclaimed.

He advised his fellow students to follow three simple steps when in trouble; apologize, distract and say something nice, Osceola said.

Principal Russell Brown praised all the students competing for doing an excellent job speaking in front of an audience.

"A lot of you are getting more comfortable standing up in front of people and speaking and that's a skill that is going to be very helpful for you," said Principal Brown.

The top two winners for each grade will represent the Charter School in the district competition.

"This speech contest is not only a competition but a learning experience," said Brown.



Melany Williams speaks about how much Chalo Nitka means to her.



Ms. Ebony oversees the 3-year-old students as they color their self-esteem hearts.

Preschoolers Let Their Self-Esteem Shine

SUBMITTED BY VALERIE MARONE
Contributing Writer

BRIGHTON — Students in the 3- and 4-year-old classes at the Brighton Preschool learned about the importance of having high self-esteem from Family Services Dept. Counselor Peg Gillick and Valerie Marone of the Family Services Dept. Alcohol and Drug Prevention Program at the Brighton Preschool on March 27.

The children were read a story about self-esteem and the puppets Wiggles and Carmen from the Too Good for Drugs Curriculum were used to help facilitate the discussion. By the end of the class the children were able to identify and express their feelings about being special and completed a craft that included at least one thing they thought was unique about themselves.

The self-esteem class is one in a series of classes aimed at helping to build developmental assets in each child.

One of the best things about the preschool age is

how much the children rely on the adults in their lives. At this point, the parent or guardian's approval is highly prized and their teaching is well received during this time of unconditional devotion.

The following tips will help parents work with their preschooler so the child will grow up happy, healthy and drug-free: Talk to the child about the joys of healthy living; celebrate his or her decision-making skills; stress the need to take personal responsibility for themselves; and their health and well being; help the child steer clear of dangerous substances that may exist in their immediate world; help the child separate make believe from real life; help the child separate a learning opportunity; and praise him or her when they are helpful.

3-Year-Old Class Teachers:

Mrs. Nicola, Ms. Ebony, Grandma Oneva and Grandma Ethel

4-Year-Old Class Teachers:

Miss Jimi, Miss Sheryl, Mrs. Alice, Grandma Mollie and Mrs. Lavern

PEMAYETV EMAHAKV STUDENT HONORS



Awards for Feb. 17-27

Kindergarten
Mrs. Duncan – Caylie Huff
Mrs. Webber – Jagger Gaucin

Second Grade
Mrs. Ball – Jarrett Bert
Mrs. Moss – Aleina Micco

Fourth Grade
Mrs. Tedders – Trevor Thomas
Mrs. Williams – Demetrius Clark

First Grade
Mrs. Davis – Jahbain Arnold
Mrs. Ringstaff – Keira French
Mrs. Hudson – Echo Billie

Third Grade
Mrs. Clements – Alyana Tommie
Mrs. Pryor – Brian Bishop

Fifth Grade
Mrs. Dobbs – Chastity Harmon
Mrs. Finney – Zeke Matthews



Awards for March 2-13

Kindergarten
Mrs. Duncan – Davin Carrillo
Mrs. Webber – Aubee Billie

Second Grade
Mrs. Moss – Keely Billie

Fourth Grade
Mrs. Tedders – Raylon Eagle
Mrs. Williams – Josh Magrinal

First Grade
Mrs. Davis – Mallorie Thomas
Mrs. Ringstaff – Calliou Smith
Mrs. Hudson – Kai Osceola

Third Grade
Mrs. Clements – Sunni Bearden
Mrs. Pryor – Cheyenne Fish

Fifth Grade
Mrs. Dobbs – Thomas Bearden
Mrs. Finney – Yo Osceola

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Health

Making Swimming Pool Safety A Priority

BY NICHOLAS PERSAUD
Environmental Health Specialist

Swimming pool accidents can happen very quickly, and without warning. Every year drowning is one of the major causes of accidents, resulting in serious injury and death in children and adults. Learning and practicing the following swimming pool safety precautions is vital.

Listed are some simple tips that can prevent drowning:

Always have rescue equipment, including a life saving flotation device and Sheppard's hook, handy and near the pool. Do not use air filled aids as a substitute for approved rescue equipment.

Never allow children to swim alone without adult supervision, even if they have had swimming lessons. When children are swimming, be observant and supervise all activities.

Encourage all children above the age of 4 to attend a certified swimming class. If this isn't possible, instruct them in basic flotation and life saving techniques.

Set pool rules and talk about pool safety to children at a very young age. Some examples of good pool rules include no pushing and no running around the pool. Teach older children the buddy system rule — don't go in or near the water alone.

Completely enclose the pool with removable pool safety fences that are at least 4 feet high and install self-closing and self-latching gates. Be sure to position latches out of children's reach. To prevent children from getting to the pool, keep all doors and windows leading to the pool secure. Install alarms on doors that lead to the pool area.

Position tables and chairs far away from the pool safety fence to prevent children from climbing into the pool area.

Ensure that the cover of the swimming pool is completely fitted over the pool. Never leave the cover partially open because children may become trapped under it. Also, never let children walk over the pool cover.

Remove all toys from the pool after use so children aren't tempted to reach for them. After the children are done swimming, secure the pool so they can't get back into it.

During social occasions designate someone as the pool watch guard. Adults can rotate this duty.

Learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).

Keep all electrical appliances away from the pool. To avoid having to leave children unattended when receiving a telephone call, keep a telephone in the pool area with emergency numbers near the poolside phone, including local Seminole Police Dept. for your reservation.

Remember, teaching a child how to swim does not make them safe in water.



Team Seminole members, (L-R) Maureen Davis, Denise Gibson, Tamara Parrish, Charlotte Porcaro, Barbara Billie, Edna McDuffie, Diana Hall and Danielle McCall in front of the booth at the Clewiston Relay for Life.

Team Seminole Supports Relay for Life

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

Community Outreach and Team Seminole Walk Coordinator Edna McDuffie canvassed the reservations in an effort to enlist Tribal citizens and employees to join Team Seminole in the Relay for Life. Assisted by Barbara Billie of Big Cypress Wellness and Charlotte Porcaro of the Immokalee Health Dept., teams were formed to participate in Clewiston, Fla. on March 14 and Immokalee on March 20.

Stressing that the fight against cancer is a team effort, individuals were encouraged to not only attend the opening ceremonies at both locations, but take turns carrying the pendant during the all night vigil.

By supporting the team, participants become part of a life changing event that celebrates those who have battled cancer, remembers loved ones lost and empowers everyone to fight back against this dreaded disease.

As a recent cancer survivor, Tribal citizen Mary Jene Koenes used her story to encourage participation.

"I am just one of the many Tribal members who have been stricken by this terrible illness," Koenes said. "Cancer shows no mercy. It launches its attack on all ages, genders and races. It is important that we unite in the fight to find a cure."

"Because of the effort of people like those who make up Team Seminole, funds are being raised for research that is saving lives and providing the knowledge to win the battle against cancer," she added.

Koenes made a point to remind everyone that they need to be proactive

when it comes to cancer.

"I can not encourage you enough to seek annual physical checkups as the first line of defense," she said. "I showed no sign of illness, but fortunately, a routine scan detected my cancer in the early stages and provided an opportunity for me to receive treatment before it was too late."

Booths were set up at the local high school tracks in both communities in support of their teams. Each member of Team Seminole received a "Walking Together for Better Health" T-shirt and shared the opportunity to be a part of the race for a cure.

A variety of fundraising projects were initiated at the Clewiston Relay. Big Cypress Board Rep. Cicero Osceola donated a laptop and three Seminole patchwork shirts with football logo backgrounds to be raffled off during the event.

Tamara Parrish, Denise Gibson and Danielle McCall, from the Ahfachkee School, Tribal Council employee Maureen Davis and volunteers Derrick Hughes and Dustin Lowman manned the Team Seminole booth. In addition to taking their turns in the relay around the track, they sold the raffle tickets and hamburgers and hot dogs throughout the evening.

Tracy DeLaRosa of the Seminole Fitness Dept. set up her massage chair beside the Team Seminole booth in Immokalee. Requesting donations for the cancer relay, she kept a steady line of customers eager for a massage.

Team Seminole members took turns circulating the spirit stick and pendant as they participated in the Relay for Life throughout the afternoon and evening. Applause rose from the crowd as the survivors made their round.



(L-R) Mother and daughter team members, Amy Yzaguirre and Larissa DeLaRosa, carry the Spirit Stick around the track.

Community Members Discuss, Learn About Diabetes at Tribal Health Dept. Forum

BY SHELLEY MARMOR
Assistant Editor

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal Health Dept. employees and local community health representatives spoke to Tribal citizens about a multitude of diabetes and health-related topics on March 26 at the Community Health Leadership Forum, held in the Hard Rock ballrooms.

The daylong event featured speakers including Chairman Mitchell Cypress, who shared his personal struggle with diabetes, Health Dept. Director Connie Whidden, Tribal Nutritionist Beth Morlang and Dr. Wendy Satin Rappaport from the University of Miami's Diabetes Research Institute.

During the forum, titled "A Discussion of Diabetes," Hollywood Board of Directors Rep. Gloria Wilson and Hollywood Tribal Council Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. spoke to the attendees about the disease that affects Native Americans more than any other demographic, according to American Diabetes Association statistics. The two talked about the importance of making health a priority.

"Those of you with diabetes, I know it's hard; you want to eat like everybody else," Rep. Wilson said. "I know we all like softie, and frybread is good, but I make it a treat for myself and only eat it at festivals or when someone else cooks it."

Rep. Osceola said he found the motivation to recently lose weight and lead a healthier lifestyle because

he wants to see his youngest grandchild graduate college one day. He encouraged those diagnosed with diabetes to not see their diagnosis as the final word, since diabetes can be maintained through diet and exercise.

"If you've already been diagnosed with diabetes, you can let it bring you down, or you can see it as a challenge," Rep. Osceola said.

In fact, the Chairman, one of the Tribe's biggest success stories, did just that and saw his diabetes diagnosis as a challenge to get healthy. He said he was first diagnosed in 1983 and had to use medications including insulin and as many as 15 others, in addition to diet modification and regular exercise, to get the disease to a manageable level.

According to Suzanne Davis, director of the Allied Health Dept., those diagnosed with diabetes should take the hemoglobin A1c test, better known as the HbA1c test, every three months to make sure their blood sugar levels stay within an acceptable range.

A1c is a bodily compound created when excess blood sugar sticks to hemoglobin, a protein found in red blood cells. The higher each person's blood sugar, the higher their A1c score. The HbA1c test scores each person from 6-14 percent.

Davis said a score of seven percent or less is acceptable, and told the attendees the Chairman scored 6.3 percent on his most recent test in 2008, down from an off-the-charts 14.4 percent score three years prior.

■ Please see FORUM on page 7B



Health Dept. Director Connie Whidden talks to the attendees about diabetes prevention.

Shelley Marmor

Cooking Classes Teach Healthier Food Alternatives

Weight Loss Tips, Cooking Demo, More Offered at Class

BY MARISOL GONZALEZ
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — The first class in the eight-week healthy cooking series kicked off with Toma Hunter and Marjorie Meredith of the Hollywood Health Dept. giving attendees tips and tricks about healthier alternatives for their lives.

During the first class, held March 17 in the Hollywood Auditorium, the two offered tips on weight loss, distributed nutritional information and exercise tips, and had a hands-on cooking demonstration.

"Try to count your fat grams and lower your over-all calories per day," Hunter said. "Make sure to keep track of everything you are eating."

The two also expressed the importance about counting fat grams, lowering daily calorie intake and exercising for at least 30 minutes daily.

"Don't focus on the boringness of exercise, and find something you like to do," suggested Meredith.



Marisol Gonzalez
Loretta Micco cuts mushrooms to put in his low-fat, low-calorie omelet.



Marisol Gonzalez
Loretta Micco has her weight and height noted so she can track her weekly progress.

They also urged the Tribal citizens to try new products, including those that are high in fiber, which makes people feel fuller longer. The participants received aprons, a nutritional calorie/fat/carbohydrates book and a calculator to add up their daily intake of food.

Loretta Micco, Vincent Micco and Hollywood Board Rep. Gloria Wilson attended the class.

All agreed that they would continue to attend the classes and said that this was a perfect initiative to get them started on a healthier lifestyle.

The attendees also sampled various lower-calorie and lower-fat products. The class then went on to prepare a healthy alternative of an omelet using fresh vegetables and Egg Beaters® because they contain less fat and cholesterol than a shell egg.

Classes will be held in the Hollywood Auditorium every Tuesday until May 5 from 4-5 p.m.



Photo Courtesy of Seminole Media Productions

Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Services President Arnold Lampert, Seminole Media Productions Assistant Director Sunshine Frank, Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Services Executive Director Neil Newstein, Seminole Broadcasting Reporter Briana Abittan and Graphic Design Specialist Miguel Friere.

Seminole Media Productions Dept. Sponsors 'No Excuse for Abuse' Luncheon

BY BRIANA ABITTAN
Seminole Broadcasting Reporter

WEST PALM BEACH — Whether it's a verbal offense or a physical jab, domestic violence is an issue that affects the lives of people from every walk of life. Often times, abuse is overlooked and simply flies under the radar.

However, for the Alpert Jewish Family & Children's Services (JFCS) their mission is to heal the world one family at a time by increasing awareness and lending a helping hand to those in need.

"The need for services became evident and we are able to provide quality professional services that make a difference in people's lives," said Neil Newstein, executive director of JFCS.

Seminole Media Productions (SMP) sponsored a gold table at the fifth annual No Excuse for Abuse Luncheon in hopes to help fund their two dozen programs dedicated to the cause. The event took place March 11 at the Kravis Center for Performing Arts.

Co-Chair Carla Fine said without the support of the community, the program would not be as successful as they are today.

"I thank The Seminole Tribe of Florida for their unbelievably generous support," she said. "Their contribution will go a long way and we hope to build a relationship with them."

According to the National Organization for Women, Native American women experience the highest rate of violence of any group in the U.S. For Seminole Media Productions Assistant Director Sunshine Frank, this concern hits close to home.

"Our people are far too precious to allow domestic abuse to tear us apart," Frank said. "That's why it's important to get involved with other organizations like JFCS, to raise awareness within our Tribe."

Linda Fairstein, former chief of the New York City Sex Crimes Prosecution Unit and *New York Times* best selling author was on hand to sign autographs and spoke to the 500-plus attendees that day. She stressed that violence happens everywhere, all the time.

"This happens in every socioeconomic class, every religion, and every race," Fairstein said.

For more info on programs offered through the JFCS, please log on to jfcsonline.com.



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Def Lepard/Poison

Dave Mathews Band

Jonas Brothers

Crue Fest

Depeche Mode

Metallica

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Chairman Mitchell Cypress discusses his personal struggle with diabetes.

Shelley Marmor

FORUM
From page 5B

During his presentation, Chairman Cypress encouraged the audience members not to let their diabetes control their lives. He said in order to keep the disease at bay it was necessary for him to take an honest look at his lifestyle, set a goal to get healthy, take stock of his bad habits and ask for help. He said those four factors made it possible for him get his diabetes to a manageable level.

"There's more help out there than you think there is, but you have to ask for it," said the Chairman about the numerous Tribal programs targeted at diabetes prevention and education.

Health Dept. Director Connie Whidden thanked Chairman Cypress for sharing his personal story, calling it "inspirational." She also explained the difference between Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Type 1 is sometimes referred to as "juvenile diabetes" because it onsets at an early age and is not typically lifestyle related. Type 2, the most common type in Native American populations, typically occurs as a result of lifestyle factors.

"Most of our native people have Type 2," Whidden said. "But that can be controlled through diet and exercise."

Tribal Nutritionist Beth Morlang from Brighton gave a presentation about some of the tests a person living with diabetes should take to monitor where they

stand with the disease. She said to remember the ABCs; A stands for the HbA1c test, B stands for blood pressure testing, and Morlang said 130/80 or lower is acceptable, and finally, C stands for cholesterol testing.

Morlang said cholesterol screening is important because "diabetes and heart problems go hand-in-hand" and those with diabetes have as much as four times the likelihood of developing a heart condition as those who don't have it. She said each person's total cholesterol should be less than 200 for optimum health.

"Regular health tests are going to tell our doctor how well we're doing," she said. "But diet and exercise are always going to be our first line of defense." Speaker Dr. Wendy Satin Rappaport from the University of Miami's Diabetes Research Institute spoke twice during the event, once about the topic "Living Clean ... Staying Motivated" and also during the "Just Been Diagnosed – Now What?" presentation.

She said that with diabetes, once one family member is diagnosed, the entire family is then affected by the disease. She said she refers to family members of diagnosed persons as having "Type Too" diabetes, because "you have it too if your loved one does."

Dr. Rappaport assured the Tribal citizens in the audience that although they belong to a demographic with a high risk of developing diabetes, it is not guaranteed anyone will develop it.

"It's inevitable that you are at risk," she said. "But it's not inevitable that you get it."

THE HEALTHY SENIOR BY FRED CICETTI

[Editor's Note: Fred Cicetti is a syndicated columnist who writes about issues concerning senior citizens' health. The opinions he expresses are his own. This is the third part in a three-part series on breast cancer. If you would like to ask a question, please write fred@healthyeecer.com. All Rights Reserved ©2009 by Fred Cicetti.]

Q: My doctor put his stethoscope on my neck and muttered to himself, "no broocy." I'm not the type to ask the doctor questions, but I'm still wondering what he meant by that. My spelling is probably wrong.

A: Your doctor was checking your carotid arteries on the sides of your neck to see if the blood flow to your brain was blocked. If one of the arteries was blocked, it would make a "swoosh" that the medical profession calls a "bruit." Your phonetic spelling is excellent. Bruit is pronounced "BROO-ee" like "phooey."

Carotid arteries run from the aorta — the main trunk of the arterial system — up to your brain. When these vessels become blocked, you have carotid artery disease, which can cause a stroke.

The chances of developing this disease increase with age. About one percent of people in their fifties have significantly blocked carotid arteries, but ten percent of people in their eighties have carotid artery disease.

As you age, a sticky substance called plaque, which contains cholesterol, can accumulate on the inside walls of your arteries. The process is called atherosclerosis or hardening of the arteries.

Some of the causes of carotid artery disease are high blood pressure, cholesterol in your blood, smoking and diabetes.

It is possible to fight carotid artery disease. First, quit smoking. This is the probably the most significant thing you can do to combat this disease. In addition to quitting smoking, you should get regular exercise, eat a healthy diet and keep your weight down. Obviously, if you have high blood pressure, too much cholesterol in your blood or diabetes, you should be treating those.

The common diagnostic tests for carotid artery disease are: carotid duplex scan, an ultrasound study that shows the location and size of the problem; arteriogram, which is an X-ray and computerized tomography (CT Scan) of the brain for damage.

The amount of blockage in a carotid artery determines the risk of having a stroke. If the blockage becomes severe enough, you may need surgery to open the blood flow to your brain.

In carotid endarterectomy, a surgeon makes an incision in the neck to open a carotid artery. The blockage is removed and the artery is closed.

Carotid artery stenting is a procedure in which a wire mesh tube called a stent is positioned and expanded across the blockage in the artery.

In its early stages, carotid artery disease may have no symptoms. The initial indication could be a stroke. However, you may experience warning symptoms of a stroke called transient ischemic attacks or TIAs, which usually last less than an hour.

TIA symptoms include: weakness, numbness, or a tingling on one side of your body, inability to control a limb, loss of vision in one eye, and inability to speak clearly.

If you experience TIA symptoms, contact your physician immediately.

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Chris C. Jenkins

The Men's Division champion Trail team, along with Ruby Osceola, Herman's mother (Third from Right).

Herman L. Osceola Tourney Celebrates 25th Year



Chris C. Jenkins

Jerome Davis (R) and Josh Williams (L) tip off in the Men's Division championship game.

Tribe's Longest Running Memorial Tournament

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal citizens from various reservations came out once again for one of the Tribe's longest-running memorial tournaments, held Mar. 26-28.

The quarter century old Herman L. Osceola Basketball Tournament brought out the best and most talented men and women's ball players to the gymnasium, named in the Bird Clan member's honor.

This year's event featured many of the same clubs and kicked off with men's and women's legends play followed by tournament action.

"Every time March comes around I think of him," Tribal citizen and mother, Ruby, said.

"I really enjoy fixing the food and watching," she added. "It does not matter who [the participants] are; I love seeing them all."

In Women's Legends Division play, the Native Ladies took top honors, while the BC Rec won on the Men's side.

The Women's Division team No Pressure took home the championship title in a dominating 50-23 final game.

The Trail team came out as the champions in the Men's Division final game in a close 79-76 nail biter.

Nora Billie, aunt to Herman, has played in all 25 years of the tourney playing on the Legend's Division Native Ladies squad, which won this year in their division. She said she enjoys paying honor each year to the fallen Seminole warrior killed while serving his country as a Marine.

"I will remember his name and service to his people and this country," she said. "He was a good boy and a good man... There was nothing bad you could ever say about him."

"I always saw him on the court when other tournaments would come around here," Billie added.

Competitors Turn Out for Junior Cypress Memorial Rodeo

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Participants in the 13th annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive packed evening of entertainment provided by the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) following their day on the trail.

The annual trail drive and rodeo take place each year in memory of Junior Cypress. A founding father of the Seminole cattle industry, Cypress was a strong advocate of rodeo and family values. When he wasn't riding the woods and pasture lands doing ranch work, he spent his free time with the youngsters of Big Cypress.

Rodeo is a tradition with Seminole cowboys and Cypress inspired and encouraged the boys and girls to try their hand in the competition. The formation of the EIRA and the Junior Rodeo represent a final achievement of one of his goals.

In recognition of Cypress' contribution to rodeo, EIRA President Josh Jumper and Vice, EIRA President Josh Bowens, acting on behalf of the membership of their organizations, presented an award to his descendants.

Jonah Cypress and Esther Cypress Buster received commemorative

plaque dedicating their father as "Rodeo's No. 1." Designing this constant number on the rodeo circuit is the highest possible achievement.

Moses "Big" Jumper Jr. fondly recalled Cypress.

"Junior Cypress always felt that our youth should be our priority and we agree," he said. "We have added three new events to our junior rodeo competition: Chute Doggin, Junior and Senior Steer Underrating. These are designed to help teach the youngsters the skills necessary to compete in the Steer Wrestling and Calf Roping."

Buckles were awarded to all first place winners in the evening's events.

The Junior Rodeo got underway at 4 p.m. with the Mutton Bustin' for children ages 8 and younger. First place went to Norman Osceola who managed to hang onto his furry beast for 20.44 seconds. The announcer asked Osceola what advice he would offer to his competition.

"Hang on 'til you fall off," Osceola said.

Frank Huff managed an awesome 65 points aboard the rough stock in the Pony Riding exhibition. Jobe Johns followed in second and then earned his buckle in the Calf Riding with a 3.35



Judy Weeks

Ko'Oshee Henry shows his skill in the 4-8-year-old Barrel Racing competition.

Pool Tournament Commemorates Chairman's Birthday

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — The Chairman Mitchell Cypress Pool Tournament took place on April 4 in the Herman L. Osceola Gym, in celebration of the Chairman's birthday.

What began as a small, informal birthday party at the home of Chairman Cypress, quickly escalated into a major event a few days before the occasion was to take place. Organizing the party, family and friends changed the location to the gym as the pool tournament guest list continued to grow.

"My brother's birthday is really on April 2, but we planned the party for Saturday so that everyone could participate," said Big Cypress Council Rep. David Cypress. "As little children, birthdays are a big deal and then it seems like the years just begin to fly by. When we hit 50 we begin to count the years again and realize how fortunate we are with every year that passes. We look for excuses to enjoy the company of our friends and what better way is there to celebrate than playing pool."

Tournament play included men and women's divisions of 8-Ball and 9-Ball followed by Scotch Doubles. Kicking off at noon, the 10 tables remained in continuous play until late in the evening.

Following a buffet, tournament players were joined by community members as they sang "Happy Birthday" to Chairman Cypress and then shared pieces of his birthday cake.

After thanking everyone for their well wishes and attendance, Chairman Cypress joked about his performance in the tournament.

□ Please see POOL on page 5C

John Billie Sr. Honored at Annual Horseshoe Tournament

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Family and friends from Big Cypress, Brighton, Hollywood and Trail came to celebrate the life of John Billie Sr. at the 3rd Annual Horseshoe Tournament held at his home on March 28.

All of the guests put on commemorative T-shirts for the event and then circled around to watch as John's wife, Louise, kicked off the tournament by throwing out the first horseshoe of the day.

At the tournament's conclusion, Juanita Osceola won first place in the Senior Women's Division, with Ronnie Billie Sr. capturing the top spot in the Senior Men's Division. Loraine Billie and Chris Hulbutta came in first in the Women's and Men's Divisions, respectively, and Almba Billie and Ronnie Billie Sr. took top honors in Mixed Doubles.

John Billie was a member of the Bear Clan and lifelong resident of Big Cypress. As a young man, he had a keen interest in machinery and learned to operate tractors and heavy equipment. These job skills made it possible for him to support his growing family and eventually possess his own business. A devoted family man and good neighbor, his home was always filled with children.

He and his wife, Louise, became known for their hospitality as they opened their camp to everyone on holidays and special occasions; their Christmas celebration could be found on everybody's calendar. Louise continues this tradition and organized the horseshoe tournament in memory of her husband and his favorite pastime.

Louise Billie, assisted by family members, spent long hours preparing a traditional Seminole meal over the campfire for the horseshoe tournament participants. A table loaded with photographs and memorabilia drew a crowd who shared memories and stories throughout the afternoon.

□ Please see KICKING on page 4C

Tribe Sponsors 6th Annual Jason Taylor Foundation Events

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

Washington Redskins Defensive End and National Football League All-Pro Jason Taylor and the Seminole Tribe partnered together once again for the 6th annual Jason Taylor Foundation Celebrity Golf Classic, held March 29-30.

Taylor said the Tribe has continued to be a major sponsor for him and his charity, though he no longer resides in South Florida or plays for the hometown Miami Dolphins.

"The Tribe has actually stepped up even more, I cannot say, 'They went above and beyond what we asked for.' Taylor said, 'I was about the Chairman and the Tribe and what they do.'"

He credits his South Florida staff with keeping his charitable organization running, admitting "even though I am not here I have a great staff."

The Jason Taylor Foundation "supports and improves programs that facilitate the personal growth and improvement of South Florida's children in need by focusing on improved health care, education and quality of life," according to its website, jason.taylorfoundation.com.

Activities began on March 29 with the "A Night in Paradise" Tropical Dinner & Charity Auction, held poolside at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel.

Silent and live auctions took place with an assortment of items available including an autographed hockey puck from National Hockey League legends Gordie Howe and Bobby Hull, an autographed Chris Evert tennis racket cover with picture and a deluxe Miami Dolphins package with field and club seating. Guests also enjoyed the music stylings of the Valerie Tyson Band and Latino Fire.

Some of sports' heavy hitters, including Hall of Fame quarterback Dan Marino, National Hockey League legend Mario Lemieux, former Miami Heat All-Star Alonzo Mourning,

□ Please see TAYLOR on page 2C

□ Please see RODEO on page 3C



(L-R) Lawrence Osceola holds Mondo Tiger's Certificate of Achievement from the Arrowhead Golf Club Championship.

Tiger, Osceola Take Top Honors in Arrowhead Golf Championship Game

BY GORDON OLIVER WAREHAM
Contributing Writer

DAVIE, Fla. — Mondo Tiger and Lawrence Osceola placed first and second, respectively, in the Arrowhead Golf Club Championship, held March 7-8 at Arrowhead Golf Club. The two were among more than 50 participants in the tournament.

After the first day, Tiger shooting a 74 with handicap, and Osceola was in first place, shooting a 66 with handicap.

"Going up against some good players, I just had to

take my time," Osceola said.

After the second day, Tiger came in first place, shooting a 64 with handicap.

"Finding your spot and hitting it with consistency with a smooth swing is how you win," he said.

He said he has only been playing golf for about three years. He thanks Osceola and Kenny Cambal for all their help with his game.

Osceola, shooting a 77 with handicap, said "I was playing my own game and not worrying about anyone else."

TAYLOR
From page 1C

Florida State University Rhodes Scholar and football player Myron Rolle, Miami Dolphins running back Ronnie Brown and 14-year National Basketball Association veteran Craig Ehlo, attended the two-day event in support of the Jason Taylor Foundation.

"Jason is the best as far as continuing to show his commitment to the community," Marino said. "Anytime a guy like JT can raise money to help the community it is of course a great thing."

I am encouraged by his foundation," Rolle added. "It interests me that he had the keen affinity to help kids and hopefully when I make it into the league I can be just like him in representing myself."

On the morning of March 30, guests teed off for the Celebrity Golf Classic, held at the Grande Oaks Golf Club in Davie, Fla.

"It was nice to get out play and enjoy everyone and



Chris C. Jenkins

BC Board Rep. Cicero Osceola prepares to tee off from the fifth hole.



Chris C. Jenkins

Charlie Cypress prepares to putt onto the green.

it is for a good cause," said Tribal citizen John Madrigal, who has participated in the tournament for five years. "As a Tribe, I am glad we get to help out causes like his."

The Jason Taylor Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. The foundation also supports the Holtz Children's Hospital and Take Stock in Children, a Ft. Lauderdale-based nonprofit organization that provides educational assistance and scholarships to children in need.

For more information on the Taylor Foundation please call (954) 424-0799.

Second Annual 'Honor the Warrior Osceola' Golf Shootout Held

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

LEHIGH ACRES, Fla. — Wearing colorful Seminole attire, the contestants in the second annual Honor the Warrior Osceola Golf Shootout brightened up the fairways at Copperhead Golf & Country Club on March 21.

Event coordinator Mondo Tiger briefly recognized the courage, integrity and fortitude of their Seminole ancestors, who fought and won the battles for the right to remain in their homeland. Confronted by overwhelming odds in the three Seminole Wars, they persevered to become the "Unconquered" Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Playing partners, the two-man teams got off to a shotgun start at 9 a.m. on the back nine holes in order to accommodate another tournament taking place on the course. Beginning the back nine holes of play with a "Best Ball" format, the participants switched to a two-man scramble on the front nine.

Laughter and playful jokes accompanied the teams as they depended on each other for winning scores. A ball in the lake, lost in the woods or ricocheting off a tree ceases to be a liability, when each partner lays one right down the center of the fairway or in the middle of the green.

Individual competitions lived up the pace. Closest to the Pin winners were Ronnie Doctor on #3, Jeremy Harrison on #6 and Jahna Smith on #11. The Longest Drive was divided into three categories: youngsters and ladies, men and seniors, with Trey Boone, Joe Anderson and Allen Huff, respectively, claiming the top honors.



Judy Weeks

Mondo Tiger completes a long drive straight down the fairway.

A Chipping Contest in mid tournament produced two winning teams, Allen Huff/James Tommie and Lawrence Osceola/K.B. Campbell.

Returning to the clubhouse, the group relived their golfing experiences and listened to helpful criticism while dining on a barbecue buffet.

Lawrence Osceola and K.B. Campbell took first place in the tournament. A surprising turn of events produced two three-way ties. Three teams achieved a score of 72 for second place. Second through fourth place awards were combined to accommodate the teams of Raymond Garza Jr./Trey Boone, Elliott Young/Joe Anderson and Mitchell Osceola/Jeremy Harrison.

A similar situation occurred when the teams of John Madrigal/Jason Tommie, Kyle Tommie/Jackie Thompson and Mondo Tiger/Jahna Smith turned in scores of 79 for third place. The following line-up completed the tournament: 8. Allen Huff/James Tommie, 9. Ricky Doctor/John Martin, 10. Raymond Garza Sr./Virginia Billie, 11. Ronnie Doctor/Mabel Doctor, 12. Anthony Young/Scarlet Jumper.



Judy Weeks

(L-R) James Tommie sinks a putt, while Raymond Garza holds the pin at the first hole.



Chris C. Jenkins

Jason Taylor (Third from Left) with Brighton Tribal Council Rep. Roger Smith (Second from Left), Chairman Mitchell Cypress (Third from Right) and Vivian "The Texas Tornado" Villarreal (Far Right).



Alex Johns earns 74 points in the Bareback Riding event.

RODEO
From page 1C

second run. Junior Bareback Rider William Beardon garnered a 60 point win.

Steer Rider Jaron Johns scared everyone when he got hung up and then kicked after he hit the ground. However, despite the debacle, he waved to the crowd as he exited the arena. With turquoise and silver chaps flapping in the air, Andre Jumper grabbed a first place with 59 points.

The nine Jr. Bull Riders may have taken a hard beating, but triumphed with five qualified rides. Ethan Gopher got slammed into the chute gate on his way out, but his 63 points still earned him a buckle for first. He was closely followed by William Beardon and Josh Johns.

Steer roper Jeff Johns' teaching techniques are paying off. The eight youngsters competing in the new Chute Doggin event did a terrific job. All but two beat the clock with qualifying times. Billy Foley flipped his steer right out of the gate with an awesome 2.26 second score that put him in first place.

There were 19 entries in the 4-8-year-old Barrel Racers competition. The crowd clapped with enthusiasm for these miniature cowboys and cowgirls. From Lead Line to first time riders to little pros, they all put on a great show. Ko Oshie Henry in his bright blue hat may have broken the pattern, but it didn't dim his spirits. He was full of smiles as he made his way around the barrels and then waved to the crowd on his way out of the arena. Brighton Boney, Jaycee Jumper and Budda Jumper filled the first three slots.

In the 9-12-year-old Barrel Racing event Calgary Johns beat Jobe Johns by just 31 hundredths of a second. The race was even closer in the 13-18-year-old division when Acelynn Youngblood's 17.779 took the buckle away from Janae Braswell who came in at a close 17.94.

Jr. Breakaway Champ Josh Johns earned his buckle when he roped his steer in just 5.6 seconds. A 35 second time limit in the new Steer Underriding events raised havoc with the contestants. Qualified times were hard to come by as the riders attempted to lean over and grab the ribbon off of the steer's tail. Belvins Jumper and Kelton Smedley had awesome runs in the Junior Division and Dalton Boney took



Billy Foley hangs on as his bull reaches for the sky.

Judy Weeks

Melissa Gopher Answers to the Name 'Rodeo Ma'

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

Just like a mother hen watching over her brood of chicks, Melissa Gopher keeps a watchful eye on the youngsters that compete in the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA).

A grandmother four times over and also a mother of four, Gopher said she is looking forward to watching her next batch of chicks come out of the nest. Her dedication to the EIRA and the participants she mentors have earned her the appropriate nickname "Rodeo Ma."

Gopher, Panther Clan, was raised by her grandparents, John Henry and Maude Gopher.

Shouldering her share of the family's responsibility at an early age, she began to develop her maternal instincts by helping to care for her sister and three brothers. Even after she started her own family, there was always room in her home for her siblings.

Her grandfather was a Seminole cattleman and his entire family became involved in the daily ranching chores, which were the source of their livelihood. The sport of rodeo originated in the everyday life of cowboys and cowgirls, so it is only natural that Gopher would follow the traditions of her ancestors.

"I got my first taste of the arena at the 4-H Play Days under the supervision of Allen Hult," said Gopher. "I loved helping my brothers, Justin and Hilliard, try their hands in the various events and it wasn't long before I was carrying them to all the EIRA competitions and collecting other people's kids along the way."

Gopher's own children, Kelton Smedley, Cyrus Smedley and Ethan Gopher, went from car seats to mutton bustin' before beginning their climb up the bull riding ladder. The three are now in the process of making their mark on the junior rodeo circuit.

A strong advocate of 4-H, Gopher

supports her children with their annual livestock projects and stresses the need for parental involvement in their youngsters' extra curricular activities.

"I believe in the old adage 'The family that plays together, stays together,'" she said. "Today's young people are faced with a lot of temptations and they need us to help them find their way."

Taking her own advice, Gopher accepted the position of EIRA bull riding director for two years and currently serves as the association's secretary.

Active in every aspect of her job, Gopher goes above and beyond her duties. It's a sure bet that if the junior rodeo is performing, she will be hovering around the arena, ready to pick up, dust off, dry the tears, pat on the back or give a high five to

every youngster that makes an entry.

"I take a deep breath when the chute opens and don't take another one until I see that the rider is up and walking," said Gopher. "To worry about these youngsters and at the same time encourage them to participate in the events is quite a contradiction."

I feel that life is full of challenges and there are risks in everything we do," she added. "These kids are preparing to meet head-on whatever life sends their way and make the most of their opportunities."

Gopher concluded by saying: "I tell the boys and girls that it is never a smooth road when you want to succeed, but it is definitely the best road to take. When things seem the roughest, it is time to 'Cowboy Up.'"



Melissa Gopher (C) with her son, Kelton Smedley (L), and Casey McDonald (R), who both received saddles at the 2008 EIRA Banquet.

Judy Weeks

Bud Fisher Memorial Team Roping Event Held

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

IMMOKALEE — The Immokalee Seminole Ranch joined friends and rodeo enthusiasts in hosting the Bud Fisher Memorial Team Roping on March 21.



Veda Pierstorff (C) awards the Bud Fisher Memorial Saddles to first place winners (L-R) Heeler Sharon Kravet and Header Noel Vegli.

ter serving in the military, he joined the professional rodeo circuit and participated in competitions all across the country. Riding rough stock, steer wrestling and roping, he experienced rodeo at its best.

Eventually making LaBelle, Fla., his permanent home, Fisher continued to promote rodeo activities and encourage the younger generation to participate in the sport. He taught numerous adults and children the techniques of roping.

Fisher used his expertise as a rodeo producer to organize events throughout South Florida and partnered with the Seminole Tribe in organizing several ranch rodeos. He was a familiar face in their arenas as a roping judge, flagman and announcer during Tribally-sponsored rodeo activities.

"We are extremely grateful

to the Immokalee Seminole Ranch for the use of their facilities, livestock and arena crew, which made this event possible," said Pierstorff. "Their generosity provided the two ornately tooled Memorial Saddles awarded to the First Place

Header and Heeler in the Round Robin."

Cash prizes and engraved belt buckles were awarded to the winners of the #12 and #10 roping competitions that kicked off the memorial event during the morning.

Capping the competition at USTRC #5 ropers, a One Head Average Round Robin created an opportunity for beginner and average ropers to participate in

the contest. The results were based on the number of downs, rather than fastest time. Despite a strong wind that created clouds of dust throughout the arena, the riders eagerly threw their hats in the ring in memory of Bud Fisher.

The Bud Fisher Memorial saddles were awarded to Header Noel Vegil and Heeler Sharon Kravet, who each had twelve downs. Second and Third Place went to Headers Machete Gonzales and Alfredo Fuentes and Heelers Ronnie Keel and Jose Torres.

Immokalee Seminole Ranch Director Kenny Joe Davis expressed sentiment at the loss of Fisher.

"When our time arrives, we all wish to have left a footprint to remind others of our time on earth," Davis said. "Our friend may be gone, but he left a big mark on the cowboys and cowgirls of South Florida that says 'Bud Fisher was here!'"



(L-R) Veda Pierstorff and Bud Fisher attend the graduation of a young team roper in 2007.

Photo Courtesy of Veda Pierstorff

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Louise and her husband, John Billie Sr.

Photo Submitted by Judy Weeks

BILLIE

From page 1C

Andy Buster and his band provided live entertainment that included gospel, traditional and country music. A bounce house and carnival ride created a pleasant diversion for the youngsters.

The complete tournament results were: Senior Women: 1. Juanita Osceola, 2. Jennie Osceola, 3. Carol Crenshaw, 4. Elva Rodriguez; Senior Men: 1. Ronnie Billie, Sr., 2. Lupe Osceola, 3. Keeno King, 4. James Cornelius; Women: 1. Loraine Billie, 2. Tiffany Billie, 3. Patricia Osceola, 4. Emilia Jumper, 2. Chris Hulbutta, 2. Big Mack, 3. Charlie Cypress, 4. Rick Melendez; Mixed Doubles: 1. Almira Billie and Ronnie Billie, Sr., 2. Loraine Billie and Chris Hulbutta, 3. Carol Osceola and Raleigh Osceola, 4. Tiffany Billie and Steven Hanahs, 5. Jessie Jimmie and Roger Billie, 6. Louise Billie and Charlie Cypress.



Louise Billie (R) takes time out from cooking to throw out the first horseshoe of the day.

Judy Weeks

Family, Friends Honor John Billie Sr. at Third Annual Memorial Tournament

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — Tribal seniors, family members and friends gathered together to celebrate the memory of John Billie Sr. on March 25 for the 3rd annual Seniors' John Billie Sr. Memorial Horseshoe Tournament.

Keeno King, Almira Billie and the team of David Jumper and Bess Bowlegs took top honors in the

All participants received custom T-shirts in Billie's favorite color, plum, as well as awards to the winners in the Men's, Women's and Doubles Divisions.

The Big Cypress Tribal Council offices, Board of Directors offices the Dept. of Elder Affairs sponsored the event.

"He was a wonderful, hard working man," Big Cypress Senior Center Site Manager Cecilia Guzman said.

She said one of her fondest memories was of his active nature and enjoyment in bike riding. She reminisced on the time when Billie saw snow for the first time on an Albuquerque, N.M. senior's trip.

"He was so happy out there he was trying to catch the snow," Guzman said.

The complete tournament results were: Men: 1. Keeno King, 2. David Jumper, 3. George Billie; Women: 1. Almira Billie, 2. Loraine Billie, 3. Louise Billie, 4. Louise Osceola, 5. Ruby Osceola, 6. Daisy Jumper; Doubles: 1. David Jumper and Bess Bowlegs, 2. Loraine Billie and Joe B. Osceola, 3. George Billie and Louise Billie, 4. Daisy Jumper and Ruby Osceola, 5. Ruby Osceola and Louise Osceola, 6. John Cypress and Carol Cypress.



Chris C. Jenkins

Louise Billie gets ready to toss her horseshoe in Doubles Division action.

Men's, Women's and Doubles Divisions, respectively. In addition to tournament play, attendees recalled memories of and spoke about Billie's spirit and personality.

"I liked everything about him and he just liked people also," said Billie's widow, Louise.

First place Men's Division finisher King also recalled his friend.

"He was a quiet and easy going guy," he said. "He just enjoyed life. He was a good man and had a good family with good kids."



Chris C. Jenkins

Keeno King, who took first place in the Men's Division, takes aim with his horseshoe.

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(L-R) Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress wishes his brother, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, a happy birthday.

POOL
From page 1C

"I was beat out early in the tournament, given a hand shake and wished 'happy birthday.'" the Chairman said. "Now, that's some present!"

Laughing, Chairman Cypress continued reflecting on the day with his friends, family members, invited guests and co-workers.

"I feel like I am the winner when I get to spend time with so many of my friends and share old memories with them," he said. "As the years pass, I count my blessings and riches by all the wonderful friends that I have made along the way. Looking around this room, I don't have to count faces to know that I am a rich man by those

standards."

The tournament results were as follows:

8-Ball, Women: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Theresa Nunez, 3. Virginia Billie, 4. Laura Clay, 5. Sherry King; Men: 1. Tony Bert, 2. Roy Snow, 3. Raymond Garza, 4. David Cypress, 5. Nick Tiger.

9-Ball, Women: 1. Phalyn Osceola, 2. Dale Grasshopper, 3. Laura Clay, 4. Michelle Evanston, 5. Bess Bowlegs; Men: 1. Roy Garza, Jr., 2. Cicero Osceola, 3. Raymond Garza, Sr., 4. Nick Tiger, 5. Randy Coyle.

Scotch Doubles: 1. George Grasshopper/Sherry King, 2. David Cypress/Laura Clay, 3. Eloy Silva/Rena Blissett, 4. Roy Snow/Theresa Nunez, 5. Lonnie Billie/Connie Williams.



Juanita Osceola lines up her cue to put doubles in the pocket.

Meaghan Osceola Takes Hoops Talent to the Next Level

Tribal Youngster Plans to Attend College, Play Basketball

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Tribal citizen Meaghan Osceola has a lot to look forward to these days.

After finishing a stellar high school career on the basketball court, the 5'6" Lady Pine Crest Panther senior point guard plans to take her basketball career one step further.

cil Rep. Max B. Osceola Jr. explained. "She is the prototypical guard and is very fast."

"I have seen bigger, older girls try to guard her and they can not," he added. "She also has great court awareness."

Coach Halligan echoed Osceola's remarks about the fearless athlete.

"She was afraid of no one," Halligan said. "When she walks on the court she has a ferociousness she brings to the game... She is always on the move and does not stop."



Meaghan Osceola (C) with parents, Max Jr. and Marge, during Senior Night festivities in January.

Mother Marge Osceola said there are a number of other factors which have helped Meaghan excel on the court. She credits the Hollywood Recreation Dept. Basketball program, including Coach Carlos Adamson and former Coach Lila Osceola-Heard, among others, with giving her daughter guidance on and off the court.

The 18-year-old and youngest of three, along with brother, Max III, and sister, Melissa, is ambidextrous and has participated in equestrian, softball and swimming throughout the years.

One other sport she has excelled in as a major hitting force is on the softball field. As a short stop she has remained the team's lead-off hitter for the Lady Panthers and one of the top hitters in district 3A, coming out the gates hitting at over .600.

Her true love remains on the hardwood, however, and she intends to play for the Emmanuel Saints. Osceola, a Florida native, said she looks forward to experiencing the four seasons, the city life of Boston and making Emmanuel, although small and quaint, her new home.

The Catholic, liberal arts and sciences college basketball team are lead by 32 year Head Women's Basketball Coach and Director of Athletics Andrew Yosinoff. He has a coaching record of 618-204 overall.

The Lady Saints posted a 22-8 record overall this past season. They lost however, in the second round of the Division III NCAA playoffs to Amherst College.

She recently made a verbal commitment to attend Emmanuel College in Boston, Mass.

Back in January, Osceola finished her career on top and received accolades during Senior Night festivities at her school. Held in conjunction with Senior Night, Osceola and her team beat an overmatched Somerset Academy squad in a 52-11 blow out victory.

"They were able to fight through some adversity and actually finish the season pretty good," second year Head Coach Kathy Halligan expressed.

That win was just one of 15 overall during the season, and also included a district win. Osceola's teammates, Ashley Comras, Caitlin Hampton and Sarah Rubin, were all also honored for the game victory.

"We all love basketball and loved playing," Osceola said. "We had our own friendships but when it came to game time we all came together."

The four-year letterman finished as the team career leader in points, steals, three-pointers made and assists. She also holds school records for steals in a season, assists in a season, and the most points in a game with 30.

"She is a natural athlete," father and Hollywood Tribal Coun-



(L-R) Meaghan's brother, Max Osceola III, and father, Max Jr., enjoy the action at one of her basketball games.



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Second Leg of Triple Crown Fishing Series Wraps Up



Bello Solano had another big weigh-in for two tournaments in a row.

BY JUDY WEEKS
Freelance Reporter

BIG CYPRESS — In its 29th year, the annual Seminole Recreation Dept. Fishing Tournament took place on April 4 as the second leg of the Triple Crown Series. This is the longest-running Tribal fishing tournament.

Fishing enthusiasts signed up at 6:30 a.m. to cast their lines in the L-28 Canal. Competitors could only fish either north or south of the water lock, but not past Alligator Alley.

In accordance with the Triple Crown Series rules, each two person team must include one adult and one youth, aged 17 or younger.

Participation took a strange twist when some of the initial winning teams did not show up for the second leg, which opened up the playing field considerably. New faces from the previous tournament joined the line up and threw their hooks in the water with favorable results.

Living things up, an additional Critter Tournament increased the anglers' opportunities to win by catching garfish, Oscars, mudfish and catfish. A 4.97 pound garfish made winners out of Moses "Bigge" Jumper Jr. and Chebon Gooden. Fred Phillips and Andre Jumper came in second with a 1.32 pound catch in the miscellaneous category.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Environmental Resource Management Dept. requested the tournament competitors participate in a

voluntary species survey to enhance their research information. Representatives from the department recorded data on species, location of catch, weight and length for future use.

In the case of teams changing partners, the weights from each competition will remain with the captain of the boat.

Leon Wilcox II may have missed the first leg of the Triple Crown Series, but his three catches, totaling 13.94 pounds, gave him a first place win and definitely made him a contender for the grand prize if he makes it back one more time.

Kassim Stockton's 10.08 pound total put him in second place and added to his first weight. Josh Jumper and his son, Blevins, caught five bass totaling 8.35 pounds for the third position.

Bello Solano came in fourth, and with his previous second place weigh-in, he will be hard to beat after the final round. Four bass totaling 5.47 pounds moved the Pena brothers, Juan and Ernesto, up to fifth place.

The Seminole Recreation Dept. established the Big Bass Trophy to be awarded in memory of Josiah Johns, who took part in some of the original tournaments. Leon Wilcox's 8.87 pound whopper brought him home the trophy.

At the conclusion of the Bass Busters Tournament on May 2, the weights from all three contests will be totaled to determine the Triple Crown winners.



Juan Pena returns his fish to the canal, following the catch and release tournament rules.



(L-R) Steve Young of the Seminole Recreation Dept. awards the Josiah Johns Memorial Big Bass Trophy to Leon Wilcox II during the 29th annual Seminole Fishing Tournament.



Fred Phillips prepares to weigh in his garfish catch.

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Moses Gabon of Redline Media Group gains the advantage against his opponent, Chris Decaro of Weston, Fla.

Photo Courtesy of Redline Media Group

Bellator Fighting Championships Debut at Hard Rock

BY CHRIS C. JENKINS
Staff Reporter

HOLLYWOOD — Mixed martial arts (MMA) returned to the Hard Rock Live in prime time April 3 as the Bellator Fighting Championships made its debut for fight fans on ESPN Deportes, ESPN's Spanish language network.

The event was the first MMA promotion to secure an exclusive agreement with any member of the ESPN family of networks. It aired featuring 11 bouts.



Photo Courtesy of Redline Media Group

A victorious Moses Gabon.

Six of the matches came as part of a tournament among featherweight, lightweight and middleweight divisions, with the winners moving on to the next round at a future date. Two of the world's best lightweights, Eddie Alvarez (16-2) and Jorge Masvidal (17-3), showcased their best.

In non-tournament action, Tribal em-

ployees and Tribal Council members in attendance took note of the performance of Tribally-owned Redline Media Group employee Moses Gabon.

The second year fighter and boxer from Hollywood got his shot on the card through his boss and Redline Chief Executive Officer Cima Georgevich. He faced Chris Decaro of Weston, Fla., who came in making his professional debut, in middleweight action.

In just his sixth professional match, Gabon moved to 4-2 overall picking up an impressive first round win at the 1:53 mark by a triangle-choke submission.

"I felt like I was here at home so I had to come out and fight well for my peeps," he said. "I kind of figured he did not have that good of a ground game, so I knew when I got him down it was just a matter of time."

Georgevich acknowledged his hard work.

"He represented South Florida to the fullest," Georgevich acknowledged. "He went in there and was focused; he had his mind set."

Gabon said he had little knowledge of his opponent coming in but the game plan was to work his strike and jab game and stay sharp.

"You have to know everything coming into doing this," he explained. "I love MMA also because it is so raw."

With the win he hopes to get another opportunity with Bellator or another MMA establishment in the near future.

Chairman Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Tribal Council Rep. David Cypress, Naples Liaison OB Osceola Jr. and Fort Pierce Liaison S.R. Tommie also enjoyed the action.

Among the headliners, Yahir Reyes

picked up the upset win in the second round by a rear-naked choke submission over Nick Gonzalez, while Alvarez took care of Greg Loughran in the first with a guillotine choke submission and Masvidal won via a first round TKO versus Nick Agallari.

Other action in the non-tournament matches included: Gary Padilla over Daniel Sarafian by a second round TKO, James Brasco over Kevin Abrante by an arm-bar submission in the first round, Lorenzo Borgomeo moved to 5-1 over Daniel Morales with a third round rear-naked choke tap out, and Jonathan Brookins won facing Stephan Ledbetter by a rear-naked choke tap out in the first.

In the single-elimination tournament, Toby Imada picked up his 18th win in the first round with a rear-naked choke over Alonzo Martinez. Joe Soto stayed undefeated over Ben Greer with a first round TKO, and Estevan Payan picked up the win over Luis Palomino by a split decision in three rounds.

The Bellator Fighting Championships are a MMA promotional company based out of Los Angeles and Chicago. As a modern MMA tournament, it brings together a collection of world class competitors under one banner to fight for the world championship.

Bellator, which means "warrior" in Latin, was established by founders Bjorn Rebney and Brad Epstein. The premiere season consists of 12 two-hour events to be broadcast weekly in primetime on Saturday nights. The events will feature a combination of tournament and non-tournament special feature bouts. There will also be four simultaneous tournaments taking place in season one over a three month period, one in each of the featherweight, lightweight, welterweight and middleweight divisions.

Chalfant Remembered at Memorial Bowling Tournament

BY RACHEL BUXTON
Staff Reporter

OKEECHOBEE, Fla. — Family and friends gathered at the Stardust Bowling Lanes in Okeechobee March 28 to honor the memory of Jennie L. Chalfant at an annual bowling tournament.

The annual memorial event began in 1996 as a softball tournament but was changed a few years later to a bowling tournament in an attempt to gain more participants.

This year, a crowd of 40 participants and many more spectators came out to have a good time and remember a beloved friend and family member.

Jennifer Chalfant, the granddaughter of the late Jennie Chalfant, threw the first ball down the lanes.

Jennie Chalfant's brother, Elbert Snow and sister, Salina Dorgan organized the event and shared cherished memories of their late sister. Dorgan admitted "I always looked up to her; she was my mentor."

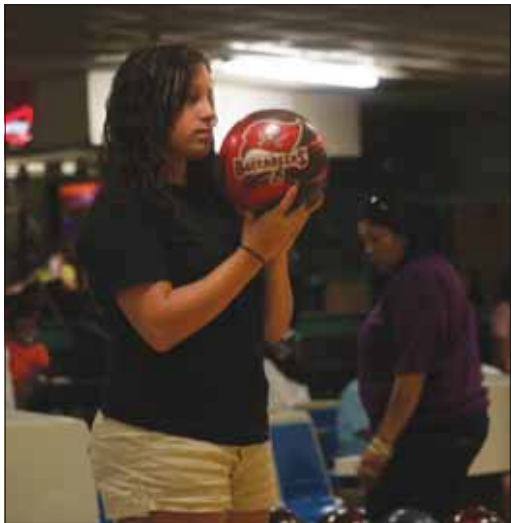
"She was the one that more or less

taught me how to bowl," said Snow. "I used to watch her boys while she bowled and one day she asked me to join her bowling team."

Participants played a four frame format with a partner for the tournament.

The first game was played as a regular game. The second was a 3-6-9 game where bowlers tried to get strikes in the third, sixth or ninth frame to win. The third game, called Scotch Double Trouble, was played with bowlers throwing their first ball and their teammate bowling to pick up any leftover pins. The last game, No Tap, gave bowlers a little extra advantage. If bowlers knocked down nine pins on their first roll, they automatically received a strike.

Among the winners were Wendi Snow and Elbert Snow, with a team total of 403 for the regular game, Crystal Weimann and George Micco, with a team total of 421 in the 3-6-9 game, Laverne Thomas and Merle Billie, with a team total of 407 for the Scotch Double Trouble and Farrah Jones, who bowled a perfect game, and Chaka Smith with a combined total of 519 in No Tap.



Rachel Buxton

Jennifer Chalfant throws the first ball in honor of her grandmother, Jennie.

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Announcements D

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Jada Sky Holdiness, we want to wish you the best 8th birthday. We can't believe that you are going to be 8 years old.

Time has gone by so quickly and you have grown to be beautiful, smart and pragmatic! You never cease to amaze us with your wisdom and love. You mean the world to us and you are precious.

Love,
Mommy (Ada Campos), Lilo, Mantha, Jeka, Nana and Brother, and of course, let's not forget Zeus



I would like to wish my daddy (**Allen Mark Billie**) a happy birthday on May 2.

Love,
Dayne Allen Billie

We would also like to wish **Mark** a happy birthday.

Love,
Mary & Tana

JUST MARRIED



Friends and family gathered together on Feb. 14 at the home of **Elizabeth and Stephen Bowers** to celebrate the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen D. Bowers.

NEW KID



Welcome to our new baby, **Tavern!**

From,
Parents Rueben and Cheyenne Edwards and big brother, Tye

POEMS

The Inner Voice

In silence comes the call of the inner voice
A heart yearns to understand as the mind struggles in choice
The twists and turns in this road of life being traveled through
Creates a stranger in those whom we once knew
Consumed in the beauty of loss with each tear that falls
Hollow is the echo that remains steady within the shelter of the concrete walls
There are teardrops that've seemed to discover a hidden home
Once found but over the years I'm left to wonder, where have they gone
The day is never without pain, yes! I know this to be true
How I'm reminded every night as I close my eyes, only to hear the children as "Daddy is that you"

Then come the cries of war in a battle to tame the beast
During the confrontation, he gains strength as he fights for a release
He is the demon who at one time haunts us all
Through guilt, shame, or in fear, there are many who beg never to recall
Underneath a mask lie scars of tragedy and the roots of emotional turmoil, search and I promise you'll find
For there ... lurks deception, a birthright of appearance, the seed of the manipulative mind

Refusing the challenge, bullied by the ignorance of foolish doubt
Gives life to an evil, as a lost soul is left to wander about
Crafty are its efforts, cunning is the empire
Being wonderfully delivered from tips eternally better in taste
The passion of its kiss is one that welcomes death
Ask those of us who struggle in every single breath
Look to the right, look to the left, hurry and quickly place blame
Steadfast in deceit, within its vile refuge one can choose to remain

Pick up the shovel, dig up the dirt
Continue to flee from the benders of hurt
Neglect a truth ... pretend not to see
Escape to the shadows and become a host of misery
Scripted in chaos by the wake of a shallow grave
In silence comes the call of the inner voice, only heard by those who are a slave

— **Leslie J. Gopher**
March 16, 2009

POEMS

My Watch

As I sit here in my cell, time goes on
One thing I can say is,
My Watch will never let me down.
My Watch is not a Rolex
It is not gold or does not have diamonds.
One thing I will say is that
My Watch is one of the most precious things in the world to me.
Without My Watch, time would mean nothing to me.
Just knowing My Watch is still ticking,
That will make my time in here go by easier that I thought it would.
I love My Watch with all my heart, mind, body and soul.
I just want My Watch to keep on ticking till I get out of here.
So we can spend some mother and son time together.
I miss you and I love you very, very much mom (Watch)
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2009 Elections

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC.

NOTICE
SEMINOLE TRIBE ELECTION
May 11, 2009

In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Corporate Charter and Bylaws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., a Regular Election is called for the following positions on Monday, May 11, 2009. Candidates who have qualified for the following positions are listed.

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA TRIBAL COUNCIL

BIG CYPRESS REPRESENTATIVE:

1. David Cypress (Incumbent)
2. Moses Jumper, Jr.
3. Manuel M. Tiger
4. Wovoka Tommie

BRIGHTON REPRESENTATIVE:

1. Andrew J. Bowers, Jr.
2. Roger Smith (Incumbent)
3. James Tommie

HOLLYWOOD REPRESENTATIVE:

1. Mark Billie
2. Max B. Osceola, Jr. (Incumbent)
3. Moses B. Osceola

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BIG CYPRESS REPRESENTATIVE:

1. Paul Bowers, Sr.
2. Cicero Osceola (Incumbent)

BRIGHTON REPRESENTATIVE:

1. Johnnie Jones (Incumbent)

HOLLYWOOD REPRESENTATIVE:

1. David DeHass
2. Franklin Moore Jr.
3. Christopher Osceola
4. Marcellus W. Osceola, Jr.
5. Milo Osceola
6. Gloria Wilson (Incumbent)

Those members voting "ABSENTEE" will be furnished upon request in writing. If voting by mail, please request an absentee ballot at once to allow enough time for ballots to be mailed to you and be returned to the Secretary's office, 6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, Florida 33024 on or before May 11, 2009. Mark your ballots at once and return them so they can be included in the count for this election. All eligible voters are requested to cast their ballots at established polling places on the three (3) reservations or by absentee ballots.

VOTING LOCATIONS:

BIG CYPRESS RESERVATION: Senior Center
BRIGHTON RESERVATION: Cattle & Range Office
HOLLYWOOD RESERVATION: Executive Office Auditorium

Polls will be open 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Eligible members and shareholders are urged to exercise their right to vote in this election.

4/15/09
Priscilla Sayen
Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES



Paul Bowers Sr.
Big Cypress



Cicero Osceola
Big Cypress
(Incumbent)



Johnnie Jones
Brighton
(Incumbent)



Christopher Osceola
Hollywood



Marcellus W. Osceola, Jr.
Hollywood



Milo Osceola
Hollywood

BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES

David Daniel DeHass - Hollywood



My name is David Daniel DeHass, Panther Clan, and I am running for Hollywood Board Representative.

I have already done two terms from 2001-2005. My record should show from that period, and past that period, things that I did that were not completed, then completed after I left office, what I have done and what I could do for the people of the Seminole Tribe, because this Tribe is my family.

I will be having a dinner and flyers will be passed out with the date and time. Come hear me speak, I have a lot to say.

Frank Moore Jr. - Hollywood

Chementamo Hollywood and Fort Pierce residents! My name is Franklin Moore Jr. and I am asking for your support! I am running for Hollywood Board representative in this year's regular election.

My mother is Mary Osceola Moore, Panther Clan, and my father is the late Franklin Moore Sr.

I am a small business owner and I have been contracting with the Tribe for the last 10 years with my tent and event rental company. Before starting my company, I worked for the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs in Tallahassee and the Seminole Broadcasting Dept. for about four years. For the last three years I have had the privilege of working as the Seminole Tribal Fair Director.

Over the last five years we have seen our Tribe grow economically by leaps and bounds due to the success of gaming. The Tribal Council has offered us the opportunity to live the lifestyles we are now accustomed to: excellent health care, our children attend the best schools and of course the blessings of dividends. I do see this possibility for the Board in the very near future, but it is going to take a lot of work.

My main objective will be to work with the President and other Board representatives to develop business plans that will help to enrich the goals of the Board's economic development. My second objective will be to work with Tribal members who are in business or would like to start a business. There are many opportunities available to us as Tribal members and we should take full advantage of them all. Working together side by side we can achieve unlimited success!

For a better today and a brighter tomorrow!

Vote for me, Frankie!



Gloria Wilson - Hollywood (Incumbent)

Continue the Progress



There is still much work to be done to bring about improvements to have a successful corporation. Through my efforts, I have contributed much by working with the Hollywood-based enterprises to refocus operations and address management concerns to increase revenues and achieve positive cash flow.

Historically, Board operations moved along at a level that didn't encourage profits or motivation and weren't doing more than the "usual." Since I became a member of the Board, I have made it my priority to bring to the forefront of my efforts, the goal of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., assured economic independence for the Tribe and its shareholders.

When I was first elected in 2005, I was excited about the possibilities and potential of the corporation. And, since then, I have been able to explore those possibilities and expand on its potential by working with the rest of the Board of Directors and the enterprise managers to increase the revenue base of the corporation.

In June 2006, I established a construction company for the corporation. I am proud to say that in its three years of existence, the construction company is the only "new money" that has been fully realized and has proven profitable for the Board.

I had my critics when I started the construction company and they still surface every now and then, but I was confident that I could create a successful enterprise for the corporation. Starting any new business isn't easy, but if you're committed, success will come.

Capable and skilled employees who are committed and motivated have been the backbone of the construction company's success. I thank them for working with me to accomplish what we have thus far. We continue to work together to expand our service spectrum as we explore contracting possibilities at the local, state and federal levels.

On the community level, I have provided assistance as much as can be reasonably extended within budgetary limits. Though monetary assistance isn't a priority, that's what has been requested most.

In 2005, I said that I would assist where it was affordable and reasonable and I have done that. As with any business, we can only spend when funds are budgeted and available so it's a constant task to ensure that availability to provide for the community.

I believe I have far exceeded previous efforts and I plan to continue to build upon my contributions until my goal of a profitable corporation is realized.

As I stated previously, there is much left to be accomplished yet I remain excited and motivated about the possibilities. My commitment remains steadfast in making them a reality.

However, the only way that I can continue to contribute and work for the overall success of the corporation is with your support and vote. So, I am asking for your vote to return as your Hollywood Board representative. I am truly grateful for the opportunity that you have given me these past four years. I believe I have done much with the opportunity you provided me and I want to continue to act on the confidence that you have placed in me.

May 11 is Election Day, and with your vote and confidence, I will continue to serve as your Hollywood Board representative.

Thank you for your consideration and support and please attend my campaign dinners; the first one takes place on May 5 in the Fort Pierce community and the second on May 8 in the Hollywood community.

Continued on Next Page



REMEMBER!
ELECTION DAY
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009
Check with your Reservation Field
Offices for updates and locations of
designated voting facilities.



TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATES



David Cypress
Big Cypress
(Incumbent)

Manuel M. Tiger
Big Cypress



Wovoka Tommie
Big Cypress

Roger Smith
Brighton
(Incumbent)



James Tommie
Brighton

Mark Billie
Hollywood



Max B. Osceola Jr.
Hollywood
(Incumbent)

Andrew Bowers Jr. - Brighton



During my term as the Tribal Council representative for Brighton in 2005-2007, I was quite excited and thankful that the folks had shown confidence in me to be their representative. I ran into some interesting things that I had to deal with, and did my best to do so. I am proud that some of the influence I had on the Tribal Council still exist.

In 2007, during my re-election efforts, I said "Let's keep moving forward," but one too many people didn't agree with me. But that's the way the ball bounced in 2007. So I decided to stay out of the courtrooms and just observe our Tribe for two years. It's from this period of observation that I present this platform.

We have to be better organized. The Tribal government can't sit around making decisions on a case by case basis about certain matters. An organized government should look to its own Tribal rules, policies, resolutions, ordinances and the Constitution for guidance when confronted with a particular matter.

Sovereignty is exercised by creating our own laws and complying with them. And when these laws are not complied with, it trickles down to the programs where nice little messes can be created. I probably harped on these things many times during my term and would continue to do so. There have to be initiatives for better organization.

About 50 years ago, the Tribe said education was its number one priority. In recent times, I wonder if we are living up to that slogan. I know that the Education Dept. does a great job for the higher education students. But, during hard times like now, if the education budget has to be trimmed, it should be done as a last resort. If it was solely up to me, I would trim the Tribal government budget before taking something away from the students.

Also the younger students must be protected from the evils of society: alcoholic beverages, violence, truancy, and illegal drugs. There should be combined effort of the communities, including the police, to eliminate the roots of these evils. Encourage participation in extracurricular activities in schools. In short, education will once gain be a high priority in Brighton and Tampa, if nowhere else.

A well-organized Tribe should have a court system. Our Constitution allows for it. Today, the Tribal Council adopts rules through policies, resolutions, ordinances, etc., and applies or enforces them. When there are disputes over the application or the enforcement, they are taken back before the council, which supposedly settles them. But decisions are rarely made, according to the rule of these policies, etc. Usually decisions are political.

When decisions are made based on concerns of whether someone stays in an elected office or not, there is nothing fair or just about the decision making. That's why a separate, independent body is needed to settle disputes or interpret the rules, namely a court system.

I will take a long, hard look at the implementation of that system by working with the existing Court Committee and other folks in the Tribal government. Maybe it has been determined that it can't work.

Fiscal responsibility must be exercised, now more than ever with the financial shape of our country and the world. We don't know what tomorrow may bring to our communities from the present situation. So it will take people who are capable of thinking, being responsible, and being able to make wise decisions so that the level of services to our folks will be maintained.

Two years ago I said things will never be the same as they were back around 2003-2004. Here we are. I have the ability and the determination to look out for us during these times.

We had projects lined up here in Brighton at one time, but I don't know what has happened. Is there a lack of funds? Or a lack of initiatives? I surely will look to see what happened.

And what is so hard about operating a fair housing program? In FY 2007, I made housing a priority in Brighton. Today, several people who had waited 15-20 years for houses are now homeowners. And several others have had old homes replaced. Still, others have empty homesites. This needs a serious look from somebody.

I think most of you, if not all of you, know my background, experience, and training as an attorney. I used those traits for the benefit of our Tribal folks during my term. I was usually chosen, along with another councilman, by the Legal Counsel to deal with federal and state officials on matters of interest to our Tribe because of my communication skills.

I was also chosen as part of the negotiating team over contract dispute with builders of the gaming facilities in Hollywood and Tampa. I took my job seriously and treated it as a 24/7 job. Some thought that I was strict, but I have a better description: RESPONSIBLE.

A representative should initially be responsible for the 500-plus folks in Brighton and Tampa, and ultimately, for the 3,400 folks in our Tribe. I do not take politics over responsibility because it never works for the folks that you are responsible for and accountable to. You cannot do that if you care about anything or anybody. Responsibility remains the same for me.

On May 11, you will have another opportunity in your life to change the face of our government. Take it seriously and vote! Today is a time in our Tribe that we should start focusing on who is best qualified and most capable of leading our Tribe in 2009 and beyond. With my background and experience, I bring more to the table for our Tribe.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this platform.

TRIBAL COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Moses Jumper Jr. - Big Cypress

Hello,

My name is Moses Jumper Jr., but I am mostly known by my nickname, "Big Shod" or "Bigg." I am running for the office of Tribal councilman of the Big Cypress Reservation.

Believe me, this decision was made after much thought and prayer. I am sure most Tribal members know that I have worked with our recreation program for 35 years. I am very proud of the accomplishments of our program, and the youth and adults that have supported or been a part of it.

I don't think it's any secret that the young people of our Tribe have always been my priority. Sports and recreation help build character and I also know the importance of education. Sports were a big influence in helping me get that college degree.

I served for a number of years as a chairperson for the education advisory board. With a mother that was the Tribe's first high school and nursing graduate, believe me, I know the importance of education! And speaking of nursing, what a great area of vital importance our Health Dept. is within our Tribe. It is a program that truly must be supported, because it covers so many areas of our Tribe.


Through the years, I feel I have had a chance to work alongside many of the people that were a part of our programs and I am excited about being able to work with them from a different perspective as a councilman. I won't write or promise campaign riches because I know the next couple of years are going to be crucial in Indian Country, especially to gaming Tribes; some gaming Tribes are feeling the effects of this economy already.

I do promise you I will do my best to work with the people who will get us through these times. I would like to write more; it takes me back when I used to be the editor of this paper, but I know we only have so much room. If you have questions, I will be around the rez.

I was an alternate on the Constitution Revision Committee and have worked the last two years on the Court Committee — you know we have an outdated Constitution when it limits a Tribal member from running for office because of age or blood quantum.

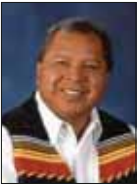
On a final note, I won't try to buy your vote with T-shirts, food or campaign promises, but I do encourage you to vote; let your voice be heard. I know I have by running for the office of this honored position in the Tribe. Believe me, it has always been my desire to work for and among the people I love.

Is it time for a change? You make the choice.



Mvto,
Sho na bish,
Bigg

Moses B. Osceola - Hollywood



Che-han-tah-mo. Hello, how are you? My name is Moses Osceola aka "Moke." I'd like to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for the Hollywood Reservation representative to the Tribal Council.

I have lived most of my life on the Hollywood Reservation and currently reside in the Seminole Winds apartment complex.

I served as your president of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., and as vice-chairman of the Tribal Council from 2003-2007. It was a privilege to serve you in those offices.



During my lifetime, like yourself, I have become aware of, and experienced many issues that affect our lives here not only on our reservation, but also Tribal-wide such as health care, security and theft, drugs, lack of information on finances, children's custodial accounts, housing, dividends, budgets, gaming and Hard Rock, and students' stipends. These and other problems are what I pledge to address for you as your representative for the Hollywood Reservation.

As a former Tribal official I am acutely aware of most of the issues, and have the experience to help resolve these issues for you, and with you.

I pledge to meet with our communities regularly and keep you informed of all reservation and Tribal-wide issues, and to receive your opinions on matters before the Tribal Council before voting on those matters. I will be your representative to help you resolve any difficulty, or to help you advance any positive cause, and will be available for you.

I stated "communities" because as you may, or may not know, the Tribal Council recently approved a resolution for the Ft. Pierce Reservation to become a part of, or to be attached to the Hollywood Reservation for representation and services. I welcome the Ft. Pierce Reservation members, and the privilege and opportunity to serve you as well.

I hope that on Election Day, May 11, you will consider me for the office of Hollywood Reservation representative to the Tribal Council. It will be an honor to serve you! God bless you.

2009 ELECTION DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, April 8	5pm - Deadline to submit platform to Seminole Tribune
Tuesday, April 14	5pm - Turn in petitions and pictures
Wednesday, April 15	Announce candidates
Monday, May 4	Deadline for mailing out Absentee ballots
Tuesday, May 5	Deadline for walk-in voting
Monday, May 11	Election Day